



CUYAHOGA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The Wobbly Oscillator



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Issue II

FROM THE PREZ

It was nice to have a great turnout at our January 21st meeting, 35 members came out in the bad weather to make it an exciting meeting. Kayla, N8KAY collected \$64.00 for the 50/50 drawing, Jack W8JAK was the winner of \$32.00 in our first 2004 50/50.

We missed Ron K8VJG as he was chief instructor for the January 21st Technician class. He reported the class is doing very well. Ron also had several items for show and tell to help the soon-to-be hams in the class.

I represented CARS at the American Diabetes Association Awards dinner Thursday January 22, This was for the October 2003 America's Walk for Diabetes in downtown Cleveland where several CARS members provided communications and SAG wagons. They acknowledged and thanked all of the volunteers and teams with a very nice dinner and certificates, but it was geared to pass out prizes and recognize the teams and individuals who raised over \$76,000.00 at the walk. It was a most enjoyable and informative evening.

CARS will be providing communications and SAG wagons for both the American Diabetes Tour de Cure bicycle ride Sunday, June 13, 2004 and on Saturday, October 2, 2004 at the America's Walk for Diabetes in downtown Cleveland. You can find more information about the ADA at <http://diabetes.org>. Its never too early to sign up to help on one or both of these events. Contact Tom WB8N as soon as possible.

Our February meeting program will feature our own Mike K8EHP with a presentation on "Fox Hunting". We will be having several "Hunts" this year, so come and listen to Mike

and he will tell you what it takes to get going!

While I am talking about meeting programs, be sure to attend our March 17 meeting. Jim Stahl, K8MR has agreed explain the in's and out's of contesting. From beginner to expert Jim will have information and hints for you. Jim will also discuss some of the many many contests he has participated in. This is a great chance to ask Jim your questions about contesting.

I look forward to seeing you at the February 18, 2004 meeting.
de, Bob W8GC

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

William Sarver KC8YSV
8782 Lawton Dr
Macedonia, OH 44056

We will be voting on Mr. Sarver at our February meeting, in the "usual CARS fashion".

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MINUTES of the CARS MEETING January 21, 2004

President Bob Check, W8GC called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. at the Busch Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, OH. Introductions were made around the room.

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 19, 2003 meeting was made by Bruce N8DJX and seconded by Gary NI8Z. A vote was taken and passed.

Bob congratulated new board members: Toby, WT8O as Vice President, Tina, W8HBI as Secretary and Steve, N8IS as board member.

Bob talked about the projected club plans for 2004, including a JOTA type program for scouts in mid-summer, 2 school programs, organizing Mather operating and finalizing equipment, continue with license classes, Field Day, at least 2 Lighthouse events, Fox Hunts, Diabetes Bike-A-Thon in June and Diabetes Walk in October. Any members interested in helping out at any functions or have ideas for a new function contact Bob, W8GC or the committee chairman.

Dave KD8V, Sunshine Chairman, reported that no cards had been sent. Toby WT8O told the club his daughter, Hailey had gotten into a car accident that day and suffered two broken bones in her arm. Dave said he would get a card out to her.

Gordon W8GTK reported that Wednesday night nets have been picking up more check-ins.. Bob W8GC announced that 10 reservations for the Dayton Bus have been received and one payment has come in. Cost is \$35.00 and the bus can hold up to 42 people.

Dave K8DAV reported that the website is always getting new updates and to visit it at www.cars.org.

Roy KB8VJF reported he visited the Brecksville 82 repeater site today. Bob W8GC reported that Vince N8OVW had visited his house this weekend and that he expects things to be completed very soon at ch 55 site. He also announced that our Ch 55 antennas are at 482 ft and 860 ft, mounted 4 ft off the south leg of the tower.

Bob informed us that 2 new applications for membership have come in. They are: April Walton KB3KQS, and Rich Williams NW8X. Gary NI8Z made a motion to accept the memberships. Steve

N8IS seconded. A vote was taken and passed and both were voted in as new members.

Tom WB8N reported on the WO. He stated he's short on pages because he needs articles.

The treasurers report was made by Mike KB8UGT and a reminder that some still owe for 2004 dues.

