

# M2M News Beacon



## Prez's Preface

*The trees are in their autumn beauty,  
The woodland paths are dry,  
Under the October twilight  
the water  
Mirrors a still sky.*

William Butler Yeats

At our September meeting, we were thrilled to welcome three guests, Cameron McElroy, Elexsis Blum and Mel Marin KE8KKM. We hope they enjoyed their visit and will continue to attend.

The best part of being involved in Amateur Radio is meeting folk who are interested in getting their license, as are Cameron and Elexsis. I am sure all the "Elmers" in the group will offer them great mentoring. Several of us have already offered to help!

We received a donation of equipment from Roy Norris N8UEY who is

moving with his wife out of state. It was so very nice of him to think of M2M.

As soon as I test out the two 2-meter radios to see if they work, we'll make a determination for the club to keep, loan or sell the radios and other items.

Happy October!  
73, [Jane@K8JGR.radio](mailto:Jane@K8JGR.radio)  
216-570-8500

## Skywarn Training Class October 17



The Medina 2 Meter Group Amateur Radio Club, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, will offer a Skywarn training class on Wednesday October 17. It will be held at the Medina County Career Center in the auditorium. The class starts at 6:30 p.m. Participants will register at the door, so plan to be early.

Skywarn is a NWS program that trains volunteers to observe and report dangerous weather conditions. The National Weather Service can only see what the radar shows and they rely on local observers to provide what they refer to as "ground truth," as to what is actually happening on the ground.



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## M2M September 10 General Meeting Minutes

The Secretary's Minutes will be passed around for review at the September General Meeting.



We thank Medina Township Police Chief, Davis Arbogast for his September presentation on Personal Property Protection.  
Photos by Baji

## Home Depot Safety Day – October 6

The annual Home Depot Safety Day is October 6, 2018 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Brunswick Home Depot, 3330 Center Road, Brunswick, OH 44212. Come on out to see local first responders and visit our ARES folk at work in Fred Helwig's K8FH communications van.



## M2M Presentation at Wadsworth Library – October 16

Doug McClure KD8SST and Jane Reed K8JGR will be presenting *Amateur Radio in the 21st Century: Communication, Technology and Lifelong Learning* at the Wadsworth Public Library on October 16 at 7:00pm. They will explain why 700,000 Amateur Radio operators find our hobby exciting in this age of cell phones and computers and will inform participants how to get licensed. Please pass this information on to anyone that may be interested in learning what our hobby is all about.

## October 8, 2018 General Meeting

Join us October 8 at the **Medina County Career Center (JVS)**.

Our speakers will be Ed Eyerdom K8NVR and Fred Helwig K8FH.

Medina County Career Center (JVS)  
Room 246  
1101 West Liberty Street  
Medina 44256



## M2M Calendar

October 6, 2018 Brunswick Home Depot Safety Days	November 12, 2018 Meeting M2M Election Senior Center
October 8, 2018 Meeting Career Center (JVS)	December 10, 2018 Meeting
October 17, 2018 Skywarn Training (JVS)	January 14, 2019 Meeting

### General 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 ARRL Hamfests

**10/06/2018**

**Scioto Valley ARC Hamfest**

**Location:** Chillicothe, OH

**Sponsor:** Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club

**Website:**

<http://www.qsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html>

**10/11/2018**

**Microwave Update 2018 Convention**

**Location:** Fairborn, OH

**Sponsor:** Midwest VHF/UHF Society

**Website:** <http://www.microwaveupdate.org>

**10/13/2018**

**Northwest Ohio ARC Hamfest**

**Location:** Lima, OH

**Sponsor:** Northwest Ohio ARC

**Website:** <http://nwoarc.com>

**10/28/2018**

**Massillon Hamfest**

**Location:** Massillon, OH

**Sponsor:** Massillon Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.w8np.org>

## Contests

**10/27-28/2018**

**International EME  
Contest**



## Member of the Month – Toby Kolman WT8O

### Name, Call Sign, and Tech/General/Extra?

**Toby Kolman WT8O**, Extra

### How long have you been a ham?

I passed my Technician exam in 2002 and was assigned the call KC8TID at age 53.

### How long have you been a member of M2M?

I first joined M2M in 2002. After several years I became president of another radio club and with a demanding job did not have time for two clubs, so I left M2M. After retiring, I rejoined M2M in 2017.

