



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



September 2006 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 1 No. 8

~ 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 ~

2nd 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

Time sure flies when your having fun. I hope each of you is enjoying the summer, your vacation, your family, and most of all, all the great ham radio activities we have available to us! I'm having a ball, I've done quite a few things with PCARS that I probably wouldn't have done on my own. In fact, I've probably been more active as a ham in the past year than in all the 10 years prior! Yeah, it's a big commitment, but I'll have to admit, having my own reality (life) is much better than sitting down watching someone else have a life (reality show)! We all have the same amount of time, it's all about the choices we make. I hope that PCARS has prompted you to make some choices your happy with and that you accomplish all you want with Ham Radio – the Greatest Hobby in the World!

At our last meeting we had a guest name Clarence. Clarence wants to be a ham and is going to study to take the test. Clarence is 91 years old (young) and I gotta tell you, that inspires me! Make sure you say hello to Clarence, and anyone else you don't know at the club meetings. I'm convinced that

so far, one of our greatest assets as a club is the diverse group of FRIENDLY people we are!

As a business person, I get to go to lots of meetings. I get to some really good ones, and I also get to some really, really bad ones. I hate when some one who likes to hear himself talk crams about 8 minutes worth of information into a two hour presentation! I hate it when the meeting turns out to be something entirely different than what was advertised. We've tried to keep the PCARS meetings as interesting as possible, and keep them within a certain time frame. Your officers meet on a monthly basis and try to do as much of the planning and boring stuff as possible so we don't have to use up time on our stated meeting night. But we need your help – we want to provide the programming and activities that YOU want your club to have. Jim, KC8PD, occasionally passes out a survey form to get



a feel for what you want, please make sure you fill it in and get it back to us. We are all open to your suggestions and desires. Let us know; tell us, phone us, write us a note, e-mail us, just let us know what's on your mind and what you'd like to see the club doing. We will take your suggestions seriously.

Friday September 8th is the Black Squirrel Festival at Kent State University. I know, it's a work day for most (their planning, not ours), but if you can possibly break away and spend some time with us, I'm sure it will be a fun event.

And don't forget the club picnic on Saturday September 16th. Starting at 4:00 PM and ending at 10 or 11 or 12.... this will be the opportunity your family has been waiting for to meet all the other members of the club you're always talking about! Be sure to let me know by September 9th if you're coming to the picnic and how many family members will be with you.

73 For now,

Tom - WB8LCD

From the Vice President

This month offered a great opportunity for all PCARS members to test their capabilities to operate two meter simplex while participating in a contest. That, of course, was the first (and soon to be annual) PCARS Two Meter Simplex Sprint held on August 12th. I am sure that there will be plenty of other comments in this edition of the newsletter from other participants, but I wanted to add my two cents worth.

It was a terrific time for all and a great idea for the club to sponsor an event like this. The KC8PD mobile



team consisted of myself and the XYL, Laura, who was a great sport and excellent logger for our six plus hours on the road. We traveled over 125 miles, made 242 QSO's with around twenty-five hams both in and out of Portage County. The drive took a lot longer than I expected but I was really surprised at how

effectively we were all able to maintain contact operating simplex. It was a lot of fun and a great

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From the VP (continued from page 1)

It was a lot of fun and a great learning experience. Next year should be even better!

Lots of thanks, also, to Tom, WB8LCD, for hosting the participants who stopped by his QTH for food and beverages after the long road trip.

I had the opportunity to speak to the Saturday morning men's group at the Atwater United Methodist Church on August 19th about amateur radio, emergency communications, and my experiences in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, last September. They had a number of questions and seemed to find the information helpful. One of the fellows shared some great stories about his uncle who was a ham and how he enjoyed sitting in the shack with his uncle and being dazzled by all the ham radio gear.

Tom - WB8LCD, and I had a chance to assist with communications at the Bellefaire Biathlon, a run-bike event in Cuyahoga County on Sunday, August 27th details on that in another article in the newsletter.

DON'T FORGET - The Kent State University Black Squirrel Festival is on Friday, September 8th at the Risman Plaza between the Student Center and the Library at the KSU campus. We will be operating our first Special Event station from the plaza on HF with a separate demonstration station for local VHF operations on the N8KW repeater as well as Echolink on the internet. Setup starts at 0800 hours and we go

on the air at 1000 hours, operating until 1700 hours when the festival ends. Stop by and visit or, even better, come on by and lend a hand!

We hope that you remember that 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 \$25.00 cost of "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" sold by the ARRL. At the end of the course we will provide VE testing for the graduates. We would like to have volunteers from PCARS to assist in the class presentation and to be VE's. In the meantime, let's get the word out about the class and recruit some new hams! Check your email for the flier about the class that provides more information.

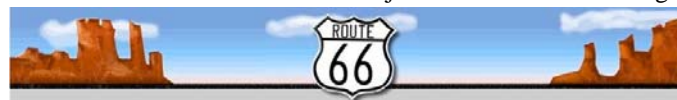
If you still have not yet received your copy of the excellent Field Day CD photo album put together by Tom - KB8UUZ, make sure that you check with me at the next meeting. I will have the CD's with me.

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. 73

Jim - KC8PD

Paper Chase

What does September bring us? The first day of autumn and new TV shows to name a few. Does Route 66 bring back any memories? Can you name the three major actors of this series? It should not be hard, the series was aired from 1960-1964. Route 66 was also the major route between Chicago



and Los Angeles before the Interstate Highway System. Today there are organizations trying to preserve what is left of the highway. Also, amateur radio has been playing a part for the last six years in remembering the highway with a special event "Route 66 on the Air." From the original 11 stations in 2000, this year it will have 17 stations participating. They are:

W6A	Chicago, IL
W6B	St. Louis, MO
W6C	Lebanon, MO
W6D	Joplin, MO
W6E	Riverton, KS
W6F	Tulsa, OK
W6G	Oklahoma City, OK
W6H	Elk City, OK
W6I	Armarillo, TX
W6J	Gallup, NM
W6K	Flagstaff, AZ
W6L	Kingman, AZ
W6M	Victorville, CA
W6N	Barstow, CA
W6O	San Bernardino, CA
W6P	Los Angeles, CA
W6Q	Santa Monica, CA

The special event will take place from September 9th through the 17th. Some of the clubs involved do not have enough members to man the stations 24 hours a day but will attempt to have them on the air as much as possible. So if you do not hear them, listen again.

The frequencies will all end with 66, so listen for the SSB stations around 7.266, 14.166, 14.266 and 21.366. The CW frequencies will end in .066.

