

M2M News Beacon



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Prez's Preface

*Spring is here, the grass is
riz, I wonder where the
birdies and DX is?*

Ah spring, the time of year to go outside and assess the effects of both winter and weather on your hobby. Have the groundhogs chomped on the coax; did the wind loosen the guy wires; how did the bearings and control cables hold up on your rotors? Perhaps it's time to replace and seal those PL259s? Did the oak tree spit out your long wire?

Rainy days bring out the electronics catalogs, so you can research your dream rig; imagine touching the ionosphere with a new tower; or price out components of your new homebrew. Is there anything sweeter than the smell of hot solder on a sunny morning?

At our March 12th meeting at the JVS, Ohio Section Manager, Scott Yonally N8SY will be filling us in on the freshest information from the ARRL.

And what better time to review your preparedness for tornado season? Time to dust off your "go" boxes.

The Skywarn Training Class will be held April 3rd at the Medina County Career Center (JVS). More information on page 3.

Happy Spring!

73,

Jane@K8JGR.radio
216-570-8500

Hamateur Antix



THE ONLY REASON MARCONI INVENTED WIRELESS BROADCASTING WAS TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO PRONOUNCE HIS FIRST NAME.

[Goo-lyel-maw]

Monthly Meeting Minutes



Secretary is in Florida!

March 12, 2018 Program

Where: Medina County Career

Room 246, 1101 West Liberty Street, Medina 44256, 7:30pm

Speaker: ARRL Ohio Section Manager, **Scott Yonally N8SY**, will fill us in on the latest news with time for a question and answer segment at the end.

Bring a friend to what is sure to be an interesting presentation.

Past Program – Ken Koyan K8TV

Ken Koyan K8TV offers us some supplemental information to augment his presentation at our January meeting.

The link mentioned below takes you to a calculator site: It calculates power and voltage gain when knowing the dB loss or gain, or finds the gain/loss in dB in either voltage or wattage use. It is a very handy link.

You will notice that a doubling of voltage results in 6 dB of gain - a doubling in power results in a 3 dB gain. Here is a chart showing signal level in dBm and equivalent micro-volts and S unit changes. S meters are usually specified at 14.250 MHz with pre amp off, to indicate S9 signal

strength with 50 uv of signal input to the antenna. Each S unit is 6 dB. This rarely is the case in the real world, except for the new SDR receivers, of which all are real close to correct. Here is the link and chart. <http://www.sengpielaudio.com/calculatorVoltagePower.htm>

Receiver sensitivity is often referred to in microvolts – in many newer receivers, especially SDR types the meters read directly in dBm, the engineering standard.

73, Ken K8TV

dBm	Microvolt	S Units
-121	.2	S1
-115	.398	S2
-109	.795	S3
-103	1.58	S4
-97	3.16	S5
-91	6.31	S6
-85	12.6	S7
-79	25.1	S8
-73	50	S9 the standard
-63	158	+10 dB
-53	501	+20 dB
-43	1580	+30 dB
-33	5001	+40 dB

Skywarn Training April 3

Medina County Emergency Management Agency is hosting SKYWARN (Storm Spotter) training on **Tuesday April 3rd**. This training will be taught by a meteorologist from the National Weather Service. **Registration begins at 5:45pm, training begins at 6:30pm** and will last approximately 2 hours.

This training is free and is open to anyone who would like to attend. No pre-registration necessary. Attendees will be registered in the SKYWARN system and provided with a SKYWARN spotter card and number.

Location: Medina County Career Center, 1101 West Liberty, Medina, OH 44256

Time: Registration 5:45pm-6:30pm

Training: 6:30pm-8:30pm



2018 M2M Calendar

March 12 Meeting (JVS)	June 11 Meeting (Sr)	October
April 9 Meeting (Sr)	June 23 &24 Field Day	Home Depot Safety Days
April 22 NVIS/Earth Day	July 9 Meeting (Sr)	November 12 Meeting M2M Election
May 14 Meeting (JVS)	August 13 Meeting (Sr)	December 10 Meeting JVS
May 18-20 Dayton Hamvention	September 10 Meeting	
	October 8 Meeting	

Meeting Venues:

JVS = Medina County Career Center
Room 246
1101 West Liberty St.
Medina 44256

SR = Medina County Senior Center (Basement)
246 Northland Dr.
Medina 44256

Meetings start at 7:30pm

Ohio Hamfests

03/04/2018

Location: Lorain County Community College
1005 North Abbe Road
Elyria, OH 44035
Website: <http://noars.net>
Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society
Talk-In: 146.70 (PL 110.9)
Public Contact: Darlene Ohman KA8VTS
Phone: 216-398-8858
dohman1045@gmail.com

