

FEBRUARY 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. at the Busch Funeral Home community room in Parma Ohio. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag was made, followed by introductions, and approval of the January meeting minutes in the February 2015 Wobbly Oscillator newsletter

Bob, W8GC, gave the treasurers report, reporting that the club finances are still healthy. 2015 dues are due. Bob mentioned that we have 129 members but only 65 paid their dues so far. Support the club and send your dues to Bob's home address, not the PO Box. Bob stated that the scholarship fund is very solvent. Bob also stated we have 6 students that have signed up for the Technician class, 6 for the General class and, 2 for the Extra class. Check the CARS website for class dates and times if you're interested in signing up.

Toby, WT8O, mentioned that if the Parma schools are closed on a school day, the Bush community rooms will also be closed. A notice of the CARS meeting cancellation will be sent to the membership.

There were two net control awards issued to members that were not at the Christmas party: George, K8KR, and Steve, K8SAS. Mike Lorens status was changed from associate member to honorary member. Also, the members present voted to make Bob Check, W8GC, an honorary member for life.

Toby mentioned that the Field Day committee was looking for a new Field Day site. Toby has sold his property where recent Field Days were held. CARS Vice President, Mark Moro, WJ8WM and Toby are hot on the trail for a new site. Bob, KC8MRC, said he was checking on a possible site in the Bedford area. New strategy will be looked at for Field day operations.

The ARRL School Club Roundup is going on, and Gary, NI8Z, Tom, WB8N, Metro, W8MET, Terry, KB8DTC, and Roger, N8TCP, were going to the Copley-Fairlawn Middle School along with Dave, KD8V, and Pat, KD8DYI, to assist in the School Club Roundup.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that CARS will once again run a bus to the 2015 Dayton Hamvention®. The details are posted on the

CARS website,. The 41 passenger bus has been reserved and it has a toilet on board. The cost \$50.00 dollars per person. *(There is also a link to the Hamvention® website where you can order your Hamvention® ticket in advance. The cost is \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door, so you save \$5.00 by ordering in advance. - Ed)* Dwaine asked that CARS club members help promote the bus to other hams and clubs. Send your money to Dwaine ASAP if you are going on the bus.

Toby asked that the members present thank the refreshment committee: NW8X, K8DMT, and WB8ROK.

The 50/50 Raffle winner was Tom, WB8N, who took home \$30.00, with \$31.00 going to CARS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. After the meeting, Bill Savage, WA8GEO, and a friend, Don King, gave an interesting presentation on radio controlled aircraft which was well received by the members.

Submitted by Secretary Dwaine Modock, K8ME.

ARRL E-MAIL ACCOUNTS

Submitted by Dwaine Modock, K8ME

If you have a membership in the ARRL and you have a e-mail address with arrl.net, make sure you're current, because if your ARRL membership expires, that means your arrl.net e-mail address will be dropped. Unless you renew your membership you won't be getting e-mails through the ARRL account.

Also, please notify CARS of any up-dates on your e-mail address.

CARS MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Bacik	N8JDX	3/31/42
Kim Balach	KD8FT	3/31/88
Mike Cegelski	K8EHP	3/02/42
Blaine Coleman	KA8KPB	3/18/46
Tony Hackenberg	N8SK	3/20/57
Simpson Huston	N8UZF	3/29/48
Joe Maddock	KD8NTK	3/02/48
Ted Mirgliotta	KB8NW	3/27/52
Mark Moro	WJ8WM	3/30/62
Terry Pillatt	KB8DTC	3/18/46
David Rickon	NF8O	3/03/47
Marc Rubin	KB8QHJ	3/25/66
David Kmetz	KD8VML	3/14/56

Congratulations to all and many happy returns!
(Long list this month...March must be a good month for cabin fever. Ed)

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N,

NEW FEATURE CANCELLED

In last month's issue of the Wobbly Oscillator we attempted to start a new feature called "Show Us Your Shack", in which CARS members could submit a photo or two of their radio station and a description of what we were looking at. The first one was of Gary's, NI8Z, shack. There have been no further submissions, so I have to assume that no one is interested in contributing to the Wobbly Oscillator in this manner. Feature cancelled for lack of interest and participation.

A few years ago the Wobbly Oscillator won an award for best amateur radio newsletter of the year for the state of Ohio. We sure couldn't put claim to that now. The newsletter is only as good as what the membership submits to it, and lately, there have been very few submissions by the members, other than to make an announcement, put something up for sale, etc. Maybe we should go to a bi-monthly newsletter. Of course if we did that there would be a lot of timely information that would have to be left out. There is a lot of work that goes into

putting this newsletter together and it is discouraging when there are no submissions to put in it. This month, besides the President's lead article, meeting minutes, the birthday list and one announcement, there were no other submissions. Let's show some interest in **YOUR** newsletter. Write up an article on a new piece of gear, your activities on the air (Yeah, that's a good one!) Anything remotely related to ham radio. It doesn't have to be perfect. I'll edit it and make corrections in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. If members begin to submit photos and a description of their stations, we'll try the "Show Us Your Shack" feature again.

IS SPRING GONNA SPRING?

The first day of spring is scheduled for Friday, March 20th this year. I'm wondering what the weather is going to be like. If you're like me, you're getting pretty tired of these temperatures in the teens and the single digit temps with some below zero. They're getting pretty old by now. They say that if March comes in like a lion, it'll go out like a lamb. Well, it came in like a lion, so we'll see, we'll see. As I write this, "they" are predicting 3 to 6 inches of snow for our area over the weekend.

PROGRAM FOR THE MARCH MEETING

The program for the March membership meeting on March 10th will be an ITU Phonetics Game, presented by Joel Chaney, K8SHB. Should be interesting and fun. Try and attend if you possibly can.

LICENSE CLASSES & VE LICENSE EXAMS

As reported in last month's Wobbly Oscillator, the CARS license classes have started. Hopefully we'll have several new hams and some upgrades to brag about.

The next CARS VE license exam is going to be held on Sunday, March 8th at the Independence Olde Towne Hall on Brecksville Rd. If you are planning on upgrading or know someone that wants to take their Technician, General or Amateur Extra exams, call Gary, NI8Z. Look on the CARS web page for his contact information.

SPEAKING OF WHICH

continued on next page...

I am curious as to how many members check the CARS web page on a regular basis. There's lots of good information on there as well as access to a great DX cluster to see what DX stations are on the air and where they are transmitting and listening. I check the web page almost daily, and each member should check it out at least a few times a month. Right now you can still sign up for license classes and also sign up for the bus to the Dayton Hamvention® and there's a link to the Hamvention® website where you can order your ticket at a discount of \$5.00 less than you'll pay at the door.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS MONTH

That's all I've got for this month, so hopefully I'll see you at the next meeting and maybe even catch you on the air. Don't forget the CARS weekly net on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 p.m. on the CARS 146.820 repeater.

As Tim Baxter, KA0XTT, on the show Last Man Standing says, "Ham Radio, the last line of communications before the coming apocalypse".

73 for now, de Tom, WB8N

ANTENNAS, ANTENNAS, ANTENNAS

It's time to start thinking about antennas, planning on what type of antenna you are going to put up and where, and getting all your materials and tools together so that you can get a good start when the weather finally breaks. The following are articles on antennas from the GEARVAKf (the f is silent) Bulletin which you might find interesting.. - Ed.

ROTATING HAM SHACK UNVEILED

By Harold Kennedy, N4GG

Residents living within a few miles of Gearvakf Hq in Stagnant Pond, Ohio, have been wondering for months about the large construction crane sitting on the edge of Gearvakf's property. "Nothing ever gets built or replaced or refurbished or anything around 'The Pond'," said Stagnant Pond mayor Luigi "Lugi" Antonio Bonfiglia. "I can't understand why a three-story construction crane is even in our small town; the tallest building in Stagnant

Pond is Gorbiinsky's mushroom factory, and it is only two stories tall, above ground." Dr. Felix Onehundredton, GEARVAKf chairman and notable low-band aficionado, cleared up the mystery Thursday when he announced that the crane was here to stay and would be converted to a 160 meter 3 element yagi antenna. "The ends of the horizontal boom structure will support a director and a reflector, and the lifting cable-trolley thingy that goes back and forth on the boom of the crane will be fitted with a driven element. The driven element can be moved back and forth to optimize forward gain, or front to back ratio and the rig or "shack" will be in the operators cage, minimizing feed-line length," explained Dr. Onehundredton. "As far as we know, this will be the first rotating shack, where the operator simply has to swing the yagi and the shack follows right along. Wherever you are looking, that's where you are beaming. The rotator indicator will be a Boy Scout compass. Working grey-line in the morning will be no harder than putting on sunglasses and aiming the crane/shack/antenna into the sun." Current planning includes a BC610E transmitter and dual R388 receivers in a single unit which can be lifted into place three stories above the ground with little unusual effort, despite weighing 1200 pounds and having a variably vague center of gravity.

HOT AIR BALLOON HOISTS ANTENNAS

Another first was scored in January as the GEARVAKf Technical Committee launched a 1,000,000 cu. ft. hydrogen filled balloon to lift a cluster of antennas thousands of feet in the air. The balloon, coated with lead foil to increase it's radar reflectivity, had raised it's load of antennas to 5000 ft. and held them there for 12 hours before unexpectedly exploding at midnight January 24th. The mile wide fireball was seen 250 miles away and was reported by the U.S. Weather Service as "the end of the world". The pilot of a Cessna 172, accidentally engulfed by the fireball, momentarily lost control of the airplane but *Continued on next page....*

but recovered in time to make an uneventful emergency landing in downtown Urbana Ohio.

WIRELESS ANTENNA A FAILURE

Experiments to develop an antenna without using wire met with failure last week according to C. Payton Staggyjewce, Director of Electromagnetic Technology. He reported that high SWR was an unsolvable problem.

THE DEEP EARTH ANTENNA

A New Look at an Old Problem

By Dr. Ionos Pheer, E.E., PhD.

Anyone who has worked with antennas at all knows that the earth plays a very important part in the operation of an antenna system. Indeed, a vertical antenna needs a good radial ground system to perform efficiently. Horizontal antennas require good ground conductivity beneath them for best operation. So, it stands to reason that an antenna that could offer maximum contact with the earth would radiate more efficiently than one that did not. That is why for two years now, I have been operating entirely with a deep earth vertical antenna, it's radiating element pointing straight down into the earth. Advantages are of course, that no tower is required, there are no weather problems, no guy wires, and the antenna is entirely invisible except for the feed line, which can also be buried. The theory is simple. In a conventional vertical antenna, currents flow from the radiating element into the earth. If the radiating system is efficient, the ground conductivity adequate, it works well. But most amateurs have 2 or 3 radial wires, or none, so their antennas never work properly. The deep-earth vertical, being entirely in the ground, has maximum ground contact. No currents are lost in high angle radiation, and the efficiency approaches 94 percent, that of a dummy load. Traditional antenna designs require many elements or radials for desired low-angle DX contacts. The deep-earth antenna is entirely low angle. In fact it is best received by a deep-earth receiving antenna. Remember, for good DX, you gotta "get down".

UHF DIGITAL SIGNALS BADLY DISTURBED BY WINDS

By Chedan Haak

The fact that the UHF frequencies used for transmission of digital high definition television and other broadcast and point-to-point radio and TV services, are subject to being blown around during moderately windy conditions has become a serious problem. During windy weather the reception of good quality television signals is nearly impossible. Dr. Kenny Pentzilveighna, GEARVAKf's chief engineer, has tried different antenna arrays and pre-amplifiers to no avail. Digital stutter, picture, sound and color breakups, and other strange effects still prevail on windy days. The Chief explained that digitizing the signals breaks frequencies up into tiny bits that are easily scattered by the winds, unlike sturdy analog signals. GEARVAKf is documenting these problems for a complaint to the FCC.

IF YOU HAVEN' PAID YOUR DUES YET GET THEM IN AS SOON AS YOU CAN SO YOU WON'T BE DROPPED FROM THE ROSTER!

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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