

## ***ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER MEETING***

***FROM THE PREZ***

I had the pleasure of tagging along with the guys that made the ARRL School Club Roundup at the Copley High School a roaring success this year. There is another article in this issue with the details, but I would like to congratulate Gary Dewey, NI8Z; Tom Wayne, WB8N; and Metro Sinko, W8MET, for motoring down to Copley every day last week to help the students with the event. These three guys put a lot of effort into Elmering the radio club members and interested students in the art of radio contesting. A lot of smiles were generated by the activities on the radio. The bonus was seeing young people getting a charge out of their first encounter with amateur radio. Dr. Dave Dressler, KD8V, was on hand not only assisting the students with the contest, but coordinating participation times with the teachers. Brad Bennett, W8WEN, who is an advisor and coach at the school, anchored the event and devoted his time working with the students. Brad and Dave are the advisors to the school club and deserve major accolades for the overall success of radio clubs and stations at both the middle school and high school in Copley that are flourishing and growing.

The club needs help with a project. We have a very nice hinged display board we use at certain events to promote our club activities with pictures and descriptions. For the past several years Eddie, KD8FTS, has been handling this task. Everyone knows Eddie because he contributes a great deal of time and effort to C.A.R.S. He asked me if I could find someone to update the board and be responsible for it.

It would be nice if whoever accepted this task could bring it to the several events a year we use it, but if not, we could have someone else handle the transportation if necessary. The main thing is we need someone to update the pictures which will be provided by the club. The display board folds up and will fit in the back seat area of most passenger cars. Whoever can help out with this, please contact me at 440-572-1544 or [wt8o@att.net](mailto:wt8o@att.net).

Don't forget the November meeting will be the election of officers and odd year board members. So far, only the current officers have been nominated. In order to give any member a chance, we allow self nominations right up to the time the ballots are passed out, as well as a provision for write in candidates. If at all possible, please try to attend the November meeting and participate in the election by voting and have a voice in the leadership of C.A.R.S. I hope to see you there.  
 73, Toby, WT8O

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## ***OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES***

The C.A.R.S. Membership Meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, with proper phonetics on call signs for field day preparation. 29 members and 1 guest were in attendance.

After introductions the September minutes were approved as published in the September Wobbly Oscillator by the membership.

Bob, W8GC, gave the Treasurer's report and reminded all to please consider purchase of the gift card program, of which the club gets a certain percentage.

Toby, WT8O, mentioned about having a dinner meeting once in while. This will be discussed at the November meeting. Eddie, KD8FTS, has a list of restaurants he checked out. His dad, ED, WB8ROK, will present the list.

Toby mentioned that the Field Day committee met to review last year's problems and discuss 2013 Field Day preparation. Toby is asking if anyone wants to be on antennas, the preparation team, etc. for Field Day 2013. The program committee met, and the club has enough presentations for meetings for the rest of the year and into early 2013.

Toby also asked for members to have respect at the meeting saying that any private conversations should be done before or after the meeting. Toby also asked that those members that are physically able please park in the upper parking lot, leaving the spots next to the building for members that have physical health issues.

VP Gary, NI8Z, announced that the presentation for the evening was going to be John, K8YSE, on satellites and how he hooked up with the captain of a Russian cargo ship that he had many contacts with via satellite, while at sea. Gary also reported on the VE session which was held in September in which one person passed the Technician and General license tests.

Sunshine; A sympathy card was signed by the members present for Steve Jones, N8SRJ, whose father passed away. The card will be sent to Steve.

Gary NI8Z, Tom WB8N, Metro W8MET & Toby WT8O, will be going to Copley High School for the Ham Radio School roundup. Students of WA8CHS will be on the air

contacting other schools around the country, besides regular Ham stations.

Secretary Dwaine, K8ME, presented the club survey that was taken at the September meeting. Some of the results were surprising. 30 members at the meeting filled out the survey. The club is trying to update the membership records. Dwaine passed around a record sheet so members could check their information and update it. We are mainly looking for birthday and call changes, so if for some reason you can't make the meetings, please send me your full name, call sign and full birthday information-month-day-year, because birthdays are published in the "WO" each month.

Tom, WB8N, gave a review of the American Diabetes Walk to Fight Diabetes for 2012, saying that there was a good turnout of about 20 CARS members. Eddie, KD8FTS, supplied cross-band operations for the event.

Toby, WT8O, asked the club to thank the refreshment committee: K8VJG, K8DMT, and WB8ROK.

Ed, WB8ROK & Erin, KD8SLV, reported on the Metro Parks deer tracking program.

