

MARC JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



President	Dennis Klipa N8ERF	(989) 948-5427
Vice President	Kanushi Desai KE8RNA	(989) 948-5889
Secretary	Linda Hodges KC8MUD	(989) 652-6213
Treasurer	John Wolters, W8QN	(989) 832-9122
W8KEA Station Trustee	John Wolters W8QN	(989) 832-9122
Midland County RO	Jack Robinson K8GTG	(989) 492-4882
Midland County EC	Ric Sauer KD0RMK	(210) 802-9537
Newsletter Editor	Kanushi Desai KE8RNA	(989) 948-5889
ARRL VEC Liaison	Dennis Klipa N8ERF	(989) 948-5427
Web Page Chairman	Max Schneider KE8DON	(989) 859-4288
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: Salvation Army Building - 330 S Waldo Ave at 7:30 pm on June 4th, 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

The June MARC meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army Building, 330 S. Waldo Ave., Midland, MI.

Election of officers is coming up at the September meeting. Unfortunately, we will be losing the contributions of our capable Vice President, Kanushi, KE8RNA. She has done a great job for the club and will be missed. We will need to replace her. I encourage you to step up and run for the VP position. As always, I am more than happy to have someone replace me as President as well.



The entertainment portion of this meeting will be a participatory surprise. Our VP, who oversees the entertainment portion of our meetings, has decided that we don't do enough socializing. So, the June meeting will include an old-fashioned ice cream social. Those folks calling in remotely will not, unfortunately, be able to effectively participate. We will hold the business portion of the meeting first, should you choose to call in for that. The remote access information was included in the email that delivered this newsletter.

Since the July meeting is scheduled for July 2, we may or may not have a July meeting. We will make that decision at this June meeting.

June will see two big events for the club. The first will be the annual SWAP, organized by Keith, KB8SOE—thank you! The second will be our first Field Day event in quite some time, organized by Art, K0ACP, and Mitchell, W8DOD. More information on both events can be found later in this newsletter and on our website, W8KEA.org. There will also be an interaction with the City of Midland later in June, which we will report on next month.

The school clubs' activities have concluded for the school year, but we are already preparing for next year. We will be holding an antenna party at the high school in early June to repair a few problems with two of the antennas.

Please take about 31 minutes of your valuable time to watch this YouTube video entitled “The Amateur Radio: Where did 750,000 Operators Go?” I think it is an outstanding historical and analytical perspective of the evolution of the hobby, both its rise and recent decline. It should be a good topic of discussion during the Ice Cream Social.

<https://youtu.be/f8rcxPu5oOU?si=f-aqbgYezG0MJpd8>

I hope you all have a great summer enjoying the beautiful Michigan weather. I look forward to seeing you at the Saturday morning breakfasts at Bob Evans (8:00 a.m.), on the Thursday night net (7:30 p.m.), and on the Sunday night 10-meter net (28.380 MHz) at 7:00 p.m.

Best Regards,

Dennis, N8ERF
MARC President



From the Midland County EC...

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

Why We Have Training

What Is "Emergency" and What Is "Priority" Traffic?

Messages are prioritized as follows:

Emergency – A message having life-or-death urgency.

Priority – An important time-critical message.

Welfare – An inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in a disaster area, or a message from a disaster victim to friends and family.

Routine – Any message not meeting the requirements for a higher precedence.

Source: Introduction to Emergency Communication Course

Always Keep a Log

Regardless of your role in emergency communications, you should keep a log. Ideally, you would maintain a running log on an ICS-214 or ICS-309 form. If that is not possible, transcribe your notes onto one of those forms once you have more time.

UTC or Local Time?

One often-asked question is whether to use Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) or local time on documents.

The general rule of thumb is to use local time when the event is strictly local and UTC when communicating outside the local area. In practice sessions and on this net, Midland ARES uses local time on ICS-213 message forms and UTC on ARRL Radiograms.

If in doubt, indicate which time standard you have used. For example:

- 1330 EST (Eastern Standard Time)
- 1930 Z (Zulu, or UTC)

Always use the 24-hour clock and do not insert colons.

