

February 2025
Vol IX Issue 2

News Beacon

Medina County Amateur Radio Club

Prez's Preface

"Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?"

Robert Browning,
from *Andrea del Sarto*,

That quote was permanently affixed to my eleventh grade homeroom wall. It, combined with my father (SK-K8ZFR) contracting Multiple Sclerosis at age 31, shaped my lifelong passion to experience at least one new thing outside my comfort zone each and every year. That way, if I became incapacitated, there would be great memories to dwell upon.

I kept a list. Some events were imposed (caregiving), some were borne of curiosity (learning to fly), others were rooted in a sometimes misguided conviction that a gal could do anything a guy could (carpentry). But whatever the source, I flung myself head-long into it. Scars, accomplishments, tears, delight, and disappointments were experienced, but never boredom.

Amateur Radio provides a multitude of ways to satiate our thirst for knowledge. I sincerely hope you are finding enjoyment in exploring its many facets.

God Bless and 73,
Jane@K8JGR.radio



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Hmmmmmm...

*"A dangerous surge of electricity walks into a bar.
...The bartender says, "Why the long phase?"*



January General Meeting Minutes

The monthly General Meeting, was held January 13, 2025 in-person at the Medina County Career Center (JVS). The meeting was called to order by President, Jane K8JGR. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 7:00pm. The following seventeen (17) paid members attended, so quorum (9) was reached.

Dave KE8APO	Ed K8NVR	Rick KE8CSW	Dave NK0K	John Kollar Jr KF8CTA
Jane K8JGR	Amy K2KSU	John KFBCSX	Fred K8FH	
Gordon A18Y	Baji K8IIT	James KD8FHY	Gail KD8GGM	
John K8JEK	Dave N8JNX	Doug KD8SST	Diane KD8SSX	

Roll Call: All in attendance stated their names and call signs if attained.

Minutes: Motion to suspend reading of the December 9th minutes as published in the January newsletter: Jim KD8FHY , Second: Dave N8JNX. Approved, without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: December Treasurer's Report was read by: Dave KE8APO. Motion to approve: Amy K2KSU , Second: Gordon A18Y. Approved.

Repeaters: Ed K8NVR reported that there is nothing new. Its too cold to work on them.

Membership: Diane KD8SSX reported that membership is currently at 40. It is a new year, so please renew your membership.

Net schedule: Baji K8IIT reported that the net schedule is in need of one controller in January and one in February. Otherwise the schedule is good through May. Please sign up!

We also need topics for discussions.

Contests: Technical discussion on Radio Contesting. Talked about Winter Field Day.

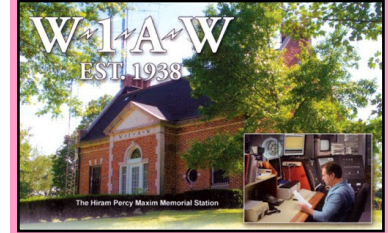
Club Dinner: Club Dinner will be held on March 15th. Details will be sent out in Feb.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Jim KD8FHY, Second: Amy K2KSU. Approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Technical presentation: By Ed K8NVR, YouTube films on the invention of the TV.

Respectfully submitted by Gail KD8GGM

QSL Bureau News



Baji K8iiT forwarded a timely message about changes in ARRL funding of QSL Bureaus...

===== Forwarded message =====

From: Mark Yergin <mark.yergin@gmail.com>
To: <undisclosed-recipients:>
Date: Wed, 22 Jan 2025 17:20:02 -0500
Subject: Changes in ARRL Support of the Incoming QSL Bureaus

===== Forwarded message =====

"8I" callsign holders:

As your "I-Sorter", I wanted to make you aware of recent changes in the way that ARRL HQ supports the various Incoming QSL Bureaus. That is to say, they no longer financially support what we are doing.

All of you support me by making sure I have the envelopes, postage, and/or funds needed to get your cards from me to you. Thank you for that! But of course there are significant costs associated with getting the cards from the W8 Incoming QSL Bureau to each of the sorters like myself. These costs are no longer being covered by the ARRL.

Please read the letter below, and considering donating to the 8th Area Incoming QSL Bureau so that we can continue to get you your cards.

(Note that I'm expecting a new shipment of cards from HQ in the March/April timeframe, and will get them out to you ASAP once I have them sorted.)

Thank You! Mark Yergin, W8EWH, I-Sorter, 8th Area QSL Bureau

Letter from N8DX follows:

The ARRL has stopped funding the incoming QSL bureaus!

Up until Dec 31, 2024, the ARRL reimbursed Bureau managers for expenses to maintain a Post Office box and forward QSLs received from the ARRL and foreign bureaus to its sorters. Although some bureaus were notified in July of this change it was never confirmed 100% until December of 2024 from Sharon Taratula from the ARRL.

As the W8 Incoming QSL Bureau Manager, I am appealing to 8th area users to help the Bureau in its time of greatest financial need. I am also contacting other radio clubs in the W8 District and appealing for their help as well.

The W8 QSL bureau is not part of any club. The WC8VOA club in West Chester OH provides a room for sorting and does not charge for its use. The club members graciously sort the cards. Until now I relied totally on the ARRL to pay for the expenses of the PO Box, shipping and supplies.

My total expenses for 2024 amounted to approximately \$1100.00 which is about 7/10 of a cent per ARRL member.

From January through December of 2024, we processed over 210 pounds of cards which represents approximately 32,000 QSLs and forwarded them to the W8 Bureau sorters in several shipments. After learning about the possible change in ARRL reimbursement policy, adjustments were made to lower these expenses by reducing the number of QSL shipments per year. In addition, shipping labels purchased from pirateship.com have been used exclusively, saving 60% of USPS retail shipping costs.

Given the above, I hope you will consider donating at least \$10-\$25 (or more!) to jump start a wider donation drive that will follow and be directed toward W8 QSL Bureau users and clubs in the 8th area.

Donations to the W8 Incoming QSL Bureau should be sent to : 8th AREA QSL BUREAU, PO Box 307 West Chester OH 45071-0307. You can also use paypal , w8buro@gmail.com. If you need another payment method, please contact me at N8DX@ARRL.net

Also, if you are a W8 QSL Bureau user and are dissatisfied with the ARRL's action to stop reimbursement of Incoming QSL Bureaus, you are encouraged to contact your ARRL Division Director and make your feelings known.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me directly.

Jack Shirley, N8DX
ARRL Eight Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau
N8DX@ARRL.NET

Club Meetings

Monthly, MCARC General Meetings are held at 7:00pm on the second Monday of each month 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

Member Birthdays

Francis Richey KN4AW	02/05
Ken Koyan K8TV	02/09
Gordon Kulas AI8Y	02/09
Douglas Mahr N8XQM	02/10
Baji Panchumarti K8IIT	02/11
Dudley Chapman WA1X	02/20
Tamara Lesnick WA8KGV	02/23



MCARC Calendar

Feb 03	7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
Feb 10	7:00pm IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING (See page 6)
Feb 17	7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net
Feb 24	7:30pm Monday Night 2M Net

ARRL Ohio Hamfests—None in February

03/09/2025	Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Winter Hamfest Location: Elyria, OH Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society https://www.noars.net/hamfests/winter-hamfest/
03/16/2025	Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair Location: Perrysburg, OH Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association http://www.w8hhf.org

ARRL Radiosport Contests

Feb 10-14	ARRL/LIMARC February School Club Roundup
Feb 15-16	International DX CW Contest

Old Timers' Lunch

Ray Pick W8MFU said that attendance at the "Old Timers'" (and not so old) monthly "Lunch and Natter" has been fairly consistent. It is held on the third Tuesday at 12:00 noon, at the Royal Buffet, 3835 Pearl Rd, Medina, OH 44256, located at the SE corner of SR-42 and Fenn Road. You do not have to be a MCARC member to enjoy the camaraderie.

