

The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75



August 2004

Volume XXXIV

Issue VIII

From the Prez

We had a great turn out for the July cookout and meeting. 38 enjoyed the food, meeting and the program presented by George, K8KR and Aaron KC8INE.

CARS provided hamburgers, brats and hot dogs cooked on the grill for the members who came early enough to enjoy the good food. We also had donuts, cookies, coffee, and pop for refreshments during and after the meeting. Kayla, N8KAY collected \$53.00 for the 50/50 drawing this month and Jack, W8JAK won again! Way to go Jack! Both Jack and CARS collected \$26.50 as their share.

We will have Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division at our August 18 meeting to give an update on ARRL activities and answer questions.

I would like to welcome 4 new members to the CARS family; Brad Priest KC8ZUT, Steve Merriman W8BOL along with his son Mike W8JET and Gary Milstein KD8ACK. Welcome aboard guys!

That's it for this month, but remember:
Imagination is more important than knowledge. Albert Einstein

de Bob W8GC



2 regulars at our outdoor meetings



KC8INE-K8KR ready for talk

MEETING MINUTES, July 21, 2004

President Bob Check, W8GC called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM held at the Brecksville Metro Parks Oak Grove picnic area. Introductions were held with 37 members and 3 guests in attendance.

A motion to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2004 meeting was made by Roger, N8TCP and seconded by Terry, KB8DTC. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

The treasurers report was made by Mike, KB8UGT. A motion to accept the treasurers report was made by Ev, WA8EYF and seconded by Don, KC8NIX. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

President check advised that the board recommends dropping the Auto Patch from the repeaters, since it rarely gets used and we have to pay for each phone call and a phone line for only that use. A motion was made by Ev, WA8EYF and seconded by Phil, K8MPL. Also mentioned was that the amp was removed from the Brecksville repeater site and moved to the Parma site. Only the Parma 82 repeater is working at present due to a problem with a hacker on the Brecksville site.

Dave, KD8V the Sunshine Chairman, told the members he sent cards to Ron, K8VJG for shoulder surgery, Steve, N8IS for back problems and sent Roger, N8TCP a card for upcoming oral surgery.

Gordon, W8GTK reported that Wednesday night nets have had 2 to 3 times the participation at the 9:00 time than at the old 7:00 time. So it will be a permanent change.

Bob, W8GC said all the amateur radio classes are done until next January. We have some students working on the material through the mail. Gary, NI8Z said a friend of his, Gary Milstein took the course through the mail and recently passed his Technician exam and is now KD8ACK, one of our newest members.

Dave K8DAV mentioned that the Mather Website is being worked on and to visit it at www.w8wgm.com.

Bob announced that we have four new members to vote on. KC8ZUT, Brad Priest, W8BOL, Steve Merriman and his son W8JET,

Mike (family member) and KD8ACK, Gary Milstein. A motion to accept the new members was made by Gary, NI8Z and seconded by Mike, K8EHP. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Tom, WB8N reported on the WO. To have a good newsletter we need more articles from our "MEMBERS" not just the copied articles from other places that seem to fill many newsletters. Please take a few minutes and contribute an article large or small to your newsletter. Send articles to newsletter@cars.org.

Tom announced that Field Day was successful and came off with no injuries incurred! A few equipment problems affected Bob W8GC, and Ron, K8VJG. This year we had a total of 5,346 points and last year we had 4,788. We increased our phone contacts from 444 last year to 791 this year. CW contacts were 356 last year and 404 this year. Digital was 129 last year and dropped to 112 this year but we did not have Steve, N8IS doing RTTY as he did last year. Tom also mentioned that Field Day pins have been ordered.

Toby, WT8O announced that CARS would have a lighthouse event Aug 7-8 at the Lorain Lighthouse. If you have any questions or need directions contact Toby.

Mike, K8EHP announced that the Fox Hunt before the meeting was fun. And the fox won, since no one located him. We will try another Fox Hunt event on a weekend in August. Watch for an e-mail from Mike K8EHP with details.

Gary, NI8Z reported that the next VE Session is September 12th. He also reported on the quick turn around time of only 3 days by the ARRL & FCC on the last round of testing. There was one error in an address by the ARRL or FCC, but Gary NI8Z has already got it straightened out.

Gary also reported and he went with Toby to the Mather for the 8th Annual World Museum Ship Weekend July 17th. First they installed the Kenwood and Gary NI8Z made approximately 40 contacts in 30 minutes before leaving. Tom, WB8N also visited during the Museum Ship Weekend.

