



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



May 2007 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 2 No. 5

~ 2007 Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
 Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
 Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
 3 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
 2 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL
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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

What's going on in Ham Radio?? That's a good question with lots of really good answers! How do you keep up with it all?

Well, the PCARS website is a great place to get started. You can pick up all of our newsletters there, from number one right on through to this one. If you weren't with us from the beginning, it's a great way to catch up on all the activities and meetings that have brought us to where we are today! The website also has some current news and activities information, our club constitution and mission statement and lots of other useful information. (I especially like the countdown to Dayton clock)

Another great website to check daily is the ARRL. Even if you don't belong to the ARRL, there is an awful lot of information there that's available to everyone. You might also want to check out the web sites for The Ohio Section Page and then The Great Lakes Division Home Page. Both of those will give you a lot of information as to what is happening in our area. I could give you a lot more sites to check out, but I want you to have some time for operating too! Oh yeah, we also have a links page on the PCARS site. We're just starting to get it populated, but lots of these links are to folks who support our club activities in one way or another. You may not know it, but The K1CRA Radio Store even offers PCARS members a 10% discount! Check out the vendors on our links pages and let them know we appreciate their support.

Our weekly net is another good resource for picking up on what's going on in our part of the world and the hobby. Even if you can't check in, listen in! While I certainly hope and expect you to check into the PCARS net, please check into the other nets that are held almost every night. And when you do, let them know that their friends at PCARS appreciate them being there!

I'm not going to try to tell anyone what a GREAT 'newsmagazine' PCARS has. We all know that. What I am going to do is give you all an assignment to try to help make it an even better publication – something with appeal hams beyond just to PCARS members! If you want to write, I'm encouraging you to submit an article of general amateur interest. A perfect example would be Russ's (KB8DPN) article last month on ARPS. That was a great article, something of interest to many of us, and it included a "how to get started" activity, which I think we all ought to try!

Not got a writer within you?? When you go to Dayton, you're going to see and hear some really interesting people talking about some really neat amateur radio topics. How about giving them one of your eyeball QSL cards and asking if they would write a short article and submit it to our newsletter editor?? Tell them about PCARS and offer to send them our next newsletter directly so they can see what we're up to.



Not going to Dayton? How about someone interesting you talk to on the air? What's it like being a ham in some far off country??

Lots of people out there have some interesting stories to tell, lets get them involved with PCARS!

We've got a really great club. It's important for all of us to keep up to date with what's going on in the hobby. We need to keep enlarging the circle of our influence to get others active, on the air, and excited about having fun! Most importantly, keep on having fun, learning new things, and trying new things.

Best 73 to all,
Tom - WB8LCD

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From the Vice President

If you missed the April meeting, we had an excellent presentation by Rick Kruis - AAA5RD/K8CAV, the Region 5 Director of the Army Military Affiliate Radio Service (MARS). Rick is the past Ohio state director of Army MARS who was recently promoted to the Region 5 Director position. He is also a local guy who lives in Hiram.

If you are familiar with the traditional role of MARS, which was moving traffic in and out of the country for service members on active duty, Rick did a great job of explaining how the MARS mission has changed dramatically. The demand for message handling and phone patches has greatly declined. This is not a surprise given the growth of the internet and accessibility of cell and satellite phone services.

So now Army MARS is re-defining itself as a provider of emergency communication services and has upgraded its expectations for training and participation by its members. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has entered into an agreement

with Army MARS to use it for backup communications around the country.

MARS operators need to be capable of moving traffic and participating in nets using both voice and digital modes. One of the soundcard digital modes that sees a lot of use on HF is MT-63 which can be run with free software. It is relatively fast and works well for moving text messages. Winlink/Airmail are used for moving e-mail messages via HF or VHF.



Rick is a real fan of digital modes and particularly those that use the computer's soundcard. He has graciously offered his assistance to PCARS to put together a soundcard interface kit as a club project that would cost about twenty to twenty-five bucks. At this point we are looking at this as a possible club activity for October.

Don't forget that 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.

Thanks to all who helped out at the PCARS Clean and Paint Day at the former ODOT property. This space that is made available to us at no cost by Family & Community Services, Inc., presents a wonderful opportunity to PCARS to have storage and work space as well as a location for a club station. We should be able to enjoy lots of good ham radio fun in the years to come using this space.

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

Propagation will be getting better and we will be looking ahead to probably the biggest QSO Party in September, known as the California QSO Party. During this event, it is possible to work all fifty-eight



counties or come mighty close. If you can confirm all fifty-eight counties, you are eligible for the WACC (Worked All California Counties) Award. The Northern California Contest Club sponsors the WACC award.

RULES:

1. Contacts may be made on any amateur radio band or mode (no repeater/digipeater contacts).
2. A confirmation must be presented for each of the 58 counties.
3. Each confirmation must have the county indicated, printed or written.
4. All contacts must be made from the same country.
5. Portable and mobile units may be worked.
6. The award is endorsable by band and mode.
7. You do not have to be a member of the NCCC.
8. Your confirmation will be returned with the WACC Award.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Complete the single page application and send it with a \$3 handling fee to:

NCCC WACC Award
c/o Fred Jensen - K6DGW
670 Old Airport Road
Auburn, CA 95603

You can download the form in either .doc or .pdf format from <http://www.nccc.cc.wacc.html>

You may be asking why I would mention this so early in the year. Welllllllll. If you have been attempting to work all the counties in California, you would know that Yolo County is one of the harder ones to get; but the special event station W6Y used by the Yolo District Boy Scouts will be on the air for their Camporee, May 4-6, Radio Daze, June 22-24, and Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), October 20-21. They will

operate SSB near 3.940, 7.190 and 14.290. The good news is they will QSL 100%. Send the QSL request to:

Bill Ragsdale - K6KN
PO Box 1500
Woodland, CA 95776

More info, go to: <http://YoloBSA.editme.com/w6Y>

Hope to hear you in the pile ups.

Joe - W8KNO

Field Day 2007

We are two months away from Field Day and want to remind all PCARS members how important it is that we have a great turnout with plenty of participation.

PCARS' number one goal for Field Day is FUN and the good times can only get better if all of our members attend.

