

# THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR



## EDITOR'S DESK

*Roy Hadden, KB8VJF*

**HELP WANTED:** The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society is looking for a member or members to step up and fill the role of Editor for The Wobbly Oscillator. The current Editor has taken an out-of-town work assignment and will be unable to perform the duties as required. The current and previous Editors have used PageMaker software, but any word processing software experience will suffice. The Editor does not need to be a literary artist, only able to arrange articles submitted by the membership and other sources.

Articles should still be submitted to Newsletter@cars.org before the end of each month to be published in the following month's issue. Keep in mind that this newsletter is only as good as the articles submitted by the membership. This month's issue is a good example of non-participation.



## APRIL MEETING TIME CHANGE

*Tom Wayne, WB8N*

We have confirmed that a representative from Cuy-Co-Skywarn (formerly Skywarn) will be at our April meeting to present the tornado spotter training session. However, it has been requested that he be able to start his program at 7:30 p.m. Therefore, we will have a short meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. I hope this will not be a hardship for anyone. Get there as soon as you are able. Thanks, 73,



## VE NEWS

*Gary Dewey, NI8Z*

### C.A.R.S. Volunteer Examinations

The test schedule for the year 2000 Volunteer Examinations have been scheduled. The location of all Amateur Radio Examinations will be 6652 Brecksville Rd, Independence at the Independence TownHall.

The examinations will be held on the Odd month, second Sunday at 9 am. The dates for your planning calendar:

- May 14
- July 9
- September 10
- November 12

The cost of taking the test will be \$6.65. Everyone taking a test for a new license or an upgrade must bring a valid picture I.D. The original and a copy of their license, any CSCEs are necessary.

Bring an ink pen to fill out the new 605 form plus 2 pencils with erasers for the written tests. Everyone fill out the new 605 form should have their social security number.

Contact NI8Z, Gary Dewey at 216-642-1399 or email to gdewey@en.com for further information and special request.

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**OFFICERS**

**President**

Tom Wayne, WB8N  
440-232-4193  
President@cars.org

**Vice-President**

Gary Dewey, NI8Z  
216-642-1399  
VicePresident@cars.org

**Secretary**

Glen Shore, KG8MR  
330-425-9762  
Secretary@cars.org

**Treasurer**

Judy Crane, KC8FHE  
216-524-1537  
Treasurer@cars.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Odd Year Expiration**

Gordon Kolus, KC8IOU  
330-225-6917  
KC8IOU@cars.org

Terry Pillatt, KB8DTC  
330-273-1043  
KB8DTC@cars.org

**Even Year Expiration**

Roy Hadden, KB8VJF  
330-468-3020  
KB8VJF@cars.org

Phyllis Collins, KC8DVL  
216-883-3718  
KC8DVL@cars.org

**License Trustee**

Greg Kopp, KG8O  
216-577-1388  
Trustee@cars.org

Send E-mail to all C.A.R.S. officers at  
Officers@cars.org

**COMMITTEES**

**ARC Disaster Liaison**

Ev Chitester, WA8EYF  
216-581-3657  
WA8EYF@cars.org

**Communications Trailer**

Rich James, N8FIL  
330-468-2035  
N8FIL@cars.org

**Dayton Bus Tour**

Roger Boehnlein, N8TCP  
440-843-6723  
N8TCP@cars.org

**Digipeater**

Tom Wayne, WB8N  
440-232-4193  
WB8N@cars.org

**Field Day**

Gary Dewey, NI8Z  
216-642-1399  
NI8Z@cars.org

**Hamfest**

Rich James, N8FIL  
330-468-2035  
Hamfest@cars.org

**Jamboree On The Air**

Roy Hadden, KB8VJF  
330-468-3020  
KB8VJF@cars.org

**Membership**

Dave Morley, W8IXY  
440-884-8850  
Membership@cars.org

**Net**

Phyllis Collins, KC8DVL  
216-883-3718  
KC8DVL@cars.org

**Newsletter**

Roy Hadden, KB8VJF  
330-468-3020  
Newsletter@cars.org

**Statutory Agent**

Rich James, N8FIL  
330-468-2035  
N8FIL@cars.org

**Technical / VA Hospital**

Rich James, N8FIL  
330-468-2035  
Technical@cars.org

**VE Exams**

Gary Dewey, NI8Z  
216-642-1399  
NI8Z@cars.org

**Web Site / E-mail**

Greg, Kopp, KG8O  
216-577-1388  
KG8O@cars.org

*The Wobbly Oscillator* is a monthly publication of The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society. Articles may be reprinted in any amateur radio-related publication provided that credit is given to the newsletter and the author.

Submissions received by the end of the month will be published in the following month's Wobbly Oscillator.

Send articles by E-mail to:  
**Newsletter@cars.org**

or by U.S. mail to:

**The Wobbly Oscillator**  
1176 Saybrook Drive  
Macedonia, OH 44056-2407

*(Do not send dues to this address!)*

**K8ZFR**



## FROM THE PREZ'S SHACK

*Tom Wayne, WB8N*

### The Random Wire HAMFESTS

I have been to quite a few hamfests in the past few months, some of which I hadn't been to in a few years. It seems to me that hamfest activity is picking up once again after a period of lower attendance. Hopefully this trend will carry over to the C.A.R.S. Father's Day hamfest. We have been handing out fliers for our hamfest to the vendors, and response seems to be good.

Besides making the rounds of the vendors and seeing mostly the same old stuff on display, I have met some old friends at a few of the hamfests that I had not seen in awhile so that made it worthwhile in itself.

The big one....the Dayton Hamvention is coming up soon. This one should be unique, as the ARRL is holding their annual convention in conjunction with the Hamvention this year. This is the year to go if you have not been to the Dayton Hamvention before.

### BADGES? WE DON'T NEED NO STINKING BADGES!

We might not need em, but we like to wear em. At the last meeting we invited Marv Secrest, owner and operator of M & K Engraving to attend. He showed up with an assistant and set up shop making photo ID badges with the C.A.R.S. logo, and any other badge designs you might want, for our members. I think that almost everyone in attendance had at least one badge made. We have invited Marv to set up at our Father's Day hamfest as well.

### PSK31

Also at the last meeting, we had a great demonstration of the fairly new digital mode called PSK31. This demo was put on by Glenn Shore KG8MR, with the able assistance of Roger Boehnlein N8TCP. Glenn gave a history of the development of

the mode and then put on a demonstration and explanation of how the mode worked and how simple and easy it is to set up and use this mode of communication. Thanks to Glenn and Roger for a great job.

As a result of this demo, I have heard of at least two members who have tried PSK31 themselves. One of which, Mike Thomas KB8BMY, has shown just how simple it is to use this mode. Instead of making up a cable to run from the computer to the transceiver, he simply placed the microphone in front of the computer speaker and had a qso with another station that way! Way to go Mike!

### APRIL MEETING

For our program at the April meeting on Wed, the 19th, we plan to have a representative from CuyCoSkywarn (the new name for Skywarn) talk about the program and give the Skywarn training session. This is a "should attend" meeting as the weather concerns us all, and with our emergency communications ability this is one way we can do something for the community by participating in the Skywarn program.

I hope to see a big turnout for this one.

### LOTS OF LICENSE UPGRADES

With the changes in the licensing structure by the FCC, lots of amateurs, including some of our members, have been upgrading, or will come April 15th. If you were licensed as a technician before 1987 but do not have proof, worry no more. We have a 1987 call book, and if you are in there, you are in like Flynn. All you have to do is pay the fee, fill out the paper work and you will be a General Class licensee! You can call Gary Dewey N18Z and he will be happy to check the book for you.

### GENTLE REMINDER

If you have not yet renewed your membership in C.A.R.S. and are not sure of your expiration/renewal date, check with Judy KC8FHE and she will be glad to check for you.

If you know your expiration date, and it is near or past, please get your dues in so there is no lapse in your membership. We would not want you to miss an issue of the Wobbly Oscillator now would we?

### THAT'S IT FOR THIS MONTH

That about does it for this month folks. Hope to see you at the next meeting. Get on the air and make yourself known.

73 for now...

de Tom, WB8N



## SPECIAL EVENT STATION

*Dave Dressler, KD8V*

On Friday May 5th & Saturday May 6th at 9:00AM to 4:00PM (both days) at Arrowhead Elementary School in Copley OH, CARS is celebrating the school's Nature Zone with a special event station. The Nature Zone project has transformed three acres of the school's backyard from a barren expanse of grass into a biodiverse land lab and a wildlife habitat. This area will be utilized as an outdoor classroom for 425 students, grades K thru 4. The Nature Zone's many highlights are the greenhouse, flower, vegetable, herb and butterfly gardens. Surrounding areas include a birdwatching site, a prairie/meadow, rock garden, an erosion site, pond and a weather station. The faculty and students are very excited about CARS coming to help celebrate their Nature Zone Day. I would like some club members to volunteer some time to operate the station. Please let me know if you can help. I will also hand out a signup sheet and maps at the next meeting. Thanks, Dave KD8V

# K8ZFR



**GEARVAKF BULLETIN**

*Tom Wayne*

*Reprinted with permission from the GEARVAKf (the f is silent) Bulletin.*

**ORIGIN OF KILOCYCLES & MEGACYCLES**

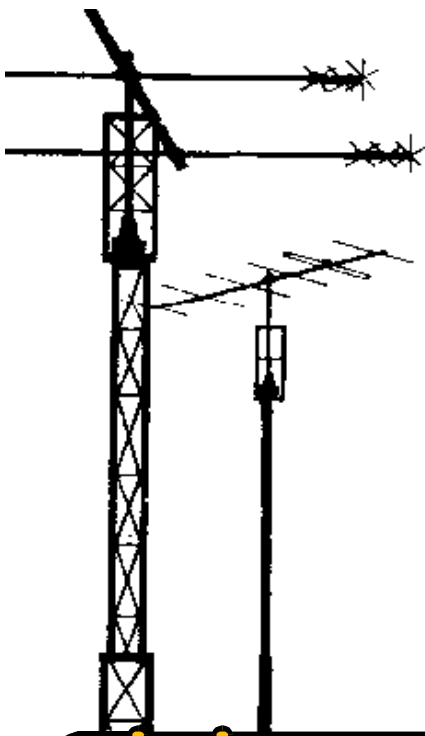
*by WT8R*

While searching the Archives of the GEARVACf library for the genealogy of Heinrich Hertz, we discovered another famous ancestor of his, Mr. K. M. Cycles. Mr Cycles emigrated to the U.S. during the early 1900's and being of European descent, apparently thought it best to drop the second name to appear more American. We found thousands of references to his work on Kilowatt linear amplifiers in technical publications and concluded that perhaps an abbreviated reference to his work was responsible for his nickname, Kilo. Kilo Cycles' wife, Megan, assisted him with the preparation of his manuscripts for publication and is often quoted in footnotes, as Megan Cycles (later shortened to Mega Cycles by the printer for brevity).

**HAMS TO BOYCOTT SUN FOR LACK OF SPOTS**

*by DF5AI*

Well-informed sources report that ham operators in middle and polar latitudes plan to initiate a boycott against the Sun. These ham operators blame the Sun to provide insufficient spots, flares and flux in order to allow transequatorial propagation on 6 meters even at higher latitudes. The spokesman of the initiative RAAFSS (Radio Amateurs Against Too Few Sunspots) said to journalists: "We no longer tolerate the Sun's inactivity in this respect. If the Sun is not willing to open the 6 meter band to us we will ignore sunny weather as well as summer holidays and will refuse shorts, T-shirts, and sun glasses in this season in order to protest against this propagational discrimination". Radio amateurs living between 35 degree Northern and Southern latitudes are indeed sympathetic with RAAFSS's initiative. In order not to demoralize their colleagues at higher latitudes these hams will no longer report 59+ QSOs across the equator. Instead they will claim that all signals were poor, noisy and extremely difficult to handle. The Sun, deeply impressed about this solidarity in the worldwide ham community, already promised to boost transequatorial propagation on Earth as soon as possible. As a symbol of good will the Sun will open the ZD8VHF path to all mid-European hams in the near future.



**Ride the C.A.R.S. Bus to Dayton Hamfest**

<b>Saturday, May 20, 2000</b>	\$30.00 Bus Ticket
2:00 AM – Leave Cleveland	Hamfest admission not included.
6:30 AM – Stop for Breakfast	<b>Call Roger, N8TCP</b>
7:30 AM – Arrive Dayton	440-843-6723
4:00 PM – Leave Dayton	<b>Send E-mail to</b>
8:30 PM – Arrive Cleveland	N8TCP@cars.org

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## EDITOR'S ADDENDUM

*Roy Hadden, KB8VJF*

I have come to find out that messages sent to Newsletter@cars.org were not forwarded to my personal E-mail account over the past month. I hope that explains the smaller issue this month and I that I have to take back my comment about non-participation.

I am publishing the March Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report as an addendum to the April issue of the W.O. Any other lost articles will be published in the May issue if you resend them to my personal E-mail address, RoyHadden@Adelphia.net . Hopefully, the Newsletter@cars.org address will be working again soon; but feel free to send messages to my RoyHadden@Adelphia.net account. It would also be a good idea to ask for confirmation and call if you don't get one.



## MEETING MINUTES

*Glen Shore, KG8MR*

Minutes of the regular Club meeting held on March 15th, 2000, at the Busch Community Room as recorded by Glenn KG8MR. The March CARS meeting was called to order by Tom WB8N at 8:30 p.m. Members in attendance included Judy KC8FHE, Jim KB8SQF, Ron K8VJG, Fred NO2O, Phyllis KC8DVL, Gordon KC8IOU, Bill AA8WJ, Gary NI8Z, Terry KB8DTC, Blaine KA8KPB, Ron KC8JFK, Bob KC8MRC, Greg KB8YLX, Sam WB8UES, Roger N8TCP, Dave KD8V, Ed WB2TDC, Nick WA8LOB, Jim N8GXR, Lin WD8SDP, Ed KC8BOJ, Chuck W8QXA, Mike KB8BMY, Tom WB8N, David W8IXY, Ray WD8OMK, Rich N8FIL, Carl WA8AA, and Glenn KG8MR.

The list of guests, and visitors included Pat Dressler and Brian James.

### CHANGES TO THE MINUTES

The minutes were accepted with no changes.

### CHANGES TO THE TREASURER REPORT

The report was accepted with no changes.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS: VE REPORT (Gary NI8Z)

The VE session on March 12<sup>th</sup> processed 26 individuals. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence of an attendance greater than 20. One individual at this session, progressed from Novice to Extra, and passed the 5 and 13 WPM tests as well. The new structuring has "energized" the interest in testing, setting two attendance records.

A paperwork only session is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>. It is projected that over 100 people will turnout for this session. A special closed VE session is scheduled for Rockwell Automation on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Gary was surprised there were only a few no-code upgrades taking advantage of the free 5 wpm testing before April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### DAYTON BUS TRIP

Roger N8TCP reports that bus is now about half full.

### MEMBERSHIP

No applicants were processed or voted upon.

### TECHNICAL/REPEATER

Rich N8FIL reported that the committee has not met recently, nor has there been any further progress on the interference problems being experienced by the 6 meter repeater (1/19/2000).

Tom WB8N reported that the north input of the repeater has been noisy, requiring that input to be shut down on occasion, the source of the disturbance had not been determined.

No status was given for the previously stated open issues:

- APRS digipeater consideration. (1/19/2000)

- "Track is empty" issue on 146.82 repeater (1/19/2000)

Tom reported that Greg KG8O has received a donation of a 486 computer.

### HAMFEST

Rich N8FIL is currently waiting for the school to confirm its availability. Hamfest tickets, flyers, and ham drawing tickets have been printed. Gary NI8Z and Tom WB8N are distributing Hamfest flyers at upcoming hamfests. Tom has contacted QST, CQ and 73 magazine to post the C.A.R.S. hamfest information.

