

PCARS Field Day - 2021



Tony, WA8AR
Field Day Chairman



First and foremost let me thank everyone who volunteered to support our PCARS Field Day effort; without your support we could not make this happen. Special thanks go out to all the Station Captains and Special Engineering Task Captains who all put together excellent stations and did a great job managing operations or put together bulletproof engineering support systems (IT and Power Generation). This year's Station Captains were: Ed K8IV [40 meters]; Mike N8WCP [20 meters]; Rick K8CAV [Flex Station]; George K3GP [CW Station]; Mike KB8TUY [VHF Station]; Jim AC8NT [GOTA Station/Training]. Engineering Support Captains: James KD8VT [Power Team] and Zeb KD8WZS [IT and Network]. Special Support Positions: Parky KB8UUZ [Public Information Table, Log Processing and ARRL Entry]; Nick AC8QG [Public Information Officer].

Let's not forget all those that worked as operators or loggers. Many worked multiple shifts to keep stations on the air making contacts, they did a great job. And finally thanks to all the members who came out to help with setup and tear down. They got everything up and ready to operate well before Field Day operations were to start, and teardown was accomplished without incident leaving the park in the condition we found it before Field Day.

COVID did impact turnout as some people had made other plans before the vaccination program made working together safe again, without the need for masks. From talking with many of our members, our group had a much higher percentage of vaccinations as compared to the general public, in my opinion that made our event very "COVID Safe".

Overall we made a lot of contacts, people who were there seemed to have a good time, and that is what it was all about. Now we have to wait to hear how other clubs did and see where we rank this year. It is a big event and tabulating scores will take the ARRL a while to complete....Stay Tuned!!

Thanks and congratulations to all who participated in PCARS Field Day 2021.



PCARS Field Day 2021 - Submitted to ARRL

The final PCARS Field Day 2021 report was done and sent in to the ARRL. It was submitted by Parky on the ARRL's web ap for Field day and the additional required information was also included as an upload. Everything has been received and accepted. Now we have to wait until later this year (usually in December) to see how we did compared to the other 4A stations in Ohio and the USA. It was a GREAT Field Day and all went fine and it appeared all had FUN. Only 11 more months until Field Day 2022. Start planning NOW.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service - Field Day 2021

Call Used: **K8BF** GOTA Call: **KD8WZS** ARRL/RAC Section: **OH** Class: **4A**

Participants: **48** Power Source(s): **Generator, Battery, Solar** Power Multiplier: **2X**

Score Submitted: 10,316 + Bonus 1,730 = 12,046

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	1,035	575	1,938	3,548	
Total Points	2,070	1,150	1,938	5,158	X2 = Claimed Score = 10,316 (not including bonus)

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Set up in a Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=11	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100

Description	Points
Site Visit by invited elected official	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Educational activity	100
Youth Element Achieved	80
Submitted via the Web	50
Social Media	100
Safety Officer	100
Total Bonus Points	1,730

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
80m	180	100	131	100	22	100
40m	809	100	85	100	1,476	100
20m	3	100	257	100	424	100
15m	43	100	7	100	-	-
10m	-	-	7	100	-	-
6m	-	-	88	100	6	100
GOTA	-	-	-	-	10	100
Total	1,035		575		1,938	3,548

First K8BF Contact was logged at 1802 UTC on June 26th by the **40 Meter Phone Station** to K2AA in NJ.
3538th K8BF Contact was logged at 1759 UTC on June 27th by the **20 Meter Phone Station** to N9GMT in WI.





Contact Totals by Operator

#	Operator	Contacts
1	ND8L	558
2	WB9LBI	395
3	KD8DFL	265
4	K8IV	260
5	K8RR	216
6	N8BI	207
7	K8KSU	184
8	N8GIE	183
9	N8WCP	139
10	N8NB	137
11	W8NET	125
12	K3GP	103
13	N8QE	98
14	W8PT	88
15	W8AHC	87
16	K8CAV	70

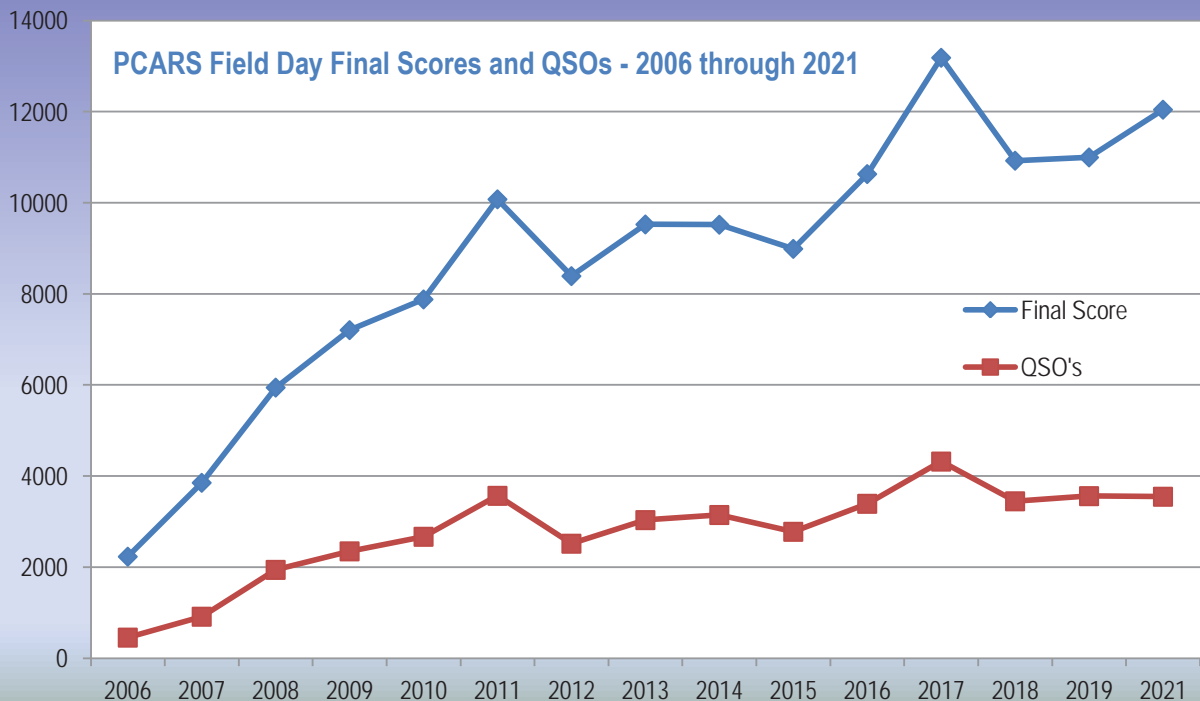
#	Operator	Contacts
17	KE8BWA	70
18	WA8LRW	47
19	KD8WCK	45
20	KA8TOA	42
21	KE8LWP	39
22	AD8FQ	35
23	N8HUC	28
24	W8GPN	25
25	WA8AR	22
26	KC3JXQ	21
27	AC8NT	20
28	KB8TUY	9
29	KE8EGF	9
30	W8KNO	7
31	W8HAC	4



Field Day - Past Field Day Comparisons

PCARS	Final QSOs	Final Score
2021 - K8BF	3,548	12,046
2019 - K8BF	3,561	10,998
2018 - K8BF	3,448	10,926
2017 - K8BF	4,320	13,186
2016 - K8BF	3,393	10,632
2015 - K8BF	2,778	8,990
2014 - K8BF	3,147	9,520
2013 - K8BF	3,035	9,526
2012 - K8BF	2,517	8,392
2011 - K8BF	3,568	10,078
2010 - K8BF	2,669	7,880
2009 - KD8CKP	2,349	7,206
2008 - KD8CKP	1,942	5,944
2007 - KD8CKP	914	3,854
2006 - KD8CKP	455	2,232
15 Year Totals	41,644	131,410

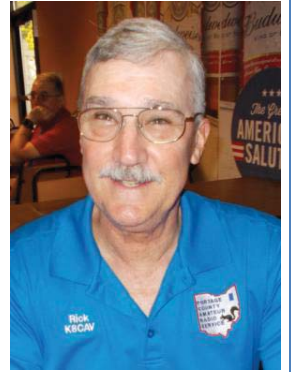
(includes bonus points)



Field Day 2021 - Flex Station



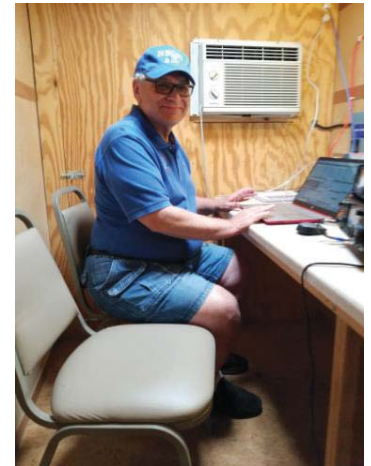
Rick, K8CAV
Field Day Flex Station Captain



PCARS Field Day is now in the books and it was a very successful event! The club decided early this year that if pandemic conditions warranted, and the Governor lifted restrictions on in-person gatherings, that we would hold a real Field Day this year. Thankfully both conditions were met and PCARS established Field Day operations at the Freedom Township Park on June 26th and 27th, though with some limitations over what occurred in previous years.



The weather forecast this year was pretty dismal until the day before Field Day, with rain and thunderstorms forecast at a 60% probability for both days. Somewhere up above the weather gods decided to smile upon us and it was partly to mostly sunny both days though quite warm with temperatures in the upper 80's. Fortunately it was quite breezy most of the time which kept things bearable. Setup of the Flex Station and antennas went well, with a minor glitch on the 80 meter antenna that fortunately, did not affect its performance.



At the Flex Station this year we used lessons learned from operating home station Field Day in 2020 to streamline digital mode operation by integrating digital mode logging directly into the N3FJP network logging app. This resulted in several positives for digital mode operations. First, it eliminated the need for a logger, which sped up contacts. It also eliminated the need for two computers which significantly decluttered the station. The use of a GPS module coupled with a computer time control app kept the computer's clock accurate which is important for successful FT4 and FT8 contacts. Operators with experience using FT4 and FT8 prior to Field Day also made for many more contacts.

The bottom line is that we broke all records for digital contacts this year (see the graph below) with a total of 509 being logged on 80 meters, 40 meters, and 20 meters.



Flex also operated phone. In the past Deron N8XTH was a huge contributor to the phone contact numbers but he had previous commitments so we only dedicated one time slot this year to phone. We were able to log 22 phone contacts. Terry KB8AMZ contributed CW contacts for Flex in past years but could not attend this year. We did get a couple of CW QSO's courtesy of one of the club's youngest members, Ben AD8FQ, **using a straight key!**

All in all it was a good year for the PCARS Flex Station. All of the operators enjoyed operating at Flex and worked hard to keep the contact numbers high. As we have in every Field day prior, we learned lessons that we'll apply next year to do even better.



There are a lot of sincere **thank-yous** to make for a successful and enjoyable Flex Station this year. First, to everyone who came out to Field Day. Whether you were there to operate, help set up, or to just be there to encourage and provide camaraderie, your presence was awesome, especially after a year in which most of us had no-where near the contact with other people we were used to. I want to recognize and give special thanks to these members who volunteered to staff the Flex Station. Jim AC8NT, J.C. KC3JXQ, Bob N8QE, Kenwood WA8LRW, Gene W8NET, John KE8MXR, Tony WA8AR, Rick KD8WCK, Andrew KE8BWA, Ben AD8FQ, and Agnes KE8LWP.



Field Day 2021 - GOTA, Youth Station



Jim, AC8NT
Field Day GOTA Station Coach



With the effects of the pandemic easing, it was great to get outside and operate at Field Day 2021. However, visitors were few and far between. As with every Field Day, the GOTA station needed to make sure we didn't interfere with any of our other stations. That meant we were operating on 10 and 15 meters.



Conditions on Saturday were to put it mildly, poor. Even digital modes showed contacts only in South America. I was running my new ICOM 705 at a full 10 watts and could not get a contact all day. We had no visitors that qualified for GOTA points. On Sunday, Zeb KD8WZS and his son were able to make some SSB contacts on 10 meters. Not enough for credit, but none the less it was a lot of fun.

It is our hope that next year, more visitors will show up to learn and experience ham radio. It is a great hobby and we need more community to experience it's fun and value.



Field Day 2021 - 20 Meter Station



Mike, N8WCP
Field Day 20 Meter Station Captain



After working field day from home last year it was great to get into the field and work with fellow club members. The weather was warm but a nice breeze kept the operators cool. At the beginning the band was crowded and it was difficult to find a spot to call CQ. Band conditions were good but QRM made it challenging at times. Some ops ran a freq, others chose to search & pounce. Regardless of the method, contacts were made and everyone had an enjoyable time. I'm looking forward to seeing our final score soon.

Field Day is truly a team effort and I would be remiss if I didn't recognize everyone who helped make FD2021 a success for PCARS and the 20M station.

- **Tony, WA8AR** our Field Day Chairman who coordinated the activities and teams to ensure a smooth operation.
- **Rick, K8CAV** our liaison to our host Freedom Township who also took the time to show me the operation of the Icom IC-7300.
- **Ed, K8IV** who put many hours into updating the tower base and falling derrick to ensure the tower went up without a hitch. Ed provided the antenna and rotator as well as delivery and removal of the tower and antenna from the site.
- **Tom, WB8LCD** for providing the all important coax to get the antenna system connected.
- **James, KD8VT** and crew for providing us with reliable power for the gear.
- **Zeb, KD8WZS** and his son for setting up the mesh network, workstations, and logging software.
- **The antenna setup and teardown team;** Bob N8QE, Joe W8KNO, Greg KA8TOA, Nick AC8QG, David KE8QEP, Ben AD8FQ, and Bob KD8CGH.
- **Our operators** who worked diligently day and night to make the contacts; Greg KA8TOA, Chuck W8PT, Agnes KE8LWP, Ben AD8FQ, Paul KE8EGF, Joe W8KNO, Bob N8QE, and Tim W8GPN. Special thank you to Greg KA8TOA and Karen N8HUC who helped our "newbie" Tim W8GPN in his first but hopefully not last field day!



If you've never worked field day, I would encourage you to volunteer next year. **It's Big Fun!**

