

The Ragchewer

June 2010

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

On the Web: www.k8qik.org

Club Meetings :

1st Thursday of every month at
7:30 PM at the clubhouse.

VE Testing:

Every even numbered month. See
ARRL.ORG for date. Register and
testing at 10:00 am

Clubhouse Location:

Near Lancaster on State Route 37
North (Granville Pike) next to
Beavers Field.

Across from campus 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, 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.

June 2010 VE Test:

The next VE test will be in June 19, 2010. Tests are tentatively for the third Saturday at the clubhouse on Route 37. The exact date will be listed on the ARRL website. Register 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 Webmaster@K8QIK.ORG or Ragchewer Editor at ASELLERS1081@att.NET

HAMFESTS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Aladdin; Columbus OH: | 8-7-2010 |
| Huntington WV | 8-14-2010 |
| Cambridge OH: | 8-22-2010 |
| Findlay OH: | 9-12-2010 |

2009-2010 Officers

President:

George Lambert, KB8USP

Vice President:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Education:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Activities Manager:

Sandy Snider, KD8FTX
Connie Snoko, N8LPC

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Flower Fund:

Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Web Master:

John(K9ULO)/Carol Dolske
Webmaster@K8QIK.ORG

Editor:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG
Asellers1081@att.net

June 3, 2010 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. the monthly meeting was called to order by President George Lambert, KB8USP who lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 20 members present and two guests.

Three new applications were passed around for 1st reading: David Nowocin, WB9PXH; Bernard Charles Sunnenberg, associate member and William Newell, W8LIL.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the May meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept minutes as published made by Ray, W8FLX and seconded by John, K9ULO. Motion carried.

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Ray, W8FLX and seconded by John, W8AGS. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Mark had nothing new to report.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported the FCC issue has been resolved and he has received a letter to that affect.

John also stated that if anyone is contacted regarding access to the building on waterworks hill, he is available to meet any of them and help with locating their cables, etc. Steve, KD8JLA will check with EMA on letting them know John, W8OF is available to work with the agencies on getting items moved from old bldg. to new bldg.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Carol Dolske

John, K9ULO reported that his wife is continuing to work on the redesign for the website and it will probably be ready by the end of the month.

Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Allen absent but George reported that Allen KB8JLG; Mark KD8IMT; Mike WD8EBS and George KB8USP taught the Extra class with four people who successfully upgraded.

Monday Night Net

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| June 7th | W8OF, John Hilliard |
| June 14th | W8AGS, John Lawson |
| June 21st | KD8DXC, Rob Ruffner |
| June 28th | K9ULO, John Dolske |

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

No report - absent.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed reported he would need some workers for Lancaster Festival and Charlie would need workers for 4th of July Parade. We will not be parking cars for the evening events.

Safety: Scott Snoko, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported that he has a crystal on order for the UHF repeater and he has a person lined up for climbing tower and installing antenna for link to put 146.70 repeater at Waterworks hill.

John further reported that he was able to contact someone at the City and a bucket truck was sent to trim tree at clubhouse and trees at entrance of Keller-Kirn Park to allow trucks to get in with trailers to set up for Field Day.

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

Nothing new to report.

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Ed absent no collections.

Old Business:

George reported they will set up a time to work on the installation of the generator now that Ralph, W8BVH has reported that after discussion with a County Commissioner our meeting place will not be affected by the health department securing an alternate office space.

Ed, WD8PGO reported that we received a \$135 refund from State Farm for overpayment.

New Business:

George, KB8USP reported he is still working on securing approval to have at least 2 maybe 3 vehicles in the 4th of July parade.

Mary, KD8EEI and Charlie, N8KZN have received notification that the \$150 grant for each has been sent to the club with information for news article. To date, Ed has not received the checks.

Ray, W8FLX made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jack, AE8P. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

How to teach Ham License classes

- Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Start the classes during a season where you will have good weather and no weather cancellations.

Try to find multiple instructors. There are ten sections in the question pools. Use students as instructors. General class students can be assigned a section of the Extra question pool to teach. This implies there will be 10 weeks of classes with each class lasting two hours. Plan on some “slippage” where additional classes are necessary.

Schedule a testing session for the students one week after the last class.

Use the explanations in the chapter section of the manual as reference. Teach the question pool... for the Extra class there is too much information to try to teach the two year college-level syllabus.

Hi-Lite (yellow is good) every correct answer in the question pool. Don't spend time on the wrong answers. When reviewing just before the test, the answers will “jump” at you and some will be remembered as you take the test.

Have the students read the material before the class. Conduct the class by reading and discussing every question.

A black board to illustrate solutions and explanations is necessary. Discuss memory aides in detail... the question about Infra-Red photodetector material and Lead Sulfide is remembered by “RED IS LEAD”. Each instructor is asked to re-enforce the ideas of students using scrap paper to:

- draw a diagram/picture/table for each question
- write the given facts by labeling the diagram/picture/table if possible
- draw graphs and label parts

Using these may help jog your memory.

Every student, from day one, is asked to spend time every day using the on-line practice examinations at EHAM.NET – ARRL.ORG – AC6V.COM – QRZ.COM – AA9PW.NET. Typically they start at 40 percent and should consistently be getting 85 to 90 percent before taking the test.

For the Extra class - Have every one get the same calculator. Many big box stores stock the Texas Instruments TI-30 IIA SOLAR for about \$15 and this is adequate.

School Children and Ham Radio Tests

- Allen Sellers KB8JLG

There were five Junior High students who took the VE exams for the Technician license in NOV09 and DEC09. Not one of them passed- A husband and wife in their mid-sixties did.

I think there is a problem of hubris among youngsters, so if you know one that interested in taking the VE exams give them some advice.

Get some help. “Life Experience” and school work do not help, you have to study the license manual or memorize the question pool.

Take the practice exams at ARRL.ORG, EHAM.NET, QRZ.COM, AA9PW.NET or AC6V.COM. If you can get 90 percent three straight times, you are probably ready. Some of these unsuccessful children said they were getting 50 to 70 percent but you have to get at least 76 percent to squeak by – so a 90 percent practice should allow for nerves or what-ever.

In addition, none of the children asked for any help during the test. I encourage questions; I can't give answers but maybe I can explain unfamiliar words without giving away the answer.

Constructive help from Carol Dolske

- Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Carol wondered why, in past issues, the format changed from the front page and Secretary's report. So I am committing myself to doing a better job, even though WinDoze wants to change font and page layout randomly during my writing. Thanks for the incentive.

9-LED, AAA Flashlights - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

I have used these for several years because I have power outages that last into the nighttime hours, if not the next day. They are excellent because of their brightness and long battery life. I have eight to ten so that I can always find one. I can use one for reading at night and the batteries last about a year at the rate that I use them. A sign that the batteries are finally becoming weak is when they dim, start to flicker and seem intermittent.

These are available at the checkout at Lancaster Sales and other stores in Lancaster for about \$4 each, but I get mine at hamfests for “two for \$5”.

Recently one of them “went South” and didn't work at all. I tested the “push on – push off” switch, the battery package and the return connection through the case with a VOM and still had trouble. To check the LED assembly, I discovered that it and the lens could be pushed out the front. I used jumper wires and the battery pack to determine the LED assembly worked, so the trouble had to be a lack of connection between the LED assembly and the case return path.

I fixed the problem by replacing the LED assembly and lens and pushing them into the housing far enough to ensure a good contact.