



# The Ragchewer

February 2, 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:

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.

## 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

- 02/05/2012 ... Winter Hamfest, Lorain, OH  
<http://www.noars.net>  
02/12/12 Mansfield Hamfest  
<http://hamfest.w8we.org>  
03/10/12 Gallipolis Hamfest  
<https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>  
03/18/12 Toledo Hamfest (Perrysburg, OH)  
<http://www.tmrhamradio.org>

## Special Event Stations

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

## 2011-2012 Officers

### President:

Rob Ruffner, KD8DXC

### Vice President:

George Lambert, KB8USP

### 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 Snoke,

### 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)

# February 2, 2012 Meeting Minutes

At 7 p.m. the video “*The Story of Queen Mary and W6RO*” was shown with 13 members and one guest present.

At 7:30 p.m., Charlie Snoke, N8KZN, called the monthly meeting to order. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 18 members present and one guest, Allen Miller, KD8RNP.

We had two applications for membership from William P Thompson, KD8RNQ and Allen K Miller, KD8RNP that were passed around for first review.

## Officer Reports

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

Minutes for the January meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept minutes with deletion of “or donations” in the paragraph dealing with station engineer approving equipment was made by John, W8AGS and seconded by Ralph, W8BVH. Motion carried.

### **Roll call taken tonight:**

Allen	KD8RNP
John	KD8PAF
Mary	KD8EEI
Charlie	N8KZN
Scott	WD8IXO
Gary	W8GTS
Fred	WA8PGE
Dave	WB9PXH
Jack	AE8P
John	KD8EEK
Ralph	W8BVH
Ed	WD8PGO
Steve	KD8JLA
Rob	KD8DXC
John	K9ULO
Paul	KD8DDD
Mike	WD8EBS
Paula	KD8OCI
Mike	WN8C



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

Ed gave the treasurer’s report and John, KD8PAF made motion to approve, seconded by John, K9ULO. All in favor.

### **VP Report: George Lambert, KB8USP**

No report

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

No report.

At this point, Rob, KD8DXC came in and took over the meeting from Charlie. Rob thanked Charlie for filling in for him.

### Committee Reports

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

No report. Question was asked about putting John, W8OF weather station on our website. John, K9ULO said possibly a link could be done. Also John, K9ULO reported that John, W8OF would be making some changes to the repeater information and once he has the information, it will be updated on the website.

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

Jack, AE8P reported that Allen would be testing one person on Sat. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and that he is still holding classes on Saturday morning at the Happy Penguin.

#### **Monday Night Net**

Feb 6th John Rader, KD8PAF  
Feb 13th John Dolske, K9ULO  
Feb 20th John Lawson, W8AGS  
Feb 27th John Rader, KD8PAF

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

No report. If anyone has articles for the Ragchewer, please send them to Ralph.

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

ARES group met in January to formulate and send traffic. The ARES group will meet again at EMA on February 21st at 7 p.m.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

No report.

#### **Old Business:**

Mary, KD8EEI dropped off the two Technician study guides to Lancaster library and they were very pleased to have the guides because the clerk at the library said they get lots of requests for the study guides. There is a label on the inside front cover stating they were donated by the LFCARC.

#### **New Business:**

Rob, KD8DXC reported there will be no net on Sunday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ralph, W8BVH made a motion that we pay the dues for Michael Amirault, KB8GHW for one year due to his individual circumstances related in letter to Ed, W8PGO, seconded by Jack, AE8P. 18 voted yes and one no. Motion carried.

Ralph, W8BVH made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Gary, W8GTS. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary



## 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



## Updated notes from Allen

Will Browning, W8WB, warned a recent technician about buying equipment on E-Bay and I have to second this cautionary warning. A recent Lancaster General bought an HF rig for top dollar and it was not as represented. At the time of purchase, he bought an automatic antenna tuner because the seller stated it did not have one installed. After he got it, it did not have any power out although the receiver did work... so he had to pay to have it repaired. He also discovered it did have the automatic tuner installed, so he spent money for an un-needed accessory. My suggestion is to go to the seller's location with a knowledgeable friend and have him demonstrate the equipment. You say "wait, that's too far" and I say don't waste your money unless you can fix problem yourself.

The VE team has administered tests to three new Technician and one new Extra class hams in the last month. Two Techs were from the Olivedale group and one was friend of Charley N8KZN. The Extra ham came from Circleville... he got his study material from Ham-Test-Online and was getting 85 to 90 percent on the practice exams. I have not had a person fail any test that had used this service, so check it out - it definitely works if you follow their directions.

The club's Extra class study group will finish and be ready for the test this month.

Also, is anyone interested in combining their junk box / basement junk room with my stuff this summer to send to a consignment auction?

Regards, Allen KB8JLG



## New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters) To Go Into Effect March 5

On November 18, the FCC **released** a *Report and Order* (**R&O**), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a *Petition for Rulemaking* (**PRM**) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (**NPRM**). In the **February 3 edition of the Federal Register**, the FCC **announced** that these new rules will go into effect on March 5, 2012.

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): “Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators. The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules.”

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

Source: QRZ.com



## Morse code not on the way out

Five years ago, on February 23, 2007, the Federal Communications Commission took action against the thorny question of mandatory code licence testing.

Writing in the latest CQ magazine **Rich Moseson W2VU** has an article '*No-Code Plus Five Years: An Assessment*' which points to the situation then and now.

The article checks on signs of the state of play, by asking a manufacturer of keys and paddles, the FISTS group, looking at CW contest results and the licensing statistics.

Rich W2VU finds it is alive and well, despite early predictions it was on the way out. CW has a bright future, despite or perhaps because of the elimination of the code test requirement.

To see the entire article visit QRZ.com website.