

# News Beacon

## Medina County Amateur Radio Club

### Editor's Preface

*Phil: "Do you ever have deja vu, Mrs. Lancaster?" Mrs. Lancaster: "I don't think so, but I could check with the kitchen."*

'Groundhog Day' —The Movie

Bill Murray was stuck in a rut. Same old routine that wasn't about to change. Thankfully, most of us have the power to grow out of old habits or explosively revamp them. The first step is introspection.

The Medina County Amateur Radio Club is looking at how things are done, and ways to improve. One area is the Club website—the last major change to the W8EOC.org website format was six years ago. It has copious information, but only a handful of weekly hits. Content is communicated differently today across diverse age groups. For example, as of August 2022, 29 percent of Facebook users in the United States were aged between 50 and 64 years. For Instagram, the majority of users belonged to the 18 to 29-year age group, accounting for a third of all users. So, in 2023 the MCARC is going to scale back the website, and investigate how to get the word out on other social media platforms. Comments and suggestions are welcome. (Perhaps the ARRL should update their Groundhog Day approach?)  
73, Jane@K8JGR.radio

### Dues are Due

Our Membership Director, **Diane KD8SSX**, states that **membership is down 53% from last year, a loss of 33 renewals! Your membership means a lot to us. Please join or renew.**

Diane 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 (must be age 60 or older).



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#### Hmmmmmm...

*My father was an electrical engineer. I'm not one, but I like to work with electronics.*

*It's in the wiring.*



## Ohio Distracted Driving Law

Per the website of ARRL Ohio District 3 ARES, the distracted driver law signed by Ohio Governor DeWine on January 3rd will exempt Amateur Radio operators. Senate Bill 288 will go in effect in 90 days.

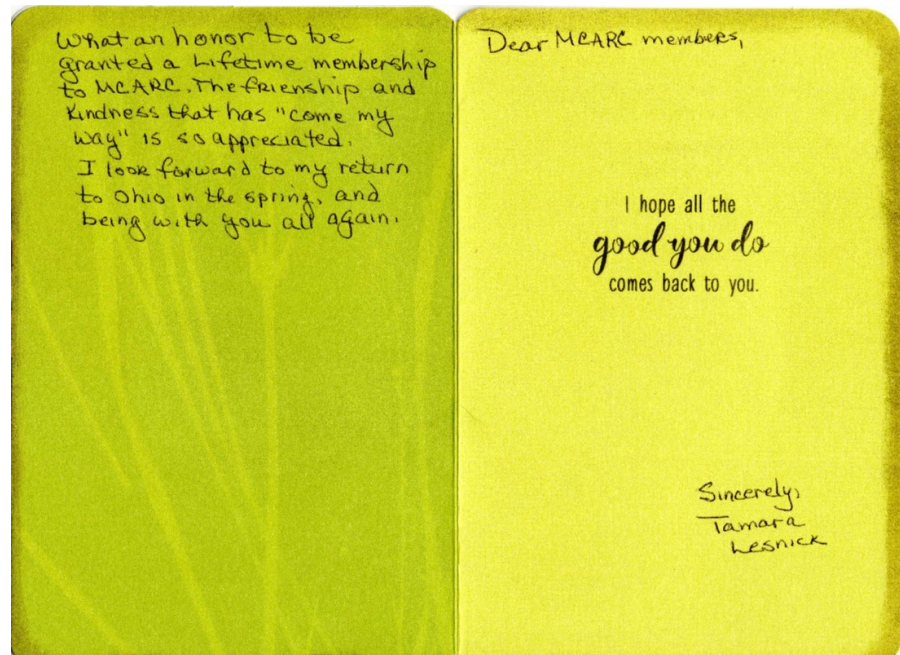
In Michael Schulsinger N8QHV's opinion, "Ohio Amateur Radio organizations have an unusual opportunity to increase their memberships this year. On Tuesday Governor DeWine signed a new, strengthened distracted driving law. In April Ohio drivers caught just holding a cellphone or other electronic device may be pulled over for a warning by law enforcement, and six months later may be ticketed and lose two driving points for doing so.

