



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



June 2007 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 2 No. 6

~ 2007 Officers ~

President: - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
 Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
 Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UJZ
 3 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
 2 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL
 1 Year Trustee - Joe Wehner - W8KNO

~ 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

Imagine for a moment that you have stepped out into traffic at an inopportune time. Your physical body is now the better part of the hood ornament on a Mack truck headed south bound on Rt 43. (Perhaps somewhere near Mike's Place?) What's left of you (spirit?) has been fortunate enough to end up in the better of the alternatives. As part of your intake interview, you are asked the question "as you look back on your life from this perspective, what would you have done differently?"

The answer would probably be to be more involved with those things you are passionate about. Family, personal improvement, interests (aka hobbies) would probably be at the top of the list. Your list would probably not include spending more time at the office, watching yet another rerun of Seinfeld, or worrying about things that never happened or which you had no control over. Yet these are all choices we make every day!

There has never been a better time to be an active ham. When given the opportunity, do something to participate in this great hobby and improve yourself at the same time. You've heard me say before "you've got to sit in the chair and get on the air" (perhaps soon you'll discover where I stole that line). And it's true, nobody wastes time, you waste life! Get involved with the King of all Hobbies - Ham Radio!



If you missed the Dayton Hamvention, too bad for you. This is the "mother of all hamfests" and the mecca for all hams! As close as we are, you need to get there. Make your plans early, make it a priority, just make sure you get there! Dayton is the one place where it all comes together. If you can't find it there, it doesn't exist. There are hams from "around the block to around the world" right there for you to talk to. There are forums and displays on every aspect of the hobby you could possibly think of.

There are too many things to cover in just one trip, so plan to go the following year too! It's a different experience each time and one you'll be talking about and remembering for years.

June 23 and 24 is Field Day weekend. In North America, this is the "mother of all operating events". Let me say this in just two words: **BE THERE!** Even if you can't commit to the whole weekend, that's OK, just spend the time you can with us. You'll get a chance to operate, log, eat, and watch everyone else as they operate, log and eat. You will learn something and you will have fun! Please, don't miss it.

June 11th is the next PCARS meeting. I could say that this would be "the mother of all meetings", but then you might start not taking me seriously. This will be an outstanding meeting, with an outstanding speaker! Although Anthony, K8ZT, is a local ham, he's a nationally (and maybe even internationally) recognized authority on the art and science of QRP operating. Even if you are not a QRP enthusiast, you will learn something that will make you better operator at any power level.

At PCARS, we're all about having fun with ham radio. Participate, get involved, and you too will be seen with a big smile as you learn and do the things you are passionate about!

73



Tom - WB8LCD

In This Issue of the RADIOGRAM

June 2007 - Volume 2 Number 6

Article Title	Page
Antenna Set Up Day	16
Azimuth Map	20
ARECC Level 1 - Special Rebate	16
Contest Calendar	9
EmComm	12
First Place !	9
Free (Almost) Eyeball Cards	16
From the President	1
From the Vice President	2
Hamfest Calendar	9
Hamvention 2007	14
Hamvention 2007 & PCARS People Pictures	14
Happy Birthday PCARS Members	9
Interstate Batteries - PCARS Fundraiser	9 & 19
Mark Your Calendars	9
Meetings – Mike's Place	10
Meeting - May - Pictures	17
Note of Thanks	14
Paper Chase	3
PCARS Patches	8
Photos Wanted - PLEASE	9
Pictures from the May PCARS Meeting	17
Signature of the Father	10
Swap-N-Shop	9
Truck Hits Bus on way to Hamvention	13
Thanks	9
Thanks & 73	17
The Connector I've Searched For	5
Thursday Net Information & Schedule	14
VE Test Sessions & Information	7
VE Team Report	7
What is Field Day	3

From the Vice President

FIELD DAY. Well I hope that got your attention. Yep, Field Day will be here before you know it and by the time you receive this newsletter our Antenna Day dry run at Ravenna City Park will be history. That was just practice. The real fun is yet to come.

If you have not had a chance to attend a Field Day event in the past, June 23rd and 24th should be marked on your calendars. PCARS hopes to give all of its members, old hams and new, young and old, Tech, General or Extra, a weekend of ham radio fun that they will be talking about for years to come.



Your Field Day committee has been meeting on a regular basis to plan for this year's event. Bill, WB9LBI, has been recruiting and scheduling operators and loggers. Russ, KB8DPN, and Jim, KC8RKV, have been putting together a computer network for logging. Russ will also operate an Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) station for us.

Ed, N8EQJ, will be assembling a forty meter station and will also try to score some satellite QSO's. Chuck, K8CMP, promises to share the twenty meter station with others this year. Tom, WB8LCD, will be setting up the VHF station and a solar power system, and I will have the digital station on the air.



Tom is also working again with Errol, KC8RJR, to put together food and beverages for the weekend. Parky, KB8UUZ, will again be assembling the highly informative public information display.

On top of all that we will again have a Get On The Air (GOTA) station. The GOTA station is the perfect opportunity for new hams or those who have been inactive for a while to take mic in hand and operate HF. Even better, if you know anyone who may be interested in learning more about amateur radio bring him or her by. Non-hams had a ball on the GOTA station last year, particularly the kids that tried it.



So let's see you there! Bring family and friends. Spend some time with other PCARS members and enjoy that ham radio fellowship. Most of all, just have some ham radio fun!

The Spring Technician course produced six new hams: Mary Jo Loveland, KD8GGZ, Bill Thomas, KD8GHC, Jenna Ziccardi, KD8GHA, Joe Racco, KD8GHB, Jason Greg, KD8GHE, and Tom Gambone, KD8GHD. We congratulate all of them and if you hear them on the air make sure that you give them a hearty PCARS welcome to amateur radio.

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, June 2nd.

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.

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, from Stow will be the speaker at our June meeting. Few hams have accomplished as much running QRP as Anthony has, so be there to learn from his experience. For a lot of great ham radio information, make sure that you check out his website at <http://www.k8zt.com/>. Anthony has his hands full just maintaining the website. It has an extensive series of links and every PCARS member will be able to find something useful.

As we announced at the last club meeting, Family & Community Services has graciously agreed to also provide PCARS with the use of another room in the building on the former ODOT property. It is probably close to 350 square feet with a high ceiling, windows and lots of AC power. This room, in addition to the garage, workshop and radio room, will provide PCARS with excellent space for many future club programs and activities.

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

Paper Chase

I will try and keep this short because of all the stories we have from the Hamvention. I was not sure what I would write about this month until I received the post card you see, in the mail on Wednesday, May 23rd. It is a picture of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment singing "The Star Spangled Banner" at a memorial service in the field during the Korean campaign, June 21, 1951.



In May and June, amateur radio has a large number of special event stations honoring our servicemen our ships and equipment. May was Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day and June has the Museum Ships Weekend on June 9th & 10th.

While operation on any amateur frequency is allowed, most ships will be operating in the General portion of the bands.

PSK 31 OPERATIONS - 14.070 MHz 10.142 MHz
18.100 MHz 21.070 MHz 28.120 MHz

Some ships will also be on 3880 kHz - 3885 kHz and 7290 kHz Amplitude Modulation with either their ships original equipment or modern equipment.

While any operating mode can be used in this event and CW and SSB are the dominant modes, all the participating ships are being encouraged, that have the ability, to fire up their original equipment on: 3885 kHz, 3600 & 3625 (in the UK), 3705 (W. Europe), 7290 kHz and 14,286 kHz in the AM mode.

