



~ 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**

The Cold and Rainy season is upon us. What better time could there be to get those antenna projects finished up? Actually, I'm looking forward to a very pleasant Indian Summer and that should be the prime time for doing those last minute outdoor projects just in time for Contest Season! We're closing in on 50 members at PCARS - you ought to be able to find someone to give you a hand, just let it be known what you need, and they will come!

Did I say 50 members?? Yes, I did. As we continue to grow (and we will), one of the challenges we face is keeping the club an open and friendly organization. We've said from the very beginning that PCARS would be open to all and everyone would be made to feel welcome. As we grow in size and get to know each other better, it's natural that we would form close friendships within the group. That's a good thing and we encourage it. Please, when you see a new face at a meeting or an event, break away and make sure that new person is welcomed to PCARS! Our greatest potential asset as a club, are the members who don't belong yet. When they do show up, let's let them know they're in the right place.

Hopefully, some of those new members will result from the successful completion of the Tech Class being held at Maplewood. We've had seven students in each of the two classes we've had so far and I think they all have the interest and will finish it out.

How about some of you guys that are Techs, or Generals - interested in moving up? Let me know - [wb8lcd@portcars.org](mailto:wb8lcd@portcars.org) - perhaps we could get a study group together and make it happen. Or how about that dreaded phrase "Morse code" - would there be an interest in either a basic class to learn (or relearn) the code? Or maybe a slow, code practice net? The whole point being, lets keep growing in our skills and involvement in ham radio, it's the best way to keep it fresh and keep having fun!



There's a Christmas Party in your PCARS future! Mark your calendar for Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> (our regular club meeting night). We'll be having a festive evening open to all members and families at Mike's Place. It'll be the final event of the first year of PCARS - you won't want to miss it! We've still got some details to work out, but I do know we'll be having a buffet dinner and we will need reservations in advance, so please get it on your agenda! We'll get all the details out to you soon.

Our web-site is constantly being reviewed and we're trying to take the best ideas and make it better. You'll notice we've added a "Links" page and we've thrown a few links up to get it started. If you have some links you would like to see on the page, send them to me, I'll submit them to the links approval committee and we'll try to expand the list! One thing I will pursue with the links is, if a business wants us to put a link up for them, what will they do for us? The K1CRA Radio Store has offered any member of PCARS a 10% discount on any order placed with them! When placing an order, just use the discount code "PCARS10" and you'll get the discount. Be sure to check them out. If you have any personal contacts at stores or outlets, either approach them on your own, or give me the name and I'll try to get more of this type of activity going.

PCARS had been a major focus in my life over the last year. A week ago my wife asked me if I was ever going to get back to "normal". My answer was "this is the new normal!" I'm having too much fun to ever want it any other way!

73 For now,  
**Tom - WB8LCD**

**From the Vice President**

Thanks again to PCARS' president, Tom, WB8LCD, for hosting the PCARS picnic at his QTH, aka, the Black Squirrel Oasis. It was well attended and a good time was had by all. The food was great, particularly those burgers and dogs that Tom grilled, and we had a good variety of beverages. It was a terrific opportunity for club members to socialize and get to know each other better. Not everything we do has to involve ham radio!

The Kent State University Black Squirrel Festival was held on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Rismann Plaza between the Student Center and the Library at the KSU campus. We had a lot of fun and there is a separate report in the newsletter about the festival and the special

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### From the VP (continued from page 1)

event station. We have sent our thanks to the KSU Student Center Programming office and expressed our interest in returning for next year's event. PCARS will also be presenting a certificate to the KSU Student Center Programming office and the event coordinator expressing our appreciation for their assistance.



I have been invited to be the speaker at the 20/9 Amateur Radio Club's December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in Canfield, which is in Mahoning County. They have asked for a presentation on my experiences in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. Tom, WB8LCD, has been encouraging increased involvement among area ham radio clubs and organizations and we support his goal making PCARS a leader in this endeavor. This particularly includes offering our services to other clubs, such as sharing programs with them that we have used successfully at our own meetings. If you are interested in attending this meeting as a representative of PCARS, please let me know and we can make the trip together.

If you still 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.

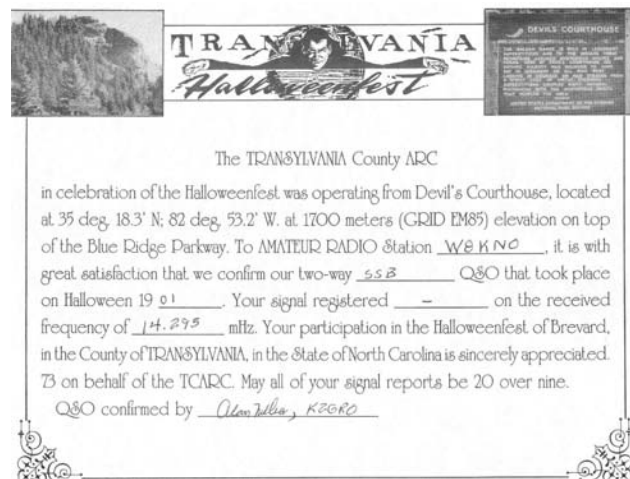
As always, we want to make sure that we are planning far enough in advance to give you plenty of notice about future events and programs. More importantly, we want to be sure that we are providing activities and information that **you** want. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them to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

**Jim - KC8PD**

## Paper Chase

Here it is October already, Halloween and the California QSO Parties immediately come to mind.