Volunteers are needed for setup on Saturday, June 23rd starting around mid-morning and then again for teardown on Sunday afternoon. In between, there are plenty of opportunities for HF and VHF operations by phone, CW, and digital modes. Remember, no matter what license you hold there will be Amateur Extra control operators present so that you can operate across the HF ham bands.



Logging this year will be done with N3FJP's Field Day logging software. It is easy to use and you can learn it quickly so don't hesitate to help an operator by logging for him or her.

We will also have a Get On The Air (GOTA) station,



so bring the kids or grandkids, friends, family members or neighbors, anyone who would like to learn more about amateur radio. They will have a chance to grab that mic and find out how much fun it is to get on the air!

Remember that Field Day is one of ham radio's best opportunities to educate the public and demonstrate the utility and enjoyment of our hobby. Our Field Day will be in a highly visible location at the Ravenna City Park and this is your chance to be a goodwill ambassador to the visitors who stop by.

And did we mention the food and beverages? Lunch on Saturday followed by our traditional cookout for PCARS members on Saturday evening. Breakfast on Sunday morning, which the overnight ops will be craving, and lunch after teardown. You can't beat it!

Don't forget to note on your calendar that May 26th will be Antenna Day at City Park. This will be our dry run for Field Day and after we finish for the day you can be sure that there will be an enjoyable debriefing at a local establishment.

So make sure that you join us on Field Day. Lend a hand, get on the air, have some fun!

Jim - KC8PD
Field Day Chairman

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Good day from the Geauga County QTH of K8CMP. A lot has happened since last month and I'd like to say



that all of it was great. But..... I won't bore you with the details. Let's just say that I'm glad April is over and May is a welcomed sight. I hope that I will be able to see some of you in Dayton at this month's Hamvention. It will be my first trip to this event and I am really looking forward to experience it along with

some of my fellow PCARS members. I'm hoping to meet some of many hams that I have had QSO's with since I know that many foreign hams make the pilgrimage to Dayton every year.

A lot of very good DX has been on the bands during the last month and I hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to work some of it. According to the AR-Cluster Network for the week of Sunday, April 8, through Sunday, April 15, there were 235 countries active.

This month's column is presented with *thanks to the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, the ARRL DX Bulletin, and the 425DX News*. Thank you again Tedd Mirgliotta, for your excellent Ohio/Penn DX bulletin. At tip of my PCARS labeled hat to Tedd. So lets see what we can expect in May.

3B6 – Agalega. There will be a group of hams from Poland who will be active from Agalega in June. They will leave Poland on 28 May and expect to be on the island for 12-15 days starting around 6 June. QSL via SP9SX.

6W – Senegal. EA4ATI is returning to Dakar, Senegal and will remain there until April 2008. He expects to be active as 6W/EA4ATI and 6W1EA, probably with a beam for 10, 15 and 20 meters, and dipoles for the other bands. QSL direct via homecall.

9A – Croatia. I6GFX and I6QIZ will be active as 9A/I6GFX from Croatia on June 23-28. Their main QTH will be on Murter Island (IOCA CI-074), and they plan to go and operate from a few EU-170 counters: Arta Vela (CI-004), Kornat (CI-042), Murvenjak (CI-075), Radelj (CI-097), Vela Smokvica (CI-107), Vrgada (CI-143) and Prisnjak Mali (CI-488). QSL via home call, or bureau.

9H – Malta. DL9MWG will be active as 9H3RT from Malta (EU-023) from April 28 through May 11. Activity will be on the HF bands mainly on CW. QSL via DL9MWG.

9N- Nepal. JA2AAU, JA2AIC & JA2ATE will be active as

9N7AU, 9N7IC & 9N7TE respectively from Kathmandu, Nepal May 10-15. Operating SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31 on 10-40 meters. QSL via home calls. [TNX JA1ELY]

BS7- Scarborough Reef. Suggested frequencies for the forthcoming BS7H operation from Scarborough Reef are as follows:

BAND	SSB	CW	RTTY
160	1826.5	-	
80	3799	3504	-
40	7057	7004	-
30	10104	10142	
20	14185	14024	14080
17	18145	18074	-
15	21295	21024	21080
12	24945	24894	-
10	28475	28024	28080

Expect activity to start by the end of April. Bookmark the expedition's website, as official information will be posted there. QSL via KU9C. Logs will be available at <http://www.bs7h.com/> after the end of the expedition.

BY - Dongxilian Island (AS-135). BA4XA, BA4XYL, BA4VE, BD4XD, BD4XW, BG6IQD and BG4VGJ will be active as homecall/4 from Dongxilian Island (AS-135) on May 1-7. They will operate on or around the usual IOTA frequencies using 100 watts into a 2-element yagi, vertical and dipole antennas. QSL via home calls.

CT - CQ5MGP is the special callsign used by the Portuguese Navy amateur radio group (Nucleo de Radioamadores da Armada, CS5NRA) during the Portuguese Navy Day Contest. This year's event will be held on May 5-6. (rules can be found at www.nra.pt).

E5 – North Cook Islands - KM9D (E51QMA) and KF4TUG (E51TUG) have departed for the North Cook Islands. Their destination is Suvarrow Atoll (OC-080); they expect to remain there "until sometime in May".

G - Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, was founded in 1607. Members from a number of amateur radio clubs from the east coast area of the UK will operate special event station GB400AA (Anniversary of America, <http://www.gb400aa.net/>) on May 11-13. Expect activity on various HF bands (primarily 20, 40 and 80 meters) using CW and SSB. GB400AA might also participate in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest and be active at other times during May. QSL via G0SBW.

OD – Lebanon. CT1EFS is currently in Shama, Lebanon and will remain there until early June. He is waiting for the authorization to operate as OD5/CT1EFS, and plans are to be active daily on 15, 17 and 20 meters (possibly 40 meters as well) SSB and CW starting around 16:30 UTC.

OZ - DL4VM will be active as OZ/DL4VM from Samso Island (EU-172) from April 21 to May 5. He will operate QRP on 40, 20 and 15 meters CW only. QSL via home call.

IOTA NEWS

Here are some other interesting operations that will be going on.

AS-080. HL1VAU, DS2GOO and DS4NYE are planning to activate Anmyon Island (Korean Distiction Number F26) during the first weekend in May. Operators will sign homecall/3. The team will use some wire antennas with simple barefoot mobile transceiver. Most of their activity will be on the digital modes and the WARC bands.