More information about the 63 ships participating can be found at www.nj2bb.org as well as information on how to obtain a certificate, it only takes contacting 15 ships!



Remember that Yolo county in California will be on the 23rd & 24th at the Boy Scout Radio Daze during Field Day.

Hope to hear you in the pile ups.

Joe - W8KNO

What is Field Day?

That's a good question, and if you asked ten hams, you would probably get ten different answers. Some would say that Field Day is a contest, others would say that it is an emergency preparedness exercise, still others would say that it is a party and yet others would say that it is a public relations exercise. Who is right? They all are! Field Day is all of those things and more. The best description anyone can find is that Field Day is all of ham radio in one weekend!

During Field Day, ham radio clubs, groups and individuals take to the field in simulated emergency conditions (living in tents and running on generators and batteries). They are given 24 hours to set up as many stations as they are able. In the next 24 hours they are try to make as many contacts as they can with those stations. All aspects of ham radio are used in this pursuit. More than a million contacts will be made on HF and VHF, CW, SSB and digital modes this weekend. Bonus points are awarded for making an extra effort such as making contacts via satellites or sending and receiving message traffic.

Field Day isn't just about radio though. Clubs use this biggest of all yearly events for many other activities. With much of the clubs membership assembled it is a natural time for BBQ's and other gatherings. Also with all of ham radio on display this weekend it is a choice time to show off what we do best. The media and government officials are invited to attend to view what ham radio can do.

As you can see, Field Day is indeed all of ham radio in one weekend and anyone that attends their first Field Day rarely misses one again!

How to Contest

While Field Day isn't strictly a contest, that is how the entrants are rated and why not? A contest is a great way to evaluate a stations performance. It is also a great way to simulate message handling which will be a big part of any response to an emergency.

So what is a contest? Put most simply, in a contest the objective is to make as many contacts in as many places as possible in a prescribed amount of time. For Field Day, the objective is simply to make as many contacts as possible in the 24 hours you are allotted. To make those contacts valid, you have to exchange a certain amount of information. The "exchange" for Field Day is your entry class (number of transmitters) and your ARRL section.

So how do you go about making these contacts? Just as you would for any other QSO in amateur radio, there are only two ways to initiate a conversation. You either have to answer someone who is calling CQ or call CQ yourself and wait for someone to answer you. Which method is better? It is generally accepted that staying in one place, calling CQ and letting the other stations come to you is quicker and less tiring. However, this only works if you have a signal that is loud enough to attract other stations. If you aren't making any contacts or aren't making them fast enough, you are forced to switch to the search and pounce method. Excellent operators can rack up the QSOs almost as fast this way. Which ever method you employ, a Field Day contact sounds like this:

CQ Field Day CQ Field Day this is KD8CKP Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Pa-Pa calling CQ Field Day and listening.
Whiskey One Alfa Whiskey.
W1AW thank you, we are Four Alfa, Ohio, over.
Thank you, we are Six Delta, Connecticut, over.
Thank you, this is KD8CKP Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Pa-Pa , QRZ?

All that is left is to record the contact on your log sheet and get ready for the next contact.

Obviously because of the variability of radio propagation and other factors, many contacts aren't this neat and clean. This is especially true when multiple people are calling you or you are getting interference from another station, but learning to deal with these conditions are part of the lure and purpose of Field Day!

From the World Wide Web

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Well, it's already June and it seems that the year just started last month. This month PCARS will be taking part in its second Field Day, and I for one am hoping that the bands will be open.

I took my very first pilgrimage to Dayton to attend Hamvention

and boy was that a thrill. I was also privileged to attend the DXers Dinner



on Friday night along with Parky, KB8UUZ, and was able to rub elbows with some of the more notable DXers in our hobby. We sat with one couple from Malawi and another amateur who was preparing to leave for Malawi on DXpedition. It was a great time and I can't wait to do it again. Hopefully, the next time I attend, I will be able to get up enough courage to go up to some of these amateurs whose calls I always see written up in various print media and discuss some of their DX techniques.

In the mean time, there is DX to be worked and I hope that many of you will get on the air and start hunting the some of the DX listed below. So without further ado (because I do not have too much ado left and yes I know I've used that one before), let's get to it.

First of all, I want to thank the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, the 425 DX News, and the ARRL DX Newsletter for providing the information. Of course, 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 this column.

3B6 – Agalega Islands. A Polish team of amateurs expects to be QRV to Agalega Islands by the morning of June 6 at the latest and to leave the island on the 18th. QSL via SP9SX. Bookmark <http://3b6.godx.eu/> for propagation predictions, further information and updates. Unfortunately, at the time of this column, there was some question as to what the call sign would be. Just look for a 3B6 call and you'll be safe.

4O - MONTENEGRO (ITU Assigns A Prefix). Montenegro became a new country (DXCC entity) last June, and has been waiting for the ITU to assign an Amateur Radio call sign

block since then. The International Tele-communications Union (ITU) did not want to give Montenegro an entirely new prefix, so it required the states of Montenegro and Serbia to agree upon one or two prefixes from the five existing prefixes (4N, 4O, YT, YU and YZ) assigned to the former Serbia-Montenegro. An agreement was reached on May 11th, and the prefix "4O" is now listed as Montenegro's prefix. Montenegro stations will be using the prefix block 4O0 through 4O9. Serbia stations will continue to use YT and YU prefixes, but the ITU has taken 4N and YZ prefixes for future reassignment. **DXers are reminded to please update their logging programs.**

5B - CYPRUS. For those of you who still need Cyprus, G3RWF will be active as 5B/G3RWF near Polis, June 2-30th. This will be a holiday operation, so he will operate SSB, RTTY and PSK during his spare time.

EA8 - CANARY ISLANDS. ON7RU will be active from the Gran Canaria (AF-004) as EA8/OQ7R, June 4-13th. Activity will be on all bands 80-10 meters, CW, SSB and RTTY. He will use a FT990 and wire antennas. QSL via ON7RU, by the bureau or direct.

G - ENGLAND (Possibly France). Yes, I know that most everybody has worked England. So what is so special that I included here in the DX column. Read on - KR1S will be in the UK for a few weeks, starting possibly this week. **He hopes to do some portable QRP operating from Windermere and London, as well as Amsterdam and Paris.** So try and see if you can hear him. If you can, you should be able to work him.

IOTA News

EU-001 - GM0DHZ, will be active as SV5/GM0DHZ from **Kos Island** for 2 weeks starting June 7th. Activity will be on CW and SSB. This will be a holiday style operation. I will especially be looking for this one since Kos is within sight of Kalymnos, the island from which my family originated. It's all part of the Dodecanese.

EU-060. Members of the White Tower DX team will be active from **Skyros Island** between June 12-22nd. The DXpedition team will be using the special call sign SY8WT. Activity will be on 160-6 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via SV2HPP. For more details on this DXpedition, visit the White Tower DX Team Web page at: <http://www.whitetowerdxt.com>

EU-067 - SV1EJD, IZ8IYL and IZ8CCW will be active as J48MDC from **Mikonos Island** between June 13-18th. Do not expect too much activity from Ant and Manu because they are on a honeymoon trip. Pilot station will be IZ8BGY (iz8bg@mdxc.org). More info about J48MDC can be found on: <http://www.mdxc.org/j48mdc>

EU-088 - Members of the EDR Silkeborg will be active as OZ8MW/P from **Anholt Island (DIA NK-001)**, July 25-30th. Activity will include an entry in the IOTA Contest (July 28-29th). The activity outside of the contest will be on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB.

