



# The Ragchewer

April 5, 2012

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

## **Club Meetings :**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the clubhouse.

## **Clubhouse Location:**

P. O. Box 3  
1611 Grandville Pike,  
LANCASTER, OH 43130  
Near Lancaster on State  
Route 37 North (Granville  
Pike) next to Beavers Field.  
Across from campus Ohio  
University-Lancaster Branch

## **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.

## **VE Test:**

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](mailto:Webmaster@K8QIK.ORG) or Ragchewer Editor at [ragchewer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ragchewer@sbcglobal.net)

## **HAMFESTS**

To find a convention or hamfest near you, click [here](#)  
4/21/2012 Jackson County ARC Hamfest

<http://jacksoncountyarcc.org/index.html>

04/29/2012 Athens Hamfest

<http://ac-ara.org/>

05/05/2012 Lancaster Club Tailgate event @8:00am\*\*

05/18/2012 Dayton Hamvention

<http://www.hamvention.org>

## **Special Event Stations**

<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

## **2011-2012 Officers**

### **President:**

Rob Ruffner, KD8DXC

### **Vice President:**

Charles Snoko, N8KZN

### **Treasurer:**

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

### **Secretary:**

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

### **Trustee:**

John Hilliard, W8OF

### **Station Engineer:**

John Hilliard, W8OF

### **Education:**

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

### **Activities Managers**

Sandy Snider, KD8FTX  
Connie Snoko, N8LPC

### **Public Relations:**

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

### **Web Master:**

John, K9ULO & Carol Dolske  
[webmaster@k8qik.org](mailto:webmaster@k8qik.org)

### **Editor:**

Ralph Howes, W8BVH  
[ragchewer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ragchewer@sbcglobal.net)

# April 5, 2012 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. the monthly meeting was called to order by Rob, KD8DXC who lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Officer Reports

### **Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI**

Minutes for the March meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Robert, KC8PSW made motion to accept minutes and seconded by John, W8OF. All were in favor.

**Roll call taken tonight:** 19 members in attendance

Allen	KB8JLG	Jack	AE8P
Allen	KD8RNP	John	K9ULO
Charlie	N8KZN	John	W8AGS
Connie	N8LPC	John	W8OF
David	WD8LZK	Mark	KD8IMT
Dave	WB9PXH	Mary	KD8EEI
Don	WD8PCF	Rob	KD8DXC
Ed	WD8PGO	Robert	KC8PSW
George	KB8USP	Steve	KD8JLA
		Scott	WD8IXO

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report and Charlie, N8KZN made motion to approve, seconded by Allen, KB8JLG. All were in favor.

### **VP Report: Charlie Snoke, N8KZN**

Nothing to report.

### **Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF**

Nothing to report.

## Committee Reports

### **Webmaster: John (K9ULO) & Carol Dolske**

John reported he has some changes he will be making to the home page.

### **Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG**

Allen reported he will be starting a general class beginning on Sat., May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11-1p.m. and will meet every Saturday thereafter from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Swap Meet will be held at 8 a.m. on Sat., May 5<sup>th</sup> and that is why the class starts at a later hour for that Saturday only.

Allen reported from his extra class, he had 2 people get their Extra and 2 people failed the test and 1 person needs to study more before taking his test.

### **Monday Night Net**

April 9th John Rader, KD8PAF  
April 16th John Lawson, W8AGS  
April 23rd John Dolske, K9ULO  
April 30th John Rader, KD8PAF  
Rob, KD8DXC said he could fill in if needed.

### **Ragchewer: Ralph Howes, W8BVH**

Ralph absent but if anyone has items for Ragchewer please send them to Ralph.

### **Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO**

ARES group met in March and will meet again at the EMA office on April 17th at 7 p.m.

### **Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO**

No report. Steve, KD8JLA was thanked for meeting with the fire inspector to inspect our fire extinguishers and then the next day to meet the Fire Department for the yearly inspection of the building.

### **Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF**

John reported that when he gets free time he will start working on the UHF repeater that is in the meeting room at the clubhouse.

He also stated that the 220 southeast network repeater had been getting interference from the Sheriff's dispatching and John has shut it off until he has time to research why this is happening.

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

Connie stated that she and Sandy will have information on food for Field Day at the May meeting.

### **Old Business:**

Robert, KC8PSW and Charlie, N8KZN completed the steps to the porch that was approved earlier. The group thanked Charlie & Robert for all the work they did.

Application for Stanley Boch, KD8QVS was sent for second review and everyone was in favor of accepting him as a member.

Application for Paul J. Flautt, KB8CMW was sent for second review and everyone was in favor of accepting him as a member.

Rob asked for any volunteers for Field Day on June 23 & 24. Charlie, N8KZN; George, KB8USP; David, WD8LZK; and John, W8AGS volunteered.

### **New Business:**

Allen, KB8JLG suggested adding a question on our membership application regarding a background check. There was discussion and a committee was established with Allen, Mary, KD8EEI and Rob, KD8DXC who will meet at the clubhouse on Thurs., April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m. to suggest changes to the application and report back to members at the May meeting.

Don, WD8PCF made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Charlie, N8KZN. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

## **THIS AND THAT.....**

**Fred Saas (W8PGE)** *is to be congratulated on his accomplishment. We need to hear more from our members and their accomplishments (successes and failures).*

Well it took them forever to verify all of the submitted logs but I officially took the 3rd place in the OhQP contest in the Single OP QRP category! This was the first contest that I have ever seriously worked and submitted my scores for. I operated straight for 12 hours, my wife even bringing my meals to me while I continued to operate 8-)

My rig was my SDR Softrock RXTX 6.3, used with either Rocky for CW or PowerSDR-IQ for SSB. I used a 5 watt amp on 40 and 20. As the amp would not do 80m, I ran barefoot 1 watt on 80 and 600 mw on 75 SSB

Antenna was my 40/20/10 fan inverted V, and for 80m I would run out and connect "clip on" extensions to the 40m portion of the fan. The 80m extensions were parallel to each other along the fence and about 5' off the ground! I suppose this resulted in some sort of NVIS/worm-burner configuration but I did manage to work many 80m contacts and a few 75m SSB contacts.

Getting psyched for this years OQP, just wanted to share!

72  
Fred  
WA8PGE

---

### **Notes from Allen Sellers.....**

\*\* The swapmeet for the Lancaster Ham Club will be **05MAY12**. It starts at 8AM and will be held in the parking lot .

\*\* Allen will be starting a **General license study class starting at 11:00am on May 5, 2012**. It will be held at the club house. Directions to the club house are on the web site [www.k8qjk.org](http://www.k8qjk.org) . or you may contact Allen at [asellers1081@att.net](mailto:asellers1081@att.net) .

\*\* Allen KB8JLG raised the concern of possible convicted criminals joining our club at the APRIL meeting. Mary KD8EEI, Rob KD8DXC and Allen KB8JLG are on a committee to change the membership application. The specific change will be to ask "Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? If so, explain on the back of the application".

The members' discussion was in favor of this due to our close relationship with emergency services in the county (Township Volunteer Fire Departments, Lancaster Fairfield Hospital, Red Cross, Emergency Management among others,) and the value of equipment in our clubhouse purchased from government grant funds. The membership present decided that the application form change is adequate and no change to the by-laws or constitution is required.

We also ask all members to refrain from signing as a reference for anyone you do not know. We can check criminal backgrounds for applicants by an on-line search for the various county and city courts' public records.

---

## Ray's (W8FLX) Florida Trip.....

I attended two hamfests in Florida in March. Here is a report.

The Peace River Radio Ass'n. held a hamfest on March 10 at the Tropical Gulf Acres Clubhouse, Punta Gorda, FL. Admission was \$5.00 and hours were 7 am to 2 pm. I got there at 8:50 am and there was a pretty good size crowd. There were about 25 tables, no exhibitors or commercial vendors. I was looking for an antenna analyzer but found none. I did buy a SWR meter, a 3 ft coax jumper and a small speaker, all at reasonable prices. The one criticism I had is many of the guys manning the tables were too busy to give any time to a prospect, Lots of ragchewing.

The Southern Florida Section Convention (37th Annual Free Martin County Hamfest) sponsored by the Martin County ARA was held on March 17 at the Martin County Fairgrounds. Admission was free and the hours were 8 am to 5 pm, I arrived at 10 am. I counted 47 tables including AMSAT and ARRL representation. The pickings consisted of some computer stuff, lots of old parts, antennas and books. There was a load of HT's from commercial users. I saw 3 HF rigs, one Heath HF amp and a few VHF/UHF rigs.

I did not buy anything, it was a nice ride in the country, we just about circled Lake Ochachobee. There again many of the sellers were busy with friends.

Xtra comment:

The swap meet that our club puts on seems to suit our clientele. No false advertising, no high priced gear and sellers anxious to make the sale.

---

## WEAVER'S WORDS -- Special Issue -- Help Urgently Needed

Please contact me regarding the following request -- Jim, [k8je@arrl.or](mailto:k8je@arrl.or)

Do you live in a community that is covered by CC&Rs? Have you been prevented from putting up an outdoor antenna (wire, vertical or beam) whether on HF, VHF or UHF? Has this inability to put up an antenna prevented you from participating fully in emergency communications activities during disasters? If your answer is yes, ARRL wants to hear about your experience. What you encountered and the difficulty it presented to you in providing public support/emergency communications service may be the information needed to help amateurs get relief from overly restrictive CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions) in home purchase or lease contracts.

A provision of Public Law 112-96 instructs the FCC, in the context of Amateur Radio emergency communications capabilities, to conduct a study to identify, among other things, "impediments to enhanced amateur radio service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations." The FCC will be seeking input very soon, but because time will be short we are asking you to begin thinking about it now. We are particularly looking for stories about situations in which you as an Amateur Radio operator could have provided valuable service through Amateur Radio but your assistance either was prevented or diminished because of overly restrictive CC&Rs. We know situations of this type have occurred during power outage, snowstorm, tornado, flood, earthquake and other crisis relief effort. If you are willing to write to the FCC about your experience, please let me know. We are not ready at this moment to ask for letters, but a request for them will come very soon. If you need help in composing your letter, this help will be given to you.

Please be aware that our request for letters does not relate to actions taken by a branch of government such as a city, township or county. The letters will relate only to limitations placed by home-owners associations and similar private groups on the installation of outdoor antennas.

If you or someone you know has had overly restrictive CC&Rs prevent you from responding to or seriously limited your ability to help during relief operations, please let me know. If you are willing, please include your telephone number so I or another ARRL official can call you if this proves desirable.

Over the years, many members have asked when ARRL is going get some relief from overly restrictive CC&Rs. The answer is that the League has been trying different approaches to accomplish this. Now that Congress has mandated a study of the problem we have an opportunity to document it. The study itself will not make the problem go away but should provide a public policy basis for the relief we need. The time is rapidly approaching for you who have experienced the heavy hand of oppressive CC&Rs to come forward to help transform them into reasonable guidelines.

Tnx es 73,  
Jim

Jim Weaver, K8JE  
Director, Great Lakes Division  
5065 Bethany Rd.  
Mason, OH 45040  
Tel. 513-459-1661; e-mail [K8JE@arrl.org](mailto:K8JE@arrl.org)  
ARRL: The reason Amateur Radio Is  
Members: The reason ARRL is

---

### **Re-Announcing a “competition”**

for all Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club members

A competition to design and build a 12-volt DC power source (that is self sustaining). It will not use any commercial fuel/power as a means of generation. Think of it as the power to operate a 100 watt transceiver without commercial electricity, natural or propane gas, gasoline etc. being available. No pumps for water, no compressed air, nothing that we are accustomed to using.

It is suggested that you consider solar, wind or human energy to power your source. Your idea must be submitted to the judging committee (your fellow club members) by June 7, 2012 meeting and you must demonstrate your working model at the Field Day in June. Your entry must power an operating position at the Club Field Day location.

Entries will be judged by originality, simplicity, effectiveness and cost.

The winner will be awarded a cash prize of **\$100.00**. Results will be submitted to ARRL for possible publication in QST.

Ray, W8FLX

---

**Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club** website: [www.qsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html/](http://www.qsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html/)

Their newsletters: [www.w8bapdstar.info/library/SVARC%20News/](http://www.w8bapdstar.info/library/SVARC%20News/)

<<< FOR SALE / SWAP >>>



I have a very clean looking HF bi-linear amplifier for sale. It is switchable for 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters. It does light up and does put out power but have no way to check complete operation. I received info that it is used w/ QRP transmitters to boost power from 4 watts input to as much as 150 watts output. I don't have the manual for it. Asking \$80.00 plus shipping in the USA only. Estimating \$15.00 shipping. Packaging is free. I accept USPS m/o, cash and Paypal. **Contact** Ralph Howes, W8BVH, [w8bvh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w8bvh@sbcglobal.net)

Yaesu FT-221 all mode two meter. Includes a/c power cable, Yaesu hand Mic., owners manual, and service manual.

\$150.00  
Dave Kennedy  
WA8EUT  
[dkennedy10@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dkennedy10@columbus.rr.com)

