

The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society



NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75

DECEMBER 2005

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Issue XII

From the Prez

Thanks to all who attended our annual meeting last month and voted in 2 new board members and our core of officers for 2006.

We are sorry to see two excellent and active board members not be re-elected for the 2006/2007 term but we have added two very good members in their place. Steve, N8IS and Bill, KC8YSV will begin their terms in January 2006. This is a very healthy sign when you have several members running for positions instead of begging to have a position filled!

I am also very pleased to welcome Dave ,KD8V as our new Vice President and Toby, WT8O as our new Secretary for 2006.

Speaking of the board, at our November 13, 2005 meeting the board voted to reduce the dues for members 60 and older or 18 and younger to only \$12.00 per year. If you fall into either age group please let the Treasurer know when you pay your 2006 dues.

We do acknowledge Birthdays, ***and will keep the year confidential if you so request*** but please give the Treasurer your date of birth when paying our dues. I know with some of us there is no question about being over 60 BUT we still want to recognize everyone in the WO in the month you were born.

We will be voting a motion to add yearly Scholarships to the By-Laws at our January meeting. This motion was made at the November meeting and had to lay over to our next stated meeting.

We have some new Committees for 2006 and a couple of very exciting projects in the works along

with requests from two more schools for CARS help in setting up a Ham radio club and license classes. COME OUT AND JOIN IN THE FUN! We need all the help we can find.

That's a wrap for another WO, and the last one for 2005. This months thought: ***About the necessity of compromise: Lots of times you have to pretend to join a parade in which you're not particularly interested in order to get where you're going.***

I hope to see most of you at the Independence Civic center on December 17, 2005 for our annual Christmas party. For those who can not attend for one reason or another, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah and to ALL a very Happy and prosperous New Year.

73,
de, Bob W8GC

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Minutes of the CARS Meeting, November 16, 2005

President Bob Check, W8GC called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the Busch Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio. The around the room introductions followed, by the 27 members/guests in attendance.

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2005 meeting was made by Mike, K8EHP and was seconded by Terry, KB8DTC. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Tina, W8HBI gave the treasury report.

Dave, KD8V made a report on the Copley Middle School Ham Radio Club. There are 12 students regularly attending the club meetings, with five licensed now.

A reminder to pay your dues for the ARRL through CARS as related by Bill, KC8YSV. President Check informs us that the dues structure is changed The dues will now be \$12.00 for 60 and older or 18 and younger members as approved by the Board at the November 13, 2005 meeting.

Steve, N8IS informs us that Gary, NI8Z, who had a minor stroke, is in the Parma Hospital Acute Rehab in Parma, Ohio.

Comments on the Wednesday night net were given by Gordon, AI8Y and a discussion followed.

Dave, K8DAV reported on the repeater and the website.

Comments on the WO were made by Tom, WB8N who also reminds the membership to send in articles.

Toby, WT8O commented on the Wednesday night net and reminds us of the ARLS Christmas Lights contest to be held on December 25, 2005 through January 03, 2006.

The next VE test is to be held on January 08, 2006 at the Independence Town Hall on Brecksville Road in Independence, Ohio at 9:00 AM.

The Christmas Party is to be held on December 17, 2005 at the Independence Recreation Center in Independence, Ohio at 6:00PM as reminded to the members by Tina, W8HBI. Tickets are \$15.00 adults, \$7.50 for children 12 to 6 years of age and 5 years old or younger free.

Bob, W8GC presented a proposal on a New By-Law to be Article X titled CARS Scholarships. A motion was made by Bob, W8GC and seconded by

Terry, KB8DTC to vote on this at the January 18, 2006 meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

The procedure on reporting malicious interferences to the FCC was given by Steve, N8IS.

Bob, W8GC appointed members for the vote tallying the ballots for the Officers and Board of the year 2006. They are Jane, K8JGR, Scotty, WA8SLN, and Terry, KB8DTC. Dave, K8DAV made a motion and seconded by Larry, KC8VZZ to accept the Officers for the year 2006 due to no opposing candidates. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

The Board members elected for the even 2 year term beginning in 2006 are Dave, K8DAV, Steve, N8IS, and Bill, KC8YSV. Congratulations to the 2006 Officers and Board members.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Steve, N8IS. His share was \$24.00 with \$24.00 going to the club.

Bob KC8MRC made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Darren, K8DMT. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob W8GC at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Ron K8VJG.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Fellow CARS members, I thank you for electing me V.P. for 2006. I will work to help the president and board to keep this club active and enjoyable as it is. The members of this club are very RF experienced and as nice as any group I have been associated with.

Thanks and 73,
Dave Dressler, KD8V

Editor's note: Dave has been a CARS member for several years, always helps out with public service events and he and his wife Pat attend every meeting and come out for Field Day every year, with Pat sleeping overnight in the car. Congratulations Dave!

FROM THE V.P.

One thing I gained exposure with, thanks to CARS, is the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society, and it's various activities. The Christmas Lights QSO Party is coming up later in December. The contest runs from December 17th through January 1st. The object is to contact as many lighthouse stations and society members as possible. You do not have to be a lighthouse society member to participate. The brave souls, mainly we northerners, who set up stations at lighthouses, are quite grateful for contacts. The folks who set up stations in the warmer climates appreciate the contacts as well, they just usually have a more enjoyable time. This is not a high pressure contest like the November Sweepstakes or Field Day. It is laid-back and a lot of fun. It is also a good opportunity for someone who is interested in contesting to get his or her feet wet at a slower pace. All the specifics, such as times, dates, exchange information, suggested frequencies and general rules can be found on the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society website: www.arlhs.com or by using the direct link on the top of the CARS website.

Another activity that we as a club can pursue is the station aboard the museum ship Mather. Last year certainly had ups and downs. Thanks to president Check and some generous companies, the club amassed some great station equipment. We now have a vintage radio and amp, as well as some top of the line Heil equipment. The ship has been moved to a location that will give us better accessibility and parking, overcoming some major logistical and convenience situations. There was also a change in directorship that has proven to be more amicable to club activity. What we need now is more participation by club members to help with the project. This is not a one or two man job. It requires a team effort to be successful. We need to form a group effort during the winter months so we can be ready to execute a plan come spring. This will be a topic for discussion the next few meetings.

We also need help and participation from members who would become net control operators for the Wednesday evening club nets. We are down to three operators and any assistance would be appreciated. Being a NCS is a lot of fun and it

increases operating skills. As anyone can observe from my nets, you don't have to be perfect; just willing to try. Our nets are training exercises, so the object is to learn and improve. Anyone interested will be given a net script and a bunch of help and moral support. This is a great place for those folks with their technician licenses to gain great experience and training. What would really be cool would be to get several more operators to really spread out the responsibility. Again, this will be something we will discuss at upcoming meetings.

73

De Toby, WT8O

FCC REPORTING PROCESS

Any time you monitor the repeater and hear willful or malicious interference you can make a difference. Send an e-mail documenting the interference and or illegal operation to fccham@fcc.gov. Or send the information in the mail to the address below. Your complaint should be as specific as possible, using dates, times and frequencies on which the violation happen. And a description of what was happening or what you heard. Include your name, address, and phone number in case the FCC wants to contact you for more details. Any one who can is encouraged to send in a STANDARD SIZE cassette of the violations to support your complaint to:
Federal Communications Commission
Enforcement Bureau, Amateur Radio
1270 Fairfield Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325

If you have any questions please contact Steve Riley N8IS - home
216-520-2621 - cell 216-394-9499

Please take the time to report any interference you can. Every e-mail you can send with violations will help the FCC realize the huge problem we have. We need them to focus on our area !!

The FCC needs complaints to justify using their resources to help us.

FAR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, DC plans to administer fifty-four scholarships for the academic year 2006-2007 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundations is composed of over seventy-five Amateur Radio Clubs, which fully fund three of these scholarships. Ten are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-one are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2,500 each.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2006 from:

FAR Scholarships
P.O. Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

KA8JHS George Tucholski 12-1-24
W8GEG Harold McDermott 12-3-41
NI8Z Gary Dewey 12-7-41
N8ILG Scott Staedtler 12-9-60
KC8LZP Charles Dressler 12-12
N8DMK Russell Pratley Jr 12-22-60
WD8ISB Richard Dell 12-30-35

Congratulations to one and all !

Wow ! Not one on Christmas Day, but one on New Year's Eve.

VANITY CALL PROCESS ON HOLD

Thanks to Hurricane Wilma, the FCC likely will not be processing any vanity call sign applications until late December. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for licensees in certain states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita could affect the vanity program. The FCC announced an additional extension--until December 22--for licensees adversely affected by Hurricane Wilma. Because all three extensions apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period," they could have an impact on vanity call sign processing. A WTB spokesperson said that the Wilma deadline extension probably would have the same effect on vanity processing as the previous two.

"It looks like it's going to be the same thing carried forward," Tracy Simmons told ARRL. He said amateur licensees can continue to file vanity call sign applications, but these will not be acted upon until the WTB resumes vanity processing. Then, all pending vanity call sign applications will be processed in the order they were received. Simmons indicated that the WTB would revise its Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web page "alert" telling applicants that vanity processing has been suspended "until further notice" to reflect the latest deadline extension.

In a public notice issued October 25, the WTB made clear that the Hurricane Wilma deadline extension only applies to "affected licensees and applicants in Florida and the Gulf of Mexico." Certification" with any filings taking advantage of the extended deadlines.

The FCC halted vanity processing to avoid such potential problems as re-issuing the call sign of an affected individual in one of the designated states whose license has expired but remains within the two-year grace period for renewal.

Under Part 97, Amateur Radio licensees have two years from the date of license expiration to renew their tickets without having to retest or risk losing their call signs to a vanity applicant.

continued on next page....

WTB has temporarily disabled the "auto-termination" feature of the ULS so that it will not automatically cancel any licenses not renewed by the end of the grace period.

On September 1, the FCC extended until October 31 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between August 29 and October 30 for licensees in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 24, it extended until November 21 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between September 20 and November 20 for licensees in Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Rita.

The FCC has not announced when vanity processing will resume, but at this point it appears unlikely that the date will be any sooner than December 23. It typically takes approximately three weeks for the FCC to process a vanity call sign application. In August, the FCC raised the vanity application fee to \$21.90.

Editor's note: Thanks a lot to the FCC for raising the application fee!

AREA HAMFESTS

Winterfest/NOARS in Lorain, Feb. 5, 2006

Mid-Winter Hamfest in Mansfield, Feb. 12, 2006

Toledo Mobile ARA Hamfest, in Maumee, Mar. 19, 2006.

Lake County ARA Hamfest, in Madison, Mar. 26, 2006.

CFARC Hamfest/Computer Show, in Cuyahoga Falls, April 2, 2006.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK IN ON THE CARS NET AT 9:00 P.M. EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING EXCEPT FOR MEETING NIGHTS.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

THE SNOW IS SNOWING

As I sit here at the keyboard there is a bunch of the white stuff on the ground. Wonder if its gonna be here for Christmas? I'm not a big fan of snow but its nice to have for the holidays.

INTER-CLUB CONTESTING

The results are final. Gary Dewey, NI8Z won the top award with the most contacts for the Ohio QSO Party contest, and Toby Kolman, WT8O won the top award with the most contacts for the ARRL November Sweepstakes, Phone.

Congratulations to both for a job well done. Both contests were a lot of fun, as George, K8KR who is our contest chairman, told us and perhaps we can get some more participation by club members for the next contest.

GARY DEWEY, NI8Z

As you may or may not know, our fellow club member Gary suffered a stroke while in Toledo to observe a billiards tournament. He was hospitalized in Toledo and then Steve, N8IS, Bob, W8GC, and Bill, KC8YSV went to Toledo to get Gary's car and bring him to Parma Hospital where he spend a few weeks doing physical therapy. Gary spent Thanksgiving in the hospital but had some visitors that day and dinner brought to him by Steve, Tina and Kayla.

Gary is home now and is accepting visitors, however it would be best if you called first to make sure he is home, as he goes out for physical therapy. Gary will be at the CARS Christmas party.

ANOTHER "INVALID"

Our President, Bob Check, W8GC is recuperating from having carpal tunnel surgery a week ago. He is doing well and is being watched by Betty, to make sure he does not use his left hand.

THE AREA BOZO/S

I know it is hard not to respond to our area bozo or bozos and I am guilty of talking back to him myself. *continued on next page*

However, we have been advised by the FCC and also by an Official Observer that we should not respond to them. The reason that we have been responding to them is to keep them on the air so we can direction find on their signal. That is also the reason that we have not shut off the repeater when they make their offensive utterances. Although I have shut it off occasionally on the dufas. So please cooperate and do the best you can to ignore it when it gets on the air with it's noises and profanity. It will be caught. It is just a matter of time.

CHRISTMAS TIMES A-COMIN

And so is the annual CARS Christmas Party! It promises to be a great time, with great food, live entertainment and karaoke to boot by fellow member Jack Andrisen, W8JAK. There's still time to get your tickets. Check out the club web site for more info. The theme this year is "Reindeer" so wear your antlers. I've got mine!

I'M OUTTA HERE

That's it for another W.O. and another year! Catch you on the repeater, at the party or at the January meeting. Merry Christmas to all and here's hoping we ALL have a GREAT NEW YEAR!

73, de Tom, WB8N

U-100 Rotators for Satellites

Dave Kushman K8DAV

If you attended last years Field Day, you might have seen me fiddling with Steve's N8IS's satellite trailer. We had a problem getting the antennas to track the satellite. I Believe that problem has been solved

There are probably hundreds of the U-100 rotators in basements just gathering dust. The present rotators for satellite use are mostly built to take quite large systems and the better ones are probably in the \$600 and up range. The lowly U-100 or U-110 on the other hand, is your basic TV antenna rotator. Can it take 2 and 70 cm antennas? Of course. Will it move a small dish for 2 GHz? Yep!

The main drawback of the U-100 system is the original controller. With its click stops, accuracy is not very good to say the least. On the order of 20 degrees per click. Back in the '70's I used two of these units for my az/el system. I enjoyed working the early Oscars and actually did pretty well even though my arms were probably flying around quite a bit trying to keep the antennas on the bird, follow my hand written calculations and have a QSO at the same time.

This system is based on the U-100 units using a program I have developed and the DDE feature of 'Nova for Windows'. "Nova for Windows" is one excellent program. I don't know what else to say about it. My program uses its DDE feature in order to function in the tracking mode. Not all DDE's are alike. If you are using some other program that has a DDE in it, the program will not work.

This program does not take any outside movement of the antenna or rotator into account. This means that if the rotator gears have play or binds, the timing and accuracy will suffer. Considering the relative broad pattern of a 3 or 5 element yagi, this should not be much of a problem. Manual mode aiming is also provided.

I've worked stations in New York, Michigan and Texas via the birds. To my dismay, only one Michigan station returned a QSL card. My thinking is there are not that many hams on that mode and QSL's would be nice. Most of my time spent in the evenings with the trailer was listening and watching tracking accuracy.

While I'd like to put everything about the system in the WO, but with the schematic and all, that would be difficult. You can read more about the system on my web site www.kd8v.com. Just follow the U-100 page link on the left side. The program, schematic and readme files are in the self-extracting file for you to download.

Check out the Readme.txt file for a full description.

CARS 2006 Officers & Committees

Audit

Dave KD8V ** Bill KC8YSV, Jane K8JGR

ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

Bill Sarver KC8YSV **

Awards

Tom WB8N ** Ron K8VJG, Bill WA8GEO
George K8KR

Christmas Party 2006

Steve N8IS ** Tina W8HBI, Gary NI8Z
Tom WB8N, Henry KD8BAO, Jack W8JAK

Community Education & School Programs

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

Contests

George K8KR **

Development

Bob W8GC ** All officers

Diabetes events

Tom WB8N ** All CARS members

Field Day

Tom WB8N ** All CARS members

Fox Hunts

Mike K8EHP ** N8IS

Interference & Jamming

WB8N ** NI8Z, N8IS, W8GC

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 AI8Y **

WO/Newsletter

Tom WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Program directors

Bill KC8YSV ** Jack W8JAK **

QSL manager - NO8A, W8WGM & WA8CMS

Tom WB8N **

Refreshments

Henry KD8BAO **

50/50

Mike KB8UGT **

Scouts

Steve N8IS ** Tina W8HBI, Kayla N8KAY

Scholarship

Scotty WA8SLN ** Jane K8JGR, Henry KD8BAO
Ron K8VJG, Toby WT8O

Sunshine (welfare)

Dave KD8V ** 330-666-8721

Technical

Dave K8DAV** Bob W8GC ** Vince N8OVW,
Tom WB8N, Jim WD8CHL

VE exams

Gary NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail

Dave K8DAV ** Bob W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2006 Officers

PRESIDENT

Bob W8GC 216-524-1750
president@2cars.org

VICE-PRESIDENT ****

Dave KD8V 330-666-8721
vice-president@2cars.org

SECRETARY ****

Toby WT8O 440-572-1544
secretary@2cars.org

TREASURER:

Tina W8HBI 216-520-2621
treasurer@2cars.org



Board Members & License Trustees

even year executive board 2 year term

Steve N8IS
Bill KC8YSV
Dave K8DAV

odd year executive board 2 year term

Gordon AI8Y
Terry KB8DTC
Tom WB8N

K8ZFR trustee

Tom WB8N

NO8A, WA8CMS &

KD8AQD trustee
Bob W8GC

