



The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

News

Activites

Articles

Minutes

January, 2003

Vol: XXXII

Issue: I



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM THE PREZ

We had a good turnout for our annual election on November 20, 2002. Thanks to all who came and exercised your right to vote for the 2003 officers. Congratulations to the following members on their election for 2003, Steve N8IS VP, Ron K8VJG Secy, Mike KB8UGT Treas, George K8KR & Gary NI8Z Board and thanks to the membership for electing me President in 2003.

Toby KC8TID brought some home made goodies along with pop and coffee for refreshments.

Kayla KC8RYH collected \$53.00 for the 50/50 drawing this month, George, K8KR, won the 50/50 raffle, Georges end was \$26.00.

Toby KC8TID reported the Lighthouse committee is still trying to firm up an activation in late December or early January from the W.G. Mather. Dennis AB8NI has been very ill and not able to participate at this time, he is doing much better and should be back to his old form soon.

Please take the time and look at www.cars.org our Web site, Dave K8DAV has put many hours into turning it into one of the best club sites you can find, it is an ever changing site with new events and information added as they happen.

It is something else CARS can be proud of.

Speaking of things to be proud of Tom, WB8N put the club in a "first time" category by winning the coveted 1st place in the Newsletter contest for the Ohio ARRL section for CARS in 2002. Tom will continue to produce a fine Newsletter but I want to mention on the downside the WO is NOT eligible to win the award again for 5 years! So I guess its also Tom's fault we will not be winning it again till 2007! The next time you see Tom please thank him for the effort he puts into not only the WO, Field Day plus the many other projects he works on.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Prez.....	pg 1
V.P. Interview.....	pg 2
Meeting Minutes.....	pg 3
Editorial / Gone Forever / Incoming	
QSL Bureau.....	pg 5
Slovenian Encounter.....	pg 6
Dayton Bus Trip / Cars Emblem.....	pg 7
Foundation For Amateur Radio / New	
Member Applications / Random Wire..	pg 8

WOW, if you missed this years Christmas party it was a blast! Great food, gifts, games, music, comradery, plus “Merlin Joe” the Magician. Merlin Joe, a professional magician, worked his way around the room spending about 15 minutes at each table for a great up close and personal look at magic. Program director Gary NI8Z presented a very entertaining and informative program with questions using a Christmas related theme. Everyone received an excellent prize plus we had a very happy 50/50 winner. Kayla KC8RYH collected \$70.00 in ticket sales and Toby KC8TID took home his share of the bacon. \$35.00 each for Toby and CARS. You can see lots of pictures and details elsewhere in the WO plus the web site www.cars.org has 20 pictures, just click on Christmas party.

I wish to thank everyone who helped on a committee or project in the past year, there is just not enough space to list all your calls and names but without your participation CARS would be just another club having monthly meetings.

de, Bob W8GC



Ron K8VJG? or is it Santa with Rudolph on his head!

INTERVIEW WITH THE V.P.

by Steve Riley N8IS

As your newly elected Vice President, I'd like to say thank you for trusting me with the position and responsibility. During my term as Vice President my monthly articles will help you get to know your fellow members better. This month I've decided to start with Bob Check W8GC our current President. I hope you enjoy my articles and you never know, you just might be next !

Bob, how did you become interested in Amateur Radio what got you started ?

My grandfather Alex Walker was an avid SWL and I also became interested in SWLing. At age 12 I would listen to “hams” talking and wanted to do the same thing.

How long have you been licensed and what class license do you current have ?

I received my Novice license in 1954 and General in 1955. In 1966 I became too busy for ham radio and let my license expire. That was a bad move. In 1999 Steve N8IS revived my interest and I had to go through the whole process, Tech, General, Advanced & Extra and of course 20 WPM code at that time. I requested my old call W8HBI back and later opted for the vanity call W8GC.

What do you like about Amateur Radio ?

In the “old days” the technical end, home brewing everything except a receiver, exciter to amplifier to beam antennas. Always enjoyed the group activities like contesting, Field Day, mobile, portable operations, but DX has always been my number one interest.

