
LFCARC
P.O. Box 3
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K8QIK

October 2005

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The Ragchewer

October 2005

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

K8QIK On the Web:
<http://www.qsl.net/k8qik/>



Club Meetings :

1st Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the club house.

Radio Night:

Every Thursday of every month (except the 1st Thursday) at the club house, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Club House

Location:

On State Route 37 (Granville Pike) next to Beavers Field.

Net:

Mondays at 9:00 p.m.
147.03 MHZ (+.6)
146.70 MHZ (-.6) Alternate Freq.
443.875 MHZ (+5)

Club Packet BBS

145.53 MHZ
K8QIK-1 BBS
K8QIK-2: Ohio53

Weather Spotter

Net:

146.67 Repeater with 123Hz tone every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Alt frequency 147.24 MHZ

October 8th Swap Meet

Eleven persons attended in spite of the rainy weather.

Charlie, N8KZN had a nice 2 Meter, 60 watt amplifier and Ralph, W8BVH, had a nice TenTec, 100 watt transceiver that didn't sell. Otherwise, Allen, KB8JLG, and Ralph were the big buyers. Allen bought an MFJ QRP transceiver, a QRP antenna-match box, a nice AM/FM receiver for his workshop and a panel meter for a transistor-checker project.

Ralph won the fifty-fifty drawing and donated the money to the club. The unsold soft drinks and potato chips will be available to the club members at a little over cost at meetings at the club house.

Allen and Ralph made plans to attend the N8HR second, annual open-house and fleamarket on Sunday, 10-9-2005, near Zanesville.

Next year, I am going to spend more effort to get a ham-related demonstration for the afternoon and advertise a little better. Last years attendance was twenty people and I thought that it would naturally grow... Fifty people would make me very happy. As you know, my idea is keep the work to minimum, no fee, no prizes but give everyone a chance to clean their junk box or excess equipment shelves and enjoy a little fellowship.

I recently was contacted by an LHS student for help attaining a Ham license for his senior project. He wants to complete this in short order, so I hope to have him licensed for the November public service events.

I am also considering a Morse Code class for early winter. Anyone interested in this should contact me so I can determine if there is enough interest (phone # 740 - 654 - 8167). I do not charge a fee but I do suggest every person/family have a straight key and a code practice oscillator. The cheap Universal Radio key is OK with a home-made oscillator or the complete MFJ \$30 unit. I do not recommend paddles with keyers. I do have schematics for the oscillator circuit.

2004/2005 Officers

President:

Charles Snoko
K8KZN

Vice President:

Tom Moore
KB8USK

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr.
WD8PGO

Secretary:

Jon Larabee
KC8RUI

Activities Manager:

Kay Hanna
KC8HJW

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard
W8OF

Trustee:

John Hilliard
W8OF

Editor:

Jack Travis
AE8P
(740) 687-1985

October Birthdays

Ronald L Braden	W8MYY
Connie L Cote	KC8OSC
David E Harrington	W8EZE
James G Neymeyer	N8WLT
Richard A Schleiffer	W9ZZX
Andrea J. Steible	WD8SCN
Leo "Dex" Steible	K8EHK
Raymond Webb	KB8GUN

Get Published

Submission of articles are always welcome, but if you don't want to write, give me an idea and I'll write it and credit you with the idea (if you want). Talk with me.

This publication ultimately is created to serve the club and its needs. This is not a political or religious forum so they will be kept out of the newsletter. I will not censor anything that is done in good taste and stays away from controversial subjects and doesn't stray too far from ham radio interests. My email address:

hamradio@columbus.rr.com

Or

My telephone # (740) 687-1985
between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Doing Anything Thursday Nights?

No ? Why not drop by the club house ! Radio night takes place every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (except the first Thursday which is the club monthly meeting). Perhaps you wish to work a little HF ? Maybe make a few DX contacts ? There is apt to be something being built ! Not into building ? Perhaps just a hot cup of coffee and a few good stories are more to your liking ? Nonetheless, we will have them all here waiting for you.

Things you should know

Q. Do I have to give my call sign at the beginning of a contact ?

A. You only have to ID at the end of the QSO and at least once every 10 minutes during it's course as per Article 97.119(a). There is no requirement to (continued next column) →

transmit your call at the beginning of a contact but it is customary when calling another station to give your call as part of the exchange so the other station knows who is calling him !

Q. How often do I have to give the call sign of the station I'm talking to ?

A. You are not legally required to mention the other amateur's call at all per Article 97.119(a). The only exception is when handling traffic with foreign stations - you must then give the other station's call sign at the end of an exchange of third party traffic per Article 97.115(c).

