MARC December 2025 NEWSLETTER

W8KEA REPEATER

MARC

MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 1049, Midland, Michigan 48641-1049

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Vice President	Kanushi Desai KE8RNA	(989) 948-5889
Secretary	Linda Hodges KC8MUD	(989) 652-6213
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Club Historian	Stan Rowe K6VWE	(989) 837-7252
Quartermaster	Lee Hodges KC8ITI	(989) 486-3771
Public Information Officer	Paul Tolly N8GEM	(989) 492-1239
Swap Committee Chair	Keith Johnson KB8SOE	(989) 948-5427
Resident Agent	Dennis Klipa, N8ERF	(989) 948-5427

LIFE MEMBERS

Lee Hodges KC8ITI, Linda Hodges KC8MUD, Larry Macklin N8CGP, Dennis Klipa N8ERF, John Wolters W8QN, Will Halphen K8VFO

MARC Web Page – www.w8kea.org

Midland W8KEA Repeater — 147.000 MHz +, 103.5 Hz

NEXT CLUB MEETING —December 4th, 2025, at 7:30 pm, Salvation Army Building, 220 S. Waldo Ave.

Fall! Cooler temperatures and shorter days bring a different kind of charm to our hobby. It's a great time for emergency preparedness drills, indoor antenna projects, and catching signals as the ionosphere changes with the season. Whether you're chasing DX, experimenting with new modes, or connecting with fellow hams, there's always something interesting happening on the airwaves!

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🪟View From the Top of the Tower🪟

******** Remote Meeting Access by Zoom This Month Only******** (See the email that delivered this newsletter for details.)** Kanushi has arranged for a potentially very interesting speaker and topic for our meeting on Thursday, December 4 th . Robert Schafer, W5IUA, has developed a website and software package to allow you to manage multiple online SDR sources called Ham.live. You can check him out at (https://www.qrz.com/db/W5IUA) and Ham.live at the links on his qrz.com page. It looks interesting and is a completely new concept to me. (Note: yes, I am living under a rock!)

Hey, it is snowing outside. Turkey leftovers dominate the menu, the house is already decorated for Christmas, and I am looking forward to a great holiday season and a white winter (and the spring that will follow!). I hope you have all your fall chores done. I finished mine up today, just as the snow started falling!

The January meeting will be the annual Christmas Party to be held on January 8th , Thursday, at 6:00 pm at the Red Oak Restaurant in Sanford. Bring a white elephant gift and send (voice/email) Linda, KC8MUD, an RSVP.

Wanted: Defunct electronic equipment for Demolition Day. The last meeting before Christmas of the middle school club is traditionally Demolition Day where the students get to tear apart interesting pieces of electronic equipment. If you have any defunct computers, printers, scanners, flat screen TVs or monitors that you would like to donate, let me know. The students are not attracted to dust covered, tube type equipment, so they can go directly to e-recycle. We try to stay away from TVs with cathode ray tubes for safety reasons.

I look forward to seeing you at the December meeting, Saturday mornings at Bob Evans (8:00 am), on the Thursday night net, (7:30 pm) and at the Christmas party January 8 th .

Best Regards,
Dennis Klipa, N8ERF
MARC President

⭐From the Michigan Section Manager, Larry Camp, WB8R- October 2025 Section News…

Greetings from Branch County!

We have had our first snow of the season here in the southernmost portion of Michigan, and it appeared as though we may have had as much as 2 inches in the Coldwater area—a harbinger of what is to come…

Have you stopped by the ARRL website lately? If not, you are missing some good opportunities to dig deeper into what is currently in store for you this month (and beyond). It is really easy to overlook the digital QST as it generally remains as a file

on one or more of our devices, unlike a physical magazine resting on the arm of our favorite chair or on the coffee table. In order to reap all the benefits of our subscription, we really have to make sure that we electronically review each issue and perhaps make notes of what interests us. I find it is easy to miss good information by simply not paying close attention to each new issue.

