

The Ragchewer

February 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:

Typically the third Sunday of
every even numbered month.
Pre-register preferred by
Email. Testing at 10:00 am

Club House

Location:

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

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.

VE Test:

The next VE test will be Sunday December
21st at the clubhouse on Route 37. Door opens
at 9:30 a.m. and testing begins at 10:00 a.m.
Prepare yourself, Practice with the on-line tests,
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 asellers1081@att.net

Hamfests – Details at arrl.org

Mansfield, OH - 2/15/09

Lima, OH - 3/15/09

Lancaster Swapmeet - 5/2/09

2008-2009

Officers

President:

Charlie Snoko, N8KZN

Vice President:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUU

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr.,
WD8PGO

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Net Manager:

None at the moment

Activities Manager:

Connie Snoko N8LPC
Sandy Snider KD8FTX

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUU

Flower Fund:

Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Web Master:

Robert Northrup,
KC8PSW

Editor:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG
(740) 654 - 8167

February 5, 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.

Charlie turned the meeting over to Mark, KC8TUW to introduce our speaker and stated we would continue with the business meeting after the speaker.

Mark introduced Sheriff Dave Phalen who then introduced his Chief Deputy, Jerry Perrigo who showed us a PowerPoint presentation that Jerry had done on the Fairfield County's status of their radios and locations used for communicating. The report showed numerous areas which did not have sufficient coverage. The report then showed vastly improved coverage in the last 6 months, since the changes have been implemented. With the limited funds available they will continue updating their system. It was an interesting and enlightening presentation.

There were 23 members present and three guests, Michael Stansbery, WD8EBS; Steve Anderson, KD8JLA & Fred Saas. WA8PGE and Sheriff Dave Phalen and Chief Deputy, Jerry Perrigo. Applications for Michael, Steve and Fred were given first review.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the January meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept was made by John, W8AGS and seconded by Ray, W8FLX. Motion carried.

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

Don, WD8PCF gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Scott, WD8IXO and seconded by Larry, KB8AHK. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Mark asked for volunteers to help with Field Day.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Robert is in Arizona but will make any updates we request to the web. We can email him any changes and they will be made.

VE Testing: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Jack, AE8P reported for Allen that the General Class has begun and is going well with approx. 9 people in attendance.

Jack also reported the date for the February VE testing will be Sat., February 14th 9:30 a.m. for signup and 10 a.m. for test.

Monday Night Net: John Fick, KD8EEK

February 9	John, W8OF
February 16	John, W8AGS
February 23	Charlie, N8KZN
March 2nd	Mark, KC8TUW

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

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

No report but anyone who has information to publish, please send to Allen.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

No report but Charlie thanked all those who helped with the communications for the Red Cross during our recent ice storm.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported that Steve Anderson at FMC has received approval for us to have our EchoLink at FMC and the station should be completed by the end of March.

John also reported that he has purchased the decoder, which will be used for remote control of the repeater system & packet.

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

Connie reported they are working on getting some ideas for the Christmas party. Connie also said Sandy had been working with the Spaghetti House and they will let us set up a table to show what we do for the community in providing communications and we

would get 10% of the money taken in that evening as well as 5% for that week.

Sandy also suggested we put out a container for people to put money in so that by summer we might have enough to purchase a grill. John, W8AGS made a motion that we purchase a grill and Charlie to select the grill, seconded by Ray, W8FLX. Motion carried.

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

\$16.00 collected and Larry, KB8AHK was the winner of \$8.00. Larry donated the money back to the flower fund.

Old Business:

Mark brought up the 501 C 3 application for discussion, which was tabled from our last meeting.

After much discussion it was agreed that the Exec. Committee would get together and try to complete the application and then report back to the members at the March meeting.

New Business:

John, KD8EEK announced we had a winner of the 50-50 for \$21.50 and it was Jay, KD8HVW

Gary, W8GTS made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ray, W8FLX Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 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 April 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.

E-mail Addresses

No one is receiving the Ragchewer by mail at this time.

If you have a new email address, be sure to notify the editor; Send to asellers1081@att.net

Recent News – Allen KB8JLG

At the 04FEB09 General study class we talked about the recent power outage caused by an ice storm. I was without power for more than four days and heated my house with a wood burning stove and ran a generator two hours out every six to keep the refrigerator and freezer up from defrosting. I purchased my 5KW TORO generator from Lowes and it is able to run my well pump for water. It was recommended by Consumers Report in an issue after the Katrina hurricane. I do not have my house wired for easy hook-up...I run extension cords throughout my house when I use it because I used to be an electrician and I don't like that kind of work.

During the area power outage, Paul KD8DDD was active at the Hocking County Emergency Office. He stated that cell phones were not working. The emergency shelter there was at the Middle School. Others in Lancaster providing communications from the Red Cross building and the clubhouse were Jeff WD8JLI, Ed KD8EEJ, Statz KD8GBN, Jay KD8HVW, Dave W8EZE and Ben KD8FYS. The setup at the Red Cross building was unsatisfactory due to a lack of a good antenna and the noise of the activities interfering with each

other (Red Cross personnel and communicators). Thanks to Jay, a cross-band setup did make the contact. It was stated that headphones would have helped prevent the radios' audio from causing excessive noise in the room.

The TUSCO hamfest held on Sunday, 25JAN09 in Strasburg, OH and I attended because I was visiting my son in Canton OH that weekend. The weather had caused snow on the roads and ice in the parking lot, the temperature started at 10F and got up to 20F at Noon when the hamfest concluded.

Jeff WD8JLI also attended. The building was heated, with two large rooms and had about 100 tables, I only saw one unoccupied table. I got some used PL239's, a multipurpose crimping plier, an o-scope and a cigarette lighter, 120 volt inverter. Again I sold enough parts to pay my entry and table fee plus most of my purchases.

N8DZM was selling nice laser printers at \$100 to \$125. One at the higher price only had 700 pages run through it. I know him from the Massillon ham club and his email is DDANN@SBCGLOBAL.NET. He will probably be at the Mansfield hamfest. If you are interested, email him to meet there for a good deal on a laser printer.

Phils's Ham Radio Store from New Haven IN was there and had also been at the Nelsonville hamfest. He has wire antennas and antenna kits in addition to coax. He is a dealer for JETSTREAM 13.6 volt, 25 amp switching power supplies. There are two versions; one with meters and one without. I am thinking of emailing him to bring an un-metered version to the Mansfield hamfest. It is about \$80 and he tells me he only had one of two dozen returned for problems in the 2 years he has been selling them. The website is PHILSHAMRADIOSTORE.COM.

I also talked to Terry Russ from the Mansfield club. He is in charge of selling Mansfield hamfest tables and tickets. He tells me that they will probably open a second room for vendor tables as he already has the first room (100 tables) tentatively sold.

The Nelsonville hamfest held on Sunday, 18JAN09 was very nice. The weather caused snow on the pavement of Rte. 33 so traffic moved at 40 to 45 miles an hour. Ralph W8BVH and I rode together and stopped to eat breakfast with 6 or 8 hams from Logan. The Kennedys, Dave WA8EUT and Ron WA8GFO, had a table next to ours and we all were happy with the amount of stuff we sold. Due to the weather, visitors appeared later than usual so we stayed till the main drawing at 12 Noon.

I bought an audio frequency digital frequency meter, an MFJ 30M Cub transceiver and a box of "73" magazines from the 90's. I also bought an assortment of miscellaneous stuff like super-big alligator clips with rubber boots (\$0.50 each), a digital automobile dashboard clock (\$0.50) and a couple of Low-Pass filters for \$5 each. There was a good mix of items available from CB's to QRP rigs, test equipment and one vendor with new coax cables and whip antennas (Phils's Ham Radio Store from New Haven IN).

Also seen were Steve WA8HIO, Rhonda KD8GNM, Mike KB8GWH, Dave WD8AOL, Dave W8EZE, Jay KD8HVW, John W8OF, John W8AGS, Ray KB8GUN, Mary KC8GUN, Tony KF8MW, Mark KD8IMT, Dave WD8LZK, Mike W0MNE and Jeff WD8JLI.

There was a lot of interest in our K8QIK swapmeet to be held the first Saturday in May.

Items of interest – Allen KB8JLG

Nothing was submitted this month so you have to read "Uncle Allen's" idea of interesting stuff... I store my magnetic mounted antennas by placing them inside an old coffee can (6" diameter and 6.5" high). After I coil the coax lead inside the can, I puncture the center of the plastic lid for the whip and snap the lid in place. The can prevents the magnet from being attracted to metal objects during storage and handling. It is a good idea to place magnets on a metal surface during storage to prevent reduction of magnetism.

Book Review - "Emergency Power for Radio communications"

ARRL Publisher – Michael Bryce WB8VGE - copyright 2005 - \$20

This is a book I (KB8JLG) can recommend as a starting (and maybe only) source if you are interested in emergency communications with a backup power source. Very little, if any, math is required. There are 12 chapters and an Appendix that gives examples, simple cheap alternatives and some detailed information.

Chapter One is an introduction in which Solar Panels and Generators are winnowed out as practical choices.

Chapter Two discusses emergency lighting. LED-based flashlights are covered and the material affirms my experience during power outages. The batteries last many hours so that I never worry about reading several evenings causing them to run down.

Chapter Three covers solar Panels and gives rules of thumb for sizing them for 5-watt QRP and 100 watt QRO operation. The necessity of a charge controller is explained and some simple HB (Home Brew) examples are presented.

Chapter Four topic is Solar panel Charge Controllers in some detail.

Chapter Five sorts out gas (or gasoline), wind and water generators. Gas is the most practical unless you have the ideal environmental conditions for wind and water.

Chapter Six entitled Load Sizing gives the basic details and examples for determining the electrical load you will have in an emergency and suitable battery capacity for storage... NO MATH.

Chapter Seven discusses batteries in detail and gives some safety precautions.

Chapter Eight gives information about Emergency Power systems that include examples for QRP and QRO radio stations.

Chapter Nine discusses Inverters, and surprising to me, recommends the less economical choice of converting DC to 120 volt AC for most electronic devices. Its all explained in the book but the idea is that few devices operate at DC over a wide range of varying voltage... but most AC operated equipment will operate over a range of varying AC voltages. AND; if you have to route the cables over some distance, it is better to do so at 120 VAC.

Chapter Ten, "Metering" discusses some HB meters that can be made and commercial units available.

Chapter Eleven discusses safety. By placing this material here, you can understand the importance of the topic since you have read the previous chapters.

Chapter Twelve covers emergency practices such as prepared "go boxes" and supplies.

The appendix covers wire sizing tables (no math); how to install Anderson Power Pole connectors; a low-voltage disconnect kit; a charge controller kit; a sealed, lead-acid battery charger kit; a DC-polarity protector circuit kit; and a HB lawn-mower engine, automobile alternator, 12 VDC generator.