

JANUARY 2014 Volume 44 ISSUE 1

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

FROM THE PREZ

I would like to wish all C.A.R.S. members and their families the very best for 2014, let's hope it will be a great year for all. Early this year, in March, we are planning a trip to the ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. If by any remote chance you have not heard by now, C.A.R.S. is providing free transportation to and from Newington for any C.A.R.S. member and for a spouse as well. This is a great deal, and the club is making a major appropriation to finance the bus trip. The only things those going will need to pay for are food and lodging. We have been negotiating with hotels in the area and will be able to offer rooms at a substantial discount. We will also devote our January meeting program to showing a virtual tour of the ARRL facilities.

We did set a minimum number of participants to justify the expense of the trip. At this point, we are still a couple of people short of the minimum. I understand the art of procrastination. I am an experienced veteran. But we need people to act now. If we don't get the minimum soon, we will have to call off the trip. So please, if you are planning to go and have not signed up yet, or have not made up your mind, go to the C.A.R.S. website and add you name to the list of those who will

have a once in a lifetime experience for any ham. I can say this because I have been to the League headquarters. You will actually be able to operate at W1AW. This in itself is a real thrill. In addition, in touring the facility you will see how the League operates first hand. It will give you an in-depth understanding of how our organization supports its members and the hobby of amateur radio. And what I was most impressed with when I visited, you will meet all the folks who see in read about in QST magazine and see how friendly and devoted they are. *Continued on next page..*

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So by all means, do your best to attend the January meeting and get a glimpse of what will be in store for you this March if you join the group and head up to Newington. I hope by then will have the required number of members signed up, and I hope to see you there.

73, Toby, WT8O

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER: The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society membership meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, on the 12th of November at 7:35 pm. The meeting was held at the Bush Funeral Home Community Room on Ridge Road, , in Parma, Ohio. There were 28 members and 2 guests in attendance.

After introductions, the October meeting minutes were approved as published in the November Wobbly Oscillator by Toby, WT8O. Toby asked that anyone who was a veteran to stand. The other members present gave a round of applause in appreciation of their service.

Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC, gave the Treasurer's report and a reminder to sign up for the 2013 CARS Christmas party, which will be held on Saturday December 14th at the Independence Civic Center. The price has been reduced to \$8.00 per adult instead of \$16.00.

Toby, WT8O, mentioned that he is handling the lodging for the ARRL bus trip. If you're going, sign up with Bob, W8GC. Lodging will be very reasonable. The cost for non-club members from other clubs will be \$20.00 dollars, Lodging and food will be at your own cost.

Toby reported that CARS received a letter of thanks from City of Seven Hills regarding CARS members helping at their home days festival. The club will be participating in the festival in 2014.

Vice President Gary Dewey, NI8Z, stated that their will be 6 VE sessions scheduled for

2014. He reported that at the VE session held on November 10th there were 6 people taking their Amateur Radio license exams. 5 passed, and 2 of them went from no license to extra class.

Gary, NI8Z, passed around 3 sunshine cards for members to sign, which he would be sending out to the following members with health issues; Bob Kobe KD8NBB, Ron Boehnlein WA8ZJV, and Dave Dressler KD8V.

Gary also reported that the School Club Roundup at the Copley High School went well and that the Cushcraft R8 vertical antenna at the school has been repaired and is back in operation.

Dwaine, K8ME, said that the Dayton Hamvention® bus will be a go if there are enough hams signing up for it. The cost will be the same as last year, \$48.00, for the one day trip. Departure date will be Saturday, May 17th,

5 new members were voted into CARS. They are; Dick Kowari KD8VIP, Bob Hewitt K8FEY, Steve Dewey N8BVD, Scott Semler KD8VVB, David Miklovich KD8VVA. Welcome aboard.

George, K8KR, suggested that the members say the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag before each meeting. All present decided that that was a good idea. Mike Toth, KB8RKF, said that he would donate a flag and a stand. George made a motion to that effect, Mike Toth, KB8RKF, seconded. The motion was tabled until the next meeting.