EU-174 - HA0HW, will be active as **J48HW** and SV8/homecall from **Thassos Island, Greece (MIA: MG-124, Grid KN20hs)**, between May 27th and June 5th. Activity will

be on the HF bands, mainly 40/30/20/17 meters and 6 meters. Operations will be mainly CW, with some SSB, RTTY and PSK31 as well. QSL via his home callsign, by the HA Bureau or direct.

OC-129 - JA7QVK, is active as JA7QVK/DU7 **Cebu Island** in the Philippines. He has been on Cebu Island since August of 2005 and is there on business. Kaoru is expected to be here until this coming August. QSL via his home callsign, direct w/SAE + 2 green stamps. QSLs can be sent direct via the following Philippines address w/SAE + 1 green stamp: Kaoru Ono, Unit 1204, Park Tower 2 Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, Philippines 6000. SKED can be made via the following E-mail address: kaoru12506@globelines.com.ph

ADDED NOTE: Also, look for DU7/PA0HIP from **Mactan Island** (OC-129). He is also very active now.

OC-150 - YC0IEM, will be active from **Lombok Island** as YC0IEM/9, June 8-10th. SL via IZ8CCW, by the bureau or direct.

Well that's it for this month. There are a lot of other DX listed but I simply can't take up all that room in the Newsletter. I certainly will be looking for all those stations from the Greek Islands and just might run into a cousin or two. Until next month, Good DX and 73.

Chuck - K8CMP

Editor's Note: At last month's PCARS meeting Chuck and Joe gave a talk on DXing. Attached to this newsletter is an Azimuth Map with Ravenna, Oh as the center. This map gives you the straight line direction from Ravenna to anywhere on earth.

The Connector I've Searched For My Entire Career

It was a major emergency. Communications was disrupted for miles around, and it looked as if Ham Radio was going to be the primary communication source for a long while.

The local Amateurs met on the local repeater and then converged upon the arranged meeting location. Roll call. What did you bring? Several different radios and peripherals were unveiled by all hams in attendance.

There's a HF radio, a 2 meter mobile, various chargers, batteries and various other equipment. The HF radio has no connector on it's power leads, just ring terminals on the ends that go to the back of the huge Astron power supply. It's a 12 volt power cord with a red lead and a black lead with a red stripe.

The 2 meter radio has a Cinch-Jones plug that the user soldered on. He's used those connectors for years and solders them on everything. Some are 4 wire, some are 2. One of the pins is wider than the other. That's the positive one, right?

Still -- some of the other equipment has cigarette lighter plugs attached.

That HF radio – Hmmm – The red is positive, right? Wait – I thought the wire with the stripe is positive, isn't it? The pressure is on. Somebody makes an educated guess. Is it radio communication -- or is it going to be smoke?

Truth is – everybody seems to have his own standard for connectors, if they have any standard at all.

A scenario like this could lead to damaged equipment, or worse.

Enter the Anderson Powerpole® connector. First – let me express that just because my last name is Anderson it doesn't mean that I am related to the good folks at Anderson Powerpole®. This being said – this wonderful little unisex connector is truly the connector I have looked for all my life.



The standard power connector of preference within emergency communications organizations around the country.

[The Carson Valley Radio Club \(http://www.cvrc.net\)](http://www.cvrc.net) has this blurb about the connectors on its website, and since I can't say it any better, I will simply quote:

“The 30 amp Anderson Powerpole® is quickly becoming the standard power connector of preference within emergency communications organizations around the country. First becoming popular in the Pacific Northwest, the Powerpole® allows for quick field installation and interchange of power supplies and radio equipment without having to resort to adapter cables, clip leads and other jury rigged arrangements.

Powerpoles® are both polarized and genderless, so you never have to worry about male vs. female or positive vs. negative. Connections can be quickly made and remade in the dark without any hassles and the 30 amp connector can easily handle 100 watt radios.

Housings should be mated according to the diagram above, viewing from the contact side (opposite the wire

side), tongue down, hood up, RED on the LEFT, BLACK on the RIGHT.

Highly conductive silver-plated copper contacts allow minimal contact resistance at high currents. Self-wiping action on make and break keeps conducting surfaces clean. Contact dents keep connectors mated in high-vibration applications and provide quick-break, snap action upon disconnect.

Identical connector halves are genderless -- making assembly quick and easy and reducing the number of parts stocked. Molded-in dovetails allow for customized harnesses in a variety of configurations.

After a contact has been attached to a wire, it should be installed into the housing so that the housing spring mates with the underside of the contact. A thin-bladed screwdriver can often be helpful in "setting" the contacts.

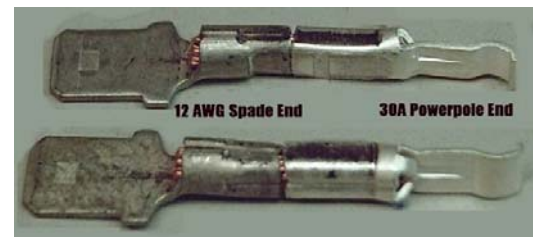
To remove a contact from the housing, use a very small blade (jewelers screwdriver or X-acto knife) to depress the spring, allowing the contact to be removed.”



My words are simple: These things are the coolest, handiest thing around – right up there if not better than sliced bread.

Going One Better

Having standardized most of my hamshack, I decided that perhaps a flush mounted Anderson Powerpole® would look great on some of my home brew projects. It always seems that the power wires always seem to look gawky, and a flush mounted connector would look really neat and tidy. Here is what I came up with, and how you can add your own flush mounted Powerpole® ports.



By taking a solid 12 AWG copper wire and crimping the inside clip from a Powerpole® connector flush against a 12 gauge male spade connector. Feed the

connectors through 2 5/32" holes spaced about 8mm apart from the back or inside of your non conductive mounting surface. Then push the Powerpole® connector housings on the clips until you hear the connector click. The inside spade lug connector will firmly hold to the inside of your surface, with the Powerpole® connector fitting flush and snug against your project.



This means that the enterprising ham could make their own "Rig Runner" type boxes, or how about maybe mounting a set of these connectors in an empty flat space on your vehicle dashboard?

In fact after discussing the possibilities with a few of the other PCARS members, it was decided that a "Rig Runner" type club project would be approached perhaps for a winter project.

A prototype box was created, affectionately dubbed the "Nutrunner" keeping the clubs squirrel mascot and motif. It's still in the testing and pricing stage, but it will make a handy project, and will also allow other members to begin to standardize it's equipment.

Once you start using these connectors you'll realize how handy they really are. I've made extension cables, have clicked in meters in line, and use them on my test bench.

Most importantly, in the event of an emergency, all of my equipment is prewired and will plug into any standard Powerpole® power strip.

Russ - KB8DPN

***Editors Note:** Refer to the May 2006 issue of the RADIOGRAM for more information on the Anderson Powerpole® Connectors*

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

Jun 2, 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.

As of the 7 May 2007 VE session, the PCARS VE team had conducted six (6) testing sessions, three of which administered at the end of a Technician class, and had produced the following results:

- ☉ **34** passed the Technician/Element 2 exam
- ☉ **15** passed the General/Element 3 exam
- ☉ **9** passed the Amateur Extra/Element 4 exam
- ☉ **2** passed the CW/Element 1 test

Twenty-three of the new hams had taken the Technician course offered by PCARS at Maplewood. The three classes had a 100% passing rate. Our youngest student was ten years old and our oldest was ninety-one.

