

The Ragchewer

July 2008

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.

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)
Sunday 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

July Birthdays

Edward M Bennett	KD8EEJ
Jack R Travis	AE8P
Richard A. Weaver	N8EWC
Gregg A. Russell	KB8USO
John G. Hilliard	W8OF
Mike T Amirault	KB8GHW
David B. O'Hare	KB8DRQ

Thursday Night Radio Night

Radio night is every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
(except the first Thursday which is the club
monthly meeting). Work a little HF, maybe
build something? How about a hot cup of
coffee. 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.

August VE Test:

The next VE test will be Sunday August 17th
at the clubhouse 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

2007-2008 Officers

President:

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN

Vice President:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Net Manager:

John Fick, KD8EEK

Activities Manager:

John Fick, KD8EEK

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Flower Fund:

Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Web Master:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Chief Cook and Bottle Washer:

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN

Editor:

Open

July 3, 2008 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Charlie Snoke, N8KZN who lead the Pledge of Allegiance

There were 24 members present. There were no new applications to review.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes are posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept by Ray, W8FLX and seconded by Don, WD8PCF. Motion carried.

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

Ed gave the club financials. Motion to accept by Bob, KI8JM and seconded by John, W8OF. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Mark gave a report on Field Day and thanked the people who brought food and those that came and helped him get set up.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

Nothing to report

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

VE Testing: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

No report – Allen not present

Monday Night Net: John Fick, KD8EEK

July 7	John, W8OF
July 14	Mark, KC8TUW
July 21	John, W8AGS
July 28	John, KD8EEK
Aug 4	Charlie, N8KZN

Ragchewer: Jack Travis, AE8P

Jack said he was ready to do the July Ragchewer which would be his last. We need a volunteer to do the Ragchewer. Jack will provide material to anyone who is interested in doing the monthly newsletter. Submit any article, news item, cartoon, or other ham related bits of trivia to Jack at k8qik@columbus.rr.com

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed reminded everyone that we will need volunteers for 5K run in November and he needs one more volunteer for July 26th for Lancaster Festival. Ed, KD8EEJ volunteered.

He also reported that the radio and 2 antennas for the JIC have been ordered. Also the radio for the hospital has been ordered but Ed does not know what was purchased since Central Ohio Trauma is paying for the radio.

Ed received a call from the security people and he explained what was happening with the key cards and they agreed we need some new parts. Ed gave permission to purchase and hopefully the security system will be up and running by next meeting.

Ed also reported that he had Mike from County over to look at the building for handicap accessibility and he is looking into what can be done. Mike was going to have some surgery but he was going to take information back to his boss and hopefully we will receive an answer from the County on what can be done for our handicap members to have access to our facilities.

Ed requested a couple of volunteers for Wed, July 23 and Larry & Candy Wright said they would be available to work the Festival event.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John stated he and Charlie were going to look at the electrical outlets at the clubhouse and make sure everything is grounded properly.

John also reminded everyone that we need some coax so that the antennas that are going to be installed can start with new coax and we need to replace the coax on the couple of antennas which are currently being used.

John reported that since he sent out email stating Robert, W8RVD was giving up Echo Link, Jack, AE8P and Mary, KD8EEI may have come up with a radio and computer and Robert, W8RVD donated the interface needed between radio and computer. We now need an internet connection and a place willing to have all this on 24 hours a day. Mary, KD8EEI has made a contact to Fairfield County Department of Health. Ed, WD8PGO said if that does not work, he has a good contact at the hospital and they might be willing to assist us.

Activities Manager: John Fick, KD8EEK

50/50 winner was Don, WD8PCF and he won \$42 which was given to the club to add to the kitchen fund.

John thanked Mark for taking the lead on Field Day.

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Candy, KC8NCQ won \$6.00 and it was given back to build up the flower fund.

Old Business:

Patrick Gilfillen, N8EWH and David R Younker, K8KEG were both voted on for new members and all were in favor.

New Business:

Ray, W8FLX asked if anything had been done to review the suggestions for raising money for the club. Mark, KC8TUW said he did not have his report with him and would have to review it and see if there is anything we can do. We do have the request in for the Gannett Foundation Grant.

John, W8OF motion to adjourn, second Bob, KI8JM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Upcoming Hamfests

July 20th is the Van Wert Amateur Radio Club hamfest in Van Wert, OH. Additional information is available from <http://www.w8fy.org/>

July 27th is the Portage Hamfair '08 in Randolph, OH. Additional information is available from <http://www.portagearc.org>

August 9th is the Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club hamfest. Additional information is available from <http://www.nwoarc.info/hamfest.shtml>

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

The Wayback Machine #25

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Less than 24 hours later, the United States was officially at War, and the FCC had issued Order Number 87, which suspended all amateur radio operation in the U.S., and withdrew "our" frequencies from the amateur service. However, the FCC did recognize that limited amateur operation would be required in connection with domestic Civil Defense work.

Thus, in June, 1942, the FCC issued regulations which created the War Emergency Radio Service, or W.E.R.S. for short. This was not an amateur operation, even though the frequencies used were our former bands at 112-116, 224-230, and 400-401 Mc. Note that the 5 meter band, 56-60 Mc., was not included. The FCC apparently sought to limit operations to the "UHF" frequencies, where long distance skip was impossible. A WERS License was not given to an individual, but rather to a municipality or other local government entity, to cover the operation of all such stations engaged in emergency civilian defense communications.

Operations could only be conducted upon authorization of the local Civil Defense Corps.

Operators in W.E.R.S. had to be loyal U.S. citizens, with fingerprints and proof of U.S. Citizenship on file with the FCC. They also needed to have an FCC commercial or amateur license, or an FCC 3rd class operating certificate. Thus, although most operators were hams, many non-amateurs were active in this service also.

Authorized operations in the War Emergency Radio Service were limited to emergencies relating to enemy activity. There was no provision for operations in natural disasters. Practice and training sessions were allowed, and local governments may have used these "practice" activities to provide needed communications during natural disasters.

Technical standards were strict for 1942. The carrier frequency could not deviate more than 0.1% in the lower half of each band, and 0.3% in the upper half. In the 2 1/2 meter band, this meant that the signal could not vary more than 112 kc at the lower end, and 340 kc at the upper end. While this sounds incredibly wide today, remember that in the 30's and 40's, almost all "UHF" transmitters used the

"modulated oscillator"--cheap to build, but not very stable. The only receiver useful with this type of signal was the super regenerative. Power was limited to 25 watts input, which is about 10-15 watts output.

By default, 2 1/2 meters became the band of choice for W.E.R.S. operations. In fact, it came to be known as "The Civil Defense Band". The most popular radio in W.E.R.S. operation was the TR-4, by Abbott Instruments of New York City. The unit measured only 9" x 8" x 4.5", ran on 6 volts DC or 110 volts AC, had a range up to 75 miles, and cost less than \$40.

Although W.E.R.S. served a valuable purpose, it did not satisfy the needs of an active amateur suffering under the wartime radio silence. Fortunately, the WWII amateur had it far better than his WWI predecessor. For one thing, amateurs did not have to disassemble their stations and take down their antennas. Contrary to popular belief, the FCC did not ban shortwave listening. AM broadcasting was still allowed, W1AW was authorized to remain on the air. QST was still published. But, even with all this, the restless amateur wanted more. And, believe it or not, some hams legally got on the air and had QSO's. How?

"Wired Wireless". Have you ever heard of it? In summary, "wired wireless" was a Carrier Current type of operation. A transmitter, usually running 10-25 watts output, was inductively coupled to the AC power line. The signal would follow the power lines throughout the city, up to a maximum of about 5 miles. Anyone within 300 feet or so of the AC power line would be able to copy the signal. Even though

the range was a 5 mile radius from the transmitter, the actual radiation distance was only 300 feet, thus it was legal. Amateurs found that carrier current operations worked best in the long wave spectrum, and set up hundreds of stations in the 160-200 kc range. Ironically, the 160-190 kc segment survives to this day as a legal, unlicensed low power band, with one watt and 50 foot antennas permitted.

Some amateurs experimented with Audio Frequency Induction Field Communications. This involved no RF--an audio oscillator was coupled to a large inductor. At distances of 2000-3000 feet away, an audio amp coupled to a similar inductor received the signal.

QST was active during the War years, running articles on secret communications and ciphers, the latest 112 Mc W.E.R.S. equipment, visual signaling (including the semaphore alphabet), a course in radio fundamentals, a multi part series in Cryptanalysis, and the Japanese Morse Telegraph Code, with notes on the Japanese language. Towards the end of the War, QST ran several articles on the postwar amateur allocations. Two columns focused on amateurs serving in the Armed Forces; "In the Services", and "Hams in Combat". And, as a grim reminder of the horrors of War, the column "Gold Stars" listed those amateurs who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In our next installment, we will look at amateur life in the postwar world.

As a postscript, the ARRL has asked that the 160-190 khz band be reallocated to amateur use. Will the ghosts of the WWII operators be listening as we once again activate that band with CQ's? You decide.

Editors note:

Since this is my last issue of the Ragchewer, be aware that there are 10 more issues of the Wayback Machine to be published. If someone takes over the Ragchewer, I will furnish the remaining issues to that person for use in the coming months. If you can't wait, let me know and I will send them to you via email.

Field Day

I looked at the rough logs of our field day effort and the totals are 28 20M contacts and 45 40M contacts. Three contacts were made using CW. As I learned last year, if you can't operate at 20 WPM you can't make any CW contacts... people don't know how to adjust their keyer's menu for a lower speed or

simply won't do it. The logs, for the most part are incomplete, so we can't submit them. Fifteen people signed the participation/guest log.

Regards,
Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Learn Morse Code

I am interested in teaching a Morse Code class if there is enough interest. I anticipate that people who complete it will be able to operate on their own at 8 to 10 WPM. At the end of the class we will have sessions for everybody to actually operate at the clubhouse... bring your own rig at that time and we'll use it if you like. Straight keys or keyers will be

permitted and I am completely open for suggestions as to time and day of the week. I am considering asking for a fee to pay for my gasoline.

Regards, Allen KB8JLG
(740) 654 – 8167 asellers1081@att.net

Lightning Strikes Are Real

The last week in June we experienced thunderstorms that started about 10pm and seem to last all night.

I got up in the morning and saw lightning had hit my outside old fashioned 12' tall type light that has a "indestructible" Lexan globe. I found the light post had been struck right below the globe, and found the globe 15' away in several pieces and the top of the fixture was black facing the western sky.

Today I discovered a large tree branch was pointing down from one of my backyard trees instead of pointing up. The branch stood tall between two of my long wire antennas, 160 meter & a 40 meter dipoles. I placed a ladder in the tree and was able to cut it in half close to the trunk and then pull it out of the tree. The branch had been hit by lightning also.

For lightning to reach the tree branch it had to pass within 10 feet of two of the antennas center conductor side of the dipoles attached to my tower. I have Polyphaser lightning protectors on my antenna lines at the bottom of the tower and the

tower lightning box is grounded by nine 8 foot copper ground rods extending out in all directions plus and underground #4 bare copper to my water well casing (well is 110' deep and is 30 feet from the tower base). The tree was only about 25 feet from the tower. Previous lightning storms had destroyed equipment in my house so I decided to read up on grounding. I sure am glad I did. This time nothing was destroyed inside or outside due to these close lightning strikes. My equipment was all disconnected at the time and I have one main switch in my shack that disconnects the power to the room and ties the power lines to ground. Each piece of equipment, radio's, computer, meters have there own #10 ground wire to a common ground buss under the table in the shack. Let me know if you would like to see pictures.

Thought I would share my experience with you, and recommend you take precautions against lightning strikes at your shack.

John W8OF

The Last Word

By Jack Travis, AE8P, ~~editor~~

This is the 36th issue of the Ragchewer which I have put together. It is also my last. I am simply burned out. I'm quite sure someone will take the bull by the horns and continue with the monthly issue. At least I hope so.

One advantage to being editor of any club newsletter is that you learn. While doing research for items to include, you are reading and learning all the time. I never realized this until I sat down and tried to write this little article. I'll miss that.

While researching, I have looked at every club newsletter that I could find on the internet. I learned that we have one of the lowest membership dues for seniors. I also learned that we are one of the very few who still print the newsletter. Most other clubs send theirs through e-mail only.

All of the information and documents are available and I will give them to the new editor. To volunteer, I suggest you contact one of the club officers.

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K8QIK

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