

The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society



NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75

MAY 2007

Volume XXXV

Issue V

FROM THE PREZ

We had another great turnout for our March 13 meeting. Thanks to all who attended and keep up the good work!

I am pleased to welcome 10 new members to the CARS family: Robert Wirth KD8FPU, Ken Osicki KD8FPR, Kim Balach KD8FTU, Diane Balach KD8FTV, Ray Ponzio WD8IRA, Eddie Stevens KD8FTS, Colleen Stevens KD8FTT, David Heuska KD8AKA, Jack Shott K8IIU, & Mike Toth KB8RKF. Congratulations to all!

Plans are progressing well for the 2007 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. Please check www.2007GLDC.com for updates. ***Plan to attend the ARRL Convention on September 22, 2007, PLEASE order your tickets early as we expect to sell out by June or July. Tickets can now be ordered with a credit card or print a form to mail with your check at www.2007glc.com.***

I want to thank Bill, N8HUQ who give a talk on what makes your cell phones work, a behind the scenes view. Bills program ran a little long because of many questions and the great information but it was a very good program enjoyed by all.

It was nice to see one of our newer members Phil, KD8FPQ pick up \$35 as his share of the 50/50 drawing. Next month we will have some extra prizes added to the 50/50 drawing.

2007 Field Day is fast approaching and co-chairman Toby, WT8O and Bill, WA8GEO are working hard to organize additional operators and support people. We will be in the 7A category and all stations are confirmed. Please contact Toby if you can help in ANY way at all cook, set up, tear down, greet visitors etc. Toby can be reached evenings at 440-572-1544 or by e-mail at

wt8o2@2cars.org.

Dwaine, K8ME, our chairman for the WG Mather Museum ship, said things are progressing well and he hopes to get a new antenna up soon. We can then get the equipment back on the ship and set an operating schedule. We may need to repaint the radio room before moving in? Anyone interested in helping or operating please contact Dwaine, K8ME at 440-582-3462 or k8me@2cars.org and he will add your name to the list.

That's it for another WO. This month's thought: *All truly wise thoughts have been thought already thousands of times; but to make them truly ours, we must think them over again honestly, till they take root in our personal experience.*

73 till next month
de, Bob W8GC

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APRIL MEETING MINUTES

The C.A.R.S. April monthly meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by club president Bob Check, W8GC on the 10th of the month. The meeting was held at the Busch Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio. Thirty-one members and four guests introduced themselves to begin the meeting.

Gary, NI8Z motioned to accept the February meeting minutes as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*, and Terry, KB8DTC seconded. There were no additions, corrections, or questions noted, and the members passed the motion.

Tina, W8HBI gave the treasurer's report of the treasury balance.

Bill, WA8GEO the new C.A.R.S. vice president, said he was working on getting one of the local police departments to do a program on terrorist awareness.

Gary, NI8Z, reminded the group there would be a VE session coming up on May 13th.

As always, Bill, KC8YSV reminded the C.A.R.S. members to pay their ARRL dues through the club. He reported that the Copley Middle school radio club was doing well. There are fifteen students participating on a regular basis. Bill said Dave, KD8V sent out a get well card to Mary, KC8YLC who recently had hand surgery, and a sympathy card to Carol, KB8VJQ wife of Lin, WA8SDP who recently became a silent key. Bob, W8GC added that the board approved a donation to the S.S. Wm. G.Mather museum in Lin's name as Lin was very active as a volunteer on the Mather. Bill also informed the group that Pat, KD8DYI has been experiencing serious heart problems. He introduced Bill, N8HUQ who later would do a program on cell phone technology.

Toby, WT8O reported that the net was doing better than ever, with a good sized group usually checking in. He also said the response on last month's sign-up sheet for Field Day was encouraging, although the club could still use more help, and asked for any other members interested in participating to please contact him. The *Wobbly Oscillator* editor, Tom, WB8N said the latest edition had just been published and sent out. He appreciated the increased amount of

contributions from members, which made the last edition substantial.

Ten new members were voted on in the customary ritual. The club members accepted and welcomed all the new applicants: Ken Osicki, KD8FPR; Kim Balach, KD8FTU; Robert Wirth, KD8FPU; Diane Balach, KD8FTV; Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS; Colleen Stevens, KD8FTT; Ray Ponzio, WD8IRA; Jack Shott, K8IIU; Mike Toth, KB8RKF; and Dave Heuska, KD8AKA.

