



News Beacon

Medina County Amateur Radio Club

Editor's Preface

"I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel.."

Charlie Brown

Sometimes we get confused and wallow in thoughts enshrouded in a fog of Covid, flu, RSV, Ukraine war, crazy politics, aging, murders, and skyrocketing costs - things over which we have no control. But we can better focus on living the positive moments of the season that sparkle with flashes of children's smiles, colorful lights, a kind word, glistening snow and unlimited DX!

My dad, K8ZFR (SK), who was a quadriplegic left with only his wit and laugh, told me that he always felt sorry for those worse off than himself. My son, Kevin, who sustained a work-related, catastrophic brain injury, used his undying optimism and mischievous humor to push through 3000 therapy sessions, often announcing triumphantly, "I am not done yet." I, being a mere grumpy mortal, cannot understand such acceptance and fortitude, but am shamed into realizing that there are many beautiful moments shimmering during this holiday season and beyond.

Wishing you and yours a joyful, peaceful, and loving Christmas,
73, Jane@K8JGR.radio

Hail to Our New President

We welcome Ed K8NVR back to his old job as President of MCARC. It is healthy for a club to get a fresh perspective on mission and direction periodically. And Ed graciously agreed to steer the Club in 2023.

Jane K8JGR steps down to Vice President while Gail KD9GGM takes a much needed break. Our newest Trustee, filling in Ed's past slot, is Steve KE8BJD.

The remaining Trustees continue to serve into 2023. See page 9 for full list.

Inside this issue

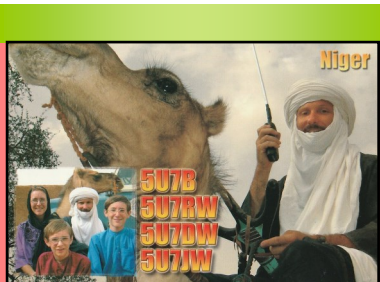
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Hmmmmmm...

I asked a Ham to fix an electrical issue in one of my rigs.

He refused.



My favorite QSL cards by Prez, Ed K8NVR

When I first became licensed in early 2000, I began collecting QSL cards for many of my contacts. After a few years of filling up several photo albums with cards and reaching DXCC and WAS, the novelty began to wear off. There was also the expense of postage which has to be paid in both directions when you request a QSL. Usually you had to include a few dollars or an IRC for return postage with your request.

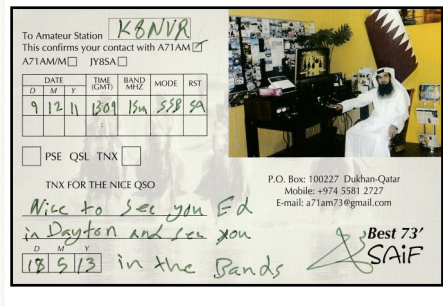
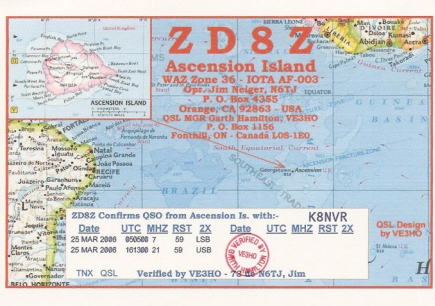
When LOTW became available, I found that to be a much better solution for most QSLs. It is a free service and the ARRL only charges if you request DXCC awards. EQSL is another option that works well, but QSLs there are not accepted for ARRL awards, if that is what your goal is.

For the past several years, I only request QSLs from major DXpeditions or rare DXCC entities. I usually work them on several bands and modes, and I always include a small donation to help support their expenses. Most QSLing is now done via OQRS, which is an online service. You no longer have to send a card by mail. Return postage and any donation is made by PayPal worldwide, so IRCs or dollar bills (green backs) are no longer needed.

Most cards are pretty generic showing name, call signs, and contact information. Some however are very detailed with some very unique art work. These are the cards that are worth displaying. Some Hams have their best cards hung all over the wall, but I found that is not my best solution. I prefer to scan my favorite cards and create a photo file. The file can be played in an electronic photo frame or any other computerized electronic device.

I have included copies of a few of the more creative QSLs here. JT1CO's colorful card is from Mongolia. 5U7B is from a family of amateurs in the African country of Niger, with dad riding his camel with an HT. FT5XO is from the Kerguelen Islands, are rare DXCC entity in the southern Indian Ocean. A71AM is from Qatar on the Arabian peninsula. The operator Saif, gave me this QSL at the Dayton Hamvention several years ago. All of these contacts were made with rotary dipoles or wire antennas, so you do not need a super station to chase DX.

