

The Ragerchewer



Painted by Francis Barraud (1898)

August 2024



K8QIK - *The "Voice" of Amateur Radio in Fairfield County*



"Fairfield County's Ham Radio Club Since 1959"

Club Meetings:

1st Thursday of every month
at 7:00 PM. Location: **EMA
building 240 Baldwin Dr,
Lancaster, OH 43130.**

Nets:

MONDAY

NEWSLINE: 8:00pm
CLUB NET at 9:00pm
Monday AM Net at 9:00am
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

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.

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>

2024 Officers

President:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Vice President:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Acting Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Treasurer:

Guy Ingram, W8AGI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Volunteer Examiner:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Instructor:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Activities Manager:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Public Relations:

Jim Mills, KE8IID

Web Master:

Walter Callahan, W8ALT
webmaster@k8qik.org

Safety Officer:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

News Editor:

Ralph Howes, W8BVH
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

August 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

At 7:00 p.m., Mary called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 10 members plus 2 members via Zoom for a total of 12 members. Member application for 1st review were Timothy L Herron, NM8Y; Douglas W Reese, K8DWR; Jeffrey L Roberts, KF8BAM.

Steve Anderson KD8JLA Zoom Walt Callahan W8ALT John Hilliard W8OF Guy Ingram W8AGI	Paul Kidwell W8PDK Zoom Tim Lentz KD8QCA Robert Northrup KC8PSW David Nowocin WB9PXH	Scott Snoke WD8IXO Kevin Steel KB8KSX Mary Travis KD8EEI Mark Urbine KC8TUW
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Minutes from the last meeting were posted in the "Ragchewer" and a motion to approve was made by Walt, W8ALT and seconded by Tim, KD8QCA. All in favor.

Guy gave the Treasurer's report. Mark, KC8TUW made a motion to approve treasurer's report and was seconded by Tim, KD8QCA. All in favor.

Robert reported he and John, K9ULO worked on the 4th of July float and added a banner for 65th Anniversary. He also stated that as of 1/1/25 there will be no more paper tests being conducted. Robert stated that we could use a couple more tablets for the digital testing. John, W8OF made a motion to purchase two more tablets at cost of \$49.10 each and motion was seconded by David, WB9PXH. All in favor.

Tim, KD8QCA reported he made arrangements for Technician classes at EMA building on Wed, Sept. 6th from 6 to 9 pm; Thurs. Sept. 7th 6 to 7 pm and Fri. Sept. 8th from 6 to 9 pm and then there will be testing on Sept. 9th at 10 a.m. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact Mark to get signed up for the class.

Robert reported they had 5 tests (4 people) they completed with 4 passing as Tech's, 1 General and 1 Extra.

Walt, W8ALT stated he had made 2 changes on our website so people can sign in with a temp password and new members can sign in and it will send them an email with the documents for joining the club. Question was asked if activity manger email was mapped to Mark's, KC8TUW. home email. Walt, W8ALT said he would check and make sure if someone went to website and typed in Activity Manger, it would be forwarded to his home email. Walt also instructed Mark he can go to website and sign in as activity manager and see any email's which have been directed to him.

The following people volunteered to run the net: Aug. 5th Mark, KC8TUW; Aug. 12th Guy, W8AGI; Aug. 19th Kevin, KB8KSX; Aug. 26th Paul, W8PDK and Sept. 2nd Guy, W8AGI.

John, W8OF reported due to extremely hot weather, they have not been working on tower, etc. John has a list of items to complete once the weather is better and okay to climb tower, etc.

Mark, KC8TUW reported he sent a link to all members regarding safety in climbing towers, the information was done by DX Engineering. The link was e mailed because we were having a demo of the new digital system for testing. Mark also reported that he would set up a Fox Hunt event, possibly for November.

Walt, W8ALT and Robert, KC8PSW did an excellent job of demonstrating the new digital testing and how much easier it is for the candidate and also for the volunteer examiners because the test is graded on line and then sent to FCC for licensing.

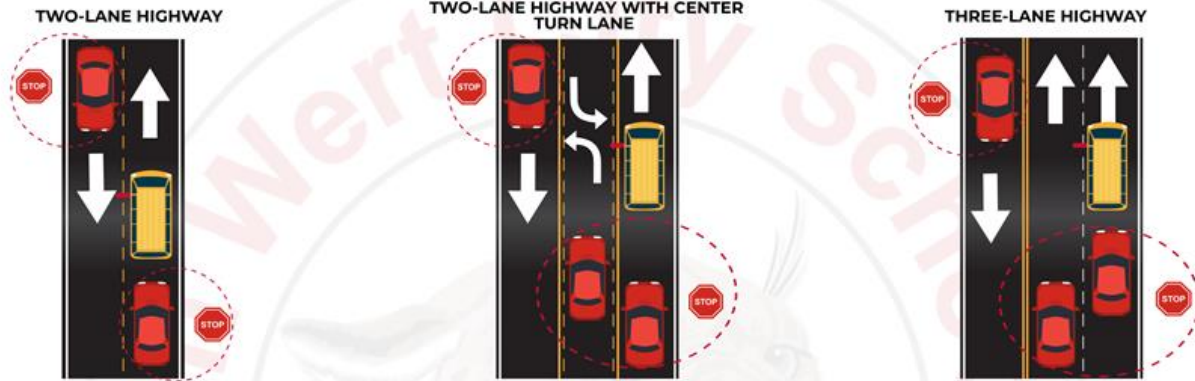
Guy, W8AGI made motion to adjourn and seconded by Tim, KD8QCA. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

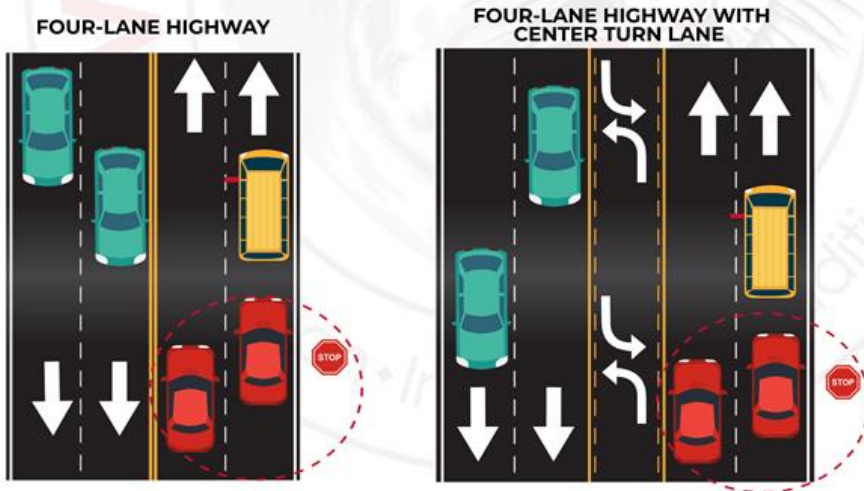
Acting Secretary

When to Stop for a School Bus in Ohio

On a road with fewer than four lanes, **all traffic** approaching a stopped school bus from either direction must stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus and remain stopped until the bus begins to move or the bus driver signals motorists to proceed.



If the bus is stopped on a street with four or more lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the bus must stop.



Published August 2020

WINTER PREPARATION

Now is a good time to think about winter safety. It doesn't matter if you are just heading out the door to work or taking that trip to grandma's house for Christmas you should be thinking about car safety. Here are some things you should do to prepare for that travel or snow emergency.

For the car check your tire pressure and conditions, battery, anti-freeze and check your lights. Also have window scrapers, shovel, cat litter, a flashlight and check your car lights again just to name a few items.

For personal safety you should have blankets, winter coats, boots, hats and gloves for everyone in case you get stuck and have to walk your way out. You should have food and water for everyone in the vehicle so if you can't walk your way out you can at least wait comfortably for help to arrive.

If you do get stuck and run your vehicle for heat, make sure the exhaust pipe is open and clear and remains that way. It is also a good idea to keep your gas tank at least half full on a daily basis and to fill up before leaving on the ride to grandma's house for Christmas. After all we need you and yours to remain safe and have a happy holiday.

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From Joe W8JTW:

LST 325 will be visiting Marietta in September for their yearly river cruise.

If you haven't toured this ship, it has a Ham Radio room with Vintage WW2 Era equipment along with modern radio day equipment. You have to tell the tour guide you are an amateur radio operator in order to see the radio room.

They run the callsign WW2LST and are usually active on 2 meters and HF. When the boat navigates the river, they use 30 meters APRS (300 baud) to track their position. It a very interesting ship. It was last in Marietta about 10 years ago.

<https://www.lstmemorial.org/cruise>

This Month's Try Something New

Many of the joys of summer have faded but one Amateur Radio joy is just gearing up for winter-- 160 Meters. The so-called "Gentlemen's Band" or "Top Band" thrives in winter with its decreased band noise from summer storms (QRN). Starting just above the Commercial AM Broadcast Band (570-1700 kHz) the 160 M band (1.8-2.0 MHz) is technically not even HF, it is a Medium Wave Band. This low frequency and long bandwidth mean that antennas are typically much longer than most other ham bands. The idea of needing a longer antenna discourages many Hams from trying 160 M. When I ask other AR operators whether they operate on 160, many often reply, "they have no room for effect antennas, there is too much noise, no one else is there, my signals are too weak, etc."

Give It a Try and It Will Probably Work

Well, it's time to trust the ether and give 160M a try no matter what your antenna situation, you might be surprised with your success. One of the reasons that you may be successful is that many 160 aficionados have excellent receiving antennas/systems that can dig out your puny signal. As I often say if you want to increase your chances of making contacts, especially with a less than ideal signal/antenna, there are ways to increase your odds. The first boost can come by operating during contests. There are more stations active and contact with your results in desired points for them. It doesn't matter if you are not interested in contesting, just make sure you know the exchange you need to send them so they get their points (and you get your contact). The second way to increase your odds is to use the most effective modes for weak signals- CW and especially FT8. Most of the contests on 160 also tend to be CW-only contests, but there are exceptions including multi-band phone contests that include 160. FT8 is a great way to start your 160 operations. The ability of FT8 to facilitate contacts with weak signals is greatly enhanced. The third way to increase your odds is to understand propagation and operate at the right times. Fall and Winter are the best times for 160. 160 also benefits from the de-ionization of the D layer during hours of darkness, so it is mostly a nighttime band for anything other than local contacts. There is also a phenomenon of Gray-line enhancement along the day-night line.

Antennas for 160 M

"Ok, maybe I'll give it a try but how will I possibly fit an enormous antenna on my small suburban lot?" Yes, a dipole for 160 is over 250 feet long and should be suspended 130 feet high! The idea that comes first to most hams is "let's use a vertical", but a full-size vertical would be over 130 ft high. These numbers are impossible for most hams, fortunately, there are ways around this problem. By using loading coils, we can shorten these lengths. We can also use a combination of antenna types to accommodate 160 antennas in smaller spaces such as highly effective

inverted L which is a combination of vertical and horizontal antennas. Some hams even load their HF towers to use as an antenna on 160. I personally use a sloper wire with loading coil along with my 50 ft. HF tower. The total length of the wire is 60 ft. This suboptimal antenna combined with my QRP (5 watts) signal definitely does not present much of a signal at receiving stations, but I have made many QSOs with this arrangement.

For more information on antennas:

160M Homebrew & Limited Space Antennas

- [160 M Transmitting Magnetic Loop](#)
- [A 160 Meter Antenna for a Small Backyard](#)
- [Short Top Band \(160m\) Antenna](#)
- [A Reduced-Size Half Sloper For 160 Meters](#)
- [The "No-Excuses" K6MM Vertical Helical Wound 160M Antenna](#)
- [160m Short Vertical Loft Antenna](#)
- [Getting on 160 Meters on a Budget](#)
- [Low Band DX Antennas \(on a small lot\)- KY6R](#)
- [K2AV FCP: 5/16 Wave Single Wire Folded Counterpoise](#)

Commercial 160M Antennas

- [DX Engineering 160 Meter THUNDERBOLT® Vertical Antennas DXE-160VA-1](#)
- [ALPHA DELTA DX-A 160-80-40 METER TWIN SLOPER](#)
- [Cushcraft MA160V 160 Meter Vertical Antennas MA160V](#)
[MFJ-2990, 160-6M VERT.ANT., 43FT, 1500W.W/BALUN/MOUNT](#)

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**** Monthly Club Breakfast ****

Location: **Frisch's Big Boy at the mall**
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Time: 9-11 am, 3rd Saturday of each month

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ARRL Division News

Great Lakes Division

The Great Lakes Division Newsletter is ready for you to enjoy!

You will find lots of great new information for you to read. So, grab your favorite beverage, a snack to munch on and sit back in your comfy chair and have a great read!!

>> https://arrl-greatlakes.org/glnews/2024/08-radio_waves.pdf <<

>> https://arrrl-greatlakes.org/glnews/2024/08-radio_waves.docx <<

Scott Yonally, N8SY
ARRL Director
Great Lakes Division
syonally@arrrl.org

The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

exam sessions at the FAIRFIELD County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr in Lancaster Ohio, 43130, on the first Saturday each month at 10:00 am. Please visit our website at <http://www.k8qik.org> for exam dates on our calendar and navigate to our Learning Center/Taking the Exam link for information and requirements. Our VE team looks forward to serving the Amateur Radio community in Central Ohio and across our nation. We have an experienced team which has tested candidates from Alaska, Florida, Texas and points in between!

Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org to register.

Ohio State Parks on The Air (OSPOTA) is held each September- link. Sponsored by Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS), this groundbreaking event is in its 16th year and undoubtedly was one catalyst to ARRL NPOTA and the whole POTA movement.



This year's event will take place Sept 9, 2023, from 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC (10 am to 6 pm ET). Your club can pick from one or more of the 75 Ohio State Parks. This contest places a premium on working stations located in the Ohio State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300-mile range. OSPOTA is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the design and deployment of Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas. You can find numerous designs online and in various Amateur Radio antenna manuals.

Along with your operating skills, it will also be a chance to showcase your antenna-building skills. Individuals and multiple operators can operate Ohio State Park stations. Non-Park stations in Ohio, as well as stations outside of Ohio, can also compete. Contacts can be made on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. All contacts have the same point values. Make sure you read the Rules, FAQs and get your forms for the contest posted on the OSPOTA website: www.ospota.org, before the contest.

73, and please feel free to contact me with any questions/suggestions. I hope to work you on HF from Ohio QSO Party & OSPOTA.

Anthony, K8ZT (k8zt@arrl.net)
330-650-1110

Ohio State Park	Park ID
Adams Lake	ADA
Alum Creek	ALU
A.W. Marion	AWM
Barkcamp	BAR
Beaver Creek	BEA
Blue Rock	BLU
Buck Creek	BCK
Buckeye Lake	BKL
Burr Oak	BUR
Caesar Creek	CAE
Catawba Island	CAT
Cowan Lake	COW
Deer Creek	DEE
Delaware	DEL
Dillon	DIL
East Fork	EFK
East Harbor	EHB
Findley	FIN
Forked Run	FOR
Geneva	GEN
Grand Lake St. Marys	GLM
Great Seal	GSL
Guilford Lake	GLK
Harrison Lake	HLK
Headlands Beach	HEA
Hocking Hills	HOC
Hueston Woods	HUE
Independence Dam	IDM
Indian Lake	ILK
Jackson Lake	JAC
Jefferson Lake	JEF
Jesse Owens	JEO
John Bryan	JOB
Kelleys Island	KEL
Kiser Lake	KLK
Lake Alma	LAL
Lake Hope	LHO
Lake Logan	LOG

Ohio State Park	Park ID
Lake Loramie	LOR
Lake Milton	LML
Lake White	LWT
Little Miami	LMI
Madison Lake	MLK
Malabar Farm	MAL
Marblehead Lighthouse	MHD
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT
Maumee Bay	MBY
Middle Bass Island	MBI
Mohican	MOH
Mosquito Lake	MST
Mt. Gilead	MTG
Muskingum River	MUS
Nelson-Kennedy Ledges	NKL
North Bass Island	NBI
Oak Point	OPT
Paint Creek	PTC
Pike Lake	PLK
Portage Lakes	POR
Punderson	PUN
Pymatuning	PYM
Quail Hollow	QHL
Rocky Fork	RFK
Salt Fork	SFK
Scioto Trail	STR
Shawnee	SHA
South Bass Island	SBI
Stonelick	STO
Strouds Run	SRN
Sycamore	SYC
Tar Hollow	TAR
Tinkers Creek	TCK
Van Buren	VAN
West Branch	WBR
Wingfoot Lake	WLK
Wolf Run	WRN

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I’ve created a set of instructions on how you can request an “official” printed copy of your license* [Click here to download the instructions](#)

Ohio Hamfests

2024

08/10/2024 - [Cincinnati Hamfest](#)

Location: Owensville, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milford ARC

Website: <https://CincinnatiHamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

08/17/2024 – Portsmouth Hamfest

Location: New Boston, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Portsmouth RC

Website: [PRCHamfest2024Flyer.jpg \(1275×1650\)](#)

08/18/2024 - <u>Warren Hamfest</u> Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.w8vtd.com/ Learn More	09/08/2024 - <u>Findlay Hamfest</u> Location: Findlay, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club Website: http://w8ft.org Learn More
09/22/2024 - <u>Cleveland Hamfest</u> Location: Berea, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland Website: https://www.hac.org Learn More	10/05/2024 - <u>Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club (NWOARC) Hamfest</u> Location: Lima, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: http://www.nwoarc.com Learn More
10/05/2024 - <u>Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club Hamfest</u> Location: Piketon, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club Learn More	10/27/2024 - <u>2024 MARC Hamfest at MAPS</u> Location: N. Canton, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club Website: https://www.w8np.net Learn More
12/07/2024 - <u>Winter Hamfest</u> Location: Archbold, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: FCARC Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More	

As always, we want to thank the ARRL, QST, ARRL Ohio Section Manager, Tom Sly, WB8LCD and, their contributors and also the Scioto Valley ARC, Hillsdale Michigan Amateur Radio Club, for their contributions to our newsletter.