EU-060. Members of the White Tower DX Team will be active from Skyros Island (MIA MG-115, WLOTA LH-2002), June 17-22nd. Activity will be on all bands and modes. Operators mentioned SV0XAW, SV2FPU, SV2HNZ, SV2HOB, SV2HPP, SV2HPY, SV2HRT and SV2HSV. QSL via SV2HPP.

EU-158. A group of OM/YL German operators will active from Proti Island (MIA MG-092) between July 26-31st. Their activity will also include the upcoming RSGB IOTA Contest. Look for the OM operators to be active as J48IO. They plan to run 2 stations simultaneously from 160-10 meters. Each station has its own generator and antenna setup for 160-10 meters. The YL operators will be active as J48YL. Activity will also include the RSGB IOTA Contest on all bands and modes. QSL route for both callsigns are DK7AO. Bureau QSL cards are preferred.

EU-172. DO2ML, will be active as OZ/DO2ML from Aeroe Island (DIA FY-014, WLOTA LH-0973), June 4-7th. Activity will be on 80/40/20 meters SSB only. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

CQ DX MARATHON

I mentioned this a few months ago, but thought that it was valuable to mention again. For 2007, the WARC bands are now permitted. This year's Marathon began at 00:00 UTC on 1 January and will end at 23:59 UTC on 31 December. Complete rules and submission information can be found at www.dxmarathon.com

Well that's some of what is going on in May and some of the other coming months. I hope you get on the HF bands and work some DX. See you down the log.

Chuck - K8CMP

216 Miles

It's only about 216 miles from downtown Ravenna to the Hara Arena which is where the DAYTON HAMVENTION is at !! For those of you that have never been there, I highly recommend you take the trek.



The Dayton Hamvention is THE place to go. Hams from all over the world only dream of going there, and here we are, practically in the Hamvention back yard. Even if you don't buy anything, just walking around the

flea market (about 3 football fields big!) and see the inside vendors is a real treat for any ham operator.

I've been going there since 1994 and I look forward to going every year. I've even driven down there and walked around on Friday, came home, rested up on Saturday and went back again for Sunday a few years!!

You just gotta go!! While there, check out the forums and the ARRL Expo area (see related ARRL EXPO information later in this newsletter). Hope to see you there May 18, 19, 20th.

Tom - KB8UUZ



Echolink Activity

If you check in on the PCARS Thursday night net on a regular basis, you know why our motto of taking check-ins "from around the corner to around the world" is so true. Over time we have heard from hams in countries such as Australia and India as well as from fifteen to twenty states.

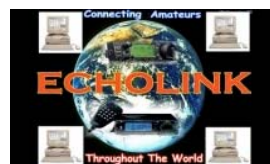
But the availability of our local Echolink node, courtesy of Jim - KC8RKV, should not just be thought as just an extra feature for the net. In fact, Jim created the node so that when he was vacationing in Canada he could hit an area repeater that is connected to Echolink and communicate with his son, Albert - KC8ZZG, who was operating portable with an HT on the KSU campus.

Conversely, Albert could punch the Canadian Echolink node number into his HT and initiate a contact with his dad. All in all, a great way to stay in touch when cell phone or landline services were not available.

Like the TV ads say, "But wait, there's more." You can have Echolink capability from your computer if you have downloaded the software from www.echolink.org and registered your ham license with the Echolink managers. Unlike IRLP, you do not have to initiate a QSO from a radio, it can start at the computer.

There are hams around the world who are getting on the air the same way and all of us, Technicians included, have the chance to work Echolink DX with the assistance of the internet. And this capability creates the opportunity for one of those completely random QSO's that enables you to make a personal connection with hams in distant locations.

So listen for that friendly Echolink computer voice



announcing "KC8RKV connected..." followed by the call sign of the ham connecting to the Kent node. You may not hear them transmit their call sign like a local repeater connection, so give them a few seconds and if nothing is heard give them a call back.

Recently I was mobile and heard an Echolink connection by DL7EB. I called him back and that led to a nearly hour long contact. His name is Udo and he is seventy-six, retired, and resides in southern Germany. He lives in an apartment and cannot install an antenna for HF work so he was using an HT to access an Echolink connected repeater that was about four kilometers from his home.

Udo and his XYL had visited the States over thirty times and during our QSO he dug out the maps that he had of Ohio, right down to a map of Ravenna! He asked about local restaurants such as Guido's and was even able to locate my house while I was sitting in the driveway talking to him.

It turned out that Udo had just punched in random numbers for an Echolink node to connect to and he could not remember the numbers that he had used. Disaster almost struck when he had asked me for KC8RKV's node number, which I did not recall (15994, by the way) and when I went in the house to check on the computer Udo was disconnected from his local repeater.

Things worked out when he recalled how to reconnect to the last node number that he had tried and he was back on the repeater. Thanks to KC8RKV for providing the needed information during the QSO which he had been monitoring. Even better, Udo provided us with his local node number, 246630.

So, long story short, when you get on Echolink, whether by computer or the repeater, log on to node number 246630 and give a call to DL7EB. Remember that there is a six hour time difference so if it is dinner time here Udo is probably in bed. Hopefully you will reach him. Make sure that you tell him that you are in the Portage County, Ohio, area and how you happened to give him a shout. I know that he will enjoy it.

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

May 8 - Maplewood Career Center - 7 pm
Jun 2, Aug 4, Oct 6, Dec 1 - Center of Hope - 10 am

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At our VE session on April 5th five new Technicians passed their tests, and one of them, PCARS member Ray Czech - KD8FYQ, also passed his General test. The other new Techs include Philip Raczka - KD8FYP, Brian Gibbons - KD8FYO, Bryan Molnar - KD8FYN, and Shannon Rote - KD8FYM. (*editor's note: Ray - KD8FYQ has since passed his Amateur Extra test and has the new call of AB8YN*)

In addition, seven hams upgraded. Congratulations to PCARS members Bob - KD8FLX, and Kathy Leasure - KD8FLW, as well as Scott Moyer - KD8FKG, who each upgraded to General! This is quite an accomplishment for each of them having just passed the Tech test after taking the PCARS Winter Technician course.

Additional congratulations to PCARS member Jim Godfrey - KC8RKV, our Echolink guru, who upgraded to Amateur Extra!