If you pursue this part of the hobby, you will get the added benefit of a good lesson in world geography. If anyone needs information regarding OQRS, LOTW, or EQSL, I will be glad to offer any assistance.



November In-Person Annual Meeting Minutes

The **2022 Annual Member Meeting**, was held November 14, 2022, in-person at the Senior Center. The meeting was called to order by President, Jane K8JGR and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 7:34 pm. The following (16) paid members were present so quorum (9) was reached.

Gail KD8GGM	Fred K8FH	Baji K8IIT	Bob K8MD
Diane KD8SSX	Doug KE8BBI	Toby WT8O	
Doug KD8SST	Dave KE8APO	Amy K2KSU	
Ed K8NVR	John K8JEK	Chuck K8KMA	
Lou WA8DBP	Steve KE8BJD	Jane K8JGR	

Secretary's report: Motion to suspend the reading of both the September 12 minutes and October 10th minutes as published in the October and November newsletters respectively was made by Amy K2KSU, and seconded by Doug KD8SST . There were no objections or corrections, so the minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report for October was read by Toby WT8O. Motion to approve: Doug KD8SST, Second by Dave KE8APO. Approved.

President's Report: *The ARRL Special Service Designation has been renewed for our Club. *The W8EOC.org domain name registration transfer from Mike Eady KD8DZK (SK) to the M2M Club has been submitted. *Our News Beacon newsletter has received an Honorable Mention from the ARRL Ohio Section newsletter contest. We received third place last year.

Repeaters: Ed K8NVR reported that the club has received several valuable donations of backup repeater equipment from Mike Burg N8QQN. There are still some equipment cabinets and other miscellaneous items stored at Fred's K8FH barn that are free to club members for pickup. Ed stated that all the MCARC repeaters are working fine.

New Business: Ed K8NVR made a motion to change the starting time of future club meetings to 7:00 pm instead of 7:30pm to both reduce travel time in the dark and also allow ample time for the meetings to end before facility closures. Motion was seconded by Fred K8FH. Motion was approved. It was noted that the Career Center should be accessed from the front doors since rear doors are locked in the evening. Ed provided his cell phone number to members at the meeting in case they have difficulty accessing the building.

2021 Compiled Financial Statements: The 2021 Balance Sheet and Income Statement were passed out for review. Jane provided a brief overview of the reports.

Election of 2023 Trustees: The Annual election of Officers and Trustees was conducted. Ballots were passed out and tabulated. Note that all positions were unopposed. Results are as follows: President: Ed Eyerdom K8NVR, Vice President: Jane Reed K8JGR, Secretary: Dave Swancer KE8APO, Treasurer: Toby Kolman WT8O, Trustee: Doug McClure KD8SST, Trustee: Ray Orobona K2RWO, and Trustee: Steve Stein KE8BJD. Amy Panchumarti K2KSU and Dave Oravec N8JNX are current Trustees whose positions will be open next year.

Member Projects: Since there was no technical presentation, a discussion followed with members sharing any new ham radio projects they are planning over the winter months.

Announcement: There is a digital practice net hosted by Diane KD8SSX on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm on our 2-meter repeater. Any licensed amateur is welcome to participate.

Motion to adjourn: Made by Amy K2KSU and Second by Diane KD8SSX. Approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dave KE8APO



Club Meetings

The Medina County Amateur Radio Club will be cautiously holding in-person meetings on the second Monday of each month while the threat of Coronavirus is under control.

In December the MCARC General Meeting will be held at the **Medina County Career Center (JVS) Room 246** at 7:00pm.

Medina County Career Center, aka: JVS is located at:
1101 W Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256

Member Birthdays

Austin Langley KF5YDU	12/06
Daniel Jenkins W8DEJ	12/14
Steven Hill NQ8T	12/22
Troy Russell KD8UJG	12/28

MCARC Calendar

- December 5** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
- December 12** 7:00pm IN-PERSON MEETING at **Career Center**
NOTE TIME CHANGE (see pg 5)
- December 19** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
- December 26** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net

ARRL Ohio Hamfests

2/03/2022 - FCARC WinterFest

Location: Archbold, OH

Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

December ARRL Contests

- 02-04** 160 meter
- 10-11** 10 Meter
- 18** Rookie Roundup—CW

Saturday 8am Breakfast

Join the members who are early risers at the Cracked Egg Restaurant at 1475 Pearl Rd in Brunswick, opposite the Middle school, Saturdays at 8am.



