
LFCARC
P.O. Box 3
Lancaster, OH 43130

K8QIK



November 2005

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The Ragchewer

November 2005

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

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



Club Meetings :

1st 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

Monday Night Help

We need help running our Monday Night Net. John, W8OF and a few others have been making the effort as net control but there is just so much of each of them to go around. Let's ALL pitch in and help out. John, W8OF has suggested a Net Manager to coordinate our efforts on the Net. It sounds like a good idea, do we have any volunteers ?

At the monthly meeting there was a discussion about the "NewsLine" part of our net and those who faithfully serve as net control. Some questioned the benefit of NewsLine but the basic consensus is that we keep the NewsLine segment as part of the net. This means that more of you will need to step up and be a net control person. It doesn't take a "Rocket Scientist" to do it so get involved and share the load. Please volunteer to do a week as net control. You might like it.

November Birthdays

Lynda F Campbell	KB8ZBY
James E Gaffney	N8JEG
Robert L Snider	W8BLS
Brenda J VanDyke	KC8OYP
Robert C VanDyke	W8RVD

Thursday Nights

Radio night takes place 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? Perhaps just a hot cup of coffee and a few good stories are more to your liking ? We will have them all here waiting for you.

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 3 November 2005

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

There were 19 members present.

Charlie asked our station engineer John, W8OF to swear in the new 2005/2006 officers and the meeting was turned over to our new club president Don Stephenson, WD8PCF.

Secretary Report: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

The minutes for the October meeting were read. Motion to accept by Charlie, N8KZN and second by Gary, KC8HCG.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO.
Included with the Station Report

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF No Report

VP Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO No Report

Activities Manager: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW

She is purchasing items for the Christmas Party and contacting various vendors for door prizes. As a reminder, the party will be held at the Ponderosa Restaurant on East Main Street (Old Rte 22) on Saturday December 17, 2005 from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.

Station Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John stated that he has been the Trustee and Station Engineer for more than a few years and that his current job may not allow him to continue serving in both positions much longer. So he is looking for someone in the club to take one of these positions. As he said, "All you need is a Tech license for the station engineer position as any problems are brought to the club's attentions for resolution". See John for full details and jobs duties.

Also, we need help in running our Monday Night Net. John, W8OF and a few others have been making the effort as net control but there is just so much of each to go around. Let's ALL pitch in and help out!!

John also brought up the issue that one of the club's repeaters (the 670 machine) is located on one of the (continued next column) →

fire station towers and will need to be moved in the near future. He cited issues with access control and permissions in the facility as reasons it should be moved. There was a good amount of discussion about this and several proposals were floated in the meeting but no motions were made. John, W8OF suggested the 670 repeater be mounted in a weather-tight enclosure at the base of the tower or fed with a 6M link to the current location with the repeater located in the clubhouse. John, W8AGS asked if there were other 6M repeaters in the area and John, W8OF said there were several in the area.

VE Testing: Allan Sellers, KB8JLG

The next VE session will be held on the third (3rd) Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. here at the clubhouse. There was some discussion about the reason it is held on a Sunday morning, as many who attend church cannot get tested at that time. As a result of the discussion it was suggested that if you need testing other than on Sunday morning, then contact Allan to make other arrangements.

Monday Night Net: Position is open

Nov 7 – John, W8OF Nov 14 – Fred, KC8LMN
Nov 22 – John, W8OF Nov 28 – Fred, KC8LMN

There was a good discussion about the "NewsLine" part of our net and those who faithfully serve as net control. Some questioned the benefit of NewsLine and others suggested we drop it and or the net altogether. The basic consensus is that we keep the NewsLine segment and keep the net going. This means that more of you will need to step up and be a net control person. It doesn't take a "Rocket Scientist" to do it so get involved and share the load.

Ragchewer: Jack Travis, AE8P

Jack said he 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. Jack also stated that the newsletter is only as good as the info he can collect and that which you submit to him. So if you want to have a really good newsletter, then let's start feeding Jack info he can use.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

No Report
(continued next page)

.Safety Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO
Included in Old Business

The Flower Fund: Connie Snoke, N8LPC
Winner was John W8AGS who won \$7.50.
She also reported that flowers were sent for the passing of Harry Vollmer, W8LXC

The 50-50 Club: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW
Winner was Gary, KC8HCG, who won \$58.00.