Jim - KC8PD

PCARS VE Coordinator

PCARS VE Team Report

During the summer of 2006 while we were planning for our first Technician class in the fall, we decided that PCARS needed to have its own team of Volunteer Examiners. Since the last night of the Tech class would be when the students took the Technician test, who better to give it to them than PCARS members!

Our VE team includes Tom, WB8LCD, Parky, KB8UUZ, Carl, N4TIE, Russ, KB8DPN, Deron, N8XTH, and myself. Since Parky has the best handwriting he has generally been in charge of the paperwork: keeping the roster, filling out the CSCE's, and so on. The rest of the team has divided up the duties of scoring exams and handing out the CSCE's. I have been our liaison with the ARRL, our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

As long as we would be giving the test to our students we decided that each test session at the end of the course should also be open to anyone who wanted to show up and take a test. No matter whether for Technician, General, or Amateur



Extra class, we would accommodate them.

Having committed to administering tests three times a year in conjunction with the class, it made sense to us to expand our testing sessions to make sure that hams in the Northeast Ohio area would have regular testing opportunities here in Portage County. At the suggestion of Parky, we decided to offer VE testing every other month.



So now at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the even numbered months you will find the PCARS VE team open for business at the Center of Hope on Main Street in Ravenna. Coffee will be brewing and there is usually a box of fried toroids for the VE's and PCARS members who stop by.

To date, we have held six VE sessions. There have only been a few occasions where we had to give some bad news to a test taker, and even then most have taken a second crack at the exam and then passed it.

Overall the results have been great. Thirty-four new hams have passed the Technician test. Fifteen hams



earned an upgrade to General and nine hams have upgraded to Amateur Extra class. We also had two hams who successfully passed the CW, or Element 1, exam before it was eliminated.

Particularly satisfying for the VE's who also taught the Tech course, twenty-three of the new hams had been students in those classes. They ranged in age from ten to ninety-one and they all made us proud.

We can always use more VE's so that we can be sure that we will always have enough volunteers for each session. For more information, go to

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/become-a-ve.html> at the ARRL's web site. All you need to do is download the manual and take the open book test. It takes a little bit of time but is not that difficult.

On behalf of the entire team I can tell you that few things will ever give you as much satisfaction in this hobby as having the chance to hand over that CSCE and welcome a new ham into the hobby. How about joining us?

Jim - KC8PD

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:

- o **June 11th** club meeting – **QRP - Anthony - K8ZT**
- o **June 23rd and 24th** – **FIELD DAY!**
- o **July 9th** club meeting – **Going Mobile, Jim, KC8PD**
- o **July 28th** – **PCARS Picnic** at the Black Squirrel Oasis
- o **August 13th** club meeting – topic open
- o **August 18th** – **2nd Annual Two Meter FM Simplex Sprint**
- o **August 25th** – **Ohio QSO Party** – PCARS Club Station
- o **September 10th** club meeting – **APRS** by Russ, KB8DPN
- o **September 7th** – **KSU Black Squirrel Festival** – special event station, note: this is the tentative date as of now
- o **September 22nd** – **ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention** in Cleveland
- o **October 8th** club meeting – **Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director**
- o **October activity** – tentative project – **handheld dual band satellite antenna**
- o **November 12th** meeting – topic open
- o November activity – TBS – tentative project – **sound card interface kit**
- o **December 10th** – **Christmas Party**



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

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**

WANTED: **HF Amplifier** - Am looking for good used HF amplifier. 600 or 1000 watts. If anyone has something to offer send me an email at N4TIE@portcars.org. **Carl-N4TIE**

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**

June Contest Calendar

Alabama QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 2-0400Z, Jun 3
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 8
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 9-0300Z, Jun 11
SMIRK Contest	0000Z, Jun 16-2400Z, Jun 17
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 16-0200Z, Jun 17
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jun 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 18
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 23-1400Z, Jun 24
Quebec QSO Party	1700Z, Jun 23-0300Z, Jun 24
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 23-2100Z, Jun 24

First Place !

I almost never get involved in contests other than Field Day; I have always wanted to change that lack of competing on radio.

Back in March, I decided to enter the Breeze Shooters Ten Meter Ground Wave Contest, what a BLAST, as it turns out I worked only 15 contacts from my designated grid 8 (Breeze Shooters Grid Map), with that said, I recently received from the Breeze Shooters Group a FIRST PLACE for Class D Grid 8 with a total of 27 points . There are a total of seven classes; each with first

through third place. The classes A through G are derived from the 49 Breeze Shooter grid squares.

We should all check it out next year!!

Ed - N8EQJ

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Six PCARS member have a birthday in June:

N8ZDR - Richard Wilson
WB8OVQ - Robert Warner
KD8EPF - Rena Martin-Wehner
WD8DAU - Dan Trout
K8HGX - Jack Alpern
KC8PIZ - Sam McCoy

Thanks

I would like to thank the PCARS Tech Class instruction team of Jim KC8PD, Russ KB8DPN and Tom WB8LCD for a terrific job with the Technician class.

Anyone who can keep the attention of a ten year old for eight weeks is doing a GREAT JOB. The best part is she PASSED!!!!

(The first time)

Jenna KD8GHA (Girls Have Attitude) were proud of you!!! Love, Mom and Dad (Angie KC8DBX John N8GIE)



N8GIE

KD8GHA

John - N8GIE

Hamfest Calendar

3 Jun 2007 - Breezeshooters Hamfest & Computer Show -
Butler Farm Showgrounds - Route 68 - Butler, PA -
Breezeshooters ARC - <http://www.breezeshooters.net> - Talk-In: 147.96 (W3UDX Butler Repeater) - Contact: Robert W. Benna, N3LWP - 1010 Willow Dr. - Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - Phone: 412-366-0488 - Fax: 412-366-0486 - Email: hamfest2007@breezshooters.com

Interstate Batteries

As announced at our club meeting in May, we are now officially in partnership with Interstate Batteries as a club fundraiser. Any battery offered on the interstate web-site is available and the club makes 30% on all sales. All you need to do is put PCARS in the coupon code and we will get credit for the sale.

This is meant to be a "low key" fundraiser. Just mention it to anyone you know who might buy batteries occasionally. Hey - that's everybody! Including you. If they (you) can help us out, we'd certainly appreciate it. If you know of someone who might purchase larger quantities and would like me to present it to them, I'll do that if you're willing to introduce us.

Our first order placed on this program totaled over \$800! Let me know if you have any questions, and if you have any success.

Tom - WB8LCD

Editor's Note: See the flier included with this newsletter for more details.

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.mikesplacereastaurant.com

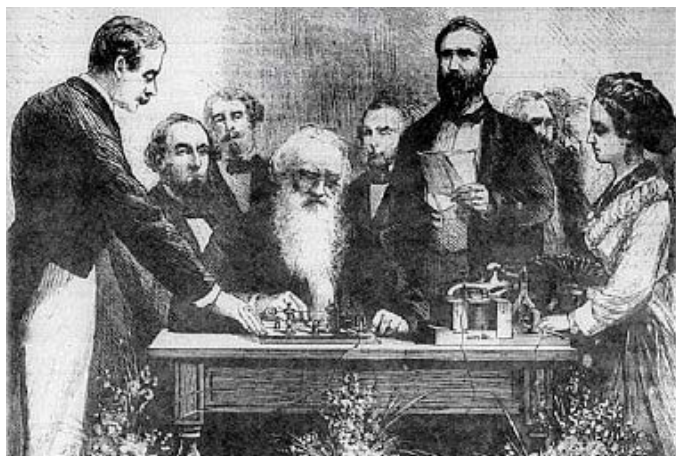
You can look over their entire menu and see some interesting stuff on the web site. Check it out!



