

The Ragchewer

August 2010

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

On the Web: www.k8qik.org

Club Meetings :

1st Thursday of every month at
7:30 PM at the clubhouse.

VE Testing:

Every even numbered month. See
ARRL.ORG for date. Register and
testing at 10:00 am

Clubhouse Location:

Near Lancaster on State Route 37
North (Granville Pike) next to
Beavers Field.

Across from campus Ohio
University-Lancaster

Nets:

Mondays at 9:00 p.m. 147.03
MHz (+.6)

146.70 MHz (-.6) Alt. Freq.
443.875 MHz (+5)

Sunday at 8:00 p.m.
443.875 MHz (+5)
UHF linked system

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

Thursday Night Radio Night

Radio night is every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. (except the first Thursday which is the club monthly meeting). Work a little HF, maybe build something? How about a hot cup of coffee. 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. Send or give all paperwork to Treasurer with your money.

August 2010 VE Test:

The next VE test will be in August 28, 2010. Tests are even months at the clubhouse on Route 37. The exact date will be listed on the ARRL website. Register and testing begins at 10:00 a.m. Prepare yourself, take this test and upgrade!

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 ASELLERS1081@att.NET

HAMFESTS

Huntington WV	8-14-2010
Cambridge OH:	8-22-2010
Findlay OH:	9-12-2010
Massilon OH:	10-31-2010

ARRL Ohio Section & ARES Conference

Columbus OH:	10-16-2010
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2009-2010 Officers

President:

George Lambert, KB8USP

Vice President:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Treasurer:

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

Secretary:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Education:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Activities Manager:

Sandy Snider, KD8FTX
Connie Snoko, N8LPC

Public Relations:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

Flower Fund:

Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Web Master:

John(K9ULO)/Carol Dolske
Webmaster@K8QIK.ORG

Editor:

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG
Asellers1081@att.net

August 5, 2010 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. the monthly meeting was called to order by President George Lambert, KB8USP who lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 20 members present and two guests, Ben, KC8CAY and John, W8JTC.

Officer Reports

Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Minutes for the July meeting was posted in the Ragchewer. Motion to accept minutes as published made by Ralph, W8BVH and seconded by Allen, KB8JLG. Motion carried.

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by John, W8OF and seconded by Ralph, W8BVH. Motion carried.

VP Report: Mark Urbine, KC8TUW
Nothing new to report.

Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF
Nothing new to report.

Committee Reports

Webmaster: Carol Dolske

John, K9ULO reported that the website is up and there was an issue with officers not getting their email but that it has been resolved. We encourage members to go out to the website and get familiar with the setup. Again we thank Carol for her excellent work on the website.

Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

Allen reported the next VE test will be on August 28^t.

Allen also reported there will be a Technician class again this fall. Allen would like volunteers to teach some of the sections. Anyone willing to help teach a class in the fall, please contact Allen.

Allen also reminded everyone of the Aladdin hamfest on Sat., August 7. They will be providing free examinations.

Allen also stated that Cambridge will have a hamfest on Sunday, August 22nd. Allen said this is a very small hamfest and people interested in going might want to carpool.

Monday Night Net

August 9th	W8OF, John Hilliard
August 16th	KC8TUW, Mark Urbine
August 23rd	KD8DXC, Rob Ruffner
August 30th	W8AGS, John Lawson

Ragchewer: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG
Nothing new to report.

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO

Ed thanked the volunteers who worked the Tour de Cause and stated that the organizers appreciated the communications for this event. They will get us involved earlier next year so we can be in on the planning and have some input for the services we can perform.

Ed thanked all the workers for the Lancaster Festival events.

Ed needs more volunteers for the Sweet Corn Festival parade on Wed, Sept. 1st from 4 - 7:30 p.m. Mark, KC8TUW; Ed, KD8EEJ; and Ben, KC8CAY all volunteered.

Ed also reported that the EMA will have a room for emergency use, where the sheriff's department will have 2/3 and the radio club will have 1/3 of the room. EMA is also working on getting a 2 meter antenna on the building and Ed has requested 2 phone lines, data port and 3 hookups for the antennas.

Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO
Nothing to report

**Station Engineer: John Hilliard,
W8OF**

John thanked Steve, KD8JLA and FMC for all they have done to get 146.70 repeater with Echo Link and weather alert system up and running.

John, with the help of some volunteers has worked the past three weekends at waterworks hill getting things ready to move equipment from the current building. Another building being donated will require some fixing up before we can put our equipment into it. John said he will send out an email asking for donated lumber and other items, which will be needed to get the building ready for our equipment.

**Activities Co-Managers: Connie
Smoke, N8LPC and Sandy Snider,
KD8FTX**

Nothing new to report

Flower Fund: Ed Bennett, KD8EEJ

Ed collected \$12 for flower fund and winner of \$6.00 was AE8P. Also collected \$12 for 50/50 and no winner so total is up to \$140.

Old Business:

One new application was passed around for Ben, KC8CAY.

George thanked everyone who volunteered for the July 4th parade (those who did communications and the people involved with the vehicles in the parade) and those who worked the three events for the Lancaster Festival.