Old Business:

- Charlie, N8KZN reported that the fire extinguishers might be able to be repaired instead of replaced. This would result in a savings to the club and he would get this done this week.
- Gary, KC8HCG asked about the rotor and mounting plate. Charlie, N8KZN stated all the parts are here so need the time to get them installed and said it will get done before snow flies.
- November 12 is the date set for the 5K run and we need 3 more volunteers to help with communications. See Charlie ASAP to help. You will need to be at the fairgrounds by 8AM and should be back home before noon.
- November 18 is the Lancaster Thanksgiving Parade and we will need about 10 to 11 folks to help with parade communications. Again, see Charlie, N8KZN to help out. Be at the "Covered Bridge" on the fairgrounds by 8am to receive instructions and positions along the parade route. The parade will start at 10AM.

New Business: none

Motion to close the meeting by John, W8OF, second by "Hollywood" WA8YSC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Free Antenna Parts

I have a damaged Mosley CL 33 three element beam that was damaged by last years Ice storm. The boom and first director are damaged. The antenna is probably usable as a two element beam. The parts are (continued next column) →

available from Mosley although they are expensive. I hate to just throw the antenna away. This antenna is FREE for the taking.

My e-mail address is c_ohare@sbcglobal.net and my home phone number is 740-756-4102 and I reside in Carroll.

Charles O'Hare, WA8DEB

HARRY C. VOLLMER, W8LXC - SK

Harry C. Vollmer, age 78, of Logan, and long time resident of Columbus, died Saturday, October 15, 2005 at O.S.U. Medical Center. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a retired engineer at Rockwell International. He graduated from Aquinas College High School.

Harry was a member of the Logan and Lancaster Amateur Radio Clubs where he was respected and loved by all. He is was preceded in death by parents Clarence and Lydia, brothers Clarence "Bud" and Robert. Survived by children, Charles (Sara), Anna, Paul (Kristen); grandchildren, Zachary, Noah, Abigail, Keegan and Trey; sisters-in-law, Jane and Valerie; numerous cousins nieces and nephews.

His family received friends at the MAEDER-QUINT-TIBERI FUNERAL HOME, Columbus, and Mass of Christian Burial was at Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, 6440 South High Street. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

Harry was heavily involved in Amateur Radio in both the Logan and Lancaster Clubs. He was a ARRL-VEC Test Examiner for many years as well as a trustee of the Logan Club. He was also a member of the OOTC (The Old Old Timers Club – Pioneers of Amateur Wireless).

Harry will always be remembered for his generosity. He would provide radios, antennas and other equipment to those who could not afford it or those who needed to borrow for a short period of time. Everyone enjoyed listening to his stories because they were interesting and usually very educational. We enjoyed his humor, his wit, and his smile.

73 Harry, OM and Legend, life in our Clubs will never be the same without you!
(continued next page)

Is Your Wire Antenna Ready For Winter ?

There is no easy answer. Put up an antenna correctly and you can expect many years of trouble free operation. A typical ham radio antenna installation using trees for supports will probably last a few years, or until a big storm comes along. Adding preventive measures like rope fuse links' in your support line, may save the antenna.

Antennas supported from towers may perform less well than tree supported antennas but give extra years of service. The interaction between the towers and the wire antenna depends on many factors. The guy wires in particular may affect the antenna supported between the towers. Use cheap parts, low quality wire and insulators, and poor weatherproofing techniques and expect your antenna to last several months, perhaps a year or two at the most.

Annual Maintenance

1. Support ropes

You need to check out the entire length of all support ropes. This is especially true for ropes that contact tree limbs or any place that can cause abrasion.

Compare the support rope with a piece of the same rope that has not been in the sun and weather. Note how fast the material is deteriorating. Does it feel stiffer? Does it's color look dull? Are strands breaking?

2. End Insulators

Wash all the dirt, spider's webs, and other accumulated junk off the insulators. Check to see if they are cracked.

3. Wire

If the antenna is made of copper-clad steel wire, is there any sign of rust? Is the copper in good shape? Does it have any cracks in it? Pay careful attention at the end insulators and the matching transformer or balun. This is where most of the damage to the wire will take place.

4. Soldered Connections

If you are not using a RADIO WORKS antenna, check all soldered or compression connections. Do soldered connections look crystallized? If so, re-solder with quality solder. You (continued next column) →

may want to weatherproof the soldered connection. Apply a layer of CoaxSeal® over the newly soldered connection.

5. Balun or Matching Transformers.

Check the weatherproofing. Is it still intact? Is there water in the balun's or matching transformer's case? Water doesn't generally harm a balun or matching transformer, but it might be a good idea to let the water out. Drilling a small hole in the TOP of the case will permit pouring or shaking out the water. Reseal the balun according to instruction manual directions. Plug the newly drilled hole with a ball of CoaxSeal® pressed firmly into the hole. Hot melt glue works, too.

6. Coax deterioration:

If you really want to do a first-class inspection, disconnect the coax from the antenna and measure the coax for power loss.

Here is the procedure. Put a dummy load at the antenna end of the coax. Measure the transmitter output power, using an accurate wattmeter, placed at the transmitter end of the coax. Move the wattmeter to the dummy load end of the coax and install it there. Reconnect the coax to the transmitter and without changing any of the transmitter's settings measure the power delivered to the dummy load. Record the two numbers and determine the loss of power through the coax. If the measured value is not within a few percent of the cable's specifications, replace the coax - period.

7. The Once Over

Give any other part of the antenna system a good examination.

8. Reinstall the antenna

Amateur Licensing

The following article was reprinted from WORLD RADIO January 1998. There are some errors in Fred's recollection.

Just how did it all get started? Here are some thoughts from NY2V. Fred was first licensed at the age of 14, in 1948, and says the following is his best recollection and subject to comment and correction.

Chaos reigned on the radio waves until at least 1912. In that year the feds began issuing licenses for (continued next page)

all radio services. Ham licenses all had identical privileges – 5 wpm code and written theory exam. Virtually all ham operation was done at “200 meters and down”, the entire spectrum having wavelengths shorter than 200 being seen as worthless.

1923

Amateur Extra First Grade license introduced. Required 2 years at lower grade, theory exam, 20 wpm code test (20 wpm was the licensing standard for the commercial applicants). Distinctive call signs and additional HF frequencies given.

1927

Amateur Second Grade license made 1 year non-renewable.

1929

Amateur Extra First Grade gets 20 M phone privileges.

1932

Amateur Extra First Grade gets 75 M phone privileges.

1933

Class A new name for Amateur Extra First Grade. 20 wpm test dropped, since LF operations were dropped, eliminating need for ham / gov / commercial / intercommunication via Mores.

Class B new name for Amateur First Grade.

Class C new name for Amateur Second Grade.

1936

ARRL requested 13 wpm instead of 10 wpm. The book “200 meters and down” states this was to effectively create a maximum of 16,000 hams, so as to minimize band congestion. This was granted and 13 wpm remained the lowest test speed until the Novice and Technician licenses were created in 1951.

1941-1945

Off the air due to WW II.

1951

Amateur Extra license (but no special privileges). Advanced class new name for Class A. Phone only on 75 M & 20 M. (40M & 15M were CW only for all classes after WW II).

General class new name for Class B. 13 wpm CW receiving at least one minute of solid copy, followed by a short 13 wpm sending test. Then a written test.

Conditional class new name for Class C, for folks living over 125 miles from the nearest FCC examination point. Test given by ham with at least a Class C license. Privileges identical to those for Class B / General. To upgrade, one had to travel and pass the complete General exam over again, along with the (continued next column) →

Advanced Class exam.

Technician license introduced. Test was General class test, but code test was lowered to 5 wpm. No privileges below 220MC band, although written test was more difficult than that for Novice license. This test was administered by mail and didn't have to be administered by an FCC examiner.

Novice license introduced – on year, non-renewable. 80M and 11M CW plus 2M phone privileges. Test available by mail.

1951-1967

To set the tone, in 1968, incentive licensing was introduced. It took away roughly half the phone privileges of General and Conditional licenses. Advanced class was introduced with the newly-missing phone privileges, and Extra, with its 20 wpm code test, was the sole way to get all privileges restored. Many hams opposed this.

The growth rate of licenses, was high and the technical advancements were many during the 1951-67 era. FM became popular above 144mhz, and SSB essentially displaced all but a few AM rigs on the air. From what the writer can tell, at the end of the 1951-67 period, we saw clubs, especially large-city school clubs, fall apart, radio stores began to close, and the old familiar names of ham equipment manufacturers went away, or at least out of the ham business. Japanese firms replaced American ones as the primary source of big ticket HF and VHF rigs.

1954-67

Fifteen years of new Advanced class licenses being issued, since privileges were same for Advanced as for General class.

1968

Incentive licensing, as it was officially dubbed was introduced.

General class loses roughly half its phone segments to Advanced class.

Amateur Extra class get 25khz segments at bottom of HF bands for exclusive use.

Novices lose HF privileges and license term extended from 1 to 2 years.

1976

CB begins, using the 11M band. Conditional licensing discontinued. Technician licenses acquire all Novice privileges, plus full access and privileges on both 6M and 2M bands. Prospective Techs must now appear before a volunteer examiner.

Novices are now allowed to use VFO's, but lose 2M phone.

1 year waiting period before taking Amateur (continued next page)

Extra test eliminated.

Hams no longer are required to certify that they had operated Morse for a certain number of hours at or above his license class speed in the 12 months prior to renewal. Consensus in ranks is that most were lying about it when they renewed.

1977-78

FCC revokes all secondary call signs.

FCC also drops requirement to change calls when licensee moves to a different call district. Significance of number in call sign is thus destroyed, leading to later confusion of where a station might be based on call sign.

1983-84

FCC relinquishes testing function and turns it over to Volunteer Examiner system. License terms are extended from 5 years to 10 years, except for Novices.

1987

Novice enhancement introduced, converting the Novice license to a renewable one like all other classes, and giving phone privileges on the 220 MHz and 1.2 GHz bands. Techs and Novices given small segment of the 10M for phone use.

Complete conversion to Volunteer Examiner system is made.

1991

No-code Technician license introduced. This entry class does not have the CW privileges enjoyed by Technician and Novice class licenses.

1991 to 1999

More and more new licenses are No-code Technician (renamed Technician, and former Technicians renamed Technician Plus licenses). Only a limited number of both classes of Technician license see reason to upgrade, being satisfied to mainly communicate on VHF and up. Average age of hams drops by about 8 years.

2000 to present

No new licenses will be issued for Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced classes although they will be renewed. Code speed for General and Extra classes is reduced to 5 wpm. The debate between those favoring code and those favoring no-code intensifies.

Home Made QSL Cards

After trying every resource at my disposal, I finally came up with a home made QSL card that is worthy of sending out. First of all, this card was made

with Microsoft Word. I know there are probably better programs to use but Word was my choice.

Start by making a table that is 1 x 1 cell, 3 ½ inches tall by 5 ½ inches wide. From this humble beginning you can split that cell into smaller and more numerous cells until you get every item you want on the card. You can add pictures, word art, change colors, add backgrounds, watermarks etc. It may take a little time before you get what you want. After you are completed, copy the card and make 2 more cells on your sheet. Use portrait mode and put 3 “cards” in the center. You may have to fool your program or printer and make the sheet larger than 11”. For the other side of the card, use the same procedure until you are satisfied with your results.

The hard part is done. I used premium glossy photo paper from Staples as it was the only photo paper I could find that would allow me to print on both sides, but you can use any glossy photo paper that is heavy enough if it works. Decide which side of the card you want to be glossy and print away. (use a photo quality printer). When done turn the paper over and print the “dull” side. Next cut the cards apart. Use a VERY sharp knife (I recommend an Exacto © knife) and a straight edge.

The paper cost is \$0.35 per sheet which makes each card \$0.117. I figure probably no more than \$.10 for ink. Grand total \$0.217 per card. So I have the cards I want, custom made and didn’t have to buy 250 at a time. By the way I’ve already made 2 major changes to the card since I did the first one. I’m not stuck with hundreds that I’m not happy with.

Jack, AE8P

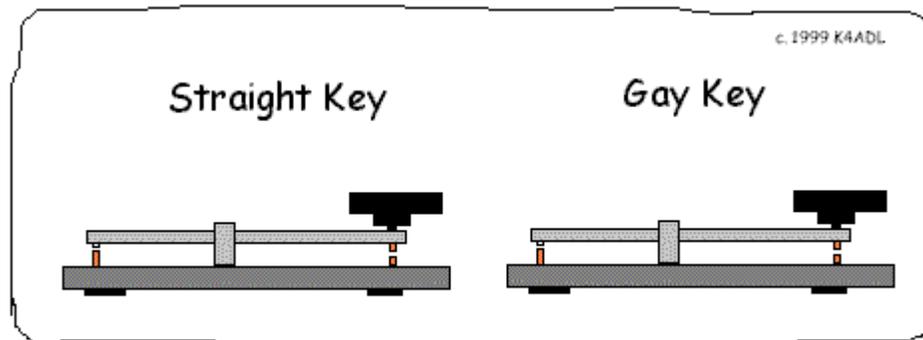
----- Massillon Ham Fest

Ron WA8GFO, Dave WA8EUT went to the Massillon hamfest and met me there to share a table in the flea market. I sold 15 boxes of discarded industrial electrical stuff that was too valuable to throw away and I got almost \$40... not bad for cleaning my basement.

There were more than 100 tables in the indoor fleamarket and I got some nice stuff. I did buy a Heathkit trainer/breadboard that I will sell... I just couldn't watch the guy re-pack it even though I already have one.

Regards, Allen KB8JLG

Complements of www.qsl.net/k4adl/



WE MUST ALWAYS RESPECT THE PREFERENCES OF FELLOW HAM.S.

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.

October VE Test

Five persons took tests October 16, 2005 with one receiving his General and three receiving Technician licenses. The three Technician licenses were a teacher and two of his students from Licking County. Fred W8FZ, Bob KI8JM, Greg W8NGA and Allen KB8JLG administered the tests.

As I was preparing the results to send to the ARRL, I learned of Harry W8LXC passing away. For many years he had a perfect attendance at our testing sessions. He also acted as a Volunteer Examiner for the Hocking County and Perry County groups.

Regards, Allen, KB8JLG

(continued next column) →

Zanesville open house

Ralph, W8BVH and I went to the N8HR open house on 10-9-2005 near Zanesville and we had an all-day (9AM to 5:30PM for us) nice time. The open house closed at 3:30PM because people were starting to leave. Everett has a tremendous antenna farm and has Barry Goldwater's beams mounted on one of four towers. The 40 meter beam is at 70 feet and there are three more above that so I guess it's at least 150 feet high. Ralph got a tour of the operating shack and reports a room with four all-band operating positions complete with computers and Alpha amplifiers. Everett invites the local ham group to help him compete in the big contests. Ralph and I again bought some nice stuff. The flea market was about ten tables but we saw a lot of people that we knew from the Fairfield / Hocking / Athens county areas. The weather had a lot to do with the vendor attendance I guess and although cold, the weather got better as the day progressed.

Regards, Allen, KB8JLG

Upcoming Hamfests

The next worthy hamfest is in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I've been there the last 4 years and will go again this year. It's not Dayton, but I believe it's larger than the Findlay hamfest. And it's 100% indoors and is a 2 day affair. You can see it all in just one day however. It's held this year Saturday Nov 19 from 9-4 and Sunday Nov 20 from 9-3. They are in the Eastern time zone. Admission is \$5 good for both days.

FYI - the nations 2nd largest Genealogy library is in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I also go there every year.