There are a few exceptions under the new law, one of which is by being a licensed Amateur Radio operator. CB, FRS and GMRS operators do not seem to have any such protections, which should thrill truckers and RV operators to pieces.

Anyway, those conducting ham classes should publicize this exception to the new law, as it gives non-hams in Ohio a stronger incentive to get their license. For the cost of one \$150 ticket for violating the new law, a person could purchase their FCC Technician textbook, a starting handheld and have money left over!"

As of January 30, the Ohio Legislative Service Commission has not yet posted the new law on their website: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code>.

## Thank You Received



# January In-Person General Meeting Minutes



The January General Meeting, was held January 9th, in-person at the Medina County Career Center (JVS). The meeting was called to order by President, Ed K8NVR and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 7:00 pm. The following (16) paid members and one *guest* were present, so quorum (9) was reached.

Fred K8FH	Gail KD8GGM	Ed K8NVR	Dave KE8APO	Gordon A18Y
Diane KD8SSX	Bob K8MD	Toby WT8O	John K8JEK	Amy K2KSU
Rick KE8CSW	Jeff KE8UUI	Jane K8JGR	Chuck K8KMA	Doug KD8SST
Baji K8IIT	James KD8FHY			

**Secretary's report:** Minutes of previous meeting were accepted with no corrections.

**Treasurer's report** for November was read by Toby WT8O. Motion to approve: Gail KD8GGM, Second: Diane KD8SSX. Approved.

**President's Report:** Ed K8NVR asked Diane KD8SSX about dues and current Club membership status. She stated that there are currently 23 paid current members plus 10 lifetime members out of 65-71 total from previous years. \* Ed reminded members that Jane K8JGR needs article submissions to assist in producing our newsletter. \* Jane stated that she will submit the annual IRS Form 990 to the IRS, while Ed will do the ARRL annual report. \* Ed asked when the liability insurance premium will be due. Toby WT8O stated it was paid in May of last year.

**ARES:** Ed reported that Jane K8JGR received an inquiry from Bradley Howard KE8SVT regarding the coverage of our county 911 outage from a few years ago and wanted a copy of our standard operating procedure that he can use for his county (Franklin). Doug KD8SST stated that this process would now be covered by the communication team rather than Ares. Bob K8MD offered to follow up with Bradley.

**Repeaters:** Ed K8NVR stated that the problem with the original controller is now fixed, but the new real time clock module needs to be returned since it is off by a minute a day.

**Website:** Jane K8JGR discussed our Club website and the opinion is that it is a little too complicated with minimal "hits". She would like to see it simplified (a one or two page blog format) and asked if someone would be willing to take over updating it. Jeff (KE8UUF) volunteered to do it and will work with Jane to transition it.

**Membership:** We recently received another sizeable donation from Tamara WA8KGV, and based on this and the previous yearly Club donations both her father and now she have made, a motion was made by Amy K2KSU and seconded by Doug KD8SST to make Tamara a Lifetime Member. Motion was approved. Jane will send a "thank you" card from the Club to her.

**Education:** There was a recent inquiry regarding licensing classes and testing. Our Club is not currently doing classes, but other clubs such as CARS and Silvercreek regularly have classes and tests. The Laurel VE coordinator, Diane Zimmerman, sent a memo stating that licensing has been declining over the last ten years. There was a discussion that it would be necessary to see all data to determine what impact the pandemic had on this number. Bob K8MD stated that the Laurel VE team would be willing to host testing sessions for our Club if needed and that any potential VE candidates should contact Bob to see about joining the team. It was also pointed out that there are a number of You Tube videos which cover license training and one of the best series is provided by Dave Cassler KE0OG.

**Member Accomplishments:** Diane KD8SSX recently worked Crozet Island which is the third most desired contact in Amateur Radio. Toby WT8O pointed out that Ed K8NVR accomplished a "clean sweep" in the November Sweeps which means he worked every section in North America including Canada, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands.

**Club Dinner:** Gail KD8GGM will be planning our Annual Dinner. Consensus is that March would be preferred to February. Date and details to follow.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:45pm, motion to adjourn: Amy K2KSU, second: Ed K8NVR, approved. A technical presentation (Modern Marvels video) was shown by Ed K8NVR on the history of the transatlantic cable.

*Respectfully submitted by Dave KE8APO*

## Club Meetings

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

The rear entrance to the JVS is locked at 6:30pm, so on MCARC meeting nights we will have a member stationed at the door until 7:05pm. Remember that our in-person meetings now start at 7:00pm. Be sure to arrive on time or you will have to enter through the front door and will have to provide personal computer input at the entrance kiosk in order to be allowed to enter.

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

## Member Birthdays

Francis Richey KN4AW	02/05
Gordon Kulas AI8Y	02/09
Douglas Mahr N8XQM	02/10
Baji Panchumarti K8IIT	02/11
Tamara Lesnick WA8KGV	02/23

## MCARC Calendar

- February 6** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
- February 13** 7:00pm IN-PERSON MEETING at **Career Center**  
**NOTE TIME CHANGE** (see pg. 5)
- February 20** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
- February 27** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net

## ARRL Great Lakes Hamfests

**02/11/2023** - 48th Annual Ham Radio Swap-N-Shop

Location: Traverse City, MI

Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://cherrylandarc.com>

**02/18/2023** - Livonia Amateur Radio Club 52nd Annual Swap & Shop

Location: Livonia, MI

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop>

## January ARRL Contests

- |          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 02/04    | North American CW Sprint      |
| 02/13-17 | School Club Roundup           |
| 02/18-19 | International DX – CW         |
| 02/24-26 | CQWW 160-meter SSB Contest    |
| 02/25-26 | North American QSO Party—RTTY |

## Saturday 8am Breakfast

Winter weather seems to be keeping our members away. Check with your friends to see if they will be joining you at the **Cracked Egg Restaurant** at 1475 Pearl Rd in Brunswick, opposite the Middle school, Saturdays at 8am.

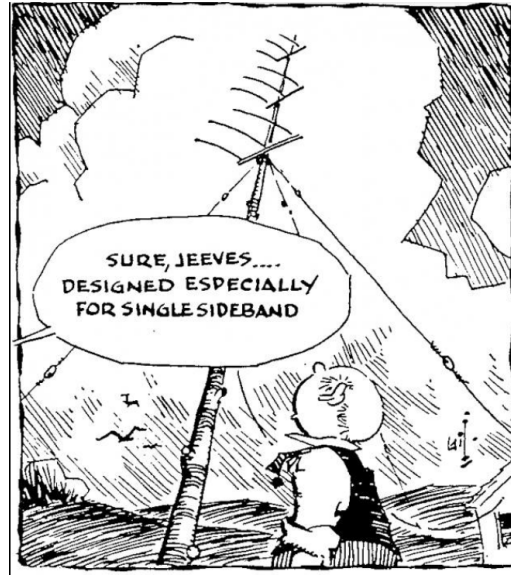


## Dits and Dahs

- **NOTE TIME CHANGE— Meetings now start at 7pm**  
Come join us at our January 9th General Meeting at the Medina County Career Center, Room 246, at **7:00pm**.
- We send our condolences to both **Baji K8IIT and Amy K2KSU** on the loss of Baji's mother, Kamala Panchumarti. Please keep them in your heart.
- Bob K8MD announces the **Medina County Laurel VE** is conducting a VE session on Thursday, 2 March, 2023 from 6pm to 8pm. The session is being held at: Everything Outdoor Camping, 3823 Pearl Rd, Medina, OH 44256. Pre-registration is preferred. Applicants may pre-register by emailing Bob at: laurelve@k8md.com. Walk-ins are accepted. Applicants must bring government issued photo ID and an FRN to the testing session. There is no cost to take the test. Follow this link to obtain an FRN: <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/knowledge-base/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration>. Upon successful completion of the test, the FCC will contact the applicant with instructions how to pay the \$35 filing fee directly to the FCC. We are not able to collect the \$35 fee at the VE session. It is only payable directly to the FCC. The applicant will have two weeks to submit the \$35 fee to the FCC. Once the fee has been submitted, the applicant will receive their call sign.
- Come to one of the world's largest Hamfest, **HamCation 2023** where they pride themselves on delivering a high-quality event to our attendees. Join us February 10-12, 2023 in beautiful Orlando, Florida for HamCation 2023. More information can be found at <https://www.hamcation.com/>
- **Winterheat 2023** is a month long Amateur Radio simplex event. The goal and purpose is for Amateur Radio operators to make as many contacts as possible over a month long period of time using only designated simplex frequencies. It started at 00:01 UTC on January 1, 2023 and concludes at 23:59 UTC on January 31, 2023. This is the fourth year for this event. Last year over 1,000 participants made over 134,000 contacts. The event is open to all FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators. All contacts shall be via FM-voice but can be either analog or digital (fusion, D-STAR, DMR). More information can be found at <https://www.hamactive.com/WH23/index.php>
- Please send your **suggestions** on how to make the MCARC an even better Club to **Jane@K8JGR.radio**. The Amateur Radio Hobby appears to be viewed as an "old guy" hobby—if even known at all—by most of the populace. A strategic plan needs to be developed that would excite current members and attract a younger and more diverse membership. It is the only way that Amateur Radio will remain relevant. The universe is comprised of radio waves, and we as Hams are only marketing dits and dahs. (Opinion is Jane K8JGR's, and does not necessarily represent the viewpoint of MCARC as a whole.)



## Hamatuer Antix



April, 1961

*MCARC will be holding Technical Sessions during most of our in-person General Meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month.*

## February 13th General Meeting

**NOTE TIME CHANGE— Meeting will start at 7pm**

Come join us at our **February 13th General Meeting** at the **Medina County Career Center (JVS), Room 246**, at **7:00pm**, located at: 1101 W Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256. Note that the classroom has been remodeled and now has comfortable chairs and tables!

**Steve Stein KE8BJD** will be presenting “The Basics of Disaster Preparation for Your Home Station” during our technical session.

Disasters happen. And to a lesser extent, utilities can sometimes go fluey. Are you and your station prepared for when the world, or your neighborhood, takes a turn for the worst? It's not IF it will happen, it's WHEN. Nothing helps you sleep better than knowing you are ready for whatever might come.

All are welcome to attend.



# Radio History was Made in Binghamton and One Landmark Still Stands

It was 1913, the year of the Binghamton Clothing Company Fire, and the year after the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and the sinking of the Titanic.

Several major disasters that had left the region and the nation reeling from the loss of human life amidst a growing industrial base in the country. Thousands of immigrants were arriving to find new lives and work among the huddling masses. Many of those would make their way to the Binghamton area to find employment in the many cigar and shoe factories scattered on the landscape.

It was important to find a feel-good moment in the ever-rapidly increasing technology world that was changing the way we performed our work and lived our lives. Communication growth was one aspect of those changes. The number of newspapers and their influence was important, but so was the development of what we today call radio – originally known as wireless telegraphy, using radio waves to transmit telegraphic signals from point to point.

The first practical incarnation of wireless telegraphy was created by Guglielmo Marconi of Italy. The discovery of those waves had been made only about two decades prior to his use of those to transmit telegraph signals. In 1897, he formed the Wireless Telegraph & Signal Company in the United Kingdom. The company would later be called the Marconi Wireless Company, and continued to work on the ability to send these wireless signals farther and farther. Eventually, he also worked to see if these signals could be transmitted and received by moving objects, such as ships at sea and railroad trains.

It was this later object to which Binghamton played an instrumental role. Marconi had hired a young Jewish-born man from Belarus and engineer named David Sarnoff in 1906. Sarnoff started as an office boy, but rose throughout the ranks to become commercial manager of the company. He was in charge with several of the Marconi stations, including one located at Wanamaker Department Store. In 1912, Sarnoff was at that station picking up the signals from the ship Carathian, relaying the sinking of the Titanic and the recovery of some of the passengers.

A year later – in the summer of 1913, the Marconi company decided to build a series of towers for the transmission of these wireless telegraphic signals between moving trains. The rails of the Lackawanna railroad system between Scranton and Binghamton were selected for the experiment. During the late summer and early fall, construction began on four towers — one pair in each city that would allow for the transmission and receiving of signals.

In Scranton, one tower was on top of the passenger station and one on a smoke stack. In Binghamton, one tower was atop a metal water tower near the smokestack for the Kilmer Company building at Lewis and Chenango streets. The second tower was constructed adjacent to the Lackawanna Station. Construction began on July 1, 1913, and the tower eventually would rise 97 feet in the air.

Sarnoff came to the area to inspect and oversee the construction of the two towers and to be here to supervise the experiment. Four aerial wires connected the two towers, and a first attempt on Nov. 21 failed, and the second on Nov. 23 could not be completed when the conductor became ill — although the train received that message.

One more attempt on the morning of Nov. 27, when the Lackawanna Limited train left Scranton toward Binghamton traveling 60 miles per hour. The first official message of 350 words comprised of several new articles was transmitted and received by J. J. Graf, the telephone engineer of the Lackawanna railroad. He responded and the days of wireless transmission became a reality — the experiment was more than successful.

Within a short time, the use of wireless telegraphy expanded as Sarnoff later formed the Radio Corporation of America — RCA. The tower near the Kilmer building was taken down in 1925. By that time the main tower was in disuse as the new “radio” system had expanded with the transmission of voice.

In 1998, a historic marker recognized the only remaining Marconi tower in the United States — a metal tower that forever changed the way we communicate.

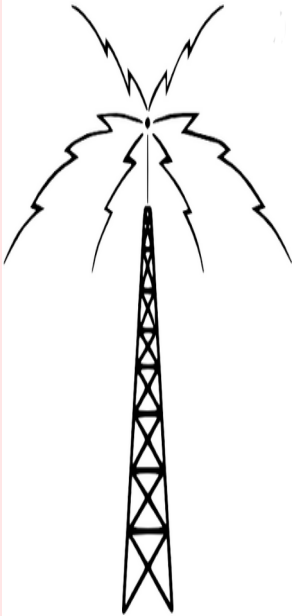
*Gerald Smith, Special to the Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin, January 16, 2023*



The Marconi Tower can be seen in this image of the Lackawanna Station in Binghamton.

*Broome County Historical Society*

## MCARC Repeaters



Call	Location	Function	Repeater Input	Repeater Out	CTCSS (PL)	Band
W8EOC	<b>Medina (Main Site)</b>	Repeater TX & RX	147.630	147.030	141.3 One Beep	2 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Brunswick (North)</b>	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	131.8 Two Beeps	2 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Lafayette (South)</b>	Receive only	147.630	From Main Site	88.5 Three Beeps	2 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Lafayette (South)</b>	Split Site Repeater	51.160	51.660	N/A	6 Meter
	<b>Brunswick Hills</b>					
W8HN	<b>Medina Main Site)</b>	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	<b>Medina (Main Site)</b>	Repeater TX & RX	223.260	224.860	-	1.25 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Lafayette (South)</b>	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.

You do not have to be a member of MCARC to participate.

## MCARC Monday Night 2-Meter Net Control

30-Jan-2023	K8TV	06-Feb-2023	K8NVR
13-Feb-2023	<b>Meeting</b>	20-Feb-2023	KE8UUF
27-Feb-2023	K8TV	06-Mar-2023	K2KSU

Contact Baji K8IIT, [ohiobaji@gmail.com](mailto:ohiobaji@gmail.com), if you would like to serve as NCO.

NCO openings can be found at:

<https://b.link/2023-nco>



## 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](http://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](mailto: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  
[eeyerdome@gmail.com](mailto:eeyerdome@gmail.com)

**VP:** Jane Reed K8JGR  
[jane@K8JGR.radio](mailto: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)

## 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 emergency communication or 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: