

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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MISSING SUNSPOTS MAY HAVE BEEN EMBEZZLED ! Details Inside

FROM THE PREZ

One of our members has recently demonstrated one principle that makes C.A.R.S. a great amateur radio club. Metro Sinko, W8MET has been helping a couple of fellow members develop their radio skills. Metro has invited them to his home to work in his well equipped station. One of the guys is new to HF and is going through the learning process most of us did at one time. For him to have the advantage of an experienced, patient fellow like Metro at his side is something most did without. Another member has been working with Metro to fine tune his contesting skills.

The cool thing is the generosity of time and knowledge that Metro is willing to share with other hams. The guys have expressed their sincere appreciation for the help. The opportunity has always been available for those members lacking experience in various aspects of the ham radio hobby to get mentoring from more seasoned fellow members. However, Metro has heightened the awareness of all those concerned. He actively approached those in need and offered his help. His exemplarily actions have become contagious; some of us have become more vocal with our open invitations to “Elmer”, and more of those seeking assistance have made requests. I recently spent an enjoyable evening with a member who is new to HF and brought over his new radio and a list of questions. When he left he had some

answers and I had a friend who was previously an acquaintance. Not too bad.

All this activity was inspired by the survey many members responded to some time back. Some said the “Newbies” were not getting the help they needed. Maybe so, but now there is a greater awareness to improve the *status quo*.

The key is communication. If you need help, come to meetings or join into the Wednesday net and vocalize your desires. If you want to “Elmer”, do the same. Every member can benefit by *continued on next page....*

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becoming involved in these activities. With the increased awareness, and response by Metro and others,

I must say, no new member of C.A.R.S., or one with new privileges, should feel there is no help available; just ask.

73, Toby, WT8O

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The C.A.R.S. March monthly meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Toby Kolman, WT8O on the 10th of the month. The meeting was held at Bush Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Ohio. Twenty five members and two guests introduced themselves to begin the meeting.

Mike, KB8UGT made a motion to accept the February minutes as published in the March Wobbly Oscillator, and Ron, K8VJG seconded. There was no additions, or questions so the motion was passed.

Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC then gave the treasury report and stated that the treasury was about same. Bob then talked about the Technician, General, and Extra classes that C.A.R.S. recently sponsored. He reported that the classes went really well. Bob also stated that dues are due and that you can pay for them online thru PayPal. Members that had not paid their dues by the end of March will be removed from the membership list. Bob also mentioned the scholarship raffle. Members can get tickets to sell from Bob at any meeting. The Person selling the most tickets in the next two months will get \$10.

Toby, WT8O gave the Weekly 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. Toby then passed out a sign up sheet for Field Day. He will be passing it around at every meeting. Toby then mentioned the field trip to WIAW. Please have a date in mind in the fall for the next meeting. The ARRL is not open on weekends, so we would like to leave on a Sunday and tour the ARRL on Monday. It is about a ten hour drive. Perhaps some will stay until Tuesday and return

home then. Gary, NI8Z, Bob, W8GC, and Toby, WT8O will check into the hotel prices when the date is chosen. Toby had a lot of people interested in the trip. Car pooling seems to be the best way to go, and the most flexible.

Sunshine Chairman Scotty Shields, WA8SLN sent out two get well cards; one to George Pindroh, K8KR and one to Ev Chitester, WA8EYF who was in the hospital.

Gary Dewey, NI8Z gave his VE report and said 11 from the classes passed and 7 from Sunday the 8th passed the exams they took. Dwaine Modock, K8ME talked about the Dayton bus trip and passed out some papers to get your Dayton hamfest tickets in advance. Tickets for the bus are \$35 and the cut off is May 2. He needs at least 35 people by then to make the bus trip a reality.

Tom Wayne, WB8N, asked everyone to send articles and pictures for the WO.

Two applicants for membership were voted in as new C.A.R.S. members; Jeff Miller, KD8KHM and Tim Dobek, KD8KHN. A warm welcome goes out to them!

Dave Dressler, KD8V reported that the Copley school club is very active even though it's a small group and Dave thanked everyone in C.A.R.S. that help at the school.

An award was handed out to Mike Thomas, KB8BMY for being a net controller.

Bob, W8GC will be glad to help anyone that would like to get Log Book of the World set up and get you started using it. The only stipulation is that you must be using a computer logging program. If you are interested please give him a call. Bob has helped a few members already.

C.A.R.S. is looking to start licensing classes in the fall and will have them in the spring as well. If you are wanting to upgrade or if you know someone who wants to become a ham or wants to upgrade, watch the web site for the dates.

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A motion was made by David Noeth, KD8ACO to have classes in October as well as in the Spring. Steve Riley, N8IS seconded the motion and the members passed the motion to have classes twice a year.

Refreshments were provided by Gary, NI8Z bringing the coffee, Mike, KB8UGT bringing the soft drinks, and Ron, K8VJG bringing the donuts. Thanks to them for doing a great service.

Bruce Brown, KC8RKS asked people to volunteer to help with communications for the Diabetes Assn. Tour de Cure bike-a-thon coming up in June.

The 50/50 raffle was held with \$34 to C.A.R.S. and \$34 to Steve Jones, N8SRJ. Congratulations Steve!

Linda Sinko, N8LRS made the motion to close the meeting with Steve, N8IS seconding and the meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Stephen Jones N8SRJ

C.A.R.S. Secretary.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

KC8WBF Skip Cook 4-7-36

KC8FQV Mark Studer 4-14-64

KC8OJD Daniel Dressler 4-16

KC8WBG Dawnn Barbour 4-18

K8REF Gary Berkowitz 4-19

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 and
many happy returns !**

HAM RADIO NEWS

Submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI

From Amateur Radio Newslite

RADIO LAW: INDIANAPOLIS POLICE ILLEGAL RADIO USE

More facts are beginning to emerge following a crackdown on Indianapolis Metro Police

officers using ham radios for out of band conversations.

Over a three-day period last month, police cruisers were searched and officers not holding a valid Amateur Radio license were forced to remove the illegal radios. This follows a complaint to the FCC that law enforcement officers were using modified ham radios for a talk-around tactical (Tac) channel. Some conversations were heard in the VHF police bands, at the bottom of the 2-meter band and on frequencies assigned to the MURS radio service. Recordings of profanity being used brought action by the FCC. Inside sources say many of the police officers obtained their 2-meter radios through Ebay. One of the most popular radios modified is the Yaesu FT 2800.

Some officers reportedly, paid as much as \$350 dollars to a local radio shop for a used amateur radio that, new, sold for just over a hundred dollars. That is just one example how desperate some Indianapolis police officers are for a reliable Tac channel while fighting crime.

Handcuffed by FCC regulations, many officers are now cracking the cover on Technician Class License study guides to earn their Amateur Radio ticket. This past weekend three Metro Police officers showed up on the door step of the VE team in Franklin, Indiana. All three passed their test and are anxiously awaiting their new call sign. Further, this same ARRL examination team is working with one of the newly licensed officers to provide a test session at one of the Indianapolis Metro Police roll call sites so more officers have the opportunity to test and join the ranks of licensed Amateur Radio Operators.

It will be interesting to see just how many Indianapolis police officers earn their ham radio

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tickets and how involved they become in that city's ham radio community.
(If they continue to use amateur radio frequencies for police operations it is my opinion that they will still be operating illegally, as business use of amateur radio is prohibited by FCC rules and regulations. Ed.)

HEADLINE NEWS MISSING SUNSPOTS MAY HAVE BEEN EMBEZZLED !

Submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI
From the Amateur Radio Newslines

The mystery of the missing sunspots and lack of propagation may have been traced, incredibly, to some of the same roots as the current global economic crisis.

Newslines Roaming Investigative Reporter Pierre Pullinmyleg has roamed into his shortwave communications news transmission center with the details he has uncovered:

"It now appears that convicted swindler Bernard Madoff not only made off with zee 65 billion dollars of investors money, but with zee cycle 24 sunspots as well. A little known corner of zee financial marketplace actually more of a back alley is zee sunspot futures market, where traders buy and sell based on predicted sunspot values for a given date.

Our investigation has revealed that when zee stock market was trading at ionospheric levels, Madoff accepted millions of dollars that he promised to invest in future sunspots, but instead simply deposited in an offshore account in zee Serrano Bank on the fabled Ponzi Island. When zee time came to actually purchase zee sunspots for cycle 24, the accounts set up for that purpose were empty. As a result, zee sun has declared bankruptcy and zee universe has begun foreclosure

proceedings. Attorneys for zee sun are trying to negotiate a bailout package but are not optimistic that zey can meet zee April 1st deadline."

"From zee somewhat darkened beaches of Ponzi Island, zis is Pierre Pullinmyleg, reporting for Newslines.

Pierre says that he will be back in about 12 months to bring you up to date on further developments in the solar foreclosure proceedings. And just in case he did not mention it earlier, Pierre says to have a very happy April 1st.
(Roving reporter Pierre Pullinmyleg via shortwave)

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER REPORT By Gary Dewey, NI8Z

After the recent C.A.R.S. class testing, which had eleven (11) testing it was a surprise to see seven (7) show up to the scheduled March session. Again, the voluntary examiners braved the rain and showed up to facilitate this test. Eight dedicated VEs provided a quick and very efficient testing experience to the seven candidates. Everyone who tested gained either a new license or an upgrade.

Two new Technicians, three General and two Extra licenses were earned. It is now confirmed all but one of the 2009 C.A.R.S. class has been licensed or upgraded. Recognizing the VEs: Bob Check, W8GC; Bill Sarver, WU8A; Steve Jones, N8SRJ; Lawson "Scotty" Shields, WA8SLN; Dave Kushman, K8DAV; Metro Sinko, W8MET; Ronald "A" Borkey, K8VJG.

(Not to mention the guy that puts it all together ...Mr. VE himself, Gary Dewey, NI8Z. Thanks Gary, for all your work and dedication. Ed.)

FROM GEARVAKf (the f is silent)

Reprinted with permission.

First of all, what is GEARVAKf (the f is silent) anyway? Gearvakf (the f is silent) also known as the greaterenonamateuradioventionandkitefly, is the most prestigious imaginary ham radio and kite flying organization in the world. They are not an equal opportunity organization and they despise political rectitude and discriminate indiscriminately. Memberships are awarded only rarely at the whim of the GEARVAKf Trusteeship Council and are never based upon merit or suitability of qualifications. They are proud that their bureaucracy rivals that of the U.S. Government and makes about as much sense. HAM BAND STOLEN

Late last week, the League of Radio Relaying Americans (LRRRA) asked for help from the FCC in finding the 18 MHZ ham band that was reported missing over two weeks ago."We haven't got the faintest idea where it is or who stole it." whined LRRRA spokesperson, Leif Twerd. "This is the second time it's been taken and we're getting tired of the criminal element running off with our ham bands." he said. The 18 MHZ ham band was stolen once before, in 1981, shortly after being authorized by the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARD). It was returned a year later by unknown persons who left it on the front steps of the FCC. When contacted about the most recent theft, FCC spokesp'son, Sandi Ampersand, admitted that she "didn't even know" there was an 18 MHZ ham band. "I suppose that means we'll have to post guards on all the other bands until we find the thief." she said.

GEARFAKf Bulletin reporters attempted to contact newly appointed interim FCC Chairman Annie M. Shabop, but were told by a secretary that "she didn't give a damn!"

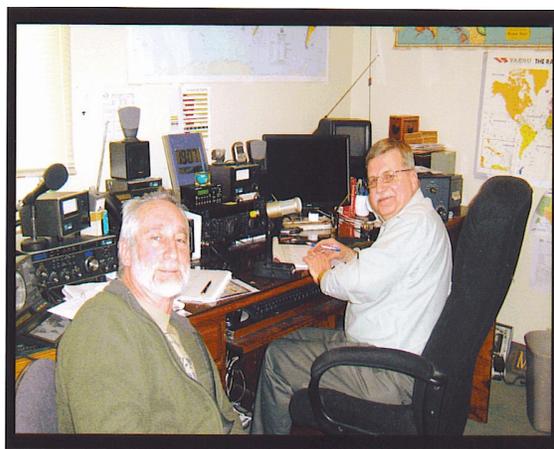
MELVIN FINDS TWO METER WRECKAGE

The deep diving submersible, *Melvin*, has recovered wreckage from the 1989 two meter ham band explosion, according to Dr. Hermot Cufker, of the Holey Woods Oceanographic Institute. Dr. Cufker said the wreckage was found "somewhere in the Caribbean" and would be returned to the FCC for examination.

MEMBER NEWS TUNE UP FOR FIELD DAY

Metro Sinko, W8MET reports that Mike, KB8UGT and Joe, KD8BAL operated the ARRL international DX Phone contest from Metro's radio shack on the weekend of March 7-8, and Joe also operated the CQ WW WPX/SSB contest which was held on the weekend of March 28-29. Joe made a contact with 9K2K in Kuwait on 20 meters. These were good tune up exercises for Field Day.

Metro also reports that his wife, Linda, N8LRS is scheduled for surgery on her right knee to repair torn cartilage, on April 8th. Good luck Linda !