Bob, W8GC announced that the Heil Mic, boom, adaptor and foot switch was recently received and will be taken to the Mather soon. The lap top is also ready to be returned to the Mather. We still have online logs.

Bob told the members that the Dayton Bus made \$60 but came close to losing \$10. He asked for discussion about continuing the bus next year since there is such low attendance from CARS Members on the bus... only 6 this year. After some discussion Gary, NI8Z made a motion to continue the bus until we lose money. Dennis, AB8NI seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Terry KB8DTC agreed to be Dayton Bus Chairman again next year.

Bob reminded all in attendance that George K8KR & Aaron KC8INE would be giving their talk on being UFO investigators at the conclusion of this meeting. Next month, our August speaker, Dick Mondro W8FQT, ARRL Great Lakes district Vice Director has confirmed he will be attending. *Editors note: see "From the Prez" regarding this.*

Bill, KC8YSV reported that he participated in the bike-a-thon that had approximately 3,000 riders. About 100 of them were amateur radio operators. He had a great time and learned a lot. Bill plans to help again next year and will write an article for the WO.

Mike KC8EHP talked about a recent trip he and his wife Mary KC8YLC took to California to participate in the National Direction Finding Championships. Mike also promised to write an article for the WO on their trip and what took place.

Ted KB8NW introduced himself as President of NODXA. He also announced that he is also a ARRL District Assistant Director and editor of the DX Pen Bulletin. He offered to answer any questions people may have and said for anyone interested in DX to visit the NODXA website at: www.papays.com/nodxa or just search Google for NODXA.

Bob, W8GC reminded the membership that the Diabetes Walk is coming up on Oct 2nd at Tower City Amphitheater. Please put it on your calendar early because we need volunteers.

Bob advised that he would like to arrange a CARS Road Trip. We would be going to the Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph, Ontario Canada. Guelph is about 100 miles north of Buffalo, NY so the drive with stops should be about 4 1/2 hours each way. The Museum will

open for us on a Saturday and lunch will be provided for us when we arrive along with a guided tour of the Museum. You can check the Museum details at: www.HammondMuseumOfRadio.org.

Several members suggested spending the night around Niagara Falls or Buffalo and going to a Casino Saturday evening & coming back Sunday morning. Others just want to do the Museum. It seems we can do both. Those who want to come home or make other stops after the Museum can do so. When Bob gets an idea of how many will go and how many will need a room we will try to get a discount rate.

Jim Glor, N8GXR was in attendance and mentioned that his local Club in Buffalo went to the Hammond Radio Museum earlier this year and they were all very impressed with it. Contact Bob, W8GC for more information.

Gary, NI8Z reminded everyone to mark their calendar for the CARS Christmas Party. It will be held December 17th at the Independence Civic Center. This year the theme is ELVES.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Jack, W8JAK. His share was \$26.50.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Don, KC8NIX and seconded by Darren, K8DMT. A vote was taken and the motion passed. W8GC adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

George, K8KR and Aaron, KC8INE then presented their program on UFO investigation.

Submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI, Secretary

Check out the CARS Wednesday

Evening Net at 9:00 p.m.

See you there !

FROM THE V.P.

One of CARS' most commendable activities is the educational program. Since it's inception in 2001, CARS has added over forty new hams to the ranks of amateur radio. Bob Check, W8GC, began the classes with the intention of getting new people licensed so the number of hams would increase, helping the hobby to continue. One of the earliest graduates of the CARS Technician class is Bob's granddaughter Kayla, N8KAY. She is now an Extra at the age of thirteen. Her influence on other young people may create interest in amateur radio and bring more new hams into the fold. As for myself, I doubt I would be licensed if it weren't for the CARS classes. They provide an organized approach and personal assistance to anyone wishing to become a ham.

The CARS amateur radio classes have evolved into a very effective program. In fact, the classes have an overall success rate of over ninety percent. Originally the format used the ARRL training tapes. CARS has since developed its own lesson plans, which include study manuals and CDs put together by Dave, K8DAV, and Bob, W8GC. The improved formats are the result of experience and feedback making the material easier to understand and comprehend by the students. The program has expanded by using mail for some students who cannot physically attend the scheduled sessions. The students are sent the study material and tests. They send back their completed tests, and the staff grades the tests and makes recommendations on items to concentrate on that appear to be weak areas. The mail-in course has already been proven successful.

The success of the CARS amateur radio classes would not be possible if it weren't for the dedication and guidance from the volunteer staff of club members. The staff includes Steve, N8IS; Gary, N18Z; Tom, WB8N; Don, KC8NIX; Ron, K8VJG; George, K8KR; Bruce, N8DJX; Dave, K8DAV; and of course Bob, W8GC. 73, de Toby, WT8O

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY !

Yup, it's been a busy summer so far, with Dayton, Field Day, CARS picnic meetings in the park, the American Diabetes Assn. Tour de Cure, Museum Ships Weekend, and there's still more to come! We have Lighthouse Weekend coming up on the 7th & 8th of this month as well!

The Lighthouse events are a lot of fun. Toby, WT8O is the chairman for these events and he can use our help. Give him a call and tell him you'd be glad to take part in this one!

DIABETES ASSN

The Cleveland Chapter of the American Diabetes Assn. held their appreciation dinner on Wed. Aug 4, at the California Salad restaurant down by the canal. Bob Check and his wife Betty and I attended. It was a nice little get-together, and CARS was given a certificate of appreciation for our efforts in providing communications for the Tour de Cure. This year they raised \$95,918.17 compared to around \$75,000 last year! We will be assisting them again on Oct. 2nd for the Diabetes Walk for America.

MEETINGS IN THE PARK

We only have one more picnic meeting in the park for this year folks. C'mon out and cook up something delicious on the grill...CARS provides the fire...and enjoy a pleasant evening communing with nature.

I am going to keep it short this month, and say 73 to all. Hope to see you at the August meeting and meet up with you on the repeater.

73 til then.

de Tom, WB8N

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

N8IS Steve Riley 8-11-66

WB8N Tom Wayne 8-17-40

KC8LAU Gerald Purcell 8-24

KA8EEW Richard Engum 8-21-38

TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!

By Philip Ricca, K8MPL

During the last few months I have been setting up a PSK31 station. Mostly listening rather looking) at a waterfall where the signals are shown on the PC monitor.

It is a really neat way of communication. Thanks to the power of the computer complex signal analysis required for this medium is easily accomplished. The best part of PSK31 is its ability to get through using low power . It has a very narrow bandwidth (31 some cycles) and is able to get through when the going is rough. Many software packages are available with various features (many freeware). The interface to the rig can be home brewed or bought.

Once the station is set-up you will need to follow some pointers that involve the computer soundcard. If all fails, read the instructions. In my case after burning out a sound card, I decided to read how to set the card up. Numerous articles are available on the Internet. After reading these articles and having a fellow ham look at my signals I finally made the proper soundcard settings. Be patient, it may take a bit of doing but you but it will all come together.

One note, the transmitting of PSK is a high duty cycle medium. You will need to monitor the ALC action of the transmitter very closely, as you will be running a lot less power in this mode. However, you will be amazed at to the number of signals coming through with just 5 watts power.

The past weeks when 20 meters is up I can copy many European stations with ease. Many stations running 20 or 30 watts really make a good show on the waterfall.

So if you are looking for a new ham radio adventure, PSK31 is the way to go.

W8JK - SILENT KEY

Radio astronomer, antenna designer, cosmic explorer and author John D. Kraus, W8JK, of Delaware, Ohio, died July 18. He was 94. While he enjoyed a worldwide reputation, Kraus is perhaps best known in Amateur Radio circles for his bi-directional wire beam antenna often dubbed the '8JK array. Other important Kraus designs include the corner reflector and helix antennas. The Michigan native was a pioneer of radiotelescope design and the father of the "Big Ear" radio-telescope.

Following an early fascination with radio, Kraus first became licensed as 8AFJ. He later was granted the now-famous W8JK call sign. A graduate of Michigan State University, he joined the faculty of the Ohio State University 1946, serving as a professor of electrical engineering and astronomy and founding and directing the OSU Radio Observatory. In that capacity, Kraus designed and oversaw construction of the Big Ear on the campus of nearby Ohio Wesleyan University.

Kraus's classic textbook Antennas, now in its second edition, has been an engineering school staple for decades and can be found in virtually every antenna engineer's library. Among his other titles are Electromagnetics, Radio Astronomy, Big Ear, Big Ear Two and Our Cosmic Universe. Kraus also wrote several articles for QST from the 1930s until the 1980s, including a "recap and update" of his W8JK antenna in the June 1982 issue.

