

The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75



FEBRUARY 2005

Volume XXXV

Issue II

FROM THE PREZ

Thanks to everyone who attended, for the excellent turn out at our first meeting in 2005! George, K8KR gave us a very nice follow up presentation on contesting and brought in 3 Heathkit QRP rigs for show and tell.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Tina W8HBI. Congratulations Tina!

Please mark your calendars to attend the February 16 CARS meeting, as we will have several guests talking about ARES in Cuyahoga County. They will have a Power Point presentation and some hand-outs. The presentation will be given by Bob Winston W2THU - Ohio Asst. Section Manager and CARS member, and Jon McKenzie KB9FEM - Assistant Cuy. Co. ARES EC, Bill Marx K8WJM - Assistant Cuy. Co. ARES EC and Mike DiTurno KC8OWL - Cuyahoga County ARES EC

We now have 2 complete stations installed, tested and working on all bands from 3.5 Mhz thru 440 Mhz at the Copley Middle School Ham

Radio Club. The school club call is KD8AQC. The committee is working on the agenda for demonstrations and getting the License classes started in the next 14 days.



Plaque for the Ham Club wall

As you can see the Committee has been busy turning our school project into a real Ham station.

Please remember the Dayton bus trip is not that far off. We have received several reservations already! We hope to fill the bus this year. The info is on our web site.



Gary N18Z checking the TS-850

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That's it for another WO, this month we have some words about being oneself: *Do just once what others say you can't do, and you will never pay attention to their limitations again.*

See you at the February 16, 2005 CARS meeting.

73, de Bob, W8GC

CARS MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 19, 2005

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 made around the room.

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2004 meeting was made by Terry, KB8DTC and seconded by Bill, KC8YSV. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Tina, W8HBI read the treasury report and reminded all members that dues were being collected for 2005.

Dave, KD8V informed the members of the progress at Copley Schools. Antennas were installed and the school has been extremely cooperative. Several students have even asked when the club will be started and are excited.

Bob, W8GC reminded the membership to join the ARRL or renew their ARRL memberships through CARS. Cars will get a small kickback, which helps the club, and the price remains the same for you! Contact Tina, w8hbi for details.

Tina announced we got a nice card from Jane Reed, K8ZFR's daughter. President Check informed the members that we have sold some donated equipment. All equipment has been cleaned and repaired. So far, approximately \$350 has been received and another \$150 worth of equipment has been sold and waiting on payment. There is another \$500-\$600 worth of equipment still for sale. There were some expenses in getting the Collins equipment repaired, approximately \$500, but the value of the equipment far exceeds the repair costs and they will be recouped when the equipment is sold.

Bob announced that the technician classes started last night. Eight students signed up and seven were in attendance. General & Extra classes will be in session after Technician classes are done.

Gordon, W8GTK reported that Wednesday night nets need more participation and one or two additional net controllers.

Dave, K8DAV informed the members that the auto patch is disabled. And the timer was changed to 2 minutes again. For some unknown reason it went back to 1 minute. He also reported that the website's most requested page was the homepage, followed by the newsletter page.

Bob, W8GC announced that 1 new application for membership had come in for Dennis Rabbitts, KD8APY. Gary, NI8Z made a motion to accept the membership. Ron, K8VJG seconded. A vote was taken and KD8APY was voted in as new member.

Tom, WB8N reported on the Wobbly Oscillator newsletter. Keep the articles coming in and support the newsletter.

Mike, K8EHP reported that the last Fox Hunt was cancelled due to the weather. So far nothing else has been planned. The next one will probably be in the spring.

Gary, NI8Z told the membership that the Christmas party was a great success. He thanked all committee members that helped. The VE Sessions are now being publicized in the Real World Publication and ARRL. Gary thanked his VE Team for being so great.

CW Classes will be scheduled in the near future. If you know anyone who might be interested, have them contact Bob, W8GC to get on the list.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Tina, W8HBI. Her share was \$31.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI
CARS Secretary

FROM THE VP

At the November and January meetings George, K8KR gave two very interesting talks on contesting. He shared his experiences with us, which were quite enlightening. George explained the various levels of participation available; from a relaxing hour or two, to a serious all out, all day, intensive effort.

