

JULY MEETING MINUTES

The CARS Membership Meeting was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, on the 10th of the month at 7:40 pm. The meeting was held at Harriet Keeler Picnic area, in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metro Parks in Brecksville, Ohio. 25 member and 2 guests were in attendance.

After introductions, the June minutes were approved by Toby, WT8O, as published in the June Wobbly Oscillator.

Bob, W8GC, gave the Treasury report and reminded all to buy scholarship raffle Tickets.

Bob also asked that members notify him on how many will be attending the CARS Family Picnic from each household so that we know how much food to buy. The CAR.S Picnic will be on Friday July 27th, at 5:30pm at the Independence Civic Center Kwanis Pavilion. Further details on the CARS web-site.

Toby, WT8O, Let Dave, NF8O, have the floor to present his fabulous find on gift cards. The club has to sign up as the primary CEO of these gift card transactions. There are over 700 different gift cards that can be purchased thru the club and club gets a nice percentage return on the sales. Further information will be presented at the meetings and cars web-site.

Toby, WT8O, reported on field day. He also stated that October 1, 2012 will be his retirement date from his employment.

VP Gary, NI8Z, announced that there was a E session held on Sun. July 8th. Eight people showed up to be tested, with 6 passing, 3 of which earned their extra class license. One person went from no license to his extra class.

NO sunshine this month, which is always good news.

An update on the Copley School Radio Club was given. The kids are on vacation, but Gary, NI8Z along with a team and Dave Dressler are going to install couple of antennas before school starts.

The club thanked the refreshment committee on the fine refreshments they bring; K8VJG, WB8ROK, and K8DMT.

Toby, WT8O, mentioned that the constitution committee will get in full swing after he retires this fall.

Bob, W8GC, mentioned that the club no longer has NO8A as a club callsign. Now the club callsigns are W8HBI & N8BM. A new QSL card will be designed with both callsigns on it.

A program committee was established and Toby, WT8O, will head the committee.

A Public Service Committee was also established with Eddie, KD8FTS, heading that committee. Toby, WT8O asked that anyone interested in joining any of the committees let one of the committee members know.

With no other new or old business Toby, WT8O, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

After the meeting the 50/50 winner was Andy Evridge, KD8SCV, with \$34.00 going to him and \$34.00 going to the CARS treasury.

There was no program for July, but at the September meeting we are going to have a special program on satellite operation presented by John Papay, K8YSE.

Submitted by Secretary
Dwayne Modock K8ME

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Bill Sarver WU8A 8-9-1944

Steve Riley N8IS 8-11-1966

Eddie Stevens KD8FTS 8-14

Tom Wayne WB8N 8-17-1940

Richard Engum KA8EEW 8-21-1938

Gerald Purcell KC8LAU 8-24-1961

Many happy returns to you all !

K8VJG'S, SteppIR ANTENNA PROJECT

By Carl Beduhn, K8AV

As many of you know Ron, K8VJG, lost his SteppIR antenna back in March due to high winds that lead to a boom-to-mast bracket failure. The fixture (plate) was actually torn in half causing the antenna to fall and be damaged. Ron was able to negotiate with his insurance company, a complete replacement of his 3 element SteppIR including the 30/40 meter antenna element.



The “new & improved” replacement bracket

On June 26th John, K8YSE, and Pete, N8TR, with me observing and assisting as needed, began the assembly of Ron’s brand new SteppIR antenna. Anyone that has put together a SteppIR antenna knows this is no easy task. Attention must be paid to detail. In first checking the parts to the parts list, it was found SteppIR had shipped the wrong SteppIR motor. They had shipped the standard motor instead of the 30/40 motor. Fortunately John had a new 30/40 motor at home for a SteppIR project he was working on, which he obtained so as not to slow the job down. When SteppIR was made aware of the mistake they over-nighted a new 30/40 motor replacement.

It should be noted that Ron ordered the SteppIR heavy duty boom to mast plate. I can attest to the fact that this plate will handle anything from a hurricane to a tornado without ever tearing like Ron’s old plate. It’s about three times the plate thickness of the standard plate and does not use the

standard “U” bolt to mast attachment, but heavy duty machined clamps instead.

There have been a vast number of changes to SteppIR antennas since mine went up 10 years ago. Since SteppIR started about 11 years ago they have continued to improve their products. One change was in the element assembly. The most noteworthy recent change for the better is the use of heat shrink tubing at all the fiberglass element joints. These were once sealed with only a silicone tape. With Ron’s antenna there were 24 heat shrink joints to be sealed with a heat gun, a very time consuming endeavor, but well worth the effort. All the joints were then covered with Scotch 33 tape for UV protection, as were all the rubber boots that join the elements to the SteppIR motors.

This assembly took place on June 26th and 27th, a full 8 hours each day. As you might recall, these days had over 90 degree temperatures. I can attest to the fact that the heat did not deter these two retired engineers from building this antenna exactly as the instructions indicated. There was no short-cutting ! Between them they had every conceivable tool needed to do the perfect job. Ron’s antenna could not have been in better hands or built better !



Assembling the SteppIR on the ground

Just before leaving on the 27th it was discovered that the west guy wire earth anchor on Ron’s 70’ tower had pulled out of the ground about 6”.

Continued on next page...

Before

the tower could be climbed this anchor would need to be replaced.

On Friday June 29th Mary, N8DMN, the XYL of Pete, joined us for the element to boom assembly. This assembly went very smoothly. After the assembly, the SteppIR was tested on the ground with it's control box and functioned as expected. Also this day a new 66" replacement earth anchor was installed for the west guy wire. This turned out to be a short 6 to 7 hour work day.

On Saturday the 30th about 9 AM the antenna was ready to be hoisted up the 70 foot tower. With John (Spiderman), K8YSE, doing the tower climb, the rest of us in the crew worked the hoist and tag lines below as the antenna was hoisted gently up the tower. The hoist was made very easy by the pulley riggings of John on the tower and Pete on the ground. The tower work was completed by noon, but cable connections etc. were not complete until around 5 PM.



K8YSE climbing up the tower with the antenna

It's my understanding from K8VJG that his antenna is working flawlessly.

I think I can speak for all of us in saying, as hams, the project was a labor of love.

The 9 of us that made up the crew on the Saturday antenna raising were: John, K8YSE – Pete, N8TR – Mary, N8DMN – Carl, K8AV – Ron, K8VJG – Tedd, KB8NW – Dave, WD8IOU – Gary, NI8Z & Metro, W8MET.



K8YSE at the top of the 70 ft. tower attaching the antenna.

OHIO QSO PARTY - SAVE THE DATE

By Kenny Silverman, K2KW - OhQP

Committee

This year's

Ohio QSO Party (OhQP) is on Saturday August 25th. Mark your calendars and join the fun!

The 2012 OhQP will start on August 25th at 1600z and runs 12 hours until August 29th at 0400z - for Ohioans, that's local noon to local midnight, EDT. In the basic QSO exchange, Ohio stations send a consecutive serial number + county, and non-Ohioans (who can only work Ohio) send a consecutive serial number plus their state, VE province, or "DX". Suggested frequencies are: CW: 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz; SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,450 kHz.

Full details and an OhQP Operating Guide can be found on the OhQP website at: www.ohqp.org/ Check the rules for some minor changes, and the addition of 2 new mults.

If you plan to get on, please submit your plans on this form so we can cover all 88 Ohio counties <http://ohqp.org/plannedOpsEntryOhQP.html> . 73 and please spread the word to your club members (via reflectors and news letters)! Let set a new record for activity this year!

THE RANDOM WIRE

Tom Wayne, WB8N

CARS ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Another CARS FAMILY is in the books as they say. This was the 7th annual family picnic and the best one yet in my opinion. You'll understand that statement more as you continue to read this column.

First of all I want to thank everyone that pitched in with all the great deserts and side dishes, including George, K8KR, for his famous "secret recipe" coleslaw, and Dwaine for bringing out baked beans to augment my "infamous" Cowboy Beans. The compression ratio really grew as the evening went on!

Special thanks to Bob, W8GC and his wife Betty for getting all the burgers, brats, hot dogs and cutting up all the peppers, onions, tomatoes etc. Also to Bill, WU8A and Metro, W8MET and their wives for helping as well. Thanks to Steve, N8SRJ, for helping me with the grilling and bringing his own grilling utensils. Thanks to Gary, N18Z, for helping on the grills too. Thanks also to Ed Stevens, WB8ROK for bringing out the coolers full of soft drinks and water.

There were a total of 55 people who responded that they would be attending the picnic but since not everyone signed the sign-in-sheet, a final total count of attendees could not be made.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves during the evening, and the food seemed to go over well also. There was plenty of everything for everyone in the chow category and I did not hear any complaints.

Once everyone was pretty much done with chowing down, the evening's program got underway, with CARS President Toby Kolman, WT80 emcing. First on the agenda was pulling the winning tickets for the Tina Check, W8HBI Scholarship fund raffle.

The winner of the \$100.00 prize was Ron, K8VJG, pictured with some hungry CARS member helping himself to some cheesecake at the desert table in the background. It looks like Ronnie has a plate full of something also.



The winner of the \$200.00 prize was Bob, W8GC, pictured below with WT80 and a big smile on his face..



And the winner of the big one, the \$300.00 prize was none other than myself, WB8N, shown below with a big smile on my face as well.



Next came the awarding of the \$500.00 Tina Check Scholarships to the two lucky recipients. The first one went to Kelly Dobeck, daughter of CARS member Michael Dobeck, K8CKC.



The second scholarship went to CARS member Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS.



Congratulations to all of the winners, and good luck to the scholarship recipients in their educational endeavors.

All in all I think everyone had a great time, with great people and great food. And the little bit of rain that fell largely went unnoticed because of the fine facility we had the use of, with even the grills being undercover! A couple of guys motorcycles got a bit damp (Toby & one of Bob's employees) but they dried them off and the sun was shining again when it was time to mount up and ride off into the sunset.

