

The Wobbly Oscillator Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

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



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Issue I

FROM THE PREZ

Welcome back for a New and exciting Year with CARS! Congratulations to the 2007 Officers and Board members who were elected at our November 2006 meeting.

Thanks to the 55 who attended the 2006 CARS Christmas party! We all had a great time with good food, fine entertainment, a gift for everyone plus a 2007 CARS calendar and last but not least many very nice awards were presented.



W8HBI, N8IS and K8VJG

Plans for the upcoming 2007 Great Lakes Division Convention are going well! We have several sponsors in place, along with a GREAT line up of speakers for the seminars. **Mark your calendars now so you keep September 22, 2007 open and attend the convention.**

Check www.2000GLDC.com for updated information. We will have a registration form up on the Web site in the next 3 weeks, we are just waiting to firm up the ticket prices. It is looking like

ticket cost will be very reasonable, full ticket cost will be lower than 2005 GLDC.

Clubs, please make arrangements to send at least one member to represent your club at the 2007 GLDC as they will have a lot of information to bring back to your meetings.

By now I am sure you all know the CW requirement for all license classes has been removed. This will be effective some time in February 2007. The order was released Friday December 15, 2006 by the FCC but still needs to be listed and a 30 day waiting period completed. I am sure many of you will now want to upgrade to General and maybe Extra class. CARS will have both a General & Technician Class starting February 14, 2007. Go to www.2cars.org to sign up.

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I know many are not happy with this decision by the FCC, however the majority of Ham's responding to the FCC's request for comments did support dropping the code requirement. Most of the other countries in the world have or are in the process of doing the same. What you do, learn or how you operate on the air as a Ham has nothing to do with passing a code or written test. I for one find CW is fun. Hams were required to learn CW to get our licenses, but no one forced us to use CW after we received our license. Lets get behind the no-code license holders as they move up and help them learn to be good operators, please do not criticize them because they were not required by the FCC to pass a code test.

The next CARS meeting is January 9, 2007, I hope to see you there. John K8YSE is doing a presentation on his DXpedition to KH8SI Swains Island.

That's it for another WO. This month's thoughts: ***Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd.***

73, de W8GC

MEETING MINUTES

President Bob Check, W8GC called the November 2006 C.A.R.S. meeting to order at 7:30 PM, on the 14th of the month. The meeting was held at the Bush Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio. Twenty-five club members and one guest introduced themselves. Bob, KC8MRC motioned to accept the minutes of the October meeting, as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*. Bruce, N8DJX seconded the motion. There were no additions or corrections noted, and the group passed the motion.

Tina, W8HBI reported the treasury's balance, noting there were two large expenditures for the new repeater equipment. She also mentioned the annual club dues were due by January 1, 2007. President Bob updated the group on the status on the 2007 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention that we will be co-hosting along with LEARA in September. Bob Heil, K9EID and Chip Margelli,

K7JA from Heil Sound, will have a seminar. Tim Duffy, K3LR will hold a seminar on antennas. Teams from AMSAT and ARDF will also be speaking, and Joel Harrison, W5ZN, ARRL president, will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday banquet. There will also be 3 hours of DX hosted by Tedd, KB8NW with W3UR, K8YSE and others. Bob added there will be more guests and company representatives announced when final commitments are made.

Tom, WB8N reported two hams upgraded to General at last Sunday's VE session.

Bill, KC8YSV reminded those present to pay their ARRL dues through C.A.R.S. Bill also filled in for Dave, KD8V to update the group on the Copley Middle School project. Bill said ten students were recruited from the advanced classes, and they were doing quite well, showing a lot of interest. He also announced the scheduled programs for next year's meetings. In January, John Papay, K8YSE will give a presentation on the Swain's Island DXpedition he was a member of. Bill lined up Hal, W8PN for February to give a talk on radio astronomy.

Toby, WT8O commented the 9:00 Wednesday evening club net is maintaining a large amount of check-ins, possibly due to the prize to be given to the person who checks in the most. He added that the reliable five net controllers spread the workload out to an enjoyable level.

Bob reported that the scholarship committee will soon meet to begin the process of awarding two five hundred dollar scholarships to a C.A.R.S. member or member's child or grandchild. The Board of Directors voted to remove the two year limit from the time out of high school for the scholarship applicants. The *Wobbly Oscillator* editor, Tom, WB8N reminded everyone there would be no WO in December. He emphasized this would be a good opportunity for members to submit an article with the two month lead time.

Dave, K8DAV updated the group on the progress of the repeater upgrade project. He said the proposed idea to use the Brecksville site as an interim repeater did not pan out because the

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antenna is inoperative; and replacement is not possible because of the 100% duty cycle of the radio station tower we share space with. Dave and Vince, N8OVW devised a work around by connecting a spare repeater that Vince had, at the Parma site.

