



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



August 2007 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 2 No. 8

~ 2007 Officers ~

President: - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
 Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
 Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UJZ
 3 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
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~ 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

Greetings PCARS!

Summer is really flying by fast. Sometimes it seems as if there's never enough time to do the things you want to do. Consider this: The really important things never just happen by chance. They start out as being established as a goal. Once the goals are stated, a plan and a timetable are established to accomplish the goal. That's how things get done.

But what about Ham Radio? Is there something you've always wanted to do, but just never got around to it?

Try this, sit down some day and create your Ham Radio "wish list" - all the things you think you would like to accomplish in the Great Hobby. Pick the 2, 3 or 4 items on your wish list that are the most compelling to you and restate them as goals to be accomplished. Now, set a date for the accomplishment of each of these items (give it plenty of time, this is a hobby) and plot out the steps you need to take and when you will take each step. You'll be amazed at how much you can actually accomplish when you plan to do it, and then stick to the plan. If you just leave it to chance, it will probably never get done.

PCARS keeps growing. Every month we get more new members joining us. From the very beginning, your officers have made it a priority to make sure that every newcomer is made to feel welcome. As we continue to grow, we need your help. If you ever see anyone at a PCARS event that you don't know, or who appears to be standing on the outside looking in, make sure you engage that person by introducing yourself



to them and draw them into the group. We want to be known as the *friendliest* group of hams anywhere!

It's been suggested that we've bottomed out on solar cycle 23 somewhere during May, June or July. As we are now starting the upside of solar cycle 24 there's going to be lots of opportunities for you to have fun with Ham Radio! If there's something new you'd like to try, be sure to check out the "Mentors" section at the back of this newsletter. No sense trying to reinvent the wheel if you don't have to.

Till next month, hope to hear you on the air!

73

Tom - WB8LCD

From the Vice President

By the time you read this the second annual PCARS picnic at the Black Squirrel Oasis will be history. Tom, WB8LCD, puts a lot of effort into making this a good time and a big PCARS "Thank you" goes out to Tom and Mary for their hospitality.

Make sure to mark your calendar for the club meeting on August 13th. Bob, N8KBX, has promised us a very interesting hands-on tour of the Geauga County emergency communications vehicle.

Even though you will read about these events elsewhere in the newsletter, let me add my own reminder about them. The Two Meter Simplex Sprint is on August 18th and the Ohio QSO Party is on August 25th. The Sprint will be a blast. All stations, fixed and mobile, had a terrific time last year. Just like other contests, even if you don't plan on being competitive or even submitting a log, the other participants still want to make a contact with you. It doesn't matter if you can only be on the air for a brief time. Give a listen, give a shout, and make some contacts.

(con't. on page 2)

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From the Vice President (con't. from page 1)

We will also be running a club station for the Ohio QSO Party at the former ODOT site in Ravenna. Many of you have already had a chance to visit the site or even participate in the cleanup and paint party. If you haven't been there yet, you really do need to come on out for the Ohio QSO party event and see what a great asset this space is going to be for PCARS.

The property is now owned by Family & Community Services. F&CS has very graciously increased our space to include another large, secure workroom. We will have over a thousand square feet of space for club use. Because PCARS is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, F&CS is making the space available to us at no cost. PCARS members will be able to take a lot of

pride in the improvements that we will make to the site and the years of service that we will get from it.

By the way, we intend to make sure that this is a QSO party. A good time will be had by all: ops, loggers, visitors and guests. So make sure that you stop by and join us. Like Field Day, this is a great opportunity to get involved in on-the-air contest activities.

Watch for an e-mail announcing dates and times when we will be continuing our cleanup and refurbishing



of the space. If you have furniture such as desks, worktables, office chairs, cabinets, etc., that may be usable there, let me know.

Don't forget, we are looking for a good turnout at the PCARS special event station at KSU for the Black Squirrel Festival on September 7th. Details still need to be nailed down with KSU. Their planning is running a bit slow this year. But we have great expectations of having even more fun that we did last year.

Our VE team will continue to offer testing bi-monthly at the Center of Hope at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the even numbered months. The plan is to offer Element Two - Technician, Element Three - General, and Element Four - Amateur Extra class tests at every session. The next test session will be on Saturday, August 4th.

In order to help us plan, if you or anyone you know may be interested in taking any of the tests please call me at home (330) 297-7979, or send me a note at kc8pd@portcars.org. We will also accommodate walk-ins at each of these sessions.

Could it be that the new school year will soon be upon us? Yep, and that means that we will again be offering the PCARS Technician license class at the Maplewood Career Opportunity Center. Fall classes will begin on Tuesday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m. The cost of the class is \$20.00, payable to Maplewood, and the students will also need the Ham Radio License Manual. If you have any friends, neighbors, co-workers, or family members who may be interested, please let them know about the class. They can contact me for more information.

How else can you help with the Tech class? First, we invite club members to stop by and visit with the students. Share your ham radio experiences with them. Let them see how much you enjoy the hobby. Give them some insights into the aspects of the hobby that

most interest you. We can teach a lot, even if it is just by casual conversation.

Second, do you have a copy of the Ham Radio License Manual that you do not need any longer? How about donating it to PCARS and we can sell them back to the students at half price. This will save them a couple of bucks and generate some revenue for the club.

Program and activity suggestions are always welcome. Let me know what PCARS can do for you. This is your club and we want it to be responsive to your ham radio interests.

Jim - KC8PD

PCARS mentioned in QST

For those of you who don't get QST, the following words were from David Sumner's (K1ZZ) August 2007 editorial on page 9:

"A recent ARRL affiliate that emphasizes having fun in Amateur Radio is the Portage County (Ohio) Amateur Radio Service (PCARS), KD8CKP. If you don't believe they're having fun, visit their Web site at www.portcars.org and take a look at their outstanding newsletters! The club has taken advantage of free program material at www.arrl.org/multimedia to help educate its new members about contesting and Dxing. Other recent programs dealt with the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), QRP, and a hands-on workshop building and testing HF antennas. Hats off to the PCARS!"

It's got to make you feel pretty good to be a PCARS member!

Tom - WB8LCD

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Paper Chase

World ITU Zone Award

This award will be issued to amateurs and SWL's who work/hear prescribed numbers of the the ITU Zones of the world. There are 90 ITU Zones. QSL Cards are suggested but not required. If QSL's are not



submitted, a GCR list of contacts including date, call, band and mode shall be submitted. The list must be verified by a local club official or two licensed amateurs. Award will be issued in the following classes:

HF AWARD

Class D - 40 Zones - Class C - 50 Zones
Class B - 75 Zones - Class A - 90 Zones

VHF AWARD

Class D - 5 Zones - Class C - 10 Zones
Class B - 15 Zones - Class A - 20 Zones
Class AA - 35 Zones or more

The official ITU zone list and map will be the criteria for determining zones. List and map are available from K6YK for an SASE. The zone list is published yearly in QST magazine prior to the IARU Radiosport Championship.

Applications for the World ITU Zone Award should be sent to: John Lee - K6YK - 3654 Three Oaks Blvd. - Stockton, CA 95215

Fees are as follows: Basic award - \$5.00 postpaid (Including endorsements requested at the same time). Future endorsements - \$1.00 postpaid. This award is a non-profit award program. Fees are used to offset postage & stationary costs.

Joe - W8KNO

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Happy August to all. Boy has this year zipped by. It hardly seems possible that I am writing the August Hi-Lites column. Is it just me or do the years go by faster as one gets older. What this means is that we have to spend that much more time on the air and enjoying our hobby. Before you know it, Ol' Man Winter will be here and whatever projects you had planned on doing this year and didn't do, will have to wait until the WX breaks in the Spring of 2008.

As I write this column, I am thinking of all the QSL cards I need to write in order to get some confirming QSLs from the DX I've worked. I just received an unsolicited card from VK4HDX, whom I worked during the IARU contest. I've already filled out my confirming QSL and put it in his SAE. He even sent a US 1\$ bill for postage. I put it in with my QSL and will send it back, but I thought well of the gesture.



I want to thank the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, the 425 DX News, and the ARRL DX Newsletter from which this information is gleaned. As always there is more information than we have room for here, so I have to take the liberty of picking some of the more choice tidbits to include in my column.

During the last week there was reported 211 separate DX stations on the air. I got to work a few and I must say it is always a treat. SO let me tell you about the DX that is expected in the next month or two.

DX

4O, MONTENEGRO (IOTA Op). 9A6AA, plans to be active as 4O6AA from **Sveti Nikola Island (EU-163, LH-1097)** between August 13-19th. Activity will be on the HF bands.

