

FEBRUARY 2014 Volume 44 ISSUE 1

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP MONTH

FROM THE PREZ

We will all miss Ron Boehnlein, WA8ZJV, who became a Silent Key recently. Ron was one of the hams who founded this great organization back in the 1960's. He was the key player in the group who is currently in the process of updating the C.A.R.S. constitution; Ron kept everything in check by sticking to the basic principles the club was founded on. Ron is gone now, but he will live on in our hearts and memories, and we are all better off for knowing him. He had a rare and great quality. Ron was a very substantial man, tall in stature, strong in will and voice, quick witted and intelligent, and stubborn and unyielding when he truly believed in something; but he listened with an open mind, was understanding, and became soft spoken when the need arose. As strong as Ron was, he never turned anyone off, everyone liked him, and liked him a lot; he was a pleasure to be with. It was inspiring to see so many club members at Ron's wake. Trying to find a parking space in the crowded lot, it was hard to miss all the call sign vanity plates and vehicles with antennas. With the way propagation sometimes works, it's a safe bet to think Ron will hearing us at times on 40 meters. God speed, Old Man.

On a brighter note, the March trip to the ARRL headquarters in Newington Connecticut has become a reality. We will be leaving Sunday, March 16th and returning Tuesday the 18th. The bus has been ordered and paid for, and the final travel arrangements are in

process. I will repeat for anyone who has missed the news, the bus is **FREE** to any C.A.R.S. member, or a member of their family. We still have some room left, so if you are interested please sign up on the C.A.R.S. website (www.2cars.org) while space is still available. We ARE going to have an unforgettably good time, so please join us.

73, Toby, WT8O

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JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The C.A.R.S. membership meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, on the 14th of January, 2014, at 7:30 pm. in the Bush Funeral Home Community Room on Ridge Road in Parma, Ohio. There were 34 members and 2 guests in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given before the meeting.

After introductions, the November minutes were approved as published in the January Wobbly Oscillator by Toby, WT8O.

Bob Check, W8GC, gave the Treasurer's report and announced that the 2014 dues are due. Bob also announced that the gift card program has been cancelled due to lack of club participation. The Dayton Hamvention® Bus has been cancelled because CARS has lost money on these trips, and we weren't even close to filling the bus.

Toby, WT8O, presented the Ham of the Year (HOTY) award to Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE, and Steve Spisak, K8SAS, received a gift card, as one of the top net Check-ins for the year.

The ARRL bus trip is a go, but we're still looking for more sign-ups. There are 19 people signed so far. A motion was made by Bill, KD8OUE and seconded by Joe, KD8BAL, to have the bus trip a go regardless how many sign up. Membership approved the motion.

CARS needs a committee chairman for the Christmas Party. Eddie KD8FTS is the new Tech/emergency chairman. He helped Vince, N8OVW, in getting the echo-link back on the air.

VP Gary, NI8Z, reported on the VE session held on January 12th. Eight people took and passed their respective tests. CARS license classes will begin on Thursday March 6, 2014. Check the CARS website for more details.

The Copley-Fairlawn School Radio Club inventory will be taken, during the ARRL School Club Roundup in February.

Toby, WT8O, asked the members present to thank the refreshment committee: K8VJG, K8DMT, and WB8ROK. They were given a round of applause.

The other business was, anyone needing help with anything such as antennas, radio's, other technical aspects of amateur radio, parts for projects, etc. let club officers know.

There was no 50/50 RAFFLE as **someone** forgot the tickets. There will be one for the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

The program for the night was a virtual video tour of the ARRL headquarters in Newington CT.

Submitted by Dwaine Modock, K8ME

SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

Once again CARS members will be working with the student radio club members at the Copley-Fairlawn Middle School getting them on the air for the semi-annual ARRL School Club Roundup. CARS members Gary Dewey, NI8Z, Metro Sinko, W8MET, & Tom Wayne, WB8N, along with Dave Dressler, KD8V, & his wife Pat, KD8DYI. Dave heads up the school club and has weekly club meetings on Fridays after regular classes. Plans are for Brad Bennett, W8WEN, head of the Copley High School radio club to get the station at the high school on the air with the high school radio club students also. The students really get a kick out of talking to other stations and especially another school radio club station. Last year the high school club contacted the ARRL station, W1AW.

The event takes place during the week of February 10th, Monday thru Friday. Each club is limited to 6 hours per day, and no more than 24 hours total during the event.

We encourage other CARS members to come out and help getting the students on the air. You can contact Gary, NI8Z, Tom, WB8N, or Metro, W8MET if you want to come out & help any of the five days.

We will be operating mostly on 40 & 20 meters, but possibly on 10 & 15 meters as well if conditions are good on those bands. The frequency ranges are: 40 meters - 7.225 to 7255, 20 meters - 14.250 to 14280, 10 meters - 28.440 to 28.460, and 15 meters - 21.300 to 21330, all on single sideband. If you have the time, get on the air and talk to the kids and help them earn points. We'll be operating from approximately 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

TOKYO HIGH POWER

Submitted by Bob Check, W8GC

It was announced on 12/27/2013 that Japanese Amplifier manufacturer Tokyo High Power has filed for Bankruptcy and is liquidating the company to pay off creditors. This is a very unusual action for a Japanese company and another unfortunate loss in the amateur radio world.

There have been so many other good companies that have gone out of business over the years. Not long ago it was Henry Radio, of course there was Collins and a host of others.

The amateur radio market is very tough and profits are razor thin. Hams are notoriously cheap and they want the best value for their money. I'm a little surprised that someone like MFJ did not buy Tokyo High Power or their product line. I'm not a big fan of THP equipment and I don't own any, but I hate to see another amateur radio manufacturer go away.

WAS AND VUCC CARD CHECKING

By Dwaine Modock, K8ME

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society now has Worked All States and VHF/UHF card checking available to club members.

Anyone who acquires these achievements and doesn't want to send the cards in to the ARRL or is not on LOTW, can contact card checker Dwaine Modock K8ME for processing.

**Next CARS Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 11th,
7:30 p.m.**

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ken Osicki K8OAE 02-23-****
Doug Braun KB8TGT 02-25- 1961
Michael Balach KB8UGT 02-02-1955
David Noeth KD8ACO 02-22- ****
Diane Balach KD8FTV 02-07- ****
Daniel McNutt KD8MV 02-28- 1985
Walter Semler KD8TWL 02-22-1941
Dave Dressler KD8V 02-11- 1932
Gary Solomon N8JNO 02-15-1954

Congratulations To All & Many Happy Returns.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

WORKED ALL STATES/W1AW QSO'S

If you have HF capability at home or mobile this year is a great opportunity to earn Worked All States. As part of the ARRL 100th anniversary celebration this year, there will be W1AW portable stations working from each state. There have been several states on the air signing W1AW with their area designator after the call so far already, but during the year each state will be on the air twice, so if you've missed the first several states on the air, you still have a chance to work them later in the year. To see what states are on the air, check on the CARS website, go to ham links on the left column, click on it then click on "visit a US cluster" link. You'll see what W1AW stations are on the air, the frequency they're on, if they are working split frequency, etc. It's a lot of fun. Check it out and good luck. Look in the December issue of QST magazine, page 67 for all the details.

So far I've worked all of the W1AW stations except for Virginia. They'll be back on the air in October.

TRIP TO THE MECCA OF HAM RADIO

Yep, I'm talking about the CARS bus trip to the ARRL headquarters in Newington Connecticut. The bus leaves Sunday morning, March 16th at about 7 a.m. and returns Tuesday, the 18th. The bus trip is FREE...all you have to pay for is your room and your meals. You can bring a cooler with food and beverages with you on the bus as well.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for most of us. You'll get to see the whole ARRL operation as well as get a chance to operate the W1AW station. If you've never been there, and most of us have not been there, get on board and make the trip. We'll have a lot of fun, and learn a lot too!

So, if you have not already signed up for the trip, and can take the time to make the trip, I suggest you do so asap. Just go to the *continued on next page...*

CARS website and sign up. We already have over the minimum of 20 members signed up so far, so don't get shut out. I'm really looking forward to the trip myself!

THAT'S IT FOR THIS MONTH

That'll about do it for the *RANDOM WIRE* for this month. Hope to see you at the next meeting on February 11th, or on the air. Remember to check into the CARS weekly net every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

73 for now,
de Tom, WB8N

THE VICE REPORT

By Vice President, Gary Dewey, NI8Z

The January VE session took place on the 12th, with eight (8) applicants coming to the Independence Old Town Hall including "Batman". Unfortunately, not the real one but Michael Batman (his real name) who among 4 others, became a Technician. WD8RAX became an Extra. And two Techs that succeeded in upgrading to General.. So all applicants passed or upgraded.

A yearly VE picture was taken to freshen up the website as there were 8 VEs in attendance to facilitate the process. (see pictures).