Pricelists from AES have been received for prize consideration. N8FIL suggested that the prize consist of a HF piece of equipment due to the recent interest in license upgrades making HF equipment a more desirable prize. Prize selection and associated costs are still being reviewed.

### Field Day Committee: Gary NI8Z

A discussion was held about the aspects of combining field day efforts with the Chippewa Amateur Radio Club. They are planning to use the Brecksville VA site for their field day activities. Gary NI8Z has spoke with the Chippewa field day committee, and made the suggestion of a joint 5A operation, which they welcomed.

However, as a joint Chippewa ARC/C.A.R.S field day there would be some restrictions. C.A.R.S would have to provide the food budget for station operations. The call for field day would have to be W8BAA, not K8ZFR. No alcohol would be permitted on the field day site. In return, Chippewa ARC would provide coffee and rolls and the use of 2 portable sanitary facilities.

A short discussion was held on the field topics proposed. Mike KB8BMY raised concerns over the loss of the club's "call sign" recognition. Mike asked that the club consider running field day independently. In response, Gary NI8Z sug-

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gested that by trying a new site, we could pose a realistic challenge to the club - "overcoming new obstacles in unfamiliar settings."

Last years church site has not yet been ruled out, though other sites requiring less preparation effort were being considered. Gary received verbal commitments from five members to set up stations at field day. Gary would like to give the Chippewa ARC a definitive answer on joint participation by their April or May club meeting.

### BOARD MEETING REPORT:

A board meeting was held February 20<sup>th</sup> with the following agenda:

Establish a repeater manual distribution date (Greg-KG8O).

Insure web page updates (Greg-KG8O).

Assign Field Day chairperson.

Discuss the format of the treasurer's report in the WO.

Decide if guest speakers could receive token gifts of appreciation. The last two speakers were sent token tickets to the C.A.R.S hamfest.

Schedule an equipment list inventory date.

### OLD BUSINESS

Dave KD8V gave us an update on the planned special event station (SES) Copley/Fairlawn School's Nature Zone. A SES certificate has been designed with student participation. The event is scheduled May 5th and 6th. Dave has received equipment and operator support; and hopes those who cannot attend will try to contact the club on the air.

### NEW BUSINESS

Gary NI8Z announced the ARRL was coming up with a new education program. The ARRL was inviting input from their members on their new certification and continuing education program. For more info refer to the ARRL web page: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

Tom WB8N announced April 8th, a missing person drill will be conducted at

the Boy Scout Camp Butler, in Peninsula, OH. (Great Lakes Search and Rescue)

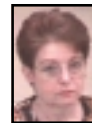
### ADJOURNMENT

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m., followed by the program presentation.

### PROGRAM PRESENTATION

M&K engraving provided all members present with the opportunity to purchase photo IDs with the C.A.R.S logo or SKY WARN insignia. Most of the 31 members present took advantage of this opportunity to purchase these professional looking ID's. The two M&K workers received a round of applause for their fine efforts.

Glenn KG8MR and Roger N8TCP conducted a demonstration and talk on the increasingly popular mode known as PSK-31. The emphasis was on ease of use with this narrow band, keyboard to keyboard mode. Technical aspects and general operating techniques were presented to the group. A "live setup" was also demonstrated on 20 meters using a R5 vertical, a Yaesu FT-757 HF Transceiver, and a Dell computer running DigiPan and WinPSK (PSK31) software. The plug was finally pulled on the station around 11 p.m.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Judy Crane, KC8FHE*

Income vs. Spending  
03/01/2000 Through 04/01/2000

Income Categories

Total Income Categories ..... 406.00

Expense Categories

Total Expense Categories ..... 177.02

Grand Total ..... 228.98

### Please Send Dues To:

Judy Crane, KC8FHE  
C.A.R.S. Treasurer  
6531 Tanglewood Lane  
Seven Hills, OH 44131

# K8ZFR



*Ninth Annual*

# Father's Day

**Sunday**  
**June 18, 2000**  
 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
*Vendor set-up starts at 6:00 AM.*

**Nordonia High School**  
 8006 South Bedford Road  
 Macedonia, Ohio

Near Route I-271 Exit 18  
 Between Cleveland and Akron



**Hamfest,  
 Computer Show  
 and Electronics  
 Flea Market**

Tickets are \$4.00 advance,  
 \$5.00 at the door.

**PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES**

**Grand Prize**  
*Dual-band Mobile*

**Check-in Prize**  
*Drawing at 11:30*

**Door Prizes**

*Drawings at 10:00, 11:00 and 12:00*

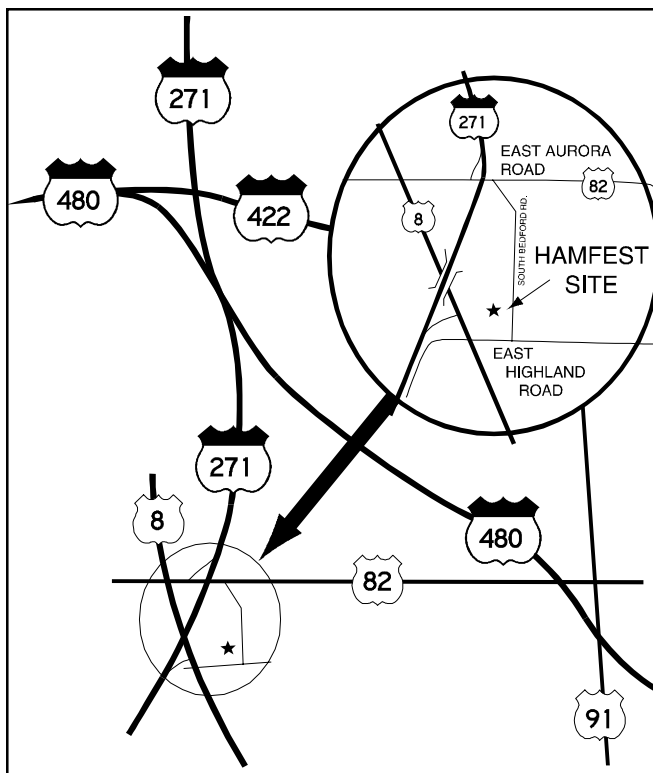
**Ham Raffle**

*Drawing at 12:30*

Certificate for a Honey-Baked Ham

**Talk-in 146.82(-) Repeater**

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE**



**Information  
 and  
 Indoor or Outdoor  
 Vendor Space Reservations**

Indoor vendors registered by March 31  
 receive their first table and admission free.

**Call or FAX**

Rich James, N8FIL  
 330-468-6021

**Send U.S. Mail**

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society  
 PMB 133  
 526 W. Aurora Rd.  
 Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

**Send E-mail**

Hamfest@cars.org

**C.A.R.S. WWW Home Page**

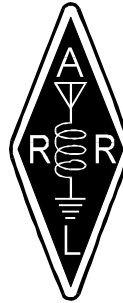
<http://www.cars.org>

# THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR

April, 2000

## CLUB FREQUENCIES

70cm repeaters	443.825 MHz	Input 448.825 MHz PL 131.8 Hz
	444.750 MHz	Input 449.750 MHz PL 131.8 Hz
2m repeater	146.820 MHz	Input 146.220 MHz PL 110.9 Hz
2m simplex	146.475 MHz	
2m digipeater	145.070 MHz	Node CARS or K8ZFR
6m repeaters	53.010 MHz	Input 52.010 MHz PL 136.5 Hz
	53.830 MHz	Input 52.830 MHz PL 107.2 Hz
Internet	<a href="http://www.cars.org">http://www.cars.org</a>	

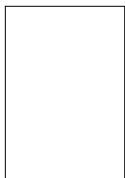


## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 2000  
 Busch Community Room  
 7501 Ridge Road  
 South of Pleasant Valley  
 Parma, Ohio  
 Meeting starts at 7:00 PM



Time to renew your membership?  
 Check the expiration date on your address label.



The Wobbly Oscillator  
 1176 Saybrook Drive  
 Macedonia, Ohio 44056-2407  
 (Do not send dues to this address!)

