



# The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



July 2006

~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~

Vol. 1 No. 6

## ~ 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

Who would've believed, that in six short months, a new club would have accomplished as much as PCARS has? In spite of the distractions we faced early on, PCARS is a success story we can all be proud of. We have obtained our ARRL affiliation. We have been granted our 501(c)3 status by the IRS. We have had six monthly meetings, all of which were fun, interesting and well attended. We've had a Freeze Your Acorns Off event, antenna building clinic, Blind Squirrel Hunt, and an OUTSTANDING Field Day!! Our Thursday evening net is a lot of fun for both local and DX ops to check in to - not to mention how much fun you can have being net control. All this and we're really just getting started!

We've made new friends and learned a lot about each other as well as this great hobby. I congratulate you all, because you are the club - you have made it the success that it is. I also want to Thank You for your participation in the club activities and the encouragement that gives to all of your club officers.

As you watch the fireworks over this coming 4th of July weekend, don't think that PCARS is going to have the same effect (short burst, big bang, done). We've laid a foundation from which a truly GREAT club can rise and serve our hobby and our community.



The best is really yet to come. I want to put one challenge out to you for the balance of 2006: If each member could bring in one new member - we could double the size of the membership in the next six months. There are over 400 hams listed in Portage County! Add to that Summit, Geauga, and some of Cuyahoga county, and we have a huge opportunity to reach out to hams that have not plugged in to any local club. As you go out and about, talk up PCARS with the hams you come into contact with - let them know they are welcome here! Invite them to become part of a local ham club that's having fun and providing the opportunity to learn about and participate in a wide range of ham radio activities. Once again, the best is really yet to come! Be an active part of it with us - You are the most important member of the club, and we need you. Best 73 to all, have a safe and happy 4th of July!

**Tom - WB8LCD**

## From the Vice President

There has been so much going on this past month: Mel Vye's presentation at our last meeting, the Portage County EMA's SET, and Field Day, just to name the most noteworthy. All of those are covered elsewhere in this month's newsletter, so I won't take space here for them.

The officers of PCARS are very proud to announce that the Internal Revenue Service has issued its ruling that **PCARS is now a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable organization.** We received the letter during the Saturday Field Day event and it was real cause for



celebration. This is extremely important for PCARS because it means that donations and contributions to PCARS are tax deductible for the donors. It also opens the door for us to seek grants and other funding sources for communication equipment and supplies. This is truly an important development for PCARS.

Remember, PCARS will be sponsoring a Technician Class course this Fall at the Maplewood Career Center on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The cost will be \$20.00 which is paid to Maplewood, plus the 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!

The Field Day committee will be meeting in the near future to review this year's event and decide what worked and what didn't and make recommendations for the PCARS 2007 Field Day. Your input is important so please let us know if you have any comments about the 2006 Field Day.

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**

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## ***HT to Work Day***

My participation of the Bring Your HT to Work day was minor, although I did bring my HT along with me. I made a copy or the clubs clipping from the mornings paper touting our upcoming Field Day activities, as well as a few pages from [www.Hello-Radio.org](http://www.Hello-Radio.org) describing what Amateur Radio was all about. I also made a copy of the QST that was sent to PCARS members describing the HT Tuesday event. My problem is that as a Radio Technician for the Ohio Department of Transportation, District 4 headquartered out of our new offices on Arlington Rd in Akron, nobody really thought it was of any event that I had a radio with me!

My assistant Dale Wahl - KC8UNT also joined me in a few conversations with coworkers during the day's events, which usually started with my opening line of: "It's bring your HT to work day..." Then I said -- "No -- Really" and produced the miniature packet of information for the folks to pass along and read.

I also wanted to have people to talk to available, and the 146.895 repeater is just out of local range -- as are any other repeaters around my workplace. Earlier that morning I configured the cross-band repeater function of my dual band radio to link the 146.895 repeater in Kent/Rootstown to a 440 simplex frequency. This gave me local coverage of the repeater via my HT. I also wanted to make myself available to anybody else who needed a QSO for the HT event.

Around lunch time I spoke with WB8LCD via the links, thus giving a live demonstration to several coworkers.

In this day of cell phones and other electronic devices, the HT might have been downplayed on it's own -- however many an eyebrow were raised when I explained the path of links being used to make the connection. Without getting too techy I explained that I was transmitting to my car, which repeated my signal to Rootstown, which linked to Kent transmitted to Tom, who was driving home in his car. On receive it was just the opposite Discussion was also added that the repeater itself could be linked via the Internet to the world via the KC8RKV Echolink node. I very easily could have sat at the picnic table and talked to China.

No new Hams to report yet... But I did plant a few seeds! What I enjoyed about the day is that I actually was forced to "think outside the box" and sit down and figure out how to make that cross-band connection. As with many of our operating events, we are forced to dig back into our knowledge base and use what we have. In the event I actually need to use the cross-band link again, it wont take me the 45 minutes of manual searching and button pushing to make that connection next time.

What a fascinating hobby we have!

**Russ - KB8DPN**

## ***Paper Chase***

I usually talk about paper that you can get, but there is the other side of the QSO of giving the QSL. We saw this very well during the presentation of Peter I. During this last weekend, I was in Washington DC and had hoped to operate from the Smithsonian Institute - NN3SI, during Field Day but was unable to. Even if it had been successfully arranged, the seven inches of rain overnight would have prevented it as the Smithsonian was closed Sunday. I was hoping to have pictures and all that stuff but ended up calling CQ on my HT from the 17th floor of our hotel for an hour without success. It must have been the torrents that prevented the radio waves to reach me. If you would like to get a WAC (Worked All Continents) from 1200Z July 8th till 1200Z July 9th is the IARU Contest. Last year Portage County had the Number 1 and 2 stations from Ohio.

Another slight departure from the normal Paper Chase column this month because you have the opportunity to get a **Brand New DX Entity - Montenegro.**



U.N. diplomats said the General Assembly of the The United Nations has admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity, effective June 28 at 0001 UTC.

Montenegro's flag will be raised at a ceremony outside U.N. headquarters, joining the flags of the other member states.

Dxpedition MONTENEGRO 2006 will start from 20th of July till 12th of August 2006 and will be on air on all HF bands/modes.

Large international group of well known Dxpeditioners and

contesters leading with coach Martti, OH2BH and others from Organizing committee are guarantee that all of you will work new DXCC country easily on all bands/modes.

Following a national referendum on May 21, 2006, the Republic of Montenegro declared its independence on June 3, 2006. Montenegro's independence is now recognized by a growing number of countries. Hence there is a new DXCC entity.

One of the activities associated with The International DX Festival Montenegro 2006 will be a record breaking DXpedition targeting for 200,000 QSOs. The expedition will be held from three different locations using only one, and the very first callsign following a new ITU allocation to Montenegro.

The very first amateur radio activity from this new DXCC entity will be managed by an International DXpedition Team, and is planned to take part very quickly after approval of the DXCC status. As DXpedition Organizing Committee is elected:

Bob Grimmick, N6OX. One of 3Y0X team members. That will be his third visit to Montenegro.

Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T. Has been active in contesting since 1980. Hans is IARU Region 1 Executive Member and President of the European DX Foundation.

Martti Laine, OH2BH - Radio Operations Leader, Coach. Martti is a veteran DXpeditioner and world-class contester with many Worlds first wins under his belt along with ten (10) new country activations. Martti was invited to the Montenegro Project to share his experience and coach the team in an all-in-one spirit plus ensure the highest possible performance level for this once-in-a-lifetime happening.

David Sumner, K1ZZ. As an operator, Dave is known mainly for CW contesting but he is also a Top of the Honor Roll DXer and has made tens of thousands of QSOs from 4U1ITU, VP2M and other DX QTHs. He is also Secretary of the IARU and Chief Executive Officer of the ARRL. Dave has visited Montenegro four times since 1977 and is excited to be returning to an independent nation.