### Family Members who are Hams?

Everyone in my family is a ham, but I am the only Amateur Radio licensee! 😊

### What/Who got you interested in Amateur Radio?

As a young lad in the fifties, my dad and I were listening to a short wave radio. I'll never forget how cool it was that some guy in Kansas was talking to another guy in New Jersey. My dad explained the QSO pretty accurately for a non-ham. Fast forward to the twenty-first century... while at my friend and coworker's house, he fired up his Icom and hit a guy in England like it was nothin'. That friend became my Elmer. He is, of course, Gordon, AI8Y. The next thing I knew, I was attending a licensing class. Dayton was the week after I got my ticket. Shortly after attending that mind-blowing event, I was at the mic in the wee hours of the morning at Field Day. Driving home afterward there was only one thing on my mind, getting my General so I could work HF. The code was a bit of a struggle, but I finally got it and passed the test and rewarded myself (and MasterCard) with an Icom 746 Pro.

### What modes of operation do you like best?

FM on the local nets, HF special events and contesting.

### Awards/Nets/ Activities:

One award I felt very fortunate to receive was the "Good Operator Report" from an ARRL Official Observer.

I never won a contest, but came within one or two sections of a "Clean Sweep" in the November Sweeps several times. I have never used more than 100 watts and a wire dipole antenna.

I have been net control for the CARS weekly net ever since I received my Technician ticket. I also like to check into the M2M and Woodchuck nets as often as I can.

### Current Projects:

One simple one: I am repairing the damaged balun for my Carolina Windom so I can get back on HF. On the back burner, I am planning a bank heist so I can buy a Flex SDR (hi hi).

### Favorite Rig:

My favorite is my first love, my Icom 746 Pro. After fifteen years, I pretty much know how to work it and it has never failed me in the shack, every year at Field Day and at numerous lighthouse activations.

### What would you like to learn more about?

I would like to become proficient at CW.

### What line of work were/are you in?

I am happily retired. I was a mechanic for decades working on motorcycles, over the road diesel semis and automobiles. Later on, I was a machine builder and field service technician for Warner & Swasey. The last twenty years I worked for an aerospace manufacturer as a CNC machinist and programmer, a supply chain member and a quality technician.

### Other Hobbies?

I am an avid motorcyclist, a hot-rodder and ex-drag racer, enjoy target shooting and the study of Sherlock Holmes.

### What would you like to see in M2M?

Keep the friendly low key atmosphere the same. Coming back after a few years absence felt very comfortable and it was a pleasure to meet some new members.

The "big guy" in the photo is Blitzen, Whiskey Eight Mike Uniform Tango!



## Rhombic Antennas on Chopmist Hill (Rhode Island) Help Win World War II

*Ed. – Mike Eady KD8DZK brought this amazing story to our attention...*

The bristling antennas, miles of wire and all the technicians are gone now, but the old Suddard Farm on Chopmist Hill in Scituate is still dotted with the ghostly reminders of one of World War II's best-kept and most important secrets.

For it was here on Chopmist Hill in March, 1941, that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under Commissioner George E. Sterling, established and began operating a top-secret, radio-monitoring station. It was the largest in a nationwide network of 13 similar installations, and -- due to peculiarities of the terrain and certain atmospheric conditions -- it was the most effective. The station on Chopmist Hill could intercept distant radio signals with astonishing clarity, and in wartime, that was a critical advantage.

While Rhode Island joined the nation in home-front sacrifice -- severe gasoline rationing, ersatz chocolate and horsemeat instead of beef, to name a few -- the band of 40 radio operator-technicians from the FCC's Radio Intelligence Division (RID) conducted a superb spy operation that directly affected the waging and final outcome of the war.

Personnel in Scituate routinely monitored weather reports that were a key to troop movements and bombing missions in Europe. With uncanny frequency, the station intercepted the radio transmissions of German spys positioned in South America and North Africa. Chopmist's reception of North Africa was so good, in fact that the station had no difficulty picking up -- and turning to good use -- radio transmissions between the tanks that comprised the Desert Fox's infamous Afrika Korps.

But to this day -- 40 years after Japan's devastating attack on Pearl Harbor and 36 years after the war ended -- few Rhode Islanders are aware of the spectacular battles fought on the little hill right in their own backyard.

"C'mon, you're pullin' my leg" or "You gotta' be kidding" typify the responses of skeptics when told or asked about the illustrious history of the North Scituate farm.

Originally, the station was set up in peacetime to police the airwaves for illegal radio transmissions and to assist in air-sea rescue operations. On one occasion, actress Kay Francis, en route home from a USO tour in Europe, was aboard a plane that was lost off the coast of Florida. No formal radio installation on the seaboard was able to pick up the pilot's signals, but the Chopmist Hill station did, and the monitors in Scituate directed the plane home safely.

