

# The Wobbly Oscillator

## Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society



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

MARCH 2008

VOLUME XXXV

ISSUE III

### PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

This month and last month our weather has not been too conducive to much outdoor Ham activities. However, with the prospect that we have reached the bottom of the present sunspot cycle and close approaching the start of a new one, all of us will be looking for better days with our DX contacts.

The past month saw the end of our license training and up-grade program with excellent results and almost a 100 % passing rate. Whilst the new technicians are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their tickets, now would be a great time to think about setting up their first ham shacks. I would like to recommend that they get hold of a copy of the ARRL Operators manual which is available to buy or can be borrowed from the shelves of the local library. This puts a lot that you have studied for your license into the practical realm. Good luck with your new found hobby and don't be shy about asking any of the club members for help or advice - remember we all started in about the same spot. Remember that this is just the start and the challenge to think about general is right in front of you !!!

So lets make 2008 the year of participation. Maybe become an Elmer to one of the recently licensed new HAMS.  
Good Luck and 73 to all.  
De Scotty, WA8SLN

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### MARCH MEETING

**The March meeting of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society will be held at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room at 7501 Ridge Rd. in Parma, Ohio on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 P.M.**

### DUES ARE DUE !

**Time to get your dues paid as soon as possible! Keep C.A.R.S. going and growing.**

## **FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES**

The C.A.R.S. February monthly meeting was cancelled by President Scotty, WA8SLN due to inclement weather. There was no meeting held at a later date. Hope to see you all at the March meeting.

Stephen Jones, KC8DJV  
C.A.R.S. Secretary

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## **VOLUNTEER EXAMINER REPORT**

By Gary Dewey, NI8Z

### **It's time to say:**

**CONGRATULATIONS to those who took their time to attend the C.A.R.S. amateur license** The Amateur licensing class participants gathered Tuesday Feb 19, 2008 at the Independence Civic Center to take their test. Thirteen class members showed up and two others showed up to say that they couldn't wait so they took their test the previous Saturday. They passed the Extra test at a VE location in Elyria. C.A.R.S. members W8EBB and K8SAS now are extra class amateurs and just came in to say thanks to the class instructors. The success rate of those passing the test for an amateur license reached 93%. There were 5 new Technician, 3 upgrades to General, 4 upgrades to Extra. There were two or three that felt they were not ready to take the test and they stayed home. As usual, the VE team processed the examinations in outstanding fashion. Scotty, WA8SLN; Bob, W8GC; Steve, N8IS; Dave, K8DAV; and Ron, K8VJG plus Toby WT8O assisted NI8Z in accomplishing the expeditious processing. The test started at 7pm and all tests were graded and paperwork finished by 8:30. Two who passed the General test attempted to take the Extra class test. The question pool for Extra changes in July 2008. Dave K8DAV is working on preparing a updated version of the Extra class CD for the next Extra class (which as yet is to be determined ).

Congratulations to those who participating in the classes.

**NI8Z/Gary  
C.A.R.S. VE Coordinator**

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## **NEWS FLASHES**

By Dave Cushman, K8DAV

The Online Circuit Challenge is back! When we first published the Circuit Challenge the response was excellent. Now it's back and here's how it works: Every two weeks or so we'll have a new circuit. First they will be on the easy side while still being challenging. The first circuit which is up on the web site (<http://www.2cars.org>) is a series - parallel resistor circuit. Go to the home page and follow the link. I'm looking forward to seeing some responses, favorable or unfavorable. If you have something to contribute, please feel free to email me at [k8dav@2cars.org](mailto:k8dav@2cars.org).

Thanks,  
Dave

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LET IT BE KNOWN that on February 21, 2008 W8MET, Metro Sinko applied for and was granted, a building permit from the Board of Zoning Appeals for a radio tower at a height of 65' feet for his QTH.....also, I just received my award from ARRL for 5BWAC (worked all continents ) 73, Metro, W8MET

*(Way to go Metro, good luck with the tower and congratulations on the award. Ed.)*

**REMEMBER THE C.A.R.S. NET  
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 9:00 P.M.  
CHECK IN AND HAVE SOME FUN WITH  
YOUR FELLOW C.A.R.S. MEMBER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
By Tina Check W8HBI

**NEW HAM ???**

I'd like to let everyone know that Henry Oswick, KD8BAO and his wife Chrissy recently had a baby !!

