

The Ragchewer

May 2010

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

On the Web: www.k8qik.org
Send email to cdolske@sbcglobal.net

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.

April 2010 VE Test:

The next VE test will be in June 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

Gallipolis OH:	6-5-2010
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 Snoke, N8LPC

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Flower Fund:

Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Web Master:

Carol Dolske
Cdolske@sbcglobal.net

Editor:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG
Asellers1081@att.net

May 6, 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 23 members present and two guests.

George introduced our guest, Frank Piper, KI8GW, Section Manager, ARRL, Ohio. Frank has held this position since July 2009 when he was appointed due to the death of Joe Phillips. He gave us information on upcoming Ohio House, Senate bills regarding the right to erect an antenna on your property. He also stated that Thomas Holmes, N8ZM could be contacted regarding interference issues and he would work with the ham to pinpoint cause of interference. In Ohio there are 30,000 licensed hams and 6,400 are members of ARRL.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the April meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept minutes as published made by Ralph, W8BVH and seconded by Charlie, N8KZN. Motion carried.

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

George gave the treasurer's report in Ed's absence for April. Motion to accept by Ray, W8FLX and seconded by John, W8OF. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Mark reported he had recorded the public spot for Field Day on 90.9 FM. He also reminded everyone to pick up posters for Field Day at the Dayton hamfest so we can get them posted throughout the county.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported the executive committee has been working on the Fairfield County Foundation grant and thanked Jack, AE8P and Mary, KD8EEI for their work in putting the paperwork together.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Carol Dolske

John, K9ULO reported that his wife is working on the redesign for the website and it will probably take a couple of months before the new design will be ready. John thanked Jack, AE8P and Mary, KD8EEI for sending some original documents for use on the new

website. The current website will just have the required items such as Ragchewer, etc. until we have the new website (constructed using the Dreamweaver software).

Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Allen reported the April VE Exam was held in Athens due to a personal scheduling problem and there were two candidates; 1 passed General and 1 passed Extra. Allen thanked John W8OF, Dave WD8AOL, Mark KD8IMT and Denny AA8LY for administering the tests.

Monday Night Net

May 10th	W8AGS, John Lawson
May 17th	KD8DXC, Rob Ruffner
May 24th	W8OF, John Hilliard
May 31st	K9ULO, John Dolske

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Nothing new to report.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported that he and Mike, WD8EBS have been working on refurbishing the UHF repeater at the clubhouse and once it is completed, they will install it on the hill in place of current repeater and also change out the antenna that is up on waterworks hill.

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

Nothing new to report.

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Ed reported \$12.00 collected and Jack, AE8P won \$6.00.

Ed also reported \$13.00 collected and no winner for the 50/50.

Old Business:

Allen, KB8JLG reported that there were approx. 40 cars and 20 people selling from their vehicles at the Swap Meet on May 1st. We sold approximately \$15.00

in donuts and coffee, which goes into the separate food fund and \$5 for a CB radio that George had donated to the club. Allen thanked Mary, KD8EEI and Sandy, KD8FTX for helping in the kitchen.

Mark, KD8IMT reported that he met with Dan Smith at the high school regarding getting a high school radio group started. Since school will be out soon, the plans for starting a group will not resume until August when school starts up.

Allen, KB8JLG will set up a time to work on the installation of the generator when his schedule permits. Allen KB8JLG and Ralph W8BVH completed a "load survey" of the clubhouse so that every circuit breaker's load has been identified.

George, KB8USP thanked all the people who helped with the MS Walk.

At the April meeting we voted to pay the insurance bill, however, George, KB8USP; Ed, WD8PGO; and John, K9ULO met with State Farm and they were able to get a policy which has three times the amount of coverage (\$39,000) and the same liability for a savings of \$203 per year over the prior company. George received permission from the Exec. Committee to go ahead with this new insurance policy.

New Business:

John, K9ULO; Ralph, W8BVH and Mike, WD8EBS are going to see what is required to have an entry in the 4th of July parade.

Mark, KC8TUV introduced his guest, Bill, W8LIL who has recently moved to this area from Dayton, OH.

Everyone welcomed Bill to the area and look forward to seeing him at future events.

Rob, KD8DXC will talk to his wife about fund raising because a recent cancer fundraiser she helped with held at Carnival Foods raised \$400. He will report back at our next meeting.

Mary, KD8EEI reported that AEP has \$150 grants they award to AEP employees or retirees who volunteer for 501C3 organizations more than 40 hours in a calendar year. Mary and Charlie, N8KZN have completed the application and submitted. The awards are not granted until after September of this year.

Mark, KC8TUV reported that Boy Scout Troop 240 has a merit badge for communications. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mark.

Frank, KI8GW reported there is going to be a bike ride on July 17th from 7:30 – 3 p.m. that will be solely in Fairfield County and they will need some volunteers to assist with this Tour de Cause. Frank will have Ron Burris who is chairman contact us with information and request volunteers.

Mike, W0MNE reported that the tree to the side of the clubhouse needs trimmed. Ralph, W8BVH will contact the city to see if they could trim.

Jack, AE8P made motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rob, KD8DXC. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

ARRL website problems - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The ARRL had a booth at the Dayton hamfest for their website and I made a comment about how unhappy I am that not only is the site plagued with problems, but the effort was a waste of time and money. There was nothing wrong with the old site layout and the money spent was an example of poor stewardship. The staffer told me that complaints should be addressed to the ARRL Board of Directors as they authorized the tens of thousands of dollars to make the change.

Spring Swapmeet 2010 - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The swapmeet was held on Saturday, 01MAY10 and was pretty successful in spite of the threat of rain. The first sprinkle was at 10:30AM and most people had gone by then.

I estimate that there were, again, 20 cars that were "tailgating" with another 20 of visitors. This year we had four or five local hams attend that are not club members so perhaps we will see them again soon.

The items I saw were an estate sale with a Kenwood MC-60 Microphone, Bencher paddle, Samlex 23A switching power supply, 2M SWR meter and a mobile 2M rig. There were also two Heath HW8's that were in working condition that did not sell (call Dave K8KEG 740-689-1158 if you are interested), one of these was as a station package with power supply, "flame-proof" key, etc. A 30 foot tower that did sell and two Astron 35Amp power supplies along with other items of interest. . I sold a nice copy of the "Complete Dx-er" and a couple of electronics books. I still have the two volume set of "A+ Certification" study guides. A+ is changing soon, if not already, to a mode where new certificate holders will have to re-test periodically... instead of the old life-time credit arrangement.

George KB8USP donated some working 23 channel, AM CB's that are in nice condition and they are in the clubhouse if any one is interested. Also there were two Philco 8-ohm, 20 watt nice, wood-grain finish external speakers, a K-40 magnetic mount base (no antenna) with an adaptor cable for the non-standard base "coax-pigtail" and two desk-top amplified microphones and one handheld microphone. I have 3 or 4 SSB CB's myself, so I can always find one for trips. There are two computer monitors that we can sell for \$5 as they are in excess of our club needs.

I held back two spools of wire rope because the tower buyer didn't have room in his truck and these have been paid for (\$25). We are just about at the point where we will want to keep the remaining spools for club member use. These are 3/32" stainless steel and 1/8" galvanized... if you need a length of this material let me or George KB8USP know. I keep a cold chisel and hammer in my truck for cutting this stuff and the crimp sleeves and thimbles are available at Lancaster Sales in South Lancaster.

We sold coffee and doughnuts so Charlie got a little over \$15 for his "money bin". Thank you to Sandy KD8FTX and Mary KD8EEI for keeping the coffee and decafe pots busy. Did anyone forget to put some money in the "pot" when they had a soft drink?

I would like to have another swapmeet the first Saturday of October 2010, so plan ahead and clean out your unused ham gear. If you prefer another date, let me know... Ralph W8BVH says that this conflicts with the TEN-TEC hamfest.

Athens OH Hamfest 25APR10 - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Many Lancaster hams stopped at Dee's Restaurant near Nelsonville, and with the hams from Logan, filled up the main dining room. I got to Athens early, 8AM, and had time to see most everything in the flea market (more Lancaster hams here too) before going inside to setup the VE examination. Due to the threat of rain the flea market was noticeably smaller. I got 90 feet of gently used ladder-line only because the price was \$5. Ralph W8BVH sold three of the club's spools of wire rope. Thanks Ralph, and thanks to Statz KD8GBN for donating them.

Dave WD8AOL, Denny AA8LY, John W8OF, Mark KD9IMT and I gave the VE exam to 2 candidates. One ham, who camped behind the WalMart and listened all night to drunk students at the Ruby Tuesday, got his General license and a Lancaster ham from our club class got his Extra. I think the exam was small due to the ARRL.ORG website problems.

Frank Piper, the Pickerington ham who is running for ARRL Section Manager in the August election, was there to meet hams and discuss topics of interest. Unfortunately, most of the comments are about the problems of the ARRL website change and he didn't get a chance to discuss his main responsibilities. Since Mr. Weaver, the ARRL District Manager, doesn't care to hear from non-ARRL members, this is the only chance to comment for 80 percent of hams.

Cuyahoga Falls OH Hamfest 18APR10 - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Since my son lives in nearby Canton OH, I visited him and went to the hamfest, which is about three hours each way, from Lancaster. The venue is a "party barn" setup at a converted Gold Circle store... one large room with entrance, kitchen and restrooms along one side with tables arranged in block-O's throughout the rest of the space. There was a line of about 40 people waiting to get in and the delay was about 10 minutes. They did have two tables setup and one was an "exact entry fee", so if you had the money ready it was quick. I estimate there were about 100 occupied tables and maybe 10 vacant ones. They charge \$20 per table for vendors because the venue provides them. This August they are going to have a "tail-gate" only hamfest at the same location, which is easy to find.

The sponsoring club had a donated estate station with nice equipment for sale. The HF rig had a frequency spectrum display and was reasonably priced but too high to resell at a profit. I bought a top-of-the-line Radio Shack SWR/WATT meter for \$15 and at another table bought a nice CB style SWR/WATT meter that claims to be rated 3MHZ to 170MHZ. I also bought some other small components for a total expense of \$35.

Tom Sly, from Akron, was there to meet hams and discuss his campaign for the ARRL Section Manager office and topics of interest. I talked to him about the ARRL website problems and how non-members, about 80 percent of hams, can have their ideas be heard.

Charleston WV Hamfest 20MAR10 - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Dave WA8EUT and I went to the hamfest together. Charleston is about 140 miles from Lancaster and it took 2-1/2 hours each way. Dave had a TOM-TOM GPS that worked really well, so we didn't have any trouble. This unit tells you of up-coming turns and what lane to be in early so that you are not rushed to make lane changes quickly.

We saw Dave WD8AOL and several other southern Ohio hams - Rich Post from Athens and "Pete" the person who sells arrow-based "Quagys" from Glouster. The Charleston folks did not permit entrance until 9AM so we waited 10 to 15 minutes to get in after the doors opened. The indoor facility was as large as Athens but only half full of vendors. Due to the poor layout of tables the aisles were crowded even though there was excessive space inside the vendor's table layout.

Dave got some good prices on old Heath, green-case 2M mobile rigs and a nice Radio Shack 20Amp switching power supply. I got a 2007 Handbook for \$10, an old Heath Grid-Dip meter (and manual) for \$15 and an assortment of watch batteries for my battery powered alarm clocks and timers (6 each of three types for \$5).

The interesting items I saw were a matching set of CONAR transmitter and receiver from the old NRI correspondence course (\$50) and an AMECO T-86 transmitter (crystal controlled, 80M - 10M, AM and CW also \$50). There was a club selling estate items for a widow whose prices were really high (Heath HW9 with matching ATU and wattmeter for \$230 for example and no dickering). I did not ask about the complete TEN-TEC station that they also had. There were several Icom FT-101's for less than \$300.

Dayton Hamfest May 14 thru 16, 2010 - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Ralph W8BVH and I went together and stayed two nights. We came home about 1PM Sunday because I was tired and the flea-market area was almost vacant. I bought 12 books for \$15 over the three day period... most of them were "for Dummies" and covered networks and computers. Two members of the club's extra study class passed their extra examinations. It took me more than two days to see the flea-market because I look under the tables. Ralph's excellent idea is to park in the mall and get a bus pass; at noon we went to a restaurant and had good food and break before we "returned to the fray".