8J1, JAPAN- (Special Event). Look for special event station **8J1ESP** to be activated by PY3DF, JA1FXZ and a group of International League of Esperantists Radioamateurs (ILERA) from the following areas in Japan: July 31st-August 4th: From Nagano/Takato, Japan; August 4-12th - From the 92nd Esperanto World Conference in Yokohama August 12-31st - From Tokyo. Station will operate from the following frequencies (+/-): 7066, 14266, 21266 and 28766 kHz. QSL via JA1YAR or JA1FXZ, by the bureau or direct.

CU2, AZORES - WA1S, is expected to be active as **CU2/WA1S** this week between July 27th and August 10th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters, except for 30 meters. QSL via her home callsign.

CY0, SABLE ISLAND - WV2B, has announced that a group is in the early stages of planning a DXpedition to **Sable Island** during **2009**. Currently, there are four operators mentioned: WV2B (CW/SSB), AI5P (CW/SSB), VE1AI (CW/SSB) and KA3QLF (RTTY/SSB). The callsign to be used is **CY0ZZ**. Activity will be on 160-6 meters and they plan to have a minimum of 3 stations on the air. A dedicated 6 meter station is a possibility. The team is looking for sponsors to help them cover the large cost of chartering the Britain Norman Islander aircraft which must be used to land on the beach at Sable Island. The cost of this charter alone will be nearly \$10,000. Further information is available on their Web site at: <http://www.sabledx.com>. Here is a chance for an individual or even PCARS as a club, to sponsor a DXpedition by giving a donation.

GB100, ENGLAND - (Special Event). Look for special event station **GB100J** to be activated by an international group of Amateur Radio operators from the 21st World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, in the United Kingdom between July 27th and August 7th. Operations will take place on all bands and all modes including PSK31.

E2/8, THAILAND - E21EIC, will again be active as **E21EIC/8** from Southern Thailand between July 19th and August 10th.

ZD7, ST. HELENA - KC0W, will be moving to **St. Helena Island** in early September and is expected to be active as ZD7X. His activity will be on modes CW, SSB, RTTY and

PSK. Look for his operations on 160-6 meters. Special attention will be given to 40, 75/80 and 160 meters. ZD7X will be active in all major contests. Tom has already announced that he will be active as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry in both the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th) and the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest (November 24-25th). When not contesting Tom will be DXing in general. His QSL Manager is WØMM.

IOTA News

EU-010- Members of the Workington and District Amateur Radio and IT Group will be active as MS0WRC from **Crannag, NE Coast Isle of Barra (IOSA OH-11, SCOTIA HI-02, WAB NF70), Outer Hebrides**, from October 6-12th. The four operators from the UK plan to travel to **Vatersay (IOSA OH-07, SCOTIA HI-01)** and **Eriskay (IOSA OH-09, SCOTIA HI-05)** during their trip and activate WAB Squares NF60, NF70, NF71, NF80, NF81, NL69 and NL79. QSL via MX0WRC.

EU-024 - IS0, **SARDINIA** - IZ8GCB, will be active as IS0/IZ8GCB between August 1-19th. Activity will be on 40/20/15/10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-170 - IN3DEI/W1ADX, will be active as **9A/W1ADX** from a few **Dalmatian Islands** (Dugi Otok, Molat, Pasman, Ugljan) in this IOTA group from now through August 7th. Activity will be holiday style. QSL via IN3DEI. (For those who don't know what "holiday style" means, it means that this is not a DXpedition or a specific trip to activate the DX country. The person is on "holiday" or vacation to us in the US, and has a rig along and when they have a chance, they will get on the air to work some DX.) In other words, their on air time is secondary to their time spent vacationing.

NA-044 - NF6J, will be active as **VO2/NF6J** from **Battle Island (CISA NF-049, WW Loc. GO22CG), Newfoundland**, September 6-13th. Look for activity around the usual IOTA frequencies. QSL via DL7RV, direct or by the bureau.

SA-051 - Members of the Association of Radioamateurs of Venezuela are organizing an IOTA DXpedition to **Las Aves de Sotavento Archipelago** in August to celebrate 2007 Venezuelan Navy Day. Their activity will be on CW and SSB on HF and on VHF FM. QSL via DL3AMA.

LightHouse Activity

International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW) will take place August 18-19.

Sheffield Island Lighthouse - The Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club (GNARC) will be sponsoring a DXpedition to activate Sheffield Island Lighthouse for International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW), August 18-19th. Operation of N1EV will begin 1600z, August 18th and end around 1800z August 19th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters SSB/CW/FSK. Operations will take place in or around the IOTA calling frequencies. Plans are to run at least 2 stations for the entire event. QSL direct to N1EV. SASE for domestic QSLs; Sheffield Island reference numbers are: **IOTA-NA-136, USI-**

CT-008 and ARLHS-USA-753.

Topocalma Lighthouse - Look for CE4T and CE4S to be active from Topocalma Lighthouse (**CHI-076**) during August 17-19th. They will also be active in the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW - August 18-19th). Activity will be on 40/20/10 meters using SSB only. QSL CE4S and CE4T via EA5KB Jose in Spain.

Skerries Lighthouse - GW0VML, G0SGB and M1NTO will be participating in this year's International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (August 18-19th) as GB1SL from "The Skerries Lighthouse" (**BARLS A-5168, RLHS WAL-030, TWLHD WLH GW-016, WW Loc. IO73QJ**), in Wales. More details are forthcoming closer to the operation.

Cape Florida Lighthouse - Members of the Motorola Amateur Radio Club (Florida Chapter) will take part in the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend and will activate the Cape Florida Lighthouse (**ARLHS USA-118**), on August 18th from 1300-2330Z, using the special call sign K4L. This lighthouse is on Key Biscayne, part of the Florida State South East Group, **IOTA NA-141**. Activity is planned for CW, Digital and SSB operations on the IOTA frequencies on 40 and 20 meters. QSL via W4MOT direct.

Boca Grande Lighthouse - Members of the Englewood Amateur Radio Society (EARS) plan to be active as K8ONV from the Boca Grande Lighthouse (**ARLHS USA-910, WW Loc. EL86UR**) on Gasparilla Island (**NA-069, USI FI-034S**, Charlotte County, Florida), August 18-19th. They will be participating in the ILLW. QSL via K8ONV (QRZ.com).

One last item:

PIRATE ALERT: Mamuka, 4L2M, President of the National Association Radioamateurs of Georgia (NARG), informs OPDX that 4L6VV is a pirate station. Operator states his name is Yuri and is in Tkvarcheli. Mamuka says this is not a Georgian license, and they believe the pirate is operating from Russia. Please do not QSL this operation.

Well that's it for another month. As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, if I can do it, I will try to bring some updates during our weekly PCARS Net. As always, keep listening for that weak signal from some HAM having a great time on some mountain top or some beach somewhere. Remember, it may be you one day out there looking for a friendly voice to come back to your CQ.

A BIG 73 to all!

Chuck - K8CMP

OQP - 2007

PCARS will be having KD8CKP on the air during the 2007 Ohio QSO Party (OQP). We will be operating from the club



station site located in the old ODOT headquarters in Ravenna.

The Committee has met and will be meeting again as the date draws near to get everything lined up and ready to go. The OQP is a 12 hour contest where amateurs try to contact all 88 counties in Ohio. The contest is open to hams throughout Ohio and even outside of



OQP Crew meets in one of our club rooms

Ohio. If you're interested in joining in on the fun contest - contact K8CMP or W8KNO for more details. We'll be



Talking over antenna possibilities 25th. We will probably start final set up around 9 am at the club station. More information about the OQP can be found at: <http://www.oqp.us/>

Chuck - K8CMP

QRP Back Pack trip - July 2007

I have always enjoyed antenna building and testing. This trip to "QRP-land" was to test a purchased antenna that had received very good reviews. Also, another operator, Larry, WD8MDE, was on vacation in Colorado, and staying in touch with traveling buddies is important!

Today's trip took us to The Portage Lakes State Park. But first, Breakfast! I met Dan, WD8MDE, at the local



Friendly's and after chow and coffee, off we went. We set up the station in the large parking area near the beach. A picnic table was used as the station operating table and antenna mast mount.

The station consisted of an IC-706, low power, with an LDG antenna tuner and a 17 amp-hr lead acid sealed battery, heavy, but plenty of operating time. The antenna was supported with a 31 foot telescopic mast made from a carbon fiber type material, very flexible. The antenna

is a wire type advertised as "No counter-poise" needed. The antenna was designed and is sold by Bell-Imel Group and they have a store on E Bay.

