

The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society



NO8A Special Event Call

K8ZFR Cleveland Area Repeaters 146.82 - 443.825 - 444.75

APRIL 2007

Volume XXXV

Issue IV

FROM THE PREZ

We had a great turnout for our March 13 meeting. Thanks to all who attended.

I am pleased to welcome 4 new members to the CARS family; Bill Brown KC8UQV, Mathew Webb KD8FKF, Lou Iganczak N8PZK, & Phil McCourt KD8FPQ. Congratulations and welcome to all four!

Plans are progressing well for the 2007 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. Please check www.2007GLDC.com for updates. We are very pleased to announce we have added Bob Allphin K4UEE to the list of top DX people at the DX seminar, Bob has visited ninety-one DXCC entities and operated from forty-nine. He has participated in twenty five DXpeditions, in the last ten years, Dxpeditons in which Bob has participated have made over 500,000 QSOs. The DX seminars will be of interest to all from beginner to Honor Roll level DXer.

Plan to attend the ARRL Convention on September 22, 2007, PLEASE order your tickets early as we expect to sell out by June or July.

I want to thank Gale Franko from Parma Hospital for the CPR demonstration she presented at our March meeting. No one left early for this one! Plus everyone learned something about saving a life.

We will have another excellent program at our April meeting thanks to our program committee! Bill N8HUQ will give a talk on what makes your cell phones work; a behind the scenes view. Find out what goes on at those cell towers you see all around the world these days.

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I am very happy to announce the CARS Tech & General class was a great success with 100% passing rate! We had 8 people register and get their technician license, and 3 of those crammed and also passed the General exam. We had 9 Hams in the General class and all passed with flying colors. One also passed his Extra class test.

Below is a picture showing some of the class members taking their test at the March 21 VE session, the CARS VE team headed by Gary NI8Z, conducted for the class members. CONGRATULATIONS to ALL!



On another happy note, the latest projection for smoothed sunspot numbers from NOAA Space Environment Center has the solar minimum at February through April 2007, with a smoothed sunspot number of 11. You can see the table on page 10 of the Preliminary Report and Forecast at, <http://tinyurl.com/yvw2ke>. Another way to look at it is the minimum is projected between December 2006 and July 2007, with a smoothed sunspot number of 12 or lower. We have hit bottom and are back on the upswing for better radio propagation.

That's it for another W.O. This month's thought: *The only way to live is to accept each minute as an unrepeatable miracle, which is exactly what is - a miracle and unrepeatable.* 73,
de Bob, W8GC

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The C.A.R.S. March monthly meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by club president Bob Check, W8GC on the 13th of the month. The meeting was held at the Busch Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio. Twenty-eight members and six guests introduced themselves to begin the meeting.

Steve, N8IS, motioned to accept the February meeting minutes as published in the *Wobbly Oscillator*, and Terry, KB8DTC, seconded. There were no additions, corrections, or questions noted, and the members passed the motion.

Tina, W8HBI, gave the treasurer's report of the treasury balance. She added that with the exception of two members, all the dues had been paid.

Gary, NI8Z, happily reported the previous Sunday's VE session was the most successful one the C.A.R.S. team has ever conducted. He announced all of the nineteen people tested either obtained their Technician license and became new hams, or upgraded to a higher class. Gary congratulated the VE team members for a job well done, handling the larger than normal group.

As always, Bill, KC8YSV reminded the C.A.R.S. members to pay their ARRL dues through the club. He introduced Gale Franko, a RN from Parma Hospital, who would later be doing a demonstration on CPR. Bill was glad to report the Copley Middle School radio club was doing quite well. He said there were fifteen to eighteen students involved, and lately they were active on Echolink.

Toby, WT8O updated the group on the progress of the Technician and General classes. He said two of the General students had taken their tests at Sunday's C.A.R.S. VE session and passed. The last class would be held tomorrow, and the testing for all remaining students would be held next week. All the students were doing well, and success appeared to be evident. Toby reported the net was doing better than ever, with a good sized group usually checking in. He also said the response on last month's sign-up sheet for Field Day was encouraging, although the *continued on next page....*

club could still use more help, and asked for any other members interested in participating to please contact him.