Never Self-Deploy

One of the worst nightmares of emergency response professionals is when unexpected volunteers arrive on the scene. They may be well-intentioned and perhaps even qualified, but responders have no way of knowing that.

Instead of simply showing up, find out whether there is a volunteer hotline and call it first. For Amateur Radio operations, there will likely be a resource net that you can contact for instructions.

Think Basic

It is nice to be able to provide a served agency with complex, high-speed digital communications, but the more complicated a system is, the more prone it is to failure.

Make sure you can still competently operate analog modes and send and receive formal messages verbally.

These are just a few examples of why we have training. This is not so much about rules as it is about expectations and having a standard way of doing things that remains consistent from event to event.

If you would like to learn more or are interested in assisting with training, please send me an email at **KD0RMK@gmail.com**.

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)

May 7th MARC Meeting Minutes...

Dennis N8ERF brought the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with 30 members and guests present, in person and via Zoom. A sign-in sheet was passed around, and introductions were made. Dave N4DBR made a motion to approve April's minutes. The motion was supported by Paul N8GEM. Passed. Corrections or additions to the minutes should be brought to the attention of Linda KC8MUD, MARC Secretary.

Saginaw Club Business – Ron KC8YVF – Volunteers are needed to help with the Frankenmuth MS Walk on Saturday, May 9.

Dow Run/Walk – Keith KB8SOE – Chris KB8UIH is looking for volunteers to help with the Dow Run/Walk on June 6.

Cadillac Swap – Lee KC8ITI – The swap in Cadillac was well attended and successful.

Midland Swap – Keith KB8SOE – Keith will be looking for volunteers to come out on Friday, June 19, in the evening to help set up and to stay for cleanup around noon on June 20. Tables are available, and there will also be trunk sales in the parking lot and food in the cafeteria.

School Club – Dennis N8ERF – Dennis reported on the Middle School Club balloon launch that had a bumpy start but a successful ending. The May 5 meeting was the last High School Club meeting of the year.

CMEN Group – Jeff KB8SWR – Jeff reported on updates to their new repeater tower and will fill club members in on what it will do.

Presentations – There were three presenters tonight.

1. Al Montoye, W8RBF, gave an interesting take on his POTA (Parks on the Air) events. He hikes or skis to the top of a mountain and sets his equipment up there. Not for the faint of heart.
2. Lee Hodges, KC8ITI – Lee's presentation described the effects of cross-polarization with direct wave propagation.
3. Art Peters, K0ACP – Art presented his plans for W8KEA Summer Field Day, taking place on June 27. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Soo Locks – Lou N8LOU – June 27, the last Friday in June, is Engineers Day at the Soo Locks. An Amateur Radio station will be set up there and is an interesting way to get people involved.

Saginaw Club – Mike KD8MMH – The Saginaw Club has a training coming up that will explain the new ARRL rules to follow while giving VE exams.

Larry N8CGP moved to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Keith KB8SOE. Meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Linda KC8MUD
MARC Secretary

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

Summer Field Day Update

Hello fellow MARCers and Hams-at-Large,

Here is a quick Summer Field Day (SFD) update on behalf of your Summer Field Day Committee.

A quick reminder: this is our first attempt at running our own SFD in quite some time, so our goal this year is to **KISS — Keep It Simple, Silly**.

Summer Field Day is the last Saturday and Sunday in June, June 27–28. For this outing, we will only be operating on Saturday, from **2:00 p.m. EDT until 10:00 p.m. EDT**.

Location [Link to Map](#)

Swanton Memorial Hall

6460 N. Water Road
Edenville, MI

Setup will begin around **10:00 a.m.**, although some intrepid souls may show up earlier.

Operating

We will have **five operating positions** plus the **VHF talk-in station**.

Thanks to our Discord Wizard, Ric, KD0RMK, we have an online schedule available for operators to sign up for time slots. We encourage everyone to consider taking one or two operating periods.