The election of officers and board members was held, with the same officers remaining in office. Board members elected were Tom Wayne WB8N, Matt Webb W8EBB, and Terry Pillatt KB8DTC.

Toby, WT8O, asked the members present to give a round of applause in thanks to the refreshment committee; K8VJG, K8DMT, and WB8ROK.

Matt Webb, W8EBB, was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle with \$25.00 going to him and \$25.00 to CARS coffers.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

After the meeting Bill, WA8GEO, put on a demonstration on fox hunting techniques that was well received by the members present.

Submitted by Secretary Dwaine Modock, K8ME.

DECEMBER: At the CARS Christmas party President Toby, WT8O held a mini-meeting to decide on giving the Pledge of Allegiance before each CARS meeting. These are the minutes of that meeting, taken by Bob Check, W8GC, as CARS Secretary Dwaine Modock, W8ME was absent due to illness.

Special Meeting, opened on 12/14/2013 at 7:35 pm. CARS President Toby, WT8O, asked for a motion to have the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of our country given at the opening of each Cars Meeting: WA8GEO moved and NF8O seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT ON CARS CHRISTMAS PARTY 2013

Another CARS Christmas party is history. The food was great, with three different entrees to choose from plus a salad, veggies, & rolls. Deserts were brought by several members.

The Ham of the Year (HOTY) was awarded to Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE by President Toby Kolman, WT8O. Mike was not there to accept due to his concern about the weather.

Mike KB8UGT, Tom WB8N, George K8KR, and Bob KC8MRC were given gift cards for checking in on the CARS weekly net every week.

Tickets were handed out to all in attendance for a drawing. Winners were N8SRJ, WB8N, K8DMT's mother, KD8FTW, & WJ8WM.

Johanna Bacik, wife of Bruce, N8DJX won the 50/50 drawing. She won \$52.00 and graciously donated her winnings to the CARS Scholarship Fund.

There was a total of 55 members & guests in attendance this year. There are some pictures of the party on the last page of this issue of the Wobbly Oscillator. Buffalo Jim Glor, N8GXR even came down from Buffalo NY & had some

of his family with him at the party.

2013 AUDIT REPORT By Gary Dewey, NI8Z

The year-end C.A.R.S. audit was held on December 28th at the home of the Treasurer, Bob Check, W8GC, with club President Toby Kolman, WT8O, Board Member Steve Spisak, K8SAS, & Vice President Gary Dewey, NI8Z, present. The final result shows a nice gain in the treasury over 2012. The gift card program brought in some income to help add to our resources for activities such as the bus trip to the ARRL, Field Day, the Summer Family Picnic, the Christmas party and the Scholarship program. However, the gift card program is deemed to not be as big a success as was hoped. Sadly, only roughly 20 percent of our membership participated. Even some Board members failed to buy any gift cards. However, there were 18 members who did join in and in the last six months bought all of the gift cards sold. There is no way to expect 18 members to support CARS fund raising effort in the future. Six of those 18 only bought cards one time. In contrast, one person bought cards 18 times. The net return is less than 5% on sales. Which isn't a lot but every sale helped. There was some silent key equipment sales that brought in revenue also.

Two projects (the ARRL renewals, the 2013 license classes showed a positive gain to the treasury. The meeting 50/50 raffle also had a positive gain. One area of club meeting offerings {refreshments} such as coffee, donuts and pop at the meeting seems to never break even. Committee members even donate their time and money to provide this to the meetings. Some
Continued on next page....

members will provide a contribution and some seem to think this is free stuff for their eating, drinking pleasure. It is for members to have something to consume, but again it would be most appreciated to throw a buck or two toward your consumption.

