

# The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75



JANUARY 2005

Volume XXXV

Issue I

## FROM THE PREZ

I hope everyone had a happy and safe Christmas and New Years Holiday. Congratulations to all of the 2005 officers, board and committee members. I am looking forward to working with all of you this year.

CARS had a great Christmas party December 17 at the Independence Civic Center. We had the



**Jack W8JAK leading the N8IS singers**

best attendance in years with 53 attending and for various reasons 4 others purchased tickets but were not able to attend. Most pictures are in the Photo Gallery with more to be added in the next few days, just need to find time.

2005 will be a busy year and we can use help on most of the committees. Please contact a committee chairperson or myself and we will get you going on any committee you can offer your help to.

We awarded several plaques for outstanding

service during 2004 including a new category "CARS 2004 Rookie of the Year". Bill, KC8YSV was the recipient of CARS first award. They are very nice brass on wood laser cut plaques you can be proud to hang on your wall. We have several ways to earn a plaque plus one of our new members will be the "CARS 2005 Rookie of the Year". Just participate in several CARS projects and we will show you our thanks with a nice plaque.

Speaking of plaques, name badges etc., Marvin Secrest, of M&K Engraving, has just received his Technician license and his call sign is KD8AUB. Marvin has done all of our badges, magnetic signs and plaques for some time now. He does a great job and we are happy he has become a member of the Ham radio fraternity.

We will have the Copley Middle School Ham Club up and running in January, the school club call will be KD8AQC. The antennas are up and we are in the process of getting the students and equipment organized. The school is putting in 2 new 120vac outlets for us and as soon as they are in we will get the station going. We will also be doing License classes for the students and should have several licensed by this summer.

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The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264. Articles may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication, provided credit is given to the newsletter and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed in .doc, .wpd, or .txt format to: [newsletter@cars.org](mailto:newsletter@cars.org) by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

Remember the Dayton bus trip is not that far off, so get your reservations in early as Terry has promised to fill the bus again this year. The info will be on the CARS website in early January.

Just a reminder at this months meeting, George K8KR will be asking if you tried any contests and how you liked the experience?

That's it for another WO, this months words of wisdom come from Mark Twain [Samuel Clemens] (1835-1910): *Do the right thing. It will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.*

See you at the January 19, 2005 CARS meeting.

73, de Bob, W8GC

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### **Minutes of the CARS Meeting November 17, 2004.**

President Bob Check, W8GC called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM held at the Busch Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, OH. Introductions were held with 27 Members and 1 Guest in attendance.

Bob congratulated our new refreshment chairman Terry, KB8DTC. Terry mentioned there was fresh Cherry Bread and Apple Bread along with donuts this evening.

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2004 meeting was made by Jack W8JAK and seconded by Bill WA8GEO. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bob reminded everyone in attendance that Mike KB8UGT will be giving his last Treasurer's report this evening due to other commitments. And reminded the audit committee to get together to set a date for the 2004 audit. The treasurers report was made by Mike KB8UGT. A motion to accept the treasurers report was made by Gary, NI8Z and seconded by Ron, K8VJG. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bill, KC8YSV advised the attendance that Rick, N8JTI, a new member of CARS, passed his General and Extra test at the VE Session Sunday.

Bill, KC8YSV informed the members that Dave, KD8V wasn't in attendance but had been contacted by the wrestling coach at Copley schools about an Amateur Radio school station. Marleyton High School was part of the Big Project through ARRL and is looking for another school to take over the equipment and have it used for a school station. Items include: Icom 706 Mark IIG, Power Supply, MFJ Tuner, R2000 Vertical, misc wire, and some ARRL provided books. Dave KD8V and Bill KC8YSV are picking up the equipment Friday and will get with Copley Middle School to see when we can begin organizing things.

Bill shared with the members that the President of Kiwanis club and friend of George KA8JHS contacted CARS to have us do a presentation about our club and Ham radio. At one of their meetings in late January or early February at Marcells.

Bill encouraged all members to visit the CARS website and to participate in the discussion board. There are a lot of new topics.

Bill also encouraged membership to renew their ARRL membership or new memberships through the CARS Club. ARRL charges the same fee, however when sent in by the club we get a kickback that will help our treasury.

Tina, W8HBI announced that Christmas Party Tickets on are sale for \$15 for adults and that DUES are coming due in January but can be paid anytime.

Tina also reported in absence of Dave KD8V, that a card was sent to K8FF, Wayne Smith. He had a heart attack and triple bypass and is recovering at home. Mike, K8EHP sent a e-mail that his wife was admitted to the hospital for a shoulder procedure. Harold, W8GEG had carpal tunnel surgery but is almost fully recovered and Toby, WT8O injured his wrist in a fall.

Gordon, W8GTK reported that the net is doing ok and that he will be putting a survey up on the web page about interest in a 10 meter net. President Check reminded the membership that

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Technician classes are starting in January. If you know anyone interested please send them to the please send them to the CARS website. General and Extra classes will follow.

Dave D8DAV advised the membership that there are new items in the flea market section of the web page and encouraged people to check it out.

Tom, WB8N reported that the volunteers from the Diabetes Walk were invited to a celebration and awards dinner. The walk raised more than \$106,000.00 and was very successful.

Tom also advised that more participation in the WO was noticed last month. Get your articles in for January.

Gary, NI8Z reported that he wasn't in attendance for the Sunday VE Session but wanted to report that Steve, N8IS ran things and everything went smoothly. Gary congratulated his wonderful crew and said they all did a great job. Gary also mentioned that he had checked to make sure VE dates were reserved for 2005. They are scheduled and are being carried over from year to year until he advises them of a change. The use of the Independence Olde Town Hall is donated free of charge by the City of Independence.

Bob W8GC announced that we had 2 new members to vote on: Roy McClure, KD8AJX who was present and Walter Holliday, KC8FUI who was not in attendance. A motion to accept the new members was made by Gary NI8Z. A vote was taken and the new members were voted into CARS.

Toby, WT8O shared with members that he hopes if you receive a paper to participate in the VP Interviews, you send them back. It's a great way for everyone to get to know each other better. Toby also reported on a Christmas QSO Party for Lighthouses, December 18th to January 2nd. It's an event that you can participate in at home. If you want more information to participate please visit [www.arlhs.com](http://www.arlhs.com). Toby also mentioned that CARS activated four lighthouses in 2004.