A certificate may be gotten from the Transylvania County



Amateur Radio Club, for working their special event station, K4HXZ, located at Devil's Courthouse in the Balsam Mountains along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The mountains are rich in legendary superstitions and to the indians these mountains assumed mysterious shapes and forms. At Devil's Courthouse his Satanic Majesty was believed to have sat in judgement on all who were lacking in courage or had strayed from a strict code of virtue. Cherokee superstitions coupled many natural phenomena with the mysterious spirits that peopled the area. You will find them October 31st on 7.237, 14.295, 21.365 and 28.335. Send a 9"x12" SASE if you want a certificate or a #10 SASE if you want a QSL to: TCARC; PO Box 613; Brevard, NC 28712.



The California QSO Party is always an active event because there are so many hams there. The Major contest clubs go all out and even if you are not of contest caliber the clubs will hear you as they want to be the best. In addition, many of the clubs give special awards or special QSL cards. I will try to list some of the awards you might be able to get. The first is an award from the Northern California Contest Club for participation in the QSO Party and requires no more effort than sending in your contest cover and log sheets. These you submit to: NCCC, c/o Kevin Rowett WB6S, 21906 Monte Ct, Cupertino, CA 95014.



If during the contest, you hear either N6SP or W7CHP you are eligible for the CHP Award. In addition to the regular QSL information, you need the officers badge number; so remember to ask for it if the officer is not giving it out. The award is three dollars and you submit your information to



IPA/RC Award Manager, Robert Faulkner W6RF, 15733 Rancho Ramon Dr, Tracey, CA 95304. For information, Faulkner's badge number is 5466.

You can get another certificate if you hear W6LV. W6LV is the club station aboard the SS Lane Victory. The Lane Victory is a Victory Ship that served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The ship is named after Isaac Lane, a black man who rose from slavery to become a Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church and founded Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee in 1862. His granddaughter christened the ship in 1945.

One of the most interesting stations you can work is W6SOJ. The certificate is called, "Worked State of Jefferson." The State of Jefferson was composed of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity counties in California and Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine and Klamath counties in Oregon. The counties seceded from the United States in 1941. Yreka was declared the capitol of Jefferson. On December 4, 1941 Judge John C. Childs was elected governor. A torchlight parade followed the inauguration. Hollywood newsreel companies recorded the event and the newsreels were to air nationally on December 8th; but, tragically on December 7th, Pearl Harbor was bombed and the State of Jefferson rebellion of 1941 came to an end.

Some larger than normal QSL cards can be obtained from W6RO, the Queen Mary, and K6AA, the Pt. Fermin Lighthouse.

I hope you all get on the air and I will hear you in the pile-ups.

Joe - W8KNO

### Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

October is now upon us and the WX is turning colder and the leaves are turning bright shades of yellow, red, and orange. HF propagation has been a mixed bag this past month. There

have been some high spots, but much of the time the bands have been noisy.

Incidentally, the 50' tower is up. The next thing is to get the Yagis tuned and mounted. The tower looks great, and it went up slicker than a whistle using a motorized hoist. OK, lets see what we might have in store for October.



### IOTA

**5R - DJ7RJ** operating CW & SSB on 160-10 m from Madagascar - Oct 1-27. Reportedly he will be on IOTA AF-057. No callsign has been assigned yet. QSL via home call.

**8Q- G7COD** active as 8Q7AK from Embudu Is., Maldives (AS-013) - Oct 3-15. Plans to operate 10-80 m SSB & some CW. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

**9A-** A number of Germany Amateurs active from a few Croatian islands in the EU-170 IOTA group on Oct 7-14. Plan to operate on 20 & 40 m SSB. Further info at <http://www.inet.hr/9a6aa/iocaplan.htm>.

**BY- BD1DRJ/2, BG2QMP/2 & BD2RI/2** active on 40, 20 & 15 m SSB & CW from Changxing Is. (AS-151) on Oct 1-6. QSL via BD1DRJ.

**P2- P29NI & P29CVX** are call signs used for the IOTA ops from Papua New Guinea. Will sign P29NI (QSL via G3KHZ) from Trobriand Is. (OC-115) - Oct 2-10 & P29CVX (QSL via SM6CVX) Daru Is. (OC-153) Oct 11-14. CW & SSB with 100 w and verticals.

### DX

**9Q - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, SM5DIC, F5LTB & VE2EK are QRV as 9Q1D, 9Q1TB & 9Q1EK. HF bands - CW & SSB when conditions permit. QSL to home calls.

**BV- TAIWAN**, DJ3KR as BX3/homecall from Sept 30 - Oct 18. QSL to home call.

**ER - Special event station ER570C** Oct 1-15 to celebrate the 570th anniversary of Chisinau, the capital city of Moldova. QSL via ER1DA, direct or bureau.

**G - GB6OCV, G3RCV, G1RCV** & member stations active in October as part of Cray Valley Radio Society's 60th anniversary celebration. The Cray Valley Diamond Award is available for working club & members in October. Full details are at <http://www.cvr.org>.

**I - Marconi memorial stations** IY1TTM & IY4FGM active Oct 3-29 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the microwave experiments carried out by Marconi in Oct 1931 from Sestri Levante. QSL IY1TTM via IW1RIK (direct or bureau), QSL IY4FGM via IK4UPU (direct or bureau); a special QSL card for contacting the two stations can be had via IK1YKT (direct or bureau).

**R1FJ- FRANZ JOSEF LAND**, Station R1FJT on 20 m from around 1200 - 1500z. QSL via UA4RC.

**ST - SUDAN**, Jovica is QRV as ST2A is QRV on 30 m from 1800 - 1930z. QSL via T93Y.

**TK - CORSICA**, Members of the Equipo de DX4DX are QRV as TK9Z till October 5. On 160 - 10 m: CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via EA4BT.

So there you have it. That's certainly not all that has been announced, but its certainly some of the more interesting items.

Hope to hear you working some great DX this month. Have fun and get on the HF bands. Until next time, 73.

**Chuck - K8CMP**

## Black Squirrel Festival

If you missed this year's Black Squirrel Festival at Kent State, we have some good news for you. We're gonna do it again next year!!

The twenty-fifth annual Black Squirrel Festival was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> and it was a terrific outing for PCARS. Not only did we have our first special event station on the air, we also had the chance to



operate as a **Looking at the plaza from the antenna position** demonstration station in a well-trafficked, high-visibility location. And the weather was perfect!

The space for our booth was at the top level of the Risman Plaza directly in front of the KSU Student Center, near to the festival public information booth. It was a convenient location because an electrical hookup was available plus we could drop a coax cable down from our antenna on the patio area on the third floor of the Student Center.



Setup started before 0800 and the station went together fairly quickly. Every time that we have the chance to operate a portable

**KC8PD adjusts antenna** station like this we get better at it. Needless to say there are always some gremlins (like the sudden inexplicable spike in SWR that necessitated some antenna tweaking) that have to be dealt with, but this is how we learn to cope with them.

We had a ten by ten foot canopy with plenty of room for two tables for equipment and operators. Two other tables were used for the public information display. Equipment included an Icom 7000 and an Icom 746 that shared HF duties, and an Icom 207 for the two meter repeater and Echolink contacts. A Buddipole was deployed on the third floor patio for the HF bands and a copper pipe J-pole on a PVC mast that was mounted on one of the canopy posts.

The Buddipole was originally configured for forty meters in the morning and readjusted for twenty meters after noon. The HF bands, particularly forty meters, were not in the best of condition, but we did end up with twenty-eight contacts on three bands.



**WB8LCD Checks out the PCARS booth**

Using the club call of KD8CKP, we ended up with ten states and a VE3, as well as the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Italy.

We had twenty-five contacts on two meters including six on Echolink. It is unusual for special event stations to allow contacts via Echolink but we hope that this will encourage other groups to offer it and to increase interest in Echolink.



In addition, as a **KC8PD - KC8RJR** further demonstration of PCARS operating capabilities we sent an e-mail via Winlink 2000 on HF using Pactor III to the Ohio Section Manager and the SEC as well as the Great Lakes Division Director and Vice Director. We appreciated the congratulatory reply that we received from Gary Johnston - KI4LA, the division Vice Director as well as the reply from Joe Phillips - K8QOE, the SM.

A dozen PCARS members attended: Chuck - K8CMP, Carl - N4TIE, Tom - WB8LCD, Errol - KC8RJR, Tom - KB8UUZ, Russ - KB8DPN, Joe - W8KNO, Peggy - KB8SZI, Ed - N8EQJ, Larry - N8FTP, Irene - KD8DFM, and Jim - KC8PD. Other hams who stopped by included Marian - KC8YBE, Allen - KB8KHW, and Erica - KD8DJT.

A variety of students and other visitors stopped by to observe the operation. A very special visitor was Dr. Lester



Lefton, the new President of Kent State University. We had a few minutes to explain to him how portable operations like this station play a critical role in emergency communications such as post-Katrina in the Gulf States where operations had been underway a year ago that week.

Dr. Lefton nodded knowingly. At that time he was the Vice-President of Tulane University in New Orleans and had spent that same week evacuating from the area. We think that his experience gave him a keener appreciation of the importance of hams in disaster relief operations.

PCARS really appreciates the courtesy and assistance of Kent State University and the Student Center Programming Office for allowing us to participate. Special thanks are



extended to Stacy Stewart who is the Student Manager in that office and was a huge help to us.

