



# The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



August 2006 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 1 No. 7

## ~ Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD  
 Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD  
 Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ  
 3 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL  
 2 Year Trustee - Joe Wehner - W8KNO  
 1 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN

## ~ Meetings ~

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month, 7pm at Mike's Place Routes 43 and 261 in Kent

## ~ Nets ~

Thursday nights 8 PM on 146.895 PL Tones 110.9 Rootstown 114.8 Kent

**PCARS**  
 ARRL affiliated  
 April 20, 2006



## From the President

Another month has blown by – how could anyone who is a ham be bored?? Next event – The PCARS 2 meter FM Sprint – August 12<sup>th</sup>! If you're trying to log the Village of Sugar Bush Knolls, I'm your guy. I'll be operating fixed from my back porch the whole time. If you're a rover (or not), stop in for a mobile friendly beverage. It's gonna be fun! Try to get the word out to every ham you talk to over the next two weeks. More participation means more fun for everyone! The August meeting is just two days later, what do you think everyone is going to be talking about?

Lots more stuff coming up, too! The PCARS Technician class, Black Squirrel Festival, Club Picnic, Jamboree On The Air, Ohio QSO Party, Thursday evening nets - it's a GREAT time to be a ham in Portage County. We aren't going to let a little thing like a sunspot cycle minimum ruin our fun. Have you stepped out of your comfort zone yet? Tried something new? If you have, let us know about it – write it up for the next newsletter, chances are good the rest of us are interested too.

Is there someone at the club meetings you don't know too well yet? Say hello and find out what they're doing in the hobby. Get to know them.

If it weren't for the club activities, I probably wouldn't have gotten to know Carl - N4TIE, Jim - KC8RKV, Errol - KC8RJR, Bobby - WB8FEW, Bill - WB9LBI and Nick - N8WLE. Really neat guys, and a whole lot of talent and knowledge there. I'm a better ham now because of them. There's more of you I want to know better – it just takes time, and participation.

PCARS is a Great Ham Club! It's YOUR club and You all are what make so it great. Thank you! Stick around, lots more good stuff is just over the horizon (including an upswing in the sunspot cycle). I can't say it enough, and I really believe it – **What a Great Hobby Ham Radio is!**

**Tom - WB8LCD**

## From the Vice President

For a nice change of pace, the last month has been relatively quiet for the PCARS officers. We continue to explore ways that PCARS can successfully interact with other local organizations and agencies, as well as area ham radio groups, to provide opportunities for our members to enhance their radio skills and serve the community. We will be doing planning to identify equipment needs and sources of funding to continue to improve the operating environment for area hams. Don't forget, contributions to PCARS are tax deductible for the donors!

We hope that you remember that PCARS will be sponsoring a Technician Class course this Fall at the Maplewood Career Center on Tuesdays - 7 to 9:30 p.m. The cost will be \$20.00 which is paid to Maplewood, plus the \$25.00 cost of "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" sold by the ARRL. At the end of the course we will provide VE testing for the graduates. We would like to have volunteers from PCARS to assist in the class presentation and to be VE's. In the meantime, let's get the word out about the class and recruit some new hams! Watch your email for fliers about the class that will provide more information.



The Field Day committee met on July 29th to review this year's event and decide what worked and what didn't and make recommendations for the 2007 Field Day. Overall we are pretty satisfied with how well things went this year. Our total score submitted to the ARRL was 2232 points which seemed pretty respectable for the size of our club and this being our first Field Day. Your input is important so please let us know if you have any comments about the 2006 Field Day or any changes you would like to see made for next year.

If you have not yet received your copy of the excellent Field Day CD photo album put together by Tom, KB8UUZ, make sure that you check with me at the next meeting. I will have the CD's with me.

As always, we want to make sure that we are planning far enough in advance to give you plenty of notice about future events and programs. More importantly, we want to be sure that we are providing activities and information that you want. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them to me at [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org).

**Jim - KC8PD**

## In This Issue of the RADIOGRAM

ARRL Dues Rebate to PCARS	8
Black Squirrel Festival	5
CW Traffic Nets	10
Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites	3
EmComm	9
Field Day 2006 Visitor	13
Fourth of July Tornado	7
Fox Hunts in Summit County	8
From the President	1
From the Vice President	1
Fun On 2 Meters	2
Happy Birthday PCARS Members	10
KC8PD on Echo Link - Vermont	10
August Contest Calendar	13
Mark Your Calendars	6
Montenegro DX Festival	8
N4TIE is On The Air	6
N6TL on Echo Link - Antelope, California	6
Ohio QSO Party	12
Paper Chase	2
PCARS Thursday Net Schedule	14
PCARS Two Meter Simplex Contest	6 & 15
PCARS Meetings - Mike's Place	13
Pictures from the July 10th PCARS Meeting	14
Summit County ARES	6
Swap-N-Shop	10
Ten Codes and Plain English	12
Thanks	14
When Your Ham Ticket is Not Enough	4
Young Ham of the Year Award	7

### Fun On 2-Meters

The month of July has seen plenty of strange weather and even stranger band conditions! The 2 meter band has been open almost every evening, with opportunities to listen to and work hams from around the state, and even other states (if you are lucky).

It is quite an experience to hear Columbus and Dayton repeaters almost full quieting using a modest antenna sitting in your window. I have spent hours just tuning around the band looking for stations that we do not ordinarily hear. I have even heard Canadian stations on occasion, and made contacts with hams from the Canadian border down to London (Ohio, that is) - all on 2 meter repeaters, and in most cases running only five watts from my quarter-wave antenna.

I guess my point is this: While the bottom of the solar cycle is approaching rapidly - and HF propagation is deteriorating - good ol' VHF is hopping with distant stations. It may not be DX, but it can be just as exciting. So get out there and have some fun! 73

**Nick - N8WLE**



## Paper Chase

The story behind a QSL card CEOZ.



Juan Fernandez Island holds a history unto itself. Can you answer the following four questions?

1. What other name is Juan Fernandez Island known?
2. Who is its most famous visitor?
3. What novel did his visit inspire?
4. Who wrote the novel?

Read the answers below:

Frequently history is stranger than fiction and none more so than in the tale of Alexander Selkirk: the real-life Robinson Crusoe.

Born in 1676, the seventh son of a cobbler, Alexander Selkirk grew up in Lower Largo, Fife. At the age of 19 he found himself in trouble with the Kirk Session after his brother's trick of making him drink sea water resulted in a family fight. Before his case was heard, Selkirk fled to sea hoping to make his fortune through privateering (effectively legalized piracy on the King's enemies) against Spanish vessels off the coast of South America.

Within a few years his skill at navigation led to his appointment as Sailing Master on the 'Cinque Ports', a sixteen gun, ninety ton privateer. The expedition was a disaster. The captain of the ship was a tyrant and after a few sea battles with the Spanish, Selkirk feared the ship would sink. So, in an attempt to save his own life he demanded to be put ashore on the next island they encountered. In September 1704, Selkirk was castaway on the uninhabited island of Más a Tierra (today known as Robinson Crusoe Island), over 400 miles off the West Coast of Chile. He took with him a little clothing, bedding, a musket and power, some tools, a Bible and tobacco.

At first Selkirk simply read his Bible awaiting rescue, but it soon became apparent that the rescue wasn't imminent. He resigned himself to a long stay and began to make island life habitable with only rats, goats and cats for company in his lonely vigil.

After several years of isolation, two ships drew into the island's bay. Selkirk rushed to the shore, realizing a little late





that they were Spanish. Their landing party fired, forcing him to flee for his life although he managed to evade capture and the Spaniards eventually departed.

