

The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75



NOVEMBER 2005

Volume XXXV

Issue XI

FROM THE PREZ

Thanks to Bob, KC8MRC and Lieutenant Colonel Roger Middleton for a fine presentation on the Civil Air Patrol at our October meeting. Also we appreciate the excellent turnout as well.

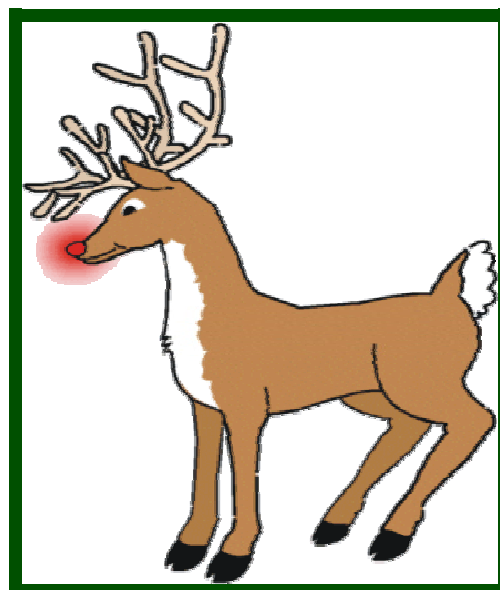
CARS did a Ham Radio demonstration at the Arrowhead School in Copley, OH on October 7, 2005. It was enjoyed by both students and CARS members! We were presented with a power-point presentation of the demo from the school as a thank you for our demonstration. This was shown at our October meeting and will be available for viewing for all interested parties. Just contact me for the files. As always go to www.2cars.org select [photo gallery](#) on the home page to see pictures of this and other events.

Remember this month is our annual election of officers. Nominations are in and we have 6 members running for the 3 even year board positions. That's a sign of a healthy club! We will also have a new VP and Secretary. Treasurer and President are unopposed. Please come out and support your club and vote!

I will be making a motion to add yearly Scholarships to the By-Laws. This will be explained in detail at the November meeting.

This years Christmas Party promises to be a memorable one PLEASE attend. As usual, Prizes, Surprises, Karaoke and great food! When, Where: Saturday December 17, 2005 6:00p.m. at the Independence Civic Center in the Oak Room. This years theme is "Reindeer". Come dressed for the season and maybe receive a special prize!

I will am pleased to be able to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing all who can make it at our Christmas party!



That's it for another WO. This month's thought: *When all think alike, no one is thinking very much.*

See you at the Busch Community room for our next CARS meeting on November 16, 2005, No December meeting.

73,
de, Bob W8GC

Support your club, get your 2006 dues in now!

CARS October 19, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The meeting which was held at the Busch Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Bob Check, W8GC. The around the room introductions followed by the 30 members/guests in attendance.

Ev WA8EYF made a motion, seconded by Dave, KD8V to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2005 meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

A report on the treasury was made by Tina, W8HBI. Steve, N8IS made a motion to accept the treasurer's report which was seconded by Terry, KB8DTC. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bob, W8GC explained about the sale of the www.cars.org CARS domain name as approved by the Board members and that the new web address is www.2cars.org A discussion followed.

Ev, WA8EYF made a motion, seconded by Dave, K8DAV to require at least two signatures on the club checks. A discussion followed and the motion was passed.

Dave, KD8V related to us on the special event held at the Arrowhead Elementary School in Copley, Ohio. Dave reported on the progress at the Copley Middle School Radio Club. There are 12 regular and at least 2 more candidates to take the license test on Friday October 21, 2005. Bob, W8GC also made comments on the Copley Middle School Radio Club and showed a Power Point presentation sent to us by Arrowhead School.

An article from pr. bulletin 5744 (RE: 5731)dated September 13, 2005 was read by Ron, K8VJG. This related to the flash flood warning by the New ORLEANS office of the National Weather Service that a breach in a levy occurred and 3 to 8 feet of water is expected. The NWS source of information was ham radio transmissions by the Orleans Levee Board. This warning occurred at 8:14 am on Monday morning and was the last one the local office issued before its communications were cut off.

Tom, WB8N informed us on the condition of his health.

A report on the Wednesday night net was made by Gordon, AI8Y.

