

The Ragchewer

April 2011

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.

2011 VE Test:

Tests are even months at the clubhouse on Route 37. The next test has not been scheduled. Call Allen KB8JLG (740) 654 – 8167 for details.

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

Dave K8KEG has a Heath HW-8 in excellent condition.

His phone is (740) 689 – 1158

Ed WB8JBG has a Yaesu FL-2100B, 80M-10M, in very good condition (614) 837 - 3543

Ralph W8BVH has a Dentron tuner 160 – 10M, 1 KW in excellent condition (740) 876 – 0344.

HAMFESTS

Athens, OH: 05- 01-2011

K8QIK Swapmeet 05-07- 2011

Dayton, OH 05-20/22-2011

Please note the last issue had the wrong dates

2010-2011 Officers

President:

George Lambert, KB8USP

Vice President:

Robert Ruffner, KD8DXC

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

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

April 7, 2011 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 one guest, Fritz Tender, WD8E

George introduced Fritz Tender, WD8E, Assistant Section Manager of central portion of Ohio. Fritz asked if the members had any questions and stated he would be available after the meeting if anyone had something that wanted to discuss. We thanked Fritz for coming to our meeting.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the March meeting was posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept minutes made by Ray, W8FLX and seconded by John, KD8PAF. Motion carried.

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

Ed gave the March treasurer's report and Ray, W8FLX made motion to approve, seconded by John, W8AGS. All in favor.

VP Report: Rob Ruffner, KD8DXC

Rob reported that the ARES net on 146.7000 Sunday evenings at 8:30 p.m. had 22 check ins for the four week period. He will continue to see if more people check in. Mary, KD8EEI will send an email to the membership advising of this new Net.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

Mary, KD8EEI reported the following for John. John asked if we had heard anything on the club taxes and do we need to file anything with the IRS? Ed, WD8PGO reported that the CPA has his files and our 990 does not need to be filed until May and he will do ours. At the present time he is working on clients whose filing deadline is April.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Carol Dolske

John, K9ULO reported that everything is up to date on website and the Ragchewer and minutes will be added when they are received.

Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

George, KB8USP reported for Allen that he will be offering either an Extra class or CW in the fall.

Allen is planning to have a swap meet on May 7th .

Monday Night Net

April 11th K9ULO, John Dolske

April 18th KD8PAF, John Rader

April 25th W8AGS, John Lawson

May 2nd K9ULO, John Dolske

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

No report.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed reported the next ARES meeting will be held at EMA office on April 19th at 7 p.m.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

Scott had nothing to report. Charlie, N8KZN reported that the Fire Department had been to the clubhouse for their inspection and the certificate was posted in kitchen. Steve, KD8JLA had taken care of fire extinguishers earlier.

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

Mary, KD8EEI reported for John the following: John is still waiting to hear from Justin, KD8EAD if the 443.875 repeater link to the southern Ohio Linked Repeater Network will be repaired. John will send out an email when he hears something.

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

Nothing to report.

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Ed reported that we took in \$13.00 and Mary, KD8EEI won \$6.50.

Ed reported that he had a card for signing to be sent to Don Stephenson who had a quadruple bypass this week.

Ed also reported there was no winner of the 50-50 fund.

Old Business:

John, K9ULO stated that the audit committee has set a date to audit the treasurer's books and will report their findings to the membership.

Mary, KD8EEI reported that she and George, KB8USP will meet a contractor at the clubhouse Saturday morning at 9 a.m. to get an estimate on what it would cost to do a handicap entrance to clubhouse. Once we have a figure then we can submit an application for a possible grant.

Mark, KD8IMT reported that he had no luck in getting any cooperation from elementary schools. He also had checked with Mansfield and they have had no luck in getting into the schools. Fritz, WD8E commented that in

Licking County they were unable to get into the schools. There was discussion but only possible contact left for Mark is the Boy Scouts and Mary, KD8EEI will provide him with the name and information on meeting for Chief Tarhe district and he will make the contact. After that Mark has completed his assignment. We thank Mark for his persistence in trying to reach out and get younger people interested in Ham Radio.

New Business:

Two new applications were passed for 1st review: KD8JMW, Christopher F Zang and KD8NOZ, Mark Kevin Tomkies.

Charlie reported he could use a couple more volunteers for the MS Walk on Saturday, April 16th.

Charlie also asked members to keep June 11th open to volunteer for Arthritis Foundation walk from 6 to 8 p.m. for the club to do communications.

Charlie also asked members who worked on checking firehouse antennas last year to keep 10 a.m. on June 4th open for getting this accomplished.

Ed, WD8PGO reported that he has received the renewal

bill from State Farm Insurance for \$416 and if anyone is interested in reviewing it after the meeting, it will be available.

John, KD8PAF has donated a 2 meter Kenwood radio to the club. Rob, KD8DXC made the suggestion that we use it to make a portable unit for off site communication needs. John also stated he has an external PL board which he will donate if the club would like to have it.

Mary, KD8EEI reported she will send an email to all members to remind them to renew their Kroger Community Rewards for the 2011 – 2012 year which starts on May 1, 2011.

Suggestion was made that we should write up an article for Olivedale and other senior centers asking if anyone was interested in becoming a ham radio operator. Mary, KD8EEI will write up an article for Olivedale and send copy to John, K9ULO who will contact the Pickerington senior center.

Jack, AE8P made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ralph, WD8BVH. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

A good basic General ham antenna book – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

I am teaching a General License Study class at this time (MAR2011) and I was reviewing my collection of books for basic General class ham antennas. As you know from my Ragchewer hamfest reports, I buy a lot of low cost (\$1 - \$5), older ham books to read for the nostalgia value and an evening or two of enjoyment. I found that the following book is very good; Edward Noll's (1989, \$17) EASY-UP ANTENNAS FOR RADIO LISTNERS AND HAMS – Howard Sams & Company. I got this book several years ago and on reading it again appreciate how much information it contains.

Part One of the book (99) pages) is for shortwave listeners but contains reference material for Part Two ham radio topics (50 pages) so there is no duplication. References from the ham antenna topics to the relevant material in Part One are very good.

There is very little discussion of dipoles or verticals. The low cost directional wire antennas are discussed so there are fairly complete discussions of beams, Vee beams, loops, deltas and slopers. There is no discussion of the W8JK "flat-top beam however. The result is that a beginning General ham reader can make a choice for DX operating. As stated in the

book... "sometimes a small gain figure is less important than directivity" which reduces interference from an unwanted direction. These have dimensions given for ham bands and the discussion includes typical impedance, bandwidth and directivity. There are also chapters describing antenna supports, antenna wire "trimming", antenna bridge use and tuner use.

I looked at my favorite on-line used book site and found ABEBOOKS.COM has three copies available for \$16, \$35 and \$63. I was surprised at the prices. This book might be found at a hamfest and its appearance is striking... a deep blue cover with a red and turquoise abstract pattern on the lower half. At these prices, the ARRL Antenna Book looks better especially an edition that is less than ten years old for \$5-\$10.

Major household appliance warranties – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

I recently helped a neighbor trouble-shoot his "dead" dishwasher. Once we determined 120 VAC was reaching the printed wiring board control circuit inside the front door, it was obvious we could go no further. There was nothing left to check and his wife found they had an extended warranty.

The serviceman quickly discovered the printed wiring circuit was bad and arranged to order a replacement. While he was doing the work he stated that extended warranties are a must in today's world...

1. Many appliances fail shortly after the normal warranty expires;
2. Repair labor is expensive;
3. Replacement parts are expensive (\$350 in this case).

I have read that all big-box stores (Lowe's, Home Depot and Sears... yes, Sears) offer low cost major appliances because they are made cheaply by one or two Asian manufacturers. They are just labeled differently. The alternative to this is to pay more at a real appliance store, which should have the better quality units. In Lancaster, I think two of these might be TRIO and GOODHOUSEKEEPING.

Hamfest watch batteries – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

I have been purchasing Chinese watch batteries at hamfests for several years. Most of these vendors also have LED novelty lights and have a display covering two to four tables. These batteries are on a blister-pack card and there are two or three variations... four each of three battery types, five each of three battery types and some smaller selections. These typically sell for \$5 a card.

When I get low on a supply for my kitchen timers, room thermometers, watches, alarm clocks and test equipment, I make a list to take along when I go to a hamfest. I have been doing this for several years and the results have been very satisfactory.

Recently I noticed a few of the batteries in my "stash" have a white powder discoloration. These may be up to three years old and I assume they are bad and discard them without testing. None of the equipment that have these batteries have been affected because I use them on a weekly basis and I change them immediately when they become weak.

Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

I attended the 9APR11 event and brought home two grocery sacks of low cost items, some for my General license class students. There were about 250 cars in the parking lot and about 60 flea-market vendors in the old department store venue. I saw everything in two passes through the table area that took about 3 hours. Among the items I bought were solid-state relays, an open-frame 12 VDC relay suitable for an antenna relay, a Drake 1000 watt low-

pass filter, a new \$5 digital voltmeter, a like-new Realistic Field Strength meter and some books... I do like the out of print ARRL "Best of New Ham Companion" for beginning hams and older copies of the ARRL Operating Manual for the chapter on Basic Operating and another on DX-ing by Bob Locher W9KNI. The other chapters may be too dated to be of practical use.

Dummy load mineral oil – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The FEB 2011 QST magazine, page 52, mentions mineral oil suitable for the Heath Cantennas is available from farm supply stores as it is used to treat horses. Mineral oil does degrade over time so the typical price of \$10 per gallon is welcome news... get the low viscosity (70) type if you can.

Computer viruses – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The APR 2011 AARP Bulletin, page 18, has a quiz on how to handle the on-screen message – WARNING! YOUR SYSTEM REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ANTIVIRUS SCAN.

The answer is; Do NOT use your mouse to click anywhere on the screen. Hold down the CTRL and ALT keys and press the DELETE key. Turn off the computer after choosing END TASKS. I am on my sixth episode since NOV 2010 when I paid \$90 to get the first incident fixed.

My Micro\$oft System 7 (SYS-7) operating system has been very good and I can recommend it. My wife and I use separate password protected User Accounts that have limited privileges. I use the System Administrator (SYS ADMIN) account to do repairs. . We now use a USB thumb drive to save any and all files that we used to save to the harddrive.

In my case this virus locks-up the user account with the now inoperative phony message. I use the SYS ADMIN account to delete the user account and all its files on the harddrive. When I establish a replacement user account, I let the SYS-7 operating system set the security level. I also use a free mal-ware program AD-AWARE to remove spyware and cookies about once a week.