

# M2M News Beacon

Member to Member News Beacon



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## Prez's Preface

*"You'd be so lean, that blast of January, Would blow you through and through. Now, my fair'st friend, I would I had some flowers o' the spring that might, Become your time of day."*

- William Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale

"...Flowers o' the spring" is a delightful thought of anticipation upon which to dwell these wintery days. But we must take the action of planting the seeds of future blossoms.

In our Club, we can sow the message that Amateur Radio *is* an exciting hobby of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Electronics and computers and radio waves govern almost every minute of our day. **Radio waves** cook our food, ferry our cell phone conversations, connect our wi-fi devices, operate satellites, send us GPS directions, allow emergency communication, let us to talk to Alexa, assist aeronautical and maritime operation, and of course, helps us make QSO friends across the world. Ham Radio provides the educational foundation in which to

explore the physics we encounter in daily life.

I received an email from Mark R. Gideon who was concerned that the death knoll is tolling for our hobby.

Amateur Radio is not dead - quite the contrary. There are now more than 3 million amateur radio operators in the world, with more than 700,000 licensed operators in the United States alone.

There is some concern that the current low sunspot activity spells the end of long-distance (DX) radio communication. We are currently in the beginning the 11-year Solar Cycle 25.

According to the ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP001 (2021) on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, "Sunspot cycle 25 is progressing normally, and with the new year my outlook is optimistic. Solar minimum occurred only a bit more than a year ago (December 2019) and now we see very few days with no sunspots."

Check out the ARRL DX contest results from 2020. International contacts are still being made regardless of the solar minimum.

And there are always the digital Ham Radio modes to investigate, like FT8, that do not rely on sunspot activity.

DX Reports, live DX locations, updated every 60 seconds, can be found at [qrz.com/dxcluster](http://qrz.com/dxcluster).

So Amateur Radio is not dead. Yes, technology has evolved from the tube and crystal radios of the 1930s. But there are even groups on Facebook and the World Wide Web that revere vintage radio communication. And Morse code is still a popular contesting mode of many hams.

Encourage family and friends to become licensed radio operators. Then join a club. The Medina County Amateur Radio Club is a great place to start!

73, Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year  
Jane K8JGR

## Caring Corner

Our relief that **Diane Snider KD8SSX** is recuperating from spending ten days in the hospital with Covid is tempered with sadness and our deepest sympathy on the passing of her older brother, Steve, from the disease. We also extend prayers and healing thoughts to her younger brother, Mike, who also tested positive from Covid.

**Dave Swancer KE8APO's** mother suffered a stroke. We offer prayers and best wishes for a full recovery.

Jim Bodnar W8UQZ notified us that former MCARC member **John Lehman WA8MHO** passed on December 27, 2020. Full obit at [www.snyderfuneralhomes.com/obituary/john-h-lehman](http://www.snyderfuneralhomes.com/obituary/john-h-lehman). Our sincere condolences to his family.

## MCARC December 14 On-Air General Meeting Minutes

The December 14, 2020 Member Meeting was held on-air because of Coronavirus restrictions.

The net opened at 7:30pm with check-ins logging onto the 147.030MHz repeater. The net was controlled by Toby WT8O. The following paid members (and *guests*) were present (X - not) for the network meeting:

Toby WT8O - NCO	Ed K8NVR	Diane KD8SSX	
John K8JEK	Richard AC8RI	Baji K8IIT	
Troy KD8UJG	Julio KE8JIE	Frank KN4AW	<i>Jody KE8GKO</i>
Jane K8JGR	Doug KD8SST	Amy K2KSU	
Dave KE8APO	Ken K8TV	Mike KD8DZK	

16 members present for meeting, Quorum (9) was reached.

NCO, Toby, asked net participants for their first go-around comments.

Toby then transferred control over to Jane K8JGR to conduct the regular monthly meeting...

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting was called to order at 8:16pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's report:** Motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the November 9th, 2020 on-air meeting as published in the December Newsletter: Motion: Doug (KD8SST), 2<sup>nd</sup> Julio (KE8JIE). There were no objections or corrections, so the minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's report:** The October treasurer report (corrected version since there was a previous error) was prepared by Gail (KD8GGM) and read by Jane. Motion was made by Dave (KE8APO) and seconded by Doug (KD8SST) to accept the report. Membership voted to accept the report.

The November treasurer report was prepared by Gail (KD8GGM) and read by Jane. Motion was made by Doug (KD8SST) and seconded by Amy (K2KSU) to accept the report. Membership voted to accept the report.