Dave, K8DAV and Jim, WD8CHL informed us on the progress of the repeaters.

Comments on the repeater intruder were made by Steve, N8IS and was followed by a discussion.

George, K8KR explained to us on the upcoming ARRL Sweepstakes contest starting on November 19, 2005 at 2100 UTC and ending on Monday November 21, 2005 at 0400 UTC.

Toby, WT8O commented on the Wednesday night net and the SS Mather radio station.

There will be a VE session on November 13, 2005 in Independence, Ohio at 9:AM as reported to us by Gary, NI8Z. Gary also reported on the Christmas Party to be held on Saturday December 17, 2005 at 6:PM. The theme this year is "Reindeer".

Bob, W8GC informs us on two new prospective members Ray Lashure, KD8CEQ and Dylan Brown, KD8CEZ. Terry, KB8DTC made a motion, seconded by Steve, N8IS to accept the new candidates. A vote was taken the motion passed.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Bob, W8GC. His share was \$24.00.

Nominations for officers for the year 2006 was opened by Bob, W8GC. Nominations are: President: Bob, W8GC, Vice President: Dave, KD8V, Secretary: Toby, WT8O, Treasurer: Tina, W8HBI. For 3 Board Members: Dave, K8DAV, George, K8KR, Gary, NI8Z, Bill, KC8YSV, Steve, N8IS and Bil,I WA8GEO. Elections will be at our November 16 meeting.

Terry, KB8DTC made a motion, seconded by Ev, WA8EYF to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM by Bob, W8GC.

Following the meeting a very informative presentation was given on the Civil Air Patrol by our member, Bob, KC8MRC and Lieutenant Colonel Roger Middleton.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary:
Ron K8VJG.

V.P. INTERVIEW

This month's interview is with Mike Cegelski, K8EHP.

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

K8EHP: I always had a knack for and an interest in electronics and radios. When I started High School, I immediately joined the Radio Club (W8KTZ). I thought I died and went to Heaven! The club moderator and the other older members were very helpful. Within a couple of weeks a bunch of us freshmen passed our Novice exam (my call was KN8EHP). A few weeks later, I successfully passed my Technician class exam.

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

K8EHP: I got my Novice ticket in September, 1957 which means I have been continuously licensed for over 48 years (Good Grief!!!). I have been licensed as an Amateur Extra for many years now.

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

K8EHP: I very much enjoy public service events. I feel an obligation for having the privilege of owning and operating my own, personal radio station. When operating I love to ragchew. I also very much enjoy SSTV (Slow Scan Television) and ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding). The people you meet in this hobby are generally very friendly and special. I really enjoy the camaraderie on the air and in the clubs.

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

K8EHP: On HF, 17 meters without a doubt. I've never failed to land a QSO on that band, it's not as crowded as 40 and usually the QRN is less. VHF and UHF are also fun.

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

K8EHP: Not really. I do collect them, but not with as much vigor as a lot of other operators do. As I said earlier, I'm more of a ragchewer not a contester. I'm not trying for WAS or WAC, etc..

V.P.: What types of Awards or Recognition have you won or been awarded with?

K8EHP: In the last few years the only awards I've brought home were for ARDF National competitions. I still hold very dear to my heart an award I had bestowed on me over twenty years ago

when I was President of the South East Amateur Radio Club. They voted me as "Man of the Year". The award was a real rubber duckie (Donald) formed over a small two meter HT rubber duck antenna. I keep it proudly displayed on a bookend on the top shelf of my operating desk.

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

K8EHP: The XYL and I love to go hiking (orienteeing). My top alternate hobby is playing guitar if you can call what I do with it playing. I keep working on it and I'm slowly creeping up on proficiency. I also really enjoy boating but I seriously doubt I'll ever get active again.

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

K8EHP: Our idea of a dream station changes as the years go by. My present station works very well and If I call 'em I can work 'em. The only improvement I'd like is more land to string some serious wire around for 80 and 160 meters. That won't happen as we're happy where we live and moving isn't a consideration. Even if we got the itch to move I don't know to where. Our weather up here isn't all that bad and living close to a large source of fresh water is a good thing!

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

K8EHP: I've been retired for a few years now. I spent the majority of my career as an electronic technician specializing in coin operated amusement equipment (pinball machines, video games, juke boxes, pool tables, air hockey, etc.) I spent a few years as an electronic technician working for Antenna Specialists in their R & D Department.

Thanks Mike, for taking the time to let our readers get to know more about you.

73, Toby WT8O

DIPOLE CALCULATOR

By Dennis Rabbits, KD8APY

A simple dipole antenna is probably the easiest antenna for a ham to use. What can be easier than a piece of wire stretched out.

If you are making a dipole to cover a specific frequency you have to do a little more. First determine the frequency you will be operating on. It's time to figure out the length of your dipole. Using the formula $468/\text{frequency}$. Lets say you are using 468/28 Mhz. Your calculator will come up with 16.71 feet. I have a very cheap ruler so I can't find 16.71 feet.

That's what lead me to work on the Dipole Calculator. It is a very simple utility that converts decimal to feet and inches. You enter the frequency and the formula is $468/\text{frequency}$ by default. If you think there is a better number than 468 to use you can change it. Click on file then click on change formula.

The test will be when the pros from C.A.R.S. give it a shot. So if I need to give it more work let me know.

The program can be downloaded at:
http://rabbitsdesignstudio.com/Rds_web/download.htm. Give it a try!

KD8APY Dennis Rabbits

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

KC8MRC Robert Ozog 11-6
WA8UFZ David Yost 11-6-52
KC8OUH Jeff Venecek 11-7-52
W8JET Michael Merriman 11-11-88
N8UIR Thomas J Powell 11-12-66
WA8ERA Lee Georgia 11-13-43
KC8ZBP Sharon Andrisin 11-22
KB8QJA Pete Gerard 11-28-35
KC8LDI Ryan Dressler 11-26

Congratulations to All!

ANOTHER HOMEBREW ANTENNA

By Buffalo Jim Glor, N8GXR

This homebrew antenna will probably remind you of a larger version of an Outbacker antenna. A good friend of mine, Scott Thrun, KB2TRQ designed it and thus far it has worked rather well. The following are his instructions:

I built the stand out of an old street sign by cutting 8 pieces 3 inches by 4 feet long. Then I cut a square piece 4 inches by 4 inches and drilled a hole in the center to accommodate a three eighths by 24 thread antenna mount. Home Depot supplied the Stanley 3 inch hinges. You will need eight. They come two in a package. Rivet the four hinges onto the 4 inch square piece and then rivet the 3 inch by 4 feet pieces onto those. Now at the end of those pieces, rivet the other 4 hinges on and then the last of the 3 inch by 4 feet pieces. Make sure the hinges are placed so the last piece will fold up onto the first piece; that way when you transport the stand the whole thing folds together into a compact package. Each radial leg is now 8 feet long and when you fold it out it looks like a 4 legged spider. I also reinforced the first 4 legs with 1 inch by 4 feet long aluminum C channel. I riveted those on the underside of the first 4 legs closest to the antenna mount to add rigidity to the upright standing section. With a little scrap and a little drilling plus store bought items, Scott figures he invested about \$40 and some time. Any mobile antenna will do. Hamsticks, Outbacker, screwdriver, Texas bug catcher; all of them work great! Just toss the thing out in the yard, screw an antenna on, attach some coax and start working some DX!!! I was rather impressed by this home brew antenna and thought you might be too. Our club President was so impressed he kept it and gave Scott a "great" deal on an older ICOM 706. I'm not sure what the deal was but both parties are happy.

73, de Buffalo Jim N8GXR
(photo on next page...Ed.)



Scott's Antenna

AN INTERESTING TALE

Gather 'round the campfire, boys and girls...

A few months back, I posted a note on the Society of Midwest Contesters reflector asking if anybody knew the whereabouts of our dear old friend Romeo Stepanenko, 3W3RR. As many will recall, Romeo had a habit in the late 1980's and early 1990's of popping up with his gear from some of the rarest countries in the world of ham radio, make tens of thousands of contacts, and then getting us armchair DX'ers to flood him with requests for QSL cards (which included "green stamps") that often came very late or not at all. There was also that minor issue of him not being able to provide the DXCC administrators with the proper documentation from some of his adventures, proving he was indeed where he said he was. In the parlance of DX'ing, Romeo was the ultimate Slim, a pirate.

I'm a musician, and I figured if ever there was somebody that was worthy of a scurvy-dog, sea-shanty kind of song, ol' Romeo was that person.

There were rumors he was a shady character, who showed up at the Dayton Hamvention in 1999, years after being expelled from DXCC, and then disappeared from the face of the Earth. He is the sort that is perfect for song and story. I needed factual material for the tune, so I started to do my homework. The note to the SMC reflector was the beginning of that homework. I didn't get much response other than a couple of notes that said, "Yeah, whatever happened to that guy?" So, In July 2005, I posted a note on Eham.com in their DX forum, entitled "Wherefore Art Thou, Romeo?" Again, no info. So, I started searching on Google. I found an article online about ham radio in Afghanistan that mentioned him in passing, and a site that had several of Romeo's QSL's (including WX9X's fake P5/R0MEO card he handed out at Dayton one year). I printed the articles and stuck them in my notebook I keep for writing lyrics, where they have sat for a while, collecting dust. I forgot about it and moved on to other projects.

On the evening of October 19, 2005, I received a phone call from an inspector with the U.S Postal Service based in St. Louis. He said he needed to meet with me concerning an investigation of "...one of my associates." I obviously made myself available at his earliest convenience, which was the next day's lunch hour.

I ran over to my friend Matt, NM9H's place. Was he trading endangered animals over the Internet? Circumnavigating customs laws by importing fresh fruit from Venezuela? Ripping tags off of mattresses and mailing them to Botswana? He assured me he was doing nothing of the sort, as he was "...an old man with a house full of kids, with neither the time nor energy to be surreptitious."

Continued on next page...

A night of fitful sleep ensued. We jazz and folk musicians have a sordid history in America, often lumped together with other unsavories like gangsters, communists, and bootleggers. Which of my compadres had warranted constabulatory intervention, and how did the Postal Service get involved?

Besides, my youthful indiscretions are long over, as I have nothing to be discrete about any longer and I'm closer to middle-aged than youthful. In short, like my friend NM9H, I'm boring and getting old.

The Inspector came to my place today (20 October 2005), and after some pleasantries, asked if the name Roman Vega meant anything to me; I truthfully answered no. He then asked if I was a ham operator, to which I said yes. He then asked if the name Romeo Stepanenko meant anything to me, and I nodded uncertainly. The Inspector then produced a printout of my Romeo inquiry on Eham.com. He said he was following up on an investigation from the US Department of Justice in San Francisco concerning our beloved Romeo, and he wanted to know why I was asking about him in a public forum.

I gave him a Reader's Digest version of ham radio, DX'ing, and an overview of the DXCC program. I explained how Romeo pretended to operate from various exceptionally rare places, duped tens of thousands of us into sending him SASE's with green stamps included, and was then caught and expelled from the DXCC program for these fraudulent ham activities. I explained why this caused such a scandal to a program that has had an exceedingly high level of ethics and scrutiny associated with it over the years. He was quite interested in people sending dollars along with QSL requests. I explained it was customary to help pay for the QSL you're going to receive, especially when dealing with an operation from a place as rare as Myanmar or North Korea.

I then had to explain to him why I'd want to write a song about such an unsavory character. As I explained, every hobby or pastime has some level of folklore or legend attached to it, and Romeo is one of the most infamous characters in the history of DX'ing. In baseball, people wrote

songs about Jackie Robinson and Joltin' Joe. Bob Dylan wrote about Emmett Till. Heck, Frank Zappa wrote about a wacko dubbed by the press as The Illinois Enema Bandit. Numerous ballads have been written about pirates, oddballs, do-gooders and ne'er-do-wells in all cultures all around the globe. Ham Radio DX'ing may be a small culture in the grand scheme of things, but it is a culture nonetheless. It stands to reason that, just like any other culture, the heroes are glorified and the villains are reviled. To me, writing a song about Romeo seemed logical and fun.

