

December 2023  
Vol VI Issue 12

# News Beacon



## Medina County Amateur Radio Club

### Prez's Preface

*"Christmas renews our youth by stirring our wonder. The capacity for wonder has been called our most pregnant human faculty, for in it are born our art, our science, our religion."*

The late Ralph W. Sockman, Professor and Pastor

Wonder, curiosity, and embracing the moment all enhance our enjoyment of being. Children are naturals, just look into their sparkling eyes during the Christmas season. The magic of the season is effortlessly revealed with joy.

Adults—not so much.

The stresses of the world and negative influences must be blocked from view before that sense of wonder germinates. Only then, symphonies are written, the natural world explored, and guiding philosophies born. Let the season allow us to relax and contemplate its mystery.

Wishing you all, a magical holiday.

73 & Merry Christmas,

Jane@K8JGR.radio



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### Hmmmmmm...

*"A radio I bought was picking up static electricity. So, I returned it to the store..."*

*They gave me another one free of charge."*



## November Annual Meeting Minutes

The yearly Annual Meeting, was held November 13th, 2023, in-person at the Medina County Career Center (JVS). The meeting was called to order by President, Ed K8NVR. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 7:02 pm. The following sixteen (16) paid members attended, so quorum (9) was reached. All members stated their names and call signs.

ED K8NVR	Fred K8FH	Steve KE8BJD	John K8JEK
Diane KD8SSX	Dona KE8BJD	Doug KD8SST	Dave KE8APO
Amy K2KSU	Baji K8IIT	Jane K8JGR	Rick KE8CSW
Ray W8MFU	Tamara WA8KGV	Dudley WA1Y	Toby WT8O

**Voting:** The Annual Meeting commenced with the election of Trustees, conducted by Toby WT8O with assistance from Fred K8FH and John K8JEK. All positions were filled unopposed with the exception of treasurer as follows:

President: Jane Reed K8JGR

Vice President: Ed Eyerdom K8NVR

Secretary: Dave Swancer KE8APO

Trustees (2 year term): Amy Panchumarti K2KSU, Dave Oravec N8JNX, Diane Snider KD8SSX

Trustees (1 year term): Steve Stein KE8BJD completing remaining term of Ray K2RWO

**2022 Financial Statements:** The compiled financial statements for fiscal year 2022 were presented by Jane K8JGR and discussed. There was some discussion on the possibility of getting higher interest on our funds, but that is unlikely given that it usually requires changing banks and may not be possible on non-profit business accounts.

**Treasurer's Report:** November report was read by Toby WT8O. Motion to accept was made by Diane KD8SSX, seconded by Doug KD8SST . Approved.

**President's Report:** \*Ed updated everyone on the status of our repeaters sharing photos of the recent south tower work that was completed. Currently all three repeaters are working (2m, 220, 440) with plans in the future to install a new 220 antenna while leaving the existing one (which is tri-band) as a spare.

**Vice President's Report:** \*Jane shared an email from Hal Rogers K8CMD of the Parma Radio Club that the club is likely to disband due to lack of club officers. There was a discussion about clubs that seem to be thriving (i.e. Silvercreek) while others are not. Ed stated that our nets have recently only had 7-8 participants. \*Jane added that we would like to again host license training classes to attract new members.

**Net Control:** Baji K8IIT stated that the 2024 net schedule is not yet prepared, but will be out soon since election of officers is now complete.

**Announcements & Comments:** \*Donna Stein KE8BJG who is the coordinator of the Wreaths Across American program at the Rittman Veterans Cemetery made a presentation requesting member support for an amateur radio net to coordinate off site parking for this years upcoming event. Ed suggesting reaching out to Rene KD8SSW for help since she has coordinated race events in the past.

\*Toby stated that he recently renewed his license using the new system and had some difficulty despite using the ARRL tutorial. He reached out to the FCC and they were helpful and fixed the problem.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm and was followed by Ed K8NVR presenting two videos on FCC enforcement.

