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- High School Sports
- Nation/World
- Ohio News
- Obituaries
- Business
- Neighbors
- Photo Galleries
- Opinion
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Weekly radio club listens for Morse code, maintains interest in group

BY JESSICA M. CROSSFIELD
E-G staff photographer

LANCASTER - John Lawson clicked out Morse code as he patiently waited for someone to respond.

"Maybe we will get something back," he said with a laugh.

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about 92 members.

John Hilliard, club trustee, has been involved in amateur radio for more than 40 years.

"I started out awful young," he said.

Hilliard worked for the city of Lancaster in police and firefighter communications. After he retired, radio became more of a hobby for him and also allowed him to keep his sense of civic duty.

"It's an interesting hobby," he said. "You meet friends from all over the world and you get to provide a lot of local community services."

The club works with the Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on a regular basis and is available for emergency communications if there should be problems with power in the community. The club also helps out annually with the city parades to act quickly if there are any incidents and ease the flow of operation.

Marie Moore, one of the female club members, has been a "ham" since 1993. She started out playing around with CB radio and decided to move on to ham radio for the added challenge.

"I think I enjoy the challenge of learning and being upgraded to different levels," Moore said with a smile. "But my favorite thing to do is work the parades."

After becoming involved with amateur radio at the age of 14 and being a member of the Lancaster and Fairfield County Radio Club for 53 years, Lawson really knows his stuff.

"I got my ham license in 1954," the 67-year-old Lawson said. "Been doing it ever since."

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Radio Club has been around since 1960 and has

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John Lawson, a 53-year member of the Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club, attempts to contact someone by Morse code during the club's weekly meeting on Thursday.

If You Go

On the Web

What: Amateur Radio Night with the Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club

- **When:** Club meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. and every other Thursday is radio night from 6 to 7 p.m.
- **Where:** 1611 Granville Pike, Lancaster, OH 43130
- **Cost:** Free and all experience levels are welcome

If in doubt about what is happening on a particular night, check out the announcements on 147.030 MHz repeater or connect to the repeater through EchoLink, node 235805.

www.k8qik.org

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John Hilliard, a member of the Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club and club trustee, reads a message from someone in Australia using a packet radio station during the club's weekly meeting on Thursday.



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