President Check informed the members that the board members authorized the purchase of a projector and recommended purchase of the necessary equipment to install IRLP and Echolink on the C.A.R.S. repeater system. Mike, K8EHP motioned the club purchase the equipment, and Scotty, WA8SLN seconded. The members voted and passed the motion.

Dave, KD8V the club sunshine chairman, told the group he sent out a card to Lisa Wayne; who is battling kidney disease.

The *Wobbly Oscillator* editor, Tom, WB8N, said the latest edition had just been published and sent out. He mentioned it was a little light this month, and encouraged members to consider making contributions on any subject that was ham radio related.

Dave, K8DAV updated the group on the progress of the repeater system. He also handed out results of the online survey he recently conducted on the club website. There was a brief discussion of the results, and requested the members to study the handout and draw some conclusions which will be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

Four new members were voted on in the customary ritual. The club members accepted and welcomed all the new applicants, Bill Brown, KC8UQV; Matthew Webb, KD8FKF; Louis Iganczak, N8PZK; and Phil McCourt.

Bob asked for volunteers for the amateur radio demonstration that will be given at the Boy Scouts of America "Scouting 360" event which will be held Saturday, May 5th at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. He noted that this will be a very large gathering of approximately 3,000 Boy Scouts. So far, Gary, NI8Z; Ron, K8VJG; Bill, KC8YSV; Bill, WA8GEO; Tom, WB8N; Terry, KB8DTC; Scotty, WA8SLN; and Bob, W8GC had signed up. Mike, K8EHP; and Dave, K8DAV; added their names to the list.

Ted, KB8NW, brought up the exciting news that in April, two DXpeditions would be operating. Swain's Island in the beginning of the month, and Scarborough Reef the last two weeks would be on

the air.

The lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle was Scotty, WA8SLN, who increased his riches by \$33, with \$34 going into the C.A.R.S. treasury. A very nice second prize was donated by Ron, K8VJG; a twenty-four hour clock. Bob, KC8MRC, was the lucky winner of the clock.

Steve, N8IS, motioned to close the meeting, and Terry, KB8DTC, seconded. The members passed the motion, and the March meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Following the meeting, an excellent demonstration of CPR was given by Gale Franko, who is a Registered Nurse at Parma Community General Hospital.

Respectfully submitted by Toby Kolman, WT8O, C.A.R.S. secretary.

AWARDS TO WORK FOR

The ARRL has granted Colvin awards to two April 2007 DXpeditions. The N8S Swains Island DXpedition, set to run April 3-15, will receive \$5000, and the 2007 Scarborough Reef (BS7H) DXpedition, set for 10 days in late April, will receive \$8500. Both DXCC entities are at or near the top of the most-wanted lists. The planned September 3B7C DXpedition to St Brandon also will benefit from a \$5000 ARRL Colvin Award support grant. The Colvin Award was established in 1994 with the proceeds of a life insurance policy purchased by renowned DXer Lloyd Colvin, W6KG (SK), naming the League as beneficiary. The award is conferred in the form of grants in support of Amateur Radio projects that promote international goodwill in the field of DX. From the 1960s into the early 1990s, Lloyd Colvin and his wife Iris, W6QL, activated more than 100 DXCC entities.

Hey!

**Check into the weekly net every
Wednesday at 9:00 P.M.
You'll be glad you did !!!**

MRS. DRESSLER'S KITCHEN

Everyone who attended the Christmas Party will tell you, the best dessert was Pat's Pecan Pie !! And for all you lucky WO readers out there, she is sharing the top secret recipe you with :)

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees

1/4 cup butter or margarine

1 cup lite brown sugar

1/2 cup white Karo syrup

4 eggs

3/4 tsp vanilla

1/4 tsp salt

1 cup pecans

Melt the butter and mix the lite brown sugar into the butter well. Then add remaining ingredients. Continue until mixed well. Pour into your pie shell and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until a knife comes out clean.

Thanks Pat for sharing this recipe with the group.
Editor's note....Maybe we can make this a regular part of the W.O.Members contributing their "secret" recipes for all of us to try and enjoy.

Excerpt from "WEAVER'S WORDS"

February 26, 2007

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Wherever I've visited in hamdom since returning from the Board mid-January meeting, I've asked members if they approve of the ARRL's legislative agenda for the current session of the US Congress. The immediate answer has always been a solid, "yes." The agenda calls for us to pass national laws that are beneficial to Amateur Radio and the public we serve. These laws would enable amateurs essentially anywhere to put up antennas (overriding local codes covenants and restrictions), protect Amateur Radio frequencies from wanton sell-offs, require the FCC to re-evaluate its rules regarding "unintentional" emitters such as (but not restricted to) BPL and recognize the huge value the Amateur Radio community offers to the nation in times of emergency and disaster. If you agree with this

agenda, it is very nearly "put up or shut up" time. The time is rapidly approaching when ARRL members will be called on to contact their Congressmen to show local support for the first Agenda item introduced into the US House. In many instances, the first of our contacts will be made by teams of local members with the local offices of their US Representatives or US Senators. If you want these legislative items to pass, we need your active support. To do this, we first need to complete the organization of the Legislative Action program in the Great Lakes Division. This is where you might fit in. Our target is to have a team of two or three members in each Congressional District in our three states. These teams will be the ones who will contact local offices of US Representatives and US Senators. We are far from accomplishing this goal! Of the 6 Congressional Districts in Kentucky, two Districts (Districts 1 and 5, Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Rogers) have a two-member team ready to roll. The remaining Districts have absolutely no members who have volunteered for the Program or have just one member to do this critical task.

Of the 15 Districts in Michigan, only District 7 (Mr. Walberg) is represented by a two-member team of ARRL members. The remaining 14 Districts have no one or only one member to represent Amateur Radio interests to their Representative.

Finally and best off, if one wishes to consider this as being best off, Ohio has a whopping total of four Districts of its 17 with two-member lobbying teams. You guessed it, the remaining 13 Districts are either not represented or are represented by no more than one member. We need your help. ARRL is a "member organization." This means not only that members pay dues to belong and support the League; but that members often need to supply the muscles that are needed to help ARRL protect and promote Amateur Radio. Without at least a small amount of sweat from each of us, ARRL has no muscle and no face. We need you to add muscle and the face on Amateur
continued on next page...

Radio to your Congressional Representatives.

We all make choices throughout our lives. In this instance, we can choose to sit back and do nothing (a time-honored tradition for many people) or we can choose to become involved and make things happen. If we sit back and do nothing, we have absolutely no right to complain when CC&Rs prevent us or our friends from putting up antennas, or if FCC sells off our bands. How'd you like to loose the 2M or the 20M band? If we do nothing, we also have absolutely no right to brag or take credit when things go well. We certainly would have no reason to feel "warm and furry" over helping to save Amateur Radio. If we choose to roll up our sleeves (in this case, to put on a shirt and tie or nice dress), we will have every right to feel we are part of the solution when our work is successful. If you are interested in learning how you can become part of helping pass the legislation I mentioned, please contact your Legislation Action Coordinator, our Division Legislative Action Chair, Val Rose, N8EXV (n8exv@arrl.net) or me at k8je@arrl.org for further information. Let us know you are willing to help. In Kentucky, contact Gary Johnston, KI4LA (ki4la@arrl.org), in Michigan it is Bob Wright, KB8APS (kb8aps@arrl.net) and in Ohio contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ (wd8pnz@arrl.net).

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division
5065 Bethany Rd.
Mason, OH 45040

E-mail: k8je@arrl.org; Tel.: 513-459-0142

**SUPPORT THE ARRL....
YOUR LIFELINE TO
LEGISLATIVE
REPRESENTATION TO
PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS
AS AN AMATEUR RADIO**

OPERATOR.

**ALERT!!!! DO YOU THINK THIS
COULD HAPPEN HERE IN THE GOOD
OLD U S of A ???**

Amateur Radio in Iraq has been suspended until further notice.

Yesterday Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President YI1DZ, Diya Sayah, reported a letter was sent from the Iraq's Minister of Defense to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki agreeing to halt issuing Amateur Radio licenses and to cease all current licensed activity from Amateur Radio operators in Iraq. This would include both nationals and any and all visitors (YI9). This is apparently in an effort to increase security. Diya is hoping someone can convince the Ministry of Defense that Amateur Radio will not cause interference with the military communications.

Editor's note: This could very well happen here...It already has!

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

By T. J. Powell, N8UIR

Hello All...

