

The Ragchewer

May 2009

The monthly newsletter of the
Lancaster & Fairfield
County Amateur Radio Club

On the Web: www.k8qik.org Send email to
webmaster@k8QIK.org

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

Fulton County, OH 06JUN09
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

May 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes

At 7:25 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Charlie Snoke, N8KZN who lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 23 members present and no guests. Second review of application for KB8UVN, Matt Mitchell was submitted.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the April 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 Steve, KD8JLA and seconded by Jeff, WD8JLI. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Nothing new to report. Reminded everyone of the upcoming training for the Community Watch program for the sheriff's department. Mark also read letter John Dolske has put together to send out for field day.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

Nothing new to report.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Robert said the website is up to date and has the information on field day he received from Mark.

VE Testing: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

John, W8OF reported they tested 11 people in Athens on April 26th and 3 Tech, 3 General, and 3 Extra passed and 2 did not pass.

Monday Night Net: John Fick, KD8EEK

May 11	John, W8OF
May 18	John, W8AGS
May 25	Mark, KC8TUW
June 1	John, W8AGS

Saturday night net at 10:30 p.m. on 147.030 will be held on May 9th and 23rd.

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

No report – Allen absent

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO No report by Ed since still on vacation. Charlie reminded members there will be a Hazmat exercise in June. Date will be announced at the next meeting.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

No report

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

Connie reported that she and Sandy have finalized plans for Tuesday, August 11 at the 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, EchoLink, PSK, etc. will be set up to demonstrate for that evening).

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Ed absent no fund for this evening.

Old Business:

Charlie asked for vote on new member candidate, KB8UVN and all were in favor. Mary will notify him via email.

Charlie thanked everyone who had volunteered for the MS Walk and read a letter thanking the club for our participation in providing communications for this event.

New Business:

No 50-50 since John, KD8EEK was not available.

Charlie thanked Robert, KI8JM, Mike, W0MNE and Jeff, WD8JLI for their work in putting on the class for Gary, W8GTS to build a radio.

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

Jack, AE8P made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob, KI8JM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 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 jbell@imagearray.net he has a huge supply for most needs

Athens Hamfest Sunday 26APR09 - Allen KB8JLG.

John W8OF, Denny AA8LY and Allen KB8JLG rode together and met Greg W8NGA and Dave WD8AOL to administer the VE test at 10AM. While we were at Dee's Restaurant, near Nelsonville, we met Charlie N8KZN, Scott WD8IXO and Fred KD8FTY. We were told the Logan group had already left about half an hour earlier.

I had to hustle to see everything in the flea-market before reporting to the VE test area. There were two nice Johnson Matchboxes and plenty of CB gear. Denny got a like-new Radio Shack HX-202 2M rig. I got an inkjet cartridge for my HP printer for \$5 and a Johnson 11M SWR meter with built-in L-C ATU. George KB8USP got a "fast-up" 40M vertical that many of the Logan hams got last year... up and on the air in about 10 minutes with an auto ATU. Ray W8FLX was looking for a mobile 2-band rig. Dave K8KEG, Ralph

W8BVH, Ron WA8GFO and Dave WA8EUT also had tables in the fleamarket. Dave K8KEG had several MFJ "Cub" rigs at decent prices and in varying stages of completion. If you are interested in these, give him a call (689 - 1158). I saw Fred WA8PGE, Mark KD8IMT and Dave WD8LZK in the break area waiting on the prize drawings.

The hamfest was about as large as it has been in the past. Test applicants had not gotten the word on test requirements or pre-registering. So I took several people without a photocopy of their current license. Next time I will ask them to get a photocopy before the session ends. I only had three on my pre-register list and eight more applied. I permitted everyone to take the test but wasn't going to take any more. We can only handle 10 to 12 applicants given the space available and the limited number of VE's. We were done by 12Noon and the results were 3 new Techs, 3 new Generals and 3 new Extras. Two people failed the Tech and that seems to be the common problem. They don't know how to study the material or to take the practice exams on Eham, AC6V, QRZ and ARRL websites. I recommend that people get the ARRL's "big-book" study guide and follow the directions in the light-blue boxes every 3 or 4 pages.

WIRE ROPE - Donated by Statz KD8GBN

This is an inventory of wire rope in the clubhouse basement; material donated by Statz KD8GBN. I am including data that gives the weight of 1000 feet, so you can estimate what is left on the spool by weighing it and calculating the length. An empty spool weighs about 10 pounds

The sizes listed here are smaller than the wire rope tables in the ARRL Antenna Handbook (19th Edition); so be careful when you use it as guy wires. Statz stated it is possible to put a crimped copper-tubing sleeve on the stainless-steel wire rope and make a solder connection so that it can be used for antenna wire. Galvanized wire and copper sleeves corrode too much to be practical. The tables for Copper antenna wire-vs-droop characteristics recommend a minimum size of #12 AWG so this wire rope ought to serve very well for long antennas.

Full Spools -

One 3/32" x 1/8"	7x19 strand Stainless Steel	390 ft
One 3/32" x 1/8"	7x19 strand Stainless Steel	324 ft
One 3/32" x 1/8"	7x19 strand Stainless Steel	1125 ft
One 3/32" x 1/8"	7x19 strand Stainless Steel	667 ft
One 3/32" x 1/8"	7x19 strand Stainless Steel	486 ft
One 3/32" x 1/8"	7x19 strand Stainless Steel	630 ft

One 3/32" x 1/8" 7x19 strand Stainless Steel	555 ft
One 1/8" x 5/32" 7x19 strand Galvanized Steel	920 ft
One 1/8" x 5/32" 7x19 strand Galvanized Steel	1312 ft
One 1/8" x 5/32" 7x19 strand Galvanized Steel	1316 ft
One 1/8" x 5/32" 7x19 strand Galvanized Steel	2009 ft
Partial Spools -	
One 3/32" x 1/8" 7x19 strand Stainless Steel	700 ft
One 3/32" x 1/8" 7x19 strand Stainless Steel	500 ft
One 1/8" x 5/32" 7x19 strand Galvanized Steel	1006 ft
One 1/8" x 5/32" 7x19 strand Galvanized Steel	500 ft

Vinyl Coated	Weight	Nominal Strength
3/32"x 1/8" -7x19	25 lbs/1000ft	920 lbs Stainless
1/8" x 5/32"-7x19	36 lbs/1000ft	2000 lbs Galvanized

K8QIK SWAP MEET

The Spring swapmeet was held at the clubhouse on Saturday 02MAY09 and was about the size of previous ones. People arrived throughout the morning so that the stuff for sale changed as the day went along. Carl Hayes KC8HCC and Max Craighow KG4UBS attended and it was good to see them. Carl is a General who lives in the county but works second shift and can't attend our activities very often. Max recently returned to Lancaster from an enlistment in the Navy. There were some nice 2M rigs and one dual-bander, some QRP MFJ "Cubs" (80M, 40M and 15M - call Dave 689-1158) and Frosty brought more good stuff; I got a Marker Frequency Generator, that he thought had been built by "Gibby" (the founder of Universal Radio). All the stuff from the basement is gone as I gave away most of the left-overs. I don't think we sold any of the "household" box... damaged but usable level, caulking gun, stapler, paint roller handles and the "dead-battery" drill and screwdrivers. I did save some stuff; like the Uniadilla 5-band dipole traps (complete set) and some QST magazines. The All band vertical was sold and only had one offer.

Thank you to all who attended and especially CharleyN8KZN, Connie N8LPC and Mary KD8EEI. Ralph W8BVH won the 50/50 and donated \$5 back to the club. The money earned from pop sales was kept separate and \$3.50 was added to Charlies' money bin. The total money (donuts, coffee, basement stuff and antenna) to be sent to the club is \$51.

DAYTON HAMVENTION - 2009

Ralph W8BVH and Allen KB8JLG went to the Dayton Hamvention and stayed two nights and the three days. Saturday night our car was broken into with a "SlimJim". We first noticed it by the disarray in the interior. We had taken everything into the motel room so we didn't lose anything. I think the burglar was in a hurry so they didn't spend a lot of time in the car... only emptying the glove box and storage pockets. Few, if any of the other cars nearby were bothered. We declined to report it to the police although we did tell the motel office. In retrospect, I learned to park the car in front of the motel office instead of my room.

I found that the ticket and bus pass were difficult to handle, so I bought a neck lanyard and a plastic envelope that made it much easier. If you have one; take it and save \$2 to \$4. At the Hamvention, parking in the remote Salem Mall and riding the bus was great!!! We had the \$8 bus pass and left at noon each day to go outside, get lunch, sit in an air-conditioned restaurant, and rest our feet (also unload our backpacks). I did not buy any hamfest food at the arena. Later, we left at 4PM and beat the exit shuttle bus rush. After cleaning up, we went to eat and just beat the evening rush at the restaurants. We also stayed for the Sunday prize drawings along with about 1,000 other people and a couple of dogs. A young Lab gave one big, deep WOOF after every round of applause... very funny, almost as if he approved too. The #2 main prize (\$2000 radio) was won by Roy Ulko KG8EK of Circleville OH.

The outside Port-A-Johns were very clean and serviced every morning; so there was no reason to go inside when N8TUR called. Friday was HOT and the inside arena warmer yet. There was a lot of old-time stuff... a DEC PDP-11mini computer for example; I told Ralph that if I looked wan and wobbly, it was probably due to nostalgia not heat stroke. The Saturday rain wasn't bad but was hard on the fleamarket vendors. Sunday was COLD and I bought a sweatshirt the first thing, just inside the gate ... one of my all-time best buys

The flea market was not full... probably 90 percent; but I didn't go into the main building until the second day. The hamfest committee thinks attendance was about 20,000. I got some nice small items; a like-new, older Marine Band transceiver (\$35), a CB/QRP tester (\$10), an add-on Radio Shack DSP filter (\$25), and eleven books (approximately \$20). One of the books, published in 1957, used CK721 point-contact transistors and old-fashioned schematic illustrations that, today, are interesting but hard to understand. Ralph got a nice flat-screen monitor among other things.

I was able to talk to Maria Somma AB1FM at the ARRL VEC booth. I also got to talk to Gordon West WB8NOA at the W5YI booth about marine radio and amateur radio. Steve NI8F, Art N8ART and Fred N8EKU were at the Universal Radio booth. Local ham Tony Mills KF8MW gave a talk at the Drake Forum. Bill Kelsey at Kanga-USA has the following = \$16 KK7B receiver kit, \$8 single frequency CW transmitter and AA0ZZ's \$65 PIC introduction kit with enhanced versions too. Hendricks, the QRP kit company, has a 20M QRP SSB transceiver kit for about \$150. It is all "thru-hole" construction, so it is not too difficult to assemble. There were Vectronic QRP receivers and transmitters kits in the fleamarket for \$15 (half price).

On the shuttle bus we talked to Byron KF8UN from the Massilon ham club and he gave us information about the daily, informal, DX eye-ball evening QSO sessions at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Next time I will make an effort to attend just to see what is happening. The Hamvention program does not give many details on this as well as other topics, so if you are interested in evening activities ask at the vendors booths.

In the fleamarket I saw a UPS, connected to a battery, powering several laptop computers. This is the first time I have seen a UPS used as an inverter to power AC equipment although I read that it was possible.