The audit finds the scholarship fund is solid for at least the next four years, maybe more. The Christmas dinner meeting was, this year, the club's biggest expense. There will be most likely a change in plans for 2014. The thought of reducing the price to bring in more members didn't work. It was hoped for 70 to 80 members with family members would attend the Christmas "party" only 55 did with 61 tickets sold. Those that came enjoyed delicious food and had a truly wonderful time. However, as with all things, costs are increasing and there are some restrictions as to liquid refreshments and time constraints that will be considered for the 2014 event.

The Dayton Bus almost broke even this year. CARS subsidized the bus trip with \$77.80. There were 32 bus passengers. All in all, the CARS treasury is solid and poised for another exciting amateur radio activity year. To all members who participate and support CARS, thank you. Officers and Board members are excited to bring special activities to members in 2014.

Just a reminder: Your 2014 dues are due. Remember, club members whose dues are paid for 2014 are eligible to go on the W1AW tour in March.

Submitted by Gary Dewey, V.P. Chairman of the Audit committee.

MEMOIRS OF A MINI DXPEDITION

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

In the spring of 2001, my wife Lisa and I had an opportunity to take a vacation trip to an all inclusive resort on Nassau, in the Bahamas. My daughter and son-in-law run a travel agency and I was working for them part time so we got a great discounted rate.. I had even earned the title of "specialist" for the resort company that owned the resort they were sending us to. I won't name the resort but it is the same as those things with straps that you wear on your

feet in the summer and rhymes with candles. I thought to myself, how about making this trip a mini DXpedition? I had a portable HF transceiver and antenna and a power supply, so why not give it a shot? I applied for and received my Bahamian reciprocal amateur license, and I was all set by the time we were off to the Bahamas.

The flight to the Bahamas was a good one except that I began experiencing an intermittent pain in my lower back. When the pain was there, I could not find any position to put myself in that was comfortable, and pain medication didn't help any either. I figured I'd just have to put up with the pain.

THE LAP OF LUXURY

We arrived at the Nassau International Airport and made it through customs with no problem. We were met by a chauffeured Rolls Royce limousine (which was part of our resort package) and were taken to our resort on Paradise Island, which is connected to the island of Nassau by a bridge. We were escorted to our suite and we unpacked. The suite was great! It had a separate bedroom and a main room. The main room had a fully stocked bar and we had full room service as well.

After a fine dinner and a few cocktails in one of the resort restaurants, we decided to hit the sheets as we were both pretty tired. I had a pretty much sleepless night due to the stubborn mystery pain, but when I arose in the morning, the pain had stopped and thankfully did not return for the rest of our stay at the resort.

SETTING UP THE STATION

On the afternoon of the first day of our stay, I decided to set up my station which consisted of an Alinco DX-70 transceiver, an MFJ switching power supply, and an MFJ portable antenna.

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I set up on the balcony of our suite, which had a great view of the pool below and of the ocean and its white sand beach. After the station was set up I thought I had better test its operation. I had set this same station up in the motel room where I stayed while attending the Dayton Hamvention® the previous May, and when I keyed up, I set off the fire alarm. After a brief test at various power levels it appeared that everything was working fine.

TIME TO GET ON THE AIR

I made myself an adult beverage, and sat down at my station which was on a small table on the balcony of our suite. Time to call CQ. Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW, president of the Northern Ohio DX Association and a CARS member, had put me on the weekly DX list as WB8N/C6A so at least *some* hams knew I was going to be there. I had given Tedd times I would most likely be on the air and the frequency ranges where I expected to be operating. I would be operating SSB exclusively.

The first station to answer my CQ was on 20 meters; Ira, WA2OAX, who has an impressive station in New York State. Check his station out on QRZ.com.

I called CQ on 20 meters for awhile with no further success so I went to 10 meters which proved to be a good move. I made contacts with stations in Lithuania, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Newfoundland, Portugal, France, Dominica, Trinidad, Canada, and of course the good old US of A. I was even able to make contact with a few hams from my CARS, notably K8VJG, Ron Borkey and K8AV, Carl Beduhn. I had a nice contact with Sean Carey, W8SCC, who was operating K8CRF, the station in the Cleveland Rain Forest at the Cleveland Zoo as well. What way to operate! Sitting outside with a great view of the pool, beach and ocean and talking to people all over the world. I never really had a pile-up of stations trying to work me, but it was fun being the station being called instead of the other way around.

MY MOST MEMORABLE CONTACT

The contact that stands out most in my memory was with Ivor, G10AIJ, who is quite a character on the air and in person as well. Ivor lives near Belfast, in Northern Ireland. He and I had quite

a ragchew and discovered that we were both going to be at the Dayton Hamvention® that May, and he said that he would be stopping in at the Northern Ohio DX Association hospitality room at the Crown Plaza hotel on Friday or Saturday evening. We did manage to have a nice eyeball QSO at the hospitality room. It was neat meeting someone you had a dx contact with. We chatted about our hip replacements. Ivor builds race cars for a living. You can check out Ivor's website at www.gi0aij.com.

SPENDING TIME WITH THE WIFE

I operated just a few hours a day over five of the seven days we were at the resort.

I *did* have to accommodate my wife, by spending some time at the pool and touring the island of Nassau, shopping, and trying our luck at the local casino. (Needless to say, we didn't go home any richer.) It was her vacation too after all. Come to think of it, she accommodated *me* by letting me play radio on our vacation. How many non-ham wives would do that? Actually, she had even purchased the Alnico rig for me as a gift the year before. What a gal!

GOODBYE TO PARADISE

It was finally time to head back home. Our Rolls Limo picked us up at the resort and took us to the airport and back to reality. The trip home was uneventful, and soon we were back home, safe and sound, in little old Bedford, Ohio. After the first night at the resort, I had remained pain free. The first night back home, the pain was back. I called my doctor in the morning and he had me go to the emergency room at the local hospital to be checked out. It turned out I had a kidney stone that was trying to make it through my body. The stone was dissolved by a kidney stone smasher and I was home the next day. I was just grateful that it didn't bother me while I was on my luxury mini DXpedition!

WHERE TO NEXT?

Continued on next page...

Unfortunately, I probably won't be going on any more DXpeditions. I no longer work at my daughter's travel agency for one thing. Some would say I was fired, I claim that I quit! It's a matter of interpretation. Oh well. But if I do get the urge to go to far away places, I still have my portable HF station. It'll probably be harder to get through customs though.

DECEMBER CARS BIRTHDAYS

Gary Dewey	NI8Z	12-07-41
Charles Dressler	KC8LZP	12-12-****
John Bluewing	KD8ENY	12-29-1963
Andrew Evridge	KD8SCV	12-27-1952
Gary Limbert	KD8VIQ	12-08-****
Bill Brown	N8BBB	12-08-****

JANUARY CARS BIRTHDAYS

Carl Beduhn	K8AV	01-30-1938
Jane Reed	K8JGR	01-11-****
Fred Doob	K8PP	01-15-****
Mike Toth	KB8RKF	01-27-1950
Mary Cegelski	KC8YLC	01-22-1952
Pat Dressler	KD8DYI	01-12-1931
Steve Jones	N8SRJ	01-23-1966
Matt Webb	W8EBB	01-14-1984
Gary Schmid	WA8GLR	01-11-1947

Congratulations to you all and many happy returns!

YEAR END VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS REPORT

By V.P. Gary Dewey, NI8Z

This is a wrap up of the 2013 VE activity for CARS. Six VE sessions were conducted by the CARS volunteer examiners.

Five regularly scheduled testings at the Independence town Hall were held, and one at the Seven Hills Admin building for the license classes that were held in Sep-Oct 2013.

The CARS VE team members are Robert Check, W8GC; Tom Wayne, WB8N; George Pindroh, K8KR; Ron Borkey, K8VJG; Metro Sinko, W8MET; Matt Webb, W8EBB; Darren Turk,

K8DMT; and myself, Gary NI8Z. There are other VEs who have participated in the past. The aforementioned came to all the regularly scheduled VE test sessions at the Old Town Hall in Independence.

Overall, there were 40 new licenses awarded in 2013: 16 Technician, 16 General, 8 Extra. The class held in the Fall had a 100% tech pass rate; a 75% general pass rate, and a 33% extra pass rate. The dates for 2014 have been established as the 2nd Sunday in the odd months Jan, Mar, May, July, September, and November at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd, Independence, Ohio 44131. Start time is 9:00 am. The testing location is handicap accessible.

Anyone knowing someone who might want to take an amateur radio license test can call 216-642-8705 for additional information or if special considerations need to be made. Advance registration is recommended however walk-ins are allowed. The cost of testing stays at \$15.00. If a test taker already has a license, they must bring the original and a copy of it. A photo id is recommended to be shown prior to taking a test. Calculators are allowed but must be de-programed prior to the test session. Cell phones must be turned off.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wow! 2014 is almost here. Where did 2013 go? We had a lot of CARS activities during the past year and here's hoping 2014 will have even more. We have the usual amateur radio activities to look forward to; Field Day, the CARS Family Picnic, various on-the-air activities, not to mention the weekly CARS net on the 146.820 repeater. We also have the American Diabetes Assn. annual walk in the fall There's also the Cleveland Hamfest in September. The Mansfield Hamfest will be coming up soon. That's always a good one.

But the best CARS function will hopefully take place in March. That's the bus trip to the ARRL in Newington CT. At last count, we only needed a few more members to sign up for *Continued on next page..*

the trip. Don't wait until the last minute. At least sign up for the trip, even if you're not sure you can make it. It's going to be a lot of fun visiting the ARRL headquarters, operating the mother station, W1AW, meeting the ARRL staff and taking a first hand tour of the ARRL facilities. I can hardly wait. I already have my dog sitter lady lined up for the three days we'll be gone.

GET ON THE AIR MORE

That's one of my new year's resolution. I hadn't been operating HF very much of late, partly because my "shack computer" was giving me problems and it was a pain to have to lug my laptop upstairs. I like to use the computer when I'm operating not only to log my contacts, but to check the DX cluster and to look up calls on QRZ.com.

But my number one daughter (the oldest, not necessarily the best, hi hi) finally came over and deleted a lot of stuff that I don't even know how it got there, and got me up and running once again, so now I'm having fun getting on the air and working DX.

If I get to the shack early enough, there's a bunch of guys who get on 14.185 MHz every morning and just shoot the breeze. The strongest stations come from down south, especially Florida, but I can copy stations to the west as well. It's a lot of fun just listening to these guys, and I've learned a few things as well. Occasionally I'll throw my call into the mix if I feel I have something to add to the conversation, but mostly I just listen while I do my QSL cards, check e-QSL, and other mundane shack chores.

How about making getting on the air more one of your new years resolutions? At least resolve to check into the CARS weekly net on our repeater. It's at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights each week. On each net, the net controller has a trivia question which is normally amateur radio related, for the check-er-in-ers to try their hand at. If you check in often, great. If, on the other hand, you have yet to check into the CARS net, give it a shot. Can't hoit, as someone once said.

LAST MAN STANDING

On the Thanksgiving episode of the TV show Last Man Standing, starring Tim Allen as Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, Mike retreats to his basement radio shack to get away from all the stuff going on with his family upstairs. His young grandson follows him down to his shack and grandpa

begins to tell him a little about ham radio. The young lad wants to video his grandpa for a class project, and Mike gives him some rhetoric for his report. At the end of his schpheel, Mike has some profound words of wisdom for the camera. I am going to close this column with those words of wisdom this month.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS MONTH

Time to pull the plug on the ole computer for this month's Wobbly Oscillator. Hope to hear you on the air, on the weekly net, and see you at the first CARS meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 14th, same time, same place: 7:30 p.m. at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room.