Linda Sumner, KA1ZD. K1ZZ's wife. Excellent SSB operator. She's also VP2MCL and 4O6ZD.

Wayne A Mills, N7NG. DXCC director and President of YASME foundation.

Carsten Esch, DL6LAU. Carsten is licensed since 1982. He mostly enjoys joining international M/S or M/M teams for contesting.

Vladan Kecman, YT3T. Also YU1AO. Excellent CW/SSB contester.

Ranko Boca, YT6A - Dxpedition leader. Ranko, well known contester/ DXer. Founder of SKY Contest Club. A1 OP, VHSC member.

So tune up that rig, and take this opportunity to get the newest DXCC entity in the log book! Hope to hear you on the bands!

**Joe - W8KNO**

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

Welcome again to my little corner of the newsletter. I hope that some of you are using the info in this column to hook that one station, country or island that you need. I'd hate to think that all this info gathering and editing is going to waste. Twenty meters has been open to the South Pacific for the last



couple of nights and a couple of North Island New Zealanders have been coming in 5x9 at my QTH. So you niteowls should have some fun.

### **DX**

A7 - QATAR, A71EM, A71BX are QRV as A72006 until July 31 for the 15th Asian Games to be held in Doha. All bands and

modes. QSL via EA7FTR.

C9 - K5LBU (C91CF), WW5L (C91TL), NE5EE (C91EE), N4PJ (C91JR) and NQ7R (C91TK) active from Bilene, Mozambique from June 27 to July 13. QSL via home calls.

SV5 - DODECANESE, Ermanno, IK2WZD is QRV as SV0XAN/5 until July 31. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL to home call.

T6 - Mika, OH6MKL is active as T66T from Afghanistan through July. 160-10 meters CW and SSB. QSL via home call.

TF - Fabio, IW5DCE will be in Iceland from 8 June for 6 months. Call as TF/IW5DCE on 6m and the HF bands (SSB & digital modes).

V8 - BRUNEI, Ambram, V85SS QRV on 80 -15 meters on CW from around 1100 to 1700z daily.

XU - CAMBODIA, Vincent is QRV as XU7BKV active on 20m using SSB between 1230 and 1400z. QSL via F4BKV.

Z3 - Laci, HA1RS visits Zoli, Z38C (HA1CA) in Scopje, Macedonia from June 24- July 14. Will operate as Z38R on HF, 6m & VHF/UHF bands. QSL Z38R and Z38C via HA1RS, direct or bureau.

### **IOTA**

5H - Dane, ST2T (S57CQ) active as 5H1DN from Zanzibar Island (AF-032) on July 7-14, IARU HF World Championship included. QSL via S57DX

8Q - Vangelis, SV2BFN will operate holiday style as 8Q7/SV2BFN from the Maldives (AS-013) from June 21-July 4. QRV on 10-40 meters RTTY and SSB, with some CW. QSL via home call.

CU - A multi-national team of 11 operators will be active on 160-6 meters CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 from Flores Island (EU-089, DIP AZ-008), Azores from July 29-August 8. Operating as CU8F from Albarnaz Lighthouse (ARLHS AZO-016, WLOTA LH-0947, DFP FAZ 02). Call during the IOTA Contest (July 28-29) will be as CU8T. QSL for both calls via CT1GFK, direct or bureau.

EA - EA4ST, EA1CA, EA1HP, EA1OS, EA1DAV, EA1DAX, EA1FDI & EA1DKV - IOTA Contest as ED1CA from Sisarga Grande (EU-077). Look for them on SSB and CW. QSL via EA1CA.

EI - IRELAND, EI9FBB is QRV as EJ9FBB from Bere Island, IOTA EU-121, on various occasions during the summer. QSL to home call.

F - The Minkieboys (ON4ON, ON5SY, ON6CX, ON7PO & ON7PQ) active as F/homecall/p from Ile de Sein (EU-068) on July 28-30. IOTA Contest as F/ON4ON/p. QSL via ON4ON, direct or bureau



FO - FRENCH POLYNESIA, FO5RH is QRV from Tatakoto Island, IOTA OC-066, until July 25.

FO - F6CTL will be visiting the following islands:

July 1-6 Tahiti & Moorea (OC-046) French Polynesia

July 7-11 Magareva (OC-063) French Polynesia

July 12-14 Fakarava (OC-066) French Polynesia

July 14-16 Huahine (OC-067) French Polynesia

Yves will operate SSB and some CW on 10-40 meters.

GM - G3USR - Island of Hirta, St. Kilda (EU-059) as part of a National Trust for Scotland working party from June 24 to July 6. He plans to operate SSB (mainly on 20 and 40 meters). QSL via G3USR

GM - The Five Bells Group (G1JZP, G0VTL, G1GSN and G4ODA) plans to operate as GM4SIV from St. Kilda (EU-059, Grid IO57) on July 1-8. They will be QRV on 6 meters and up. QSL via G4ODA

JA - Special event station 8N4OKI will be active from the Oki Islands (AS-041) between now and July 31 to celebrate the opening of the new Oki Airport. QSL via the JARL bureau

JA - JJ8NNR/8 & others to operate from Rishiri Island (AS-147, JIJA AS-147-007) on July 15-16. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau.

KH0 - JK1FNL, 7K4QOK and JE1KUC - Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (OC-086) on July 7-10. 80-6 meters and will participate in the IARU HF World Championship. QSL via their JA home calls.

LU - The Radio Club Argentino will be operating as LR4D from Martin Garcia Island (SA-055) on July 6-9.

OZ - ON4ACA, ON6LY & ON6UQ active from Romo Island (EU-125) from July 29 - Aug 4. IOTA Contest as OZ0ACA.

VP2M - M0AEP - SSB & CW on 80-6m as VP2MDD from Montserrat (NA-103) on July 1-14. He plans to concentrate on 6 meters with 350 watts and a 5 element yagi. QSL via home call.

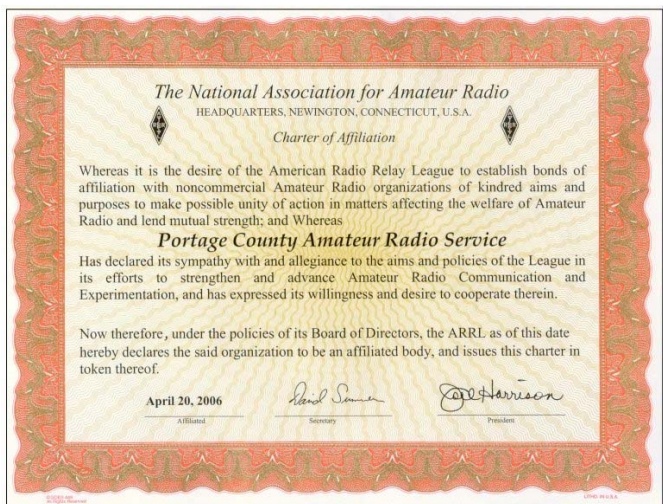
ZD8 - G0JLX will operate SSB and CW as ZD8AD from Ascension Island (AF-003) July 1-23. QSL via G0JLX, direct or bureau.

Well that's it for this month. Hope to hear that some of you got to work some gud DX. 73's

**Chuck - K8CMP**

## ***PCARS is affiliated with the ARRL***

It's official! The certificate arrived! We are now affiliated with



the ARRL as of April 20th. The process started back in mid November and with the help of key people, we have gone through the process and emerged in the light to be an ARRL

affiliated club. So, what does this mean? Well for one, we can (and did) get our liability insurance through the ARRL's discount program. Being affiliated also shows that we believe in what the ARRL is doing for the betterment of our hobby. Let's face it, if the ARRL was not there to do battle for our ham bands, we probably would have lost this hobby years ago! I encourage all non-ARRL members to join the ARRL. Some people say they don't like this, or that, when it comes to the ARRL, but there are areas that you like. By being a member of ARRL, you help to give clout when it comes to officials talking with legislators or FCC officials. As with any organizations, membership numbers means a lot. So, please, join the ARRL to help keep this great hobby of ours around. As soon as we got the e-mail notice that we were affiliated, I immediately sent all the PCARS members the information by e-mail. I also copied the ARRL Great Lakes Division Manager, Ohio Section Manager, and Ohio Affiliated Club Coordinator. We received nice replies and congratulations from both the Great Lakes Division Manager and the Ohio Section Manager.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**

## ***FIELD DAY WAS A BLAST!!***

There, now that I have gotten that out of my system it may be a bit easier to describe just what a great time we had at PCARS' inaugural Field Day event. Two-thirds of PCARS' members attended and we had over two dozen guests. We made over 450 QSO's on six bands and scored over 2200 points (our finally tally is not yet complete). Not a bad showing for our first try, particularly considering that we had decided to focus on the fun not on the contest.

If you did not make it to the Cunningham Shelter you missed a great time. Setup started around ten a.m. on Saturday and was completed by 1330 EDT. Antennas included a forty meter dipole as a sloper from the shelter up into a tree; a multi-band inverted vee up about thirty-five feet at its peak; a Buddipole tuned for fifteen meters; Tom - WB8LCD's homebrew 20m vertical; and a j-pole for two meters.



The vertical was a story in itself, only having been completed by Tom a few days before the event. It just killed on twenty with a range that extended from Hawaii to Germany. It had the world's ugliest and least technical capacity hat but it sure proved that looks aren't everything.

We were a 3A station ("Three Alpha Ohio" is still ringing in our ears) which meant we had three full-time transmitters plus the Get On The Air station and a VHF rig. The HF rigs were all Icom, including a 706 MkIIIG, a 746, and Chuck - K8CMP's new 7000. The 706 remained primarily on 40m and mostly CW, Chuck stuck with 20m on the 7000, and the 746 operated on 80m, 15m, 10m, and even completed one QSO on 6m. The VHF rig was used for passing traffic by Bill - WB9LBI, who also acted as net control from the Field Day

site for the Tri-County Traffic Net.

The GOTA station was something special. Since the ARRL had chosen PCARS to be a demonstration site for one of their drop kits, we decided that the most appropriate use of the Kenwood TS-480SAT would be for the GOTA station. What better way to show the public what the ARRL hoped to accomplish with these kits?

We did not install the Icom multi-band dipole included with the drop kit because we already had sufficient antenna capacity and really did not have a place to string it. We ran the Kenwood through the commercial Buddipole which was in a horizontal 15m configuration. It seemed to work well all the way into the evening and the GOTA operators completed over thirty QSO's.

No one will ever forget Chuck - K8CMP, the iron man of twenty meters, who was relentless in his pursuit of Q's. He finally set a fan up to blow air on his new Icom 7000 so that he didn't overheat it!

Dan - WD8DAU, got the forty meter CW going on the 706. His replacement, Bill - WB9LBI, demonstrated how an ambidextrous ham can send with his left hand while logging with his right. Then he outdid himself by working CW on the 746 using the up and down buttons on the top of the mike. Now that was impressive!! Bill also had a chance to log for his daughter Julie - KD8AYJ, while she worked SSB on the 746.

About a half dozen of us managed to last through the night. Eighty meters stayed open but noisy and Chuck periodically squeezed out some activity on twenty. It was a crystal clear sky that night, but did it ever get chilly, easily down in the low fifties. A couple of folks managed to catch a little bit of sleep but it did not come easy.

Special credit goes to Ken - AB8IE, who made a valiant effort to get PSK31 up and running on 40m overnight. He could copy them but they could not hear him. We never did figure out what the problem was, though I think it was the crummy sound card in my laptop.

Sunday morning saw renewed activity as folks drifted back in and we operated a bit all the way up till almost 1400 EDT. There was WB9LBI working those mike buttons after the rest of us had packed it in. We were packed up and off the site by 1430 hours.

The highlight of the tear down was WB8LCD dropping his 20m vertical on me, pretending that it was my fault that it was falling. This was payback for my lapse in judgment when we were setting up the antenna in Tom's backyard a few days prior to Field Day for testing and I managed to bend the lower half of the mast in to an "L". Needless to say, I fell for it, hook, guyline, and sinker, desperately trying to keep the antenna from falling while Tom was shoving it over. It was a great laugh for all of us.



**KC8PD tries to save the antenna**

And what a great site for Field Day. The Cunningham Shelter has plenty of room for all of us and our gear. We

could separate radio operations into one end of the shelter while the GOTA station, public information table, and food and beverages could be kept at the other end. Tom -



KB8UUZ, did a **PCARS Information Table - KB8UUZ** did a great job on the public information table. Lots of photos and other descriptive information about PCARS and ham radio.

The site was readily accessible to the public and we had over two dozen people stop in to visit. Our visitors included Kevin Poland - Mayor of Ravenna, as well as Scott McKinney - N8TPK, and Marty Copfer - KC8NOV, both from the Red Cross. The visitors included eleven hams who were not club members, though one submitted his application on Saturday and others took applications with them. Another special visitor was Mark Erbaugh - N8ME, who is running for election as the Ohio Section Manager.

Let's not forget the food! Pizzas donated by Mike's place for lunch on Saturday; steaks donated by Errol - KC8RJR, and expertly grilled by Tom - WB8LCD, for dinner on Saturday.



**Steak & Baked Potato Dinner**

The best tasting ever egg casseroles on Sunday morning prepared by Mary, WB8LCD's XYL; and a huge pot of chili courtesy of Robin, WB9LBI's XYL that afternoon. A special thanks to the Center of Hope for the huge box of cookies they provided to us, as well as thanks to Hutsler and Sly Insurance and WalMart for their donations.

This event could not have happened without the efforts of the Field Day Committee, Tom - WB8LCD, Bobby - WB8FEW, Bill - WB9LBI, Russ - KB89DPN, and Chuck - K8CMP. We learned lots of useful lessons about planning, preparations, and operations, all of which will be useful next year. It was a lot of work, but worth every moment of it.

The most important ham radio activity this weekend was Fellowship. Getting to know each other better, making new friends, just sharing in the experiences of the weekend. It is amateur radio that brought us all together and we are all better for it.

Now about next year...

**Jim - KC8PD**  
**Field Day Chairman**

**Editor's Note:** The list of Field Day donor's includes, Hutsler & Sly Insurance, Reduction Engineering, Inc., Vaughn's Market 43 in Twin Lakes, Fred Mendiola Insurance Agency in Kent, Center of Hope, Wal-Mart, AB8IE, N4TIE, and food/snack items from MANY of the PCARS members and their families. I'm sure I probably missed some names, and hopefully you'll pardon me if I did.



## Field Day - ARRL and GOTA

Most everyone is still getting over the long, but enjoyable, hours spent on Field Day 2006. I arrived on site around 10:30 am on Saturday and departed around 3 pm on Sunday all I could think about was that I'm getting too old for the all nighters. I'm reminded of the saying: 'Your mind is writing checks that your body can't cash'...

One of the highlites of this year's Field Day for PCARS was the GOTA (Get On The Air) station. I had met and talked with Norm Fusaro - W3IZ at the Hamvention. Norm is the ARRL Affiliated Club & Mentor Program Manager. Norm and I exchanged a few e-mails following the Hamvention, when in one of them, he asked what PCARS would be doing for Field Day. I filled him in on the Who, What, Where of what the committee had worked out when he offered us an opportunity that I could not refuse! Norm offered to send PCARS one of the ARRL 'Go Kits' that will be used for emergency communications. The Go Kit was ours to use for Field Day!

Four days prior to Field Day the kit arrived. The Pelican case



**KC8PD - K8CMP - WB8LCD** was packed a Kenwood TS-480SAT (HF + 6m with internal tuner), Astron Power Supply, and Icom All HF Band Dipole, Rope, Power cords, and manuals. Everything you need to get a station on the air in an emergency.

Since the ARRL was so kind to loan this to us, we had decided to use it for the GOTA station and Nick - N8WLE lent his call sign for that use. We opted to use a Buddy Pole for the antenna since we had already used most of the higher trees for other long wire dipoles, so the ICOM dipole stayed in the case.



**N8WLE**

The radio worked great! Everyone that used the rig said it was very easy to use and understand all the buttons and knobs. The internal tuner was fantastic when coupled with the Buddy Pole, tune up was done in an instant!

**Tom - KB8UZZ**



## Some Comments on Field Day 2006

The following is just a few of the e-mail comments I received about our Field Day 2006. Lots of people are still in recovery mode.

If how much you feel beat up on Monday Morning after Field Day is an indicator of how good Field Day is - then it must have been terrific! I feel like a truck ran over me!!!!!!!!!! - Tom - KB8UZZ

3 Alpha Ohio.....3 Alpha Ohio..... 3 Alpha Ohio..... 3..... Oh sorry! the doctor said it's just flash back and it will go away in a few weeks! Guys and gals..... all I have to say is that even though I feel like I got hit by the same truck that hit Parky and then it decided to dump it's load of gravel on me, I had one heck of a great time. The food was excellent and the camaraderie was great and the bands seemed to cooperate. Our first field day event was AWESOME DUDES!!!!!!!!!!!! and Dudettes. My thanks go out to the cooks and the wives who prepared the feasts for us. Other clubs may end up winning awards for their operations, but our goal was to have a great, fun time and we hit a bases loaded home run!! Do we have to wait a whole year to do it again???? Maybe a Fall classic of some type... of course after an appropriate period of recovery. Many thanks to all who attended. Chuck - K8CMP

I keep hearing CW everywhere. From the air conditioner .... traffic out on the turnpike .... crickets. Don't they know FD is over? "The food was excellent and the camaraderie was great" Easy for YOU to say, Chuck, you didn't have to deal with the leftovers afterward. Next stop: Ohio QSO Party! 73 de Bill WB9LBI

I can only echo everyone else's comments - what a great time!

**Tom - WB8LCD**

## 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. Complete rules, log sheet and summary sheet can be found on the PCARS web site ([www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)). 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.



**Tom - KB8UZZ**

## ***New DEC For Our Area Appointed***

Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, Frank Piper, KI8GW, has appointed a new DEC (District Emergency Coordinator) for the 5th Emergency District and has announced a halt to any plans to change the current 9 Emergency District map for Ohio.

Jack Sovik - KB8WPZ, of Youngstown (Mahoning County) currently an AEC for Mahoning County ARES, is the new DEC for the ten county Fifth District. He succeeds the late Jim Miller - K8EIO (SK), who became a silent key in 2004.

Jack also serves the ARRL as a Public Information Officer, Official Observer, Volunteer Examiner, and Official Emergency Station. Jack is also VP of the Mahoning Valley ARC. He is a graduate of the ARRL EmComm Level 3, as well as FEMA's IS courses 100, 200, 700 and 800.

ARES District Five consists of the following counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Trumbull.

After the DEC appointment, SEC Piper also announced there would be no change in the Ohio Emergency District map this year.

"I will be working with our DEC's and our served agencies to become educated so the final decision any Ohio map change but do not expect any redistricting until at least 2007," Mr. Piper said, "Thanks to all the District EC's and ARES members who have given me their input on this matter showing there was enough concern to cause me not to push this topic too fast."

Former SEC John Chapman - WB8INY, had asked Ohio ARES members to comment on a plan to cut the number of districts from nine to eight conforming to the current Homeland Security Agency map of Ohio.

***Joe Phillips - K8QOE***  
***ARRL Ohio Section Manager***

## ***Mel Vye - W8MV & the Peter 1 DXpedition***

Could you imagine a six week long trip to spend eleven days on a frozen island inside the Antarctic Circle all in pursuit of a hobby? Well Mel Vye, W8MV, can, and, in fact, did exactly that this past winter when he and twenty other ham radio operators traveled to the Peter I island to operate an amateur radio station.



as he related this fascinating story.

Mel, who is 62, has been a licensed amateur radio operator for nearly fifty years and is Professor Emeritus of Electronics Engineering Technology at the University of Akron. He has lived in China and Puerto Rico and has traveled around the world. Although he still does consulting work as an RF

radio station. Mel recently shared his experience with the members and guests of PCARS at the June meeting. His presentation was informative and entertaining

engineer, he has always set aside time for his lifelong hobby. When the opportunity arose to make this trip he did not hesitate to say yes.

For all of us who like to chase DX, we know that some of the countries or entities, such as the Peter I island (named for Russia's Peter the Great), are extremely difficult to work because they are uninhabited or have no regular amateur radio operations. Thanks to the efforts of the Peter I crew this was a chance to put a truly rare one in the logbook.

Only twice before had Peter I island had an amateur radio station operating on it and due to changing ecology and regulatory conditions may never be activated again. So this DXpedition was truly a once in a lifetime trip for the team. Once the trip had been announced over a year ago, hams around the world waited for the chance to work this rare one which would have the call sign 3Y0X.

Mel described what a huge undertaking this was. It was probably the most expensive DXpedition ever with a total cost over a half-million dollars. Coordinating this project was incredibly complex and attempts in the past few years had led all the way up to the team traveling to Argentina in 2005 and then not having a suitable ship for the ocean travel.

Pulling the team together was also a challenge. Each had to be physically able to withstand the rigors of the trip, have specialized technical or support skills, be exceptionally proficient in amateur radio operations, be able to spend at least six weeks away from home, and willing to bear the individual expense of around \$16,000.00. Team members were recruited from eight different countries and all trained together even before travel began.

This January, all of the team members had to travel to Chile, then fly to King George Island to meet up with the ship that would carry them to the island. Some eleven tons of gear had been shipped from the states to join them onboard. Four days of travel on the ocean put them off the coast of Peter I. Getting to the island was another matter. Because of the sheer cliff face of the island, all travel to and from Peter I had to be by helicopter which could only fly when conditions were safe.

The ship sat at anchor for almost two days before the first flight could take off and then it could only fly for eight hours before the weather closed in again. Three team members and about half the equipment sat on the ship for another three days before the chopper could fly again. In the end, it took one hundred fifty-four flights of the helicopter to get the men and gear on and off the island.

Mel stressed to the PCARS members how critical it was to ensure safe operation of the helicopter. It was the only way to get off the island and if the copter was damaged it could be many dangerous days before another ship could arrive with a





rescue aircraft. And the flying was not inexpensive. This was one part of the trip that went over budget because each hour of helicopter operations cost the team \$3,000.00.

Once on the island the crew quickly began setting up the four tents, assembling and mounting antennas, and getting the station on the air. Two tents were used for radio operations, two for sleeping and one for meals and the rare relaxation time. Travel between the tents could be tricking due to the rapidly changing weather conditions. Orange flags were used to mark the paths which could be quickly covered by a blizzard.

Winds ranged up to sixty miles an hour and when the air was calm an enveloping fog could set in. Since it was summer in the southern hemisphere temperatures ranged from just above freezing to down in the twenties.

The slush on the ground when the team arrived

became ice that surrounded the equipment and cables when they left.

The typical day for Mel and the others was nine hours of on-air operations, nine hours of miscellaneous work and equipment maintenance, and six hours of sleep. The operations and meal tents had space heaters but the sleeping tents were unheated. Portable generators were needed for electric power and a port-a-pot was flown in to ensure the removal of all waste materials. Nothing could be left on the island.

Despite the lost time due to the harsh weather, the team made nearly 87,000 contacts around the world. The majority of these contacts were fairly evenly divided between voice and cw on the shortwave bands. Other contacts were made using data modes and 113 contacts were made on VHF frequencies by bouncing signals off the moon (EME).



