

# The Ragchewer

June 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  
[webmaster@k8QIK.org](mailto:webmaster@k8QIK.org)

## **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.  
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.

## **August VE Test:**

The next VE test will be Sunday August 16,  
2009 at the K8QIK Clubhouse. 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](mailto:asellers1081@att.net) or the Webmaster  
listed in header.

## **Upcoming Hamfests**

Milford, OH 20JUN09

## 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](mailto:Asellers1081@att.net)

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## June 4, 2009 Meeting Minutes

At 7:35 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Charlie Snoke, N8KZN who lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 19 members present and one guest, Lucy Hulbut. First review of application for KD8IMT, Mark A White was submitted.

### Officer Reports

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

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

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report and mentioned that there could be a couple of changes for upcoming reports. Motion to accept by RAY, W8FLX and seconded by Allen, KB8JLG. Motion carried.

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

Connie, N8LPC read the emails that Mark had sent with information on Field Day and also changes he recommended for the narrative for the 501C3 application. Mark reported that letters had been sent to Mayor, Police Chief, Sherriff, Commissioners, Eagle Gazette, WFCO 90.9 and representatives Stebelton & Shafer. One RSVP from Chief Bailey to date. Proclamation from the Mayor is in the works and Steve, KD8JLA sent it to the Mayor and Mark needs to contact Mayor with when we need the proclamation and Mark with follow up. John, K9ULO will be here later to give out more info on Field Day.

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

John absent – no report.

### Committee Reports

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

Robert absent – no report.

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

Allen has not scheduled a test for June but may schedule one in July. Allen would like to talk to anyone who would be interested in taking over the VE Testing. Allen would be willing to work with anyone

to make sure they are comfortable with the procedures prior to assuming the responsibility. Please contact Allen if this is an area of interest to you. Allen is burned out with having had this responsibility for many years.

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

June 8th	John, W8OF
June 15th	John, W8AGS
June 22nd	John, KD8EEK
June 29th	Mark, KC8TUV

The Saturday night net at 10:30 p.m. on 147.030 will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 20th.

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

Nothing new but anyone interested in writing an article that would be of interest to members, please submit to Allen.

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

Ed reported that the Hazmat exercise would take place on June 16<sup>th</sup> and needs volunteers. Charlie, N8KZN and Connie, N8LPC will work at the hospital, Jack, AE8P and Mary, KD8EEI will work JIC, Traffic control & parking, Paul, KD8DDD and Ed, KD8EEJ volunteered.

Volunteers for Lancaster Festival were: Gary & Sandy Snider for 8/1, Ed Bennett for 7/25 or 7/29; Larry & Candy Wright??? Date; Don Stephenson – both dates; Connie & Charlie ?? date; Mark Urbine ??? date.

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

No report

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

Charlie reported that a new HF antenna has been installed at the Hospital with the help of John, W8OF and Steve, KD8JLA and with the new HF radio we now have an HF rig available at the hospital thanks to Steve, KD8JLA.

They also repaired an EchoLink break in a wire and EchoLink is now running well.

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

Connie asked for a show of hands for members interested in selling coupons for Spaghetti Shop which

would give you discounts when you purchase items at the business. There were several people who were willing to see if we can sell some of these tickets (the club will make \$5 on each ticket sold).

**Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ**

Ed reported \$9.00 collected and Steve, KD8JLA won but Steve donated back to the flower fund.

**Old Business:**

John, K9ULO gave additional information on field day which is June 27 & 28. Anyone interested in setting up a station, please contact Mark, KC8TUV or John, K9ULO. They also need volunteers to sign up for time they would like to work so that when we have community people show up we can show them the different types of communications we can do. Charlie reminded everyone to please support this function since Mark & John have put a lot of work into getting this set up. Charlie asked members to check with their spouses and see if they would be interested in making a dish for potluck and Charlie will be out to cook hamburg & hotdogs around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

**New Business:**

John reported 50-50 name drawn was KA8HQL, Jeff and no winner since he was not present. The total

is now at \$39.00. Jeff not present so no winner.

Volunteers for 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade & parking at fairgrounds were Gary & Sandy Snider: John, K9ULO; Ed, KD8EEJ; Ray, W8FLX and Lucy for parade and Charlie needs volunteers for parking starting at approx. 4 p.m.