Signature of the Father

The last telegraph message by Samuel F. B. Morse Saturday, June 10th, 1871

Many have heard the story about Samuel Morse's first telegraph message sent from Washington to Baltimore in



1844, but few have heard the story of what was

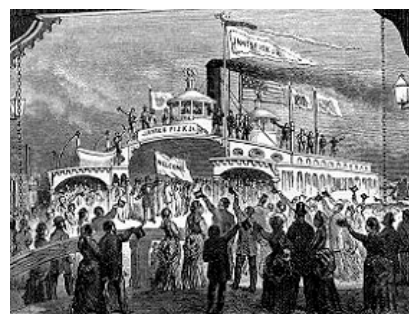
considered to be his last message. This last message by Morse had a profound effect on all who copied it, and was considered an impressive technical demonstration of how the capabilities of the telegraph evolved in just 27 years.

When Morse was approaching his eightieth birthday it was felt among the telegraph fraternity at Western Union that a formal testimonial in the U.S. should be given to honor him. Several foreign countries had already recognized him with various decorations and medals. He previously received a gratuity of approximately 60,000 dollars from a special congress consisting of ten European countries for the nearly 1300 Morse sets they had in service.

A day of celebration in New York City was planned for a tribute that included the dedication of a statue of Morse in Central Park, a boat excursion around Manhattan for telegraphers, and a reception at The Academy of Music. During the reception, Morse would bid farewell to the telegraph fraternity by sending a specially composed telegraph message world-wide directly from the Academy, ending with him at the key, sending his own signature.

The funds required for this tribute were raised primarily by the telegraph community. Requests for contributions were made in The Journal of the Telegraph, a Western Union trade newspaper by James D. Reid, an author and editor long associated with the telegraph industry. L.G. Tillotson, a prominent telegraph instrument manufacturer protested the limiting of the fund to just Western Union employees. Reid agreed and soon after

contributions were accepted from the entire U.S. and Canadian telegraph fraternity. The overwhelming response created a list of contributors that was nearly sixty feet long. Donations were made in amounts ranging from 25 cents to 25 dollars, but the bulk were donations of less than 5 dollars made by individual telegraphers.



Saturday, June 10th, 1871 was the day selected for the celebration. Telegraphers from across the country started to arrive in New York on Thursday, June 8. By Friday, they were arriving by the hundreds. The first event scheduled for Saturday was a complimentary excursion around New York harbor sponsored by L.G. Tillotson & Co.. Telegraphers and members of the fraternity gathered at Tillotson's 8 Dey St. store that Saturday morning to pick up their free tickets. Tillotson

& Co., noted for their hospitality, had special displays set up in their store. Fine examples of their registers, keys, sounders, relays, etc. were well stocked on their shelves and available for inspection. At one point it was reported that some 200 people were crowded into the store. Tillotson's hospitality continued during the boat excursion where music and food baskets were provided to the nearly one thousand passengers on board the steamer, James Fisk, Jr. as it made its three hour cruise around Manhattan. Steam whistles blew from all passing steamers and ships from around the world in port that day presented their country's flags, all in honor of Samuel Morse.



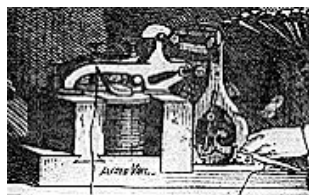
The Central Park Unveiling Ceremony

The unveiling of the Morse Statue was scheduled for 4:00 PM that afternoon. The weather cooperated as New York was enjoying clear skies and 74 degrees. The New York Tribune reported at least 10,000 people gathered for the ceremony including a large number of telegraphers who distinguished themselves in the crowd by wearing badges made of white ribbon. The unveiling ceremony included speeches made by various politicians and telegraph industry executives. Cyrus Field, who had orchestrated the Atlantic cable, read several congratulatory dispatches, including one from President Grant. Field gave an example of the international speed and distance capabilities of the telegraph at that time with his remark: "I have another dispatch from a neighboring village, London, dated June 10, two minutes past eight PM, where it was received here at five minutes to four". Later in the ceremony an oration was given by Morse's close friend, poet, William Cullen Bryant. Morse, who was then eighty and probably the first U.S. telegrapher to reach that age, was unable to attend the first two events of the day in order to conserve his strength for the night's festivities at the Academy of Music.

The auditorium of the Academy was filled to standing room capacity that evening with those fortunate enough to have obtained the coveted tickets. Some 500

seats were provided on the stage alone to accommodate the prominent guests in attendance. At 8:00 PM Morse entered the auditorium and was greeted by cheers. The ladies in the crowd waved their white handkerchiefs. Morse stepped onto the stage and was seated next to William Orton, the President of Western Union, who was the master of ceremonies. Some of the notable people seated near him included Cyrus Field, Horace Greely, (New York Tribune founder/editor), Governor Claflin of Massachusetts, (Morse's birth state(1)) and General Jefferson Davis, (former president of The Confederate States of America). Also seated nearby, to Morse's pleasant surprise, was Annie Ellsworth. It was by her suggestion "What Hath God Wrought" was used as the first telegraph message in 1844.

Set up on the stage near the speakers stand was a small table with the telegraph instruments to be used in the sending of Morse's message. Included and operational in this set up was the original telegraph register used by Alfred Vail in Baltimore that received Ellsworth's historic message sent by Morse from Washington on May 24, 1844. This register(2), designed by Vail, was kindly loaned for the special occasion by Mrs. Alfred Vail, his widow.



(The Image on the right is the Vail Register as it appears today at Cornell University.

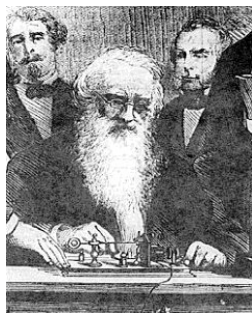
During the first hour of introductory remarks and speeches, a white table cloth covered the table concealing the instruments. They were connected though, and during the first hour, telegraphers, seated in the orchestra seats nearby, could copy traffic sounding from the muffled register as Western Union was busy putting together the massive network that was to handle the upcoming message. Telegraphers winked and smiled as they listened to orders being sent out from New York as additional lines were cut in : "close your key and clear out"..., "answer on number 5"..., "adjust that repeater".

At 9:00 PM, Mr.Orton announced it was prearranged that all the lines going to the principle cities and towns of the United States and Canada were connected to the instruments on the small table before them, and that Professor Morse's message was to be sent simultaneously to all of them. As the instruments were being uncovered from the table, Mr.Orton went on to say that a short pause was necessary to allow for any final adjustments of Western Union's repeaters(3) across its

system before proceeding with the message.

Miss Sadie E. Cornwell, an accomplished and beautiful Western Union telegrapher, was then escorted to the table to send the body of Professor Morse's message. The auditorium went silent as she sent:

"Greeting and thanks to the Telegraph fraternity throughout the world. Glory to God in the Highest, on Earth Peace, Goodwill to men."



The crowd, knowing what was to follow, cheered as Mr. Orton escorted Professor Morse to take Miss Cornwell's place at the table. Professor Morse took his seat and as he reached for the key, a complete stillness took place as hundreds of telegraphers, in a sea of white ribbons, leaned forward, straining to hear. Morse, with a steady firm hand, slowly sent his signature :

S F B MORSE

S ... F .- B -...

M -- O . . R . . S ... E .

