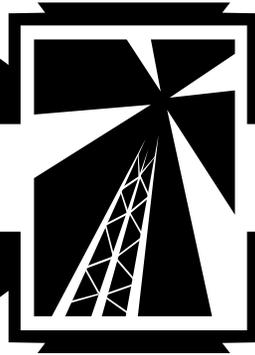


THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR



MEETING MINUTES

Glen Shore, KG8MR

Minutes of the regular Club meeting held on January 19th, 2000, at the Busch Community Room as recorded by Glenn KG8MR. The January CARS meeting was called to order by Tom Wayne WB8N at 8:03 p.m. Members in attendance included Greg KG80, Glenn KG8MR, Terry KB8DTC, Gordon KC8IOU, Fred NO2O, Duncan KC8KQO, Mike KB8BMY, Steve KC8IVD, Roger N8TCP, Ron KC8JFK, Steve KC8GCA, Bob W8GC, Glenn WB8CDA, Ed KC8BOJ, Bob KC8MRC, Scott KC8LEO, Dave KD8V, Karl KC8LYH, Sam

WB8UES, Carl WA8AA, Ray WD8OMK, Russ KC8IHS, Bill AA8WJ, Roy KB8VJF, Alana KC8KKX, Gary NI8Z, Tom WB8N, Judy KC8FHE, Ron K8VJG, and Ed WB2TDC (new member).

The list of guests, visitors, and family members included: Bob Winston W2THU, Jeannie St. Marie KC8MNV, Dave Stahley K8AUH, and Joey Kopp.

CHANGES TO THE MINUTES

There were no changes to the minutes.

CHANGES TO THE TREASURER REPORT

There were no changes to the treasurer report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: MEMBERSHIP

The applicant, Ed Stohrer WB2TDC that appeared in the December W.O. was voted on and accepted by the group. Ed has paid his dues in person at this month's meeting, and was welcomed into C.A.R.S.

TECHNICAL/REPEATER

Greg KG80 reported that Vince was working to restore the 6 meter equipment operation. On another topic, the

technical committee is exploring the possibility of adding an APRS digipeater. The technical and funding issues for this proposal are still under consideration.

Greg was asked to comment on the 146.82 repeater's occasional phrase "Track is empty." Greg had not yet found the cause of this problem. However, he was exploring revising the current digitized voice scheme, by replacing the six year old voice mail modem, with a sound card capable of using standardized wave files. Greg was also looking for a 486 motherboard donation for this application.

VE REPORT

Gary NI8Z reported that two more sessions will be added to the testing schedule, one in February [Feb. 20th], and one in April [Apr. 15 or 16th]. He also noted the April 2nd VE session will NOT OC-CUR. Two additional VE's (Bob W8GC and Steve KC8GCA) have signed on to help with the increase in testing demand. Sixteen applicants were processed at the last session. Gary encourages interested applicants to contact him as earlier as possible. There may be a twenty person limit imposed on a session due to the available room size at the Old Town Hall in Independence.

HAMFEST

Roy KB8VJF had tentative printed samples of the hamfest flyer. Tom WB8N informed us the price for admission was under discussion.

DAYTON BUS TRIP

Roger N8TCP acknowledge that he will arrange the C.A.R.S. sponsored bus trip to the "Dayton Hamfest 2000." A cost of \$30 per person was projected, with reservations to be taken starting in February. It was noted, that this year the Dayton

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The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Articles may be reprinted in any amateur radio-related publication provided that credit is given to the newsletter and the author.

Submissions received by the end of the month will be published in the following month's Wobbly Oscillator.

Send articles by E-mail to:
Newsletter@cars.org

or by U.S. mail to:

The Wobbly Oscillator
1176 Saybrook Drive
Macedonia, OH 44056-2407

(Do not send dues to this address!)