What is a Tiger-Tail?

The idea behind the tiger-tail is simple. First, think of an HT's aerial as one-half of a dipole (usually a shortened, coil-loaded radiator), and the case of the HT as the other pole. When transmitting handheld, half of the rf radiates from the HT's antenna (ideally). The other half of the rf couples from the HT's case into the user's arm, serving as the second leg of the dipole.

The tiger-tail is a one-quarter wavelength piece of wire attached to the HT serving as the second leg of the dipole instead of the HT's case or the user's arm.

The erp of an HT can be increased dramatically by using a tiger-tail.

Test this! First, cut a piece of wire to one-quarter of the wavelength you want to use. Next, couple the wire to the radio either by attaching it to the antennas ground, or just by coupling it inductively to the case by holding it close (I couple the wire using a small alligator clip which I attach to the belt clip -- others use a small piece of insulated copper foil attached with velcro).

Try this by transmitting a few test emissions (on an unused simplex frequency, not on the repeater) near a field strength meter with and without the wire. I dare say you will be amazed at the difference. The first time I tried this, I almost could not believe the difference.

I've found that the wire tiger-tail results in dramatically increased range for the VX-5R, and especially on the six-meter band, where the HT's OEM antenna is most greatly enhanced.

(continued next page)

Minutes of Meeting 6 October 2005

At 7:30pm meeting called to order by Charlie Snoke, N8KZN who led the pledge of allegiance.

There were 17 members present.

Secretary Report:

The minutes for the Aug/Sept meeting were read. MSC to accept minutes as read. Robert, KC8PSW joined the meeting in progress to take these minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO. Motion to accept by Bob W8KIM, second by Gary KC8HCD.

Trustee Report: None

VP Report: None

Activities Manager:

Kay Hanna, KC8HJW reported that money was earmarked to buy door prizes for the women who will be attending the Christmas party.

Station Report:

John, W8OF reported that the EchoLink was back up and has been used by several club members.

VE Testing: The next VE Testing session will be held on Sunday October 16, 2005 (3rd Sunday) at 9:30am.

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN reported on the status of Harry Vollmer, W8LXC who is in the hospital. He's doing better, out of the ICU and off the ventilator. His speech is a little weak from the ventilator but he is improving. He cannot have visitors due to the threat of infection but he has been on the radio recently so give him a call on the local repeater and make his day.

Monday night net managers for October:

Oct 10 – Gary, W8GTS Oct 17 – Leonard, W8DDG
Oct 24 – OPEN Oct 31 – OPEN

Ragchewer:

Jack, AE8P reported that he is now handling the newsletter. If you wish to submit an article, news item, cartoon, or other Ham related bits of trivia, you can email him at hamradio@columbus.rr.com. Jack (continued next column) →

stated that the newsletter is only as good as the info he can collect and that which you submit to him. So if you want to have a really good newsletter, then lets start feeding Jack info he can use.

Emergency Coordinator:

Ed, WD8PGO reported that help is needed for the annual United Way 5K run that is to be held in Lancaster on November 12, 2005. The run starts at the fair grounds and several Hams will be needed to give radio assistance to the race.

Also, the annual Lancaster Thanksgiving Parade will be held on November 19, 2005 this year and parade communications assistance is needed there as well. All interested parties need to contact Ed to lend a hand.

Safety Report:

Scott Snoke, WD8IXO reported everything was fine.

The Flower Fund:

Marie Moore reported that she was the winner this month. She won \$6.50. (It wasn't rigged, folks as Juanita Gaffney, KC8OYO pulled the winning name.)

The 50-50 Club by Kay Hanna, KC8HJW. Winner was Kelly Snoke, KB8GWB, not present.

Old Business:

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN reported the new rotor plate for the club's tower was ready to be installed and said it would be installed soon as well as the rotor unit. Charlie noted that the kitchen carpet should be cleaned. There was discussion and this had been approved at an earlier time. Someone needs to do it.

The club is hosting an informal Ham Fest this Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the clubhouse. It will start around 8-9am and go until noon. There will be no fees so come and tailgate your stuff to sell.

Kay Hanna, KC8HJW reported that there were funds given to purchase items for the ladies at the annual Christmas party. There was further discussion about the party so a motion was made by John, W8OF and second by Fred, W8FZ authorizing the club to spend \$150.00 to purchase door prize items for the party. The party will be held at the Ponderosa Restaurant on East Main St (Rte 22) on December 17, 2005 from 6:30pm the about 9:30pm. Robert, (continued next page)

KC8PSW suggested the club also host a White Elephant gift exchange during the party. More about this next month.

A member (Ed: sorry I didn't catch his call sign) who has connections in the embroidery area noted that he could have the club logo put on shirts, jackets and hats at reasonable costs. He'll have a shirt done and present it at the November meeting.

New Business:

Leonard, W8DDG has been south to help out folks from hurricane Katrina and Rita. He had pictures of the devastation and the work they were doing to help. He recommended that we use at least a 5# extinguisher but said a 10# one is better. After much discussion, John, W8OF made a motion and second by Bob, W8KIM that the club purchase 3 ea 10# ABC rated extinguishers. MSC for Charlie Snoke, N8KZN to make the purchase.

Charlie noted that the November meeting will be when the 2005/2006 officers will take their posts.-

Motion to close the meeting by Bob, W8KIM and second by John, W8OF, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Meet your new Secretary Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Hello, I'm your new secretary for the 2005/2006 club year. I look forward to helping the club document it's meetings and supplying that information to Jack, AE8P; your club's **Ragchewer** editor.

Now a little about me. I was born in Cleveland Ohio and moved to Seattle Washington as a baby with my parents. There I grew up and experienced the great Cascade Mountains where you could hike the Cascade Crest Trail and fish for Brook Trout with fly and lure. I enjoyed boating and sailing the many waters there. In 1966, I got a job at the local telephone company, Pacific Northwest Bell, and worked as a lineman for 5 years. I spent time in the US Army as a microwave repairman in Viet Nam and came back to the telephone company as an electronics technician. I then left the phone company in 1975 to enter Washington State University and obtained a (continued next column) →

BSEE degree and came to Western Electric in Columbus in 1979. I worked as an engineer at the East Broad street location for 22+ years, as it became an AT&T and Lucent facility.

There I met John Lawson, W8AGS and we had desks side by side for a while. I obtained my technician ham ticket in November 2000 and enjoy the hobby/sport. I was downsized out in July 2001 after 31 years 4 month of service. My wife and I moved to Belfast, Maine for 2 years to take care of family and then moved to Mesa, Arizona to do the same there. We moved back to the area in July this year and now reside in Baltimore.

Meet your new Activities Manager Kay Hanna KC8HJW

I have been doing the 50-50 club and filling in for Secretary at different times for last couple of years. I got my Technician License in May 1997. Gary KC8HCD [my wonderful husband] and I studied together. However, he passed his test in Lancaster, Ohio. Later when I was ready he took me to Marion, Ohio were I passed my test.

We both graduated from Lancaster High School. Gary and I lived in Lancaster, Ohio were our two great daughters were born. Later we moved to Baltimore, Ohio in 1969 and still live there. Our daughters have blessed us with 6 wonderful grandchildren [3 boys, 3 girls, ages 10 Austin, 12 Jarvis, 15 Ashleigh, 17 Tiffany, 21 Joshua, and 23 Shauna], and now we have one great-granddaughter Ashlyne [9 months old].

I have worked the Ohio Bureau of Unemployment services for several years and now I am working for JCPenneys telephone center for 18 years as customer service rep. Also received several customer service recognitions and several Star Performer Awards.

I wanted my Ham License so I could enjoy Ham Radio with my husband.

I hope everyone has a wonderful 2006.

The new officers are official:

They will assume their duties at the November meeting.

President----- Don Stephenson, - WD8PCF
Vice President ----- Scott Snoke,----- WD8IXO
Secretary ----- Robert Northrup, - KC8PSW
Treasurer ----- Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO
Activities Manager---- Kay Hanna,----- KC8HJW

October Recipe

Pumpkin Bread

½ c. shortening	1 c. pumpkin
1 ½ c. sugar	¾ t. salt
1 2/3 c. flour	½ t. nutmeg
½ c. water	½ t. cloves
2 eggs	½ t. baking powder
1t. Soda	1 ½ t. cinnamon
1c. nuts	

Cream shorting, sugar, add water, eggs, pumpkin.
Combine.

Bake 375 degrees in loaf pan for 1hr.

Trivia

There are 175 licensed hams living in Lancaster.
Only 29 of them are members of the LFCARC. Any
suggestions how to increase membership ?

Weaver's Words

Sensing that the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the developing remainder of the tropical storm season is the right time to go on the offensive, New York Congressman and long-time friend of Amateur Radio Steve Israel has reintroduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" (HR 3876) into the US House. The act, if adopted, would essentially negate overly-restrictive clauses against antenna structures in codes, covenants and restrictions that are often written into real estate and home-owners organization contracts. Now is not yet the time to jump completely on the campaign trail to gain support for this bill, but be ready for the call to action. In the meantime, our Washington brain trust will begin activating certain Local Contacts in the ARRL Grassroots lobbying program in their phase of work with Congressmen/women. The thrust of the contacts will begin with key members of select House committees, move on to contacts with all members of key committees and then to all members of the House. Presumably, the drive to recruit Senate support will begin before too much longer.

CW POLL

The results are in from my poll asking what, if anything, ARRL ought to do in response to FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to abolish all Morse code testing for amateur licenses. A total of 523 of you participated. Thanks. Overall, you appear to believe ARRL should fight the Commissions' proposal. This preference was expressed by 64% of the total of 523 responders (and by 43% of 213 non-CW ops and 58% of CW ops). Of these who said to fight to retain "a" CW test somewhere in the licensing structure, 20% thought we should engage in the battle but not drop everything else; whereas, 13% thought we ought to drop everything else to fight. Twenty two percent of CW users recommended we not fight FCC's plan to drop all code requirements while 56% of non-CW ops held the same opinion.

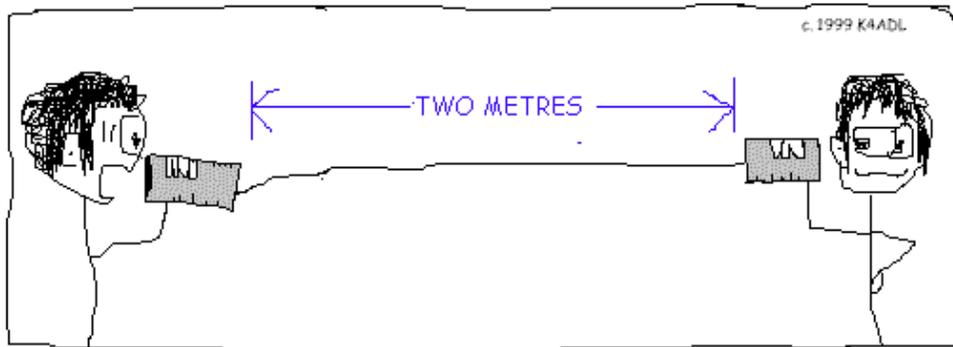
Of the total 523 responders, 36% said we ought not to fight the FCC NPRM, but that we should let the Commission do what it wants without protesting.

A couple of additional revelations of the poll were: 1. 3% of non-CW ops thought we should drop everything else and fight to keep Morse code testing, and 2. 40% of non-CW users thought we ought to fight a measured battle against the NPRM. In other words, 43% of non-code users believe FCC should maintain a CW testing requirement of some sort. Only 57% of non-code users feel there should be no Morse code requirements for amateur licenses. In a poll I took two years ago, 5% of responders said we should fight to the bitter end to save CW testing, 5% of you said to fight to the bitter end to abolish this testing and 95% of you said to fight a measured battle to keep CW testing of some form.

Taken together, 327 of 522 total responders to the most recent poll say we should fight to keep code at some level in the Amateur Radio license structure. Only 185 responders said to do nothing to preserve some form of code requirement.

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Director, Great Lakes Division ARRL

Complements of www.gsl.net/k4adl/



THE EARLY YEARS

Vote For Great Lakes Division Director

Jim Weaver, K8JE is running for re-election for Great Lakes Division Director.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and Amateur Radio as your Director the past three years.

Why give me your vote? Because, I've fulfilled every promise I made to you and have proven my leadership. I have worked very hard to earn your continued trust and to demonstrate my interest and capability to remain your Director. Some of my work on your behalf includes:

My monthly "Weaver's Words" newsletter. Through "Weaver's Words," I inform you of the "full story," ask for your input on issues and demonstrate my belief that you are "The Reason ARRL Is!" I kept my word to you. Incidentally, my votes on the Board were always consistent with the wishes the vast majority of you expressed

Restrictive Antenna Ordinances. Work by the ARRL Board, Staff and local leadership consistently brought rulings favorable to Division amateurs in instances in which the right to install antenna structures was challenged. I kept my word to you.

Searching for new hams. ARRL Staff has begun a unique, detailed project to reach the pool of non-hams that can restore growth to the Amateur Radio Service. I kept my word to you.

Selling our story to Federal leaders. My motion that established the ARRL Grassroots Legislative Action Program effectively promotes the legitimate needs of Amateur Radio to Congress as well as to Federal agencies. I kept my word to you.

8th Area QSL Bureau. Quality work by K4ZLE, whom I appointed Manager of the 8th Area QSL Bureau and his staff of excellent Letter Managers, has returned this Bureau to top-quality performance. I kept my word.

This work is never finished. As one challenge is managed, others arise to take its place. The future offers unforeseen challenges of which the most important is the FCC's decision to do less for ham radio. I want to continue to help the ARRL Board develop strategies that enable us to achieve the flexibility ham radio needs to meet future issues.

Neil Sablatzky, K8IT is running for Great Lakes Division Director.

A Novice operator at age 14, I enjoy Amateur Radio Public Service, Experimentation, and Operating most modes. I have provided public service operations for many events, including: New York City Marathon, MS-150 Bike Tours, Michigan UP-200 Dog Sled Races, and many Skywarn, ARES, RACES, and Storm Recovery Nets. I am a member of the ARRL High Speed Multi Media Working Group, serve as a local AEC, and enjoy training amateurs on new subjects.

After 31+ years of Amateur Radio, (Extra, Age 46), our hobby is facing declining interest, we are in danger of losing frequency bandwidth, facing antenna restrictions, and losing public acceptance of Amateur Radio.

The Future.

First, we must elect active, progressive thinking and technically competent leadership.

Second, we must evaluate every mode, frequency allocation, and operating procedure. We need to adjust for the future, but not at another mode's expense.

While a CW test is not needed, given a mirror or flashlight, what other mode can replace CW?

Third, we must not abandon the new Amateur. We must address the availability of training, offered to new amateurs, once they pass the test.

Fourth, we need youth. We must communicate that Amateur Radio is fun, group conversations are common place, and students with licenses can earn the required community public service needed for high school graduation. We must boost the number of significant college scholarship grants by teaming with industry to market Amateur Radio, as a skill set development opportunity.

Fifth, the ARRL must become the voice of the amateur. This requires that the Board of Directors listen to its members, and not sanction causes such as "Regulation by Bandwidth" if the result limits operation and experimentation.

The Mess Down South

Hi everyone,

My wife and I along with a lady from the church we attend (Marilyn Pierce) spent a week in Mobile Alabama with the Disaster Response Team from the Church of Christ. There were people from the Somerset and Zanesville churches with us. Twenty Two (22) in all and a caravan of 5 vehicles and trailers.

We stayed in Athens, Alabama on Saturday night. We were fed by the church ladies and then taken into their homes for the night.

Sunday we went into Mobile, Crosswood Church of Christ where we were housed and fed.

We were sent to Pascagoula, Mississippi (35 miles southwest of Mobile). We removed everything from a house and cut the drywall and paneling up the walls 49 inches to expose the mold and mildew caused by the flooding. Then the house would be sprayed with bleach water to kill the mold. All the furnishings would be put out by the curb to be hauled away.

We worked 10-12 hour days. It was hard work and very hot. The people were very grateful for the help and that made it all worth the effort. They need a (continued next column) →

lot more help. We hope to go down again in November.

Connie stayed and worked in the church, boxing and handing out food and clothes. Things were taken out and delivered to people who didn't have a way to get to the building.

Their needs are daily. Remember they have lost their homes, or have been flooded out and they have to get things daily. They can't wash their clothes, cook food or take showers. We gave out and put up a lot of tents and they thought they had a million dollar home. They were off the street and out of their cars. Underwear and bed clothing were asked for. We gave out charcoal grills, water and personal items. Cleaning supplies were in demand as well as roof shingles. As they get into homes again, they will need furniture, pots and pans etc. Most won't have a job to go back to. Schools are gone, hospitals gone, Dr. offices gone. We all came home with a different outlook on life. Do we want something or do you actually need it ?

If anyone wants to donate anything to the Churches of Christ at 131 Sells Rd. or Rt 37 church, we will see that it gets to the people who need it.

Thank you and 73's, Con.(N8LPC) and Charlie (N8KZN) Snoko.



EDITORS NOTE:

This issue just kind of “grew”. In order to keep the content under 8 pages, there are some articles that will have to wait until next month. That doesn't mean I don't need suggestions, far from it. I can imagine a time when there is very little to put in the Ragchewer. Again, what would you like to see ?

A special thank you to the outgoing officers of the club, we couldn't have done it without you. It's your selfless contributions that make the club run so smoothly. You set a pretty high standard for the next officers.