

The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

NO8A Special Event Call K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75



SEPTEMBER 2005

Volume XXXV

Issue VIII

From the Prez

Nice turnout for our last outdoor meeting in 2005, 30 members and guests.

Our August 50/50 raffle was won by Dave K8DAV, congratulations Dave, CARS and Dave each made \$24.00.

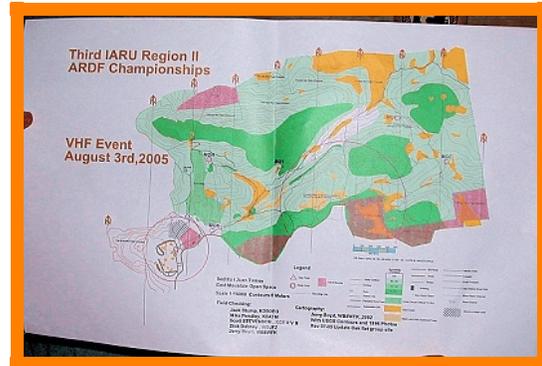
Before the meeting Eric KF8YK with the Geauga County EMA displayed their new communication truck between 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Looks great!

Our speaker after the meeting was Mike K8EHP, Mike gave a great explanation how the National Direction Finding Championships are run and we are happy to congratulate him on winning a medal this year.



We are back to our regular schedule at Copley School and we have 10 new student enrolled in the Ham Club.

I am not sure how many of you participated in the Ohio QSO party? If you did conditions were good and I thank George K8KR for getting several of us in the contest. I was short on time but



Sample map from Nationals

operated about a hour and 15 minutes and made 100 contacts, 75 on 20 meters and 25 on 40 meters all SSB, maybe next contest I can put more time in and help CARS with a club score.

That's it for another WO, this months words: [Life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusions from insufficient premises.](#)

See you back at the Busch Community room for our next CARS meeting on September 21, de, Bob W8GC

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AMATEUR RADIO DIRECTION FINDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By D. Michael Cegelski, K8EHP

2 August to 6 August, 2005 saw the 3rd IARU Region II ARDF Championships take place in Albuquerque, NM. The event was hosted by the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club with accommodations on the campus of the University of New Mexico.

Tuesday morning saw all of the competitors, referees and hosts gather at our initial meeting on campus to go over the rules, schedules, etc. That afternoon a few test transmitters were hidden on both two and eighty meters so we could check out our gear to be sure everything survived the trip in. There were receivers from the Cheque Republic, Ukraine, Australia and U.S. home brewed. My two meter receiver was Australian made with many people using home brew tape measure beams as I did. While many people used foreign eighty meter receivers, some did as I did and used American designed home brewed units with built-in ferrite rod or loop and sense antennas. Wednesday morning we were bussed into the mountains about fifty minutes away and up to approximately 7500 feet in altitude. This was the site of the two meter competition. Our equipment was impounded to prevent any premature DFing. We were started in groups of four (all different age categories). Five minutes before each start you were issued your contour Orienteering map and picked up your gear. You were not allowed to turn on your receiver until you started running and had cleared the starting chute. It didn't take too long before the altitude started to take its toll...I was gasping for air like a race horse. I don't run the entire course but sometimes slow to a trot and sometimes just walk quickly, particularly when taking bearings. This course was quite a challenge with lots of fallen trees, debris, brush, etc. to prevent you from running "as the crow flies". The foxes are placed within all of this greenery on this approximately 4000 X 6000 meter course. You have three hours to find your number of foxes depending on your age category. One of the searchers wound up with a serious case of leg cramps and

crawled to one of the transmitter sites to await pick up after the event was over. I had some leg cramping which slowed me down considerably but I was able to carry on to the finish. Thursday was a day off to recover and all of us did some serious sightseeing. That area of the country is just so beautiful but I wouldn't want to live there!

Friday morning saw us loaded onto the bus again for the eighty meter event. This was only about a half hour away but at nearly eight thousand feet elevation into the mountains. From the days before I learned to hydrate myself properly with sport drinks just to the point of sloshing as you run. Your body absorbs the liquid quickly to keep your muscles from being depleted...no leg cramps today but exhaustion from the terrible hills we were forced to climb to get to the foxes. Same three hour time limit for this approximate 2500 X 3000 meter course and the same decisions to go the right way to get to your foxes in the minimum amount of time. Doesn't matter which order you get them in, just as long as you get them. Scoring was done by an electronic stick you wear on your finger which is placed into a small computer hole which records the time, elapsed time, etc.. No problems on this day. Upon returning we cleaned up and attended our awards banquet.

Great feast and great camaraderie! The author certainly didn't break any course records in any categories but was still proud to receive fourth place medals in both two and eighty meter finish and overall categories.. Very much looking forward to next years competition which looks as if it will be held in Raleigh, NC, possibly in April of 2006. And best yet, my XYL's knee should be healed and our daughters wedding will be history so my wife will be able to accompany me again. I really missed her this year.

A photo of Mike giving his talk to the members at the August meeting, and of his contour map are on the first page. Thanks Mike! - Ed.

MEETING PROGRAMS

Hi Gang! We still need programs for the meetings for the months of September and November of this year. If you have a topic you would like to share with us, please email me at kc8ysv@cars.org or Jack, at w8jak@cars.org. Thanks, 73, de Bill Sarver, KC8YSV

NEAT WEB SITE

Carl Beduhn, K8AV sent this along to us... It is a neat web site with which you can get a list of repeaters in any area. All you have to do is put the city you are interested in and a radius of however many miles you want, and it will give you a list of repeaters and their frequencies within that area. Check it out at <http://rprr.amateur-radio.net/arn/rprr/index.html>. Thanks Carl! - Ed

PETER JENNINGS, SILENT KEY?

By now most of you have heard that ABC's Anchor, Peter Jennings, passed away on August 7th. He started his carrier on radio as a boy. Mr. Jennings was born in Canada. He became an American citizen two years ago. However, contrary to popular belief he was **NOT** an Amateur Radio operator!

Yes, VE3SUN/AB6WM/C31LJ is also named Peter Jennings; however they are (were) two different people. Peter Jennings the ham is still around and QRV.

BPL at HQ ???

Submitted by Bob Check, W8GC

ARRL Cooperating in BPL System Experiment (Aug 29, 2005) --

BPL has come to ARRL Headquarters, and preliminary indications are that the newly installed Motorola Powerline LV system will prove Amateur Radio-friendly. Motorola approached ARRL last fall seeking input on a

BPL design that could avoid many or most of the interference problems that have plagued some other BPL systems. This past May, Motorola introduced its Powerline LV wireless-to-low voltage BPL solution at the United Telecom Council's "Telecom 2005."

The ARRL said at the time that it was "encouraged" by Motorola's approach but reserved judgment until it had the chance to see a system up close. A Motorola Powerline LV system was put into operation at Maxim Memorial Station W1AW this week. Stay tuned for the "rest of the story".

What are your thoughts on this?
Bob W8GC.

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 17, 2005

The meeting was held at the Brecksville Metroparks Oak Grove picnic area and was called to order at 7:38PM by President Bob Check, W8GC. Introductions by the 30 members/guests followed.

Terry, KB8DTC made a motion which was seconded by Jack, K8JAK to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2005 meeting. A motion was taken and passed.

Tina, W8HBI, the treasurer, made her report.

A progress report on the Copley Middle School was given by Dave, KD8V.

Jack, K8JAK introduced Eric, KF8YK with the Geauga County EMA, who displayed their new Communications Truck. The truck was on display before and after the meeting.

Sign up for or renew your ARRL membership through CARS as reminded to us by Bill, KC8YSV. CARS gets a couple of bucks from the ARRL for this.

W8HBI informs that Don Peters, KC8FVN had surgery and is at home and doing fine.

Gordon, AI8Y reported on the Wednesday night net and stated he can use another net operator. *continued on next page....*

Dave, K8DAV reported on how well the 146.82 mhz. Repeater is working and commended Vince, N8OVW for his technical expertise.

The August WO was edited as well as published by Bob, W8GC due Tom, WB8N's surgery.

Gary N18Z reminds us that the next VE session will be on September 11, 2005, to be held at the Independence Town Hall on Brecksville Road.

Bob, W8GC advised us to consider nominations for the 2006 officers and even year board members to be held at the October 19, 2005 general meeting.

Bob Winston W2THU, our Northeast Ohio ARRL assistant section manager, informed us on the recent proposals by the ARRL.

President Check reminded us that the September 21, 2005 CARS meeting will be held at the Busch Funeral Home Community room in Parma, Ohio.

George, K8KR reminded all about the upcoming Ohio QSO Party contest.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Dave, K8DAV. His share was \$24.00.