W8MET and KD8BAL

HARD HAT NEEDED

Another member, who shall remain nameless, (his call sign is NI8Z) suffered an injury to his noggin while trying to repair a wire antenna that he had erected in the woods behind his house. A tree had fallen on the antenna during the winter and the unnamed member was trying to unravel the wire, when a branch from a tree fell on his head, causing him to get sutures to close up the wound and to prevent his brains from oozing out of his skull.

Now, this member had suffered a previous injury while trying to install an antenna in
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a tree a few years ago at Field Day That injury also required sutures. As a result of that incident, our injury prone member was awarded a hard hat with his call sign on it, to be worn to prevent further injuries, but he neglected to wear the hard hat at the time of his most recent injury. We can only hope that he has learned his lesson and will wear the bright yellow hard hat the next time he attempts any antenna work

DX OPPORTUNITY

Submitted by Bob Check, W8GC

The United Kingdoms "OfCom" has "finally agreed to grant the [B.A.R.S.] club a very special celebration call sign, GB100BP." So says GW0ANA, Glyn. The callsign will celebrate 100 years of the history of British Petroleum "and its effect in Wales from Llandarcy to BP Chemicals." One condition on the granting of the callsign was that it be used for historical reasons, not commercial ones. BP Oil will be paying for the QSLs, though. The dates of the operation are May 4-31.

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSN. TOUR de CURE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

Once again we are looking for volunteers to help provide communications for the American Diabetes Assn. Tour de Cure. This year it is being held on Sunday, June 14th. As it has for the past three years, this will again be a joint operation by the Cleveland and Akron Diabetes Assn. branches. And once again the starting point will be Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls. If you plan on helping out, we can use as many members as we can get. All you need is a 2 meter rig, either an ht or mobile or both. An extra battery is a good idea, and if you have both VHF and UHF capability even better. After you sign up to help out, you will be given your assignment at a later date. To sign up, go to www.sumco-ares.org, scroll down to the list of public service events, and click on American Diabetes Tour de Cure. Just as easy as that. You will be receiving a confirmation e-mail in a few days after registering. You will be

contacted by telephone prior to the actual event, to be given your assignment, and time and location to check in on the morning of the event and to get your T-shirt. Afterward, you can go to Blossom Music Center for food and refreshments if you so desire.

This is a very worthwhile cause that C.A.R.S. takes part in and I hope that all of you that helped out last year will come out again this year, plus anyone else that wants to help out. If you have any questions, call me at 216-253-0540 anytime, or Bruce Brown at 330-351-8156 after 7 p.m I'll have more details as to frequencies, location of check-in places, etc as we get closer to the event. The public service we provide for the American Diabetes Assn. is near and dear to me, as my wife has suffered the effects of diabetes. I know of several C.A.R.S. members who are diabetics and if you are not affected directly yourself, I am sure that either you have a family member or a friend who is a victim of this nasty disease. So if at all possible, make plans to help out this year.

Later in the summer I will be asking for volunteers for the Cleveland branch of the Diabetes Assn's. America's Walk for Diabetes, which will be held October 6th at the Tower City Amphitheater. Stay tuned.

15 REASONS TO BELONG TO THE ARRL

(n/c) after the reason means no charge)

1. QST, your monthly membership journal.
2. Members only web access (n/c)
3. Technical Information Service (TIS, n/c)
4. Outgoing QSL Service
5. ARRL Field Organizations (including ARES®, and several additional important services (n/c)
6. Operating awards
7. Representation of your Amateur Radio interests in Washington, DC to the FCC and Congress (n/c)
8. Representation of your Amateur Radio interests in International Treaty negotiations (n/c)

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9. A Regulatory Information Branch that provides information on FCC and regulatory questions; problems with antenna, tower, and zoning restrictions, and reciprocal licensing procedures (n/c)
 10. Volunteer Council Program (n/c)
 11. Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program n/c
 12. Registered Amateur Radio Instructor Program (n/c)
 13. W1AW broadcast bulletins and code practice (n/c)
 14. Preferred subscription rates for SEX, the ARRL forum for communications experimenters
 15. Discounts on Continuing Education courses
- If you are already a member, when it is time to renew your membership you can do it through C.A.R.S. and C.A.R.S. gets a few bucks from the ARRL. If you are not already a member and think that it is about time you joined the ARRL, you can do that through C.A.R.S. as well. Check with Bob, W8GC, C.A.R.S. treasurer.

THE RANDOM WIRE

By Tom Wayne, WB8N

C.A.R.S. SPONSORED BUS TRIP TO THE DAYTON HAMVENTION®

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society is sponsoring a bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention® this year. To make the bus trip a reality, we need 35 people on the bus. The cost is \$35.00 per person for the bus ride. You have to buy your own ticket, which you can do by mail, fax, online, or at the door. The price of the ticket is \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at the door.

The bus will leave the K-Mart parking lot in Middleburg Heights at 3:00 a.m. Saturday May 16th and will stop for breakfast on the way down to Dayton. It will arrive in time for the doors to open at 8:00 a.m. and will leave to return home around 5-5:30 p.m. If you make any purchases that you don't want to lug around with you all day, you can go back to the bus and the driver will stow your purchase in the locked luggage area under the bus. The driver will remain with the bus all day and you can go back to the bus for a rest period if you so desire. What could be better than that? Such a deal! The deadline to sign up for the trip is May

2nd. You can sign up on-line on the C.A.R.S. web site at www.2cars.org or see Dwaine Modock, K8ME at the April meeting and he will be happy to put you on the list.

If you have never been to the Dayton Hamvention® before, or have not been for awhile, this could be your last opportunity, as rumor has it the Hara Arena, where the hamfest is held is going to be torn down after this years event and a new location has not been chosen as yet.

Personally, I feel that every ham should go at LEAST once in their ham life. You get to visit all the major manufacturers, dealers from all over the world, not just the U.S. of A., you have the opportunity to meet fellow hams from all over the world, and the flea market is one of the largest I've ever seen.

So plan on attending this year and take the bus down. Hope to see you on the bus.

ANTENNA TIME

Yup, it is getting to be that time of year, the time to put up new antennas, or fix the ones you already have up in the air. NI8Z has already been busy with his antennas and maybe I can finally get to my rotator to bring it off the tower and have it repaired. It doesn't do me much good if I can't rotate it. As I sit here writing this, it is hard to imagine any more of that nasty white stuff, but you never know.

COMING HAMFESTS

The Cuyahoga Falls ARC is having their hamfest on Sunday, April 19th. No other local hamfests are scheduled in April.

ADIOS FOR NOW

Don't forget the April meeting coming up on Tuesday, the 14th of the month. Also, make sure to check into the weekly C.A.R.S. net which is held each Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater. If you have never checked into a net before and are a bit apprehensive, be assured that it is a friendly net. All you have to do is give your call, name, and location when asked to check in by the net controller. It is fun to guess the *continued on next page....*

answer to the trivia question of the week, and there is usually some information of interest offered by one of the stations checking in. Hope to see you next Wednesday.

Til then, I'll sign off with a 73 to all.
de Tom, WB8N

FROM A CABOOSE IN OHIO

Submitted by Tina Check, W8HBI
Reprinted from Amateur Radio Newsline

A special 6 meter event on rails. This, as Andy Sargent, N8OFS, announces that he will be active June 13th to the 15th as N8O 'portable caboose' from Jefferson, Ohio.

His operation is to celebrate the 25th anniversary for the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railway. Listen out for him between 1800 to 0300 UTC on 52.525, 51.500 FM and 50.300 and 50.2 MHZ SSB.

QSL's go to N8OFS, PO Box 517, Jefferson, Ohio, 44047. For more details about the railroad, visit the Web page at:

<http://www.acjrscenic.net/history.htm>

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By reading this, you have agreed to make as many C.A.R.S. meetings as you possibly can, check in on the weekly net as often as you can, and to participate in as many C.A.R.S. activities, including public service events, as you can.

***H A P P Y
A P R I L
F O O L S
D A Y !!!***

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 31264
Independence, OH 44131-0264
www.2cars.org



2009 CARS Scholarship fund Raffle Tickets now available

Help support the CARS Scholarship fund by getting your Raffle Tickets ASAP.

Donation is only \$2.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for 3 tickets! **

Anyone is welcome to purchase tickets, you can order your tickets on line using PayPal, no PayPal account needed just a credit card, go to www.2cars.org or contact the Treasurer Bob Check, W8GC 216-524-1750.

What can be more important than helping people get an education! CARS has awarded two \$500.00 Scholarships a year since 2006. This Raffle will be a biannual event with drawings in July and December.

This **drawing** will be held at the **CARS 2009 summer picnic on July 10, 2009**. Winners do NOT need to attend to win. Winners will be notified plus be listed on the CARS web site and in our Newsletter the WO.



1st prize \$300.00

2nd prize \$200.00

3rd prize \$100.00

Only 1,040 tickets will be sold

****All proceeds less actual expenses go
to the CARS Scholarship Fund.**