Bob asked for volunteers for the amateur radio demonstration that will be given at the Boy Scouts of America "Scouting 360" event which will be held Saturday, May 5th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. He noted that this will be a very large gathering of approximately 3,000 Boy Scouts. So far, Gary, NI8Z; Ron, K8VJG; Bill, KC8YSV; Bill, WA8GEO; Tom, WB8N; Terry, KB8DTC; Scotty, WA8SLN; Dave, K8DV; Bob, W8GC; Mike, K8EHP; and Dave, K8DAV, have signed up. Bob asked for any additional members who would be interested in helping out to please contact him. A planning meeting would be held in the next week or so.

Dwaine, K8ME reported that the Mather project took a turn for the better with the help of new member, Mike, KB8RKF who is a member of the volunteer staff on the museum ship, offering his help in establishing the station.

Bob brought up the subject of refreshments at meetings. He first thanked all the members who pitched in to help; Mike, KB8UGT; Terry, KB8DTC; Ron, K8VJG; and Ed KD8CLC. He continued saying the donations were not close to covering the cost. He suggested that members who could afford it, to please consider kicking in so we could maintain the high style we have grown accustomed to.

Scotty, WA8SLN the scholarship committee chairman, reminded all those present to encourage anyone eligible to submit applications for the annual C.A.R.S. scholarship program. He reminded everyone that the deadline for application is May 31st.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Phil, KD8FPQ who received \$36, with \$37 going into the club *continued on next page....*

treasury.

Bob, KC8MRC motioned to close the meeting and Scotty, WA8SLN seconded. The members passed the motion, and the April meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Following the meeting, Bill, N8HUQ, gave a fantastic presentation on cell phone technology. His talk and slides explained the entire gamut of the industry.

Respectfully submitted by Toby Kolman, WT8O C.A.R.S. secretary.

GRAND-FATHERING

By Mark Woodworth WD8KHU

Hey you old crusty Techs out there that got your Technician License back in the 70s or the first two thirds of the eighties. Have you upgraded or have you procrastinated about it like I did? Well, GOOD NEWS. If you got your Tech level license prior to March 21, 1987 you can upgrade to General without further testing.

Back in those days the rules and theory elements you had to pass to get a General Class license was the same test as the Technician Class license. It was elements 1a (5wpm), 2 (novice rules and theory) and 3 (Tech/General rules and theory). To qualify for the General level you also had to pass the 13wpm Morse code exam, element 1b.

Over the years since March 21, 1987 the element definitions changed. There was an element 3a, which you needed to pass to become a Tech, element 3b that was needed to pass to become a General, and then there was 4a for Advanced and 4b for Extra.

The Morse Code elements were 1a (5wpm), 1b (13wpm) and 1c (20wpm). The Novice rules and theory element was element two (2).

Later on, the Novice license and the Advanced fell by the wayside. The grade levels became (no code) Tech if you passed what then became element two (2), Tech plus if you had passed the earlier Novice code of 5wpm (element 1a), General (elements 1, 2, 3) and Extra (elements 1,

2, 3, 4).

On April 15, 2000 there were further changes. Elements 1b (13wpm) and 1c (20 wpm) were eliminated. Had you old crusty Techs been paying attention then you could have up-graded to General without further testing because you had already passed the elements 1a, 2, 3) to get your Technician level license. You needed only to submit form 605 and documentation of prior credit for element 3, your old license issued prior to March 21, 1987 or a page from and copy of Call Book dated prior to March 21, 1987. This remains true today. So rummage through your closet or file cabinet and find your old Tech license from prior to March, 21, 1987, or if you can not find it track down a copy of Call Book dated prior to that same date and prepare a form 605 and go to a VE session with the expected fee. That is all that you need to go from Tech to General.

Reference: FCC Part 97 97.505 Element Credit Paragraph (8) An expired FCC issued Technician class operator license document granted before March 21, 1987: Element 3.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

W8JAK Jack Andrisin 5-1-42
KC8ZBN Marian Rubin 5-1
KB8QHC Robert Glover 5-6-48
KC8WBH John Chesna 5-6
KD8ACK Gary Milstein 5-9
WD8CHL Jim Barbour 5-9-58
WD8CWD J.W. Cox Jr. 5-11-41
KC8RYH Kayla Check 5-12-90
KA8MZS Michael Mraz 5-12-40
WB8UES Sam Jenkins 5-13-32
K8VJG Ron Borkey Sr 5-20-32

Congratulations to one and all!!

== NEW Q-SIGNALS ==

The International Q-Signal Management Board has adopted a new Q-Signal, especially for amateur use. As reported in the April issue of "The RADIOGRAM" of the Portage County (Ohio) Amateur Radio Society, the new signals are:

QBO = Don't sit next to that guy during meetings.
QBO? = Can you spare some soap?

FCC NEWS

The FCC has proposed reducing the regulatory fee to obtain or retain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting later this year. In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) released April 18, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission is proposing to cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. If ultimately adopted, that would mark the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC proposed to collect nearly \$290.3 million in FY 2007 regulatory fees.

"These fees are mandated by Congress and are collected to recover the regulatory costs associated with the Commission's enforcement, policy and rule making, user information, and international activities," the FCC said. "Consistent with our established practice, we intend to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2007 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year." Comments on MD Docket 07-81 are due May 3. Reply comments are due May 11.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current vanity call sign program, from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign but upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign

program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

**GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION
REMINDER**

Hi all, its time to order your tickets for the 2007 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. If you go to www.2007gldc.com you can print a and mail it with your check or use a credit card to order your tickets. Remember, for groups of 8 you can reserve a table at the banquet so talk to some of your friends and get your orders on the way. All 8 tickets do not need to be ordered at the same time, just give us the call signs or names for the 8 people.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK
IN ON THE WEEKLY C.A.R.S.
NET EVERY WEDNESDAY
NIGHT AT 9:00 P.M.**

WEAVER'S WORDS

Excerpt from Weavers Words - April 11, 2007

I'm going to gripe. What about? Single-purpose members, this is what. You know, the kind of folks who refuse to take ice cream unless they can have chocolate and chocolate, only, even if the refrigerator is crammed full with nothing but vanilla, strawberry, butter pecan, black cherry, butterscotch and peppermint.

Each member of the Board of Directors, including me, receives complaints and requests for change. This is a good thing. Frankly, I want to hear when there are things that need to be improved and changed in ARRL as well as in government regulatory arenas.

So, what is it that disturbs me? I'm disturbed by members who complain about a single aspect of all of the services provided by ARRL and threaten to drop their membership if this one, single thing is not changed. This attitude strikes me as being like a little boy who demands the rules of the pick-up baseball game be changed to meet his wishes. "Give me 5 strikes or I won't play and I'll take my ball and go home so you can't play, either," he demands.

I'm sure I've already made a few folks unhappy, but please understand I am not referring to members who complain or ask about situations and keep everything in perspective. But, stop and think about it a little. With 150,000 ARRL members, what are the chances that every one of these will agree with everything ARRL does? If you have any concept of human nature, you know the chances are high that well less than a 2/3 majority will agree with everything. This means that few people, including me, are totally satisfied with everything we do.

Think about it even a little more. Suppose you are a DXer as I am. Even though we DXers often seem to act like we are the only people in ham radio, we represent a minority of amateurs. Why should we expect the ARRL Board to cow tow to our needs to the exclusion of everyone else? We shouldn't.

Or, suppose you are a CW op, as I am. We are in the minority here, also. It would be unrealistic for us to think Amateur Radio should be run as though we are the sole reason it still exists. We aren't.

What about SSBers and FMers? I don't have the

figures, but let's suppose one of these groups represents the majority of hams. Should even slightly over 51% of amateurs expect to run the show for all others? I don't think so.

Data operators? NTSers? ATVers? Name still more special interest groups, and they are most likely in the minority. Come to think of it (some of you better sit down and hold on for this one), not one of us are the sole reason Amateur Radio exists!

Taking a different view, suppose you are a contester or whatever you wish to name, and ARRL has a rule for contesting that you don't like. Some folks have said, "This rule is stupid. Unless you change it right away, you don't represent my interests. Change it or I won't renew my membership when it comes due!"

The fact is that ARRL first and foremost primarily exists to promote the good of all of Amateur Radio -- not just some small niche of interest. As much fun as each of the many aspects of Amateur Radio is, no single one is the sole reason ARRL exists.