03/17/2018

Location: Senior Citizens Center
1165 State Route 160
Gallipolis, OH 45631
<https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/home/movarc-hamfest>
Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club
Talk-In: 147.060 (PL 74.4)
Public Contact: Lester Cardwell KD8ZU
Phone: 740-256-1312
Email: kd8zu@arrl.org

03/18/2018

Location: Owens Community College
30335 Oregon Road
Perrysburg, OH 43551
<http://www.tmrahmradio.org>
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Talk-In: 147.27/87 (PL 103.5)
Public Contact: Brian Harrington WD8MXR
Phone: 419-385-5624
Email: wd8mxr@gmail.com

Contests

March 2018

3-4 International
DX- Phone

Member of the Month – Fred Helwig K8FH

Name, Call Sign, and Tech/General/Extra? Fred Helwig Jr, K8FH, Extra

How long have you been a ham?
First licensed in 1964...54 years.

How long have you been a member of M2M? About 30 years, Joe Rizzo, N8BOO, brought me into the club.

Family Members who are hams?

My wife Gail, KD8GGM. Gail studied for her Technician on her own after we got married and surprised me at a VE session I was assisting with. I had no clue! Of course I could not administer her exam but she took the exam under the supervision of the other VE's in the room and passed it. Gail has always been very supportive of the hobby we both enjoy.

What/who got you interested in amateur radio? When I was in kindergarten I got sent home from school one day in a taxi cab, I had the chicken pox. I noticed the cab driver talking on a radio, and it really caught my attention. I related the experience to my uncle, who was a TV repairman. I remember my uncle chuckling about it, and then a week later he gave me a headset and a germanium diode and together we wound a coil on a toilet paper tube and made a small crystal radio. My Dad was in the motor manufacturing business at that time and he got me all kinds of magnet wire. I ran some wire around my bedroom ceiling and threw a window out to a tree for an antenna and got even more fascinated with radio as I tuned in broadcast stations on my crystal radio moving the cat whisker around on the diode. The next few years I tinkered with various crystal radio designs and I think my interest

leaned more toward building the radios than listening to them. When I was in the 6th grade, a buddy and I each bought Knight Kit, walkie talkies and put them together. We only lived a couple blocks away from each other and were able to talk back and forth on them. For a shop class project in junior high I built an AM table radio, also a Knight Kit. It worked fine, but I became curious. When I turned the tuning dial up as high as it would go at night, I came across strange beeping sounds. My shop teacher told me it was probably Morse code. He helped me pick out a couple books at the school library and before I knew it I was learning about Morse code and ham radio. I always kept a piece of paper in my pocket with all the dits and dahs of the alphabet on it and when I'd get a moment I would get that piece of paper out and work on learning Morse code. I was determined to find out what the dits and dahs on my AM radio were saying. I got caught one day in school studying my piece of paper instead of my text book and while I was serving detention the teacher asked me about the dots and dashes on the paper she confiscated from me. I told her it was Morse code and that it was used to communicate through wires or over radio. This teacher who punished me with a detention put me in touch with a hobby that I would enjoy the rest of my life. She introduced me to one of her neighbors who was a ham radio operator, W8HRW. He called himself Hot Rod Willie (HRW). He gave me an old straight key and helped me hook it up to a buzzer and a battery.



I was hooked. My Dad helped me buy an HF receiver, a Hallicrafters SX-110. It wasn't long after that I took my Novice written exam and 5 WPM code test and became WN8OMI. That was in 1964. In those days there weren't any formal VE sessions, a General Class ham could administer the Novice exam and the higher classes had to be taken in front of an FCC examiner. No more germanium diodes - I was collecting old TV's from the curb on rubbish day and salvaging parts to build transmitters and tuners. I homebrewed my first transmitter, it put out 40 watts on 40 meters (and most every other frequency) and was crystal controlled. I followed a design I found in a radio handbook. I worked all my neighbors; they heard me on their phones, on their TV's, and one neighbor heard me on her organ. With a little help I got my transmitter cleaned up, put up a decent dipole and all was well. A year later, two weeks after my Novice had expired, I went and passed my General written exam and 13 WPM code test in front of an FCC examiner at the old Post Office building downtown Cleveland and became WA8TMK. Within a couple years I took and passed my Advanced exam, again in front of an FCC examiner but this time at the Coast Guard station downtown Cleveland. In the late 90's I took and passed my Extra written exam
Continued next page...

Fred Helwig K8FH – Continued

and 20 WPM code test at a VE session in North Olmsted and put in for the call I have now, K8FH.