Finally On 1st of February 1709, two British privateers dropped anchor offshore. Alexander lit his signal fire to alert the ships, who dispatched a rather astonished landing party to find a 'wildman' dressed in goat skins. Remarkably the privateers' pilot was William Dampier, who had led the Selkirk's original expedition and was able to vouch for the 'wildman'.

Selkirk had spent four years and four months of isolation on the island, yet seemed stable when he was found. The experience had, in fact, saved his life. From William Dampier he learnt that he had been right to leave the 'Cinque Ports', which had sunk off the coast of Peru with all of its crew drowned except the captain and another seven men, who had survived only to be captured and left to rot in a Peruvian jail.

Selkirk re-embarked on his career as a privateer and within a year he was master of the ship that rescued him. In 1712 he returned to Scotland £800 richer, and surprised his family as they worshipped at the Kirk in Largo. They had long given him up for dead and were astonished that he was alive, let alone alive in his fine, gold and lace clothes. In 1713 he published an account of his adventures which were fictionalized six years later by Daniel Defoe in his now famous novel: 'Robinson Crusoe'.

Selkirk, however, could never really readjust to life on the land, and, in 1720, a year after he was immortalized by Defoe, he joined the Royal Navy only to die of fever off the coast of Africa.

The CE0Z DXpedition was there January 21 to January 28th - IOTA SA-005. I managed to make contacts with them on 15 and 20 meters.



**The Crusoe Hotel**

Back in Lower Largo, Fife there's The Crusoe Hotel at Largo harbor has an information and display area on the real Robinson Crusoe. It is located near the reception in an area resembling below decks on board ship complete with creaky floor. The sound of the surf pounding the shore and the sing-song calls of birds is clearly heard on board as the ship approaches Juan Fernandez. Look through the port hole and there standing on the shore waiting to be rescued is Alexander Selkirk - the real Robinson Crusoe.

The display gives an account of the life of Alexander Selkirk with reference to William Dampier and Daniel Defoe. There are also several seafaring items of interest along with the last will and testament of Alexander Selkirk.

Only 12 miles from St Andrews, and surrounded by many of the finest courses in Scotland

So there you are - the story behind the QSL card.

**Joe - W8KNO**

## **Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites**

I sure hope that you HAMS have been working all the DX that has been available during the bottom of the sun spot cycle. If this is the bottom, I sure can't wait until we're at or near the top.

There have been some very interesting stations on lately. Twenty meters has been really hopping and we even had a huge 6 meter opening this month into Europe. So if you haven't been hearing much, I suggest that you actually plug the antenna coax into your rig. Hi Hi. Let's get on with it!!



**5W** - A number of 8 land HAMS will be active from Upolu, Samoa (OC-097) from 27 July - 10 August. Operating 160-6 meters CW, SSB and RTTY with 3 stations.

**9A** - PH2CV operate on all bands SSB as 9A/PH2CV/P from Krk Is (EU-136) 22 July - 12 August. QSL via home call.

**GM** - G4BYB is active as GM3PPG/P from South Uist (EU-010) until 13 August.

**HI** - KB2MS will be active as HI3/KB2MS from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic (NA-096) from 28 July until around 23 August. Activity will be on all bands except 160 meters. QSL via home call

**HL** - DS4DRE will be active as DS4DRE/4 from Hong Island (AS-093) from now until the end of the year. He plans to operate on 10-80 meters SSB and CW. QSL via home call, direct or bureau

**SM** - SM2OAN is now active as 7S2S from Seskaro Is (EU-139). He expects to remain there through July, and to return during the weekends in August, September and October. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. On-line logs are available.

**SV** - IK2XYG Will operate as SV8/IK2XYG from Corfu (EU-052) from 24 July to 12 August. QSL via home call.

**SV** - PA9M and SV8GXC will be active as SV8/PA9M/p from Chios Island (EU-049) between 29 July and 10 August. QSL via PA9M.

**V4** - DL2AAZ will operate as V47/DL2AAZ from Nevis Is (NA-104) from 20 July to 10 August. He plans to operate on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB and CW. QSL via home call.

**W** - W2JU active as W2JU/1 from Martha's Vineyard (NA-046) until Sept 2nd. Mainly CW. QSL via home call

**YU** - Special event call 4O7WWYC will be aired until 31 August to celebrate the 7th anniversary of the World Wide Young Contesters ([www.wwyc.net](http://www.wwyc.net)) and the 3rd WWYC meeting to be held on 9-14 August in Novi Sad, Serbia. QSL via YT7AW. Full details can be found at [www.wwyc2006.atSPACE.com/](http://www.wwyc2006.atSPACE.com/)

## **DXCC NEWS**

**YU6AO** (Montenegro, operation which started 4 July 2006) has been approved for DXCC credit

**CE** - Special callsign CE70RG (CE Seven Zero RG) will be aired on 80-10 meters SSB and CW for one month starting on 22 July to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Radio Club Rancagua. QSL via IZ8CLM, direct or bureau.

**YU6 - 4O3T** (QSL via YT6A) is the callsign that is being used by the large multi-national team of operators who will attend the International DX Festival Montenegro 2006 between 20 July and 13 August.

**YU6** - A large team of operators (19 & possibly others...whew!!) Active as YU6AO all bands and modes with 4 stations from Podgorica, Montenegro till 15 August. (4 stations & 19+ ops makes for a long line to operate.)

### ***Added Extras***

Maurizio, I1-21171/IZ1CRR has created a "425 Toolbar" with several useful features - you can search a string in the 425DXN bulletins or a callsign in qrz.com or dxwatch.com, have fast links to 425DXN calendars, bulletins, magazines, old DX spots and links to DXWatch spots, plus several ham RSS feeds for news, a chat feature and more. Further information and free download at <http://425.ourtoolbar.com/> (no personal information is required).

**KH8SI** - Swains Island has been added to the DXCC list as current entity #337 and contacts made with it on or after 00.01 UTC, July 22, 2006 will count for DXCC credit.

Well, that's it for this month. So until next time, 73s to all and let's get on the air!! See you on 20 meters!!!

***Chuck - K8CMP***

### ***When Your Ham Ticket is NOT ENOUGH***

I recently spent some time taking my required FEMA certifications online. Required? Required by who?

Well -- There was a time when being an Amateur Radio Operator also meant that we as Hams would also step up and provide emergency communications both locally and nationally in the event of a disaster. It was always something I have taken as the foundation of WHY we have Ham radio to begin with, I mean -- It's kinda WHY the government has given us these frequencies.

In a more innocent time, there was trust and understanding -- and Hams would help as needed. As time marched on and we have experienced some major disasters and events ranging from a bombed Federal building in Oklahoma, 9-11 and major weather disasters in the south, times have changed.

Federal, State, and Local agencies started to realize that they had difficulty communicating with one another, and major changes began. One of those changes was the creation of The Department of Homeland Security who works directly with Emergency Management Agencies (EMA's). The entire structure of how everybody works and communicates together has now been standardized. This means that in theory a fire



department in Topeka, Kansas could work and communicate with a police department in Ohio.

In addition, different chains of command structure across the country which were not standardized now are. This new system is called the National Incident Management System, which is nicknamed by the acronym "NIMS."

What that means then is that the NIMS command structure needs to be rolled out to all "first responders" so they can understand what's going on, and how the system works.

FEMA (The Federal Emergency Management Administration) has required that all federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS and ICS trained. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel. Also since Federal assistance money is being used at the State and Local levels, the training is mandatory in order for these agencies to receive federal funds.

Those of us who work with Emergency Management will also need to acquire this additional training. The Department of Homeland Security is requiring ALL first responders, including volunteers, to complete training in NIMS by 2007.



There was some question about whether this requirement also applies to radio operators, and Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX, a DEC in Iowa recently contacted FEMA to ask for a clarification. Here is the response:

"Thank you for contacting the NIMS Integration Center. The short answer is: Yes. In a response scenario that extends beyond local government, there needs to be common terminology and doctrine that everyone can follow so that personnel and resources are feathered in a seamless manner. This is especially true for radio communications. Radio operators need to understand what is being said and asked of them during an incident so that they can convey this information effectively and efficiently. Please let me know if I can provide further assistance. Regards, Paul F. Ganem, NIMS Integration Center"

I'll take that as a YES on the requirement. What we are going to see then is that if you DON'T get NIMS certified, your going to be turned away and not welcome as a responder in an emergency -- And actually that makes you more of a HINDRANCE and liability to the agency then a help.

Great -- So how do I get this training? FEMA has set up a wonderful Internet website known as the Emergency Management Institute.

The web address is <http://training.fema.gov/> and [http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims\\_training.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm)

All Amateurs are urged to enroll and complete courses ICS-100 "Introduction to the Incident Command System" and



ICS700 "National Incident Management System (NIMS) an Introduction." The courses are FREE of charge. All of the study material are offered online, and the test is administered online as well. You are then graded on your test, and FEMA will send you the results via email. A printed certificate is also sent to you as proof and validation of your skills.

I found the website a little overwhelming at first, and actually dragged my feet a few months before I sat down and took the courses. My strategy and approach may work for you. I first printed out the test, so I knew what was going to be asked of me. Next, I downloaded the course manual, a PDF file and read it online. As I read the manual, I jotted notes to myself, and found the correct answers for the test questions. Lastly, you take the test online by transferring the answers from your test printout. You can realistically plan to spend a minimum of 2 hours on each course. Once you kinda get all the acronyms down, it just clicks into common sense.

It's not rocket science --- But more of an education on FEMA protocol. I'd like to think that familiarizing myself with the system helps to make it easier for me to communicate if I am indeed called upon to help.

So there you have it -- everything you need to know to get busy and become NIMS certified.



**Russ - KB8DPN**

## Black Squirrel Festival

This is one that you do not want to miss. For the first time in Portage County there will be a PCARS special event station and you can help run it!

On Friday, September 8th, Kent State University will be holding its annual Black Squirrel Festival. By now you should be well aware of the local notoriety of the black squirrels, the first of which was let loose in Kent 45 years ago and have flourished ever since. PCARS has adopted the black squirrel as our official mascot and incorporated it into our logo.



KSU also recognized the popularity of the black squirrel as a symbol for the Kent community and has been sponsoring the Black Squirrel Festival each Fall semester for going on ten years. It is a fun time for both KSU students and community members.

Most of the festivities are held on campus, particularly on the plaza between the Student Center and the Library. The festival organizers have graciously offered PCARS a prime location on the plaza to set up our station. This will be a true special event station, on the air all day Friday, and we will be looking to make as many QSO's as possible. Every station that contacts us will have the chance to receive a special event

certificate especially for the occasion.

We hope to make this an annual event for PCARS. It is an outstanding way for us to demonstrate the fun and versatility of our hobby of amateur radio. What a great opportunity to recruit new ham operators, particularly those of college age.

This effort needs your assistance. We will need help with setup and tear down, on-air operations and running the information table. Come on out and enjoy a great time!

If you would like to be a part of this special event, please contact me at [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org) or check with me at the August meeting.

**Jim - KC8PD**

## Summit County ARES

Hello PCARS members and friends of our new Portage County ham radio club. On July 27th Radio Bob - N8KBBX and I attended the Summit County ARES monthly meeting held this month at the Stow Safety Center. I am taking the ARRL Level I EmComm course and needed some help with some of my Student Activities so this turned out to be a *must visit* to our friends and neighbors to the west and their Summit County ARES monthly meeting!



Larry Fields - WD8ITF Summit County ARES EC called the meeting to order at 7pm. AEC Zeke - AB8OU provided training to those present about EmComm messages and since I have been studying this in my course I could follow along without any problem. We were informed that Summit County members could get refunds for EmComm courses they completed and paid for out-of-pocket. For training courses by the American Red Cross....check out their web site for Class Info and Etc. Larry started a review of the past months SUMCO-ARES activities. There



was much talk about the Soap Box Derby event they took part in....and problem areas were discussed and their fixes were talked about by the group to provide better service to the Derby folks next year. Larry gave some examples of better / faster communications with the use of tactical calls rather than hams using their own calls. So the group will improve upon their fine service they provide...for next year's event! Marty-KC8NOV (VP of the local American Red Cross Amateur Radio Club) and AEC with the Summit County ARES thanked the ARES group on behalf of the American Red Cross for their help when 7 counties were flooded out. Larry asked we Portage County hams to spread the word that they could use help for the Summit County ARES event; the September 30th Road Runner Akron Marathon. All help would be most welcome!!!!!! It was a great evening with the Summit County ARES group! Those guys are really friendly and

helpful. They welcome anyone to attend their meetings which they hold at different locations in their county to allow hams from most everywhere an easier/closer way to get to make a meeting. Another great job by our friends and neighbors next door! Their web site is: ([www.sumco-ares.org](http://www.sumco-ares.org)) Check it out for more info and their Calendar of events...both present and past. The Local American Red Cross Amateur Radio Club can be found at: (<http://kc8rlc.no-ip.org>). They have many things on their web site.....check them out too!!!!

**Al - KB8VJL**

## ***N4TIE is On The Air***

Over the last month or so, and with the help of a few people, I've managed to get back on HF again. A Hustler 5B-TV vertical antenna now has a spot just outside my back door. The radio is a Yaesu 840 and it sure operates nicely.

A BIG THANKS from me to Tom - WB8LCD, for getting me motivated and helping with the majority of the work getting things up. Also to Russ - KB8DPN for loaning me his ground rod driver tool - sure made putting in the ground rod a bit easier, and Tom - KB8UUZ who came over and helped to bury the



ground radials with Tom - WB8LCD.

The antenna and new HF rig are working fine, and I've made nice QSOs into Ottawa, Honduras, Switzerland, IA, MO, NJ, MD, PA,



Trinidad, an island off Eastern Canada (NA081), MI, FL, TN, and more.

Sure is nice to be back on HF again with a little help from my friends.

**Carl - N4TIE**

## ***Mark Your Calendars***

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

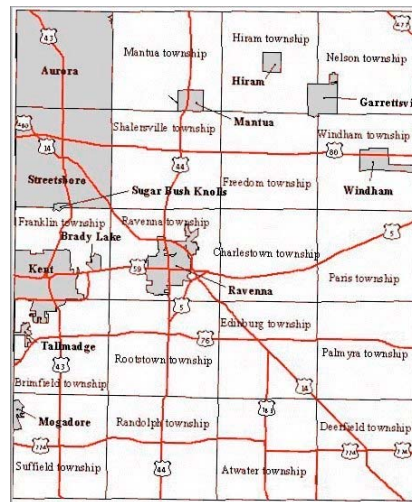
- ☉ August 12th - PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest
- ☉ August 14th club meeting - The Red Cross, with both Scott McKinney, N8TPK, and Marty Coper, KC8NOV, providing us with information about Red Cross services and volunteer opportunities for ham radio operators.
- ☉ September 8th - the Black Squirrel Special Event station at Kent State University. Information for special event certificates to be published in QST, CQ and World Radio magazines.

- ☉ September 11th club meeting - Presentation from our own Tom - KB8UUZ, on what goes on a good QSL card and tips on QSLing.
- ☉ September 16th - PCARS cookout / picnic at the home of our President, Tom - WB8LCD
- ☉ October 9th club meeting - Topic is still open
- ☉ October 21-22 - tentatively a Jamboree On The Air station for Portage County scouts.

## ***PCARS Two Meter Simplex Contest***

Spread the word! PCARS will be having it's annual 2 meter 12 hour sprint contest on Saturday - August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Contest runs from 11:59 am until 11:59 pm on 2 meter simplex. Contact as many people in each of the Portage County Cities, Villages, and Townships. Contest is open to everyone that can get on 2 meters, you don't have to be a member of PCARS, and you don't have to be in Portage County. So join in on the fun and see how good your simplex set up works throughout Portage County and beyond. Complete rules, log sheet and summary sheet can be found on the PCARS web site ([www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)).



**Joe - W8KNO**

## ***N6TL on Echo Link***

Hello from Antelope, California (a suburb of Sacramento). Here's a picture I had Debi (the XYL) take while I was on the net July 27th. I'm using my HP laptop from work that has a Sprint PCS card so I am truly mobile. I have 3 ways to connect. Hardwire (Juno), wireless router and Sprint PCS.



Next up will be to set the laptop on the seat in the VW Bug and get on the net on the way home from work (hi hi).

It worked out pretty good during the net on the 27th. Everyone said the audio was good. I used the same headset that I use on the desktop as I couldn't find the single ear piece one that I have. Now if the stinking battery would last longer. I fully charged it just before I left work and it showed 1 hour and 50 minutes when I turned it on at home. By the time I got off the net (I talked to Al - KB8VJL a little bit after the net) it



had 43 minutes charge left. I may have to tell MIS at work that I need a battery upgrade.

I BBQ'ed this evening in the back yard. For me was some elk steak and a regular beef steak for Debi. Oh how good.

Finally after 12 days of 100+ temps. it is cooling down. It's down to 90 out now which hasn't happened this early in the evening for quite a while.

Looking forward to hearing all of the PCARS members during the Thursday night 2 meter net via Echo Link.

**Randy - N6TL**

## ***Fourth of July Tornado***

The 4th of July was a day I'll remember for a long time. I saw a blip on TV about the bad weather coming and looked outside - nice, sunny, even up north it looked fine. But I grabbed the camera and headed up to Pioneer Trail just south of Hiram. Great spot to see weather coming in from the west.



When I first spotted the rotation, then the funnel cloud, I called for Skywarn people on 145.39 - no one responded. Went on the Newbury repeater 147.015 and called for anyone - someone came on and said they were not involved with Skywarn. I asked if they would call it in to NWS - no response.... Went back to 145.39 and finally got a hold of Roger - KB8JHS. He called it in to NWS Cleveland on the phone. (Good going Roger!)

A few minutes later the Skywarn net then came on the air. I started sending in info on what I was seeing and which direction it was headed. A couple of police cars came by and saw I was Skywarn (sticker in the window) they just said hi.



As I lost sight of it, I went towards Garrettsville on 82. When I drove in to G'Ville (Really bad spot for VHF) Joe - W8KNO was relaying the info (Thanks Joe) to the Skywarn net control. I was surprised at the number of cars pulled over and the people watching it. I didn't see much there and went on through G'Ville heading east on 82 when I ran in to the northern edge of it - lot of heavy rain, but I could not see anything and I pulled off the road in a driveway right away. My first thought when the rain was pounding on the car and the wind was blowing - 'no flying cows - must not be too bad..."

It let up a bit and I went a bit further and stopped at the trailer park east of G'Ville - nothing visible, just regular rain. Headed further east - stopped just over the Portage / Trumbull County line and watched - nothing - hazy and very light rain. Headed east, then south on 534 toward Newton Falls - ran into rain again - and visibility was poor, so I stopped at 534 and 5 as the rain stopped and watched for a bit - nothing. At that point it just looked like everything had fizzled out.

So I headed west on 5 toward Ravenna. Stopped at the entrance to the arsenal and was watching another cell approaching - no rotation, just rain came. Headed into Ravenna then north on 88 to home. About half way up 88 rain came down in buckets - traffic slowed to 30 mph, then within a half mile, poof, all clear.

Got home, downloaded the pictures out of the camera, picked out the good ones and sent them on their way to channel 5 over the internet. I followed up with a phone call to TV 5 telling them I just sent them - it was about 10 till 11 at that point. If you watched the channel 5 news at 11 - you would have heard the channel 5 weatherman Mark Johnson say my name. At the beginning, he was just downloading the pictures I sent and showed one, and later during the weather report - he played the video I sent.



I should have taken more pictures. But, when I first spotted the rotation and the funnel, I was more concerned on the direction it was going. It was really something to watch that thing slowly move, dip down and touch the ground - see some debris, then up and down all along the way - awesome!

The next day Gary Garnet from NWS Cleveland called me and asked me to send him the pictures and video. I sent them to him along with a map showing the path I saw it take.

The following day, Gary contacted me again and said they had visited the area and confirmed that it was a tornado and it had touched down.

Yep, that's a 4th of July I'll remember for a long time.

**Tom - KB8UZZ**

## ***Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year***

PCARS sends congratulations to **Cathy Ferry - NC8F** a member of the **Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club** (just a few miles west of us in Summit County) for being chosen as the **Young Ham of the Year**. I contacted Cathy and she sent the pictures. We're all very happy that Cathy was chosen, and I'm sure her father (Bruce - AK8B) is looking forward to seeing what kind of ham gear she'll be getting from Yaesu! Maybe we can get Cathy to send us a report of her journey to the Huntsville Hamfest to receive her award and her Space Camp adventure for a future article in the RADIOGRAM. The following is the press release that details her achievement:



LOS ANGELES, CA, Jul 13, 2006--For the third year in a row, a young woman has been named to receive the 2006 Amateur Radio Newsline™ Young Ham of the Year Award (YHOTY). **Catherine E. Ferry, NC8F**, an 18-year-old from Silver Lake, Ohio, is this year's winner, Award Administrator

Bill Pasternak - WA6ITF, and Award Committee Chairman Mark Abramowicz - NT3V, announced this week. "Catherine was selected based on her long term commitment to Amateur Radio, her work in public service and in promoting the hobby/service to others," the Newslane announcement said.

The daughter of Bruce Ferry, AK8B, and the late Joan Ferry, Catherine was first licensed at age 10 and received her Extra class license at 13. She is currently an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Administration in charge of taking the minutes and maintaining copies of important Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) documents.



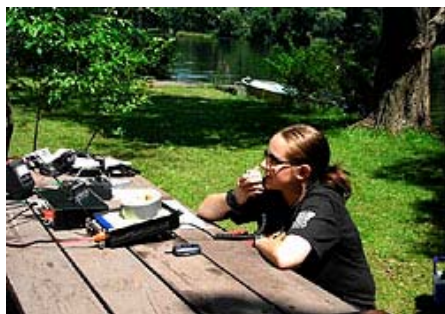
Since the age of 12, she has been involved in numerous public service events, and for the past two years, has served as a net control station for the Roadrunner Akron Marathon. An ARRL member, Catherine has also held several

positions in various clubs and organizations and currently is secretary of the Summit County Red Cross Amateur Radio Club.

For the past two years been the editor of the **Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club** newsletter. As a result of her efforts, in 2004 that publication received an honorable mention in the ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. She has also overseen ticket sales for her club's annual hamfest. Additionally, she assists in teaching the club's Technician class licensing course. Catherine has promoted Amateur Radio at Cuyahoga Falls High School while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average.

In addition to her interest in Amateur Radio, Catherine is an accomplished musician who has played bassoon with the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Kent Chorus. She currently is with the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, which recently performed a series of concerts in Australia. This fall, Catherine is planning to major in music at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

The 2006 Amateur Radio Newslane Young Ham of the Year Award will be presented August 19, 2006, at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama. As the 2006 YHOTY Award winner, Catherine will receive -- courtesy of Vertex-Standard -- an expense-paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest, along with a gift of Yaesu ham radio equipment. CQ magazine will treat her to an expense-paid week at Spacecamp Huntsville, and will present her with a variety of CQ products. At the award ceremony Amateur Radio Newslane will present Catherine with a commemorative plaque, underwritten by Dave Bell, W6AQ.



Now in its 21st year, the Amateur Radio Newslane Young Ham of the Year Award goes annually to a radio amateur age 18 or younger who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his/her community or contributed to the betterment of the state of the art in communication through Amateur Radio.

## **ARRL Dues Rebate to PCARS**

Now that we are affiliated, one of the perks for the club is when you re-new your ARRL dues through the PCARS, the club gets to keep \$2. Or, if your a new ARRL member the rebate is \$15 for PCARS.

A new member is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.

Family, Blind or 21-and-under discounted memberships are not applicable for any discount.

So, when it's time to re-new, or if you join the ARRL - do it through the club, so PCARS can cash in on that benefit.

## **Fox Hunts in Summit County**

Hidden Transmitter hunts are on Wednesdays will be starting from the Scout House in Silver Lake, on Rt. 59 behind The Church in Silver Lake., at 7:00 p.m.

If you don't have direction finding equipment you are welcome to ride along with our regular hunters on a space available basis. There MAY be some loaner equipment available, so bring along an antenna adapter just in case.

We look forward to having you join us in the fun. For more information, you can contact me at WB8VNO@portcars.org

**Gay - WB8VNO**

## **Montenegro DX Festival is On The Air**

The on-air event celebrating the tiny Balkan nation's independence and its status as a new DXCC entity -- is poised to shift into high gear this week. As of 0800 UTC on July 24, the 4O3T team had already logged more than 30,000 contacts.

"They are currently operating from two locations and running three stations from each," said Marti Laine, OH2BH, in an update to DX editors. "Late today they are expecting to activate a third station from Bar. This will be the location of their best low-band efforts, and they hope to have two stations QRV on 80 and 160 meters."

The three-week-long event, which got under way July 20, features visiting operators from all over the continent and a few from the US. Nearly four dozen operators from more than 10 countries are expected to serve as 4O3T operators during the DX Festival, which continues until August 13.

Look for 4O3T on or about these frequencies: CW: 1826.5, 3522, 7022, 10,106, 14,022, 18,072, 21,022, 24,892 and 28,022 kHz; SSB: 3795, 7055, 14,190, 18,145, 21,290, 24,945 and 28,490 kHz; RTTY: 7035, 10,135, 14,085, 18,105, 21,085 and 28,085 kHz; 6 meters, CW/SSB: 50,106 kHz. An online searchable log is available on the SRACG Web site.





Festival organizers have set the ambitious goal of 200,000 contacts for the event. DX Festival activities also will include several basic courses on ham radio operating and CEPT license examinations aimed at new and less-experienced radio amateurs. QSL via Ranko Boca, YT6A.

Once the 4O3T station got on the air, the bands were real busy and the pileups were tremendous. Now that they have been on for a couple of weeks, things have slowed up a bit.

You can make contact a lot easier now. I'm only running 100 watts into a G5RV and I managed to make contact with 4O3T on 20 meters on my third try.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**

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## **EmComm**

Weather events earlier this month give us some food for thought about emergency communications and preparedness. During the first week of July, PCARS secretary-treasurer, Tom - KB8UUZ, who lives in northern Freedom Township, became aware of a tornado warning for Portage County. Looking outside he could see the storm front. He went mobile with radio and camera to provide real time observations for Skywarn and to document what he saw.

I heard Tom's initial traffic on the repeater as he was passing information to Roger - KB8JHS, who was handling the landline to the National Weather Service in Cleveland. Figuring that Tom might be able to use some backup who could observe the same weather from a different vantage point, I hopped in my car and headed north from Ravenna up State Route 88 expecting to approach the storm from west-southwest, staying behind the system that Tom was following from a north-northwest direction.

I also followed Tom's lead on our primary objective: keeping ourselves safe. No matter what else you may be doing during any emcomm event, your first goal is to keep yourself out of harm's way. You are no good to anyone during the course of the event, let alone after, if you carelessly allow yourself to become a victim of the very event that you are trying to provide emcomm services.

A storm like this is a perfect example of how to stay safe while continuing to assist. The storm's path is apparent to the operator and being described by other observers. Roads are available that can keep you behind or to the side of the moving storm front while still keeping a reasonable vantage point from which to observe and be able to maintain radio contact. Sure, it may be more interesting to watch that storm coming at you, but what happens when you find yourself boxed in without an exit route or the storm's track shifts in a way that you had not anticipated?

The answer, of course, is that bad things happen, and sometimes so quickly that there is nothing that you can then do to protect yourself.

The situation was entirely avoidable yet by being overzealous or by acting more like an untrained spectator instead of a trained observer and communicator you can compromise both your safety and utility.

So always remember: the NUMBER ONE rule for emcomm volunteers is **THEIR OWN PERSONAL SAFETY**. Every emcomm course or other training that you participate in will emphasize this and with good reason. We are not first

responders or safety forces, we are volunteer communicators. Our role is to assist with emergency communications in a wide variety of circumstances. We need to be sure that we recognize the limits on our role and never let our emotions override our good judgment.

This lesson should be driven home in any number of ways. What type of safety equipment and gear do you take with you on an emcomm mission? How do you anticipate not just the immediate risks from the disaster or catastrophic event, but other consequences that may take hours or days to occur while you are in the affected area? What steps do you take that the emergency installation of your radio gear does not present a risk of harm to yourself or others that may come into close proximity of your station? How can you be sure that you can travel to and from the affected area while still minimizing the risk of harm to yourself? How do you recognize circumstances that, despite what others on the scene may say, you still believe are too risky to permit your entry or continued service? How do you know when to say NO to an unreasonable or unsafe demand.

You have to educate yourself on all of these issues. The family and friends that are awaiting your return want you back alive and uninjured. A careless injury during your emcomm service not only compromises your ability to assist, it also places an unnecessary burden on the medical or emergency staff whose efforts should be directed toward helping those injured during the event.

Your commitment to safety during emcomm service also begins even before you leave home. Are you sure that those who are still at home have emergency provisions for themselves? Do they have a safety plan? Do they know how to safely shut off utility services? Are there adequate fire extinguishers, backup power and batteries, commercial radios (including those with alternative power and ability to receive National Weather Service alerts)? Are they familiar with basic first aid and do they have a first aid kit?

Don't be too proud to ask these questions. Don't assume that just because nothing bad has happened so far that you don't need to be prepared. This is not about emergency preparedness in the unlikely event of a terrorist attack. This is about the everyday risks that a location like Northeast Ohio faces, primarily from weather, week in and week out almost every season.

There is some excellent and free training available to help you be prepared to meet personal, family and community emergency needs. Check out the information available from the Red Cross. You can start with the local chapter at <http://summitcounty.redcross.org/>.

Another very good source can be found at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>, where you can sign up of IS-317, an Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) or you can also go to the CERT website at <https://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>.

Remember, although we may be radio communicators the training that we need encompasses a lot of other issues. Protect yourself and your family and your ability to be available and to serve during a time of crisis will be greatly enhanced.