Kraus was a fellow of the IEEE and a member of the National Academy of Engineering. In 1996, Dayton Hamvention honored Kraus as the recipient of its Special Achievement Award. In 2001, CQ named Kraus to the inaugural class of its Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

In 1978, after the "Big Ear" detected the still-unidentified "Wow!" signal that suggested the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe, Kraus launched Cosmic Search, a magazine devoted to the search for extra terrestrial intelligence. The Big Ear fell victim to development pressures and was torn down in 1998

SOME PHOTOS OF THE SUMMER



This guy is at Dayton every year. It was raining outside when this photo was snapped. Lucky for him it wasn't lightening too!

If you look closely, you will see that tower with the beam on top is attached to his helmet!

He walks around indoors and out with that contraption on his head. You'd think his neck would get sore and tired!



Carol and Ev, cooking up a bunch of great grub at this year's Field Day! A fine job they both did, and the food was very much enjoyed !



That's corn on the cob Ev is roasting on the grill.

CARS Road Trip

At our July 21 meeting I ask how many would be interested in a Road trip to the Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph, Ontario Canada. The response has been great but I need to know how many can make the trip.

Guelph is about 100 miles north of Buffalo, NY, 295 miles from Cleveland, so the drive with stops should be about 4 1/2 hours each way. The Museum will open for us on a Saturday and provide a lunch n/c when we arrive, than give us a guided tour of the Museum, a complete tour will take 2 1/2 to 4 hours. You can check the Museum details at www.hammondmuseumofradio.org.



Noreen VE3AQZ Museum curator and her husband John VA3LKH will be on hand to give demonstrations and guide us through the museum. Noreen tells me John likes CW so I hope we will have a demo with some of the older CW keys.

For any who wish to operate the station you can do so with their call VE3HC, I understand there is more than one station available to operate including a Collins S Line. I am sure you can generate a pile up as the Museum station does not have any

regular operating schedule to be on the air. Be sure to bring a copy of your ham license with you.

Several suggested spending the night around Niagara Falls or Buffalo and going to a Casino Saturday evening & coming home Sunday morning after breakfast, others just want to do the Museum.

We can do both, those who want to come home or make other stops after the Museum can do so while the rest can spend the night, while we still go to the Museum as a group. When I know how many will need a room I will try to get a discount on room rates on the US side.

We can make arrangements to car pool so you can split the driving expenses and driving duties to go as a group to the Museum. Jim Glor N8GXR lives in Buffalo and will go with us from there. Jim said his local Club in Buffalo went to the Museum earlier this year and they were all very impressed with the Hammond Museum and wish they had allotted more time there.

We can get plans finalized, we are going on Saturday October 9 leaving about 6:45 to 7:00am (not sure from where yet), the Fall leaves will be near their peak plus we should still have nice weather, it will be a nice fall trip for CARS.

I have 11 going so far, please call or e-mail me ASAP if you can go and whether or not you need a room or a ride.

73, Bob w8gc

HELP US FIND OLD WO's

We are looking for copies of the following old Wobbly Oscillators for the CARS history files. Some of the months listed may have been for 2 months (January-February) or not sent at all, also some December's had a WO some did not but as we are not sure all missing months and years are listed below:

YEAR	NEEDED
1971	July thru Dec.
1972	all
1973	all
1974	all
1975	all
1976	all
1977	Jan, Feb, March, May & Dec.
1979	April, May, June, July, Sept. & Dec.
1980	all except May
1981	Jan, Feb, June, Aug, Nov & Dec.
1982	Jan, June, July, Nov & Dec
1983	Jan, April, June & Dec
1984	April, Sept, Nov & Dec
1985	March, April, June, July & Dec
1986	March, May, June, July, Nov & Dec
1988	Jan, Feb, March & April
1989	May
1990	March & June
1991	Feb & May
1992	November
1993	December
1994	March & Dec
1995	Feb, Mar, April, May, July, Aug, Sept & Nov
1996	all EXCEPT January
1997	all
1998	all

We will copy and return any issues you have so you will not be giving up your vintage WO's. Beginning with January 1999 all WO's are on the web site so the last 5 years are complete.

Thanks to Terry KB8DTC for searching the archives and providing us with the list of missing WO's.

Please contact me at 216-524-1750 or president@cars.org with what you have available and I will make arrangements to pick them up.

de Bob W8GC

CARS 2004 Officers & Committees

Audit

Toby WT8O ** Tina W8HBI, Gary NI8Z

ARRL Liaison & media representative

Don KC8NIX ** Carol KC8TIE ** 216-524-4910

CBARC Liaison

Dwaine 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 N8IS, N8TCP

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

Scouts

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, Steve N8IS

VE exams

Gary NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail

Dave K8DAV ** 440-243-3593, Bob W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2004 Officers

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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

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Bob W8GC 216-524-1750

