

# The Ragchewer

January 2009

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:**

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.

## **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.

## **February VE Test:**

The next VE test will be Saturday February  
14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 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 [asellers1081@att.net](mailto:asellers1081@att.net)

## **Upcoming Hamfests**

Mansfield, OH 15FEB09, 7AM till 2PM?

## **2008-2009 Officers**

### **President:**

Charlie Snoko, 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:**

### **Activities Manager:**

Connie Snoko N8LPCC  
Sandy Snider KD8FTX

### **Public Relations:**

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

### **Flower Fund:**

Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

### **Web Master:**

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

### **Editor:**

Allen Sellers KB8JLG  
[Asellers1081@att.net](mailto:Asellers1081@att.net)  
(740) 654 - 8167

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## January 8, 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 at Ohio University, Room 411.

Charlie turned the meeting over to Mark to introduce our speaker and stated we would dispense with committee reports but necessary business would be conducted after the speaker.

There were 20 members present and three guests, John Dolske, K9ULO, Steve Anderson, KD8JLA & Terry Swinehart, Fairfield Medical Center. Second review of K9ULO, John Dolske application for membership.

### Officer Reports

#### **Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI**

Minutes for the December meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept was made by Dave, W8EZE and seconded by John, W8OF. Motion carried.

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Connie, N8LPC and seconded by Gary, W8GTS. Motion carried.

#### **VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW**

Mark introduced Terry Swinehart, Fairfield Medical Center Police Department as one of our guest speakers.

Terry gave a brief review of the duties of the Police Department at the Fairfield Medical Center and his police background which led him to the FMC. He explained how they interact with the Lancaster Police and the County Sheriff departments. Terry said any members wishing to have a tour of their facility at the Fairfield Medical Center would just need to contact the office to set up a date and time.

Steve Anderson gave us a brief review of his duties as part of the Central Ohio Trauma Unit and explained the ham radio equipment they have on hand for emergency use at the FMC. They have 8 licensed hams in the trauma unit. The FMC now has three 2 meter antennas at the hospital.

Sheriff Phalen will be our guest speaker at the February meeting which will be held at the clubhouse.

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

John asked Steve Anderson, FMC if there was any possibility that we could use the room at FMC to hook up radio and computer to the internet for the club Echo Link. Steve will check and see if he can get the proper approval for us to do this hookup.

### Committee Reports

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

Robert reported that the web blog is up and working.

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

Jack, AE8P reported for Allen that the General Class will be meeting at the clubhouse on Wednesday's at 6:30 p.m. There are 12 people signed up for the class.

Jack also reported that Allen would probably change the date for the February VE testing since the 15<sup>th</sup> is the same day as the Mansfield Hamfest. Allen will have more information coming on the test date.

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

January 12	John, W8AGS
January 19	Mark, KC8TUW
January 26	Charlie, N8KZN
February 2	John, W8OF

#### **Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG**

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

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

Ed reported that the Weather Spotter training will be held at Liberty Center on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

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

No report

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

No report.

#### **Activities Manager: pending**

No report.

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

\$20.00 collected and John, KD8EEK was winner of \$10.00. John donated the money to the club.

**Old Business:** Charlie asked for show of hands on accepting John Dolske as a new member. All in favor.

**New Business:**

Ed, KD8EEJ gave \$70 from the Silent Auction at Christmas Party to treasurer.

John, KD8EEK had no winner for the 50-50.

John, KD8EEK reported that Logan has changed their net from Wednesday night at 9 p.m. to Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. John said he was thinking of holding a roundtable net on Wednesdays on 440.

Mark, KC8TUW reported on his answer from the ARRL regarding the club being a 501c3 instead of 501c4 and that there were other clubs with the 501c3 status who have an affiliation with the ARRL. In order to change to 501c3 the application fee is \$300. There was discussion and Jack, AE8P made a motion that the club spend \$300 for the 501c3 application fee and

seconded by Ed, KD8EEJ. After discussion, it was decided to table the vote on this motion until the February meeting and Charlie asked for vote and all were in favor.

Charlie reported that Connie, N8LPC and Sandy, KD8FTX had volunteered to be Co-Chair for the Activities Manager for 2009. There will be a short executive committee meeting following this meeting to vote on the position.

Charlie asked for volunteers for heading up Field Day and Mark, KC8TUW and John, K9ULO agreed to host an outdoor field day in June.

John, W8OF swore in Ed Campbell as the 2009 treasurer.

Robert, KC8PSW made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark, KC8TUW. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary,  
Mary Travis, KD8EEI

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### 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

No is currently receiving the the Ragchewer via regular mail.

let me know. [Asellers1081@att.net](mailto:Asellers1081@att.net)

If you have a new email address, be sure to also

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### 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.

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### New Antenna Manufacturer

I was recently contacted by an antenna manufacturer to see if they could attend our swap meet as a vendor. I explained the small size of our swap meet and gave him further information about several larger central Ohio hamfests. While I was talking to him I got information about their unique products. They claim a "gain" for their Cage antenna doublet and a wide bandwidth. I don't know about the "gain" claim but I do believe the bandwidth specifications. Their website is [DXBLASTER.COM](http://DXBLASTER.COM) and two of the Cage antennas listed are: 80M - .4MHz bandwidth \$350; 40M - 1MHz bandwidth \$300. They claim a 5dB gain but without tests I doubt this. "Better than a dipole" is a more realistic statement. The bandwidth means that you can probably operate on the band without tweaking SWR with an ATU. I emailed them later to see if they sell a kit for their

antennas but haven't received a reply.- Allen KB8JLG

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## Spring 2009 Swapmeet ??

I am thinking of having a swapmeet the first Saturday in May, 8AM to Noon. Before I make final plans I am asking for comments or suggestions. Please let me know your thoughts. Allen KB8JLG, [asellers1081@att.net](mailto:asellers1081@att.net) (740) 654 - 8167.

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## Nelsonville Hamfest

Sunday 18JAN09 8AM till 2PM. Setup opens at 7AM. This is the first indoor hamfest of the new year at the Tri-county Career Center just south of Nelsonville, turn right at the last traffic light Rte. 691. Go less than a mile and it is on the left. Entry is \$6 and tables are \$7 each. Email Les Westfall [N8TRK@YAHOO.COM](mailto:N8TRK@YAHOO.COM) for details or reservations. There is adequate parking and the venue is inside the main building's break/refreshment area and the main hallway. There are about fifty tables and you can see everything in about an hour.

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## Emergency Go-Box

The recent assignment of countywide emergency locations to specific club members brings us to the necessity of preparing for exercises or emergencies. The personal aspect is that when you are asked to report to your assigned location, you will need to do so in a timely manner and be prepared to function... this means you need to know communications protocol and have the equipment ready to go at a moments notice. This article discusses some of the things required for a "Go-Box"; a package, box, bucket, duffel bag or backpack to pick up on your way out the door. Many of these items are discussed in Chapter 12 of the ARRL book "Emergency Power For Radio Communications" by Michael Bryce WB8VGE and I have the additional comments of Jack A8EP who moderated the Go-box topic of the Saturday night roundtable on 04JAN09.

When notified, you need to be prepared for the following decision: Is this a communications-type event in which I can help and not worry about my family or home? Does this event require me to decline so I can act on my family's behalf? In the first case you need a Go-box and in the second you need additional (two or more) Go-box(s) to respond. You might need a Go-box for every person and Jack reminds me that they must be portable enough to carry. Although I am not going to address the family situation, these are some important guidelines: Now is a good time to plan and assemble these additional Go-boxes. Every person/pet must have food and water, as a minimum for three days and a plan to get together if you are separated. These Go-boxes must be easily accessible so you can get them as you go out the door. The National Weather Service lists items needed for a Hurricane Go-box and Coughlan's (an outdoor camping outfitter) has several \$10 to \$300 emergency kits for children, individuals and families for circumstances from overnight hikes to week-long emergencies.

For our circumstances in central Ohio, I have prepared a Go-Box list and notes for an exercise or minor emergency at an assigned location that might last 18 to 24 hours. I already carry, at all times; foil-packaged Bayer Aspirin, a twenty dollar bill in a compartment of my wallet, a multi-function knife, a spare key(\*1) for all my cars doors in my wallet, an LED flashlight on my key ring, a GI-type P-38(\*2) can opener in my wallet and a copy of my radio license.

You might decide a handheld 2M rig and extra batteries are all you need The Go-Box list is my personal choice and is more complete than necessary so you can modify it by deleting items you do not desire. I assembled my Go-Box items by placing the bucket in a convenient location in my basement and adding stuff, as I happened to pass by.

The Go-Box list

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a- A 5-gallon bucket with modified lid*. | b-\$10 in change (a roll of quarters).                     |
| c- A twenty five foot extension cord     | d- 120VAC 2 /3-pin plug adapter and a multi-outlet socket* |
| e- A flashlight w/spare batteries*       | f- Small AM/FM radio with spare batteries*                 |
| g- Pop Tarts, Breakfast bar/snack food*  | h- County and State maps*                                  |
| i- A county-wide telephone directory     | j- A partial roll of toilet paper                          |
| k- A partial roll of Duct tape           | l- A roll of #77 electrical tape.                          |

- m- Four 30 gallon, .9mm thick garbage bags
- o- Gloves, solid-top hat, jacket/sweater & socks\*
- q- Six folded paper towels
- s- Spare eyeglasses / magnifying glass.
- u- 6-in-1 screwdriver
- w- Secretary's spiral notebook / Pencils & pens.\*
- y- One book of matches & lighter
- aa- four 18" test leads with clips
- cc- A twenty foot length of coaxial cable
- ee- Cable adapter PL-258 connector (#2791)\*\*
- gg- Earphones for use in a crowded, noisy area.
- n- Two sandwich, one quart sized zip-lock Baggies.
- p- One two-liter bottle of water
- r- Spare medicine / Insect repellent / small first aid kit.\*
- t- A can/bottle of sweetened soda.\*
- v- Slipjoint pliers and diagonal pliers.
- x- Watch or clock
- z- An analog voltmeter and spare battery
- bb- One zip-cord extension/lamp cord\*
- dd- A 2M mag-mount whip or other antenna\*
- ff- Cable adapter UG-255 connector (#2122)\*\*
- hh- Small 12VDC-120VAC inverter\*

Last items to be picked up as you leave home. A- Handheld 2M radio w/manual. B- Handheld Battery charger  
 C- Fill automobile gas tank on the way to the assigned location.\*

- \*1- I get keys made without the ID chip, which works for the doors but not the ignition.
- \*2- GI P-38 can openers are available at the GI Depot in Lancaster for less than a dollar.
- a- For many years I used a bucket as a tool carrier and it also works as a stool. The lid can be modified by cutting off the tabs, except three, spaced 120 degrees apart. It won't come off by accident but can be easily removed.
- d- I used a 4" electrical box with dual duplex receptacles on the cover for the cord's receptacle end.
- e- I like the 9-LED units that use AAA batteries altho the 2-AA cell MiniMag units are excellent.
- f- I use a Radio Shack pocket radio that uses two AA batteries. The AA batteries last many times longer than 9-volt types
- g- Pop Tarts are sealed in so they have a long shelf storage life. I read once that truckers in Alaska keep canned dog food as emergency rations because it will be there when needed (no one is going to snack on it).
- h- County and some village/city maps can be salvaged from old telephone directories, especially the ones from the Haines Publishing Company
- o- I like a change of socks after an active day and in case my feet get wet.
- r- My kit is a plastic peanut butter jar with 2 bandages, sterile pads, Neosporin tube, and tweezers, toothpicks, sugar packets, Salt packets, Tums, allergy pills and aspirins. I have only found water purification tablets from Cabela's but I haven't ordered them yet.
- t- Sweetened soda pop is a good energy booster. Bottles can be resealed.
- w- The notebook is to be used as a logbook and to write down, letter perfect, all messages for documentation.
- bb- Leave the zipcord "as-is" but it can be cut for use as hook-up wire.
- dd- The "rubber duck" antenna that comes with a handheld radio is not adequate for reliable communications.
- ee/ff- Universal Radio part numbers for the coax adapters.
- hh- A 50/100-watt inverter can supply 120 volts AC to recharge the handheld radio's battery from an auto's accessory socket without over-loading the connection. One is available from Harbor Freight for about \$20. Inverters larger than 100 watts should be connected to the battery.
- C- As a rule never let your fuel tank get below half-full. And keep a small tool-kit in the trunk.