

# **THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR**

## **APRIL FOOLS ISSUE**

**FROM THE PREZ**

The C.A.R.S. trip to the ARRL headquarters in Newington was the ham radio experience of a lifetime in the opinion of most of those who made the trip. Operating W1AW with state of the art equipment which included high end radios, 1KW amplifiers and high tower mounted beam antennas resulted in pile ups of amateurs battling to make contact with the mother station. Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, the W1AW station manager expertly handled the group as he got all the C.A.R.S. members who desired to operate up and running at one of the many operating points. Speaking for myself, it was the thrill of a lifetime. What a blast.

The tour of the League administration building was very informative and a real pleasure to meet the staff who the organization work. Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF, did a great job arranging the tour for our club. It was truly special meeting and talking with David Sumner, K1ZZ, CEO of the ARRL. He took the time to speak with the group and answer any questions we had. Gary, NI8Z, had the opportunity to take care of business face to face with Maria Somma, AB1FM, the VE manager and with the QSL service. For me, the highlight of the administration building tour was seeing the ARRL lab and meeting with Bob Allison, WB1GCM. Bob took a lot of time explaining the product review process and provided us with some inside information on various amateur radio products. He was very

personable and informative. I would love to pick his brain before I bought a new radio. He also mentioned the lab is always open to any technical questions via phone or email.

There was one thing that went deeper than the experiences the ARRL organization and staff provided us. When I asked the guys what they enjoyed most about the trip, one answer came out almost to a man; the pleasure of getting to know fellow members better and the camaraderie. So even if you did not make the trip, plan on feeling the camaraderie of your fellow C.A.R.S. members at the next meeting. Hope to see you there.

73, Toby, WT8O

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### **MARCH CARS MEETING MINUTES**

The 2014 March 11th monthly meeting of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society was called to order at 7:30pm by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at the Busch Funeral Home community room located on Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio. Thirty-two members plus one new amateur were present. The CARS Secretary and Treasurer were absent.

After the pledge of allegiance, Toby announced that the program tonight would be about Handi-Hams presented by Bill, Kemmett, KD8QBB

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the CARS newsletter, The Wobbly Oscillator.

Toby gave the treasury report received from W8GC.

Toby reported that we lost a few members who had not renewed their membership by paying their dues, however we gained membership in total.

Toby asked for a show of hands of those going on the CARS bus trip to the ARRL Headquarters in Newington CT. There was a large show of hands. Toby gave a brief commentary on the trip schedule plus what was and was not allowed on the bus. The bus should leave promptly at 7am on Sunday, March 16 for a 10 hour ride. Stops for food and comfort relief will be made as the bus driver should make stops at least every 3.5 hours. More details will be forwarded prior to all those traveling by email by Toby.

Gary, NI8Z, gave the VE report for March 9. Thirteen applicants came to take an examination. 7 passed Technician and 4 passed the General test. Tom Wayne, WB8N; Metro Sinko, W8MET; Darren Turk; K8DMT, Matt Webb; W8EBB, and Gary, NI8Z, all managed to set their clocks to Daylight savings time the night before, however one VE showed late because he didn't realize he had to set his clocks ahead. No name please, but his call is K8KR. Since there was such a large group of people taking their exams, his presence was valuable as the test grading was just beginning.

Gary reported that no sunshine cards were sent this past month and that Bob, W8GC, recovering from back surgery, was seen today and he looks to have lost some weight and

said he can lay on his back now with much less pain.

Gary also reported that license classes have started and there are 7 students going for Technician, 3 for General and 2 for extra at the Seven Hills Admin Bldg.

David Kmetz, KD8VML, a technician class licensee, was resoundingly approved as a new member of CARS by the members present.

Committee reports were asked for. Public Service; Eddy KD8FTS and K8ARP stated that the May 18<sup>th</sup> Marathon Run will need volunteers. Although, it falls on Dayton HamVention weekend maybe some of the early returners will help out. At the next meeting, the summer Public Service schedule will be given.