Steve, N8IS made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Dave, K8DAV. A vote was taken and passed. The meeting was adjourned by Bob, W8GC at 8:23PM.

After the meeting Mike, K8EGP gave his talk and demonstration related to his Fox Hunting trip in the state of New Mexico.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary: Ron K8VJG.

TRIVIA QUESTION

This question was used on the CARS net a couple of weeks ago and almost everyone got it incorrect.

What source did Samuel Morse use to determine the most used letters in the alphabet, when devising his "Morse Code"?

1. The Bible
2. A dictionary
3. The newspaper
4. The typewriter

Answer to be found elsewhere in this issue. You'll be surprised!

CODE OR NO CODE?

By Phillip Ricca, K8MPL

Recent FCC announcements may bring an end to the era of code tests as a part of the amateur license requirements.

The debate for code or no code has been on going for years. The numerous arguments mainly revolve around the fact that knowledge of the code is no longer needed in today's highly advanced communication culture of cell phones to advanced amateur digital techniques.

The learning of the code is not an easy task for many. Five words a minute is tough but the 13 words per minute takes a lot of dedicated practice. Gaining these skills takes a lot of patience and much concentration. The ear must be taught to tune into the code. This requires numerous ear, brain, and hand writing abilities all working together. This is a discipline that requires much effort. Training the brain ear connection to copy the code may be an almost impossible task for many. These same individuals may have an excellent knowledge of radio principles and a great interest in amateur radio.

The ranks of amateurs need to be expanded. No code requirement may be the answer. I do believe that a brief knowledge of basic codes used in emergencies may help. This includes the basic distress codes. It has been observed that people taken as hostages and video-taped while making forced confessions sometimes used Morse code with their eyelash movements sending the true message. Hostages under harsh solitary confinement tap out codes between walls. Morse code really gets through under these situations. Thus, non-radio uses of Morse code demonstrates its usefulness as a communication tool.

The next months will be interesting as the FCC makes its final decision on this matter.

continued on next page....

I hope some lively debate will take place during this period – an indication that amateurs really take an interest in their hobby.

You can comment on this issue via the FCC's electronic comment filing system at www.fcc.gov/cgb/efs. - Ed.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

WB8CDA Glenn Fenzel 9-1
WD8ILB Kenn Rothman 9-5
KD8APY Dennis Rabbitts 9-11
KB8PMM Richard Braun 9-29

Congratulations guys, and many happy returns and years of hamming!

1.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

WHAT HAPPENED TO AUGUST?

After a pretty lousy first half of August for yours truly, I am pretty much back in business here at the WB8N QTH. For those who are not aware, my artificial right hip popped out of joint on me on Aug. 2nd. I ended up in surgery, for what they call, revisionary surgery. I only in the hospital for a few days, but then had to start the road back to normal with rehab exercises, using a walker, then a cane...all a real pain in the butt! Then I had a sort of relapse, with a minor infection of the incision, which with antibiotics is under control now.

I had to relinquish my duties as W.O. editor to Bob Check, who did a great job in getting out the August issue. My thanks to him!

But now I'm getting around much better and am able to take on my duties and responsibilities, at least for the most part. I know I missed a lot of great weather!

Speaking of weather, it is hard to believe the destruction and devastation all those people along the Gulf of Mexico have suffered and are still undergoing. I am sure the amateur radio community is doing their part in emergency

communications down there. I know there are several nets on HF that are handling traffic in connection with the disaster. And all we got out of the deal was a bit of rain! That's okay with me though. When you stop and think about it, this area is not such a bad place to live after all. Yeah, we get some snow and cold in the winter, and it gets hot and muggy in the summer, but we can keep warm and cozy in the winter and cool in the summer and we don't have the hurricanes, floods, mud slides, or forest fires that other parts of the country put up with over and over again!

OHIO QSO PARTY

Well...how many of you took part in the annual Ohio QSO Party on HF this past weekend? I know of six members that did, including myself. I really didn't make that much of a contribution, as my time was limited, but I took part in the contest and had fun! George, K8KR is tallying up the results of our club effort and will have the total for us at the next meeting hopefully.

SEPTEMBER MEETING LOCATION

Just a reminder that the September meeting and those following through the year, will be held at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room on Ridge Rd., just west of Pleasant Valley Rd. I'll miss the picnic meetings in the park, but I guess all good things must come to an end. We'll be back in the park in June of next year.

TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER

If you don't read this column you won't know the answer....Are you ready? The answer to the trivia question is....Number 3, the newspaper. Yeah, I know, but that's supposedly what ole Samuel Morse did. He went to the local newspaper publishing office and researched what letters of the alphabet were the most often used when inventing his Morse Code. Way to go Sammy!

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WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Yeah, I'm begging again. Begging for you to put your thoughts and ideas into print via the Wobbly Oscillator Newsletter. Not everyone has this unique opportunity you know...getting published, even though it is just a club newsletter. But CARS gives you this opportunity just for the price of being a member of CARS! You can tell us about your first rig, the first time you got on the air, why you became licensed in the first place, what you think about various amateur radio related issues, anything you want, as long as it is somehow amateur radio related. C'mon folks, it ain't that difficult. Just sit down at the keyboard and the words down. Don't worry about grammar or punctuation...we'll fix that if need be. In order for us to keep up our high standards (after all, this is an award winning newsletter) we need input from the membership...and that is you! Others have done it before you, and there is no reason that you can't do it too! Who knows, you might find that you actually like to write articles and become a regular submitter to the W.O. You can even have your own column, like this one! You gotta get a different name for it though. So sit down at the keyboard and let the words flow! Remember, there is a deadline, just like the professional publications. You have to have your article submitted by the end of the month preceding the month you want your article published. Give it a shot for next month.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO....

The weekly club net. When was the last time you checked in on the CARS weekly club net? You don't even have to be a member of CARS to check in. The net starts each Wednesday evening at 9:00 p.m. local time and usually runs for a half hour or so. Net control changes each week so you have a variety of net control "styles". Information regarding CARS is dispersed, there is usually a trivia question for the night, and anyone checking in has an opportunity to comment of anything pertaining to amateur radio, such as upcoming hamfests, etc. So if you have not checked into the net for

awhile, or even if you have never checked in, give it a chance and check in next week. It is always on the CARS 146.82 repeater. The only time the net is not held is on CARS meeting nights or if it falls on a holiday.

BRING A FRIEND

Do you have a friend who is a ham but not affiliated with a radio club? Or maybe is not yet a ham but is thinking about getting a license? Bring em to a CARS meeting! Let them see what a great, fun loving easygoing, knowledgeable group of folks we are! Maybe, with your influence, we can snag em as a new member. Heck, they don't even have to have a license to join our friendly group. Then we can get em licensed and on the right track to all the fun we are having as amateur radio operators! I plan to bring a guest next meeting, if I remember to call him and remind him of the meeting and if he is not otherwise busy. He's already licensed but he needs inspiration.

AREA HAMFESTS

Hey! The great Cleveland Hamfest is fast approaching. It will be at the Berea Fairgrounds on Sunday, September 25. This is usually a pretty good one folks, so try to make it a point to attend.

Another pretty good one is the Medina County Hamfest on Sunday, October 9th put on by the Medina 2 meter group. This one is at the Medina County Career Center, 12101 West. Liberty Rd., west of beautiful downtown Medina. I plan on making them both. Hope to see you there too! Also, for Gary...the Findley Hamfest is September 11th. He likes to make that one. There will be a few more hamfests coming up in the next several months and we will keep you posted as to when and where they will be, as soon as we get the information.

LEST I FORGET!

I want to thank Mike, Phil, and Carl for their contributions to this months newsletter. Without your input, we would have had a 3 pager! Not to mention our regular contributors...Bob, Toby, and Ron. Thanks guys!

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RANDOM RAMBLING

Well, I guess I have rambled randomly enough here for this month. If I think of something else before I put this issue to bed, as they say, I'll either save it for next month or find a place to get it in this month's issue.

WITH THAT....

I'm gonna wind this one up and say 73 for now to you all. Catch you on the air, on the net, at the meeting or all of the above.
de Tom, WB8N

**CARS weekly net,
Wednesdays, 9 p.m. on
146.820. Be there!**

MESSAGE FROM ARRL PRESIDENT

My fellow Amateur Radio Operators, There is no doubt that the recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina will be the largest and longest emergency actions that hams have ever undertaken. It will also be one of the hardest, not simply due to the large areas involved, but also because many of us have friends and relatives directly impacted by this catastrophe. For them, and all the people of the Gulf region, we ask divine aid and comfort in this time of sorrow.

But we are also hardened and resolved to turn this event into one of the most glorious opportunities to show the unique attributes of ham radio - it works! You know that. We can again show the world that we have the best trained, most ingenious and dedicated ARES and RACES operators ever in history. We have the attention of the world press, and we will show what ham radio can do.