What modes of operation do you like best? My mode of choice has always been CW. I'm not behind a microphone very often. I dabble a bit in the digital modes but would like to become more proficient with them.

Awards, activities, nets: When I was younger in the hobby I used to Rag Chew, mostly on CW, didn't much matter who or where, but it was exciting to hook up with someone on a different continent. Ham radio has many facets and has something for everyone and someone is always eager to instill interest and provide drive. I was never much of a serious contester or DX chaser until I met Ed, K8NVR. Ed got me interested in chasing DX. Every time there is a DXpedition somewhere, Ed and I challenge each other in a friendly rivalry as to who is going to work the guy on the most bands and modes. I have 333 out of 340 DXCC entities confirmed now and am a member of the DXCC Honor Roll. Ken, K8TV, is responsible for getting me interested in 160 meters, my favorite band to operate. I started 160 meter CW contesting in 1997 and have competed in the ARRL 160 CW contest for 18 of the last 20 years. I have been fortunate to take first place in Ohio 15 times, first in Great Lakes Division ten times, USA four times and first place world three times in the Single Op Low Power category. Dave, NF8O, instilled an interest in me to train and be prepared for the unexpected with our communications abilities and resources. Whether it is operating from a command post, comm trailer, go box, using alternate power supplies, or digital modes of communication, Dave is a leader and



mentor. I also enjoy operating portable; Field Day, Ohio QSO Party, Ohio Parks on the Air, and more recently the Winter Field Day and public service events. I have participated in several VHF/UHF QSO Parties operating portable with Gerry, K8GDT (SK). It has been fun building and experimenting with various antenna ideas and designs over the years.

Current projects? Seems I'm always tinkering on something in the shack. At the moment I am working on an antenna switching scheme so I can have two radios sharing all the same antennas with a lockout feature so the two radios can't be on the same antenna at the same time. I like the luxury of having the radios automatically switch to the correct antenna based on the band the radio is on. This summer I hope to get some more wire and steel in the sky and get on the 630 meter band.

Favorite rig(s)? My first commercially built transmitter was a Hallicrafters HT-40, a 75 watt AM and CW rig, still crystal controlled. When I was a

senior in high school, my Dad went halves with me on my first transceiver, a Swan-500C all band SSB/CW rig, finally a VFO! SSB was exciting at first but CW was still my preference. Now, where did I put that microphone?

It has been kind of an ongoing chuckle in the club that I am the Icom Guy. I bought my first Icom radio sometime in the mid 80's, an IC-751 HF transceiver. It was a terrific radio and I have had about every Icom HF radio made since, including numerous VHF/UHF Icom radios. I did sway from Icom a few years back and bought an Elecraft K3, just a super contest radio. The filtering is superb and it has a lot of software defined features. Icom has since entered the SDR era with the IC-7300, and followed by the IC-7610. The IC-7300 is a great little radio, aside from being a great base rig, it is a fantastic rig for portable operating, and it is reasonably priced with excellent features. I haven't had a chance to seriously work with the IC-7610 yet but its specs rival those of the K3.
Continued next page...

Fred Helwig K8FH – Continued

What line of work were/are you in?

My Dad decided to quit his job in the motor manufacturing business in the late 50's and together, my parents started a machine shop business. I have worked in the family business since I was 11 years old (Dad had no use for child labor laws...ha ha). I learned all that I know about the machine shop and fabricating business working at his side, we manufacture water treatment equipment that is sold all over the world. I am still working and plan to work as long as I am able but perhaps slow down a bit so I can enjoy more time with Gail and all our collective children, grandchildren and at the moment one great grandchild. I have a very capable son, Fred 3, coming along in the business behind me.

Other Hobbies? Not so much anymore, but when I was younger I used to really enjoy hiking, backpacking, motorcycles, and horses. Gail has been my best friend and has courageously followed me hiking up and down mountains over the years. We have done some camping, even in the snow, and we enjoy a hike or bike ride from time to time.

Please add any other information that expresses your enjoyment with ham radio. In high school (Fairview Park), I started a ham radio club (club call WA8URP) with my shop teacher as the advisor. Our school station had a Knight Kit R-100 receiver and a T-150 transmitter to a couple dipoles on the roof of the school. Our club set up for Field Day in the shop teacher's backyard, my first ever Field Day. I have been doing Field Day ever since either as an individual or with a group.



AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A new organization has spring up in Fairview High, supervised by Mr. Johnson. Amateur Radio Club is made up of a group of boys interested in radio communication. The members work with "ham" radio sets to send and receive communications in this area. Several of the boys have already earned their FCC operator's license and are helping the others to obtain theirs.