What are your favorite bands to work ?

I am active on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 CW, SSB & PSK, some 2meters & 70cm FM. At this time the 30 & 40 meter bands are my favorite to use mostly on CW but I am active on the HF bands almost daily.

Do you collect QSL Cards? If so how many confirmed countries do you have ?

Yes mostly for DXCC credit but I also enjoy looking at the beautiful QSL cards from all over the world. Unfortunately I pitched many of the cards from the 1950's & 60's. With my 31 years of inactivity I only have 324 countries confirmed on phone and 262 on CW.

Continued on page 3.

I just started looking for CW countries part time in January of 2000.

What type of Awards or Recognition have you won or been awarded with ?

WAS, WAZ, DXCC #1,180 issued April 2, 1958 plus numerous other certificates and awards from contests and special event stations.

What other hobby's do you have besides Ham Radio ?

Pool, bowling, fishing, auto racing, some gambling and of course traveling.

What would your dream station be / consist of and where would it be ?

This is a hard question to answer as I have everything I want in the way of equipment at this time. I have 2 Yaesu FT-1000MP MARK-V's, a Yaesu VL-1000 solid state amplifier a Henry backup amplifier, my 72' remote power crank up tower with 3 element SteppIR antenna. I have both a Force12 Sigma 40 & Sigma 80 verticals with a 40 thru 10 meter SteppIR vertical on order and a 180' long wire for 30 meters. I just use a Yaesu VX5 for 2 meters & 70 cm. As far as location, anyplace where I didn't have a constant S6 to S9+ noise level, it is a bummer waiting for rain to have the noise drop to S1 or 2. Also a town having no antenna restrictions, I would put up 3 or 4 towers instead of one.

What type of work do you do? Or if retired what did you do?

I own CLS Services, Inc, which is a telephone interconnect company and supplier of dedicated long line services. Conference Line Services, Inc., which runs delivery tractors & trailers. Netmakers, Inc. Where we design and host web sites for businesses only. And Recyclers-On Line, a parts locating service for auto recyclers. In the past I have owned and operated retail electronic sales and service companies.

Thank you Bob, W8GC.

That is it for this month , our mystery Guest next month will be getting a notice soon.

Thanks to all. I hope your holidays were filled with joy, and a happy start in to 2003.

de Steve, N8IS

MINUTES of THE MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Bob, W8GC, which was held at the Busch Funeral Home Community Room.

A motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting was made by Terry, KB8DTC, and seconded by Mike, K8EHP. A vote was taken and passed.

The treasurer, Mike, KB8UGT, made his financial report.

A report on the SS Mather work party was given by Bob, W8GC.

Jim, KC8TXY, informed the membership as to the medical condition of Dennis, AB8NI. His e-mail address changed and is now roofus@sbcglobal.net.

A report on the Christmas Party was given by Dave, W8IXY, and a discussion followed.

Gordon, W8GTK, informed the membership on the Wednesday night net.

Comments on the Website was made by Dave, K8DAV. Visit this great site at www.cars.org.

A discussion regarding the technical committee was opened by Bob, W8GC.

A reminder from Bob, W8GC, that dues are due in January, 2003.

A new applicant Bill Savage WA8GEO, was introduced to the membership by Bob, W8GC. Steve, N8IS moved we wave the notice in the WO and vote on Bill (a former member) tonight, as his application was lost in the web. Seconded by Jack, W8JAK. A vote was taken and it was passed to reinstate Bill Savage, WA8GEO, as a member in good standing.

Gary Overfield, KB8VJO membership application was read by Bob, W8GC. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

WB8N, Tom reported on the Newsletter and again ask for articles by members, just filling a newsletter with re-printed articles is not what CARS wants to do!

Continued on page 4.

A volunteer ARRL Liaison/media representative is needed per Bob, W8GC.

A summary of some of the accomplishments, failures and on going projects by CARS in the years 2001 and 2002 were read by Bob, W8GC.

Voting of Officers and two odd year Board Members for the year 2003 was opened and taken by secret ballot. Elected are: President, Bob, W8GC; Vice President, Steve, N18S; Secretary, Ron, K8VJG; Treasurer, Mike, KB8UGT; and Board Members: George, K8KR, and Gary, N18Z. Congratulations to all!

George, K8KR, won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$26.00.

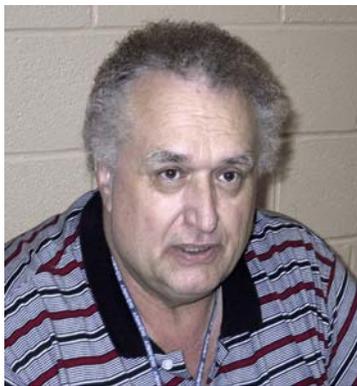
Tom, WB8N reported CARS finished 11th in 6 alpha (6a) category at Field Day 2002.

KC8TID, Toby informed the membership that he is trying to have a Lighthouse Activity between Christmas and January 5.

Terry, KB8DTC moved we close the meeting seconded by Fred, NO20 - passed. Bob, W8GC, adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Following the meeting a very informative talk on Qsling and the Qsl Bureau was given by George, K8KR, who is a volunteer for the letter "K" with the 8th ARRL call district.

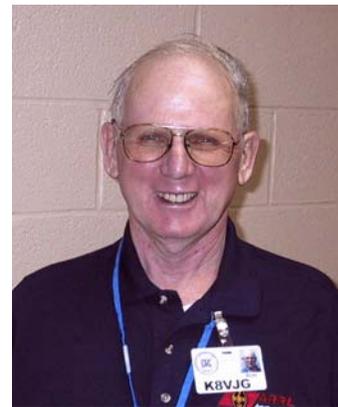
Respectfully submitted by Ron, K8VJG, Secretary.



Bob Check, W8GC - President, 2003



Steve Riley, N8IS - Vice President, 2003



Ron Borkey, K8VGJ - Secretary, 2003



Mike Balach, KB8UGT - Treasurer, 2003



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

As we start the new year, I wish us all a GREAT new year, and a great year for CARS and Amateur Radio!

Again, I am begging for input from the membership for articles for the newsletter. We have some great contributions this month from a couple of our members, which is great! (That's my word for the month...great.) Keep em coming folks! The more articles that are submitted, the less I have to type and hunt for items to fill the space. Last year, as our president stated, we won first place in the ARRL Ohio Section newsletter contest, which was (again) great! But as Bob also said, we can't win again for 5 years. Bummer! That won't stop me from trying to make our newsletter the best, but I need your help to do so!

73 all...de Tom, WB8N
Editor, Wobbly Oscillator.

GONE FOREVER

Another old standby is gone by the wayside, forever. It has come to pass that Radio Shack will no longer publish a catalog. The 2001 edition of the catalog, first available in August, 2001, is to be the final edition of the catalog for Radio Shack. This news has been confirmed by Radio Shack's headquarters in Fort Worth Texas. No reason has as yet been given, but I am sure it is an economic one.

Once upon a time, the catalog was free but then a few years ago, R-Shack began charging for the catalog. You could still get a free one if you bought an item or items over a certain value however, but soon even that "freebee" was eliminated.

Now the catalog is no more. Things do change, but not always for the best when it comes to the consumer.

From now on, if you are looking for a specific item, you can go to R-Shack's web site at www.radioshack.com. Of course, Radio Shack will continue to mail their usual flyers and then there will be their advertisements in the PD.

INCOMING QSL BUREAU

In the photo at the bottom of the page, George Pindroh, K8KR, who serves as the 8th Bureau "K" letter QSL manager is animatedly showing the size of the box he sees coming into the Incoming 8th QSL bureau in Columbus. George's talk covered the problems he sees with amateurs who have no idea on how to get their QSL cards. Amateurs who work stations out of the country most likely have cards waiting for them. A letter manager is assigned one of the 26 letters of the alphabet. The first letter after your 8 designation indicates how QSL cards are sorted.

Note, George picked his own letter. He gets lots of cards through the bureau. Each letter manager acts as a little post office, sorting cards, notifying those with cards that some effort is due my them to get their cards. Such as either sending postage contributions or envelopes with adequate postage to have the letter manager package up the cards and send them out. 6 X 9 envelopes are preferred. George is a dedicated amateur who enjoys giving something back to the DXing community. He has been the K letter manager for about three years.

Check out the C.A.R.S.link to 8th call letter managers on the webpage to learn the post address and possibly email address of your letter manager. Everyone who works HF DX should notify their 8th call letter manager whether or not they want their cards. George has hundreds of cards for amateurs who have never contacted the incoming bureau.



SLOVENIAN ENCOUNTER - 2002

By Mike Cegelski K8EH

The afternoon of Wednesday, 9 October, 2002 saw my XYL and I board a Continental airliner on our way to Ljubljana Slovenija, Italy (including Venice) and Austria via Frankfurt Germany. My wife's relatives met us, fed and housed us and chauffeured us to every church, castle and unknown cousin, uncle and aunt she ever knew or didn't know she had. We saw every conceivable historical site there was including the zoo.

Throughout it all I carried my Kenwood TH-F6A Triband handheld. There was NO room for a HF radio even a QRP rig. Before leaving the states I copied off of the internet all of the VHF/UHF repeater sites/operating frequencies for all of the countries we'd be in or passing through. Immediately upon getting settled in our apartment which belonged to my wife's aunt, I was able to raise a local machine. No response. The next morning I tried again - no response. I tried every day morning, evening and any other time I had available in every city we went to. No response. One weekend morning I did copy a strong signal on the output of a two meter machine. It was a local simplex QSO but I couldn't hear the other side of it. Even UHF (440). I could bring up repeaters, just NO live people to talk to on them.

The last full day we were there our hosts arranged a full dinner in a restaurant out of the city which was owned and run by acquaintances of theirs. So on Friday, 25 October, 2002, ALL of my wife's relatives, our hosts and us drove up to the top of a local mountain where this restaurant/lodge was located. As our car rounded the last hairpin turn to the top, what comes into view next to the building was about fifty feet of tower with an impressive aluminum farm proudly perched upon it! To my surprise this turned out to be one of the operating sites for the World Radiosport 2000! This was the site of Radioclub S59DZZ where the South Africans participated from. My host for the shack was Damjan, S57DA who was part of the family who owned and operated the entire facility. He took me into the shack where I shot some digital movies. We talked as best as we could but his English wasn't any better than my Slovenian. Guess we should've used CW even

eyeball to eyeball, huh? I did ask him why the silence on all of the repeaters. He assured me that was normal, that they just don't use them. So my QSO rate here was exceedingly dismal but not for a lack of trying. We're attempting to set up a sked but we haven't been successful yet. We'll get it done eventually.

All things considered, it was an adventure not to be missed. My wife is now saving her frequent flier miles for a Hawaiian excursion. Oh yeah!



Shot of the shack & tower of Radio Club S59DZZ

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radioclub S59DZZ				RADIOCLUB VEVCE P.P. 5123 1001 LJUBLJANA SLOVENIA	
<input type="checkbox"/>				OE	HG
UIL LOC: JW 76 1A					
Confirm QSO with					
<input type="text"/>					
DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	9A	
25	10	2002	20	Slovenija	
MIZ			MODE	RST	ZONE 15
					ITU 28
DR OM WILF. TNX FER NICE QSO, GL BY 73 DE DAMJAN!					

QSL card for "eyeball" QSO

BUS TRIP TO DAYTON

Well everyone its that time of year again to start making plans to join the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society's annual bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention.

The bus trip will cost the same as last year, \$30.00 and we will depart from the Brecksville Road Transit Co. at 2:30 am on the morning of May 17, 2003.

You will need to have your own ticket into the Hamvention, the \$30.00 only covers the bus trip. You can get tickets in advace for admission into the Hamvention via their web site, or you can buy them at the door, but it will cost you a couple of extra bucks!

The bus is a 47 seater complete with rest room and comfortable seats. Our driver is the same one for the past five years or so and gets us down to Dayton safely and on time! We will stop for breakfast at Denny's once we get close to Dayton, then its back on the bus for the rest of the ride. The bus driver will park under the trees and stays with the bus all day. You can return to the bus any time you like to rest or to store all of your new equipment that you find.

Please check the CARS web site after the beginning of the year there will be a link on the web site for placing a reservation for the bus trip and information on payment.

To those that joined us last year, thank you and I hope you will join us again this year. To those that could not make it last year, please join us this year, it is the only way to go to Dayton, just leave the driving to us.

That's it for now, and remember to check the web site. I'll be looking forward to seeing you on the bus!

Gordon Kolus W8GTK

Editor's note: This is a great way to go to the Dayton Hamvention if you have never been there before and/or are not able to spend the entire weekend or even a couple of days. The price is right, and what better way to travel than with a bunch of hams?



THE HISTORY OF THE CARS EMBLEM

By Phil Ricca Jr. K8MPL

Who did the design work on the CARS emblem? In the 70's Warren Harhay , K8NPI, designed the CARS emblem. Warren taught at Normandy High School as an industrial arts teacher for a number of

Warren designed and drove an electric car to and from school. This led him to leave teaching and became President of Electrical Vehicle Associates. Timing of the startup was geared to government monies earmarked for the design of workable alternates to the internal combustion powered car. When government monies dried up , Warren filed for bankruptcy. The last I heard he had moved to Las Vegas to work with another electrical vehicle firm. Warren was a pioneer at the time and put his ideas into a working car that could be used on the highways.

The Baker Electric was one of the first electric vehicles, but it took people like Warren to make a practical everyday electric vehicle. Hats off to one of the first CARS members!

UP COMING HAMFESTS

TUSCO Amateur Radio Club is holding their annual hamfest on Sunday, Jan 26th, at the New Town Mall , 400 Mill Ave. S.E., New Philadelphia, OH. Hours are from 8 A.M to 2:30 P.M. Check in frequency is 146.730 MHZ. Admission is \$4.00 at the door.

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club is holding their 49th annual hamfest, electronic and computer show on Sunday, Feb. 23rd, 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Emido & Sons party center located at 48 E. Bath Rd (corner of State Rd & E. Bath Rd.) in Cuyahoga Falls Ohio. For information contact Ted Sarah W8TTS, at 330-688-2013 or e-mail: w8tts@arrl.net Admission is \$5.00 at the door.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

From the Foundation For Amateur Radio Inc.

The Foundation For Amateur Radio Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-eight (58) scholarships for the academic year 2003-2004 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over 75 local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds seven of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining 51 are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical area of the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in **Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin**, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2003 from: **FAR Scholarships, P.O. Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.**

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

DUES REMINDER !!!

If you have not yet paid your 2004 dues, please do so as soon as possible. Your membership expired on December 31, 2002 otherwise Support your club and repeater!

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

To be voted on at the January 2003 meeting

Jerry Steele, K8CMI, General Class
32347 Legacy Pointe Pky.
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Gary Overfield, KB8VJO, Technician Class
229 So. Scranton St.
Ravenna, OH 44266

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

Wow, here we are into 2003 already! I just got used to writing 2002 on my checks! I hope everyone had a merry Christmas, and here's hoping we all have a happy and good new year as well.

Happenings (or lack of) On Our Repeaters

Besides being editor of this newsletter, I also happen to be the license trustee of our 2 meter, 6 meter and 70 cm repeaters. What this means is that I am responsible for what goes on, on these repeaters. This means that I have to do a lot of listening which is an impossible task.

I have noticed for quite a while now, that there is a very definite lack of activity on our 146.82 and 443.825 repeaters, not to mention the 444.750 repeater. (At this time the 6 meter repeaters are off the air.) There is *some* activity during drive time in the morning and afternoon, especially in the afternoon, but not very much. I listen to some of the other local repeaters at these times and there is always a qso going on between 2 or more Amateurs. During the day, forget it. When I am out an about during the day (and evening too for that matter) I usually announce that I am listening to a particular repeater of ours. 99.9% of the time I get no response, other than the voice of the repeater announcing itself.

So I am wondering what gives? All of us have gone to great effort in time and hard work, studying to get our well earned licenses, and have spent a considerable amount of money to purchase our mobile and hand-held rigs, for what? To let them sit there and collect dust?

Continued on page 9.

How many of us even have a charged battery, or a backup battery for our hand-helds in case of an emergency? But that is another topic.

The point I am trying to make is that we need to use our repeaters and at least keep them *somewhat busy*, or there may come a time when we won't have our frequencies to run our repeaters on! There are a lot of other interests out there that would love to have access to our vhf and uhf frequencies.

So c'mon folks, let's try to get on the air a bit more than we do. Even if it is just to check into the Wednesday evening CARS Net. If you have forgotten, it runs every Wednesday evening, except for the 3rd Wed. of each month which is meeting night, at 7 P.M. It is fun. If you haven't checked in on it yet, give it a try. There is usually a trivia question, and always lots of good information. There are a few non-members who check in pretty regularly, so I think it is only fair that we check into our own net, don't you?

Let's become more active on our repeaters...get into a good qso on the way to and/or from work. Listen on one of our repeater frequencies during the day at work if you can, or in the evening when you are on the computer or whatever else you might be doing other than watching television. You just might hear a qso of interest and want to join in on the conversation. 'Nuff said.

That's about it for now folks. Hope to catch you on the repeaters. Don't forget the poor, neglected uhf repeater. It REALLY gets lonely, but it has great coverage and needs to be used more.

73, de Tom, WB8N

Officers & Board Members, 2003

President: Bob Check, W8GC
Vice President: Steve Riley, N8IS
Secretary: Ron Borkey, K8VJG
Treasurer: Mike Balach, KB8UGT

Board Members:
Gary Dewey, N18Z
George Pindroh, K8KR
Gordon Kolus, W8GTK
Terry Pillat, KB8DTC

License Trustees:
NO8A - Bob Check, W8GC
K8ZFR - Tom Wayne, WB8N

Newsletter Editor - Tom Wayne WB8N

Field Day Chairman - Tom Wayne WB8N

Membership - Ron Borkey, K8VJG

Web Master/E-Mail - Dave Kushman, K8DAV / Bob Check, W8GC

License Exams/License Classes - Gary Dewey, N18Z

Technical - Roy Hadden KB8VJF / Vince Bak, N8OVW

Sunshine/Welfare - Aaron Clark, KC8INE

Club Net / Dayton Bus Trip - Gordon Kolus, W8GTK

Program Director - Gary Dewey, N18Z

CBARC/Liason - Dwane Modok, K8ME

Lighthouse Events - Dennis Brostek, AB8NI / Toby Kolman, KC8TID
Bob Check, W8GC

Museum Ship, W.G. Mather W8WGM - Bob Check, W8GC
Lin Shaw, WD8SDP / Gary Dewey,
N18Z / Steve Riley, N8IS / Bob Winston,
W2THU / Mike Cegelski, K8EHP
Dennis Brostek, AB8NI / Mike Balach,
KB8UGT / Bruce Bacik, N8DJX

American Red Cross Disaster Liaison - Ev Chitester, WA8EYF

Refreshments & 50/50 at Meetings - Toby Kolman, KC8TID / Kayla
Check, KC8RYH

Community Education & School Program - Dave Kushman, K8DAV
Steve Riley, N8IS / Ron Borkey, K8VJG

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264 Independence, OH 44131-0264. Articles may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author, if known. All submissions should be sent via straight e-mail, or encoded in .doc, .wpd, or .txt format to newsletter@cars.org, by the end of the month, for publication in the next month's publication. The editor reserves the right to publish or reject any submissions.