At the completion of the last dot, the crowd gave a standing ovation and cheered for several minutes. Morse returned to his seat and was quite visibly overcome with emotion by the crowd's reaction. Mr. Orton waved his hand to silence the crowd and announced: " Thus the Father of the Telegraph bids farewell to his children."

Telegraphers in stations everywhere also cheered after hearing Morse at the key. Many responses were quickly returned and copied on another set of instruments behind the stage at the Academy.

From Washington: "...Allow me to congratulate you on the success of Professor Morse's feat. It passed south on every wire, and I have two registered copies taken in presence of the whole newspaper representatives at the capitol."

From New Orleans: "To him whose lightnings have enlightened the world...the telegraphers of New Orleans offer their congratulations."

From San Francisco: "The telegraphers of the pacific coast send greeting and the heartiest congratulations to the Father of the Telegraph."

Later that evening, as Morse's message was relayed world-wide, similar messages were received from Singapore, Bombay, and Hong Kong. The festivities ended that evening with a very reflective speech by Morse. In his speech he stated : "...I look upon your

proceedings as intended, not so much as homage to an individual, as to the invention whose lines from America have gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

It was nearly midnight before the audience left the Academy that night. As they were leaving, a colorful aurora was visible in the skies over New York. Many telegraphers commented that it was a fitting coincidence to see nature's own magnetic demonstration on this historic telegraphic night... The tribute to Morse proved timely, ten months later he passed away at his winter home in New York City leaving behind a legacy that immortalized his name in U.S. history.



The Morse Statue today in Central Park.

John Casale - W2NI

(1) Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born, April 27, 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

(2) Registers imprinted marks of short and long durations, separated by spaces, on a narrow strip of paper, that represented dots and dashes. The terms "mark" and "space", still used in communications today, have their literal origin from telegraph registers. Telegraphers quickly learned to copy code by the sound produced by the action of the register's pen lever hitting its stops. The telegraph sounder evolved from this ability, as once described by Samuel Morse: " The sounder is but the pen-lever deprived of the pen." The Vail Register was used as a sounder at the Academy of Music.

(3) Repeaters allowed the automatic re-transmission of messages over long lines thus eliminating the need for manual relaying from one circuit to another. The line from New York to New Orleans in the 1870s for example, was made possible by the use of two repeaters. They were also used for repeating messages from a main line into multiple branch lines simultaneously.

"S F B Morse" was sent by Morse in "American Morse" not International Morse. American Morse was the standard code used on American land lines.

EmComm

With thanks to Rick Zach, K1RJZ, who posted his comments on the www.gemoto.com website, here is his summary of the Digital Emergency Communications forum at this year's Hamvention:

"In the Post 9-11 world, all emergency responders must be fully conversant with and comply with Federal NIMS and ICS operational procedures. This universal

knowledge encompasses everyone from firefighters to hams. Don't know what these procedures are? You should. More importantly, the days of hams showing up with good-will and 2-meter portables may becoming obsolete. To be sure, scheduled Marathons and remote Sled Dog races will always need 2-meter voice communications as their primary public service modes. However, in a major disaster EOC, you will not see people writing down messages on pads of paper. If they have power, email and text will rule. Served agencies will not want hams to be the communications intermediary. They want hams to be the engineers who build, support and legally control the data connectivity to the outside world by using a HamRadio email gateway like WinLink. They will expect direct user-to-user connectivity in a busy EOC, not Radiograms. Granted, initial primitive communications may be established by voice on 75-meters or 6/2-meters, but they will soon expect their core activities to be supported on a direct user-to-user basis as if operations were normal. In this respect, hams may be lagging. Part of that solution is in training. The other part is in the hands of the manufacturers and other market forces. Hams are now in the unusual position of needing to play catch-up!"

Lots of good insights from Rick and the conference attendees. I wished that I had attended this forum. Something that we all have to keep in mind is that there will always be a bit of a difference between serving individuals versus agencies.

We tend to think of hams in the traditional role of moving health and welfare traffic for individuals into and out of an affected disaster area. Short haul or long haul, no matter how the message gets moved and generally without the need or expectation that the message is delivered forthwith, any organized means and mode would suffice. The National Traffic System is a good example of the maintenance of such a traditional system using phone and CW nets, locally, regionally, and cross country, to move traffic on a regular basis and to develop and maintain skilled operators.

But when we serve agencies, their communication needs, and expectations, will be different. A RadioGram formatted message may be insufficient. Messages may include complex text or data, or an attachment may need to be sent along with the message.

The agencies and their staff have all become used to communicating via e-mail or other text and data messaging systems. In the hours immediately after a disaster occurs, e-mail may be the least of their concerns. But as recovery efforts begin and commercial communication services are not yet back on line, if hams are going to have a role it may be as the service provider

and not necessarily as the communicators.

Not to worry. Hams need to be versatile and adaptable in emergency communications. What do you expect your served agencies' communication needs to be? How can you meet them? Can you do it with existing equipment and technology or is something new needed?

Let's be a part of the solution and be prepared to answer all of these questions before a disaster strikes.

Jim - KC8PD

Truck Hits Bus on way to Hamvention

On Saturday, May 19th, Interstate 70 westbound between State Route 235 and Interstate 75 reopened about 2 p.m. after being closed nearly four hours due to three separate accidents. Two of the accidents were minor with no injuries. An Akron bus driver was injured in the third, involving a charter bus and a semi tractor trailer. Our own Joe - W8KNO was on that bus. Look close, you'll see him in the blue jacket in the two bottom pictures:



PCARS Thursday Net Information

Net Schedule

June	
7	WB8LCD
14	K8CMP
21	KC8PD
28	W8KNO

August	
2	KB8UUZ
9	WB8LCD

July	
5	KB8UUZ
12	WB8LCD
19	K8CMP
26	KC8PD



Tom - WB8LCD

PCARS Net Control Coordinator

Note of Thanks

I want to express a note of thanks to everyone for their cards, emails, etc. in the recent death of my XYL, Janice. I'm slowly getting back into the ham radio hobby, especially Echolink, in the evenings. After dealing with the affairs of her estate during the day, ham radio/Echolink is a welcome diversion. A website in her memory is at www.wx1der.com/jan.htm

Daryl - N5VLZ

HAMVENTION 2007

A number of PCARS members managed to make the annual trek to the Dayton Hamvention. Here are a few of the notes we received from them:

Mine is probably a little different than most of the people who attended. I had not intended to drive; therefore, I went on a bus sponsored by the Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship of Akron. The bus was roomy and only 26 hams were aboard of which I believe four or five of us were not club members. We were at mile marker 37 on I-70, in the construction zone, when we had to slow because of a broken down car. In front of us was a steel hauler, who was also slowing. Behind us was a bulk carrier of cement, who instead of slowing, sped up and tried to go around us. He did not make it and crashed into the driver side rear knocking the bus into the concrete barrier and as we bounced off he passed us breaking out all the windows on the drivers side and pushing us into the steel hauler. Luckily, no other vehicles were involved. By the time we could get the emergency windows open, the driver and co-driver of another truck ran up with fire extinguisher and behind them was a plumber with his threading stand which was used as a step in getting out of the bus. The police, rescue squad and fire truck were there very rapidly. One of the hams who was sitting behind the driver was taken to a medical facility for treatment and the driver, who it

took two hours to extract from the wreckage, was transported to the hospital and was in serious condition. If you look carefully at the front picture of the bus, you will see the driver, with a neck collar, still trapped in the bus. After the driver was removed, we were transported to the exit and a RTA bus took us to the Hamvention. I missed the picture session but met up with our club members. As I think back, I want to thank them for listening to me. I was talking so rapidly that I now realize I must have been in some state of shock. Thanks guys! I also would like to thank the Pioneer ARF members who took me under their wings to make sure I would get home. My evaluation of the Hamvention, it was anti-climactic!

Joe - W8KNO

I look forward to Dayton just about each and every year; I started out going to Dayton back in the early 70's, the weather fluctuated then also. I recall in one of my earlier visits a teacher friend of mine WB8AIG, Pete, and I left the Rootstown area about 4a.m. in the morning with a temperature of about 65 degrees, shorts and shirt sleeve weather ...right?...well guess what happen next, that's right SNOW I spent most of the day indoors or in the darn truck. I am happy to say that Dayton had absolutely GREAT weather this year; it was sunny from the time I arrived on Thursday at about 8 a.m. till Saturday at closing around 6p.m.

I completely wore myself out running through the exhibits as well as the huge outdoor flea market. I mostly bought odds and ends that I needed and about 10 lbs of different connectors mostly "N" type, my best purchase was a great deal on a 500 foot spool of LMR-400 coax, which I badly needed so I can "restring" the towers so to speak.

The best part of Dayton was running into our friends and speaking of radio and non radio adventures, the other neat thing is to watch other's buy their "toys" it's great to see their faces light up, ask Tom WB8LCD and Jim KC8PD about their dual purchase. Dayton is an absolute wonder; Gang, I am looking forward to next year at Dayton already!

Ed - N8EQJ

I would have enjoyed Hamvention much more if I hadn't been stuck on I-70 behind the bus accident, for FOUR FREAKIN' HOURS. Joe W8KNO, who was in the bus, got out of there hours before I did. I didn't get to see much of the show. The part I did see, I enjoyed greatly. The most fun was wandering in the flea market with KD8AYJ dressed up in her hyena costume. It brought a smile to everyone's face, and she must have posed for a hundred pictures.

Bill - WB9LBI

First of all, thanks to all the PCARS members for encouraging me to go to Dayton. Here are my thoughts:

BIG - It's so big!! Everything you ever wanted as a HAM can be seen and discussed by people who know the equipment. The manufacturers booths were just great. I know I drooled a lot, but it just could not be helped. I would still like to get that 9 KW amp here for field day! We could run it low power - say 4000 watts? The flea market area was HUGE!! I saw just about every piece of equipment I had ever owned being offered for sale. Had I found an Eico 720, I probably would have bought it for nostalgia's sake.

All kidding aside, it was a blast. And to top it off, you had the opportunity to meet some of the Hams that you talk to but only recognize by Call. I recognized quite a few foreign calls and had a chance to talk with only a few but it was well worth the time spent. I know that my next time, and I hope there will be a next time, I will be a little more prepared. I realize now, looking back on the three days, that in many respects I was overwhelmed by the whole thing and would have a much more meaningful experience the next time I attend. But my first Dayton hamfest will be a memory I will cherish, even if I had to sleep on a hard floor.

Thanks for the memories!

Chuck - K8CMP

I had the opportunity to go to the Hamvention for my first time with fellow MARS members who invited me to go along. Of course I saw Jim KC8PD at the MARS forum and talked to him.

I also saw Joe W8KNO from a distance and did not get a chance to say hello because the group I was with was in a hurry moving in the opposite direction.

I was amazed at the size of this event. I managed to get around to see all the vendors inside and outside in the flea market, but really only scratched the surface of the entire event.

However, I did purchase my first HF rig because it was discounted more than I had seen before. Now, if I can only pass the general exam, I'll be in good shape!!

Gregory - KD8FDN

This was my 13th Dayton Hamvention and I look forward to every one. I really had fun this year when I talked Chuck - K8CMP into going along. Seeing him at his very first Hamvention was really nifty. I managed to pick up a few small items, I wasn't really going there for something big this year. Chuck and I did get to go to the DX Banquet Friday evening and we both enjoyed the dinner and presentation.

Meeting the PCARS members and ARRL officials in the ARRL area on Saturday was one of the highlights of the weekend. Just think, only 12 more months until Hamvention 2008!

Tom - KB8UUZ

Hamvention & PCARS Photos



K8CMP Resting in the ARRL Booth Area



I'll buy that, and that, and that, and that!



Icom Robot & K8CMP



N8EQJ KD8AYJ WB9LBI



WB8LCD calling on 800 MHz



Icom Robot & KB8UUZ





Plenty of goodies to ponder over



Great Weather to see all the great deals!



KC8PD - KB8UUZ - Norm Fusaro, W3IZ - WB8LCD



The PCARS members that gathered for a photo shot with the Great Lakes officials in the ARRL area.

Tom - KB8UUZ, Ed - N8EQJ, Bob - WB8OVQ,
 Jim - KC8PD, Karen - WD8BIW, Chuck - K8CMP,
 Mark - KC8FQV, Russ - KB8DPN, Tom - WB8LCD,
 Jim Weaver - K8JE - Great Lakes Division Director,
 Joe Phillips - K8QOE - Ohio Section Manager,
 Gary Johnston - KI4LA - Great Lakes Division Vice Director

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.

Free (Almost) Eyeball Cards

You can design and get 250 free "eyeball QSO" cards for a mere \$5.25 (the cost of shipping) by going to www.vistaprint.com. There are around 40 free designs to choose from. Here's a couple of examples:



Russ - KB8DPN

Antenna Set Up Day

Saturday, May 26th, was PCARS second annual Antenna Day at Ravenna City Park. This is our dry run for our setup on Field Day. It's a chance to try out antenna installations and equipment issues so that we, hopefully, don't have to deal with them on FD.

We had a great turnout. Over twenty PCARS members stopped by along with some visitors.

A big change for this year will be our use of computer logging. Jim, KC8RKV, and Russ, KB8DPN, have put a lot of work into this and did a full demo of the gear and software. They had a half dozen laptops linked through an on-site wi-fi system running the networked N3FJP Field Day software. They even had a good link

to the 40 meter station site about 250 feet away.

Bill, WB9LBI, took advantage of the logging software demo to offer training to new FD recruits, including one of our newest members, Mary Jo, KD8GGZ.

Ed, N8EQJ, wasn't kidding when he said he would get a killer forty meter phone station on the air. He will be erecting a monoband inverted vee in the outfield of the baseball field. You can see from the picture that he was not fooling around when he welded up a portable base for the antenna and



Ed - N8EQJ's custom mount

mounted it to 4x4 posts. Ed wanted to keep as much distance as possible for the forty meter station from the pavilion to minimize interference. He will have a screened canopy to protect the equipment and operators.

Chuck, K8CMP, will be running his Icom 7000 on twenty meters through a monoband sloper or vertical.



Getting the Logging Network going suffered from some interaction with the outfield fence. Expect some changes by FD.

The off-center fed multi-band dipole was strung as a horizontal to the east of the pavilion and this will likely be the setup on FD. In the brief time we were on the air we made one DX contact with this antenna into Venezuela on seventeen meters.

Additional antennas for FD will likely include a Buddipole for the fifteen meter GOTA station, a forty meter vertical Buddipole for CW, and a six and two meter beam for VHF.



WB9LBI & N8GLK share a laugh

Thanks to Leon, N8GLK, and Mary Jo, KD8GGZ, for bringing sandwiches for lunch. The chips and donuts just weren't enough.