This antenna was interesting as it appeared many configurations were possible and had multi-band capability (40 -10), was light weight, and just about any structure could be used in the install. The antenna was also usable as an NVIS antenna. I installed the antenna as a sloper, using the telescopic mast, favoring the west direction.

Once the station was operating, we made contacts on 40 meters with very good signal reports into Kentucky with power varied from 5 to 30 watts. While waiting for the schedule with Larry in Colorado, I experimented with the antenna's abilities on other bands. Only 40 meters had any propagation, but the antenna did tune on the other bands.



At about 9:30AM, we made contact on 20 meters with Larry, WD8MDE, in Ouray, Colorado. Larry had driven out of Ouray and to an elevation of about 7,000 feet. As 20 meters appeared to have poor propagation, we set up the 20 meter dipole. Contact was made with Larry on the dipole and then we switched to the "No counter-poise" antenna. Initial testing shows the "No counter-poise" antenna to have a better signal report than the dipole.

As this antenna is reportedly a good "NVIS" antenna, I bet you can guess what my next trip to "QRP-land" will be! All for now and get out there and enjoy the fresh air, with your gear! 73

Dave - WB2DFC

Emcomm

It's time for one of those periodic updates on internet sites that can provide useful and timely information about emergency communications, particularly for weather-related events.

Could it be almost two years since Hurricane Katrina made landfall? Despite predictions, 2006 proved to be a relatively quiet year for Atlantic tropical storms. So far 2007 has also been very forgiving for the Atlantic seaboard and Gulf states. But the hurricane season still has a long way to go this year and the weather can change at any time.

Want to stay up to date on hurricane information and amateur radio's response to these slow moving catastrophes? Check out <http://www.hwn.org/> which is

the website for the Hurricane Watch Network. There you can find current information about both Atlantic and Pacific storms and a number of useful links to hurricane and weather related sites.

Here is their own description of the net:

To this day, the Hurricane Watch Net activates on 14.325.00 MHz whenever a hurricane is within 300 miles of projected landfall or becomes a serious threat to a populated area. The Hurricane Watch Net consists of a group of licensed Amateur Radio Operators trained and organized to provide essential communications support to the National Hurricane Center during times of Hurricane emergencies. Our primary mission is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas. We also collect observed or measured weather data from amateur radio operators in the storm affected area as well as any post storm damage, and convey that information to the Hurricane Forecasters in the National Hurricane Center via the amateur radio station in the center (WX4NHC).



The HWN has nearly forty net control stations well distributed throughout the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean. Two are located in Northeast Ohio, Rob Norris, N8ORT, in Brecksville, and George Ruple, N8KT, in North Olmsted.

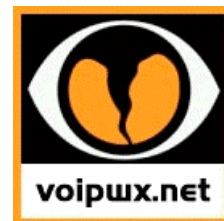


You can find information on the HWN website on how to participate in their nets.

Don't have HF privileges but still want to help? Take a look at the VOIP-WXNET whose website is at:

<http://www.voipwx.net/>.

Lots of good information is available at there, including archives of weather related presentations and some good technical tips for VOIP.



They also have a Yahoo group, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VOIP-WXNET>. One of PCARS' newest members, but a regular on our net, is Daryl Stout, N5VLZ, who has been an active participant in that group and their net. The goal of the group is to provide an internet link, either Echolink or IRLP, for severe weather emcomm when not all communication links in and out of affected areas can be by radio.

If you would like to participate in their regular training nets they have an open invitation at the Yahoo

group: Join us for the weekly VoIP Skywarn - Hurricane Prep Net at 00:00 UTC Sunday (Saturday Evenings for most of N. America) either by Echolink on the WX-Talk Conference or by IRLP on the Raleigh Reflector 9219.

If you are just curious about frequencies where you can monitor a wide variety of hurricane related traffic you will likely find them at

<http://www.hurricanefrequencies.com/>.

Not to be overlooked is the amateur radio station that has operated for twenty-six years at the National Weather Service. The WX4NHC web site,

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>, has an excellent

selection of links. Among them you will find the National Hurricane Center,

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>, the National Weather

Service, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>, and the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

<http://www.noaa.gov/>. Don't forget that for local

weather updates and information the Cleveland office of the NWS has its own site at

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/cle/>.

Now that you know where to find all of the information for adverse weather conditions, let's hope for clear skies, fair weather conditions and safety for all. Emcomm is all about preparing for events that we hope never occur.

Jim - KC8PD

PCARS VE Test Sessions

PCARS VE sessions for 2007 are scheduled for the first Saturday of every other month and started in February.

VE sessions For Technician, General and Amateur Extra will start at 10:00 am at the Center of Hope, located at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. Walk-ins are welcome.



Please bring your original license, a copy of your license, your FRN number if you are already licensed, your original CSCE, a copy of your CSCE, a photo ID, and a check for \$14.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC". We look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Rest of the 2007 Schedule

Aug 4, Oct 6, Dec 1 - Center of Hope - 10 am

kc8pd@portcars.org. We will also accommodate walk-ins at each of these sessions.

Jim - KC8PD
PCARS VE Coordinator

Great Lakes Division Convention

I have never seen a harder working bunch of convention or hamfest workers than we have for the 2007 Great Lakes Division Convention. The program they've assembled, coupled with the tremendous speakers, the banquet and even the DX card checking -- especially the card checkers -- are unprecedented. In this latter feature, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN and I will even check 160 M cards which ordinarily can be checked only at HQ.

Take a few minutes to check the many features, speakers and other quality assets the Cleveland sponsors have arranged for September 22. The web site is: <http://www.2997gldc.com/>. What you will find is a lotta bang for your buck.

Jim Weaver - K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division

PCARS Patches

PCARS logo patches are now available!! Put them on your hat, your shirt, your jacket!! These patches are approximately 3" and the embroidery is in Red, Black and Blue. The patches are \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. If you would like to order by mail - contact: kb8uuz@portcars.org



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- **August 13th** club meeting – **Geauga County EmComm Van**, Bob, N8KBX
- **August 18th** – Second Annual **Two Meter FM Simplex Sprint**
- **August 25th** – **Ohio QSO Party** – PCARS Club Station
- **September 10th** club meeting – **APRS** by Russ, KB8DPN
- **September 7th** – **KSU Black Squirrel Festival** – special event station at Kent State University.
- **September 22nd** – ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention in Cleveland
- **October 8th** club meeting – **Jim Weaver, K8JE**, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

- **October activity** – tentative project – handheld dual band satellite antenna
- **November 12th meeting** – **Radio Controlled Aircraft**
- **November activity** – tentative project –sound card interface kit
- **December 10th – Christmas Party**
- **January activity** – tentative – Powerpole Junction Box

Photos Wanted- PLEASE!

One of my PCARS projects this year is to get photographs of all our members. So, dust off the camera, have someone take a snap shot or two of you - preferably: radio in hand, or in your radio shack, or in your mobile set up, or working on an antenna - you get the idea. Send those pictures to me! If you don't have a digital camera, send a regular photo to me & I'll scan it in. Looking forward to your photographs for the PCARS collection!

Tom - KB8UUZ

August Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 4 to 2359Z, Aug 5
Natl Lighthouse Weekend Contest	0001Z, Aug 4 to 2359Z, Aug 5
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 4
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 4 to 1800Z, Aug 5
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 4 to 0600Z, Aug 5
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 11 to 0400Z, Aug 12 1600Z-2359Z, Aug 12
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 18 to 0600Z, Aug 19
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 18 to 0700Z, Aug 19 1300Z, Aug 19 to 0200Z, Aug 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 20
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 25 to 2200Z, Aug 26
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 25 to 0400Z, Aug 26

Growing New Hams - Can We Do Better?

Bringing along new amateur operators seems to be a bit like growing a good lawn. Some things are opposite what you'd think. Spring is the time for fresh green grass, right? But you plant new grass seed in early fall, just before everything dies off for the winter. Properly cared for, the new seedlings will establish a root system and will continue to grow strong roots in the winter. Come spring, the grass responds to the warmth and rain by coming back lush and green. Properly watered and fertilized, the lawn will do just fine, even in the hot summers. The cycle continues as new seeds are put down.

So how is this like amateur radio, particularly with respect to new hams? Simple. New operators need the same care and attention as the grass seedlings. Cast to the wind without adequate water and fertilizer, only a few grass seeds survive. But properly planted and with the right amount of attention, many more will make it through the winter. In the same way, new operators need to be cared for after they've received their license.