They had a girl, named Hannah Elizabeth Oswick. She was 7 pounds.

Below is a photo of the proud and happy father and new baby.

We all wish the best to Henry, his wife & new baby.



**HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW ARISS ANTENNAS NOW ON THE ISS**  
Submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI

Several new ARISS antennas are now a part of the International Space Station (ISS). They were pre-mounted on the new 14-ton module Columbus research module that was launched to orbit almost two weeks ago and was attached to the orbiting outpost on Monday, February 11th.

Columbus, which cost about \$2 billion, will expand the range of zero-gravity experiments aboard the station.

Meantime, the new antennas will help broaden

the role of ham radio plays as both an educational and recreational tool for the crew and hams on the ground. They will also provide additional back-up emergency communications channels for the crew stationed onboard the ISS. (ARISS)

**ARRL CREATES FRED FISH N5FF AWARD**

Submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI

The ARRL has created a new award to honor the weak signal 6 meter work done by the late Fred Fish, W5FF.

This, by creating a new award named in his honor.

According to an ARRL release, The ARRL Board of Directors approved the new award honoring the late W5FF who is the only amateur to work and confirm all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 meters. The Fred Fish Memorial Award will be awarded to any amateur who duplicates Fish's accomplishment.

By way of background, Fish from Edgewood, New Mexico, was a mainstay on the VHF and higher bands for many years. He achieved Worked All States on 6 meters through 432 MHZ, as well as DXCC for 6 meters. He is widely regarded as a gentleman operator and one of the finest amateurs in the VHF community.

The #1 Fred Fish award be issued posthumously to its namesake and presented to his wife Lee Fish, K5FF. Complete details on the Fred Fish Memorial Award will be available soon. (ARRL)

**PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO  
FELLOWSHIP INC.**

**Dayton Hamvention 2008**

**Saturday May 17, 2008 5:30 AM**

Are the gas pumps keeping you from the Hamvention? Is the thought of driving down to Dayton and then parking your car in some shopping center to be then bused to the hamvention keeping from going? Why not take our bus to the Dayton Hamvention where you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.

You can save \$10 if you book before April 22<sup>nd</sup>

The cost of the Bus & Entrance ticket to the Hamvention:

\$60 before April 22, 2008

The cost of the Bus Only to the Hamvention:

\$45 after April 22, 2008

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25)

We will take riders right up to departure that morning if there are seats available.

Departure time is 5:30 AM Sharp so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!

Parking will be on the south side of the church park in the first row close to Manchester Road. There will be a stop for breakfast at McDonald's and a dinner stop at the Hometown Buffet all of which will be on your own. Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company. This bus is a smoke free bus so there will be no smoking permitted.

To Order: Joy Spencer KA8TDF

2101 Bigelow St

Akron, OH 44314

Or call 330-745-5115

E-mail: [w8ctt@arrl.net](mailto:w8ctt@arrl.net)

**FROM THE VEEP**

For those members who cannot attend the monthly club meetings, but still want to interact with fellow C.A.R.S. members, the opportunity presents itself every Wednesday night at 9:00 PM on the club repeater - the weekly club net. The repeater can be accessed on VHF, UHF, and now Echolink, so those out of town or out of state can check in. The net has become much more active in the last couple of years, but many members who have the equipment capability remain unheard from.

This is an open invitation to all amateurs to get on frequency and join in. Every week the net controllers come up with a trivia question to test your knowledge or have fun with. The nets are a great opportunity to pass any information to everyone listening or a specific individual. For those who have become recently licensed, it is a comfortable way to get air time logged among friends who are glad you're there and will understand any nervousness. There is also no better way to check out new equipment, for those on frequency will be glad to chime in with an evaluation or possible suggestion. To me, the best part of the net is hearing from my friends on a weekly basis and hearing what they have to say, or what they have been up to as of late. It's also fun to hear new hams develop their operating skills. It isn't necessary that you check in every week as some do, but just get in when the opportunity or mood is right, and it will be appreciated by all. As the C.A.R.S. Wednesday evening nets continue to grow, please try to be part of it.

73, de Toby, WT8O

Vice President

*Editor's note: If you think you might like to be a net controller for the C.A.R.S. net, let Toby know. It is easy and fun to do. We can always use one or two more net controllers.*

## GETTING TO KNOW...

LINDA ROSE SINKO, N8LRS

*Wobbly Oscillator:* How did you become interested in amateur radio... who or what helped you get your first license?

**N8LRS:** Well, my OM (W8MET) was doing radio one evening, and I thought how interesting it is to be able to talk to other people in the United States and other countries. So, I decided I wanted to do this, and in 2006 I bought a Technician book and studied. My husband Metro helped me through the rough spots, which was a great help. Then in March 2006 I got my Technician license. I wanted to upgrade to further my skills, and got my General book in January 2007 and studied very hard and passed my General test in February 2007. I'm very happy at this level of amateur radio.

*WO:* What do you like about amateur radio?

**N8LRS:** Being able to communicate with people that you only hear on the radio waves and receiving their QSL cards. Today, I enjoy viewing the cards and what level they have accomplished in their amateur radio life. Being with CARS and NODXA, meeting people, and doing activities like Field Day is a lot of fun.

*WO:* What are your favorite bands/modes to work?

**N8LRS:** I like 40, 75, and 160.

*WO:* What type of ham radio equipment do you own or use?

**N8LRS:** The equipment we use consists of a Yaesu Mark V, a Drake TR7, and a Yaesu FT100D connected to various dipoles, a Cushcraft R-8 vertical, and a Comet GP-15. This gives us coverage for 10-160 meters, along with UHF and VHF.

*WO:* Do you have any awards or certificates you want to mention?

**N8LRS:** I recently received my WAS (Worked

All States) award on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

I also completed my WAS on 40 meters and should be receiving my endorsement shortly in the mail. I am currently trying for my WAS on 75 meters, which will probably come in the winter months.

*WO:* What type of work do you do, or if retired what was your occupation?

**N8LRS:** I worked for Ohio Bell, Ameritech, SBC in a clerical function, and completed my parole in December 2003, with 30 years.

*WO:* Do you participate in any CARS projects or functions.

**N8LRS:** I come to the CARS meetings in the summer and winter. I have, as well as my OM (W8MET), worked the diabetes event last year, which was a good function to work.

*WO:* Any additional comments?

**N8LRS:** Sometimes after the regular monthly meetings, a nice local chit-chatting with all the members is welcomed. 73 and 88 to all....Linda Rose Sinko.

*WO:* Thank you Linda, for taking the time to share your thoughts with our readers and fellow members.

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## ANOTHER NEWS FLASH

Submitted by Bob Check, W8GC

US Postage rates are **going up effective May 12, 2008.**

First-Class Mail letter US (1 oz.) **now \$0.41 to \$0.42**

First-Class Mail International to Canada and Mexico (up to 1 oz.) **now \$0.69 to \$0.72**

First-Class Mail International to all other countries (up to 1 oz.) **now \$0.90 to \$0.94**

No mention was made on an increase in IRC rates. Complete rates can be found at:

[www.usps.com/prices](http://www.usps.com/prices)

## CONTEST CALENDAR

Submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI

ARRL Intl DX, SSB starts March 1st  
Open Ukraine Champ, RTTY starts March 1st  
DARC 10 Meter, Digital starts March 2nd  
AGCW QRP Contest, CW starts March 8th  
RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW Starts March 8th  
Idaho QSO Party, ALL starts March 8th  
EA PSK 31 Contest, Digital starts March 8th  
Oklahoma QSO Party, ALL starts March 8th  
N. America RTTY Sprint, RTTY starts March 9th  
Wisconsin QSO Party, ALL starts March 10th  
CLARA & Family HF Contest, SSB/CW starts  
March 11th  
10-10 Mobile OSO Party, All Starts March 15th  
Russian DX Contest, All starts March 15th  
EU EME Contest, SSB/CW starts March 15th  
Virginia QSO Party, All starts March 15th  
QRP ARCI HF Grid, CW starts March 16th  
9KCC Contest, SSB/CW starts March 16th  
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest, RTTY starts  
March 22nd  
CQ WPX SSB Contest, SSB starts March 29th