K8ZFR



Hamvention will also host the ARRL National Convention.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed during the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Dressler KD8V proposed C.A.R.S. take part in a special event station to be held this spring at the Arrowhead Elementary School located in the Copley-Fairlawn area. Dave explained that this school has an extensive nature lab, which among other things includes a green house that will be the focal point for the special event. Dave suggested that it would be a good public event for the school and amateur radio. He hoped that C.A.R.S. would sponsor the event. The firm dates and times will be published in an upcoming W.O. and QST. A motion was made by Roger N8TCP to have C.A.R.S. sponsor the event, with the second confirmation by Greg KG8O. All present were in favor of the proposal, and none were against.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m., followed by the program presentation.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Mr. Bob Winston W2THU, the Assistant Section Manager to the ARRL for Northeast Ohio, gave a timely and informative talk on the latest FCC Amateur Radio Restructuring announcements. Mr. Winston covered the new license classes, the new examination requirements, details about technician class upgrades, changes to the physician certification waivers for morse code, operating privileges, the advanced class VE privileges and gave examples of upgrade possibilities. Afterwards, Mr. Winston followed up with a question and answer session.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Judy Crane, KC8FHE

MEMBERS ONLY - This article has been edited from the on-line version of the newsletter. C.A.R.S. members may request the full version of the newsletter by sending a request to the editor.

Overdue Dues

The following hams have overdue dues:

K8DTS	Bob Leskovec	12/31/1999
	Brian James	12/31/1999
	Michael James	12/31/1999
N8UTX	Monica James	12/31/1999
K8RDK	Robert Knaack	12/31/1999
KB8PMM	Richard Braun	12/31/1999
N8BZC	Dave Chatham	12/31/1999
N8FCQ	Casey Nowakowski	12/31/1999
N8FIL	Richard James	12/31/1999
KG8O	Greg Kopp	12/31/1999
N8KBM	Tim Vranich	12/31/1999
N8RRG	David Cottle	12/31/1999
N8TCP	Roger Boehnlein	12/31/1999
N8UIP	Ronald Schultheis	12/31/1999
N8UIY	Virginia Braun	12/31/1999
WA8EYF	Ev Chitester	12/31/1999
WD8CHL	Jim Barbour	12/31/1999
N8RKA	Arthur Barbeta Jr	12/31/1999
KB8WUB	Edward Wirsching	12/31/1999
KC8IBT	Dale Valley	12/31/1999
KB8YLX	Greg Edmond	12/31/1999
KB8IUH	John Lane	12/31/1999
N8GR	Gary Ralles	12/31/1999
WB2TDC	Ed Stohrer	01/19/2000
N8YUL	John Joseph	12/31/1999
KC8IUJ	Richard Bongiovanni	12/31/99

Please Send Dues To:

Judy Crane, KC8FHE
C.A.R.S. Treasurer
6531 Tanglewood Lane
Seven Hills, OH 44131



MEMBERSHIP

David Morley, KC8FVM

I wish to announce a new candidate for membership Marc Sussman KC8NRS and congratulations on the new call. We will be voting on him Feb 16th.



VE NEWS

Gary Dewey, N18Z

C.A.R.S. Volunteer Examinations

The test schedule for the year 2000 Volunteer Examinations have been scheduled. The location of all Amateur Radio Examinations will be 6652 Brecksville Rd, Independence at the Independence TownHall.

The examinations will be held on the Odd month [Editor: Exceptions noted below], second Sunday at 9 am. The dates for your planning calendar ---

- Feb. 20 (* Special Session *)
- March 12
- April 15 (* Special Session *)
- May 14
- July 9
- September 10
- November 12

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The cost of taking the test will be \$6.65. Everyone taking a test for a new license or an upgrade must bring a valid picture I.D. The original and a copy of their license, any CSCEs are necessary.

Bring an ink pen to fill out the new 605 form plus 2 pencils with erasers for the written tests. Everyone fill out the new 605 form should have their social security number.