When it was time to shut down the operation all the gear had to be packed up and transported with the crew back to the ship and the long journey back home began. Mel's enthusiasm for his part in this incredible accomplishment remains today. His youthful zest for this challenge was apparent to all and it was a real treat for area hams to meet one of their local heroes.

Anyone wishing to obtain more information about the Peter I DXpedition or to make a donation to assist the team can go to [www.peterone.com](http://www.peterone.com).

Mel's presentation was a memorable event for everyone who had the chance to attend the meeting and PCARS hopes to have more programs like this in the future. We want to thank

Mel for taking the time out of his schedule to attend a PCARS meeting. Our thanks also go out to John Wagner, W8JJW, and the folks at DX Engineering (one of the Peter I sponsors) for their generous donation of the Peter I stocking caps and DX Engineering hats which resulted in our most successful meeting raffle to date.

*Jim - KC8PD*

## **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.



*Tom - KB8UUZ*

## **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](mailto:WB8VNO@portcars.org)

*Gay - WB8VNO*

## **Red Cross & Summit County Skywarn**

Hello PCARS - Its great to know that PCARS is willing to be part of the Red Cross. I'll be putting on a program for the club in August. The program will be about how amateur radio



works with the Red Cross and how we can benefit from using amateur radio. The program consists of discussing the role of the Red Cross in a disaster operation and how the amateur community can provide communications during a disaster.

Thanks for the invite to the PCARS Field Day site, it was great to see all of you operate.

Also for your members, here is information on the Summit County Skywarn system:

The web page is [www.sumsky.us](http://www.sumsky.us)

We operate on the freq of 147.135 no pl - primary. We also



we use 147.270 pl 110.9 - for back up.

We are looking for skywarn net controllers for the group if anyone is interested, please feel free to call me, Martin Copfer - KC8NOV Asst. Skywarn Coordinator at 330-701-2184.



**Martin Copfer - KC8NOV**  
Disaster Chairman  
Portage/Summit County Chapters  
American Red Cross  
Akron, Ohio  
330-535-6131

## Emcom - SET

On Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) conducted a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) at the Ravenna Arsenal. This was a Functional SET that gave the EMA the opportunity to be assessed by the Ohio EMA in the areas of Incident Assessment, Incident Command, Communications, Response Personnel Safety, Emergency Medical Services, and Hospital Services.

I had been able to attend planning meetings for the SET and to make suggestions for possible services to be provided by amateur radio operators. Those were relayed to ARES officials but they unfortunately did not participate.



**WB8LCD - KB8UUZ - KC8PD**  
to also serve. This enabled us to observe and evaluate communications for the entire event as well as a specific evaluation for the Portage County Health Department.

The exercise had gone through a number of revisions in the planning process. Originally conceived as a terrorist attack on a chemical storage facility in Kent, in its final version it was an apparent terrorist attack on a chlorine transport truck on Main Street in Kent across from Terrace Hall (a heads up to Jim - KC8RKV, this was right across from his home.) The scenario had the chlorine truck being blocked in traffic by the



terrorists who then pulled the driver from the truck, beat and shot him, and then placed explosive devices on the truck

before taking off. People in the vicinity were quickly affected by the leaking gas, a 911 call was made, and it was at this point that the simulation would begin.

There are obvious logistical issues in trying to pull something like this off in real time on a busy city street. EMA shrewdly enlisted the cooperation of the Ohio National Guard to obtain the use of an area within the Ravenna Arsenal. This provided off-site parking for participants, a sizable staging area for safety equipment (of which there was a lot), and a roadside area in front of buildings for the actual event.

We reported to the site around 0630 hours and were in the first group into the site via a PARTA bus. The participants stood by at the staging area until a briefing was held in the EMA communications vehicle for the facilitators and evaluators and then a safety briefing was conducted for all hands. There were well over a 170 participants in the event.

The three of us were then issued VHF radios to monitor the three channels that would be available to the responding units as well as 800 MHz MARCS radios that were being used by the event coordinator, the facilitators and the evaluators. We also chose to carry our HT's so that we could operate simplex to stay in touch with each other without creating unnecessary traffic on the emergency services channels. And hey, we were there as amateur radio operators and, by golly, we were going to use ham radios.

From there we moved to the incident site where the victims were being placed and when all were ready a smoke generator was fired up to simulate the leak of chlorine gas. The first Kent fire unit pulled up short of the incident in order to assess the situation and the exercise was underway.

There must have been about a dozen fire departments and HAZMAT teams that participated, including some from Geauga, Trumbull, and Ashtabula, as well as Portage county. There were a variety of fire trucks, EMS units, HAZMAT units, as well as the communication vehicle and the county's



brand new decontamination truck. Additional responders included personnel from the Portage County and City of Kent Health Departments who dealt with environmental issues (a gasoline leak from a tank punctured by a stray bullet that threatened the water supply), a Public Information Officer (PIO) for both internal and external communications, and even the news media.

The exercise stretched over a couple hours as the firefighters and EMT's secured the area, assessed the injured and removed those furthest from the leaking tanks, set up all of their equipment such as the decontamination truck, measured airborne levels of toxins, climbed into moon suits to bring the over victims out, decontaminate the victims and the rescuers, and so on. They put a lot of work into this.

Meanwhile, at Robinson Memorial Hospital a group of volunteers had been walk-in "victims" who were assessed and

treated. The victims at the incident site were not physically transported to the hospital but became patients on paper at RMH.

The last task would have been to simulate the capping of the leaks but Mark wisely ordered a stand down due to approaching storms and gathered all the participants into a building that was made available for our use. Within fifteen minutes a thunderstorm struck. This had actually been a consideration in the original plan which contemplated a continuation even if it rained but an immediate termination if lightning threatened.

After everyone had a chance to chomp down the bagged lunches from Guido's, an on-site debriefing was held with comments from participating agencies as well as the facilitators and evaluators. We cleared the arsenal by about 1230 hours.



What a terrific opportunity for the three of us to observe what was probably this county's largest HAZMAT training event ever. We had a chance to meet people from around the county as well as State EMA staff and talk with all of them. We learned a lot and, more importantly, were able to demonstrate that members of the amateur radio community in this county are willing to assist and serve.

All in all, communications were a success. We truly hope that the assessments and feedback that we provided on the evaluation forms will be valuable to the EMA. As an additional step, we prepared and submitted an After Action Report that gave us a chance as a team to give a more detailed appraisal.

*Jim – KC8PD*

### ***What the Heck Is That?***

While KB8UUZ and WB8LCD and I were participating in the June 3<sup>rd</sup> EMA SET, we could not help but notice the devices shown in these photographs. There were a number of



these placed between the buildings on the road where the exercise took place.

The boxes sat on top of one or more metal pallets. Each box had its own antenna and the device appeared to draw power from what looked to be enclosures the size of automobile batteries. Some of the devices had plywood platforms attached to them. Curiosity got the best of us and we asked two National Guardsmen who were monitoring the activities what they

were. Turns out they are target lifting devices that are radio activated.

KB8UUZ copied the web site address that was printed on the devices and more information can be found at [http://www.mds-caswell.com/military/mout\\_targetdevices.htm](http://www.mds-caswell.com/military/mout_targetdevices.htm)

The Guardsmen also told us that the devices can be used to generate sound including that of live fire or explosive devices as well as raising targets.

The devices were interspersed between this long row of warehouse type buildings that were interconnected by a raised concrete catwalk. The row of buildings paralleled a road so it is likely these are used for drive-by training exercises.



*Jim - KC8PD*

### ***Field Day 2006 Members***

During Field Day 2006, the following PCARS members visited the site to help set up & tear down, operate, talk about ham radio, and enjoy being with others in PCARS.

Russ - KB8DPN	Irene - KD8DPN
Tom - KB8UUZ	Tom - WB8LCD
Al - KB8VJL	Jim - KC8PD
Errol - KC8RJR	Bill - WB9LBI
Dan - WD8DAU	Chuck - K8CMP
Carl - N4TIE	Jim - KC8RKV
Bobby - WB8FEW	Ed - KC8NOW
Jack - K8HGX	Bob - WB8OKQ
Karen - WB8BIW	Scott - N8TPK
Larry - N8FTP	Ken - AB8IE
Bob - N8KBX	Mike - AB8UD
Mark - KC8FQV	Huey - N8HU
Robin - KC8TYR	Mike - KB8TUY
Roger - KB8JHS	Ted - KC8SYD

### ***Field Day 2006 Visitors***

During Field Day 2006, PCARS was happy to have the following people visit our site and give us the opportunity to promote amateur radio and PCARS:

Ravenna Mayor Kevin Poland

Red Cross: Scott McKinney – N8TPK  
Marty Copfer – KC8NOV

Kyle Wilke	Bryon Molnar
Mary Jo Loveland	Fred Gordon
Heather Gordon	James Lauro
Jeanne Patellis	Dave Lang
Kevin Dow	Mary Patton
Laura Aylward	Klay McBroom
Larry Krempasky	Robin Fraedrich
Cheryl Pruett	Kadaijah Coleman
Darmell Hines	Marquice Turner
Vernon Turner	Megan McDivitt



Mark Erbaugh - N8ME	Julie Fraedrich - KD8AYJ
Leon Loveland - N8GLK	David Reith - W8HFY
Tom Mahon - KC8ZGL	Paul Drotar - K8OXM
Joe Riffle - KC8SQQ	Cliff Bliss - KC8EJU
Dale Cooley - N8TOI	

## Summit County Red Cross HQ Visit

Ham radio operators don't just help individuals during disasters and emergencies. In fact, it is more likely that an emcomm volunteer will be assigned to assist an organization that is meeting the immediate needs of victims. The most prominent of these served agencies is the American Red Cross, the national organization chartered by Congress to coordinate aid to disaster victims.

Locally the Portage County Red Cross is a Certified Service Delivery Unit affiliated with the Summit County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Up until a few years ago it had been a separate chapter but a well-informed decision was made by its board of directors to combine the efforts of the Portage County chapter with Summit County in order to achieve some cost savings and management efficiencies.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> I had a chance to visit the headquarters of the Summit County chapter at the invitation of Scott McKinney - N8TPK, a PCARS member, who is the Deputy Director of Disaster Relief Operation 225. While there I had a very informative



**Scott - N8TPK**

conversation with Mark Hairston who is the current president of the board of the chapter and he provided a very thorough explanation of the relation between the Summit and Portage units and future restructuring that the Red Cross plans.

Scott had invited me over to observe the disaster relief effort in place for the fifteen counties across northern Ohio that had suffered from flash floods, tornado, and other windstorm



damage in the past week. The effort extended all the way from Van Wert county east to Summit county. On a scale of one to seven levels of disasters (seven being the worst), this one is rated as a three. Operations such as this are now more effectively coordinated from a site like the large meeting room in the basement of the Summit headquarters. The building was constructed four years ago and this large open space was planned for uses like this.

While I was visiting, there were over two dozen staff working at the site. Only a handful of those are paid, the rest

are all volunteers. They included Marty Copfer - KC8NOV, who manages community services during the relief effort, and Ron Good, W8RJG, another PCARS member, who is a ten year Red Cross volunteer.



**Marty - KC8NOV**

The staff on site are the contact persons for the staff and volunteers at the service sites and chapters in all of the affected areas. They act as the intermediaries between the local staff and the national headquarters. Their information management and communication systems are impressive and virtually all of the equipment had been drop shipped via FedEx at the end of last week with the whole place up and running in under forty-eight hours. That happened with a critical assist from the Summit County ARES group under the direction of Larry Fields - WD8ITF, who volunteered to run cable and set up the radios and computers on Saturday, the first day of the Field Day weekend.

The equipment includes the satellite dish that is temporarily installed on the roof of the building in the only spot that allows a clear shot at the bird in the sky. All of the broadband service is over this link that Paul Burke - KB8VAS, explained had more bandwidth and better service than local hardline. They also set up their own dish for satellite television service so that they can constantly monitor the Weather Channel.

The site has an amateur radio dual band VHF/UHF rig installed with an antenna on the roof. The truckload of equipment shipped in also had full HF and VHF/UHF gear in the event that it was needed. So far during this disaster amateur radio support has been minimal because, luckily, commercial and public service communications had not been disrupted.

The entire operation is conducted in compliance with an Incident Command System with separate work sites for each of the operation units. They include Client Services, Community Services, Information Management, Material Support, Partner Services, Staff Services, Material Services and Organizational Support.

The Red Cross does an amazing job and their ability to quickly ramp up the response and service delivery when a crisis occurs deserves our respect and support. There are training opportunities available to everyone who would like to help, in particular ham radio operators. The better we understand the Red Cross' communication needs, the better we can help them. The more training that we receive from them, the more versatile and supportive we can be in a wide variety of ways during a disaster. Remember, those same skills can be incredibly beneficial to you, your family and your neighbors.

Scott and Marty will be making a presentation to PCARS at our August meeting. Let's all be there to learn more about what the Red Cross does and how we can help.

**Jim - KC8PD**

## WRECS President visits PCARS

At our last PCARS meeting we had a guest, Paul Mitchell - N8QZ, the President of the Western Reserve Emergency Communication Service (WRECS). Paul was attending our meeting not just for the fact that Mel Vye - W8MV, was speaking, but also because he wanted to encourage interaction between ham radio groups in Northeast Ohio. That vision is shared by the PCARS officers and has been regularly noted by Tom - WB8LCD, the



N8QZ - WB8LCD - W8MV

PCARS president, as one of his personal goals for our group.

Paul wrote up his visit in the WRECS News Letter. It was a joy reading his column describing the Peter I DXpedition and it was very gracious of the WRECS to include photographs from the PCARS meeting.

We look forward to sharing in ham radio fellowship and activities with other clubs and groups in this area and encourage you to do the same. Getting to know each other by more than a call sign and getting to participate in other clubs' events and meetings can only add to our enjoyment of the amateur radio service.



## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- ☉ **July 10th** PCARS meeting – Mark Griffiths, the Director of the Portage County EMA will be there to tell us about the variety of issues that the EMA deals with, in particular communications.
- ☉ **August 12th** - First Annual PCARS 2 meter simplex sprint. See PCARS web site for complete details.
- ☉ **August 14th** PCARS meeting – The Red Cross, with both Scott McKinney - N8TPK, and Marty Copfer - KC8NOV, providing us with information about Red Cross services and volunteer opportunities for ham radio operators.
- ☉ **August** – tentative event is a PCARS cookout. Let us know what you think about when and where we should hold it.
- ☉ **September 8th** – the PCARS Black Squirrel Special Event station at Kent State University.
- ☉ **October** – tentatively a Jamboree On The Air station for Portage County scouts.
- ☉ **Ongoing** – watch for announcements about PCARS activities at various outdoor festivals around the county this summer.

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Four PCARS members have a birthday in July:

N4PKW - Rod  
AK8U - Wayne

WB9LBI - Bill  
AB8IE - Ken



## FRS/GMRS

With more and more people buying the new FRS/GMRS radios, maybe we should review some facts for the Amateur Radio Operators. FRS stands for Family Radio Service, and GMRS stands for General Mobile Radio Service. These are two separate allocations according to the FCC. Some newer radios can transmit in both areas. However, be aware that anyone transmitting on GMRS must have a valid FCC license. Your Amateur Radio License does not cover these areas, and if you caught transmitting on GMRS without a license, not only can you be fined big bucks, but you may put your hard earned Amateur Radio License in jeopardy. Some new radios have 15 channels, some have 22. Here's a breakdown:

**A** = Channel numbers for 22 channel GMRS

**B** = Channel numbers for 15 channel GMRS

**C** = Type of Radio Service

**D** = Frequency (MHz)

**E** = Typical power level for HTs: a= .5 to 3w, b = .5w

A	B	C	D	E
1	1	FRS/GMRS	462.5625	a
2	2	FRS/GMRS	462.5875	a
3	3	FRS/GMRS	462.6125	a
4	4	FRS/GMRS	462.6375	a
5	5	FRS/GMRS	462.6625	a
6	6	FRS/GMRS	462.6875	a
7	7	FRS/GMRS	462.7125	a
8		FRS	467.5625	b
9		FRS	467.5875	b
10		FRS	467.6125	b
11		FRS	467.6375	b
12		FRS	467.6625	b
13		FRS	467.6875	b
14		FRS	467.7125	b
15	11	GMRS	462.5500	a
16	8	GMRS	462.5750	a
17	12	GMRS	462.6000	a
18	9	GMRS	462.6250	a
19	13	GMRS	462.6500	a
20	10	GMRS	462.6750	a
21	14	GMRS	462.7000	a
22	15	GMRS	462.7250	a

A license for GMRS costs you \$80.00, is good for 5 years, and covers you and your family (no tests - just fill out the form and give them money). The license can be obtained real easy on the FCC web site. Search on GMRS and you'll find everything you need. They even take credit card payments! You can download the forms, or just do everything on-line. Ok - why should we get FRS/GMRS? **Interoperability** - that's one of the key buzz words now-a-days. You may be put in a



situation where the served agency is using FRS/GMRS, and you'll need to listen & talk to them. Don't bother with modifications to your existing amateur radios to allow transmitting in the FRS/GMRS areas (or any other area for that matter) because your radio is 'type accepted' only for the amateur bands. By transmitting outside of your areas, your in violation of FCC rules and again, may be subject to losing that Amateur Radio license you worked so hard to get. Good news - FRS/GMRS radios are pretty cheap! You can pick up a pair of them from anywhere between \$20 and \$80 depending on features and power. The ones I have receive all the NOAA weather channels, can put out 5 watts, and have all kinds of PL tones. My GMRS call sign is: WQEZ745

**Tom - KB8UUZ**

## **ARRL Ohio Section Manager Election**

During July all Ohio ARRL members will be receiving their ballots for the Ohio Section Manager election. Please review the information and send in your ballot. The following are the election statements sent to PCARS from the two candidates that are running for office: Mark Erbaugh & incumbent Joe Phillips :

### **Mark Erbaugh - N8ME**

Why am I running? I am running because the Ohio Section faces problems that are not being addressed. In his March 29, 2006 Weaver's Words editorial, our Great Lakes Division Director, Jim Weaver, lamented that ARRL membership was down in our Division. His analysis of the problem concluded: "Simply stated, most non-members have not taken the time to learn what ARRL is and what it does for each of us radio amateurs and for Amateur Radio." I respectfully disagree with this assessment. I think that many non-members choose not to join because they have taken time to learn about the ARRL and don't like what they see. While some of what is keeping them away is related to overall policy made in Newington (ARRL headquarters), some of it can be addressed right here at home in the Ohio Section. My vision for the Ohio Section Most of the Ohio Section appointees are dedicated, hard workers who use their appointment to further the interests of the Section members, amateur radio in general and the community at large. However, there are a few who view their appointment as some sort of reward and that the members are there to serve them. It only takes a few with this attitude to give the entire organization the reputation of being self-serving where the personal agenda of the leaders is placed above the desires of the members. Rules and Regulations of the ARRL Field Organization, paragraph 6 (d) lists some duties of the Section Manager: "Supervises the activities of the section-level staff, monitors the performance of the Field Organization



volunteers, and provides guidance as necessary to ensure that appointees act in the best interests of Amateur Radio and in accordance with ARRL policies." I believe that some of the problem appointees have come by their attitudes honestly. In the past, you worked your way up through a hierarchical system. However, times have changed. Those who study such things have discovered that people born in the 1960's and later are unwilling to work in this kind of system. They have skills and interests that they want to put to use immediately. Leaders brought up under the old way of doing things may see such interest as a threat and abuse their position to keep these younger people from participating. These younger people will then stay away. As Section Manager, I will work to resolve this situation. Where Section appointees are serving the members, I will support them with all the ARRL resources available to the Section and pretty much stay out of their way. I will work with the few who have problems in this area, setting goals for improvement with measurable objectives. But I will be clear that these are not just suggestions. My main responsibility is to the individual members of the Section. I will discuss any issues with Section appointees that members bring to my attention. Paragraph 6 (h) of the Rules lists additional duties of the Section Manager: "Promotes recruitment of new amateurs and ARRL members; encourages attitudes and actions which welcome new radio amateurs and integrates them into League and club activities." In recruiting new amateurs we need to prepare them for getting their FCC license. Unfortunately, there are limited free resources available to support clubs in this task. I know that many Ohio Section clubs have put on excellent training classes using their own resources. I would like to see those resources compiled into a course of study that could be made freely available, perhaps via the Section web site. I envision both a downloadable self-study guide and a companion teacher's guide. As the average age of amateurs continues to increase, there are tendencies to celebrate the past. However, we need to make sure that our traditions don't become a barrier to integration of new hams. Again, today's new hams are more interested in the future than in the past. I'd like to use the Section as a means of exchange of ideas between clubs that have been successful in integrating new members and those that are struggling. On the other hand, mentoring (elmering) has been a long-standing tradition within amateur radio that appears to be in the decline. There are probably many new hams in the Section who got a license and have no idea what to do next. I would like to see a Section program to provide elmers as needed. Elmering is a fantastic way to share your love of the hobby with the next generation. Another barrier to new hams is the cost of equipment. To participate in some of the new technology of ham radio (such as PSK31), one pretty much needs a modern transceiver. These are relatively difficult to home brew and the cost to buy one new may place these aspects of the hobby out of the price range of many of the 20 and 30 year olds we need to attract. These people are struggling to raise a family and just don't have a couple of thousand bucks to put into gear when they're not sure they'd use it that much. At the same time, many Section members with the resources have surplus equipment that they are not using. I would like to see a Section wide technology-recycling program. At least a couple of computer users' groups in the

state are doing something similar. They collect computers that are no longer being used, refurbish them, and make them available at no cost where needed. I see no reason why something like this wouldn't work within the Ohio Section. My Qualifications Amateur Extra class license. Graduate of all three ARRL Emergency Communication training courses. ARRL certified Volunteer Examiner. Former Assistant EC. I am an outsider as far as Ohio Section leadership goes, but an outsider is what is needed. The problems we face today can't be solved with yesterday's solutions. Though I am an outsider, I have had leadership roles in other volunteer organizations. I have had experience getting things done with volunteers and have had some success in conflict resolution.

**Mark Erbaugh - N8ME**

### **Joe Phillips - K8QOE**

An Ohio Section Manager appoints and supervises 12 cabinet level positions and 575 ARRL field appointments - the official observers; the public information coordinators; the affiliated clubs and, of course, all of our 88-county ARES emergency programs. The Section Manager must have contacts throughout the whole state to do this effectively. The Ohio Section is the ARRL's biggest section.

In the past 22 years, I have served as Newsletter Editor for the Ohio Area Repeater Council (1984-89); as ARRL Public Information Coordinator (1989-1998) and the last 8 years as Section Manager.



In over two decades of meeting and working with hams throughout this state, I have been a featured speaker in more than half of Ohio's counties (47). Thirty separate meetings in 14 separate counties in 2005 alone.

Working with others during those 22 years, I am proud of several landmarks. In 1986, I organized the first Ohio Repeater Directory (now in its 20th printing); in 1992, the first Ohio Ham Radio Newsletter contest (now in its 15th year - the only one in America); and in 1999, named the Ohio Ham of the year after the late Al Severson, AB8P, (SK) - my Elmer. Our annual Section Conference, with the famous PIZZA LUNCH, has tripled participation the past 6 years.

First licensed in 1959, amateur radio has been my lifelong commitment. Currently I am President of the Cincinnati FM club; a member of; OSSBN, QCWA, the Cincinnati Ham Radio Hall of Fame; the Southwest Ohio DX Association and the Voice of America museum committee.

Future plans? The Section is planning an Ohio PRB-1 passed by the Ohio General Assembly and creation of a cabinet level post for increasing ARRL membership. Please vote for Joe Phillips, K8QOE and allow me to continue as your Section Manager.

**Joe Phillips - K8QOE**

## **Pictures from the June 12<sup>th</sup> PCARS Meeting**

The "Peter 1 DXpedition Night"



## **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!



## July Contest Calendar

RAC Canada Day	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
Original QRP	1500Z, Jul 1 to 1500Z, Jul 2
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
VK/Trans-Tasman 160m,SSB	0800Z-1400Z, Jul 8
IARU HF World Champs	1200Z, Jul 8 to 1200Z, Jul 9
FISTS Summer Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Jul 8
Six Club Contest	1800Z, Jul 8 to 2100Z, Jul 9
RSGB 80m Club Champ, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 12
CQ Worldwide VHF	1800Z, Jul 15 to 2100Z, Jul 16
NA QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 15 to 0600Z, Jul 16
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 17
RSGB 80m Club Champs, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 20
Great Lakes Sweepstakes	[cancelled]
RSGB IOTA	1200Z, Jul 29 to 1200Z, Jul 30

## PCARS Thursday Net Schedule

We have had a lot of fun on the 2-meter net. We've had check-ins from around town to around the world via Echolink. Every week there's chatter that continues after the net for another 30-45 minutes! It's a great place to find that guy you've wanted to hook up with but just never caught him on the air before. And don't forget, you'll be recognized for 10 consecutive check ins! We may have a few more certificates to pass out at the June meeting. Get on the net, it's a good way to keep up with what's going on.

Net control:

July 6 K8CMP – Chuck  
 July 13 KB8VJL – Al  
 July 20 KB8UUZ – Tom  
 July 27 WB8LCD – Tom



If you go to the PCARS web-site, we've got a basic script to use and a log in sheet. It's important that you keep a good record of the net and turn the log sheet in so we can keep a record of each week's net. It's really a good experience and will make you a better operator. And it's important experience to have if we ever do have a REAL emergency and you have to take it – you'll be glad you had the practice session.

**Tom - WB8LCD**

## New Book For Technician License

### The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual

-- All you need to become an Amateur Radio Operator  
 Get your FIRST ham radio license!

-Easy-to-understand "bite-sized" sections. Use this book, and pass the 35-question license test.

-Includes the latest question pool with answer key, for use beginning July 1, 2006.

-Designed for self-study and for classroom use. Intended for all newcomers, instructors and schoolteachers.

This is the most popular introduction to Amateur Radio! The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual is your ticket to joining the ranks of "ham" radio operators.

Use this book to discover the appeal of ham radio. The Amateur Radio Service offers a unique mix of technology,

public service, convenience and fun. Some hams enjoy communicating across the country and around the globe, making new friends over the airwaves. Others like to build and experiment with electronics, experiencing cutting edge technologies. Some use their radios and skills during emergencies or disasters when all else fails. And, today's ham radio gear offers possibilities for getting started at any level. Your first radio station might be at home, in the car, or small enough to take with you on the go.

Use this book to study for your first license exam. Every page presents information you will need to pass the exam and become an effective operator. You'll cover small sections at a time:

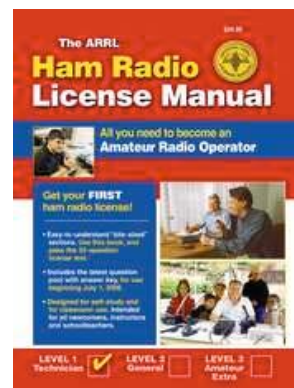
- Welcome to Amateur Radio
- Radio and Electronics Fundamentals
- Operating Station Equipment
- Communicating with Other Hams
- Licensing Regulations
- Operating Regulations
- Radio Safety

At the end of the book, you'll find the entire Technician Question Pool--so you can be sure you're ready at exam time.

Use this book and you'll be on the air in no time at all. You'll turn to it again and again as you are getting started!

No Morse code test is required for the Technician license.

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual. 1st edition. © 2006, The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ISBN: 0-87259-963-9) #9639 -- \$24.95



## Must be old age....

The June issue had a few typos – sorry about that. I really don't put those in there on purpose. One mistake I really wanted to let you know about was spelling **Allen Pitts** – **W1AGP**. I got his first name spelled wrong – sorry Allen! Allen is the ARRL person that does all the PIO work – if you get a chance, check out the "Contact" section on the ARRL web site. (I'm too used to the spelling of our Alan – KB8VJL).

## Thanks

Well, that's the 6th issue of the PCARS newsletter. Six issues of the RADIOGRAM have gone out and all of them have been jammed packed with good stuff! This one was going to be so jam packed, I had to really work to keep the file size reasonable. I 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, KB8DPN, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8UUZ, K8QOE, WB8VNO, KC8NOV, N8ME, ARRL, and the world wide web. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**  
 Newsletter Editor



## PCARS - FIELD DAY 2006 Photos



**PCARS Banner**



**Buddipole**

A QSL card for KD8CKP, Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). It includes contact information for QSL Mgr. KB8VJL and a table for confirming contact with other stations.

Date	UTC	Band	RST	2X
Date				
UTC				
Band				
RST				
2X				

PCARS Web Site: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)  
We're happy to make contact with you during FIELD DAY 2006

**Field Day QSL Card**



**Ravenna Park - Cunningham Shelter**



**KB8VJL showing off the GOTA station**



**20 Meter Vertical**



**KC8RJR - WD8DAU**



**N4TIE prepares the "Hello" brochures**



**Some of the best times was sharing conversation with fellow hams**



**K8CMP going strong on 20 meters**



**N8WLE - WB9LBI - Kadaijah Coleman on the GOTA station**



**KC8PD with Red Cross Rep N8TPK**



**KB8UUZ**



## PCARS - FIELD DAY 2006 Photos



KC8ZGL hands his PCARS application to WB8LCD



Mary Patton, Kyle Wilke, KB8VJL, KC8PD, Laura Aylward



WB8LCD - Cooking the steaks



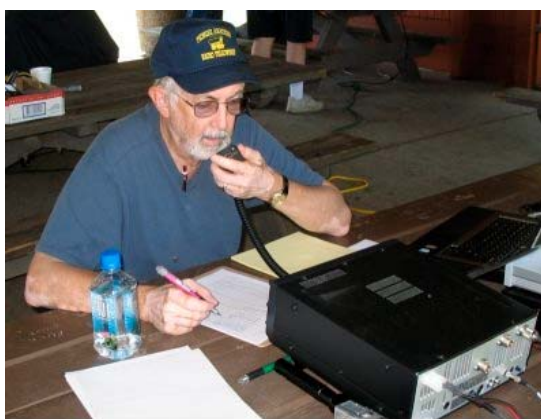
Ravenna Mayor Kevin Poland and KC8PD



Julie KD8AYJ & her father Bill - WB9LBI



Activity on the GOTA station



N4TIE makes contacts

Mary Patton - KC8RJR - KC8PD





## PCARS - FIELD DAY 2006 Photos



**N8WLE - Kadaiah Coleman - KB8VJL**



**WB9LBI & WB8LCD enjoying dinner**



**KC8PD - WB8LCD**



**KC8NOW and AB8UD by the media table**

**KC8PD Tries to save antenna**



**WB9LBI**

**Members encourage Mary Patton to make GOTA station contacts**







**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