*Respectfully submitted by Dave KE8APO*

# A Radio Ghost Story

by MCARC Member, Dudley Chapman WA1X

## Mystery on the AM BC Band

At 22 years old, I had left home in CT to seek my fame and fortune as a broadcast engineer. Clueless as I was, I ended up in the Adirondacks in far upstate NY where the density of radio and TV stations was not much higher than in Montana. Fortunately for me, the density of people with a First Class Radiotelephone FCC license was even lower.

I was Chief Engineer of the “mighty” WNBZ AM, 1240 KHz, in Saranac Lake, NY. It was a sweet gig because a station that size (1000 watts by day, 500 at night), did not require a full-time engineer on duty while on the air. I would drive down on the weekends from college in Plattsburgh to do a Sunday radio show, write stuff in the log to satisfy the FCC, and occasionally do some real engineering.

That night I had driven down on Friday evening because the frequency monitor was out for repair. The small studio and transmitter building was otherwise deserted as the station would go off the air every night at 9 PM. The regs required me to put the station back on the air with a dead carrier every Friday night at 10PM and phone Cambridge Crystal Company in Boston so they could do a precise frequency measurement. That done, I wrote the results in the log and pulled the big switch on the Gates BC-1T transmitter. I watched the plate current and voltage meters fall to zero and the orange glow of the 833A final plates go dark. Turning out all the lights, I left the building, locked the door and drove the ten miles over to Lake Placid to meet some friends at a bar for a few beers.

I left the bar around midnight. I cranked over the '66 VW beetle, meaning to drive home, turned on the radio, and punched the button for WPTR, but heard nothing. I punched WKBW and heard nothing. CKLW, nothing. I turned up the volume and all I heard was the timeless hiss of the cosmos. I tuned around the dial and all I heard was hiss. Finally, one button I pushed brought the radio to “full quieting” - It was the button for the WNBZ station where I had just watched the finals go dark just a few hours earlier. I tuned to either side of 1240 KHz and found hiss again.

AM radio is iffy in the Adirondacks but at night most of the clear channel big guns come through just fine. Ground wave is so hopeless, though, that when WNBZ went down to 500 watts at sunset, you could not hear it where I was now, in Lake Placid just ten miles away. I was completely gob smacked. My engineer’s mind swiftly swirled through the following clues in an instant:

- No AM stations on the AM band. The car antenna must be gone or the radio is broken.
- There is one strong dead carrier on WNBZ 1240 KHz. Antenna and radio must be ok.
- There is one strong dead carrier on 1240 KHz. I must have not turned off the transmitter.
- There is one strong dead carrier on 1240 KHz. But you can hardly hear WNBZ programs in Lake Placid at night.
- There is one strong dead carrier on 1240 KHz. I must have not turned off the transmitter.
- I must have not turned off the transmitter. But you can hardly hear WNBZ programs in Lake Placid at night.
- I must have not turned off the transmitter. But where are all the other AM stations?
- Maybe the radio is broken. But there is one strong carrier on 1240 KHz.
- But I watched the finals go cold. Someone must have turned it back on.

*Cont'd next page...*



## A Radio Ghost Story by Dudley Chapman WA1X ...continued

I am the only engineer. Who else would turn on the transmitter at midnight?

I came up with what Tony Soprano would call "stugots". It was a complete mystery. So, I figured I could at least drive back and look at the transmitter.

It is spooky enough driving in the pitch dark SR-86 back to Saranac Lake, but on top of that, I had to pull off onto the dark dirt road that led to the swampy clearing in the woods holding the small, WNBZ cinder block building.

I pulled up to the building and noticed there were no lights on inside. Tonight, the scene looked a bit surreal being lit only by the red tower lights. Punching the car radio buttons some more, still no sign of any AM stations, but the dead carrier on 1240 KHz was now strong enough to hear a bit of 60 cycle hum. I was obviously sitting in the near-field of the source of that signal. I got out of the car and looked up at the tower expecting to maybe see a UFO hovering right above it. No UFO. So I unlocked the door to the building, switched on the lights and crossed over to the transmitter.