As the war intensified, so did the role of the Chopmist Hill station -- and the secrecy surrounding it.

The installation became a virtual mini-city, complete with its own power-generating station in the concrete blockhouse. Nearby stood a wooden barracks building that housed the RID crew. Antennas were everywhere, anchored by guide (sic) wires attached to heavy metal plates cemented to the ground.

The station itself was jam-packed with supersensitive radio receivers, transmitters and direction finders, and it was all so top-secret that not even the 40 technicians working there knew its purpose. Armed guards patrolled the area, and even visitors on official business could not approach the farm without a state police escort.

Even the Narragansett Electric Company, which played a key role in establishing the Chopmist Hill station, didn't realize just what it was doing.

Company crews were sent to the station with instructions not merely to install utility poles, but to sink them more deeply into the ground than normal, thereby ensuring that the tops of the poles would be below tree-top level and hidden from view outside the farm.

No sooner was the work completed than Thomas B. Cave, who supervised the facility for the RID, ordered all the poles moved to a different spot.

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## Rhombic Antennas on Chopmist Hill (Rhode Island) Help Win World War II – Continued

"I thought we'd have a revolt on our hands in Scituate," said former commissioner Sterling. He is 87 now and lives in quiet retirement with his wife, Margaret, on an island in Maine's Casco Bay. "The folks at Narragansett (Electric Company) thought we were crazy. We called in their utility crews to dig holes and install a whole bunch of telephone poles. Next day, we called them back to move all the poles about two feet."

Regardless of how much consternation and confusion the unexplained move may have caused, the relocated utility poles gave the station optimum radio reception. By the end of the war, the inconvenience was gladly forgiven anyway. When the role of the Chopmist Hill station was publically explained, a Narragansett Electric official said, "Hell, if I'd known what they were doing up there, I would gladly have dug holes all the way to Cairo!"

But no one knew.

Clandestine messages, encoded cryptographically, were being intercepted and copied verbatim by radio operators working 24 hours a day, who would then relay the messages to Washington, D.C., for deciphering.

Commissioner Sterling said during a recent interview that he has never been able to figure out why the United States was caught napping at Pearl Harbor 40 years ago tomorrow. He said that for several months before the December 7, 1941, attack, the Scituate monitors were routinely intercepting Japanese messages that indicated military action was pending.

RID supervisor Cave said that "Every three weeks, like clockwork, a Japanese submarine would surface in Tokyo Bay and broadcast to higher military headquarters the number of foreign ships that went in and out of the bay during the period" Cave recalls.

The Scituate monitors helped thwart the Japanese attempts to bomb the United States with TNT-laden hot-air balloons. To keep track of the silent craft, the Japanese placed radio transmitters on aboard the deadly balloons. But the RID eavesdroppers heard the signals, related the information to Washington and U.S. fighter planes were promptly dispatched to destroy the balloons.

In the entire course of the war, only a few balloons penetrated the electronic screen; one landed harmlessly in Wisconsin, and others drifted off into the Canadian wilderness.

One of the most important jobs of the Scituate station was to intercept German weather reports from Central Europe. Broadcast in such a frequency that they could not be picked up in England, the signals bounced across the Atlantic Ocean to Chopmist Hill. The information played a vital part in British planning for bombing raids against Nazi Germany.

Most amazing was the stations ability to intercept virtually all radio transmissions sent by German spies in South America and North Africa. In fact, said Cave, who is now 79 and lives in Holmes Beach, Fla., Wilhelm Hoettl, one of Germany's foreign intelligence area chiefs, affirmed during his interrogation by the U.S. Third Army in June, 1945, that German intelligence had not been able to establish a single wireless connection, either in the United States or England.

It was the Chopmist Hill station that discovered installations of German transmitters on the West coast of Africa. Even the British, who had their own monitoring stations in the region, were totally unaware of the existence of the enemy stations. It wasn't long, said Cave, before the British, via Washington, were breathing down the necks of Scituate operators for more and more information.

Little wonder. During the seesaw battles between British forces and General Erwin Rommel's infamous Afrika Korps, the Chopmist Hill station frequently picked up coded messages containing battlefield strategy from the German military leader to his subordinate commanders. The information was relayed to the British, who under Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery defeated the legendary Desert Fox at El Alemein.

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## Rhombic Antennas on Chopmist Hill (Rhode Island) Help Win World War II – Continued

"That's nothing," Cave said. "At one time, we saved the British liner Queen Mary, from being sunk with more than 10,000 Allied troops on board."

