

MARC AUGUST 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 August 6th, 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 August meeting will feature a presentation on stealth antennas. For those of us with limited antenna space or living in an HOA community, this should be especially interesting. It may even give those who operate portable some new ideas. Thanks to Kanushi, KE8RNA, for arranging this presentation.

July saw a POTA event in support of the Edenville Township Summer Celebration. Be sure to check out the article later in this newsletter by Art, K0ACP, for a recap of the event.



Volunteers are needed for the Dirty Dog Run, which will be held on the morning of Saturday, August 15, at Midland City Forest. Lee assures me that the weather will be perfect! Please contact Lee for more information or to sign up.

Thinking ahead a bit, September will be time for the election of club officers. Kanushi will be heading off to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, so we will need a new Vice President. Please consider stepping up and making a contribution to your club by running for an office. As always, I would not be offended in the least if someone chose to run for President.

Nets and more nets! In addition to the Thursday evening net on 147.000 MHz, there is also a 10-meter net on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on 28.380 MHz. Greg, KE8AZN, is considering starting a Monday Morning Coffee Net at 8:00 a.m. on 147.000 MHz. Finally, a group of hams is considering a WINLINK net to provide learning opportunities for that mode. More information will be coming soon.

I would also like to invite any Extra Class licensees in the area to become Volunteer Examiners. The number of VEs on the Midland team has diminished over time. Some of those who assist us are members of the Saginaw club, and we sincerely appreciate their help. We will continue to share Volunteer Examiners between the two groups.

It is a strictly volunteer arrangement. If you are available and willing to help at a particular session, great! If you cannot make a given session, no problem. If you are interested, you can find more information on becoming a Volunteer Examiner on the ARRL website or send me a note.

I hope you all have a great summer enjoying what is left of the beautiful Michigan weather.

I look forward to seeing you at the Saturday morning breakfasts at Bob Evans at 8:00 a.m., on the Thursday night net at 7:30 p.m., and on the Sunday night 10-meter net on 28.380 MHz at 7:00 p.m.

Best Regards,

Dennis, N8ERF



From the Midland County EC...

Ric Sauer KD0RMK

Why We Have Training

Have a variety of coaxial cable adapters handy.

When going into the field or to a served agency, you may find that there is an antenna already in place. But can you connect your transceiver to it? It would be a good idea to have a variety of coax connector adapters, or better still, an adapter kit in your go-bag.

Remember, it's an emergency net.

It is in our nature to chat, but we must learn to restrain ourselves when on an emergency net. Consider the following exchange:

Station 1: "Do you have a CB radio handy?"

Station 2: "Yeah, I brought mine. I picked it up at a hamfest a few years ago. It was a pretty good bargain. I used to keep it in my truck, but then I got a better one..." and on and on.

The first station obviously had an important reason for asking about the availability of a CB radio. He is unable to explain what he needs, however, because the second station is tying up the frequency with unimportant detail. The proper response would have been a simple, "Yes."

From various experienced operators.

Survey before you set up.

You've arrived at the disaster site and have been assigned a spot where you can set up. Before you start lugging equipment from your vehicle, survey the location. Are there overhead obstructions? Is it noisy? Are there trip hazards between there and your car? Take your time. You don't want any surprises once you start operating.

Include a first aid kit in your go-bag.

A first aid kit in your go-bag is a must. You don't need to be ready to perform surgery, but you'll at least want to be able to treat minor cuts and bug bites on the spot.

Antennas in trees.

If you've ever been to a Field Day site, you have probably seen someone use a slingshot, bow and arrow, or some other device to get a wire antenna up into a nearby tree. Be very careful doing this at a deployment site. There may be downed power lines in the trees, or tree trimmers may be about to cut down dangerous limbs. Make sure to inform the site safety officer about what you plan to do.

Lithium and Alkaline Batteries.

Lithium and alkaline batteries are very handy, and you undoubtedly have some devices that use them. They do, however, tend to go bad on you at the worst possible moments. Check the ones in your devices frequently, carry spares in your go-bag, and check those periodically as well.

Uncomfortable safety gear.

