

The Ragchewer

June 2007

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

On the Web: www.k8qik.org
Send email to K8QIK@columbus.rr.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 9:30 am and
testing at 10:00 am

Club House

Location:

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

Nets:

Mondays at 9:00 p.m.
147.03 MHz (+.6)
146.70 MHz (-.6) Alt. Freq.
443.875 MHz (+5)
Thursday at 8:00 p.m.
443.875 MHz (+5)
UHF linked system

Packet BBS 145.53MHz
K8QIK-1 BBS
K8QIK-2: Ohio53

Weather Spotter Net:

146.76 Repeater with 123Hz
tone Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Alt frequency 147.24 MHz

June Birthdays

Jeff Bell	WD8JLI
Ralph Howes	W8BVH
Moses Draper	KC8NPP
Raymond Shetrone	WA8WFL
Phortia Stevens	AB8GE
Robert Ruffner	KD8DXC
Griffin Warren	KG4IDG
Scott Snoke	WD8IXO
William Braun	K8ZCT
Thomas Moore	KB8USK

Thursday Night Radio Night

Radio night is every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
(except the first Thursday which is the club
monthly meeting). Work a little HF, make a
few DX contacts, maybe build something? How
about a hot cup of coffee and a few good
stories? We'll have them all waiting for you.

ARRL Membership

When you join the ARRL, or renew your
membership through the club, we retain \$15 for
each new membership OR lapsed membership
(of two years or more), and we retain \$2 for
each renewal. Please support our club, it doesn't
cost any more. Send or give all paperwork to
Treasurer with your money.

June VE Test:

The next VE test will be Sunday June 17th at
the club house on Route 37. Register at 9:30
a.m. and testing begins at 10:00 a.m.

Free Swap and Sell

If you have anything ham radio related, you can
swap it or sell it here. List your items for free.
Give a price and how to contact you. Send the
list to K8QIK@columbus.rr.com

2006-2007 Officers

President:

Don Stephenson, WD8PCF

Vice President:

Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

Secretary:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Net Manager:

John Fick, KD8EEK

Activities Manager:

Kay Hanna, KC8HJW

Public Relations:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Flower Fund:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Chief Cook and Bottle

Washer:

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN

Editor:

Jack Travis, AE8P
(740) 687-1985

June 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30pm meeting called to order by President Stephenson, WD8PCF, who lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 24 members and no guests present.

Club membership applications for Sandy Snider, KD8FTX and Fred Wyatt, KD8FTY had their second reading.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Minutes are posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept by John, W8OF and second by Griff, KG4IDG. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO.

Ed gave the club financials. Motion to accept by Allan, KB8JLG and second by Charlie, N8KZN. Motion carried.

Ed also noted that the club received a donation from Ed Payne, for our work in helping with the MS Walk-A-Thon.

VP Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No Report

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported he and Ed, WD8PGO have been in touch with the insurance company. Seems its been a while since review with the agent/company so company wants to review coverage for possible changes, etc.

Committee Reports

VE Testing: Allan Sellers - KB8JLG

The next VE session will be June 17 at the clubhouse. He has had 6-8 inquiries and this looks to be a good VE session. Robert – KC8PSW went to Dayton Hamvention and passed element 3 and is now a general class.

Monday Night Net: John – KD8EEK

June 11 John – W8AGS
June 18 – TBD
June 25 John – KD8EEK
July 2 John – W8OF

John also reported that Kay, KD8HJW did a simplex freq test on 147.555 MHz. Results were OK in Lancaster city limits but were sporadic when talking with Kay in Baltimore. John was using an HT mobile and not a more powerful base unit.

Ragchewer: Jack Travis, AE8P

Jack said all is going well and is ready for the next installment of the "Chewer". Jack is still looking for local content, ideas, kit building info or home-brew activities.

Submit your article, news item, cartoon, or other Ham related bits of trivia to Jack at k8qik@columbus.rr.com.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed thanked all who helped with the Hazmat drill in Fairfield County last month. Results were good and the EMA folks pleased. There will be another drill in August that will be a tri-county operation between Perry, Licking and Fairfield units. Stay tuned for more info.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No Report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported he is meeting with the City Service Manager about the repeater site, relocating the repeater and the agreement we are trying to get in place. Work is going slow. Allan and Ralph are continuing to work on the outdoor repeater cabinet for the 147.030 repeater.

The radio room renovations are going nicely and Jeff, WD8JLI stated all the drywall work, painting is done and carpet is almost finished. Next will be new power feeds from panel in basement and coax runs to tower. Jeff and John, W8OF commented on changing out the coax to the tower as it is in bad shape. This was outside the original estimates for the renovation work so they will work up costs and report next month.

Activities Manager: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW

Kay reported thru Mary, KD8EEI that she is continuing to work in the 2007 Christmas party.

Flower Fund: Mary Travis, WD8EEI

Mary said there \$14 collected and Jeff, WD8JLI won half, which he donated to the radio fund.

Fund Raising: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW

No report

Old Business:

Jim, KC8JPZ reported progress on Field Day activities. Looks like we will set up at least 2 stations, one CW and one phone out on the hill behind the clubhouse and power them off a generator. Setup begins at 9am Saturday June 23rd for the shelter, antennas, etc. We can begin operating at 2PM that afternoon. There was discussion about logging software and who has it as well as food and

staff to man positions. Soooo... come early, have fun, and get on the air.

New Business:

Club members voted Sandy Snider, KD8FTX and Fred Wyatt, KD8FTY into membership. Motions made by Griff, KG4IDG and Allan, KB8JLG. Seconds made by Allan, KB8JLG and Griff, KG4IDG. Motions carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom, KB8USK and second by Robert, KI8JM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Upcoming Hamfests

June 9 is the Fulton County ARC Hamfest at Tedrow, Ohio. You can get more information at <http://k8bxq.org>

June 16 is the Milford Amateur Radio Club Hamfest at Milford, Ohio. You can get more information at <http://www.w8mrc.com>

July 14 is the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Club Hamfest in Wellington, Ohio. You can get more information at <http://www.noars.net>

Tubes For Sale

If you need tubes for your boat anchor or TV contact Jeff Bell WD8JLI at 614-774-2973 or email at jbelle@imagearray.net he has a huge supply for most needs.

Weekly CW Practice

Sorry, the CW practice on Sunday evening has been discontinued. Thank you Bob Hughes, KI8JM and Gary Snider, W8GTS for the time you've given to this activity.

E-mail Addresses

If you are currently receiving The Ragchewer via regular mail but have an Internet account, the Ragchewer can be sent to you and save the club some money. You'll also get your Ragchewer about a

week earlier. Send me your e-mail address and tell me to take you off the snail mail list. If you have a new email address, be sure to also let me know. Send to K8QIK@columbus.rr.com

The Wayback Machine #12

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

November 15, 1945. The day that amateurs had waited for, ever since December 7, 1941. Finally, after three years and 11 months of wartime radio silence, amateurs were allowed back on the air! Granted, we didn't have everything back yet. The initial authorization allowed amateur operations on 10 meters (28-29.7 Mc), five meters (56-60 Mc), and the new two meter band at 144-148 Mc. And there were restrictions on these limited frequencies. Our old pre-war five meter allocation was temporary. The new post-war band was shifted to six meters (50- 54

Mc), but the actual transition would not take place until March 1, 1946. So, we were back on the 56-60 Mc segment for only 3-1/2 months.

On the new two meter band, the frequencies 146.5-148 Mc were unavailable within a 50 mile radius of Washington, DC and Seattle, Washington. The military was still using these frequencies, as well as our 160, 80, 40, and 20 meter HF bands. The military also occupied our new UHF and microwave allocations. It would be months, maybe a year or more, before the Armed Forces would fully vacate our bands and return them to us.

But amateurs didn't care. Unlike 1919, when there was open hostility to us by the military and the threat of our elimination, the post WW II Armed Forces, as well as the FCC, were fully aware of the tremendous assistance that amateurs had given throughout the war and they were eager to give us back our frequencies. The ARRL was working closely with the FCC and the military to get our bands back.

One band, however, was apparently not coming back. Our 160 meter band, the birthplace of our post 1912 operations, was fully occupied by the military with its new LORAN Radio Navigation System. The Armed Services and the FCC made it clear that this segment was to remain for the use of LORAN. Over the years, the ARRL obtained small concessions -- a 25 Kc segment here and there, 25 watt power limitations, day and night restrictions; but from the 1940s right up to the early 80s, our 160 meter band sounded like a huge broadbanded buzz saw as LORAN completely dominated it.

But this was a minor blot on the landscape as amateurs rushed to get back on the air. Ten meters was the band they went to first and the 28-29.7 Mc range became crowded with those making up for lost time. Two meters was next; hams modified their old 2 1/2 meter equipment to operate on the new band, and soon the rushing sounds of the super receiver were everywhere. The more adventurous were trying out something called FM. Five meters was quiet. Since the band was available for only 105 days, many hams spent that time converting their rigs to the new six meter band.

On March 1, 1946, our old five meter band died and the new 50-54 Mc segment was born. Also on that date, to compensate amateurs for the loss of 29.7-30 Mc, we were given an 11 meter band at 27 mc. That's right, the present day CB band was once an amateur allocation.

By May 1946, we had our 80/75 meter allocation back. We also had a temporary allocation from 235-240 Mc, which would soon be shifted down to 220-225 Mc. On November 2, 1946, the FCC finally released our 40 and 20 meter bands. By the end of 1946, we had our full HF spectrum back, 80/75, 40 meters (which was CW only), 20, 11 and 10 meters. Note that there was no 15 meter allocation then. Our 15 meter band did not appear until 1952. The military restrictions on our two meter band were lifted in June 1947, and, except for 160 meters, the military was off of our bands.

By 1947, every amateur band from 80 thru two meters was full of stations. But there was trouble brewing. Amateurs weren't the only ones taking to the airwaves. Television was growing by leaps and bounds. In 1946, there were only 7,000 TV sets. In 1947, the number jumped to 180,000, and by 1948, there were over 1 million TVs in use. Amateurs, who were used to harmonically related bands and an empty VHF spectrum, were not prepared for the TVI their neighbors were experiencing. A typical unshielded amateur transmitter, operating on 14, 28 or 50 Mc, could wipe out all the TVs in the neighborhood. QST ran a series of articles on proper shielding and filtering of stations and hams gradually learned to eliminate harmonics from their transmitters. But there was one band where shielding and good design didn't seem to help -- six meters. Our 50-54 Mc segment was sandwiched right between TV channel 1 (44-50 Mc) and channel 2 (54-60 Mc). At that time, only channel 2 was actually being used for TV. The channel 1 range was still part of the old pre-war FM Band (42-50 Mc) which was being phased out in favor of the new 88-108 Mc allocation. We were causing interference to WCBS and the other handful of stations on channel 2. And the problem would only get worse when channel 1 became available. Tests were run and an interesting solution was proposed. Because a television video signal is amplitude modulated, operates with a wide bandwidth and uses the lower portion of the TV channel, it was determined that channel 2 was twice as susceptible to interference from a 6 meter station than channel 1 was. The ARRL's proposal to the FCC? Eliminate channel 2, keep channel 1. But this idea didn't sit well with the stations already on channel 2, nor did it win the approval of Major Armstrong, who was still fighting the grand battle to keep FM Broadcast in the 42-50 Mc range. And so, in August 1947, the FCC withdrew channel 1 from the TV allocations. By the end of 1947, all the pre-war FM broadcast stations had disappeared from the 42-50 Mc range, which was then turned over to Public Service. Amateurs learned to operate in the lower portions of 6 meters to avoid TVI to channel 2.

In our next installment, we are going to look at a major upheaval that began 30 years ago and pitted amateur against amateur, and (according to some) the ARRL against hams. I'm talking about incentive licensing, and how it changed the entire licensing structure.

Paul Dilliard Auction

By Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Here is some information about my attendance at Paul Dilliard's, WA8IBT estate auction on May 10, 2007 at Clum's Auction house. I arrived shortly before 10AM and found a chair for my friend Leroy Kessinger, a retired, long time employee of Muralt Electric here in Lancaster. He attended Coyne Electric School in Chicago in 1947 and I really enjoyed hearing his life experiences during our time together.

The sale was over by 1PM and I discovered I had purchased 7 boxes of loose miscellaneous equipment, a HB high voltage power supply built by Paul and a parts cabinet with about a dozen SO239 connectors and many small machine and wood screws. Among my discoveries when I got home were six full logbooks, some Starrett calipers, short coax cables, DCC wire and Brass and Nickel plating chemicals and a complete rifle cleaning kit with Jigs for all calibers from .22 to .45. There were also some interesting ham books from the sixties.

On my way home, I stopped at a yard sale and got a hand operated augur-type tool to remove loose dirt from postholes that are too deep to be cleaned by the posthole digger itself. It looks like it will reach four feet down, if anyone needs to borrow this I will be glad to loan it.

Clum had a printed list of items and there were 39 antique radios, several dozen baggies of radio tubes, many of which were Arcturus in like-new boxes and two 30 foot tables of miscellaneous parts in large 9 x 17 x 11 boxes. The listed radios sold first with baggies of tubes being auctioned while the helpers found the next listed radio. Of the 36 items I kept track of -

Twelve items sold for \$5 to \$49

Fourteen items sold for \$50 to \$99

Five items sold for \$100 to \$199

Three items sold for \$200 to \$299

The Crebe CR13 sold for \$1400

The DeForest 3-tube radio sold for \$1600

The Drake 2B ham receiver sold for \$150

All the tubes sold for good prices, probably close to \$1 each on average. The miscellaneous stuff off

the tables included Variacs at \$50 each, a 3-set rack of mounted ARC-5 military surplus for \$120, a military surplus VT-7 tube tester for \$230 and nine individual ARC-5's at \$20 "choice" and the buyer took them all. An early Kenwood mobile 2-meter rig and 20Amp power supply sold for \$35. I have mentioned all the ham-radio rigs, so there wasn't much.

I stayed up until past 1AM looking at the logbooks and they indicate Paul was very active over many years. His logbooks are very complete and I only have a few questions about his equipment.

In the period of January 1965 to December 1966 there were 2000 entries.

In the period of June 1969 to November 1970 there were 640 entries.

In the period of December 1971 to July 1972 there were 640 entries.

In the period of July 1972 to June 1973 there were 640 entries.

It is interesting to note that during the above time periods I lived three blocks away on the same street and never experienced any TVI even though my antenna system was a double-stacked bay pointed at Paul's QTH with cheap 300 ohm twin-lead.

From September 1979 to March 1980 almost all of his contacts were 2M FM exclusively

I was especially interested in the logs because of the local Hams listed that I knew. I wasn't active because I didn't have money for a hobby and the inexpensive equipment I had was difficult to use. Also I didn't ask for help in getting on the air, so I didn't really become active until the early 90's from the clubroom in the basement of City Hall.

The local Hams listed include Dick Myers WA8CUF and Vic Mamburg WA8CUI who were in my novice class in 1962.

I was told "Frosty" was one of the helpers who described the items for sale. Bill Parker was there but I didn't realize who he was until after I had left. Jeff Bell was the only active club member I saw there.

I have donated the log books to the club and they are available to view at the clubhouse.

**Congratulations to our Secretary, Robert Northrup
who upgraded to General at the Dayton Hamvention.**

Computer (PC) Care

By: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

I read once that having a PC is like having a pet... it takes just as much time to care for it, although you sit at your PC and are not in the yard with a scoop. By the way, my scoop is dishwasher safe. I don't think this "rule" is true any longer but you still need to perform some memory and folder maintenance.

This is what I learned when I had a Micro\$oft Millennium Edition PC - a real rip off ... and I am still looking for ways to get back at Bill Gates. One way I tried was when a magazine I found in Anchor Hocking's trash announced that a USA Unix/Linux company was going to form a consortium with three European Linux companies. I thought... Linux is big in Europe, so this ought to be really good someday AND I can figuratively poke a stick in Bill Gate's eye; so I bought a hundred shares at \$1.35. I should have bought a thousand. It went up to \$20 on claims that Micro\$oft had violated their Unix copyrights and I finally sold it at \$14 after everyone started to realize the claims were bogus.

I bought an old 2002 copy of Norton System Works for Micro\$oft WinDoze 98 (WIN98) and XP at a hamfest for \$5 and I use it to maintain files and memory. DO NOT INSTALL IT ON YOUR PC. Few people recommend that you install any Norton product on your PC. If your PC has WIN98, the intervals to run the maintenance applications are much smaller... like weekly AND get as much RAM memory (256 or 512 MB) as you can to install on your motherboard.

Run the Clean History and Temporary folders application FROM THE CD on a weekly basis. This takes about five minutes. -or- use XP as follows; START> ALL PROGRAMS> ACCESSORIES> SYSTEM TOOLS> DISK CLEANUP and follow directions. While we're on XP let me mention that I haven't found it necessary to run the "Disc Defragmenter" selection very often... perhaps once every six months.

Run the WIN-DOCTER application FROM THE CD on a monthly basis. This takes about ten minutes.

Run it more often if you are getting Micro\$oft error messages.

Run the DISK-DOCTER application FROM THE CD on an as-needed basis. This takes about thirty minutes on fault-free system. Run it if you getting error messages that are not related to the Micro\$oft operating system.

I have downloaded some MUST-HAVE freeware from a site called -www.cnet.com that work really well.

SPYWARE - "Ad-Aware" and "SpyBot-Search and Destroy" take care of spy ware. I run Ad-Aware everyday I'm on the Internet and SpyBot once a week.

ANTIVIRUS - I now have an Antivirus program called eTrust Antivirus that costs \$20 a year. I got a years free use when I got my PC and I renew on the internet. I had freeware "AVG" anti-virus from cnet.com on my Millennium Edition PC and both of my sons still use it.

FIREWALL - I used to have a free firewall that worked well called Zone Alarm but I've been too lazy to put it on my XP PC. Micro\$oft XP has a firewall but it doesn't work as well as any other, even the free ones.

So there you have it. Required software that is free, really works and is available to download even if you have a slow dialup internet connection. Other free downloads from cnet.com are - WINZIP, ADOBE READER (to read the RagChewer), and Mozilla Firefox (a browser to replace Micro\$oft OUTLOOK EXPRESS).

A very helpful website to answer your questions or as interesting reading is www.computing.net.

I used this a lot when I had Millennium Edition and was fighting its infamous "memory leak" problems.

Editors note: Thank you Allen. My solution the next time I buy a computer is to buy an Apple Mac

Isotropic Antenna

An isotropic antenna is an antenna that radiates or receives equally well in all directions. Practical antennas that are perfectly isotropic do not physically exist. However, an imaginary antenna that is

perfectly isotropic is commonly used as a theoretical reference against which the performance of practical antennas can be compared.

Monday Night Net Help Needed

By John Fick, KD8EEK

We need more volunteers to moderate the Monday night net. Just a few of us have been doing it month after month and I'm afraid some of them might be getting "burned out." Even if you could volunteer once every 2 or 3 months it would take the burden off those few regulars. If you do not have the

ability to present news line, arrangements can be made to cover that during your turn at the microphone.

I don't want the net to die, but believe it could happen if more volunteers cannot be found. Please contact me over the radio or e-mail at KD8EEK@yahoo.com

Antenna Support Line

Synthetic Rope Characteristics

Man made fiber ropes are stronger and more durable than those made of natural fibers. Synthetic rope is not affected by most chemicals, rot, or mildew. Most synthetic rope may be stored wet or dry.

NYLON

Nylon is highly elastic and can absorb sudden shock loads that would break ropes of other fibers. It has very good resistance to abrasion, rot, oils, gasoline, grease, marine growth and most chemicals. Nylon deteriorates more rapidly than Polyester when subjected to direct sunlight. Due to the characteristic stretch of nylon, wire antenna installations will require occasional retensioning the support ropes.

POLYESTER (i.e. Dacron®)

Dacron® Polyester is not quite as strong as nylon, but has far better resistance to ultra-violet degradation from sunlight. It is not as elastic as nylon and therefore does not stretch as much as nylon. These characteristics are a plus in an antenna support rope. Other than these two distinctions, the nylon and polyester characteristics are practically the same.

Compared to Nylon, Dacron polyester is a far more useful and desirable antenna support line.

POLYPROPYLENE

This is a strong, lightweight rope. It is waterproof, and resistant to rot, oils, gasoline and most chemicals. Polypropylene is subject to rapid deterioration when exposed to direct sunlight, so its life is very short when used as an antenna support rope.

POLYETHYLENE

Polyethylene is similar to Polypropylene, but is slightly heavier. It is not as strong. It, too, deteriorates quickly in direct sunlight.

KEVLAR®

By weight, Kevlar® is stronger than steel. This is the material used in 'bullet-proof vests.' The molecular structure is such that it does not stretch and this characteristic makes it perfect for many antenna applications (boom and element support in beams, and general antenna use). Without a protective jacket, it deteriorates rapidly in sunlight. To counter this problem, Kevlar rope, meant for out-of-doors use, has a protective outer jacket made of Dacron® Polyester. The combination results in an incredibly strong, stretchless, long life rope.



Original Club Logo

The 2 funny looking things at the bottom are tubes

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K8QIK

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