



The Ragchewer

March 3, 2016





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

Club Meetings :

1st Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Fairfield County Job & Family Services on corner of W. Main St. and Memorial Dr., Lancaster, OH. Go to the EMA room until further notice.

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

www.k8qik.org

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 at the Club House. 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>

2016 Officers

President:

Paul Flautt, *KB8CMW*

Vice President:

David Jackson, *KD8MOY*

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr., *WD8PGO*

Secretary:

Carolyn Spurgeon, *KE8AFM*

Trustee:

John Hilliard, *W8OF*

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, *W8OF*

Volunteer Exam Coordinator:

Robert Northrup, *KC8PSW*

Activities Managers

Adam Cook, KE8AFP

Public Relations:

David Jackson, KD8MOY

Web Master:

John, *K9ULO* & Carol Dolske
webmaster@k8qik.org

News Editor:

Ralph Howes, *W8BVH*
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

March 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

At 7:35 p.m., John W8OF called the meeting to order.

John W8OF led the pledge of allegiance.

There were two visitors to this meeting: Lee Crabtree, and John Fick KD8EEK.

There were no applications for review or for voting.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Carolyn Spurgeon KE8AFM

Minutes of the February meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. There were no corrections to the minutes. Dave WB9PXH made a motion to accept the minutes. Greg KD8SSJ seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sign-in tonight: 21 members in attendance.

Adam	KE8AFP	Rod	K1RQS
Carolyn	KE8AFM	Everett	KE8AMA
Charlie	N8KZN	Jeff	KE8AME
Connie	N8LPC	John	W8OF
Candice	KC8NQG	Mary	KD8EEI
Dave	WB9PXH	Scott	WD8IXO
Dennis	KB8WR	Robb	KE8AMC
Greg	KD8SSJ	Paul	W8PDK
Brent	KD8MGR	Robert	KC8PSW
Larry	KB8AHK	Ray	KD8WHY
Jack	AE8P		

Treasurer's Report: George Lambert KB8USP

Carolyn KE8AFM gave the treasurer's report in George's absence. Jeff KE8AME made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Dennis KB8WR. All were in favor.

VP Report: David Jackson KD8MOY

No report

Trustee Report: John Hilliard W8OF

John reported that two people retrieved items from the club house in the first wave of disposing of club house items. The items retrieved were silverware and microwave. Discussion was then held regarding the next phase which would be the auction of items of value. Brent KD8MGR proposed that we hold an auction at the club house so that the auction could be conducted and items sold could be taken home the same day. Brent offered also, to act as auctioneer. All were agreeable and JohnW8OF said that he would take pictures of auction items and send in an e-mail to the members as well as the details of the auction, ahead of the auction date.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: John K9ULO & Carol Dolske

No report

Volunteer Exam Coordinator: Robert Northrup KC8PSW

Robert gave a testing summary for February 2016. There were 3 candidates: 1 who tested for both technician and general and 2 who tested for extra. All 3 passed. Next scheduled test date is March 17, 2016, at 7p.m. at the club house.

Monday Night Net Manager: David Jackson KD8MOY

No report. In David's absence, volunteers were asked to sign up for net control. The schedule is as follows:

March 7 Brent KD8MOY

March 14 Robert KC8PSW

March 21 Jeff KE8AME

March 28 John W8OF or John W8AGS

April 4 John W8OF or John W8AGS

*John W8OF will contact John W8AGS to determine the last two dates.

Ragchewer: Ralph Howes W8BVH

No report

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell WD8PGO/John Dolske K9ULO

No report from either Ed or John. Carolyn KE8AFM reiterated two upcoming trainings that Ralph W8BVH has e-mailed to the members. Weather spotter training is Wednesday, March 30 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Liberty Center, 951 Liberty Center Drive, Lancaster. Training is free but people must register. Also, C.E.R.T. training is 5 days in May: 9, 11, 16, 18 6-9 p.m., and 21 10a.m.-2p.m. This training is also free and you must register. It will be held at the Fairfield County EMA. There is also no commitment to use this training although you are encouraged to do so.

