

MARCH 2014 Volume 44 ISSUE 3

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

NEWINGTON & ARRL

HERE WE COME !

FROM THE PREZ

It's good to see that C.A.R.S. is really on a roll. And we will be rolling soon up to the ARRL headquarters and W1AW in Newington, Connecticut in just a couple of weeks. All the folks that I have spoken to are really getting excited about the trip. For some of the long time hams, this is the trip of a lifetime they have desired for many years. The opportunity to operate W1AW during the centennial year will be a really great experience.

We are also rolling well with our monthly meetings. The attendance has climbed to record levels and the program committee, led by Mike, KD8OUE, has scheduled an interesting and informative event for every meeting for months to come. Please check the C.A.R.S. website at www.2cars.org for the upcoming programs. It is always good to hear as many positive comments as we have on the net the day after the meetings. Mike and his group believe the programs make the meetings special and the members appreciate a good hands-on demonstration or learning experience. Don't forget to pass any ideas to Mike of things you may wish to see. One of the hardest parts for Mike's committee is coming up with program ideas that they think the whole group would enjoy.

And speaking of the nets, the participation has also been growing. It has been very good to have new stations checking in, especially those of newly licensed amateurs. Another

cool thing is to see some of those who have checked in sporadically in the past become regulars. We always have an interesting trivia question to grapple with, especially when we employ "George's Rules". It is also fun to hear a station or two come in from a distant location on Echo Link. For those members who don't normally check in, I invite you join us every Wednesday at 9:00 P. M. on the C.A.R.S. repeater.

Up next is Field Day planning which we will begin discussing at the March meeting. We will also go over the final plans for the ARRL trip, have an interesting program, and most importantly, get together with fellow hams for a night of camaraderie. I hope to see you there.

73, Toby, WT8O

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FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society regular monthly membership meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, on the 11th of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Bush Funeral Home Community Room Road in Parma, Ohio. There were 33 members and 3 guests in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given before the meeting.

After introductions, the January minutes were approved as published in the February Wobbly Oscillator by Toby, WT8O.

Bob, W8GC, gave the Treasurer's report, and announced that 2014 dues are due. Bob also reported that the Dayton Hamvention® bus has been cancelled because the club has lost money on these trips due to not getting enough riders.

Toby, WT8O, discussed the ARRL bus trip saying that Bob, W8GC, has written deposit check for the bus. 21 people have signed up for the trip so far. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express in Newington. The room cost will be \$75.00 per night. The bus leaves on March 16th and will return on March 18th.

Toby mentioned that CARS needs a committee chairman for the Christmas party. Eddie, KD8FTS, suggested a combined program committee and emergency committee to organize the Christmas party.

VP Gary, NI8Z, sent a get well card to Bill Sarver, WU8A's, wife who had surgery. Gary also announced that there will be a VE session on March 9th. and that license classes will start in March as well. Check the CARS website for details.

Toby mentioned that anyone interested in becoming a net controller for the CARS Wednesday night nets, should contact him.

Two new members were voted in; Joel Chaney, KD8WID, & Brandon Hofacker, KD8JDW. There will be more new members to be voted on at the March meeting.

Tom, WB8N, mentioned that the 2014 American Diabetes Assn. walk will be held at the Berea Fairgrounds this year and they will have both a 5k and a 2.5 k walk. If you want to volunteer for the 2014 walk in October, contact Tom. Tom announced that last year there were

720 walkers and they raised over \$195,000 dollars.

Mike, KD8OUE, reported that the March presentation will be on Handihams; handicapped amateur radio operators.

It was mentioned that anyone needing help with anything such as antennas, radio's etc, or parts for projects, let someone in the club know.

Toby, WT8O, thanked the refreshment committee; K8VJG, K8DMT, and WB8ROK. The 50/50 raffle winner was Dan Tasch, N8OBB, with \$38.00 going to him and \$38.00 going to CARS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Toby, WT8O, & Andy, KD8SCV, gave a presentation on an antenna project that they installed at Toby's QTH which was well received by those present.