To sign up for a slot, go to the MEMCOMM Discord server, navigate to the **Summer-Field-Day** channel, and type "**signmeup**", or use the sign-up link provided on Discord. [Sign up Link](#)

Computers will be attached to each radio, and logging will be done using **N3FJP's Field Day software package**. Quick-reference cards will be available.

Consistent with our KISS theme, we will be using only the five HF stations. Please do not bring additional HF equipment, as we will have our hands full keeping these stations on the air.

Food

Snacks, Water, and Coffee

Available throughout the day.

Lunch (Starting at Noon)

- Cold-cut platter
- Condiments
- Buns

- Chips

Dinner (Starting at 6:00 p.m.)

- Pulled pork
- Buns
- Baked beans
- Cole slaw

Dessert (Starting at 8:00 p.m.)

- Potluck dessert social

We will provide snacks, water, coffee, lunch, and dinner. We are asking attendees to bring a dessert to share for our evening snack.

Wrap-Up

Operations will cease at **10:00 p.m. EDT**, and we hope to have everything cleaned up and packed away by **midnight or earlier**.

If you have questions, please visit the **MEMCOMM Summer-Field-Day** channel on Discord or email:

K0ACP@K0ACP.com

Stay tuned for more updates, and we hope to see you on June 27!

— The Summer Field Day Committee

Amateur Radio Newsline Highlights – Report 2535

May 29th, 2026 (<https://www.arnewsline.org/>)

This month's Amateur Radio Newsline featured several stories of interest to amateur radio operators around the world. One of the most significant announcements was that Canada's shortwave time station, CHU, will permanently cease operations on June 22. Operated by the National Research Council since the 1930s, CHU has provided official time signals on multiple HF frequencies and has long been a familiar station to shortwave listeners and amateur radio operators. Future timekeeping services will be provided through internet-based and telephone systems.

Preparations are underway for the 2026 ARRL Field Day weekend, which will take place June 27–28. To help operators prepare, the Long Island CW Club is offering a series of free CW training sessions throughout June. The sessions are open to all operators and focus on Field Day operating techniques, exchanges, and improving confidence on the air.

The annual 13 Colonies Special Event will return during the first week of July. Organizers have introduced a streamlined process for obtaining event certificates, allowing participants to download certificates electronically after verifying their contacts. This year's QSL cards will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, with many designs highlighting locations where the Declaration was first read in each colony.

DXers will be pleased to learn that QSL cards from the recent CYØS Sable Island DXpedition are expected to begin mailing in early June. The expedition logged more than 103,000 contacts with stations around the world and operated entirely on solar power during its stay on the remote island.

The Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a special exhibit showcasing the history of amateur radio in Gibraltar. The exhibit highlights the role radio played in maintaining communication between families during periods when Gibraltar's border with Spain was closed and conventional communications were limited. Special event station ZB2FTY is operating in conjunction with the celebration.

Hamvention 2026 organizers announced record attendance this year, reporting 37,924 visitors and more than 600 volunteers. The event once again demonstrated the continued growth and enthusiasm within the amateur radio community. Plans are already underway for Hamvention 2027.

Other stories included special event stations commemorating the shutdown of BBC longwave broadcasting facilities in the United Kingdom, opportunities for presenters at England's Electromagnetic Field Festival, and the launch of "Bird Chaser Bingo," a summer activity encouraging amateur satellite operators to complete various operating challenges while tracking and working satellites.

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](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 June 2026

K6VWE KE8ZKS KF8BYT N8GEM

Memberships Expiring in July 2026

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
WB8WNF KD8MMH KE8RNA N8NNA, W8QOI K8WSR KF8FGO W8RBF N4DBR,
KF8GJG,

*Life Member

Memberships Recently Expired

None

New Memberships

None

Renewed Memberships

W8PMR KC8VOA KD0RMK N8NTN

Birthdays Celebrated in June 2026 🎂

KD8MMH

Birthdays Celebrated in July 2026 🎂

N8NTN

Information based on data received May 30th, 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!