A few examples of neat stuff in the current (December) issue:

- ARRL November Sweepstakes
- Solar Update (and we have had a significant amount of visible solar activity in Michigan lately)
- Essay Contest for young hams
- New online LIVE courses for Ham Radio Licensing
- And more…

Michigan Hamfest Schedule

Dec 7, 2025 — LCARC Hamfest, Troy, MI (WB8R, AA8RK, NS8Y)
Feb 21, 2026 — Livonia ARC, Northville, MI
Mar 21, 2026 — Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club, Lowell, MI
Apr 11, 2026 — AC8RC Mini-Swap, Burnips, MI
Jun 6, 2026 — IRA Hamfest, Hudsonville, MI

Closing Remarks

Thanksgiving is only 10 days away and the end-of-year holidays are also fast approaching. Be careful when using those semi-retired winter driving skills as we make the shift to winter mode here in Michigan and the surrounding states.

Stay safe and be Radio-Active!

Best 73,

Larry Camp, WB8R
MI ARRL Section Manager
wb8r@arrl.org
517-617-4883

📃 From the Midland County EC…

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

Midland Nets
MARC is starting a new net on Sunday evenings. This net is planned for the 10-meter band, and we've selected a frequency and mode that allows Technician class operators to participate. Specifics regarding the format or purpose are still to be determined. Mostly, this fosters an alternate gathering of local amateur radio operators and perpetuates the use of amateur radio on the HF band.

The specific format is not yet defined. The duration will depend entirely on participation and interest. Some of these items will become more clearly defined over the next few months as the net matures and the interests of the group are observed. Mostly, this is another opportunity for amateur radio operators to talk about the hobby and our community.

Date / Time: Sunday / 7 PM
Frequency: 28.38 MHz USB

Midland County EOC Training
Midland County is moving their training platform from MI-TRAIN to Cornerstone. Everyone with a MI-TRAIN account should have received multiple email messages over the last 4 months about capturing all of their prior training certificates stored in MI-TRAIN.

The new platform is primarily for training specific to Midland County and will not replace the FEMA training courses available elsewhere. The list of county-only requirements will be posted later in December with directions on gaining access to Midland's portal on Cornerstone.

SKYWARN® Training
Storm spotter training is available via the National Weather Service. We've been lucky to have the National Weather Service provide training in Midland. Last year, the two local classes were not held in our county, and this resulted in several people who would have taken the training missing the 2025 opportunity.

The National Weather Service has online classes for both the basic and advanced storm spotter training. As this is a recurring training requirement for ARES and other emergency services, please consider keeping your training current by attending both courses at your convenience.

More on the course can be found at:
meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23
Role of a Skywarn Spotter and Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics.

Be sure to send your course completion information to Ric Sauer at **KD0RMK@gmail.com**.

The December 2025 SKY
We have a few key events in December: the Super Cold Moon, Mercury at greatest elongation west, the Geminids meteor shower, and the Winter Solstice. Learn more about these and other events at **TimeAndDate.com**.

🗒️ From the W8KEA Station Trustee…

John Wolters W8QN

Over the past month, we have been conducting receiver tests throughout the county. The tests show that a modest mobile antenna attached to the front hood of a pickup (about 3–4 feet off the ground) is able to hear a 50-watt transmitter attached to the repeater antenna without issue. At the same time, a receive test was conducted with a handheld radio. I do not have those results, but I believe they were similar.

What remains is the improvement of the repeater's receiving capability. This will be achieved by placing remote receivers at various locations in the county. The first is at Midland High School. The second will be at the Edenville water tower. And the third is planned for the West Midland Family Center. This should surround our county and greatly improve the capability of handheld radios.

One additional improvement is the installation of a Motorola repeater in place of the existing Bridgecom repeater. The tuned receive circuits in the Motorola repeater and the increased power output will help. This repeater is currently being tuned to our frequencies and will be put into service soon.

So, a lot of changes are coming over the next few months. Maybe an early Christmas present.

