

April 2015 *Volume 45* *Issue 4*

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

FCC MAKES IMPORTANT DECISION - DETAILS INSIDE

FROM THE PREZ

The time is now approaching for the number one operating event of the year, Field Day. The site has been locked in. We will be using Calvin Park in Seven Hills, it is high and convenient. At the March meeting we discussed Field Day and asked for members to make their intentions known for participation. In April we will have sign-up sheets and firm up those who will be participating. If you will not be attending the meeting and are interested in being part of the 2015 C.A.R.S. Field Day effort, please contact myself, or Matt Webb, W8EBB to convey your intentions. For those new to the club, I cannot suggest more strongly the open invitation to join us. Over the last few years we have introduced many new members to the event and made it as comfortable as possible for beginners to feel welcome and appreciated. I cannot over emphasize the fact that we want all folks to be a part of the Field Day experience and how much we want to see you be part of the fun. Please mark the last weekend in June as a "must be there" event. We would love to see you there.

We are also planning one of our popular dinner meetings for our May monthly meeting. We have yet to determine the exact location, but we will discuss that and finalize the plans at the April meeting. As always, the dinner will be before the actual meeting and will be optional. You need not have dinner to attend the meeting and can feel comfortable. They are always fun and we are looking forward to it.

Here's one last call for the Dayton bus trip.

Seats are filling up, but we still have plenty of room. The C.A.R.S. bus is a great way to experience the Dayton Hamvention. We will leave Cleveland Saturday morning and return in the evening. Those on the bus always have a good time riding together, enjoying the experience, talking about the show, the flea market and their new purchases.

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Check into the CARS net, Wednesdays, 9:00 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater.

I always say that we are lucky to be so close to the world's largest amateur radio extravaganza that hams from all over the world travel at great expense to attend. The Hamvention is one thing you really must see, and the bus is an easy way to make it happen. I hope to see you all at these three events.

73, Toby, WT8O

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The CARS membership meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, on the 10th of the month at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was held and then introductions of officers and members present. The February meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the March 2015 Wobbly Oscillator.

Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC, gave the treasurers report stating that the club finances are still healthy. Bob also mentioned that the 2015 membership dues are due. Bob also said that the scholarship fund is very solvent.

Toby, WT8O, asked members to support the "WO" with articles for Tom and even pictures of various projects or stations of interest.

The club has secured a field day sight thanks to Toby and Mark, WJ8WM, in Seven Hills at Calvin Park off of Maple view road. More field day discussion to follow. Mark will have more information at the April meeting about the new field day site.

It was mentioned that the FCC isn't issuing paper a license unless requested.

Gary, NI8Z, stated that if your license expires, you have a 2 year grace period and after that, you only have to take a Technician test in order to re-instate your highest class of license. George, K8KR, mentioned that when renewing your Ham license plates, you must have copy of your license to present to the BMV.

Eddie, KD8FTS, reported that there is no public service activity until Sunday after Dayton which is May 17th. Contact Eddie for more information.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the Dayton bus trip is going well, over 50% filled. If you want the bus to run every year, please support and

promote the bus to other clubs. If you are planning to take the CARS bus to Dayton, please get your money in ASAP. Time is drawing short, don't wait until departure day.

Toby asked the members present to thank the refreshment committee with a round of applause.

Gary Dewey, NI8Z, won the 50/50 raffle of \$30.00, with \$31.00 going to the CARS coffers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Joel Chaney, K8SHB, gave a presentation of copying call signs under various operating conditions, which was fun and interesting.

Submitted by Secretary Dwaine Modock, K8ME.

MONTHLY PROGRAM

By Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

The program for March, ITU Phonetics Game, given by Joel Chaney, KD8SHB, was an eye opening experience for everyone in attendance. It certainly demonstrated how important it is to use proper phonetics, if you want to be understood in various band conditions. And everyone seemed to have a good time playing the game. Thank you Joel. At the April meeting, Arp Viiberg, K8ARP, will be giving a presentation on HT Antenna Efficiencies. I'm looking forward to learning about ways to make my HT antenna more efficient, and with Arp's good humor, the presentation should be a fun time as well. Hope to see you all there.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Joseph Bergartt | NC8J | 4/27/51 |
| Gary Berkowitz | K8REF | 4/29 |
| Dawn Barbour | KC8WBG | 4/18 |
| Andy Moysaenko | KD8YHV | 4/07/97 |
| Vince Bak | N8OVW | 4/22/49 |
| Bob Check | W8GC | 4/29/41 |
| Metro Sinko | W8MET | 4/27/52 |

Congratulations to all and many happy returns!

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 14th,
AT THE BUSCH FUNERAL HOME
COMMUNITY ROOM, PARMA, OHIO**

HEY, "STUFF" HAPPENS

By Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

Oh, the little things. You know the ones I'm talking about. Those things that you 'know' but don't think about when you're doing something. Those are the ones that are so obvious....after the fact.

