



The Ragchewer

April 4, 2013

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

Club Meetings :

1st 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 the Ohio
University-Lancaster Branch
campus.

Nets:

Mondays at 9:00 p.m.
147.03 MHz (+.6)
146.70 MHz (-.6) Alt. Freq.

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:

VE test sessions are no longer scheduled. Call Allen KB8JLG (740) 654 – 8167 for details/or to schedule one.

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 ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

HAMFESTS

To find a convention or hamfest near you, click [here](#)

Special Event Stations

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

2012-2013 Officers

President:

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN

Vice President:

Mark White, KD8IMT

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, N8LPC

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Web Master:

John, K9ULO & Carol Dolske
webmaster@k8qik.org

Editor:

Ralph Howes, W8BVH
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

April 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. Charlie, N8KZN called the monthly meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carl Carder, WA8HFS application was passed for 2nd reading and 1st reading Greg Dersarkisian, KD8SSJ.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes of the March meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Ray, W8FLX made a motion to accept minutes and seconded by Mike, WD8EBS. All in favor.

Roll call taken tonight: 17 members in attendance and no guests.

Charlie	N8KZN	John	KD8EEK
Connie	N8LPC	John	K9ULO
Dave	WB9PXH	Mark	KD8IMT
Don	WD8PCF	Mary	KD8EEI
Gary	W8GTS	Mike	WD8EBS
George	KB8USP	Ray	W8FLX
Jack	AE8P	Scott	WD8IXO
John	W8OF	Steve	KD8JLA
		William	KD8RNQ

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report and motion made by Mike, WD8EBS and seconded by Gary, W8GTS to approve treasurer's report. All in favor. Ed also thanked George for all the work he did while Ed was gone.

VP Report: Mark White, KD8IMT

Mark reported that we had 5 members attend the recent Skywarn Program on March 18th at Liberty Center.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported he is working on antennas donated to build the 6 meter repeater. He also stated Matt has agreed to climb the tower and see what the current problem is with our antennas on Waterworks hill.

John reported he had installed a UHF Radio in the kitchen under the counter. John also reminded everyone to keep the back door closed because animals could come in and go to the basement and do lots of damage if we did not discover they were down there.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: John (K9ULO) & Carol Dolske

John reported website is up to date.

Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Allen absent.

Monday Night Net

April 8th	Robert Northrup, KC8PSW – no newswire
April 15th	John Lawson, W8AGS
April 22nd	John Dolske, K9ULO
April 29th	John Lawson, W8AGS

Ragchewer: Ralph Howes, W8BVH

No report.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed reported there will be a tabletop disaster session but we will probably not be asked to participate.

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:

Gary, W8GTS reported that the auction held after the March meeting took in \$712. Charlie thanked Gary and John for getting the items together for the auction.

Mary, KD8EEI reported there was one shirt and hat that was printed incorrectly. The sheet given to Lancaster Sporting Goods had a #2 instead of a C on the call. Mary also stated that she felt the club should pay the \$29.28 that will be due when they complete the shirt and hat with correct call. Mary stated Robert had put a lot of work into getting the logo done for the signs, etc. and he had paid the initial cost for the screen print when he had his first shirt done to have a sample to show the club. George, KB8USP made a motion to pay Lancaster Sporting Goods \$29.28 and seconded by Ray, W8FLX. All in favor.

New Business:

Charlie asked for a show of hands of members who approved of accepting Carl Carder, WA8HFS as a member. All in favor.

Mary, KD8EEI stated she had been contacted by Friends of the Park to do communications for an upcoming 5K Race on Saturday, June 29th. The following people volunteered to work the event: Ray, W8FLX; John, K9ULO; Don, WD8PCF; George, KB8USP; and John, KD8EEK. Mary will let them know we have people to cover the event and get more details about time and what they want us to cover.

Gary, W8GTS read a correspondence from Bill Parker stating he would be interested in coming down to the club and doing a 50 minute presentation on LED lights. The members were in favor and Gary will get in touch with Bill to see about possible dates in July. Gary will report his findings at the next meeting.

Steve, KD8JLA stated EMA has purchased a 31 ft motor home for use for disasters and there is a meeting tomorrow morning which the club needs to state whether we want a radio in this new vehicle. The members agreed that we definitely want a radio (160 meter to 440 MHz and a Yaesu 857 if possible).

Gary, W8GTS made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Travis, KD8EEI,
Secretary

TEN-TEC on air net:

Each Sunday, the TEN-TEC 40 meter SSB net will start first at 20:00 UTC on or about 7.260 LSB and the 20 meter SSB net will follow at 21:00 UTC on or about 14.325 USB + or -.

This will allow us to operate ahead of the 40 meter foreign broadcasts and also to give many more of our TEN-TEC family the opportunity to check into both nets.

I count it a great pleasure to be able to run both of the TEN-TEC nets and I really do appreciate each one. I look forward to hearing from many of you each Sunday afternoon. Check in's with any brand of radio are welcome



Thank you.

John Occhipinti, K3UR

Net Control, TEN-TEC SSB Nets

Greater Atlanta Area



Hamfests

2013 Hamfests fairly close by us:

4-20 Jackson County (*note this is a Saturday event and they have a new location*)

4-28 Athens

5-17=19 Dayton Hamvention

All of this information, and more, can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

WELCOME

Please welcome Anthony Luscre, K8ZT of Stow, Ohio as Assistant Section Manager (ASM), Educational Outreach. Anthony will be working with ASM E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD for the newly formed Educational and Youth Outreach program for the ARRL Ohio Section.

Anthony is the Director of Technology for Mogadore Local Schools (www.mogadore.net). He is involved in Technology Integration in Classroom, Technology Curriculum Development and Technology Support. He is a frequent speaker at a variety of Educational Technology Conferences, including- eTech Ohio Technology Conference, FETC (Florida Educational Tech Conf.) and numerous regional conferences.

ARRL Ohio Section

Section Manager: Frank Piper, KI8GW

ki8gw@arrl.org



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Here is an unusual 2 meter antenna. Looks like it would be fun to build. The article is rather long but worth the read.

*Ralph
W8BVH*

The "Slingshot" Antenna for 2 Meters

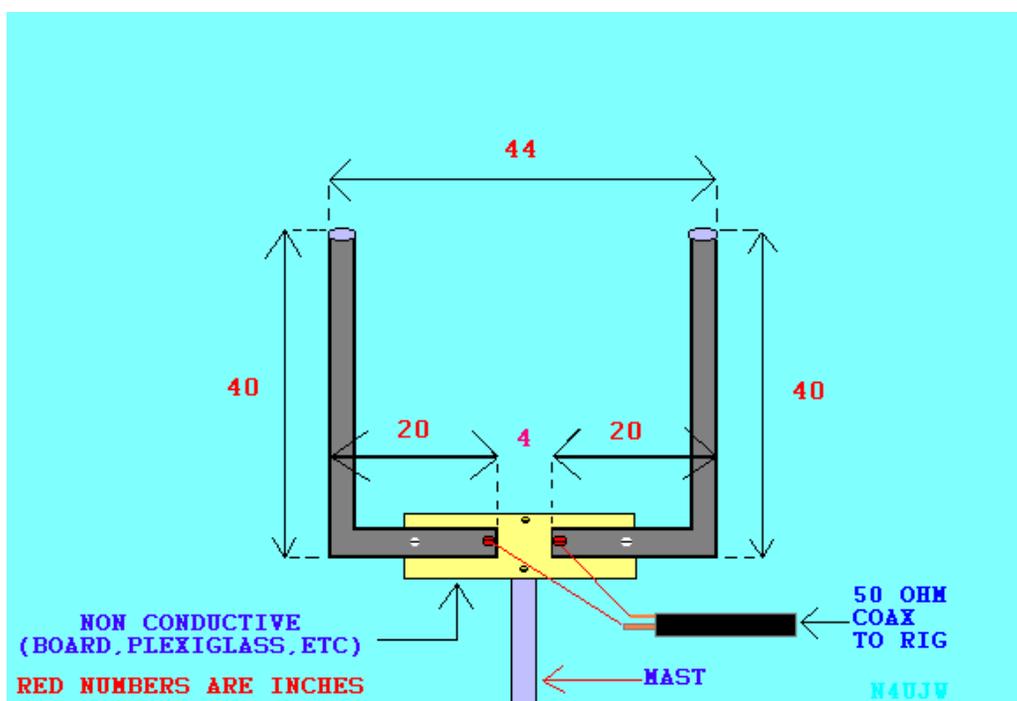
Re-edited by N4UJW from an original article by David Younker
KA8OGD (callsign no longer active)
73 Magazine April 1989

While recently going thru some of my old ham radio magazines, I ran across this inexpensive and easy to build antenna project for 2 meters. I have not seen it on the internet so here it is for you to try!

I personally have not tried this antenna but it should work fine if you follow the very simple directions!

It can be built as is for 2 meters, or you can try it on other bands or frequencies with the formulas provided by me below.

THE



SLINGSHOT ANTENNA
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

Please note in drawing that elements are bent 90 degrees. Make your bends as needed depending on material used for elements. If you use copper tubing, a 90 degree elbow on each should work fine. If you are comfortable with bending, great, if not, get the hardware store to do it for you!

The completed antenna is bi-directional with a rough figure 8 pattern and is composed of 2, 3/4 wavelength sections of electrical conduit bent and cut to the lengths in the drawing and supported as shown on any type of insulating material attached to the mast with whatever arrangement of bolts, nuts, clamps, etc.

You should note that the bottom (horizontal element portion) is 1/4 wavelength long and the top (vertical element section) is 1/2 wavelength long.

The element mounting plate (in yellow in the drawing) can be plexiglass, painted wood or whatever you happen to have that is NON CONDUCTIVE. You can use copper or aluminum for the active 3/4 wave elements, but aluminum would be preferred due to less weight. Although electrical conduit comes in various sizes, the size was not stated in the original article but I would suggest 1/2 inch or larger in diameter. (The larger, the greater the bandwidth.)

The total length of each element is 60 inches + - and they are attached about 4 inches apart on the mounting plate with enough bolts and nuts as needed.

The coax attachment points are in red on the picture, and I would suggest that you use spade lugs on the ends of the coax to attach it to the bottom end of each element (the ends nearest the bend) with bolts, nuts and lock washers all the way thru the element and plate. There must be a good electrical connection between the coax center conductor and shield braid and each element. Keep the connections lengths from the end of the coax as short as possible. They become part of the radiating element lengths.

It does not matter which conductor from the coax is attached to which element.

SEAL ALL CONNECTIONS AND THE END OF THE COAX!

When attaching the elements to the mounting plate, drill enough holes all the way thru the elements and plate for good mechanical stability and attach with bolts and nuts. The elements and coax connections must not touch the support mast at any point if the mast is made of metal of any kind! You could use a pvc pipe or length of lumber of the required length instead of metal to get the antenna up as high as possible and a half wave or more is preferred!

"This design, untrimmed, up a half wave, presented an SWR of 1.5:1 across the top 2 MHz of the band (146-148mhz)".....KA8OGD

A note or two more about experimenting with this antenna:

MAXIMUM SIGNAL IS OFF BOTH ENDS (TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT AS DRAWN NOT BROADSIDE. Point the boom at your target!)

ANTENNA SHOULD BE ROTATED IN DIRECTION NEEDED!

The formulas for calculating the lengths for this project seem to be approximately the following.

There is a more complicated formula first and then a simple version....take your choice...they both yield the same result:

$11808/\text{freqmhz} = 1$ wavelength in inches
 $11808/147.00\text{Mhz} = 80.3$ inches (using 147.00Mhz)
 $3/4$ wavelength = $.75 \times 80.3 = 60.2$ inches

Simple version formulas:

$8856 / \text{freqmhz} = 3/4$ wavelength section in inches (total element length)
 $5904 / \text{freqmhz} = 1/2$ wavelength section in inches
 $2952 / \text{freqmhz} = 1/4$ wavelength section in inches

Lets do a calculation for 144.200Mhz ssb using the more complicated version formula:

$11808/144.200 = 81.88$ inches
 $3/4$ wavelength = $.75 \times 81.88 = 61.4$ inches total element length per side
 $1/4$ wavelength would be = $81.88 / 4 = 20.47$ inches or $1/3$ of 61.4 inches. (The vertical section takes $2/3$ of the total length of one side of the antenna element)
The 90 degree bend will be at the $1/4$ wave point on the total length.

Footnote to construction: It is advisable to add about 5 or 6 turns of coax at the base of the antenna as an air choke to help keep rf off the feedline. Some builders do this....some don't.

According to the article, 15 meters is about as low in frequency as it can be used before it becomes very difficult to keep it up due to size and weight! (one element would be about 34.5 feet long according to my Texas Instruments model TI-7140 handheld calculator and the above formulas!) HI!

MODIFICATIONS, COMMENTS AND UPDATES!

Experimentation performed by LA2PJ of Norway taken from his email: (January 23, 2003)

Tonight I have tried a construction from your webpages,
The Slingshot Antenna.

Just soldered two wires to the end of a short length of coax and pinned it to the wall in my shack with small needles to get the correct shape.

The results were amazing! The direction of the wall is in the right direction to a distant repeater here on the west coast of Norway. Using an Alinco handheld with approx 1W, I was able to work through the repeater with full quieting. The distance is 94 kilometers (approx. 55 miles). The reports indicated that they could not notice the difference when I switched between this indoor antenna and a Diamond X-510 vertical on the roof. The SWR was 1.4:1 at 144MHz rising to 1.7:1 at 146 MHz, indicating that the antenna is a bit long. But then the elements are made of 1mm stranded copper wire. Am thinking of a way to produce the antenna to be used outdoors.
If your offer is still valid, I would like to present this antenna in Norwegian at our web site.

Best 73's
Egil - LA2PJ

(I said yes to his request for adding the project to his site in Norway. Stay tuned here for the link when he gets it up and running for our fellow Norwegian Ham friends to enjoy.)

Editors note: Egil, LA2PJ, is the former Webmaster for the NRRL, the Norway counterpart to our ARRL!

Update from KC2GOA: The two meter slingshot works now that I made some changes. I had to change the spacing between the two elements to 1/2 inch and cut the short lengths to 19 1/4 inches and the long ones down to 39 1/4 inches and I came up with a 1.2 swr at 146.000mhz. 73's KC2GOA.....

[Editors note: The diameter of the elements and the spacing at the center insulator will play an important part in getting the antenna to resonate at your frequency of operation for lowest SWR. Some experimentation may be needed with your particular construction techniques!]

More updates: January 2004
440mhz scaled version by N9YBP [CLICK HERE](#)

From the editor: I hope you try this antenna project as is and if you are pleased with the results, please let me know, and if you have tried any modifications to it and they worked a lot better in performance, please [email me](#) with them. I will be glad to add them to this project with full credit going to you!

EXPERIMENT! EXPERIMENT! EXPERIMENT!

(See latest experiments with this antenna and input from builders next below.

MORE MODS FEBRUARY, 2005 BY ROY:

I constructed this antenna as per KC2GOA's latest dimensions. However I added an SO 239 connector between the two elements for direct connection with coax with a PL259 connector.

See drawing below: For the antenna itself. I used the 1/2" copper tubing AS STATED ABOVE, but for connecting the two sides together, I used a 12" piece of 1/2" PVC which the copper tubing fit snugly inside of, and attached an SO 239 connector in the middle.

I mounted the 239 connector on the PVC with a self tapping screw into the GAP between the antenna sides.

I then bolted thru both PVC and copper tubing with brass machine screws and nuts to secure the tubing to the PVC.

[NOTE:](#)

[TailgateFest](#) at the club house the 1st Saturday in May. Bring all your valuables and be ready to buy. Lots of fun for everyone and it doesn't last all day. Any questions or changes in date, see Allen Sellers (KB8JLG).

A NEW HAMFEST TO CONSIDER.....

The below letter was sent to the Club. This is not toooo far to go and maybe some of you might want to attend. It is not until June but this gives you time to plan if your interested. Might be a good time for a CONVOY. Ha-ha

From: webmaster@breezeshooters.org
Subject: Invitation to the BreezeShooters Hamfest
Date: April 6, 2013 12:24:15 PM EDT
To: k8qik@columbus.rr.com
Reply-To: webmaster@breezeshooters.org

To: Lancaster & Fairfield Cty ARC

The 'Breeze Shooters' will once again be having their Hamfest on June 2,2013 This will be our 59th Annual Event. As in the years past, we are offering to the local radio clubs in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and West Virginia:

2- Free Admission Tickets to our Hamfest located in Butler, Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh) These can be given as a 'drawing prize' at your May,2013 club meeting. This is one way we advertise our Hamfest and welcome members from other clubs to attend.

The tickets will only be sent to the postal address that was provided to us from the ARRL (no exceptions) and can be only obtained by responding to this email from the account that it was addressed.

OFFER IS LIMITED TO (2) Tickets per club and request must be received by May 10,2013

For Hamfest Flyer downloading and more information regarding our Hamfest, please see <http://www.breezeshooters.org>

73's and hope to see you there,
de The Breeze Shooters

That's all for this month. We hope you enjoy the information and use some of it. Check our website often www.k8qik.org . Why not bring two friends to the next club meeting which is *May 2, 2013 @ 7:30pm*. It will be at our club house on Rt. 37 across from OU-L campus.
Till next month.....'73'