November 5th MARC Meeting Minutes

Dennis, N8ERF, brought the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at the Salvation Army Building with 25 members present in person and via the internet. A sign-in sheet was passed around and introductions were made.

Lee, KC8ITI, made a motion to approve October's minutes and the motion was seconded by Ric, KD0RMK. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report — John, W8QN
Thank you to all the club members who have renewed their dues.

Repeater Report — John, W8QN
After two days of testing, the M-20 repeater tower can now hit just about every place in the county. There is still more work to be done.
John, W8QN, made a motion requesting $100.00 to purchase parts needed for repairs to the repeater. Paul, N8GEM, seconded the motion. There was some discussion, and then it passed.

A second motion was made by John, W8QN, to spend up to $2250.00 for equipment for the West Community Center repeater site. Discussion followed, and then Doug, N8NTN, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Christmas Party — Linda, KC8MUD
Our Christmas party will be at the Red Oak Restaurant in Sanford on January 8th, 2026.
Linda, KC8MUD, made a motion to move the meeting date from January 1st to January 8th. Lee, KC8ITI, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

School Club — Dennis, N8ERF
The High School and Middle School clubs are both doing well, with students engaged in activities and projects. New computers have been installed in the High School classroom.

Net Control — Ric, KD0RMK
Ric sent a sign-up sheet around for the Thursday Night Net Net Control schedule. The script and

instructions for Net Control can be found on the Discord website, or you can talk to Ric for guidance. Ric is also working on setting up a Sunday night 10-meter net.

Stuff — Lee, KC8ITI
Lee brought several boxes of small equipment that belonged to silent key Bob Winchester, W8LSS. Please feel free to take any items of interest. Donations to the club are appreciated.

Saginaw Club — Mike, KD8HMM
Their next meeting is 7:00 PM Friday at the Harry Brown Airport. Topics include club elections and a presentation about repeaters. Also, on November 21st, the Saginaw club is hosting a Santa-gram event at the Children's Zoo. Please contact Mike if you would like to help.

Presentation — Paul, K8PLM
Paul's presentation was a refresher course on Standing Wave Ratios (SWR). Discussion followed.

Larry, N8CGP, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Max, KE8DON, seconded it. The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda, KC8MUD, MARC Secretary

💥 Items of Interest 💥

Equipment From the Estate of Bob Winchester, W8LSS

Listed below is the last of the radio/electronics items from the estate of Bob Winchester, W8LSS. I've evaluated the various items and listed any problems that have been found. If you see anything that you might be interested in let me know and we will work something out. I can be contacted via email at **lee.hodges@charter.net** or by phone at **(989) 486-3771**. Lee – KC8ITI
P.S. Anything left over will probably be headed for the electronics recycling center or the trash.

Para Dynamics Power Scanner Model PDC 700 – Peak Reading Power/SWR/Modulation Meter, 25–30 MHz
Swan WM-6200 Power/SWR Meter – 50–150 MHz, switch needs cleaned
Drake 2B Receiver – Switches need cleaned, tubes need testing
Heathkit HW-8 QRP Transceiver – Needs power plug replaced, realigned
Heathkit Condenser Checker – Needs cleaning and calibration
Realistic SA-10 Stereo Audio Amplifier – Switches/controls need cleaned, missing knob
MFJ-259 Analyzer – Functions but poor condition, meters loose
Heathkit HP-1144 Power Supply – Highly modified, untested; switch added to front panel; remote switch lines disconnected; missing 11-pin socket; 500 MF capacitor burned/missing
Hallicrafters SX-99 Receiver – Knobs and meter replaced; tubes need checked; controls need cleaned; needs alignment
Hallicrafters S-120 Receiver – Bad filter capacitors; tubes need checked; controls need cleaned

Heathkit SB-104 Transceiver – Parts only; no power supply; VFO frozen; digits out; no receive; has transmit power
RCA Oscilloscope WO-33A – Functions; tubes need checked; filter capacitors need replaced; controls need cleaned
MFJ-945D Antenna Tuner

Heathkit SB-104 Transceiver + SB-604 Speaker + HP-1144 Power Supply – Transceiver functions; controls need cleaned; power supply ground missing, cord needs replaced
Elenco Signal Generator (100 kHz–150 MHz) – Functional, modifications made
AOR AR8000 Handheld Receiver – 500 kHz–1.9 GHz
Kenwood SP-31 Speaker
JVC CV-AC212 13.5V 1.2A Power Supply
Heathkit HS-1661 Speaker

Kenwood SM-230 Station Monitor
Kenwood MC-85 Microphone – Untested
Hallicrafters R-46B Speaker
Compuvideo Waveform Monitor/Vectorscope – Untested
6-Meter 3-Element Military Antenna
Uniden 800XLT Scanner – Untested
75-Ohm Step Attenuator – Untested
Kenwood IF-232C Interface – Untested
Kenwood PC-1A Phone Patch – Untested
Icom 8-Pin Microphone – Unknown model, untested
Kenwood KBP-9 Battery Case
Kenwood KNB-75L Li-ion Battery Pack
Icom UT-133A Bluetooth Unit
Icom MB-62/MB-105 Mobile Mounting Bracket

Johnson Viking Adventurer Transmitter – Untested
Hallicrafters SP-44 Skyrider Panoramic – Bad power cord, untested
Kenwood TS-480 Control Head – No transceiver
Yaesu WE-224 Transceiver – Untested
Deltron Dual-Range Power Supply (0–16V 2A / 0–32V 1A) – Missing knob, untested
Heathkit HW-202 2-Meter FM Transceiver – Untested

High Sierra Sidekick Black Hawk Screwdriver Antenna – Mounted on 8 ft PVC pipe; includes control box, cable with coax, manual
Misc. Antenna Coils, Antennas, and Antenna Parts
Heathkit HN-31 Cantenna
Simpson Handiscope Oscilloscope – Untested
Philco VHF→UHF Signal Generator Adapter – Untested
Gelman Power Supply – Modified, untested
Heathkit HX-10 Marauder Transmitter – Untested
Kepco JQE Power Supply (0–150V 0–7A) – Untested
Box of Rotators and Control Boxes – Untested, unmatched

!! DISCORD !!

Did you know we have a Midland Emergency Communication DISCORD site? This is open for all central Michigan amateur radio operators; however, it has highly targeted channels that are specific to Midland and Saginaw County as well as ARES members. Please join the members who have already become part of the server to collaborate with others who have Amateur Radio as part of their passion. https://discord.gg/CEX7kn6ev6

MARC Merchandise

Did you know that McCreadie Sales has the artwork for MARC? They can put our logo on shirts, jackets, hats, and more. Don't just represent our club, represent it in style.
You can go to mccreadiesales.com to place an order with the MARC logo. Contact McCreadie Sales Printwear & Promotion at (989) 631-7650 or visit the store at 601 S Saginaw Rd, Midland, MI 48640!

MARC Help Wanted!

Club Quartermaster - We have been looking for someone to take over for Lee (KC8ITI). This is a great opportunity!
Field Day Committee - We are looking for someone to fill this open position! Contact Dennis Klipa N8ERF at n8erf@arrl.net for more information **:)**

Newsletter Deadline

Contact KE8RNA at ke8rna@arrl.net if you would like to submit anything– articles, images, events, ideas, etc. – to the newsletter. The deadline for items for inclusion in the newsletter is the last Thursday of the month!

MARC Meetings

Kanushi Desai is in charge of presentation topics for our monthly meetings. If you have a topic on which you would like to present or would like to lead a discussion, please contact her at ke8rna@arrl.net. To volunteer for **net control,** contact Ric Sauer KD0RMK at *kd0rmk@arrl.net*

VE Examination Sessions

If you need to find an examination session, please check the ARRL website for scheduled exam sessions in Michigan at: Http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml?State=MI
Or contact Dennis Klipa by email at N8ERF@arrl.net or call at (989) 948-5427.

