



# The Ragchewer

March 1, 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

- 03/10/12 Gallipolis Hamfest  
<https://sites.google.com/site/midohiovalleyarc/>
- 03/18/12 Toledo Hamfest (Perrysburg, OH)  
<http://www.tmrahamradio.org>
- 4/21/2012 Jackson County ARC Hamfest  
<http://jacksoncountyarc.org/index.html>

## 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)

# March 1, 2012 Meeting Minutes

\*\*\* At 7 p.m., the DVD “2006 USA ARDF International Style Amateur Radio Direction Finding” was shown with 21 members and three guests present.

At 7:40 p.m. the monthly meeting was called to order by Rob, KD8DXC, who lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 25 members present and three guests, Allen Miller, KD8RNP, William Thompson, KD8RNQ and William (Big John) Zorns, KD8NPA.

We had one applications for membership from William (Big John) Zorns, KD8NPA for first review and two applications for second review William P Thompson, KD8RNQ and Allen K Miller, KD8RNP.

## Officer Reports

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

Minutes for the February meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept minutes with one addition of John, W8AGS in attendance was made by John, W8AGS and seconded by Ralph, W8BVH. Motion carried.

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

Allen	KD8RNP	John	W8OF
John	KD8PAF	George	KB8USP
Mary	KD8EEI	David	KB8DRQ
Charlie	N8KZN	William	KD8NPA
Connie	N8LPC	Kevin	KD8NOZ
Gary	W8GTS	William	KD8RNQ
Mark	KD8IMT	Mike	WD8EBS
Dave	WB9PXH	John	K9ULO
Jack	AE8P	John	W8AGS
John	KD8EEK	Robert	KC8PSW
Ralph	W8BVH	Mike	WN8C
Ed	WD8PGO	Paula	KD8OCI
Steve	KD8JLA	Mike	WD8EBS
Rob	KD8DXC	Don	WD8PCF

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

Ed gave the treasurer’s report and Steve, KD8JLA made motion to approve, seconded by John, W8OF. All in favor.

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

Rob read the executive committee meeting notes from February 29th, which read as follows:

“This meeting was called to appoint a replacement for George Lambert, Vice President who had resigned per email dated 2/27/12 to Mary, KD8EEI Secretary.

*Per Article III, Section 5 of the Constitution, “vacancies in office occurring between elections shall be filled by appointment of the executive committee”.*

John, W8OF made a motion to appoint Charlie Snoke, N8KZN as Vice President to finish out the term of George Lambert who has resigned. Mary seconded. All in favor.

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

John reported that Ralph, W8BVH, Charlie, N8KZN, Connie, N8LPC, Allen KB8JLG and him all met at the clubhouse on Thursday, March 1st and installed all new phone line in the building. They hooked up the phone and did not have a dial tone. Ed, WD8PGO has been advised and will contact the phone company and get them back up to the clubhouse to get the phone working. Once the phone is working, John will be putting in new parameters for the different programs.

### Committee Reports

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

Nothing new to report.

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

Mark, KD8IMT reported that Allen will be testing two or three people from the extra class this Saturday, March 3rd at the clubhouse.

#### **Monday Night Net**

March 5 John Rader, KD8PAF

March 12 John Dolske, K9ULO

March 19 John Lawson, W8AGS

March 26 John Dolske, K9ULO

April 2 John Lawson, W8AGS

Rob, KD8DXC said he could fill in if needed.

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

He has received some for sale items. If anyone has articles for the Ragchewer, please send them to Ralph.

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

ARES group met in February and will meet again at the EMA office on March 20th. At 7 p.m.

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

No report.

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

John reported that the noise you hear on the repeater sometimes is because we are getting corrosion on the antenna. There was some discussion on how we should proceed and John has a dipole antenna he will donate if we can get someone to climb the tower to put it up and take the other antenna down and we could make repairs and have this antenna as a backup. Ralph, W8BVH made a motion to pay someone (not to exceed \$500) to climb the tower and put up the donated antenna and take down the old one for repair. Seconded by John, K9ULO. All in favor.

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

Nothing new to report.

#### **Old Business:**

Robert, KC8PSW reported as soon as weather is warm enough he will complete the steps to the porch that was approved earlier.

#### **New Business:**

Rob read the following from February 29th Executive Committee meeting: "John, W8OF asked why we had not used 146.70 as our official repeater for club events such as parades, festivals, etc. After discussion, it was agreed we would let all members know that for future events, 146.70 will be used. If someone has difficulty getting this frequency into their respective radios, they need to ask someone for assistance. John feels it is

important because if we ever had an emergency and our members needed to use the 146.70, we should be prepared.”

Rob called for vote on Allen Miller, KD8RNP application for membership. All in favor.

Rob called for vote on William Thompson, KD8RNQ application for membership. All in favor.

Ed, WD8PGO stated George, KB8USP had been contacted to see if we would have any volunteers who would be willing to help for a June 2nd event at Buckeye Lake from 8 to 11 a.m. The following people volunteered: John, KD8EEK; Robert KC8PSW, Charlie, N8KZN, George, KB8USP, John, K9ULO, Ed, WD8PGO, Kevin, KD8NOZ, William (Big John) KD8NPA and Mary, KD8EEI. Ed will contact the event chairman and let them know we have volunteers for this event.

Mark, KD8IMT asked if we should include the repeater etiquette information for new members. Everyone felt this would be a good idea. They will also be posted on our website.

Kevin, KD8NOZ made a presentation to the club of a sign “Ham Operator Parking Only, All Others will be squelched!” Club thanked him for the donation.

Rob asked for volunteers for Field Day, which will be held June 23 & 24 this year. Rob will not be available for Sunday. The event will be held outdoors at the clubhouse. Please see Rob or Steve, KD8JLA if you can assist with this year’s event.

Steve, KD8JLA made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ralph, W8BVH. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

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The ladies will appreciate the flower below.....



This is an Amaryllis that my wife has nurtured. It only blooms once a year.

[RADIO]

## **Radio club to operate station for Legion birthday**

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club’s dedicated station, K9TAL, will operate as a special-event station March 15-17, to mark the 93rd birthday of The American Legion.

The station’s tentative hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. A special commemorative certificate will be sent to stations that work, or contact, K9TAL during those periods.

Established by resolution during the National Executive Committee’s Spring Meetings in 2011, the Legion’s Amateur Radio Club has gained hundreds of new Legion family members – many of whom were trained as technicians and engineers while serving in the military – and has set up shop at the Legion’s National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

The station will be operating for the birthday event at a frequency of or about 14.270 megahertz (MHz).

For more information, contact Joe March at (317) 630-1253 or [jmarch@legion.org](mailto:jmarch@legion.org).

 [www.legion.org/hamradio](http://www.legion.org/hamradio)

## Who's Behind the Box? Fireproof Driver Rob Ruffner, *KD8DXC*

Written By: blogadmin on November 2, 2011 No Comment



<http://www.fireproof.com/blog/2011/11/whos-behind-the-box-fireproof-driver-rob-ruffner/>

*We continue our employee feature series, "Who's Behind the Box," with Rob Ruffner, Driver at Fireproof's High Street facility. Follow along to learn more about Rob, a past winner of the President's Award and a member of the Decade Plus club*

Congratulations Rob. You make us all proud. May you have all pleasant days in the future.



## K8QIK Extra License Study Class

– Allen Sellers

Five people took the course and the results were – Two passed by taking the test early, one did not take the test yet and two failed their first attempt. I remind everyone that the practice exams on the Internet really help because if you can pass them, you can be confident when taking the real thing. Also HAM TEST ONLINE really works, as several people have told me of the success ( reviews on EHAM.NET seem to confirm this).



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SECTION MANAGER

Frank **KI8GW**

First, I want to say "Thank You" to everyone in the Ohio Section for the cards, thoughts, and prayers for the passing of my Mother-In-Law, Laura Montell of Newark, Ohio.

The Ohio Section is slowly waking from its winter slumber. On February 2nd, your Section Manager sprung from his bed, stepped outside, and looked down. He was not able to see his feet, which means another six weeks of dieting....

We also are seeing Hams coming out from their shacks and gathering at the early hamfests. Mansfield was well attended, and I was glad to see many faces and shake many hands. The ARRL forum and OSSBN Meeting were very active. We're starting to hear rumblings of weather spotter training, and the word "Dayton" is being heard already. I'm hoping the price of gas does not derail your plans to travel to the many Hamfests that the Section has to offer.

The Ohio State Convention will be held on August 4th in Columbus, Ohio. The planning committee is moving forward with reviewing all submitted topics and speaker requests. More information will be coming as plans shape up.

Enjoy these last few weeks of winter. Let's hope Buckeye Chuck is right!

\*Congratulations to Ben Powers **KC8CAY**, of Circleville, Ohio for accepting the appointment of Emergency Coordinator for Pickaway County. I am not sure if Ben knows it but he comes highly recommended and he is my first appointment. Welcome aboard, Ben! Speaking of appointments...I am looking for Emergency Coordinators in several counties throughout Ohio. Take a look at the DEC/EC listing at [www.arrl-ohio.org](http://www.arrl-ohio.org) to see which counties have Emergency Coordinators. If you are interested in becoming an Emergency Coordinator...I encourage you to please read the Ohio Section EC guidelines and the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan (OSERP). These documents are available for download at [www.arrl-ohio.org](http://www.arrl-ohio.org). Also, all candidates must have IS-100, 200, 700, and 800. If you are still interested after reading those documents and completing the training, please contact your District Emergency Coordinator for more information.



## Solar Power and Ham Radio

— Allen Sellers KB8JLG - 01MAR12

An advertisement on a Columbus radio station caused me to revisit this topic for the Ragchewer. In my opinion the offering of a “solar backup generator” by “[www.mysolarbackup.com](http://www.mysolarbackup.com)” for \$2000 is way, way off base. Technical details are hard to find. For this much money, I think an RV camper kit would be more appropriate small systems even if installation adaptations are required – or look to an installation suitable for a whole house application. Three RV links were found – RVSOLARELECTRIC.COM (55 watt, 3.1 amp, 10 amp charge controller, standard kit \$350); MRSOLAR.COM (50 watt kit - \$363) and BHASOLAR.COM (60 watt kit - \$299).

There are a lot Internet links to Harbor Freight solar panel offerings (YOUTUBE, etc.) and they are interesting. The 45-watt, three-panel package (with charge controller) for \$189 (or less) with coupon is priced right but most reviews state the charge controller is not very reliable.

A local auto-supply store has deep-cycle marine batteries, with a 160A-H unit priced at about \$100 with no trade-in. This requires monthly maintenance to keep the water level up and has a life of three to four years. AGM (Activated Glass Mat) batteries do not require maintenance, last longer and cost maybe twice as much. Automotive type car batteries are not suitable because of a short life of only several months.

With regard to Ray's W8FLX challenge; somewhere on the Internet I found an article by Larry D. Barr K5WLF that gives guidelines for sizing a solar installation for a 100-watt ham radio station.

Yaesu FT897D – 100 watt – 1 amp receive – 22 amp transmit

10 percent transmitting - 90 percent listening

This means in one clock hour he has used  $1A \times 0.9HR + 22A \times 0.1HR = 3.1 A\text{-HR}$

His battery is 100 AH amp-hour battery, DEEP DISCHARGE MARINE service

(Never discharge the battery more than 50 percent of its rating, so  $100A\text{-H}/2 = 50A\text{-H}$

and  $50AH/3.1A = 16$  hours of use from a fully charged battery.

We might plan on using the rig daily for 3 hours every evening.

So we use  $3.1A \times 3HR = 9.3A\text{-H}$  from the battery every day and ideally we want to replace that the next day by the sun.

In central Ohio there is (on average) 4 hours daily of maximum sunlight around noon.

$9.3A\text{-H}/4HR$  sunlight = 2.3A per hour recharge required from the solar panel.

Solar panels are rated in watts, with the solar panel output voltage about 18V.

So the smallest solar panel required is  $2.3A \times 18V = 42$  watts.

So from this rough estimate, you need the following as a minimum – a 45 watt (60 WFF) solar panel, a 5 to 10 ampere solar charge controller and a deep cycle 50A-H battery about three times larger than your daily battery drain (160 WFF), plus the wiring and other parts... fuses, 10AWG cables, disconnect switch, etc. Most users change the panel mounting angle four times a year to try and optimize the angle so it collects the most sunlight (Latitude+15, Latitude, Latitude-15 and Latitude). Basic cost is approximately \$300 to \$400 for the three major components – solar panel, charge controller and battery. WFF means With Fudge Factor.

Several warnings are in order

I have never actually done this type work, so check my numbers

Large batteries are an explosion and fire hazard, wire with NEC code

Batteries contain strong acid, use [safety equipment & procedures](#)



# ARRL Publishes New Guidelines for 60 Meters

Thanks to the FCC's [Report and Order](#) issued November 18, 2011, radio amateurs will enjoy a number of new privileges on the 60-meter band, beginning at midnight (EST) March 5. These new privileges include a boost in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, as well as the ability to use CW and certain digital modes.



Late last year, the ARRL HF Band Planning Committee surveyed 60-meter operators to gather opinions about how to best use the new privileges. On the subject of creating a specific band plan, the survey results indicated little consensus beyond the fact that 5403.5 kHz should retain its status as a *de facto* "DX channel." On the other hand, survey respondents made a number of suggestions for general operating practices.

Based on the survey results and subsequent research, the committee declined to propose a specific band plan for 60 meters at this time. Instead, the committee created a "Recommended Practices" document (click [here](#) for the document). The [60 meter pages](#) on the ARRL website have been updated to reflect the changes brought about by the *Report and Order*.

The April issue of *QST* will also include an article by ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, offering a detailed discussion of the new 60-meter privileges and recommended operating practices.



## **FIRST WEDNESDAY AM NIGHT!!!** *Sponsored by the Collins Collectors Association.*

Wednesday March 7th, 2012 on 3880 kcs ( + or - 10kcs.) at 7:00 PM local East Coast time marks the start of the latest chapter of First Wednesday AM Night, drawing hundreds of vintage stations from across the country.

We encourage stations to check-in on AM using Collins and other AM transmitters, new and old. It's an opportunity to revel in this nostalgic mode, enjoy giving vintage equipment a "run," and sharing some storytelling about classic vacuum tube homebrew and commercial designs. Typically more than a hundred stations take part in the evening's coast-to-coast AM event; by the time it concludes.

LISTEN for the following anchors and stop by to say hello, won't you? You don't have to be running Collins or vintage gear to be welcomed into the group.

Roger K5VRX from 7:00 pm LCL to 8:00 pm LCL Eastern time

Jim W0NKL then steps in at 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm LCL Midwest time

Jim K0OJ steps in at 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm LCL Mountain time

Mickey WA6FIZ starts 7:00 pm LCL West Coast time

comments please to [wa9vrh@dishmail.net](mailto:wa9vrh@dishmail.net)



## AEP Electricity Rate Increase

– Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The recent controversy about a “monster' rate increase in AEP electric bills is just a warning of what is to come. The problem with the increase is that it was unannounced from a public relations viewpoint, so you look at your bill and it's 300 percent greater... with no warning and you have already used the electricity. Nobody at AEP or the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) had enough sense to warn the public of the increase.

I don't see how this increase can be reduced, the best we can hope for is a time period to get ready.

In addition, the EPA has tightened the air quality standards so that many coal-fired power plants are to be closed. This means more expensive electricity... if you can get it. Power companies are no longer operated for the public benefit, so they won't build any more coal-fired units and its unlikely alternative sources will cover the difference unless they use natural gas fired units and then they will reduce those supplies for home heating.

A problem with wind and solar is they require full-sized backup generators when the wind and solar aren't adequate. Ray's, W8FLX, solar challenge in light of this is very timely; so we might think in terms a small home system powering a TV, microwave oven and reading lights.

### FOR SALE

- \* DishNet Dish Antenna assembly
  - \* ~100Ft coaxial cable for DishNet Antenna
  - \* Two 5-foot Metal Pipes (~6 inch dia.)
- Price \$25*  
Please contact Jeanne or Dave, WB9PXH at (614) 837-5467.

### FOR SALE

Kenwood TS711A 2 meter multi-mode transceiver. Very good condition. The [Kenwood TS-711A](#) 2 meter multi-mode transceiver provides 25 watts output in FM, SSB and CW modes (144-148 MHz). The radio features a [digital display](#), analog meter, carry handle and 40 memories. The [rear panel](#) has an SO239 antenna jack. Includes a photocopy of the *Owner's Manual*. New finals, completely aligned and ready to take on the world. This particular unit comes with an external tone board, Communications Specialists TE-32. Does not have a microphone (8-pin). Power supply is built in and does come with a power cord. Attached are a couple of photos. \$350.00. Contact: Ralph Howes, W8BVH/ [w8bvh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w8bvh@sbcglobal.net), 740-687-0344