Radio enthusiasts to the rescue in emergency communications

FOR FULL ARTICLE: www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/radio-enthusiasts-to-the-rescue-in-emergency-communications/article_1ff1107e-b7ee-11ef-908d-d875915cf2c4.html (Contributed by Dave N8JNX)

For many participants in the world of amateur radio, the initial draw can be something like the ability to talk to people from around the world.

“It starts as a hobby. You want to talk to somebody because you hear somebody else talking,” said local amateur radio enthusiast Ralph Grover.

But for a lot of people involved in amateur radio, also known as ham radio, it’s not just for the fun of it. Amateur radio can play an important role in emergency communications, and many people involved with it are here to help.

“I’ve been involved with ham for about 30 years. Emergency communications has always been my interest,” said Chip Ferron, who is involved with Mesa County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MCARES) and is coordinator of Region 9, the northwest region of Colorado ARES. Nationally, ARES is a branch of ARRL, a national association for amateur radio originally formed as the American Radio Relay League.

ARES is designed to facilitate emergency communications on the civilian side when first responders may need additional support, or support before they can deploy in the field, Grover said. There are a lot of ARES members around the country who can be called on quickly to mobilize at the beginning of an event to help out with emergency communications and then step aside when the authorities move in.

“It’s one of those things, it’s very much under the radar, but there’s a strong community effort to make sure we as a community can at least be prepared and supported where we can provide that support,” he said.

“The amateur radio community is pretty important to me as an emergency manager,” said Andy Martsolf, emergency services director for Mesa County.

As it happens, Martsolf has held an amateur radio license since the early 1990s, “so I count myself as one of them.”

He said he’s not active in amateur radio these days but had made sure not to let his Federal Communications Commission license lapse because it’s a bit of a process to get the license. Getting into amateur radio at the time he did was a bit of a natural thing to do, as his career field was communications when he served in the Air Force.

He said amateur radio enthusiasts are an important part of the emergency operations plan for the county. Facilities are in place for them in the county’s emergency operations center in case there is a need to establish some sort of long-haul communications to the state emergency operations center.

“To me they’re important because they offer multiple modes of radio communication. Public safety radio communications tend to be limited to one mode, so if there’s a failure there then it leaves the potential for gaps in radio communications,” Martsolf said.

EARLY DAYS Martsolf said that in the early days of the county’s COVID-19 response, one of the first objectives at the county emergency operations center was to establish a call center. “It’s the amateur radio community that I looked to help staff the phones for that call center.”

Beyond the assistance amateur radio enthusiasts provide for emergency operations, they also help with communications for multiple special events throughout the year, such as running races and gravel bike races, some of which take place “in the middle of nowhere,” Martsolf said.

“That gives us additional training,” said Grover.

On other occasions amateur radio enthusiasts who want to help with emergency communications have the opportunity to engage in training in a much bigger way. One of those occasions occurred on Oct. 26, as part of a nationwide exercise involving a simulated emergency.

In Colorado, Ferron and Grover say probably more than 100 people participated in the exercise. Ferron says around 25 were from Mesa County and northwest Colorado.

Grover said the exercise involved mobilizing to address what was referred to as a grid failure caused by a cyber attack. The simulation included shutdowns of cellphone services and police radio systems as a result of cyber attacks.

Grover said he served as what was referred to as an inject coordinator for Region 9 in northwest Colorado. My job was to develop additional issues and hand them to radio operators — to say this or that is happening and see how they respond — because no emergency is just a standard emergency. Things happen in the middle of them and so you try to prepare for those too... What we tried to do as a group in the state is to respond to additional mobilizations as each one of these attacks occurred.”

