

# The Ragchewer



Radio room 2006. Quite a discussion going on.....  
This is before the remodeling.





*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 clubhouse.

**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:**

146.76 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.

**VE Test:**

VE test sessions are no longer scheduled. Call Allen KB8JLG (740) 654 – 8167 for details/or to schedule one.

**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>

**2012-2013 Officers**

**President:**

Charlie Snoke, N8KZN

**Vice President:**

Mark White, KD8IMT

**Treasurer:**

Ed Campbell Sr., WD8PGO

**Secretary:**

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

**Trustee:**

John Hilliard, W8OF

**Station Engineer:**

John Hilliard, W8OF

**Education:**

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

**Activities Managers**

Sandy Snider, KD8FTX  
Connie Snoke, N8LPC

**Public Relations:**

Mark Urbine, KC8TUW

**Web Master:**

John, K9ULO & Carol Dolske  
[webmaster@k8qik.org](mailto:webmaster@k8qik.org)

**Editor:**

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

# July , 2013 Meeting Minutes

At 7:30 p.m. Charlie, N8KZN called the monthly meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Officer Reports

### **Secretary Report: Mary Travis, KD8EEI**

Minutes of the June meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. John, W8AGS made a motion to accept minutes and seconded by Robert. KC8PSW. All were in favor.

**Roll call taken tonight:** 20 members in attendance.

Brent	KD8MGR	John	K9ULO
Charlie	N8KZN	Mark	KD8IMT
Dave	WB9PXH	Mary	KD8EEI
David	KB8DRQ	Paul	KD8DDD
Ed	WD8PGO	Ralph	W8BVH
Gary	W8GTS	Ray	W8FLX
Isaac	KD8SYM	Robert	KC8PSW
Jack	AE8P	Ron	W8MYY
John	W8OF	Scott	WD8IXO
John	W8AGS	Wayne	KD8MGO

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

Ed gave the treasurer's report and motion made by Ray, W8FLX and seconded by Ron, W8MYY to approve treasurer's report. All were in favor.

### **VP Report: Mark White, KD8IMT**

Nothing to report.

### **Trustee Report: John Hilliard, W8OF**

John reported that due to FMC budget restraints, they will not be able to fund the cable needed for the 6 meter repeater which will be the backup at FMC. Jack, AE8P made motion to allow John, W8OF \$100 to purchase connectors needed for the cable which Ed, WD8PGO stated he could get the cable we need for this project, seconded by Robert, KC8PSW. All in favor.

John also reported the 6 meter repeater is on the air so you can receive on 51.85 and transmit on 52.85 and listen to the 440 repeater.

## Committee Reports

### **Webmaster: John (K9ULO) & Carol Dolske**

John reported he will do his best to get the updates done on the website.

### **Chairman Educational Committee: Allen Sellers, KB8JLG**

Mark, KD8IMT reported that one adult had been tested for technician and passed.

## Monday Night Net

Aug 5th	Robert Northrup, KC8PSW
Aug 12th	Brent Ludwick, KD8MGR, net only
Aug 19th	John Lawson, W8AGS
Aug 26th	John Dolske, K9ULO
Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Dolske, K9ULO

### **Ragchewer: Ralph Howes, W8BVH**

Ralph reported that he had submitted our Ragchewer to the ARRL newsletter competition. Cambridge came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the contest.

### **Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell, WD8PGO**

Ed thanked the volunteers for assisting with the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, Tour de Cause and Lancaster Festival. Mary, KD8EEI thanked the volunteers who assisted with the Friends of the Park 5K run.

Ed asked for volunteers for Sweet Corn Festival on Wed, Aug 28<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. for the parade.

### **Safety: Scott Snoke, WD8IXO**

No report.

### **Station Engineer: John Hilliard, W8OF**

Items covered under Trustee.

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

Sandy sent in flyers for the Christmas party.

## Old Business:

John, K9ULO thanked everyone who helped with the setup for field day and those who came out and operated. He submitted our report, which had 1,144 points and this was a slight increase from last year. John reported that he hoped more people would come out and operate next year, which would help with our number of contacts. It is also beneficial if there is a person logging the contacts for the person on the radio. He also thanked Steve, KD8JLA and the EMA for letting us borrow equipment for setting up.

Charlie reported he had shown the old trailer to someone but no response back. Ed, WD8PGO showed the trailer to the Lancaster Festival committee and they would love to have the trailer. Ray, W8FLX made a motion to donate the trailer to Lancaster Festival and seconded by John, K9ULO. All in favor.

## New Business:

Gary reported that he had received an email from Bill Parker wanting to come down on the next radio night and do his slide show presentation on LED's. Gary replied to him that we would not have enough people to make it worth his time. Gary also reported he had been given a list of other topics that Bill Parker would be willing to do a presentation on. Gary will contact Bill and see what dates he might be available for a presentation on antennas. Once the date is selected, we will request a room at OU-L campus for this event to provide adequate room for the presentation. (Wayne Larue has a contact at OU-L and will be glad to request a room for the club.)

Charlie asked Paul, KD8DDD and Robert, KC8PSW if they would serve as the nominating committee to present a slate of officers for 2013-2014. They agreed to do this.