Contact NI8Z, Gary Dewey at 216-642-1399 or email to gdewey@en.com for further information and special request.



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Glenn Shore, KG8MR

Praise goes to the following hams for their undaunted effort to attend every meeting held in the year 1999. Congratulations to : Bill AA8WJ, Terry KB8DTC, Dave KD8V, Gary NI8Z, Tom WB8N, and Ray WD8OMK.

For the rest, remember to sign the attendance sheet when you attend a meeting! Also, remember that the bylaws of the C.A.R.S. constitution, define a Full Member as one who "... has attended at least one of the previous three (3) regular meetings as a club member." So, to get the most out of your voting rights and club recognition, attend the meetings and remember to sign the attendance sheet before leaving. For a closer look at the C.A.R.S. constitution, visit www.cars.org and click on the constitution link button.



NATURE ZONE

Dave Dressler, KD8V

Copley, OH: Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society K8ZFR 1400Z May 5 to 2100Z May 6, celebrating Arrowhead Elementary School's Nature Zone. 7.245 14.250 21.350 28.400 certificate QSL Dave Dressler KD8V 4333 Copley Rd. Copley OH 44321.



FROM THE PREZ'S SHACK

Tom Wayne, WB8N

The Random Wire

HERE WE GO AGAIN

We are now well into the new year and I hope everything is going great for everyone. I have been a little busier on the HF bands, working both voice and cw, and have a stack of QSL cards to send out through the ARRL QSL Bureau as soon as I get to it. I finally received about 35 cards from the incoming bureau, some going as far back as 1996 for the date of the qso! I was checking my contacts in the good old U.S. of A. and noticed that I had NOT worked all the states as I thought I had. Somehow I had missed Idaho. I soon remedied that situation, working the very next Idaho station I heard!

I had also been thinking of reorganizing the shack, but after I started looking the situation over, decided the heck with it. It works just fine the way it is. Besides, I have wires and cables going so many places, I would be afraid I would never get the station back together again! Maybe some minor changes, nothing to cause any waves. Have to start thinking of antenna work again soon too. I would like to get a wire up for 75/80 meters if at all possible this spring. It is just a matter of what to attach it to, since my neighbor is going to have his tree cut down in the near future. I guess I'll figure something out eventually.

With the sun spot cycle going the way it has, there are many foreign stations on the air on all the bands, and now with the changes in the licensing, there are more opportunities to upgrade and get on the low bands. There is always inexpensive used gear for sale either by private

party, at a hamfest (see below) or at the candy store to get started on HF, and once you give it a try, I can pretty much assure you that you'll be hooked! It is a lot of fun to ragchew with some ham in some far off place you will probably never visit, and even more fun, if you HAVE been there or plan to be there sometime in the future. Then there is the excitement of receiving a QSL card in the mail to confirm your contact. Although you usually have to send the other operator a card first and include an envelope and a green stamp or two, or some IRCs, unless you go through the bureau. The bureau can be slow however as I noted earlier, and you have to be a member of the ARRL to use the outgoing bureau. You also have to have envelopes and postage on file at the incoming bureau. Some other time I will get into the ins and outs of successful qsling as that is a whole subject by itself. But now is the time to upgrade, and Gary Dewey NI8Z has even scheduled extra VE sessions in Feb. and April besides the sessions in March and May to make it more convenient. Look for Gary's article elsewhere in this issue. For those of you who became Technician Class license holders before March of 1987, you can upgrade to General Class simply by going to the next VE session with proof of when you were licensed and fill out a form, pay the fee and that's it!

THOUGHTS ON THE LICENSING CHANGES

The FCC's changes to the licensing structure is controversial, to say the least. There are those who welcome the changes and those who think that the changes are for the birds, to put it mildly.

I personally feel that the changes will be good for amateur radio overall. With eliminating the 13 and 30 word per minute Morse code requirements, it will open up the General and Extra class licenses to more people. Eventually Morse code will be eliminated completely as a licensing requirement. It is just a matter of time. That doesn't mean Morse code will

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go away. It will still be used by many and will continue to be a viable part of amateur radio. Hopefully, we can begin to get more younger people into the hobby as well. The changes should also help the retail end of things. With people upgrading, they will be looking for new rigs, antennas, etc. This should give a boost to hamfests too. So all in all, I think that the changes will be a good thing. If you are an Extra Class holder now and are grouching because now there is no longer a 20 w.p.m. requirement, just tell yourself and everyone else that you are an Extra Class Plus!

HAMFEST MONTHS

February and March seem to be hamfest month, with two in February, and at least one that I am aware of, in March. On Feb 13th was the Cuyahoga Falls hamfest. I was there, but can't tell you much about it because I am writing this before it occurred. The next will be the Mansfield hamfest, on Sunday Feb. 27th. Hope to be attending that one as well...it is usually a pretty good one, although it is quite a drive! Then on Sunday March 26 is the Lake County hamfest. That is usually a pretty good one too. I will have brochures for it at the meeting this month. I don't really need anything but it is good to go and see fellow hams you don't get to see very often.

MEETING PROGRAMS

Last month we were fortunate to have Bob Winston, W2THU, who is the ARRL assistant regional director for Northern Ohio attend our meeting and give a very informative talk regarding the new licensing changes the FCC has come down with.

Thanks again Bob. We really appreciated it.

This month we are expecting to have someone come and talk to us about traffic handling, and the traffic nets. A few months ago Steve Hnatiak KC8IVD and Mike Thomas KB8BMY gave a presentation on the subject which was very informative, and this time the talk will be a little

more in-depth. Please try to make it if at all possible.

Upcoming, in March, we are planning to have a fellow attend the meeting who will be taking orders for C.A.R.S. photo ID badges. He will be there to take digital photos of those who want one. If he has over a certain amount, we get a group discount. You can see my badge at the Feb. meeting to give you an idea as to what they will be like. We need a BIG turnout for that one!

WEAKLY CLUB NET

Our weekly club net has begun to become the "weakly" club net, as participation has been a little on the light side of late. Please mark it on your calendar, put up post-it-notes and stick them on the bathroom mirror, above the coffee maker, on the refrigerator door, tie a string around your finger...something, to remind yourself of the net. C'mon check in...you might have fun. Phyllis KC8DVL is usually the net controller and does a mighty fine job. She normally has a trivia question each week as well. There is no grand prize, but you get the challenge, and if you answer the question correctly you get the satisfaction. of that. The net starts at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and usually runs around 45 minutes, depending on how many checkins there are. So get on the air and check into the net...let's make it go on for a whole hour. We usually have checkins with information of one form or another of interest to the ham community, you can get questions answered, make announcement of general interest yourself, or just check in for the heck of it.

TIL NEXT TIME

Well, that's about it for now fellow hammies...hope to see you at the next meeting, catch you on the air, or both!

73, de Tom, WB8N



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Sean Carey, W8SCC

Once again the month of March is upon us. I again will head up the parade down Euclid avenue for the Irish in the City of Cleveland. Last year was the finest day for an event I have ever seen. I hope to top it with a good day this year. The parade will be as big seeing is an election year again. I will need the hand of several Hams to get the event off the blocks again this year.

I hope to have a spot in the parade that I want to put the trailer if the weather is right along with the bus from the zoo (the one with all the animals on it) in the parade so maybe the families can be in the event, too. But the zoo bus is still up in the air.

If you would like to help. Its about 4 hours around noon on March 17, 2000. Is lots a fun with all the people and the bands.

Give me a call if you are interested. 216-476-1495.

Thanks,
Sean C Carey, W8SCC
seanomatic@ametitech.net



CVS MARATHON AND 5K

Bob Knaack K8RDK

I am requesting all CARS members to schedule April 30th as the date to volunteer for one of the "Primo" volunteer efforts in Cleveland. The CVS Marathon and 5K run is scheduled for that date. Due to the high visibility and participant needs, a large number of dedicated volunteers is needed. If you worked the event in previous years, we call upon you to participate again, we need your experience.

If you have not worked this event in the past, it is one of the "Primo" amateur volunteer efforts and in prior years, we

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have had many calls for medical assistance with transport to medical facilities so there is a real need for Amateur Radio Operators during the event.

Please contact Bob Knaack K8RDK for more information or to schedule your volunteer efforts. I may be contacted via: CARS member Internet listings k8rdk@arrl.net business phone: 440-243-3602 most Monday evening ARES nets at 2100 hrs on 145.29 Thanks for your help in advance.

Bob Knaack K8RDK



WALKAMERICA 2000

T.J. Powell, N8UIR

Communications Volunteers Needed For The WalkAmerica 2000

The March of Dimes will be holding it's annual WalkAmerica on Sunday April 30th. This is a walking event held in Downtown Cleveland to raise money for healthier babies. There will be approximately 7000 people walking the 6 mile route through Downtown Cleveland and the Flats. The event is normally done by 1:00 PM. Communications is required at all rest stops, start/finish and various other critical points along the route. A total of approximately 16 volunteers are needed.

This is a fun event where the volunteers are very appreciated and treated well. MOD will give you a t-shirt, lunch, and more importantly, you'll be helping MOD to save babies.

If you're available to help out PLEASE contact TJ Powell (N8UIR) by email at tjp@tjp.com or page him at 216-436-0763. We can use all the help we can get.



GEARVAKF BULLETIN

Tom Wayne

FCC ANSWERS HAM DEMANDS FOR MORE ENFORCEMENT and NO QRM

by N8JR & K8DMZ

*Reprinted with permission from the
GEARVAKf (the f is silent) Bulletin.*

Many amateurs have complained bitterly about conditions on the ham bands from poor operating techniques, intentional jamming and interference, and a general lack of good manners. These problems have upset veteran amateurs so much that many have quit operating. the FCC's answer has usually been that it lacks the funding for effective enforcement. Like other federal agencies, the FCC has been under pressure to reduce costs and sell its assets to the highest bidders. But the amateurs' concerns have not fallen on deaf ears at the FCC in Washington or at League Hq. Extending its successful drive to be-

come a self-supporting agency by selling frequency allocations to commercial interests, the FCC now proposes to establish a system of frequency use fees for the Amateur Radio Service to finance these goals. The FCC has adopted an innovative plan, called the Maxband Access, that will help meet its goals. Under Maxband Access, hams will support FCC enforcement by simply making band reservations for the desired operation frequency, time, and date, and then pay a low, mileage-based access fee. Under the fee schedule, 40 meter, 80 meter, and 160 meter time would be billed at a rate of 10 cents per minute (you can talk further on those bands). Ten and six meters would be only 5 cents per minute, since they are less dependable (except for band openings). In that case, when international QSO's are possible, DXers would pay 30 cents a minute. Two meter repeater QSO's would be 8 cents per minute, but simplex QSO's only a nickel. Higher VHF bands would be free to encourage greater utilization. The proposed

fee schedule would cut rates by 50% for those under age 16. Holders of 1x2 calls who qualify by virtue of age (over 65), or experience (licensed for at least 25 years) would get a 10% rate reduction. The Commission is also considering a proposal to set aside a certain number or frequencies for those on public assistance who may want to become amateurs.