Officer nomination took place with those nominated being: President - TOBY, WT8O; V. President- GARY, NI8Z; Secretary- Dwaine, K8ME; Treasurer- BOB, W8GC. Odd year board members Nominated: Darren, K8DMT; Mike KB8UGT; Terry, KB8DTC; Bill N8DOA. Present odd year board members Tom, WB8N; George, K8KR; and Matt, W8EBB are up for reelection. VOTING will take place at November meeting.

With no other new or old business Toby, WT8O, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

After the meeting the 50/50 winner was Steve K8SAS, his portion was \$37.00, CARS share of \$37.00 was added to the treasury.

Submitted by CARS secretary  
Dwaine Modock, K8ME

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***Be sure to get your dues paid before the end of the year for 2013. Don't wait until the last minute!***

## ARRL 2012 SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP

By Metro Sinko, W8MET & Tom Wayne, WB8N. Photos by Gary Dewey, NI8Z  
“CQ CQ CQ, This is WA8CHS calling CQ from Copley High School for the School Club Roundup.”

CARS members Gary Dewey NI8Z, Tom Wayne WB8N, Metro Sinko W8MET, CARS President, Toby Kolman WT80, Dr. Dave Dressler KD8V, KD8V's xyl Pat, KD8DYI, and high school faculty member (also a member of CARS), Brad Bennett, W8WEN, all helped with getting Copley High students on the air for the ARRL 2012 School Club Roundup. The school has had a radio station and a high school club sponsored by CARS for several years. The club advisors are Dave, KD8V, and Brad, W8WEN. At present there are nine students in the club and all are licensed. The highest licensed student is Brandon, who holds an Amateur Extra Class license. Brandon is a senior. The rest of the club members are either Technician or General Class licensees. The club consists of Brandon, Gordon, Claudine, and who are all licensed.

This event involves making contact with as many school club stations and other Amateur stations as possible during the five days that it is held. We were unable to get the students involved on Monday, the first day of the event, as there were no classes being held due to a teacher in-service conference that day, but the CARS volunteers went out to the school on Monday to make sure the station was ready to operate the next day.

The school's station consists of a Kenwood TS-140S transceiver, to a Cushcraft R8 vertical antenna, with 100 watts of power. There is also a 2m/70 cm radio as well. The students were able to make contact with stations as far west as Washington State, Oregon, and California and stations to the east as far as Maine, Maryland and Massachusetts. To the south some of the states worked were Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. They also worked the cowboy states of Texas, and Colorado, with Arkansas thrown in as well. In the Midwest they worked stations from Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Idaho, both North & South Dakotas, Utah and Montana. Northward, they worked several Canadian provinces, including

Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia. As an added bonus, the students also worked the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico!

Many potential future Amateur Radio operators were on the air for their first time on the air experience, as well as all of the students in the Copley High School Radio Club. The students were excited to learn that if the internet or cell phones ever went down due to an emergency, that Amateur Radio would still be able to get through and do the job.

The final tally was 216 contacts, 43 states worked, as well as one U.S. territory, 6 Canadian provinces, and 17 schools for a total of 29,592 points. Over 30 students took part in the event from Copley High School. We'll let you know how they did in the standings when the results are posted.

There will be another School Club Roundup held in the spring of 2013, at which time we plan on doing the event from the Copley/Fairlawn Middle School.

The students seemed to enjoy themselves once they got over their initial "mike fright" and several of them really got into being on the air and talking to someone over the airwaves. It's hard to say though, who had more fun, the students or us. We had a good time with the kids and laughed a lot during the week long event.



Brandon calling CQ



WB8N logging with Silas operating in background.

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Pat Dressler, KD8DYI & Metro,  
W8MET. This was Pat's 1<sup>st</sup> time on HF!

### **LARC PARTICIPATES IN DRILL BY "BUFFALO" JIM GLOR, N8GXR**

On September 22, 2012 the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, in Lancaster New York, (LARC), participated in an evacuation drill with the Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corps, (LAC), Town Line Fire Dept. and Town of Lancaster Office of Emergency Management. Amateur radio operators provided emergency communications with phone lines and cell service down. The scenario was a fire which quickly spread for miles and with all phones plus cell service down who better to provide communications than "The Hams".

Hams were stationed at various locations and provided voice plus FL DIBI – MT63.

FL DIBI is a digital program with many forms of digital modes that operate somewhat like packet airmail but a lot faster and some have forms ready to fill out and send like MT 63. In this case Pics forms (Incident Command Forms). MT 63 is used the most during emergencies because it is very fast and has the forms used to communicate whatever is required; such as PICS 213 which is a general message form.

