

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 II

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

This is the beginning of a New Year and if you are like most of us have already broken at least some of the usual New Year resolutions. Now here is an idea to redeem ourselves. How about getting into the habit of participating in one of the CARS programs that we so far have not tried?

We all like certain activities more than others and therefore seem to patronize those to the exclusion of others. This year make a point of trying something new. Our great hobby offers many facets to try. There are so many new modes to try; lets say PSK31, a really good way of seeing how you can blend your computer and transceiver inexpensively together to explore this comparatively new mode.

I made an appeal for anyone who would like to join one of our many committees to contact me (very little response.) By participating at this level you will contribute to what is going on and enjoy the hobby more and also make the club stronger.

So lets make 2008 the year of participation maybe become an Elmer to one of the recently licensed new HAMS.

Good Luck and 73 to all.

De Scotty, WA8SLN

DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE !

If you have not paid your 2008 dues you are not in good standing as of January 31, 2008! Please pay ASAP and keep C.A.R.S. going and growing.

In This Issue:

The President's Thoughts...	pg1
Meeting Minutes.....	pg2
Parabolic Antenna.....	pg3
From the Veep.....	pg4
Getting to Know.....	pg4
News For DX'ers.....	pg5
Gearvacf Bulletin.....	pg5
The Long Wire.....	pg6

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society will be held at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room at 7501 Ridge Rd. in Parma, Ohio on Tuesday, February 12, at 7:30 P.M.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The C.A.R.S. January monthly meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Scotty, WA8SLN on the 8th of the month. The meeting was held at Bush Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Oh. Twenty six members and four guests introduced themselves to begin the meeting.

Matt, W8EBB, motion to accept the November 13th minutes as published in the January Wobbly Oscillator, and Steve, N8IS seconded. There was no additions, or questions so the members passed the motion. Dave, K8DAV, motioned to approve changes made to the By Laws and Constitution as moved and seconded at the *continued on next page....*

November 13th Meeting recommended by the Board at their November 11th meeting, also documented in the January 2008 WO. Ron, K8VJG, seconded and the members approved the changes.

Bob, W8GC, presented an award to Bill, KC8YSV who did not make the Christmas party. Bob then gave the treasury report and stated that the treasury was back on the rise, then talked about the Technician, General, and Extra classes being held.

Vice President Toby, WT8O, gave the Vice presidents report. He talked about after meeting idea's (presentations), or what ever you might have in mind. If you come up with an idea you can contact him at Vicepresident@2cars.org. Toby then mentioned that he was the ARRL liaison and encouraged everyone that was not a member to become one, that it had a lot of benefits. Toby then gave the Net report and thanked all the net controllers and also thanked everyone who checks into the net and encouraged anyone with a two meter radio to check in.

Steve, KC8DJV, did not have anything to report as Secretary, as it was his first night as secretary. Scotty, WA8SLN, as President talked about the scholarship program and told everyone that now is the time to encourage people to sign up for it.

Dave, KD8V, the Sunshine Chairman, was not in attendance but Scotty WA8SLN reported Dave had sent two get well cards to Betty Check after her quadruple bypass surgery.

Gary, NI8Z gave the VE report and said there will be a test session at the Old Town Hall in Independence on January 13th and on the odd months this year he will be having a special test session for the classes that are going on now. That test session will be in February.

Dave, K8DAV, gave the Tech report and said that the clock and the date on the repeater might act up on some transmissions because of some interference.

Tom, WB8N, editor of the Wobbly Oscillator, asked everyone to send articles and pictures for the newsletter.

Tina, W8HBI, said that the Christmas party had a real nice turnout of about sixty plus people.

The club then voted on two new members; Terry McCann, K8TJM and Mike Brady, N8QVC. Bob, KC8MRC, made the motion to accept the two gentlemen as members, Bob, W8GC seconded and all the members said "aye".

Refreshments were provided by Mike, KB8UGT-pop, Ron, K8VJG-donuts, Gary, NI8Z-coffee, Ed, KD8CLC-pizza. Ed announced that he no longer can bring the pizza because he has moved to Lake County. Gary, NI8Z took over the coffee because Terry, KB8DTC could no longer make the meetings due to working second shift in the Lake Erie salt mines.

We would like to thank Terry and Ed for their services.

Darren, K8DMT made the motion to adjourn and Bill, KC8YSV seconded. the members voted to close meeting at 8:15pm.

After the meeting Gary, NI8Z gave a slide show of the visit to K3LR station in Pa. Submitted by Stephen Jones, KC8DJV, C.A.R.S. Secretary.

C.A.R.S. FINANCIAL AUDIT 2007

The C.A.R.S. audit committee met December 18th, 2007 to review the club's financial records for the calendar year 2007. The group included Tina, W8HBI, club Treasurer; Bob, W8GC, Treasurer-elect; George, K8KR; Bill, KC8YSV; and Toby, WT8O, committee chairman. The committee examined the savings account, checking account, and the ledger of expenses and receivables. All records were found to be complete and in good order. All questions and concerns from the committee were answered and satisfied by the treasurer with documented substantiation.

de Toby Kolman, WT8O, Committee Chairman

DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE !

All dues are payable in January of each new year. If you are unsure if you have paid, send an e-mail to: bob@2cls.com Your payment can be mailed to: CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264 or paid via PAYPAL: sending it to e-mail bob@2cls.com Just mark in the info section for 2008 CARS Dues. Regular dues are \$20.00. If you are 60 years of age or older or 18 yrs and younger your dues are only \$12.00. Family members are a extra \$5.00 Dues can also be paid directly to the Treasurer at CARS meetings also.

Thank You !!!

PARABOLIC ANTENNA INCREASES WIRELESS ROUTER GAIN

By Ken Osicki, K8OAE

I finally got around to going wireless with my two computers. Although both systems worked well, I had drop-off's and an occasional inability to connect with the computer farthest away from my router. Unfortunately, the router install had to be at the diagonally farthest point in our house away from the computer having difficulties.

I was told that signal amplifiers are available and one of these would solve my problem. Such systems are available, but the ones I found in local stores were all around \$100. That being a bit much, I decided to try Ebay or Amazon to see what "deals" were available. Luckily, my first Google search was productive, but in a most unexpected way.

I was led to freeantennas.com and an easy project, the EZ-12 Parabolic Reflector Antenna. Supposedly, this very simple-to-make antenna would increase my router gain by about 9dBi. Since my router has two antennas, adding two EZ-12's would

increase the gain even more.

I actually made three of these parabolics. Two were placed on the router, and the third was placed on the receiving antenna of the problem computer. Results after two weeks of trials: no drop-off's, no failures to connect, and a savings of a hundred bucks!

The construction of the EZ-12 is grade school level and an ideal project to perhaps get the youngsters involved. The project site provides a full-size template which can be copied onto heavy weight paper. The template is cut out and aluminum foil is pasted to the back. A second template provides a cross-piece support for mounting the assembly to the router antenna. Cutting the tab slots may require the use of a razor-knife, so be prepared to provide some care and supervision there if you involve the young ones. Otherwise, its just a cut and paste project that, so far, seems to really be functional.

By the way, freeantennas.com has several projects that you might find interesting. It's a fun and educational place to check out.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

KB8UGT Michael Balach 2-2-55

KD8FTV Diane Balach 2-7

KD8V David Dressler 2-11-32

KD8BAO Henry Oswick 2-11-81

WA8ZJV Ronald Boehnlein 2-11-46

N8JNO Gary Solomon 2-15-54

K8OAE Ken Osicki 2-23

W8HBI Tina Check 2-24-70

Congratulations to one and all !!!

FROM THE VEEP

Well, here we go... a new year, new officers, and a whole bunch of new opportunities C.A.R.S. has become one of the best radio clubs around. Our achievements are impressive and our membership keeps growing. Now is the time to get more involved. The success of an organization such as ours depends on the contributions of it's members. There is always a core group of those who pitch in, but they always can use additional support.

The activities we do are well attended, but the more the better. Please make this year the one to try something new or different. If you thought about getting involved with something in the past, but hesitated for one reason or another; take the plunge and benefit from the experience. This club has a wealth of radio experience that will enhance anyone's enjoyment of the hobby, by association with fellow members.

Please believe me when I say, your attendance will always be greatly appreciated.

In a few days I will be heading up to Hartford, Connecticut on business. There is one thing great about Hartford, from a ham's viewpoint, It is near Newington Conn., the home of the ARRL. I have been in the area before, but never had time to get to the League headquarters. This time, I will not let the opportunity get away from me. I am quite excited about seeing everything in person that I have only seen in pictures before. I plan to have pictures of my own, that I can bring to the club meeting.
73, de Toby, WT8O

interested in amateur radio?

KB8DTC: I used CB for about two years and was upset about all the foul language; I wanted a better communications medium.

WO: How long have you been licensed, and what class do you currently have?

KB8DTC: I have been licensed since 1988, and hold an Extra class license.

WO: What do you like about amateur radio?

KB8DTC: All the different aspects of the hobby, and the "something for everyone" nature of it.

WO: What are your favorite bands / modes to work?

KB8DTC: 2 meters and 73 cm.

WO: What type of ham radio equipment do you own or use?

KB8DTC: I have a Yaesu VX7R, an Icom IC-W2A, and two Alinco 570's.

WO: Do you have any awards or certificates you want to mention?

KB8DTC: No.

WO: What type of work do you do?

KB8DTC: Industrial maintenance.

WO: Do you participate in any C.A.R.S. projects or functions?

KB8DTC: I do the Diabetes events, Field Day, attend all meetings, and other various activities.

WO: What other projects or functions would you like to see C.A.R.S. get involved with?

KB8DTC: Repeater inputs to the West, so I could "get into" the repeater from the campground we use out by Port Clinton, Ohio.

WO: Terry, thank you for taking the time to share your personal information with fellow members and *WO* readers.