Programs; At the April meeting Bulldog Battery will make a presentation. Tonight a HandiHams video will be shown by Bill Kemmett, KD8QBB a handicapped ham.

School Club; The School Club Roundup contest log has been submitted for the Copley Middle School.

Toby asked the membership to thank the refreshment committee members; K8VJG for pastry, WB8ROK for liquid refreshment, and K8DMT for preparing the coffee. They were given a round of applause.

Under Old Business, Toby discussed work on the Constitution rewrite. With Ron Boehnlein, WA8ZJV, becoming a SK, the group could use an additional member. Ron was the last of the original founders of CARS. Roger Boehnlein, N8TCP, Ron's brother, said he will help. One of the articles of the constitution that brought about much discussion was the meaning of the word "Quorum" for a vote. It was decided that 20 CARS members, including at least 5 board members needed to be present to have a quorum for a vote.

New Business; Toby stated his FD location is still available if the members want to use it this year, however, Toby said that

*Continued on next page....*

he is in the process of trying to sell the property.

Toby asked the membership if anyone had a question or particular item they would like help with. Bill, WB8GEO, asked if anyone had an antenna analyzer in the form of a MFJ 259 they would like to sell. George, K8KR, announced a 50' tower is available to anyone wishing to take it down. George also reported that the Pioneer Amateur Radio Friendship Association is sponsoring a bus to the Dayton Hamvention®. The cost is \$45.00 if you have your own ticket to the Hamvention® or \$65.00 which includes the ticket. Call George if you have interest. The fifty-fifty raffle winner was Toby Kolman, WT8O, who won \$36.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm. After the meeting, Bill Kemmett, KD8QBB, presented his program on Handihams, which was well received. Submitted by Gary Dewey, NI8Z, acting secretary.



New member, David, KD8VML, being congratulated by President Toby, WT8O

### **A NEW-BEE'S PERSPECTIVE**

*By Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE*

During many of our past club meetings, the CARS officers were talking about doing a bus trip to visit the ARRL in Newington, Connecticut, where members would visit the ARRL Headquarters building, and would get to operate a radio at the W1AW site. Quite honestly, after working in an office

building for over twenty years, I had absolutely no interest in seeing more people that worked in cubicles, and I certainly couldn't see getting all excited about operating a radio. Heck, I was a Radioman in the U.S. Navy for over twenty-one years, and I own a radio with which I work HF as a Ham radio operator at least a few times a week. So why would I want to go all the way to Connecticut just to operate a radio? I could just walk into my 'shack' (and I use that term ve-e-e-ry loosely) and operate a radio. AND, it would be a radio that I was at least a bit more familiar with. But, I thought this trip could be a great opportunity for me to get to know a few of the guys a little better, so I signed up. I admit, I had some reservations about all of us 'older dudes' being cramped together on a bus for three days, and I certainly wasn't interested in visiting an office building, but I signed up for the trip anyway.

The trip up to Connecticut went very well. We stopped a few times just to stretch our legs, and for lunch and dinner. The lunch and dinner stops were in areas where there were a couple of eateries to choose from, so everyone at least had choices. We did split up into smaller groups during these stops, and there were usually 6-10 of us at a table when we were eating. But these smaller groups were never the exact same folks each time, so that worked out well for us getting to know each other. By the time we arrived at the hotel in Newington early that evening we had a pretty good idea of who each of the others on the bus were, and were all well fed. The hotel was only two years old, so it was pretty nice. The return trip was pretty much the same, but with the added benefit of having more camaraderie with everyone on the bus. (And of course looking forward to sleeping our own beds).

Monday morning the bus left the hotel around 8:30 AM to go to the ARRL headquarters. I'm not going to mention any names of the people at ARRL. There are just too many of them, and if I left someone out, I'd feel terrible, as they were ALL outstanding folks. The tour went nothing like I expected. The tour guide took us to every  
*Continued on next page....*

department in the ARRL headquarters, and the people that work at the ARRL were genuinely glad to see us. They enthusiastically explained what they did, and how what they did fit into other aspects of the ARRL. They certainly were not the boring cubicle workers that I had come to know and love during my office work experience. Every area of the ARRL was interesting, but the testing lab was the most interesting and informative.

We were the only group at the ARRL for a tour that day, and they split us up into two groups of ten, and I believe that made the tour feel a bit more personal for each of us. The last stop on our tour was W1AW, the station. We were told about the stations operations, a little history, and shown all of the equipment that is used. It was during this stop that I notice a few of the fellas got really 'excited' when the station manager was talking about setting up an operating position so we could operate the radio. I even mentioned to one of the guys that I found it to be kind of funny how someone who operates a radio a lot, would get as excited as a 'kid-in-a-candy-store' about operating a radio. And then we broke for lunch.

After lunch we went back to actually operate the station. The station manager set up six operating positions, each on a different band, so everyone was able to operate for a little while, and could operate on more than one band if that's what they wanted. As there were only twenty of us, and we had about two hours of operating time, each of us had a good bit of time to operate the radios, and that was great.

Speaking of the 'kid-in-a-candy-store' syndrome....I don't think I can explain how I felt, and I can't understand why I felt how I felt, but operating as W100AW was actually pretty darn cool. I know, I know, it's just another radio and I've operated many a radio in the past, heck I even own one of my own. But somehow, this was different, in a very unexpected and enjoyable way. I don't know if it was being on the controlling end of a DX pile-up, or if it was using the call sign W100AW during the ARRL centennial, or if it was Hiram Percy Maxim applying some sort of spiritual influence. Whatever the cause, I was actually 'excited' working the radio at W1AW. I won't go so far

as to say that working W100AW was the highlight of my Ham career. My Ham career has only been about three years long, so I'm expecting quite a few more 'highlights' are yet to come. I will however, say that working W100AW was definitely the highlight of this trip, and of my Ham experiences so far. The pleasure of getting to know some of my fellow CARS members just a little bit better was only second to that unexplained excitement I had working W100AW.

So, my advice, if anyone's paying attention, is simply this; if a trip or event comes up and it presents an opportunity for fellowship with others in the club, take a chance. You'll more than likely discover some hidden gem, such as I did with the W100AW experience. I sincerely want to thank the CARS leadership for providing us with this great opportunity, and especially WT8O (Toby) for all of his hard work both before and during this ARRL trip.



#### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

**Vince Bak N8OVW 4/22/49**  
**Dawn Barbour KC8WBG 4/18**  
**Gary Berkowitz K8REF 4/19**  
**Joseph Bergartt NC8O 4/27/51**  
**Bob Check W8GC 4/29/41**  
**Metro Sinko W8MET 4/27/52**  
**John Cobb Sr. KC8WLY 4/23/57**  
**Mark Studer KC8FQV 4/14/64**

**Congratulations and many happy returns to all !**

## **KEN'S JUNK BOX**

By Ken Osicki, K8OAE

Noted in February was the report that the FCC plans to send college students to radio and television stations to review how they determine which news to communicate to their listeners and viewers. I wondered what they would find out if they tried to evaluate the operations of a ham station. It might have gone something like this.

Q: We noticed that while you were on that Wednesday night net that no women were contacted. Please explain why you have these anti-women tendencies, and describe your efforts to involve more women in your activities.

Q: We often heard you saying, "back to you." We suggest that you become more firm in your convictions, and less wishy-washy. Take a stand! When you say something, mean it, and don't give it back!

Q: You talk about the weather a lot. Are you a trained meteorologist? Do you have a license to pass on weather information? What do you mean by, "it's really cold outside today" ? How "cold" is "cold"? Does your thermometer conform to Weather Bureau standards and is it statistically within parameters established for dissemination of temperature data?

Q: Why is your station hidden away beneath the basement stairs? What are you trying to hide? What kind of secret equipment do you have hidden behind that wall?

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Q: Why is your station hidden away beneath the basement stairs? What are you trying to hide? What kind of secret equipment do you have hidden behind that wall?

Q: Do you belong (or have you ever belonged) to any organizations conspiring to overthrow the government? What do those secret codes like QRZ, QSO, QTH, and QSB **really** mean? Have you ever operated a numbers station?