His point was, a participant could choose one's own amount of devotion for a particular event to suit the desired enjoyment. George suggested club members take a group interest in some of the contests and compete for an award; and if enough contacts were made, submit the scores as a club to the sanctioning body.

George also made the point that contesting is a great way to hone operating skills and put equipment to ultimate tests. Battling through a pile-up for half an hour can be frustrating, but to have the station finally come back with your call really is exciting. To get a contact with a weak signal may take every trick you know and every feature your rig has. When you fail to get that contact, it may motivate you to improve your antenna or master another equipment adjustment

Two of the contests George suggested we do, the ARRL Ten Meter Contest and November Sweepstakes, will be next fall. That gives us plenty of time to organize our efforts. We also have Field Day to use as practice for those with no contesting experience. This would also help our Field Day score with more people to operate. Many clubs enter contests as a group, some even specialize in it.

I agree with George and feel this would be a great activity. This is something we should discuss at future meetings and on our weekly club nets.

73, de Toby, WT8O

***CHECK INTO THE WEEKLY CARS NET
ON WEDNESDAY AT 9:00 P.M.***

DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

This is just a friendly reminder that your membership dues are now due. To remain a full member of CARS, please pay the Treasurer at the next meeting or send the payment of \$20.00 to:

CARS
P.O. Box 31264
Independence, OH 44131-0264
Attention: Membership

Family Members are only a additional \$5.00 a year. Don't let your CARS membership lapse!

MEMBERS PLEASE UPDATE

Have you recently: Changed your e-mail address, a phone number, ham call or your license class? Please let us know!
Send info to: changes@cars.org

DAYTON BUS TRIP ITINERARY

This year's bus trip will be the same as last year (time wise).

Departure Time BRT garage : 0330 First Stop : Bob Evans in Huber Hts. at about 0730 (Exit 36 I-70) Arrival at the arena : about 0730 ('doors' open at 0800) so this gives those without tickets a chance to purchase them before the 'doors open' time.

Departure (from Dayton) : 1600 Dinner Stop: about 1630-1645. There is a McDonalds, Wendy's and a Taco Bell at this stop. (Exit 79 I-70) Arrival BRT garage : about 2000 Both the Bob Evans and the BRT people have been contacted about their times. Bob Evans will be contacted again, closer to 21 May.

de Terry, K8DTC

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF BEFORE BPL COMES TO AN AREA NEAR YOU!

By Joe Phillips, K8QOE,
ARRL Ohio Section Manager
Reprinted from the ARRL website.

Ohio ham radio operators are asking "What can I do about Broadband Over Powerlines (BPL)?" Well, here is a quick suggestion - conduct your own baseline measurements.

Kirk Swallow, W8QID, team leader of the Cincinnati BPL/LIC committee, suggests every Ohio ham facing a BPL installation in their area, first get baseline measurements of the local spectrum noise floor. Get these measurements recorded and documented so you will have an accurate comparison to the day you may suspect BPL interference.

Here is a quick, "cookbook" approach to making such measurements now, before BPL arrives: Use any good radio receiver having 4-20 Mhz HF receiving capabilities (your transceiver will do just fine but any good short-wave radio will do).

Follow these instructions:

- (1) Set up your receiver for AM reception, with the AGC set for "Fast" and Noise Blanker turned off:
- (2) Several times a day or as often as you can, record your s-meter noise readings. Take tape recordings of these readings as well.
- (3) Take readings both outside and inside the amateur band limits (your favorite freqs). Outside the ham radio bands, Kirk suggests known frequencies like near WWV and/or near well known foreign broadcasts.
- (4) For each reading, write down carefully the date, time of day, the frequency, and the s-meter reading. Be sure there are no signals present, only noise.

Of course, said Kirk, the purpose of this exercise is to establish and document a baseline for noise at your particular location. In the event BPL does come to your area and introduces additional noise/interference in a measurable amount, you will be able to provide a before and after comparison. Such comparisons can be the basis of complaints to the power company or to the FCC, if necessary.

The Cincinnati BPL/LIC committee is a special Local Interference Committee that was formed by Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE. It was formed shortly after Cinergy Corporation, the local power utility, announced plans to make Cincinnati the biggest buildout of BPL in the United States. At the present time, the team monitors the Cinergy progress. The amount of buildout in Cincinnati has been too small to make any conclusions, it has been regularly reported.

FEBRUARY INTERVIEW WITH THE V.P.

This month's interview is with Tina Check, W8HBI, who is the CARS secretary. Ed.

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

Tina: I remember when I was very young that my grandma (W8GC's mother) had an amateur radio license plate of K8NUF. And over the years, I had seen many pictures of my dad's ham shack when he was younger and also a huge tower he had put up. Many years later, my husband Steve, N8IS started studying for his amateur radio license. I told him about my dad's past and my grandma. Even though my dad had let his license of W8HBI lapse he was excited about Steve's interest in amateur radio. My dad re-tested to become a ham again. My daughter Kayla, N8KAY, also got her technician license through one of the CARS Classes. As a surprise to them, I studied for my technician license in SECRET and showed up at the CARS VE Session in Independence, OH. Many surprised faces wondered why I was there. It was fun because they had no clue I was studying. Besides, I was the one messing up a four generations of hams !

V.P.: How Long have you been licensed, and

continued on next page...

what class license do you currently have?

Tina: I received my tech license in January of 2003. And continued to work through the other levels and code until getting my Extra in May of 2003. My daughter N8KAY, and I did a lot of studying together. I passed my Extra at the Elyria testing center. My studying for the Extra was on the materials Dave K8DAV had created for the upcoming Extra Class for CARS. My first call sign was KC8VNB and after my dad took the new vanity call of W8GC I took his old call W8HBI in his honor. I really like having his old call sign.

V.P.: What do you like about Amateur Radio?

Tina: Since I'm working full time and Kayla keeps me really busy I don't get to do as much with Amateur Radio as I would like. I do like attending the CARS Meetings and helping the club work towards goals to put more interest in Amateur Radio. But luckily, while working my dad, W8GC, will tell me when something good is on the air and I can get some station worked while at work !!

V.P.: What are your favorite bands to work?

Tina: I have between working stations at home and from my dad's station. Mostly, I'm on 80 through 10 meters, computer aided cw and ssb. And Steve, N8IS is trying to get me more interested in RTTY too.

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

Tina: I do collect QSL Cards. It's actually one of the great parts, to see the faces you are talking to and the pictures on QSL cards of some far away land that you worked. Some places are just beautiful !! My mixed total for DXCC Countries is 221 worked and 189 confirmed.

V.P.: What types of Awards or Recognition have you won or been awarded with?

Tina: I haven't entered any contests to date. But I do have a DXCC Award for the confirmed countries I have so far.

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

Tina: Besides Ham Radio I don't have many hobbies. I love to see movies at the theater and enjoy watching Kayla at whatever seasonal event she is participating in.

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

Tina: I don't have a dream station. Our station at home is maintained by Steve N8IS and it's always changing. My dad's station is great so I think it would be my dream station. And if we could ever get the S9 noise fixed or even reduced, Independence Ohio would be the perfect location too.

V.P.: What type of work do you do? Or if retired, what did you do?

Tina: For the last 11+ years I have worked for my dad, W8GC's companies. Doing anything necessary to keep things running smooth.

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

73, de Toby Koleman, WT8O, CARS V.P.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

KB8UGT - Michael Balach 2-2-55
W8GTK - Gordon Kolus 2-9-54
KD8V - David Dressler 2-11-32
WA8ZJV - Ronald Boehnlein 2-11-46
N8JNO - Gary Solomon 2-15-54
W8HBI Tina - Check 2-24-70
WA8JNM - David Umbaugh 2-28-49

Congratulations to all, and many happy returns.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

LET IT SNOW! (NOT)

Geeze! Do you think we've had enough snow around here? Global warming my butt! With all the freezing and thawing, ice and snow, I am knocking on wood because I haven't suffered any antenna damage so far this year. I hope you are all equally blessed, antenna wise. I hope we have seen the last of the snow for a little while. Think Spring!

COPLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL RADIO SHACK

President Check reported on the progress of the Copley Middle School Radio Club. I just wanted to tell you how things are shaping up. Bob W8GC, Gary N18Z, Bill KC8YSV, Dave KD8V and myself went out there on Friday, January 25th, and more or less took over a room off the school library as the ham shack. The school has put in a computer for us, we ran the coax and rotor cable into the room as well. The radios are installed and hooked up to the antennas and are on the air! While we were in the room, which is pretty small, and was used as a "Parent-Student Resource" room, the librarian came in. We asked her about moving a couple of the tables around, and she kind of gave the impression she was not too thrilled about us using the room, let alone re-arranging it. She said she would come in and redecorate when we were done. Wrong. It seems we have the complete blessing of the school principal. He came and paid us a visit and said in so many words that we could do whatever we wanted with the room. Out went an Apple computer, which the principal said could be better used by the students out in the library. Down came a grease board, which the assistant librarian (who is studying for her amateur license) said she could use out in the library. Up went an amateur radio world map. I wish I could see the librarian's face when she realizes she's out of there! There is more "school" related stuff to remove, but we don't want to take over all at once.

This is going to be a great project for CARS and especially for the kids. They seem to be excited about it, and anxious to get going learning about amateur radio, at least from what the school principal

indicates. There were even a couple of young fellows that got a pass from their class, just so they could go to the office and make sure they didn't get left out. They were assured that there wasn't any deadline and that anyone that was interested could participate in this project.

We will keep you informed as to the progress and success of this project. I'm excited about it and I know that the other CARS members involved are as well.

MANSFIELD HAMFEST

One of the best hamfests held in Ohio is coming up on February 13th. It is the Mansfield Mid-Winter hamfest, at the Richland County Fairgrounds. A lot of CARS members make it down to this one. I am planning on being there as well. It is a bit of a ride from the Cleveland area, but well worth it. Hope to see you there.

THA, THA, THAT'S ALL FOLKS

That about does it for this month. Hope to catch you on the air or at the February meeting. 73 for now, de Tom, WB8N

IMMORTAL WORDS OF WISDOM

We're all amateurs.... It's just that some of us are more professional about it than others.

George Carlin.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Become a "published" author! Write a story or article for the Wobbly Oscillator newsletter and see your name in print! C'mon folks...it's not difficult. Just write about some aspect of amateur radio that gets you excited. Send it in to newsletter@cars.org and as long as it is fit to print, we'll print it!

Ed

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

Dave KD8V ** Steve N8IS ** Tina W8HBI,
Kayla N8KAY, Bill KC8YSV

Contests

George K8KR **

Dayton Bus

Terry KB8DTC ** Bob W8GC

Development

Bob W8GC ** All officers

Diabetes events

Tom WB8N ** All CARS members

Field Day

Tom WB8N ** All CARS members

Fox Hunts

Mike K8EHP ** N8IS, N8TCP

Ham License classes

Bob W8GC ** Gary, NI8Z ** Tom WB8N, Steve
N8IS, 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

Mentor/Elmer

Bill Sarver KC8YSV ** Ron Borkey K8VJG **
Tom WB8N, Bob W8GC

Membership

Tina W8HBI ** Bob W8GC **

Museum Ship W. G. Mather W8WGM

Bob W8GC ** Lin WD8SDP ** All CARS members

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

Board Members

even year executive board 2 year term;

George K8KR
Gary NI8Z
K8VJG

odd year executive board 2 year term;

Gordon W8GTK
Terry KB8DTC
Tom WB8N

K8ZFR trustee

Tom WB8N

NO8A, KD8AQC &

KD8AQD trustee
Bob W8GC

