

The Ragchewer

June 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

June Birthdays

Jeff J Bell	WD8JLI
Ralph O Howes	W8BVH
Raymond F. Shetrone	WA8WFL
Phortia R. Stevens	AB8GE
Robert K Ruffner	KD8DXC
Griffin L Warren	KG4IDG
Scott A. Snoke	WD8IXO
William F Braun	K8ZCT
Thomas L Moore	KB8USK

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:

Jack Travis, AE8P
(740) 687-1985

June 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice President, Mark Urbine, KC8TUW who lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mark then turned the meeting over to President, Charlie Snoke, N8KZN.

There were 22 members present and one guest, David Younker. There were two new applications for first review (N8EWH, Patrick Gilfillen and K8KEG, David Younker) and two applications for second review (David Amos, WD8AOL and Kenneth Hagens, N8DWS).

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes are posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept minutes was made by Don, WD8PCF and seconded by Dave, W8EZE. Motion carried.

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

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

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Mark had nothing new to report. Grant application to Gannett Foundation was hand delivered.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Robert reported that the survey results will be posted on the website until the end of June. He gave the survey results to Mark, KC8TUW for his review.

VE Testing: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Allen reported testing will take place on June 15th and he has loaned his testing materials to Universal Radio so they can conduct a test session on Thursday, June 12th.

Monday Night Net: John Fick, KD8EEK

In John's absence,

June 9 John, W8AGS

June 16 John, W8OF

June 23 Mark, KC8TUW

June 30 John, KD8EEK

Ragchewer: Jack Travis, AE8P

Jack reported that he was burned out on the Ragchewer and asked for a volunteer to assume the responsibilities. Jack will do the newsletter thru July and that will be his last 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

Everyone should stay alert for storms at this time of year.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John stated we would need to buy 500 feet of coax for antennas that we plan to put up at the clubhouse for new stations and to replace the aging cable. John will get pricing and have for the next meeting.

Activities Manager: John Fick, KD8EEK

No report – John absent

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

\$8.00 collected and Don, WD8PCF was winner of \$4.00.

Old Business:

Ed, WD8PGO has checked with the county on having our building be handicap accessible and they will look into it and let us know if anything can be done.

Allen, KB8JLG reported that the Swap Meet was held on May 31 and we made a small profit for the club.

New Business:

Mark, KC8TUW; George, KB8USP and John, KD8EEK will set up a simple field day for June 28th - 29th working off a generator.

Kay, KC8HJW made motion to use the \$115 left from upstairs remodeling and an additional \$100 to complete the kitchen flooring. Seconded by Robert, KC8PSW. Motion carried.

Don, WD8PCF made motion to give Ed, WD8PGO the go ahead and get the alarm system on the front door repaired. Seconded by Ed, KD8EEJ. Motion

carried.

Charlie asked for vote on applications for Dave Amos and Kenneth Hagens. All in favor.

John, KD8EEK mentioned that as a result of some CERT training he did last week that the CERT team would like to have a meeting with the club members who are on the different CERT teams. A future date will be established.

John, W8OF had an extra coupon that he requested to obtain the box needed to convert our television at the clubhouse from analog to digital. Coupon was given to Mark, KC8TUW and he will purchase for the club.

Allen, KB8JLG volunteered to head a committee to review the club By-Laws and Constitution in order to bring the documents up to date with current technology terms, etc. Also, so we can email the Ragchewer and eliminate the cost for postage, printing, etc. along with the time it requires for the few people who get it through US Mail. Ed, KD8EEJ, Mark, KC8TUW, Mary, KD8EEI and Ed, WD8PGO volunteered to be on Allen's committee.

It was agreed that an Executive Committee meeting will be held to review the Emergency Plan that KD8EEK has written up for the club to follow.

Ed, WB8JBG stated he had been in touch with Menard's (took information from our website) to see if they would donate a grill to the club. Ed will follow up in a week to receive their answer and if they say no, he will try Lowe's, etc.

Charlie asked for volunteers to work the July 4th parade and the following volunteered: Mark, KC8TUW; Don, WD8PCF; Ed, KD8EEJ; George, KB8USP; Mary, KD8EEI; Charlie, N8KZN; Connie, N8LPC; John, KD8EEK; ??Tom & Marie.

Volunteers for parking were: Charlie, N8KZN; Connie, N8LPC; Mark, KC8TUW; Don, WD8PCF; ??Larry & Candy Wright; ??Gary & Sandy Snider.

Bob, KI8JM made motion to adjourn, seconded by Griff, KG4IDG. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Upcoming Hamfests

June 21st is the Milford Amateur Radio Club hamfest in Milford, OH. Additional information is available at <http://www.w8mrc.com>

July 12th is the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society hamfest in Wellington, OH. Additional

information is available 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

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 #24

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

World War II started on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland. By May, 1940, Germany had conquered much of Europe, and had her sights on Britain. Although the United States was officially neutral, it was obvious that our sympathies were with the Allies. In addition, it was clear to a few perceptive Americans that we would be drawn into the conflict.

Amateur Radio Operators, like most Americans, began to gear up for War. On June 4, 1940, the FCC issued Order #72, which prohibited amateurs from engaging in foreign communications, or from

establishing contact with any or all points outside the continental U.S. and its possessions. The FCC was quite serious about this--they revoked the licenses of several hams who had contact with foreign stations. The "How's DX" column was jokingly referred to as "Where's DX"--so many foreign hams, including our neighbors in Canada, had been off the air since September, 1939.

Throughout 1940 and 1941, the face of amateur radio changed with the darkening war cloud. The War Department sent out a questionnaire to all hams to obtain data on equipment, experience, physical fitness, and availability for service. Columns devoted

to the military began to appear, such as "Army-Amateur Radio System Activities", which included the schedule of station WAR on 4025 and 6990 kc. Other columns were "Naval Communication Reserve Notes"; "In the Services", which listed amateurs now in military service; and "USA Calling", which published requests from the Navy, Marines, Army, Army Air Corps, Signal Corps, Merchant Marine, and even the FBI for amateurs proficient as radio operators, electronic specialists, electrical engineers and Communications Officers. In the summer of 1940, the British used the "USA Calling" column to issue an urgent appeal for radio servicemen and amateurs for their Civilian Technical Corps. Up to 25,000 Americans were requested by the British.

Foreign espionage invaded the ham bands in 1940. The FBI, in a successful bid to capture several foreign agents in the U.S., operated a counter-espionage station in the 20 meter band. Using a phony amateur call, the FBI passed over 500 messages to various spies before arresting them.

Amateurs were members of the Defense Communication Board, which met every week to prepare for a military emergency.

Amateurs also made their own preparations for a national emergency. QST ran several editorials urging hams to improve their cw skills. Many articles appeared on "emergency" equipment, such as vibrator power supplies (to supply the B+ voltage for tubes), battery operated radios, and mobile stations. The 2 1/2 meter band (112-116 mc) was chosen as the primary "Civil Defense" band, and every issue of QST had another 2 1/2 meter construction project, including a few "Walkie-Talkies". Civil Defense coordination and participation was urged.

On July 22, 1941 the FCC, in response to the National Emergency, announced that the 3650 to 3950 kc portion of 80 meters would be withdrawn from amateur use and reassigned to the military for use in an Aircraft Pilot Training program. Amateurs were given a few months to vacate the band, and preparations were made to move popular 80 meter nets to 160. But before the reassignment was completed in December 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked.

On December 8, 1941, the FCC issued Order Number 87, which read in part:

Whereas a state of War exists between the United States and the Imperial Japanese government, and the withdrawal from private use of all amateur frequencies is required for the purpose of National Defense; IT IS ORDERED, that except as may hereafter be specifically authorized by the Commission, no person shall engage in any amateur radio operation...and all frequencies heretofore allocated to amateur radio stations under Part 12 of the Rules and Regulations ARE HEREBY WITHDRAWN. All amateur licensees are hereby notified that the Commission has ordered the immediate suspension of all amateur radio operation in the continental U.S., its territories and possessions.

However, the FCC left a small loophole for amateur operation during the war. Amateurs would be allowed to operate for the purpose of National Defense, upon application of a Federal, State, or local official.

In our next installment, we will look at some amateur operations during WWII. Some will surprise you.

May 31st Swap Meet

It is really nice to associate with helpful persons like our club members -

John W8OH, who talked a ham out of selling a nice Icom transceiver at a fire-sale price because something was wrong with it. John suggested having someone look at it first because the symptoms didn't sound very bad.

Ralph W8BVH, who is going help Earl AA8AT sell a Heath HW101 and Drake TR-4.

Both rigs, although boat anchors, should work well because Earl used them extensively and has religiously powered them up once a month since.

A 50/50 drawing was held and some club magazines were sold, and the proceeds were given to

the treasurer. We also sold some donuts, coffee and pop and the money was given to Charlie, N8KZN for the food fund.

The swap meet report follows -

Except for a 15 minute rain shower at 9AM, the swap meet May 31, 2008 was pretty successful. 37 people signed the registration sheet and I saw a nice mix of 2M handhelds, HF rigs, mobile antennas, towers, boat anchors, Astron power supplies and parts. In the QRP line there was an MFJ 75M SSB rig.

The turn out was a little smaller than average but I think the threat of rain may have caused that. We had visitors from Zanesville, Chillicothe, Jackson,

Athens, Logan and Heath.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Dave Amos WD8AOL.

I plan on another swapmeet on October 4, 2008

Regards, Allen KB8JLG

Logan VE Testing

Dave WD8AOL, Ron W8MMY and Allen KB8JLG went to Logan to help administer a VE test session on May 24, 2008. They are having trouble getting three VE's to participate for their scheduled exams like I did 10 or 15 years ago.

Two candidates earned a Tech and Extra license. The Tech is from "South" Ohio, close to Parkersburg and the Extra is from Millersport.

Logan General hams Gary W8TUK, Gene N8BUS and Roman W8TUZ also attended and we had a nice discussion about NVIR antennas required and State Park locations for the Portage County State Park event this fall. It turns out that the ODNR only lists two state parks in Hocking County - Hocking Hills and Lake Logan. The Logan club has already

received permission to operate from the Old Man's Cave lodge area. They have done this several times in the past because the elevation is one of the higher ones in the county and they are planning on using 6M and 2M Yagis along with other low band units.

The Logan club is going to participate in Field Day again but I don't know the details. Two or three years ago when Ralph W8BVH and I visited at 1AM Sunday they had more than a dozen present, plenty of food and tried a satellite contact while we were there. The location then was in the American Legion Annex which is a screened picnic area with electricity and lighting.

Regards, Allen KB9JLG

June VE Testing Results

By Jack Travis

The June 15, 2008 VE session at the clubhouse had a total of 6 applicants. We had 4 VE's which was enough for this number of applicants. Allen tried a new "set-up" which allowed for smoother testing and scoring.

The VE's were Dave Amos, WD8AOL, Bob Hughes, KI8JM, Jack Travis, AE8P, and Allen Sellers, KB8JLG.

The results of the session were 3 new Technicians, 1 General and 2 Extra licenses earned.

All 6 passed their tests but none wanted to try to take the next upgrade test. It does puzzle me why someone wouldn't want to at least try the next level test. There is no cost and who knows, they might surprise themselves.

One of the Extra candidates got a perfect score, 50 out of 50.

What if I put aluminum foil in the microwave?

by Marshall Brain

The microwave oven is one of the great inventions of the 20th century -- you can find them in millions of homes and offices around the world. At one time or another, we've all been told not to use metal products, especially aluminum foil, when cooking with a microwave oven. Stories of incredible explosions and fires usually surround these ominous warnings. Why is that? Let's take a look at how microwave ovens work to find out.

As incredible as microwave ovens are, the technology behind them is fairly simple. Microwave ovens use microwaves to heat food. Microwaves are radio waves. In the case of microwave ovens, the commonly used radio wave frequency is roughly 2,500 megahertz (2.5 gigahertz). Radio waves in this frequency range have an interesting property: Water,

fats and sugars absorb them. When absorbed they're converted directly into atomic motion -- heat. Microwaves in this frequency range have another interesting property: Most plastics, glass or ceramics don't absorb them. But what about metal?

The walls inside a microwave oven are actually made of metal. It turns out that a fairly thick piece of metal works a lot like a mirror. But instead of reflecting an image, it reflects microwaves. If you were to put food in a heavy metal pan and put it in the microwave, it wouldn't cook. The pan would shield the food from the microwaves, so the food would never heat up.

Tiny sharp pieces and thin pieces of metal are a different story. The electric fields in microwaves cause currents of electricity to flow through metal. Substantial pieces of metal, like the walls of a

microwave oven, can usually tolerate these currents without any problems. However, thin pieces of metal, like aluminum foil, are overwhelmed by these currents and heat up very quickly. So quickly in fact, that they can cause a fire. Plus, if the foil is crinkled so that it forms any sharp edges, the electrical current running through the foil will cause sparks. If these sparks hit something else in the oven, perhaps a piece

of wax paper, you'll probably be reaching for the fire extinguisher.

While it's highly unlikely that a small piece of foil is going to cause your microwave oven to totally explode, it could cause a fire. So, it's a good idea to stick to plastic wrap, paper towels and any other non-metal kitchen aids.

Backup Communications

It is always a great idea to have backup communications. And as with amateur radio operators people need to have practice drills or "nets" to continually test their equipment and skills. My concern is always that un-trained operators will panic and flood the frequencies with bad reports, which will lead to tying up other operators by sending them out to confirm reports.

Which is why I want to establish a communications network with FRS (Family Radio Service) right here in my neighborhood. Two things I like about FRS is its short range, great for neighborhoods, and multiple frequencies. Also the low cost of the radios as well as licensing not required. So they are readily available to be used by anyone.

Telephones should be used when traffic needs to be secure or to activate groups. In a wide spread disaster telephone networks will become overloaded and useless. I recall that my cell phone was useless during 9-11. During local disasters your local responders phone lines could get tied up. Another

good reason to monitor your local repeater that is equipped with emergency power and keep your HT ready for use.

I am now going to mention that "other band". Yes, you guessed it. Eleven meters. I am not a real fan of 11 meters but I am going to include one in my radio room. In a wide spread disaster I believe it would be wise to monitor channel 9 just to listen and get an idea what is happening on our streets and highways. Since most truckers have CB (Citizen Band) in there trucks it would be a great tool to use to coordinate delivery of any incoming supplies.

Again, no matter which type of communication you use, practice and training is REQUIRED. People need to know what to do and where to go.

For more information go to <http://www.nationalsos.com/>

Whenever we are called to serve let this be our motto:

FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, THEN RESPONSE
73, John KD8EEK

New ops: A curse or an opportunity?

The answer to the above question depends on each one of us. New ops are curses for people who prefer to "curse the darkness," but they are opportunities for people who would much rather "light one single candle" to clear the darkness. The darkness in these instances being the darkness of inexperience and ignorance. Note that I said ignorance; not stupidity. I am referring to a case of not having had the opportunity to learn rather than of being unable to learn.

I believe that all amateurs are inherently intelligent. Education to become knowledgeable is what we all need in one or more respects.

I fairly frequently receive e-mail complaining about how some new hams continue to operate using

non-ham practices. This is particularly true when a group of several friends come into Amateur Radio from Citizens' Band at the same time. This is natural.

They know each other well and may have operated on CB together using CB procedures for a long time. Long-established practices are often difficult to change.

Long-standing practices are particularly difficult to change when no one has shown that alternate practices are more appropriate. But, who is it that should introduce aspiring and new licensees to the ways of Amateur Radio?

The most logical people to show or teach newbies the "way of light and wisdom" are local hams. These are the hams who meet new licensees in person at

license classes, club meetings and events, or at breakfast or lunch.

How do neophytes learn proper procedure? They could read on their own or could listen to established hams operate. The latter is a good way to learn, provided the hams they listen to use good procedure.

Another excellent way to help newbies learn and to get them involved in a local club at the same time, is to present a short-course on proper operating. This course could be targeted strictly to new folks by adding it on as a single discussion or in few-minute bites during a license course. It could also be given at club meetings.

The training might include the proper use of pro-words and pro-signs, how to begin and end a QSO. It could stress courteous operating and prepare new hams to deal with the truly few LIDs who are discourteous and piggish, as well as other commonly-encountered features of day-to-day operation.

You might choose to open the training up to old timers. If you do, prepare to be surprised at the number of old timers who learn that practices they thought were correct, aren't. This is sort of like the King of Siam in "The King and I." Remember, he was the supreme honcho who suddenly realized that what he had thought was true for decades actually isn't.

As just one example of a highly common error, consider the all-familiar ending for Amateur Radio QSOs. Which is proper . . . 73s or 73?

Regardless of the fact that nearly many new and old ops alike say 73s, this is incorrect. The correct term is 73. Don't misunderstand, saying 73s won't result in FCC enforcement action. It won't even result in a friendly reminder from an OO. Even so, if one really wishes to operate correctly, it is 73, not 73s.

The code term, 73, is already plural. It was initially set up by telegraphers to say "best wishes," "good luck" or similar thoughts to fellow telegraphers. Adding an "s" to 73 to turn it into 73s turns it into "best wisheses" or "bestes wisheses" or some other distortion of the language. At best it becomes a plural plurality, whatever this may be.

Not too long ago, I listened to a QSO on a local repeater in which two newcomers were debating the meaning of a few Q signals. Among other things, they were trying to figure out whether QRA means "I am at" or "there is a lot of interference," and whether QTH means "my call is ___," or "your signal is very weak."

New ops need help -- need an Elmer. It is best if the help comes from people who choose to take the effort to teach correct information.

It's Time

By Jack Travis, AE8P, editor

It's been nearly three years since I began as editor of the Ragchewer. For the most part it's been informative for me and I hope for you also.

Last year, my honesty and integrity was questioned and since then I've had second thoughts about whether I could continue to contribute via the newsletter.

I have tried to follow my own restrictions of being informative, entertaining and provocative and don't believe I've deviated from those standards.

When I was told I couldn't print portions of the Constitution or By-Laws in the newsletter, that's where I object. I printed it anyway and would do it again if the necessity came up, regardless of the consequences.

I've been fighting the printer at the clubhouse and really don't want to waste my time printing the Ragchewer there and losing 2+ hours of my life every month. Assembling the newsletter isn't so bad; at least there is some sense of accomplishment. I highly encourage the Constitution and By-Laws committee to recommend changes that will eliminate the need to print and mail the newsletter every month. The printer itself should be scrapped.

As I told the membership at the June meeting, I am burned out and do need a break from the newsletter. Maybe some time in the future when some things change I might be willing to pick it up again. In the meantime I have enough material gathered for several years of the Ragchewer which I will pass on to the next editor.

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LFCARC
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K8QIK

June 2008



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