This will not happen in a week, not even in a month. The recovery efforts will be drawn out over numerous states and are expected to go well into the winter. Hams will grow weary and

need relief and replacement from all across America. The ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, is already working on strategic plans to make it possible for these volunteers to come. Our goal is to provide the SEC's with all the support we can muster and allow them to do their jobs.

There is a curious coincidence in the fact that the United Technologies grant, which allowed the ARRL to train so many thousands of hams in emergency communications, ends this week. Now we are seeing the results of that effort. Disciplined hams, using correct procedures have already saved many lives, and will save hundreds more by providing timely, accurate and critical communications to our served agencies. To the students, mentors, organizers, funders and teachers of those courses we can only say, "Well done!"

I know many people would like to move NOW - please don't. I know many of you want to enter the fray, come to the coast and get involved.

Please, not yet. Instead, get yourself ready. Refresh your skills and knowledge of protocols and procedures. Once the agencies are able to complete a preliminary needs assessment, we will know who is needed and where. For now, the area is simply too dangerous and no one is being allowed in. Transportation and logistics, including volunteer groups coming in, must be done in an orderly manner or we may only add to the chaos and confusion. Information and coordination for such a historically large response is being developed and will be made available soon. But for now, work through your SEC's and follow their lead. I would also ask that you be professional and disciplined whenever checking into an HF net. Net control is a difficult job at best, so be respectful. If you have traffic fine, but if not, please stand by.

There is already no doubt that when the
continued on next page....

history of this event is written, to role of Amateur Radio will be one of honor. Unpaid volunteers who came through for their country and communities when all other systems failed or were overwhelmed. By working together and mutually supporting each other, we can perhaps give these very dark days a small glint of glory. Let these be the days that hams, decades from now, remember with pride. Together we can - and will - make it happen because, after all, we are HAMS.

Jim Haynie, W5JBP
President
ARRL

FROM THE V.P.

A wise person once told me, “some people make things happen, and some people let things happen”. The FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) which will change the requirements for amateur radio licensing. A detailed description of the proposed changes can be found in David Sumner’s editorial in the September 2005 issue of “QST” magazine on page nine. He mentions that the complete FCC proposal can be accessed on the Web at: hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmat/h/FCC-05-143A1.pdf. The FCC proposal simply removes the Morse code element from the tests available and removes the code as a requirement from all of the amateur classes.

The ARRL proposed in its petition to restructure and modernize the entry-level class, as well as remove the code requirement from the General class.

The ARRL also proposes to keep the code requirement for the Extra class. Now is the time to voice your opinion. The above mentioned website has instructions for you to file your comments with the FCC and see the comments of others.

Speaking of the ARRL, joining up is one of the best things you can do as a ham to keep the amateur service going in the right direction. The league is a union of people and funds that can influence the powers that be.

Any group of enthusiasts, such as hams, need representation of this sort. I really suggest if you are not a member, that you join, and if you are a member that you get a fellow ham who is not a member to join. The long-term benefits will show up in the future, as for the present, a new issue of “QST” in your mailbox every month is nice, as well as many other advantages.

By the way, when you renew your ARRL dues, do it through our club treasurer. The club gets a small percentage, which does add up and make a difference. So as you can see, without a lot of effort, you can make things happen.

73,
de Toby, WT8O
Vice President

Editor’s note: No one returned their “interview with the V.P”. so there is no member interview for this month. C’mon folks, if you have an interview form to do, why not fill it out and give it to Toby. What do we have to do, lead you by the hand? Sometimes it’s like pulling teeth!

CARS 2005 Officers & Committees

Audit

Toby WT8O ** Tina W8HBI, Gary NI8Z

ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

Bill Sarver KC8YSV **

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 AI8Y **

WO/Newsletter

Tom WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Program directors

Bill KC8YSV ** Jack W8JAK **

QSL manager - NO8A & W8WGM

Tom WB8N **

Refreshments

Henry KD8BAO **

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

2005 Officers

PRESIDENT

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TREASURER:

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treasurer@cars.org



Board Members

even year executive board 2 year term;

George K8KR
Gary NI8Z
Dave K8DAV

odd year executive board 2 year term;

Gordon AI8Y
Terry KB8DTC
Tom WB8N

K8ZFR trustee

Tom WB8N

NO8A, WA8CMS & KD8AQD trustee

Bob W8GC

