

The Ragchewer

March 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:

No club test in April since
we will have the General
study class test on 1APR09
(32MAR09) and will do the
testing at the Athens
Hamfest on 26APR09. 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 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, see the HB
rigs that members bring to show and put on the
club's antennas for-on-the-air tests, 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:

There were 3 new Tech's, 3 Generals and 3
Extras as a result of the test. One Extra started
from "zero" - no license.

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

Upcoming Hamfests

Toledo OH 15MAR09
Jackson OH 11APR09
Athens OH 26APR09

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
(740) 654 - 8167

March 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 recognized Ray Hurlbut, W8FLX as being a licensed Ham for 70 years on March 3rd.

There were 19 members present and three guests. Michael Stansbery, WD8EBS; Steve Anderson, KD8JLA & Fred Saas, WA8PGE were all voted on and approved as new members.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the February meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept was made by John, W8AGS and seconded by Gary, W8GTS. Motion carried.

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

Don, WD8PCF gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Allen, KB8JLG and seconded by Jack, AE8P. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUV

Mark reminded everyone that volunteers are needed for Field Day. Mark has arranged for a tent from FMC and the trailer from EMA.

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

Allen reported that he would be holding a special test in April for the people who are attending the general class (8 people and 3 have already taken the test and passed).

Allen stated that he could use some volunteers to help him sort by category the items which were given to the club by club member Richard Schleiffer, W9ZZX and once he has them sorted, he will probably

have boxes for items selling \$1, \$5, etc. and will make them available to members on radio nights prior to the Swap Meet on May 2nd.

Allen reminded everyone of the March 15th Toledo Hamfest and April 11th Jackson hamfest coming up.

Monday Night Net: John Fick, KD8EEK

March 9	John, W8OF
March 16	John, W8AGS
March 23	Charlie, N8KZN
March 30	Mark, KC8TUV

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

John reported that he is holding a UHF net on 443.875 Wednesday nights at 9 p.m.

John also holds a discussion net every other Saturday night at 10:30 p.m. on 147.030 and the next ones are March 14th and 28th.

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 would be working up standard operating procedures for emergency utilizing the calling tree. He also said that he has been working with the Logan club and they are discussing issues during our recent ice storm and improvements for future needs when there is a disaster and we are called upon to assist.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported that he and Steve Anderson at FMC have moved EchoLink to the 5th floor of FMC where our standby 147.03 repeater is located. We thank Steve and others who helped with this move.

John also mentioned that he has been in touch with EMA and they will be purchasing an emergency generator for the new building, which will be moved to Waterworks Hill where our current repeater is housed. No date has been set for the move but should be some

time this year.

John also said that a security light has been donated and was inspected by Charlie Snoke which will be installed at the rear of the clubhouse so that it will light up the yard for activities held at the clubhouse.

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

Connie reported that she and Sandy are still working on possible places to hold our Christmas party.

We also need to set up a date for Spaghetti House and a suggestion was made to possibly hold it the week of Field Day and get some more publicity for our Field Day event.

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

\$16.00 was collected and Ray, W8FLX was the winner of \$8.00.

Old Business:

Mark stated the Executive Committee had held a meeting and has nearly completed the 501C3 application. There are some items regarding financial information that we will need to obtain from Ed Campbell when he returns. Mark is going to have an attorney that he knows review the application and see if he has any suggestions. We will keep you informed

of our progress on the 501C3 application.

Charlie reminded everyone that if there are any motions for purchasing radio equipment for the club, John, W8OF as Station Engineer has to approve prior to the item being purchased.

New Business:

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

Dave, WA8EUT suggested the club might want to consider purchasing the three DVD's that are offered by CQ magazine covering many topics, which might be of interest to our new or existing club members. The cost is about \$40. Charlie said we would consider this at a later date.

Charlie reminded everyone that we will need volunteers to work the MS Walk on April 18th. Anyone interested, please contact Charlie.

Ray, W8FLX made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gary, W8GTS. 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

E-mail Addresses

No is currently receiving the the Ragchewer via regular mail.

let me know. Asellers1081@att.net

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

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 02MAY2009 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.

Field Day 2009

Mark Urbine KC8TUV is one of the Field Day coordinators. If you can help plan or have ideas for the event please contact him. The date this year is 27JUN09 and 29JUN09.

Spring 2009 Swapmeet ??

I am having the Spring swapmeet 02MAY09, the first Saturday in May, 8AM to Noon.

Plan on attending or bring some of your stuff to sell from you car. No entry fee, no Door prize; just fun and a chance to clean your junk box. I am asking for comments or suggestions. Please let me know your thoughts. Allen KB8JLG, asellers1081@att.net (740) 654 - 8167.

Toledo Hamfest

Sunday 15MAR09. This is an indoor hamfest located in the community center's two large gymnasiums. They have padded rubber floor protectors down so it is really easy on the feet. I saw everything last year in about three hours. They were soliciting riders for a chartered bus to the Dayton Hamfest. The price was comparable to the amount John KD8EEK got from the Fun Bus business. I am reminded that a vendor told me that he will not order MFJ stuff because they will not answer inquiries about the order status and he doesn't need customers angry at him. If you cannot walk out with the item in your hand, you are better to wait or consider another brand. My rule for MFJ stuff is to be sure and get it cheap enough to fix it myself or pay to have it fixed... their quality control is really bad (rivets instead of screw electrical connections).

Jackson Hamfest

Saturday 11APR09. This is an indoor hamfest, very small, that has been re-located to the city of Jackson Ohio this year (not Coalton OH). Don't get there before 8AM... you can see everything in about 30 minutes.

