

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 (now SK) has a Heath HW-8 in excellent condition. Contact Allen Sellers (740) 654 - 8167

HAMFESTS

Dayton, OH 05-20/22-2011

Note that the outdoor "port-a-pottys" are nicer/fresher/cleaner than the indoor arena facilities

K8QIK Swapmeet 08-OCT-11

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

May 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes

At 7:24 p.m. the monthly meeting was called to order by President George Lambert KB8USP who lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was one guest present, Roger Dixon KA8V.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis KD8EEI

Mike Stansbery WD8EBS was acting secretary in Mary's absence. Minutes for the April meeting was posted in the Ragchewer. John W8AGS made motion to accept minutes and seconded by John KD8PAF All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Campbell, Sr. WD8PGO

Ed gave the April treasurer's report and Ray W8FLX made motion to approve, seconded by John KD8PAF. All in favor.

VP Report: Rob Ruffner KD8DXC

No report.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard W8OF

Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Carol Dolske

John Dolske K9ULO reported nothing new.

Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Allen reported one more General license class and the test will be given on May 9th.

Monday Night Net

May 9th	W8AGS	John Lawson
May 16th	K9ULO	John Dolske
May 23rd	W9AGS	John Lawson
May 30th	KD8PAF	John Rader

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Swap meet will be held Sat., May 7th at 8 a.m. No refreshments. Club surplus equipment will be sold.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed reported the next ARES meeting will be held at EMA office on Monday, May 16th at 7 p.m.

Safety: Scott Snoke WD8IXO

Scott - no report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard W8OF

George reported: John reconnected the link to the

network on the 443.875 Mhz club repeater. We are now reconnected to the southern Ohio repeater network.

From monitored the radio traffic last Saturday during the ride for Autism it appears our 146.70 repeater is working very well.

Activities Co-Manager: Sandy Snider, KD8FTX

No report.

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett KD8EEJ

Ed reported that we took in \$15.00 and Mike, wd8EBS won \$7.50.

Ed also reported that there was no winner on 50-50 fund.

Old Business:

George KB8USB read estimate for constructing handicap entrance from Countywide Construction for \$2,850. There was discussion and it was agreed that we should try to get two more estimates and bring to the next meeting for further discussion.

New Business:

Audit committee reported they have completed the audit and found the books to be in order.

Two new applications were passed for 2nd review: Christopher F Zang KD8JMW and Mark Kevin Tomkies KD8NOZ. George called for a vote on the two new members and all were in favor.

Also, two new applications were passed for 1st review: Michael Rieser KC8YYPH and Cheryl Rieser N8RZB.

There will be an Arthritis Walk on June 11th and we will need volunteers from 6 to 8 p.m.

Mark KD8IMT reported on Boy Scouts and seeing if we could get any interest in ham radio. Ray W8FLX agreed to draft a letter for sending to senior centers.

Charlie N8KZN reported he will do the antenna check at the fire stations on June 2nd and the alternate date will be June 9th.

Ray W8FLX made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Don WD8PCF. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Stansbery WD8EBS Acting Secretary

Swapmeet 07MAY11 – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The forecast was rain later in the day and it did hold off long enough for us to finish. Everyone was gone by 11AM as in the past. Again there was a nice selection of items. The one HF rig, a Ten-Tec 160M–10M rig, sold as did a Uniden 10M SSB & CW unit for \$35.

At 9:30AM we went into the basement and sold \$34 worth of old equipment. The big item was a Variac for \$15... most of the tube-type equipment (signal generator, VTVM and capacitor/resistor bridges) sold for a dollar or two. The UHF and VHF amplifiers may be sold this coming Thursday (12MAY). The 1960's Tektronix O-scope may be sold as well but the first \$5 takes it (you do not have to take the cart).

Once again Frosty W8AEY had selection of interesting items. I bought an assortment of allen wrenches. He also had a steam pipe steam-locomotive foot switch that was converted for use with radio.

Athens Hamfest 01MAY11 – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The forecast looked bad as we prepared to leave home. Denny AA8LY and I ate breakfast at Dee's truckstop just this side of Nelsonville. We hoped to see a lot of the Hocking county hams there but attendance was sparse. Many of the hamfest tailgate people moved inside due to the weather. The parking area was almost completely covered by solar panels but the gaps between the panels did little protect display tables.

An interesting item I saw was an SGC 2020 (SSB, 20M & 20watt) mobile rig that sold for \$300. This was reportedly built like a tank and I believe it.

Dave WD8AOL, Denny and I conducted the VE license exam and we were done about 12 noon. Three General and one Technician licenses were earned and one person failed the General test. Two of the successful Generals were from the Lancaster class.

Elmers – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

An Elmer is the name from ham radio history that identifies a mentor. Ray W8FLX has mentioned several times that a club Elmer committee would be a good idea. Mark KD8IMT reminded me of this and I agree based on the number of new General class hams in the recent past. These Elmers could provide advice and help in getting on the air for the first time, choosing a first antenna, selecting equipment and so on. If you want to volunteer your expertise contact me and I will place you on the list. I would like permission to publish your name in the newsletter along with your area of interest.

General Class 2011 – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The last time this version of the question pool can be used is 30JUN11. In the past, the question pool change is so extensive you need to obtain the new list to have a chance of passing.

After eleven weeks the present General license class has come to an end. One week was skipped so most of the members could go to the Jackson hamfest. Every one who completed the class has passed except one scheduled for the test this week (16MAY11).

Using the meeting room at the Happy Penguin Café on Saturday mornings worked out very well from my perspective. We covered one question-pool answer section per week, discussed every question and high-lighted the

correct answers. A white board permitted additional presentation of comments and illustrations. We only used the ARRL's license manual text material as reference (some explanations are pretty weak).

The practice examinations online are the best study aides available. Most people start at forty percent the first week on their daily attempts and are in the ninety percent range the last week before the test. The practice exam links I recommend are – ARRL.ORG, EHAM.NET, AC6V.COM, QRZ.COM and (best) AA9PW.COM

Ham Information – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

I am not very computer literate and have difficulty manipulating files. Therefore I do not provide ham radio news and information in the Ragchewer that is available. Other club newsletters do have this information so I am listing two sources you can read on a daily basis to keep informed of ham related events.

EHAM.NET (free) has links to newspaper articles and member comments that are very interesting. The equipment reviews are especially helpful and informative. Membership provides access to other helpful and interesting links.

ARRL.ORG (free) also has recent news and current events and contests. While it doesn't have equipment reviews, membership provides access to archives of QST articles.

Electronics Book Review – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The state of Ohio has a policy allowing persons aged 60 to attend college classes free but “not for credit”. Ohio University – Lancaster used to

have a really good AAS (Associate of Applied Science) electronic program and I attended the basic electronics class (My AAS degree is from 1962). The textbook used (and still in print) was ELECTRONIC DEVICES by Thomas Floyd. This has been in print since 1992 so get the Fourth Edition – 2002 or newer and get the accompanying CD. There are two versions – Electron Flow or Hole Flow. This is only important in the first few chapters discussing the physics theory of solid state device operation. If you are comfortable with basic Algebra, you can understand the text discussion of common basic electronic circuits and components.

I like the illustrations, both circuits and pictorials. The pictorials are in color and are of near-photo quality. Some of the “photo” illustrations are of printed wiring boards and others are of solderless breadboard layouts. The use of meters in the illustrations is almost real-world layout and clarity.

I was impressed with real-world circuits in the text & compiled a list of them –

- Amplifiers – LM101A, LM386, audio preamp, audio power, instrumentation, isolation,

- LOG & ANTILOG Converters – analog-digital, current –voltage, voltage-current

- Active Filters – bandpass, bandstop, high pass, low pass

- Function generator & 49MHz FM transmitter

- Infra-red detector and emitter

- Oscillators – astable, voltage controlled, sawtooth, triangle, Wein bridge

- Power supplies – dual polarity, overvoltage, zener

- Sensors – zone monitoring, dark/light, temperature

ABE Books has these texts available inexpensively, but be sure you get the Fourth Edition which is about \$20 for a \$150 (new) book. The older editions, that I don't recommend, are in the range of \$3 to \$5.

The CD is a teaching aide that has exercises without solutions unless you know the teaching password. The CD is not essential for effective use of the book as I never did utilize it. Finally, the book has answers to the odd-numbered chapter exercises.

Although this book is college level material, I recommend it if you can "handle" the mathematics. It does the best job I have seen of describing basic semiconductor electronic circuits.

I also can recommend the Radio Shack "Electronics Learning Lab" – about \$70. It is almost self contained as far as plenty of components and a solder-less breadboard. Test equipment is extra but "scopes and meters are available at hamfests. The accompanying books are almost worth the price as they show how beginners can build working circuits (but with little explanation). I once built an electronic keyer with two LM555 IC's that was a copy of Ten-Tec's T-kit unit.