The other upgrades included John Gibbons - N8OJB, who passed both General and Amateur Extra; Dennis Gugliotta - KC8KPH, who upgraded to General; and James Elkins, Jr. - KA8PHO, who is now an Amateur Extra class operator.

On May 8th at 7:00 p.m., the PCARS VE team will be conducting a test session on the last night of the Technician class at Maplewood. Remember that we will also be taking walk-ins for this exam session so if you know anyone interested in taking the Technician test or upgrading mention this session to them.

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 – Extra tests at every session.

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.

**Jim - KC8PD**  
**PCARS VE Coordinator**



## CFARC Hamfest Report

What a great day for the CFARC hamfest! I drove myself that morning due to other obligations I would have to rush off to right after the hamfest visit. I arrived about 8:30 am and was about the last PCARS member to show up there! Everywhere you looked one could find



one of our club members looking around and/or talking with fellow hams. It's good to see our club members out and about enjoying this hobby we all share.

For those of you who still haven't picked up the older *OUTSTANDING* ARRL Handbooks this hamfest was the tops so far out of all I have attended to date for that opportunity! There were handbooks from the mid 40's, the 50's and the 60's sitting on tables just begging for a new owner to snatch them up! The prices were in the \$5, \$7 and the \$9 range for a terrific reference source for the foundation of ham radio when most everything was either build-it-yourself or not have it for the typical ham.

I bought a new book while at the hamfest: The RSGB/ARRL Power Supply Handbook by John Fielding-ZS5JF. The book was not sealed so I had the opportunity to scan through it while standing at the vendors table. And what I saw I liked so much that I bought the book. There are many interesting books from The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) that the ARRL also sells.

I have a couple others and I find them most informative and interesting. It is clear that these other hams from around the world who take the time to write these books are trying to share their knowledge and passion for this hobby with others for the common good of ham radio as a whole. For a person who is buying his first book or his one and only book on Power Supplies I would strongly recommend this RSGB/ARRL Power Supply Handbook by ZS5JF.

For the experimenters, this CFARC hamfest had many electronic parts and items sitting out on the many tables one could choose from. I did get a couple small items but I value the book I bought as the outstanding find of the day!

Everyone has their own opinion as to great hamfest "finds" and that is what makes these hamfests so good. There are many different roads one can follow there by his/her choice of what to pick up .... and all the roads lead to fun with ham radio.

So, thank you CFARC for another outstanding hamfest!

**Al - KB8VJL**

## 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



## EmComm

The issues surrounding the American Red Cross decision to require background checks on its volunteers just will not go away.

If you have been reading the news at the ARRL web site, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/04/16/100/?nc=1>, or in the ARRL Letter of April 20<sup>th</sup>, or the ARES E-letter of April 18<sup>th</sup>, or even the most recent issue of CQ magazine, there was no escaping the continuing controversy.

For a quick recap, last year the ARC announced that all of its volunteers would be required to submit to a background check conducted by a third-party contractor, MyBackgroundCheck.com. On its face it wasn't a bad idea but stuff started to hit the fan when ARC volunteers read the release form at [www.mybackgroundcheck.com](http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com) and noticed how extensive the release was.



It authorized the company to do not only a criminal background check but also a credit check and a "mode-of-living" check. These can be extensive. In addition, volunteers had concerns about the security of the data because it was being collected and maintained by a third-party, for profit, business. Volunteers worried about who else might gain access to the data.

Initially it was only the ARC volunteers who had reason to be concerned and, apparently, significant numbers of volunteers chose to discontinue their affiliation with the Red Cross rather than submit to the checks. But as time went on and inquiries were made, the ARC took the position that even non-ARC volunteers who were assisting in a relief effort would be subject to the checks.

Enter the ARRL, parent of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The ARRL advocated on behalf of ARES volunteers and raised the issue as to whether this policy should apply to ARES volunteers or not, since they are ARES volunteers, not ARC staff. EmComm chat rooms and reflectors buzzed with discussions about the issue, much of it quite vocal and the majority of it opposed to the ARC position.



As time went by, the ARC has finally decided to relent, if just a bit. Its current position is that ARES volunteers will not have to submit to the background check unless their in-the-field service exceeded seven days. More than seven days and a background check would be necessary.

However, the ARC would not require MyBackgroundCheck.com to change the authorization forms to delete the provisions regarding credit and mode-of-living checks. The ARC contends that it will not generally do these on ham radio volunteers but still wants to retain that ability.

The ARRL has a long-standing Statement of Understanding with the ARC and that document expires this year. The ARRL and ARC are now in the six month period prior the expiration of the SoU during which they can renegotiate its terms. Who knows what they may lead to?

In the meantime, the ARRL will not take any position on what volunteers or other organizations should do about the ARC background check policy. All the ARRL will say is that its members should carefully review any consent documents that allow private organizations to perform these types of investigations.

On a local note, the recently revived Portage County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) does require a criminal background check on its volunteers. If you are interested in being a RACES volunteer you may want to know a bit more about this.

First, there is a really good reason why RACES units require these checks. They are formed to assist public service agencies, including safety forces, all of which have good reason to ensure that communication

volunteers who may have access to confidential information or access to secure sites are the kind of people who can be trusted in those situations.

RACES volunteers could find themselves working with the Emergency Operation Center at the Sheriff's Department or on-site at a police or fire department, or even within Robinson Memorial Hospital. Can you blame any of those served agencies for wanting to know who is there?

Second, the background check is for criminal records only and the results of the background check will be the confidential record of RACES which is a unit of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. It will not be made available to any third party and it will be secure. Plus, this criminal record check is conducted by the Portage County Sheriff's Office, which can only be done because it is for a public agency.

Third, RACES wants to ensure that its volunteers are properly credentialed. This includes not just an amateur radio operator's license plus training and experience, but also that they are people who can be trusted. When served agencies see that RACES identification, it should bring instant credibility.

Clearly there is a time and place for background checks for emcomm volunteers and the debate will continue as to how extensive they should be, who should be required to submit, the security of the data and who will have access to it. ARES volunteers in particular will want to continue to monitor this situation if they will be assisting the Red Cross in relief efforts.