Submitted by Dwaine Modock, K8ME.

THE SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP

By Gary Dewey, NI8Z & Tom Wayne, WB8N

This year's first half of the ARRL School Club Roundup took place from February 10th through the 14th, at the Copley-Fairlawn Middle School, under the guidance of Dave Dressler, KD8V, along with Gary Dewey, NI8Z, and Tom Wayne, WB8N. Metro Sinko, W8MET, came out one afternoon as well, to help get the students on the air. Dave's wife Pat, K8DYI, was also there and got on the air to make a contact as also. She always brings goodies for the students, which they look forward to and is one of the reasons of the success of the school radio club.

We had several of the students in the radio club operate on the air during the week, but they had to work it into their class schedules, such as when they had a break, or during study hall. We adults had as much fun (or more) as the students did. On Friday after school, when the students in the radio club normally meet, Brad Bennett, W8WEN, *continued on next page...*

from the high school, brought two high school radio club students to operate.

Overall, the radio station worked great. We operated on 40 and 20 meters, and the vertical antenna played very well. Gary brought his MFJ antenna tuner along, and it was a big help.

We operated a total of 20.52 hours of the allotted 24 total that we were allowed to work for the week. A total of 121 contacts were made for a claimed score of 14,762 points. 34 states were worked as well as 5 Canadian provinces and 6 DX countries which included Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, and St. Vincent in the Caribbean. We made contact with 15 schools all over the United States, and ON4HTI, the Higher Technical Institute in Belgium.

So all in all it was a successful School Club Roundup, even though our contacts and points were down a bit from last year. That was because there was one day that for one reason or another we were not able to make it to the school, and another day when Gary and Metro went to the school late in the afternoon.

Now we will be looking forward to operating the School Club Roundup in October from the Copley High School club radio station.

Here are some pictures of the station and some of the students operating the contest.



Technician Class licensee, Josh operating on 20 meters.



Even a broken collarbone couldn't keep this guy away from the station



7th grader Carson, KD8V's grandson at the mike.



Making a contact puts a smile on this high school radio club op's face.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Bacik	N8JDX	3/31/42
Kim Balach	KD8FTU	3/31/88
Michael Cegelski	K8EHP	3/2/42
Timothy Chirdon	KD8VGE	3/8/80
Blaine Coleman	KA8KPB	3/18/46
Tony Hackenberg	N8SK	3/20/51
Simpson Huston	N8UZF	3/29/48
Ted Mirgliotta	KB8NW	3/27/52
Mark Moro	WJ8WM	3/30/62
Terry Pillatt	KB8DTC	3/18/46
David Rickon	NF8O	3/3/47
Mark Rubin	KB8QHJ	3/25/66

Congratulations and many happy returns to you all!

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

ARRL Headquarters, Here We Come!

That's right, in just a short time from now some of us will be wending our way to the Mecca of Ham Radio, Newington Connecticut, the home of the ARRL. I am *really* looking forward to the trip. I can hardly wait to get a chance to operate W1AW which is W100AW during the ARRL centennial celebration. The idea boggles the mind! If you haven't yet signed up for the trip, there are still seats available on the bus. It is no cost to CARS members. Your only expense will be your room & meals. So if in any way you are able to make this once in a life time trip, by all means, do so. You won't regret it. You can sign up on the CARS website.

ARRL Centennial "W1AW Worked All States"

If you have not yet checked out the ARRL Centennial W1AW Worked All States operation, it isn't too late. W1AW portable stations from each state in the union as well as most U.S. territories, is underway, and each state will be available at least twice during 2014. I have been able to work each state so far except for West Virginia. I'll have to wait until October for that

state to be back on. Just today I worked Washington State and Kansas, as well as Guantanamo Bay, W1AW/KG4. That's the first so-called territory that has been on. All the states have specific dates when they will be operating W1AW portable. Every week two different states operate W1AW portable, and as I said, each state will operate at least twice during the ARRL centennial year. There is no schedule for the U.S. territories. If you work all the states you can apply to the ARRL for a certificate and/or a plaque. It's a lot of fun and if you have HF capability, you should give it a shot.

BRRRRRRRRRRRR

I don't know about you, but I'm getting pretty tired of winter by now. As I sit here in my warm kitchen typing on my laptop I can see the drifted snow in the driveway, and even though the sun is shining off and on, it's still brutally cold out there. I should be out there clearing the driveway and sidewalk with my snow thrower, but with the wind, it's just too daggone cold out there for me! And according to the latest forecast, we're in for more of that nasty white stuff. Thanks for Amateur Radio to keep our minds off this nasty winter. Also we have the Dayton Hamvention® to look forward to in May and we can start planning for Field Day in June. Think *SPRING!*

SEE YOU AT THE MARCH MEETING

That's about it for this month fellow CARS members. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 11th at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room, in Parma.

There's a CARS Volunteer Examiner session on Sunday, March 9th at the Independence Olde Towne Hall for those that want to upgrade your license or if you know someone that wants to get their first license.

Also, don't forget to set your clocks ahead on the ninth of March as well.

Remember, all hams are not created equal...some know CW.

73, de Tom, WB8N

EXCERPTS FROM THE GEARVAKf (the f is silent) BULLETIN. *Reprinted with permission.*

NEGATIVE PROPAGATION EXPLAINED

By Hal Kennedy, N4GG

Baseline errors in the solar flux and sunspot reporting system, as discussed by Dr. Phugoid G. Dutchroll have caused the scientific community to lower their baselines and start reporting negative sunspots at the current solar minimum. At a recent symposium on Mushrooms Wine Making, a part of Gorbinski's famed lecture series, Dr. Dutchroll explained the implications of the baseline shift: "Negative sunspots cause negative propagation, with emitted signals being sucked into the ionosphere rather than being reflected. This sucking instead of reflecting can explain just about everything that has gone wrong on the ham bands for the last two years." We need at least 30 sunspots, using the old baseline, to achieve break-even propagation, at which point the bands will stop sucking Dr. Dutchroll speculated.

FULL MOON VIEWINGS CANCELLED

By Mary Lau, N1VH

During a meeting at the Gearvakf Observatory, last Wednesday, Gearvakf's Chief Astronomer, Dr. Sagen Hogan-Bogen-Parsec announced that she is suspending all viewing of the full Moon with Gearvakf's new 1008-inch mirror Newtonian telescope. "We've suffered flash burn injuries and heat damage to the walls of the observatory because of the telescopes's power," she explained. "Besides, our colleagues at the CIA want us to concentrate on confirming our sightings of the enormous alien spacecraft that seems to be approaching Earth from the direction of Saturn," she said. Dr. Hogan-Bobbed-Parsec promised to return to Moon viewing with more powerful filters as soon as our investigation for 'the Agency' is complete."

CANDIDATES HOPE TO OUTLAW CW & MORSE CODE

By Joe Vandal, K8DMZ

Claiming that the "Morris Choked" (sic) "language is an elitist, difficult, and unnecessarily inefficient means of

communication," the top 100 presidential candidates unanimously promised to eliminate it from the face of the Earth, if the are *all* elected.

HAM RADIO MAY BE THREATENED YET AGAIN By Dr. Wouff Hong

The next change in Presidential administration may, once again, place ham radio in danger of being curtailed, sold, or eliminated entirely. In previous administrations, ham radio has undergone changes ranging from complete elimination, as in the Roosevelt administration, to major regulation revisions undertaken in the Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush 41, Clinton, and Bush 43 administrations. the jury is out on the Obama administration.

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication 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 emailed to newsletter@2cars.org by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

By reading this, you are committing yourself to attend as many CARS meetings as possible and to take part in as many CARS activities as you are able to. And remember, in the immortal words of Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, "Amateur Radio is the last line of communications in the coming apocalypse".

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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 wt80 at a CARS meeting, call him at 440-572-1544 or email wt80@2cars.org.

Final details will be announced 30 days B4 departure!