

The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75



June 2005

Volume XXXV

Issue VI

FROM THE PREZ

Thanks to all who came to our May meeting. Please remember the June, July and August meetings will be outdoor meetings at the Cleveland Metro Park Brecksville Reservation.

Our May 50/50 raffle was won by Jane, K8JGR. Congratulations Jane. CARS and Jane split the \$71.00.

T.J. Powell, N8UIR had a nice presentation about his receiving the Presidents Volunteer Service Award and his main project the Northeast Ohio Medical Reserve Corps.

I am very pleased to welcome our 2 new members, David Lay, D8BMT and Marcus Mrazek, KD8BPG. Please come to meetings and join in the fun.

Copley - Fairlawn Middle school Ham Club will continue with weekly meetings and field trips through the summer school break. We had a great and informative field trip Saturday, ay 28 to the WKYC transmitter site for 8 of the club members, followed by pizza for all.

Please if anyone has an old "working" HT they would like to donate for one of the kids in the Copley Ham Club please contact me with the information ASAP.

We had a good time Saturday May 21, 2005 at the Boy Scout Headquarters in downtown Cleveland. CARS helped celebrate the rededication of their facility. Nine CARS members contributed to the Ham radio demonstration.

Below is a picture showing some of the set up including HF & VHF radio, Robot and CW demonstrations for all who attended.



Rick Powis, N8ZN will give a talk at the June meeting about the Sterling Engine, he works the NASA and is working on the Sterling design.

Please remember and help out at the next two CARS events in June! June 12 is the Diabetes Tour De Cure bike event at the very important Field Day coming June 25 and 26 this year. Contact Tom WB8N to help at one or both 440-232-4193.

That's it for another WO, this months saying: *Don't go around saying the world owes you a living; the world owes you nothing; it was here first.* Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens 1835-1910)

See you at the June 15, 2005 CARS meeting in the park.

73,

de Bob, W8GC

CARS MEETING MINUTES MAY 18, 2005

The meeting held at the Busch Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Bob Check, W8GC. Around the room introductions were made.

Mike K8EHP made a motion which was seconded by Gary NI8Z to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2005 published in the WO. A vote was taken and passed.

Steve N8IS, due to the absence of Tina W8HBI, reported the balance for the Treasurer.

A new controller and delay board was purchased for a cost of \$553.85 and installed in the 146.82 MHZ repeater as reported to us by Bob W8GC. Many thanks to Dave, K8DAV and to Vince, N8OVW for their expertise and time.

Dave, KD8V informs us that Phil Harding, KA8EOW is a Silent Key and get well cards were sent to Lin, WD8SDP and Steve, N8IS.

A reminder to all members by Bill, KC8YSV to renew your ARRL membership through CARS.

At the Copley Middle School, a student Marcus Mrazeck, is a new Technician. Bill read a letter from the Principal, Robert Whitaker, concerning the Radio Station there.

At the North Royalton Middle School event, Bill relates that about 140 fifth graders and a number of seventh and eighth graders attended and this was then followed by a discussion. (*The students also graded US on our demonstrations. Ed*)

Rick, N8ZN will be the speaker at next months meeting on June 15, 2005 at the Cleveland Metropark in Brecksville, Ohio.

Bob, W8GC informed us on the repeater work and reported that all amateur classes for this year are completed.

Comments on the Wednesday night net were made by Gordon, W8GTK.

Mike, K8EHP mentioned that there were six participants in the Fox Hunt held on Sunday, May 15, 2005. Two participants found the Fox, the shortest time being 55 minutes and a second place time of 67 minutes.

Tom, WB8N commented on the WO newsletter and stated it was great to have so many members sending in articles. Keep those articles coming, friends and neighbors!

Tom also reported on the upcoming Field Day

event in June, 2005 and this was followed by a discussion. Cooks are needed for Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Tom also said he will have a meeting in about 2 weeks to firm up Field Day operations.

New members voted into the club are David Lay, KD8BMT and Marcus Mrazeck, KD8BPG. Congratulations guys!

The 50/50 raffle was won by Jane, K8JGR whose share was \$30.50. A second prize of two tickets to the Breezewood Hamfest was won by Gary, NI8Z and a third prize won by George, KA8JHS.

Terry, KB8DTC made a motion to close the meeting which was seconded by Darren, K8DMT. The meeting was closed at 8:25 PM by Bob, W8GC.

Following the meeting T.J. Powell, N8UIR gave a presentation on the Northeast Ohio Medical Reserve Corps and his receiving an award for Public Service personally, from U.S. President George Bush.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary: Ron K8VJG

June Birthdays

KBWFI Brian Harris Sr. 6-2-40

N8XK Tim Francisco 6-5-60

W8NOX Keith Alexander 6-7

KC8OMV Michael Dressler 6-7

K8ME Dwaine Modock 6-16-48

KB8VJO Gary Overfield 6-18-58

N8DJC Don Leyden Jr 6-19-49

K8SCI Rick Wells 6-24

WA8TWS Paul Tokar 6-27

KC8LZO David Dressler 6-28

Congratulations fellas!

VICE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW

This month our interview is with one of our newer members, Henry Oswick, KD8BAO.

V.P.: How did you become interested in Amateur Radio, what got you started ?

Henry: I have always been interested in radio and wireless communication. I have been using CB radio for at least ten years. However, as you all know, CB is not the cleanest band on the airwaves. As for the ham end of it, I wanted to get my license back about five years or so. But back then I didn't have the money for books and equipment, or the patience to sit and learn CW. At the end of last year I found the CARS web page on a fluke. The classes started two days after I found it; I called Bob, W8GC, and signed up.

V.P.: How long have you been licensed, and what class license do you currently have?

Henry: I have been licensed since Feb. 25 of '05. I am currently a Tech level ham.

V.P.: What do you like about Amateur Radio?

Henry: The biggest thing I like about ham radio is the people. Everyone I have ever talked to since February has been like we have talked and been friends for years. Everyone is for the most part a wealth of knowledge. The other part I like about it is the opportunity to do public service and community service work. Even though the pay isn't the greatest, the personal gratification is well worth it.

V.P.: What are your favorite bands to work?

Henry: My favorite bands to work are 2M and 70cm, mostly because that is all my HT has. Hopefully after Dayton that may change. We will see.

V.P.: Do you collect QSL Cards? If so, how many confirmed countries do you have?

Henry: I do collect QSL cards, however I have not received any confirmations from my Echolink DX to Australia.

V.P.: What other hobbies do you have besides Ham Radio?

Henry: Well, anything outside. Camping, climbing, hiking, biking and off-roading with trucks and ATV's. I also dabble with computers a little, I like to design QSL cards, I think they mean more when they are hand made.

V.P.: What would your dream station be? Where would it be?

Henry: Honestly I don't know yet, I haven't been doing this long enough. But it will be big.

V.P.: What type of work do you do? Or if retired, what did you do?

Henry: Right now I am a Union Sheet Metal Worker with L.U.33 in Cleveland. I am a project detailer/coordinator, and also run the CAD system. In the evenings and weekends I work for a private towing company out of Richfield. While working, I monitor the 146.820 and 443.925 pl 131.8. So give a holler. Hope to talk to everyone soon. See you at Field Day.

V.P.: Thanks very much Henry for taking time out of your busy schedule to let our readers and fellow members get to know you a little better. Congratulations on getting your ticket and welcome to C.A.R.S.

CARS WEEKLY CLUB NET

Every Wednesday evening at 9:00 p.m. the 146.82 repeater comes alive with the CARS weekly club net. The net is run by volunteer net controllers who try to keep some order to the goings on on the net. The net is open to all amateurs, not just members of CARS, and is run to pass information of interest to the ham community at large. There is usually a ham related trivia question which you can take a shot at answering as well.

This is a good opportunity to get on the air if you are not very active in operating. Get out your hand-held rig and charge up the battery and join in the fun.

The Wobbly Oscillator is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Any original articles are the property of CARS, but may be reprinted in an Amateur Radio publication if credit is given to the author, if known, and this publication. Articles may be submitted for publication in the W.O. up to the last day of the month for publication in the next month's issue. Submit to newsletter@cars.org. By reading this you have committed yourself to joining in the weekly net! 73 - Ed.

LEARN THE CODE THE EASY WAY

by Nancy Kott, WZ8C

(Excerpted with permission from World Radio Magazine, June 2005 issue.)

(Editor's note: CARS has run code classes with limited success in the past. This might be the way to go, if you are really sincere about learning Morse Code.)

Chuck Adams, K7QO has developed a code course that starts an individual from the ground floor or not knowing the Morse code and gets them to 20 wpm. This course is on one CD and uses audio files in MP3 format so that over 12.5 hours of audio can be used to learn and practice the sounds that make up Morse code.

One aspect of this course that I particularly like is that it is geared toward instant recognition. If you hear a character but cannot IMMEDIATELY identify it, you do not have instant recognition of that character and it is holding you back from being able to copy faster speeds. Hesitating on just a handful of letters or numbers can impede your progress. After assessing your problem areas - the specific characters you do not instantly recognize - you can use Chuck's program to concentrate on just those letters or numbers. This program can also help those who learned the code incorrectly and are at a plateau because they are mentally translating from short-cut methods or visual aids.

This course teaches you to use only the sounds that you hear to translate to characters as rapidly as possible. Of course, it takes a commitment of time and repetition to learn or re-learn the code correctly. There is no magic pill or shortcut to code proficiency. Just like anything else worth having, you have to do the work. *(No one can TEACH anyone the code. You can only be introduced to the characters and sounds. YOU have to PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. Ed.)*

The letters in the code course are introduced in alphabetical order. In this manner, the bad habit of counting individual dits and dahs is avoided, which is inherently embedded in teaching the code by starting with E, I, S, H, and 5.

Because the course disc is in MP3 format, a large amount of practice material is available on the CD. The disc contains files to learn the individual letters, numerals, prosigns, and punctuation. Test

tiles are given after the introduction of every two characters to aid in retention and practice. Approximately 12.5 hours for the introductory course is on the CD, plus 10 hours for helping get character recognition of individual characters to 30 wpm and higher. Also a number of sample QSOs are given to aid operators in what they will typically hear on the air. A large number of plain text files are included to practice on, so you'll never get bored with the same thing. With this much audio material it is practically impossible for anyone to memorize the text. (Even Chuck, K7QO doesn't have it memorized.)

Included on the disc is an instruction manual in PDF format that may be printed out and used to learn the code. Two articles I wrote about instant recognition are included on the disc in PDF format. Chuck has also included his article on sending with an iambic paddle.

Chuck has been using CW almost exclusively for almost 50 years. He has CP-60 for 60 wpm from the ARRL for the Samuel F.F. Morse Bicentennial Code Proficiency Award in 1002 and has 109 wpm and the highest code speed in his age group for RUFZ, a program used for high speed code competition at a lot of contest conventions. Yes, you read that right: 60 wpm code proficiency from the ARRL and 109 wpm on RUFZ1

The most important point of all is that the code course is FREE! It can be downloaded in ISO format from K7QO's website. Do a Google to find it easily. Also, if you send a return mailer and postage to FISTS, P.O. Box 74, Hadley, MI 48440, we will send a copy to you. You can also send Chuck a blank CD with a return mailer and he will be more than happy to make a copy for you. NO CHARGE. Chuck has developed this course and does not charge for it. He did it just to help others learn a mode that is really a joy to use when you are proficient with it. Chuck says, "With the investment of about 15-30 minutes every day from your hectic schedule, you can begin your journey to become an accomplished *continued on next page....*

CW operator. High speed code operators are not born, they are trained. Make it a point to increase your code speed by at least 5 wpm per year until you get to speeds that your friends can't copy! And get on the air and demonstrate your skills to others so that they, too, will bet on the bandwagon."

