

# The Ragchewer

September 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. 10-17-09. 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 Saturday October 17,  
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**

9-12-09 Findlay  
Lancaster Swapmeet  
10-03-09 Clubhouse

## 2008 - 2009 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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## September 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes

At 7:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Charlie Snoke, N8KZN who lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 16 members present and no guests.

### Officer Reports

**Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI**

Mary KD8EEI was absent. Minutes for the August meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept was made by Robert KC8PSW and seconded by John W8OF. Motion carried.

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

Ed WD8PGO gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by John W8OF and seconded by John W8AGSA. Motion carried.

**VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW**

Nothing new to report.

**Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF**

The building work at the repeater site has not been scheduled. We need to move 6 to 8 of our coax cables when notified.

### Committee Reports

**Webmaster: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW**

Nothing new to report.

**VE Testing: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG**

Allen reported that 2 Techs, 1 General and 1 Extra resulted from the 16AUG09 test session. One Tech was an upgrade from the Novice classification. We added the GPS coordinates to the Club website main page. Allen reports the next test will be on a Saturday-- 17OCT09.

**Monday Night Net:** It was decided by the president to not appoint a Net Manager.

SEP 7	John, W8OF
SEP 14	John, W8AGS
SEP 21	Mark, KC8TUW
SEP 28	Charlie N8KZN

**Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG**

Nothing new to report

**Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO** Ed WD8PGO and George KB8USP participated in the Pelotonia fund raiser in the county and saw Lance Armstrong as he rode past in the lead group. George reports that his Discone antenna up about 40 feet did not get into the Lancaster repeater but did work into Athens, Ohio.

**Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO**

Charlie N8KZN states that there are four fire extinguishers in the clubhouse-- basement, kitchen, office and upstairs.

**Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF**

Nothing new to report

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

Connie reported that the club made \$300 from all sources at the Tuesday, 11AUG09 event at the Spaghetti Shop on Ety Road. Mark KC8TUW setup a 10M station at a table outside and George KB8USP an HF station inside. The folks at the Spaghetti Shop said that we had a larger than usual restaurant event-- so thanks to the Logan club that attended as well.

**Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ**

Ralph W8BVH won the drawing.

**Old Business:**

The building handicap access is on hold for receipt of a grant by the county. In early December, Charlie N8KZN suggests we should sink flag stones for a walkway to the parking lot, so people won't continue to slip on the hill.

### **New Business:**

Nominations for club officers were accepted from the committee-- no one was nominated from the floor. After a pause, nominations were closed; motion by John W8OF, seconded by Ralph W8BVH. Motion by Allen KB8JLG and second by Don WD8PCF to accept the slate as presented since there were only one person per office. The new officers are President George KB8USP, Vice President Mark KC8TUW, Treasurer Ed WD8PGO, Secretary Mary KD8EEI and Connie N8LPC and Sandy KD8FTX as co-chairperson Activity Managers.

Mark KD8IMT has offered to teach a Technician class that will meet several hours on Saturday mornings.

There was a discussion about BSA Jamboree-on-the-air and offering a Merit Badge class in Electronics or Radio.

There was no comments about the change of "Newline" to the 8:00 hour on the 2M net night.

Don WD8PCF made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Robert KC8PSW. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allen Sellers KB8JLG in Mary's, KD8EEI place

George and Ed's Excellent Adventure - Pelotonia: Reported by George Lambert KB8USP

After George KB8USP contacted Ed WD8PGO and asked him about the cancer fund-raising bicycle ride, Pelotonia, they were assigned a checkpoint at Clear Creek Metro Park on Saturday 29AUG09. The location was difficult for 2M communications. George used a 100 watt, Icom 746 with an MFJ-1868 Discone antenna. Ed had his 2M mobile and a J-Pole; both antennas were up about 30 feet.

With no contact to Columbus, OH on 147.060, they made the connection to Logan, OH on 147.345. Using that as a relay, they maintained contact with Columbus. They also monitored Athens, OH on 145.150.

George says - "About 9:30am the lead bicyclists with Lance Armstrong came 'roaring' by. Lance had a nice smile, but was gone very quickly. He arrived in Athens at 11:43 am, averaging around 25miles per hour. That was probably a slow ride for him".

George and Ed relayed messages for the Park Rangers, the lead volunteer Janeal, and called in the support "SAG" wagon for a broken down bicyclist.

They started setting up at 8:00am, were on the air by 9:00am and started tearing things down at 1:30pm. The departure at 2:30pm completed a "very fun and satisfying day to help find a cure for Cancer".

### **Cambridge Hamfest - Allen Sellers KB8JLG**

I went to the Cambridge Ohio hamfest 23AUG09 with Dave K8KEG. Also attending with stuff for sale were Ron WA8GFO, Dave WA8EUT and Ralph W8BVH. I sold about five computer-paper boxes of the usual stuff and Ralph, Ron and Dave WA8EUT sold a good bit of their stuff. I also saw Jeff WD8JLI, Dave WD8AOL, Jerry W8MGA and Jeramy Duncan from Glouster.

I got a 40 channel CB for \$5-- I had given my previous one to my brother when he visited recently.

Ralph, Dave K8KEG and I stopped at the Cracker Barrel in Zanesville on the way back. I'll probably go to this hamfest again because I get to meet a lot of long-time friends.

Sonny Alford who ran the Zane's Trace special event last year told me that reliable, short range communications on 20M and 40M require that both stations have NVIS antennas. Regular dipoles about a halfwave-length in height have a null at the top of the pattern-- so no joy.

### **PROPAGATION and HAMS - Allen Sellers KB8JLG**

CQ magazine no longer has an easy to understand and use monthly propagation column. I am not sure, but I think you are supposed to use the monthly data in the CQ Propagation column by Hood NW7US and refer to a book The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook, Jacobs, Cohen and Rose.

Dave Ingram K4TWJ has written a two part series; Time, Seasons and Communications (CQ, January 2008, Page 68) and How HF Signals Get from Here to There (CQ, March 2008, Page 82) that explains basic DX operating factors to be considered. He explains that this is only the beginning and that serious DX'ers will continue to study propagation in more detail.

The first article explains UTC, how to visualize times around the world, the Equator and seasons and how these affect the different ham bands; 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, 80 and 160M. Although this information is very basic, it is worth reviewing. You can realize there is a reason the major DX contests occur at or near the solar equinoxes.

The second article discusses the D, E and F layers of the ionosphere; the dark enhanced lower bands 160, 80 and 40M and the light enhanced upper bands 15, 12 and 10M; the Grayline, Long Path and Backscatter; sporadic-E and transequatorial propagation. He mentions that the Grayline is about 2 hours in width and occurs 730 times a year ( 2 x 365). A photograph, from space, of the western hemisphere at 4PM EST illustrates the sun-lit vs. darkness conditions very nicely.