**President's report:** There was a board meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Zoom) and Jane summarized the meeting. Zoom programs for 2021 were discussed. Toby (W8TO) is our program chair and has received some input for the upcoming year. Tentatively, Ed (K8NVR) will be doing a presentation on SDRPlay during the second week of January. Ed will also do a write up on this for our newsletter. Ed has been doing maintenance and updates on our repeaters using the spare repeater to allow servicing with minimal downtime. The Career Center repeater was serviced and updated last week, and the Branch Road repeater will be done next. There were a couple members who expressed interest in doing this maintenance as well and that training will be planned during the second half of 2021. The newsletter was discussed, and the suggestion was made to add crosswords and/or puzzles. Dave (KE8APO) has submitted a wordsearch puzzle and Jody (KE8GKO) will look into crossword possibilities. Skywarn recognition day was December 5<sup>th</sup>. No further information was provided since there were no on-air members who participated.

**Membership:** We want to encourage non-members who check into our weekly nets to join our club. The application for membership is on the club website W8EOC.org. Dues will remain the same for 2021 and an email reminder will go out to members to renew for 2021 and also to remind a few members who still owe for 2020. The membership form may be revised soon to include the member's birthday (year optional) and possibly licensed date. There is also a tentative plan to recognize and reward members who participate in our weekly nets the most with perhaps a \$25 DX Engineering gift card. This would apply to members only and not in/out check ins.

**Other business/announcements:** June field day results are available in QST, but Ed stated that the results are more easily viewed on the ARRL website. Ed also submitted an email reminder to Jane to update the ARRL on our club name change which Jane said she will do shortly.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Amy (K2KSU) and seconded by Julio (KE8JIE). The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dave KE8APO

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Jane K8JGR transferred control back to NCO, Toby WT8O, who continued the net with a second round of comments, before returning the repeater back to normal operations.

## January 11, 2021 On-Air Meeting

The Medina County Amateur Radio Club will *not* be holding *in-person* meetings until the threat of Coronavirus is under control.

However, Monday, January 11th, the Club will hold the *meeting during a special 2-meter net* at 7:30 pm. See page 6 for frequency and tone.

### MCARC (M2M) Calendar

January <b>4</b>	7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
January <b>11</b>	7:30pm MCARC On-Air General Meeting
January <b>18</b>	7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
January <b>25</b>	7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net

### January ARRL Contests

- 1** Straight Key Night
- 2** Kids Day
- 2-3** RTTY Roundup

### Hamatuer Antix



## This and That

**Membership Dues:** Please fill out the new/renewal Membership form and send it in with your 2021 dues (and 2020 if you missed) to new Membership Chair, Diane KD8SSX. See page 8 for more info.

**Net Control:** Where have all the NCO's gone??? Please contact Baji K8IIT (OhioBaji@gmail.com), our Net Scheduling Coordinator with the 2021 dates you would like to serve as our Monday night, 2M Net Control Operator.

**Most Check-ins During 2020:** Our 2M, Monday Night Net was bustling during 2020. Out of the 44 weeks of documented net check-ins that were forwarded to me by the NCOs, two members were logged in more than 40 times! We had to count in-and-outs since NCOs did not always indicate. The winners of the \$25.00 DXE gift certificates are: **Dave KE8APO** (42) and **Toby Kolman** (40). Congratulations!!!

Runners up with more than 30 check-ins are Amy K2KSU (38), Doug KD8SST (37), Baji K8IIT (37), Gordon AI8Y (32), and Frank (KN4AW (31). What a great group!!

**Puzzle Submissions:** Thank you to: Jody KE8GKO, Ed K8NVR, Dave KE8APO for submitting puzzles to be published in the News Beacon newsletter this year. Keep them coming!

# FCC Approves New Ham and GMRS License Fees

The FCC has just approved new license fees for Amateur Radio and the GMRS. These fees are actually lower than the original fees proposed in August, which were highly contested by hams, but welcomed by GMRS licensees. While the new FCC license fees may alleviate some of the sticker shock from the original fees proposed by the Commission, it is welcome news for fans of the GMRS.

According to the FCC Report and Order released December 29, 2020, Amateur Radio license fees will now cost \$35. This same fee will apply to new licenses, renewal licenses, and vanity call signs. Previously, no fees were collected for ham licenses or vanity call signs issued to amateur radio operators, so technically it is a significant change. However, it is considerably *less* than the \$50 fees originally proposed by the Commission, so it should be of some comfort to hams.

On the brighter side, a GMRS license will now cost *significantly less* than before. Up to now the application fee for a GMRS license was \$70. With this Report and Order, the new GMRS license fee will be only \$35, which is \$15 *less* than the proposed fee and *half* the cost of the fees previously charged by the FCC. The license is still valid for 10 years and covers an entire family.

The amendment to the proposed fees was largely due to the comments and feedback the Commission received in response to the proposal in August. While the FCC disagreed with many of the assertions from hams and the ARRL why the original proposed \$50 fees should not be charged at all, it did acknowledge on important point brought up by many that the fees did not fairly represent the amount of effort required to process the license applications which is largely automated.

As the FCC put it, "We agree that the applications for amateur licenses, and other personal licenses, are largely automated, and for that reason the cost-based fee we adopt is only \$35. With respect to the amateur licenses, while review is highly automated, staff must maintain the processing system to ensure applicants are qualified, vanity call sign procedures are followed, and off-lined applications are individually reviewed. Therefore, we cannot conclude that there are no costs involved in processing the applications and we do not have the discretion to exempt this service from application fees."

Since the same is true with the processing of GMRS licenses, the Commission amended the proposed \$50 fee for that as well, bringing the cost of a GMRS license down to \$35.

*This entry was posted on the BuyTwoWayRadios.com Blog by Rick on December 30, 2020.*



## Virtual Flea Market – Open to All

If any of you are interested in acquiring any of these remaining items for a small donation, they can be viewed/ picked up in Brunswick Hills Township by appointment, by contacting jane@K8JGR.radio or 216-570-8500.

The *suggested* donation to the Club is indicated in red. Items can be returned for full refund up to 30 days from acquiring, since they are being offered as-is.

- MFJ telescoping mast - advertised as being 33 feet - lightly used - \$80
- ATAS - 25 antenna active tuning system (YAESU) - never used - \$170
- Ten-Tec 937 Power supply - lightly used \$40
- Model 555 Scout transceiver - 50 watts - \*\* One module for 30 meters available. Purchaser will need to locate additional modules (E-bay has 20m and 15m) to work bands beyond 30M. Lightly used - \$100
- Ten-Tec 200-watt tuner (291) - lightly used - \$40
- WA1FFL Ladder - Loc - lightly used (Dipole assembly) - \$5
- Heavy duty automotive electrical noise filter - Radio Shack - never used - \$5
- Archer - Nickel cadmium battery charger (Tandy) - \$5
- MFJ 9040 package (QRP) - Power supply, transceiver (40-meter CW) and tuner with twin lead dipole ever so slightly used - \$125

## Amateur Radio Word Search Puzzle

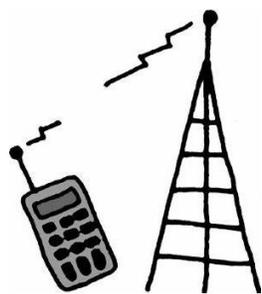
frequency	power supply	q p e h m e g a h e r t z n w e b f
megahertz	filter	w s v k i r e c e i e v e r o d a r
call sign	repeater	p i l g e i r l e a v n n i r o s e
voltmeter	modulation	v g n c s y t t n r h o b b y c o p
QSL card	microphone	h n o l a m e y e k e i h a d e x e
radio	signal	l a i a e r e r e v c t p t w s d a
hobby	operator	v l d t p t d n o i t a t s o r y t
worldwide	station	o e a e n i e z l q r l r h r o t e
transmitter	tuner	l r r a f r f e n u t u c y l m o r
receiver	ham	t r a n s m i t t e r d i c d c p n
antenna		m n j t z n l r p s d o m n w t e g
Morse code		e h a e r v t t a h a m g e i n r i
keyer		t p d n m l e q d d c y l u d j a s
		e r e n u t r i g p i c v q e c t l
		r l p a u s r e w o p o b e p o o l
		k e n o h p o r c i m j b r j k r a
		g a z w k a w w x n a s k f c q f c
		p o w e r s u p p l y h x d b k p i

This puzzle was submitted by Jody KE8GKO as printed by Smith Publishing 2012



## MCARC (M2M) Repeaters

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



Call	Location	Function	Repeater Input	Repeater Directories		Band
				Repeater Output	CTCSS (PL)	
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
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