ROW 1. F. Helwig; pres.—WA8TMK, K. Beckman—WA8NVW, T. Squires ROW 2. F. Looft—VA8RZD, J. Silverstein—WN8UPT, S. Gully—WN8UKT, P. Rauch ROW 3. Mr. Johnson; advisor—VN8URT, J. Kozel—WA8SBG, T. Coleman—WN8UOZ, D. Goebel.

Another thing I was active with in ham radio in the late 60's was something called "phone patching". I had a device I put together from Heathkit that hooked between my radio and the phone line that allowed me to be in QSO on the radio, call someone on the phone, and through the phone patch the person on the phone could talk through my radio to the ham at the other end or to another person connected through a phone patch at the other end. That was exciting. I connected a lot of guys in the military overseas and on board ships with their families in the states through phone patches. There were regular nets on 20 meters whose sole purpose was to aide in making the connections possible.

I have enjoyed taking my little IC-706 HF radio on trips or vacations and operating portable. I've operated from the shores of Hawaii, mountains of Wyoming, and the backwoods of Alaska. Throw a wire in the trees and see where you can

work. I think I would enjoy being part of a DXpedition somewhere.

There is a group of us hams that make a pilgrimage to Dayton (Xenia) together every year to enjoy the Dayton Hamvention. We set up an R&R spot in the flea market area for the weekend and enjoy food, refreshments, and comradery together in between hiking the flea market for that irresistible treasure. The Dayton Hamvention is always an incredibly good time. It's a great place to meet friends and hams you talk to over the years from all over the world not to mention rummaging through all the neat stuff in the flea market and all the latest and greatest stuff the commercial vendors are offering. I highly recommend making the trip down there.....look us up in the flea market!

ARES/MECARS/MCARES, Who Cares? (We Cares!)

As you know, many members of M2M are active in our Medina County ARES organization. ARES is an ARRL program administered by the ARRL and delegated to the ARRL Section Managers. But what *is* the official name and acronym for the Medina County ARES? Several have been floating around.

Jim Bodnar W8UQZ, the ARES/Medina County Emergency Coordinator provided some history. "It started out as MECARS which still stands today but the words associated with it have changed to **ME**dina **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **S**ervice. The group handles all kinds of public service operations.

It included the Emergency Operations Center operations until the EOC decided that an ARES/RACES capable group was needed. [Note that the EOC is now known as the EMA – The Medina County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.] So the Communications Unit was formed which had more member requirements.

Many MECARS members volunteer in the Comm Unit and are qualified to work in the EMA under almost any conditions and handle more than only amateur radio. They must be Tier One ARES, have background checks and join *Ohio Responds*. "

[Tier I operators in ARES will be those who have completed the four FEMA courses, having certificates on file with both their county Emergency Coordinator (EC) and the Ohio ARES Training Database. These are the prime operators who will be activated when requested by emergency agencies such as the EMA. It will be the duty of each county EC to maintain a roster defining the capabilities of each member, and to maintain an activation system for Tier I members.]

[*The Ohio Responds Volunteer Registry* is a volunteer opportunity site, shared by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).]

Dave Rickon NF80, an Assistant EC, describes in more detail the relationship of M2M with MECARS.

"Due to some concerns with Medina County's existing volunteer programs, the Medina County HR Department, Medina County prosecutor and EMA Director developed a new policy for all volunteers in Medina County. The new policy encompassed the CERT team, ARES, and the volunteer reception center. The Medina County EMA developed a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Comm Unit. All Medina County emergency communications are under the supervision of the EMA

Comm Unit. ARES is now responsible for communication services provided to public service events such as the Medina Half Marathon, the Twin Sizzler, and any activity that the EMA is not involved with.

Most of the members of the Medina County Comm Unit are ARES members from M2M, some are from Cuyahoga ARES and some are not members of ARES at all, or a member of any club. ARES does offer some good training opportunities.

The following links provide more information on ARES, the ARRL management structure, ARRL- Ohio and the ARRL-Ohio Section EC tab:
<http://www.arrl.org/ares>
<http://www.arrl.org/field-organization>
<http://arrl-ohio.org/>
<http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html>

The ARES Field Organization Structure is:

ARRL Headquarters: Ohio Section Manager (SM) - Scott Yonally; Ohio Section EC (SEC) - Stan Broadway; 10th District ARES - District EC (DEC) - Eric Jessen. (The 10th District encompasses Medina, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties.); and Medina County EC - Jim Bodnar.