A few years ago, the only radio I had was my handheld. I wanted to be able to reach all of the repeaters in the area so I visited AES and bought a small amplifier to increase the power to 35 watts. I also bought a magnetic mount antenna to use with the amplifier.

After getting home with all my new toys, I wanted to test the amplifier with my handheld. It was summer, so I decided to run the test on my front porch. I hooked up the antenna and the handheld to the amplifier and plugged the amplifier in. I reached quite a few repeaters and had a good time. Now I just needed to get it all set up in the house.

The only place I can put my "shack" is an upstairs spare bedroom that I use as a computer room. I put the little amplifier on the computer desk. The room has only one electrical outlet, so everything is connected to the same circuit. The only external antenna I had for the handheld was that magnetic mount antenna. I set the antenna on an aluminum baking pan, because research indicated that that's what I needed to do, and set it up on the far side of the room. (Need to avoid that RF exposure after all.) I ran the antenna cable along one wall and up the side of the desk to the amplifier. Alright, I'm good to go.

It's Wednesday evening, time for the CARS net. I fired up the amplifier, connected the handheld, and joyously waited for the net to begin. Net control finally called for check-ins, so I pushed the push-to-talk button on the microphone and....nothing. The breaker popped again and again. "What the...." I mumbled and rumbled and fumbled. I had this experience three times in total. Needless to say, I didn't check into the net that night.

I probably wouldn't have let it go three times (well maybe I would have) but I WAS in a hurry to check into the net and this "piece of..." wasn't working!!

Well, turns out that the antenna cable was running along the wall where the electrical outlet is located and that cable ran along side (yes parallel to) the power cord for the circuit protector that everything was plugged into.

I'm sure you all know as well as I know, that cables carrying any kind of electrical power should never be run parallel to each other. Funny, how once I relocated the antenna cable away from the power cords, that everything worked just fine.

Well, just wanted to share. Stay safe and keep on learning. Don't think about when you're doing something. Those ones that are so obvious...after the fact.

SHOW US YOUR SHACK

(I've been asked to give this feature another shot, so here goes...Ed.)

This month we are featuring the shack of Metro Sinko, W8MET. Metro's shack consists of his Yaesu Ftdx 5000 transceiver to either his SteppIR Big IR vertical (60-80 meters) with a DX Engineering radial plate with 60 radials, or the SteppIR DB18E 3 element beam for 6-40 metes with a Yaesu G-2800DXA rotator on an Aluma tower at 44 feet. I measure my SWR and wattage output with (2) Drake WH7 wattmeters. I use a Begali Simplex paddle for cw and for the microphone I use the Heil PR40. Other equipment in the background are the Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V, Yaesu FT-100D, Yaesu FTM-350, Ameritron ATR-30 antenna tuner, QRO HF-2500DX amplifier and an old Drake TR7. Metro also has an 80 meter dipole, 160 meter dipole and a Cushcraft MA-160 vertical.

continued on next page....



Nice shack Metro. Metro and Linda, N8LRS, share the shack.

That's "Show Us Your Shack for this month. Don't be shy...Take a couple of photos of your shack, no matter how modest it may be, and sent it along with a description of your station equipment, antennas, etc. to the Wobbly Oscillator and we'll put it in the next available issue.

FCC ANNOUNCEMENT/BREAKING NEWS

By Omar H. Mung, KB8ZBE

The FCC (Federal Commission of Communications) announced the other day that they were going to give CB'rs Amateur Radio operator status. They will be given this status without a license test. The new class will be

called CB Beginners Class and will have the same privileges as an Amateur Technician class operator. The reason for this is that by far the majority of CB operators are truckers and the FCC feels that the truckers need to be able to access area repeaters when they are passing through a town or city to report on accidents or other traffic incidents so that information can be relayed to the local authorities if needed. Also, it will give the over-the-road trucker the ability to chat with locals in the communities they are passing through as well as with each other, instead of just the mumbo jumbo they talk about with each other on the road, like "walker back" & "10-4 good buddy." Of course, this will open up the CB band of 28 MHz to all Amateur Radio operators already licensed.

There will be a "test" period of six months to see how this works, and it is hoped that the new CB Beginners Class will give the average CB'er incentive to upgrade to at least Amateur General Class and even Amateur Extra Class. This new class will go into effect on April 1st, 2015. More to come on this issue as it develops.

FCC TO EXTEND LENGTH OF LICENSE

By Leroy Gransputter, KA8YZN

The Federal Commission of Communications had decided to extend the length of an Amateur Radio license from the 10 years it is now, to the life of an amateur. The reason for this is to cut down on the amount of hours spent renewing licenses and to reduce the amount of paper work consumed in the process of keeping licenses up to date. The license you now have will be good for your lifetime, and if you upgrade, your new class of license will be good for your lifetime. This will go into effect on April 1st, 2015.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

SPRING? WHAT SPRING !?

As I sit at my computer on March 27th writing this, it is 28 degrees outside and snowing! I could hardly believe it when I got up this morning...yes it was snowing! Global Warming? Yeah, right.