Ray, W8FLX made a motion to spend \$300 for application fee for 501C3, seconded by Jack, AE8P. All in favor. Motion carried. Anyone interested in having input in the narrative for the 501C3 application, please see an officer for your input. There will be an executive meeting once Mary, KD8EEI has completed the application with the information that was given to her this evening by ED, WD8PGN.

Mike, W0MNE reported that he and Bob, KI8JM would be conducting a one hour demo on SMJ components after radio night on Thurs., June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ray, W8FLX made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jack, AE8P. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

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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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ANVIL FOR HOBBYISTS

There is still some wire rope in the clubhouse. I listed an inventory in last month's issue. If you want some, contact someone at a Thursday Fun-night. Bring your own tools to cut it. I suggest a cold chisel, 2 lb. Hammer and metal anvil. I had a chance to get 6" length of railroad rail several years ago and it has worked very well as a hobby anvil. 6" lengths of "I" or "H" beams also work although the metal is a little softer than rail material.

PREDICTING DX

I have been reading books in my library about radio operating and how to make DX contacts. This is an effort of curiosity and not a serious attempt to apply any knowledge. I was prompted to do this after reading the John Kraus (W8JK-SK) book "BIG EAR". He was world famous as a Radio Astronomer and constructed the Big Ear antenna used by Ohio State for many years. He worked at OSU for more than 40 years, and not once in the 200 page book is Woody Hayes mentioned once.

The best book I have is "THE LITTLE PISTOL'S GUIDE TO HF PROPAGATION" by Robert Brown; published by WORLD RADIO BOOKS. The publisher is out of business but you may be able to get copies from CQ Magazine bookstore. This book has the all-time dumbest title when you think that another author, Kurt N. Sturba, also wrote for the same publisher. Now for the book - it is written at the junior college level (no math) that uses a lot of technical terms that have to be remembered. I thought the graphs were hard to understand, but after re-sketching mirror images rotated 90 degrees I have to admit the original layout, although strange, is the best. Although not a cookbook approach, it can be studied and understood with some effort. There are practical suggestions to plan communications to a specific area of the globe. It basically gives the background information to understand how propagation forecasts are made. By the way, a Little Pistol (as opposed to a Big Gun) is station with a 100 watt transceiver with a tri-band beam antenna on a 50 foot tower.

The next book I like is Bob Locher's "THE COMPLETE DX'ER". This is an easy to read book by a DX expert in which every chapter is an interesting story illustrating a method or fact necessary for successful DX'ing.

"THE ARRL OPERATING MANUAL" is a book that covers almost all operating modes and techniques. In today's rapidly changing world, this book is updated yearly just to keep up with new technology. At \$40, This is a little steep but you can buy older issues at hamfests for \$5 to \$10 and it is worthwhile for the information that doesn't change. The areas I like are (1995 edition); Chapter 3 - Basic Operating, Chapter 4 - Antenna Orientation, Chapter 5 - DX'ing (Bob Locher again) and Chapter 14 - Emergency Communications.

"THE ARRL DXCC COMPANION" is written for a beginner and only introduces topics that the Operating Manual covers in detail. For about the same price, an older Operating Manual is a better buy.

#### THE CLEANING OF A BASEMENT

I am in the process of cleaning out my basement (40 year in-the-making junk box). After trying to sell stuff at hamfests, I have come down to the rule; if I can't sell it and don't want it for a project... it goes.

I am taking time to strip equipment for materials that can be recycled - #1 Copper is \$1.70/lb - #2 Copper is \$1.60/lb - Brass is \$.95/lb - Aluminum is \$.25/lb - Transformers are \$.05/lb. I take my stuff to Hess Brothers at 556 S. Columbus Street, Lancaster. They want an ID and a thumbprint for the receipt. The first time, I had 400 lbs of transformers and this week took in another 150 lbs.

Stuff that can't be recycled, I take to the trash transfer station at Lawrence and Ewing Streets in Lancaster. The charge is \$6 for a load up to 200 lb and \$14 for more than 200lb. I weigh each garbage bag on a bathroom scale and limit my load to 180 lb so that I don't pay the higher price. They ask you to weigh your vehicle on the scale; dump your load; re-weigh your vehicle and move off the scale before you go inside to pay.