Toby commented on the great job Gordon, W8GTK does in coordinating and filling in with all CARS net operations.

Bob, W8GC appointed a committee to count ballots for tonight's elections.

Bill KC8YSV, Doug KB8MCD and Ev WA8EYF were selected. A motion was made by Terry, KB8DTC to declare the following four officers elected by unanimous ballot : Bob, W8GC President, Toby, WT8O Vice President, Tina, W8HBI Secretary and Steve, N8IS Treasurer, since they are all running unopposed. The motion was seconded by Hal, W8GEG. The motion passed.

President Check said we were looking to fill four board positions and we had five members running: One one year term to fill the vacancy of N8IS and three regular two year board positions. After ballots were counted it was a very close race with Tom WB8N, Terry KB8DTC and Gordon W8GTK getting the 3 two year term board positions, as they had the most votes. Ron K8VJG will be filling the 1 year board vacancy from N8IS.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Hal, W8GEG. His share was \$27.00

Bob asked if anyone had any goals they would like to see our club accomplish or try in 2005. He listed numerous things our club has been involved in 2004, such as: school events, Diabetes Walk & Tour-de-Cure, Field Day, the Mather station, Lighthouse events, Fox Hunt direction finder building project and fox hunts, road trip to the Hammond Museum, VE sessions, and license classes to just mention a few.

Bob asked the club about supporting the 2005 Spectrum Defense fund by donating \$100 to the ARRL fund. A motion to donate the funds was made by Ron, K8VJG and seconded by Bob Ozog, KC8MRC. The motion passed.

Bob commented that the repeater is working great. And that there are a couple programs scheduled for 2005. We are expecting ARES at our February meeting and Jim Weaver the Vice Director from ARRL at a date to be determined later.

Bob mentioned that George, K8KR was going to hold a discussion on comfort level for contesting and about adding up our scores to send in a combined club total. Also the possibility to have a contest within the Club where the winner of a certain contest would receive a plaque or certificate.

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George presented three upcoming contests and encouraged people to participate in them and to give us feedback at the January meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ev, WA8EYF and seconded by Jim, N8GXR. A vote was taken and the motion passed. W8GC adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI,  
Secretary

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**The ARRL is very appreciative of club recruitment efforts AND our opinions are valued. That's why ARRL has brought back commissions for renewals in addition to the existing commission for new member sign-ups. Please contact Tina at [secretary@cars.org](mailto:secretary@cars.org) for your renewals or new memberships to the ARRL. The cost is the same to you, but CARS will be helped by a commission from the ARRL.**

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**CARS VOLUNTEER EXAMINER TEAM  
REPORT for 2004**

By Gary Dewey, NI8Z

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society VE team provided nine (9) VE test sessions to the amateur radio community in 2004. During these nine sessions, 44 tests were given. From the tests, 16 new Technicians; 7 new General; and 7 new Extra licenses were received by examinees.

The C.A.R.S. VE team consists of Roger Boehnlien N8TCP, Ron Borkey Sr. K8VJG, Bob Check W8GC, Dave Kushman K8DAV, George Pindroh K8KR, Steve Riley N8IS, Tom

Wayne WB8N, and Gary Dewey NI8Z.

This team is dedicated and provides quality testing opportunities for those interested amateur radio "hams".

This year compared to last year was down about seventy per cent. Last year (2003), C.A.R.S. provided 74 tests in nine VE test sessions. The 2003 total of new or upgrade licenses were 59. The ARRL also has seen this downward trend nationwide of reduced testing candidates in 2004.

The C.A.R.S. VE test schedule for 2005 has been established for the following dates: January 9, March 13, May 1, July 10, September 11 and November 13. The test site will be 6652 Brecksville Rd in the Independence Town Hall as it has in the past.

The ARRL/VEC announced the new test fee beginning January 1, 2005 will be \$14 for the first testing of any element at a test session. Another fee of \$14 is required for retaking a failed test element. Anyone wanting to participate in VE activity should contact Gary Dewey, NI8Z by email ([ni8z@cars.org](mailto:ni8z@cars.org)) or telephone (216-641-8705) for additional details and special requests for testing. Also, everyone is invited to check out the VE information on the C.A.R.S. web page.

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**ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

By Gary Dewey, NI8Z

The C.A.R.S. audit committee successfully completed the audit of the treasurer books on December 8, 2004. The committee included the V.P. Toby Kolman WT8O, Board member Gary Dewey NI8Z, the outgoing treasurer Mike Balach KB8UGT, the incoming treasurer Steve Riley N8IS and secretary Tina Check W8BHI.

The treasury saw a positive increase in 2004 with the inclusion of donated SK estate equipment. This equipment was cleaned, refurbished, cataloged and provided source equipment for such projects as

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Field Day, the W.G. Mather museum ship project, the Copley Middle School project and lighthouse events. C.A.R.S. was successful in finding new homes for some of this equipment through auctions and/or member purchases.

In addition, C.A.R.S. ran a successful Dayton Bus trip, had a 20 amateur operator Fox Hunt directional antenna kit building activity, improved operation of its 2 meter and 70 cm repeaters.

The audit team concludes the treasury is in sound and fiscally excellent shape.

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### **A LITANY ON HAM RADIO**

Submitted by Jim Barbour, WD8CHL

I've been a ham for 26 years now. That's a few years more than I've been involved in public safety activities of one type or another.

Working with public safety organizations is not an entitlement and simply having a license doesn't make anyone uniquely qualified to serve these organizations. As others have pointed out, a missing dimension is specialized training. The amateur response of years ago to most situations (simply start a net) is irrelevant without supportive actions and many responders consider unfamiliar personnel a liability more than an asset.