So thanks again to all those that helped to make this Annual CARS Family Picnic a success and to

everyone that attended. Most of you I look forward to seeing at the next regular CARS meeting, which by the way is the last picnic meeting in the Metro Park for the summer, and the family members and friends I look forward to seeing next year.

So 73 for now and hope to see you at the meeting Tuesday, August 14th, at the Harriet Keeler Pavilion of the Metro Parks, off Rt. 82, or on the air. Don't forget the weekly CARS net on Wednesday nights at 9:00 p.m. De, Tom, WB8N

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N8SRJ & WB8N flipping burgers

Check out the CARS website for more picnic photos by W8GC and NI8Z.

The Wobbly Oscillator is a monthly publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society (CARS) P.O. Box 31264 Independence, OH 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any Amateur Radio related publication provided that credit is given to this newsletter and to the author, if known. All submissions should be sent to: newsletter@2cars.org before the end of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter.

**Please support the NEW
CARS gift card (scrip)
program. There will be
detailed information and
order forms on
www.2cars.org in the next
week. Contact Dave NF80
or Bob W8GC to order
your cards**

CARS 2012 Officers & Committees

Audit

NI8Z ** WT80, K8SAS

Audio/Video

NI8Z **

ARRL Liaison & Media Representative

NI8Z **

ARRL WAS & VUCC Checker

K8ME **

Awards

W8GC ** WT80

Christmas Party

W8GC ** WU8A, K8SAS, KG8MTG

Constitution/By-laws

WT80** all Board members, WB8ROK, WA8ZJV

Development

W8GC ** All officers

Diabetes events

WB8N ** All CARS members

Field Day

WT80 ** W8GC

Field Day food 2012

N8BBB **

License classes

W8GC ** WT80 ** NI8Z, W8MET, KD8ACO

Mentor/Elmer & Community Education

W8MET **

Membership

W8GC **

NET

WT80 **

Newsletter

WB8N ** 440-232-4193

Club Photographer

K8OAE **

Summer Picnic 2012

W8GC ** WB8N **

Program director

WT80 ** NF80, KD8QBB, KD8QUE, KD8FTS, WA8ZJV

Property Custodian s

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

QSL manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at meetings & Picnic

** WB8ROK, pop ** K8DMT, coffee
** K8VJG, donuts

50/50

K8DMT

Scholarship

K8REF ** NI8Z, WT80, K8ME, W8GC

School Programs

KD8V **

Gift Card (Scrip) Sales

W8GC** NF80**

Sunshine (welfare)

Gary Dewey, NI8Z **
216-642-8705

Technical

W8GC ** N8OVW **

VE Exams

NI8Z ** 216-642-8705

Web Master/e-mail

W8EBB ** W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2012 Officers

PRESIDENT

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president@2cars.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

Gary Dewey, NI8Z 216-642-8705
vice-president@2cars.org

SECRETARY

Dwayne Modock K8ME 440-582-3462
secretary@2cars.org

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750
treasurer@2cars.org

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Tom Wayne, WB8N 440-232-4193, 216-253-0540 c

even year executive board 2 year term

WB8N, W8EBB, NF80

odd year executive board 2 year term

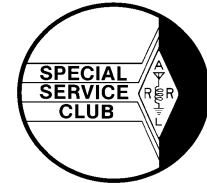
K8KR, K8SAS, K8REF

K8ZFR trustee

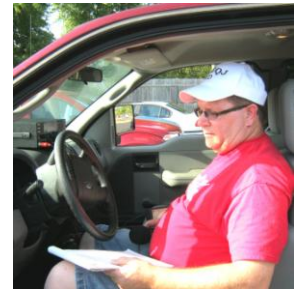
WB8N

W8HBI, W8BM

trustee
W8GC



Amateur Radio Cruise-In



So you think that you have one of the best amateur radio mobile installations to be found? Well here is your chance to show off that mobile rig and have the opportunity to compare it to dozens of others, HF, VHF, UHF, you name it.



On Wednesday, August 15, 2012, starting at 5:00 p.m., the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) will be sponsoring an Amateur Radio Cruise-In Night at the **A&W** Restaurant located at 769 East Main Street in Ravenna.



Hams from all over Northeast Ohio will be cruising in to check out the wide variety of mobile radio setups and get some ideas for their own vehicles. Prizes will be awarded for the most unique and the ugliest installations and for the most number of states worked by an HF mobile rig from the A&W between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. (the station must be capable of "mobile operation" - not fixed portable).

Have you wondered how well screwdriver antennas perform? Confused about how best to run your power cables from the battery to the passenger compartment? How have other hams dealt with all that noise generating equipment in newer cars? Can you work DX from your truck? Need a solution for mounting that remote control head?

Well come on by and get those questions answered while you enjoy a burger, some fries, and a mug of **A&W** root beer. Enjoy an evening of ham radio fellowship and fun and get to know other hams from throughout the area.



Talk-in will be on the N8EQJ repeater,
146.895 MHz, PL 110.9

More information can be found at the PCARS web site,

www.portcars.org or contact

Tom, WB8LCD, at WB8LCD@portcars.org or 330-626-1901

