



December 8, 2016





*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 **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:**

146.700 Repeater with 94.8 Hz tone Monday at 8:30 PM

[www.k8qik.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Red Cross building on W. Mulberry St. just off of Broad St. Call Robert Northrup, KC8PSW (614-323-1901). For more details go to [www.k8qik.org](http://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](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>

**2016 Officers**

**President:**

Paul Flautt, KB8CMW

**Vice President:**

Gregg Dersarkisian, KD8SSJ

**Treasurer:**

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

**Secretary:**

Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV

**Trustee:**

John Hilliard, W8OF

**Station Engineer:**

John Hilliard, W8OF

**Volunteer Exam Coordinator:**

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

**Activities Manager:**

Becky Numbers, KC8NQE

**Public Relations:**

- EVERYONE -

**Web Master:**

Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV  
[webmaster@k8qik.org](mailto:webmaster@k8qik.org)

**News Editor:**

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

# December 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

At 6:00 p.m., Paul KB8CMW called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was 1 visitor at this meeting, Nancy LaRue.

## Officer Reports

### **Secretary Report: Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV**

Minutes of the November meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. There were no corrections to the minutes. Ray W8FLX made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Brent KD8MGR. All were in fav

**Sign-in tonight: 20** members in attendance.

Brent	KD8MGR	Greg	KD8SSJ
Kevin	KC8MTV	Rod	K1RQS
Mary	KD8EEI	Jeff	KE8AME
Paul	W8PDK	Becky	KC8NQE
Ray	W8FLX	John	W8OF
Paul	KB8CMW	Kay	KC8HJW
Jack	AE8P	Russell	KE8BUP
Dennis	KB8WR	Timothy	KE8EGE
Brooks	KD8XJ		
David	WP8AOL		
Thomas	KB8USK		
Ed	WD8PGO		

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report. Paul KB8CMW made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Tom KB8USK. All were in favor.

### **VP Report/Net Control Manager: Greg Dersarkisian, KD8SSJ**

No report except to ask for volunteers for Monday night net control. The dates needed and the volunteers are as follows:

Dec. 12 Brent KD8MGR  
Dec. 19 Jeff KE8AME  
Dec. 26 Paul KB8CMW  
Jan. 02 John W8AGS

### **Trustee Report/Station Engineer Report: John Hilliard, W8OF**

No report

# Committee Reports

**Webmaster: Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV**

No report

**Chairman Volunteer Exam Committee: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW**

No report

**Ragchewer: Ralph Howes, W8BVH**

No report

**Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO**

No report

**Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO**

No report.

**Public Relations:**

No report.

**Activities Manager: Becky Numbers, KC8NQE**

Becky suggested after the holidays were over, getting together with those that would like to attend a Saturday breakfast once or twice a month at an area restaurant and socialize and mingle together.

**Old Business:**

No Report

**New Business:**

Our wireless doorbell didn't work out very well, because there was too much space between A and B, so to take its place Brent KD8MGR got a UHF HT that can be placed on that same plaque outside the door, inexpensive. It has one UHF frequency in it. With someone in the meeting that has their HT, it has one frequency of 446.00 simplex. When someone comes to the meeting late they can pick this up and call to be let in. This HT has a range of at 3/4 -1 mile range, and testing it out, it delivered a full scale signal. It should have no problem making it 200 feet or so. Brent KD8MGR has donated this device to the club.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

Tom KB8USK

Seconded by Rod K1QRS

Submitted by:

Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV

Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dit- a diddle dot dit.**

A friend forwarded this interesting story. Source unknown. de Tom N4KG

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he

went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet.

They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.'" None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his.

***CW IS!***



## New Item as seen in the Scioto Valley ARC newsletter!



# N3 SDR Receiver

Sure, you *can* drive a nail into a board using a brick, but the whole time you're doing it, you know it's not right.

The same thing went through our minds every time we plugged in a Generation 1 or Generation 2 ThumbNet dongle. It feels a little wrong to use a circuit designed for TV reception for Software Defined Radio.

We went back to the drawing board, got a clean sheet of paper and designed an entirely new, next generation circuit that is completely compatible with existing SDR software and hardware.

We like to push the edge of what's possible.

## Introducing the ThumbNet N3 SDR Receiver.

The next Generation, ThumbNet N3 is designed from the ground up to be as simple to use as older generation dongles, but with powerful hardware features for advanced hobbyists and experimenters.