Mary, KD8EEI reported that Ron, W8MYY would be applying for a volunteer grant from Walmart similar to the one that Charlie and Mary had received from AEP. Also Ron brought to the club's attention the community grants that Walmart does from \$250 to \$2,500. After much discussion, Ed, WD8PGO made a motion for Mary to submit a grant to Walmart for 2 – 2,000 watt Honda EU2000i companion generators that can be used in parallel for increased wattage output. Gary, W8GTS seconded and all were in favor. Mary will work on the grant.

John, W8OF asked if the club felt we should pay Matt, KB8UVN for the many hours he spent climbing the tower to make antenna repairs. Brent, KD8MGR made a motion to send Matt, KB8UVN a check for \$150, seconded by Isaac, KD8SYM. All were in favor.

Ralph, W8BVH made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



**Don't forget to check out the Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club's latest information...**

Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club

**Waverly, OH**

Website: [www.gsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html/](http://www.gsl.net/w8bap/SVARC.html/)

Newsletters: [www.w8bapdstar.info/library/SVARC%20News](http://www.w8bapdstar.info/library/SVARC%20News)



**Aladdin Temple Hamfest**

Allen Sellers, KB8JLG

This was changed to a convention hosting the Great Lakes Division when the Cincinnati ham group informed the ARRL (in January) they could not serve as the host and in fact were not having a hamfest at all.

The result was an improvement for many vendors as the new attendees from Michigan and Kentucky purchased a lot of things that were "new" to them. Another factor was the rain forced everyone inside and it was almost crowded. There were only a few empty vendor tables and three or four hardy flea market vendors after the rain stopped. Most of the vendors I talked to did very well and I sold almost all Dave Younker's (K8KEG) items at the prices I asked. The only things left were the Radio Shack SWR meter and Transistor tester.

The ARRL table was staffed, as always, by local volunteer hams. Unfortunately they could not answer many of the questions concerning new modes and techniques.

One person I talked to about the free VE tests had forgotten to bring his license so he was not permitted to take an upgrade exam. It is always a good idea to carry a photocopy of your license. It may be a requirement if you are operating mobile or with a handheld radio. The photocopy does not have to be full-sized.

# FOR SALE

I have a Drake 1525 EM microphone for sale. It is very clean handheld mic. It has the key pad on the back. Asking \$25.00.

Contact: Ralph Howes, W8BVH 740-687-0344

## Taking some of my own medicine

By [Dan KB6NU](#)

I took a dose of my own medicine and performed a little preventive maintenance on my Astron RS-35M power supply.

Last week, I wrote a blog post on preventive maintenance for one of my writing clients.



Afterwards, I decided to take some of my own medicine and do a little preventive maintenance around the shack. I started with the Astron RS-35M, which provides the DC power that runs HF transceiver and my VHF/UHF transceiver in my shack. I had started noticing a few little things, such as the voltage adjustment being a little fussy, that I wanted to correct before the supply failed on me.

After removing the cover, I vacuumed all the dust out of the supply. The RS-35M wasn't very dirty, but even so, getting the dirt out of a piece of equipment is probably the first thing you'll want to do when performing preventive maintenance. Dirt impedes air flow. That can lead to higher operating temperatures, and as the lab manager that I interviewed for my blog post said, "Heat kills."

Not only should you vacuum any dust out of a cabinet, you should also clean the fan filters, if your gear has them. Dusty filters prevent air from flowing smoothly through equipment, and that means the fans don't cool as well as they should.

Once that was done, I did a visual inspection. One thing that you want to look for are components that look like they're getting too hot. Another thing to look for is evidence of arcing. Whatever is causing the overheating or arcing will eventually cause a unit to fail. Fortunately, I found neither.

Next, I checked to see that the components mounted to the enclosure were securely screwed down. In the RS-35M, the transformer, the bridge rectifier, and an electrolytic are mounted to the enclosure. Oddly enough, the bridge rectifier was quite loose, so I tightened it down. Also loose were the output terminals. I tightened these down as well.

Finally, I squirted a little cleaner and lube into the voltage adjustment pot and worked it back and forth. That seemed to do the job. That pot now works smoothly and cleanly.

I put the cover back on, reconnected the power cable, and got back to making QSOs. It should be good for another couple of years.



LFCARC  
Christmas Party  
December 14, 2013

6:00 till 9:00

Golden Corral (Lancaster)

Business RT. 33 by Lowes

Lots of door prizes

Due to limitations on room size available  
Members and one guest are invited to attend.

For additional information contact:

Sandy Snider KD8FTX  
740- 569-4732  
sksnider0533@gmail.com

Connie Snoke N8LPC  
740- 654-4582

# KB6NU's Ham Radio Tip of the Week

## Work satellites with an HT

You can work the FM satellites using a handheld FM transceiver capable of crossband operation and a handheld antenna. There are a number of YouTube videos showing you how to do this, including one by Diana Eng, KC2UHB, “[Catching satellites on ham radio](#)” and one by Malcolm, VK2MAL, “[Working FM satellites portable.](#)” Since the satellites use the VHF and UHF bands, communication is line-of-sight, so you’ll have to catch them as they fly over you. To find out when and where the satellites will be in the sky above you, go to [AMSAT Sat Status page](#).

The [AMSAT website](#) also has information on satellites that are in development and other satellite news. You should definitely consider joining AMSAT if you plan to make working the satellites a habit.

73,

Dan KB6NU

*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. May you have fair winds and following seas. .- .-*

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