All of us there had a great time. It was fun to operate a special event station in a public location. It was even more fun to chat with the visitors who wandered in to see what we were doing.

Never miss the chance to talk up amateur radio or recruit potential new hams!

**WB8LCD - KC8PD - Dr. Lester Lefton**

On top of all that it was a great chance for us to hang out together, play some radio, and appreciate the camaraderie that ham radio provides us. What could be better?

Well, maybe the post-event debriefing at Ray's Place, but that's another story.

*Jim - KC8PD*

## PCARS Picnic

The first ever PCARS Picnic was held on September 29, 2006 at the "Black Squirrel Oasis" in Sugarbush Knolls. Early morning weather was questionable, but by the time the picnic



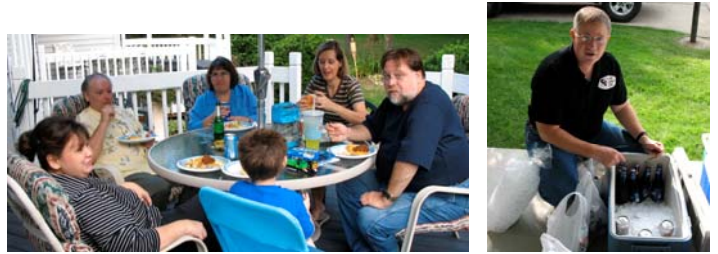
started it was a beautiful afternoon and it continued on into the evening.

It was a nice time to meet and greet all who made it and their spouses. Not too many young kids, but the KB8DPN / KD8DFM harmonic turned out to be a real crowd pleaser! There was an "Ugliest Mobile Radio Shack" competition with the judging by the XYL's. Although it was a close race, KB8DPN's ride was chosen as the ugliest over KC8PD's, which came in a close second. Russ' XYL - Irene - received a nice prize for having to be seen in the "Ugliest Mobile Radio Shack". At least she's a ham too, probably how Russ gets away with it!



Food! Everyone brought some really good stuff and I don't think anyone went away hungry. Lots of really good stuff!

As the sun went down I finally did get those Tiki lights lit, and with a little help from Mrs. KC8PD (and some WD-40) we got a great campfire lit and most of us continued to stand by the fire into the evening. Pictures will tell the story better than I ever could.



Mary and I want to thank all of you who stopped by. We had a great time and really appreciate the good company you all are. If you didn't make it this year, we'll look forward to seeing you next summer!

*Tom - WB8LCD*

## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- o **October 9th** club meeting – John Mason, interim Portage County EMA Director
- o **October 21st and 22nd** – Jamboree On The Air station for Portage County scouts
- o **November 13th** club meeting – Tentative topics are Winlink 2000 and Airmail
- o **December 11th** club meeting – Christmas party
- o **December** - Santa-on-the-Air



## ***Hamfest Report - Berea***

Hello PCARS members and friends. I rode along with Tom-KB8UUZ to the great Berea Hamfest Sunday and boy what a great day that turned out to be! We arrived early then it appeared that we may get rained on during our morning visit.

As it turned out the clouds went away and we were bathed in warm sunshine. One couldn't ask for a more perfect day to attend a early morning hamfest.

We crossed paths with several PCARS club members there and many other friends from other radio clubs. I had a equal amount of pleasure talking to friends as I had checking out everything for sale.

I did see many VHF antennas looking for new homes and owners. This hamfest may have had the most 2 meter antennas I have seen at one place at one time then at any other local hamfest I have attended so far.

We almost skipped this hamfest due to the threat rain that was forecast for the morning... good thing we went... the sun came out about 1/2 hour after we walked inside. Ohio weather sure changes... this time the weather changed for the better!

***AI - KB8VJL***

### ***Red Cross Requiring Background Checks***

The Red Cross said their national policy requires everyone that works in a Red Cross Shelter to have a background check on file. This includes persons that are signed up at the last minute. The Red Cross has a contract with an on-line company that performs background checks. There is a fee for each background check and the Red Cross is currently picking up the cost. The results are only sent to one local Red Cross office.



The Web site is : [www.mybackgroundcheck.com/arcvts](http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/arcvts) and you must select the state map and then the local chapter.

After requests for clarification on this policy from ARRL HQ, Red Cross supplied this statement:

#### **BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES**

In the aftermath of a huge visible disaster such as Hurricane Katrina there are several post-evaluations that occur looking at systems, procedures, protocols and overall response to determine what systems could be more efficient. Recently, the American Red Cross established a policy mandating that all volunteers undergo a criminal background check, just as their employees have done in the past. The intent of this policy is to safeguard the clients, volunteers and employees. The organization has contracted with a private company to perform these background checks and has provided a means for their volunteers to apply for the background checks without disclosing any confidential information to a Red Cross volunteer or employee. Prospective volunteers can go to a secure online website and only need to submit their full name and social security number to the contracted company. No additional information is needed.

The overall results of the background check are not shared

with the Red Cross. The only information provided is that a person has successfully completed the background check with no adverse information or that a person has potentially adverse information and that additional research is required. When additional research is required the contracted company will notify the prospective volunteer and will address the issue with no Red Cross intervention.

Several people have indicated the desire to go to their local law enforcement agency rather than use the private contracted company. Because the American Red Cross is not a governmental agency, as required by their guidance of impartiality, it is unlawful for a law enforcement agency to share this information with the Red Cross. This requires them to use the private, contracted firm. Also, many have expressed concern about the use of their security number, however this is required to be assured that the background check is being performed on the right person. The Red Cross has gone to great lengths to make sure the prospective volunteer is not giving out their social security number to anyone other than the contracted company and then only through a secure, encrypted website.

Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them. We hope volunteers, who have provided blood, sweat and tears in helping fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross will understand the importance of performing this due diligence.

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to [backgroundchecks@usa.redcross.org](mailto:backgroundchecks@usa.redcross.org) or 1(800)507-3960.

This may significantly impact Amateur Radio operators in the future. ARES membership will not allow you access to a Red Cross shelter unless you have a background check. In Orlando, Orange County, Florida, the ARES/RACES group is sponsored by the county and background checks were done through the sheriff's department. Upon completion the members were issued county ID cards. The city and county EOCs and communication centers would not permit anyone inside the centers that did not have the county ID card. With the additional emphasis on security, this is going to be a bigger problem in the future. Homeland Security is pushing for a single national ID for government first responders.

***Jerry Reimer - KK5CA, South Texas SEC***

### ***EmComm***

As Labor Day weekend rolled around this year I couldn't help but think back to the same weekend in 2005. It was on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, that I had received the e-mail from the ARRL confirming that I was to report to the Montgomery, Alabama, ARES and Red Cross staging area as soon as possible. That day I began making arrangements to be away from work for the rest of the week and started packing my gear. By noon on Monday I was on my way.

Both at the reception center and the service sites in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, I found that the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Communication courses provided a great deal of useful information that could be used in the field. The AREC



courses are critical for any ham radio operator who wants to be an emcomm volunteer.

My experiences in both locations also showed that for as much as amateur radio can do to assist, whether during a small scale or mass disaster, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service still has a long way to go to define itself and its mission, locally, regionally and nationally, in the twenty-first century.

To borrow a somewhat overworked phrase that we have heard often during the past five years: are we any safer today? Or to ask the question from another perspective, is ARES any better prepared today?

Complacency and inertia are probably to blame for why so little had changed overall for ham radio emcomm services prior to 2005. There had been no large scale challenges like this to shake up the old ways of doing things.

Other communication systems have taken firm root and have filled large gaps that had existed during emergency in years past. Sure, cell phone systems may lose infrastructure or be overloaded, and, yes, local internet access may be disrupted during a disaster. During a disaster they may be down but it does not mean that they will be out. Look at how quickly evacuees from Hurricane Katrina were able to make contact with families, employers, or whomever, via cell phone or the internet. Why do you think that there was nowhere near the level of health and welfare traffic that might have been anticipated ten years ago from a disaster this huge?

What do the served agencies really want or need during disaster relief operations? When is the last time that they were surveyed to determine their current needs or to demonstrate how amateur radio can help? How have their expectations been raised by advances in technology and data communications? There is no doubt that the National Traffic System can move messages across the country during a crisis, but is that the best way to get messages



through today? And what about the data communication needs of individuals and agencies in affected areas?

This is not meant to imply that progressive steps were not being taken. There are always hams who are operating at the cutting edge, implementing new technologies and skills, and trying to refine and expand the quality of their emcomm services. Unfortunately, these advancements primarily occur in diverse localities where individuals, groups or clubs take the lead and push the envelope. Expanding these enhancements over a larger area has been difficult at best.

Even developments such as Winlink 2000, which has been adopted by the ARRL as the standard for data communication, have faced huge challenges in its implementation. Aside from issues of cost or equipment needs, there is no mechanism within ARES to mandate that a technology like Winlink be used by any individual or group. Whether you use it or not is up to you. But what happens if your served agency in an



emergency needs it? Should they have to accept, "Gosh, I haven't had to time to get involved with it" as an answer.

Clearly the time has come for a major overhaul of the ARES system. The fully decentralized, locally controlled, non-standardized system of the past is outdated and unacceptable today. There should be mandatory training requirements to be an ARES volunteer, not mere possession of an amateur radio license.

Local ARES groups should have specific organizational and training standards that they are required to meet or face de-certification or the removal of those in charge. District level leaders should be required to demonstrate at least annually that all ARES groups in the district have met or exceeded operational and training standards during the previous year. If any have not, the District EC must be able to document the immediate remedial measures that are being taken.

At the regional or sectional level, the SEC's must be able to demonstrate actual leadership through the appointments that they have made, their planning for the future, their demonstrated ability to coordinate operations at that level, and their ability to meet high standards for emcomm services.

At all levels, appointed EC's, DEC's, or SEC's should only be appointed for fixed terms not to exceed three years. Reappointment should only occur if the appointee can document that all standards and requirements for his or her level have been met or that specific corrective action is being taken. Why reward those who may, at best, be placeholders or, at worst, incompetent, just because they have been there and no one wants to rock the boat?

There should be a national ARES organization that sets standards for operations at all levels and demonstrates its willingness to hold regional, district and local operations to them. It should be developing and implementing strategies for the coordination of services for large scale events that are spread across local, district and sectional lines.

Should local communities be stuck with an existing ARES operation just because the attitude has been that it is every county for itself and the local hams can do as little or as much as they want? Should hams be limited by the artificial boundaries created by county lines if ARES leaders discourage or prohibit hams from volunteering in a county other than the one in which they reside?



There are new organizations forming that are challenging ARES by asking the questions that need to be answered and attempting to provide the solutions on their own. If ARES cannot pull itself together as a nationwide, standardized, fully functioning emcomm operation that can be respected by public and governmental agencies and the private non-governmental organizations that it may serve, then it will lose both its credibility and relevance in the years ahead.

*Jim – KC8PD*

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## ***Hello Vermont***

Tuesday evening (Sept 26th) I powered up my HF radio and adjusted my antenna tuner for the 40 meter voice band. While tuning back and forth in LSB I heard a low level call. It was Tom - KB8UUZ!!!! I called for him and he came back to me.

Tom said he was mobile and he was in Vermont! And to top it off he said he was down in a valley in Bennington, VT.! Tom told me to stand by while he started to leave the valley and go up a mountain. His next call was a little stronger and he said he could hear me a lot better now. He then had me stand by again and about 45 minutes later he called for me. This time he said he stopped on top of Hog Back Mountain, in Vermont at 2773 feet above sea level and pulled off the road to make contacts.

Since I wasn't there I have to take his word for these locations claimed in our contacts..... But, my 7 element collinear 10 meter antenna which is only up 30 feet is facing the West Indies! Vermont is 90 degrees off the direction this wire antenna is facing! Maybe Tom was really down in Mantua Village????? Or maybe he was over at Hiram Joe's???

The bottom line is: don't worry about not having a perfect antenna or a perfect location for your antenna..... just get some wire up and you too can work Mobile Tom as he travels here and there!

***Al-KB8VJL***

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## ***Maplewood Technician Class***

The Technician course is underway at the Maplewood Career Center. We have nine students registered for the course. They are a diverse



group including one former ham who had obtained his Novice license but then had let it

lapse. If all goes well we will have nine new hams in Portage



County at the end of the class. We plan to offer the course again in the spring.

***Jim - KC8PD***

## ***Mobile HF***

I was hoping to make contact with some PCARS members while on a trip to New Hampshire. On the way up there, I did manage three contacts with Al - KB8VJL.

During that trip, I had a slight delay while going through Vermont. A moose had decided to cross the road and block all traffic. When they get on the road, all you can do is wait until they get out of the way - and they are in no hurry to do it! I've made that trip to New Hampshire about 6 times and this was the first moose I got to see.



On the return trip I managed to talk mobile to mobile to KC8PD from Hogback Mountain in Vermont - up at 2773 feet, also N4TIE and W8KNO. I even talked with W8KNO while in a valley, and later on while on the New York throughway. I was using an Icom 706 MkIIg with a 40 meter hamstick with a mag mount on the trunk.



So, mobile HF is alive and well, and fun! It also helps keep you awake listening to the bands during a 12 hour road trip.

***Tom - KB8UUZ***

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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](mailto:wb8lcd@portcars.org)

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## ***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 6:30 p.m. Summer is going fast, so come on down and join in on the fun! This is the last month of the fox hunt season - ends at the end of October.



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***



## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Only 1 PCARS member has a birthday in October:

**WB8VNO - Gay Wands**

## Canfield Fair - 20/9 Club

Ahh... The wonderfulness and fraternity of Amateur Radio... Where else could a handshake and saying a callsign automatically put you into a great conversation and instant elaborated tour then in this hobby?

I went to the Canfield Fair with Irene - KD8DFM and Russell, Jr. As we strolled around we saw a Display/Tent set up by the 20/9 Amateur Radio Club from Mahoning County.

They had a special event Station set up with radios, etc... A Club ARRL info table, and hospitality. We signed in as visitors and were warmly welcomed and invited to sit down and visit for a while.

After a small conversation I was shown (and invited to sit down in) the back end of a 1967 Radio Communications Unit from the military. You all remember the great movie we saw about the Hallicrafter Radios? -- Well They had a similar bunch of units and operational radios from WW2, Korea and Vietnam eras installed in this wonderfully restored radio van.

I was telling the ham, Richard - KB8YHC about PCARS and mentioned to him that perhaps in the spring of next year, or similar we could persuade him and a few of his clan to bring that van and other military radios up to Mike's Place for a meeting night. Rich said he thought that he and the others would be happy to do it and meet the PCARS people.

Hopefully, this Spring, we'll have a nifty military mobile on display at a PCARS meeting!

**Russ - KB8DPN**

## 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.



## Ham-Stats

	Portage	Ohio	Region 8	National
Extra	84	4,848	9,408	111,044
Advanced	38	3,177	5,948	78,065
General	114	6,244	12,110	143,311
TechPlus	45	2,251	3,933	44,672
Technician	224	12,592	25,716	305,730
Novice	35	1,463	2,598	30,205
Totals	540	30,575	59,713	713,027

**Bill - WB9LBI**

## More Ham Stats - Portage County

In an effort to better understand ham radio demographics, and to help pad out the newsletter, here are some statistics gleaned from the highly official FCC Universal Licensing System, as of September 27, 2006.

	Extra	Adv	Gen	Plus	Tech	Novice	Club
Atwater	5	2	7	4	10	1	
Aurora	10	4	13	4	19	2	
Brady Lake			1			1	
Brimfield				1			
Freedom	1						
Freedom Twp	1						
Garrettsville	1		7	1	8	2	
Hiram	3		2	1	4	1	
Kent	11	8	16	8	45	9	1
Mantua	11	2	6	3	8	1	2
Mogadore	4	2	8	2	23	2	
Ravenna	12	6	27	9	48	2	
Reminderville	1				1		1
Rootstown	3	1	2	1	9		
Shalersville		1					
Streetsboro	5	1	10	3	19	3	
Suffield	1		1		2	1	2
Tallmadge	13	10	12	9	26	9	1
Windham	1	1	2		1	1	

New Licenses issued since January 1 (excluding vanity callsign changes)

Ravenna - AB8VX, KD8DFM  
Streetsboro - KD8EFR, KD8DFL, KD8EBV  
Tallmadge - KD8DQT

License Renewals since January 1

Atwater - KC8EAA, KA8ZUE, WA8GCF  
Aurora - KA8Y, W8OQT, KC8ECP, KA8VXY  
Hiram - W8UHO, K9OML, KA8HMD  
Kent - W8MCU, KA8ZZB, K8OXM, KC8EPZ, N8MC  
Mogadore - W8TVN, KC8EPM, KC8DKK  
Ravenna - KC8DXM, WB8AJE, KA8YOR, KC8EJU,  
KC8CJK, KC8DBX  
Streetsboro - W8QYP  
Suffield - WA8YMT  
Tallmadge - N8CMZ, KC8DKO, WA8ZCK



## Fun Facts

- Hams who are still Novices: 35
- Towns you didn't know were in Portage County: (yep - the spelling on the licenses are as shown...)

REMINDERVILL, SHALERSVILLE TOWNSHI,  
Mantuh, MOSADORE, RAVENA, TAILMADGE

- Besides PCARS, these radio clubs call Portage County home:

KC8ADY, KENT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
KC8HAZ, TALLMADGE HIGH SCHOOL AMATEUR  
RADIO CLUB  
N8RZ, Western Reserve Emergency Comm Service  
KB8ZHP, PORTAGE COUNTY ARC  
KP2F, CCC ST. JOHN

*Bill - WB9LBI*

## *Pictures from the September PCARS Meeting*



## *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.mikesplacerestaurant.com](http://www.mikesplacerestaurant.com)

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

## *Hamfest Calendar*

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

**28 Jan 2007** - Tusco ARC - <http://noard.com/tuscoarc.htm> Talk-In: 146.730 (PL 71.9) - Contact: Gary Green, K8WFN - 32210 Norris Road - Tippecanoe, OH 44699 - Phone: 740-922-4454 Email: [tuscofest07@hotmail.com](mailto:tuscofest07@hotmail.com) - Wallick Auction House - 965 North Wooster Ave - Strasburg,

## *Contest Calendar*

California QSO Party - 1600Z, Oct 7 to 2159Z, Oct 8  
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint - 0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10  
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB - 1400Z, Oct 10 to 0200Z, Oct 12  
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint - 0030Z-0230Z, Oct 11  
ARRL EME Contest 50-1296 MHz - 0000Z, Oct 14 to 2359Z, Oct 15  
Pennsylvania QSO Party - 1600Z, Oct 14 to 0500Z, Oct 15 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 15  
FISTS Fall Sprint - 1700Z-2100Z, Oct 14  
North American Sprint, RTTY - 0000Z-0400Z, Oct 15  
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest - 0100Z-0300Z, Oct 16  
ARCI Fall QSO Party - 1200Z, Oct 21 to 2400Z, Oct 22  
W/VE Islands QSO Party - 1600Z, Oct 21 to 2359Z, Oct 22  
50 MHz Fall Sprint - 2300Z, Oct 21 to 0300Z, Oct 22  
Illinois QSO Party - 1700Z, Oct 22 to 0100Z, Oct 23  
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB - 0000Z, Oct 28 to 2400Z, Oct 29  
10-10 Int. Fall Contest - 0001Z, Oct 28 to 2359Z, Oct 29

## *You Might Be Addicted to Ham Radio If....*

When you get up at 03:00 AM for a DX schedule on 75 meters; net control every Wednesday evening and checks in every day of the week; radios in the airplane, his car and even my car; back yard looks like Frankenstein's lab; friends keep asking why the roof is full of aluminum tubes and wire; and calls people on the phone and talks about passing radiograms.