Q: We never heard you say "Roger Wilco" even once! What do you have against Roger? He

may be a really nice person. Maybe you need to take an attitude adjustment class?

Q: You talked about your "antenna farm." Is your farm registered with the Department of Agriculture. Are you aware of the special programs that they have to help you grow your antennas? The government has lots of money to give you to assist you with your farm. We can help you get grants and tax write-offs, too!

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I don't know how I'd react to most of this, but the last one probably has merit. I think I'll check into a little bit of grant writing. Maybe buy some land that may be in a fracking area and plant my antenna seeds there. Or do we set down tubers?

## THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

### ALL I CAN SAY IS WOW!

The trip to the ARRL for me was a once in a lifetime trip, as I am sure it was for most of the CARS members that made the trip. The bus ride was long, but we made stops along the way and our bus driver was keeping the speed to right around 70 mph, passing up most of the other traffic, including the big rigs.

Our motel was fine, being less than 2 years old. The only glitches I was aware of was the toilet in the room I was sharing with Mike Toth, KB8RKF, became plugged up on the 2nd night and the maintenance people had left for the day so Mike went to the desk to get a plunger. The light in the bathroom of Gary, NI8Z's room burned out the last morning we were there. They had a great breakfast with many choices including eggs, pancakes, rolls, and cereal each morning as well.

I enjoyed our tour of the ARRL headquarters, but like most, I *REALLY* enjoyed operating one of the stations at W1AW which is W100AW during the centennial celebration going on this year. NI8Z and I were the first to operate just before we broke for lunch. I was on 12 meters SSB with the beam antenna pointed toward Europe. With a full KW, it wasn't long before I had a pileup going. What a thrill that was! Everyone that wanted to, got a chance to operate one of the stations that station manager Joe Caccia, NJ1Q set up for us.

I have to mention that our guide, for the tour was Marc, K8LSB. He is originally from the Cleveland area, so that was cool having him for our guide.

The day went quickly and before we knew it the tour and operating were over and we headed back to the motel and then to dinner. Since it was St. Patrick's Day we found an Irish pub, called the Irish Pug, where we all sat down to dinner together.

Tuesday morning found us on the road again for the long ride home.

Those of you that didn't make the trip for one reason or another really should try to get to the ARRL sometime during your amateur radio career. I doubt that CARS will be springing for another bus trip anytime soon so unfortunately you'll have to find your own way up to

Newington. Maybe you could make it a side trip of a vacation to somewhere in New England. You really have to visit the ARRL if you possibly can. Here are some photos taken by various people who took the trip. There will be more photos of the trip on the CARS website in the "Photo Gallery" soon.

With that I'm going to get outta here for this month. I hope to catch you on the air, on the net and/or at the next CARS meeting. 73, de Tom, WB8N



The original Wouff Hong, in it's showcase



Toby with ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ



The gang in front of W1AW

## ORAL FACTORS IN LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATIONS

By N8JR, SK

*The following is Dr. Uria T. Pushka's presentation given to the annual meeting of the Society of Radio Engineering Associated Speech Seminar (SOREASS),*

"Why do some amateurs consistently work more DX than others despite having low power, inferior antennas, and less than ideal locations? To try and determine the answer, I traveled several thousand miles to the hamshack of Simeon Shuff, B12GVB, DX champion of the tiny nation of Boscovia, and one of the highest DXCC scorers, despite that country's legal limit of 5 watts power, and antenna lengths of 36 inches. When Pushka came to Shuff, I found him operating his homebrew 5 watt transceiver, talking to the West Coast of the U.S. at 2:00 in the afternoon on 160 meters. I asked him the secret of his success and he demonstrated by calling a simple CQ, first in a normal voice. In this case there were no responses to his call. Then he called CQ again. This time there was a pileup on the frequency with at least 15 different callsigns identified from all over the world. Why? What was different? Shuff credits the difference, and his resulting soaring DXCC scores to the singer, Michael Jackson. Shuff used to watch Jackson perform on TV, especially when the star, while dancing, would grab his crotch and squeeze, raising his voice several octaves. Shuff wondered why this principal couldn't be adapted to ham radio. He

determined that this same technique would limit the vocal frequencies to the ideal SSB range for maximum power and interference rejection. Indeed, manipulating his own genticulars in various ways. Shuff was soon able to control his voice, eliminating unnecessary oral frequencies and overtones, effectively increasing his communication ranges by thousands of miles. He says he now spends much more time involved with ham radio than he used to, and he is enjoying it more. However it is recommended that this technique be used in one's own shack, with the door closed, as it might be frowned upon during Field Day, parades, mobile operation next to passenger busses, vans, RV's and near elementary schools."

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**Remember, in the immortal words of Mike Baxter, KA0XTT; "Ham radio, the last line of communications in the coming apocalypse."**

**Also, not all hams are created equal...some know CW.**

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**NEXT CARS MEETING: Tuesday, April 8th, 7:30 P.M. at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room.**

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## FCC TO ALLOW OPEN BOOK LICENSE EXAMS

By Jacob P. Farnheimer, N8HMO  
After much controversy, the FCC has decided to allow amateur radio license examinees to take "open book" exams. The FCC officials feel that this will open up amateur radio to more people and facilitate licensing. The open book exams will still be administered by Volunteer Examiners at VE  
*Continued on next page...*

exam sessions for the time being but by next year, the examinees will be able to take their license exams in the comfort and privacy of their own homes. All they will have to do is apply to an accredited VE Coordinator such as the ARRL or W1AW and an exam along with the book for the exam they are taking will be sent to them. Of course there will be a fee involved, as there is now, and if an applicant already is licensed and wants to upgrade to a higher class of license, he or she will have to enclose proof of their license along with the fee and application.

The FCC plans to put open book testing into effect in June of this year. The Volunteer Examiners are of course up in arms after learning of this change in license test taking and are protesting the change, along with the ARRL and other VE Coordinators.

VE Donnie Baskins, KA8YZN, was heard to comment "The new hams will be just like a bunch of danged CB'ers!" Other VE's agreed with him.

Stay tuned for further information on this matter as it develops.

*Editors note: Mr. Farnheimer is an occasional consulting consultant for CARS.*



WB8N holding the Wouff Hong with WT8O & K1ZZ in the background

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WT8O getting a well deserved nap on the bus

## CARS 2014 Officers & Committees

### Audit

NI8Z \*\* WT80, K8SAS

### Audio/Video

KD8OUE \*\*

### ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

NI8Z \*\*

### ARRL WAS & VUCC card Checker

K8ME \*\*

### Awards

W8GC \*\* WT80

### Club Photographer

K8OAE \*\*

### Constitution/By-laws

WT80\*\* All Officers/Board members  
WB8ROK, N8TCP, KD8BAL, KB8DTC, K8ARP

### Diabetes events

WB8N \*\* All CARS members

### Field Day

W8EBB \*\* WT80, NF80, W8MET, N8BBB

### 50/50

NI8Z

### License classes

W8GC \*\* WT80 \*\* NI8Z, W8MET, KD8ACO

### 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  
K8VJG \*\* donuts

### Scholarship

W8GC \*\* NI8Z, WT80, K8ME, K8REF

### School Programs

NI8Z \*\*

### Summer Picnic

W8GC \*\* WB8N \*\*

### Sunshine (welfare)

Gary Dewey, NI8Z \*\* 216-642-8705

### Technical

W8GC \*\* N8OVW \*\* KD8FTS

### VE Exams

NI8Z \*\* 216-642-8705

### Web Master/e-mail

W8GC \*\* W8EBB

\*\* chairman or co-chairman

### 2014 Officers

#### PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT80

440-572-1544

[president@2cars.org](mailto:president@2cars.org)

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Gary Dewey, NI8Z 216-642-8705

#### SECRETARY

Dwaine 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

K8KR, K8SAS, K8REF

#### License trustee K8ZFR

WB8N

#### License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,

W8CMS, W8CHS

W8GC

April 1, 2014

