



SOLAR WIND SPARKS BRIGHT AURORAS: For the second day in a row, a stream of solar wind is buffeting Earth's magnetic field. This has caused G2-class geomagnetic storms and bright auroras over parts of the USA and Europe. "Last night was epic," reports Ruslan Merzlyakov, who sends this picture from Nykøbing Mors, Denmark: "These were the brightest auroras I have ever seen in my life," he says. (<http://spaceweather.com/>)

The Ragchewer

September 3, 2015





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 on 3rd Thursday at 7 pm. Call Robert Northrup, KC8PSW (614-323-1901). For more details go to www.k8qik.org

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>

2015 Officers

President:

Rob Ruffner, KD8DXC

Vice President:

Paul Flaut, KB8CMW

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Education:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Activities Managers

Sandy Snider, KD8FTX
Connie Snoke, N8LPC

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Web Master:

John, K9ULO & Carol Dolske
webmaster@k8qik.org

News Editor:

Ralph Howes, W8BVH
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

September 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m., Paul, KB8CMW called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was one application for first review: Luke Hamlin, KE8BVC and two for second review Thomas J O'Dell, AB8SJ and Charles E Karnes, KE4BF0.

Officer Reports

Acting Secretary Report: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Minutes of the August meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. Adam, KE8AFP made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Paul, W8PDK with change to Paul Kidwell from KE8ATT to W8PDK and also add, under Trustee report, "all equipment "owned" by FMC and the club utilizes the repeater only. All were in favor.

Roll call taken tonight:

22 members in attendance with four guests present. The guests were, Thomas O'Dell, Charles Karnes, Luke Hamlin and Zack Morrison, KE8AFN.

Adam	KE8AFP	Jeffrey	KE8AME
Brent	KD8MGR	Jim	KB8TRL
Charlie	N8KZN	John	K9ULO
Connie	N8LPC	John	W8OF
Dave	KD8MOY	Paul	KB8CMW
Dave	WB9PXH	Paul	W8PDK
David	KB8DRQ	Ray	KD8WHY
Dennis	KB8WR	Robert	KC8PSW
Everitt	KE8AMA	Scott	WD8IX0
Gary	W8GTS	Steve	KD8JLA
George	KB8USP	Wayne	KD8MGO
Greg	KD8SSJ		

Acting Treasurer's Report: George Lambert, KB8USP

George gave the treasurer's report and Dave, KD8MOY made a motion to accept the report, seconded by John, K9ULO. All were in favor.

VP Report: Paul Flautt, KB8CMW

No report

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John emailed club repeater frequencies and PL tones. John also turned in bill for \$65.77 for new repeater misc. hardware and for new antenna and \$9.00 to Greg, KD8SSJ. Motion made to pay the bill by Paul, W8PDK and seconded by John, K9ULO. All were in favor.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: John (K9UL0) & Carol Dolske

No report. Everyone was thrilled to have John back with us. John reported that the food at Cleveland Clinic not bad but doesn't wish what he went thru on anyone.

Chairman Educational Committee: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Robert reported 1 test was administered in August and they passed. Next testing session will be September 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse 2nd floor. Robert also updated ARRL on testing dates and times for next year.

Monday Night Net

9/7/15 Paul, KB8CMW
9/14/15 John Dolske, K9UL0
9/21/15 Robert Northrup, KC8PSW
9/28/15 Luke Hamlin, KE8BVC

Ragchewer: Ralph Howes, W8BVH

No report.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PG0

No report.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IX0

No report.

Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W80F

No report.

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

No report.

Old Business:

There was discussion regarding next week's radio night and collecting money for pizza. John reported that last month there was lots of pizza leftover because number of people eating was not that many. No one wants to handle taking care of getting pizza so Brent, KD8MGR made a motion to give the leftover \$17.00 to Charlie, seconded by Charles, KE4BF0. All were in favor.

New Business:

Paul asked for a show of hands approving Thomas O'Dell, AB8SJ for membership. All were in favor.

Paul asked for a show of hands approving Charles Karner, KE4BF0 for membership. All were in favor.

Brent, KD8MGR reported on new Chinese dual band mobile QYT8900 cost \$88.00 shipping included. Works great.

Steve, KD8JLA gave the report from nominating committee (Steve, KD8JLA, George, KB8USP and Mary, KD8EEI) as follows:

- President - Paul Flautt, KB8CMW
- Vice President - David Jackson, KD8MOY
- Treasurer - Ed Campbell, WD8PGO
- Secretary - Carolyn Spurgeon, KE8AFM
- Activity Manager - Sandy Snider, KD8FTX

There were some changes that were discovered when calling all the membership for seeking candidates for office and Mary, KD8EEI will be sending the changes to Ed Campbell to correct on membership list.

It was noted that Phortia Stevens, AB8GE is a silent key. She passed away in March 2015.

Ray, KD8MOY made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John, K9UL0. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW
Acting Secretary

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+++ DON'T FORGET +++

Lancaster-Fairfield County ARC will have their annual swap-meet September 12, 2015 from 8 am to 10 am (or so) at our club parking lot. Directions can be found on our web site www.k8qik.orgCome one; come all and bring lots of things to trade or sell. It's always a fun time. If you need anything you can contact one of the officers found on the web site. See you all there.

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Jamboree-on-the-Air



The Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is an annual Scouting event that uses amateur radio to link Scouts around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. Held on the third full weekend of October each year, this worldwide jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby radio amateur's ham shack. Many times the hams will come to you by setting up at a Scout camporee, or perhaps they already have a ham shack at your council's camp. There are many ways to get your Scouts involved in JOTA. For more information go to: <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>

TORNADO AWARENESS CLASS-

A Tornado Awareness Class will be held in Columbus on October 16-17. There are 30 seats available each day. Contact is Pam Tickle, 614-794-0213 or pktickle@franklincountyohio.gov.

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System Fusion Yaesu

On Wednesday August 19, 2015 a crew of club members installed the antenna for the new System Fusion Repeater on 146.70 MHz with PL of 94.8 Hz. We also installed the new repeater. It is working great at our Water Works Hill repeater site!

Currently the 146.70 repeater at FMC has been temporarily turned off while we move the Echo Link and NOWA Weather Radio to the new System Fusion repeater. Once completed the old repeater will be available for use as a backup and for auto-patch calls. More on this later after the transition has been completed.

Currently if you have been using the ARES 146.70 repeater you need not do anything to your equipment to use the new system fusion repeater. It is set up on 146.70 with the old PL of 94.8 Hz. It is in-service for your use.

Also remember the new fusion repeater will accept analog FM as well as C4FM digital formats. What mode you talk into the repeater is exactly how it is repeated back out. Currently most stations are analog FM. These stations using the new repeater will not see any changes other than a female voice identifier and NO RESET BEEPS.

To learn more about C4FM and the System Fusion System see Yaesu.com for more information.

I will send out an email to all members after the changeover from the old repeater to the new one has been 100% completed.

John Hilliard, W8OF
K8QIK Station Engineer

Editor's NOTE: (I know this was in last month's newsletter and also a special mailing but it is worth repeating for some of us.)

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JAMMER CAUGHT

For over a year, repeaters in the Eastern part of Cincinnati, along with machines in Northern Kentucky were victims of a jammer. At first it was just an annoyance, but once racial and sexual comments and interference to public service frequencies became the norm, it got more serious and steps were taken to identify the culprit and end his "fun". The Clinton County ARA and Highland ARA repeaters were frequent targets. After a long investigation, the jammer was identified as an amateur radio operator and a member of a Cincinnati area club. It just happened he set on the committee trying to find the jammer and even knew when the FCC was going to be in town! His downfall was a visit by the FCC that was not coordinated with the local club. Daniel Hicks, KB8UYZ, is now subject to an \$8,000 fine. *Reported by the Monday Morning Memo (Hillsboro, OH)*

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RECENT BAND CONDITIONS

Perhaps you have been hearing some unusual things on your local repeater and perhaps repeaters on the same frequency from some distance. For the past several weeks tropospheric ducting has been happening at some time almost every day. For instance, I recently worked a station from near Indy on our local machine like he was local. Another local ham reports hearing a repeater on the local frequency from Virginia. It's not unusual to hear the Canadian lake conditions on the upper weather channels.

Railroad communications in Maine are being interfered with by other railroads in Iowa who use the same frequencies. Yes, a lot of strange signals are heard as the result of summertime TD. TD occurs mainly at VHF and UHF frequencies and sometimes it gets interesting. A few years ago TD caused a railroad accident. It seems some railroaders in a Midwestern state were using CB language to communicate with their train crews. Responding to their dispatcher they said "10-4". Tropo was great that day and an engineer in California doing switching heard the signal, thought it was his brakeman saying "ten more" and proceeded to push his train off the end of a track. *Reported by the Monday Morning Memo (Hillsboro, OH)*

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***** A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE *****

The Clinton County ARA recently placed a repeater at the site near New Vienna where the National Weather Service repeater will be installed once it is received.

They have been trying to plot the coverage area of a repeater from that site. However they have been unable to receive any reports from basically Chillicothe to the river counties. Many of this area are serviced by the Wilmington National Weather Service Office.

If you, or someone you know, can operate 440, they would appreciate knowing if you can bring up the New Vienna machine. It uses a 74 Hz tone to activate. Please pass this request around to those you know who are not on the Monday Morning Memo mailing list, but who may have 440 equipment.

Please let them know the physical QTH location, power and antenna type used if they are able to access the machine. I will forward any reports to the appropriate CCARA contact.

They know of a station in Madison County that constantly uses the machine using a 2 watt handheld-a distance of 42 miles!

Your assistance will be appreciated.

John Levo WA8KIW
jlevo@cinci.rr.com

Ohio State Parks On The Air



[Eighth Annual Ohio State Parks On The Air – Amateur Radio Contest](#)

Make sure to mark your calendar for the 2015 Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest – September 12, 2015. The contest is always held on the first Saturday following the Labor Day holiday. Each year this event has grown and we anticipate another year of growth with even more participating Amateur Radio Operators.

Let me remind you that the OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind:

1. To promote public awareness of amateur radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system
2. To contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology
3. To promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators

Your participation has allowed these goals to be achieved. We agree it is a lot of fun to get out in a natural setting with your radio and see how well you can do at working operators in the beautiful Ohio State Parks. The 2015 files are being updated and with your help, we're looking for a fun event again this year. Make your plans now.

Don't forget we have an OSPOTA Yahoo Group located at: groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/OSPOTA/info
The OSPOTA Yahoo Group page is used for messaging and sharing of information about OSPOTA for all the fans and participants in the OSPOTA contest.

As the contest draws near, we'll be posting on the OSPOTA Yahoo Group page the anticipated 'who's going to be at what Ohio State Park' or 'Planned Park' list as we have in past years. Send your planned park activation information to PlannedParks@ospota.org. Please, include the call sign that will be used and the Ohio State Park you plan to be at. If your plans change, just let us know and we'll update the list.

Take care & 73 from the entire OSPOTA contest Committee,

Tom, KB8UUZ
OSPOTA Chairman

OSPOTA Questions? Email: INFO@ospota.org

When the OSPOTA contest is over, send Logs and Summary Sheets to: Logs@ospota.org



The Ohio Section News

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: We are rapidly approaching 100 Co-sponsors for the "Amateur Radio Parity Act" HB 1301 in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill was introduced in the House to direct the FCC to allow Radio Amateurs to have "parity" with the current TVRO antenna regulations and install reasonable ham radio antennas and has been subsequently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

We will be at both the Louisville and Findlay Hamfests to generate letters encouraging your elected officials to support and co-sponsor the Amateur Radio Parity Act. We are equipped with custom software that will identify your Senator and Congressperson and generate a letter to each. We will print these letters, you can sign each and ARRL representatives will hand deliver these letters to your elected officials. This personal contact and supporting constituent letters have been extremely effective in our campaign for reaching potential bill co-sponsors. The new ARRL Web Page <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> contains the complete text of both the House and Senate bills.

It should be noted that there is some inaccurate and misleading information that has been released by some representatives of homeowners and community associations. ARRL has published a statement to provide clarification to these statements and cover, in simple terms, what the bill will and will not do. For more details, please see: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Clarity%20on%20Parity.pdf>

73, see you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director of ARRL Great Lakes Division

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The Museum Day Live! ticket provides free admission for two people.

In the spirit of the Smithsonian Museums, which offer free admission every day, Museum Day Live! is an annual event hosted by *Smithsonian* magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Live! ticket... for free. For further information go to:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/>



A special notation.....

I just found out that Phortia Stevens, AB8GE, passed away earlier this year. You can see her obituary here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newarkadvocate/obituary.aspx?pid=174360942>
There is also an online guest registry.



Remember September 11, 2001. Pray for America and that this doesn't happen again. Notify all your elected officials to read the Constitution of the United States and that they need to do a better job of protecting America.

Lancaster-Fairfield County ARC
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Email: ragchewer@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.k8qjk.org