Victims of this fire, makeup included, were transported to various hospitals and shelters in the area. Actually to a triage area in a town park then to LAC 's location. All patient info was sent via MT 63 as were general messages. This was the first time our radio club was asked to participate using an FL Digi program. I like it a lot better than packet airmail. In this particular program all messages are sent on the actual

forms. No more "see the attached". It is much faster than packet airmail. LAC had high praise for us and we will continue to practice and improve at our end.

*(Jim is a long time member of CARS and helps with the Diabetes walk every year.)*

### **POSTAL RATE INCREASE**

*By Bob Check, W8GC*

The United States Postal Service (USPS) announce price increases that will take place effective on Sunday January 29, 2013. The USPS also announced the introduction of "a First-Class Mail Global Forever Stamp", which "will allow customers to mail letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10".

The main changes that effect Amateur Radio operators are as follows: Letters (1 oz.) — 1 cent increase to 46 cents. Letters to all international destinations (1 oz.) — \$1.10 (currently \$1.05). Postcards — 1 cent increase to 33 cents. You can see the complete press release and all other changes at [http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2012/pr12\\_114.htm](http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2012/pr12_114.htm).

As usual when the USPS raises prices there was no mention of an increase in the price of International Reply Coupons (IRCs), which are currently at \$2.20.

### **SAGCOM - PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT**

**Pan Ohio Hope Ride 2012**

**continued from Oct. Wobbly Oscillator**

**By Dave Rickon, NF8O**

**Day Two, Friday, 27 July.**

**Wooster to Westerville. (estimated 98 miles)**

Day two began with the first riders officially on the course at 6:30 am. Of course that meant the support hams needed to have already been on the course. The Wayne County EC had the communications net activated, and the Wayne County ham support team strategically placed *continued on next page....*

along the route within Wooster city limits.

The SAG Ham team was already mobile along the course traveling through the Wooster City limits and into the Wayne County country side. The early morning ride through the Wayne County country-side was just gorgeous. The sun was just rising over the rolling hills. There was still a light early morning fog hanging over the corn fields.

Clearly day two was going to present some additional challenges to the riders as the hills were becoming steeper and longer. Within a couple of hours some riders were asking to be SAG'd up hills, saving their strength for the rest of the day. Temperatures were also starting to rise which would present additional challenges to keep riders hydrated along the route. The coolers the SAG Hams carried, filled with ice, water and Gator Aid were well needed supplemental supplies for the riders as the morning ride progressed.

Shortly after arriving at the first water stop, the riders would be deviating from the route to travel along an off-road bicycle trail. The riders were then on their own, as no visible ham support was available. Fortunately there were two local Fire and Rescue teams available patrolling sections of the bike trail with off-road vehicles. Unfortunately the Fire and Rescue teams were not hams and could not communicate with the SAG Hams. The off-road bike trail began just before Millersburg, in Holmes County, where the first water stop of the morning was setup. As the riders began departing the water stop, they entered another leg of the off-road bike trail.

The first injury took place on the first leg of the bicycle trail before the Millersburg water stop. Shortly after the first injury, a second emergency call was received that another rider was down on the trail. The riders needed to be located then transported down the trail to waiting ambulances for transport to area hospitals. Apparently both riders fell off their bikes and suffered some abrasions and dislocated collar bones. Riders arriving at the rest stop had reported the riders were down and needing assistance.

Not having maps of the bike trails, and specific locations where trails crossed the roads, proved to be a real challenge for the SAG Hams and ambulances attempting to locate where the injured riders were located and the best place for the ambulances to await the trail rescue team.

Cell phone coverage was also spotty in the rural areas, especially down in the valleys of some of the hills. The riders using their personal cell phones and the POOR non-ham SAGS were having challenges communicating with each other via cell phone due to lack of coverage.

The Wayne County repeater and Mount Vernon repeater, located in Knox County provided excellent coverage between the rural locations for the SAG Ham team. The good news is that you could communicate, the bad news is that in some instances you didn't know where you were at.

Imagine this conversation; "N8SX to NF8O what is your location? NF8O to N8SX, I don't know, I am on County road 21 probably 3 miles from Township road 11". When you are on rural township and country roads, surrounded by fields, woods and cornfields, it was a challenge to give any meaningful location that the rest of the group would know where you were at. You sometimes didn't even know where you were located. Even with a GPS, maps and a navigator, you often times couldn't provide a meaningful location that others could pinpoint exactly where you were at. This is a good opportunity to mention that after departing the rural fringes of Booster, the only mobile hams on the route was the SAG Ham team from Cleveland. The three mobile hams units on the route at that point were; W8DEC with navigator, KD8DNE, N8SX and NF8O with navigator N8KBX. A mobile net control was established with W8DEC and N8SX alternating between net control duties.

Ham support at this stage of the ride was badly needed and just not available. There were still 10 non-ham SAGS on the route which were part of the Pan Ohio support group.

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Unfortunately the SAG hams could not communicate with the non-ham SAGS. Hams riding with the non-ham SAG vehicles would have been a welcome support element to the ride. This will be a “best practice” and lesson learned for next year, or any other public service event over a mobile route such as this. Pre-planning to recruit volunteer hams along the route will be a priority for the 2013 Pan Ohio Hope Ride. Everybody, in whatever capacity they can assist, will be most welcome.

Back to the ride, there is a bright side to the next phase of the journey. As the riders were departing the water stop in Millersburg, two hams who happened to be starting a bicycle ride of their own on the off-road trail came on the net with their HT to say they heard the radio traffic and asked what was going on? The hams on their bikes were quickly briefed about the ride. The two ham bike riders volunteered their assistance while they were riding on the trail to keep the net updated of their status along the trail as well as any emergencies they may come across with the other event riders. These two volunteers were a welcome addition to the SAG Ham support team. A best practice for future events would be to recruit ham riders to patrol any off-road trails, or at least be stationed at strategic locations along the trail.

The lunch stop was in Danville. Danville is a real nice small town located in Knox County. After a busy morning, it felt good meeting up with the SAG Ham team again at lunch. After a quick lunch, the SAG vehicles re-supplied with Gator Aide, water and ice then departed on the route again. The riders continued on the off-road trail between Danville to the next water stop in Mount Vernon.

The afternoon was sunny with temperatures in the high 80's. Some riders at the Mount Vernon water stop asked to be SAG'd to the next water stop. The heat of the day was starting to take its toll.

Day two ended at Otterbein University in

Westerville. The SAG Ham's day was not complete until the last rider arrived at Otterbein University about 7:00 p.m. There is no doubt that day two tested the SAG Ham team and the non-ham support team to the max. Needless to say, it was a great experience to be there to help the riders and work together as a well coordinated team effort.

Everyone, riders, POHR support staff, and the SAG Ham team had stories to tell and great memories of the day's events. The group enjoyed a well deserved hearty dinner. During dinner we discussed the day's events and the COMM plan for day 3. After dinner there was a meeting with the Pan Ohio support group to discuss the day's events and the support plan for day 3. Last but not least, the SAG teams had to re-supply their vehicles with water and Gator Aid in preparation for early departure again the morning of day 3. Radios were programmed with new frequencies in accordance for the day 3 COMM plan. The evening “lights out” was a most welcome finale for a long and exciting day.

Based on our experiences over the first two days, and enhancing our mobile support communications skills, our SAG Ham team designated ourselves as Team SAGCOM. Our lessons learned were developing into a “best practices” manual for events that would be taking place over local and multi-county geographical areas that would take place over a day or more.

### **Day 3, Saturday, 28 July. Westerville to Springfield (estimated 75 miles)**

All riders were required to depart Otterbein University at 7:00 a.m. The riders were accompanied by a police escort to the State House in downtown Columbus for a ceremony and picture taking opportunity.

By 8:30 a.m. the riders began departing from downtown Columbus for the day's journey to Wittenberg University in Springfield.

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We were extremely fortunate to have a number of Franklin County hams standing by and available for assignments along the route and rest stops. The mobile net control was again established with W8DEC and N8SX alternating as net control.

Arrival at the first rest stop just outside southwest Columbus was uneventful. Some riders at the rest stop were already asking to SAG'd to the lunch stop. At the lunch stop Team SAGCOM and supporting hams switched to another repeater frequency for the rest of the journey to Wittenberg University in Springfield. A roll call was taken of all hams on the net and assignments were confirmed. Everyone was accounted for.

The mobile net control continued with W8DEC and N8SX alternating net control duties. One experience that we encountered along the route was a large amount of loose gravel on a turn. This could have been a dangerous situation for riders who potentially could have skidded on the loose gravel and fallen over. N8SX, who was in the lead encountered this situation and alerted net control of the hazardous situation. Assistance was requested to direct traffic and clear the loose gravel. Since I had the broom, I was dispatched to N8SX's location to help him clear the intersection. Pending my arrival, N8SX had "popup" orange traffic cones that served as markers on the road for caution and safe passage. This is another example of "best practice" specialized equipment required by a SAGCOM team. Broom, shovel and traffic cones. For the safety of the riders, you need to be equipped for almost any conceivable hazard that might be encountered along the route. Fortunately in our briefing a week before the event, the Pan Ohio Hope Ride Logistics Coordinator mentioned the requirement that someone on the team have a broom and shovel in the event of loose gravel along the route. That equipment paid off twice on this event and also on MS 150, Peddle to The Point that the SAGCOM team participated in two weeks later.

Between the lunch stop and the afternoon rest stops, a number of riders were requesting to

be "SAG'd".

From the last rest stop to Wittenberg University additional riders were also requesting to be SAG's.

The heat of the afternoon was apparently taking it's toll. The last rest stop of the day was running out of ice, water, and Gator Aid. Net control put out a request for all SAGS to donate ice, water and Gator Aid to the last rest stop. Just enough supplies were shuttled to the rest stop to supply the last riders of the day.

For me day three ended at Wittenberg University in Springfield. I wish I could have stayed through the fourth day but due to another commitment I had to leave. N8KBX agreed to stay on and be my navigator for days 2 and 3 if I would take him back to Cleveland when I returned home.

On day 3 N8KBX road with a non-ham SAG as the sweep vehicle. He was equipped with an HT, spare batteries and a mag-mount antenna. Putting him in the sweep vehicle was a welcome addition to the event, as it gave us extra eyes and ears along the route that could communicate with net control. The sweep vehicle is vital to ensure that the last riders are in sight, reporting their location along the route.

The banquet dinner for the Pan Ohio Hope Ride was the evening of day three. It was accompanied by a photo presentation of the riders along the route and special recognition of some of the top fund raising riders. One rider had pledges of over \$40,000 and others had pledges of over \$5000. At the time of the banquet over 7 million dollars had been raised in support of the Hope Lodges and the fight against cancer. The banquet was very inspiring and I was proud to have been a participant in this great event. After dinner N8KBX and I said goodbye to our SAGCOM team that would remain for day 4. N8KBX and I then left for our 3 hour journey back home to Cleveland.

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The 2013 Pan Ohio Hope Ride is already planning for next years ride. Want to volunteer? If you do you will be as hooked as I am. Contact me for more details or check the website at: [www.panohiohoperide.org](http://www.panohiohoperide.org). Announcements will be made early next year for recruitment of volunteers for the 2013 ride.

### ***THE RANDOM WIRE***

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

2012 American Diabetes Assn. Walk

The 2012 Cleveland Branch of the American Diabetes Association held their annual Step Out: Walk to Fight Diabetes walk on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> in downtown Cleveland and once again the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society turned out strong and provided communications for the walk. The walk began at the Galleria on E. 9<sup>th</sup> St. We had a great turnout of CARS members to volunteer for this event. Eddie, KD8FTS, set up the cross-band repeater so that those inside the Galleria would be able to access the 146.820 repeater which was in net mode for the event. Yours truly was net control. Dave, NF8O was "bird-dogging the gal in charge of the event. Gary, NI8Z, provided a contact with the Martins Ambulance Service people mover, and Toby, WT8O, rode with one of the vehicles of the Summit Offroaders group. They were using CB radios, so Toby furnished communications between them and us. The rest of our people were deployed at points along the walk route and the two rest areas.

The walk went very well, without incident as far as I know. I have already received e-mails from the powers that be with the ADA thanking us for our efforts. The weather held out this year as well. I have already relayed my suggestions to improve the walk for next year. All of the CARS volunteers performed their duties professionally...and we are called *amateurs*.

I wasn't able to stick around for the lunch and ceremonies after the walk, as I had to make it to my step daughter's wedding by 2:00 p.m., but others from CARS did. I made it to the wedding on time by the way.

want to thank all those that came out from CARS to support this great cause. They are: Toby, WT8O; Gary, NI8Z; Mike, KB8RKF; George, K8GIL; Jim (Buffalo Jim), N8GXR, who came down from Lancaster, New York; Steve, K8SAS & his wife Chris; Eddie, KD8FTS; Mike, KD8OUE; Bill, KD8QBB; Dave, NF8O; Arp, K8ARP; Bill, N8BBB; Mike, KB8UGT; Mike, KG8MTG; Metro, W8MET; Linda, N8LRS; Bruce, KC8RKS; Erik, KD8RNF; Terry, KB8DTC; David, KD8ACO. My sincere thanks to each of you for helping to make the walk the success that it was.