Bob W8GC reported that the ARRL would like a new entry license, with no code except for extra class. The current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM morse code credit. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders would automatically gain the current General class privileges without additional testing. Extra Class would still need to have 5 WPM Morse Code examination and written exam would stay the same.

Toby WT8O reported that the Lighthouse Committee has grown in size. The committee now consists of Toby WT8O, Bob W8GC, Gordon W8GTK Steve N8IS and Bruce N8DJX. Plans are in the works to participate in the Spring Lights Event towards the end of April. It lasts approximately 3 weekends. During the 1st and 3rd weekends in August we plan to set up at actual lighthouses in Lorain or Vermillion.

Bob W8GC appointed Toby WT8O as the new program director. Toby responded that Jim Stahl K8MR will be attending our March 17th meeting to talk about operating in contests. He is taking suggestions for any ideas members may have for meeting programs.

Gary NI8Z reported on the VE session of January 11, 2004. Next testing day is March 14, 2004.

Gary NI8Z reported that the 2003 Audit has been completed successfully by himself, Steve N8IS and CARS Treasurer Mike KB8UGT.

Gary reported how successful the Christmas Party was this past year. He thanked all members who contributed and encouraged others to attend next time.

Bob W8GC appointed a committee of Toby WT8O, Gary NI8Z, Steve N8IS and Tom WB8N to review the by-laws & Constitution for possible updates. Bob also mentioned that he will appoint another committee to try to compile a history of CARS.

continued on next page...

Anyone interested please contact Bob W8GC.

Bob read a portion of a letter sent by the Indian Hills Radio Club regarding a meeting they are holding to promote ham radio. No members at the meeting took an interest in participating in a meeting as CARS is so busy already doing what they seem to be talking about. To be represented at the meeting Bob W8GC asked Dennis AB8NI who lives in the area to be our representative and Dennis accepted. Dennis will report back after the first meeting.

It was announced that due to the VE session for the Technician Class students that he may be late for the February meeting. Toby WT8O will begin the meeting.

Our new refreshment chairman, Carol KC8TIE did a great job in providing a selection of goodies for the meeting, including some healthy choices.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Jack W8JAK. His share was \$32.00

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob KC8MRC and seconded by Mike K8EHP. A vote was taken and passed. W8GC adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted by Tina Check W8HBI

INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE GETS A NEW CHARACTER

On December 5th, in Geneva, Switzerland, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Radiocommunication Sector Study Group 8 came up with a new Morse code character to cover the “@” symbol used in e-mail addresses to permit sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. This has yet to be voted on by ITU member-states. The new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together (.-.-) to represent the @ symbol. This is only a draft recommendation but it is expected a recommendation within six months or so pending approval from member-states. By the way, the correct nomenclature for the symbol “@” is known as a “**strudel**”.

MEMBER INTERVIEW

by Steve Riley N8IS

It's sure cold outside. I hope all of you got all your antenna work done!

This months we talk with Bob Ozog KC8MRC.

Steve: How did you become interested in Amateur Radio, what got you started?

Bob: I liked being able to contact people and find additional information.

Steve: How long have you been licensed and what class license do you currently have?

Bob: I have been licensed for 3 + years. I'm a no code tech.

Steve: What do you like about Amateur Radio?

Bob: I enjoy the exchange of ideas most of all.

Steve: What are your favorite bands to work.

Bob: My favorite is 2 meters

Steve: What other hobbies do you have besides Ham Radio?

Bob: Railfanning, Astronomy and Photography.

Steve: What would your dream station be / consist of and where would it be?

Bob: I would like something simple like a 2m / 70 cm base station.

Steve: What type of work do you do? Or if retired, what did you do?

Bob: My main field is Electronics.

I hope you all enjoyed getting to know Bob KC8MRC better. I wasn't up on one of his hobbies, railfanning so I searched the web. I came across a site that was dedicated to railroad news, information and photos. It says railfanning is enjoying trains and taking photos.

The rails of America stretch from one coast to another. You might see people standing beside the tracks enjoying the splendor of trains. It can be a freight train, a passenger train or an excursion train. Many report an adrenaline rush caused by a train barreling past at 60 mph!

Hope you all have a great month!