Equipment Repair

Many of us old-timers have used the service of Mike Ervin, 2617 Palmer Road, Hebron Ohio. (740) 929 - 2500 (www.cesys.net). Excellent service and reasonable prices.

Mansfield Hamfest Report

Ed KD8EEJ and I went to the Mansfield hamfest on 15FEB09. On I-71 about 20 miles north of Columbus, I laughed out loud at the fact we ran into icy roads... bad weather occurs almost every year and I was surprised to see it had happened again because the weather at home was decent. The icy roads occurred at the edge of the storm that hit Mansfield overnight and even though it was only about a half an inch of snow, there must have been freezing rain at the southern edge. We drove almost five miles in 4-wheel drive and 35 miles an hour. Twice people passed us and slid into the median without harm. We saw about a dozen cars in the ditch or their tracks where they had slid into the berm or median. One panel van was way down at the bottom of the ditch and we stopped to see if the driver wanted a ride. He didn't...it took us several minutes to get back out onto the roadway again and in that time 6 or 8 Mexicans got out of the van.

I really enjoyed the hamfest and got the \$80 Jet Stream 20amp, 12 volt power supply I mentioned in the last newsletter. Several people have told me it works well. No tax and no shipping so it was a good deal. I got a couple of books and five F-59 coax jumpers to hook up my TVs. I also got some #359 watch batteries at 3 for \$1. I also got a Dynamotor generator that runs off an idling auto's battery and puts out 1500 watts of sine-wave 60 Hz power.

I saw several Vector QRP kits that were assembled and had the cases (30M and 20M transmitters and a 30M receiver). They looked well made and were priced at the cost of the un-assembled kits. I have built the Ramsey 40M transmitter and receiver and these are similar except the cases looked much better than the Ramsey units. In the fleamarket area I also got information about marine-band radios for my brother who is thinking of sailing the east coast after he retires. The units looked to be in very good shape and priced at \$80 for both a handheld and an overhead-mounted unit. Ed got a nice ARRL Antenna Handbook , several years old, for \$10.. a good buy. Other hams from Lancaster that we saw were Dave W8EZE, Jeff WD8JLI, Mark KD8IMT, Dave

WD8LZK, Jay KD8HVW. Joe Badgley, from in the club General license study class took the test and passed. He told me that the test started at 1PM and he was on the way home at 2PM. The club's General study class has been the victim of the weather with two actual classes being held and three cancelled due to weather.

Dick Schlieffer's W9ZZX Donated Stuff

Charlie N8KZN and Ed WD8PGO moved the boxes into the clubhouse. Ray W8FLX, Ralph W8BVH and Allen KB8JLG worked on sorting the parts and equipment in the dozen or so boxes. In about a week I will announce the availability of the items for sale to the club members. I will give about a week's notice to the RagChewer's readership and have the stuff in the clubhouse meeting room on a Thursday "Fun Night". I will have boxes of parts marked at \$1 and \$2 an item. There will be other boxes with equipment with individual prices. This will include a Signal Generator (nice), a Heath VTVM and a frequency counter pre-scaler; for example. There are no ham radio rigs (except an unfinished Ramsey 2M transceiver kit) but a nice selection of small accessories. There are some lengths of various coax cables, RG59, RG 58 and RG8. The funds will go to the club treasury.

Three conductor, Round Extension Cord Storage

I prefer electric yard machinery so that I don't have to store gasoline... I have a lot of extension cords. At previous jobs I was given used extension cords because they became damaged/cut and the businesses don't want the liability problems of damaged cords. Also, it is cheaper for them to buy another cord than to replace an end-connector, but my labor is free. I have also gotten cords from old sweepers and best of all... a #12 AWG cord from a power floor buffer. I do not use the cheap, brown "zip-cord" cords that are used for lamps.

So I have more than ten #14 and #12 AWG, three-conductor cords of varying length from 30 to 50 feet. I store them in five-gallon driveway sealer buckets by coiling them to fit and separating them with cardboard disks cut from pizza boxes. I can get up to five cords in a bucket. I save the bucket lids and remove all the retaining tabs except three, spaced at 120 degrees apart for easy installation/removal. A hacksaw blade, by itself, works very well here if you make a "handle" by wrapping one end with tape.

Coiling the cords for re-storage is easy if they are warm enough to be pliable. And, you do not have to stretch them out to their full length. Shake them out or otherwise untangle them so there are no incipient knots; its OK to have a tangle on the floor. Start coiling the cord neatly in one hand (not around your elbow and a hand). If the cord's natural "twist" doesn't match the arrangement in your hand, turn the coil in your hand so that it does. You will have to do this several times.

I also experience a lot of power outages that require using my generator. I use short extension cords with multiple-outlet box terminations along a long run to provide lighting and other low amperage service. I prefer "double-duplex" outlets at these boxes but I must caution that, in use, too much current can cause the extension cord to become hot enough to start a fire. I never use a #16 AWG cord as an extension cord and keep in mind that #14 has a maximum rating of 15 amperes. #12 AWG has a higher ampacity but I never place more than 7 amperes load on either type. To check this during a generator situation, I know a 100 watt lamp is 1 ampere. I mentally calculate this for every cord, then feel each cord to see if it is warm. If it is, I remove a lamp or other appliance. There is warm and there is hot... many appliance motors normally run at temperatures too hot to hold very long; but in the case of extension cords – any heat, even comfortably warm to the touch, means it is TOO HOT for continued use... something must be unplugged to reduce the current through the cord.