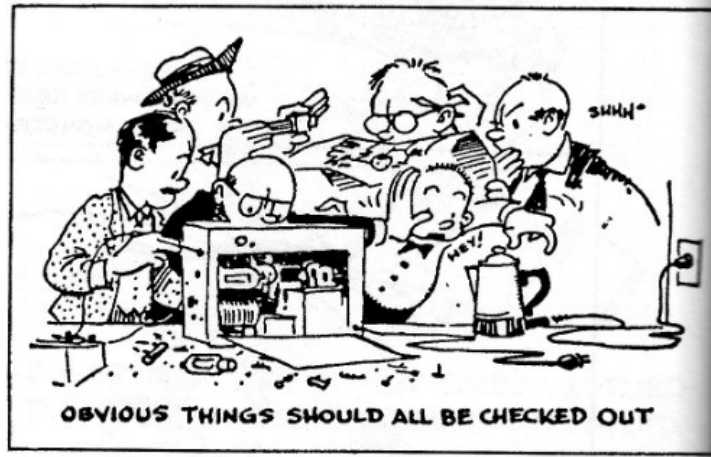
Grover said local amateur radio signal repeaters all are backed up with battery or solar power. “So when the grid ‘went down,’ we managed to maintain our repeaters fairly effectively.

*Cont’d see URL above
by DENNIS WEBB Dennis.Webb@gjsentinel.com, Jan 25, 2025 Updated Jan 26, 2025*





Hamatuer Antix



July 1957

MCARC will be holding Technical Sessions during most of our in-person General Meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month. IF THE DOORS ARE LOCKED PLEASE CALL JANE K8JGR AT 216-570-8500 AND WE WILL SEND SOMEONE DOWN TO LET YOU IN.

February 10, 2025 General Meeting

Our next monthly **In-Person General Meeting** is **February 10th**, and 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.

Call Jane K8JGR 216-570-8500 if doors are locked and we will send someone down to let you in. State whether you are at the front or back of the building.

The **Technical Session** speaker to be announced.

Dits and Dahs

- **Our Monthly Meeting**

Will be held on **January 13th**, 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. (See page 6). **IF THE DOORS ARE LOCKED PLEASE CALL JANE K8JGR AT 216-570-8500 AND WE WILL SEND SOMEONE DOWN TO LET YOU IN.**

- **MCARC 2M Net**

Check in with your friends to the **MCARC 2M Net**, held on every Monday evening at 7:30pm, with the exception of the second Monday of the month when we have our in-person meeting. See page 8 for info.

- **MCARC Net Control Operators**

Please consider volunteering as a **MCARC 2m Net Control Operator** for our weekly nets. [Click here](#). If you are a NCO, please turn in your **net log** to Jane K8JGR.

- **Speakers Wanted**

We are always looking for **speakers for our Monthly Technical Sessions**. If you would like to present an interesting topic—radio or hobby related— or know someone who would, please contact jane@k8jgr.radio.

- **Save the Date**

Gail KD8GGM, Social Event Coordinator, suggests to mark Saturday, March 15th, on your calendar for the MCARC Annual Dinner. More information will be available in February.

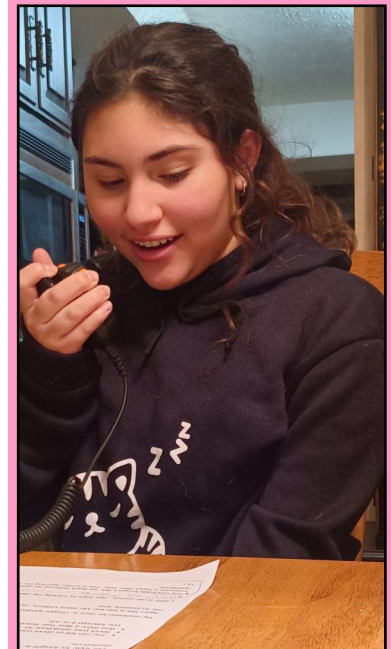
- **Rabbit Rabbit**

Saying "rabbit rabbit" is a quirky tradition that's believed to bring good fortune on the first day of the month. But how did this unusual phrase come to hold such power? Could the superstitious phrase "rabbit rabbit" have influenced the outcome of the 1932 U.S. presidential election? Some, including President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, seemed to believe it could. There's a tradition of saying "rabbit rabbit" on the first day of the month to ensure good luck for the days ahead, and journalists documented FDR's practice of reciting the phrase, as well as carrying a lucky rabbit's foot (which is now on display at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum). That year, he made history as the first Democratic candidate in 80 years to secure both the Electoral College and the popular vote — though whether luck had anything to do with it is anyone's guess.

