

# The Ragchewer



*REMEMBER WHEN.....*

*January 7, 2016*





*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

**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 on 3rd Thursday at 7 pm. Call Robert Northrup, KC8PSW (614-323-1901). For more details go to [www.k8qik.org](http://www.k8qik.org)

**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>

**2015 Officers**

**President:**

Paul Flaut, *KB8CMW*

**Vice President:**

David Jackson, *KD8MOY*

**Treasurer:**

Ed Campbell Sr., *WD8PGO*

**Secretary:**

Carolyn Spurgeon, *KE8AFM*

**Trustee:**

John Hilliard, *W8OF*

**Station Engineer:**

John Hilliard, *W8OF*

**Volunteer Exam Coordinator:**

Robert Northrup, *KC8PSW*

**Activities Managers**

Sandy Snider, *KD8FTX*  
Charlie Snoke, *N8KZN*

**Public Relations:**

Mark Urbine, *KC8TUW*

**Web Master:**

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

**News Editor:**

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

# January 7 , 2017 Meeting Minutes

At 7:45 p.m., Paul KB8CMW called the meeting to order.

There were no visitors to this meeting.

There were no applications for review or for voting.



## Officer Reports

### **Secretary Report: Carolyn Spurgeon KE8AFM**

Minutes of the December meeting were posted in the Ragchewer. There were no corrections to the minutes. John K9ULO made a motion to accept the minutes. Brent KD8MGR seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Carolyn further reported the proposed changes to the by-laws as follows:

Under **Dues** in the by-laws, it currently reads: A two (\$2.00) dollar initiation fee must accompany the current year's dues for all new club applications. The change would remove this sentence from the by-laws.

Under **Club Station** in the by-laws, it currently reads: The station engineer(s) shall have the authority to expend moneys not to exceed fifty (\$50.00) dollars per month on parts or equipment to maintain the station without prior general membership approval. The change would state that the allotted amount would be \$100.00.

Under **Club Station** in the by-laws, it currently reads in part: Only club officers are authorized to possess a key to this facility. The amendment to be added would state: The executive committee reserves the right to appoint any person to possess a key to the facility that it deems necessary.

Under **Elections** in the by-laws, it currently reads: The election shall be by mail ballot. Ballots will be collected by the secretary and counted at the October meeting by a (3) member committee appointed by the president, and announce the results. There shall not be balloting or collecting of ballots at the meeting except in case of a tie. New officers will assume their duties at the November meeting. The amendment to be added would state: In the event that the whole of the ballot consists of only one nominee for each office, instead of mail-in balloting, a motion will be made at the regular meeting in October to accept and vote into office nominees, followed by a second to the motion and a vote to accept the motion.

Discussion was held for these three changes and a vote was taken to adopt them. Vote passed by a two-thirds majority.

A new section to be added to the by-laws **Miscellaneous Duties** would state: a) Secretary shall possess a P.O. Box key and thereby retrieve any mail addressed to any officer excepting the Treasurer and mail that applies to the Treasurer's office. Discussion was held for this change and a vote was taken to adopt the change. Vote passed by a two-thirds majority.

**Sign-in tonight: 30** members in attendance.

Adam	KE8AFP	Brent	KD8MGR
Carolyn	KE8AFM	John	KD8EEK
Charlie	N8KZN	John	W8AGS
Connie	N8LPC	John	W8OF
David	KD8MOY	Mary	KD8EEI
Dave	WB9PXH	Paul	KB8CMW
Dennis	KB8WR	Paul	KD8DDD
George	KB8USP	Paul	W8PDK
Gary	W8GTS	Robert	KC8PSW
Greg	KD8SSJ	Ray	KD8WHY
Jack	AE8P	Robb	KE8AMC
Jeff	KE8AME	John	K9ULO
Steve	KD8JLA	Sandy	KD8FTX
Wayne	KD8MGO	Zachary	KE8AFN
Mike	WN8C	Rod	K1RQS

**Treasurer’s Report: George Lambert KB8USP**

George gave the treasurer’s report and John W8AGS made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Paul W8PDK. All were in favor.

**VP Report: David Jackson KD8MOY**

David reported that he, as net control manager, has the Monday night net schedule filled through mid-February. He will be sending out a notification by email to all net control operators letting them know who is assigned to each specific date.

Also, David relayed that he has been appointed as the new Public Relations person for the club. He talked about the different social media resources that can be utilized by the club. One resource that he will get up and running will be a Facebook page.

**Trustee Report: John Hilliard W8OF**

The security system key pad will be repaired free of charge thanks to Steve KD8JLA. John also offered two dates for clean-up of unwanted items at the club house. These two dates are Wednesday, January 13th at 9a.m. and the other is Wednesday, January 20th also at 9a.m. Discussion was held and January 13th was decided upon. Greg KD8SSJ and Gary W8GTS volunteered to provide transport of items away from the building. After this task is accomplished, John suggested that the club improve the club house by tearing out old carpeting and then varnish the flooring. Also, obtaining stacking chairs would make the floor space more usable and versatile for any activity being held. No discussion was held nor decisions made.

**Committee Reports**

**Webmaster: John K9ULO & Carol Dolske**

John reported that our web domain and web hosting sight with Go Daddy was paid in the sum of \$167.62. This is a yearly expense that should be included in the club's budget.

**Volunteer Exam Coordinator: Robert Northrup KC8PSW**

Robert gave a testing summary for 2015. There were 29 candidates, 52 tests were administered. License classes earned were as follows: Technician-13, General-9, and Extra-4. Only 3 failed. This reflects an 89% passing rate. The testing committee donated \$105 from the testing fees received. Next testing session will be January 21st. at **7:00 p.m.** at the clubhouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**Ragchewer: Ralph Howes W8BVH**

No report

**Emergency Coordinator: Ed Campbell WD8PGO/John Dolske K9ULO**

John invited any members of the club who were not currently ARES trained but interested, to fill out an application at tonight's meeting. He also asked that current ARES members please make themselves known to him so that he could have a count of who is trained. This was also requested so that John would have an idea of what equipment each person has that could be of use in an emergency situation as the Emergency Management Agency is desiring to utilize anyone within the club. Club members were asked to see him after the meeting and he will also make known the general equipment that is required to perform emergency communications. The next ARES meeting will be held in the EMA office on Tuesday, January 19th at 7p.m.

**Safety: Scott Snoke WD8IXO**

No report

**Station Engineer: John Hilliard W8OF**

John reported the following update to the club's repeaters:

147.030 MHz CTCSS 71.9 Hz main repeater

146.700 MHz CTCSS 94.8 Hz ARES, Digital Modes, Autopatch, C4FM

443.875 MHz CTCSS 71.9 Hz UHF main repeater cross linked to the 53.090 MHz repeater

53.090 MHz CTCSS 71.9 Hz 6 Meter repeater cross linked to the 443.875 repeater

There is a Yaesu DR-1x System Fusion Repeater install at water works hill on-line on the 146.700 MHz repeater pair set to work on the digital mode only. Any analog transmissions using the 94.8 Hz CTCSS will be repeated using the analog repeater at FMC.

**Activities Manager:**

No report

**Old Business:**

Paul KB8CMW asked for the audit report. John K9ULO, audit committee chairman, stated that he would give the report at the next club meeting.

**New Business:**

Paul stated that the Activities Manager position needs to be filled as Sandy KD8FTX has resigned from the position. Adam KE8AFP volunteered for the position and Paul appointed him. Paul also mentioned that Ralph W8BVH would like to transition out of the position of Ragchewer editor in the future. John W8OF may volunteer to be Ralph's replacement but invites anyone else to volunteer for this position. In addition, Robb KE8AMC has been appointed the LFCARC liaison to the EMA office. He will be in communication with Jon Kochis, Director of the EMA.

Paul brought up the need for the club to obtain an all-in-one office machine (printer, copier, scanner, fax machine) for the secretary's use with the club laptop in order to accomplish the duties of the secretary office. Currently there is no capability to do the tasks needed from the secretary's residence. Rod K1RQS stated that he would like to offer an extra machine that he has for the secretary's use. Rod and Carolyn will discuss this option after the meeting.