*Jim - KC8PD*

## ***Mark Your Calendars***

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- o **May 14th** club meeting – **DXing, Chuck - K8CMP**
- o **May 26th** – **Antenna Setup Day** at Ravenna City Park
- o **June 11<sup>th</sup>** club meeting – **QRP - Anthony - K8ZT**
- o **June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>** – **FIELD DAY!**
- o **July 9th** club meeting – topic open
- o **July activity** – tentative project: handheld satellite antenna
- o **August 13th** club meeting – tentative – **HF Mobile**
- o **August 18th** – **2nd Annual 2 Meter FM Simplex Sprint**
- o **August 25th** – **Ohio QSO Party** – PCARS Club Station
- o **September 10th** club meeting – **APRS, Russ - KB8DPN**
- o **September 14th** – **KSU Black Squirrel Festival** – special event station
- 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: sound card interface



## 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**

## May Contest Calendar

| May, 2007                      |                                                |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| AGCW QRP/QRP Party             | 1300Z-1900Z, May 1                             |
| 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW  | 0001Z, May 5 - 2359Z, May 6                    |
| 7th Call Area QSO Party        | 1300Z, May 5 - 0700Z, May 6                    |
| NA Meteor Scatter Spring Rally | 1300Z, May 5 - 1500Z, May 7                    |
| Indiana QSO Party              | 1600Z, May 5 - 0400Z, May 6                    |
| New England QSO Party          | 2000Z, May 5-0500Z, May 6 & 1300Z-2400Z, May 6 |
| Mid-Atlantic QSO Party         | 1600Z, May 12 - 0400Z, May 13                  |
| FISTS Spring Sprint            | 1700Z-2100Z, May 12                            |
| 50 MHz Spring Sprint           | 2300Z, May 12 - 0300Z, May 13                  |
| QRP Minimal Art Session        | 1900Z-2300Z, May 17                            |
| US Counties QSO Party, SSB     | 0000Z, May 19 - 2400Z, May 20                  |
| Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  | 0100Z-0300Z, May 21                            |
| CQ WW WPX Contest, CW          | 0000Z, May 26 - 2359Z, May 27                  |

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Two PCARS member have a birthday in May:

**KC8ZZG - Al Godfrey**

**WB8FEW - Bobby Pruett**

## ARRL Withdraws "Regulation by Bandwidth" Petition

### - Plans to Re-File -

The ARRL has withdrawn its controversial November 2005 Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) <[http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-](http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-1306/RM-11306-asFiled.pdf)

1306/RM-11306-asFiled.pdf> calling on the FCC to establish a regulatory regime to segment bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The League cited "widespread misconceptions" surrounding the petition as a primary reason for deciding to remove it from FCC consideration. The ARRL left open the option of refiling the same or a similar petition in the future, however.

"The withdrawal of the petition will permit a full discussion and consideration of options at the July 2007 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors," said ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. "The petition then can be recast with a better explanation of its scope and the reasons for the proposed changes."

The ARRL Executive Committee recommended withdrawing the petition when it met by teleconference April 10. The ARRL Board of Directors subsequently okayed the EC's recommendation by mail vote.

The ARRL Board continues to support the concept of regulation by maximum emission bandwidth as a way to facilitate the eventual transition from analog to digital communication modes. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, emphasized that the League seeks a regulatory framework that's "fully compatible with both narrowband and wideband analog emission modes now in common use" on the ham bands.

Sumner expressed the hope that a refiled regulation-by-bandwidth petition would "address -- and hopefully avoid -- widespread misconceptions" about RM-11306, either in its original form or as amended earlier this year. Irrespective of the present controversy over the petition's proposals, he pointed out, the League repeatedly sought comment on its regulation-by-bandwidth concepts before filing its petition with the FCC.

The ARRL first sounded out the Amateur Radio community regarding regulation-by-bandwidth three years ago. A September 2004 "It Seems to Us" QST editorial "Regulation by Bandwidth" followed, explaining the concept and its rationale. Hundreds of subsequent comments from ARRL members and others "helped to bring the issues on which the amateur community was not in agreement into focus."

That led to a second editorial, "Narrowing the Bandwidth Issues," in April 2005 QST, soliciting additional comments on the plan's most contentious points. That drew hundreds more constructive and critical comments, and the ARRL took all input into account in developing a draft petition for the Board's consideration. The ARRL filed the petition in November



2005, and the FCC put it on public notice in January 2006.

In all, the amateur community has posted upward of 1000 comments on RM-11306. While some comments appropriately reflected concerns about the proposed substantial shift in regulatory philosophy, others tended to reflect a lack of understanding of existing rules, of the ARRL's proposals, or both. Some expressed the view that the League was attempting to promote or legitimize particular data modes, such as Winlink.

"The petition, in fact, had nothing specifically to do with Winlink or any other particular data mode," Sumner maintains. "It was, rather, a means of facilitating data experimentation, which is somewhat stifled under the current rules" that apply almost exclusively to analog modes.

A major distraction in the public debate related to automatically controlled data stations, and assertions that adopting the League's petition would permit such facilities to run roughshod over CW and other traditional modes.

Sumner says automatic control is not even an essential component of the League's regulation-by-bandwidth proposals, which would leave in place restrictions on automatically controlled stations.

Revisions to RM-11306 the ARRL filed earlier this year to accommodate changes in Part 97 that occurred since November 2005 only seemed to generate additional controversy and lead to further confusion, Sumner concedes. Those revisions would have largely confined regulation by bandwidth to the VHF and UHF bands.

One misunderstanding resulting from an unintentional editorial error in the League's revisions gave rise to concerns that the ARRL's proposed 3 kHz bandwidth limitation for data emissions represented an expansion of the currently permitted maximum bandwidth. Quite the contrary, Sumner explains.

"In fact, 3 kHz bandwidth would have been a new limitation, because the present baud rate limit applies to individual carriers," he said. "Therefore, for emissions such as OFDM [orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing], which use multiple carriers, there is no effective bandwidth limit in the HF bands now." Sumner notes that under current rules, a single OFDM signal could conceivably -- and legally -- occupy an entire HF band.

Harrison assured that the League intends to offer a "far better explanation" of the consequences of regulation by bandwidth before filing a new petition proposing that regulatory concept, "so that the

misunderstandings that occurred with respect to RM-11306 do not happen again."

*From the ARRL*

## SATERN

I recently got involved in SATERN (Salvation Army



Team Emergency Radio Network). It supports the Salvation Army (SA) communications when

SA is activated after a disaster.