I don't know the final figures on how many walkers there were or how much money was raised this year, but as soon as I know, I'll pass that info on to everyone. I hope I can count on all of those that helped this year, for next year, plus maybe a few more. The more the merrier as they say. Below are a couple pics taken at the Galleria which was the starting and ending point for the walk.



"Buffalo Jim", N8GXR



Chris Spisak, Metro W8MET, & Linda N8LRS

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### *New QSL CARDS*

The new QSL cards for CARS special event operations have arrived. They are “dual cards” in that both callsigns of *continued on next page...* W8HBI and W8BM are on the card. The former callsign NO8A no longer belongs to CARS. W8HBI was the callsign belonging to Tina Check who was a CARS member and is now a silent key. I’ll have one of the new cards at the next meeting.

### *The Enforcer*

If you’ve ever checked into the CARS Wednesday Evening Club Net, you have heard reference made to Luca Brasi, the enforcer from the *Godfather* movie. He’s the one that will pay you a visit to your house if you commit the act of cheating on the trivia question by looking up the answer on the internet or other reference source or give the answer away by telling the net controller why you know your answer is the correct one. Well, I have come across a photo of Mr. Brasi, and here it is. Ain’t he a handsome guy?



Luca Brasi, Mob enforcer

So unless you want to meet Mr. Brasi in person, play by George’s Rules of Trivia.

### *Vote Early & Vote Often*

Don’t forget, CARS election of officers is on the agenda for the November membership meeting, so mark the date of Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar.

That’s about it for this month. Hope to catch you on the air, on the CARS net, and at the next meeting. 73 for now.....

de Tom, WB8N

### ***THE REST OF THE TRIVIA***

*Contributed by Steve Spisak, K8SAS*

*Credit to NASA*

This is regarding the October 24<sup>th</sup>. CARS net trivia. The following article and picture will describe the “Morse code” on Mars!

NASA's Curiosity rover took its first test stroll Wednesday Aug. 22, 2012, and beamed back pictures of its accomplishment in the form of track marks in the Martian soil. Careful inspection of the tracks reveals a unique, repeating pattern, which the rover can use as a visual reference to drive more accurately in barren terrain. The pattern is Morse code for JPL, the abbreviation for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., where the rover was designed and built, and the mission is managed.

"The purpose of the pattern is to create features in the terrain that can be used to visually measure the precise distance between drives," said Matt Heverly, the lead rover driver for Curiosity at JPL.

This driving tool, called visual odometry, allows the rover to use images of landscape features to determine if it has traveled as far as predicted, or if its wheels have slipped. For example, when the rover drives on high slopes or across loose soil, it will routinely stop to check its progress. By measuring its distance relative to dozens of prominent features like pebbles or shadows on rocks -- or patterns in its tracks -- the rover can check how much its wheels may have slipped. If Curiosity has not slipped too much, it can then re-plan the next leg of its drive, taking its actual position into account.

"Visual odometry will enable Curiosity to drive more accurately even in high-slip terrains, aiding its science mission by reaching interesting targets in fewer sols, running slip checks to stop before getting too stuck, and enabling “precise driving,” said rover driver Mark Maimone, who led the development of the rover's autonomous driving software.

The Morse code imprinted on all six wheels will be particularly handy when the terrain is barren. Curiosity won't be able to read the Morse code symbols in the track marks directly, but it will note that the pattern is a high-contrast feature. This will give the rover the anchor it needs in an otherwise featureless terrain.

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"Imagine standing in front of a picket fence, and then closing your eyes and shifting to the side. When you open your eyes, you wouldn't be able to tell how many pickets you passed. If you had one picket that was a different shape though, you could always use that picket as your reference," said Heverly. "With Curiosity, it's a similar problem in featureless terrain like sand dunes. The hole pattern in the wheels gives us one 'big picket' to look at."

NASA's Mars Exploration rovers Spirit and Opportunity also used visual odometry to ensure accurate driving in difficult terrains. Their wheels had been bolted to their landing platform, leaving holes that left distinguishing marks in their tracks. Those marks proved critical for the visual odometry system on Opportunity when it traversed the relatively featureless terrain at Meridian Planum. Opportunity is still trekking on Mars more than eight years after setting down on the Red Planet.

Curiosity likewise has holes in its wheels, only in the shape of Morse code letters. "Even though Curiosity didn't need to be bolted down, we wanted to have the holes anyway. The mechanical team suggested multiple smaller holes rather than one large one like the Mars Exploration Rovers had, and one earlier design had spelled out letters in a cleat pattern, so I proposed using a Morse code version," said Maimone. "And the rest is history."



73 to all,  
Catch you on the net - Steve

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

KC8MRC Robert Ozog 11-6-55  
W8GJ David Yost 11-6-52  
KC8OUH Jeff Venecek 11-7-52  
WA8ERA Lee Georgia 11-13-43  
K8IIU Jack Shott 11-13-37  
KC8ZBP Sharon Andrisin 11-22  
WB8ROK Ed Stevens 11-27-1928  
KB8QJA Pete Gerard 11-28-35  
KC8LDI Ryan Dressler 11-26

Congratulations and many happy returns to all !

### **ANTENNA FOR SALE**

Cushcraft X-9

Frequency range - 40, 20, 15, 10, & 6 meters

Total number of elements - 9

Total elements per band - 4

Boom length - 28 ft.

Turning radius - 21.7 ft.

Wind surface - 9.9 ft.

Wind survival - 100 mph

Wind load - 255 at 80 mph

Total weight - 85 Lbs.

Excellent condition

Asking \$300.00

Contact Dwaine, K8ME

[k8m3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k8m3@sbcglobal.net)

### **FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA**

By George Pindroh, K8KR

Our nation is made up of 50 states! These states all have their different identities and uniqueness! They have always captured my complete attention as long as I can remember. As a young boy I used to send request letters to the travel bureaus of many states asking for all kinds of interesting pamphlets, maps, and events. Having an amateur radio license since the age of 15 (1958), I was actually able to communicate with real people in all of our states!

It has always been my lifetime goal to visit and walk in each of our 50 states! Serving in the United States Air Force in Southeast Asia enabled me to *continued on next page....*

easily visit our two states of Hawaii and Alaska, which are outside of the continental United States or commonly called "the lower 48" states.

To visit some of our states is not easy to do because they seem to be out of the way....like Arkansas, North Dakota, Idaho, Delaware, Utah. For the last 15 years I needed only four to complete my goal...Utah, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. In 2010, taking an Amtrak train from Chicago to San Francisco, I visited Utah...leaving only three more to go...Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

On September 17, 2012, I flew to Seattle, Washington and rented a car. A few days later I drove to Portland, Oregon and visited my lifetime buddy Frank, N7FN. He and his wife Sandy showed me the wonderful mountains of Oregon. We also visited the Pacific Ocean where I put my feet into it's cold, cold waters. I then drove 432 miles to Boise, Idaho following the Columbia River for more than 200 miles before turning south towards Boise. Entering Idaho on September 21st was number 50 for me. I photographed the "Welcome to Idaho" sign at the border and have made a large framed copy to hang in my den.

What a beautiful country we live in...from sea to shining sea! My favorite states are New Mexico, South Dakota, Vermont, and Virginia as they are so beautiful!

So you now know George, K8KR, has both WAS (Worked All States) and VAS (Visited All States) under his belt!

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***EXCERPTS FROM THE GEARVAKf***  
***(The f is silent) BULLETIN***  
**Reprinted with permission**  
**Post Election Stress Syndrome Found**  
**By Bill Norton, W8FYO**

Dr. Clark K. Casserolli of the Politically Oriented Research Think Tank and Blues Center announced the result of the Center's most recent survey which indicated that 84% of all Americans suffer from a previously undiscovered condition caused by a delayed reaction to the over-saturation of media coverage during this month's presidential election.

Called Post Election Stress Syndrome (PESS), this ailment is likely to strike anyone who hasn't been living on Wabi Wabi Island for the last 10 years. The study examined the impact of political marketing in the form of television ads, recorded phone calls, internet ads, yard signs, bumper stickers, temporary tattoos, politically-active neighbors, workplace arguments, and even overweight white men in the Wal-Mart checkout lanes wearing "I'm voting for Michael Bednarik" ball hats. One interviewee identified as a registered independent, described how one of his neighbors was for Romney, the other for Obama. As the campaign became heated, their yard signs got bigger, each trying to outdo the other. The signs finally blocked out all the sunshine to his house. Before seeking psychiatric treatment, the resident put up his own biodegradable Green Party sign pointing out how many trees died from their actions. He then committed his own act of terrorism by sawing down the neighbors' signs only to have them fall on his house resulting in \$25,000 damage.

Dr. Casserolli found an elderly homeless man who was not affected by PESS (pronounced pess) who didn't read the newspapers he used for shelter and who said "If those guys ain't no relative of Teddy Roosevelt, I ain't votin'." Dr Casserolli said that advanced PESS may well follow a four-year cycle but could also show lesser symptoms during years of only state & local elections

*The Wobbly Oscillator is the monthly newsletter of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264 Independence, OH 44131-0264. Articles appearing in this newsletter 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 to [newsletter@2cars.org](mailto:newsletter@2cars.org) before the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue. By reading this you have committed to attending as many CARS meetings as possible, taking part in CARS activities, and checking into the CARS weekly net on Wednesday nights on the 146.820 repeater, at 9 p.m.*

# 2012 CARS Christmas Party

**Friday December 7, 2012 serving dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Independence Civic Center in the White Oak Room**

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults, \$8.00 age 7 to 12  
6 and under free



*Family and friends are welcome at  
the CARS Christmas Party*



## **Amy G Catering Menu:**

### ***Entrees:***

Chicken Marsala

Slow cooked Top Round Roast Beef with gravy

### ***Side dishes:***

Green Bean Almandine, Oven Roasted Redskin Potato's,

Penne Pasta Primavera (vegetables in a white wine sauce)

Tossed salad with home-made Italian and French dressings,

fresh baked Italian bread with butter/margarine. Coffee, POP, water.

*Anyone who can please bring a simple desert to share*

**We will have a 50/50 drawing, prizes, along with  
presentation's of our 2012 Awards**

For tickets please contact

**Bob W8GC at 216-524-1750 or e-mail [w8gc@2cars.org](mailto:w8gc@2cars.org)**

**or go to [www.2cars.org](http://www.2cars.org) and follow the link for the  
Christmas party, you can buy tickets using PayPal.**

## CARS 2012 Officers & Committees

### Audit

NI8Z \*\* WT80, K8SAS

### Audio/Video

NI8Z \*\*

### ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

NI8Z \*\*

### ARRL WAS & VUCC Checker

K8ME \*\*

### Awards

W8GC \*\* WT80

### Christmas Party

W8GC \*\* WU8A, K8SAS, KG8MTG

### Constitution/By-laws

WT80\*\* all Board members, WB8ROK, WA8ZJV

### Development

W8GC \*\* All officers

### Diabetes events

WB8N \*\* All CARS members

### Field Day

WT80 \*\* W8GC

### Field Day food 2012

N8BBB \*\*

### License classes

W8GC \*\* WT80 \*\* NI8Z, W8MET, KD8ACO

### Mentor/Elmer & Community Education

W8MET \*\*

### Membership

W8GC \*\*

### NET

WT80 \*\*

### Newsletter

WB8N \*\* 440-232-4193

### Club Photographer

K8OAE \*\*

### Summer Picnic 2012

W8GC \*\* WB8N \*\*

### Program director

WT80 \*\* NF80, KD8QBB, KD8QUE, KD8FTS, WA8ZJV

### Property Custodian s

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

### QSL manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N \*\*

### Refreshments at meetings & Picnic

\*\* WB8ROK, pop \*\* K8DMT, coffee  
\*\* K8VJG, donuts

### 50/50

K8DMT

### Scholarship

K8REF \*\* NI8Z, WT80, K8ME, W8GC

### School Programs

KD8V \*\*

### Gift Card (Scrip) Sales

W8GC\*\* NF80\*\*

### Sunshine (welfare)

Gary Dewey, NI8Z \*\*  
216-642-8705

### Technical

W8GC \*\* N8OVW \*\*

### VE Exams

NI8Z \*\* 216-642-8705

### Web Master/e-mail

W8EBB \*\* W8GC \*\*

\*\* chairman or co-chairman

## 2012 Officers

### PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT80 440-572-1544  
[president@2cars.org](mailto:president@2cars.org)

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Gary Dewey, NI8Z 216-642-8705  
[vice-president@2cars.org](mailto:vice-president@2cars.org)

### SECRETARY

Dwayne Modock K8ME 440-582-3462  
[secretary@2cars.org](mailto:secretary@2cars.org)

### TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750  
[treasurer@2cars.org](mailto:treasurer@2cars.org)

## Board Members & License Trustees

### Board Chairman

Tom Wayne, WB8N 440-232-4193, 216-253-0540 c

### even year executive board 2 year term

WB8N, W8EBB, NF80

### odd year executive board 2 year term

K8KR, K8SAS, K8REF

### K8ZFR trustee

WB8N

### W8HBI, W8BM

trustee  
W8GC