We have updated our website to reflect all of the volunteer events that we have scheduled for 2007 as of now. There are 12 events in which we need First Aid and/or Communications support for. Please check out the website for all the particulars at:

http://neomrc.org/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=7

If you would like to volunteer please send an email to myself or the contact person listed on the website.

Thank you

MS WALK Downtown Cleveland 04/28/2007

continued next page....

MS WALK Akron (CVNRA — Boston Mills Ski Resort)
04/28/2007
March of Dimes WalkAmerica — Cleveland
04/29/2006
Family Adoption Consultants Picnic 06/09/2007
American Diabetes Association --- Tour de Cure (Bike Tour)
06/10/2007
Mohican 100 Mile Run
06/15/2007, 06/16/2007, 06/17/2007
Greater Cleveland Triathlon
08/12/2007
Nat'l MS Society Pedal to the Point (Bike Tour)
08/18/2007, 08/19/2007
Cleveland Kite Festival
09/08/2007, 09/09/2007
Komen Race For The Cure
09/15/2007
American Diabetes Association --- Walk For Diabetes
10/06/2007

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T.J. Powell, PE, EMT-B, N8UIR
President / Chief
Northeast Ohio Medical Reserve Corps, Inc
<http://www.neomrc.org/>

Editor's note: We encourage you to volunteer for any of these worthy events, especially the American Diabetes Assn. events which C.A.R.S. actively supports.

FCC Announcement

From OK1RR DX & Contesting Page
Submitted by Carl Beduhn, K8AV

It has been announced that Kellogg's and the Federal Communications Commission have signed a pact to issue Amateur Radio Licenses on specially marked boxes of Corn Flakes. In this unprecedented move the FCC believes this will not hurt amateur radio but allow all individuals to receive an amateur radio license without having to demonstrate any skills with the exception of being able to use a pair of scissors to cut out their operating permit from the breakfast cereal box. Kellogg's

spokesperson commented that they were proud to have been selected by the government to be the issuer of licenses for amateur radio in the US and hope to soon make an agreement with other cereal loving countries. They also expect that will be issuing certificates of achievement for DXCF for confirmed contacts with 100 corn flakers.

Following the announcement that new amateur radio licensees will be able to operate in the HF spectrum without knowledge of Morse Code, the 2-meter handi-talki manufacturers have responded to what they view as a threat to their business. Said Hiram Bumble, CEO of whatawaste.com, the number one HT maker in the world, "We are not pleased at all about the new FCC rule. Our business has depended upon the rapid entry of no-code technicians who buy an HT, use it a couple of times, and then quit the hobby. Now, with the prospect of HF operation, a lot of these techies will forego their HTs."

The HT manufacturers have decided to imitate Kodak's defense against electronic photography. They will begin making cardboard HTs that cost only \$19.99. Once the battery is depleted, they are meant to be tossed away. It is hoped that the low price tag will make these disposable HTs a more compelling purchase than the more costly HF gear. The HT manufacturers all also lobbying the Federal government to adopt national CC&Rs which will prevent most people from erecting any sort of antenna that is more than one meter in length.

**HEY, IF YOU HAVE NOT
BEEN TO A C.A.R.S. MEETING
FOR A WHILE, WHY NOT MAKE IT
A POINT TO GET OUT TO ONE SOON?
THE MEETINGS ARE NOW ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
AND START AT 7:30 P.M. SO C'MON
OUT AND SHOW YOUR FACE! WE
HAVE A LOT OF FUN AND THERE IS
ALWAYS COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS.
IT'S AN EYEBALL QSO PARTY !**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

KC8WBF Skip Cook 4-7-36

KC8FQV Mark Studer 4-14-64

W8BOL Steven Merriman 4-15-58

KC8OJD Daniel Dressler 4-16

KC8WBG Dawnn Barbour 4-18

N8OVW Vince Bak 4-22-49

KC8WLY John Cobb Sr. 4-23-57

W8MET Metro Sinko 4-27

W8GC Bob Check 4-29-41

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !!

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Howdy ya'll...Spring has finally arrived and it's about dern time! I have already been outside in shorts and flip flops and have barbequed once! As a result I discovered I have to get a new gas grill...the one I have been using for the past 12 years has finally given up the ghost. The burner has rusted out again, (I had already replaced it three times before) the racks are rusted out, and the push-to-ignite thing doesn't work anymore either. So I'm gonna have to break down and spend a few bucks for a new grill. I guess it IS about time. But at least I got to break in the shorts and grilling season already. I beat George, K8KR at least!

PUBLIC SERVICE

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a list of public service events that are in need of volunteer communicators such as ourselves. I would hope that you volunteer to take part of any of these events that you feel a need to. However, I also hope that you at least volunteer to help out with the two American Diabetes Assn. events that C.A.R.S. has traditionally taken part in. The first one we got

involved in is the America's Walk For Diabetes, which occurs in October. The other one is the Tour de Cure, which involves bicycle riding over various distances. In the past, Cleveland had theirs and Akron had theirs. This year though, the two groups have combined their efforts and are having a joint effort. The event this year is on June 10th. The Summit County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) is in charge of the event this year and they have requested our experienced help in pulling this event off to a successful end. Therefore, I, as chairman for the C.A.R.S. Diabetes Events, am asking those of you that have helped out in the past for the Cleveland area Tour de Cure, to come out and help with this one. The event starts and ends at Blossom Music Center this year, and there are several different routes which the bikers will be riding. We are going to need people at the base station, at Blossom, and at points along the route, and possibly, Hams to act as SAG wagons along the route. I am not sure of all the details at this point, but I am asking that as many of you that can will volunteer for this event. Diabetes is a terrible disease and affects many people in many different ways. We have C.A.R.S. members who are diabetics and we have members who have a family member with diabetes. I would not hesitate to say that every single member of C.A.R.S. knows SOMEONE who has this disease. That is why we need to help out with this cause and help to raise funds to find a cure for this nasty, terrible disease! Do your part for this worthwhile public service event. All we have to do is show up with our radios, extra batteries, and whatever other equipment will be needed and do our thing..I will be talking more on this subject at the next meeting and I expect a rousing number of our membership to come out and help with this event.

As soon as I have all the details and such, I will inform everyone. At this point though, I need a commitment from as many as possibly can to come out for this worthwhile event. I'm gonna take names folks. I am not threatening, I am just *continued on next page...*

asking. But I expect a larger than ever turnout from our members for this one, as they are going to need all the help we can provide. I know you won't let me down...you never have in the past.

WHOA, IT'S GETTING CLOSE GANG!

Wow, Dayton is coming up fast folks and it won't be long before the Great Lakes Division of the ARRL Convention is at hand, which we are co-sponsoring, with our own Bob Check, W8GC as chairman! This is really gonna be an exciting year! We have new co-chairmen for Field Day (whew) and I am anxious to see what new ideas they bring to this annual event. Hey guys...don't forget we have to eat well! You can contact me for any pointers. It is going to be a relief for a change to only have to worry about operating! Don't get me wrong...I had a great time as Field Day chairman for the past several years, but it is time for a change, and a break for me!

WEATHER IT'S COLD OR WEATHER IT'S HOT, WE WILL HAVE WEATHER, WEATHER OR NOT.

(An olde saying me mother used to say.)

When I started writing this article the weather was warm and sunny and I had been taking advantage of it. Now, although it is still warm and "spring-like", they are predicting cold weather for the weekend with some snow flurries. Cleveland weather...go figure! Hey, it's still great weather for getting your antennas in shape for the coming season! What's a little wind and rain, and snow, and whatever else is in store for us this month? We Hams are a hardy bunch and we can handle whatever it takes to stay on the air!

TIME TO GO

Gotta get outta here for now and get this newsletter out to the publisher and to you all, so 73 for now and hope to see you at the April meeting.

De Tom, WB8N

SUNSPOT CYCLE AT THE BOTTOM ACCORDING TO NASA

Submitted by Gary Dewey, NI8Z

March 10, 2006: It's official: Solar minimum has arrived. Sunspots have all but vanished.

Solar flares are nonexistent. The sun is utterly quiet. The good news is, this week, researchers announced that a storm is coming—the most intense solar maximum in fifty years.

