

MARC April 2026 NEWSLETTER



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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: Salvation Army Building - 330 S Waldo Ave at 7:30 pm on April 2, 2026.

Spring! Warmer temperatures and longer days bring new opportunities to enjoy the hobby. It's a great season to get antennas back up, take on outdoor projects, and refresh your setup after winter. Whether you're experimenting with portable operations, joining local nets, or getting ready for field events, there's always something exciting happening on the airwaves as everything comes back to life.



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View From the Top of the Tower

Lots of things happening in the local ham radio community.

The April meeting of MARC will be back to normal at the Salvation Army Building on 330 S. Waldo Ave at 7:30 PM on April 2, 2026. This month we will have a remote presentation on Field Day by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, who is the Ohio Section Youth Coordinator.

A VE session has been scheduled for Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 AM. The location is to be determined. More details will be shared as they become available.

Planning for Field Day, June 26th and 27th, 2026, is underway and is being led by Ric, KD0RMK. Information is posted on Discord. Contact Ric for access to Discord. We are looking for volunteers to help get everything organized. It is going to be a fun time. It is also going to be a learning experience as we re-engage in the Field Day experience, so I ask for mercy as we learn.

Warm weather is threatening a comeback, so I am looking forward to some more POTA activations led by Art, K0ACP.

Speaking of warm weather, we had an outdoor Fox Hunt at Northeast Middle School last week. We also started our student training for the May 2nd high-altitude balloon launch. We will be needing volunteer communicators for this fun event. See more details in the School Club report.

A few folks have suggested that we have a “club build,” where club members get to come together to build something—maybe a multiband antenna. In the past we have built tape measure Yagi antennas for Fox Hunting, an offset attenuator also for Fox Hunting, and a 40-meter receiver kit. This type of activity would give folks who might not have much experience building electronics an opportunity to do it in an environment where support and guidance are at hand. The school electronics clubs would provide an ideal place to hold such an event.

Repeaters continue to be a big focus for MARC. I look forward to hearing from John, W8QN, and Art, K0ACP, on the progress being made to improve the functionality of the W8KEA.

At the April meeting we will be addressing the proposal from CMEN to donate \$5,000 to help them install a 2-meter repeater on their tower site near Bullock Creek High School.

This would give us a backup repeater in the area with pretty broad coverage. We have been discussing this for a few months now, and I want to bring the question for a vote at the April meeting. Some folks are interested in making the investment, and others are less inclined to spend 20% of our funds on the CMEN repeater. In the last newsletter I encouraged folks to write up their opinions (pro and con) for this month’s newsletter. I look forward to reading them. At the meeting we will have opportunities for everyone to share their thoughts and opinions. We will give everyone an opportunity to speak once before we go for a second round of rebuttal.



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

New Equipment Purchases

The high school and middle school clubs continue to go well. We have completed the purchase of additional equipment for the school clubs using funds from our recent fundraising campaign. The items purchased will expand the number of students who can participate in electronics kit building exercises and include tools, toolboxes, soldering stations, solderless breadboards, parts kits, and multimeters. Previously, we had up to 4 students share a set of tools and a soldering station. With the additional purchases, we will have at most two students sharing a workstation. As you might imagine, four students sharing a workstation can be frustrating. We also purchased a new oscilloscope with an HDMI port, which will allow us to project the scope's waveforms onto the screen in front of the classroom. We have already used this functionality several times.

High Altitude Balloon Flight

With the warmer weather, we were able to hold a Fox Hunt outside at Northeast Middle School. A week earlier, we had held a Fox Hunt indoors, which was an interesting experience. These exercises were a prelude to the start of our training for the upcoming high-altitude balloon flight, which is scheduled for May 2nd, which happens to be the same day as the Cadillac Swap.

We will need a few volunteers from the ham community to help us out with communications. We will need two people to operate the communications trailer as net control and backup. We will also need someone to receive and plot radio direction-finding bearings that will be reported from our two RDF teams. We will need operators to report the RDF bearings taken every 5 minutes during the flight. You will be able to track the flight of the balloon via APRS. We will have two APRS transmitters onboard the payload. If you want to get in on the fun, let us know.

High School

At the high school, the students continue their individual electronics explorations. The team building the WSPR radio is nearing completion. They have finished construction and are going through the boards looking for faults before applying power. After that, there will be filter tuning and further testing. Also, Kanushi is getting very close to testing her fencing scoring system. We only have about 5 or 6 weeks left in the school year for club activities. It has been another very successful and fun year so far.

Dennis, N8ERF



From the Midland County EC...

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

[Michigan Section Digital Radio Group](#)

This is a Michigan Section organization promoted to digital radio. Whether packet, JNOS, VARA-FM, APRS, DMR, Fusion, IRLP, AllStar, D-STAR, P25, microwave linking, or other, this is the place to congregate and exchange ideas. Here are a small sample of groups:

[DRG-AMPRNet](#)

All TCP/IP networking for amateur radio.

[DRG-DigitalVoice](#)

List for all digital voice modes group.

[DRG-Winlink](#)

For discussion of Winlink Global Radio Email group.

Anyone that wishes to assist in promoting any of these groups, please let me know.
KD0RMK@gmail.com / Ric Sauer

Public Service

Any assistance from the group is truly appreciated. We are looking for volunteers to support amateur radio visibility at public events, community activities, training sessions, and MARC events. This is more than just volunteering—it's an opportunity to share the experiences and expertise of amateur radio operators. It's also a chance to spark interest among younger people and demonstrate how we communicate effectively when the need arises.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- Midland Fair
- Dirty Dog Run
- MARC Ham Fest
- Summer Field Day
- Fox Hunt
- Project Events
- Local Nets
- POTA

It doesn't matter how much experience you have. If you want to help perpetuate amateur radio, learn more about this fascinating hobby, or teach others, this is the place to be. Amateur radio offers the opportunity to learn something new all the time.