GETTING TO KNOW...

TERRY PILLATT, KB8DTC

Wobbly Oscillator: How did you become

GOOD NEWS, FINALLY, FOR DX'ERS

Submitted by Bob Check, W8GC

SOLAR CYCLE OFFICIALLY BEGINS

Solar scientists have announced the official start of the new sunspot cycle, the 24th since record keeping began. The key event was the appearance on January 4th of a new sunspot whose magnetic polarity was the reverse of those spots associated with Cycle 23, according to David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Radio propagation on the upper HF bands is heavily influenced by sunspot activity. "New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot," Hathaway explained in a NASA news release, which further explained that old cycle spots congregate near the sun's equator while spots of a new cycle appear higher, in the range of 25-30 degrees latitude. Cycle 23 peaked in 2000-2002 (it had a double peak). The maximum of Cycle 24 is expected to be in 2011 or 2012. There is a split in scientific opinion on whether this cycle will be mild or intense, or how long it will last. The NASA release notes that the start of Cycle 24 does not necessarily mean that Cycle 23 has ended, and that it is likely that sunspots from both cycles may appear over the course of the next several months to a year.

FROM THE GEARVACf BULLETIN Ultra-Light Antenna Demonstrated

Apparently, Niles Wirenut's claim last year that break-through applications would follow quickly from his invention of a transmitter whose output radiation exceeded the speed of light, wasn't all smoke and hash. Wirenut claims he has made steady progress on "Ultra-Light" transmission

systems, and has improved on his first experiments at 1.1 times the speed of light (SOL), to now having a practical transmitter at 2.0 SOL, and lab equipment that can run as high as 20 SOL. "All the big transceiver manufacturers are pounding down my doors for the technology," he recently told the FCC at their hearings on Bringing Broadband To Every Home in the Known Universe No Matter What. "The antenna manufacturers and HOAs are out to get me, however," he said. At 2.0 SOL he explained, the velocity factor is 2.0, and an Ultra-Light antenna at resonance is half the size of a traditional antenna. At 20 SOL, antennas are 1/20th their traditional size, reducing the amount of material needed to the point where it's hard to make a profit selling antennas. The boom of a full-size 20 SOL Ultra-Light yagi for 40 meters would be about one foot long, taking all the fun out of antenna covenant enforcement. According to reports, Wirenut has built a pair of 40 meter 20 SOL Ultra-Light yagis and conducted trans-Atlantic testing. System performance was good on CW and SSB, with the inherent negative time delay of these systems being hardly noticeable. On RTTY and other digital modes however, receiving data bits before they were transmitted was "really screwing things up."
--N4GG

Full Moon viewings are cancelled

During a meeting at the Gearvakf Observatory, last Wednesday, Gearvakf's Chief Astronomer, Dr. Sagan Hogan-Bogen-Parsec, announced that she is suspending all view-ing of the full Moon with Gearvakf's new 1008-inch-mirror Newtonian telescope "We've suffered flash burn injuries and
continued on next page....

heat damage to the walls of the observatory because of the telescope's power," she explained. "Besides, our colleagues at the CIA want us to concentrate on confirming our sightings of the enormous alien spacecraft that seems to be approaching Earth from the direction of Saturn," she said. Dr. Hogan-Bogen-Parsec promised to return to Moon viewing, with more powerful filters, as soon as "we complete our investigation for 'the Agency.'"

--N1VH

THE LONG WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

WHAT YOU SEE... is what you get. This issue of the ole W.O. is a bit short of items this month folks, but it is only because there was a shortage of items sent in for publication by you the membership. I'm the editor of this newsletter, but that does not mean that I have to look for items to put into it. This newsletter depends on contributions from the membership and /or other sources. If there are few contributions for the month, then the monthly issue will be short a few pages. So....C'mon, lets get stuff into the newsletter so we can have a great issue each month. I greatly thank those that have sent in their contributions, but to those that have interesting items to put into print in these pages, let's get going! We won an award for this newsletter once...let's see if we can do it again!

NEW YEAR, NEW LEADERS

Well, we have a new president, and other official positions have changed personnel as of the new year. So far, they are doing a great job, but they need our support. Get involved in your club...volunteer for a committee and let's take this club to places no other amateur radio club has been before.

We can do it!. Just get involved!

CHECK IN

The weekly CARS net is held every Wednesday evening at 9:00 p.m. local time. Now you can't tell me that with a membership of over 100, that over 80 of you are working or otherwise unable to check into the net. We average from 15 to 20 check-ins each week, and some of them are not even CARS members. So what gives folks? What the heck do you even have an amateur radio license for if you don't want to use it? At least use it to check into the net! Let's get our weekly check-ins over the 25 check-in hump. Make it 30! Get off your duffs and check in. It's fun, and maybe you'll even get the trivia question of the week correct!

THAT'S IF FOR NOW

I'm outta here for this month. I'll see you on the air or at the next meeting or both.
73, de Tom, WB8N

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