The prediction comes from a team led by Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). "The next sunspot cycle will be 30% to 50% stronger than the previous one" she says. If correct, the years ahead could produce a burst of solar activity second only to the historic Solar Max of 1958. That was a solar maximum. The Space Age was just beginning: Sputnik was launched in Oct. 1957 and Explorer 1 (the first US satellite) in Jan. 1958. In 1958 you couldn't tell that a solar storm was underway by looking at the bars on your cell phone; cell phones didn't exist. Even so, people knew something big was happening when Northern Lights were sighted three times in Mexico. A similar maximum now would be noticed by its effect on cell phones, GPS, weather satellites and many other modern technologies.

Like most experts in the field, Hathaway agrees with Dikpati that the next solar maximum should be a doozy. But he disagrees with one point. Dikpati's forecast puts Solar Max at 2012. Hathaway believes it will arrive sooner, in 2010 or 2011. "History shows that big sunspot cycles 'ramp up' faster than small ones." he says. "I expect to see the first sunspots of the next cycle appear in late 2006 or 2007, and Solar Max to be underway by 2010 or 2011."

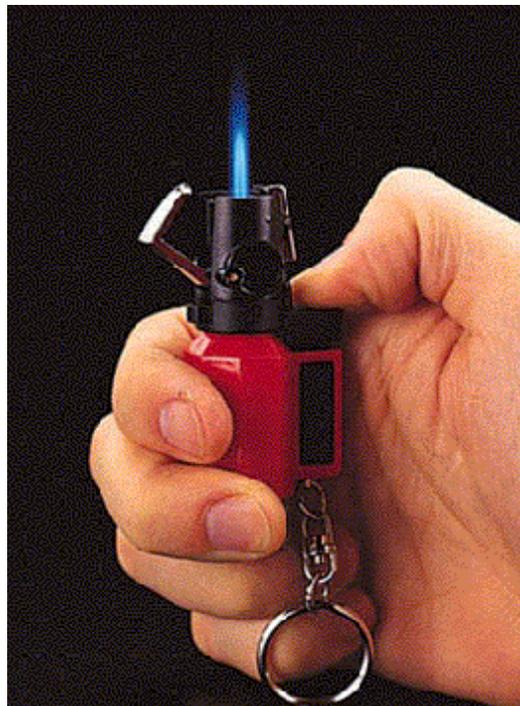
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CARS 2007 Officers & Committees

Audit

WT8O ** KC8YSV, K8KR

ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

KC8YSV **

Awards

K8VJG ** WA8GEO, W8HBI, WB8N

Christmas Party 2007

W8HBI ** N8IS, KB8QHJ, KC8ZBN

School Programs

KD8V ** WA8SLN, K8VJG

License classes

WT8O ** W8GC, K8DAV

Development

W8GC ** All officers

Diabetes events

WB8N ** All CARS members

Field Day

WT8O ** WA8GEO ** + All CARS members

Good Operating Practices class

W8GC **, WB8N, K8DAV, N8IS, K8KR, K8ME

2007 ARRL Great Lakes convention

W8GC **, W8HBI, KB8NW, N8DJX, WT8O, WA8GEO, KC8YSV, K8DAV, K8ME, WA8SLN, WB8N

Interference & Jamming

WB8N ** N18Z, N8IS, W8GC

Lighthouse events

WT8O ** 440-572-1544

Mentor/Elmer & Community Education

KC8YSV ** K8VJG ** WB8N, W8GC

Membership

W8HBI ** W8GC **

Museum Ship W. G. Mather W8WGM

K8ME **

NET

WT8O **

WO/Newsletter

WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Program directors

KC8YSV ** W8JAK **

QSL manager - NO8A, W8WGM, W8BM & WA8CMS

WB8N **

Refreshments

KB8UGT ** KB8DTC ** K8VJG **

50/50

N8KAY **

Scholarship

WA8SLN ** N18Z, KD8BAO, K8VJG, WT8O, WA8GEO

Summer Picnic

K8KR ** N8IS, W8HBI, W8MET, N8LRS

Sunshine (welfare)

KD8V ** 330-666-8721

Technical

K8DAV** W8GC ** N8OVW, WB8N

VE exams

N18Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail

K8DAV ** W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2007 Officers

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even year executive board 2 year term

KB8DTC

KC8YSV

K8DAV

odd year executive board 2 year term

K8KR

N18Z

WB8N

K8ZFR trustee

WB8N

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W8GC