73, de Steve, N8IS

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

BRRRRR, It's Cold!

As I sit here typing this article and trying to get the February issue of the W.O. out to the membership, the temperature is in the low teens! Whew, I don't know how much more of this wonderful North East Ohio weather I can stand! At least I don't have to be outside doing any antenna work...not that I or any sane ham would be!

I have not been doing any HF work of late. I have to replace the circuit board that connects to the antenna connections on the back of the rig. I procrastinated long enough and finally called Vertex Standard, which is what Yaesu in the U.S. calls itself now, and ordered the part. I am still waiting. I could drag my field day rig out of the basement and hook it up but I am hoping the part will come soon and I can get it installed without any problem. As Rosanna Rosannadanna on Saturday Night Live used to say..."It's always something!"

HAMFESTS COMING UP

There are a few hamfests coming up in the next few months and I hope to get to a couple of them. I and I am sure some other members of CARS will have attended the NOARS Winterfest by the time this issue of the W.O. is published. It is a fairly small, intimate hamfest, and they actually give you a pancake and sausage breakfast included in the price of admission! The Mansfield Hamfest is Sunday Feb. 8th. That's a way to travel but it is a good hamfest. The Lake County hamfest in Madison Ohio is March 28, and the Cuyahoga Falls hamfest is April 18. Of course then there is the great Dayton Hamvention, May 14th thru the 16th. Don't forget about the CARS bus trip to Dayton. Contact Terry Pillat, KB8DTC for information on the bus trip. Get your reservations in early before the bus fills up and you are left standing in the parking lot with no way to get to the Hamvention! Bummer! It is always a good way and a fun way to get to the Hamvention if you cannot go down and stay for the duration or want to go but don't want to make the long drive. I think everyone on the bus sings that great old favorite, "99 807's on the wall" on the way down too! Badumbump! But seriously folks, it IS a

good way to get to the Hamvention and every single ham, man or boy, woman or girl, should make at least one Hamvention in their amateur radio career. It is spectacle to behold and one not to miss. One cannot do it justice by trying to explain it in mere words, so I won't even try. I will say that looking at all those call-sign hats from all over the U.S. of A. and a multitude of foreign countries, it is like looking at a live call book!

A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

As noted elsewhere in this issue, 2004 is looking like it is going to be a busy year with numerous amateur radio related activities for the membership to take part in. There is literally something for every member, young or old, male or female. So get active in your club and get involved in at least one of our up-coming club activities!

NET HAPPENINGS

The Wednesday evening CARS net is picking up steam, with a few more check-ins each week. If you have not checked in of late make it a point to this week! The net starts at 7:00 P.M. every Wednesday evening except for regular club meeting night, which is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. There is club information passed along as well as other information of interest to amateurs, plus there is usually a ham related trivia question as well. Also, on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. is the new SATERN net which is a net for emergency training, sponsored by the Salvation Army. This is an interesting net and worth your while to check into and check out.

TIME TO QRT

That about does it for this month folks. Hope to see you at the next meeting, talk to you on the repeater or both. With any luck and some cooperation from ole Mother Nature, by the time the March issue of the W.O. is published, we will have some warmer weather and won't have to be moving so much of the white stuff around! Costa Rica is looking better and better to me right now! Oh well...only dreaming. This is still the best location in the nation, as they say. Who the heck are "they" by the way?

73, de Tom WB8N

BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

KB8UGT Michael Balach 2-2
W8GTK Gordon Kolus 2-9
KD8V David Dressler 2-11
WA8ZJV Ronald Boehnlein 2-11
N8JNO Gary Solomon 2-15
W8HBI Tina Check 2-24

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL !!!

SPECIAL SPECIAL SPECIAL BECOME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR !

At this time CARS would like to announce a very special offer to all CARS members. You can now become a published author. No previous experience or training is required! All you have to do is sit yourself down at your word processor or computer and start typing. You might be amazed at what comes out! What has been bugging you about ham radio? What do you feel about doing away with Morse code as a licensing requirement? What interests to YOU have in ham radio? What great experiences have you had on the air? How about that first HF contact? What new rig or accessory have you acquired that you would like others to know about? Just what do you have to get off your chest ham-radio-wise? This is your opportunity! Get all your ham radio frustrations out of your system! Let it all out! If you send something in a half-way articulate way to newsletter@cars.org IT WILL BE PUBLISHED! I promise you. Now, I might have to do a bit of editing in terms of spelling, punctuation, words omitted or words that should be omitted, but then that's the editor's job isn't it?

I want to get back to at least 10 pages for this publication, maybe even 12! (That's the limit for .37 cents postage.) Geeze Louise! C'mon you guys and gals...let's get some input into this, your own newsletter! I'd hate to see this award winning newsletter slip down to two pages...the president's article and the minutes of the last meeting.

You can do it if you try. Hey, I know! Let's make it some sort of contest! Whadda think? I'll have to cogitate on that a bit. We'll have a

"Contributing Correspondent" contest. In the meantime...get going on your articles! Start NOW! Time is awasten'. It's now or never! A stitch in time saves nine. Wait a minute...I think I'm getting carried away here. But you get the picture! It ain't difficult you guys! Get a contribution in to this newsletter. The only stipulation is that it has to be amateur radio related in some way or another. Another stipulation is that it cannot be something pirated from another publication Ok? Great. We might even come up with a prize of some sort, besides a certificate of honor. Maybe a free bus trip to Dayton, or a free ticket to the CARS Christmas party. Who knows?

Oh, by the way, by reading this notice you have entered into a binding contract that each and every one of you will at least make an effort to come up with SOMETHING to be published in this, YOUR newsletter. Don't let me down. I'm counting on all of you and I have faith in each and everyone of you.

SEE YOURSELF IN PRINT! I might add, that this newsletter DOES get perused by persons that you might never think. One member, a while back, was surprised to see his article appear in a national ham radio publication! How 'bout them apples? Ya jest never know gall dern it! You could be next!

TRIVIA QUESTION

On which of the following frequencies does WWV give the time; announced, accurate and precise?

- A. 5 MHz
- B. 10 MHz
- C. 15 MHz
- D. All of the above.

Answer on next page.



**EXCERPTS FROM THE
GEARVAKf Bulletin**

The 'f' is silent
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**Terrorists to Replace Rats in Exploding Rat
Amplifier Tests**

(Ed note: The traditional Exploding Rat Amplifier uses a natural phenomenon to produce microwaves in a small copper box. Live rats are dropped into the box and spontaneously explode, producing intense microwaves.)

Late in the last century, it was reported that the Gearvakf Scientific Studies Committee stopped testing its Exploding Rat Amplifier because of rat cruelty complaints. Said Committee Chairman, Dr. Avruell U. Harnishe, "Gearvakf should not continue to sacrifice rats in such a cruel manner when better methods can demonstrate the exploding rat-micro-wave principle" Now, the U.S. Justice Department has tentatively approved the Gearvakf committee's application to use Taliban and al-Quaida terrorists to replace rats in the generation of microwaves. Studies Committee Chairman Harnishe welcomed the approval saying that "All we have to do is make a bigger copper box and we'll be ready to go. Using terrorists instead of the rats will produce a lot more microwaves because they're much bigger." Dr. Harnishe also pointed out that it is appropriate that the terrorists be used in this manner because, "Heck, they were just going to blow themselves up anyway. This way they'll get to meet Allah and the 72 virgins without hurting any bystanders. *By K8DMZ*

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

The correct answer is D...All of the above.
WWV broadcasts on 5, 10, and 15 MHz.

FCC Admits Part of 75 Meter Band Missing

The Federal Communications Commission finally admits that it somehow misplaced 25KHz of the 75/80 meter band sometime last year. The absent segment, 3.750 to 3.775 MHz, was reported missing by hundreds of ham radio

operators as early as last Oct. 15. For months the FCC denied that any ham radio frequencies had gone missing blaming the unusual absence of communication on that band segment on "sunspots". The commission's admission came during a routine press conference when a reporter from HSN (Ham Shack News), Mr. Spruance Overpunt, asked FCC spokesperson, Snarly Jean Ormstith, to explain why the FCC was lying about the missing segment. Said Ms. Ormstith, "We weren't lying! We were merely covering up for having lost the band segment."