(You can contact Nancy, WZ8C, at nancy@tir.com or Nancy Cott, P.O. Box 807, Hadley MI 48440. For information on FISTS CW Club, visit their web page at <http://www.fists.org>.

CQ DX HALL of FAME

The CQ DX Hall of Fame recognizes significant contributions to the art of DXing. The lone inductee for 2005 is Masayoshi Ebisawa, JA1DM. Arguably Japan's top DXer.

With a total of 382 confirmed entities (and No 1 ranking in Japan), he is the lead card checker for DXCC in Japan and has written and/or translated several articles about DXing and the ARRL's Logbook of the World system for Japanese ham magazines.

MEETING IN THE PARK

Don't forget gals and guys...the June, July, August and possibly September CARS meetings will be held in the Brecksville branch of the Metro-parks, at the Oak Grove picnic area. The entrance to the park is about ½ mile or so south of Rt. 82, left off of Brecksville Rd. There will be talk-in on the 146.82 repeater.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. as usual, but come early and bring some grub to cook on the fire provided by CARS. Or just stop at Mickey D's, pick up something to eat there, and bring it to the picnic pavilion. The more the merrier!

There might even be an HF station set up to operate...you never know.

See you there!

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

WHAT A BLAST!

I'm talking about the 2005 Dayton Hamvention. This was a great one folks, what with the National Convention of the ARRL and lots of new fun stuff to see!

My greatest highlight this year was being inducted into the Royal Order of the Wouf Hong, a secret society of the ARRL. This induction ceremony is only held at ARRL National, State or District conventions. It is normally held at the witching hour of Midnight, however special dispensation was given this time to hold it at 10:30 p.m. due to this induction ceremony being the largest ever held, with over 100 inductees. It was indeed a great honor and privilege to become a member of this prestigious order.

My second greatest highlight was getting a picture of my mug on a replica of the cover of the May issue of QST magazine. The ARRL had a booth where you could get this done for a "modest fee".

The weather held out too! Friday morning was a bit misty and cool, but it soon cleared up enough to be a great day for prowling the flea market. It rained Friday night, but Saturday was bright and sunny. Sunday was a bit cool and cloudy, but not a problem, as the rain held off until we were on our way home in the afternoon.

There was some great new gear on display by the various manufactures and of course I got my Yeasu hat. I got the autograph of Chip Margelli, K7JA! In case you live in a cave and don't watch TV or get the latest amateur news, Chip is one of the Hams who demo'd CW versus text messaging on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno recently. Great demonstration. He and his partner came out dressed as old fashioned railroad telegraphers, and Chip works for Yeasu and wore his costume Friday and Saturday at the Yeasu booth.

I really didn't spend a bunch of money this year, as I really wasn't looking for anything in *continued on next page....*

particular. I did pick up a few odds and ends, including a great mag-mount mobile antenna called the G-Whiz. It seems to work really well and is supposed to out perform an 5/8th whip antenna.

I ran into several CARS members on Saturday and had a chance to chat with them for a bit.

Of course I visited the Northern Ohio DX Assn. hospitality room at the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton each night. That's the place you get to meet and chat with Hams from all over the country as well as foreign lands, which I think is really neat!

Gary, NI8Z and his out-of-state buddies, Ron, K8VJG and my roommate and I all stayed in the same motel, which had a hot tub and indoor pool, which was really great for soothing those aching feet and muscles after a long day of hamfesting! Lots of great restaurants nearby as well, so we ate good!

In spite of some doubt on the success of this year's Hamvention, I think there was a pretty good turnout. There were some empty spaces both in the flea market and indoors this year, but I think the attendance was as good as last year and possibly even better. I'm anxious and curious to learn what the attendance actually was.

We have our reservation made for next year and I am looking forward to the 2006 Dayton Hamvention already!

STUFF COMING UP

We will be doing communications for the annual Diabetes Assn. Tour de Cure again this year, which is this weekend, Sunday, June 12. We will be needing a few more volunteers for this event, so if you can make it and want to help a good cause, give me a shout either at my email address, wb8n@sbcglobal.net or call me at 440-232-4193. This is an important event, as finding a cure for Diabetes is a worthwhile cause.

Then there is the June meeting, Wednesday, the 15th, at the Oak Grove picnic area of the Brecksville branch of the Metro-parks.

But the BIG event this month is Field Day! We will again be at the Al Koran Mosque picnic area on East Edgerton Rd. as we have been the past few years, so plan on stopping out and doing some

operating, or at least just pay us a visit. A good time WILL be had by all! We are going to have eight stations set up again this year and hope to score big in our class. Gary is going to wear his hard hat, and we are not letting him play with matches, and he has a new cross bow with more than one arrow. I am going to try not to twist my hips too much, and Steve is going to be kept in isolation until set-up the Friday night before the official start of Field Day, so hopefully this will be an injury and illness free event! We will have more information on Field Day at the June meeting.

146.22/82 REPEATER

As most of you know, we now have a new controller up and running for the .82 machine, thanks to the efforts Dave K8DAV, and Vince N8OVW. It is sounding great and I have heard non-members using it complimenting it and those who got it in operation.

We have recently loaned the use of the repeater to other area clubs for their events and are more than happy to be of help to them. One problem however, is that occasionally there has been some bozo causing interference, usually during a special service event, by using obscene language. The most recent was Saturday, June 4th, during the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club event. The bozo was ignored and he finally diminished his illegal efforts when he saw he was not getting any response. This is the way these guys should be handled. If you hear that sort of interference on the repeater, go to the input of your radio and see how strong the signal is. Then notify one of the officers of CARS and let them know what you heard and the results of your signal strength test. Perhaps you can even determine the direction the signal is coming from. All this will be helpful in tracking down this pervert.

TIFN

That's it for now folks. Hope to see you at the meeting, or at least catch you on the air. Don't forget the Wed. CARS net!

73,

de Tom, WB8N

CARS 2005 Officers & Committees

Audit

Toby WT8O ** Tina W8HBI, Gary NI8Z

ARRL Liaison

Bill Sarver KC8YSV **

Media Representative

Don KC8NIX **

Christmas Party 2005

Gary NI8Z ** Steve N8IS ** Tina W8HBI
Tom WB8N

Community Education & School Programs

Dave KD8V ** Steve N8IS ** Tina W8HBI,
Kayla N8KAY, Bill KC8YSV

Contests

George K8KR **

Development

Bob W8GC ** All officers

Diabetes events

Tom WB8N ** All CARS members

Field Day

Tom WB8N ** All CARS members

Fox Hunts

Mike K8EHP ** N8IS, N8TCP

Ham License classes

Bob W8GC ** Gary, NI8Z ** Tom WB8N, Steve
N8IS, Ron K8VJG, Bruce N8DJX, George K8KR,
Dave K8DAV

Interference & Jamming

W8GC **, NI8Z, N8IS, N8TCP, WB8N

Scouts

Steve N8IS **, Tina W8HBI, Kayla N8KAY

Lighthouse events

Toby WT8O ** 440-572-1544

Mentor/Elmer

Bill Sarver KC8YSV ** Ron Borkey K8VJG **
Tom WB8N, Bob W8GC

Membership

Tina W8HBI ** Bob W8GC **

Museum Ship W. G. Mather W8WGM

Bob W8GC ** Lin WD8SDP ** All CARS members

NET

Gordon W8GTK **

WO/Newsletter

Tom WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Program directors

Bill KC8YSV ** Jack W8JAK **

QSL manager-NO8A & W8WGM

Tom WB8N **

Refreshments

Terry KB8DTC **

50/50

Kayla N8KAY **

Sunshine (welfare)

Dave KD8V ** 330-666-8721

Technical

Dave K8DAV** Bob W8GC ** Terry KB8DTC
Vince N8OVW, Tom WB8N, Jack W8JAK, Jim
WD8CHL

VE exams

Gary NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail

Dave K8DAV ** Bob W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

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