**Jim - KC8PD**

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## Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: **Astron RM-35M**, rack mount power supply. Separate Voltage and Amp meters. 35 amp peak, 25 amp continuous. \$100 or best offer. contact: Tom by e-mail at wb8lcd@portcars.org

## KC8PD on Echo Link

From an e-mail Jim sent on July 20, 2006:

Greetings to all the PCARS members from KC8PD who has been motorcycle mobile in Vermont!

Even though the HT can't hit the repeater from here (and I am still looking to see if there will be an Echolink repeater/node that I can access with the HT), Echolink comes through again.

Hope to hear you all on the net. Attached is a pic of my portable QTH - the Holiday Inn in Rutland, Vermont.



**Jim - KC8PD**

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

6 PCARS members have a birthday in August:

**AB8UD - Mike - 8/01**  
**W8RJG - Ron - 8/12**  
**KB8TUY - Mike - 8/13**  
**N6TL - Randy - 8/14**  
**KB8VJL - Al - 8/17**  
**KD8DFM - Irene - 8/26**



## CW Traffic Nets

A segment on the Tonight Show last year pitted two people with cell phones against two hams with Morse code. Both teams were given the text message "I just saved a bunch of



money on my car insurance" to see who could get the message through faster. The hams won, hands down. Incredibly, sending messages via 160 year old Morse code is still faster than voice, text, or email. How can that be? One reason is that every word is spelled out, so there's no need to stop and ask

for phonetic spelling on anything. Another reason is that CW traffic handlers tend to participate in nets frequently, so they are disciplined, in practice, and can operate with remarkable efficiency.

A 20-watt CW station, powered by a battery and recharged by a 25-watt solar panel, can operate indefinitely, even on cloudy days. This makes it perfect for an emergency field operation, when traffic handling is really needed. If you deploy into the field to provide Health and Welfare traffic support, you should plan on having a lot of business to be handled as quickly as possible. The efficiency of the CW traffic lets you handle more traffic in a given amount of time than on a voice net.

In the previous article on voice traffic nets, we looked at how to format formal written message traffic, called Radiograms, and how they are passed from one operator to another, in the interlocking series of nets that make up the National Traffic System (NTS). Just to review, traffic nets come in these flavors:

- Local nets, which cover a small geographic area. Tri-County Traffic Net, for example, covers the Northeast Ohio.
- State or section nets, covering a states or ARRL Sections (Western Pennsylvania, for example)
- Regional Nets, which correspond to callsign areas. Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia comprise the Eighth Region.
- The three Area Nets are Eastern, Central, and Pacific. Our 8<sup>th</sup> Region is part of the Eastern Area, along with regions 1 through 4.
- Trans Continental Corps, which takes traffic between the Area Nets.

An entire network of CW Traffic nets exists side-by-side with the voice traffic nets. Operating primarily at night, the CW traffic nets handle Radiograms in a manner virtually identical to their voice counterparts.

## Net Procedure

CW traffic nets move fast, so you have to pay attention to what's going on at all times. There are two major differences in procedure between voice and CW traffic nets. The first difference is that everything is abbreviated, using special QN series symbols. After calling the net to order with an opening announcement and calling the liaison stations that will take traffic to other nets, the net control station (NCS) will solicit check-ins like this:

NCS:	<b>BN BN QND QNN WB9LBI/BILL QNZ VVV VVV BN QNI K</b>	<i>Buckeye Net, this is a directed net now in session (QND), Net control station (QNN) is WB9LBI, my name is Bill. Match your frequency to mine (QNZ) using this series of V's. Buckeye Net, all stations check in (QNI) now, Over.</i>
Station:	<b>P</b>	<i>A station raises his hand by sending one letter, usually from his callsign suffix.</i>
NCS:	<b>P</b>	<i>Station sending letter P, go ahead</i>
Station:	<b>DE KD8CKP GE BILL QTC DAYTON 1 8RN 2 K</b>	<i>From KD8CKP, good evening Bill, I have traffic (QTC) consisting of one message for Dayton, and two going somewhere out of the area for Eighth Regional Net. Over</i>



NCS: <b>KD8CKP GE TOM TU AS BN QNI K</b>	<i>KD8CKP, Good evening Tom, thank you, Wait (prosign AS). Buckeye Net, all stations check in, Over</i>
Station: <b>Z</b>	
NCS: <b>Z</b>	
Station: <b>DE W8ZZZ GE BILL QRU K</b>	<i>From W8ZZZ, Good evening Bill. I have no traffic for you. Over</i>
NCS: <b>W8ZZZ NAME ES QTH PSE? K</b>	<i>W8ZZZ, your name and location please? Over. (NCS has never heard of this guy)</i>
W8ZZZ: <b>ZEKE ZEKE QTH ZANESVILLE K</b>	
NCS: <b>W8ZZZ GE ZEKE TU PSE AS BN QNI K</b>	<i>Good evening Zeke, thank you, please wait. Buckeye Net, all stations check in,</i>

After some check-ins, the net will start moving traffic. This is the second major difference in net procedure: stations are sent off of net frequency to handle traffic. This means that several different stations may be handling traffic at various increments up and down the dial. The net frequency is used primarily for dispatching traffic elsewhere.

NCS: <b>I I KD8CKP</b>	<i>All stations, attention (II). KD8CKP, wake up.</i>
KD8CKP: <b>HR</b>	<i>I'm here</i>
NCS: <b>ES WD8Q</b>	<i>And WD8Q, you too. (WD8Q is the liaison to Eighth Region Net)</i>
WD8Q: <b>C</b>	<i>(Si, Spanish for Yes, get it?)</i>
NCS: <b>QNY DWN THREE 8RN 2 D7 K</b>	<i>Change frequency (QNY) down seven kilohertz and handle 2 messages for Eighth Region Net. That's down 7 KHz. Over.</i>
KD8CKP: <b>G</b>	<i>I'm going.</i>
WD8Q: <b>G</b>	<i>I'm going, too.</i>
NCS: <b>TU I I W8ZZZ</b>	<i>Thank you both. Attention, all stations. W8ZZZ, I'm calling you.</i>
W8ZZZ: <b>HR</b>	<i>Here I am.</i>
NCS: <b>TNX QNI NOW QRU QNX 73 K</b>	<i>Thanks for checking in. Now I have nothing for you, so you are excused from the net (QNX). (No traffic for Zanesville tonight, cut him loose)</i>
W8ZZZ: <b>73 ES GN DE W8ZZZ SK</b>	<i>Best regards and good night from W8ZZZ. Out.</i>
NCS: <b>BN BN LAST CALL QNI K</b>	<i>Buckeye Net, last call for check ins. Over. (Nothing is heard)</i>
NCS: <b>BN NOW QRU QNX QNF 73 DE WB9LBI SK</b>	<i>Buckeye Net, now I have nothing for any of you, so anyone left on frequency is excused. This net is concluded (QNF). Best regards from WB9LBI, Out.</i>

Although the net is over, traffic handling might still be taking place on other frequencies.

### Message Format

The identical Radiogram format is used in both voice and CW nets. See my previous article on Voice Traffic Nets for details. There are just a couple of changes for CW:

**HR QSK** means "I have full break-in here, so feel free to interrupt any time if you miss something"

The prosign **AA** is used between lines of the address

Prosign **BT** is used just before and just after the text of the message.

Prosign **AR** is used after the signature. This is followed by either **B** (I have more traffic) or **N** (no more message traffic)

So let's tune in seven kilohertz down from the net frequency and listen in...

WD8Q: <b>KD8CKP KD8CKP KD8CKP DE WD8Q WD8Q WD8Q K</b>	<i>The receiving station always calls the transmitting station, after locating a clear frequency</i>
KD8CKP: <b>WD8Q DE KD8CKP GE HENRY QRV? K</b>	<i>Good evening, Henry. Are you prepared to copy? Over.</i>
WD8Q: <b>GE TOM QRV</b>	<i>Good evening, Tom. I'm ready to copy.</i>
KD8CKP: <b>HR QSK HR NR 29 R KD8CKP 11 RAVENNA OH MAY 1 JAY LENO AA NBC TELVISN AA BURBANK CA AA 818 555 5555 BT I JUST SAVED A BUNCH OF MONEY ON MY CAR INSURANCE BT TOM KD8CKP AR B1 K</b>	<i>I have full break-in. Here is message number 29, routine, originating from station KD8CKP, word count 11...</i>  <i>( Notice the B1, which means one more message to follow.)</i>
WD8Q: <b>?WA NBC</b>	<i>Repeat word after NBC</i>
KD8CKP: <b>?WA NBC TELEVISION</b>	<i>Word after NBC was TELEVISION.</i>
WD8Q: <b>QSL QRV</b>	<i>Roger your message, send next.</i>

### Area CW Traffic Nets

The primary CW net for our area is Buckeye Net, which is the Ohio section traffic net. Buckeye Net (BN) meets daily at 6:45pm and 10pm Eastern Time on 3577 KHz. All are welcome. Traffic for Portage and Summit counties is heard frequently on Buckeye Net, and your participation would help improve coverage. Please consider becoming a regular part of this endeavor.

Message traffic going into and out of BN is vectored through Eighth Region Net, which serves Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia. 8RN meets at 7:30pm and 9:30pm daily, on 3530 KHz. This net usually consists of the liaison stations from the three state nets that feed into it. Only the liaison stations check into this net.

Eastern Area Net is at the top of the food chain. Check-ins on this net are restricted to the liaison stations from regional nets 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8. EAN, meeting at 8:30pm Monday thru Friday on 3670 KHz, is possibly the most efficient use ham radio you will ever hear. Traffic moves along at around 30 WPM.

Hit and Bounce Net is independent of the National Traffic System. The experienced hands check into the regular net, daily at 8:30am Eastern on 7042. HBN also has a slow-speed net, which meets at 7:30am on 3714 KHz.

## Slow Speed Training Nets

When I got interested in CW traffic nets, I listened to the regular nets for a while and found them a little too fast and intimidating. Not wanting to sound like more of a lid than I already am, I enrolled in a training course from a slow-speed traffic net.

Ohio Slow Net meets daily at 6:10pm local time on 3707 KHz. Or, Maryland Slow Net meets at 7:30pm local on 3717



KHz. Both nets use the same training material, a series of about 180 message that take you through basic, advanced, net liaison, and net control courses. When the complete training course is completed, you are promoted to Instructor, and begin to train the next generation of traffic handlers.

The training messages are in standard Radiogram format, and usually you get three per session. At the end of the session, your instructor will answer any questions you have. Feel free to have him speed up or slow down, as you prefer.

CW traffic nets are excellent practice not just for traffic handling procedures, but improving your CW speed and accuracy in general. Once you've fought through the 80-meter summertime QRN to accurately record a message, there's a real sense of accomplishment not found in any other aspect of amateur radio. CW is not dependent on fancy equipment, high power, tall antennas, or computers. It's all your own skill. It's all *you*.

For more information, see the web pages for the various nets:

- Ohio Slow Net:  
<http://www.geocities.com/sixdavid75/OSN.html>
- Maryland Slow Net: <http://www.bdb.com/%7Emsn/>

Links and information all of these nets, along lots of good traffic handling tips in general, are always available locally at [tricitytraffic.net](http://tricitytraffic.net).

**Bill - WB9LBI**

## Ohio QSO Party

Once again, it's our annual opportunity to make the Buckeye State shine on the HF bands via the Ohio QSO Party.

The 2006 running of the Ohio QSO Party will be Saturday, August 26. It goes from noon to midnight, EDT. Activity will be on the HF bands, 10 through 80 meters, CW and SSB.

Stations inside Ohio can work anyone, anywhere. Stations outside of Ohio (anywhere in the world, and yes, we do get entrants from Europe) can only work stations in



Ohio -- so we Buckeyes are the hunted, not the hunters for a change!

There are numerous awards (certificates and plaques) available.

The OQP Organizing Committee is hoping that Ohio hams are making plans to be active, whether from home, camp or mobile in the Ohio countryside. The OQP Committee's annual goal is to have all 88 counties on the air. There will be plenty of activity for all 12 hours. Operate for a short time or the whole contest period -- whatever suits your time budget.

Full details are on the official OQP web site, <http://www.oqp.us>.

Past scores, a "Quick Start Guide" to the OQP, logging software information, paper forms and operating aids, and a regularly updated page showing planned activity, county by county, are all there for you.

If you have any questions, they may be directed to [af8a@arrl.net](mailto:af8a@arrl.net) -or- [jimk8mr@aol.com](mailto:jimk8mr@aol.com).

We hope you'll join in the fun of the 2006 Ohio QSO Party, Saturday August 26!

*For the Ohio QSO Party Committee*  
**Gary - AF8A**

## 10-Codes and Plain English

WASHINGTON – In Washington, DC, if a police officer says 10-50, he or she is talking about a car accident. Across the line in Montgomery County, Maryland, 10-50 means an officer needs help. And that's the way it is across much of the country, 10-codes used in one jurisdiction are not the same as those used in another. That's why it is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology. There simply is no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation.

The use of plain language in emergency response is matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident. It is critical that all local responders, as well as those coming into the impacted area from other jurisdictions and other states as well as the federal government, know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures. This is what NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) are all about - achieving interoperability across agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines.



The use of common terminology is about the ability of area commanders, state and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

It is required that plain English be used for multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction and multi-discipline events, such as major



disasters and exercises. Beginning in the fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1, 2006, federal preparedness grant funding is contingent on the use of plain English in incidents requiring assistance from responders from other agencies, jurisdictions and functional disciplines.

While the NIMS Integration Center doesn't require plain English for internal operations, we strongly encourage it. We believe it is important to practice everyday terminology and procedures that will need to be used in emergency incidents and disasters. NIMS implementation is a long-term effort and it's probably not possible to persuade everyone to change ingrained habits overnight. But we do hope that over time, everyone will understand the important of using common terminology, that is, plain English, every day.



From: <http://www.nimsonline.com/>

## Ravenna May is PCARS Field Day Visitor

The following picture was published in the Record Courier on July 19th.

A6 Wednesday, July 19, 2006 RECORD-COURIER

# LIFETIMES

LAURA NETHKEN, LIFETIMES EDITOR • PHONE: 330 296-9657 ext. 1255 • FAX: 330 296-2606 • E-MAIL: [Lifetimes@recordpub.com](mailto:Lifetimes@recordpub.com)

## MAYOR VISITS PCARS

Ravenna Mayor Kevin Poland, left, was a guest at the Portage County Amateur Radio Service Inc. Field Day event, held recently at the Cunningham Shelter in John Tontimonia City Park in Ravenna. He was greeted by Jim Aylward, KC8PD, the PCARS vice president.

## PCARS Meetings – Mike's Place

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) meets on the second Monday of every month at Mike's Place - 1700 S. Water St. – Kent.

Meetings start at 7 PM sharp and all are invited to attend. You can find out a whole lot more about Mike's Place on the web at: [www.mikesplacrestaurant.com](http://www.mikesplacrestaurant.com)



You can look over their entire menu and see some interesting stuff on the web site. Check it out!

## Hamfest Calendar

20 Aug 2006 - 49th Annual Hamfest - **Warren ARA** - [www.w8vtd.org](http://www.w8vtd.org) - Talk-In: 146.970 - Contact: Jacqueline Williams - 293 Maplewood Drive, Apt. #307 - Cortland, OH 44410 - Phone: 440-669-8267 - Email: [jacquelinewilliams03@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinewilliams03@hotmail.com) - Kent State University Workforce Bldg - 4314 Mahoning Ave NW

10 Sep 2006 - **Findlay Radio Club** - [www.findlayradioclub.org](http://www.findlayradioclub.org) - Talk-In: 147.15/.75 - Contact: Dean Calvin, N8RMF - 141 Olive St - Findlay, OH 45840 - Phone: 419-423-3402 - Email: [n8rmf@arrl.net](mailto:n8rmf@arrl.net) - Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky St

10 Sep 2006 - **Western Pennsylvania Section Convention - Butler County ARA** - [www.w3udx.org](http://www.w3udx.org) - Talk-In: 147.360+ (PL 131.8) - Contact: Kevin Berry, KF4RMA - 380 Three Degree Road - Renfrew, PA 16053-9735 - Phone: 724-586-1182 - Email: [kf4rma@arrl.net](mailto:kf4rma@arrl.net) - Butler Farm Showgrounds - 267 Evans City Rd

24 Sep 2006 - **Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show** - Hamfest Association of Cleveland - [www.hac.org](http://www.hac.org) - Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9) - Contact: Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc. - PO Box 81252 - Cleveland, OH 44181-0252 - Phone: 800-CLE-FEST - Email: [info@hac.org](mailto:info@hac.org) - Cuyahoga Co Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Rd

29 Oct 2006 - Hamfest and Auction - **Massillon ARC** - [www.marcradio.org](http://www.marcradio.org) - Talk-In: 147.180+ (PL 110.9) - Contact: N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Circle NW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 - Email: [truss@sssn.net](mailto:truss@sssn.net) - Massillon Boys & Girls Club 730 Duncan Street SW

## August Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 5 to 2359Z, Aug 6
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 5 to 0600Z, Aug 6
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 5 to 1800Z, Aug 6
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 12 to 0400Z, Aug 13
	and 1600Z-2359Z, Aug 13
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 19 to 0600Z, Aug 20
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 19 to 0700Z, Aug 20
	and 1300Z, Aug 20 to 0200Z, Aug 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 21
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 26 to 2200Z, Aug 27
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 26 to 0400Z, Aug 27
Kentucky QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 27 to 0400Z, Aug 28



## PCARS Thursday Net Schedule

Following is the net control schedule as it is right now. If you see a date as "open" and would like to give it a try, just let me know. We have a log sheet and a script to use so it really is easy.

You'd be surprised how it helps you get names and calls together after you've done it a few times! If you're ever called on in an emergency, having done it in a more relaxed setting can make you a lot more effective under pressure! Give it a try.

8/3	KB8DPN	10/19	open
8/10	KB8UUZ	10/26	WB8LCD
8/17	KC8PD	11/2	K8CMP
8/24	open	11/9	KB8UUZ
8/31	WB8LCD	11/16	KC8TYR
9/7	KC8TYR	11/23	WB8LCD
9/14	open	11/30	open
9/21	W8KNO	12/7	K8CMP
9/28	KB8DPN	12/14	KB8UUZ
10/5	KB8UUZ	12/21	KB8DPN
10/12	KC8PD	12/28	KC8PD



At the July meeting certificates for 10 consecutive check ins were presented to: Bobby - WB8FEW, Errol - KC8RJR, Nick - N8WLE, and Irene - KD8DFM.

Since we started the net in January, there have been 431 check-ins from 75 individual stations. There are 15 stations at more than 10 consecutive check ins so far. I encouraged everyone to check in, and to try out being a Net Control Operator.

**Tom - WB8LCD**

## Pictures from the July PCARS Meeting

Mark Griffiths, the Portage County EMA Director, was in ill health and could not make the meeting as was scheduled. As a back up, we took the opportunity to watch the movie "Voice of Victory" about Hallicrafter and ham radio efforts to supply the Army with a mobile radio in 1942.



## Thanks

Well, that's the 7th issue of the PCARS newsletter. Seven issues of the RADIOGRAM have gone out and all of them have been jammed packed with good stuff! I sure hope your enjoying this newsletter. I appreciate your help in getting material that all the members look forward to getting – keep sending me those inputs! This issue sure has allot for everyone! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: WB8LCD, KC8PD, N8WLE, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8DPN, KB8VJL, N4TIE, N6TL, KB8UUZ, WB8VNO, WB9LBI, AF8A, ARRL, and the world wide web. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**  
Newsletter Editor



# Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)



presents the

**First Annual**

## **PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Sprint Contest**



**Saturday - August 12, 2006  
11:59 am until 11:59 pm**

*See if you can Work All of Portage County, Ohio*



This sprint contest is sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.(PCARS). The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

Contest is open to all - you don't have to be a member of PCARS, you don't even have to be inside Portage You can operate from home, mobile, or portable. Even if your passing through (or near) Portage County.

Heck, you don't even have be a 'contester' to have fun during this sprint - just have some FUN!

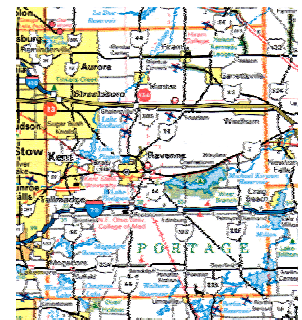
See how many Cites, Villages, and Townships throughout Portage County  
you can make contact with on 2 meter Simplex.

In Portage County, there are:

5 Cities: Aurora, Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Tallmadge,

7 Villages: Brady Lake, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogodore,  
Sugar Bush Knolls, Windham

18 Townships: Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Franklin,  
Freedom, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna,  
Rootstown, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham



## **Complete Rules, Summary Sheets & Log Sheets**

**are available for download on the**

**PCARS web site:**

**[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)**



We'll be listening for you!

*Join us in the fun and see just how far your rig will go on simplex.*

*Best of all - let's have a FUN day on the radio!!*



**Need more information? Contact Joe - W8KNO by e-mail at [W8KNO@portcars.org](mailto:W8KNO@portcars.org)**



**The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**  
 meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Mike's Place – Routes 261 & 43 in Kent  
 All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!



***“When All Else Fails – Amateur Radio Works”***

**PCARS Repeater: 146.895 MHz (PL 110.9 – Rootstown, Ohio PL 114.8 – Kent, Ohio)**

**Repeater is graciously provided by N8KW for use by PCARS members**



#### PCARS Elected Officers

Office	Call	Name	E-Mail
President	WB8LCD	Tom Sly	wb8lcd@portcars.org
Vice President	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
Treasurer	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson	kb8uuz@portcars.org
3 Year Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj1@portcars.org
2 Year Trustee	W8KNO	Joe Wehner	w8kno@portcars.org
1 Year Trustee	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.	kb8dpn@portcars.org

#### PCARS Appointments & Committees

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner	w8kno@portcars.org
Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj1@portcars.org
Field Day	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj1@portcars.org
Net Controller	WB8LCD	Tom Sly	wb8lcd@portcars.org
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson	kb8uuz@portcars.org
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson	kb8uuz@portcars.org
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.	kb8dpn@portcars.org



#### PCARS Mentors – Need some help or advice? Contact:

Echo Link	KC8RKV	James Godfrey	kc8rkv@portcars.org
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This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, the RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving the newsletter are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and it's delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail. The RADIOGRAM is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that. To remove your self from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuz @ portcars.org

#### Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor

9992 State Route 700

Mantua, OH 44255

**PCARS Web Site: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)**



Nolo  
Lavetro  
Cumminado