If the disaster site safety officer insists that you wear certain safety gear, put it on and keep it on,

regardless of how clumsy or uncomfortable it makes you. If you find it intolerable, get someone to replace you and leave the site.

Ensure you are tuned to the proper frequency.

Have you ever keyed the mic and no one answered? Keyed it again and the repeater courtesy tone did not sound? Maybe you nudged the memory switch or the tuning knob. Don't forget to monitor your local emergency radio net frequency if you suspect an emergency is in progress.

Learn to handle formal traffic.

Formal traffic is just a way to ensure that messages don't get garbled during transmission. It's not as difficult as you might think, and there's a very good chance that you'll need to know how to do it during a deployment. There is information about message handling on our website, and a formal traffic net is held every Wednesday evening after the weekly voice net.

Are the roads open?

You have been called up for a deployment. Before you grab your go-bag and jump in your car, tune in to the news channels and see if the route you intended to take is blocked. Your preparedness planning should include thinking about alternatives to the roads you usually travel.

Test everything in advance.

Besides thoroughly understanding your transceiver's features and programming it in advance, you should also make sure that you understand how all of your auxiliary gear works. You don't want to waste valuable time at a disaster scene trying to get your new multi-tool, soldering iron, crimper, or whatever out of its original packaging, only to discover that you don't really understand how it works.

Try to give a simple answer.

During an emergency net, either real or practice, if you are asked a question, do your best to give a short, simple answer. Try not to add a lot of qualifiers or exceptions. When asked for a simple "yes" or "no," if you can't answer, your only other response should be, "I don't know."

Be self-sufficient.

Complex communications systems are fine, but you're going to make an unfavorable impression if you show up at a disaster site and say, "I'll be able to set up my station as soon as my buddy arrives with the other half of the equipment." If your buddy can't make it, then you can't provide any service and will just be in the way. Always take a simple, but complete, system with you so that you can provide basic communications.

Wi-Fi.

Wi-Fi and hotspots are so ubiquitous that it's easy to believe that they will always be available. During a communications emergency, however, there is a very good chance that they won't. Be sure to take paper copies of any vital information that you might need when you deploy into the field.

The above list is a very small sample of things to consider during an emergency. Recurring training and being prepared in advance is the best practice. Anyone wanting to assist by providing training sessions or practicing remote site setup, please contact Ric Sauer at **KD0RMK@gmail.com**.

Monday Coffee Net

Greg, KE8AZN, is starting a new net at **8:00 a.m. on Mondays**. This net will be on the **W8KEA repeater**. All are welcome. This net encourages peak travel-time-to-work communication. If this net goes well, Greg would like to do this five days a week to hopefully bring back the commute traffic communication that most communities enjoy.

WINLINK Net

Several people have expressed an interest in learning more about WINLINK, how it works, and its practical uses and capabilities. A few people are looking to plan a weekly training and practical use of WINLINK.

Anyone interested should send a message in the **Discord WINLINK channel** or email Ric Sauer at **KD0RMK@gmail.com** to get on the list.

The SOS Dirty Dog Run

The Dirty Dog Run will be held on **August 15, 2026**. Volunteers are needed to stay in areas along the City Forest course for the 5K and 10K runs.

Check-in will be at the North City Forest parking lot on Monroe Road, just west of Eastman Road, prior to **8:00 a.m.** Operators should be on station by **8:30 a.m.** The first race begins at **9:00 a.m.**, and the event should be finished by **noon**.

Assignments will be given at check-in. If you would like to help with this worthwhile event or need more information, contact Lee, KC8ITI, at **(989) 486-3771** or email **kc8iti@arrl.net**.

Lee, KC8ITI

Midland Hams Help Hope Township Celebrate Woodside Park Summer Festival

By Art Peters, K0ACP

For the second year, the Midland Amateur Radio Club (MARC) had a presence at the Hope Township Woodside Park Summer Festival on July 19, 2026. While attendance by the hams was slightly down from last year, we had two operating positions active.

This was a great opportunity not only to support our local park system and Hope Township, but also for hams to activate Kawkawlin Watershed Park (US-6711) as part of the Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event.

POTA is an operating activity where hams can go to designated parks, set up portable stations, and practice emergency communications.