Each club involved will issue their own QSL Card. To receive a QSL Card, send your QSL card along with a SASE to the individual club. If you would like a certificate, download the application form from



www.qsl.net/w6jbt. Complete the form and mail with \$3.00 to cover postage and processing costs to: Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 3788
San Bernardino, CA 92413

The answer to the question is: Martin Milner, George Maharis and Glenn Corbett.

Joe - W8KNO

Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites



on the bands for September.

It's September already!! For crying out loud, where did the year go?? I swear that our snowplow guy was just here last week. Well at least I know that I will be done with the "TOWER PROJECT" soon. Let's see what interesting things are scheduled to happen

CHAGOS ISLAND, VQ9. Jim, ND9M is QRV as VQ9JC from Diego Garcia for about four months. QSL to home call.

DL - Helmut, DL7VOX reports he will operate CW on 160-10 meters as DL7VOX/p from Usedom Island (EU-129, O-013 for the German Islands Award) on September 3-15.

EX - The Amateur Radio Union of Kyrgyzstan reports that memorial station EX15ID will be active from August 25 to September 5 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Kyrgyz Republic. QSL via EX8AB.

F - Special event call TM8CDX will be aired on September 2-16 for the 28th Clipperton DX Club (<http://www.cdxc.org/>) Convention, which will be held at Arcachon on 16-17 September. All of the QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau; direct requests should

be sent to F5CQ.

FH - Sam Serge, F6AML active as TX6A from Mayotte (AF-027) on 5-17 October. Plans to operate CW and SSB on 80-10 meters

G - The Chippenham & District Amateur Radio Club (<http://g3vre.org.uk/>) operate as GB2LI from Lundy Island (EU-120) off the coast of Devon on September 16-21. They will operate SSB, CW and FM on 80, 40, 30, 20, 15 and 2 meters. QSL via bureau.

HL - (Republic of Korea) Look for Kang, DS4DRE/4 is QRV from Hong Island, IOTA, AS-093, until the end of 2006. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to his home call.

J7 - Karl, N1DL (J79DL) and George, W4LFK (J79MD) will be operating all modes from Dominica (NA-101) on September 21-27. QSL via home calls.

XV - Hiro, JA1DHY (XV3DHY) and Oshima, JA1EKK (XV3EKK) will be active from Vietnam from August 31 to September 6. Look for XV3DHY on 6, 15, 17, 20, 30 and 80 meters CW and SSB, while XV3EKK will operate on 6, 15 and 20 meters SSB and SSTV. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

YI - Richard, SP8HKT, plans to be active again as YI9KT. He will be in Diwaniyah, Iraq, until January 2007. Look for him on 80 through 10 meters. Sometimes on low bands only with North America between 0200-0330z. QSL via SP8HKT, direct only.

ZA - Emilio, IK0OKY has been back to Albania since August 9, and will remain there until mid-September. He operates as ZA/IK0OKY mostly on 6 and 2 meters. QSL via IW0BET, direct or bureau. Yes I know that this is not HF, but I couldn't resist.

Well, I hope that you get on and work some great DX. Until next time, 73.

Chuck - K8CMP

Dipole Slingshot

I bought the Barnett Cobra slingshot about 2 years ago at Gander Mountain for possible use with raising antennas in trees. They had them on sale... don't recall what they were at the time.. but I see they are going for about \$19 on outdoor supplies web sites now.



The fishing reel I picked up at K-Mart in Solon this spring when they were closing the place. The new reel was less than \$5.00. The sling shot has about a 5/16 inch hex metal rod on the front of it that allowed the reel to rest perfectly on a "flat" and it is held with two small hose clamps. The reel came with ten pound line on it.

Al - KB8VJL

Black Squirrel Festival

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

On Friday, September 8th, Kent State University will be holding its annual Black Squirrel Festival. By now you should

be well aware of the local notoriety of the black squirrels, the first of which was let loose in Kent 45 years ago and have flourished ever since. PCARS has adopted the black squirrel as our official mascot and incorporated it into our logo.

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



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

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

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

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

Jim - KC8PD

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course

I received a nice certificate from the ARRL for completing and passing the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course: Level 1. There was a lot to learn since I had never had any training in the past on any of it. That being said; it took me a little longer to complete it then I first thought it would take.

It was a real good course and covered a lot of needed material one would need when he/she would volunteer to provide emergency communications.

I owe thanks to the EC of the Summit County ARES group Larry Fields - WD8ITF for his help he gave me and also my course mentor Bill Neill - KC8AVZ who kept me on track and kept me plugging away till I reached the end! I would stay up late at times and send my required student activities to him for review... and it appeared he was up late most of the same times I was.... so his feed back to me was most prompt!

Al - KB8VJL



Radio China

Radio China violates the amateur radio bands. The Firedragon Jammer from Hainan Island, China, is still shaking and rattling on exclusive Amateur Radio frequency 14.260 kHz. It is also to be heard on 18.160 kHz.

The IARUMS groups in various countries around the world have lodged complaints to their authorities.

It is not clear what Radio China's objective is. It is however suspected that it is jamming some other radio station which is also illegal on those frequencies.

The SARL (South African Radio League) is in the process of adding its voice of complaint.



Source: The South African Radio League

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- o **September 8th** – the Black Squirrel Special Event station at Kent State University
- o **September 11th** club meeting – Presentation from our own Tom, KB8UUZ, on the QSL card and how to increase your successful QSLing
- o **September 16th** – PCARS cookout at the home of our Prez, Tom - WB8LCD
- o **October 9th** club meeting – Mark Griffiths, 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

PCARS Two Meter Simplex Contest

Notes from some of the Participants

What You Should Have Learned at the PCARS 2-Meter Sprint by Bill Fraedrich WB9LBI Here's what I learned participating in the PCARS 2-meter Sprint, working as a mobile station:

1. Maximum point-to-point range on hand-held rig is 3 to 5 miles, depending on terrain. The other mobiles were running around 50 watts to my five, but surprisingly, their extra power did not help them that much.
2. Antenna height makes all the difference. Every one of the fixed stations I worked could hear me at a range of around ten miles.
3. K8CMP used his superior antenna height to taunt contest operators about the meatballs he was making. He did not invite anyone over to sample his cooking.
4. Directional antennas might buy you 6 dB in theory, but could also cost you 6 dB if you don't know which direction to aim them. If both stations are mobile and moving, it's a crapshoot.

5. Life is too short to drive around in public with a huge beam on the end of a pole sticking out of your car. KB8DPN, take note.
6. If your rig can handle multi-frequency receive, set it up to monitor two contest frequencies at the same time.
7. Part of the city of Tallmadge is actually within Portage County. Who knew?
8. Driving, making contest contacts, and attempting to log them while driving causes one to weave uncontrollably across multiple lanes of traffic. If you're one of the people who had to swerve to get out of my way, I apologize.
9. You can make it thru an entire contest on one battery back, if you keep your contacts short.
10. WB8LCD has a daughter with a dog-sitting business, which she would like to discuss with you at some length.
11. To get to all of the cities/villages/townships/whistle stops in Portage county, plan on driving about 100 miles. Your mileage may vary.
12. WB8LCD always has beer, and he's willing to share.



Bill - WB9LBI

The PCARS 2 meter Simplex Sprint Contest was a blast. I wish it could have lasted another 12 hours, because I think I was running on Adrenaline alone.

On August 10, 2006 from 12 noon to 12 Midnight, the idea of the contest was to contact as many stations simplex as possible on 2 meters. You could only work a station once unless either they or you moved to a different village, city or township. You could enter as a Mobile, low power base station, or high power base station. Obviously, base stations were not going to move about -- so as a mobile I could work bases more than once, for a total of 30 times as long as I moved to a different entity.

We were outfitted with a Kenwood D700, running 50 watts into a Diamond 5 element beam which was mounted on the side of the vehicle, much like a T-hunting mobile. The beam really made a difference. Later in the contest I ran without the beam, and noticed a major difference.



My team consisted of myself and Mike Ryan, KB8TUY who logged and offered advice and support. From 12 till 2:30 PM, Tom Mahon, KC8ZGL also rode along and helped out.

From about 7:30 PM till 10:30 PM, I also had my son Russell Jr, age 2.5 with me.

As I moved about Portage County, it was also a great time to experiment with APRS. (Automatic Position Reporting

System) APRS operates on a frequency of 144.39 MHz. In a nutshell, a GPS (Global Positioning System) is connected to the 2 meter radio, and on a timed interval transmits a packet of information. (About every 3 minutes) That cluster of information that "burps" out on the radio has your call letters, your longitude, latitude, altitude, rate of speed, type of station icon description (a car, truck, house, bicycle and a message, if desired). Other APRS stations receive this information and process the information to compute your location on a map, how far they are from you, etc. In addition, some of these stations send the information to the Internet, where servers like <http://www.findu.com/process> and share the information with other hams globally.

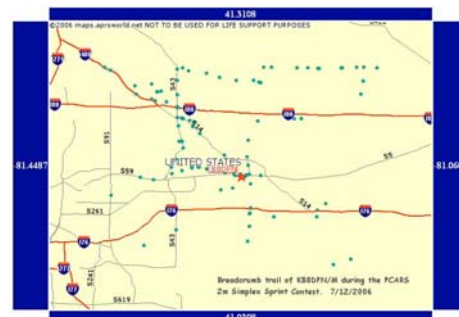
When I returned home the next day I was able to pull down a "breadcrumb trail" of the locations of everywhere I transmitted during the contest. This was educational for me to see where I was able to get into the digipeater. You could plainly see that altitude is everything, as I have many spots from Hiram and the northern part of the county where the ground elevation was very high.



Some of the other hindrances during transmit was the fact that I was using the other half of the radio for the contest -- so every 3 minutes, if I was not contesting, the APRS half would send a position report. There were many times I am sure the beam was not pointed in the proper direction as well.

Another great facet of the contest was to hear and experience propagation changes as we moved around the county. Many times it was just the matter of moving the vehicle a few feet forward between a S9 signal and a S3. One particularly memorable contact was with Errol, KC8RJR while I was in Nelson. Errol was at his home QTH in N. Canton, considerable further than anybody else I made contact with, and he was S9+, like he was next to the vehicle -- Other stations paled in comparison. Guess we just had a pipeline between those locations at that given moment.

So many great memories of the contest fill my mind. One of the funniest things to happen was when a hornet flew into the vehicle and disturbed my logger, Mike. I'm trying to transmit, and Mikes howling and flailing about trying to shoo this thing out of the vehicle.



Some of the things I learned include completing the townships and villages surrounding the arsenal and West Branch reservoir during the daylight hours.

If I didn't have my GPS navigation system with me, I'm not sure we would have made it out of there. It was very dark trying to navigate those parts of the county.

Because I had navigation and GPS tracking, my stats for the contest are as follows: 211 total QSO's, including 58 from cities, 31 villages, 80 Townships and 42 from outside the county. We worked from all 30 entities in the county, and contacted all entities in the county except Windham and Mogadore Village. We covered 171 miles with an average speed of 32.1 MPH. Somewhere in the course of the contest I hit a maximum speed of 64.7 MPH. Of the 10 Hours and 24 minutes of the contest, only 5 hours and 20 minutes were actually spent moving in the vehicle. We parked a lot during the contest to make contacts. We also were able to stop at Tom, WB8LCD's "Black Squirrel Oasis" in Sugar Bush Knolls twice to consume liquid refreshments

All and all, it was a fantastic time -- and I am really looking forward to next years contest. Here's hoping for even more fun and participation next year!

Russ - KB8DPN

What an event!!!! I rode with Tom-KB8UUZ in his mobile contest/event station. His mobile radio station worked out great in this event for just being a basic mobile set up. I will have to say it was a little too bumpy at times trying to log as he made contacts in bursts. In our travels we only rode on one gravel road... that surprised me. It was a really nice sunny Saturday and the weather couldn't have been better!

The get together in the evening at Tom's-WB8LCD was a most needed break. Later, after I returned home I turned on my radio here and found that our event had generated some interest with some other hams: Jim - K8ZWY from Burton and Eric - WD8MHR from Shalersville. Eric said this was the first time in 7 years since he had his radio on and he was glad our club was having this county wide event! The Ravenna mobile power team of Russ - KB8DPN, Mike - KB8TUUY and Russ jr. had gone back out and these new hams to the event stayed on the air to work them and to talk to the rest of us who were waiting for mobile station KB8DPN to get to other locations inside our county. I can see it now... next year everyone will go all out for this event since it was so much fun!!!! What a great time! Here is what I recommend next year for those who take part; for the non-driver/logger:



1. A second brake pedal for you to operate also.
2. A speed control device located by your seat to get the mobile station slowed down a little so you can write/log.
3. A panel of switches in front of you for the vehicles turn signals/four way flashers and brake lights. (When you yell to the driver-"turn right or turn left"..... sometimes the car behind you will get a little too close when your mobile station gets slowed down in five feet for the turn it is about to make)

4. Signs (This vehicle makes sudden stops-stay back 300 feet!) for the back of the vehicle you are riding in so others know you may make sudden stops even when there is no pull off areas or other drives or other roads you could turn off onto.

I hope to find more people taking part next year! Even if you don't go mobile get on the air from home and matter of fact... find someone to ride with who is operating and I am sure you will enjoy the day... laughing your head off at some of the funny events taking place before your eyes and ears!

Al-KB8VJL

I really enjoyed the contest. It showed what we can do without the use of repeaters. It also showed that we can communicate directly for the most part and that there are only a few places in the county that are a problem. Remember, I'm in Geauga county and I believe that I was able to work everyone that I heard - even Nick in Rootstown.

With Russ traveling all over the place late in the evening, and all the QRM from other stations gone, I was surprised at how well we were able to communicate. The contest was an eye opener. It would be interesting to see the results from a mid-Winter contest. Of course, the Rovers would have to be careful in their driving, depending on the road conditions.

Chuck - K8CMP

PCARS 2 Meter Sprint Logs Received

There are still three weeks before the reports have to be in; therefore, please get them in as soon as you can so that I can have the final standings ready for the October Newsletter.

As of now in the mobile division, we have KB8DPN, KD8CKP, KC8PD and WB9LBI in a close race. We will have to wait till the scores are checked to determine who takes home the checkered flag or will someone who has not submitted a log overtake them in the last weeks of the sprint?

For the stay at homes, we have N4TIE, K8CMP, KD8DFM, N8WLE and WB8FEW galloping along with WB8LCD hic-cupping along from the Sugar Bush Knolls Oasis.

The only thing for certain at this time is that the highest scorer was N8NBC --- 3,000 feet --- our thanks go out to N8NBC, N8GIE and the entire chase crew that made this something special to all the participants. Check out the picture of their aeronautical mobile as it drifts across the pastoral farm lands of Northeast Ohio. If you would like to see more pictures or get more information, go to www.flykilroy.com.



Logs have been received from the following stations:

K8CMP	KB8VJL	KC8PD/M
KD8CKP/M	N8CUI	N8WLE
W8KNO	WB8LCD	WB9LBI/M

Joe - W8KNO

Antenna Topics

Welcome to what I plan to implement as a bi-monthly column on Antennas. Perhaps you have a topic you would like to write about on a bi-monthly basis. If so, contact the Newsletter Editor, as he will be happy to set the schedule so one or the other is in every issue! This column will be geared towards the beginner. Hey, I'm not a rocket scientist – but I've been around long enough to know what's true and what's fantasy! If I say something you don't agree with, send an e-mail directly to me at wb8lcd@portcars.org. I'll do the research and if I've given bad information, I'll correct it and give you credit for pointing out my error. If I'm not wrong, I'll get back to you and we can come to agreement on what the facts really are.

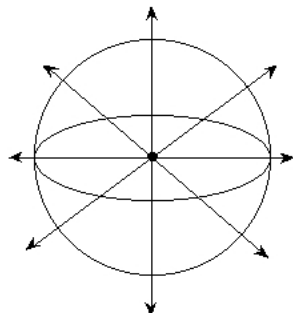
Compared to years gone by, when most hams built most of their own equipment, even if only from a kit, the current state of the art precludes most of us from that level of expertise. The topic of antennas however, is one area where we can still experiment and build our own. This column will include construction topics as well as theory. It will give you the necessary information to get a signal out of the basement and into the airwaves! If there are any topics related to antennas you would like to see covered here, drop my an e-mail – I'll do my best to accommodate you. Just remember: Hey, I'm not a rocket scientist!

For the purposes of this column, “antenna”, or “antenna system” will include the feedline, the antenna and the grounding system attached to the antenna. This also includes the structures and mounting system used to secure the antenna in place. We'll be talking about wire antennas, ground planes, yagis, cubicle quads, verticals, stealth, limited space and all other sorts of antennas. Hope you enjoy and get some value out of it!

Per the ARRL Antenna Handbook, the purpose of an antenna is to “convert radio-frequency electric current to *electromagnetic waves*, which are then *radiated* into space”. An antenna also works in reverse, capturing *electromagnetic waves* from space, converting them to radio-frequency electric current and passing them back along the feedline to the radio receiver.

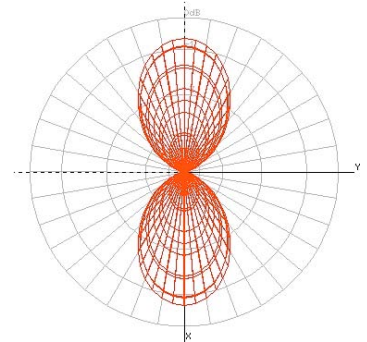
Now lets understand one important concept right from the start: an antenna does not generate or even amplify the power level delivered to it. So be careful when you hear claims about the “radiated power increase” of some antennas. An antenna *can* concentrate the radiation pattern in a particular direction, resulting in “antenna gain” in that direction. That gain in the given direction comes at the expense of the radiated signal in some other direction. To really understand this, we will define the concept of an “isotropic radiator”.

An isotropic radiator is a theoretical antenna (it does not exist in the real world) that could best be described as a point in space. That point in space radiates equally well in all directions. In other words, the radiation pattern from that point would look like a perfectly formed ball in



space. It has absolutely no directivity to it. That pattern does not exist in the “real world” as all real world antennas have some degree of directivity to them, resulting in gain over the isotropic antenna in the direction of that directivity. This is where the term “dBi” comes from. When an antenna is advertised with a gain figure expressed in dBi, that means the gain of the antenna as compared to the theoretical isotropic antenna. Antenna manufacturers will express the gain of their antennas in dBi when they want to impress you with the highest gain factors they can honestly report! That's not necessarily bad, just understand what the gain figure actually represents and how it compares to other antenna gain factors which might be expressed differently.

A common antenna which does exist, is the center fed, half wave dipole. A half wave dipole has very little radiation off the ends, and most radiation broadside to the antenna. This results in gain over an isotropic reference in the broadside directions, with a null off the ends. The theoretical gain of a dipole over isotropic is approximately 2.14 dB at 4.8 MHz.



The power gain of an antenna is usually expressed in decibels, I'll define the term decibel in greater detail in a later column, for now, just consider it a measure of power ratios, the higher the number, the higher the gain of the system in a particular direction.

Some antenna gain figures are expressed as dBd, which refers to gain over a dipole as the reference antenna. These figures will not be as high as the gain over an isotropic antenna, but some feel they are a more accurate description of the gain of one antenna over another. Just remember, when comparing antennas from different manufacturers that they may not be using the same reference and that could make the comparison sound better or worse than it really is! Also remember, that to get antenna gain in one direction, it will only come at the expense of other directions.

Next time, we'll discuss the decibel in detail and talk about building dipole antennas for different frequencies. The timing is perfect, antennas put up in the winter time *always* work better than those put up on a warm sunny summer day!

Tom - WB8LCD

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.

Clarence

Over the next few months, you'll be hearing about Clarence. That's Clarence Hollow from Ravenna.

Seems he's retired and decided he wants to get into Ham Radio. He contacted the ARRL and they forwarded his name and number to me by e-mail. That same day, I got a voice mail on the phone - it was Clarence! I called him and left a message on his answering machine saying we'd be happy to help him get started in obtaining his Amateur Radio license. I called him again and we chatted and I explained some stuff to him and said I would mail him some information. I sent him a copy of our newsletter, and the flier for the Technician Class coming up in September.

Clarence was concerned - he said he was 91 years old and wondered if that was too old for ham radio - I said Heck No!

Clarence came to the August PCARS meeting and he spoke to a few other hams while there. He said he really enjoyed it at the meeting and everyone was real friendly. While there, he bought the Technician License manual to get started on studying.



One of the questions he asked me is if he could buy a ham radio to listen to until he got his license. I told him he could get one for listening only. Sure enough, the following week he visited AES in Wickliffe and got a VX-170 hand held unit. On Wednesday he called me - he wasn't sure about how to set up the radio. So, I visited Clarence at his home on Saturday gave him a new Yaesu hat, and we programmed his new HT to receive all the repeaters in the area, plus fire and police frequencies.



Since then he only called me once when he pushed the wrong button and it would not scan. I chuckled and told him EVERY ham I've known has done that a time or two! So,

We'll keep tabs on Clarence and when he gets his Amateur License - make sure you call and talk with him!

Tom - KB8UUZ

Two Warren Hamfest Reports

Sunday, August 20, 7:00 AM- I pulled into the driveway at KB8DPN's and before I got out of the car, Russ was out and ready to go! From Russ' we traveled to Nick's - N8WLE. Or at least I thought that's where I was, but I was wrong. Glad I didn't hit the doorbell at 7:15 AM! From there we went

around the corner and picked up Nick from his house. Drove to Warren and got there at 8. Going inside first, we discovered that there weren't too many vendors inside! Went back out, toured the complete flea market and looked at my watch - 8:45 AM! Too say it was a small flea market would be an understatement. It did seem like lots of attendees were on hand and there were a lot coming in and out the whole time we were there.

Russ was the big winner, he made a couple of small purchases in the flea market. Nick and I didn't find anything of interest, but we did see quite a few hams we knew. Nick got to say hello to a lot of the other net control ops on the traffic net, and I got to say hello to Joe - W8KNO! Those personal connections made it all worthwhile.

After we left, we drove back to Streetsboro and had brunch at Eat-N-Park. Russ and I had a good time getting to know Nick, that made the trip a good time and we'll do it again!

Tom - WB8LCD

With the Hamfest not being far away, did not wake early to be there when the doors opened. I arrived about 8:30. The Boy Scouts were still energetic in parking the cars and I got sent out to the back forty.

As I entered the flea market area, I immediately met Tom - WB8LCD, and Nick - N8WLE. I did not see Russ - KB8DPN, who came with them. The flea market area was not extensive but covered 5-1/2 rows with an ample amount of junk/treasures to look at. There were enough old AM broadcast receivers to be repaired and they seemed to be going fast.

I missed not seeing the Cable and Connector Man as there were very few big dealers present. The furthest a person came to sell their goodies was 300 miles and he was selling tubes. In talking to him, I found out he had some ballast tubes but did not have them with him. I will have to look at my schematic to see which I need and call him. I was telling him that the ballast tube I needed was a 120 volt model and I had replaced it with a dropping resistor. When I could not remember the number, he asked me when I replaced it and I replied, "About 45 years ago." At which time the man behind me, who must have been listening, burst into laughter. Why bother? You want the equipment (Hallicrafter S-77A receiver) to operate the way it was designed not as jury-rigged.



Went into the building and met Mark - KC8FQV, checking over the goodies on the WARA Club table. Also in the lobby, was a raffle table for Charlanne Farms and a ID and Label vendor. Upstairs, there were three rooms of computer stuff and a lecture room. While walking down the hall I met Bill - WB9LBI, who invited me to the Tri-County Traffic meeting to be held at 11:30 and in one of the computer rooms Dan - N8NBC, who was selling Dell Laptops from \$50. You all remember Dan as our Aeronautical Mobile in the 2 Meter Sprint. Who else did I met? I talked to John - W8ZL, Gail -

KC8LRH, and their wives Lorraine - KD8BHX, and Emily - KC8RAL, they had attended our meeting to hear about Peter I.

Will I go again next year, YOU BET because I saved the best for last. When I exited the building, there was a Chinese Auction and I bought some tickets and won a basket of Avon products which I gave to my wife. She will probably go with me next year as she is enrolled in the License course. She may be new to amateur radio but she holds a FCC License with a call sign of KAWX1481. Do you remember them?

Joe - W8KNO

PCARS sent out QSL Post Cards

One of the projects to seek out new members for PCARS was to send out postcards to hams in Portage County. Addresses were obtained through the FCC data base for over 400 hams

located in our county! A post card style QSL was made up and we mailed out 400 of them.

Since they have been out in the first week

of August, we have heard from some hams that were happy to know that PCARS is being 'Radio Active' and having fun with amateur radio.

Interestingly, the returned cards show that about 60 hams have moved and the forwarding addresses were not available. There were also a few

Silent Keys still in the license data base. So, hopefully, we'll gain a few members, and at the very least, the hams in Portage County will know we're here and they can visit us anytime and be welcomed.

Shocking Facts on Lightning

Summer is peak season for lightning strikes in America. Most people understand that electrical storms are potentially dangerous, but many people underestimate how deadly lightning can be. Based on a thirty-year average, the National Weather Service (NWS) estimates that lightning kills 67 people per year, more than tornadoes or hurricanes. In 2005, the NWS reports there were 48 deaths and 172 injuries that could be attributed to this phenomenon.

From the W.W. Web

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. Summer is going fast, so come on down and join in on the fun!

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

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



Gay - WB8VNO

EmComm

If you were unable to attend the July club meeting, you missed an excellent and informative presentation from Scott McKinney - N8TPK, and Marty Copfer - KC8NOV, about the Red Cross and the services that it provides both locally and nationally.

Scott, a PCARS member, is the director of the Portage County Service Delivery Unit (SDU) in Ravenna. He explained that up until a few years ago the Ravenna office was a separate Chapter within the national Red Cross organization. At that time it merged with the Summit County Red Cross Chapter, mainly for financial reasons because of the cost savings that could be realized by combining some administrative services that were being performed at both chapters.

The merger has been a great success and has preserved all of the local services that the Portage County SDU had been delivering prior to the merger. It is important to know if you are a local Red Cross donor that your donations will still be directed back to the local SDU's operations.

As Scott told us, there are disasters both large and small that the Red Cross may respond to. We typically think of disasters on the large scale such as hurricanes, tornados and wildfires. But they can occur on the smaller local scale whether it is a family that loses its home to fire or people displaced by flooding after heavy storms. Scott explained that the 2005 hurricane season challenged the Red Cross in almost unimaginable ways. The size of the Red Cross response was some ten to fifteen times larger than any of its past hurricane relief efforts.

Of course the Red Cross provides a wide variety of other services such as CPR and first aid training, swimming and water safety classes, and additional courses for those in health and safety operations. Also, the Red Cross provides assistance

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)
9992 State Route 700
Marietta, OH 44255

For More Information on this **ACTIVE** club you can contact:
WB8LCD - Tom - 330-626-1901
WB8LCD@portcars.org
-or-
KC8PD - Jim - 330-297-7979
KC8PD@portcars.org
Check out our Web Site at www.portcars.org
Download our newsletter the **RADIOGRAM**
See how much **FUN** we're having in this great hobby of Amateur Radio

to the members of the United States armed forces and their families.

You can always find more information about the Red Cross and the Summit-Portage County Chapter at <http://chapters.redcross.org/oh/summit/>.



But as Marty reminded us, one of the most important ways that PCARS members can assist the Red Cross is by providing emergency communication services. He outlined a number of the different ways to get involved and provide emcomm assistance. There is probably not another more readily apparent and mutually beneficial relationship between two service organizations that the one that exists between the Red Cross and amateur radio.

Locally, the Summit-Portage chapter has the added benefit of sponsoring its own amateur radio club. Its web site is at <http://kc8rlc.no-ip.org/>.



Marty is the vice-president of that organization. The group was formed five years ago to provide specific support to the local chapter, as well as to recruit and train new hams.

Many of its members are also involved with the Summit County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Summit County ARES provides an outstanding model and example of how local ARES operations should function. It is its own distinct organization and demonstrates that the position of the ARRL that ARES should not be club-specific is the right way to go. They meet regularly and provide many training and service opportunities. Find out more about Summit County ARES at <http://www.sumco-ares.org/>.

We want to encourage PCARS members to get involved with their local organizations that assist other community members, in particular, the Red Cross. You can become a better trained and more highly skilled communicator through Red Cross training and be better prepared for personal or community emergencies. They need you, and someday you or your family, or friends and neighbors, may need the help of the Red Cross. Won't you feel better about it if you have already lent a hand?

Aside from the personal benefits of training and community involvement, if you are going to be an emcomm volunteer, Red Cross credentials or identification cards may be essential to gain admission to the affected area where your help is needed.

In the future, PCARS hopes to have a formal and continuing relationship with the Red Cross so that the residents of Portage County will know that if disaster strikes the Red Cross will be there backed by the best communication services that the amateur radio community can provide.

Jim – KC8PD

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

Special Event Listing in QST

Yes, we know, the listing in the September issue of QST is not correct. They stuck in the wrong website address.

When I spotted the listing on the ARRL web site, I panicked, and contacted them right away - they fixed the web site but it was too late for the magazine.

Back in June when I filled out the information submission, I did not enter a web site (there is no place to do that).

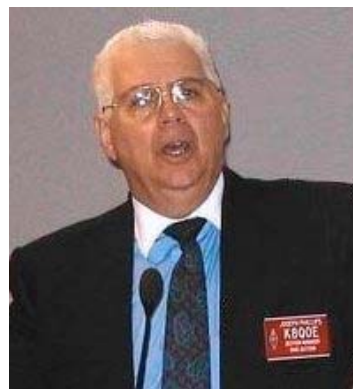
Oh well, at least World Radio, CQ Magazine, and 73se.com all got it correct.

The listing should say:

Sep 8, 1400Z-2300Z, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, KD8CKP. Kent State University Black Squirrel Festival. 21.337 14.237 28.337 7.237. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. www.portcars.org

Ohio SM Joe Phillips Re-Elected

Incumbent Section Manager overcomes re-election challenge. The incumbent ARRL Section Manager in Ohio won re-election in one of the only two contested races of the current SM election cycle. ARRL Field and Educational Services staffers counted and verified election ballots August 22 at ARRL Headquarters. Sitting SMs were re-elected without opposition in seven other League sections. In the Ohio Section, veteran SM Joe Phillips - K8QOE, out polled challenger Mark Erbaugh - N8ME, 1235 to 747. Phillips has been in office since October 1998. New two-year terms for successful candidates begin October 1.



From the ARRL

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

3 PCARS members have a birthday in September:

WD8BIW - Karen Warner

KC8NOW - Ed McKivigan

WB8VYW - Mike Hutsler



From the Great Lakes Division Director

2007 GREAT LAKES DIVISION CONVENTION

GLD Division Convention Chairman Gary Johnston, KI4LA, has announced the next biannual convention will be in Cleveland, OH on September 22, 2007. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will be the main speaker at the banquet and will be seen at other events of the day as well as at the Cleveland Hamfest on September 23. This will be Pres. Harrison's first visit to the Great Lakes Division and Ohio.

A word about convention site selection: As the Director for all three states in the Great Lakes Division, I am very interested in having the biannual Division conventions move around to give all of our members a good opportunity to participate in them. The 2007 offering will be the third since these conventions resumed. So far, offers to host the conventions have come only from Ohio clubs. With Ohio being my adopted home state, I have no personal problem with having every convention in Ohio. On the other hand, as your Director I would be very pleased to have Kentucky and Michigan clubs step forward to host future conventions. If your group would like to be considered as the sponsor for the 2009 convention, please contact Gary Johnston, KI4LA at ki4la@arrl.org to learn the requirements.

NERPC

As I reported to you some time back, the Board of Directors established an ad hoc National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC). Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, chairs this Committee. The charge given the Committee was to review the events related to Amateur Radio support following Hurricane Katrina and to determine just what actions should be taken to improve the service given by amateurs. Means for improving an immediate-response effort by hams is a key aspect being considered by the group.

It is too early to report on this Herculean task, but substantial progress is being made. A report of the results to date of the Committee work will be made later this year.

The Committee consists of key workers in the ARRL Field Organization (experienced SMs, etc.), select personnel from HQ and Vice President Craigie.

MY BACK

I don't want to belabor the point, but the surgery on my lower (lumbar) back was done a week ago. Everything seems to be fine. I have no pain in my legs, which is the problem I had been having. At this time, I'm told to keep my back (and the rest of me) out of cars, so I am not traveling even on short trips. I expect to be able to resume my normal schedule late this year. Thanks to the many of you who expressed your good wishes to me.

Jim Weaver - K8JE

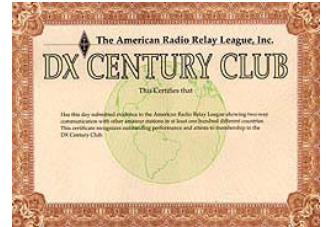
ARRL Great Lakes Division Director



Need Your Cards Checked for DXCC?

Keith, N8KOL, has advised me that he will be attending the Berea Hamfest and will be available to check QSL cards for DXCC new applicants and endorsements.

The DX Century Club is the premier operating award in all of Amateur Radio. The basic certificate is awarded for working and confirming at least 100 entities (it used to be called countries until islands of countries were added) on the ARRL DXCC List. The rules and DXCC Application and Record Sheets can be downloaded from www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc.



Joe - W8KNO

Emergency Responders

Legal Definitions From Appendix 1 of the National Response Plan (NRP)

Emergency Response Provider. Includes Federal, State, local and tribal emergency public safety, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities), and related personnel, agencies and authorities. (See section 2(6), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, 116 Stat 2135 (2002). Also known as "emergency responder."

First Responder. Local and nongovernmental police, fire, and emergency personnel who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 USC 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) who provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations. First Responders may include personnel from Federal, State, local, tribal, or nongovernmental organizations.

From Public Law 107-296: section 2(6)(6) The term "emergency response providers" includes Federal, State, and local emergency public safety, law enforcement, emergency response, emergency medical (including hospital emergency facilities), and related personnel, agencies, and authorities."

"Depending upon just what auspices radio amateurs participate in an event, it looks like the broadness of the definition of First Responder above could well include them. Obviously, if any are enrolled in (taken oath of office) as a member of an emergency management agency (paid or unpaid), they seem to be included. 'Non-governmental' covers a wide spectrum too. Or how about 'skilled equipment operators' (even if it is not a Caterpillar D4, but an IC-706 transceiver)."

Bob Hajek - W9QBH, Albuquerque, NM

Bellefaire - Public Service Event

On Sunday, August 27th, Tom - WB8LCD, and I drove up to the Bellefaire School in Shaker Heights to assist with communications for Bellefaire's annual Biathlon. The Biathlon is a run/bicycle fundraising event for the school's general operations. This year there were about three hundred entrants for the three mile run that is followed immediately by a nearly thirteen mile bike ride. This year's winner was finished in just over forty-nine minutes.

The events travel through Shaker Heights, University Heights, Beachwood, Pepper Pike, and Mayfield Heights, so you can imagine the jurisdictional issues for the organizers as well as the safety forces in the five communities. Amateur radio provides the perfect communication service when participants are spread out over a course that takes them about six to seven miles from the starting line through five municipalities.

The communications coordinator and net control operator was our own Gay - WB8VNO, who marshaled the services of fifteen other hams to assist, including her husband, Ted - WD8CVH. Another PCARS member, Bill - WB9LBI, also came out to work.

Bill had two assignments, first in a position along the runner's route and then he moved out onto the bicycle course. As mentioned, Gay was the NC, and in addition, Ted was in the SAG wagon (which provides assistance to participants and picks up stragglers), Bob - K8RJM, rode in the lead police car, and Mike - N8ZUA, shadowed the race director.

LCD and I were assigned to the intersection of Kersdale and Gates Mills roads where the cyclists came off a residential



road and turned onto a divided four lane road. From there they headed out to the halfway point and double backed past our position. Our task was to report any adverse road or traffic conditions and provide reports such as when the lead or last rider came past our post. Volunteer flaggers

were stationed at the same point to direct traffic.

All communications were on two meter simplex (147.525 MHz). LCD and I programmed our HT's for output on 445.200 MHz and input on the VHF simplex frequency. The Yaesu FT8800 in my car was then setup for cross-band repeat and we had no problem copying or reaching anyone on the route with the car radio running fifty watts.

The inclement weather did not help the participants. It rained heavily before the race started at 0830 hours with a light rain that lasted about twenty minutes into the race. After a pause of about a half hour the rain started again and pretty well soaked the back of the pack. Even when it wasn't raining the air was fairly heavy with moisture even though the temperature was just in the mid-seventies.

After the last rider passed our position on the way in, we headed back to Bellefaire to check in with Gay and let her

know that we were on our way back home. She was as pleasant and friendly as ever and her appreciative approach makes you glad that you came out.

I have to mention what a gentleman that WB8LCD was



while manning his post. Club president Tom greeted the last rider as she made her way up the grade on Kersdale to Tom's post. She was being followed by a sheriff's cruiser with lights a'flashing. She had had enough and decided to pass on the middle six miles of the ride while waiting for her teammates who were friends from work.

Tom graciously shared his umbrella and chatted with her for the twenty or so minutes while she waited. I think he may have even sold her some insurance. Needless to say, though, she learned about amateur radio and the fine folks who participate in the hobby. Tom was an outstanding ambassador for all of us.

Jim - KC8PD

PCARS Special Event Station

KD8CKP - The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) is having their first Special Event Station

Be there on Friday - September 8th from 8 am (1200 UTC) EDT until 5 pm EDT (2100 UTC) in the General portions of 15 and 20 meters.

Join us at Kent State University's 25th annual 'Black Squirrel Festival'. The festival will feature food, entertainment, merchandise, giveaways, prizes and vendors in the Risman Plaza kicking off the new school year with fun and plenty to do. The Black Squirrel Festival started in 1981 as a



day-long event held on the Student Center Plaza to introduce new students to campus and

community organizations. Now the festival has grown and features barbecues, live bands, and local artisans.

Why the Black Squirrel? Well, ten rare black squirrels were imported from Canada in February 1961 by Larry Woodell, superintendent of grounds at Kent State University (Kent, Ohio), and M. W. Staples, a retired executive of the Davey Tree Expert Company. When first released, the large, black-spiked squirrels were frequently mistaken for skunks. Today they own the campus. They have thrived and can now be seen throughout Portage County. PCARS has a black squirrel as it's mascot - so we just had to take part in this important festival and to promote Amateur Radio to the public.

The organizers of the event are really excited about having an amateur radio special event station operating as a part of the festival and they have assigned us one of the prime spots

on the plaza. We would like you to be part of that fun.

For a beautiful (suitable for framing) 8.5" x 11" certificate, send your QSL card and a large SASE to the KD8CKP call trustee: Alan Atkins - 12433 Chamberlain Rd. - Aurora, OH - 44202



PCARS is the NEW club in Portage County, Ohio - started in late 2005, we've grown to 46 members and we're having FUN with Amateur Radio. We're 'Radio-Active!!' Check us out on the web at: www.portcars.org

Editors Note. I sent in the above text to the 73SE.COM web site. Check out that site for upcoming Special Event Stations from around the world.

Pictures from the August 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

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



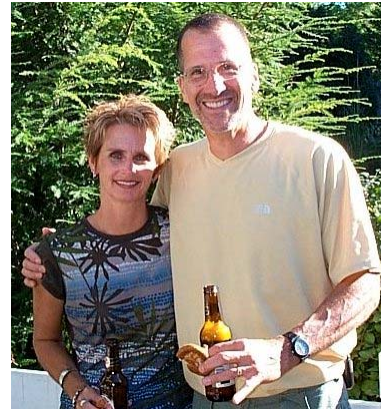
WB9LBI and KC8RJR taking a break

Pictures from the "Black Squirrel Oasis"

During the PCARS 2 meter sprint contest, our President : Tom - WB8LCD not only worked QRP from his back yard. He was also kind enough to open his doors to weary sprinters. He put out the invite to all PCARS participants to stop in for a 'cold one' and even put on some grilled hot dogs for all to have. Thus, his back yard was called the "Black Squirrel Oasis". Errol - KC8RJR, who was running the contest from his home in North Canton, even made the trip to Sugar Bush Knolls for the fun of it!



This was the QRP set up that Tom - WB8LCD was operating from his back deck during the PCARS 2 meter sprint contest.



The mobile team of Laura and KC8PD enjoy being at the Black Squirrel Oasis after the contest. (This was her first outing on an all day contest as a navigator / logger - and, she's not a ham operator!)



KB8UUZ, KB8TUY, KB8VJL, KC8PD discuss routes taken through Portage County while mobile during the contest



N4TIE and KC8ZGL relax while at the Black Squirrel Oasis



Even this cousin of the Black Squirrel takes a breather on the deck at the Black Squirrel Oasis!

Hamfest Calendar

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

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

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

Contest Calendar

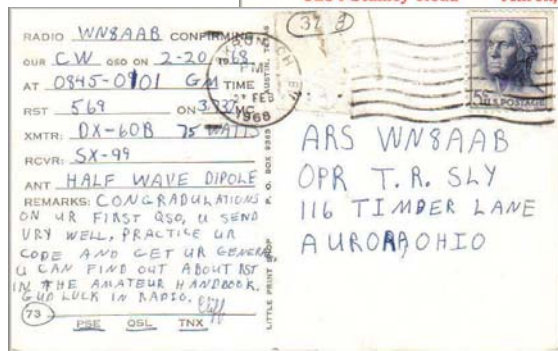
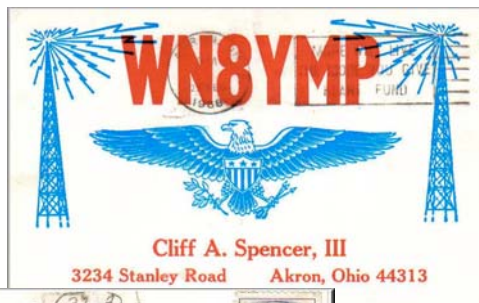
September, 2006

RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 2 to 1300Z, Sep 3
MI QRP Labor Day CW	2300Z, Sep 4 to 0300Z, Sep 5
ARRL Sept\ VHF QSOP	1800Z, Sep 9 to 0300Z, Sep 11
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 10
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 10 to 0100Z, Sep 11
YLRL Howdy Days	1400Z, Sep 12 to 0200Z, Sep 14
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 16 to 2100Z, Sep 17
WA State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 16 to 0700Z, Sep 17 & 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 17
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 16 to 1800Z, Sep 17
NA Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 17
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 18
144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 18
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 23 to 0200Z, Sep 24 & 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 24
Arkansas QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 30 to 0600Z, Oct 1 & 1800Z, Oct 1 to 0200Z, Oct 2
FISTS Coast to Coast	1800Z, Sep 30 to 1800Z, Oct 1

Cleaning the Shack

You never know what you'll run in to when cleaning your radio shack.

Tom - WB8LCD reported that he ran across an old QSL card he had received - way back when. Check out the date on the card! His first CW QSO !



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.

09/07	KB8UUZ
09/14	open
09/21	W8KNO
09/28	KB8DPN
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

At the August meeting a certificate for 10 consecutive check ins was presented to: Nick - N8WLE.

I encouraged everyone to check in, and, to try out being a Net Control Operator.

Tom - WB8LCD

Thanks

Well, that's the 8th 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, SARL, WB9LBI, KB8DPN, KB8UUZ, WB8VNO, ARRL, K8JE, W9QBH, and the world wide web. With your continued help - we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom - KB8UUZ
Newsletter Editor



One more photo of Dan - N8NBC in his balloon.



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)
 meets the 2nd 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.	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 by email at <callsign> @portcars.org

1. Wire Antennas	15. Computer Logging	Code	Contact
2. Beam Antennas	16. QSLs	17	Jim - KC8RKV
3. APRS	17. Echo Link	5, 24	Bill - WB9LBI
4. Contesting	18. Help - Icom	1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18-706, 19-TS690, TH22AT	Tom - KB8UUZ
5. CW Operation	19. Help - Kenwood	3, 6, 8, 12, 14, 17, 23, 25, 20. - FT100 - VX5, 19. - TH-F6 - D700	Russ - KB8DPN
6. DF (Fox Hunt)	20. Help - Yaesu	1, 5, 10	Tom - WB8LCD
7. DXing	21. Help - Boat Anchors	2, 6, 14, 17, 23, 25	Jim - KC8PD
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)

Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor
 9992 State Route 700
 Mantua, OH 44255

PCARS Web Site: www.portcars.org



NLC