The Queen Mary was docked in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil awaiting departure for Australia. German spies in South America learned the ship's sailing schedule and precise Southerly route down the Atlantic, around Cape Horn and across the Pacific Ocean. The information was radioed to Nazi forces in Africa, then relayed to German submarine wolf packs prowling the ocean. Orders went out to sink the pride of England's maritime fleet.

"We intercepted the German transmissions, alerted the British, and they ordered the ship to change course," Cave said. "Who knows," he said with a chuckle, "maybe there's still a U-boat commander out there somewhere wondering where the hell the Queen Mary is."

On another occasion, the British asked the RID operators in Scituate to determine the nationality of a remote transmitter near the Aleutian Islands. It turned out to be a Russian station and, therefore, was spared the annihilation which was planned for the suspected Japanese facility.

Does it seem far-fetched? Is it asking too much to believe that a secret radio station up on Chopmist Hill in little old Rhode Island could have done so much so efficiently for so many?

Early on, the U.S. Army was skeptical, too, Cave said, so Army officials challenged the RID operators on Chopmist Hill to prove themselves. RID supervisor Sterling picked up the gauntlet. He told Army brass that his operators could pin down the exact location of any station within 15 minutes from the time it began operating.

So, the Army set up a phony station inside the Pentagon, without notifying the FCC, and began transmitting. Sure enough, the team on Chopmist Hill pinpointed and identified the source within seven minutes.

Perhaps, like people, every place has its day in the sun, too. World War II was Chopmist Hill's. It could not be so again.

"The problem with Scituate now is one of population growth," said Anthony M. Gates, a former Navy radioman now employed by the FCC as a program analyst in Washington.

"There are a lot of new homes, buildings and factories in the area, all of which tend to produce extensive interference with radio signals," Gates said, "...that was not the case during the '40's."

After the war, the station site was used as headquarters for Rhode Island's office of Civil Preparedness. The agency moved to Providence in 1965.

Today, the rusting steel door to the blockhouse groans in protest every time farm owner Frederick Leeder goes inside to get some hay for his small dairy herd. The barracks building is gone, and its cement-slab foundation now serves as a platform for Leeder's large woodpile.

The small concrete blockhouse is there, guarded still by its six-foot, barbed-wire topped hurricane fence. And nearby, a few stubby telephone poles still stand in the pasture next to Darby Road, like dedicated sentries ready to carry messages that will never come.

Originally authored by Providence Journal-Bulletin staff writer Jim McDonald. First printed December 6, 1981, revised by Ian W. Cummings, KB1SG, and posted to E18IC's Ham Radio Resources Website.

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## M2M Repeater Summary

05/11/2018

Call	Location	Function	Repeater Input	Repeater Directories		Band
				Repeater Output	CTCSS (PL)	
W8EOC	<b>Medina (Main Site)</b>	Repeater TX & RX	147.630	147.030	141.3	2 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Brunswick (North)</b>	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	131.8	2 Meter
<b>Medina</b>	<b>Lafayette (South)</b>	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	88.5	2 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Lafayette Litchfield</b>	Split Site Repeater	51.160		107.2	6 Meter
				51.660		
W8HN		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	<b>Medina</b>	Repeater TX & RX	223.260	224.860	-	1.25 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Lafayette</b>	Repeater TX & RX	449.925	444.925	131.8	70 CM

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

## M2M Monday Night 2-Meter Net Control

24-Sep-2018	<b>K2KSU</b>	1-Oct-2018	<b>K8NVR</b>
8-Oct-2018	<b>Meeting</b>	15-Oct-2018	<b>KD8SSW</b>
22-Oct-2018	<b>KD8SST</b>	29-Oct-2018	<b>K8NVR</b>

## Hamateur Antix



**M2M GROUP, INC**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.W8EOC.org](http://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

**Past President:**

Ed Eyerdom K8NVR

**Trustees:**

Doug McClure KD8SST

Jim Bodnar W8UQZ

License Trustee -  
Ken Koyan K8TV

Statutory Agent -  
Don Duman W8DD

**Repeaters:**

Ken Koyan K8TV

**Sunshine:**

Diane Snider KD8SSX

**Newsletter:**

Jane Reed K8JGR

**Facebook Page:**

James Johnston KD8FHY

**Website:**

Jane Reed K8JGR

**MECARS/ARES:**

Jim Bodnar W8UQZ

**Field Day:**

Fred Helwig K8FH

## About Our Organization...

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

Many of our members also are involved with ARES/MECARS RACES, 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 three for more information.



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TO:

