

The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

January 2018 Volume 48 Number 1



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Andy, KD8SCV, Ham Of The Year

From The Prez

A NEW YEAR

Time to turn the page and flip the calendar. In keeping with the ham tradition of thriftiness, I will seek out bargain prices on new calendars in the next week or so. As a club we can look back on the old year and consider duplicating what went well and what was fun. For next year we should investigate new possibilities to enhance the club. Bring your ideas to the meetings, or email any of the officers or members of the Board of Directors. It is YOUR club, make it what you want. Naturally, we will continue such CARS traditions as a bus for the Hamvention, summer picnic meetings, Field Day, dinner meetings, a summer picnic and a Christmas party, but anything else is possible if we want it.

CONNECTICUT TRIP

One exciting addition to the 2018 agenda could be a trip the ARRL in Newington, CT like we did a few years back. If you read the Board of Directors meeting minutes down the page you will notice they approved an expenditure to subsidize the cost of the bus. Everything is contingent on how many members we will have participate. We will discuss this at the next meeting. If you went last time, you know how much fun it was. If you didn't go, you probably heard how cool it was from some who went. If you have any interest at all, please try to be at the January meeting to share your ideas or show intention of going.

ECHOLINK

The Board also voted get EchoLink up and running again. The Technical committee has been busy working out the details and building the equipment necessary to get our repeater system connected to the Internet so we can use EchoLink again. We also will be able to use AllStar. The Tech group is checking out other forms of Internet based systems for future use once we get up and running. It should be pretty close to operational by the meeting. Hats off to Scott, AC8NW, and his talented team.

73, Toby, WT8O

CARS November 14th 2017 Meeting Minutes

The CARS membership was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM on the 14th day of the month at the Busch Community room. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests.

The October 10th 2017 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the November Wobbly Oscillator.

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance.

United States Service Veterans, Gary, NI8Z; Mike, KD8OUE and Rich, NW8X, were applauded and thanked for their service.

The CARS Holiday dinner at the Brew Garden on Bagley Road is December 15th at 6:30 PM. Please let Bob, W8GC, know if you are attending and how many will be in your party.

New member Brian Roselli, KE8HZU, was voted into the club this evening.

If you have any Amateur Radio related pictures kindly send a copy to Toby for future use in the Wobbly Oscillator.

Bill, KD8QBB, announced that he has a few presentation ideas in the works. If you are interested in doing a presentation then let Bill know.

Toby stated that if you have any ideas or suggestions to improve the club then please send them to the Officers and Board members.

Mark, WJ8WM, reminded the group that if you renew your ARRL membership through the club, the club will receive a small amount in return. The club receives \$2 dollars back on renewals and \$15 dollars back on NEW ARRL memberships. The ARRL Store was also running discounts so take advantage of it.

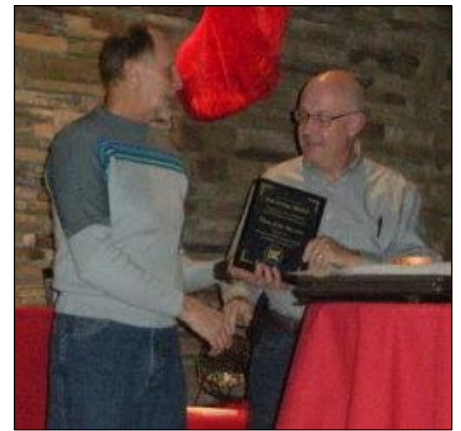
Public Service activity is over for the season.

Metro, W8MET, reported that the VE session on November 12th produced two new Technicians with one General Class upgrade. The VE team was informed at the session that the NEW location for future VE test sessions will be the OLD Elmwood Recreation building next to Elmwood pond in Elmwood Park.

The Technical Committee did not have a report this evening but reminded those in attendance that the Tech Committee is available to assist club members with Amateur Radio related questions or activities.

Toby thanked the refreshment committee, Ed, Rich and Darren for their continued work providing drinks and snacks for the Business meetings.

During the October Business meeting, the current Officers and Even Year Board members were nominated for office in 2018. With no additional candidates for office, a motion was made by Joe, NC8J, and seconded by Bob, KC8MRC, to elect the current slate of Officers and Even Year Board members to office for 2018. The motion PASSED.



Andy, KD8SCV, receives his well deserved Ham of the Year award.

(Continued next page)

(November minutes con't.)

There was no NEW business.

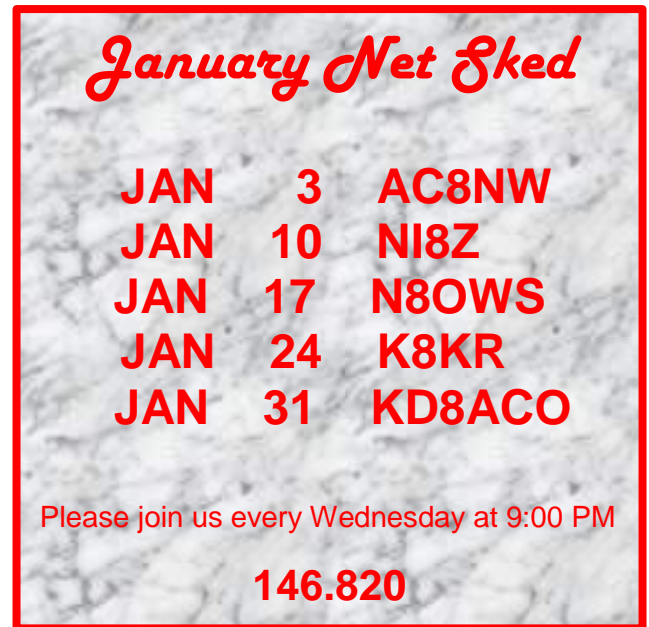
Joe, KD8BAL, won the 50/50 raffle.

The Business meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

There were 24 members and guests in attendance this evening.

Gary, NI8Z, gave a presentation on Crimp and Soldier techniques using the DX Engineering crimp kit.

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.



January Net Sked

JAN	3	AC8NW
JAN	10	NI8Z
JAN	17	N8OWS
JAN	24	K8KR
JAN	31	KD8ACO

Please join us every Wednesday at 9:00 PM

146.820

Notes From The Technical Committee

The Technical Committee current members are: Scott Smith, AC8NW (Chairman); Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE; Vince Bak, N8OVW; Mark Morro, WJ8WM; Mike Toth, KB8RKF; David Noeth, KD8ACO, and Terry Pillat KB8DTC.

The Technical Committee is working with AT&T for the purpose of re-establishing an Internet connection at the Parma main repeater, to once again, have the capability of utilizing various communications technologies, such as EchoLink, IRLP, and AllStar.

We've recently purchased a Raspberry Pi3 to function as the computer for linking the repeater to the Internet, and are in the process of installing the necessary software, and configuring the system to function properly. This process is normally time consuming, and with the Holidays upon us, it will be even more so.

We will continue to keep everyone informed of our progress, and are hoping to have the system operational shortly after the Holidays.

73, Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

Looking For a New Restaurant

Now might be the time to start thinking about a new location for our March dinner meeting. Last year we decided it was time to move on from the Fugi for our next dinner meeting. We can entertain and discuss some ideas at the January meeting. If you have one to suggest, please remember we need a separate room that would accommodate our group.

We definitely would like a place that would allow us to order off the regular menu and issue separate checks.

So if you have any ideas, please bring them to the next meeting or contact one of the officers.

Antenna Project at W8GC

On Friday November 24, 2017 Metro, W8MET; Bob, K8RGI; Dave, AC8NW, and my friend Cory came to help work on the antenna. I rented a 35' reach lift to work on my SteppIR Monster antenna. The antenna is 3 element full sized beam on 40 and 30 meters, 4 elements on 20 through 10 meters and 6 elements on 6 meters.

I noticed the SWR was not what it should be and after testing determined the reflector was not working. The SteppIR antennas use copper beryllium tape which is controlled by motors for each element.

We found the tape had slipped and was jammed in the Reflector EHU. I keep backup EHUs for each element so we just replaced the EHU and tested to be sure everything was working OK. I have shipped the bad EHU back to be repaired.

I have had little trouble with the antenna but was always afraid if I did have trouble it would be a 3 or 4 week turnaround to get replacement parts so I planned ahead. Good thing the newer antennas use different EHUs that will not bolt up to my ten year old antenna without major modifications.

All is back to normal with the antenna; we also changed the coax and did a little maintenance on the tower. Always bad to be working on antennas in the winter.



A good picture showing the scope of the job and crew working on Bob's antenna.

January Birthdays

Jane Reed, KSJGR	1/11
Gary Schmid, WASGCR	1/11/47
Matt Webb Jr., WSEBB	1/14/84
Fred Doob, KSPP	1/15
Steve Jones, NSSRJ	1/23/66
Mike Toth, KBSRKF	1/27/50
Carl Beduhn, KSAV	1/30/38
Tony Thomas, KCSTJF	1/31/56

Amateur Radio Plates Toby, WT8O

The next time you renew your Amateur Radio license plates, don't make the mistake I did. I forgot to bring my FCC license with me. Some hams carry theirs with them at all times. I do not. I have been remembering to bring it to the license bureau since it's been a requirement to renew or obtain Amateur Radio plates; this year I didn't and had to go home to get it. So don't forget your FCC license when you renew your car plates.



Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
December 7th, 2017 BOD Minutes

The CARS Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Chairman Andy Evridge, KD8SCV, at 6:39 PM on the 7th day of the month at the Independence Library.

Meeting Attendees were Bob, W8GC; Mark, WJ8WM; Toby, WT8O; Andy, KD8SCV; Larry, N8OWS; Ed, WB8ROK; Mike, KD8OUE; Arp, K8ARP and Terry, KB8DTC.

The following items were discussed and action taken noted.

1. **Re-establish the Internet connection at the Parma repeater site. No action was taken on this item at the July BOD meeting. More specifics were needed.** Andy received a quote of \$30 dollars a month for 12 months from AT&T for Internet service. That was a 5 MB/second transfer rate. We will need to check if a modem was included. Mike stated that there was a modem currently at the Parma repeater site. Would an Internet connection with IRLP, Echolink and AllStar availability bring in younger Amateurs? Bob stated that he went back (7) years and found that the Echolink had received minimal use. Technician Class Operators can talk around the world using these applications. The club would need to promote the fact that Echolink was once again available on the repeater. A Raspberry Pie board could be used as an interface at a cost of \$150 dollars. Once the internet connection was established, it would take about a week to get the interface working. Bob stated that we should try it for (1) year then re-evaluate how much activity the repeater receives for Internet protocols. A motion was made and a second received to re-establish the Internet connection at the Parma repeater site. The motion PASSED, none opposed.
2. **Extend a (1) year FREE membership to CARS for people who pass their Technician Class License examination at a CARS VE session.** Bob stated that 1 out of 5 FREE memberships actually renew their memberships. Metro, W8MET, has given over 200 License exams over the last two years since he has been the Club VEC. What does it cost the club to carry a FREE membership for one year? Should we extend this to General and Extra Class upgrades as well? Bob made a motion with a second from Mark to extend a one year FREE membership to people who pass their Technician Class License exam at a CARS VE session. The motion PASSED, none opposed.
3. **A bus trip to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT.** Toby received a charter bus quote of \$5015.00 for the trip. It is a two night stay in Newington. Bob made a suggestion that the club could help pay for a portion of the charter \$2000 dollars. Bob made a motion with a second from Mark for the club to spend \$2000 dollars toward the cost of the charter. The motion PASSED, none opposed.
4. **Andy, KD8SCV, wil remain as Board Chairman for 2018.** A motion was made by Bob with a second from Terry for Andy to remain as Board Chairman for 2018. Andy agreed. The motion PASSED, none opposed.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm



VE Exam Sessions – New Location

CARS will continue it's VE testing program, BUT at a new location:

Old Elmwood Rec Center
6200 Pete Wisnieski Pky.
Independence, OH 44131

There is a link to a map on the CARS website home page. All exams will be at 9:00 AM. Call Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 for information. Walk-ins are welcome. 2018 VE session dates are:

January 14
March 11
May 13
July 8
September 9
November 11

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

The Random Wire Tom Wayne, WB8N

Wow! 2018 already. Where did 2017 go? That means that we'll all be another year older as well. I'm looking forward to another fun filled year with CARS activities....Field Day especially, plus getting on the air and working DX from my home station.

I have to find my HT, it fell under the seat of my car and it's been too blasted cold to find it. I can't take the cold like I once could. I have a big, almost brand new, self-propelled snow blower sitting in the garage but it's too cold for me to get out there and fire it up so I've just been plowing through the snow on my driveway.

Anyhow, it's the beginning of a new year and we should all make an effort to be more active on the bands. If you've not checked in on the CARS weekly net at 9:00 on Wednesday nights, on the 146.82 repeater, make it a habit to do so. I'm guilty of not checking in of late because I haven't found that HT yet. I DO have another HT sitting here in the shack but it hasn't been programed yet. Does that make me a procrastinator? I'll try to be on the net this next Wednesday. Promise.

Well folks, that'll about do it for this month.

STAY WARM, 73, and HAPPY 2018 TO US ALL!



CARS Licensing Classes

The CARS amateur radio licensing classes for 2018 are now being prepared. The classes will begin in February at the Seven Hills City Hall. The exact details of dates and times are now being arranged and will be posted soon on the CARS website and published next month in the *Wobbly Oscillator*. Classes will be offered for Technician, General and Extra license classifications.

CARS has been offering these classes for many years. The success rate has been outstanding due to the teaching methods developed over the years. The instructors are experienced and very knowledgeable. The CARS classes have brought many amateurs into the hobby and helped many others advance to higher classifications.

Please pass the word about the classes to fellow hams that are not CARS members, or are members of other clubs where they can reach even more hams to spread the word. Also inform anyone you can who has shown interest in amateur radio about the upcoming classes and perhaps we can grow the hobby with more new participants.

Dues Reminder

As a reminder to all members the annual dues are due by January 31st 2018. They can be paid at the monthly meeting or mailed to 7395 Brecksville Rd. Independence, OH 44131. Dues are \$26 per year for regular members, \$18 per year for seniors over 60 and \$16 per year for family members of regular or senior members. Please contact CARS Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC, if a hardship situation exists.

Slow CW on HF

Coming in January 2018 is your chance to learn CW. Details can be found at <http://cwslow.com>. Joel, K8SHB, will be taking you character by character starting at the beginner level each Thursday night using the ARRL *Learning the Radiotelegraph Code* booklet, which can be purchased on Amazon. This is the book I used to learn the Morse code back in 1968.

73, Metro, W8MET.

Hot Sale

Icom 746 Pro

PS-125 Power Supply
SM-20 Desk Mic
All for \$750



Excellent condition
Original owner
Original manuals and boxes
Call Toby, WT8O
440-525-6109

Again this month Metro, W8MET, star DXer and contester has taken time out to suggest to fellow CARS members and *WO* readers operating activities and events he believes would be FUN to partake in.

Metro's Picks

ON-THE-AIR

Jan 6, 1800 - 2359 - Kids Day - 3.5-28.0 and 144 repeaters – Ph www.arrl.org/kids-day

Jan 6, 1800 - Jan 7, 2359 - ARRL RTTY Roundup - 3.5-28.0 – Dig www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

Jan 13, 1800 - Jan 14, 0559 - North American QSO Party - 1.8-28.0 – CW www.ncjweb.com

Jan 20, 1800 - Jan 21, 0559 - North American QSO Party - 1.8-28.0 – Ph www.ncjweb.com

Jan 20, 1900 - Jan 22, 0359 - ARRL January VHF Contest - 50 and up – CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/january-vhf

Jan 21, 1300 - Jan 24, 0800 - Classic Exchange - 1.8-144 – CW www.classicexchange.org

Jan 26, 2200 - Jan 28, 2200 - CQ 160 Meter Contest – 1.8 – CW www.cq160.com/rules.htm

Jan 27, 0000 – Jan 27, 2359 - Montana QSO Party - 1.8-432 - CW Ph Dig fvarc.org

Jan 27, 1900 - Jan 28, 1900 - Winter Field Day – All bands - CW Ph Dig www.winterfieldday.com/rules

SPECIAL EVENT

Jan 13, 2018 1700 – 2359 - NI6IW, San Diego, California - USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. Desert Storm Kickoff. 14.320, 7.250 Ph; PSK31 on 14.070; D-STAR on REF001C. QSL USS Midway (CV-41) COMEDTRA, 910 N.Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 9210

Participating is FUN, FUN, FUN...ENJOY!!

Info from QST January 2018 Pg. 89 and 96 - All times in GMT ZULU time

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The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

CARS 2018 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

WJ8WM **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

WJ8WM, KD8SCV, K8ARP

Club Photographer

N8OWS **

Field Day

WJ8WM, K8ARP, AC8NW

Find a Club Station location

K8KR** Ni8Z

50/50

WT8O

License classes

WT8O ** KD8ACO, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O **

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109

wt8o@att.net

Program's at Meetings

KD8QBB **

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

K8ARP **

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

WB8ROK ** pop, K8DMT ** coffee, NW8X ** eat's

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, N8OWS, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, KD8RKF

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2017 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109

wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark Moro, WJ8WM 216-661-0342

SECRETARY

Larry Shimerka, N8OWS 216-647-2484

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Andy Evridge KD8SCV 440-886-0723

even year executive board 2 year term

N8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term

KD8SCV, K8ARP, WB8ROK

License trustee K8ZFR

WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,

W8GC

December 30, 2017