New Anti-Radio Rules Proposed

The U.S. Attorney General has proposed a revision to the controversial Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which would prevent unauthorized reception of radio communications by most Americans. Noting that too many people are spying on government operations using scanners, he said that the revisions will fight terrorism "by coming down hard on those who try to listen to unapproved radio transmissions." A special Justice Dept. task force will soon begin enforcing the provisions of the Act which calls for a fine of \$100,00 and 10 years in Federal prison for first-time violators. Although enforcement methods have not been announced, reliable sources say they may include harassment, knocking on doors in the middle of the night, arrest, imprisonment without trial, and confiscation of the violator's possessions. Members of congress and senators are being "contacted in order to get them to agree." Certain "secret provisions" of the revised act will not go into effect until after the next election. Some of the provisions may include banning scanners, CB & ham radio, replacement of commercial radio and TV networks with a single government network to be jointly run by the FBI and the CIA.

By KVM 5149

CARS 2004 Officers & Committees

American Red Cross Disaster liaison
Everett WA8EYF ** 216-581-3657

ARRL Liaison & media representative
Don KC8NIX ** Carol KC8TIE ** 216-524-4910

CBARC Liaison
Dwayne K8ME 440-582-3462

Christmas Party 2004
Gary NI8Z, Steve N8IS, Tina W8HBI, Tom WB8N

Community Education & School Programs
Dave KD8V ** 330-666-8721 Steve N8IS **
216-328-0432, Tina W8HBI, Kayla N8KAY

Dayton Bus
Terry KB8DTC ** 330-273-1043, Bob W8GC

Diabetes events
Tom WB8N

Elmer
George K8KR ** 216-941-5304

Field Day
Tom WB8N ** 440-232-4193, Aaron KC8INE
Bob W8GC, Steve N8IS, Gary NI8Z

Fox Hunts
Mike K8EHP ** 216-252-6640

Ham License classes
Bob W8GC** Gary, NI8Z ** Tom WB8N, Steve N8IS,
Don KC8NIX, Ron K8VJG, Bruce N8DJX, George
K8KR, Dave K8DAV

Interference & Jamming
W8GC**, NI8Z, N8IS, N8TCP, WB8N

JOTA
Steve N8IS, Tina W8HBI, Kayla N8KAY

Lighthouse events
Toby WT8O ** 440-572-1544, Bob W8GC
Gordon W8GTK, Steve N8IS, Bruce N8DJX

Membership
Tina W8HBI ** Bob W8GC**

Museum Ship W. G. Mather W8WGM
Bob W8GC ** Lin WD8SDP ** Steve N8IS, Gary
NI8Z, Bob W2THU, Mike K8EHP, Mike KB8UGT,
Bruce N8DJX Toby WT8O

NET
Gordon W8GTK **

WO/Newsletter
Tom WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Program director
Toby WT8O ** 440-572-1544

QSL manager-NO8A & K8ZFR
Tom WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Refreshments & 50/50
Carol KC8TIE ** 216-524-4910
50/50 Kayla N8KAY

Sunshine (welfare)
Dave KD8V ** 330-666-8721

Technical
Roy KB8VJF ** Bob W8GC ** Terry KB8DTC
Vince N8OVW, Dave K8DAV, Tom WB8N
Jack W8JAK, Jim WD8CHL

VE exams
Gary NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail
Dave K8DAV ** 440-243-3593, Bob W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2004 Officers

PRESIDENT
Bob W8GC 216-524-1750
president@cars.org

VICE-PRESIDENT ****
Toby WT8O ** 440-572-1544
vice-president@cars.org

SECRETARY ****
Tina W8HBI 216-328-0432
secretary@cars.org

TREASURER:
Mike KB8UGT 216-663-2717
treasurer@cars.org

Board Members

even year executive board 2 year term;
George K8KR 216-941-5304
Gary NI8Z 216-642-8705
Steve N8IS 216-328-0432

odd year executive board 2 year term;
Gordon W8GTK 330-225-6917
Terry KB8DTC 330-273-1043
Tom WB8N 440-232-4193

K8ZFR trustee
Tom WB8N 440-232-4193

NO8A trustee
Bob W8GC 216-524-1750