Dits and Dahs

- **NOTE TIME CHANGE— Meetings will now start at 7pm**
Come join us at our December 12th Annual Meeting at the Medina County Career Center, Room 246, at 7:00pm.
- Prez Ed K8NVR is excited about the potential for contacting the January 2023 Bouvet DXpedition. More info at <https://www.dx-world.net/info-3y0j-bouvet/>
- Diane KD8SSX, Queen of digital contacts, invites us to join a digital net practice session on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8:00pm on 147.030. The program used is fldigi, which is a free download. You can connect to your computer with a signalink or you can use your microphone to accoustical couple. The December net is on the 28th and Diane is NCO.
- Diane KD8SSX, also reminds us that dues for 2023 can be paid to her at a meeting or mailed to Diane Snider, 8311 Norwalk Road, Litchfield, Ohio 44253. Make checks payable to the Medina Two Meter Group Inc. Dues are \$15.00 for regular membership, \$22.50 for family membership which allows one vote, and \$150.00 for life membership. Get a start on 2023 by paying your dues early!
- Thank you to Mike N8QQN who donated a repeater cabinet to our MCARC. Ed K8NVR is kindly storing the gift for future use by the Club.
- Doug KD8SST graced the November 19, 2022 cover of the Medina County Gazette for his involvement in the Medina County Senior Center and veteran's clubs.

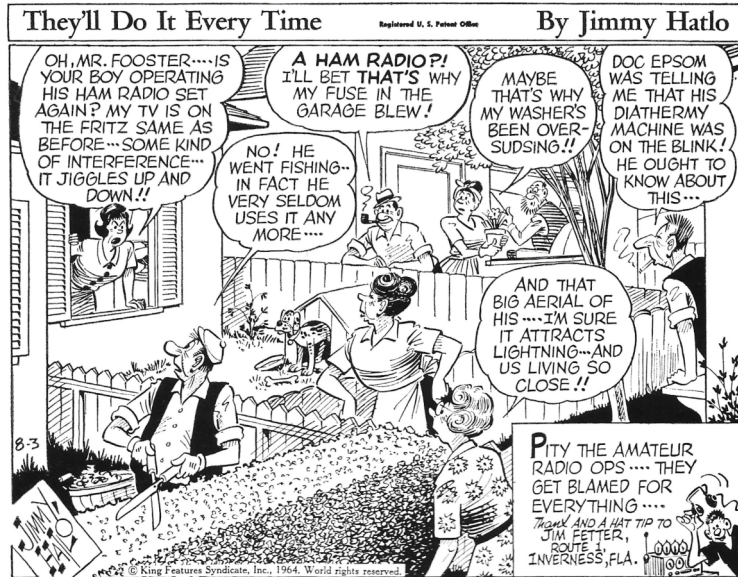


MADISYN WOODRING / GAZETTE PHOTOS
ABOVE: A group of veterans posts the colors at the Medina County Office for Older Adults' pinning ceremony on Friday. BELOW: Gina Kasburg, a chaplain from Crossroads Hospice, puts a pin on Army veteran David Danko.

Hamatuer Antix



Thank you to Dave KE8APO for submitting this month's cartoon



MCARC will be holding Technical Sessions during most of our in-person General Meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month. Since we are in need of a Program Chair, PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS POSITION. Our Club is only as terrific as YOU make it!



December 12th IN-PERSON General Meet-

NOTE TIME CHANGE— Meeting will start at 7pm

Come join us at our **December 12th General Meeting** at the **Medina County Career Center, Room 246, at 7:00pm.**

The Medina County Career Center, aka: JVS, is located at:
1101 W Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256. Note that the classroom has been remodeled and now has comfortable chairs and tables!

Toby WT8O lined up a killer Technical Session for the evening. *RF Magic*, will be presented by Ken K8TV, who will cover topics such as VSWR; coax impedances and effect of length; the importance of polarity; grounding a vertical; DC and RF grounding differences; and antenna bandwidth. As is his manner, Ken will adeptly explain basic principles that confuse a lot of new Hams - even some old ones!

Mark your calendar.