New Business:

John, K9ULO announced the Boys Scouts Jamboree on the Air will be held on October 16th & 17th. Rob, KD8DXC said he has received permission from the scouting organization to set up an amateur radio station at Fairfield County

Fairgrounds on October 16th. Ben, KC8CAY is interested in volunteering for the Scouting event at the Fairgrounds.

John, W8JTC is asking for volunteers to work the Sweet Corn Festival (Sept 1st - 4th) in 3-4 hour shifts at one of the security gates and the Festival will donate \$10 to the radio club for each shift fulfilled during the festival. They will also provide a free pass for parking during the festival to each person who volunteers. Mary, KD8EEI will send an email to all members asking for volunteers to contact John if they can work during these dates.

George appointed Allen, KB8JLG as the Nominating Committee to provide a slate of officers at our September meeting.

Mark White reported that he is working on putting together a to-do list for the school program. He has also been writing up all the events that we participate in. He is listing our duties for each particular event so he can show the students ways that we assist the community with communications. He will also talk to Dan Smith our contact at Lancaster High School and set up a meeting sometime after the first three weeks of school opening. Mary, KD8EEI will send a thank you letter to Harold, KD8KWY for donating a radio for our high school radio club setup.

Mike, WD8EBS made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ralph, W8BVH. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Travis, KD8EEI, Secretary

Computer Stuff – Allen Sellers KB8JLG

There has been a recent plague of infected computers with the phishing malware "ANTIVIR SOLUTION PRO". This is common with Micro\$oft XP systems and appears on your computer with the "official" looking message that your computer has been infected and offers to fix the problem if you sign-up. The real purpose is to get your credit card number so they can use it for themselves. If you click anywhere on the screen, including the upper-right RED-X, your computer is infected.

You have to pull the computer's power plug to turn it off. Once infected, you cannot connect to the internet. I thought I was OK by using a restricted account and deleting the account when I signed back on after pulling the power plug. Eventually it got into my System Administrator account and I could not handle the problem myself. Friends with this problem have taken their computer to TRS at Ety Point shopping center or ACCESS COMPUTERS on Cherry Street. Typically, it costs \$75 to \$100 to save your files after the malware is removed.

Hopefully antivirus program companies have addressed this so update yours. Or if you don't have one, get one. There are free antivirus and spyware programs on the internet in addition to purchased items available and at

computer stores. Websites that I use to find out about computing issues are; COMPUTING.NET and CNET.COM. CNET.COM is also a good source to download free antivirus and spyware.

I recently got a new computer to replace my eight year old unit that was "locking up" occasionally due to heat, even though I added another fan. It has Micro\$oft System 7 Professional version and 4GB of RAM. The PRO version because I want to run my old Micro\$oft XP files and the 4GB of RAM so I don't run short in the future. I will, in the future, turnoff the RESTORE feature, as it seems to hog memory and slow down the operation.

Since the operating system is new, I bought two books from AMAZON.COM - "WINDOWS 7 FOR DUMMIES" + DVD bundle and 'WINDOWS 7: THE MISSING MANUAL". I saved 25 percent and the shipping was free. The first book was most helpful for a beginner like me and the DVD basically repeats the book chapter highlights in words and visual examples. The second book is more technical and detailed and I'll probably use it in the future for setting up the built-in "firewall" and addressing problems as they occur. Both books state that System 7 does not have a built-in antivirus program although my vendor told me he didn't think a separate antivirus program was necessary.

Clubhouse lightning strike - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

Recently there was a lightning strike at the clubhouse. Most noticeable damage was the powerline anchor at the attachment point was blown apart (the wire-rope safety cable was still attached), the outside security light was inoperative, inside plumbing was blown apart and the master circuit breaker was tripped. City water from a ½" entry pipe was pouring into the basement for less than a day and the old fashioned floor drains prevented any damage to the

contents. The interior pipes were fixed and the circuit breakers reset but there are multiple leaks in the exterior supply pipe that haven't been fixed yet.

A detailed survey of equipment condition needs to be done but our policy of unplugging antenna cables and electric cords seems to have prevented damage to the radios. Another factor is that our trustee, John W8OF, supervised the installation of proper grounds to all equipment last summer. (This was a big job and took four people two days to accomplish.)

Aladdin Hamfest 2010 - Allen Sellers KB8JLG

The Aladdin hamfest is really a nice venue with free tailgating spaces and indoor tables. It ranks near the top when compared to other local hamfests at Athens and Nelsonville. Dave K8KEG and I shared a ride and we setup three tables inside, one for each of us and one for the club's donated equipment. I sold my Bencher paddle and a Kenwood MC-60 microphone along with other assorted stuff. I sold almost all of the club's items that I took; two large boxes of QST's (none newer than ten years old), coils of RG-58 cable with one connector, panel meters, a Heathkit HW-18 C.A.P. transceiver and miscellaneous parts. The club realized a little over \$100 from the sales.

I am reminded that the club has a HA-18 Hallicrafter's Code Practice Oscillator that may be of interest to a collector. It looks nice and works but has exterior flaw (due to a nearby soldering iron) and the battery case has been replaced.