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## THE W2SO CLUBHOUSE

By Jim (Buffalo Jim) Glor, N8GXR

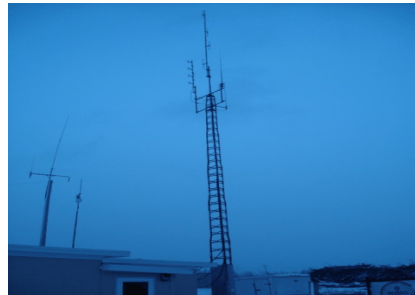
As many of you already know I am the President of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club in Lancaster, NY about 10 miles east of Buffalo. Our clubhouse was in sad shape for many years. The roof leaked and heat was almost non-existent in winter. In other words you were very uncomfortable in winter especially during a VHF sweepstakes contest. Portable heaters were used to no avail. There wasn't much you could do in that environment. Our monthly meetings were held elsewhere. We did meet on Thursday evenings for a few hours. The radio room was the only warm spot with limited seating. The bathroom was probably the worst area. I won't get into that here; after all CARS is a family oriented club. Our meeting room turned into a storeroom of odds and ends.

Well, a little over two years ago the Town of

Lancaster had a new roof put on the building. We are part of the town complex. All the buildings were originally part of a Nike base, which was built in the 1950's. This new addition stopped all the leaks and made it possible to renovate the inside. The Town also sprung for some new windows. This helped greatly with heat loss. Well it was slow going but two of our club members took "the bull by the horns" and went to town redoing everything. The piles of junk that were thrown out made it safe to navigate around. You almost needed a trail guide. Words can't describe what this place looked like prior to the renovation. Just try to imagine no flooring or ceiling, junk everywhere. I could go on and on but let me show you the finished project.. If your ever up this way and want a tour just let me know.

73

Jim (Buffalo Jim) Glor  
N8GXR





## THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

### WINTER WEATHER WINS AGAIN

Old Mother Nature forced us to cancel the February meeting of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Shame on her! As write this, I have at least 10 inches of the white stuff on my deck. We can hope this is winter's last effort, but there is always the unpredictable month of March, where any kind of weather can happen and usually does!

### MANSFIELD

I managed to make it down to the Mansfield Hamfest last month. Wow! Talk about cold! Walking between the three display buildings at the fairgrounds was murder...it was already only about 5 degrees out, and the wind cut like a knife! The windchill had to be about 15 below! But it was a pretty good hamfest, as usual...saw some people I hadn't seen since the last Mansfield Hamfest, and all in all, had a great time.

Speaking of hamfests, Dayton is just around the corner. Elsewhere in this issue of the W.O. there is an announcement about a bus trip to Dayton. Check it out.

### CONTESTS

As you have probably already read, there are a bunch of contests coming up for the month of March. Contests are a great way to get that state or country that you are looking for a contact with so that you can get the coveted QSL card. You don't have to devote the whole weekend to the contest if you are not so inclined. Just work the "test" when you have time and see what contacts you can make. You new extra class ops...this is a great opportunity to use your new license privileges in places on the band you were never allowed before, and you new general class ops can get some great experience operating on the HF bands with your new privileges as well.

### STILL STUCK

As for my HF work, my antenna is still stuck in a South direction. My rotator control box blew a transformer awhile back, and I am still procrastinating about getting a replacement transformer. I've got to get "off the stick" as they say and order one from the Rotor Doctor. Maybe

this is a good month to do it.

### W2SO CLUBHOUSE

As you can see from the pics that Buffalo Jim, N8GXR sent in of their refurbished club house, it is quite impressive. How many clubs have their own club house in the first place? Way to go W2SO! Even the hallway is cool! Thanks to Jim for the article and the pics.

### OUTTA HERE

Well, I've rambled randomly here for long enough. Let's hope the weather is halfway decent for the March meeting, and I hope to see you all there. Don't forget to check in on the weekly club net as well.

73 all,

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 may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication, provided that credit is given to this newsletter and the author, if known. All submissions should be e-mailed in .doc, .wpd, or .txt format, to [newsletter@2cars.org](mailto:newsletter@2cars.org) before the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

By reading these words, you have committed yourself to attending as many C.A.R.S. meetings as you can, checking in on the weekly club net, and volunteering for one of the many committees or public service efforts of this organization.