And remember; All hams are not created equal. Some know CW.

In the immortal words of Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, "Ham radio; the last line of communication before the coming apocalypse."

73

de Tom, WB8N

PHOTOS FROM THE 2013 CARS CHRISTMAS PARTY



W8GC, N8DJX & Spouses



More smiling faces.



President Toby, WT8O opening the impromptu CARS meeting.



Buffalo Jim, N8GXR & his clan



And some more happy CARS members.



Table centerpiece, created & donated by wife of N8DJX, Johanna.



More happy CARS members & guests



Smiling faces, chow down George!

That' all the space we have available for photos this month. There may be some more in next month's Wobbly Oscillator.

The next meeting of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society will be on Tuesday, January 14th at the Busch Funeral Home, Community Room on Ridge Rd. at 7:30 p.m. Come early and enjoy some comradery with your fellow CARS members.

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly newsletter published by 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 to the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to newsletter@2cars.org by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue. By reading this text you have committed yourself to attend as many CARS membership meetings as possible during the new year, and to take part in as many CARS functions & activities as possible as well. You shall attempt to checki into as many CARS weekly nets as possible. These are your duties as a CARS member. Use your hard earned privileges...get on the air!



CARS 2014 Officers & Committees

Audit

NI8Z ** WT80, K8SAS

Audio/Video

NI8Z **

ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

NI8Z **

ARRL WAS & VUCC card Checker

K8ME **

Awards

W8GC ** WT80

Christmas Party

Club Photographer

K8OAE **

Constitution/By-laws

WT80** All Officers/Board members
WB8ROK, WA8ZJV, KD8BAL, KB8DTC, K8ARP

Diabetes events

WB8N ** All CARS members

Field Day

W8EBB ** WT80, NF80, W8MET, N8BBB

50/50

NI8Z

License classes

W8GC ** WT80 ** NI8Z, W8MET, KD8ACO

Mentor/Elmer & Community Education

W8MET **

Membership

W8GC **

NET

WT80 **

Newsletter

WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Program director

KD8OUE ** NF80, KD8QBB, KD8QUE, KD8FTS,
WA8ZJV, WT80

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

QSL manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at meetings & Picnic

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

Scholarship

K8REF ** NI8Z, WT80, K8ME, W8GC

School Programs

KD8V **

Summer Picnic

W8GC ** WB8N **

Sunshine (welfare)

Gary Dewey, NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Technical

W8GC ** N8OVW **

VE Exams

NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC ** W8EBB

** chairman or co-chairman

2014 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT80 440-572-1544
president@2cars.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

Gary Dewey, NI8Z 216-642-8705

SECRETARY

Dwaine Modock K8ME 440-582-3462

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

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, KB8DTC

odd year executive board 2 year term

K8KR, K8SAS, K8REF

License trustee K8ZFR

WB8N

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,
WA8CMS, WA8CHS
W8GC

December 29, 2013

**R
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Sign up NOW for a memorable Road Trip on the 2014 Bus Trip to the ARRL HQ in Newington, CT.

Please go to www.2cars.org home page ASAP and click on the “register for the bus” link.

The ARRL trip will depart from “Great Day! Tours” location at **375 Treeworth Blvd., Brecksville, OH 44147 (I-77 & Rt 82) promptly at 7:00am on Sunday March 16, 2014 and depart Newington at 8:00am Tuesday March 18, coming back to Brecksville around 7:00pm. There is free secure parking at their lot. No dairy products or alcohol on the bus**
*****Riders can bring small coolers with sandwiches, pop or water.*****

The Bus trip is **FREE to CARS members and family, food and rest stops will be scheduled prior to the Road Trip to the ARRL.**

Monday morning the bus will take us to the ARRL for the days activities. You are responsible for all of your food, Motel bills and personal purchases.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Toby wt8o at a CARS meeting, call him at 440-572-1544 or email wt8o@2cars.org.

Final details will be announced 30 days B4 departure!