After an hour of questioning by the Inspector (nice guy, by the way), he said it was quite obvious I wasn't involved in any of Romeo's current shenanigans, and proceeded to tell me The Story: Roman Vega, aka Romeo Stepanenko, was arrested and extradited from Cyprus to the United States in March of 2004, and has been charged with 40 counts of wire fraud and trafficking in stolen credit card numbers. He is alleged to have done this in online chat rooms. The Inspector I spoke with indicated that he allegedly bilked over \$3 million out of this scheme. Romeo has pleaded not guilty to all charges. He has been held in northern California, as he is considered a flight risk. His trial is scheduled to begin in San Francisco on Monday, November 28.

As Paul Harvey would say, "Now you know the rest of the story." The Inspector never informed me that I was not allowed to discuss this, so I'm posting it here for all to see. He indicated the case against Romeo looked quite good indeed, and that they were following up on all leads they had concerning him. I was "lucky" enough to have been considered a Person Of Interest; I got to see a copy of my Federal subpoena, where I was "commanded" to appear in Federal court on November 28 at 8:30AM. The Inspector indicated this would probably

Continued on next page...

not be needed. He did mention that San Francisco is quite nice this time of year, though, and it was almost a pity I wouldn't get to take the Government up on their free "vacation." I gave him one of those nervous smiles and waited for him to move on. He left me his card, said he'd file his report, and told me I'd probably never hear from him again. He did give me the case number (Northern District of California CR04-0101 CRD), since it's a matter of public record. The fact that I was sitting on the edge of my seat as he was telling me this, slack-jawed and with my eyes as wide as saucers, might have had something to do with him giving me the info as well. How did I get associated with Romeo?

I'm just a ham operator who had one QSO with him when he was in Vietnam (still my only 3W QSO), spent probably hundreds of hours listening for him from his other far-flung locales, but never worked him anywhere other than 3W. I just happened to ask the right question at the wrong time. It certainly is interesting what bites sometimes when you go fishing, eh? I'm finally recording my solo CD now. I'll be sure to let everybody know when it's done. I could use a lead player, though; maybe I should give WB6ACU a call..... *(Editors note: WB6ACU is Joe Walsh of the James Gang and the Eagles.)*
73, Sean Kutzko KX9X Gillespie, IL

CARS Annual Holiday Party

is Saturday, December 17th at the Independence CivicCenter in the White Oak Room. 6:00 - 10:00 P.M. Tickets are \$15.00 each.

Please feel free to bring your favorite dessert to share with others. Our theme this year is reindeer.

Should you decide to attend with our theme in mind, you may win a prize !! (Perhaps reindeer antennas on your hat.)

Tickets can be purchased at CARS Meetings or by mailing a check to : CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264. We will immediately mail your tickets back to you.

Hope to see you in December! :)

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

BRRRR!

As I sit at the ole computer writing the column for this month's W.O., It is rather warm out...63 degrees F. But never fear, that cold and snowy weather isn't far off I'm afraid. I don't even want to think about those heating bills this winter! Anyhow, it is time to get those last minute antenna projects done before the snow starts falling. I know of a couple of our members who are rushing around at the last minute trying to get their antenna work completed.

SWEEPSTAKES

The ARRL November Sweepstakes are coming up. This is one in which CARS members can take part in and submit their logs to the club, as we're having are own little contest among members. This is a good one and an easy one folks. The phone sweepstakes run from 2100 UTC Nov. 19, until 0300 UTC Nov 21. All you have to do is get on the 10,15, 20, 40, 80 or 160 meter bands and work as many American or Canadian stations as possible. When contacting another station, just give a consecutive serial number, starting with 01, next your operating category, which will most likely be A, for single operator, low power (100 watts or less), your call sign and the last two digits of the year in which you were licensed. You must copy the same from the station you worked. You can operate a total of 24 of the 30 hours of the contest and you can only work a station once, regardless of the band. For full details see page 105 in the October QST or go to:

www.arrl.org/contests/forms. Who knows, you just might even qualify for the "Worked All States" award! This will be a fun contest and even if you just work it for a few hours you should submit your results to George, K8KR, who is in charge of the CARS contesting events. So c'mon gang...let's get on the air and enjoy our hobby. Hope to hear you and work you myself. *Continued....*

HAMS IN THE DISASTER AREA

Contrary to the belief of some, amateur radio operators have been and still are active and busy in the Gulf Coast areas where Katrina and Rita hit this fall. The November issue of QST is full of articles about hams helping out in the disaster area and should dispel any doubts that anyone could possibly have, and any thoughts about a conspiracy between FEMA and the ARRL. It just ain't so!

CARS WEEKLY NET

For awhile there it appeared to the CARS Weekly net, but as of late we have been getting a lot of participation from our members and non-members as well! Let's keep it up folks! Remember it is every Wednesday night at 9:00 p.m. on the 146.82 repeater. The 443.825 repeater is linked and you can check in on that one as well. We could use a couple more volunteers to be net control too. It isn't difficult. You will be given a script to work from and just go with the flow. Add whatever you want. The current trend is to have a trivia question for all to take a stab at, but you can do other things as well. For instance, one night when I was net control, I took a poll of what everyone thought about the FCC doing away with the Morse Code testing for license exams. The result was rather surprising by the way, with 10 out of 13 participants saying they thought that the code requirement should be kept, for at least the Extra Class test. Interesting. But back to the weekly net, mark it on the calendar, tie a string around your finger, whatever it takes to remember about the net, and turn on your VHF rig and check into the net. It's fun! That's what our hobby is partly about, having fun!

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

I'm gonna keep at you all to contribute to YOUR newsletter. Write an article and submit it to me to get it published in our award winning newsletter! You can write about anything you want, as long as it is in some way amateur radio related. Write about taking your hand-held rig on a trip, camping, on a cruise, whatever. One of our members recently wrote an article about his hamming activities this past summer. We have some great contributions from our members in this month's issue as well, but we need more member participation. Like I said, this is YOUR newsletter

and it can only be as good as the articles you as members contribute to it. BOZO

ACTIVITIES

I want to thank all of you that are concerned about our fiendly (no, I didn't spell it incorrectly) bozo and what we are doing to identify him and see that he is apprehended by the authorities. I have received suggestions by telephone and e-mail, and calls from non-members as well. All I can tell you folks, is that we are diligently working on the downfall of this idiot, and he WILL be located and dealt with in the appropriate manner. I know that it is frustrating to hear his outbursts of ignorant garbage and noise, but bear with us. Believe me, no one wants to see him get what he's due more than me! The end will come! If he is reading this (and that's giving him the benefit of the doubt that he can read) your time is coming, and sooner than you might think!

TTFN

That'll do it for this month folks. Remember that at the November meeting we will be voting to elect officers for 2006. Also, it would be a good time to make your reservations for the CARS Holiday dinner on December 17th. You should most assuredly make plans to be at that one!

Hope to see you at the Nov. meeting and/or catch you on the air.

73 for now, de Tom, WB8N

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Articles may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author. All submissions should be e-mailed in .doc, .wpd, or .txt format to newsletter@2cars.org by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

CARS 2005 Christmas Party

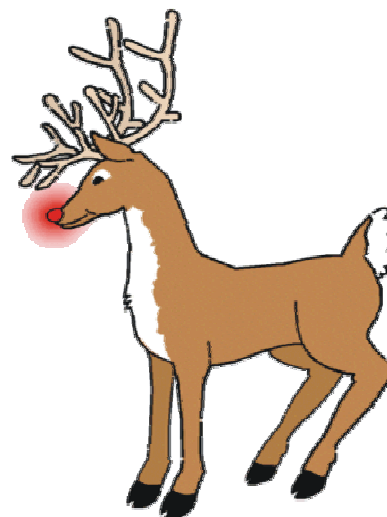
Saturday December 17, 2005 6:00p.m.
at the Independence Civic Center
in the Oak Room.

Tickets are only \$15.00 adults, \$7.50 age 6 to 12
5 and under free

This years theme is
“Reindeer’s”

Prizes, surprises, karaoke and
great food!

Also a very special group will be
with us! Dan, Ray, Jim and Tom
“Clear Choice” a barbershop
Quartet will perform.



For tickets send checks to:
CARS, P.O. Box 31264,
Independence, OH 44131

contact Tina W8HBI at 216-328-2141
or e-mail treasurer@2cars.org
with any questions

If you can please bring a desert this year

cut off date for tickets is December 10