Indeed, if a support person is unfamiliar with scene operations, the person they are shadowing is now responsible for not only his or her safety, but the safety of the individual they are with. So, for the past few years I've been evangelizing the need for adaptability in amateur radio. The ARRL training is of paramount importance - but it doesn't stop there. Many amateurs don't know the difference between "public service" and "public safety." It's not in the books, so you have to write it down and understand the differences - public service is performing a service for public good. Public safety carries that further. It implies an acute situation or a situation which is planned, but has the potential for mass casualty if things go wrong. People may get hurt and people may die - and that includes the people who are responders. Beyond the training the League makes available, someone who finds themselves out in the street with an "HT" needs to be aware; aware of things like hazardous materials and explosives. I have a certificate for working the New York City Marathon in 1987. Years before that, I worked a "mini-marathon" in NYC's Central Park. Back then I had fun and so did the spectators and competitors. But in a post-9/11

world, no one knows what will happen next and one can't allow one's self to slip into a complacent state of mind.

Today's 'of service to public safety' ham also needs to be versed in 'how the other boys play the game' - Incident Management. They need to develop internal mechanisms that drill down to a central point of contact and chain of command. There needs to be periodic briefings to understand the goals and objectives of each operational period, and, there needs to be after-action analyses of what happened and how they could improve in future evolutions. We typically don't do much of that. Not even in many public safety agencies. Most importantly in this line of thinking, we need to develop accountability. That means **WE STOP FREELANCING AND SOMEBODY KNOWS WHERE WE ARE AT ALL TIMES AND CAN DETERMINE IF WE ARE OKAY OR NEED HELP.** Don't feel bad, though, because some public safety people have trouble with this concept, too.

Other things hams need may be training in what to do if you have to put your radio down and take care of someone who is injured. CERT is a great program overall and should be coupled with CPR and the operation of an Automated External Defibrillator. And, hams can't show up in a sweater and loafers. They need "PPE" (personal protective equipment), which is as valuable as the electronic gear they may be bringing with them; certainly **MORE** valuable to the person who is wearing it.

Worst yet, I said it above - you can't expect to show up and be put to work if nobody knows who you are. The dimension missing from most of this equation is that **HAMS MUST DEVELOP A PREESTABLISHED RAPPORT WITH THE ORGANIZATIONS THEY EXPECT TO WORK WITH!!!!** Sadly, in some communities that means going beyond saying "hello" to local emergency managers, and going directly to police, fire or EMS agencies to demonstrate their capabilities. I say that with great reservation because I work as a professional emergency manager, but in the past six years I've been doing that, I've noticed a significant drop in relevance as "homeland security" initiatives have become police, fire and EMS initiatives and have largely ignored established emergency management agencies, relegating them to the same secondary status many amateurs perceive of their services. Hopefully that's *continued on next page...*

not the case in your neighborhood, but by us, politicians removed the free-standing departmental status of emergency management in favor of making it a "division" of the health department, an organization that developed a high profile during the Anthrax scares immediately after 9/11.

This coming year sees a truncation in budget where some tough choices in operational capabilities will have to be made. The failure of an organization to adapt quickly led to its summary demotion in importance.

To underscore this need to adapt or die, fire departments died a long time ago, too. If you don't believe me, ask renowned fire chief Alan Brunacini, of the Phoenix, AZ fire department. He casually described his organization as (and, I'm paraphrasing) 'an EMS department that happens to fight fires.'

Many fire departments have taken the foray into EMS and some even into emergency management because they have the need to adapt. Sometimes it's difficult to justify the FTE head-count and specialized apparatus when you only have a handful of big fires a year. But, if you go out on several thousand EMS calls or are active in planning for a major event or in anticipation of risks within the community, the resources are easily justified.

The other side of this coin of disenfranchisement is the purposes of ham radio. I saw technical innovation until the mid 80's when young upstarts in the ham world went "digital." AX.25 was popular and many talented people went on to develop packet-switched protocols that were used in many external telecommunications applications. Then it became venerated, just like CW. Don't get me wrong. Somewhere in the garage is a button that said, "No Code, No Code, Rah, Rah, Rah. Three dits, four dits, two dits, dah." I took my extra at the New York City FCC field office in the days before volunteer examiners and had to endure 20 WPM CW. But, I digress. When we venerate something, we stop altogether. There are extensive 1200 baud networks all over 2 meters. But the need within the communities we intend to serve is exceeded and the present state of the art is delivering 19.2 k into emergency vehicles. With an aggregated 150 kHz 700 MHz data channel, that may someday be DSL level connectivity into emergency vehicles over a wide area - but we do 1200 baud with a smattering of 9600 baud for some very adventurous individuals. To my esteemed colleagues who think Cmdr. Bruninga (WB4APR) discovered AVL

(automated vehicle location) with APRS, this simply isn't the case. I agree that APRS refined AVL to some extent and made the concept widely available - and Cmdr. Bruninga's contribution to amateur radio has been significant, but AVL existed before APRS and even before a GPS constellation. In the mid 80's NYCEMS was experimenting with ETAK mapping and ambulances that had dead-reckoning location technology.

Going from the common 1200 baud to PSK 31 has venerated the arcane. Sure it will "get through" as a mode of adversity, as CW has proven, but it's getting its butt kicked by modalities of significantly greater throughput and service potential.

Part of this "death" has to do with hams themselves; it's not all on wireless companies. I've been told by other non-ham colleagues that working with some groups of hams is like herding cats. Hams who dedicate the facet of their hobby (yes, it's a hobby) to the service of public safety agencies must restructure themselves away from being "clubs" into being response-ready organizations. This involves coming together to develop not only a president and secretary, but a CHIEF. It's not about running a meeting and collecting dues to put a talking controller on the repeater, now it's about STOPPING PETTY BICKERING, AGREEING ON SOMETHING and THEN SELECTING A LEADER. I've seen so many great initiatives evaporate because someone got pissed, or had their egos stomped on and then took their toys and went home. A lesson I learned early in ham radio was that most successful repeater organizations were benevolent autocracies rather than clubs. The clubs I was a member of were riddled with more experts on Robert's Rules than people who were willing to do things. With all of the resources available, it leaves me wondering how we hams could not have developed a broadband urban intranet, or intra-urban OC3 network - and then I think of the guy who was part of a linked repeater scheme who wanted a different "courtesy tone" on his repeater and took it off the air because he disagreed with the rest of the group. A service organization is not a club; we've all seen disastrous consequences when an organization, such as a volunteer fire department places the social aspects of membership above the commitment to training and response. This is exactly the same thing.

