

The Ragchewer



Snow has arrived in Lancaster

January 2





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:

Paul Flaut, KB8CMW

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

January 9, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

At 6:30 p.m., Charlie, N8KZN called the special meeting to order (regular January 2nd meeting was cancelled due to bad weather). Charlie, N8KZN, lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

First reading for the following application: David Shaffer, KB8IRG.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

December minutes will be approved at February meeting.

Roll call taken tonight: 20 members in attendance with one guest David Shaffer, KB8IRG.

Adam	KD8VHS	Jack	AE8P
Allen	KD8RNP	John	W8OF
Brent	KD8MGO	John	W8AGS
Charlie	N8KZN	John	K9ULO
Connie	N8LPC	Mark	KC8TUW
David	WB9PXH	Mark	KD8IMT
David	WD8LZK	Mary	KD8EEI
Gary	W8GTS	Paul	KB8CMW
George	KB8USP	Sandy	KD8FTX
Greg	KD8SSJ	Steve	KD8JLA

Treasurer's Report: Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO (George Lambert, KB8USP Acting Treas.)

No report since special meeting.

VP Report: Paul Flautt, KB8CMW

No report.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

The following is an email that was sent out prior to holding a special meeting to approve funds for climbing tower and changing placement of antennas and installing new hard line.

“January 3, 2014

Over the last few months I have been working with the Sheriff's Office radio people with coordinating the permanent placement of antennas on the county's tower where the clubs repeater is located. The county has made changes in there antenna placement and it is partially the reason we need to make some changes in our antennas. We often don't understand the reasons why changes occur but we must remember our equipment and antennas are “guests” at their facility and they also pay for all the electric used every month.

More or less the final placement of antennas was agreed upon with Jon Kochis EMA Director and Chief Deputy Perrigo in a meeting with Steve Anderson this Friday morning. These meeting are very good for the users of the county tower. It is extremely important to keep the doors open and our ears listening to all ideas any one of the

users has. Each concern must be placed on the table so each entity has a chance to see how it might affect their own interest.

The final tower placement will continue to permit our club antennas to share the highest location on the tower with the Sheriff's Office and the second highest tower location with the EMA repeater. I have tried to promote the spirit of cooperation between all concerned and remain flexible and open to the opposing ideas. I think once each entity has completed installation and reworking of antennas including the radio club should give us a continued permanent presence on the hill and on the county tower. These improvements and with the purchase of the new 147.03 repeater should give many years of great communication from one of the best locations in the county.

As we enter the year 2014 I look back and can remember when the club was beginning to assemble pieces and parts for the first local repeater. That year was 1974. It is hard to believe our club has had a repeater presence on two meters for almost 40 years!

I would also like to thank Steve Anderson KD8JLA for his help, time and assistance working with the County Agencies to continue the clubs mission and having our equipment remain at the county facility.

Next Thursday at 6:30pm a special meeting has been called to vote on expenditure to hire a professional tower company to move, remove and run coax cable to four existing club antennas. The estimated cost given to me was \$130.00 an hour, which includes two tower people and their equipment and ropes. I have estimated the total time to be less than 8 hours, probably more like 4 to 5, however we never know what they will run into along the way. It is vitally important that this tower work be completed prior to the other agencies doing their work.

Please join with me and let's get the work done and behind us.

John, W8OF
Trustee"

A motion was made by Brent, KD8MGR to authorize John, W8OF to spend up to \$1,100 on the company John has secured to climb the tower and change the placement of antennas and hard line according to John's specifications. Seconded by John, K9ULO. All in favor.

A motion was made by Paul, KB8CMW to approve expenses totaling \$244.35 (\$151.35(itemized by John for miscellaneous items needed for repeater rebuilds plus \$93.00 over the \$1,300 approved previously for the repeater. The extra \$93 was for software to program repeaters.) Seconded by Mark, KD8IMT. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: John (K9ULO) & Carol Dolske

No report since special meeting.

Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

No report since special meeting.

Monday Night Net

Net was established via email and Brent, KD8MGR agreed to do Feb 3rd.

Ragchewer: Ralph Howes, W8BVH

No report since special meeting.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

No report since special meeting.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No report since special meeting.

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF

No report since special meeting.

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

No report since special meeting.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mary read the letter from Carl Carder dated 12-9-13 in which he enclosed a check for \$1,000 as a donation for the repairs for club repeater. Mary has sent a letter thanking him for this donation and this letter included the IRS requirement of notifying him of his total donations for the year of \$1,200. This letter may be used by him for tax purposes.

Gary, W8GTS made a motion to give Carl Carder, WA8HFS a lifetime membership. Seconded by Greg, KD8SSJ. All in favor. Mary will prepare a letter which will be taken by Gary & Ralph when they go see Carl in the next few days.

Since Sandy, KD8FTX is unable to make our regular meetings, she asked for a show of hands on whether the group wanted to have the 2014 Christmas Party at Golden Corral on 2nd Saturday in December (Dec. 13th). All were in favor of going back to Golden Corral. Mary asked for applause for all the work Sandy and Connie put in every year for the party.

Gary, W8GTS made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Secretary



Since this last meeting, one of our club members, Carl Carder, WA8HF5, has passed away. He was living in Zanesville with his daughter, Teresa. Amateur radio was a large part of his life. He was active on the 9:00 net on 147.030. He will be missed.



+++ It's the "Mother" of all QSO Parties; it's open to All Hams +++

It began January 1, 2014 and will extend through December 31, 2014? It is the "mother" of all QSO parties. Judging from the first few hours of the New Year, this will be a very successful party, too. So what are the basics of it?

The ARRL Centennial QSO party actually is two distinct-but-related activities. These involve working W1AW from each state (W1AW Worked All States) and a Centennial Points Challenge.

The W1AW WAS is possible because throughout 2014, W1AW will be operating portable from each state for considerable periods of time. There, of course, will be W1AW/1 in each of the FCC Area 1 states, W1AW/2 in each of the Area 2 states, etc. through W1AW/0. Most US territories will also operate W1AW portable (e.g. W1AW/KH2 W1AW/KP2, etc.). To get a W1AW WAS, simply work W1AW portable from each of the 50 US states from January 1 through December 31. W1AW will operate portable from each state twice during the year.

The Centennial Points Challenge is equally as simple, but involves QSOing as many ARRL officials and members as possible . . . and club stations for ARRL affiliated clubs. Collect points by contacting every ARRL member from President through individual member. One note of importance: all entries into the Centennial Challenge must be made via LoTW. Other awards made be requested

Details of the operating schedules for W1AW portable operations, the point schedule for the many ARRL members and details of the QSO party go to www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party.

See you on the bands.

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A reminder that the FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign W100AW during 2014, the ARRL's centennial year.

Contacts made from the Maxim Memorial Station in Newington, from regional Centennial conventions, and during the IARU HF Championship will use W100AW, with portable designators as appropriate. The "W1AW WAS" operations throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will use W1AW, not W100AW.

Bulletins and code practice transmissions during 2014 also will still use W1AW. Contacts with W100AW are worth 100 points in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party.

Information on the ARRL Centennial QSO Party may be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party> .

Separating Aluminum Tubing

I have found a method for separating telescoping lengths of aluminum tubing that may be stuck firmly together due to minor corrosion. First, I use a screwdriver to lift, very slightly, the segments of the slotted ends. I do this one segment at a time, to prevent permanent bending. Then I cup my hand closely under the joint and dribble a little rubbing alcohol on it (see Figure 5). I repeat this 3 or 4 times over the course of a minute, then wait for a minute.

After allowing the alcohol to soak in, I use two pliers and/or locking grips to separate the two pieces. I find that the alcohol has penetrated to the very end of the joint, softening the corrosion products, allowing the tubes to be separated, at which point I can wipe off the soft residue before it dries. — 73, *Bob Wilkinson, W7VN, 19048 Woodton Ln, Brookings, OR 97415, w7vn@arrl.net*



Figure 5 — A little rubbing alcohol applied to the junction of two stuck antenna elements can soften whatever impurities have become lodged between the sections, allowing them to be more easily separated. [Lorraine Wilkinson, W7RFC, photo]

KB6NU's Ham Radio Tip of the Week

To improve your CW speed, operate a contest.

If you really want to improve your CW speed, work a contest. I know that sounds contradictory.

After all, how can you even understand what's going on if everyone is sending much faster than you can copy? Well, the trick is that by working at it, you actually do get used to copying at that higher speed, and because what's sent during an exchange is limited and in a set format, it's easier to understand. At first, you may have to copy a call sign or exchange two or three or even more times to get them right, but if you work at it, it will get easier.

73,

Dan KB6NU



Here is a glimpse of what John, W8OF, has been working on for the last several weeks. This is a partial view of the layout of the new repeater.



FOR SALE

- TS830s (10-160 transceiver)
- SM220 (station monitor w/ pan adapter)
- VFO230 (external VFO with cables)
- SP230 (external speaker)

They all are very nice condition. The transceiver was checked at a Kenwood Service center a year ago, aligned and it worked right up to specs. Made a few contacts and put it back in the original TS830S box. Thought I would set it up after I got my new room added on but this isn't going to happen so I had better get it to someone who will use it and have a lot of fun. I also have the original SM220 box but the other two do not have their original boxes. They all look very clean. No mods.

For the TS830s transceiver I have the original instruction manual as well as a cd of the service manual and the user's manual. For the SP 230 speaker I have the spec sheet and the parts list. For the VFO 230 I have a copy of the manual. For the SM220 station monitor (with the pan adapter) I have the original manual.

Asking \$1200.00 plus actual shipping in the lower U.S. from 43130.

Thanks for your time,
Ralph Howes, W8BVH
<good on QRZ>

Well that's about all for this month. Hope you get some use out of the articles and have been inspired to participate more in all of the club activities. Stay warm and safe.....

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