Dave monitored the repeater for twenty-four days and determined the repeater was used 1.8% of available time for that period. W8GC suggested we consider Echolink or IRLP to stimulate interest and use of the repeater. Ed, KD8CLC brought up the point that non-members indicated they were not using the "82" repeater because they thought they had to be members of C.A.R.S. to use it. Tom, KP2VI added that the repeaters in the Virgin Islands were often quiet, but were also intended for, and used heavily for emergencies.

The 50/50 drawing was held with \$25 going to Bruce, N8DJX and \$26 going to the club treasury. Two additional prizes of butane soldering kits went to Ed, KD8CLC, and Steve, N8IS. President Bob appointed Bill, WA8GEO to the scholarship committee.

Linda, N8LRS brought fliers in for up-coming hamfests, and copies of newspaper articles about Field Day for members to take.

Terry, KB8DTC motioned to re-elect the three unopposed candidates; Bob, W8GC for president, Tina, W8HBI for treasurer, and Toby, WT8O for secretary. Jack, W8JAK, seconded the motion and it was passed.

The election was held and Bill, WA8GEO was elected vice president. The Board of Directors positions were filled by Tom, WB8N, George, K8KR, and Gary, NI8Z.

George, K8KR gave a presentation on the November Sweepstakes contest. He explained the basic rules and exchange used in the contest, and added more details were available in *QST* magazine and the ARRL website. George suggested the use of the popular N3FJP logging program. He wanted all logs sent to him in Cabrillo format, if possible, to determine the winner amongst the C.A.R.S. members.

Steve, N8IS suggested we send Ron, K8VJG flowers; and motioned to do so. Dave, K8DAV seconded the motion, and Linda,

K8LRS offered to make the purchase.

Mike, K8EHP motioned to close the meeting. Metro, W8MET seconded and the group voted to close. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

After the meeting, Scotty, WA8SLN gave a very interesting presentation, displaying and explaining many of the antique cameras in his collection.

Respectfully submitted by Toby Kolman, WT8O, C.A.R.S. secretary.

Don't forget the Wednesday evening CARS Net at 9:00 P.M.

WHAT'S HAPPENING - JANUARY 2007

January 1 CARS Dues Payable
January 3 Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
January 6-7 ARRL RTTY Round-Up
January 9 CARS Meeting @ Busch Community Room @ 7:30 pm
January 10 Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
January 14 VE Session @ Old Town Hall in Independence @ 9:00 am
January 17 Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
January 22 Newsletter Submission Deadline
January 24 Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm
January 26-28 CQ 160 Meter Contest CW
January 31 Club Net 146.82 @ 9:00 pm

FACTS FROM THE 1500's: Part One

Submitted by Bob Check, W8GC

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500's:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

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Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

Getting quite an education, aren't you? Watch for part 2 next month, if there is room.
73, de W8GC

DX NEWS FLASH

Spain's King Juan Carlos, EA0JC

The S21XA Bangladesh DXpedition is expected to be on the air January 10-16, 2007. A report says EA0JC, Spain's King Juan Carlos, has agreed to go along on the operation. The King will operate CW and digital because he has been having some problems with his voice.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS _____

KC2BUA Gary Schmid 1-11-47
K8JGR Jane Reed 1-11
KC8YLC Mary Cegelski 1-22-52
KC8DJV Stephen Jones 1-23-66
K8AV Carl Beduhn 1-30-38

Congratulations one and all, and many more!

SPACE WEATHER

Submitted by Bob Check, W8GC

Some interesting goings on with space weather at the moment. The solar flux reached an unusually high 105 at 2200 UTC on Tuesday December 5, 2006. Emerging sunspot group 10930 produced a huge X9 class solar flare at 1035 UTC on Tuesday December 5, 2006 and it is suspected that the solar flare was actually larger than an X9.0. A huge solar flare such as this is extremely rare near the bottom of a sun spot cycle.

As the solar flare was not geoeffective (Earth facing), most of the energy released by the associated the Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) will miss Earth. However a glancing blow is expected and geomagnetic storming at some level is expected. More X and M class solar flares are expected in future days.

Space weather goings on such as we are currently experiencing is anecdotal evidence that we are still not at the very bottom of solar cycle 23. The prediction for solar minimum continues to be June 2007.

V E NEWS

By Gary Dewey, NI8Z

If you haven't heard, the morse code test requirement has been dropped by the FCC for general and extra class licenses. The rest of the story is the change for upgrading will not be ready for our January session.

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The FCC has to get the change information into the Federal Register and 30 days after that the new rules will be in effect. The new band (frequency re-farming) plan went in as of December 15th. There will be questions on the tests now reflecting the changes. Then the ARRL will tell the volunteer examination group how they want to administer the process. The cost for taking tests will remain the same as last year, \$14.00. There will be a new General License question pool and testing questions in July.

The C.A.R.S. group will be doing VE sessions in the odd months, 2nd Sunday @ 9am again this year. We are still at the Independence TownHall, 6652 Brecksville Road (RT 21). We expect to be very busy with the potential for upgrades to General and Extra class. Anyone planning to take advantage of the new changes, contact Gary, NI8Z at ni8z@2car.org or call 216-642-8705 after 12 noon at least two weeks prior to any upcoming VE session.

Gary Dewey NI8Z
C.A.R.S. VE Coordinator

SUNSHINE

By Dave Dressler, KD8V

Sunshine: The sunshine committee mailed out 23 cards this year. They were both sympathy and get well cards. The latest was to Bruce N8DJX who had recent knee surgery. CARS is interested and tries to be in touch with our members and friends during illness and times of mourning. If you come to know of anyone who needs to be contacted during these times, please let DaveKD8V or BobW8GC know and we will send a card from CARS. Thank you, de Dave KD8V

WORDS FROM THE VEEP

By Bill Savage, WA8GEO

Hi, my name is Bill, WA8GEO. I've had my ticket since 1962 as a tech-plus.. I currently work 2, 70cm, 10, 20 and 40 meters and hold an Extra Class license.

I started out on 6 meters as a member of the 6

Meter Nomads from which C.A.R.S. came from. I remember when I was getting into ham radio that any General could give the test, and the one who gave me my test was K8CLO/Phil, now a silent key. My cousin WA4ELB/Greg gave me my first taste of ham radio and it was all I needed to start me on this great hobby. I've met so many nice people throughout the years.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me.

I hope I can fill the shoes of the past vice-presidents of C.A.R.S. With such a great bunch of people in the club to help, how can I go wrong?
73,
Bill, WA8GEO

FROM THE *GEARVAKf* BULLETIN *Congress to pass copyright laws governing radio frequencies.*

The incoming Speaker of the House of Representatives has told house members that she intends to pass legislation that will require the copyrighting of American radio frequencies. In addition to tightening licensing requirements, she wants the new Congress to force the FCC to register *all* privately owned RF transmitters and receivers in the USA. The RF spectrum is to be divided into millions of discrete bands, each of which will be no wider than 3 KHz. Users of radio frequencies will have to (1) pay fees to apply for an RF use license, (2) pay additional copyright license fees for each RF band used, and (3) pay equipment registration approval fees for *non-exclusive* use of each discrete 3 KHz band. All fee payments and approvals must be completed before signal receptions or transmissions are attempted. To prevent rules violations, all RF assignments will be voided upon passage of the proposed legislation, and all RF communications methods will cease. Existing transmitters and receivers will be confiscated and destroyed, including simple "cat whisker and galena crystal" type radio and tv sets, van Degraf
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generators, Tesla coils, radio controlled toys, and, of course, cell phones. Government officials will be exempt from all the new rules, whatever they are, but will be required to assist the FCC and the FBI in enforcing them.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

A NEW YEAR!

Wow, I can hardly believe it...2007 is upon us! 2006 was a pretty good year for the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, but 2007 looks like it is going to be even bigger and better, with CARS co-sponsoring the Great Lakes Division Convention in September, plus all the other activities that CARS is involved in. But it is going to take each and every one of the members to assist where and when they can with the various programs.

THE CARS CHRISTMAS PARTY

I know, it's politically correct to call it a "holiday" party, but phooey on that politically correct stuff! The Christmas party was a great success again this year, thanks to the members on the party committee and those involved in providing the entertainment, namely Jack Andrisin W8JAK who was our DJ again and did a bang up job as usual. Thanks Jack. We had the magician once again, and some of the members got up and sang karaoke. A fun time was had by all. The food was great, and everyone had the Christmas sprit.

The pic is of a bunch of "carolers"(officers), and I use the term loosely, was taken by Steve, K8SAS. Thanks Steve! I'm already looking forward to next year's party!

820 & 825 REPEATERS

Dave and Vince have done a fine job on the new repeater equipment they installed and both repeaters are back in operation, as you probably know by now. A BIG thank you to both of these guys who did all the work on their OWN time. Thanks Vince and Dave...great job as usual!

FCC RULING ON CW

Also, by now you are aware of the FCC's bombshell...doing away with Morse Code as a license requirement. Gary, NI8Z can give us more info on this ruling at the January meeting. I for



one think that it is probably a good thing, in light of other countries no longer requiring the code as a licensing requirement, and for those of us that like to use cw, there is nothing stopping us. Perhaps more hams will learn and use the code, now that it is not mandatory, and can be learned in a more leisurely manner rather than trying to learn it because one has to. We'll see what the future holds.

MORE QSL CARDS PLEASE

As you know, in the past we have published members QSL cards in the W.O. Below is the card of Steve, K8SAS. Great card Steve!

We can use more cards folks...bring em with you to a meeting and give them to me and I'll get em in the newsletter.

TTFN

That about does it for another month guys and gals. See you on the air and/or at the meeting.
73, de Tom, WB8N