

The Ragchewer

April 2009

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:

As announced on the ARRL
website. Typically the third
Sunday of every even
numbered month. Pre-
register recommended.
Testing at 10:00 am

Club House

Location:

On State Route 37 (Granville
Pike) next to Beavers Field.
Across from Ohio University
Lancaster campus.

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

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.

April VE Test:

The next VE test will be Sunday April 26,
2009 at the Athens Hamfest. Pre-registration is
suggested 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 asellers1081@att.net or the Webmaster
listed in header.

Upcoming Hamfests

Athens, OH 26APR09, 8AM till 1PM
Lancaster, OH 2MAY09, 8AM till 12N
Dayton, OH 15-17MAY09

2007 - 2008 Officers

President:

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN

Vice President:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUV

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Net Manager:

John Fick, KD8EEK

Activities Manager:

Connie Snoke, N8LPC

Sandy Snider, KD8FTX

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUV

Flower Fund:

Ed Bennet, KD8EEJ

Web Master:

Rbt. Northrup, KC8PSW

K8qik@

columbus.rr.com

Ragchewer Editor:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Asellers1081@att.net

April 2, 2009 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 20 members present and no guests. First review of application for KB8UVN, Matt Mitchell was submitted.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the March meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept was made by Ray, W8FLX and seconded by Ed, WD8JBG. Motion carried.

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

Don, WD8PCF gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by John, W8OF and seconded by Steve, KD8JLA. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Mark reminded everyone that volunteers are needed for Field Day. Please see Mark after the meeting to discuss if you are interested in helping plan this event.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported there is a possibility that the building we had discussed last month that houses the repeater may be given to the club.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Mary, KD8EEI reported that she had received an email from Robert and his laptop broke and he will not be able to make any changes to the website until he return to Lancaster.

VE Testing: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Allen reported that he held a special VE test session on April 1st for the people who attended the general class. Four people passed the test and three others took the test elsewhere and passed.

Allen reported that the basement spare items donated to the club would be available to purchase on radio night, April 16th. Anything that does not sell will be available at the Swap Meet on May 2nd.

Allen reminded everyone of the April 11th Jackson

hamfest and April 26th Athens hamfest. Allen will also be conducting VE testing in Athens on the 26th.

Monday Night Net: John Fick, KD8EEK

April 6	John, W8OF
April 13	John, W8AGS
April 20	Charlie, N8KZN
April 27	Mark, KC8TUW
May 4	Mark, KC8TUW

The Net Mgr. will contact the person prior to the net just to insure they are ready.

John reported that he would no longer be holding the Wednesday night net due to lack of interest.

John also holds a discussion net every other Saturday night at 10:30 p.m. on 147.030 and the next ones are April 11th and 25th.

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Nothing to report, but anyone who has information to publish, please send to Allen.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

No report by Ed. John Fick stated he had emailed standard operating procedures for emergencies utilizing the calling tree. John has set up April 18th for a calling tree drill – time has been changed to 3 p.m. since some members will be helping with communications for MS Walk in the morning.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John mentioned that he had an opportunity to purchase a Midland 20-30 channel radio and he had programmed them with all central Ohio repeaters and said he could sell one to club for \$65 if we were interested. Discussion followed and it was decided we would wait and see if our 2 meter radio could be fixed before we decided on this purchase.

Activities Co-Managers: Connie Snoke, N8LPC and Sandy Snider, KD8FTX

Connie reported that she and Sandy had finalized plans for this year's Christmas Party which will be held at Pizza Cottage on W Fair Ave/Ety Rd. on December 12th.

The date has been set up for Tuesday, August 11 for Spaghetti Shop on Ety Road. Spaghetti Shop will take care of publicity and have flyers printed up for us to pass out. The club will receive a percentage of the sales for that day and another percentage for sales that week. We need to set up a display of what we do and how our radios work (possibly a 2 meter, HF, Echo Link, PSK, etc. will be set up to demonstrate for that evening).

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

\$13.00 was collected and Ed, WB8JBG won \$6.50.

Old Business:

Charlie has purchased a grill, cover and new tank, which were approved at a previous meeting.

Charlie announced he had met the fire inspector and the building and fire extinguishers' have been inspected for this year. Charlie also mentioned that he had installed the four smoke detectors which were donated by Jack & Mary Travis previously.

New Business:

John, KD8EEK announced we did not have a winner of the 50-50.

Steve, KD8JLA announced that he had received some grant money and he designated \$3,000 be used to purchase a Yaesu 2000D radio for use at the hospital. John, W8OF will work with Steve to determine what type of antenna they will need for this radio and that will also be purchased. Charlie thanked Steve for his efforts and support of the club activities.

Charlie asked for volunteers for MS Walk on April 18th. The following people volunteered: Ray

Hurlburt, Ed Bennett, George Lambert, Mark Urbine, Gary & Sandy Snider along with Charlie & Connie.

Charlie mentioned we would need to have volunteers for 4th of July parking at fairgrounds.

Tom, KB8USK asked about setting up a special account for donating money so that we could cover the cost of anyone attending the Christmas Party. Connie mentioned that she did not think that would be a good idea since we are trying to raise money for the club and people have always paid for their food at the party. Charlie asked for a show of hands of people who agreed that we should pay for our own. Majority was in favor of paying for our own meal.

Mark, KC8TUW mentioned that there would be a new class starting in May for the Community Watch, which is part of the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department. Anyone interested in being a volunteer for this worthwhile program, please contact the Sheriff's office to get your name on the list for the upcoming training.

Allen, KB8JLG mentioned that he personally was not in favor of moving equipment from the main area to the side office. Allen said that there was a lot of time devoted to getting the present setup so that any member who was handicapped and could not go the 2nd floor would have a working station on the 1st floor.

John, W8OF made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ray, W8FLX. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

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

Sale Announcement

A new-in-box, \$300 MFJ-1798, 10 band vertical antenna was donated to the club recently. The club voted not use it as a door prize or raffle it off, but to place it on sale at the 2 MAY 2009 Swap-Meet. This is your chance to get an outstanding 80M through 2M antenna at a reasonable price. Think about what you want to offer as there will probably be a reserve price set. In the meantime check out the reviews at <http://www.eham.net> (links to follow are REVIEWS > VERTICAL ANTENNAS > MFJ1798). It is scored at 4.25 out of 5 and there are helpful comments about installation not covered in the instruction manual.

Sale Announcement

Allen Sellers KB8JLG has used Low Pass filters for sale, the condition ranges from new-in-box to "old and it looks it". In the tube area, I have 3 - 6JB6A Drake output tubes, 1 - 6JS6A FT-101 output tube and 2- 6146A tubes for \$5 each. Recently I obtained a bunch of 2AD149, TO-3, Germanium, PNP transistors. These are rated at 3.5 amperes collector current and are ideal for the one transistor-one resistor "wrap-around" current boost circuit for voltage regulator IC's.

Spring 2009 Swapmeet

The Swapmeet is the first Saturday in May, 8AM to Noon. Items left over from the club house basement cleanup will be offered. At this time there are short pieces of RG-8 and RG-58 suitable for coaxial baluns and coffee cans of parts (resistors, capacitors, transistors and diodes) suitable to start a "junk box". There are other items (equipment) that can be described as "wonder" stuff... like I wonder if this will work. There are also some boxes of misc. household stuff like partial lamp hanging kits and cans of bolts, screws and nuts. I have mentioned the swap meet by word-of-mouth at the Nelsonville and Jackson hamfests.

Recent News

The club has a basic construction class running on Fun Nights. It is in the third or fourth week with the final result of an operating "ugly construction" receiver. Thanks to Bob KI8JM and Mike W0MNE for the time and materials.

Sunday, 11 April 2009 I attended the Jackson hamfest and it was much better than before... new location and a parking lot flea-market. Dave WA8EUT sold a Yaesu FT101 at a reasonable price; it seems like he always has good used equipment. Along with Dave, Ron WA8GFO, Ralph W8BVH and I shared two tables. Again I sold enough of the usual stuff to pay my entry fee and table costs. There were plenty of Low-Pass filters and Radio Shack SWR meters at low prices and some coaxial cable at very low prices (65 feet of RG-8 for \$10). I also got some 600 watt APC Uninterruptable Power Supplies. I am going to remove the dead batteries, power cord and 120VAC transformer to adapt them for use as an inverter to provide 200 watts of AC power from an "engine running" automobile battery. I am curious to see if this has; a sine-wave output wave form, will run for long periods of time reliably and to see if a cooling fan will be required for the inverter circuit. The transformer is really heavy and may be suitable for a 10 ampere (or more), 12VDC power supply.

Mobile RF Exposure Caution

If you have a 2M amplifier, 25 watts or larger in your automobile feeding an external antenna, you must be aware of the RF exposure to persons nearby. This could easily happen at a club or hamfest parking lot when you might want to talk to another ham while people are standing nearby. Since a full wavelength at 2M is approximately six feet, you can understand that the signal power can be efficiently coupled into a human body. Persons inside the car body or nearby as you are moving are shielded or have such a short exposure that it can be ignored

Antenna Launchers

The best antenna launcher I have seen for effectiveness and low cost is a slingshot. A fishing weight or half-inch nut attached to a fishing line can be launched a long way... too far in fact, so be careful. The weight and light line easily fall back to earth in tree branches so a heavier line can be attached and used to hoist an antenna. I have used a bow and arrow arrangement and the problem here is that the arrow doesn't have enough weight to fall back down through tree branches. I have also tried to throw a weight attached to a light line. The idea is to swing the weight at the end of a length of cord and aim the release to a desired elevated support. It is difficult to use and the best height I have accomplished is about 20 feet.