When you notice that the wife and kids have left you, you place a personal ad something like this, divorced male, hardcore ham radio operator, secure job, seeks female ham operator send pictures of radios, amplifiers, towers and antenna farm.

When you have to get your 'ham' fix at all costs and ignore the more important things in your life such as your job, your family and your health.



When you are ecstatic about getting a 200 or 300 watt soldering iron to do up PL 259s the RIGHT way--And, your wife asks you what its doing in your bed.

When your reaction to a solar flair bringing down the entire electric grid for the North East is that the bands will tank for a week or more.

When you look forward to the Super Bowl, because there won't be a lot of QRM.

When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you'd need.

When you know what the second foreign country is above Maine.

When you know Antarctica is a continent and you know penguins range as far north as the Galapagos Islands.

When you think ceramics classes teach how to make antenna insulators.

When someone mentions post and beam construction and you envision a tower with a tri-bandier on top.

When you are board, you tap out CQ.

When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.

When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (when you know what an antipode is).

When you know how many ports are on Pitcairn Island, what the most common last name is there, and why it is the most common last name.

My your wife says "You wake up at 3am on your days off because you say the 'iono-whatever is right.

When it rains, walk into the back yard. The antennas are so dense they act like an umbrella".

You have never seen a Meteor Shower because you are inside on 6 meters when they occur.

You look at every utility bill with an "how many HTs could I buy with this" attitude.

You know that there are 2 different Christmas Islands, 2 different Cocos Islands, but only one Easter Island.

If your car is worth 1/10 of what your Ham gear is in it and all your credit cards are for Ham gear only and are maxed out you just might be.

When you see another ham at an intersection, and you beep the horn --. --. --.

When the hardware store salesman talks to someone about screwdrivers, and you have to ask if they are hams.

When you are on vacation and you only want to spend time on all the mountain tops.

If while traveling your wife notices that all the maps show repeater locations.

When you go visiting, all the folks have call signs.

**Russ - KB8DPN**

## Findlay Hamfest Report

5 AM on a cloudy, dark Sunday morning found Russ - KB8DPN and Tom - WB8LCD (the driver) and myself on the



long - long trip to the Findlay Hamfest. But, the trip was well worth it.

The Findlay Hamfest is always a great place to be. Lots of outdoor deals to be had. The weather cooperated with just an overcast and cool enough to walk all around. Following the hamfest, we stopped for some late lunch and then headed back to Portage County.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**

## 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.

10/05	KB8UUZ
10/12	KC8PD
10/19	KC8TYR
10/26	WB8LCD
11/02	K8CMP
11/09	KB8UUZ
11/16	KC8TYR

11/23	WB8LCD
11/30	open
12/07	K8CMP
12/14	KB8UUZ
12/21	KB8DPN
12/28	KC8PD

Everyone is encouraged to check in, and, to try out being a Net Control Operator.

**Tom - WB8LCD**

## Thanks

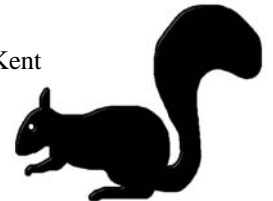
Well, that's the 9th issue of the PCARS newsletter the RADIOGRAM. I sure hope your enjoying this newsletter. I appreciate your help in getting material that all the members look forward to getting – keep sending me those inputs! This issue sure has something for everyone! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: WB8LCD, KC8PD, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8VJL, WB9LBI, KB8DPN, KB8UUZ, WB8VNO, KK5CA, ARRL, and the world wide web. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**  
Newsletter Editor





**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 Uses 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.	kb8vjl@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.	kb8vjl@portcars.org
Field Day	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vjl@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 by email at <callsign> @portcars.org**

		Code	Contact
1. Wire Antennas	15. Computer Logging	17	Jim - KC8RKV
2. Beam Antennas	16. QSLs	5, 24	Bill - WB9LBI
3. APRS	17. Echo Link	1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18-706, 19-TS690, TH22AT	Tom - KB8UUZ
4. Contesting	18. Help - Icom	3, 6, 8, 12, 14, 17, 23, 25, 20. - FT100 - VX5, 19. - TH-F6 - D700	Russ - KB8DPN
5. CW Operation	19. Help - Kenwood	1, 5, 10	Tom - WB8LCD
6. DF (Fox Hunt)	20. Help - Yaesu	2, 6, 14, 17, 23, 25	Jim - KC8PD
7. DXing	21. Help - Boat Anchors		
8. Experiment/Ckts.	22. Amplifiers		
9. HF Phone	23. EmComm		
10. QRP	24. Traffic Handling		
11. Satellite	25. FEMA / NIMS		
12. VHF	26. Computer Hardware		
13. PSK-31	27.		
14. Mobile (install)	28.		

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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)**

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NLC