Walk for Diabetes - 1999

K8ZFR

Here's how the Maxband Access plan might work for an average QSO. For example, let's say that W8AAA in Ohio wants to work his friend W6BBB in California, Friday evening at 2300Z. By check-



ing propagation, he believes the best band will be 20 meters. So he dials up the FCC Maxband Access web site on the Internet and checks the propagation tables. Finding that on that particular evening 40 meters, not 20, will actually be better, he checks the reservations on hand for 40 meters at 2300Z. There he sees an open spot at 7253.4 for 35 minutes. He then enters his call and FCC billing code number (which will be assigned to each amateur) and reserves the band position. At 2300Z, he calls W6BBB and the QSO takes place without interference or any other problems. Imagine! No QRM at all! We can get rid of those big power amplifiers, while we save our nerves and hearing at the same time. Isn't that fantastic?

Special fee schedules and rules will be established for ragchew roundtables, Field Day, recognized contests, and other special events operations. No fees will be charged for bona fide, FCC-approved emergencies, or for drills such as SETs, weather nets, and traffic nets. Whenever possible, however, common emergencies should be scheduled in advance. The FCC intends to come down hard on those who insist on violating the rules. Pending the approval of the fee schedule, the FCC is planning to re-open five new monitoring stations previously closed down for budget reasons. This will mean the hiring of more than 100 new radio inspectors to monitor amateur operations. Penalties for tuning up on another ham's reserved frequency will be \$50 for the first offence, \$100 for the second, and the loss of Maxband Access privileges for repeated violations. Accidental interference will be free of fines for the first five offences in any calendar year, and then will be \$5 per offense. After that, up to a limit of 10 offenses at \$10 per offense. Offenses above that limit will be considered deliberate and subject to greater fines or license suspensions. Those who engage in deliberate, willful, and malicious interference (such as some twenty meter operators and those interfering with repeaters)

could be fined up to \$10,000 and imprisoned for up to five years, and even lose their licenses! The Commission believes these modest fees will not impact most amateurs, and will help improve the enforcement process. Both the League and the Commission, while still differing on some small issues, believe that making the Amateur Radio Service self-supporting is the answer to future growth, and to preserving the viability of our service.



RAISING INCIDENT

Steve M Hnatiak, KC8IVD

Editor: This is a story that has been circulating for years. It's from a ham that had to clarify an accident to his insurance company. I have some extra space, so enjoy it again if you've already read it..

I'm writing in response to your request for additional information for Block Number 3 of the Accident Reporting Form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter I should explain more fully, and I trust the following details will be sufficient.

"I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80' tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 lbs. of tools and hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower." "Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel; I went back to the ground and untied the rope

holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools.

You will note in Block Number 11 of the Accident Reporting Form, I weigh only 155 lbs." "Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40' level, I met the barrel coming down; this explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley." "Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold on to the rope in spite of the pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 lbs. I refer you again to my weight in Block Number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40' level, I met the barrel coming up; this accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations on my legs and lower body." "The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell on the pile of tools, and fortunately only 3 vertebrae were cracked.

I'm sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80' above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope..."

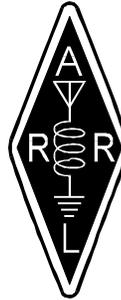
K8ZFR

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

February, 2000

CLUB FREQUENCIES

70cm repeaters	443.825 MHz	Input 448.825 MHz PL 131.8 Hz
	444.750 MHz	Input 449.750 MHz PL 131.8 Hz
2m repeater	146.820 MHz	Input 146.220 MHz PL 110.9 Hz
2m simplex	146.475 MHz	
2m digipeater	145.070 MHz	Node CARS or K8ZFR
6m repeaters	53.010 MHz	Input 52.010 MHz PL 136.5 Hz
	53.830 MHz	Input 52.830 MHz PL 107.2 Hz
Internet	http://www.cars.org	



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 16, 2000
 Busch Community Room
 7501 Ridge Road
 South of Pleasant Valley
 Parma, Ohio
 Meeting starts at 8:00 PM



Time to renew your membership?
 Check the expiration date on your address label.



The Wobbly Oscillator
 1176 Saybrook Drive
 Macedonia, Ohio 44056-2407
 (Do not send dues to this address!)