There were six hams in attendance: Wendy Russell, K8WSR; John Tallman, KB8PGW; Ric Sauer, KD0RMK; Mitchell Boyce, W8DOD; Kathy Peters, KD0JHX; and Art Peters, K0ACP. Also in attendance was Maverick, K9DOG, the Peters' Labradoodle.

The group activated the park with 38 phone contacts, 16 CW (Morse code) contacts, and sent one ARRL Radiogram via Winlink. As a surprise, Art, K0ACP, received an email from Lyle Maystruck, VE5EE, in Regina, Saskatchewan, reporting that Art's VHF APRS beacon had been received there—highly unusual propagation. The highlight of the event, however, was when Wendy, K8WSR, logged eight hams participating in a group activation at a park in Canada.



The photos above show the operating setup and give a glimpse of the great weather that was enjoyed by all.

We hope to see you at our next activation! Watch Discord, MEMCOMM, the W8KEA website at www.w8kea.org, or tune in to the Thursday evening VHF net at 7:30 p.m. on the W8KEA repeater (147.000 MHz, 103.5 Hz tone) for more details.

73 es God Bless,

.../Art K0ACP

Amateur Radio Newsline Highlights – Report 2544

July 31st, 2026 (<https://www.arnewsline.org/>)

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2544 – July 31, 2026

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) 2026 is under review after organizers discovered discrepancies in competitors' log files. The WRTC Organizing Committee has ordered a complete re-analysis of all logs to ensure the final standings are accurate and fair, emphasizing that there is no place for foul play in the competition.

The amateur radio community also mourns the passing of renowned DXer Kiyoshi "Kan" Mizoguchi, JA1BK/VP6BK, at the age of 93. Kan was instrumental in activating several rare DXCC entities, established the ARRL DX Log Archive Program, and served as Director of IARU Region 3 from 1968 to 1975.

A father-and-son DXpedition team from Poland is combining DXing with public service by bringing APRS and APRS LoRa capability to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. In addition to operating on the air, they are donating equipment and working with local amateurs to establish APRS networks in areas where the technology has not previously existed.

The historic Jodrell Bank Observatory in England, home to the famous Lovell Telescope, faces closure after government funding for the e-MERLIN radio telescope network was withdrawn. Unless new funding is secured, scientific operations are expected to cease in 2028.

Newsline also reported that investigators are examining whether military GPS jamming may have contributed to the fatal crash of a medical transport aircraft in New Mexico earlier this year. The investigation remains ongoing. Meanwhile, NASA reported that Spain's Madrid Deep Space Communications Complex escaped major damage from recent wildfires, though the facility remains temporarily offline while inspections continue.

Other stories included the launch of the first three FireSat satellites to improve global wildfire detection, plans for the Zero Retries Digital Conference this October, and preparations for an August DXpedition to the remote Heiss Island in the Arctic. Operators can also look forward to numerous August special event stations, including the International Dog Day and Cat Day activations, along with DX opportunities from Tuvalu, Azerbaijan, Willis Island, the Bahamas, and other locations around the world.

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 McCreddie 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 McCreddie 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!

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 August 2026

K8GTG KD8MMH KE8DON W8QOI

Memberships Expiring in September 2026

KE8RNA

Current Active Club Membership

KC8ITI* N8CGP* N8ERF* W8QN* K8VFO* KC8MUD* KB8SOE K0ACP KE8DON
K8GTG N8LBF N8GEM K6VWE KE8ZKS KF8BYT W8PMR KB8PGW W8PMR
KF8DSP W8DOD K8VB N8NTN KE8MND KC8YVF KD0RMK AC8QF WB8WNF
KD8MMH KE8RNA N8NNA, W8QOI K8WSR KF8FGO W8RBF N4DBR KF8GJG
K8LQV KD8ZXS

*Life Member

Memberships Recently Expired

AB8PS KF8DSP KE8ZKS KF8BYT K8PLM K6VWE

New Memberships

K8QLV KD8ZXS

Renewed Memberships

NONE

Birthdays Celebrated in August 2026 🎂

W8PMR K8VFO N8LBF KB8HIK

Birthdays Celebrated in September 2026 🎂

N8GEM KB8SOE

Information based on data received August 3rd, 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!