Paul made announcement that there was a recent article in QST regarding the ARRL National Parks on the Air Event. This article was given to the new activities manager, Adam KE8AFP, to promote the club's involvement with this event by sponsoring a station.

Mary KD8EEI relayed that the club house failed the recent fire inspection. One point of concern for the inspector was the library located at the top of the stairs to the second floor. All the publications stored there would increase the risk of not escaping the second floor in case of a fire. Action will be taken to remove these items and Allen KB8JLG also wants to dispose of the library magazines.

John K9ULO brought to the club's attention that June 25-26, 2016 will be National Field Day this year. Details need to be worked on, suggesting that a committee form and begin organizing this event in February. John asked for volunteers and Adam KE8AFP, Rod K1RQS, and David KD8MOY agreed to work together.

Gary W8GTS made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John K9ULO seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolyn Spurgeon, KE8AFM  
Secretary

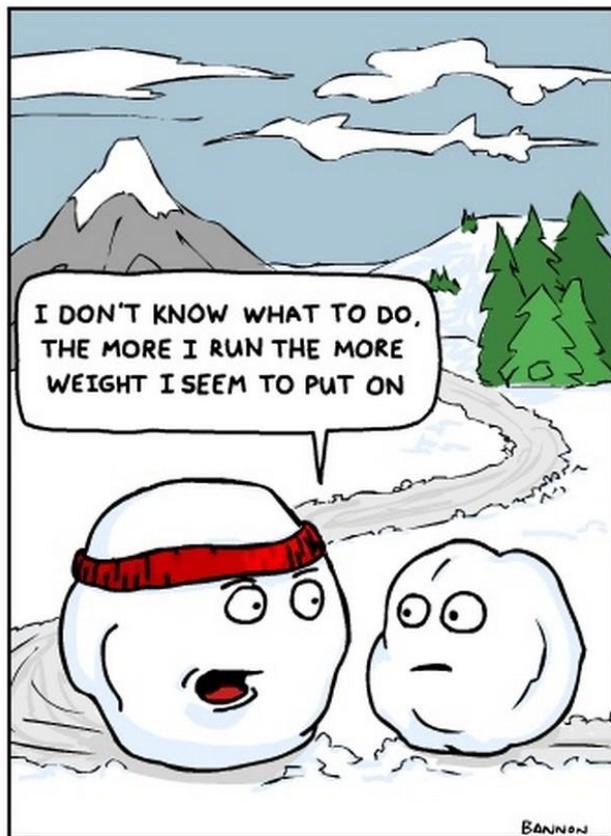
**POST SCRIPT.....**

Here is the schedule as far as I have it:

- January 11 John Dolske
- January 18 John Lawson
- January 25 Zach Morrison
- February 1 Robert Northrup
- February 8 John Dolske

Thank you all for volunteering and if you know of further dates you are available. Please email back. If you have a chance, check out the new Facebook Page at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LFCARC/>

73's  
David Jackson, KD8MOY  
Vice President



**SCIOTO VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

The Scioto Valley ARC is undergoing some major changes and we need to know some of them. Earlier in 2015 Barratt Banta, AB8NL, the clubs Newsletter Editor passed away. He was a good reporter for the club and a good friend to all who met him. Recently Marv Turner, K8KX, the clubs Treasurer passed away. He was a longtime friend to all of us hams in the southeastern part of Ohio. To the Scioto club, we would like to express our sadness for your clubs loss of these fine gentlemen.

A bright spot in the Scioto club is that they have a new Newsletter Editor, **Jon Petersen, AI4OM**. By his call sign, and QRZ, it looks like he hails from Florida. Should you happen to see him or meet him at one of the Hamfests make yourself known and welcome him to our neighborhood. You can send news articles to him at:  
[jpnwh@icloud.com](mailto:jpnwh@icloud.com)

I strongly encourage you to go to: <http://n8sy3.blogspot.com/> and read up on what happened in 2015 in Ohio. I'm sure you'll find it interesting.

SPECIAL EVENT: National Parks on the Air has begun. This is the big operating event for 2016. Be sure to check out the full details at <https://npota.arrl.org/>. See the current "On the Air" list of scheduled events on the web page. There are actually 20 qualified National Park Service Units within the Great Lakes Division, so there are many opportunities to put a park on the air and this fun project runs all year.



UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: Please contact your Senator in Washington and encourage his/her support for the Act. When you do this, please reference the Bill Number S 1685. HR 1301 is the Bill number for the House of Representatives. In addition to a letter to your Senator letter to your Representative is quite appropriate. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters for personal delivery: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. You can find more information at <http://www.arrrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>.

ARRL Ohio Section

Section Manager: Scott D Yonally, N8SY

[n8sy@arrrl.org](mailto:n8sy@arrrl.org)



## Redesigned FCC Website Makes it Easy for Hams to File Interference Complaints

The FCC has made it easier for hams to file RF interference and other complaints, thanks to a new feature of the FCC's recently redesigned [website](#). The addition was made at ARRL's request. Hams have always been able to file such complaints, but when a new complaint system geared largely to consumers came online a year ago, they lost the ability to do so via e-mail to a dedicated address. The change made it less clear how amateurs should file such complaints and what, if anything, would result.

Once on the FCC site, click "File a Consumer Complaint" on the right side of the screen. The next page lists several categories. Under "Radio," click on "File Complaint." This will take you to a web form that you can fill out. The form includes a drop-down menu for the "Radio Issues" field. Pick one, such as "Interference." This will bring down another menu. The "Your Radio Method" field includes another drop-down menu. Select "Amateur Radio." Complete the rest of the form. It is possible to add attachments. Click on "Submit" to file your complaint.

The FCC e-mail addresses for submitting complaints have been discontinued; they had been rendered ineffective by spam.

Each complaint is assigned a ticket number, and complainants receive an e-mail acknowledgment and, if appropriate, a follow-up report on what was done to address the complaint. Many complaints are simply acknowledged, however, and the complainant is told that it will be used for statistical analysis. A complainant can update a complaint with additional information.



**On the FCC website, click on "File a Consumer Complaint," to initiate a complaint.**

## National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) Event Gets Off to a Strong Start!

ARRL's National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) year-long event got off to a strong start on New Year's Day, with considerable activity reported on the HF bands and even some on the SO-50 satellite over the first weekend of the new year. Throughout 2016, Amateur Radio will be helping the National Park Service (NPS) to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Hams will activate NPS units, promote the Park Service, and showcase Amateur Radio to the public. During the first 3 days of NPOTA, "[Activators](#)" were on the air from 78 of the 483 [NPOTA Units](#).

"Pileups were pretty strong all weekend long," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "At least two units -- Weir Farm National Historic Site in Connecticut (NS76), and Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Arkansas (NS45) -- were activated via the SO50 FM satellite."

The program has two participation tracks -- Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles.

Chaser and Activator totals will be tracked via an online [NPOTA Leader Board](#) based on LoTW data.

"We've received an official welcome from the NPS superintendent of the [North Country National Scenic Trail](#) and the Executive Director of the [North Country Trail Association](#)," Kutzko reported. The trail runs from New York to North Dakota.



**Greg Hatten, KE4MU, operated for the first 3 days at the Richland Balsam Overlook in North Carolina on the Blue Ridge Parkway (PK01). He made 303 contacts while running just 5 W on 20 meter SSB. [Greg Hatten, KE4MU, photo]**

"We appreciate your enthusiasm and engagement as we celebrate this 100th anniversary of the National Park Service," wrote Mark Weaver, the Scenic Trail superintendent, and Bruce Matthews, executive director of the North Country Trail Association. "While operating from the North Country National Scenic Trail, we encourage all radio amateurs to participate in the NCTAs [Hike 100 Challenge](#), to hike 100 miles on the trail this year; to get out, enjoy the fresh air, get some exercise, and take a moment to appreciate one of America's great scenic and recreational resources."

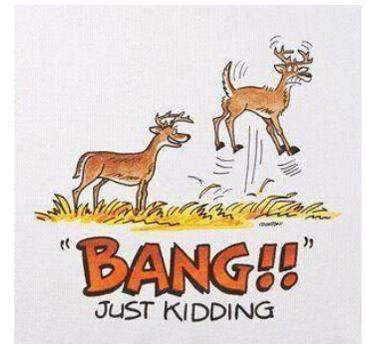
Kutzko said 400 new [NPOTA Facebook](#) group members have signed on since New Year's Eve. "The Facebook group is the central location for all things NPOTA," he said. "It has lots of people exchanging ideas, tips, spots, and success stories. We're also using it as the place to keep everybody updated on administrative issues."

[#ARRL\\_NPOTA](#), [#NPS100](#), and [#HamRadioInParks](#) remain the

common Twitter feeds. Read [more](#).



Hunting season is upon us and there are many of our members that like to hunt. To those people we would like to offer a word of caution.... **Safety First !!** and good hunting.



## Dishtronix Purchases Ten-Tec Assets



[Dishtronix](#), an electronics design and manufacturing company, has purchased the assets of Amateur Radio equipment manufacturer TEN-TEC from RKR Designs. Headquartered in Bellefontaine, Ohio, Dishtronix manufactures and markets the "Prometheus" solid-state Amateur Radio amplifier, among other products. No formal announcement has been made by either company, and details of the purchase are still being finalized. RKR Designs announced last April 2 that it had acquired the assets of TEN-TEC and Alpha Amplifiers from RF Concepts, less than 1 year after the two lines had merged under the RF Concepts brand in an asset sale. Dishtronix owner Steven M. "Mike" Dishop, N8WFF, told ARRL that, while TEN-TEC has had different owners over the years, he is in it for the long haul.



"Dishtronix has been continuously operating for 17 years, is financially stable and will continue managing in a manner that promotes and maintains financial stability. My vision is strictly long term," he said. TEN-TEC production will remain in Sevierville, Tennessee. [www.tentec.com](http://www.tentec.com)

According to its website, Dishtronix was incorporated in 1998 to design, develop and manufacture electronic controls and products, serving smaller manufacturers that lack electronic design expertise. Dishtronix said that it "seriously committed" in September 2001 to enter the Amateur Radio market with high-power, solid-state amplifiers and accessories. Dishop said Dishtronix has other new products under development, including a new legal-limit, solid-state amp that he expects to debut at [Dayton Hamvention](#)<sup>Â®</sup> in May.

"When I have capacity, the next step is to run the first batch of Omni VII+ [transceivers], which is the Omni VII with some minor cosmetic changes and improvements, such as a flat metal front for improved shielding," he added. He also expects to post some firmware updates as soon as possible, once the new TEN-TEC website is up.

Dishop told ARRL that he's had to make "some tough decisions" to ensure the company's long-term viability. He confirmed a recent TEN-TEC reflector web post by former TEN-TEC Engineering Manager John Henry, KI4JPL, whom Dishop has retained on a contract basis that indicated a new service policy is now in place, with a \$140 minimum charge just to look at a radio, even if it is not repaired. This includes items already sent to RKR for repair.

Dishop asked the Amateur Radio community to be patient during the transition. "I am fully committed to bring TEN-TEC back to a sustainable state," he said in his earlier web post. "This will take some time." Read [more](#).



## Upcoming Hamfests

Jan 17 - SCARF - Nelsonville, OH  
Jan 24 - Tusco - Strausburg, OH  
Jan 24 - Hazel Park - Madison Hgts, MI  
Feb 13 - Cherryland - Traverse City, MI  
Feb 21 - Mansfield - Mansfield, OH  
Feb 21 - Livonia - Livonia, MI  
Mar 5 - Cave City - Cave City, KY  
Mar 6 - NOARS - Elyria, OH  
Mar 19 - Crossroads - Kalamazoo, MI  
Mar 20 - TMRA Hamfest - Perrysburg, OH  
Mar 26 - MOVARC - Gallipolis, OH

As most of you know, I get some of my news from other clubs. I would like to direct your attention to the 'Monday Morning Memo'. John Levo, WA8KIW, is the editor and a member of the Highland ARA in Hillsboro, OH. If you want to get their newsletter each Monday morning, you can contact John here: [highlandara@yahoo.com](mailto:highlandara@yahoo.com)

*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. Give that special someone a big hug. Remember your New Year's Resolutions*



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