

MARC February 2026 NEWSLETTER



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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 — Thursday, February 5th 2026, at 7:30 pm, Salvation Army Building, 220 S. Waldo Ave

Winter! Colder temperatures and longer nights bring new opportunities to enjoy the hobby. It's an ideal season for equipment maintenance, indoor projects, and sharpening operating skills as band conditions shift. Whether you're exploring winter DX, experimenting with digital modes, or checking in on local nets, there's always something engaging happening on the airwaves—even when the snow is falling.



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View From the Top of the Tower

My thanks to Linda, KC8MUD, our club secretary, for organizing a delightful Holiday Party on January 8th. Everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie and the white elephant gift exchange. Thank you, Linda!

The February meeting is going to be very interesting. Kieth, KB8SOE, plans to have a broad discussion of digital modes that are used in Amateur Radio. He will also discuss some of the newer equipment that has come on the market to allow for digital modes at a modest investment.



We will also have several reports on the status of our repeater, the plans and objectives we have for our repeater, as well as two proposals presented to MARC from the Central Michigan Emergency Network. For background on the current repeater situation and these proposals, please read the January W8KEA newsletter:
<https://w8kea.org/wp-content/uploads/library/Newsletters/2026/2026-01-January-Newsletter.pdf>.
Over the last two weeks, the Executive Committee has met twice to discuss the repeater situation. The membership meeting should be an informative meeting.

Can you believe it? We are only five months away from Field Day! We are planning to renew MARC's Field Day activities. Ric and I are looking for a few excited folks who would like to help us plan this fun, renewed activity for the club. I know folks don't like to volunteer based on a general call like this, so don't be surprised when we tap you on the shoulder!

I look forward to seeing you at the Saturday morning breakfasts at Bob Evans (8:00 am), on the Thursday night net (7:30 pm), and the Sunday night 10M (28.380 MHz) net at 7:00 pm.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF
MARC President

School Clubs Report

The high school and middle school clubs continue to go well. Middle school students have recently completed an electronic, flashing Christmas tree project, constructed by hand using both resistors and capacitors. They are currently constructing an electronic pulsating heart.

At the high school club, students continue to pursue their individual projects and learning journeys. Kanushi and Will are getting close to finishing their ~two-year-long project of a wireless fencing scoring system. We should be seeing a presentation of the system at an upcoming meeting. Three students are working together to build a QRP Labs transceiver with WSPR capability. This is a complex build. I have built one myself. It is a fun build, but it is not a simple project. It is a good learning experience.

Another first-year student is excited about her journey to learn about electronics. She is currently having fun learning about controlling circuits with an Arduino. Another student is learning how to do 3D printing with our printer. He will become a great resource when we need enclosures or attachments for other club projects.

I have submitted a grant application for additional equipment for the school clubs to the Midland Area Community Foundation Service Club Alliance. In the past, you would have had to submit a grant request to service clubs individually. With the formation of the Service Club Alliance, you can submit one request, and all ten service clubs receive the request. So far, I have heard from three of the clubs, with a total of \$6,500 being offered. I wish to thank Midland Kiwanis, Kiwassee Kiwanis, and the Midland Noon Rotary Club for their financial support.

Dennis Kipa, N8ERF



From the Midland County EC...

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

SKYWARN Annual Training

Annual SKYWARN Storm Spotter training will be held on March 5, 2026. It will be hosted at the Midland County Emergency Management Office, 2727 Rodd Street, Midland, MI 48640. This training will take place on the same night as our traditional MARC meeting. This training is open to all interested parties.

Repeater

We've had some spirited discussions about our repeater. We, as individuals, want to embrace the hobby aspect of amateur radio. Our organizational structure indicates that we are also here to support public service and the community. Regardless of how this is accomplished, access to two local repeaters potentially gives us the opportunity to satisfy both aspects of amateur radio.

The Central Michigan Emergency Network has offered us a couple of opportunities to fulfill both sets of goals. I see both paths as viable options. From an emergency services point of view, two is always better than one. Having a backup is a stronger path toward being prepared.

10 Meter Net

For just over a month now, we've had a 10-meter net. This experience has already shown us the pros and cons of our ability to communicate over short distances on this band. This is a very informal opportunity to talk to each other and share basic information about our lives and local events, such as the weather and its impact on our lives or equipment.

This net has been running between 10 and 15 minutes on Sunday evening at 7:00 pm local time, on a frequency of 28.38 MHz USB. This net is also listed on Discord. Feel free to join us on Sunday evenings on 10 meters for a couple of quick rounds of information sharing.

Net Control Training

We are looking for someone with formal net control training to build and provide a training session or two for this group. If you are interested in helping this effort, please contact Ric Sauer at kd0rmk@gmail.com

DISCORD

MARC has a DISCORD server. Discord is a free communication platform for voice, video and text chat that was originally built for gamers but is now used by many different communities. Users can join or create “servers,” which are communities centered around specific topics, like gaming, hobbies, amateur radio, or friend groups. Within a server, users can chat in real-time and organize themselves into different channels for specific conversations.

As previously stated, the service is free; we have augmented capabilities that occur at a fee. We also have an API that automatically posts information from the National Weather Service on the SKYWARN® channel of our Discord site. This posting typically occurs within 10 minutes of notice from the NWS.

As the EC, I would like to use this platform for ARES training and links to emergency communications services. We can have scheduled or impromptu text, voice, and video for as few as two people and many more than the size of our current organization. (DISCORD LINK IN MARC ITEMS OF INTEREST SECTION)

ARES

ARRL has a terrific information page dedicated to [ARES](#). As the world experiences new emergency services challenges on a national and community level, we need to maintain our training and situational awareness of things that may occur.

To assist with some of the training assignments, please let me know if you would like to present information and personal experiences as it relates to emergency training, FEMA, NIMS, or any other specialized training. Please contact Ric Sauer (Midland EC) at KD0RMK@arrl.net.

★Michigan 2026 Hamfest / Convention Schedule

Feb 8, 2026 — Cherryland ARC Annual Swap and Shop, Traverse City, MI
Feb 21, 2026 — Livonia ARC Annual Shop and Swap, 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



MARC Items of Interest

!! DISCORD !!

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 February 2026

AC8QF

Memberships Expiring in March 2026

KC8YVF KD0RMK

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
WB8WNF KD8MMH KE8RNA N8NNA, W8QOI K8WSR KF8FGO

*Life Member

Memberships Recently Expired

NONE

New Memberships

KF8FGO

Renewed Memberships

NONE

Birthdays Celebrated in February 2026 🎂

KF8BYT KC8ITI K0ACP

Birthdays Celebrated in March 2026 🎂

K8VB W8QN KE8MND

Information based on data received January 31st, 2026

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 220 S 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 events. 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 information:

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, Midland MI 48641

❖ **!!STOP RIGHT THERE!!** ❖

This is the end... for now. I hope you enjoyed this edition!

Be Radio Active! 73!