My hope is that even when a member becomes aggravated, he or she put things into perspective. Become aggravated; certainly. I do, but please remember that ARRL is attempting to help thousands of people fulfill their Amateur Radio dreams in scores of different specialty interest groups. It is important that we all, individually and collectively, respect the legitimate differences we pursue in hamming as well as the fact that not every aspect of our many favorite operating niches must coexist within a relatively confined electronic space.

Be an individual . . . fight for your individuality . . . but do this in a dignified, courteous manner knowing we cannot all have everything we want.

Tnx. 73, Jim, K8JE

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division
5065 Bethany Rd. Mason, OH 45040
E-mail: k8je@arrl.org

FROM ACROSS THE POND

GB400AA, the AA standing for Anniversary of America, will be operating from the UK to note the settlement of Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in North America, founded in 1607. This on-air operation is May 11- 13 with activity on 80, 40, 20 and possibly other HF bands, CW and SSB. GB400AA might be on for the CQ WPX CW contest and at other times in May. QSL via G0SBW.

Ham Radio in Turkmenistan

Following up on the state of ham radio in Turkmenistan, where all ham radio activity was suspended in mid-2006, EZ8CW, Vit, and other Turkmen hams **ask hams around the world to e-mail** to mincom@online.tm to stress the importance of amateur radio for emergency communications, etc. Several readers reported the e-mail given previously did not work. Or you can fax, (99 312) 39-04-20.

AND NEWS A BIT MORE LOCAL.....

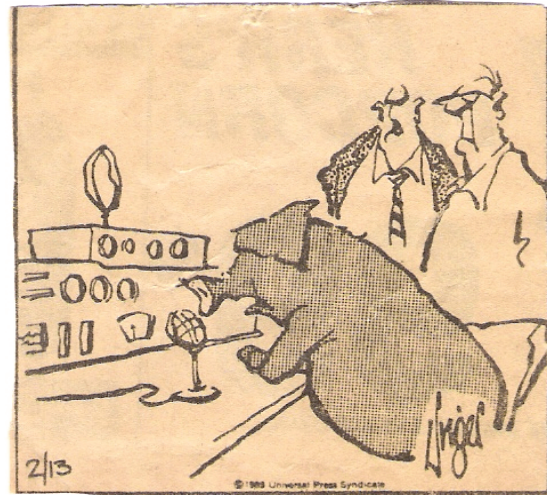
FCC ENFORCEMENT: OHIO FIRM FINED \$150,000 FOR ALLEGEDLY MARKETING ILLEGAL 11 METER GEAR

Possibly one of the largest fines ever for selling non certified C-B sets under the guise of it being ham radio gear has been issued to Ramko Distributors Inc. of Toledo, Ohio. It's a massive \$150,000 Notice of Apparent Liability for alleged marketing of 17 models of non-certified radio transceivers that the FCC say are all capable of easily being converted to the 11 meter band.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne WB8N

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Now there's a REAL Ham!

It's time for the American Diabetes

Association Annual Tour de Cure again folks. It will be held on Sunday, June 10. If you are do not know what the Tour de Cure is, it is a series of bicycle rides of various lengths, held to raise money for the Diabetes Assn. Each rider or group of riders solicits pledges to sponsor them in this effort. In the past, the Cleveland Chapter of the Diabetes Assn. has held their own Tour de Cure and C.A.R.S. helped them by providing communications along the route, as well as acting as SAG (Safety and Gear) Wagons for the ride. This year the Cleveland chapter has joined with the Akron chapter and they are holding one large Tour de Cure. It is going to be originating out of Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls and will go through the U.S. National Park System in the local area. The Summit County ARES group is going to be running the communications for the event and they have asked us to help out. So, I'm asking our volunteers from Tour de Cures past to come out again, along with any other C.A.R.S. members who want to use their amateur *continued on next page...*

privileges for a good cause. I have been assured that we will not have to act as SAG Wagons this time. There will be the need for amateurs to position themselves along the route at various points, as well as rest stops, and that is what we C.A.R.S. members will be doing. If necessary, we will set up a secondary base at Blossom. The main base is going to be located off site and will be manned by ARES operators. If there is a need for hams to ride with a SAG Wagon, safety vehicle, or EMS vehicle, we can do that too. I was asked to come up with as many C.A.R.S. members to help out as I can. In the past we have had 10 to 12 operators for this event in Cleveland. I want to be able to provide at LEAST that many for this event, hopefully 15 or more! Can you help me out folks? All you need is transportation to the event, your handheld radio or better yet, handheld and mobile rigs, and an extra battery for your handheld if you have one. Prepare to spend the majority of the day...from about 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.. There will be food and beverages provided at the start/finish location, as well as a free t-shirt, and a "goodies bag", and the knowledge that you helped out with a worthwhile cause.

Diabetes is a nasty disease, and I would venture to say that every single one of us knows someone who has this disease; either a friend, neighbor, family member, or perhaps even yourself. My wife has diabetes, and at least one of our members and his wife have diabetes.

So help me out here folks. Let's show the Akron group that we C.A.R.S. members are supportive and mark your calendars for the 10th of May. You can call me at 216-253-0540, e-mail me at wb8n@sbcglobal.net, or tell me at the May meeting that you will be there.

SPRING IS HERE.....FINALLY

Well it took long enough, but I will venture to say that spring is really here. I have cut the grass twice now... well, I cut the front lawn once and my step-son has cut the front and back lawns once. As I sit here typing on the keyboard, the rain has stopped and the sun is actually out. Think I'll grill tonight George. It is also time to get out and up and work on any antenna problems you may

have acquired over the winter. I have an indoor antenna problem at the moment. My rotator controller blew a transformer and I am going to have to order a new one. I can't work too many dx stations with the antenna pointing due south! At least I don't have to go up the tower to correct the problem.

HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO

Let us not forget to help Mexico celebrate their holiday. Have a cerveza or two, or maybe a Margarita, to wash down the salsa and tortilla chips.

73 for now,
de Tom, WB8N

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264 Independence, OH, 44131-0264. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication, provided that credit is given to this newsletter and if know, the author. All submissions should be emailed in .doc, .wpd, or .txt format to: newsletter@2cars.org before the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

Also, by reading the text in this box, you are committing yourself to at least one of the following: attend as many meetings as you can, check in on the Wednesday night net, bring a friend to a meeting, introduce a non-ham to Amateur Radio, or all of the above.

Remember that in June, July and August the monthly meetings are held at the Oak Grove picnic area in the Brecksville Branch of the Metro Park system. Come early and bring something to cook out. We supply the fire. You supply the rest! Bring out a rig and set it up out in the field. Bring your kids and let them run their excess energy off. Bring your dog. (You gotta clean up after it though.)

2007 ARRL

Great Lakes Division Convention in conjunction with the 2007 Cleveland Hamfest

Date: Saturday, September 22, 2007 opening ceremonies at 11:30am

Location: Sheraton Independence Hotel, 5300 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

*We are very proud to announce our featured Banquet Speaker
will be Joel Harrison W5ZN, President ARRL*

Jim K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director will host the
Great Lakes Division Awards Ceremony

Top vote getting Seminars you ask for:

- Bob Heil K9EID and Chip Margelli K7JA, Heil Sound Workshop
- Speaker to be announced on Emergency Communications
- Bob Frey WA6EZV & Dick Arnett WB4SUV all about ARDF
- Tim Duffy K3LR "The K3LR Multi Multi Station"
- Jim Sanford WB4GCS Eagle Project Manager from AMSAT
- All about DX from beginners to Honor Roll Hams, seminars hosted by Tedd KB8NW, John K8YSE, Bernie W3UR, Bob K4UEE on VU7RD DXpedition plus a question & answer panel
- Wouff Hong ceremony after the banquet
- Hospitality room courtesy of CARS, LEARA & NODXA
- Card checking - DXCC , WAS, VUCC Low Bands & VHF Fri. 7 to 11pm & Sat. 1 to 3pm
- Please visit our sponsor tables Saturday 9:00am to 6:00pm



Joel Harrison W5ZN



Seminars only	\$25.00 advance - \$30.00 at the door
Banquet only	\$37.00 advance sales only
Full ticket	\$50.00 save \$12.00 advance sales only
Full ticket with a room	\$45.00 save \$17.00 advance sales only

Order your tickets on line now using a credit card or send a check!
Option: Reserved tables for 8 people may be requested with your payment

All Hams and those interested in becoming Hams are welcome.

Please attend the Convention to see what the ARRL has to offer.

Join the ARRL if you like what you see and hear!

Questions, ticket orders and latest news call 216-524-7711 - 216-524-1750 or goto:

www.2007gldc.org