The last thing anyone wants is a call from a chief officer in their community asking, "who are these bozos you sent over?" Get into a response mode. Use that talking controller to send alert paging tones and see if you *continued on next page....*

can make it out the door in time to make it to an incident in a safe, but in a timely manner if called. Take as much care of your PPE as you do of your "grab and go" radio box, have personal items like medicines, food and appropriate clothing if you are "stuck" in a place for a while, and know that things may change very fast and you may need to rely on your training and senses to get you through. If you have no training, you shouldn't be there.

Finally, there needs to be reasonable expectations on the part of the agency served and those who provide the services. Next time you run into a Police Officer, Deputy, EMT or Firefighter, ask him or her if they know anything about hams or amateur radio and, if something major were to happen, what they'd be doing at the incident. Wait for the cricket noise. That question is usually followed by a lot of silence. Likewise, ask a ham what their perception of the needs of a public safety agency will be at a major incident will be. There will be references to TV shows from Adam-12 to Third Watch... none of which may be relevant or accurate. **THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIX THIS: THAT IS TO DEVELOP A PRE-ESTABLISHED ONE-ON-ONE RAPPORT BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS.** Here's the proof - in 1999, the local office of the FBI pulled together public safety officials in the St. Louis area for a brief slide show and a big barbecue. I didn't get it at the time (I don't get a lot of things the first time I see them), but, in retrospect, it was a stroke of genius. All of these officials had never met each other before. They may have known names, or seen each other in passing, but by placing them into a social situation, they all had the opportunity to network and get comfortable with one another BEFORE they had to work with each other under duress. It made people approachable. Some of the sidebar discussions included, "we have this..." or "we can bring that..." or even "no, nobody around here has something like that." Amateur radio has a lot to offer and trained, aware amateurs have a lot to bring into a situation, but they are not the cavalry. Responders need to know what amateurs "do" and how these resources will be of benefit to them, and then have a role that can be fulfilled before anything ever happens. Once something happens, and you show up without this pre-established rapport, there will be unrealistic expectations on both sides. The guarantee here is that if these expectations are not fulfilled: 1) the agency will never call again, and, if

they do, 2) the amateurs won't turn out for the event. All the more reason for everyone to have realistic expectations before the need.

I am a ham (obviously), and I am a World Trade Center responder. I was there within the time period of two to four weeks post-incident as an intermittently appointed telecommunications specialist supporting DMAT and DMORT teams (disaster medical assistance and disaster mortuary operational teams). Although I made it to "the Pile" several times, I spent most of at least 12 hr. days for those two weeks working on various support systems and, my personal frustration was that much of what I did was program and work with "donated" wireless transceivers for "direct connect" use within the scope of the incident. Like most people who went through a traumatic incident, I came back changed. I was disappointed that I couldn't "do more" with what I brought to the table, wishing (still) that I had been digging, instead. And, I pondered (maybe too deeply) about the wisdom of foregoing autonomous systems for one that was revenue driven in an ad-hoc situation where existing local resources were overwhelmed. As frustrated as I was, a friend reminded me that WWII could not have been won without that supply sergeant who made sure the troops had the resources to get their job done. The decision to use those was beyond me (and still is), but the need to perform what I ended up doing still existed.

If we amateurs are to remain salient, we need to regroup and reorganize. Then we need to train and educate ourselves beyond simply having a ham license. We need to be aware of the environment our "served agencies" work within under normal conditions, then work with them ACTIVELY on developing realistic support mechanisms for situations where they are overwhelmed, then we need to be team players - along with them - so that our mutual interaction is choreographed. We need to be able to stand alone without being a liability and sometimes may have to put the radio down to help do something. And, we all need to work together. If we can do that, then amateur radio is not dead.

DE KA2AYR AR K  
Steven J. Makky, Sr., ENP

## A REMINDER

This is just a friendly reminder that CARS membership dues are now due. Many of you have already paid and can disregard my notice. To remain a full member of CARS please pay the me N8IS/Treasurer at the next meeting or send your payment of \$20.00 as soon as possible to;

CARS

P.O. Box 31264

Independence, OH 44131-0264

attn: Membership

Thank you,  
Steve N8IS

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## JANUARY INTERVIEW WITH THE VP

V.P.: This months interview is with one of our newer members, Doug Coil, KB8MCD.

**V.P.: How did you become interested in Amateur Radio, what got you started?**

Doug: My uncle (now passed on) was a military man in the Canadian Armed Services. When I was just a little guy (if you can imagine that) he would visit and talk about all the neat stuff he would be doing with electronics. Many of the conversations were about computers and radio communications. I think that is what sparked my interest in playing around with electronics. My first real project, at 8 or 9 years old, was to get one of those old Grandparent radios to work (you know the ones with 20 knobs on the front and only two or three really did anything useful). I played around with that for a little while and got it to work. In doing so, I used to leave wires plugged into the wall with dangling bare ends. Oh, I knew enough not to touch them together or you would blow a fuse, so I had them separated apart but still dangling from the wall socket. Until one evening my dad came walking though and scooped it with his pant leg and all \_\_\_\_, well you know parents sometimes go overboard. Anyway I was limited to DC work. This didn't stop me. I first found a transformer...it was one foot square, and this was the start of my DC power supply. I found

canister capacitors that were about 2 ½ to 3 inches across the top and 6 or 8 inches long. I can't remember but I think I had 6 or 8 of them. And life began all over for me. I built that power supply and had it for many years. It seems to me that when I had completed it, the weight was 60 or more pounds and the case was made out of thick aluminum with carry handles. Over the years and many moves later, I don't remember what exactly happened to that supply. I know I could never over stress it.

My first hamfest was in Grand Rapids, Mich. I think it was held in the gym and halls of a school, and vehicles were parked outside all around the building. It was a sight to see for a 12-year-old. I had big money in my pocket (maybe 10 bucks) to spend and a world at my feet to spend it at. I was a spend thrift wheeler and dealer even at the age of 12. I was there at the start, 7 or 8 am, and stayed until the doors closed that day. I bought one hot dog and one pop all day for nourishment, but it was the other 20 or 30 deals I had done that day that let me score the Regency 23 channel VFO'd Linear Amplified double sideband Citizens Band Radio. I was in my glory for a day or two until the neighbor came over and told my dad that I was messing up his brand new color TV.