Safety: Scott Snoke WD8IXO

No report

Public Relations: David Jackson KD8MOY

No report

Station Engineer: John Hilliard W8OF

John reported that the controller project is completed and that 146.70 now transmits analog and digital.

Activities Manager: Adam Cook KE8AFP

Adam reported that the National Parks on the Air that is scheduled in the near vicinity is on July 16th at Hopewell Culture Club. He will be e-mailing the membership with times and details to follow as well as reporting at the April meeting. In addition, John W8OF asked Rod K1RQS if he would be willing to assist Adam in preparations for Field Day. Rod agreed.

Old Business:

John W80F brought to the club's attention again that Ralph W8BVH desires to seek a replacement for Ragchewer editor. John asked for a volunteer but no one volunteered.

Carolyn KE8AFM reported that the laptop will not enable the printer to operate that Rod K1RQS had loaned to be used in conjunction with the club laptop. The printer has been checked with another computer and is working. There is a problem with the laptop instead. Dave WB9PXU volunteered to look at the laptop to try to determine what the problem is and to fix it.

New Business:

Ray W8FLX proposed a motion to state the following: I make a motion that the name of the 'swap meeting' be changed to 'LFCARC Flea Market'. Discussion was held and it was decided to table this motion until the next meeting when all the officers are present.

John K9ULO has resigned as webmaster for the club. John W80F has contacted Kevin KC8MTV to ask if he would be interested in taking this over since he has been webmaster for the club in the past. Robb KE8AMC made a motion that Kevin be the new webmaster. Brent KD8MGR seconded the motion. All were in favor. During the meeting, Ray KD8WHY made a phone call to Kevin to ask him if he would officially accept the position. Kevin, did in fact, accept.

Carolyn KE8AFM brought to the member's attention that the dues for anyone applying for membership that is under 18 years of age would pay \$12.00 dues. The application states \$15.00 but the By-Laws under **Dues (c)** specify \$12.00. John K9ULO, in his audit report, made mention of this.

Robert KC8PSW brought up that the club Constitution is remiss in details regarding the 'Lifetime' membership status. Discussion was held and it was determined that a clear detailed description be written and then added to the By-Laws. Brent KD8MGR volunteered to write the description. Brent will present this at the next club meeting in April as a motion for vote.

In regards to continuing to meet at the EMA office, John W80F asked Robb KE8AMC if he would contact Jon Kochis, Director of the EMA, for our continued use of the meeting room.

Paul W8PDK made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gregg KD8SSJ seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Spurgeon KE8AFM
Secretary





The Ohio Section News

Don't forget that Daylight Saving Time springs ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13th this year.. Spring can't be far behind if the time is changing!!



"Dale's Tales" for March, 2016

Dale Williams WA8EFK
ARRL Director
Great Lakes Division

I am pleased to report that Amateur Radio is playing a continually more important part in Michigan's overall emergency communications plan. This Interoperability Conference, which was hosted by the Homeland Security Division of the MI State Police, devoted several hours of time to Auxiliary Communications, which is based upon ARES®, NTS, CAP, MARS, SATERN how these groups are organized, operate and respond in emergencies. Michigan Section manager John McDonough WB8RCR also detailed RACES, covering what it is and what it is not. The several hundred conference attendees were from police, fire, EMT, Emergency Management and first responder teams from across the state.

Great Lakes Division members can be proud of their respective Section leadership teams for their diligence in working with their individual state's Emergency Management organizations and promoting a very positive atmosphere relating to the services that we radio amateur operators can provide for our communities. While each of our three Sections has its own unique operating relationship with state officials, amateur radio is highly regarded in every case. This is not to say all is perfect, certainly not, as we have many opportunities to improve. We all need to strive for accurate documentation, uniform registration and timely reporting. ARRL Leadership is working to reduce the burden of complying with these needs, and over the next few months, we may begin testing these services in selected locations. Remember, our agency partner leadership managers see the reporting numbers and stats, lets insure that we continue to keep them up to date and accurate. These figures show how much we do, and what cost benefits our services provide to each partner-agency.

UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: HR 1301 is the Bill number for the House of Representatives. Progress continues, as last month the House version had 118 Co-Sponsors, today the number is up to 123. The Senate version of the bill is number S 1685. If you have not done so, please contact your Senators and Congressman in Washington and encourage their support for the Act. You can find more information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters for personal delivery: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111

HAMFESTING: Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule for the next few weeks. These swaps have received their sanctioning approval from ARRL HQ at the time of this publication. We have approximately 65 hamfests each year in the Great Lakes Division. I do encourage each Hamfest Chair to register early for ARRL Sanctioning. It is never too early to register your hamfest with Headquarters. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Help avoid date conflicts, do it early!

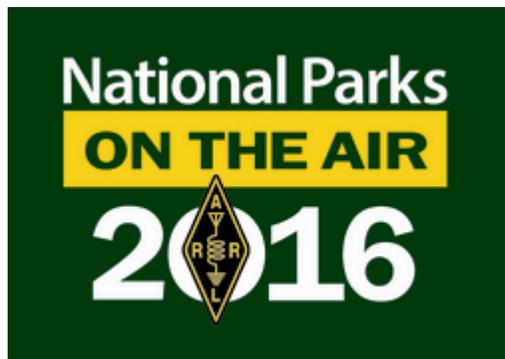
- Mar 5 - Cave City - Cave City, KY
- Mar 6 - NOARS - Elyria, OH
- Mar 19 - Crossroads - Kalamazoo, MI
- Mar 20 - TMRA Hamfest - Perrysburg, OH
- Mar 26 - MOVARC - Gallipolis, OH
- Apr 2 - Portsmouth - Portsmouth, OH
- Apr 9 - Cuyahoga Falls - Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Apr 19 - Letcher County - Whitesburg, KY
- Apr 24 - Athens - Athens, OH
- May 7 - Cadillac - Cadillac, MI
- May 14 - Chassell Hamfest - Chassel, MI
- May 20-22 - Dayton Hamvention - Dayton, OH



Moore Texas by Roger T. Moore Nov.25,1919,College Station:
First play by play football coverage-Aggies and Longhorns-sent by Morse Code and translated to fans around Texas by Ham Radio operators.



National Parks on the Air Update



National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) statistics for the end of February show that momentum for the year-long event continues. More than 136,000 NPOTA contacts have been made from 311 NPOTA units, in more than 1500 qualified activations! National Scenic and Historic Trails continue to be the most-activated units. The Appalachian Trail is the biggest favorite, with 34 valid activations, while the Santa Fe National Historic Trail has the most number of QSOs made from an NPS unit -- 3533. For you NPOTA Honor Roll chasers, 34 of the 59 National Parks have had Amateur Radio activity since January 1.

SSB is by far the most popular mode, with 88.4 percent of all NPOTA QSOs made with a microphone. CW comes in a very distant second, with 10.3 percent, and digital at 1.2 percent.

There are 26 NPOTA activations listed for March 3-9, including Cabrillo National Monument in California (MN09), and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Indiana (NM15).

[Details](#) about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar.

Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on [Facebook](#). Follow NPOTA on [Twitter](#) (@ARRL_NPOTA).



ARRL 2016 Field Day Packet Now Available, New Bonus Point Categories Announced



It's not too early to be thinking about [Field Day](#) 2016 and planning your club's strategy for a bigger score and greater participation than last year. Field Day is June 25-26 -- always the 4th full weekend in June -- and the 2016 ARRL Field Day Packet now is

available to [download](#) as a PDF file. This year's Field Day introduces two new ways to score bonus points -- Social Media and Safety Officer.



UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT:

We continue to be encouraged by the efforts of our Washington team as they continue to foster support of the passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The House version now has 118 Co-Sponsors. HR 1301 is the Bill number for the House of Representatives. The Senate version of the bill is number S 1685. If you have not done so, please contact your Senator and Congressman in Washington and encourage his/her support for the Act. You can find more information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters for personal delivery: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.



Revamped FCC Website Set to Debut



Have you tried the new FCC website? It initially looks better and the thing that pops out was you can click on file a complaint and it will take you to where you need to go. Fairly simple to use, at least to that point. I didn't want to file a complaint so I didn't go any further. Take a look: www.fcc.gov and see what you think.....<>



ARES Groups, Individual Hams Support Army and Air Force MARS Communications Exercise

On February 12, more than 300 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members and individual radio amateurs participated in the first quarterly Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) US Department of Defense communications exercise of 2016 (COMEX 16-1). US Army and Air Force MARS operators across the US, Europe, and the Pacific took part in the 12-hour Department of Defense (DOD) contingency HF communication exercise, which simulated a widespread loss of telephone and Internet communication across the US. MARS operators reached out to ARES members and individual hams in as many US counties as possible to obtain status reports via radio.

"The purpose of the exercise was to give MARS operators the opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in responding to DOD requests for simulated emergency situational awareness reports from counties across the United States," Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, explained. "DOD and the MARS leadership want to thank the more than 300 Amateur Radio operators who assisted in making this exercise a success by providing local county information using VHF, UHF, and NVIS HF voice communications."

English said the supported Department of Defense headquarters entities "were very pleased with the outcome of the exercise, and especially with the number of Amateur Radio stations that participated on a weekday and the number of unique county reports received over the 12-hour period." After eliminating duplicates, English said, MARS received 312 county status reports.



The exercise aimed in part to develop local-level working relationships between MARS operators and ARES groups and individual radio amateurs and clubs, English said.



Armed Forces Day 2016 Communication Test to Include Direct Military-Ham Contact on 60 Meters

This year's Armed Forces Day Crossband Communication Test on Saturday, May 14, will include a significant new wrinkle: Select military stations will be using 60 meter interoperability channels to communicate *directly* with Amateur Radio stations on the band. Back this year, select military stations will use crossband Automatic Link Establishment (2G ALE) communication as well as MIL-STD Serial PSK to send the Secretary of Defense Armed Forces Day message. Armed Forces Day 2016 is Saturday, May 21, but the radio event is held earlier to avoid conflicting with Dayton [Hamvention](#), May 20-22.

The annual Armed Forces Day Communication Test is an opportunity to exercise two-way communication capability between Amateur Radio and military stations using a variety of modes, including SSB and CW as well as digital modes. The annual event gives participants -- including shortwave listeners (SWLs) -- an opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station.

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard cosponsor the joint military/Amateur Radio, with military stations transmitting on military frequencies and listening on Amateur Radio bands.

Amateur Radio stations and shortwave listeners interested in trying the MIL-STD Serial PSK mode can [download](#) the software program, *MS-DMT*.

Full details about this year's Armed Forces Day radio will be [posted](#) by April 12 and will also appear on the US Army MARS [Facebook page](#).



Texas to Host US ARDF Championships in April

The US [championships](#) of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) return to the Lone Star State this spring. Sponsored by Texas ARDF and the Austin Orienteering Club ([AOC](#)), the event will take place April 7-10 near Killeen, Texas. On-foot foxhunting fans of all skill levels will gather for 4 days of intense competition.



National ARDF championships typically take place in the late summer or early fall, but because the ARDF World Championships in Bulgaria take place in early September this year, the national event is being held in April to provide plenty of time to select Team USA members and to make travel arrangements.

An optional training day just prior to the championships on Wednesday, April 6, will feature an 80 meter short course. Thursday, April 7, will be devoted to [foxoring](#), a combination of radio direction finding and classic orienteering, on 80 meters. Friday morning will be the formal 80 meter [sprint](#) event, followed by a catered lunch, competitor meeting, and model event for equipment testing.

Classic 2 meter and 80 meter competitions will take place on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. An awards banquet on Saturday evening will honor winners of the foxoring, sprint, and 2 meter classic events. Awards for the 80 meter classic event will be given Sunday afternoon, immediately following the competition.

Lead organizers, event hosts, and course planners are Jennifer and Kenneth Harker, W5JEN and WM5R, assisted by members of the Austin Orienteering Club.

Stateside winners of the US championships will be considered for membership in ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Albena, Bulgaria for the [18th ARDF World Championships](#).

Full [details](#) are on the Texas ARDF website. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to ARRL ARDF Coordinator [Joe Moell, K0OV](#)



Jennifer Harker, W5JEN, competing at the 2015 USA ARDF Championships. [Joe Moell, K0OV, photo]

"Frequency" TV Series Now Planned for The CW Network

The buzz from Hollywood is that a TV series based on the 2000 movie "Frequency" is in development and -- appropriately enough for a show featuring ham radio -- on The CW network. Amateur Radio served as a plot device in the movie and will play the same role in the TV series.



Actor Jim Caviezel in the 2000 movie, "Frequency." [Courtesy of New Line Cinema]

In November 2014, *The Hollywood Reporter* indicated that NBC had committed to a "Frequency" series, but those plans apparently fell by the wayside. Now, The CW has ordered a pilot episode of "Frequency," and, if the network does go forward with the project, the modern-day version of "Frequency," the TV series, would feature a young female police detective named Raimy, who uses ham radio to communicate through time with her deceased father.

Actress Peyton List is said to have landed to role of Raimy, reprising Jim Caviezel's movie character. Riley Smith would play her father.

When the original "Frequency" movie debuted, the ham radio theme and the chance to see vintage ham gear and real, glowing vacuum tubes on the big screen generated considerable interest within the community

of "boat anchor" enthusiasts. ARRL worked with the film's producers.

ARRL VEC Applications, Session Scheduling Getting Back on Track:

A computer program issue that was preventing the ARRL VEC from managing and posting its schedule of future examination sessions and transmitting application data from completed sessions to the FCC has been resolved, and the backlog is being cleared. "The ARRL IT Department has our system is back up and running," ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said on March 2. "ARRL VEC has begun to transmit into FCC Electronic Batch Filing system the approximately 200 exam sessions that were waiting in the queue. It may take a few days to get through the entire backlog." Since the problem surfaced on February 22, the system had worked "sporadically," Somma said, allowing a few test sessions to make it to the FCC for processing.

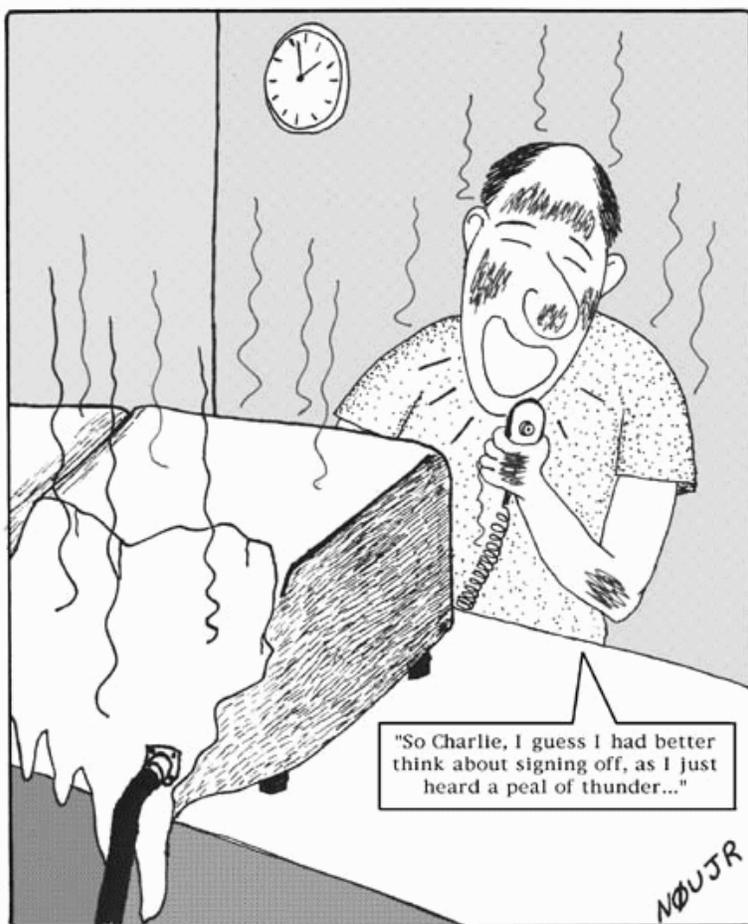


Thanks to the Monday Morning Memo from Hillsboro, OH for the following info:

SPECIAL EVENT STATION -The **Scioto Valley ARC** will observe the annual "Spring Into Spring" time change to Daylight Savings Time with their 5th annual W8BAP "Lost Hour" special event operation on March 13. The event will happen between 0000Z to 0006Z. Look for them on 3.860, 7.250, 14.250, and 28.445, plus or minus QRM. A certificate will be available for a SASE to Jim Boyce, 604 West 5th Street, Chillicothe, OH 45601.

MARCH GRANT ARC PROGRAM -Rodney Crawford, WD8CTX, will present a program about County Hunting at the March 15 **Grant ARC** meeting. Rodney is the holder of USA-CA 956 for working all 3,077 counties in the United States.

OHIO WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK -In order to call attention to the possibility of various types of hazardous weather and their results, Ohio will hold a Severe Spring Weather Awareness Week starting March 20 through March 26. On Wednesday, March 22 a Statewide Tornado Drill will happen at 9:50 am when outdoor warning sirens around the state will be activated for three minutes. State officials highly suggest local clubs hold drills and weather nets to further practice their communication skills. It's also suggested each household organize a disaster kit and practice safety drills during the week.



8000th CONTACT -Jerry Barnett, W8HOG, just entered the 8,000th CW contact into his logbook. And all of these in less than 5 years! Not only does Jerry use both hands to send code, but he can also use both feet. Besides this amazing feat he also operates CW while mobile

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING -Spotter training will happen in Portsmouth on March 21 at 6 pm. On March 24, training for Clinton, Fayette and Highland Counties will be held at the Wilmington City Hall at 6:30 pm and on March 30 training for Fairfield, Hocking and Pickaway Counties will occur at the Liberty Center, 951 Liberty Center Drive in Lancaster. It will start at 6:30 pm and conclude at 9:00. These sessions will disclose how to safely observe storms and identify important features. You will learn the visual clues preceding tornado development and how to make accurate and timely reports. There is no fee to attend these seminars.

ARRL REPRESENTATIVE TO SPEAK -

Southwest Ohio ARRL Assistant Section Manager Tom Delaney, W8WTD, will be the program speaker at the April 12 **Highland Amateur Radio Association** meeting according to President Lee Bishop, N8YHU. The meeting will get underway at 7 pm in the basement meeting room of the Highland County Administration Building in Hillsboro. Bishop invites all area amateurs and clubs to attend the meeting and learn what the ARRL is involved in as well as answer questions regarding the benefits of a League membership.



THE GRAND TOUR -Ohio has 70+ State Parks and starting July 7 W8WDS is going to activate every one of them! He anticipates completing the effort with a park activation during the Ohio Parks on the Air Contest on September 9. Activating all of the parks will require ferry rides, plane flights to the parks located on the Lake Erie islands and a decent outlay of cash. However it is far less expensive than his original thought to activate a National Park a day. He is looking for local clubs, scouts and other volunteers to assist his effort. He is also looking at inviting patients of Veteran's Hospitals to join him at the parks and introduce them to amateur radio. Activity will be on HF and 146.52. To see how you or your club might be able to assist contact w8wdsham@yahoo.com or grandtour@gaterunner.com for info.

SPEAKER JACKS -When the three conductor version of the 1/4 jack was introduced for stereo headphones it was given a sharper tip to make it possible to manufacture sockets that would accept only stereo plugs. This was to prevent short circuiting the right amplifier channel. This attempt has now been long abandoned and now the normal convention is for all plugs to fit all jacks of the same size-regardless of whether they are mono, unbalanced mono or stereo. Perhaps that now explains why some speaker jacks just don't seem to work.

*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. We could use your services with the Monday night net on 147.03 (tone 71.9MHz). Don't forget to check for Special Events going on. Look at your club's web site often for up to date info; www.k8qik.org. Stay Safe and get on the air. **"HAM RADIO IS A CONTACT SPORT"***

Lancaster-Fairfield County ARC
P.O. Box 3
Lancaster, OH 43130

Email: ragchewer@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.k8qik.org