Contact Ric Sauer at KD0RMK@gmail.com or send a message on Discord to learn more about these activities or to volunteer. Don't be bashful—you may get a call for assistance anyway.

10 Meter Net

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)

March 5th MARC Meeting Minutes...

The evening started at 6:00 PM at the Law Enforcement Center with the 2026 National Weather Service weather spotter training. Meteorologist Sarah Schultz gave a great PowerPoint presentation reminding us how to contact and report weather-related information that they need.

Dennis, N8ERF, brought a short business meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 26 members and guests signed the attendance sheet as it went around the room. Introductions were made.

Minutes – Dennis, N8ERF – A motion was made by Dennis, N8ERF, to approve February's minutes and seconded by Dave, N4DBR. February's minutes were approved.

School Club – Dennis, N8ERF – The program is progressing nicely. Dennis, N8ERF, has received \$6000.00 in grant money and has purchased new soldering stations for the students. The Middle School balloon launch is set for May 20th, weather permitting.

VE Report – Ric, KD0RMK – Winter Field Day was mentioned, and don't forget Saturday morning breakfast at Bob Evans at 7:00 AM. Ric, KD0RMK, also gave an emergency services report.

Repeater – Dennis, N8ERF – In April, the topic at the monthly meeting will be about the repeater. Also, the West Midland Community Center's tower is going to be taken down. The topic up for discussion is do we or do we not donate \$5000.00 to the CMEN group.

Dow Run – Chris, KB8UIH – Chris is asking for operators to assist him for the 2026 Dow Run/Walk starting at the Community Center at 7:00 AM on June 6th.

Saginaw Mtg – Mike, KD8MMH – Saginaw's club meetings are on the first Friday of the month at the Harry Brown Airport.

Swap – Lee, KC8ITI – The swap is now ARRL sanctioned.

Videos – Doug, N8NTN – Doug is asking members if they have any videos of past events to show during Field Day.

Ric, KD0RMK, made a motion to end the meeting.
The meeting ended at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda, KC8MUD
Club Secretary

★ 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



Midland Amateur Radio Club



Swap & Shop and TRUNK SALE



An ARRL
Sanctioned
Hamfest

Featuring: *Amateur Radio Equipment* *Electronic Parts*
Computer Parts *Electronic Test Equipment* *Food*
Radio Antenna Equipment *Door Prizes*
*VE Testing Session - Preregistration required *

Saturday June 20th 2026

Set-up 6:30 AM

Show time 8AM – Noon???

Salvation Army Building – 330 Waldo Ave. – Midland, Michigan

Talk in on the Midland Repeater 147.00+ with PL of 103.5 Hz

ADMISSION \$5.00

Tables \$10.00

Trunk Sales \$5.00



For more information Contact:
Keith Johnson, KB8SOE
Phone (989) 737-9023 or
Email kb8soe@kb8soe.com

For VE testing session information
contact: Dennis K. Klipa, N8ERF
Phone (989) 948-5427 or
email n8erf@arrl.net
Preregistration required

Amateur Radio Newsline Highlights – Report 2526

March 26th 2026 (<https://www.arnewsline.org/>)

Amateur radio operators played a critical role in responding to severe flooding across Hawaii following two major storm systems. ARES and RACES volunteers provided real-time reports from affected areas, using repeater networks and Winlink messaging to support emergency operations as recovery efforts continue.

In the United States, lawmakers are advancing a \$100 million plan to expand and modernize NOAA's weather radio network. The proposal focuses on improving coverage in high-risk and remote areas, while also exploring satellite and microwave backup systems to strengthen emergency communications.

On the air, operators worldwide are preparing for the fourth annual World Autism Awareness Week special event, beginning April 1st. Stations across multiple countries will participate, promoting awareness and inclusion through international contacts.

Looking to space, the European Space Agency has announced plans for a chartered astronaut mission to the International Space Station, expected to take place before the station's planned retirement in 2030.

Special event activity continues to thrive, with the W7P Pluto Discovery Anniversary event logging over 6,500 contacts worldwide despite operational challenges.

The community also notes the passing of S. Aruna Kumar, VU3VGP, a respected operator known for his work in emergency communications and disaster response.

Additional recognitions include the Radio Club of America honoring young professionals in wireless communications, highlighting the next generation of leaders in the field.

Upcoming operating events include a Titanic memorial special event station in April, as well as ongoing DXpedition activity from locations including Bangladesh, Zambia, Madeira, and Scotland.

Finally, a new grassroots initiative called "Out on the Air" is encouraging operators to get active outdoors, focusing on simple, human-to-human connections rather than formal operating events.

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.

Global Ham Radio News

If you're interested in staying up to date on amateur radio news beyond our local activities, be sure to check out Ham Weekly at <https://daily.hamweekly.com/>. It's a convenient way to keep a pulse on what's happening in the broader amateur radio world.

MARC VITAL STATISTICS

Memberships Expiring in March 2026

KD0RMK

Memberships Expiring in April 2026

K8VB KE8MND KF8DSK N8NTN

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 W8RBF

*Life Member

Memberships Recently Expired

New Memberships

Renewed Memberships

AC8QF KB8PGW

Birthdays Celebrated in April 2026 🎂

KE8RNA KF8DSK K8GTG

Birthdays Celebrated in May 2026 🎂

KC8MUD KF8FGO KE8DON

Information based on data received March 28th, 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 (mmddy) _____ 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!