BRIGHT SPOT ON THE HORIZON

The only bright spot on the horizon is that the Dayton Hamvention® is only a little over two months away. I can hardly wait! With any luck, it'll be nice and warm by then. I'm not really looking to purchase much this year...maybe a new hand-held...we'll see. I'm taking the CARS bus down this year. Usually I head down early Friday morning and spend Friday, Saturday and part of Sunday at the Hamvention?®. I've been to the Hamvention® so many times that I pretty much know where the various manufacturers and vendors are located inside the arena, so I won't have to waste any time with those that I don't want to visit. Last year I spent some time volunteering at the Ham Nation booth which is conveniently located right next to the Heil Sound Booth in Audio Alley. I have offered to volunteer once again, for about an hour, either at 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. on Saturday. When I get confirmation on that I'll let you know. Ham Nation is holding a forum on Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. which I am going to try to make, being a fan of Ham Nation. If you have not yet checked out Ham Nation yet, give it a shot. It is on live, Wednesday evenings at 9:00 p.m. Eastern time, which unfortunately is the same time as the CARS weekly net, so I watch it usually the next day. They have episodes going back to the first one. They are approaching their 200th episode. The main hosts are Bob Heil, K9EID, and Gordon West, WB6NOA, along with a few others, and they have interesting segments such as Amateur Radio Newline, a "Smoke & Solder" segment where they usually show the viewer how to build something, a segment on Dxing, and a Q & A segment, among others. You can find Ham Nation by Googleing it. Going to the Hamvention® for just the one day means I am going to miss some of the other forums that I

like to attend, but oh well. Some of us get together for a couple of 811's (beers) and maybe lunch at the arena Pub as well. I'm really looking forward to the Hamvention® this year!

FIELD DAY

We have a new location for Field Day this year as Toby mentioned, and it should prove interesting. I plan on being there and will bring my old ICOM 740 rig out to work CW on 40 meters. I think there will be a couple of other CW ops as well. I am looking out the window and there's still flakes of that ugly white crap falling. When's it going to warm up and STAY warm?

APRIL FOOL

In case you haven't figured it out yet, this is the April Fool issue of the Wobbly Oscillator. You shouldn't have any problem finding the April Fools article. There may be more than one. You never know.

OUTTA HERE FOR NOW

That's about it for this month. Hope to catch you on the air, on the net, and at the next meeting.

73, de Tom, WB8N

The Wobbly Oscillator is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication, provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to newsletter@2cars.org by the end of the month to appear in the next months issue.

Reserve and pay for your 2015 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip

**Saturday May 16, 2015 CARS
is again sponsoring a Bus trip
to the Dayton Hamvention.**

*Nearly 25,000 hams & non-hams
attended Hamvention® 2012. Every
amateur radio operator in the world
probably dreams about going to the
Dayton Hamvention at least once.
Please join us in 2015, it is an
incredible event and offers something
for everyone.*



The Bus trip will cost \$50.00 dollars per person, we will not stop for breakfast on the way down, but there will be a fast food stop on the way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets. Go to <http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php> to order your tickets.

Stop 1: The bus will leave promptly at 5:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will is security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Dayton at approximately 5:30 am.

When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

If you have any questions please see Dwaine at a CARS meeting or call him at 440-582-3462. Checks must be made out to CARS and mailed to: Dwaine Modock K8ME, 8113 Thornhurst Dr., North Royalton, OH 44133 OH 44131-0264 attn. Dayton bus

73, Dwaine, K8ME

CARS 2015 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT80, K8SAS

Audio/Video

KD8OUE **

ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

WJ8WM **

ARRL WAS & VUCC card Checker

K8ME **

Awards

W8GC ** WT80

Club Photographer

K8OAE **

Diabetes events

WB8N ** All CARS members

Field Day

W8EBB ** WT80, N8BBB

Flag Committee

Mike KB8RKF, David KD8ACO, Bruce N8DJX

50/50

KD8OUE

License classes

W8GC ** WT80 ** NI8Z, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, K8SHB

Mentor/Elmer & Community Education

W8MET **

Membership

W8GC **

NET

WT80 **

Newsletter

WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Program's & Christmas party

KD8OUE ** NF80, KD8QBB, KD8QUE, KD8FTS, WT80

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

QSL manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at meetings & Picnic

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

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, WT80, K8ME

School Programs

NI8Z **

Summer Picnic

W8GC ** WB8N **

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy Evrigde, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

W8GC ** N8OVW ** KD8FTS

VE Exams

NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC ** W8EBB

** chairman or co-chairman



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PRESIDENT

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president@2cars.org

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Dwayne Modock K8ME 440-582-3462

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Tom Wayne, WB8N 440-232-4193,
216-253-0540 c

even year executive board 2 year term

WB8N, W8EBB, KB8DTC

odd year executive board 2 year term

NI8Z, KD8SCV, K8ARP

License trustee K8ZFR

WB8N

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,
WA8CMS, WA8CHS
W8GC



March 12, 2015