We removed all of the excess components that were sources of noise or interference in other dongles, and optimized the circuit for simplicity, sensitivity and selectivity. Then we added a port to use a cable with the extremely common mini-USB connection so that the N3 is less prone to noise from the host computer than a traditional dongle. Finally, the use of standard Surface Mount 0603 or larger components makes it simple for testing or modification.

We built them for our own use, then decided to offer them to everyone.

The N3 works like other RTL-SDRs, but with significantly better performance. This higher performance consumes a little more current, so please ensure that your USB port can provide at least 410mA. Alternatively, use an external 5V (max 6V, min 4.5V) power supply (5V, 1000mA linear supplies are available in the [Nongles Store](#)). A Phoenix plug with screw terminals is provided for this purpose.

It is advised that the user wire directly to the Phoenix plug (check polarity and for loose wires that may cause a short-circuit) and insert or remove the plug whenever you want to connect power to the N3 instead of removing the wires from the plug each time.

## A quick list of the features of the N3:

- Full backward compatibility with existing RTL-SDR dongles and software
- High stability TCXO (+/-0.5ppm) (ensuring rock-solid stability from start-up and over a wide range of temperatures)
- Standard R820T2 + RTL2832U (plus 24C02 EEPROM) chipset
- Improved/enhanced decoupling. (Common-mode choke on USB port)
- Low-noise, linear only power regulation (separate 1.2v and 3.3v regulators)

- External DC +5v supply connector (included)
- Mini-USB connection (allows easy separation of the RF unit from the noisy PC)
- F type RF connector (very common and compatible with existing ThumbNet tracking stations)
- Large (6x4cm) contiguous ground-plane (for better thermal dissipation)
- Static drain-away resistor on the RF input (1K to ground)
- All unnecessary parts (IR receiver, high-current LED etc.) eliminated to reduce parts count and noise

### **Ideal for experimentation:**

- Can be connected to an external power supply for very clean power
- All of the important tracks are visible on the top side of the board for easy access
- All of the RF parts are on the top of the board (only regulators and decouplers on the back)
- Logical, simple layout using 0603 (or larger) SMT parts
- IF port break in connector (between front end and IF/USB chip) provided

### **Utilizing Clean Power**

While not required for operation, the N3 receiver is designed to be able to utilize a clean source of power from an external 5v power supply, instead of using the noisy power line coming from the computer's USB port. This gives a tremendous advantage to the purist or experimenter who wants to utilize power from the N3 to power any external experiments. (When the external power supply is active, no power is drawn from the USB port to power the N3.)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The N3 draws approximately 410 milliamps of current and care should be taken, even when using a powered USB hub, as it could possibly exceed the current limit of the USB port. (5v 1000mA linear power supplies are available in the [Nongles Store](#)).

### **Supporting a Great Cause**

Proceeds from the sale of the N3 SDR Receiver are used to support ThumbNet, the non-profit organization that is helping students around the world learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as well as Space, Radio, Meteorology and even Art. All at the same time!

You can read more about ThumbNet [here](#), but to summarize: ThumbNet was born to encourage students around the world to look up at the stars and to give them a chance to feel that they are part of something larger. The hardware to track and monitor radio signals from satellites in orbit is donated to the schools by ThumbNet, and with over 200 volunteer groups in more than 72 countries, we're having an immediate and positive effect on the lives of hundreds of students around the globe! ThumbNet averages three new volunteer groups a week, so when you buy an N3 receiver for your workshop, you'll know that you're making a difference by supporting a global effort to educate and inspire students.

We've designed the N3 receiver to be the right tool for the job for our ThumbNet volunteers, and at only \$25.75 each, we think you'll agree that it's the right tool for you too!

**Website:** <http://www.nongles.com/detail-n3-receiver.html>

## NEWS FROM YOUR ARRL

### Chinese Over-the-Horizon Radar QRMing Low End of 40 Meters

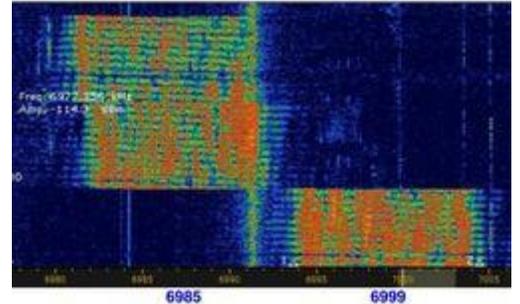
The IARU Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System [newsletter](#) reports that one of China's HF Over-the-Horizon radars (OTH-R) has been transmitting on 6.999 MHz, impinging on the very low end of the 40-meter band.

As the newsletter reported: "A jumping Chinese OTH radar covered the CW DX-edge of our exclusive 7 MHz band on November 17 at about 1500 UTC and later (long lasting)." The signal was 67 sweeps per second with a 10 kHz bandwidth.

Elsewhere on 40 meters, military ALE transmissions have been heard from Kyrgyzstan on 7050.0 kHz. IARUMS also reports that the Australian Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) has been heard on 10.131 MHz in the amateur 30-meter band; Amateur Radio is secondary on 30 meters.

Radio Eritrea appeared in November on 7180 kHz together with white noise from Ethiopia. The frequencies 7146.5, 7175, and 7185 kHz were reported to be still in use as well.

Reports of Amateur Radio band intruders may be [logged](#) on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System logger.



**Waveform of the Chinese OTH radar on 6.999 MHz, taken by Wolf Hadel, DK2OM.**



## **Ring in the New Year with Straight Key Night:**

Every day is a good day to operate on CW, but set some time aside on New Year's Eve and Day to enjoy [Straight Key Night](#) (SKN). The annual event begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2017 (New Year's Eve in US time zones). The 24-hour event is not a contest, but a day dedicated to celebrating Amateur Radio's CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply enjoy conversational CW contacts, preferably using a straight (hand) key or a semi-automatic key (bug). Activity traditionally centers on CW segments in the HF bands. There are no points or obligatory exchange. The only requirement is to have fun! [Send](#) a SKN list of stations worked and your vote for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" by January 31.



## NEWS FROM YOUR ARRL OHIO SECTION

ANNOUNCING >> The Second Annual Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest! January 14, 2017.

After a lot of requests, we are opening this up to 6 meters as a part of your score as well! There is a lot of potential for wide-area coverage on that band, and we need to cultivate some interest- so, for the sixers out there, burn eggs on your beam!! <http://n8sv2.blogspot.com/>



## Amazon Smile

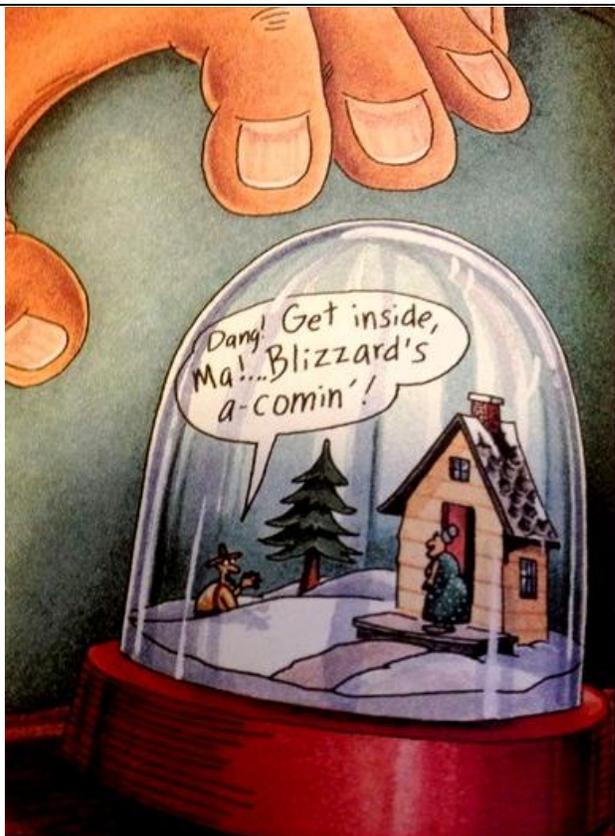
If you weren't aware, you can donate to the Lancaster-Fairfield Amateur Radio Club every time you make a purchase on Amazon. That's right, all you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smiles and you will donate "without any additional charges to you" to YOUR CLUB. For every dollar you spend on Amazon, every person signed up for this option will automatically donate a percentage of their purchases to YOUR CLUB. It won't add any costs to you. Please, take advantage of this great program and donate to YOUR CLUB by simply signing up for it..

## FOR SALE/SWAP

. A Hallicrafter SX 111 decent shape. \$75.00.



Contact Ralph, W8BVH, at 740-475-8699 or [w8bvh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w8bvh@sbcglobal.net)



*As always we want to thank the ARRL, QST and their contributors and also the Monday Morning Memo from Hillsboro, OH as well as the Scioto Valley ARC for sharing their input into our world of AMATEUR RADIO.*

*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. Remember... Maintain good radio etiquette . Amateur Radio is a contact sport. --... ..--*



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