Somewhere shortly after that I decided that I should get my amateur radio license and then I would be protected against neighbors. Ok, so kids minds work differently than adults (sometimes).

V.P.: How long have you been licensed and what class license do you currently have?

Doug: I think I was first licensed in 1970, I do not remember for sure. I do remember that my call sign was WD8LUX. (a Wise Drunk 8 Liquid Uranium eXuberantly). I don't recall ever having an Elmer, something I missed out on. I did have someone show me 2 meters one time for about 1 minute before I got my license. Even though I liked to talk on the radio, I liked to listen even more. My first real listening radio was a Hammarlund HQ-129X. I used to sit by that radio for hours listening to the world. I had a long wire connected to it, though the trees and over the roofs and

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across the streets, all the way to the police station 4 blocks away. As you might guess, my interest had sparked into wanting to listen to the local police department. I didn't even know what a scanner was yet, but I thought if I could get my antenna close enough to the police station I should be able to hear them on my big boat anchor of a radio; and I had access to all the copper wire I wanted to put my hands on. Then one morning early, I decided to hook up the Regency and see if I could talk to the world. That lasted until the man from the Catholic Church came to our house and told my dad that I was transmitting through their organ at church. I got in trouble again. That was the final straw my dad said, and he took my radio away from me. I told him it wouldn't happen again and that I would go get my license to operate the radio and he agreed. Back then, a CB license was 10 or 20 dollars, I'm not sure anymore, but the big thing was that you had to be 18 or 21 years old. Well that would not do, so I went out and got my amateur radio license. I don't remember if there was a charge for it or not. Anyway, now I was legal so I could have my radio back. Only thing was, now I actually knew enough on how to take care of problems so I didn't get in trouble any more.

**V.P.: What do you like about Amateur Radio?** Doug: The interest of amateur radio is not single minded as most hobbies. In car racing, your interest is cars. In stamp collecting, your interest is stamps. But, in amateur radio you find stamp collectors, car racers and people from all aspects of life. The other thing I like about amateur radio is that it is an individual hobby or a group activity changing by the day.  
**V.P.: What are your favorite bands to work?** Doug: I have always had this interest in 160 meters. The commercial (can you hear me now?) says it all for 160 meters and me. There are days I will listen while ever so slowly turning the knob to see if I can pick a signal out of all the white noise. Ok, it now drives the wife crazy and she says I have to put up doors on my ham shack before the end of next year.

**V.P.: Do you collect QSL Cards? If so, how many confirmed states/countries do you have?**

Doug: I have never collected QSL cards. You would think that I would have, considering that I am an avid SWL'er.

**V.P.: What other hobbies do you have besides Ham Radio?**

Doug: I like to photograph nature and architecture (structures). My other interests are computers, swimming, and fishing. My hunting days are now left to the younger crowd. I have long since sold all my guns

**V.P.: What would your dream station be? Where would it be?**

Doug: I have always liked the looks of the Kenwood 940 and came close to buying one a couple of times. But I seem to like the Yaesu machines better. I like the 1000 series of machines and think that the 9000 series are money hogs. If I told my wife I was spending over 10 grand for a radio, she could become a widow real quickly.

**V.P.: What type of work do you do? If retired, what did you do?**

Doug: By trade I am a computer programmer. I currently work on interfacing mainframe data and applications to the web or desktop machines. And before anyone asks, what is the best computer to get, the answer is the one that gets the job done that you need it to do. Thinking about purchasing a computer, what do you really want it to do? Are you going to share files with other computers? How big of files will I need to move around? (Pictures and streaming audio are large) Do I need fast Internet connections? What type of software am I going to use? What operating system? I have a dial up 56k modem with Windows 95 on one setup running at home and it is used 3 or 4 times a week. It does the job well. I also have an XP with SP2 and 56K dial up that does what I want from it. They both work equally well.

V.P.: Thanks Doug, for taking the time to let our readers know more about you.

73 de Toby, WT8O

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS  
CONGRATULATIONS**

KC8NIX Don Dziubakowski 1-10  
KC2BUA Gary Schmid 1-11-47  
WD8DBQ Dino Pocaro 1-13-28  
AB8NI Dennis Brostek 1-14-47  
KC8YLC Mary Cegelski 1-22  
KC8DJV Stephen Jones 1-23  
KC8ZBO Stuart Kleiner 1-29  
K8AV Carl Beduhn 1-30-38

**CALL of the FOX**

By Charles E. Scharlau, NZ0I

Hark the forest's beckon call;  
its source is unbeknownst to all.  
Concealed by hills, and limbs of pine,  
it beseeches softly: come and find.

Too briefly did the signal tarry;  
reflections do the treetops carry;  
westward it did point me last,  
but will the forest let me pass?

With map and aerial I seek a course:  
the quickest passage to the source.  
From north and west I now opine,  
wafts the missive: come and find.

Silent now, the caller rests.  
No hint betrays its secret nest.  
None can know how far or near,  
save those who seek and persevere.

Through pleasant meadow, past sullen  
stream;  
I note the bearings, hoist my beam.  
The trail extends before, behind;  
how strong it shouts: come and find.

Again the caller leaves the air,  
up the hillock I rush to snare,  
an utterance from a lofty perch:  
a decisive bearing to end my search.

The minutes pass, and still I seek,  
to gain the unobstructed peak.  
When silent seconds at last unwind,  
it nearly deafens: come and find!

Before it ends its deafening cry,  
beneath a tree the flag I spy.  
There lies the source of siren's sound,  
and I proclaim: I went! I found!

Submitted by Mike Cegelski, K8EHP

**U.S. GOVERNMENT MAKING IT TOUGH  
FOR DX'ERS**

Mike Thomas, NA5U, presented a very interesting and thought provoking presentation on the Navassa-Desecheo project that LSDXA and many other hams are supporting. The US Fish and Wildlife folks are trying to make it quite difficult to operate in their preserves, many of which are near the top of the list for "most needed countries."