If you read the president's column you are aware that CARS lost one of its Charter members this month. Ron Boehnlein, WA8ZJV, passed on to a better reward on January 20th. Ron was a consistent meeting attendee. He was an avid Elmer and was instrumental in acquiring the 7Hills administration building to get the 2013 Fall license classes started. He brought his own radio equipment to help demonstrate amateur radio during the 7 Hills Home Days. He loved to take part in Field Day. He loved hamfests and was a regular vendor at the Berea fairgrounds Cleveland Hamfest. He has donated some of his radio equipment to CARS for club use during contests, field day, and/or the next 7 Hills Home Days activity. On a truly sad note, Ron planned to upgrade to Extra with the Fall classes, however his debilitating illness prevented him from accomplishing that. Ron will be sorely missed.



Eight members of the CARS crack volunteer examiner team: K8DMT, K8KR, NI8Z, K8VJG, WB8N, W8MET, W8EBB & W8GC.



Applicants taking their tests.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE CLASSES

Just a reminder, if you or someone you know wants to upgrade their Ham license or get a Technician license please go to the CARS website at www.2cars.org and follow the directions *under*

"CARS SPRING LICENSE CLASSES"
Classes starts in about 6 weeks so please sign up as soon as possible.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GEARVAKf (the f is silent) BULLETIN.

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Negative Propagation Explained

By R.E. Peated

At a recently repeated symposium on Mushroom Wine Making, part of Gorbinsky's repeatedly famed lecture series, Dr. E.P. Lishnus explained the repeated implications of the repeated baseline shift: "Negative sunspots cause negative propagation, with repeated emitted signals being sucked into the ionosphere rather than being repeatedly reflected. This sucking instead of reflecting can explain just about everything that has repeatedly gone wrong on the ham bands for the last two years. We need at least 30 sunspots, using the old baseline, to achieve break-even propagation, at which point the bands will stop sucking," Dr. Lishnus declared. Baseline errors in the solar flux and sunspot reporting system, as repeatedly discussed by Dr. Lishnus in the last issue of the *Gearvakf Bulletin*, have caused the scientific community to repeat baselines and start repeatedly reporting negative sunspots at the repeated solar repetition minimum.

Ham Band Color Codes Implemented

By KA8AQH

Color coded ham bands and licenses will soon be in effect! According to FCC spokesman Ralph R. Spiffie, the FCC has issued a "unilateral regulatory decision concerning the orderly delineation of the various amateur radio sub-bands." Noting that many amateurs have callously disregarded the spirit of callsign grouping according to license classes," Spiffie explained how, "the FCC is coloring amateur radio band segments according to the class of licenses held by amateurs authorized to use them." The colors selected are gold for Extra Class bands, blue for General Class bands, and yellow for Technician Class bands. The (green) Novice and (red) Advanced Class bands have been eliminated. "To further assure compliance with amateur band color assignments," said Spiffie, "all new licensed

issued by the FCC will bear the color assigned to the band the privileges of which are authorized the licensee." The substance of Mr. Spiffie's statement will appear in English translation at the end of May, according to uninformed sources.

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264. Articles appearing in this newsletter may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication provided that credit is given this newsletter and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to newsletter@2cars.org by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue. By reading this you have committed to attending as many CARS meetings & functions as possible.



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

**Thursday evenings starting March 6, 2014 **
and ending April 17, 2014**

**** Please arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 pm on Thursday March 6th only
for orientation and to receive your class materials
April 17th will be a special VE Test session for all license classes,
ARRL fee for this VE test is \$15.00**

**To register please follow the link at www.2cars.org and complete
the on-line application or call 216-524-1750 Bob, W8GC**

***Classes will be held at the Seven Hill City Hall, 7325 Summit View Dr
Seven Hills, OH 44131 in room "C" at 6:45 pm every Thursday.
The entrance is at the East end on the South side of building***

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

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Sign up NOW for a memorable Road Trip on the 2014 Bus Trip to the ARRL HQ in Newington, CT.

Please go to www.2cars.org home page ASAP and click on the “register for the bus” link.

The ARRL trip will depart from “Great Day! Tours” location at **375 Treeworth Blvd., Brecksville, OH 44147 (I-77 & Rt 82) promptly at 7:00am on Sunday March 16, 2014 and depart Newington at 8:00am Tuesday March 18, coming back to Brecksville around 7:00pm. There is free secure parking at their lot. No dairy products or alcohol on the bus**
*****Riders can bring small coolers with sandwiches, pop or water.*****

The Bus trip is **FREE to CARS members and family, food and rest stops will be scheduled prior to the Road Trip to the ARRL.**

Monday morning the bus will take us to the ARRL for the days activities. You are responsible for all of your food, Motel bills and personal purchases.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Toby wt8o at a CARS meeting, call him at 440-572-1544 or email wt8o@2cars.org.

Final details will be announced 30 days B4 departure!