🌐MARC VITAL STATISTICS🌐

Memberships Expiring in December 2025
KB8HIK

Memberships Expiring in January 2025
none

Current Active Club Membership
KC8ITI* N8CGP* N8ERF* W8QN* K8VFO* KC8MUD* KB8SOE K0ACP KE8DON K8GTG N8LBF N8GEM K6VWE KE8ZKS KF8BYT W8PMR KB8PGW W8PMR K8PLM KF8DSP AB8PS W8DOD K8VB KF8DSK N8NTN KE8MND KC8YVF KD0RMK AC8QF KB8HIK WB8WNF KD8MMH KE8RNA N8NNA, W8QOI K8WSR

*Life Member

Memberships Recently Expired
N4DBR

New Memberships
none

Renewed Memberships
none

Birthdays Celebrated in December 2025 🎂
N8CGP N8ERF WB8WNF

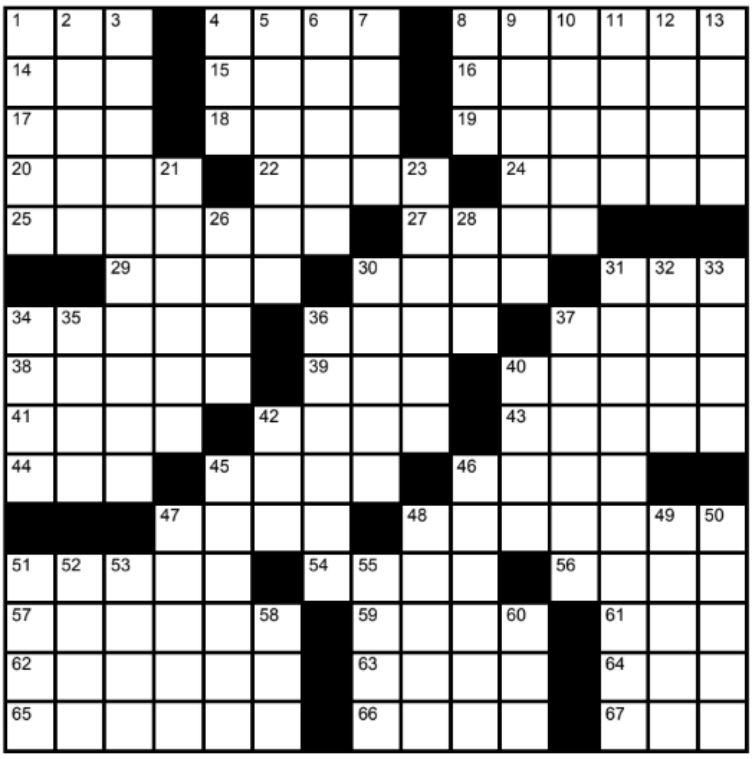
Birthdays Celebrated in January 2025 🎂
W8QOI W8PMR K8PLM KD0RMK

Information based on data received November 29th, 2025

Crossword Puzzle of the Month :)

(email ke8rna@arrl.net for hints/ key)

Encoded



Across

1. Cluster cmd
4. Tribander part
8. *10MHz, with 30-down
14. Grammy category
15. Sushi fish (some may generate RF noise)
16. Especially comfortable place for a DXpedition, say
17. Words of understanding
18. Radiation from a "cloud burner"
19. EP city
20. Early radio construction material
22. Part of IARU (abbr.)
24. 5Z
25. Contender, e.g., for ARRL director
27. Copies
29. 160m luminary Perry
30. Polar explorer, early radio user
31. Early radio noise maker
34. WAS item
36. Charge opposite?
37. Spectrum Defense ____
38. With 40-across, a hint to solving the clues indicated with a *
39. Paddle
40. See 38-across
41. Sky hooks, briefly
42. Some HV paths
43. Young's accounting partner
44. Relative of cap. and ind.
45. Bumpkin
46. Wire, from 44-across, say
47. Simple
48. Conclusion
51. Monastery head
54. RF effect
56. Fly high
57. Flying high
59. Used to stabilize a crystal
61. Owed
62. VHF antenna measurers?
63. 59-across product
64. Before, in verse
65. *7MHz, with 30-down
66. Some service hams
67. Band condition influencer

