
LFCARC
P.O. Box 3
Lancaster, OH 43130

K8QIK



December 2005

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The Ragchewer

December 2005



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

K8QIK On the Web:
www.k8qik.com

Club Meetings :

1st Thursday of every month
at 7:30 pm at the club house.

Radio Night:

Every Thursday except the
1st Thursday at the club
house, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

VE Testing:

The third Sunday of every
even numbered month.
Register at 9:30am and
testing at 10:00

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

December Birthdays

Chuck J. Bruckelmeyer	W8LCT
Donard "Tuffy" Clum	WA8ZUU
Charles E. O'Hare	WA8DEB
Leonard B. Schultz	W8DDG

Thursday Radio Nights

Radio night takes place at the club house every
Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (except the first Thursday
which is the club monthly meeting). Perhaps
you wish to work a little HF or make a few DX
contacts or maybe build something? Maybe just
a hot cup of coffee and a few good stories are
more to your liking? We'll have them all here
waiting for you.

Christmas Party

Mark your calendar for Saturday December 17,
2005. We will be meeting at the Ponderosa
Restaurant at 1732 E Main St in Lancaster (Rte
22) from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Everyone is
welcome. Bring your Spouse. Come and have a
good time.

Swap and Sell

If you have anything ham radio related, you can
swap it or sell it here. List your items and we
will put it in the Ragchewer for free. Give a
price and how to contact you. Send the list to
hamradio@columbus.rr.com

Net Manager Wanted

We're still looking for a Net Manager to
coordinate our efforts on the Net. You would
get volunteers to handle each Monday night net.
It sounds like a good idea, do we have any
volunteers?

2004/2005 Officers

President:

Don Stephenson
WD8PCF

Vice President:

Scott Snoke
WD8IXO

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr.
WD8PGO

Secretary:

Robert Northrup
KC8PSW

Activities Manager:

Kay Hanna
KC8HJW

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard
W8OF

Trustee:

John Hilliard
W8OF

Editor:

Jack Travis
AE8P
(740) 687-1985

Meeting Minutes 1 December 2005

At 7:30pm meeting called to order by Don Stephenson, WD8PCF who led the pledge of allegiance.

There were 17 members present.

Secretary Report: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Motion to accept by Charlie, N8KZN and second by John, W8AGS

Treasurer's Report: Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO.
Report was given by Charlie, N8KZN. Motion to accept by Allan, KB8JLG. Second by John, W8OF

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF
Given with Station Engineer report

VP Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO No Report

Activities Manager: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW
Items for the Christmas party have been purchased. Please mark your calendar for Saturday December 17, 2005. We will be meeting at the Ponderosa Restaurant on E Main St (Rte 22) from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Station Report: John Hilliard, W8OF
John reported that Tom, W8AFO had contacted him about linking the UHF repeater into a Southern Ohio Network. The group that Tom heads up will provide all the necessary equipment to make this happen. John also said that the repeater link antenna would probably go up on "water tower" hill but there is some homework by club members before the proposal can be floated by the county communications authorities.

There was concern that there are other areas in Ohio that have links such as proposed and they have turned into a "CB" type of operation. As an example, check out the link at 145.19MHz. John reiterated that by using the UHF repeater (70CM band), not the VHF repeater (2M band), that a lot of this type of riff raff would NOT be present. There was a good consensus to proceed with this project.

John also noted that he has two club members who (continued next column) →

have expressed interest in taking over his position as station engineer. They are Scott Snoke, KC8IXO and George Lambert, KB8USP. John will work with Ed Campbell to draft a letter requesting access cards to the repeater equipment.

VE Testing: Allan Sellers, KB8JLG

The next VE session will be held the morning of December 18 at the clubhouse. Registration will begin at 9:30am and testing begins at 10:00am. If you would like, you can meet for breakfast at Todd's Mountain View Restaurant at 8:30am before going to the clubhouse for testing. If you need testing other than on Sunday morning, then contact Allan to make arrangements.

Monday Night Net: Position is open

Dec 5 – Gary, W8GTS Dec 12 – John, W8OF
Dec 19 – Charlie, N8KZNF Dec 26 – Don, W8PCF
Jan 2 – John, W8OF

Ragchewer: Jack Travis, AE8P

Jack said he's struggling to find material for the Ragchewer and hasn't received much in the way of material for the newsletter. If you wish to submit an article, news item, cartoon, or other Ham related bits of trivia, you can email him at Hamradio@columbus.rr.com.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO
No Report

Safety Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO No Report

The Flower Fund: Juanita Gaffney – KC8OYO
Winner was John W8AGS who won \$10.00.

The 50-50 Club: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW
Winner was Candy, KC8NQG.

Old Business:

- Charlie, N8KZN reported that the fire extinguishers still need to be repaired instead of replaced but has had a very difficult time in contacting the repair company. About the tower rotor, Charlie, N8KZN stated all the parts are here so need the time to get them installed. He also said that the temperature was getting about right to get this done because when the weather is nice and warm, a lot of things go wrong and it seems to take forever to get it done.
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- The 5K run was run and those to helped out did an outstanding job.
- The Lancaster Thanksgiving Parade came off without a hitch and there were 10 folks who helped out. The parade organizers gave the club a check in the amount of \$100. Thank you!!

New Business:

There was discussion about the new dot com internet address for the club's web site. The new address is www.K8QIK.com which is a forwarding link to the old internet address www.qsl.net/k8qik. Concern was raised that since the club is a 501C-3 "not for profit" club, that a dot com would send the wrong message and could cause the club problems down the road. Consensus was that this wasn't an issue.

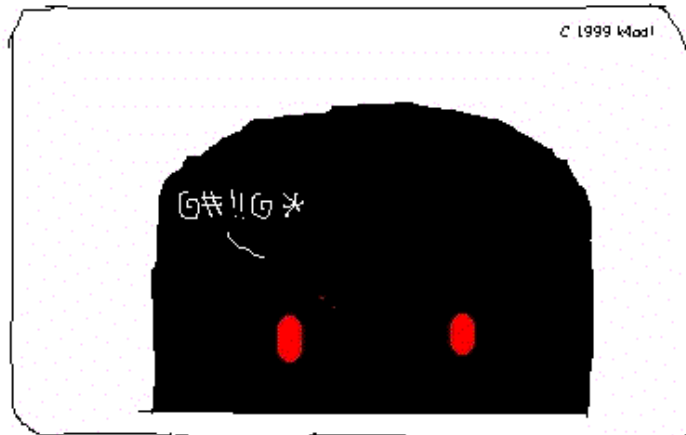
Regarding our VE Exams, it was mentioned that we do not have a presence in the World Radio magazine, the ARRL web site or the QST magazine. Allan, KB8JLG said he would get the club's testing dates and times into these media.

Motion to close the meeting by John, W8OF and second by Allan, KB8JLG

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Complements of www.qsl.net/k4adl/



AT THE EXACT MOMENT THE RARE DX STATION RETURNS HIS CALL, EUGENE ENTERS THE TWO-MILE-LONG MOUNTAIN TUNNEL.

Get Published

Submission of articles are always encouraged, 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 with me.

This publication ultimately is created to serve the club and its needs. 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. My email address: hamradio@columbus.rr.com Or My telephone # (740) 687-1985 between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

December VE Test:

The next VE test will be Sunday December 18th at the club house on Route 37. Register at 9:30 a.m. and testing at 10:00 a.m. Make the effort to upgrade even if you don't think you're ready. You might surprise yourself.

Fort Wayne Hamfest

I attended the Fort Wayne Hamfest on Saturday November 19th for the 5th consecutive year. As usual it is exceeded only by Dayton in size. I didn't buy much but not because there wasn't enough to buy. I have everything I need at the moment. If you've never attended this hamfest, you should plan on it next year. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Upcoming Hamfests

There are 2 hamfests in Ohio in January 2006. The first is the Scarfest 2006 held in Nelsonville on January 15. You can get more information on line at <http://www.scarfclub.org> The second is the Tusco Amateur Radio Club hamfest held in Strasburg on January 29. You can get more information on line at <http://noard.com/tuscoarc.htm>

FYI

Since FCC Chairman Kevin Martin took the reins of the agency in March, the FCC has not taken any public action on pending indecency complaints. In 2004, the FCC proposed fines against broadcasters totaling almost \$8 million.

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Nikola Tesla

Check your encyclopedia and find the answers to the following questions: (answers in parentheses)

- 1) Who invented the radio? (Marconi)
- 2) Who discovered X-rays? (Roentgen)
- 3) Who invented the vacuum tube amplifier? (de Forest)

In fact, while you're at it, check to see who discovered the fluorescent bulb, neon lights, speedometer, the automobile ignition system, and the basics behind radar, electron microscope, and the microwave oven.

Chances are you will see little mention of Nikola Tesla, the most famous scientist in the world at the turn of the century.

Tesla was considered an eccentric who talked of death rays that could destroy 10,000 airplanes at a distance of 250 miles, claimed to be able split the Earth in two, believed that both voice and image could be transmitted through the air (in the late 1800's), and essentially told Edison to take his DC electrical system and stick it you know where.

The problem is that Tesla probably could do all these things that he claimed were possible. In fact, Tesla invented every single one of the items listed above (but gets no credit) and much more. Chances are Tesla is somehow responsible for most of the things that make modern life so modern.

No doubt about it, Nikola Tesla was the greatest mind since da Vinci.

Tesla was born in Smijlan, Croatia in 1856. He had an extraordinary memory and spoke six languages. He spent four years at the Polytechnic Institute at Gratz studying math, physics, and mechanics.

What made Tesla great, however, was his amazing understanding of electricity. Electricity was still in its infancy. The light bulb hadn't even been invented yet.

When Tesla first came to the United States in 1884, he worked for Thomas Edison. Edison had just patented the light bulb, so he needed a system to distribute electricity.

Edison had all sorts of problems with his DC system of electricity. He promised Tesla big bucks in bonuses if he could get the bugs out of the system. Tesla ended up saving Edison over \$100,000 (millions of \$\$\$ by today's standards), but Edison refused to live up to his end of the bargain.

Tesla quit and Edison spent the rest of his life (continued next column) →

trying to squash Tesla's genius.

Tesla devised a better system for electrical transmission - the AC system that we use in our homes today. AC offered great advantages over the DC system. By using Tesla's newly developed transformers, AC voltages could be stepped up and transmitted over long distances through thin wires. DC could not (requiring a large power plant every square mile while transmitting through thick cables).

Of course, a system of transmission would be incomplete without devices to run on them. So, he invented the motors that are used in every appliance in your house. This was no simple achievement - scientists of the late 1800's were convinced that no motor could be devised for an alternating current system, making the use of AC a waste of time. Tesla solved the problem and proved everyone wrong.

He was using fluorescent bulbs in his lab forty years before industry "invented" them. He took glass tubes and molded them into the shapes of famous scientists' names - the first neon signs that we see all around us today. Tesla designed the world's first hydroelectric plant, located in Niagara Falls. He also patented the first speedometer for cars.

Word began to spread about his AC system and it eventually reached the ears of George Westinghouse.

Tesla signed a contract with Westinghouse under which he would receive \$2.50 for each kilowatt of AC electricity sold.

Suddenly, Tesla had the cash to start conducting all the experiments he ever dreamed of.

But Edison had too much money invested in his DC system, so Tommy did his best to discredit Tesla around every turn. Edison constantly tried to show that AC electricity was far more dangerous than his DC power.

Tesla counteracted by staging his own marketing campaign. At the 1893 World Exposition in Chicago (attended by 21 million people), he demonstrated how safe AC electricity was by passing high frequency AC power through his body to power light bulbs. He then was able to shoot large lightning bolts from his Tesla coils to the crowd without harm. Nice trick!

When the royalties owed to Tesla started to exceed \$1 million, Westinghouse ran into financial trouble. Tesla realized that if his contract remained in effect, Westinghouse would be out of business and he had no desire to deal with the creditors. His dream was to have cheap AC electric available to all people. Tesla took his contract and ripped it up! Instead of (continued next page)

becoming the world's first billionaire, he was paid \$216,600 outright for his patents.

In 1898, he demonstrated to the world the first remote controlled model boat at Madison Square Garden. So you can thank Tesla for the invention of those remote controlled planes, cars, and boats (and televisions!).

Tesla had a dream of providing free energy to the world. In 1900, backed by \$150,000 from financier J.P. Morgan, Tesla began construction of his so called "Wireless Broadcasting System" tower on Long Island, New York. This broadcasting tower was intended to link the world's telephone and telegraph services, as well as transmit pictures, stock reports, and weather information worldwide. Unfortunately, Morgan cut funding when he realized that it meant FREE energy for the world.

Tesla ran into financial trouble after Morgan cut funding for the project and the tower was sold for scrap to pay off creditors.

The world thought he was nuts - after all, transmission of voice, picture, and electricity was unheard of at this time.

What they didn't know was that Tesla had already demonstrated the principles behind radio nearly ten years before Marconi's supposed invention. In fact, in 1943, the Supreme Court ruled that Marconi's patents were invalid due to Tesla's previous descriptions. Still, most references do not credit Tesla with the invention of radio. (Sidenote: Marconi's radio did not transmit voices - it transmitted a signal - something Tesla had demonstrated years before.)

In his Manhattan lab, Tesla made the earth into an electric tuning fork. He managed to get a steam-driven oscillator to vibrate at the same frequency as the ground beneath him. The result? An earthquake on all the surrounding city blocks. The buildings trembled, the windows broke, and the plaster fell off the walls.

Tesla contended that, in theory, the same principle could be used to destroy the Empire State Building or even possibly split the Earth in two. Tesla had accurately determined the resonant frequencies of the Earth almost 60 years before science could confirm his results.

In his Colorado Springs lab in 1899, he sent waves of energy all the way through the Earth, causing them to bounce back to the source (providing the theory for today's accurate earthquake seismic stations). When the waves came back, he added more electricity to it creating the largest man-made (continued next column) →

lightning bolt ever recorded - 130 feet! - a world's record still unbroken! The accompanying thunder was heard 22 miles away. The entire meadow surrounding his lab had a strange blue glow, similar to that of St. Elmo's Fire. But, this was only a warm-up for his real experiment! Unfortunately, he blew out the local power plant's equipment and he was never able to repeat the experiment.

At the beginning of World War I, the government desperately searched for a way to detect German submarines. The government put Thomas Edison in charge of the search for a good method. Tesla proposed the use of energy waves - what we know today as radar - to detect these ships. Edison rejected Tesla's idea as ludicrous and the world had to wait another 25 years until it was invented.

His reward for a lifetime of creativity? The prized (to everyone but Tesla) Edison Medal! A real slap in the face after all the abuse Tesla took from Edison.

Industry's attempt to purge him from the scientific literature had driven him into exile for nearly twenty years. Lacking capital, he was forced to place his untested theories into countless notebooks.

The man who invented the modern world died nearly penniless at age 86 on January 7, 1943. More than two thousand people attended his funeral.

In his lifetime, Tesla received over 800 different patents. He probably would have exceeded Edison's record number if he wasn't always broke - he could afford very few patent applications during the last thirty years of his life.

Unlike Edison, Tesla was an original thinker whose ideas typically had no precedent in science. Unfortunately, the world does not financially reward people of Tesla's originality. We only award those that take these concepts and turn them into a refined, useful product.

Scientists today continue to scour through his notes. Many of his far flung theories are just now being proven by our top scientists. For example, the Tesla bladeless disk turbine engine that he designed, when coupled with modern materials, is proving to be among the most efficient motors ever designed. His 1901 patented experiments with cryogenic liquids and electricity provide the foundation for modern superconductors. He talked about experiments that suggested particles with fractional charges of an electron - something that scientists in 1977 finally discovered - quarks!

He lead an interesting life and it would be to your benefit to read more about him. Maybe history will finally recognize a true genius.

The Mic holder project

by Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

In October 2004, I purchased my new truck and began the task of installing Ham gear. As in all my previous equipment installations, I have tried to not drill holes all over the vehicle thus making extra work and diminishing its resale value in the future. The radio is a Yaesu FT-7100M, a dual-band 2M/70CM unit. I did purchase the remote head kit and put the radio under the driver seat with the control head on the dash/instrument cluster. At first, I put the mic in one of the cup holders but it started to fall all over the cab so I needed a way to put it someplace out of the way and then this past spring, I saw an article in QST that did exactly what I wanted. The article described a cheap and easy to assemble mic holder that inserts into one of the power ports on the dash. The article said all parts came from The Home Depot and I was in one almost every day for my business. But I couldn't find the parts the article quoted so I improvised. The parts I used were white PVC, which is a coupling with a 1/2" threaded male end and a 1/2" solvent-weld other end. Then I inserted a 1/2" solvent-weld plug into the other fitting, drilled two holes for the mic clip and tried it out. I found that I needed to trim a few threads to get the male end into a power port socket and I wrapped the threads with a little electrical tape for a better fit. Attached are a few photos showing the clip in place and one of the clip by itself.

It was a very easy project, took about 15 minutes to make and cost about 85 cents. What is nice is that it is easily removable and portable so it can go in any vehicle with a power port or cigarette lighter socket.



Bar -B-Que Kraut

- 1 large can of sauerkraut
- 1/2 c onions diced
- 1 15oz of can of tomato sauce
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1/2 c green peppers diced
- 1 c brown sugar

Brown beef, onions and peppers. Add tomato sauce, brown sugar. Drain kraut and squeeze dry as possible. Pull apart and mix into meat mixture. Put in baking dish. Bake 350 degrees for 55 to 65 minutes. Diabetics: 3/4c Splenda, 1/4c sugar free maple syrup.

This is great tasting if you like sauerkraut. It is unbelievable.

From the kitchen of Kay Hanna



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Prepare for The Amateur Test

Have everything you need to take the test when you walk into the test session:

1. A valid photo ID (like your driver's license) or two other forms of ID. If you do not have a photo ID then bring copies of your other ID documents as we must include them with your test materials. Reasonable accommodations can be made for those too young to have a driver's license.
2. Two sharpened pencils and one pen
3. A calculator (simple is best, avoid complex programmable ones)
4. If you are upgrading you need to bring the original AND a copy of your current Amateur Radio license. If you have any CSCEs for tests you've already passed bring the original AND a copy.
5. Examination fee - \$14.00 for 2005

Come prepared. Study the material and expect to pass the test on the first attempt. Most VE sessions will allow you to retake a test but they don't have to do this.

The VEs are only required to tell you if you passed or failed. Some may offer more information but they cannot tell you about how you did on specific questions.

If you wish to retake a failed test you must pay another examination fee.

The VE team may refuse to test you for any reason. An amateur license is a PRIVILEGE not a right. Generally only those who cheat or are disruptive to the testing process would be refused.

Taking The Written Exams

The Technician, General, and Amateur Extra exams are all multiple choice exams chosen from the "question pool" for that exam. The Technician and General exams are 35 questions each of which you must get 26 correct to pass. The Amateur Extra exam is 50 questions of which you must get 37 correct to pass the test.

Each of the questions has a "pool" of pre-defined questions that are selected at random for each of the actual test questions. The questions are presented in a random order and the answers are also randomized.

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You can't memorize that question T1A04 is answer C and expect to get it right. You have to know the actual answers.

The question pools are periodically changed and updated. The Amateur Extra pool was changed in July of 2002, the Technician pool changed in July of 2003 and the General pool will change in July of 2004.

I have found that the ARRL study books do the best job of not only teaching the questions and answers but also the actual material that goes with the questions and answers. You can just memorize the answers to the questions but you won't actually LEARN anything. If you want to progress to higher license classes you are much better off learning the material once. I have observed that many people who do well on the Technician test and studied the material can usually pass the General test without actually studying for it.

Since this is a multiple choice test some simple tips for multiple choice tests are in order:

- Read ALL of the answers before you pick one. Many times the answers can sound similar.
- If you don't know the answer, skip to the next question and come back to it later.
- Use the process of elimination - some answers are obviously wrong so concentrate on the ones that are left
- Make sure the answer you mark on the answer sheet is for the question you just read - (put your answer for question 23 on answer sheet number 23). You would be surprised how easy it is to get them mixed up.
- You have plenty of time - go over the questions again but only change answers if you are absolutely sure you made a mistake.
- Make sure you clearly mark your answers - completely fill in the circle on the answer sheet. (you did use pencil right?)

There are several places you can take sample exams on the web. They all use the standard published question pool but the one I find best is at: <http://www.eham.net/exams/>. This site randomizes the question order and the answer order just like the real test.