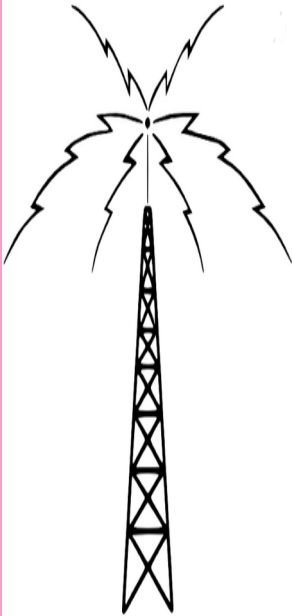
Regardless, the president wasn't alone in his devotion to the lagomorphic phrase. During World War II, British fighter pilots reportedly recited "rabbit rabbit" before taking flight, hoping for a successful mission. *Word Smarts, Daily Edition by: Rachel Gresh*

- **Guest Operator**

The December 30, 2024, MCARC 2M, Monday Night Net was introduced and closed by NCO Amy Panchumarti's, visiting granddaughter, **Evalyn Wozolek** (pic). Evelyn, an eighth-grade student in Philadelphia, gave clear and resonant transmissions. We sincerely hope to hear her strong voice, on-air in the future, and wish her well in her academic studies.



MCARC Repeaters—current April 2024



Call	Location	Function	Repeater Input	Repeater Output	CTCSS (PL)	Band
W8EOC	Medina (Central Tower)	RX	147.63	147.03	141.3 three beeps	2 Meter
W8EOC	Brunswick (North Tower)	RX	147.63	147.03	131.8 two beeps	2 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South Tower)	TX & RX	147.63	147.03	88.5 one beep	2 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South Tower)	RX	51.16			
	Brunswick Hills (Pearl Rd)	TX		51.66	107.2	6 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South Tower)	Repeater TX & RX	223.26	224.86	77.0	1.25 Meter
W8EOC	Lafayette (South Tower)	Repeater TX & RX	449.925	444.925	131.8	70 CM

Note: You can get into our W8EOC 2-meter repeaters from the Brunswick input (**PL 131.8**), the South (Lafayette) input (PL 88.5), or the North (Medina) at 141.3.

NOTE: FINAL REPEATER UPDATE for awhile: 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

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

03-Feb-2025	K8TV	10-Feb-2025	Meeting
17-Feb-2025	KD8SST	24-Feb-2025	
03-Mar-2025	K8NVR	10-Mar-2025	Meeting

Contact Baji K8IIT, k8iitm@gmail.com, if you would like to serve as NCO.

NCO openings can be found at:

<https://rebrand.ly/2025-net-control>

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>, or contact Diane KD8SSX at d.snider19@yahoo.com

Then, mail your dues to Diane Snider, 8311 Norwalk Rd, Litchfield, OH 44253, or bring them to the next meeting.

Please consider volunteering. We really would enjoy seeing fresh faces and hearing new ideas to keep the MCARC relevant and viable in 2025. 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.radio know. Thank you.

Who's Who

President: Jane Reed K8JGR
jane@K8JGR.radio

VP: Ed Eyerdom K8NVR
eeyerdom@gmail.com

Secretary:
Gail Helwig KD8GGM

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:
Ed Eyerdom K8NVR

Website:
Jane Reed K8JGR

Net Scheduling:
Baji Panchumarti K8IIT

Social Events:
Gail Helwig KD8GGM

Skywarn:
Tracey Liston W8TWL

ARES:
Bob Mueller K8MD

RACES:
Dave Rickon NF80



MCARC on the World Wide Web

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: