

The Ragchever

April 2006

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

On the Web: www.k8qik.org

Send email to K8QIK@columbus.rr.com

Club Meetings :

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

Radio Night:

Every Thursday except the
1st Thursday at the club
house, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

VE Testing:

The third Sunday of every
even numbered month.
Register at 9:30 am and
testing at 10:00 am

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:

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

April Birthdays

Anna B Campbell	KB8NRR
Robert W Hughes	KI8JM
Donald G Jeffries	KC8WMF
Richard G. Smith	WA8VCV
William L. Tschopp	WA8WRM
Mary R Webb	KC8GUN
James E Whitaker	W8HOS

May Birthdays

Frances D Whited	ASSOC.
Jason J. Lint	KB8JXR
Charles W. Snoko	N8KZN
Ronald D Kennedy	WA8GFO
Kay A Hanna	KC8HJW
Steven C. Campbell	WA8HIO
Ivor "Hollywood" G. Rutan -	WA8YSC
Norman E Stout	N8MGM

Thursday Night Radio Night

Radio night is every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
(except the first Thursday which is the club
monthly meeting). Work a little HF, make a
few DX contacts, maybe build something? How
about a hot cup of coffee and a few good
stories? 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.

2005/2006 Officers

President:

Don Stephenson
WD8PCF

Vice President:

Scott Snoko
WD8IXO

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr.
WD8PGO

Secretary:

Robert Northrup
KC8PSW

Activities Manager:

Kay Hanna
KC8HJW

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard
W8OF

Trustee:

John Hilliard
W8OF

Editor:

Jack Travis
AE8P
(740) 687-1985

April 7, 2006 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30pm meeting called to order by Scott Snoke, WD8IXO who led the pledge of allegiance. President Stephenson and Treasurer Campbell were not present.

There were 18 members and one guest present.

Our guest was Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV, who was a member previously and wants to re-join the club.

Secretary Report: Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Motion to accept March Minutes by John, W8OF and second by Jack, AE8P.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Campbell, Sr., WD8PGO.

No report.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

John reported the letter the club prepared in January had made it through the county approvals but hit a brick wall at the city offices. City officials want a new agreement about keeping our equipment in its current places. One repeater is located on waterworks hill and sits in the city's radio building. John stated that the city doesn't want our equipment in the building but doesn't mind if we attach a weather-proof cabinet to the building exterior and run the feed lines into the building and up their tower. This has a lot to do with Home Land Security efforts since 9/11 thrust the whole country into operating differently. The other repeater is located in the #1 fire house in town. We would need some type of lockable NEMA rated enclosure, large enough to house the repeater equipment, tuning cavities, power, feed lines, etc, to bolt on the building exterior. So if you know of or can find an enclosure that measures about 12" D x 24" W x 60-72" H, get with John ASAP.

VP Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO

No Report

Activities Manager: Position open

No report.

Station Report: John Hilliard, W8OF

It was noted that the new repeater equipment obtained from the CORC club in Columbus was sitting in the back room at the club house. John gave a hearty thanks for Ralph and Tony for driving up to Columbus to pick it up and get it into the club house. This repeater is a 330 Watt base unit and we will need to purchase some parts (Xtals, etc.) to get it up and running. The CORC club requested a donation to their repeater fund. This was discussed at length and a motion made by W8GFO and second by KD8CPO to approve a \$200 donation. This amount may be lower if the repeater turns out to need a lot of work or may be zero \$\$ if it is a boat anchor. Further discussion ensued about how much money it will take to rejuvenate this unit. John figured it will cost between \$150 and \$300 max to get it ready for use. Another motion was made by Jack, AE8P and second by Charlie, N8KZN to set a max expenditure of \$300. Motion carried. The motion for the donation was tabled until we find out the condition of this repeater.

VE Testing: Allan Sellers, KB8JLG

No report.

Monday Night Net: Position is open

Apr 10 John, W8AGS Apr 24 Charlie, N8KZN

Apr 17 John, W8OF May 1 John, W8OF

Bob, KI8JM brought up the concern that our net time is not the time to handle NTS traffic. There was a good discussion about handling traffic on the Monday night net and it was decided that if traffic comes in, we need to move it off the 147.030 machine to the 146.700 machine. The protocol is to ask for traffic at the beginning of the net time. If there is any to handle, then encourage it to move to the other repeater. If the traffic is from an EchoLink contact, we need to wait the 5-6 seconds while the repeater drops carrier so the EchoLink person can respond.

Ragchewer: Jack Travis, AE8P

Jack reported he has material for this newsletter but he still needs help in fleshing out the "chewer" each month. It was suggested the "chewer" be submitted for a newsletter contest but as we found out, the folks running the contest are

looking for local content. Yes, we have a great newsletter, thanks to Jack, but it does not have much local content. We need your help in getting this material to Jack so he can include it in the "chewer".

If you wish to submit an article, news item, cartoon, or other Ham related bits of trivia, you can email him at k8qik@columbus.rr.com or call 740-687-1985

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO
No report.

Safety Report: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO
No Report

The Flower Fund: Juanita Gaffney, KC8OYO
No report. We will raffle the George Forman grill (has been sitting at the front table for 2 months) at the May meeting.

The 50-50 Club: Kay Hanna, KC8HJW
Activity suspended until further notice.

Old Business:
None to report.

New Business:
This is a notice for past club officers who are no longer serving as an officer to return your club house keys so that new members may use them. Please come to the May meeting or mail your key to our club treasurer Ed Campbell, 1243 Quarry Rd SE, Lancaster, Oh 43130.

Charlie, N8KZN said that the food that is provided for Radio Night comes out of his pocket and that the \$\$ collected is not enough to cover expenses. He plans for about 20 people but typically it has been about 6-9 show up with plenty of food left over. Charlie has been spending between \$25 and \$30 per month for the food as well as purchasing toilet paper, napkins, chips, pretzel, and corn chips. The pop he purchases is funded from the price charged for each can (as put into the can in the refrigerator). No one was in favor of dropping the meal time. Some suggestions were to only cook food for those present, charge a fixed fee per meal (varies by what is served), only serve a meal once a month, etc. Nothing seemed to work as

there were objections to all proposals made. It was decided that Charlie will keep records as to what is spent, donations collected and amounts of food left over and will give a readout at the May meeting. Several members stated that Charlie should not foot the bill for the food, but the club should cover the expense. That seemed to sit well with those present. We'll wait on Charlie's response.

There will be a MS Walk-A-Thon on April 22, 2006. If you can help out, meet at the AAA building at the fair grounds at 8:00 AM. Six to 7 volunteers are needed. Those volunteering at the meeting were: George, KB8USP, John, W8OF, Charlie, N8KZN, Marie, KB8USP, and Ed, KB8PGO. A notice for more help will be made on the repeater.

John, W8OF upgraded 3 radios by installing tone boards into them for the Medicaid Net that meets Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to about 10:00 AM on the 147.030 repeater. Before these upgrades, those without tone controls needed to have the tone turned off the repeater during the net. Now that their radios are upgraded, tone stays on all the time and repeater interference we have experienced in the past should be less or eliminated now. Thanks again John for your extra care and support.

The club will hold a work day at the club house on April 29, 2006. Meet at the club house at 9:00 AM to help out.

Tim, our current web editor, will step down and hand the reigns over to Kevin after he is reinstated as a member.

Jack has prepared a short list of repeater codes for the club, who obtained the info from John, W8OF. The list was distributed at the meeting.

Motion to close the meeting by "Hollywood", WA8YSC and second by Gary, W8GTS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

May Ragchewer

Due to travel plans for early May, the Ragchewer will not be published. It will resume with the June issue. Your editor thanks you and with his XYL is taking a well deserved vacation.

Upcoming Hamfests

April 30 is the Athens County Amateur Radio Association hamfest. You can get more information on line at <http://www.ac-ara.org>

May 19 thru May 21 is the: Dayton Hamvention. This is the big one, if you've never gone, this is a MUST see. You can get more information on line at <http://www.hamvention.org/>

Net Manager Wanted

We're still looking for a Net Manager to coordinate our efforts on the Net. You would get volunteers to handle each Monday night net. Any volunteers ?

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 K8QIK@columbus.rr.com

Tubes For Sale

If you need tubes for your boat anchor or TV, email Jeff Bell, WD8JLI at jbelle@imagearray.net or call 614-774-2973 he has a huge supply for most needs.

Dayton Hamvention

Some say that April showers bring May flowers - but I'd rather think it brings the Dayton Hamvention! Yep, it's that time of year again when Amateur Radio Operators from all over the world descend upon Harra arena. The Mecca of ham radio. For three days out of the year, it's the largest gathering of hams and equipment in one area. We live just a couple of short hours from the Hamvention, and if you have not been there, or if it's been a few years since your last journey, you really should make an effort to visit there. Even if you don't plan on spending any money, the visit is always worth it.

I attended my first Hamvention in Dayton in 1977 (the year I got my first license) and have

attended every year since except one. I have lived in Michigan, New York and New Jersey in those years and always made it. Even when I was recovering from triple heart by-pass surgery in 1990 I drove from Utica, NY to the Hamvention. When my son was planning on getting married in 2002, his soon-to-be wife set the wedding date on the Saturday of Hamvention and I told my son I wouldn't be able to attend the wedding. He understood and convinced her to change the date.

You can see the latest in ham radio equipment and accessories from all the major manufacturers, participate in some of the informative forums, visit with people you only hear on the air, take in the sights and sounds of the massive outdoor flea market, and, with all that walking, your actually getting some good exercise as a side benefit!

Hams from all over the world dream of going there. We're close enough that it's a short and inexpensive trip. So, gas up the car and I'll see you there on May 19, 20 & 21. Jack AE8P

E-mail Addresses

If you are currently receiving The Ragchewer via regular mail but have an Internet account, the Ragchewer can be sent to you and save the club some money. You'll also get your Ragchewer about a week earlier. Send me your e-mail address and tell me to take you off the snail mail list. If you have a new e-mail address, be sure to also let me know.

Editor at K8QIK@columbus.rr.com

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"Harold!!! What are you doing wasting money on more USELESS radio equipment!!!"

Dark Sucker Theory

For years, it has been believed that electric bulbs emit light, but recent information has proven otherwise. Electric bulbs don't emit light; they suck dark. Thus, we call these bulbs "**Dark-Suckers.**"

The Dark-Sucker Theory and the existence of dark-suckers prove that dark has mass and is heavier than light.

First, the basis of the Dark-Sucker Theory is that electric bulbs suck dark. For example, take the Dark-Sucker in the room you are in. There is much less dark right next to it than there is elsewhere. The larger the Dark-Sucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark. Dark-Suckers in the parking lot have a much greater capacity to suck dark than the ones in a room.

As it is with all things, Dark-Suckers don't last forever. Once they are full of dark, they can no longer suck. This is proven by the dark spot on a full Dark-Sucker.

A candle is a primitive Dark-Sucker. A new candle has a white wick. You can see that after the first use, the wick turns black, representing all the dark that has been sucked into it. If you put a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, it will turn black. This is because it got in the way of the dark flowing into the candle. One of the disadvantages of these primitive Dark-Suckers is their limited range.

There are also portable Dark-Suckers. In these, the bulbs can't handle all the dark by

themselves and must be aided by a Dark Storage Unit. When the Dark Storage Unit is full, it must be either emptied or replaced before the portable Dark-Sucker can operate again.

Dark has mass. When dark goes into a Dark-Sucker, friction from the mass generates heat. Thus, it is not wise to touch an operating Dark-Sucker. Candles present a special problem as the mass must travel into a solid wick instead of through clear glass. This generates a great amount of heat and therefore it's not wise to touch an operating candle-type Dark-Sucker.

Also, dark is heavier than light. If you were to swim just below the surface of the lake, you would see a lot of light. If you were to slowly swim deeper and deeper, you would notice it getting darker and darker. When you get really deep, you would be in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats at the top. This is why it is called light.

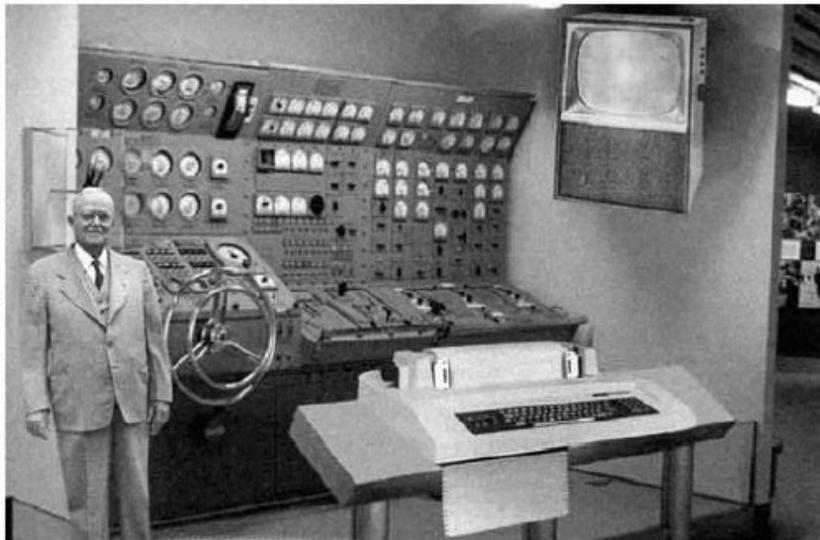
Finally, we must prove that dark is faster than light. If you were to stand in a lit room in front of a closed, dark closet, and slowly opened the closet door, you would see the light slowly enter the closet. But since dark is so fast, you would not be able to see the dark leave the closet.

Next time you see what is called an "electric bulb", remember that it is really a "Dark-Sucker."

The PC of the Future

Contributed by [Dave Siddall, K3ZJ](#)

According to Popular Mechanics 50 years ago, "Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a 'home computer' could look in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language the computer will be easy to use."



CW Class



Listed in the picture from left to right and front to back: **Front row:** Andy Lambert-KB8USQ, Scott Snoke-WD8IXO. **2nd Row:** George Lambert-KB8USP, Sean Snoke (Scott's son). **Back row:** Allen Sellers (standing)- KB8JLG, Roy Vickers-KC8TFW, Tom Mauller-KC8CSQ, Jean Howes (Ralph's wife). Not present was Robert Northrup-KC8PSW. Some of these people come from Newark, Fairfield County and Maxville. They were in their 3rd week out of 6 . Most are doing an excellent job with their code and I think are having some fun at the same time. Certainly creating some new friendships. Special thanks to Allen for his time and patience by offering this class and the club for offering the facility. Photo and article by Ralph Howes, W8BVH

Allen Sellers has a pretty nice size CW class and all seem to be quite interested in getting proficient in code.

Recognizing A Stroke

A health alert, be aware, it can save someone's life. A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed and getting to the patient within 3 hours which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE - A true story: Susie is recouping at an incredible pace for someone with a massive stroke all because Sherry saw Susie stumble - that is the key that isn't mentioned below - and then she asked Susie the 3 questions. So simple - this literally saved Susie's life - Some angel sent it to Suzie's friend and they did just what it said to do. Suzie failed all three so 911 was called.

Even though she had normal blood pressure readings and did not appear to be a stroke as she could converse to some extent with the Paramedics then took her to the hospital right away. Thank God for the sense to remember the "3" steps. Read and Learn! Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify.

Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells

disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e., "It is sunny out today").

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

A cardiologist says if everyone who gets this e-mail sends it to 10 people, you can bet that at least one life will be saved.

Has Your License Expired ?

Have you checked your ticket's expiration date recently? Even with the two-year grace period, it's easy to forget to renew. Better check it now. You probably WON'T receive a reminder in the mail unless it's from some group who wants you to PAY

to have them do it for you. If you are a member of the ARRL, they will send you a reminder. All you have to do is sign up for it. -Editor

Police Searching For Robbery Suspect

Witnesses at Gypsy Joe's Ice Cream Parlor, located next door to Network Tan, said an employee was counting money in the tanning store when a robber moved quickly toward the clerk and pushed her up against the wall, showing her a knife.

The clerk was able to break away and run toward the front door, with the robber right behind. Witnesses said the robber tripped while chasing the clerk and fell against the front door of Network Tan

By that time, a passer-by, **Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV** saw what was going on, ran inside the

tanning store and chased the robber out the back door, according to the Lancaster police report.

Numbers then continued to chase the man past some storage units before he lost sight of the robber.

No one was hurt in the robbery, but \$122 in cash was stolen from the business.

The suspect in the Network Tan robbery is described as a white man of average height and medium build. He had dark hair and dark eyes and was believed to be in his late 20s or early 30s.

Cold Heat Cordless Soldering

By Terry - N8ATZ

While it sounds like some futuristic space age method of soldering what it really is, is just a new way to use an age old principle. A split tip of a carbon based material heats when it comes in contact with a conductive material. Apply power from several alkaline batteries and you have the formula for a pretty nifty cordless soldering tool.

I recently purchased one of these from Radio Shack for less than \$20.00 and after using it on a variety of smaller soldering jobs I can report so far, so good. While it will never replace the age old AC powered light duty soldering pencil, it is pretty handy to keep in the tool box. "Cold Heat" creates enough heat to solder in less than a second. The really neat part is that it's soldering tip cools to touch-safe temperatures

in only a few seconds after operation. This makes it easy to set it down without worrying about burning the table top or worse yet, your fingers.

Operation is pretty simple too. Simply slide the switch to "ON" and place the split tip directly against the work piece so that both tip electrodes make contact. The red operating light will shine and the tip will create heat almost instantly.

Keep in mind that tip heating times can vary depending on the physical size of the connection being soldered. While it's not designed for heavy duty work, I tried unsuccessfully to solder a PL259 connector with it. But for every day basic jobs it has deserved a space in my already crowded tool bag.

An Important Fact about Energy

Physics courses and text books are loaded with information about energy. Many different forms of energy, such as mass energy, kinetic energy, radiant energy, gravitational energy, electrical energy, magnetic energy, nuclear energy, chemical energy, heat energy, and elastic energy are discussed in great detail and mathematical formulas are presented for

each. However, those courses and text books often fail to mention a very important underlying fact about energy. That fact is after many decades of thought, experiment, and debate by some of the most intelligent people ever to walk on earth, physicists still have no knowledge of what energy actually is.

Joke of the Month

The fourth-grade teacher had to leave the room for a few minutes. When she returned, she found the children in perfect order. Everybody was sitting absolutely quiet. She was shocked and stunned and said, "I've never seen anything like this before, it's

wonderful. But, please tell me, what came over all of you? Why are you so well behaved and quiet?" Finally, after much urging, Sally spoke up and said, "Well, one time you said that if you ever came back and found us quiet, you would drop dead."

LFCARC
P.O. Box 3
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K8QIK

April 2006



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