Ham radio, particularly ham classes, seems to have the opposite approach in some respects. All the effort into producing new operators goes in before the license is received. For some new licensees, the last attention they receive from other hams is from the VE team at the exam session.

Afterwards, they're like the wayward grass seed, only taking root if they're tough and lucky enough to pick up some knowledge and experience on their own. Is this good enough to grow new licensees into good operators?

Where did you really learn about ham radio? If we're honest, most of us learned about amateur radio after we got our license and not as a result of studying for the test. Passing the test, quite frankly, only gets an operator a piece of paper. Only once the new licensee picks up a microphone (or straight key in a few rare instances) does learning really start. It's then that we translate the band limits from paper charts to the dial. It's then that we learn how to talk to others on a net. It's after licensing that we learned how to originate and pass an NTS message. And it's after licensing that we learn our own personal system for identifying our station every ten minutes and at the end of each contact with our own callsign.

What does this mean to us as licensed operators? First, maybe we should each resolve to teach less-experienced operators how to be good amateur communicators. We do this through good on-the-air example and gentle correction. We have some Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club operators who are very good at this, and we should all follow their example. Second, maybe we should examine how we try to bring new operators into our midst. Quite possibly, we might find that other methods for getting prospective hams through the licensing process are more effective and productive. Lastly, we might discover that classes need to occur after the license is received and not before as is currently the case.

How can you help? New operators need your support



to get more involved in amateur radio and to become more proficient. Consider doing your part to grow new hams in The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club. Volunteer to make a presentation at a club meeting about your favorite mode or piece of equipment. Informative discussions about equipment and procedures give all of us, especially new operators, the chance to learn from your experience. Second, actively seek out the new operators and help them along. Invite them over to your shack. Demonstrate your equipment so they see good engineering and safety practices. Take them out to the workbench and demonstrate good soldering technique with some coax and PL-259s. Or let them have some third-party HF time to spark their interest in progressing further. Third, think about becoming an ARRL-affiliated instructor. It's very true that teaching a subject makes you learn more about it. You gain something by the experience, too. The teaching doesn't have to end with a license class. You might want to sponsor a new ham course. Lastly, always provide a good example for other operators when you're on-the-air. They imitate you more than you know.

This winter, I'd ask each of you to consider how you can grow new hams. The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club is a great place to learn about the hobby and service aspects of ham radio. Each of you have something to contribute, so pick a patch of grass and start watering.

Mike Stewart - K0MDS
Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club

Editor's Note: Jim - KC8PD worked with Mike in Ocean Springs, MD during the Katrina disaster & Mike sent this in for the RADIOGRAM though Jim for all of us to share.

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Eight PCARS member have a birthday in this month

AB8UD	Mike McDivitt
N8EEL	Frank Jones
W8RJG	Ron Good
KB8TUY	Mike Ryan
N6TL	Randy Wilson
KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
KD8ETS	Clarence Hollow
KD8DFM	Irene Anderson

ARRL On-Line Auction 2007

Get Ready for the 2007 ARRL On-line Auction: Planning for the ARRL On-line auction, scheduled for October 24-November 2, is already in high gear, according to ARRL Business Services Manager Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ. "We have a head start this year, as

many of the items used in QST's product review articles will be part of the Auction." In past years, product review items were auctioned off throughout the year via announcements in QST and written bids. QST "Old Radio" columnist John Dilks, K2TQN, started off the donation process when he dropped by ARRL HQ with a Hallicrafters SX-25 Super Defiant receiver and matching



speaker. Jahnke commented: "During and after the conclusion of the first ARRL On-Line Auction last year, we were bowled over with the level of interest and the extremely positive feedback from both bidders and our generous donors. We anticipate another terrific turnout and will have even more items to bid on--a large selection of new and vintage equipment, Amateur Radio-related products and services--and a few surprises, too! Our goal is to make this an exciting, fun event for everyone."

From the ARRL

Hamfest Calendar

9 Sep 2007 - Findlay Radio Club - <http://www.findlayradioclub.org> - Talk-In: 147.15/75 - Contact: Dean Calvin, N8RMF - 141 Olive Street - Findlay, OH 45840 - Phone: 419-423-3402 - Email: n8rmf@arrl.net - Findlay, OH - Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky Street. - Findlay, OH

23 Sep 2007 - Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc. - <http://www.hac.org> - Talk-In: 146.73 MHz (PL 110.9) - Contact: William Beckman, N8LXY - Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc. - PO Box 81252 - Cleveland, OH 44181-0252 - Phone: 800-CLE-FEST - Email: on Web site click on e-mail - Berea, OH - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Road - Berea, OH

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: **Kenwood MC-60A** desk microphone; excellent condition. Will also include optional MJ-88 8 pin to modular adapter. I am asking \$120 for it, but am willing to negotiate. If anyone is interested feel free to drop me an email at N8WLE@portcars.org. **Nick-N8WLE**

FOR SALE: **ICOM 775** 10-160 meters, 200 Watts includes HM-36 mic, Rack Mount Handles, two SP-20 Speakers with Audio Filter - all for \$2500.00 - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

FOR SALE: **Yaesu FT-920** - 10-160 + 6 meters - 100 Watts, includes hand mic. \$800.00 - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

FOR SALE: **Tripp Lite Power Supply - PR40** \$100 - **Mirage B-1016 2 Meter Amp** - 10w in, 160w out \$175.00 - **Mirage B-5018G 2 Meter Amp** - 20-60w in, 160w out \$200.00 - **Mirage B-2530G 2 Meter Amp** 10w in, 300w out

\$475.00 - Three HR2510 10m AM/FM/SSB/CW \$150.00 each
- Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

WANTED: Cheap 2 meter radio to use for packet. Does not need to be pretty! Just dependable and did I say cheap?? Let me know what you've got that you want to get rid of. Contact **WB8LCD@portcars.org** **Tom - WB8LCD**

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!



Eye-Ball to Eye-Ball - N4TIE

Carl is one of PCARS' Charter Members and has been very active in many of our projects and events. I had the pleasure of interviewing Carl during our July PCARS meeting. I was pleasantly surprised to find that there is a lot about Carl that one simply would not expect from this mild mannered man.

First, let me give you some early history about him. Carl was born in Kinston, North Carolina and lived "all over Eastern North Carolina", while growing up. He attended and graduated from New Bern High School, located in this town, which is named after Bern, Switzerland. New Bern was settled by the Swiss in 1710. He went on to attend UNC-Chapel Hill, majoring in radio-TV and motion pictures. He met his first wife, Nancy, and was married in 1961. She hailed from Mt. Airy, NC. Yes, if that town is familiar to you it's because it is Andy Griffith's hometown. Carl's brother-in-law and Andy were high school buddies and Andy would often have Sunday dinners with his wife's family.

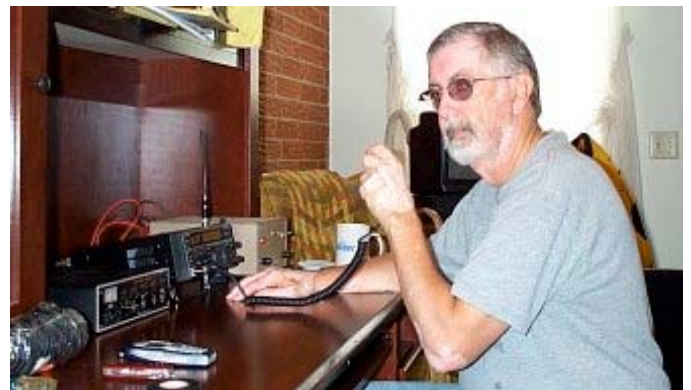
Carl had spent most of his life living in North Carolina; 19 years in Charlotte followed by 18 years on the coast before coming to Ohio. Sadly, his first wife Nancy passed away after 40 years of marriage. Carl's move to Ohio was brought about by his meeting and marrying his present wife who also happens to be named Nancy. They recently celebrated their third anniversary.

Carl and Nancy hope to get back to North Carolina, at least to spend winters, after Nancy retires.

His first exposure to HAM radio was when he was 10 years old. His grandfather's neighbor across the street was a HAM and he often visited to see what this hobby was all about. His interest followed him into Scouting and he worked toward his Radio Merit Badge but was not able to complete it because of the 5 wpm code requirement.

Carl worked in broadcasting for 47 years, mostly in sales but did spend 7 years as a news anchor. While working at a radio station in Morehead City, Carl met an Amateur Radio operator who also worked at the station. W4MBD (Man Bites Dog), Robert Mc Neill, who is an avid DXer himself and has over 330 countries. They started to talk about HAM radio and Carl was introduced to other HAMs and finally made his mind up to do something about this growing interest. He took a course at a community college and passed. He took his Novice test in 1987 and passed but the paper work for some reason took six months, so he did not get his actual license until 1988. Fourteen months later, Carl went for his Advanced license. It took 3 tries, but Carl was very persistent and finally passed and went on to get his Extra Class ticket.

Carl's main interest is DXing (a man after my own heart), rag chewing being preferred to the quick 59 TNX & 73 that we often get when hunting DX. He likes CW work and the public service aspect of the hobby. He also enjoys SSB.



His station is made up of a Yaesu FT840 running barefoot at 100 watts, a Hustler vertical. He has 200 countries confirmed, mostly from his former QTH in North Carolina.

Other interests are travel, reading, and especially reading mysteries. I have to admit that Carl and I got sidetracked here because I have a passion for murder mysteries myself. We started to compare our favorite authors before I remembered why I was interviewing Carl.

Carl has two grown children – a daughter who lives

in northern Virginia and works for the SEC and is a 20 year Navy vet, and a son who lives in North Carolina. He has five grandchildren.

Carl won a sales contest in 1996 and the prize was a trip to Bermuda. Being a good HAM, Carl went to Bermuda and while there operated as VP9/N4TIE. When you see Carl, ask him about Hurricane Fran and this trip.

Carl was also the very first Skywarn Coordinator for a new NOAA WX station in Newport, NC in 1992. He had the unenviable experience of going through 5 or 6 hurricanes there as part of the ARES.

So the next time you see this mild mannered man, sit down and chat with him for a while. He has some very interesting stories to tell. Thanks Carl, for giving us some insight into the Amateur we know as N4TIE.

Chuck - K8CMP

AROs KD8DFM & KB8DPN

Introduce 2nd Harmonic

Irene - KD8DFM & Russ - KB8DPN Anderson are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Allison Kathleen, who was born at the Geauga Regional Hospital on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 @ 8:24 am. (A mere 12 hours AFTER attending the monthly PCARS meeting.)



Allison weighed in at 8 lbs, 11 oz and measured 20.5 inches. Allison joins her "Big Brother" Russell Jr., age 3 1/2 at home.

The proud parents wish to thank PCARS and it's members for all the gifts, thoughts, prayers and well wishes at this most joyous time.

Russ - KB8DPN

Three Types of Hams

I've been wondering, after about five years as a Ham, I've seen, heard, and met quite a few different Hams and attitudes on pretty much all the different modes and bands, and both on and off the air. I've come to a conclusion of sorts; that there are three very different types of Hams...

1: The "disgruntled" Ham. This type of Ham is easy to find. They are very bitter, for reasons generally unknown or at least not understood by me, and they really do nothing to help out their fellow Amateurs. What they do is complain and whine a lot, get angry,

yell scream, post flames to the discussion boards on the Internet and to various e-mail reflectors, cuss at their fellow Amateurs on the air, and are a general pain in the rear. They do not care about Amateur Radio, just themselves their selfishness, and complaining all the time about anything and everything. Kind of depressing when you think about them for too long.

2: The Ham who wants help, and or is "new" to Amateur Radio. Now this Ham could end up like either the first type of Ham, the third type of Ham, or just get out of Amateur Radio out of disgust. (Then we ALL loose.) This type of Ham just needs a helping hand, someone who is willing to help them set up their station, or maybe even upgrade! They tend to find only the "disgruntled" Hams, and end up leaving the Amateur Radio Service. Funny how most Amateurs never even notice this type of Ham, as they slowly fade away.

3: The very rare Ham, the Ham who wants to help out, and does, in every way that he or she can. This can be in the form of joining ARES, becoming a V.E., starting up Ham Radio classes (hey a first day Technician is perfectly qualified to teach!) Setting up a Club station, helping out the Community, or helping the second type of Ham. Keep in mind that this third type of Ham is very rare, and if you find one, don't lose touch. To bad, that this type of Ham seems to be a dying breed. They might not be, if a few more "type two" Hams were helped out by say the "type one Hams", if they (we), could get their (our), act together... Yes, "type three" Hams care about their fellow Hams, Amateur Radio, and it's future. They are not a part of the problem, as the "type one" hams are, but rather, are a part of the solution.

So, which "type" of Ham are you? Personally I try my best to be a "type three" Ham...

Food for thought! "The time has come for all of us set aside our differences, help out all new Amateurs that are coming into our ranks, and help them to become the type of Amateur that we aspire to be." -- Clinton Herbert, AB7RG

Clinton - AB7RG

Editor's Note: This had been forwarded to me by Jim - KC8PD who got it from Matt - KB1LCS, from Lake County. Not sure where it was originally posted or published but might be worth reprinting in the newsletter with credit to AB7RG.



Recipe for a fun Memorial Day BBQ, the Strange Antenna Challenge-2007

What happens when you take one 16 foot extension ladder, 2 C-clamps, and 50 feet of chicken wire fencing? You get a full day of fun with a "Strange Antenna Challenge" 20 meter vertical!

Since 2003, Erik Weaver, N0EW and Dwayne Walker, WB5PLJ have been hosting the Strange Antenna Challenge through the Ozark Hillbilly Portable Operations Team in Springfield, Missouri. After reading about the challenge on the



ARRL web site, a group of radio amateurs from the morning drive time group embarked on a quest to build a "Strange Antenna" at the house of Bill Perkins, KB4KFT. Although an aluminum extension ladder was used in previous challenges, the group gave it a new



twist. They added three radials made of chicken wire fencing. The ladder antenna was extended to its maximum length and secured with C-clamps.

Because the completed antenna was

not resonant on the 20 meter band, an antenna tuning unit was connected to protect Bill's HF transceiver. The radiating element, AKA ladder, was quickly constructed and propped up against a tree by James and Sophia Loner, W4JHL and KI4EWW. Billy Christensen, KI4KKG attached the three radials to a pine 2 x 4 with sheet metal screws under the antenna. A patch of poison ivy caused the radials to be skewed to a configuration that enhanced northeastern

coverage. The center conductor of the coaxial cable was fastened to the ladder with a set of locking pliers and the shield to the radials with another sheet metal



screw. After hoisting the antenna up, it was secured with rope to the tree to prevent it from toppling over. Within just minutes, Sylvia Richardson, KG4OEG, established a contact with Northern Ireland. The evening's fate was sealed as Rob Osattin, KI4UTY, worked contacts late into the evening.

Atlanta Strange Antenna Challenge roster:

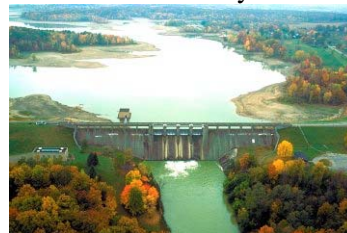
Bill Perkins KB4KFT, Arnold Solomon KC4ZUA, Gordon Shirley KI4TBJ, Rob Osattin KI4UTY, Ron Hogue, Sophia Loner KI4EWW, James Loner W4JHL, Sylvia Richardson KG4OEG, Addison Le Platte KI4IYA, Billy Christensen KI4KKG

Arnold - KC4ZUA

Editors Note: Arnold had contacted me after reading the article in QST about PCARS and thought we may like to see this story. Reprinted with permission from the Garzette, the monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society". Arnold Solomon, KC4ZUA - article author. Addison Leplatte, KI4IYA - photos.

Water Safety Extravaganza Berlin Lake

Saturday, August 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Berlin Lake Day Use Area. There will be programs,



games and activities for the kids, displays and demonstrations too. For more information contact the Berlin Lake Office at 330-547-3781. There will be a demo on

amateur radio and our search and rescue team will also be there.

Rick - KC8SUI

Editors Note: For more information on the amateur radio demonstration, give Rick - KC8SUI a call at: 330 -823- 6141

XYL Wins Fabulous Prize at Picnic!

One of the highlights of the PCARS picnic was the XYL Contest, where non-licensed spouses were invited test their knowledge of their significant other's hobby. With the promises of a Fabulous Prize as an incentive, the ladies valiantly put on their thinking caps and filled out the questionnaire. Here are some of the highlights, including what percentage of respondents selected each answer:

The abbreviation QTH stands for:

- A) Questions That Hurt (30%)
- B) Quit Talking to Him (20%)
- C) Quite The Husband (0%)
- D) Nobody knows that this stands for. (50%)

The Father of Ham Radio is generally considered to be:

- A) Bill Gates (5%)
- B) Ready Kilowatt (25%)
- C) Larry Birkhead or Howard K. Stern, depending on how the DNA tests play out. (50%)
- D) Way delinquent on his child support payments (40%)

The definition of an "807" is:

- A) Two 403 ½'s (40.3 ½ %)
- B) The time at which you are seven minutes late for the PCARS net (7%)
- C) Area code for Pickle Lake, Ontario (-12C)
- D) Disreputable French car made by Peugeot (8 mpg)

Which description best describes an IC-718?

- A) POS (10%)
- B) Integrated Circuit Model #718 (10%)
- C) Bogus form used for Emergency Communication message handling (75%)
- D) Unstable on any frequency (+/-5%)

Frequencies around 146 MHz are called "Two Meters" because

- A) There are always two meters on the front panel of the radio (2%)
- B) The phrase "Citizens Band" was already taken (Ch. 19)
- C) Easier to remember than 78.4 inches (78.4%)
- D) It was invented by a pair of butchers, or "two meaters". (3.49/lb)

The names of the PCARS Founders are:

- A) Larry, Curley, and Moe (3%)
- B) Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego (1:6-7)
- C) John, Paul, George, & Ringo (No. 9)
- D) Used as curse words in certain parts of the ham radio community (92%)

How many counties are in the U.S.?

- A) 718 (718%)
- B) 807 (807%)
- C) Billions and billions, according to Carl Sagen (6.02 x 10²³)
- D) Depends whether you include Parishes in Louisiana and Burroughs in Alaska

What is the highest class of license?

- A) Pilot license (35,000 ft. ASL)
- B) Poetic license (0%)
- C) Not worth the effort, since it only gives you a teaspoon's worth of additional HF bandwidth. (50 KHz)
- D) Almost unobtainable, unless you know which VE's to bribe (\$50)

"Mecca" for hams is generally agreed to be

- A) Yeasu factory in Osaka, Japan (25%)
- B) Black Squirrel Oasis (75%)
- C) A mythical place, like Atlantis or Never Never Land (0%)
- D) Closed on Sundays and Holidays (0%)

The main goals of PCARS is the promotion and enjoyment of:

- A) Beer (10%)
- B) Beer (5%)

C) All of the above (15%)

D) (Hic!) (70%)

And the winner the Fabulous Prize is... Jeanne Patellis,



Winner - Jeanne Patellis, PCARS Historian Peg - KB8SZI wearing the shirt that inspired the final tie breaking question - 'When was the 5 cent Amateur Radio Stamp Issued', and Chuck - K8CMP, OM of Jeanne.

who was awarded a handsome plastic pitcher, perfect for pouring her husband (Chuck - K8CMP) a beer. Congratulations! Participants who did not fare so well on their ham radio knowledge were jeered and mocked for the remainder of the evening.

Bill - WB9LBI

Editors Note: No, this was not the actual test that XYLs took for fun at the annual PCARS picnic. This version of the test was made up by Bill using his unique brand of humor that we all appreciate and I thought you would enjoy it! However, the picture is real!

Letter to the Editor

This is an open letter to the members of PCARS. Unfortunately, travel plans will have me out of town over the entire weekend of the Portage County 2-Meter Sprint Contest. It was truly one of the best times I had last year and I'm really going to miss not being able to participate this year. I even



bought a 2 meter amplifier so I wouldn't have to be QRP!

In my absence, my daughter has agreed to stay at our house on Saturday to take care of our dog, Cloudy, and most importantly, make sure that the "Black Squirrel Oasis" is open for all you weary travelers of Portage County. Please stop by and put Sugarbush Knolls on air from my

driveway or back yard. I'll make sure there are some beverages and snacks available for anyone who stops in.

Good luck to all of you who will be participating in the Sprint! I know you'll have a lot of fun. It'll be good practice for you, because you're going to need it for next year! I'll pay closer attention to my travel plans and me and my amplifier will be back on the air then.

73, have fun,

Tom - WB8LCD

Notes from the CQ WW VHF Contest

CQ VHF contest... July 22, 2007. My current stinking 6 meter set up: radio here is a Ten-Tec Omni VI, turned down to lowest level of about 15 watts feeding a my (Warren Hamfest) Ten-Tec 20/6 Transverter for an output of 7 watts on 6 meters SSB... with an antenna tuner to a 9 element collinear 10 meter antenna up about 30 feet + or -.

Of course the antenna is not "facing" west.. so the contact to grid DN 94 was a surprise! I think the hanging



phasing lines helped the most to make the contact possible. Nothing like a home made wire antenna.... it gives you much to ponder about later as of why it doesn't work as planned... but works out great on other bands it wasn't built for and in directions that it shouldn't work towards

in the first place!!! I guess in a perfect world these antennas would work perfectly. But what fun would that be in this ham radio hobby with a perfect antenna?

Al - KB8VJL

PCARS Thursday Net Information

Net Control Schedule

August	
2	KB8UUZ
9	WB8LCD
16	KC8PD
23	K8CMP
30	W8KNO



Tom - WB8LCD

PCARS Net Control Coordinator

Exam Software - FREE

For those of you looking for some help to upgrade - check out the N3FJP software page at:



<http://www.n3fjp.com/index.html> Look for the Amateur Exam Study Program. You can study for Technician, General or Extra by taking tests based on the latest question pools. Scott - N3FJP has a line of software available. He made

the software we used for Field Day. The club KD8CKP also has registered for all of Scott's software. This study program is FREE. Scott says to please enjoy it, and share it with anyone you know that may be interested in getting their license or upgrading!

Tom - KB8UUZ

PCARS Yahoo Site

Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Site dedicated to PCARS information. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list. Check out the PCARS web site at www.portcars.org and follow the link to sign up.



A Radioman's Story of WW2

World War II began for me in the month of June of 1941. I was in a Naval Reserve Communication unit, similar to the National Guard. These units consisted of civilians interested in or active in radio or other types of communications. Each Tuesday night we met in a National Guard armory and practiced handling messages by radio with other units in various cities over the United States. We were instructed in methods and procedures of the U S Navy communications. Some nights we studied the repair of our equipment; sometimes we studied military courtesy such as saluting, recognizing officer ranks and many other small details necessary to making a seaman. We studied marching, how to wear the uniform of a sailor and many other things that seemed at the time to be unimportant but that later would help us to be at least partially prepared for the war that was to erupt on December 7, 1941.

Germany seemed far away at the time. Life was normal for most average people. We went to work or school, played basketball or some other sport and dated our girlfriends or boyfriends. Wars and conflict seemed

far away or nonexistent. Most people thought little of Germany's grumblings and less of their ability to make war. We wrongly assumed that we were the greatest nation on earth because we had the most automobiles, the most radios, the most bathtubs and anything else that was mentioned we had the "most".

Hitler was called "that house painter" or "the man with a mustache", usually with a sneer, but during the time preceding our entry into the "war" we assumed if it was necessary we could whip the whole continent of Europe since we had the "largest navy" to support the "best trained army in the world" and "plenty of money to support both the army and navy". Congress either through pressure from the people or ignorance did not authorize a large army or navy until it was almost too late.

Mr. Roosevelt was president at this time and after Germany had overrun and annexed a number of small countries Mr. Roosevelt declared a national emergency. This allowed him to call up certain reserves and to make other necessary preparations for the conflict that was to follow shortly. I was called to active duty June 10, 1941. This seemed to me to be quite unfair at the time since I foresaw no need. There had been no war since I had been born and other people were not being mobilized. There was some talk of a draft of young men but no one was convinced of the necessity.

I packed my sea bag and with reluctance left my bride of seven months and proceeded to Indianapolis, Indiana as directed by my orders from the Navy. When I left home I thought it would be probably for a year and I would be home again. I did not have any idea it would be almost two and one half years before I would be home again even for a few days leave.

Indianapolis was a completely different life, even with the weekly training it was much different than I expected. The Navy had its way of doing everything and everything had to be called by the Navy name and done in the Navy way. We weren't allowed to take our wives with us. Our pay was \$36 per month and no pay allowance for our wives so my wife went back home to live with her mother and father.

When I reported to the 30th Street and White River Armory I thought how impressive a place it appeared. It was about three stories high, a river with small pier at the back. Gleaming white tall columns in a semi circle in front, ornamental iron over the windows, and an eight foot tall black iron fence surrounding it all. I was soon to find that the floors were called decks, walls were bulkheads, and everything had a name the same as it would aboard ship that we were to be sent to later. There were about 400 men at this school for radiomen. We studied math, radio code, radio theory, message handling

and other things necessary to make a radioman aboard ship. Also at this time they issued us a gun but no ammunition.

Our day began at 05:30 in the morning with calisthenics for about an hour then thirty minute break for breakfast. After breakfast we immediately went to classes much as you do in regular school. Each Friday afternoon and Saturday morning a W.P.A. marching band came and played music for us while we marched and drilled with our rifles. We learned to stand inspection of arms and clothes and shoe shines. It seemed something was always wrong or our section or platoon just didn't do something as it should. Usually I (and others) had to clean heads (toilets), pick up cigarette butts, scrub pots or some other "extra duty". After your "extra duty" you could go to town or write letters or wash your clothes or at least the time was yours to do as you pleased. We grumbled and fussed when our officers were not where they could hear us but there was not much anyone could do except wish he was home.

We thought when we got "aboard ship" that this would all stop and we could enjoy glamorous places and seeing sights etc. but it was not that way. After four months each of us received orders for sea duty or a station. I received orders to proceed to Boston, Mass and a future home aboard the USS New Mexico. This was one of the larger battleships. When I arrived in Boston we were told that the battle ship New Mexico was in Newfoundland and for us to go aboard the ammunition supply ship Kiluaua (pronounced kil-a-wea) and on to Newfoundland. This was in the month of October, 1941. Well, when we got to Newfoundland the New Mexico had just gone back to the states to Norfolk, VA. A number of us were transferred to the battleship Arkansas.

The Arkansas crew had been on North Atlantic guard duty for about three months. They were very tired of this because they had been at sea and not allowed ashore for any reason. North Atlantic guard duty for a ship was considered "bad duty". The ocean is almost always rough, cold and very disagreeable at this time of year. Germany's submarines were destroying a large portion of the supplies we were trying to send to Great Britain and France.

Hitler's army on the land and ships and submarines at sea had overrun a large portion of the world. It was necessary for our ships to "convoy" our vessels anywhere we wanted to send supplies. To the sailor this is very boring. You can't get a newspaper and usually no radio reception. You cannot see any danger before it happens. A ship may be at sea for weeks and not see anything. Then all of a sudden a sailor lookout spots a

torpedo's wake. You only have a few seconds warning before an explosion or you know you have been missed this time. After a few weeks of this kind of duty most men show some signs of worry or tension. Fortunately for me the Arkansas was being sent back to the states.

Tice Barnett - W5DAJ
SK on July 14, 2007

Editor's Note: I saw this article on e-ham and contacted the author for permission to re-print it in our newsletter. He graciously allowed us to share this with you, and also sent the following message:

This is a recollection of the beginnings of WW2 by my Uncle, Tice Barnett W5DAJ. He started out as a radioman in the Navy and finished as a Lt. Col in the Air Force reserves involved in radio development and procedures. He also did hand engraving and was featured in reports on his skills in the DFW area. For a while he was in charge of instrument repairs for Braniff Airways.

I wish I had more to do more installments on this. I have just what you see in my uncle's handwriting but unfortunately no more. I used to spend a lot of time visiting my uncle and aunt. I'd go with him to his store and watch him working on watches and engraving by hand. It was amazing to me to see what he could do. He literally could take a container full of loose parts and assemble them into a working watch.

He and my mom and the rest of them were from the north Texas southern Oklahoma area. I believe they were already around DFW prior to the war but am not certain.

Leo Bricker Jr. - K5LDB

Some Words From Weaver

Ham radio offers too many Options?

It can be argued that the most major problem facing Amateur Radio is that we have been too successful. We have been too successful at obtaining and developing frequency bands, and in developing and using a wide variety of modes to use in our operating.

To follow the logic, take a moment from reading this e-letter and think of the many operating options we hams have. Think, too, about the wide range of frequency bands from 160M through those that are miniscule in length. To name just a few, there are Morse code, AM, FM, RTTY, a variety of digital modes, FSK, AFSK, variations of TV, facsimile and then we have frequencies that range through much of the wide world of spectra. The bottom line is that each of us, if we wish, has many

modes of operation and many frequency choices we can use and enjoy.

So, what is wrong with this? The problem is that in our nearsightedness, we have become extremely fragmented as hams instead of remaining a cohesive group. During the past few decades we have allowed ourselves in many instances to think our personal choices of operating styles, modes and frequency ranges are the only choices "real" amateurs could possibly make. We have, for example, many VHF aficionados who see no value in HF. We have many devotees of cutting-edge digital modes who see no value in CW or AM -- the older modes of communication.

There are SSBers who are so infuriated with AMers they would nearly commit murder to clear the bands of the AM clutter. But, it isn't always new mode vs. old mode. Some of our devoted CW ops think broadband digital should be banned because it is nothing more than a nuisance. Yes, indeed, we are equal prejudice individuals.

I could name additional ham-to-ham prejudices, but I think you get the idea.

So, who or what is hurt by these prejudices? Amateur Radio is. These prejudices divide us into splinter groups. We have become VHF hams, digital hams, anti-CW hams, anti-AM hams. We are Contesters or anti-Contesters. We are "its my frequency" ragchewers. Instead of pulling together for the benefit of all of hamming, all too many amateurs feel they hold no stake when "the other guy's" idea of



ham radio is threatened by attacks from the government or industry. As one example, many HSMM-hams couldn't care less if the FCC proposed abolishing all privileges for Morse code operating. Conversely, many CW ops would do little more than smile if broadband digital was ruled illegal on ham frequencies.

Regardless of the misconception by one "side" or another, all of Amateur Radio loses any time the FCC begins to withdraw privileges -- modes or frequencies -- from another phase. Clearly, I won't now or in the future vote in favor of any proposals to have the FCC "modernize" Amateur Radio (as some hams would view it) by banning AM or by limiting the privileges of Morse or other forms of operation preferred by anyone.

Unfortunately, Amateur Radio has become a marginally functioning, if not nonfunctioning, family in

many instances. We find brother ham fighting brother ham, and sister ham bad mouthing sister ham merely because their operating preferences are different. This is no way to develop a winning team whether it is baseball, football, doubles tennis, an army . . . or a strong lobbying (advocacy) team.

Actually, I will correct my initial supposition. We hams don't have too many choices. Worse than this, we have too little maturity in thought to manage the privileges we have been given for our common good.

The real question is, "Why don't we all act like emotionally stable people and work together to our mutual benefit?" Just think what a formidable force for each other's good we would make if we would speak and act in unison.

Division Convention

Don't forget the Great Lakes Division Convention on September 22 in Cleveland. This is the day before the Cleveland Hamfest. For full information, go to <http://www.2007glc.com/>. One can even make reservations for a hotel room from this site.

One feature of these biannual conventions is the special awards that are made to Division amateurs. Topping the list is the George S. Wilson, III, W4OYI, Lifetime Achievement Award. For you who don't recall, George is the only ARRL President to come from our Division. He continues to live in Owensville, KY and is a strong support of ARRL. The Convention features interesting and informative seminars on several aspects of Amateur Radio topics. These are given by top-notch hams in the respective areas. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN will speak at the Convention dinner on Saturday evening. At other times, he will be available for casual discussion. Watch for further information. Remaining, prestigious awards that will be given are the Amateur of the Year Award, the Technical Achievement Award and the Newsletter of the Year Award.

Nominations for all but the newsletter award are made by GLD ARRL members. Nominations need to reach the Awards Committee no later than 5 PM, August 17. They may be e-mailed or sent by US Mail. The addresses are on the nomination forms. If you know of a deserving nominee, please go to the Convention web site and print out or complete the nominating form. The winning newsletter is selected by an independent member of the press from among the winners of each Section's newsletter contest.

Jim Weaver - K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division

ARECC Level 1 - Special Rebate

Thanks to an anonymous donor, any PCARS member starting, and successfully completing the ARRL Level 1 course during 2007 will get the ARRL membership course fee of \$45.00 reimbursed to them.



The donor feels this course is so important and encourages everyone to take advantage of this offer no matter what emcomm service they choose to participate in.

If you are not an ARRL member (this may encourage you to join), the non-ARRL member ARECC course fee is \$75.00, for ARRL members, the course fee is \$45.00 - the reimbursement is \$45.00. The course is taken over the internet and will take about 25 hours of work to complete.

Complete information on the course and the link to register can be found on the ARRL web site.

Need Batteries? Help PCARS

PCARS has partnered with Interstate Batteries to provide additional funding for the club through the Interstate Batteries online fundraising program.

There are over 10,000 different batteries on the website, and they're shipped to your doorstep in just a few days. You already buy these for your remotes, cell phones, lap tops, digital cameras, etc. Just enter our coupon code when checking out & PCARS gets helped.



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

1. Visit www.interstatebatteries.com to start ordering batteries.
 2. Enter your shipping information.
 3. Enter your form of payment on the secured website.
 4. Enter **PCARS** in the coupon code field during checkout and Interstate Batteries will give a percentage of the total sales amount back to PCARS throughout the year!
-

Special Event Stations Around Ohio

August 2007

Aug 1-Aug 5, 1500Z-2100Z, Cincinnati, OH. Xavier University Alumni Radio Club, K8XXU. 152nd Annual

Hamilton County Fair, Cincinnati, Ohio. 7.175 7.240 7.270 7.040. Certificate. Tim Kass, 3223 Darwin Place, Cincinnati, OH 45211. K8WBL@Yahoo.com

Aug 3-Aug 6, 1300Z-2359Z, Canton, OH. Canton Amateur Radio Club, W8AL. Annual Pro Football Hall Of Fame Festival. 28.365 21.365 14.265 7.265. Certificate. Donald E. Perry, WQ8J, 968 Culver Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44647. www.w8al.org

Aug 4, 1300Z-1900Z, Van Wert, OH. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, W8FY. US 127 Garage Sale. SSB 14.304 7.204 CW 7.044 146.850 EchoLink 315705. Certificate. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 602, Van Wert, OH 45891. www.w8fy.org

Aug 11, 1300Z-1900Z, Van Wert, OH. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, W8FY. US 30 Garage Sale The Lincoln Highway. SSB 14.304 7.204 CW 7.044 146.850 EchoLink 315705. Certificate. Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 602, Van Wert, OH 45891. www.w8fy.org

Aug 11-Aug 13, 1300Z-0200Z, Mentor, OH. Lake County Amateur Radio Association, N8BC. 29th anniversary of the Lake County ARA serving NE Ohio. 14.270 7.223. Certificate. Dennis Brostek, 7187 Maple St, Mentor, OH 44060. www.lcara.org

Aug 15-Aug 26, 0000Z-0400Z, Columbus, OH. John D. Kraus Memorial Amateur Radio Club, W8JK/WOW. 30th anniversary of the "WOW Signal". 7.045 14.045 7.200 14.250. QSL. Bruce Lerner, KC8VEB, 734 Suntree Dr, Westerville, OH 43081. www.w8jk.org

Aug 25, 1300Z-2200Z, Youngstown, OH. Twenty over Nine Radio Club, W8F. Public Corn Roast In Memory of our Silent Keys. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.250. QSL. Don Stoddard, KI8SS, 13308 Mahoning Ave, North Jackson, OH 44451. KI8SS@ARRL.NET

Aug 29-Sep 3, 1200Z-2359Z, Youngstown, OH. Twenty over Nine Radio Club, W8F. 160th Annual Canfield Fair. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.250. QSL. Don Stoddard, KI8SS, 13308 Mahoning Ave, North Jackson, OH 44451. KI8SS@ARRL.NET

September 2007

Sep 7, 1200Z-2100Z, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS), KD8CKP. 26th Annual Black Squirrel Festival - Kent State University. 21.345 14.245. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. www.portcars.org

Sep 29, 1400Z-2100Z, Milford, OH. United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, W8E. US Coast Guard Auxiliary, commemorating the 68th anniversary. 28.360 21.345 14.320 7.280. QSL. D. F. Stroup, 6095 Drumhill Ln, Milford, OH 45150. cgaux8@yahoo.com

Sep 29-Sep 30, 1300Z-2200Z, Zanesville, OH. Zanesville Amateur Radio Club, W8ZZV. Commemorating World-Famous Y-Bridge. 7225 7245 14250 14260. QSL. George Sonny Alfman, 1975 N. Moose Eye Rd, Norwich, OH 43767-9755. zarc.eqth.org

From the ARRL

PCARS Picnic

The 2007 PCARS Picnic is now in the logbook. It was our pleasure once again to host the event at the Black Squirrel Oasis. If you were unable to attend, let me assure you, you were missed! To those who attended, Thank You for your support of PCARS, and for all the good eats that showed up. It was quite a feast and I don't think anyone went home hungry.

Starting about mid-week, Mary and I began to worry about the weather. Saturday morning didn't look too promising, but by early afternoon, everything started looking good, the sun even came out! Then, about 3:00 PM it got dark again, and we had about a 20-minute downpour. Done by 3:30 and a pleasant afternoon and evening afterward made the weather a non-issue.



We went through about 45 hamburgers and 25 hot dogs. We had salads, side dishes, fruit and a great assortment of desserts. There was too much pop and beer to keep track of, but the recycle bin is full of empties. Everyone who wanted had a chance to taste the "Black Squirrel Ale" that was home-brewed by a few of us earlier this year. I'm afraid I was a bit too aggressive and we had a beer that was a bit over the top for most folks. Next year we'll try something just a bit tamer. All the left over pop will be available for your consumption at the OHIO QSO Party event. Be there!

Being one of the few events for our families to attend with us, we had a "pop-quiz" for the unlicensed spouses to see just how much they knew about our hobby. There were 18 multiple-choice questions, and after all had finished the test, there was a 3-way tie between Vee Ward, Mary Jo Ryan and Jeanne Patellis, each with 11 questions scored correctly. Peggy, KB8SZI, went through 3 rounds of tiebreaker questions, and the final winner was Jeanne Patellis. Congratulations Jeanne (and Chuck, K8CMP)!

I thought it was a pretty good quiz, but I did have one complaint that the questions weren't funny enough, but hey, I'm certainly no WB9LBI!

The rest of the evening was spent in casual conversation and continual food and beverage. There were over 40 people present, with a good mix of the

usual suspects and a few of our newer members. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other a little bit better, and I hope you all had a good time, I sure did!

Tom – WB8LCD

Pictures from the PCARS Picnic



Pictures from the July Meeting



Thanks

Well, that's the 8th issue of the PCARS newsletter the 'RADIOGRAM' for 2007. I appreciate your help in getting material for me. All the members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending me those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **WB8LCD, KC8PD, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI, WB2DFC, KB8VJL, K0MDS, KB8DPN, AB7RG, KC4ZUA, KC8SUI, W5DAJ, K5LDB, K8JE**, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Special thanks to the folks at the **Alliance Amateur Radio Club** - in their August issue of the **ZERO BEAT**, they used our 2 meter contest flier as a full page in their newsletter!



Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)



presents the



Second Annual PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Sprint Contest



**Saturday - August 18, 2007
12:01 pm until 8:01 pm**

See if you can Work All of Portage County, Ohio



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

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

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

Special Participation Certificate for all that send in a log! Hams belonging to clubs out side Portage County can submit scores for themselves & also your club scores, too!

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

In Portage County, there are:

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

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

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



Complete Rules, Summary Sheets & Log Sheets

are available for download on the

PCARS web site:

www.portcars.org

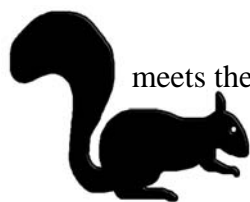
We'll be listening for you!

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

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



Need more information? Contact Joe - W8KNO by e-mail at W8KNO@portcars.org



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 Appointments & Committees

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Contest	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	K8CMP	Chuck Patellis
Field Day	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Repeater	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
VE Team	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
	N4TIE	Carl Capps
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.



PCARS Mentors – Need some help or advice?
 Contact by email at <callsign> @portcars.org



1. Wire Antennas	10. QRP	19. Help - Kenwood	Code	Contact
2. Beam Antennas	11. Satellite	20. Help - Yaesu	17	Jim - KC8RKV
3. APRS	12. VHF	21. Help - Boat Anchors	5, 24	Bill - WB9LBI
4. Contesting	13. PSK-31	22. Amplifiers	1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 16	Tom - KB8UUZ
5. CW Operation	14. Mobile (install)	23. EmComm	3, 6, 8, 12, 14, 17, 23, 25, 26, 19, 20	Russ - KB8DPN
6. DF (Fox Hunt)	15. Computer Logging	24. Traffic Handling	1, 5, 10	Tom - WB8LCD
7. DXing	16. QSLs	25. FEMA / NIMS	2, 6, 14, 17, 23, 25	Jim - KC8PD
8. Experiment/Ckts.	17. Echo Link	26. Computer Hardware	4, 5, 9	Joe - W8KNO
9. HF Phone	18. Help - Icom		2, 7, 9, 12, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22	Chuck - K8CMP

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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

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