



# The Ragchewer

March 7, 2013

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 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](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](#)

## 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](mailto:webmaster@k8qik.org)

### Editor:

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

# March 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes

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

David Heston, KD8SVT and William Zorns, KD8NPA applications were passed around for 2nd reading and Carl Carder, WA8HFS application was passed for 1st reading.

## Officer Reports

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

Minutes of the February meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Ralph, W8BVH made a motion to accept minutes and seconded by Robert, KC8PSW. All in favor.

**Roll call taken tonight:** 29 members in attendance and no guests.

Allen	KB8JLG	Isaac	KD8SYM
Allen	KD8RNP	Jack	AE8P
Charlie	N8KZN	John	W8OF
Brent	KD8MGR	John	KD8EEK
Candy	KC8NQG	John	K9ULO
Connie	N8LPC	Larry	KD8AHK
Dave	WB9PXH	Mark	KD8IMT
David	WD8LZK	Mary	KD8EEI
David	KB8DRQ	Mike	WD8EBS
Dave	WA8UT	Mike	WN8C
Don	WD8PCF	Paul	KD8DDD
Ed	WB8JBG	Paula	KD8OCI
Gary	W8GTS	Ralph	W8BVH
George	KB8USP	Robert	KC8PSW
		William	KD8RNQ

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

George, KB8USP gave the treasurer's report in Ed's absence and motion made by John, K9ULO and seconded by John, W8OF to approve treasurer's report. All in favor.

### **VP Report: Mark White, KD8IMT**

Mark reported that American Legion Amateur Radio Club has grown steadily to nearly a thousand members.

During the ARRL forum at Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest, Ohio Section Manager, Frank Piper announced the formation of a new program in the Ohio Section, "Youth and Educational Outreach".

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

John reported he has set up a 2-way radio which records audio off all repeaters 24 hours a day.

John also stated John Hull, W8RRJ of CORC, had been in touch with him and he would be interested in linking up with us once we have the 6 meter repeater up and running.

John reported for Steve, KD8JLA that there will be an EMA exercise in November 2013 simulating what would happen if all of Columbus radio equipment went down. Also EMA has purchased a big 25 ft. motor

home and Steve has received permission to have the vehicle for our Field Day operation.

John had worked with Robert, KC8PSW to get pricing for putting a new roof on building on Waterworks Hill. Mike, WD8EBS made a motion authorizing up to \$200 to replace the roof and seconded by Brent, KD8MGR. All in favor.

## Committee Reports

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

John reported Field Day information will be going up on the website shortly.

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

Allen stated he would be testing one person on Friday, March 8th at Happy Penguin. He also stated the technician class is up and running and the first week there were eight people.

### **Monday Night Net**

March 11th	John Lawson, W8AGS
March 18th	Robert Northrup, KC8PSW – no newslines
March 25th	John Dolske, K9ULO
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	David, WD8LZK - no newslines

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

No report but requested members send him articles for inclusion in monthly Ragchewer.

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

John, K9ULO reported there is a meeting in April for ARES Coordinator to attend. He has been trying to get Ed to send necessary information on alternate attending the meeting.

Robert, KC8PSW stated he had been told that CERT was holding training sessions for Amateur Radio Technician class and no one from our organization has been contacted regarding this. John, W8OF will talk to Steve, KD8JLA and ask him to find out what is going on at the CERT office because our organization should be the one operating the radio equipment during a disaster.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

Charlie reported for Connie that we would still like to set something up for operating radios at Alley Park sometime in May or June. We will discuss further at next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

Robert, KC8PSW reported that the total cost for signs was \$503.96 and he is returning a check in the amount of \$146.04 to the club since we authorized \$650. Robert has a sign up sheet for members to order shirts or hats and he will be available after the meeting to collect money for the orders.

Gary, W8GTS will hold the auction for excess equipment to be sold after we close the meeting.

### New Business:

Charlie asked for a show of hands of members who approved of accepting David Heston, KD8SVT as a member. All in favor.

Charlie asked for a show of hands of members who approved of accepting William Zorns, KD8NPA as a member. All in favor.

Charlie read the Executive Committee meeting minutes from February 28, 2013. Mark White, KD8IMT made a motion that from this day forward no keys will be issued to anyone other than officers of the club. Sandy Snider, KD8FTX seconded the motion and all were in favor. The reasons for this were:

1. Unknown status of county moving Health Department and we may have to move.
2. Security system is not fully operational.
3. Officers with keys are close enough to the clubhouse to unlock it if someone needs to get in.

Charlie stated that those who currently have keys may keep them.

Mary, KD8EEI reported that Ed Bennett's spouse had donated some climbing equipment that Ed had in addition to information Ed had for the club flower fund. There was \$82.00 in the flower fund. John, K9ULO made a motion to deposit the \$82.00 in club treasury and Mary, KD8EEI would submit her expenses for reimbursement for cards, flowers and stamps since Secretary is now handling this function.

Ralph, W8BVH made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Travis, KD8EEI,  
Secretary

The auction of items selected for sale, was held after the close of business and all but two items sold for a total income of \$712.00.



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## Hamfests

**2013 Hamfests fairly close by us:**

3-23 Gallipolis  
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>

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## Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator ANNOUNCEMENTS

Effective March 5th, 2013...the Ohio HF Net run by the Team W8SGT at the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center will be moving their net time from 6PM to 7PM local time. Please make note of this change. As a reminder, this net is held every Tuesday on 3875 kHz and about 20 minutes after the net starts, the net switches to 7240 kHz. All are welcome to check in. You do not have to be an ARES volunteer to check in. Check in and put your county on the map.

The Ohio ARES/OES HF Digital Net has a new website. Check it out at <http://ohden.org/>. This net is held every Tuesday at 8PM local time on 3585 kHz USB. Please note all HF digital sound card modes are Upper Side Band regardless of band. See website for more details. All are welcome to check in. You do not have to be an ARES volunteer to check in. Check in and put your county on the map.

It's never too early to start thinking of ARRL Field Day. Unfamiliar with Field Day? It's a 24 hour nationwide exercise always held the fourth full weekend in June. This year it will be held June 22nd and 23rd. ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. More than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. The 2013 Field Day packet is available for download from the ARRL website [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

In final, there is no right or wrong answer when it comes to your arsenal of communications. It's all about what works for you. When it comes to emergencies and disasters, being prepared will lead you to being ready. Being ready will help make you a part of the solution and not part of the problem. That's all for this month. As always, I thank you for everything you do for amateur radio.

73,  
Matthew Welch W8DEC  
Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator  
[w8dec@arrl.net](mailto:w8dec@arrl.net)

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## American Wire Gauge

The American Wire Gauge (AWG) is used in North America to specify copper wire sizes. The AWG scale is counterintuitive, because smaller gauges have large diameters. The reason is that AWG numbers specify the number of times wire has been drawn through a diameter reducing machine to reduce its diameter. For example, 14-gauge wire has been drawn through a reducing machine two more times than 12-gauge wire. In other countries wire size is specified according to cross-sectional area in millimeters

## Li-Ion Battery Overcharge Danger

Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) batteries are different than most types of rechargeable batteries in that they remain cool during normal charging. That can induce a false sense of safety, because Li-Ion batteries can burn, explode, and spread toxic material that inflicts human injury and damages equipment if they are overcharged. Most commercial Li-Ion batteries have several automatic protection devices built-in, because

of that danger. Generally charging current is interrupted if the voltage across any cell exceeds 4.30 volts, internal pressure exceeds a preset threshold, or internal temperature rises to an unsafe level. Li-Ion batteries usually are left in an unusable state after any of those things occur. Never defeat any of the internal protection devices or otherwise try to charge a lithium-ion battery that has become unchargeable.

# A Two Dollar Helical HF Portable Antenna

Bev AH6NF and Jim WH6GS

Here's an easily transportable vertical antenna for 20 meters collapsible to 4 feet that costs about \$2.00 to make.

This was created as a fun project to demonstrate how to enjoy operating HF in the field with a home-made portable antenna without spending a ton of money.

Bev AH6NF (YL) made this antenna, tuned and ready to operate in less than one hour.

The design is a continuously loaded, helically wound vertical antenna with a three-foot stinger. The stinger folds along the four-foot mast for storage. Here's how to make one.

Materials:

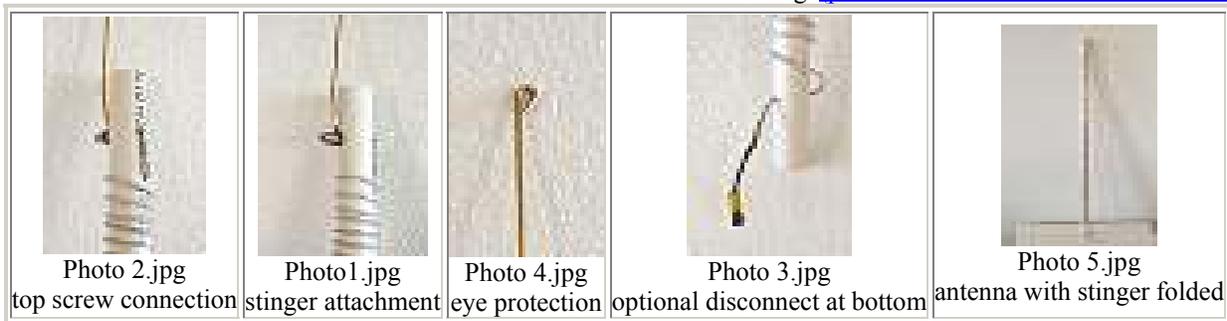
1. four feet of ½ inch white PVC water pipe (10 ft @ \$1.29 = 4 feet for 52 cents)
2. 30 feet of 14 gauge insulated electrical house wiring (2.7 cents per foot = 30 feet for 84 cents)
3. 3/32 inch diameter brass brazing rod, 3 feet long (\$8.00 per dozen = 67 cents each)
4. misc. junkbox stuff
  - number 8 screw 1-1/2 inch long
  - number 8 nut
  - two small washers
  - optional disconnect
  - optional ring lug
  - any junk wire 15 feet long for counterpoise

Total cost = \$2.00

Steps:

1. Cut 4 foot length of plastic pipe
2. Drill 3/32 hole through pipe 2 inches from one end (this is the bottom)
3. Drill 3/32 holes through pipe 2 and 3 inches from the other end (this is the top)
4. Push wire through the hole 3 inches from the top extending about 2 inches from the other side

5. Wrap the remainder of the wire, coiling it tightly around pipe toward the bottom
6. Push other end of the wire through the hole at the bottom extending about 2 inches
7. You now have a helical winding on a plastic pipe
8. Strip ½ inch from the top end of the wire and wrap it around the screw
9. Insert screw in the top end hole 2 inches from end, extending out the other side ([photo-1 / 45KB](#))
10. Insert washer over screw
11. Form an eye on the end of the brass rod and place it over the screw
12. Insert second washer over screw
13. Insert nut onto screw and tighten until very snug ([photo-2 / 61KB](#))
14. The brass rod should swivel from parallel to the winding to the stinger position
15. Make a small loop at the end of the brass rod as eye protection ([photo-3 / 17KB](#))
16. If desired, attach a disconnect to the bottom wire ([photo-4 / 48KB](#))
17. Attach a coax to the bottom wire
18. Add counterpoise / radials of any spare wire from junkbox – preferably 15 feet long (1/4 wave) to ground connection of coax
19. Mount on something vertical, extend counterpoise wire on ground
20. Connect coax to antenna analyzer or HF rig
21. Tune to desired 20 meter band
22. If on HF rig, use LOW POWER CW setting
23. Key and check SWR – expand and/or contract winding to get desired minimum SWR
24. If desired, tape winding in place after tuning.
25. That's it ... enjoy
26. Photo of completed antenna with stinger folded for storage ([photo-5 / 54KB](#))



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## *Modern Amateur Radio Hobby.*

This video comes to us via Canada, and is used by permission ( Bernard Bouchard - <https://www.youtube.com/user/ve2sms>)

This is a brief overview of the modern amateur radio hobby and is interesting. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=K40HpljDLRs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=K40HpljDLRs)

Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club

Waverly, OH

website: [www.qsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html/](http://www.qsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html/)

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



That's all for this month. We hope you enjoy the information and use some of it. Check our website often [www.k8qik.org](http://www.k8qik.org) . Why not bring two friends to the next club meeting which is April 4, 2013 @ 7:30pm. It will be at our club house on Rt. 37 across from OU-L campus.

*Till next month.....'73'*