I attended a Division Committee meeting in Cleveland April 26th and attended a training session, (Intro to Disaster Services) in Youngstown the following day. The SATERN web site is at: [www.satern.org](http://www.satern.org).

If any club members are interested in finding out more about SATERN, they can email me at [N4TIE@portcars.org](mailto:N4TIE@portcars.org).

*Carl - N4TIE*

## Contesting

Two months ago, I copied an article from the Mad River Radio Club Sweepstakes Handbook. Included in the handbook is a page on "Low Power Techniques" which is of interest because Field Day, which is coming soon, is similar to Sweepstakes as to operating and I have copied the information here:

### Low Power Techniques

Running 100W in SS can be very challenging but with proper planning it can be very rewarding. You do not need an enormous antenna system to be successful - a low tribander and dipoles for 40M and 80M can produce 800+ QSOs from here in W8.

The first thing to consider is where to obtain the most QSOs for the effort and amount of time spent operating. Being located in the 8th call district in the mid-west, the most productive bands that we have for SS is 40M and 80M. Using these two bands as your bread and butter for making contacts you should be very successful, while 15M and 20M can be used for picking up multipliers out west. If your operating time is limited and you're getting on to help the club, these are the two bands you will get the most out of for the amount of time you have to operate.

Start the contest on 40M and run for the first 15-20 minutes calling CQ and S&P through the band, then take a switch to 15M (if it is open) or 20M to S&P for multipliers. Always watch the rate meter because it prevents you from staying too long on a band without

maintaining a decent rate. You have to remain flexible enough to make the necessary band changes to maintain a good rate level to hit your QSO target.

Remember, the majority of the time you will make the most QSOs the first day. After sweeping 20M for mults, it's back to 40M for running rate. Start out at one end of the band or the other and work your way up or down looking for a clear spot to call CQ. Stick with this sequence for the next three hours until 80M opens up, usually around 0030-0100Z. Switch to 80M and use it for the run band and switch back to 40M to run when the rate drops. It is important to utilize the rate meter as much as possible when making band changes. If you are not making any rate then there is no sense in sitting there calling CQ. You need to start sweeping the current band that you are on or go to a different one. If you are successful, you will finish up the first twelve hours with 500+ QSOs.

Start up Sunday morning for the first hour or so on 80M or until the rate drops and then switch over to 40M. Most of the day will be spent on 40M with band changes to 15M/20M to get some rate going. However, if there is no real rate switch back to 40M. Finish up the contest either on 40M or 80M depending on which band is producing. One thing to keep in mind is the last half-hour of the contest will often yields some pretty good results. People are looking to get the 100 QSO pin and others just looking for another contact to work as they sweep the bands. So it is important to just pick out a spot for the last half-hour and call CQ.

The real key is to keep the rate going. A lot has been said about this, but maintaining a good rate level will help you get a good score. Sometimes just moving 20-30 KHz and calling CQ will often get the rate going again.

One last point is to THINK POSITIVE. Having the right attitude, thinking and operating like you are a "BIG GUN" even though you are just a pee shooter will help you achieve the results you desire.

**Joe - W8KNO**

## ***Hamfest Calendar***

**18-20 May 2007 - Dayton Hamvention** - Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd. - Dayton, OH - Dayton ARA - <http://www.hamvention.org/>

**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](mailto:hamfest2007@breezshooters.com)

## ***Furry Hams***

My daughter, Julie - KD8AYJ was featured in Amateur Radio Newsline on March 30. Transcript here: [www.qrz.com/ib-bin/ikonboard.cgi?act=ST&f=3&t=151106](http://www.qrz.com/ib-bin/ikonboard.cgi?act=ST&f=3&t=151106)

Turns out that this was excerpted from two(!) RAIN Report podcasts, which were devoted to her. Audio of the RAIN Report on 3/29 and 4/5 is found here: [www.therainreport.com/rainreport.shtml](http://www.therainreport.com/rainreport.shtml)

Julie will also be appearing (in costume) at Dayton Hamvention at the Ham Radio Town Hall forum. Schedule here: [hamvention.org/forums.htm](http://hamvention.org/forums.htm)

This was all predicated on Julie's Youtube video, in which she invades the sanctity of my shack and pesters me while I'm on the air:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8Mv6IEZfpM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8Mv6IEZfpM)



As of this writing, this video has been viewed almost 3,000 times. There are two other videos to with it.

Alarmingly, there is an entire website devoted to ham who wear furry costumes: [furryhams.org](http://furryhams.org)

Somewhere there's an on-line video of hams conducting a foxhunt while dressed in costume. Julie knows where it is ..... I don't want to know.

**Bill - WB9LBI**

## ***PCARS Meetings - Mike's Place***

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

meets on the second

Monday of every month at Mike's Place -

1700 S. Water

St. - Kent. Meetings start at 7 PM sharp and all are invited to attend. You can find out a whole lot more about Mike's Place on the web at: [www.mikesplacerestaurant.com](http://www.mikesplacerestaurant.com)

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





## ***Armed Forces Day - Crossband Test***

Armed Forces Day falls on Saturday, May 19th this year which, unfortunately, is during the Dayton Hamvention weekend. We say unfortunately because an Armed Forces Day tradition has been the Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test. This is one of those special opportunities for hams to communicate directly with radio operators in a different radio service.



So in order to ensure that as many hams as possible will have a chance to participate the event is being moved up to a week earlier on Saturday, May 12th. For complete information go to:

[www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/ARMEDFORCESDAYFinal.doc](http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/ARMEDFORCESDAYFinal.doc)

There you will find the MARS frequencies that will be used by the various MARS stations to transmit on and the modes that they will be using. The MARS stations will announce which amateur frequency they will be listening on. For example, an Army MARS station may be operating on 4038.9 MHz, LSB, while it is listening on the 80 meter amateur band. The MARS operator will let you know what amateur frequency he or she is listening on, such as 3.860 MHz.

It is also a good chance for you to try out your gear on RTTY, AMTOR, MT63, or PACTOR because those modes will be in use, too. The Secretary of Defense will be sending a test digital message and a certificate is available to stations that submit a correct copy of the message. In addition, QSL cards will be sent to hams who confirm contacts with any of the regular MARS stations.