**PLEASE  
SIGN UP  
AS NCO  
FOR 2021**

OhioBaji@gmail.com

## MCARC (M2M) Monday Night 2-Meter Net Control

04-Jan-2021		11-Jan-2021	<b>Meeting</b>
18-Jan-2021	<b>K8NVR</b>	25-Jan-2021	
01-Feb-2021		08-Feb-2021	<b>Meeting</b>

## ARRL Membership

Please consider paying your dues **for ARRL membership** through our club Treasurer, Gail KD8GGM. **M2M will retain \$15.00 for each NEW membership and \$2.00 for each renewal.**

Yearly dues are \$49.00 for regular membership, \$25.00 for youth under age 21 being oldest Ham in household, and \$10.00 for Additional Ham member in family. All but Additional Ham memberships will receive the monthly QST magazine. Dues can be paid by cash, **personal check made out to "Medina Two Meter Group"** or credit card.

**A copy of the ARRL Membership Application/Renewal form** can be obtained from Gail Helwig KD8GGM, Treasurer, M2M Group, 12891 East River Road, Columbia Station, Ohio 44028.

## Who's Who

**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**www.W8EOC.org**

**Also,**

**"Like Us" on  
Facebook**

**"Medina County  
Amateur Radio  
Club"**



**President:**

Jane Reed K8JGR  
jane@K8JGR.radio

216-570-8500

**VP:** Toby Kolman WT8O

**Treasurer:**

Gail Helwig KD8GGM

**Secretary:**

Dave Swancer KE8APO

**W8EOC Repeaters:**

Ken Koyan K8TV  
Ed Eyerdom K8NVR

**Membership:**

Diane Snider KD8SSX

**Trustees:**

Doug McClure KD8SST

Dave Oravec N8JNX

Ray Orobona K2RWO

Amy Panchumarti K2KSU

Ed Eyerdom K8NVR

**Sunshine:**

Diane Snider KD8SSX

**Newsletter:**

Jane Reed K8JGR

**Field Day:**

Fred Helwig K8FH

**Websites:**

Jane Reed K8JGR

**Net Scheduling:**

Baji Panchumarti K8IIT

**Social Events:**

Gail Helwig KD8GGM

**Skywarn:**

Tracey Liston W8TWL

**MECARS/ARES:**

Bob Mueller K8MD

**RACES:**

Dave Rickon NF80

**Program:**

Toby Kolman WT8O

## About Our Organization...

The Medina County Amateur Radio Club (M2M) is a nonprofit, ARRL Special Service registered, amateur radio organization based in Medina County, dedicated to communication, public service, education and fellowship.

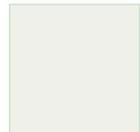
Many of our members also are involved with Skywarn, ARES/MECARS, RACES, and assist with community events

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.



MEDINA TWO METER GROUP (M2M) INC.  
DBA: MEDINA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
1254 HADCOCK RD  
BRUNSWICK, OHIO 44212



TO:

Please become a member or renew your Medina County Amateur Radio membership. Dues are our primary source of income and are used to pay for the administrative costs of liability insurance, website domain registration fees, web hosting for www.W8EOC.org and operating costs of repeater and tower maintenance, along with passing on fun perks to you, our members.

Checks are to be made out to the **Medina Two Meter (M2M) Group, Inc.**, our corporate name.

Please print and fill out the new/renewal Membership Form completely, since our new Membership chair, Diane KD8SSX is updating our recordkeeping. Dues should be mailed to her to the address on the Form.

Thank you for your support of YOUR club.

73,

Jane K8JGR

<b>MCARC MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>		<i>Please Print</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL
**** MAKE CHECK OUT TO MEDINA TWO METER GROUP INC. ****				
Call Sign			Phone	
First name			Email	
Last name			License Expires	
Address			License Class	
City			If you are renewing for more than one	
State			year, how many years? _____ years	
ZIP			ARRL Member (circle) [YES] [NO]	
Fees are: <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Licensed Member*			Convicted Felon (circle) [YES] [NO]	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 7.50 Non-voting Member*			SIGNATURE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$22.50 Family*			Please return to:	
			Diane Snider KD8SSX, Membership Chair	
*On or after July 1, reduced to one-half for <u>new members only</u>			M2M Group Inc.	
Note: Membership is for calendar year			8311 Norwalk Rd.	
New Technician within past 3 months? [Y] [N]			Litchfield, Ohio 44253	
Birth Month _____ Birth Day _____			Year you were first licensed _____	
RECEIVED AMOUNT \$ _____ DATE _____				