Digital Emergency Communications by Bob@K8MD.com

There are a variety of tools available for conducting emergency communications using digital modes. The most popular are Fldigi, Winlink, and JS8call. It often does not take any special equipment to add this capability to your existing station. Some of this communication can be accomplished using “acoustical coupling.” Where you simply hold your radio microphone to your computer speakers to send the tones and the computer can decode the tones if the computer microphone can hear the radio. Any transceiver with a built in USB sound card is able to use all of the available modes.

Fldigi is also known as NBEMS which stands for Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software. Fldigi is the base program that contains the software modems that perform the modulation. Fldigi digital permits keyboard to keyboard chatting using a wide variety of different modulations or software modems. There are add-on software pieces that extend the capability of Fldigi. The most popular is FLmsg. This permits sending and receiving complete messages using the modems in Fldigi. Messages can be formatted as ARRL Radiograms, FEMA ICS-213, Red Cross messages, and many others. Fldigi has modems that can be used on HF, VHF, or UHF bands. The fourth Wednesday of every month the Medina County Communications Unit holds a net on the 147.030 W8EOC repeater. The net is a mixture of voice and digital traffic. Voice is used to coordinate and then messages are passed using Fldigi / FLmsg. The primary modem is MT63-2000L, although other modems are sometimes used as well. No special equipment is required to participate. Many members just acoustically couple. Although a signalink or other sound interface will improve performance. When used on HF bands, keyboard to keyboard communication is generally used to run the net, and then FLmsg is used to pass the messages. See the link below for the Weekly Ohio Digital Emergency Net or OHDEN.

<http://www.w1hkj.com/>

<http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/ohden/index.html>

Winlink permits emails sent from anywhere around the globe. While there is a keyboard to keyboard chat available, it is rarely used. Winlink is usually divided into two main sub headings: HF and VHF/UHF. HF uses a modem called VARA. This requires a sound card interface. While acoustical coupling can be successful, it's much more difficult than fldigi. There are HF stations around the globe configured for fully automatic operation. So that messages can be sent from anywhere on earth. These messages are generally formatted identical to email messages and are often converted directly to an email on the internet. This allows continued email communications with agencies that are outside the impacted area providing resource support inside the impacted area. Often email is more convenient and efficient communication than voice communication. Email can also extend reach even further using the internet where it is available. Public Safety agencies are more accustomed to sending email messages than radiograms. VHF/UHF winlink can be utilized with either a sound card modem or a TNC. It's often using packet radio, although VARA FM is gaining in popularity. A packet radio uses a TNC such as the Kantronics that has been around for many years. There are also software packet modems that are used with a sound card interface software such as Direwolf and UZ7HO. There is currently a VHF packet network in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. With various digipeaters and BBS's. BBS's permit unattended operation where one station can leave a message for another station to pick up at a later time. Messages sent over VHF can be translated to HF by the BBS. Permitting technician level licensees or stations that don't have sufficient room for HF antennas to participate in HF and global email with only a laptop and an HT. If the end recipient has a cell phone it's easy to send them a text message using winlink. Simply send the email to 3305551234@txt.att.net or 33055512234@vtext.com to sms AT&T or Verizon customers respectively.

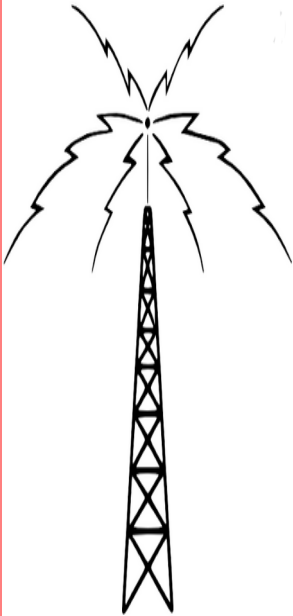
<https://www.winlink.org/>

<https://www.km8v.com/packet/>

JS8Call is not yet as popular as the other two, but it's quickly endearing itself to emergency communicators. JS8call uses the same modulation as FT8, but with a different software interface. It started as a keyboard to keyboard chat and used almost exclusively on HF bands. It was originally intended to put ragchew back into FT8. The software author added lots of additional functionality to the software. Unattended stations are able to store and forward messages to other hams via js8call, to internet email, to the APRS network, or to SMS messages. The JS8Call modulation is much slower than using Winlink+Vara, but the modulation has a tremendous S/N ratio advantage over Winlink+Vara. This permits QRP stations or stations with disadvantaged antennas the same advantage that FT8 modulation has created for those same stations. JS8Call remains effective when band conditions preclude using other modulations. <http://js8call.com/>



MCARC Repeaters



Call	Location	Function	Repeater Input	Repeater Out	CTCSS (PL)	Band
W8EOC	Medina (Main Site)	Repeater TX & RX	147.630	147.030	141.3 One Beep	2 Meter
W8EOC	Brunswick (North)	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	131.8 Two Beeps	2 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South)	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	88.5 Three Beeps	2 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South)	Split Site Repeater	51.160	51.660	N/A	6 Meter
	Brunswick Hills					
W8HN	Medina Main Site)	Digital C4FM TX & RX Repeater	147.885	147.285	(0)	2 Meter
		Analog TX & RX Repeater	147.885	147.285	(110.9)	2 Meter
W8EOC	Medina (Main Site)	Repeater TX & RX	223.260	224.860	-	1.25 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South)	Repeater TX & RX	449.925	444.925	131.8	70 CM

TRAVELING? Check out <https://repeaterbook.com/> for a free, worldwide repeater reference. It supports GMRS as well.

2-Meter Net

Remember to join us on the 2-Meter Net on 147.030 Monday evenings at 7:30pm except for 2nd Monday of each month when we have our **In-person** meetings. **On-Air** meetings will be held on those dates when Covid chases us to the airwaves. You do not have to be a member of MCARC to participate.

MCARC Monday Night 2-Meter Net Control

05-Dec-2022		12-Dec-2022	<i>Meeting</i>
19-Dec-2022	K8NVR	26-Dec-2022	
02-Jan-2023			

Contact Baji K8IIT, ohiobaji@gmail.com, if you would like to serve as NCO.

NCO openings can be found at:
<https://b.link/MCARC-NCO-2022>

MCARC Membership

Please become a member or renew your **Medina County Amateur Radio Club** 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., maintenance costs of repeater and towers along with passing on fun perks to you, our members. Our new/renewal Membership Form and information can be found on our website <http://w8eoc.org/membership>.

ARRL Membership

Consider paying your dues for **ARRL membership** through our club Membership Chair, Diane KD8SSX. MCARC will retain \$15.00 for each NEW membership and \$2.00 for each renewal. A copy of the ARRL Membership Application/Renewal form can be obtained from Diane. Email her at d.snider@frontier.com.

Please consider volunteering. We really would enjoy seeing fresh faces and hearing new ideas to keep the MCARC relevant and viable in 2022. Do you like designing or maintaining websites, organizing speakers for technical sessions, writing for the newsletter or teaching members new skills? Please let Jane K8JGR know. Thank you.

Who's Who

President:

Ed Eyerdom K8NVR
eeyerdom@gmail.com

VP: Jane Reed K8JGR
jane@K8JGR.radio

Treasurer:
Toby Kolman WT8O

Secretary:
Dave Swancer KE8APO

W8EOC Repeaters:
Ed Eyerdom K8NVR
Ken Koyan K8TV

Trustees:

Doug McClure KD8SST
Dave Oravec N8JNX
Ray Orobona K2RWO
Amy Panchumarti K2KSU
Steven Stein KE8BJD

Sunshine:
Diane Snider KD8SSX

Newsletter:
Jane Reed K8JGR

Field Day:
Fred Helwig K8FH

Membership:
Diane Snider KD8SSX

Websites:

Jane Reed K8JGR

Net Scheduling:
Baji Panchumarti K8IIT

Social Events:
Gail Helwig KD8GGM

Skywarn:
Tracey Liston W8TWL

ARES:
Bob Mueller K8MD

RACES:
Dave Rickon NF8O

Program:
Open



MCARC on the World Wide Web

www.W8EOC.org

Also,
"Like Us" on **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/
MedinaCountyAmateur
RadioClub](http://www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyAmateurRadioClub)

Also,
Check out our **YouTube
Channel for Medina County
Amateur Radio Club**
Technical Session Videos

About Our Organization

The Medina Two Meter Group (M2M) Inc. DBA: the **Medina County Amateur Radio Club** is a nonprofit, ARRL Special Service registered, amateur radio organization based in Medina County, Ohio dedicated to communication, public service, education and fellowship.

Many of our members are also involved with Skywarn, ARES, RACES, and assist with community events such as bicycle and foot races.

We usually meet on the second Monday of each month at either the Medina County Senior Center (Sr) or the Medina County Career (JVS) Center.



Medina Two Meter Group (M2M) Inc.
DBA:
Medina County Amateur Radio Club

1254 Hadcock Road
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

Admin@W8EOC.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: