

# *The Wobbly Oscillator* Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75



OCTOBER 2008

VOLUME XXXVIII

ISSUE X

## ***LOT'S OF C.A.R.S. MEMBERS AT THE 2008 CLEVELAND HAMFEST ! Details in this issue.***

### **FROM THE PREZ**

The members of C.A.R.S. have spoken. The results of the member survey have been compiled and presented. We had a tremendous amount of returned surveys, showing an encouraging amount of interest by members. On top of that, we had an extremely diverse group of opinions displaying many different ideas and a lot of energy. It was interesting to read what people like and don't like about C.A.R.S. I took to heart what people said, and as president, will do what I can to keep the things members like and change the things some don't. One item really struck me, and I must address it right now. Several members said the club is too cliquish and not welcoming to new members. It may appear that way to some, because a core group of members handle most of the activities and business. It's interesting to note that those core members are often heard saying "I wish we could get more people to help out." I have never seen a person excluded who volunteered to help. As a matter of fact, C.A.R.S. awards one new member "Rookie of the Year" at the annual Christmas party for earnest participation in club activities. All too often the call goes out for volunteers with no response; and then members need to be asked to help. If you feel the club is cliquish, get involved and volunteer; you may change your mind.

Longtime, active members can help reduce this perception by extending themselves to new faces. Look around at meetings, and when you see someone new, introduce yourself and throw out the welcome mat. A lot of us are a little quirky or eccentric, but down deep hams are good people. Maybe we all need to become aware of how we affect other people, and do our best to make the club a comfortable place for all.

*. continued on*

*next page....*

### **Contents;**

<i>From the Prez.....</i>	<i>pg1</i>
<i>Meeting Minutes.....</i>	<i>pg2</i>
<i>Birthdays.....</i>	<i>pg3</i>
<i>Hamvention Bus Trip.....</i>	<i>pg3</i>
<i>Xmas Party/License Classes..</i>	<i>pg3</i>
<i>It Pays to Advertise.....</i>	<i>pg4</i>
<i>The Random Wire.....</i>	<i>pg4</i>

Once again, we sure could use some input with topics that would be interesting. Better yet, if you want to give a talk or demonstration, it would be fantastic. I can recall several programs that were given by first year members that were quite excellent and very well received by the group.

Once again, we sure could use some input with Some folks think the meetings are too long with too much business, they want more technical subjects discussed. I agree one thousand percent. We are trying to move in that direction topics that would be interesting. Better yet, if you want to give a talk or demonstration, it would be fantastic.

On the other hand, some think the general membership is not well informed. In some cases, I'm sure that is true. C.A.R.S. is a relatively large club with a lot going on. If we don't want to overload the meetings we need to use other vehicles. We can try to put more information in the *WO* and on the website. Also, a lot of routine business and policy is discussed and voted on by the Board of Directors. The Board meetings are held after each regular VE session and are open to any C.A.R.S. member. From this point on, the Board Chairman will send an e-mail to the membership announcing board meetings. It has been suggested that the Board meeting agenda be posted in advance so a member can decide to attend the meeting if a particular item is important to him. We will examine the feasibility of this and try to incorporate what is workable.

All in all, the survey was very successful and the results will give us direction for the future. Remember, C.A.R.S. is your club and it can be what you want if you care enough to get involved and participate.

Don't forget the October meeting will have nominations for officers and three board members for the November elections. Please consider anyone you may wish to put into office and throw their hat into the ring.

73, Toby, WT8O

## SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The C.A.R.S. September monthly meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Toby Kolman, WT8O on the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month. The meeting was held at Bush Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio. Thirty members and one guests introduced themselves to begin the meeting.

Ron, K8VJG motion to accept the August minutes as published in the September Wobbly Oscillator, and Bill, WA8GEO seconded. There were no additions, or questions so the members passed the motion.

Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC gave the treasure's report and said that things have not changed much and that things were going ok.

Vice President Eddie, KD8FTS encouraged people to fill out the questionnaire on the interview page on the members web site.

Scotty, WA8SLN gave sunshine report, saying that he sent a card to Marc Rubin KB8QHJ.

VE Gary, NI8Z said he expects at least one candidate to test on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Gary then talked about the Christmas party.

Awards chairman, Ron, K8VJG asked people to nominate people for awards by mid October, there is a link on the [www.2cars.org](http://www.2cars.org) home page.

W.O. editor and Diabetes Walk chairman Tom, WB8N asked everyone to send articles and pictures by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month for the W.O. Tom then asked for volunteers for the Diabetes Assn. walk on October 4<sup>th</sup>. He also asked for volunteers for the Akron Road Runner Marathon on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The club then voted on two new members Aaron Taricska, KD8HER and Bruce Brown, KC8RKS. The members passed a motion to make these two gentlemen members.

The 2009 Field day site will be at the same place as the 2008, as announced by Toby.

Tech report : Dave, K8DAV and the President said we can Cross Band repeat on the repeater as long as we leave the "R" off our ID.