So give it a shot. This is one of the very few times when hams can have a non-emergency QSO with non-amateur stations. Plus it is a great way for all of us to share in the Armed Forces Day activities of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

***Jim - KC8PD / AAR5AI/T***

## ***Some Words from Weaver***

### **HR 462**

In January, Arkansas US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR introduced the Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007 into the House. This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. If enacted into law, the bill will require the

FCC to conduct a comprehensive study on BPL. The bill is intended to lead to improved rules to prevent interference from BPL and similar devices.

So should everyone rush to send letters to their US Representative and Senators? The answer to this is a clear "No; definitely no." Now is not the time to do this.

The most logical sequence of activities we can expect to take on this bill will begin at the top of the ARRL Legislative Action Program when the Directors and Division Legislative Action Chairs receive the "go" signal from HQ.

This "go" signal is likely to request Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) who are assigned to members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to call on these Representatives or their aides in their home offices. These visits will promote favorable action by the Committee.

Depending on the precise manner in which things develop, the next step is likely to be to ask all LAAs to call on the local offices of each Representative. Finally, every member will probably be asked to write their Representative to encourage them to vote for the bill.

One major risk exists if we jump the gun in our zeal to get this bill passed. This is that we can inadvertently ruin the chances of its passage. Effective lobbying requires that we work in a coordinated manner. Lack of coordination can prove disruptive to the effort and cause us to throw away our chances of a legislative victory.



Please hold tight and take no action until the right time comes and you are asked to take action. Be part of the team. Your help is needed and it will be requested . . . at the right time.

### **Legislative Action Program**

Legislative Action Assistants are the people who will be given the information needed to call on our congressional representatives to promote Amateur Radio-favorable legislation. We continue to make good progress in enlisting additional volunteers as LAAs in our three states, but we need more. If you are interested in learning how you can help get the ARRL Legislative Program passed, contact the Legislative Action Coordinator (LAC) in your state. These are: Brent Stover, WD8PNZ ([wd8obz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wd8obz@sbcglobal.net)) for Ohio and Bob "Scotty" Wright, KB8APS ([kb8aps@arrl.net](mailto:kb8aps@arrl.net)) for Michigan. For the time being, contact me

(k8je@arrrl.org) for the Commonwealth.

## **ARRL and National Public Safety Telecommunications Council MOA**

ARRL and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC; pronounced Nipstick) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). The League is an NPSTC member organization. The MoA completes an effort to formalize the relationship between the two organizations that began in 2003.

"This agreement promotes the concept of strength in unity," the MoA says. "Speaking with one unified voice provides a clear and strong message from the public safety community." The MoA also aims "to promote a consensus input decision-making process." NPSTC has been among the organizations that have asked the FCC to thoroughly explore the potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio systems.

"A federation of public safety organizations, NPSTC serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information for effective public safety telecommunications in the US and abroad.

"NPSTC agrees to provide a National Support Office that will, among other things, coordinate its outreach activities and provide "national level technical assistance to the public safety telecommunications community."

In addition to the ARRL, the Council's 13 member organizations include the American Red Cross, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials -- International (APCO), the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors.

What is a MaO? MaO is the updated term for MOU - i.e. Memorandum of Agreement is the former Memorandum of Understanding.

***Jim Weaver - K8JE***  
***Director - ARRL Great Lakes Division***

## ***Eyeball to Eyeball – N8EQJ***

This month's E2E is with Ed Polack - N8EQJ, from Randolph Township.

Ed got his first taste of Amateur Radio when he was in 7th or 8th grade, as best as he can remember. He was taking part in a Science Fair and was interested in solar energy "stuff", when a teacher invited him to join the school amateur radio club. The club did not have a call, but they did have an old National receiver and a Heathkit DX-60A transmitter.

Ed took his Novice test in late 1969 and received the call WN8HMO. Ed continued to study and went to

Detroit to take his General Class license. For those of you who do not understand, back in those days (which are my days also), the tests were not given out by VE's. You had to go to a city that had an FCC field office to take the tests. And they were only given at certain times of the year. This is where Ed's story gets interesting. Ed assumed that he failed since he never received his General Class ticket. He was getting various pieces of literature and catalogs from various companies. His interests shifted to other pursuits but he never really lost the desire for Amateur Radio. During this time he also realized that the address labels on these various catalogs and ads had a call attached to them. He discovered that it was his General call but by this time other things were going on in Ed's life, so HAM radio would have to wait until 1984.



In 1984 Ed's interest was refocused onto Amateur Radio and he again made the trip to Detroit and retook his General Class license and also took his Advanced the same day and passed. In 1985 he took his Extra and passed and the rest as they say, is history.

Today, he can claim partial ownership of the 146.895 Repeater and is very knowledgeable in the workings of a repeater station.

At home, Ed has Kenwood and Icom equipment. He runs a Kenwood TS 2000 transceiver and has a Kenwood TM D700 for his mobile use. What is interesting is that Ed is very interested in amateur satellite work and has an Icom IC-910 that he uses for that aspect of the hobby. What is ironic is that the Amateurs that go up to the ISS use a Kenwood TM D700 for communicating back to Earth. Ed's other rigs include a Kenwood 3 band HT. Ed does not use any amplifiers and runs his rigs barefoot at 100 watts. His antennas include a TH6DX on a 100 ft tower; a 10 meter dipole at 30', a 10 meter 3 element yagi at 30' on a second tower and he owns a Hustler G7 at 142' at the repeater site. He does have a third tower at 60 ft and has a Windom strung between it and the 100 ft tower.

Yes, Ed loves HAM radio. And he is not bashful about it. He tells you right out that he loves HAM radio. It's why he likes being a member of PCARS because there are a lot of members like him that love HAM radio.

Besides amateur radio satellite work, Ed also wants to get more involved in DX hunting and contesting and immensely enjoys working Field Day. He will certainly be involved this year at our Field Day site.

So what does Ed do during the day to allow him to have the green stamps necessary to carry on in amateur radio? Well, for the past 29 ½ years Ed has worked in the Biomedical Engineering Department at Robinson Memorial Hospital. This department has the very important task of keeping all the medical equipment, including the x-ray equipment, all surgical, patient monitoring, and diagnostic equipment in tip-top operating shape. Ed happens to be the department manager.