1. Seven DXCC countries are in jeopardy of being closed to DX'ers. They are Baker Island KH1, Howland Island KH1, Johnston Island KH3, Midway Island KH4, Palmyra Island KH5P, Jarvis Island KH5J, Kingman Reef, KH5K, Navassa Island KP1, and Desecheo Island KP5.
2. There are only 9,800 of the 700,000 licensed US hams who are in DXCC, so the interest of every one of us is important.
3. LSDXA has agreed to be the repository of the legal fund, now at \$900.00. Any funds that are not absorbed by this effort will revert to LSDXA for other dx-pedition support of LSDXA's choosing.
4. Mike will be operating on March 12-13 from the Tishomingo National Wildlife Preserve in Oklahoma. It is sort of a test to become more familiar with the Fish and Wildlife Department and it's policies.
5. For more information, contact Mike at: [NA5U@sbcglobal.net](mailto:NA5U@sbcglobal.net).

**TSUNAMI RELATED HAM NEWS**

Indian Woman Becomes "Angel of the Seas" In  
Tsunami-Hit Andamns

Fri Dec 31, 8:47 PM ET Asia - AFP

PORT BLAIR, India (AFP)

*continued on next page....*

An Indian woman in the Andaman Islands has become the center of a multi-nation effort by ham operators to unite thousands of families separated by the killer waves. The Andamans account for about a third of India's reported death toll of 11,330 but thousands more are missing or have been separated from families in the archipelago's 572 islands because of massive damage to harbours, bridges and local ferry services. A grateful Indian army is supporting 46-year-old Bharti Prasad with gear and batteries as the Delhi-based housewife has networked ham operators across the nations to reunite families and help in relief and rescue operations.

Ham radio buffs had not been permitted to operate in the Andamans since 1987 but the ban was lifted in November. Prasad was among the first to arrive to help establish a radio footprint in the string of islands near Thailand. "We arrived here on December 15 to support Andamans as a radio country ... Amateur stations across the world wanted a footprint in these beautiful islands," Prasad told AFP in the capital of Port Blair. "I did not expect a disaster like this. It is no longer a game and now we must help," Prasad said as her headset crackled with tsunami-related traffic from a high-frequency radio band spanning three megahertz to 30 megahertz. "When the tidal waves struck we just turned the beacon towards India and since then we have been flooded with messages which we relay on local telephone lines," she said. "Hams have also advertised in newspapers asking people to get in touch with us and in that way we are uniting families broken up by Sunday's waves," added Prasad, who has already handled around 30,000 emergency calls since disaster struck the tropical paradise. "The only thing I am now afraid of is our telephone bill," said Prasad. Mothers were separated from their children and husbands from their wives in the desperate scramble to escape the killer waves. Further chaos ensued when rescuers randomly plucked survivors from islands and sent them to special shelters. "I thought I had lost my family but soon an official told me that he had received messages from a 'radio station' that all my relatives were safe in Port Blair," said survivor Roby Dey in the devastated island of Car Nicobar. The "radio station" was none other than Prasad, a military rescuer told AFP in Car Nicobar. Amateur stations in the Indian cities of Calcutta, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Madras are now linked with Prasad and the network is growing beyond Indian territory, said Suresh Babu, one of her five co-volunteers.

"Bharti, we are now on airtel. You take care. You are the Angel of the Seas. Without you out there, rescue will halt," a voice from Indonesia crackled in

her hotel room, badly-damaged by Sunday's devastation. Prasad and the other five ham operators now work round-the-clock from the hotel room where erratic power and water supplies have added to their difficulties. "We are also helping the administration to streamline relief in Andamans as well as serving as a broadband listening post for stray SOS signals," said Prasad, a prominent member of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio.

MORE...

From THE HINDU, India's National Newspaper  
HAMS to the RESCUE

"GOOD EVENING All Stations, this is VU2JAW. I will be your net controller this evening for the Trivandrum VHF Net..." Every evening at 9.30 p.m., an amateur radio (ham radio) operator manning a small radio station in Thiruvananthapuram comes on air with this signature broadcast. Soon, other hams join him on the air.

On December 26, all these enthusiasts were put on 'red alert' following the tsunami that battered South Asia. Anxious relatives from all over Kerala called in with requests to locate those working in the affected areas. Missing relatives

"Many people wanted information about people working in Male. From Thursday, we have a new ham in Male called Ali. We are constantly in touch with him. He was able to pass on information about a Satheesh from Palakkad whose relatives had contacted us. Ali told us that the people on Fonodu island in Male, where Satheesh was working, had been evacuated."

As many of the BSNL towers in the affected areas have been damaged, these radio operators keep the communication lines open. They have members all across Kerala and Tamil Nadu. "Since Wednesday we have a ham operator in Velankanni who is helping scores of families," says Sanil Kumar, one of the ham enthusiasts in the city.

The daily radio conference session of the Trivandrum VHF Net is like logging into an Internet chat room. The net controller is the moderator, says a city ham. The Trivandrum VHF Net is an exclusive discussion forum for 40-odd ham enthusiasts in the district. Members are forbidden from discussing political, religious and commercial matters on the VHF Net. The radio conference is mostly about ham equipment, maintenance of radio sets and developments in broadcast technology. Sometimes, the conversation meanders to personal and social issues, says a member.

*continued on next page....*

Amateur Radio is an international hobby that has several veteran practitioners in Thiruvananthapuram. Jayaraman, former professor of the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram, Umadathan, former Principal of the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College, and Krishnankutty are among the senior HAM radio operators in the city.

In the city, amateur radio related activity revolves around the Trivandrum Amateur Radio Society (TARS). Established in 1973, TARS members meet twice every month. They are responsible for coordinating amateur radio activity in their area. The hams in Kochi and Kollam have their own amateur radio societies. The TARS has a VHF Repeater for enhancing the range of radio communication. The repeater serves most hams in the city and is also accessible to operators in Kollam, Varkala and Kochi. In emergency situations such as natural disasters and accidents, hams put their skills and radio equipment at the disposal of rescue workers and Government agencies.

TARS was instrumental in setting up a wireless link between Kerala and Gujarat in the wake of the Gujarat earthquake that killed hundreds and rendered thousands homeless in 2001. Hundreds of Malayalis were among those affected by the earthquake.

The TARS was called upon to set up a radio communication facility at the Government Control Room in the Secretariat. By communicating with hams and other agencies in Gujarat, the TARS could get accurate and up-to-date information on the Malayali population in Gujarat. The TARS is currently engaged in popularising HAM radio as a hobby. The society helps new comers obtain the license for becoming an amateur radio operator..

By SUNISH SUGATHAN

#### Dxpedition Becomes Emergency Net

When four amateur radio operators headed to the Andaman and Nicobar islands a few weeks ago, armed with only basic equipment, backpacks and sun blocks, they had no idea that their fun hobby would soon become the islands' only lifeline.

"They went because it's a 'high value' country for hams (amateur radio operators) since you need special permission from the Government to operate there," says Gopal Madhavan, an avid ham and one of the members of the governing council of the Amateur Radio Society of India. "The last time a ham operated in the Andamans was about 25 years ago."

The team, which came from across India, left Chennai on December 3 on their 'DXpedition' (basically ham slang for an expedition to any foreign country). "They met here for a cup of tea before they

left... There was a great amount of enthusiasm," says Gopal, carefully tuning his buzzing radio, alive with their voices crackling all the way from the islands. "They went to Port Blair, set up the equipment — all DXpeditions carry radios and dismantled antennas, which can be set up later with guy ropes — and contacted about 35,000 hams across the world."

Then, the earthquake began, followed by tidal waves, which swept over the small islands.

"They were actually in operation when the tremors began. Bharthi, the team leader, was talking to an Australian on the radio. He says her voice suddenly rose by a few octaves and she yelled 'tremor'. Then, her radio went dead."

The islands were devastated by the quake and crashing waves. Phones died, the electricity went out and life in Andaman and Nicobar came to a stunned halt. On the airwaves too, there was a loud silence, as hams across the world held their breath, wondering whether the team had survived. However, about two hours later, unbelievably, they were back on the air.

"Every other form of communication was down. They were the only link from the Andamans to the mainland for several hours after the disaster," says Gopal, adding that the tsunamis had engulfed the island, paralysing all machinery and communication systems. The ham radio however, which was operating from a tower, was in working order, although the team did have to scavenge for batteries to get it operating again since it had been running on electricity.

In the tradition of hams, the team stayed on to help, the DXpedition was converted into an emergency network and hams from across the world, especially India, swung into action. Two more people headed to the islands to support the emergency network, and with help from the Indian Army, which is providing the hams with food, camping and batteries, the station on Port Blair continues to operate, while another station has been set up at Car Nicobar, which has been practically obliterated by the catastrophe.

#### The Washington Post Has Some Good Things to Say About Ham Radio

##### Wave of Destruction, Wave of Salvation

By Rama Lakshmi

PORT BLAIR, India -- About one month ago, Bharathi Prasad and her team of six young ham radio operators landed in this remote island capital with a hobbyist's dream: Set up a station and establish a new world record for global ham radio contacts. In the world of ham slang, it was called a "DXpedition."

*continued on next page....*

"It is a big honor to come to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and operate. There is no ham activity here because it is considered a very sensitive area by the Indian government," said Prasad, a 46-year-old mother of two from New Delhi.

In fact, the last ham activity in these scattered islands in the Bay of Bengal, 900 miles east of the Indian mainland, occurred in 1987, when Prasad set up a station in Port Blair and made 15,500 calls. "I had always wanted to come back and break that record," she said.

This time, Prasad set up an antenna in her hotel and turned Room 501 into a radio station. She made more than 1,000 contacts every day and said she operated "almost all day and all night, with just three hours of sleep."

In the early hours of Dec. 26, while the other hotel guests were fast asleep, Prasad's room was crackling with the usual squawks and beeps. At 6:29 a.m., she felt the first tremors of an earthquake. The tables in her room started shaking violently. She jumped up and shouted, "Tremors!" into her microphone. Then the radio went dead. She ran out and alerted the hotel staff and other guests.

But with that one word, she had alerted the world of radio hams, too.

Within a few hours, the extent of the damage was clear to everyone in Port Blair. But the tsunami had knocked out the power supply and telephone service of the entire archipelago of 500 islands, leaving the capital virtually cut off from the rest of India.

Undaunted, Prasad set up a temporary station on the hotel lawn with the help of a generator -- and put the city back on the ham radio map.

"I contacted Indian hams in other states and told them about what had happened. The whole world of radio hams were looking for us, because they had not heard from us after the tremors," she said later. "But I also knew this was going to be a big disaster. I immediately abandoned my expedition and told all radio operators to stop disturbing me. I was only on emergency communication from then on."

While news of the death and devastation caused by the tsunami in other parts of India was quickly transmitted around the world, the fate of the Andamans and Nicobars was slow to unfold.

Prasad kept broadcasting information about the situation to anyone who could hear her radio. Over and over, she repeated that there was no power, no water, no phone lines.

On Monday morning, she marched into the district commissioner's office and offered her services. "What is a ham?" he asked her. After she explained, he let her set up a radio station in his office, and a second

one on Car Nicobar, the island hit hardest.

For the next two days, as the government grappled with the collapsed communication infrastructure, Prasad's ham call sign, VU2RBI, was the only link for thousands of Indians who were worried about their friends and families in the islands. She also became the hub for relief communications among officials.

"Survivors in Car Nicobar were communicating with their relatives in Port Blair through us," she said. When the phone lines were restored on Tuesday, Prasad's team in Car Nicobar radioed information about survivors to her team in Port Blair, whose members then called anxious relatives on the mainland to tell them that their loved ones were alive and well.

Prasad also helped 15 foreign tourists, including several from the United States, send news to their families. Offers of relief aid poured in from around the world through her radio, and she directed them to government officials. She also arranged for volunteer doctors to be sent from other Indian states.

Now she has become so popular in the islands, and in the ham world, that she said she has been affectionately nicknamed the "Teresa of the Bay of Bengal."

When the earthquake occurred, Prasad's worried husband called her from New Delhi and asked her to return home immediately.

"He reminded me that I have two children to look after back home," she said, laughing. "I told him that as a ham radio operator, I have a duty in times of disaster."