Refreshments were provided by Mike, KB8UGT-pop, Ron, K8VJG-donuts, Gary, NI8Z-coffee. *continued on next page....*

The 50/50 drawing was won by Dave, K8DAV. He split \$60.00 with the club. Also, 7 ARRL membership pins were won by some lucky members.

At 8:45pm Steve, N8IS motioned to close the meeting, Linda, N8LRS seconded, and the members passed the motion.

Toby, WT8O gave a very nice demonstration on Anderson Power-pole connectors.

Submitted by Stephen Jones, N8SRJ, C.A.R.S. Secretary.

---

### **DAYTON HAMVENTION BUS TRIP**

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a Bus trip to Dayton Hamfest on May 16, 2009.

The Bus trip will cost \$35.00 dollars per person, the more people we get on the bus the better. We need minimum of 35 people to justify cost of the bus, the bus will be stopping for breakfast on the way down, and brief stop on the way home for quick bite. You pay your own restaurant bill, and you will need to get your own advance hamfest tickets or pay at the door. We will notify all if club can get advance tickets in bulk, but of course advance money.

The bus will be leaving at 3:00 am from K-mart parking lot at the intersection of Engle Road and Bagley Road, in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, Engle road is just west of I-71 & Bagley road, which is the first intersection you come to, Kmart is behind the BP Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security to watch cars. Bus trip payment in advance, we have to notify the bus tour people one week before departure if it's a go or no go.

If there are any questions, bring it up at the cars meetings or contact me, Dwaine at [K8me@sbcglobal.net](mailto:K8me@sbcglobal.net)

See you on the Bus  
Dwaine ---K8ME

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

**K8DAV Dave Kushman 10-3-44**  
**WT8O Toby Kolman 10-4-48**  
**K8AAB Bob Evans 10-4-41**  
**K8SAS Steve Spisak 10-12**  
**K8DMT Darren Turk 10-20**  
**N8GXR James Glor 10-22-49**  
**WA8EYF Ev Chitester 10-22-31**  
**WD8IOU David Autry Jr 10-26-55**  
**KB8VJQ Carol Shaw 10-27-34**  
**K8TJM Terry McCann 10-29-55**

Congrats to all, and many happy returns!

---

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY & LICENSE CLASSES ANNOUNCED**

Friday, December 11, 2009 has been set for the annual CARS Christmas party which will once again be held at the Independence Civic Center in the White Oak room. Time and ticket prices will be announced soon. Get your reservations in early

Also, seven nights have been reserved for license classes beginning next year. The dates set are Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18 & 25. There will again be classes for all three license classes: Tech, General & Extra, and will be held in the Red Oak room of the Independence Civic Center.

---

***CHECK INTO THE WEEKLY C.A.R.S. NET EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 9:00 P.M. HAVE A SHOT AT THE TRIVIA QUESTION, KEEP UP WITH C.A.R.S. HAPPENINGS! C U ON THE 146.82 REPEATER !***

## **IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE W.O. AND ON THE C.A.R.S. WEBPAGE**

By Gary Dewey, NI8Z

For those of you that have "stuff" that is accumulating dust and you want to offer it to a good ham home, use the facilities available to you in the C.A.R.S. club ... the W.O. and our C.A.R.S. website.

Here is an example of how well our website is seen around the world; I had a few odds and ends to sell and I put them up for sale in the W.O. However, none of our club members must have needed my "goodies". I was offering two very good and reasonably priced vertical antennae, something every ham could use to get on the HF bands.

After no response from the W.O. offering, I asked our webmaster, Dave Kushman, K8DAV to list my items on the C.A.R.S. website. Two days after putting my items on the web page, I get a call for my R5 Cushcraft vertical antenna. The buyer says he wants it so I tell my very reasonable price and the deal is set up. I ask if he is going to pick it up. The response was "no, I'm in Korea". I immediately told him "that's plus shipping." So there you are folks, our website is clearly seen by lots of folks ... even internationally!

---

## **THE RANDOM WIRE**

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

### **CLEVELAND HAMFEST**

Once again the annual Cleveland Hamfest has come and gone. I thought it was a pretty good one this year, though defiantly a bit smaller than in years past. The weather held out and the flea market was full of the usual boat anchors as well as some good stuff and the obviously "non-ham items. Didn't see any tube socks this year however.

C.A.R.S. was well represented with our members in attendance, and I got to see fellow amateurs that I only see about once a year, at the Mansfield hamfest or the Cleveland hamfest,

which are the only hamfests I attended this year. I did not eat anything there as I had a big breakfast before getting to the hamfest, but I heard from other hams that the food was good and the coffee hot!

I didn't spend much...bought a new rubber ducky antenna for my VX-1R handheld, which I was coaxed into purchasing by Mr. NI8Z. My old antenna was a bit broken and it's innards showing, but it still worked. I think I'll hang onto it just in case. I also purchased a new ID badge from Marv, the guy that does our club badges, plaques, and awards.

I didn't win any prizes, but, so what else is new? I had a good time, on a great day, and on top of everything else, the Browns actually won a ball game!

### **ON ANOTHER NOTE**

We have our annual fall public service event coming up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. I'll be sending those that have volunteered to help out an e-mail to remind you of the event, time, place, etc. I'll be reporting on the event next month.

I have to tell you all that I am a bit upset with what I read in the President's article this month. First, to those that said that they feel the club is too "cliquish", I say balderdash. When you attend a club meeting, if no one walks up to you and starts talking with you, maybe they are just as bashful as you are. Pick a seat next to someone, sit down, and say "hi". You'd be surprised that everyone is not real outgoing, and is just waiting for someone to say hi to them. Come to the meeting a bit early and mill around, someone will eventually talk to you even if you do not talk to them first.

And for those members who think the membership is not well informed, attend a meeting once in awhile, ask questions of your officers, READ THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR NEWS LETTER, check out the club website once a month. What the heck do you want, a personal phone call announcing what is going on? Ge real, that ain't gonna happen. It is *continued on next page...*

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to learn what is going on with YOUR club. Of course I am probably spouting off to the choir, as they say, since if a member doesn't bother to read the W.O. or check the website, they won't read this. It really amazes me why a person would take the time and effort to get an amateur radio license and not use it, even to listen to or to check in on the various nets, let alone the C.A.R.S. Wednesday night weekly net. And as our President Toby said, you can attend board meetings as well, although you cannot have any input to the goings on. Get involved in the two public service events that we take part in. I hate to beg every time the events come up to get volunteers, and they are always the same members. I whole heartedly thank those staunch members, but some of you that have not ever taken part in helping out with a public service event could volunteer too. That's part of what being a ham is about...helping others, whether it be for a fund raising event for a charity such as the American Diabetes Assn., Pedal to the Point, the Cleveland Marathon, Akron Marathon, or what ever...get involved! You can't expect everyone else to do things for you. It don't work that way folks!

For those that think the meetings are too long and would like more technical programs offered, try coming up with new and interesting programs every month. It isn't easy folks. Many times there is important business that has to be discussed and voted on and those things do take time. I am sure you would not like to board to conduct all the business of the club, as some other clubs that shall remain nameless do. That's just my opinion folks, and you know what they say about opinions.

#### NEWSLETTER

As you can see, this issue is rather sparse as far as articles go. Well, that's because there was a lack of input this month with articles from the membership. As I keep saying, this is YOUR newsletter. I am just the editor. That means that I put the thing together each month as well as edit the articles that I DO get, correct spelling,

punctuation, etc. I am not expected to write the newsletter myself. If you want to see yourself in print, write an article for the W.O. It ain't hard ya'll, give it a try. Write about a new piece of gear you got, Send in some photos of your station...anything ham related will be published, I promise you. After I edit it that is. Hi Hi .

#### OUTTA HERE FOR NOW

That'll about do it for this month. I got a few things off my chest, and hope I did not offend anyone. If so, oh well, get over it. If you want to discuss it with me, you'll have to see me at a meeting and we'll chat about it. Make an effort to get on the air occasionally, even if it is only on the Wed. night net. Heck, there's not much on t.v. on Wednesdays anyhow. Get to a meeting. If you need a ride, ask someone who lives near you to pick you up.

73 for now, hope to meet you on the air and/or at the next meeting.

de Tom, WB8N

#### THIS JUST IN

At the Tuesday October 14, 2008 CARS meeting Bob W8GC and Bill WU8A (ex kc8ysv) will show a Power Point presentation on the various ARRL DXCC awards available with lots of interesting details including what it takes to get return QSL cards for your awards and what it costs. Much of the latter through the eyes of Bill who has been a Ham for 5 years but recently began chasing DX.

*The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264 Independence, Ohio 44131-0264. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication, provided that credit is given to this newsletter and the author, of known. All submissions should be e-mailed in .doc, .wpd, or .txt format to [newsletter@2cars.org](mailto:newsletter@2cars.org) by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication in the next month's issue.*

# 2008 CARS Christmas Party

Friday December 19, 2008 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



Prizes, surprises, karaoke and great food!  
Pappou's will be our caterer

**For tickets please contact**  
**Tina W8HBI at 216-520-2621**  
**or e-mail [w8hbi@2cars.org](mailto:w8hbi@2cars.org)**  
If you can please bring a simple desert



**Sign up now for Ham  
Radio classes, get your  
Technician, General or  
Extra class license!**

**Wednesday evenings starting January 14 and  
ending February 25, 2009**

**To register follow the link at [www.2cars.org](http://www.2cars.org) fill out the on-  
line application or call 216-524-1750 Bob, W8GC**

**Classes will be held at the Independence Civic Center, 6363  
Selig Dr. in the RED OAK room at 7:00 pm every Wednesday**

**class fees: Technician \$25.00 General and Extra \$20.00 non  
members or \$15.00 CARS members, fee includes all class materials**



*February 25, 2009 will be a special VE Test  
session for all license classes, ARRL fee for  
this VE test is \$14.00*

**Please arrive between  
6:15 and 6:30 pm on  
Wednesday January 14  
for registration**