

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

November 2017

VOLUME 47

ISSUE 11

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER MEETING

From The Prez

FUN, FUN, FUN

We all took up the hobby of amateur radio seeking enjoyment. It's that simple. Joining CARS may involve more complex desires. We may want to meet and socialize with other hams. We may want to become a part of organized activities. We may want to learn new things. For whatever reason, we fork over dues and show up at monthly meetings to enhance our enjoyment of the hobby, or more simply, have fun. Sometimes we lose sight of that simple goal. I am as guilty as anyone, getting hung up with the work of the club, and not having fun. This happened recently. I needed to step back, take a deep breath, and refocus on the goal of having fun. So, that's the main emphasis I wish to pursue for the members of CARS. We can learn from our meeting programs, serve the community through public service, bring new hams into the hobby, and make new members feel welcome, all while having fun. The great hobby of amateur radio is here for all of us to enjoy.



Bill, WA8GEO, enlightened the group on the subject of radio controlled drones at the October meeting.

Thank you

I wish to close this volume of *The Wobbly Oscillator* by thanking all the valued members of CARS for their support of our fine club. There is not enough space here to mention everyone by name, but every member has given something to the club. To the silent
(Continued next page)

majority who are not that active but stay with us year after year and contribute with your dues and count as a member in good standing, we say "Thank you." To those who frequent meetings and make our monthly get together a social event, we say "Thank you." To those who check into our nets and use the repeater, we say "Thank you." To those who participate in our activities and make them successful, we say "Thank you." To all those who team up to work to make those activities happen, we say "Thank you." To all officers, Board and committee members who keep the ship afloat, we say "Thank you." You have all made this a very good year.

73, Toby, WT8O

Christmas Party

Mark your calendar now for Friday December 15th. That's the day of the annual CARS Christmas party. It will be at the same place as last year, the Brew Garden in Middleburg Hts.

The address is 18590 Bagley Rd, west of I-71, across from Southwest Hospital. We have the room available to us at 6:00 for early birds and socializing and the buffet dinner will be served at 6:30.

The bargain price for dinner is \$20 per person, \$10 for those 7-18 years old and FREE to children six and under.

Please contact Bob Check, W8GC to make reservations at 216-524-1750 or w8gc@wowway.com.

See the CARS website, www.2cars.org, for the menu and further details.

Peep from the Veep Mark, WJ8WM

I was looking for a file recently in my Amateur Radio folder and came across the Go Bag checklist. This got me thinking we should check the contents every so often to make sure the items are up to date. I thought maybe this is something to add to the list of tasks that we do at the time changes. In addition to changing the batteries in our smoke detectors and furnace filters let's inventory our Go Bags.

When it's time to go, it's not the time to check that the batteries are fresh, medicines are within date, protein bars are good, etc. Now is a better idea while you are relaxed and aren't hyped about deployment. No need to throw any of those items out, just move them to your regular use and restock your bag with fresh items.

Those batteries will work fine in the TV remote and the protein bar is fine to snack on in the car! You may wish to throw those extra clothes in the wash to freshen them up. Better check your spare phone charger cable fits the new phone you got last month.

And by the way, back to your smoke detector they only have a useful life of about 10 years. It may be time for a new unit instead of just replacing the battery.

Next VE Testing November 12, 2017

The next CARS VE testing session is at the Independence Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Road in Independence, Ohio. Testing begins at 9:00 AM Sunday, November 12th.

CARS
October 10th 2017 Meeting Minutes

The CARS membership was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM on the 10th day of the month at the Fuji Grill. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests. The September 12th 2017 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the October *Wobbly Oscillator*.

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance.

The club holds two dinner meetings per year during March and October. New locations will be explored before the 2018 March meeting.

Mark, WJ8WM, spoke briefly on the problems in Puerto Rico.

Toby inquired if anyone was interested in doing a presentation on a Delta Loop or End Fed antenna at a future business meeting. Let Bill, KD8QBB, know if you have any presentation ideas.

New member Bruno Sufka, W8BJS, was voted into the club.

Toby asked for pictures and contributions for the *Wobbly Oscillator*.

Another trip to the ARRL will be discussed at the next Board meeting. The last trip was during March. It is a three-day trip. One day for the ARRL and two travel days.

Metro, W8MET, passed around a list of used amateur equipment from the estate of a "Silent Key". Contact Metro if you are interested.

Toby reiterated that if you have any ideas or suggestions to improve the club then please

send them to the Officers and Board members.

There is a "Boat Anchor" meeting on Saturday, October 28th at the Clague Park cabin in Westlake, Ohio. The meeting starts at 10am. The location is on the corner of Clague and Hilliard roads.

Metro reported that the next VE session is November 12th at 9:00 AM in the Independence Old Town Hall.

The Technical Committee met at the Parma repeater site recently to discuss and gain insight into the NEW Yaesu repeater.

Toby thanked the refreshment committee, Ed, WB8ROK; Darren, K8DMT; and Rich, NW8X.

There was no OLD business from the floor.

There was no 50/50 raffle this evening.

New Business.....

Gordon, AI8Y, made a motion to place Toby, WT8O, in the "Honorary CARS Member" category for all his work with CARS and Amateur radio. A second was received and the motion passed unanimously. Toby joins Bob, W8GC; Tom, WB8N; and Dwaine (SK), K8ME, previously selected as "Honorary CARS Members".

Metro made a motion with a second by Bruce, N8DJX, to keep the current Officers and Board members in place for 2018. The "Even" year Board members are up for election in 2018. The motion PASSED. Officers and Board members in attendance ACCEPTED the nominations. Toby reminded the group that the Elections are in November and anyone interested in running for a position still has time to throw their hat in the ring.

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Joel, K8SHB, is putting together a CW class to start in January, 2018. It will be on Thursday nights at 9:00 PM. You can check out his web site, www.cwslow.com for more information. If the bands are bad, a conference call will be available for the group to participate. Joel suggests using paddles but a straight key is OK as well.

There were 24 members in attendance this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Bill, WA8GEO, gave a presentation on Radio Controlled Drones.

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.

November Birthdays

Bob Ozog, KCSMRC

11/6/55

David Yost, WSGJ

11/6/52

Bruno Sufka, WSBJS

11/11/51

Brian Roselli, KESHZU

11/14/88

Bob Mueller, KSMD

11/21/75

Ed Stevens, WBSROK

11/27/28

Notes from the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee current members are:

Scott Smith, AC8NW (Chairman); Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE; Vince Bak, N8OVW; Mark Morro, WJ8WM; Mike Toth, KB8RKF; David Noeth, KD8ACO; and Terry Pillat, KB8DTC.

If you have any technical issues you'd like assistance with, or would like to contribute to the work the Technical Committee provides, please contact one of the above listed members.

The committee is continuing work on installation of the new repeater at the Parma site, and we will keep everyone informed of the progress of the installation, at our meetings and through this newsletter, as information becomes available.

I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the ARRL is the only organization that effectively supports the Amateur Radio community in the U.S., and continually lobbies the U.S. government as the only advocate for Amateur Radio. So please, consider joining ARRL today.

Keep spreading the word that we've reactivated the stand-alone 444.750 repeater in Shaker Hts., which provides alternate repeater coverage for downtown Cleveland, and areas east. It's there to use, so use it, and let others know it's available.

73, Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

My First Mobile Radio, and Beyond David Korow, AC8TN

At the time, being an HF guy for 38 years, it never occurred to me to do anything else, until I became a CARS member in 2014. Taking part in the Veteran's Day parade, and then Field Day, convinced me that I needed to expand my horizons to the VHF and UHF bands.

Since the club was upgrading its repeater to a new Yaesu analog/digital Fusion model, it seemed logical to go with the digital flow. I begin researching C4FM radios. My choice was a Yaesu, model FT2DR HT, thinking it could do triple duty as a hand-held, mobile and base unit. The radio arrived from HRO, with the external microphone and RT programming software in less than a week in December of 2014. I then went to Amateur Electronic Supply and bought a Diamond mobile antenna as a base antenna. Now I was set to begin exploring my new world.

In the intervening years, I found the 5 watts from my HT to be great for accessing the .820 repeater from my QTH in Seven Hills for our Wednesday CARS net. In the car its usefulness was very limited, and at best spotty. My eyes now turned towards a more powerful solution. That quest ended in July of 2017 with the purchase of a Yaesu FTM400XD, 50 watt 2m/70cm Fusion mobile.

Since my car was already set-up to run the HT, with a Diamond 2M / 70cm mobile antenna on my luggage rack, I guessed it would be easy to swap out the HT for a proper mobile radio. Boy was I wrong! My car is a 2017 Prius Prime. Some of you may remember my previous car was a Cooper Mini. It was sadly, totaled on March 9, while I was sitting at a stop light. The Prius is a bit different than any other car I've ever owned.

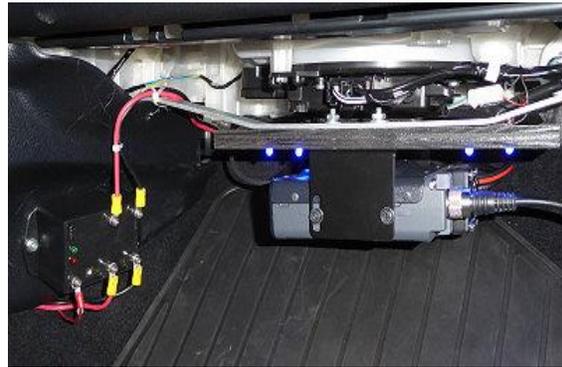


For one, it doesn't have a standard battery charging system (no voltage regulator or alternator), and it also is just about impossible to run wires directly from the battery into the passenger compartment. The absence of an alternator means that the small 12VDC battery under the hood is charged from time to time via the High Voltage Electric Vehicle traction batteries. Upon turning the car on, the voltage across the battery typically jumps from less than 12VDC to 13.7 VDC to 14.2 VDC. This charging period lasts for less than five minutes and then the battery drops back to about 12 VDC. Normally, this would not be a big issue for a ham radio installation. The problem I had was that I was using a Powerwerk ITS-12 voltage sensing and timer device between the battery and the radio.

The ITS-12 is used by police, fire and EMS departments to perform three functions. First, it automatically shuts the radio off after a set amount of minutes when the ignition is turned off. Secondly, it turns the radio off if the battery voltage drops below 11.4V DC. Thirdly, it shuts the radio off if the charging system faults and applies 16 VDC or greater to the radio. All of these functions seemed
(Continued next page)

like a good idea, so I wanted to use this device in my Prius. After installation, I had a problem. Upon starting the car, the radio would turn on as expected; but after about five minutes on the road the radio would suddenly turn off. The issue was due to the ITS-12 thinking the car turned off because the voltage across the battery dropped to about 12 VDC. After a lot of help from Powerwerx, and returning the device to them for testing, they provided a work-around. Their initial reply stated that the device was OK, the issue was the non-standard automobile. You'll note in the photo of the device that there is a big red cap in lower left corner of the ITS-12. Once the red cover is removed, another voltage input terminal is exposed. Its function is to override the low-voltage condition and allow voltage and current to pass through the unit even if the battery voltage is below 11.4 VDC. This terminal is supposed to be used only in emergency situations when communications powered from a low battery are necessary. This emergency terminal proved to be my solution. Powerwerx recommended I permanently connect a 12 VDC wire that was switched through the ignition. Now when the ignition is on the ITS-12 is always in emergency mode and will operate until I shut the ignition off. At that point, a 15 minute timer begins, that finally shuts the radio off when timed out.

The next challenge was figuring out where to mount the two piece radio. The control head I planned to mount it on was an 18 inch tall Lido LM-300 seat-bolt mount. The radio body was the next item needing mounting. Examining the car, I found a removable plastic cover under the glove box. After fabricating a 1/2" piece of plywood of the appropriate shape to replace the factory cover, and an aluminum bracket to support the front of the radio, I carefully completed the installation. I added four blue 12 VDC LEDs to the frond edge of the plywood, to add some light in the



The ITS-12 and radio body mounted.

passenger wheel well, as well to provide light to make the necessary connections to the body of the rig. The LEDs are connected to the courtesy light circuit, so they come on when a door is opened and then time off after a few minutes. They also turn on whenever the headlights are powered.

Earlier, I mentioned the challenge of getting a good 10 amp supply to power this 50 W rig. Since it was impossible to get through the firewall on this Prius, I went with plan "B"; pirate voltage from the fuse box under the dash near the steering wheel. This plan worked out well since there were two un-used sockets in the fuse box side by side, that were not switched by the ignition. I figured sharing the 10 amp load with two parallel wires would be an acceptable solution. Wiring did include using the Yaesu supplied 10 amp fuses, one each for the black and red wires. Finding a suitable chassis ground was obvious when looking at the bolts coming through the firewall.

The final solution looks like this inside the car. The Lido mount works perfectly to allow easy access to the control head and it places it high enough in the car for very quick GPS satellite lock on. I cut a piece of 3/4" PVC pipe in half, screwed on a microphone holder, and then tie wrapped the two halves back together around
(Continued next page.)



The completed installation.

the Lido flexible arm. This layout places the microphone within easy access. Finally, if you look at the photo below the shift lever, you'll see two other items I installed as part of this mobile set-up. The first is VDC meter, connected to the fuse box and ground. This meter allows me to monitor the battery voltage under the hood to be certain I don't drain the battery so much that the car won't start. With the ITS-12, this situation should never occur as long as it is functioning as designed. Secondly, I installed a Yaesu MLS-200-M10 mobile speaker. With the radio body under the dash, with a bottom facing speaker, I wanted better audio, so this speaker is perfect for the task. Double face taped to the center console, it is solid and provides excellent audio.

That concludes my story. I hope you enjoyed its twists and turns, and hope that you got some ideas for your first radio installation or upgrade. Thanks for the opportunity to write an article for the *WO*, and all the best to my fellow CARS members and anyone else who may come across this story.

73, Dave, AC8TN

December Birthdays

Joel Chaney, KSSHB 12/7/64

Gary Dewy, NISZ 12/7/64

Bill Brown, NSBBB 12/8

Andy Evridge, KD8SCV 12/27/52

If your name does not appear on the list, or the information is incorrect, please contact the editor.



Mark, WJ8WM, holds the ladder for Metro, W8MET, while working at N18Z.



Hams search the outdoor flea market looking for bargains with the Michigan International Speedway grandstands looming in the background.

Great Lakes HamCon

“It’s gonna be great!”

... and it was! What a fantastic venue. This year, the weather on October 7th and 8th was absolutely gorgeous. The 2017 Great Lakes Ham Convention, GLHamCon for short, was held at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI. There appeared to be an endless supply of pavement for convenient parking and the outdoor flea market. Handicap and general parking was all situated inside the track. The outdoor flea market was held on pit road. The indoor vendors were housed in the adjacent race car garages.

This two day event also featured two simultaneous tracks of forums, similar in format to those at Hamvention. The caliber of the presentations was top notch. The subject of some of the forums was familiar (e.g. Kit Building Techniques with Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, Youth Forum with Carole Perry, WB2MGP, etc.). There were several new and

regional subjects also included on the schedule (e.g. activation of the Col. James M. Schoonmaker during the Museum Ships on the Air special event by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association). These forums were held in the media rooms located between the indoor and outdoor flea markets.

The program also included a one-day Tech class, VE testing, mobility scooter availability, camping, fox hunt, door prizes, a Saturday night banquet with the ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, as the keynote speaker, and a Wouff Hong ceremony. The banquet was held onsite in the Champions Club and was sold-out. There were food vendors located through-out the pit road area, as well as, the speedway’s concession stand with a wide variety of selections available during the entire event.

With over 1,100 paid attendance, the first year of the Great Lakes HamCon was a successful start to a new tradition and the region’s most exciting new hamfest.

73, de David, KD8ACO



Silent Key

We are sad to report Carl Smith, N4AA, became a Silent Key. He was 77 years old and had been an amateur radio operator for 63 years! Carl owned DX Publishing (QRZ DX and the DX magazine). Carl was a ham's ham, as he dabbled in many aspects of our great hobby. He did a lot for amateur radio over the years including working at the ARRL and writing for CQ magazine. He was one of the founding members that started W4DXCC. He was a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club, re-established Chapter 145 of QCWA and established the Southern Appalachian Radio Club. Thanks to his friends W8GEX and AA4NN he went on his one and only DXpedition to the Bahamas in 2009 as C6AAA.

(Contributed by Bob Check, W8GC, from an email he received.)

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

Dues Reminder

As a reminder to all members the annual dues are due by January 31st 2018. They can be paid at the monthly meeting or mailed to 7395 Brecksville Rd. Independence, OH 44131-6446.

Dues are \$26 per year for regular members, \$18 per year for seniors over 60 and \$16 per year for family members of regular or senior members. Please contact CARS Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC, if a hardship situation exists.

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

"I keep six honest serving men (they taught me all I knew); Their names are What and Why and When And How And Where and Who."

— Rudyard Kipling

Again this month Metro, W8MET, star DXer and contester has taken time out to suggest to fellow CARS members and WO readers operating activities and events he believes would be FUN to partake in.

Metro's Picks

ON-THE-AIR

Nov 4, 2100-Nov 6, 0300 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 1.8-28 www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Nov 11, 0001-Nov 12, 2359 10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital 28 www.ten-ten.org

Nov 11, 1400-Nov 12, 0200 Kentucky QSO Party CW Ph Dig 1.8-50 www.wkdx.com

Nov 11 1900-Nov 13, 0500 CQ-WE Contest CW Ph Dig 1.8-432 cqwe.cboh.org

Nov 18, 2100-Nov 20, 0300 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 1.8-28.0 www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

Nov 25, 0000-Nov 26, 2359 CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW 1.8-28 www.cqww.com/rules.htm

Special Events

Nov. 4-Nov. 5, 1500-2355 W0JH, Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald at the Split Rock Lighthouse, 3.860 7.260 14.260 21.360 Certificate. www.radioham.org

Nov. 6-Nov. 20, 0000-2359 W8F, 14.260 SSB and 14.040,CW, 7.260 SSB and 7.040 CW, 42nd Anniversary Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, Certificate. www.livoniaarc.com

Nov. 10-Nov. 12, 1423-1423, K8V, 14.280 7.230 SSB, 14.040 CW, and 14.090 Digital. Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club, Veterans Day, Certificate and QSL. qsl.net/ka1ddb

Nov. 11, 1500-2200, W0FSB, Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club, Honoring Veterans on Veterans Day, 21.240 14.240 7.240. w0fsb@outlook.com or www.qrz.com/db/w0fsb

Nov. 17, 1500-2400, K7NRA, 21.335 14.250 7.250 SSB and 14.040 CW, NRA's 146th Birthday Party, Certificate. www.w7yrc.org/nrabirthday

Participating is FUN, FUN, FUN...ENJOY!

Info from QST November 2017 Pg. 93 and 102-103...all times in GMT ZULU time

CARS 2017 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

WJ8WM **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

W8GC **, WJ8WM, KD8SCV, K8ARP

Club Photographer

N8OWS **

Field Day

WJ8WM, K8ARP, AC8NW

Find a Club Station location

K8KR** Ni8Z

50/50

WT8O

License classes

WT8O ** KD8ACO, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O **

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109

wt8o@att.net

Program's at Meetings

KD8QBB **

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

K8ARP **

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

WB8ROK ** pop, K8DMT ** coffee, NW8X ** eat's

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, N8OWS, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, KD8RKF

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2017 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109

wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark Moro, WJ8WM 216-661-0342

SECRETARY

Larry Shimerka, N8OWS 216-647-2484

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Andy Evridge KD8SCV 440-886-0723

even year executive board 2 year term

N8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term

KD8SCV, K8ARP, WB8ROK

License trustee K8ZFR

WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,

W8GC



October 29, 2017



2017 CARS Christmas Party

Friday December 15, 2017 serving dinner at 6:30pm
at the Brew Garden's Party room, 18590 Bagley Rd, Middleburg Hts

Cost is only \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 age 7 to 18, 6 or less free
Another great reason to join the Christmas celebration!



*"Family and friends are always
welcome at our Christmas Party"*



Brew Garden Dinner buffet Menu:

Entrees:

Chicken Marsala
Sliced slow roasted Sirloin with Au Jus (new vendor)
Fresh Cod with Lemon Beurre Blanc

Side dishes:

Oven Roasted Redskin Potatoes
Green Beans with Shallot Butter
House Salad
Bread

Soft drinks included, *Alcoholic beverages can be purchased.*

We will have several prizes, 50/50 drawing, the presentation of any 2017 CARS Awards plus Joel N8SHB will entertain us with a Bingo Game.

Reservations must be in no later than December 10, contact Bob, W8GC at 216-524-1750, e-mail w8gc@wowway.com. Please pay at the party.

PS: you will be responsible for the cost of a no show reservation.

For info on Brew Garden go to <http://www.brewgarden.com/index.html>