Under India's strict communications laws, a ham cannot leave home with his or her radio without going through an elaborate bureaucratic process to obtain permission from various ministries.

Prasad said that after her first expedition to Port Blair, she spent 17 years begging and badgering officials before she was allowed to return.

Now she hopes her work in the aftermath of the tsunami will ease the path for other hams in India.

"She looked like a simple housewife when she checked in," recalled Ravi Singh, the hotel manager in Port Blair. "But now I marvel at the courage she has shown."

Thanks to Bob Check, W8GC for sending along these Ham-Tsunami related articles. Ed.

## THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

### For What It's Worth...A New Year

It's a whole new year once again, and time to think about what we're gonna do as a club this year. I don't see how we can top ourselves over last year...we had so many different projects and programs going. But I'm sure the membership will come up with bigger and better goals for 2005.

### Disaster Strikes & Hams Come Through

The Tsunami in South East Asia just after Christmas gave Hams an un-welcomed opportunity to once again show what we do in times of a disaster, as you can see from the articles in this month's issue of the W.O.

### It's Not so Bad After All

Ya know, the old saying used to go ...  
...Cleveland, the best location in the nation. When you stop and think about it, it really is true. Yeah, we have lousy winters, but we don't have anywhere near the natural disasters other parts of our country has, not to mention other parts of the world! If I could just afford to live in the Caribbean during the winter months, I'd have it made weather-wise. Oh well, I'll keep on dreaming. Maybe my wife will hit the lottery. (She plays it, I don't) or one day I'll hear a knock on the door and it will be the folks from Publisher's Clearinghouse telling me I won a million dollars. (I enter that one, my wife doesn't) Yeah right! I won't hold my breath!

### Really Big Issue This Month

I really want to thank everyone for contributing articles to the newsletter this month. We have an extra big issue for a change. I probably could have held a couple of the articles for next month, but who knows, maybe we'll have even more contributions from the membership to try to squeeze in. I hope!

### Ice, Ice, and More Ice

With all the heavy snow and the recent freezing rain (make that ice) we've had this winter, I've really been keeping a close watch on my antennas. So far, so good. I hope everyone else has been as lucky.

### Reminders

Just a couple of reminders for everyone...don't forget that the weekly CARS net is on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 p.m. now, instead

of 7 p.m. I find it hard to remember that myself, having missed a few in the past weeks. I did make the last two! And I'd better remember next week's net because I'm supposed to be net control! I'll have to tie something around my finger...like a piece of coax! Also, don't forget to get your 2005 dues in soon! You don't want to get taken off of the CARS roster!

### Th...Th...Th...That's All Folks

That's about gonna do it for this month fellow members. Hope to see a bunch of you at this month's meeting. If you haven't been to a CARS meeting for awhile, this is a good time to start attending. Make it one of your New Year's resolutions. Our program chairman has some interesting programs lined up for the first couple of months and you wouldn't want to miss them. Heck, c'mon out to the meeting just to see some old acquaintances, lest they be forgot. We have lots of new faces to meet and greet as well as the usual "old timers" of the club.

There's always refreshments, and who knows, you just might even win the 50/50 drawing, should you take a chance on it.

We have a member who lives in Buffalo New York who manages to get to a meeting several times a year, so if you live in the north-east Ohio area, there is no excuse for not making a meeting ONCE in awhile. (Unless of course you have to work or are incapacitated in some way) If you don't have a ride, maybe someone who lives near you or drives past your location can give you a lift. All you have to do is ask.

I'm done for this month, so I hope I catch you on the air, or at the meeting, or both.

73 for now...

de Tom, WB8N

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German DXer DF3CB, Bernd Koch, just completed a DX 2004 review article for DARC's CQ DL magazine. Out of the 335 DXCC Entities on the ARRL DXCC list he believes that 287 countries were QRV last year. He believes there were 48 DXCC countries not active in 2004 This is clearly one of the reasons that the DXCC Award Program has many participants. You won't work them all in a short amount of time! Thanks Bernd

## CARS 2005 Officers & Committees

### Audit

Toby WT8O \*\* Tina W8HBI, Gary NI8Z

### ARRL Liaison

Bill Sarver KC8YSV \*\*

### Media Representative

Don KC8NIX \*\*

### Christmas Party 2005

Gary NI8Z \*\* Steve N8IS \*\* Tina W8HBI  
Tom WB8N

### Community Education & School Programs

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Kayla N8KAY, Bill KC8YSV

### Dayton Bus

Terry KB8DTC \*\* Bob W8GC

### Diabetes events

Tom WB8N \*\* All CARS members

### Field Day

Tom WB8N \*\* All CARS members

### Fox Hunts

Mike K8EHP \*\* N8IS, N8TCP

### Ham License classes

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N8IS, Don KC8NIX, Ron K8VJG, Bruce N8DJX,  
George K8KR, Dave K8DAV

### Interference & Jamming

W8GC \*\*, NI8Z, N8IS, N8TCP, WB8N

### Scouts

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### Lighthouse events

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### Museum Ship W. G. Mather W8WGM

Bob W8GC \*\* Lin WD8SDP \*\*  
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### NET

Gordon W8GTK \*\*

### WO/Newsletter

Tom WB8N \*\* 440-232-4193

### Program director

Toby WT8O \*\*

### QSL manager-NO8A & W8WGM

Tom WB8N \*\*

### Refreshments

Terry KB8DTC \*\*

### 50/50

Kayla N8KAY \*\*

### Sunshine (welfare)

Dave KD8V \*\* 330-666-8721

### Technical

Dave K8DAV\*\* Bob W8GC \*\* Terry KB8DTC  
Vince N8OVW, Roy KB8VJF, Tom WB8N  
Jack W8JAK, Jim WD8CHL, Steve N8IS

### VE exams

Gary NI8Z \*\* 216-642-8705

### Web Master/e-mail

Dave K8DAV \*\* Bob W8GC \*\*

\*\* chairman or co-chairman

## 2005 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:

Steve N8IS 216-328-0432  
treasurer@cars.org



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### odd year executive board 2 year term;

Gordon W8GTK  
Terry KB8DTC  
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### K8ZFR trustee

Tom WB8N

### NO8A, KD8AQC &

KD8AQD trustee  
Bob W8GC