WB8LCD runs through the photo shot

It was great to see Dan, KD8EPA, when he stopped by. He says he is feeling better and seems to be recovering well from his recent heart surgery.

We only had one brief interruption due to the rain, otherwise the weather cooperated. After having started setting up around ten we were pretty much cleared out by two o'clock.



N8EQJ with the 40 meter pole up and guyed

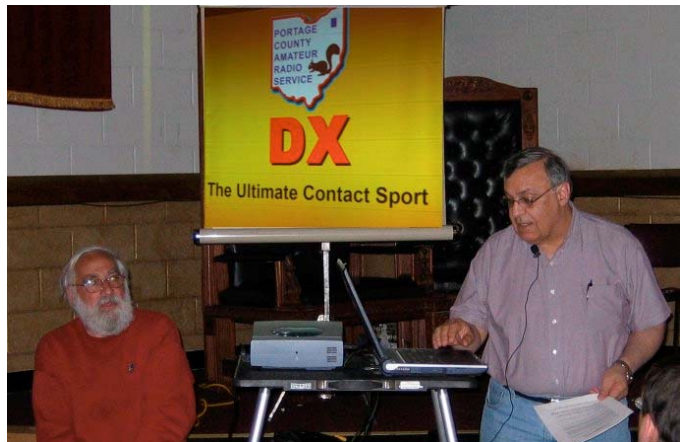
Hey, if twenty some people can have this much fun in four hours fooling around with antennas and computers, just think how great Field Day will be. See you there!

Jim - KC8PD

The following people were at the Antenna Day Set Up:

Tom - WB8LCD, Parky - KB8UUZ, Russ - KB8DPN,
Chuck - K8CMP, Jim - KC8PD, Leon - N8GLK,
Mary Jo - KD8GGZ, Jack - K8HGX, Ed - N8EQJ,
Jim - KC8RKV, Joe - KD8GHB, Mike - KB8TUY,
Bill - WB9LBI, Sam - KC8PIZ, Phil - KC8PHY,
Errol - KC8RJR, Dave - WB2DFC, Bobby - WB8FEW,
Ken - AB8IE, Dan - KD8EPA, Marty - N8XPK,
Art - KD8CGF, Rich - KD8FDK, Art (no call)

Pictures from the May Meeting



Thanks & 73

Well, that's the 6th 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, N5VLZ, KB8DPN, KD8FDN, N8EQJ, WB9LBI, K1RJZ, W2NI**, the **ARRL**, and the **World Wide Web**. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom - KB8UUZ
Newsletter Editor





Fundraising

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE INC.



We have partnered with Interstate Batteries to provide additional funding for the Portage County Amateur Radio Service through their online fundraising program. They have agreed to give 30% of the online sales back to us!

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.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

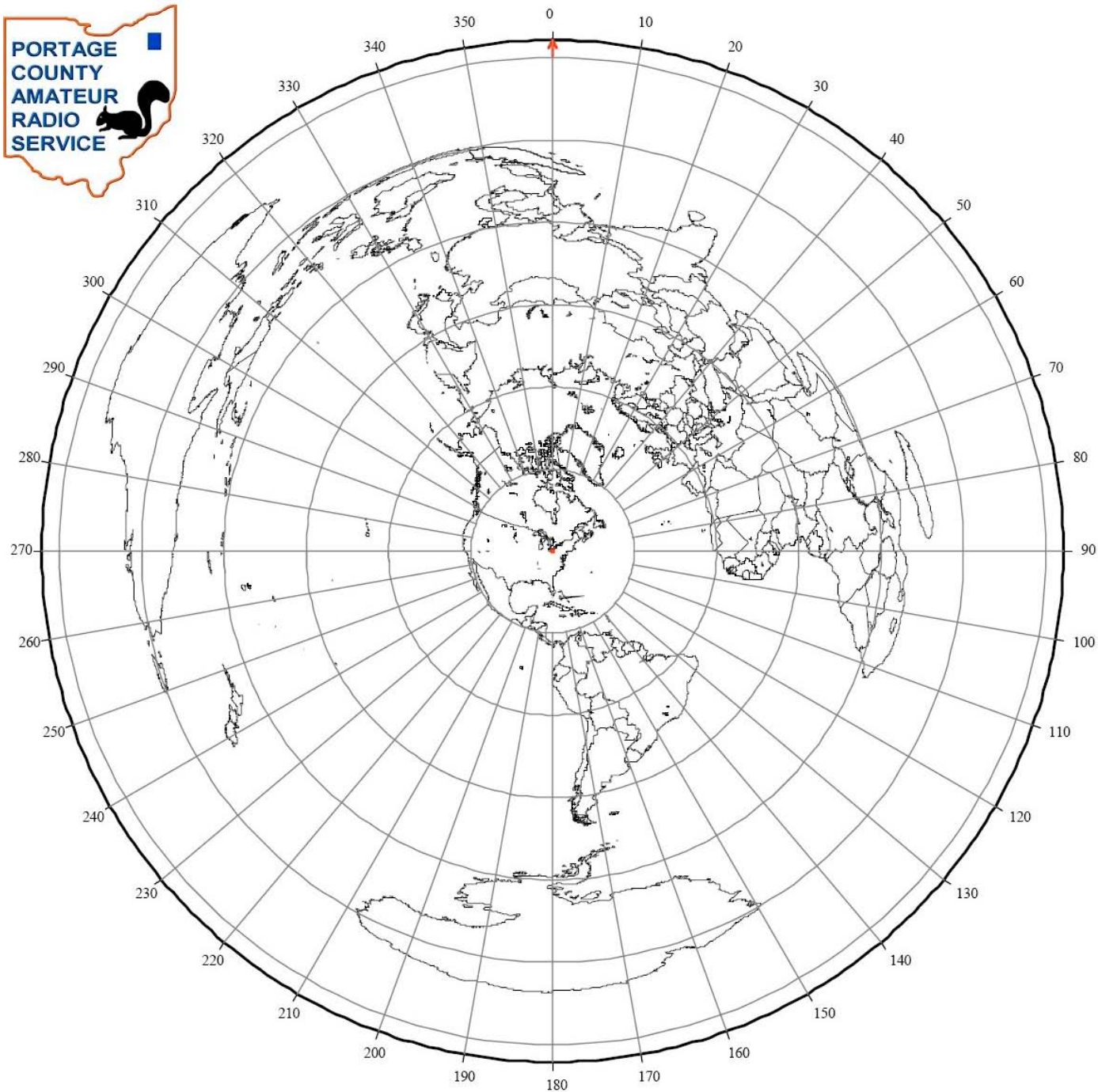
1. Visit www.interstatebatteries.com to start ordering batteries.
2. Enter your shipping information.
3. Enter your form of payment on our secured website.
4. Enter **pcars** in the coupon code field during checkout and Interstate Batteries will give 30% of the total sales amount back to the Portage County Amateur Radio Service throughout the year!

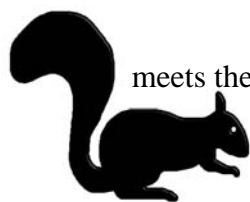
If you have any questions or problems contact the
Interstate Batteries Fundraising Department by:

Phone
800-830-9011



Email
fund-raising@ibsa.com





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
Web Master	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	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

The 'RADIOGRAM' is the official newsletter of the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.** - copyright © 2007. Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify it. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is you give credit to the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month, please have inputs submitted by the last Friday of each month - newsletter contact: KB8UUZ @ portcars.org ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: the Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys & gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and have migrated and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. So when you spot a black squirrel – **think PCARS!**

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