I am one of several Assistant ECs appointed by Jim Bodnar. I also have an ARRL appointed position, as an

ARRL Official Emergency Station. Assistant ECs are not ARRL positions. I am also the Comm Unit Leader for the Medina County EMA Comm Unit and Jim Bodnar is the EC for the ARES team. Rene Eady KD8SSW is the Deputy Comm Unit Leader for the EMA Comm Unit. Ben Nau, with the Medina County EMA, is the Program Manager for the Volunteer Communications Unit. Matt Sturgeon is the Program Manager for the volunteer Community Emergency Response (CERT) team.

Last year the Medina County EMA initiated a recruiting program to recruit more members for the Comm Unit. The EMA staff and I have made presentations to the North Coast Club and Silver Creek Club. We also recruit from the Skywarn training class. The Medina County EMA expects to have further recruiting presentations within the county this coming year. We need to recruit more volunteers into the Comm Unit even if those volunteers are not affiliated with any amateur radio club or do not want to join ARES.

M2M has always been a good source and supporter of emergency communication for the EMA. I am sure that being the premier Medina County amateur radio club that M2M is, M2M will continue to be a major source of our ARES and Comm Unit volunteers going forward."

M2M Repeater Summary

Remember to check in to the 2-Meter Net 147.030 on non-meeting, Monday evenings at 7:30pm.



M2M Repeaters 12/04/2017						
Call	Location	Function	Repeater Input	Repeater Output	CTCSS (PL)	Band
W8EOC	Medina (Main Site)	Repeater TX & RX	147.630	147.030	141.3	2 Meter
W8EOC	Brunswick (North)	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	131.8	2 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South)	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	88.5	2 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette	Split Site Repeater	51.160	51.660	N/A	6 Meter
	Litchfield					
W8HN	Medina	Digital C4FM TX & RX Repeater	147.885	147.285	(0)	2 Meter
		Analog TX & RX Repeater	147.885	147.285	(110.9)	2 Meter
W8UQZ	Medina	Repeater TX & RX	223.260	224.860	-	1.25 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette	Repeater TX & RX	449.925	444.925	131.8	70 CM

M2M Monday Night 2-Meter Net Control

26-Feb-2018	KD8SST	5-Mar-2018	KE8APO
12-Mar-2018	<i>Meeting</i>	19-Mar-2018	KD8SSW
26-Mar-2018	K8NVR	2-Apr-2018	KD8SST

NOARS

Winter Hamfest

Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

Sunday, March 4, 2018

8AM - 12PM

Lorain County Community College

John A. Spitzer Conference Center

1005 N. Abbe Rd.

Elyria, OH

Setup at 6:00 a.m.

Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Air-conditioned indoor vendor sales

Free Parking - Handicap Accessible

Baofeng Programming Station



**** See back of flyer for details ****

ARRL APPROVED HAMFEST

Just \$7.00 General Admission - under 12 free

6 ft. indoor vendor tables - \$10.00

PRIZES

Hourly Prizes starting at 9 AM

Need not be present for Main Prizes but must be present for all other prizes.

Mobile check-ins and directions on **146.70 (PL 110.9) NOARS** repeater

For table reservation contact:

Dave Fisher, KY8OSU at (330) 770-4090 (before 11PM)

Email: winterhamfest@noars.net

To find out more, go to the NOARS web site: <http://www.NOARS.net>

M2M GROUP, INC

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.W8EOC.org

Also,

"Like Us" on
Facebook



Who's Who

President:

Jane Reed K8JGR

jane@K8JGR.radio

216-570-8500

VP: Diane Snider KD8SSX

Treasurer:

Gail Helwig KD8GGM

Secretary:

Ray Orobona K2RWO

Trustees:

Doug McClure KD8SST

Jim Bodnar W8UQZ

License Trustee -

Ken Koyan K8TV

Statutory Agent -

Don Duman W8DD

Repeaters:

Ken Koyan K8TV

Newsletter:

Jane Reed K8JGR

Website:

James Johnston KD8FHY

MECARS/ARES:

Jim Bodnar W8UQZ

About Our Organization...

The Medina Two Meter (M2M) Group, Inc. is a nonprofit, ARRL registered, special service amateur radio organization based in Medina County, dedicated to public service, education and fellowship.

As a club, we also work closely with The American Red Cross, The National Weather Service (Sky Warn), FEMA, The Salvation Army, hospitals, EMS, police and fire services, ARES/MECARS EOC emergency drills, and

assist with community events such as bicycle and foot races.

We meet on the second Monday of each month at either the Medina County Senior Center (Sr) or the Medina County Career (JVS) Center. See Website or page 3 for more information.



MEDINA TWO METER GROUP INC.

1254 HADCOCK RD
BRUNSWICK, OHIO 44212



TO: