

# The Ragchewer

May 2008

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.

## **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**

Kaye Hartman	K8GZ
Charles Snoke	N8KZN
Ronald Kennedy	WA8GFO
Fredrick Wyatt	KD8FTY
Kay Hanna	KC8HJW
Steven Campbell	WA8HIO
Ivor Rutan	WA8YSC
Norman Stout	N8MGM
Sandy Snider	KD8FTX

## **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.

## **June VE Test:**

The next VE test will be Sunday June 15th 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](mailto: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

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## May 1, 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 25 members present and two guests, Lucy Hurlbut and Jon Kochis, Director, Fairfield County EMA. There were two new applications to 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 Allen, KB8JLG and seconded by Ray, W8FLX. Motion carried.

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

Ed gave the club financials. Motion to accept by Dave, W8EZE and seconded by John, W8AGS. Motion carried.

#### **VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUV**

Mark had nothing new to report. Grant information is being processed.

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

Absent – no report

### Committee Reports

#### **Webmaster: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW**

Reported that he has been working with John, KD8EEK to get the calling tree information posted on the website. Also, to date only 8 replies to the survey posted on website. Mary, KD8EEI will send an email to all members urging them to go to the website and fill out the survey.

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

Allen reported we had 5 people tested on April 20<sup>th</sup> (2 technicians, 2 general and 1 extra). Also reported that Jack, AE8P; John, W8OF and Allen tested 14 people at the Athens Hamfest on April 27<sup>th</sup> (4 technicians, 7 general and 3 extra). Allen reported that if we assist Athens next year, he would request pre-registration. Allen will send the information required for taking test or upgrading to Robert, KC8PSW and he will post on our website.

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

In John's absence,

May 5 John, W8OF (?)

May 12 John, W8AGS

May 19 Charlie, N8KZN

May 26 John, KD8EEK (?)

June 2 Mark, KC8TUV (Needs to be trained)

#### **Ragchewer: Jack Travis, AE8P**

Nothing to report. Submit any article, news item, cartoon, or other ham related bits of trivia to Jack at [k8qik@columbus.rr.com](mailto:k8qik@columbus.rr.com)

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

Ed reported that there will be training for JIC members on May 7<sup>th</sup> and the Hazmat exercise on May 15<sup>th</sup> he needs workers for the EOC (Charlie, N8KZN and Connie, N8LPC volunteered) and he needs one worker for the Simcell which will be at Liberty Center.

Ed asked for names to be submitted to Red Cross for contacts in case of emergencies: Charlie, N8KZN; Connie, N8LPC; Mark, KC8TUV; George, KB8USP and Mary, KD8EEI volunteered to have their names listed.

Ed asked for volunteers for the Lancaster Festival on July 19 and 26. The following volunteered for July 19: Charlie, N8KZN; Connie, N8LPC; Mark, KC8TUV; George, KB8USP; Mary, KD8EEI, Gary, W8GTS and Sandy, KD8FTX volunteered and July 26 - Charlie, N8KZN; Connie, N8LPC; Mark, KC8TUV; George, KB8USP; Don, WD8PCF and Robert, KC8PSW volunteered.

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

No report

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

No report – John absent

#### **Activities Manager: John Fick, KD8EEK**

No report – John absent

#### **Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ**

\$16.00 collected and Mary, KD8EEI was winner of \$8.00.

### Old Business:

Handicap accessibility was brought up and Ed, WD8PGO said he would contact the County and ask what could be done so our handicap members would have access to our meetings, etc.

### New Business:

Allen, KB8JLG reported that there would be a Swap Meet in the parking lot at the clubhouse on Saturday, May 31 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Anyone wishing to sell, please contact Allen.

Gary, W8GTS made motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark, KC8TUW. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting Jon Kochis was available for a question and answer session regarding the EMA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary, Mary Travis, KD8EEI

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### Upcoming Hamfests

May 16th, 17th and 18th is the **Dayton Hamvention** in Dayton, Ohio. This is the big one and not to be missed. Additional information is available at <http://www.hamvention.org>

### 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](mailto:jbelle@imagearray.net) he has a huge supply for most needs

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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 #23

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

Cairo, Egypt, 1938. In the pre war time of Colonial Empires, this conjures up an image of Europeans in white linen suits sitting on the veranda of a luxuriously decadent Colonial Hotel, oppressive ceiling fans, dark, mysterious strangers, Peter Lorie & Sidney Greenstreet. However, for amateurs, Cairo in 1938 meant a setback.

The first International Radiotelegraph Conference was held in Washington D.C. in 1927. Although amateurs lost almost 40% of their allocations, the concept of amateur radio as a legal, international hobby was established. The second Conference was held in Madrid in 1932, and produced no changes in ham radio. Now the third Conference was at hand, but times had changed. Italy, Germany, and Spain were under Fascist Dictatorships, Stalin was directing a ruthless purge in the Soviet Union, and Japan was at war with China. The shortwaves were filled with propaganda broadcasts and military communications. Under this cloud of uncertainty, delegates from 71 countries assembled in Cairo on February 1, 1938. How would amateur radio be treated under these circumstances?

Actually, American hams came out of the battle with no major losses. Despite the number of

Dictatorships at the Conference, there was no attempt to destroy amateur radio, which, after all, allowed individual citizens access to receivers and transmitters. The most serious threat came from Japan, which proposed that amateurs be limited to 50 watts input. The Japanese Plan was easily defeated. The ARRL had pushed for expanded HF bands, but the American Delegation, mindful of the potential hostility at the Conference, did not propose it.

The headlines in the July 1938 issue of QST summed up Cairo: "American Amateurs retain all frequencies after a terrific fight", "USA puts up splendid defense", "European Hams short changed by Greedy Governments", and, "European Broadcasting to invade 7 mc Band in late 1939". In Europe, the 7200--7300 kc segment of the 40 meter band would be shared with Broadcasters, starting September 1, 1939. They also lost half of the 80 meter band to broadcasting and other services, and the European 5 meter band was scaled back to make way for television. However, it could have been a lot worse. The next International Conference was set for Rome in 1942. It never took place.

In other 1938 news, the amateur population was stabilized at 50,000, after years of growth. This was partly due to the increase in the code speed, from 10

to 13 wpm in 1937. With regenerative receivers and crystal controlled transmitters (which meant that two stations having a QSO would probably be on two separate frequencies), many hams felt that 50,000 was the saturation point for our bands.

On October 4, 1938, the FCC issued complete new amateur regulations. Included in the package were two new ham bands at 112 and 224 mc. What could hams do up there? Try amateur television. An all electronic form of television was replacing the mechanical "spinning disc", and QST carried several articles discussing the theory and construction of an amateur TV station. W6XAO was an experimental TV station in LA, which would soon be followed by other TV pioneers such as W2XBS. (Where have I heard that call before?).

On September 2, 1938, the new Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, was dedicated at 225 Main Street in Newington, Ct.. The Station was in memory of Hiram Percy Maxim, the Founder and first President of the ARRL, who died in February 1936. Less than one month after Maxim's death, floods roared through the Connecticut River valley, and destroyed W1MK, which had been the League's Station. Later in 1936, the ARRL Board of Directors allocated \$18,000 to build a Memorial Station to honor W1AW, as well as to replace W1MK. The station would stand alone on Main St., in Newington, until joined in 1963 by the ARRL/QST Offices, which moved from West Hartford.

On September 13, 1938, Ross Hull, Editor of QST, died after being electrocuted in his home. He had been working on a homebrew TV receiver. Ross was a native of Australia and held the call 3JU while

living "down under". He did not hold a U.S. license because his citizenship application was not finalized. Despite his lack of American Amateur privileges, Ross Hull was instrumental in early VHF/UHF developments. He designed practical and inexpensive 5 meter stations, and greatly contributed to the knowledge of VHF/UHF propagation. His death dramatically pointed out the dangers of working on live circuits and, for months thereafter, QST ran articles on how to "switch to safety".

No discussion of 1938 would be complete without including the Great Hurricane. In the fourth week of September, New England and Long Island, already soaked by previous rainstorms, were pounded by the unnamed Hurricane, which was completely unexpected. Over 600 people died, and damage was \$500 million in 1938 dollars. The new W1AW Memorial Station, just 3 weeks old, survived without any damage, although power was lost for 36 hours. Hundreds of amateurs grabbed whatever generators and batteries they could find, and set up emergency stations on 5 meters AM, and 160, 80 and 40 cw. Amateurs were the only source of communication for dozens of communities and handled everything from health and welfare traffic to police communications. It was a superb demonstration of public service at its best.

In our next installment, we will look at amateur radio in WWII. Yes, amateurs were off the air. But what did they do, if they weren't in uniform? What filled the pages of QST? And what was this "WERS"? Join me as the "Wayback Machine" seeks the truth.

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## Jackson Hamfest

George KB8USP and Allen KB8JLG shared a table and expenses at the Jackson Hamfest April 12, 2008, which is 60 miles from Lancaster. Ralph W8BVH, Dave WA8EUT and Ron WA8GFO shared an adjacent table. Also seen were Jerry K8MGA and Dave WD8AOL. The organizers still have a problem with letting people in before the time for the general public at 9AM. All of us who shared tables had to argue to get in earlier and I mentioned this to one of the club members, so maybe it will get changed.

There were at least a dozen people waiting outside at 8:15 and I think the club is hurting themselves if they don't change this odd policy. The

Hamfest was small but larger than last year, so if you arrive at 9AM you still have time to see everything ten times before people start to pack-up. All the tables were assigned before the day of the hamfest, so if you want one you have to reserve it ahead of time.

Dave WA8EUT sold a nice Kenwood HF rig (TS-820?) that was probably the bargain of the day. There were some other HF rigs at reasonable but higher prices; keep in mind if you don't know the seller, it's buyer beware. I sold about \$40 of the same old accumulated stuff that I sell every time so I paid my expenses, but still haven't knocked much a hole in my junk box..

I took four boxes of the club's duplicate QST magazines bundled by the year and got \$3 per bundle. Oddly enough there was a guy looking for 1977 issues and we were able to sell four other bundles including some of the older ones. If anyone is interested in one or more of the remaining bundles,

let me know. The club also has duplicate copy bundles that do not contain a full year's worth of issues.

Regards, Allen KB8JLG

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## Athens Hamfest

We had a pretty successful test session at the Athens Hamfest but there one thing I want to change if our group continues the testing; that is we won't accept "walk-ins". I have asked the Athens ARA to comment on this proposal.

Two applicants appeared without sufficient identification. Two applicants stated, after they were notified of failing, that they hadn't studied but only took the exam because it was available. The four of us spent quite a bit of time checking one Extra exam that had eleven correct answers out of fifty. We thought we used the wrong grading template, used it incorrectly or that we had made some other error.

More than half of the applicants did not have a photocopy of their license for us to submit to the ARRL-VEC.

Licensed amateurs are ignorant of the FRN requirement for the 605 application. Everyone that was licensed had at least brought their original copy so we were able to get the form completed correctly

after explaining the rule.

The room was almost too small for the applicants and our four VE's. Last years hamfest session was crowded also as I remember.

Pre-registering applicants will permit us to inform everyone of the application and ID requirements. In addition we will have knowledge of the size of the session. None of the VE's wanted to conduct a second session for an "overflow" situation.

The session results are - Fourteen persons earned four Technician, two General and three Extra licenses. There were four ladies and one got a perfect score on the Technician exam, another passed the Extra exam. The one youngster earned his General.

The VE's from Lancaster were John Hilliard W8OF, Jack Travis AE8P and Allen Sellers KB8JLG. Wayne Pickett WB8JFV from Nelsonville also helped.

Regards, Allen Sellers KB8JLG

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## Glouster Estate Sale

I attended an Estate sale in Glouster, Ohio on May 4, 2008 that had a Drake station listed in the ad. The R-4B receiver and T-4BX sold as a pair for about \$300. The matching power supply/speaker sold for \$40. If I had been serious about bidding, I would have asked for the power supply to be sold with the transmitter and the receiver sold separately (the receiver doesn't require an external power supply). A local person told me that the equipment probably hadn't been operated for more than 15 years; the price may have been high for what they were. The Drake MN-75 tuner sold for \$40 and the best buy was Vibroplex keyer paddle for \$15.

There were some boxes of old ham books I thought sold for too much at \$12 to \$15 a box. Some of the worthwhile books were a 1953, fair condition ARRL Handbook and an Ed Noll TAB book on wire

antennas. There were about half a dozen old CB's including 23 channels units that sold for \$12 to \$15 each. Although they looked in pretty good shape, I was surprised because I usually buy 40 channel units for \$5 at yard sales.

I left before the sale was more than half done because what was left duplicated some of my stuff... an Amprobe clamp-on ammeter, a Telex headset in good shape and a new-in-box Drake Low-Pass filter.

Other hams attending were Gary Tucker W8TUK and XYL Karen K8TUK from Logan, Patsy Cartwright KD8FSK from Buena Vista, and Lancaster hams Jack AE8P, Mary KD8EEI and very late; Ralph W8BVH.

Regards, Allen KB8JLG

## Help For The Ragchewer

After nearly 3 years of doing the Ragchewer, I'm getting tired. I think it's time we get some "new blood" into the mix and have a new Ragchewer editor.

It's really not that difficult. You will have to make the decisions on what to include in the newsletter. There will be 3 or 4 faithful who will contribute articles they write or discover for inclusion. I have all kinds of material to start that hasn't been printed yet. You can have it all.

I do appreciate those who understand the effort put forth to make the Ragchewer a good reading experience.

The hardest part is going to the clubhouse and losing 2 1/2 hours of your life printing the newsletter every month. I know of several who do have Internet service and still want it printed and mailed. What a

waste of ink and stamps. That's something that needs to change soon and allow us to move into the 21st Century. The Ragchewer should be printed and sent only to a very select number of people, or those who want it printed should pay extra for the privilege. Remember the Internet is available worldwide and every library has access.

The printer at the clubhouse is slow enough you can take a nap while it's printing each page. It should have been thrown out years ago. I have printed the last 3 issues of the Ragchewer at home but don't want to continue spending my money on ink any longer.

Until someone else takes over as editor, future issues will be very brief.

Any one want to help ? Call Jack at 740-687-1985.

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LFCARC  
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Lancaster, OH 43130

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**K8QIK**

**May 2008**



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