

# The Ragchewer

August / September 2005

The monthly newsletter of  
the Lancaster & Fairfield  
County Amateur Radio Club

K8QIK On the Web:  
<http://www.qsl.net/k8qik/>



## ***Club Meetings :***

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the club house.

## ***Radio Night:***

Every Thursday of every month (except the 1st Thursday) at the club house, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## ***Club House***

### ***Location:***

On State Route 37  
(Granville Pike) next to  
Beavers Field.

## ***Net:***

Mondays at 9:00 p.m.  
147.03 MHZ (+.6)  
146.70 MHZ (-.6) Alternate  
Freq.  
443.875 MHZ (+5)

Club Packet BBS  
145.53 MHZ  
K8QIK-1 BBS  
K8QIK-2: Ohio53

## ***Weather Spotter***

### ***Net:***

146.67 Repeater with  
123Hz tone every Tuesday  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Alt frequency 147.24 MHZ

## **Call to Action**

Well, August has come and with it a lot of rather disturbing events. With things as terrible as they have been weather wise, it is not surprising that we are finding ourselves in greater demand than ever. With hurricane Katrina devastating New Orleans it makes us all wonder if anything that drastic could happen around here.

Perhaps not necessarily a hurricane, but perhaps terrible storms, or even an earthquake could take place and leave thousands upon thousands without power or an ability to communicate effectively with each other.

Perhaps things could get even so bad that it would be difficult to get voice communications out effectively, and all one might have is a very weak carrier. (Perhaps those who wish to do away with the code requirement might think twice about such a situation.)

In any case, we may be called into action to help the EMA, and maintain communications when disaster strikes. Nets such as SATERN and HWN both took action in preparing communications for areas destined to be hit by Katrina as it made its way through the US EchoLink to attempt to play a part as it was used as a conference node.

Such services are invaluable to the community, and it is important for us to maintain our edge so that we can respond in the case of emergency especially should power be disrupted and off grid power be required.

## 2004/2005 Officers

### **President:**

Charles Snoko  
K8KZN

### **Vice President:**

Tom Moore  
KB8USK

### **Treasurer:**

Ed Campbell Sr.  
WD8PGO

### **Secretary:**

Jon Larabee  
KC8RUI

### **Activities Manager:**

Kay Hanna  
KC8HJW

### **Station Engineer:**

John Hilliard  
W8OF

### **Trustee:**

John Hilliard  
W8OF

### **Editor:**

Jack Travis  
AE8P  
(740) 687-1985

## EchoLink is Ready

Everyone who has email, has probably received the very nice "introducing EchoLink" document that Bob and John have been working on. The software itself, employing Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology allows both a link from our repeater to other nodes, as well as the ability to use your PC to access these other nodes from the internet. These nodes could be other normal HAM operators, or entire repeaters! It is fascinating software and combines the VOIP technology along with HAM in a rather exciting way! With this particular link it becomes possible to operate completely without your equipment and simply with a PC.

If you have not gotten a copy of this document and are interested in hearing a bit more about it, call Bob, W8RVD at 862-2616 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or John, W8OF at 653-3514 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

## Upcoming Swap Meet

On October, \_\_\_ 2005 Alan Sellers, KB8JLG has graciously offered to hold yet another swap meet! There is no entry fee, no prizes and just a fifty/fifty drawing. The event will run from 8 a.m. till noon. Snacks and soda will be available to any who show up. There may even be a demonstration of some sort involving satellite communications using a handheld.

## Upgrades

The following members have upgraded their license and are still listed at their old grade on the membership rolls. Congratulations are in order for their accomplishment; you serve as an inspiration to all of us. It makes you feel good to accomplish that next step doesn't it? If you or someone you know has upgraded, let us know.

W8MYX ---- Ronald L Braden -----Extra  
W8LCT----- Chuck J Bruckelmeyer----Extra  
W8EZE----- David E Harrington -----General  
W8BVH----- Ralph O Howes Jr. -----General  
WA8DEB ---- Charles E O'Hare -----Extra  
WA8WFL---- Raymond F Shetrone-----Extra  
KC8OZP ---- Gregory F Shires -----General

WA8VCV ---- Richard G Smith -----General  
WD8IXO ----- Scott A Snoke -----Extra  
WD8SCN----- Andrea J Steible -----General  
K8EHK ----- Leo "Dex" Steible Jr --Extra  
AB8GE ----- Portia R Stevens -----Extra  
WA8WRM ---- William L Tschopp----General  
KC8TUW----- Mark S Urbine -----General

## Get Published

As your new editor, I'm pledging to put out the best most informative newsletter I can. I'll do the hard work, just give me some ideas. What would you like to read about? What would you like to do that isn't currently available? Submission of articles are always welcome, but if you don't want to write, give me an idea and I'll write it and credit you with the idea (if you want). Talk to me. This publication ultimately is created to serve the club and its needs. You don't even have to write your ideas down, call me on the telephone if you'd prefer. How is the type style? Is it too small or too big? Easy or hard to read? It's your newsletter, I'll make it almost any way you want. There are of course some things that cannot be included. This is not a political or religious forum so they will be kept out of the newsletter. I will not censor anything that is done in good taste and stays away from controversial subjects and doesn't stray too far from ham radio interests. The Recipe section will continue if you want, after all hams have to eat.

My email address: AE8P@ARRL.net

Or

My telephone # (740) 687-1985 between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

## Minutes of Meeting 3 Aug 2005

7:30 p.m. Meeting called to order by Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Minutes of the July meeting read by Tom Moore, KB8USK. Motion to approve minutes by John Hilliard, W8OF, seconded by Bob Hughes, KI8JM, and approved.

Treasurer report read by Ed Campbell. Motion to accept by Bob Hughes, KI8JM, and seconded by Jim Gaffney, KC8OYO, and approved.

Members reviewed two applications for membership and voted to approve. New members Jack Travis, AE8P and Paul Daley, WT8S, are welcomed to our club! Also took application for new membership of Robert J. Northrup, KC8PSW, which will be voted on at the next meeting.

Station Engineer report by John Hilliard, W8OF, who advises that changes continue to be made to the club's 147.03 mhz repeater antenna. He also reported an interference problem that was traced to a privately owned scanner in town. The problem was resolved by swapping that scanner with a spare to the satisfaction of all parties.

Old Business: Tom Moore reminds us of VE testing 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the clubhouse. All wishing to upgrade or acquire new license are welcome! We have a standing request for Net Control Operators for our club net every Monday evening at 9:00 p.m. This is an ongoing thing and all are advised to get involved with this at least once to be familiar with net procedures.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell thanks those who were involved in the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities this year, and advises that we still need volunteers for the Millersport Sweet Corn Festival Parade. Also, we have a request for help from the United Way for it's annual 5K run. A letter was read, in relevant part, concerning E.M.A. concerning NMIS training on Aug 20 at Liberty Center on West Fair just past the old Anchor Hocking Distribution Center

New Business: John Hilliard reports that we need a U.P.S. unit for the club packet BBS. This will enable the system to continue operating in the event of a power glitch, which would normally cause shutdown of the system. This requires a re-boot of the system and BBS. The U.P.S. would eliminate the need for this. A motion to purchase a unit at a maximum price of \$100.00 was made by John Hilliard, seconded by Gary Snider and accepted by vote. Mike Hamilton will purchase the unit and be reimbursed by club funds. We still need someone to pick up the rotor plate for the antenna rotor.

We entertained a request for volunteers to phone members and encourage them to run for club offices, which will be vacated this year by our current staff. Mike Hamilton and Scott Snoke volunteered for this duty. Motion by John Hilliard to purchase an antenna analyzer that covers HF to 440 MHz such as the MFJ model 269 with part of the Homeland Security funds. This will enable us to check the new antennas purchased with these funds, among other things. Seconded by Mike Hamilton, and approved by vote.

50 / 50 took in \$6.00, which was returned to the pot.

Introduction was made of potential new member Bob Northrup, KC8PSW to the membership.

Motion to close the meeting by Jim Gaffney, seconded by Gary Snider and approved.

Meeting closed at 8:28 p.m.

## Minutes of Meeting 1 Sept. 2005

At 7:30 p.m. meeting called to order by Charlie Snoke N8KZN who led the pledge of allegiance.

There were 18 members present and one visitor, Robert Northrup, K8PSW whose application was reviewed and voted approved for membership.

Secretary report: None at this time for August. Minutes being taken by Kay Hanna, KC8HJW

Treasurers report: By Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO. Motion to accept by John Lawson, W8AGS, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hollywood Rutan, WA8YSC.

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF says EchoLink is up and running. New antenna is up. Repeater interference was a personnel scanner and the problem has been resolved. EMA equipment purchased. John Hilliard is in charge of equipment usage.

Activities Manager: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW requested at the next meeting money for the Christmas party December 17, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Ponderosa, 1732 E. Main Street Lancaster, Ohio.

VE testing: Held August 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) at 9:30 a.m. every even month. 5 people tested and all passed.

Monday night net managers for September:

Sept. 5 – John Hilliard, W8OF

Sept. 12 – Brenda Gaffney, KC\*OYP

Sept. 19 - Gary Hanna, KC8HCD

Sept. 26 – Charlie Snoke, N8KZN

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO, Sweet Corn Parade help was greatly appreciated. Thanks to all.

October 1, 2005 Swap meet at Lancaster Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club.

November 12, 2005 5K run – need lots of help.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO none.

Flower fund: Juanita Gaffney, KC8OYO sent card to Harry Vollmer, W8LXC in hospital and also one for the passing of his brother. Winner of the flower fund: John Lawson, W8AGS \$6.00

50 – 50 Club by Kay Hanna KC8HJW. Winner was Lynda Campbell, KB8ZBY. Not present.

Old Business: EMA – New antennas were put up by Charlie Snoke, N8KZN and John Hilliard, W8OF at Amanda for Homeland Security. The following week at the firehouse at Refugee Rd. Pickerington. Put up by Charlie Snoke, N8KZN, Fred Stutske, W8FZ, Bob Hughes, KI8JM and John Hilliard, W8OF. There are still about three more to put up.

New Business: Next years slate of officers for vote next month are:

President Don Stephenson, WD8PCF

Vice President Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

Secretary Robert Northrup, K8PSW

Treasurer Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO

Activities Manager Kay Hanna, KC8HJW

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN made a motion to accept and close nominations for officers. Gary Hanna, KC8HCD 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Officers duties are in the By-Laws.

Paul Daley, WT8S will pitch in with help for the treasurer if needed.

Repeater plate was mentioned by Gary Hanna, KC8HCD. Fred Strutske is still working on modifications.

Clean up day at the club house is to be scheduled.

Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO gave brief explanation of how we acquired the club house for our use through the county commissioners. Club officers only to have keys. The utilities are paid by the county except the telephone.

Homeland Security Drill November 3, 2005 Lancaster. EOC Sheriffs office. Jim Gaffney, N8JEG and Gary Snider, W8BLS.

Leonard Schultz, W8DDG was called out through the church to help in the hurricane Katrina disaster area.

Harry Vollmer, W8LXC is back in Fairfield Medical Center Lancaster in room 301 as of Sept 1, 2005.

Jim Gaffney, N8JEG made a motion to close the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Hanna, KC8HCD.

### *Your new editor*

My name is Jack Travis and my current call is AE8P. I was first licensed as a novice in 1977 as WD8PGN. I attended a class given by Doc Magnuson, K8YYR here in Lancaster, got my novice license and soon went to the testing site in Columbus and upgraded to Tech. At that time, the Tech and the General written test was the same. The only difference was a 13 WPM Morse code requirement for General. I worked for a couple of years trying to up my code speed and every time I thought I was ready I'd go take the code test and fail. I knew then I was destined to be a Tech for the rest of my life because code and I didn't like each other.

Then in 2000 the FCC lowered the code speed requirement for all license grades. Here was my chance and I took advantage of it at Dayton in May of 2000 by upgrading to General without any testing. I was content for a couple of months and then thought "I can pass the Extra class test if I study". I gave myself 2 years as a goal. I really studied hard and took "mock" tests on the internet to see how I was progressing. The next year when the Dayton Hamvention was a week away I decided to take the Extra test at Dayton just for the experience. I had been scoring close to the passing grade for the test on the internet so I thought a real test would help get rid of the butterflies for the real thing next year. I had no honest expectation of passing that test. When they said I had passed I was absolutely shocked. For the rest of the day at Dayton I was in a daze. I requested a call change at the time and was issued AB8KZ. I didn't like that so I decided to get a vanity call. When I saw the call AE8P, I decided to get it since my wife, son, daughter-in-law and I all worked for American Electric Power (AEP). I applied for it and got it. I guess the lesson here is even if it takes 23 years, you CAN upgrade.

My wife and I were both born in Corning, New York (Corning Glass Works) and have since lived in Lancaster, New Jersey, Michigan, back to Utica, New York, then to Westerville, Ohio. I had worked as a Packaging Engineer but I am now retired. My wife, Mary, was named "1980 Secretary Of The Year" by the Professional Secretaries Association when we lived in Lancaster. We always liked Lancaster when we lived here before and decided to move back here from Westerville, Ohio. We can't help where we were born, but we can pick where we live when we retire. We have one son and two grandchildren. Our granddaughter is only 8 years old but I think I see a possible future ham. She is curious enough and smart enough, and if she takes an interest I promised to buy her first radio for her.

My heart doctor has told me my heart is not too good now and surgery is no longer an option. (I had a triple by-pass in 1990) so I can't do much physically but newsletter editor is something I can do to contribute to the club. I have a lot of free time now and the computer isn't too physically demanding.

I have a couple of really good HF radios and hope to figure out how and where to put up an antenna due to my terrible lot configuration and location. When I lived in Westerville I was able to talk with club member Ray, WA8WFL who now lives in Florida.

I'm hoping to do a biography or two each month so we can all get to know our fellow members. Next month I would like to start with the new club officers.

## August Birthdays

Clifford (Pete) W Anderson -- AA8JH  
Michael W Stutske ----- KC8FOU  
Richard E Harrison ----- W8QCO  
Fredrick W Stutske ----- W8FZ  
Charles Kinser----- KB8OIW  
Dennis W Frear ----- AA8LY  
Marie T Moore----- KB8VOL  
Jerry L Canfield----- KC8VUS

## September Birthdays

Debra J. Bruckelmeyer -- KC8MZA  
Edward L Campbell ----- WX7C  
Kevin Numbers----- KC8MTV  
Larry F Wright ----- KB8AHK  
Robert F Sparrow ----- W8AEY  
Joe Boyer----- KC8ZQO  
Kelly J. Snoke ----- KB8GWB

## Doing Anything Thursday Nights?

No ? Well why not drop by the club house ! Radio night takes place every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. (except the first Thursday). Perhaps you wish to work a little HF ? Maybe make a few DX contacts ? There is apt to be something being built ! Not into building ? Perhaps just a hot cup of coffee and a few good stories are more to your liking ? Nonetheless, we will have them all here waiting for you.

## Hurricane Katrina

For those who have or will be helping on the Katrina disaster, thank you is inadequate for all that you will do. I know no one will send a thank you note but believe me they really do appreciate all your help.

I have been through a major flood. I have pictures of picnic tables on top of telephone poles, and pictures of houses sitting on top of the dyke system. Imagine how high the water had to be to do that. My grandmother was standing on top of a bed on the second floor of a house with water up to her neck. Fortunately the house wasn't swept away.

We were luckier than many, we only had 9 feet of water at ground level at our house. Fortunately we had a two story house and the water didn't reach the second floor. The flood happened June 23, 1972 and we moved back into the house December 20, 1972. The house was far from ready, but we wanted to spend Christmas in our own home. It was over 6 months later that we had a workable kitchen. I still remember my wife cooking supper in a microwave oven and us carrying the dishes upstairs so she could wash them in the bath tub. We paid for the materials to restore our house and I did much of the work myself. Three years later we moved, sold the house and put 100% of the proceeds toward paying what we owed on the house, which of course left us still owing a considerable amount. We made full house payments for exactly 15 years and finally paid off our debt and had nothing to show for it. But we did it and we can hold our heads up high.

It's been 33 years since the flood and I can still remember the frustration and hopelessness. No one should have to endure such an event. I remember things now that I wish I could forget but know I never will.

All that you see on television isn't even close to showing you what's really happened. Again, I'm saying thank you since those affected can't.

## There will be changes

The biggest change of course will be the election of new officers at the October 6<sup>th</sup> club meeting. I believe it's a good slate of officers and the club will be well managed. Let's not forget our outgoing officers and all the sacrifices they made for our benefit. Thank you one and all – job well done.

The Ragchewer is now being done by Jack Travis, AE8P. Jon Larabee has done a remarkable job but his work keeps him hopping and his available time has become quite limited. Thank you Jon. I was responsible for another club's newsletter years ago and I know how demanding it can be.

This issue of the Ragchewer is a two month issue. Hopefully that won't happen again. October should put us back on a monthly schedule.

Contact me (editor) any time between 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with ideas for the Ragchewer. My number is (740) 687-1985.

## August Recipe

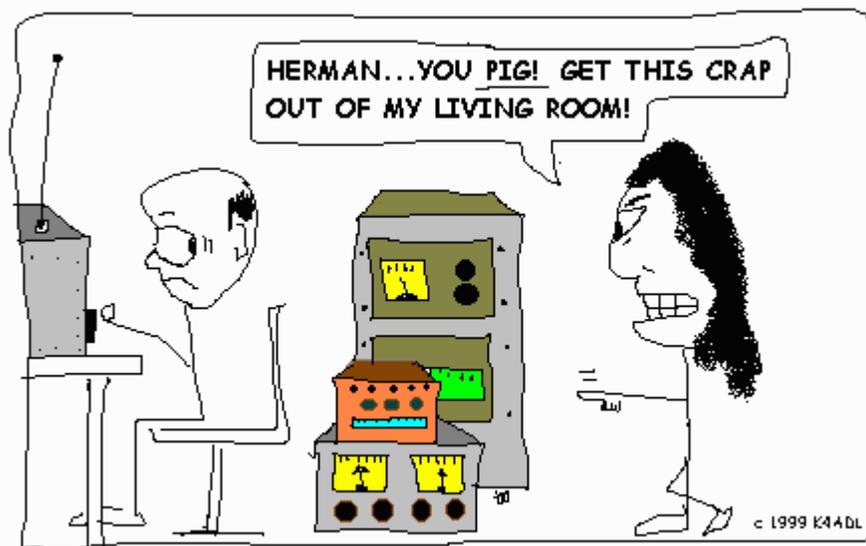
With the fall setting in, there are a lot of different fruits being harvested. Apples for one are easy to obtain. This recipe seems to one I think we will all enjoy:

### Apple Chutney

15 Tart apples – peeled, cored, and finely chopped  
1 yellow onion, quartered  
3 (1 inch) pieces fresh ginger root, peeled  
1 cup white wine vinegar  
½ cup white sugar  
½ cup brown sugar  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
½ teaspoon white pepper  
½ teaspoon ground cardamom  
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

In a saucepan, mix the apples, onion, ginger, vinegar, white sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, white pepper, cardamom and nutmeg. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cover. Simmer 30 minutes, stirring frequently until the apples are tender. Mix in some water if necessary to keep the ingredients moist. Remove the onion and ginger and store in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

Complements of [www.qsl.net/k4adl/](http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/)



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**K8QIK**

**August / September 2005**

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