The meters were still reading zero and the finals were still dark.

This is the end of the narrative. This is a true story that happened to me, and it had a real-world solution. What was behind this bizarre set of events in early August of 1972. What would your next step have been if you were me that night?

*Answer revealed later in the newsletter...*



*The abandoned WNBZ building around 2017, the station long off the air like many small-town AM stations. Google SAT view shows the tower still there, though. Good for a 160m contest, maybe?*

## Club Meetings

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The MCARC General Meeting for December will be held in at the Medina County Career Center (JVS), Room 246.

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

## MCARC Calendar

- December 04** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net  
**December 11** 7:00pm IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING at MEDINA COUNTY CAREER CENTER (JVS) (see pg 7)  
**December 18** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net  
**December 25** 7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net

## ARRL Ohio Hamfests

- 12/03/2023** FCARC WinterFest  
Location: Archbold, OH  
Sponsor: Fulton County Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

## Radiosport Contests

- December 1-3** ARRL 160 Meter  
**December 9-10** ARRL 10 Meter  
**December 17** ARRL Rookie Roundup

## Member Birthdays

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- Austin Langley KF5YDU 12/06  
Troy Russell KD8UJG 12/28

## “Old Timer’s” Lunch

Ray Pick W8MFU wants to remind us that the “Old Timers” (and not so old) meet monthly for lunch and natter on the third Tuesday at 12:00 noon, at Royal Buffet, 3835 Pearl Rd, Medina, OH 44256. It is at the SE corner of SR-42 and Fenn Road. You do not have to be a MCARC member.



## Dits and Dahs

- **Monthly Meeting**

Our **December 11th General Meeting** will be held at **7:00pm**, at the **Medina County Career Center (JVS), Room 246**. The Medina County Career Center (JVS), is located at: 1101 W Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256

- **MCARC Leaders:**

Heartfelt congratulations to all the Officers and Trustees elected at our November Annual Meeting. (Page 10 for listing) A special “shout out” to Dave Swancer KE8APO who will be serving as both Secretary/Treasurer.

- **Donation**

A warm “thank you” to Tamara Lesnick WA8KGV for her generous cash contribution to the Club.

- **MCARC 2-Meter repeater—Update**

The 2-meter repeater 147.03MHz at the South Tower is now fully operational so you will now hear the courtesy tone and controller messages like before. The South Tower is still accessed using tone 88.5 with one courtesy beep. It is now our new “Main” site. The Brunswick site has been changed from a full repeater, back to its original use as the North Input via tone 131.8 with two short courtesy beeps. You can get into our 2-meter repeater from either the Brunswick input (PL 131.8) or the South input (PL 88.5). The previously MOST USED PL tone of 141.3 no longer works. Please set your radios to reflect this change.

- **Parliamentarian:**

Steve Stein KE8BJD agreed to assist me (K8JGR) in veering too far-afield from parliamentary procedure during our meetings. More importantly, he will be keeping track of deviations from our Code of Regulations that will be considered for updating later in 2024.

- **MCARC Facebook Page—Gone**

The Club Facebook page has been hijacked, and cannot be updated.

- **URLs**

Our Club has registered domain names of W8EOC.org, W8EOC.com, and MedinaCountyAmateurRadioClub.org. All will bring you to our Club website.

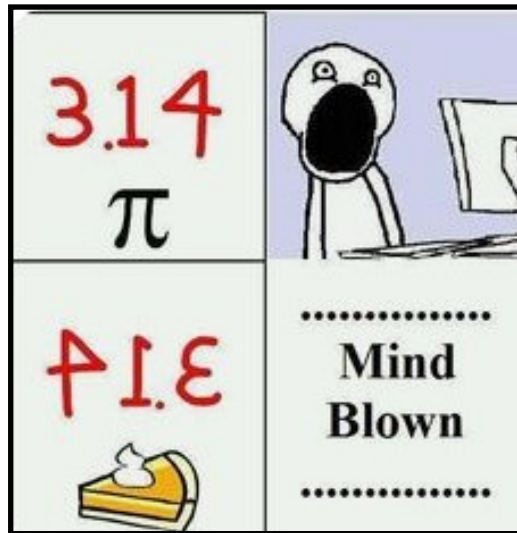
- **Newsletter Contributions**

Please send any material about your projects, Amateur Radio news, technical articles, DXing, or radio cartoons to our newsletter editor—Jane@K8JGR.radio. Thank you.





## Hamatuer Antix



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

## December 11 Annual Meeting



Come join us at our **In-Person General Meeting on December 11th**, to be held at **7:00pm**, at the **Medina County Career Center (JVS)**, Room 246.

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

The Technical Session will be presented by **Ed K8NVR** on FM Transmitters & RF Signal Generation Methods.

# A Radio Ghost Story

## by Dudley Chapman WA1X ...*conclusion*

So, I did what any engineer does when faced with a puzzling problem. I went into the back room and pulled the big breaker to the transmitter along with a couple of other big ones. I went back out to the car, turned on the radio and the carrier on 1240 KHz was gone. I looked up to see that I also had turned off the tower lights, too.

But that's not all I saw. Without the tower lights, I saw a huge aurora in progress. Not wanting to cause an airline disaster, I ran in and threw all the breakers and cutoff switches back on to restore the tower lights.

Then, on the way home, I stopped in a clearing and watched the biggest aurora I had ever seen. It stretched from horizon to horizon. My 1240 KHz carrier was back, but part of that mystery was already solved. The rest of the band was still dead, but I was now watching the reason for that in living color in the night sky.

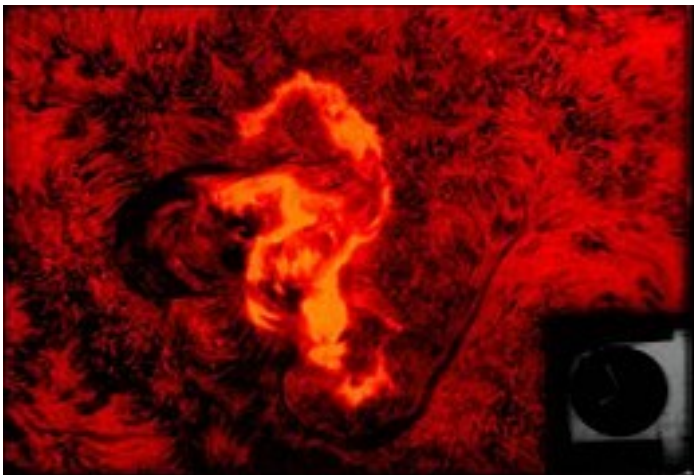
Armed with all that information, here is my analysis. The aurora had taken out all propagation on the AM band and who knows what else. The flare that night on August 4, 1972 was one of the biggest events on record. It caused high voltage transmission line breakers to cut out across Canada and in many parts of the northern USA. The nighttime display could be seen in northern Texas.

So what about the signal on 1240 KHz? The switch on the front panel of that particular transmitter does not remove power from everywhere. It removes B+ from the finals, but the rest of the RF chain stays on, including the crystal oscillator and the filaments to the finals. What I was hearing was the small amount of RF from the driver stages being capacity -coupled from the grids to the plates of the finals and out to the tower. I was hearing WNBZ/QRP.

The reason it was strong in nearby Lake Placid is because the AM band was dead quiet including the usual atmospheric. Car radios usually have a very wide range AGC, which in this case was running at maximum gain.

I had only one remaining question. How did the company in Boston hear our signal that night? I asked the technician on the next call a week later. He said the band was on its way out as we were doing the frequency check. He also volunteered that their receivers for making these measurements had bandwidths in the fractions of a Hz. They phase-lock and average the signal for five minutes in order to get an accurate reading amidst all the noise and other stations on the same frequency. This explains how they could pick us out in Boston even on a normal night.

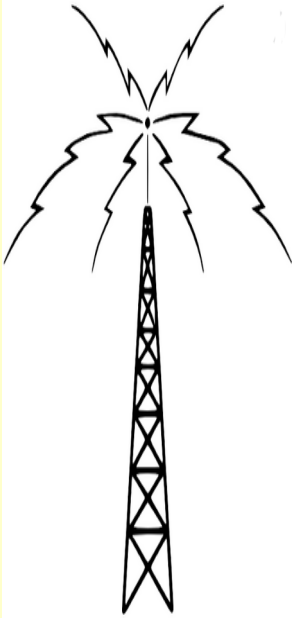
Did any MCARC folk figure out what caused the ghostly signal?



*The "seahorse flare", an intense two-ribbon solar flare, erupting from active region McMath 11976 on 7 August 1972 as recorded by the Big Bear Solar Observatory (BBSO)*



## MCARC Repeaters—UPDATE 11/13/2023



Call	Location	Function	Repeater Input	Repeater Output	CTCSS (PL)	Band
W8EOC RX ONLY	<b>Brunswick (North Tower)</b>	RX	147.63	147.03	131.8 two beeps	2 Meter
W8EOC MAIN SITE	<b>Lafayette (South Tower)</b>	TX & RX	147.63	147.03	88.5 one beep	2 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Lafayette (South Tower)</b>	RX	51.16		N/A	6 Meter
	<b>Brunswick Hills (Pearl Rd)</b>	TX & RX		51.66		
W8HN	<b>Medina (MCCC)</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>Lafayette (South Tower)</b>	Repeater TX & RX	223.26	224.86	Open & 77.0	1.25 Meter
W8EOC	<b>Lafayette (South Tower)</b>	Repeater TX & RX	449.925	444.925	131.8	70 CM

Note: You can get into our 2-meter repeater from either the Brunswick input (PL 131.8) or the South input (PL 88.5). The previously MOST USED PL tone of 141.3 NO LONGER WORKS.

**NOTE REPEATER UPDATE:** Please set your radios as indicated above to enjoy our 7:30pm MCARC weekly Monday Net (except for 2nd Monday of month).

### 2-Meter Net

#### MCARC 2-METER REPEATER

Remember to join our 2-Meter nets on 147.030 Monday evenings at 7:30pm, except for the 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

04-Dec-2023	K8NVR	11-Dec-2023	<i>Meeting</i>
18-Dec-2023	KD8SST	25-Dec-2023	K8iit

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 2023. 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:** Jane Reed K8JGR  
[jane@K8JGR.radio](mailto:jane@K8JGR.radio)

**VP:** Ed Eyerdom K8NVR  
[eeyerdome@gmail.com](mailto:eeyerdome@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Dave Swancer KE8APO

**W8EOC Repeaters:**  
Ed Eyerdom K8NVR  
Ken Koyan K8TV

**Sunshine:**  
Diane Snider KD8SSX

**Trustees:**  
Doug McClure KD8SST  
Dave Oravec N8JNX  
Diane Snider KD8SSX  
Amy Panchumarti K2KSU  
Steven Stein KE8BJD

**Newsletter:**  
Jane Reed K8JGR

**Field Day:**  
Fred Helwig K8FH

**Membership:**  
Diane Snider KD8SSX

**Program:**  
Open

**Website:**  
Jane Reed K8JGR

**Net Scheduling:**  
Baji Panchumarti K8IIT

**Social Events:**  
Gail Helwig KD8GGM

**Skywarn:**  
Tracey Liston W8TTL

**ARES:**  
Bob Mueller K8MD

**RACES:**  
Dave Rickon NF80



MCARC on the World Wide Web

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

## 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. Our roots go back to 1932 in Medina County.

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 the Medina County Career (JVS) Center, upstairs Room 246.



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: