

# The Ragchewer

May 2007

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

On the Web: [www.k8qik.org](http://www.k8qik.org)  
Send email to [K8QIK@columbus.rr.com](mailto:K8QIK@columbus.rr.com)

## ***Club Meetings :***

1<sup>st</sup> 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

## **May Birthdays**

Charles Snoke	N8KZN
Ronald Kennedy	WA8GFO
Kay Hanna	KC8HJW
Ivor "Hollywood" Rutan	WA8YSC
Steven Campbell	WA8HIO
Norman Stout	N8MGM

## **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. Prepare  
yourself, take this test and upgrade!

## **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](mailto: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

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## May 3, 2007 Meeting Minutes

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

There were 20 members and 2 guests present. Club membership application for Ed Barnhart, WB8JBG had its second review and the application for Sandy Snider, KD8FTX and Fred Wyatt, KD8FTY had their first reading. Our guest was Statz Croucher, KD8GBN and his son.

### Officer Reports

#### **Secretary Report: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW**

Minutes are posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept by Ray, W8FLX and second by Griff, KG4IDG. Motion carried.

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

Ed gave the club financials. Motion to accept by Robert, KI8JM and second by John, W8AGS. Motion carried.

Ed also noted that the club received a donation of \$200 from Cheryl Payne, for our work in helping with the MS Walk-A-Thon last month.

#### **VP Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO**

No Report

#### **Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF**

John reported work on relocating our 147.030 repeater is moving ahead nicely. A steel guy wire is being run between the tower and the place where our outside cabinet will be mounted so the antenna wire can be strung. More to follow next month.

### Committee Reports

#### **VE Testing: Allan Sellers, KB8JLG**

The next VE session will be June 17 at the club house. Testing begins 10:00 AM.

#### **Monday Night Net: John, KD8EEK**

May 7 Gary, W8GTS  
May 14 John – W8AGS  
May 21 John– KD8EEK  
May 28 John – KD8EEK  
June 4 John – KD8EEK

John also reported he has eight volunteers to work the calling tree that will be used to notify members of an emergency. There was discussion about a simplex freq to use for this and members present decided 147.555. John also wants those interested to join him on May 10 at 7:30PM at the clubhouse for an informational meeting.

#### **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 [K8OIK@columbus.rr.com](mailto:K8OIK@columbus.rr.com)*

#### **Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO**

Ed noted he has the EMA ID cards for those who were sworn in at our April meeting. Please get with Ed to pick up your EMA ID card.

Ed also commented that the EMA director Matt Keefe will be leaving for the Dayton EMA office and that Deb would be filling in his place until a new director can be appointed. Also, remember that May 17<sup>th</sup> is the date set for the HAZMAT exercise in Fairfield County, so heads up for those involved.

#### **Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO**

No Report

#### **Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF**

No report.

#### **Activities Manager: Kay Hanna – KC8HJW**

No report.

#### **Flower Fund: Mary Travis – WD8EEI**

Mary said there \$9 collected and John, W8AGS won half, which he donated to the radio fund.

#### **Fund Raising: Kay Hanna – KC8HJW**

No report

#### **Old Business:**

No old business.

## New Business:

Club members voted Ed Barnhart, KB8JBG into membership. Motion by Griff, KG4IDG, second by Ray, W8FLX. Carried.

Charlie, N8KZN noted we need 6-7 volunteers to work event parking for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as well as 8-10 volunteers to help with the parade. Get with Charlie to volunteer.

**Gary Snider, W8GTS was congratulated on becoming our newest Extra class ham. Congratulations Gary!!!!**

Ray, W8FLX wanted to recognize "Frosty" aka Robert Sparrow, W8AEY in helping a fellow ham, "Big Dick" aka Richard Lytle, W8THU get on the air with a better antenna. Jack will prepare a certificate to honor Frosty.

It's a sad note to say that one of our members, Don Jeffries, KC8WMF passed on Tuesday May 1, 2007. Don commented that he wasn't feeling well while participating in the Monday night net. Our condolences go out to the family.

There was discussion about the auto-patch we have in use for club members. Cost for having this feature runs about \$25 per month and there was a concern voiced regarding talk about doing away with it. In this day of cell phones, it may not be apparent we need this but as discussion evolved, it was revealed that this is the only means we have of controlling the repeaters. So auto-patch will stay.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gary, W8GTS and second by Robert, KI8JM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

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## Upcoming Hamfests

**May 18, 19, 20 Dayton Hamvention. Get information at <http://www.hamvention.org/> Don't miss this one, it's the biggest and best.**

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## Tubes For Sale

If you need tubes for your boat anchor or TV contact Jeff Bell WD8JLI at 614-774-2973 or email at [jbell@imagearray.net](mailto:jbell@imagearray.net) he has a huge supply for most needs.

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## Weekly CW Practice

Bob Hughes, KI8JM and Gary Snider, W8GTS have started having CW practice over two meter radio every Sunday from 6:00 P.M to 7:00 P.M. The practice session will be on the 146.70 repeater. This is not for learning CW, but it is intended to improve your speed. Each session will start at the slowest speed and increase over the course of the hour.

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## 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](mailto:K8QIK@columbus.rr.com)

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## The Wayback Machine #11

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

In our last installment, we saw how the FCC shifted from an initial VHF/UHF band plan that was radically different from today's allocations, to a proposal which closely parallels the frequencies we have today. Amateurs were happier with the January 1945 plan over the November 1944 one, as it restored our ten meter band back where it belonged, and gave us a full 4 Mc at six meters.

One person who was not happy with the January 1945 plan was Edwin Armstrong, inventor of the Regenerative, Superregenerative and Superheterodyne receivers, and the Father of FM. He wanted the FM Broadcast band to stay in the 42-50 Mc area: instead, he suddenly saw it transferred up to 84-102 Mc., which would make every FM station and receiver obsolete. He knew that David Sarnoff of RCA was behind this, as RCA wanted television in

the frequencies now occupied by FM. Sarnoff and the RCA engineers had an interesting argument, FM they said, should be moved higher in frequency to avoid the Sporadic E skip.

Armstrong fought back. He pointed out that FM, due to its capture effect, was less susceptible to skip interference than television, which used AM for the video carrier. He ran tests and submitted data showing that the skip interference to FM would be far less than imagined, and certainly a fraction of what TV would endure. The ARRL, by the way, was in favor of moving FM up to the 84-102 Mc area. To counteract the arguments that FM receivers would become obsolete by the move, QST in the May 1945 issue ran the schematic of a 1 tube converter, which Hallicrafters said they could build for \$5.60.

In late May, 1945, the FCC announced the three alternatives that were being considered for the disputed 44-108 Mc region. They were:

ALTERNATIVE #1 --

44-48 Mc	Amateur (We would have a 7 meter band under this proposal)
48-50 Mc	Facsimile Broadcasting
50-54 Mc	Educational FM Broadcasting
54-68 Mc	Commercial FM Broadcasting
68-74 Mc	TV Channel 1
74-78 Mc	Aeronautical fixed and mobile
78-108 Mc	TV Channels 2-6

ALTERNATIVE #2 --

44-56 Mc	TV Channels 1 & 2
56-60 Mc	Amateur 5 Meter Band
60-66 Mc	TV Channel 3
66-68 Mc	Facsimile Broadcasting
68-72 Mc	Educational FM Broadcasting
72-86 Mc	Commercial FM Broadcasting
86-104 Mc	TV Channels 4-6
104-108 Mc	Non-Government fixed and mobile.

ALTERNATIVE #3 --

44-50 Mc	TV Channel 1
50-54 Mc	Amateur 6 Meter band
54-84 Mc	TV Channels 2-6
84-88 Mc	Educational FM Broadcasting
88-102 Mc	Commercial FM Broadcasting
102-104 Mc	Facsimile Broadcasting
104-108 Mc	Non-Government fixed and mobile.

Except for the 44-108 Mc region, which was still up in the air, the 25-44 and 108 Mc and higher frequencies were fairly well established at today's allocations. The only major exception was the 470-480 Mc band, which was still allocated to Facsimile Broadcasting. The FCC indicated that tests would be run through the summer months to determine which Alternative was the best.

Reaction was quick to the proposals. Except for the ARRL, almost none of the major players liked Alternative 2, so the choice lay between 1 and 3. The ARRL found #2 acceptable because it preserved our 5 meter band. Of the other two alternatives, the ARRL was strongly opposed to #1. A 44-48 Mc seven meter band would have too much skip, was too close to our ten meter band, and too far from two meters. In the end, the ARRL came out in favor of Alternative #3 because, it was believed that the FM band should be as far as possible from our ham bands in order to avoid IF interference to FM receivers.

Naturally, Major Armstrong was in favor of Alternative #1. He continued to make extensive tests and bombarded the FCC with the results. However, Armstrong never realized that the political clout of General Sarnoff and RCA could overcome any test results. The Major thought he had the summer to complete his tests. Instead, on June 27, 1945, the FCC decided on Alternative #3, with a few minor changes to bring the allocations in line with what we have today. FM was definitely at 88-108 Mc, and amateurs had a six meter band at 50-54 Mc, nestled snug between TV Channels 1 and 2.

Armstrong was stunned, but he didn't give up. As late as 1947, he was still submitting data to the FCC in regards to the effect of skip on FM Broadcasts. But it was too late. For a period of time, there were two FM Broadcast bands, as stations in the new 88-108 Mc allocation coexisted with the older ones between 42-50 Mc, but by 1947, the old FM band was a memory, and sat waiting for TV Channel 1 to take over.

However, a new controversy was brewing. With thousands of amateurs on our new six meter band, and thousands of TV's pouring out of (mostly RCA) factories, a new concept was entering the amateur language -- TVI. In our next installment, we will look at the TV wars of the 1940's and why the ARRL wanted channel 2, instead of channel 1, eliminated.

So, until then, I hope your six meter QSOs aren't causing interference to the "Texaco Star Theatre."

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## Who is a Ham?

By Ray Hurlbut, W8FLX

The March issue of the Ragchewer contained a test to determine if you are a “real ham”.

The article may have been presented as humorous or “tongue in cheek”, whatever it gave me reason to think about my definition of who is a ham.

Today the most common concept of a ham is someone who uses radio frequencies to communicate with another like minded person. We might also say that they must be licensed by their government to use the radio frequencies strictly for non-commercial purposes. When they use one of the many forms of transmission possible today and regardless of where the equipment they are using came from they are considered hams.

Old timers might say that if you don’t build your equipment you are not a true ham. Another might say if you use anything but Morse code you are not a ham. Someone will say using a keyboard to send Morse code isn’t really ham radio. Others will criticize Packet, SSTV, or whatever means they don’t use. Are all these people hams? Of course they are, because they are communicating. So, if we condense this all down what do we have? We have a hobby that is concerned with individuals interested in communicating with other individuals, what we call hamming.

Now, let me carry this a bit further. I got started in hamming in 1935 as a result of building a radio intended to allow me to listen to music and sports up in my attic bedroom. By accident my tapped coil and variable condenser went above the broadcast band and I heard people talking to each other. I discovered ham radio. Regardless of how you discovered it what made you get into the hobby? I am willing to wager that a very high percentage of people in our hobby came because they wanted to communicate with someone down the street, across town, in another state or across the ocean. Our hobby is communicating.

Today I communicate using my computer. I am in a condo with antenna restrictions; sure I could hide an antenna in a flagpole or up in the attic to get on the air. But why? The bands are in the doldrums and I can communicate with hams around the world anytime, day or night. My signal is always S9+ and my CW tone is great copy. There is no QRM, QRN, or QSB to make copy difficult. Am I hamming? I am using CQ100 to talk with other hams all over the world.

So my point is that no matter what method you use to communicate, if the communication is between licensed operators it is HAMMING. You don’t need a license to build radios.

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### ★★★★ Donald Jeffries KC8WMF – SK ★★★★★ ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Donald Gene Jeffries, 67 of Logan, Ohio, passed away Tuesday, May 2, 2007, at his residence after an extended illness.

He was born April 25, 1940, in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of the late Lillian Schultz Ludwig.

Mr. Jeffries had worked as a boiler operator for the former Goodyear Tire Company. He was a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and was also a very active Ham radio operator whose call was KC8WMF. He was a member of the Logan and Lancaster Radio clubs, the ARRL and was a past member of the Mingo Blue Lodge and Eastern Star.

Surviving are his wife, Peggy Jean (Lafollette) Jeffries; two sons, Steven Jeffries of Missouri and

Major Timothy (Karen) Hartman of Arlington, Va.; two daughters, Kathleen (Dan) Rhoden of Missouri and Cheri (Rick) Bauman of Logan; six grandchildren; and one great grandchild

He was preceded in death by his parents and step father.

A memorial service and burial is being held at the convenience of the family.

Family suggests contributions be made to FairHoPe Hospice, 1111 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH 43130.

The family is being served by Roberts Funeral Home, Logan

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## Athens VE Summary

Greg W8NGA, Bill K8ZCT, John W8OF, Wayne WB8JFU and Allen KB8JLG conducted a VE test session at the Athens Hamfest on April 29, 2007. There were 13 candidates who earned 2 Technician, 5 General and 2 Extra licenses.

Of the four who did not earn an upgrade, some took the test on the spur of the moment since it was available.

I use the ARRL's study guide in my classes even though it is the most expensive. I recommend following their study suggestion, read three to four pages and at the little dark block, do as it states, go answer the listed questions in the back of the book.

The questions listed are not consecutive but are directly related to the material just presented.

Of the persons earning Extra class, one was an active Lancaster General ham and the other was a Technician (a female OU Physics student) who passed both the General exam and Extra exam on one try.

We were able to visit the flea market where I got a card table of equipment for \$20 that included a couple of Radio Shack SWR meters, a 20amp power supply, an Atronics code reader and a reduction drive panel knob. Greg got a Radio Shack 10 meter rig for his 10 meter Beacon at a really good price.

Regards, Allen Sellers KB8JLG

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## Check The Web Site For Ohio's PRB Push

A new portion of the Ohio Section Web Site is devoted to the opening of Ohio's drive to pass amateur radio antenna and tower protection into state law.

It is called the OHIO PRB-1 INFO SITE and is the first menu selection on at [www.iarc.ws/ohio/](http://www.iarc.ws/ohio/). On this web page are tasks for which we need volunteers, a complete history and development of PRB -1 and a news section which will be constantly updated.

PRB-1 legislation would put into the Ohio Revised Code the antenna and tower protection

which ham radio enjoys nationally. An Ohio version will make it easier for hams to utilize these protections. The bill is currently being written by the PRB-1 Task Force and will, soon, be introduced into the Ohio General Assembly hopper.

The listing of tasks where volunteers are needed is especially important because there is a lot of work to be done if the Ohio Section is to pull this off and get a bill to the Governor's desk for his signature.

Check out OHIO PRB-1 INFO SITE at [www.iarc.ws/ohio](http://www.iarc.ws/ohio/)

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## Radio Night

Pictures by John, W8OF



A little chatting in the meeting room



The kitchen – the busiest room in the house





The Ragchewer gets printed (complete with guard)



Charlie, N8KZN cleaning up.  
He moves too fast to be photographed



He even has the chair moving fast !!!!



Jeff, WD8JLI doing a great job on the radio room

### Quick Trip

By Jack, AE8P

Every once in a while my wife and I do something that defies logic. We left home on April 24<sup>th</sup> and returned April 30<sup>th</sup>. In those 7 days we drove to Birmingham, Alabama then to Dallas, Texas then to Memphis, Tennessee and home. The trip was just short of 2500 miles which we covered in 5 days since we spent 2 days in Texas. (We love to drive).

While in Dallas we went to the infamous Dealey Plaza where Kennedy was assassinated. The sixth floor is open and has a vast presentation of the events of that November day. The whole site is so much smaller than anything I had imagined. They talk about what a great shot Oswald must have been to hit the president from that distance. In my younger days, from that sixth floor window I could have hit the

president in the back of the head with a baseball. That's how close it is.

From there we drove to Memphis and went to Graceland. I think it's the biggest tourist trap I have ever seen. Unless you're a **major** Elvis fan you'll be wasting your money. Souvenir costs are also out of this world.

Then we went to Sun Studio. That's the little studio that discovered Elvis, Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Charlie Rich, BB King, Carl Perkins and many, many more. Some major stars have recorded there recently because of the history. It's kind of run down now, but it's still 1/3 the price of Graceland and you get a tour guide. If you're a fan of Sam Phillips, you really must see that place.

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**May 2007**



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