Down

1. *21MHz, with 50-down
2. Internet cry?
3. What's needed after barefoot tower climbing?
4. Doubled, it's a "net"
5. "Recent Equipment"
6. 50's Collins
7. "Hey ... over here!"
8. Crumb
9. Stank
10. Blown resistor remnants
11. Norse goddess of fate
12. *3.5MHz, with 30-down
13. I-land island peak
21. Mimeographs
23. E, F and others
26. ___-do-well
28. Prefix with -selector
30. *
31. Microwave parts
32. Some gates
33. W6 summer time
34. Kind of tissue
35. Nearly always 9
36. Electromagnetic, and others
37. Coulombs per volt
40. "It's ___ real!"
42. Ether
45. Prefix with -geneous
46. Amplifier type
47. Place to stay at the Hamvention, possibly
48. Libya
49. C2
50. *See 1-down
51. Ethereal
52. *5.4MHz, with 30-down
53. Kind of joint
55. One V per mA
58. UA 73
60. Tfc. org.

About the Midland Amateur Radio Club

W8KEA is the Amateur Radio call sign assigned to the Midland Amateur Radio Club (MARC) by the Federal Communications Commission. MARC, established in 1948, holds monthly meetings of its members at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of every month at the Salvation Army Building located at 330 Waldo Ave, Midland, Michigan. MARC is dedicated to the support of the Amateur Radio community in the Midland area, to providing public service and emergency communications to the community and to educating the public in all aspects of Amateur Radio. MARC provides communications support for community events such as the annual Dow Run and the MS Walk on a completely voluntary basis. MARC also works closely with the Midland County Department of Emergency Services, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army to provide voluntary emergency communications support in times of emergency, disaster or severe weather event. MARC offers classes to anyone interested in earning an Amateur Radio License. The club repeater, W8KEA, operates on a frequency of 147.0000 MHz with a positive offset. The PL tone is 103.5. MARC also offers examination sessions so you can take your FCC examination here in Midland. MARC advisors lead the Electronics and Wireless Communications Clubs at Northeast Middle School and Midland High School.

Interested in knowing more about Amateur Radio? Come on down to our next meeting. Everyone is welcome, and we would be happy to get to know you.

MARC is a 501(c)(3) organization. The club's articles of incorporation and bylaws are available for review.

You can learn about amateur radio by visiting the American Radio Relay League website.

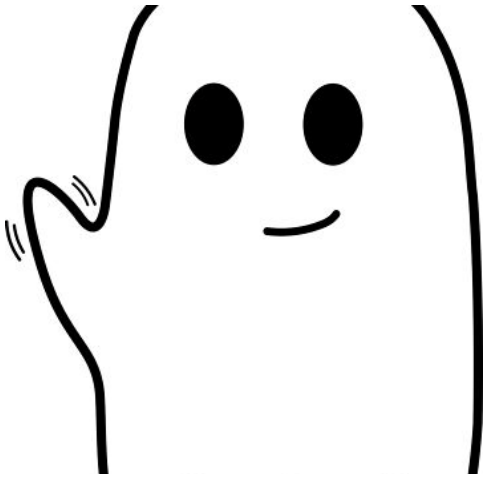
If you desire to join the **Midland Amateur Radio Club**, the dues are $20 per year and $5 for additional family members. Membership includes a *Monthly Newsletter.* Please supply the following intormation:

Name _____ Call: _____ N T G A E _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
E-Mail _____
Birthdate (mmddyy) _____ Anniversary _____
Telephone-Home _____ Work _____

Are you an ARRL Member? Yes_____ No

If not an ARES member, do you want an application? Yes No

Please send to MARC, P.O, Box 1049, Midiand MI 48641

🛑 !!STOP RIGHT THERE!! 🛑

This is the end… for now. I hope you enjoyed this edition!
Be Radio Active! 73!
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