Ed's family consists of four children of whom he is very proud. His oldest son, Ed, is in the US Navy and is the proud father of two children. Son Ed, has traveled the world and just returned from Japan with his wife and children. James, his next oldest lives in Ravenna. Michael, Ed's third son lives near Strongsville, and Theresa, Ed's only daughter is going to school to become a physical therapist.

I want to thank Ed for giving us this chance to get to know him a little better. If you want to know about repeaters or have any questions about towers, among other aspects of HAM radio, give Ed a call or corner him at a PCARS meeting. I'm sure he'd love to talk about his various interests in our hobby of Amateur Radio.

73 until next month,

**Chuck - K8CMP**

## ***Having a Ham as a Pet***

The pet Ham is one of the most intelligent of pets, often seeming almost human. But, he can also be one of the most difficult to keep. Only a person with a great deal of patience and understanding should attempt to keep a pet Ham. The following is a short guide to some of the most important things that you should know about caring for your pet Ham.

### ***LIVING AREA:***

Your pet Ham should have a private area of his own, an entire room, if possible, where he will not be disturbed. He will spend many happy hours alone there, with his collection of treasures (boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, plastic, etc. that he will bring home regularly). He should be encouraged to confine his activities to this nest room, in order to protect the rest of the house from his natural tendencies toward noise, clutter, and making holes in the walls.

### ***EXPENSES:***

Raising your pet Ham can turn into an expensive hobby. But, unlike most pets, the pet Ham can be trained to work outside the home for short periods, and thus, bring in enough money to cover all of his expenses.

### ***FEEDING:***

The well behaved pet Ham will be able to eat with the family on occasion. But, he usually feels more comfortable and secure if he can take many of his meals in the privacy of his nest room. It will be your responsibility to see that your pet Ham is kept well supplied with food and drinks during the long periods of time that he will spend alone in the nest room.

### ***HOUSEKEEPING:***

Pet Hams can usually be trained to use the family bathroom facilities.

### ***OBEDIENCE TRAINING:***

Most pet Hams can be trained to respond to a few simple commands. The easiest for him is SIT and SPEAK. Once your pet Ham has learned these commands, he will sometimes practice them on his own for hours at a time.

### ***HEALTH CARE:***

The pet Ham is especially subject to minor irritations of the lower back, and sore throat; from too much sitting and speaking. The special CW breed tends to have a tired wrist rather than sore throat; and RTTY versions may suffer from tired and hurting eyes, depending on his age and monitor. These can be relieved by sufficient rest periods when symptoms flare up.

### ***TRAVELING:***

Your pet Ham will gladly travel with you in the family car, if he is allowed to bring some of the collection from his nest room. His favorite trips will be to places where he can associate with other pet Hams from other families.

### ***BREEDING:***

If you plan to breed your pet Ham, you should do so as early as possible after you get him. As the pet Ham matures, he becomes more and more reluctant to engage in any activities not connected with his nest room collection!!

***Daryl - N5VLZ***

From the Feb. 1998 issue of "Wavelengths", the monthly newsletter of the Arkansas Radio Emergency Services Amateur Radio Club, Little Rock, Arkansas. The Wavelengths editor at that time was Fred Hunt, KK5AA.

Show us your patch!  
***Wear a  
PCARS  
Patch***

KB8VJL shows his  
PCARS patch at the CFARC hamfest





## PCARS Thursday Net Information

### Net Schedule for May

| May |        |
|-----|--------|
| 3   | KC8PD  |
| 10  | WB8LCD |
| 17  | W8KNO  |
| 24  | KB8DPN |
| 31  | KB8UUZ |



On Thursday, April 26, the N8KW repeater was not in service. The PCARS net went on regardless and was handled as a simplex net. This was a great training session, as, in the event of an actual emergency, a repeater may not be available. The net lasted over an hour, there were 23 check-ins and several stations acted as relays.

PCARS has established the frequency of 147.52 MHz as our official simplex frequency. If you want to go off the repeater, that is a good place to head to. If we are in a situation where we don't have a repeater available (such as at the Dayton Hamvention, coming up) we will use this as our official calling frequency. Make sure you have it in your radio's memory.

Even though the net was not able to use the repeater, we did not move to the simplex frequency. In the case of an established net, this would be normal protocol. The main reason being, if you're looking for the net, you're looking on the repeater frequency! Normal protocol would be to use the output frequency of the repeater as the simplex frequency when the repeater is down. In our case this is 146.895 MHz. You may want to program that into your radio's memory as a simplex channel. The output frequency is used instead of the input frequency, because most people would normally already be listening there.

Anytime you turn on the radio, the most important thing to do first is Listen! By listening, you'll hear the net control station explain what the situation is and how he is going to handle it. Remember, the net control station is in charge! Please don't call into the net unless you hear the net control station specifically request check-ins. There may be other traffic on the net that you are unable to hear. By listening first, and transmitting only when requested by the net control station, you'll avoid unnecessary interference to the net.

Everyone did a great job and many radio manuals got a quick work out!

Want to give it a try? Send me an e-mail, let me know when you would like to try your hand at net control, I'll get you in the rotation!

73,

**Tom - WB8LCD**

**PCARS Net Control Coordinator**

## Postage Rates to Go Up - May 14th



Be prepared to pay more for sending those QSL cards. Starting on May 14th, a first class letter will cost you 41 cents, and the postcard rate will go to 26 cents. Even the cost of IRC's (International Reply Coupons) will be going up to \$2 each.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**

## Weather Alert Radio

If you had the opportunity to watch Cleveland Channel 5 on Friday, April 20th, they had an hour long weather related show. It was pretty good and covered all



the types of weather we see here in Northern Ohio.

Channel 5 announced they were partnering up with the H.H. Greg stores and offering the Midland Weather Alert Radio at cost (normally \$39.99). They were suppose to go on sale in May, however, I stopped in at the H.H. Greg store near Chapel Hill Mall last Sunday (the 22nd) and they were all ready on sale for \$29.99.



I picked up a couple of these radios and must say they have a very good receiver and the weather stations come in crystal clear. Another nice feature, they are SAME compatible and you can program in your county and surrounding counties, so when an alert is sent out by NWS, your radio will sound the alarm. I'd recommend you get one of these while this sale lasts. H.H.Greg is also on the internet, so you may be able to buy them on-line.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**

## HAMVENTION 2007

If you are a contester and you are planning to go to Dayton, here are some activities you don't want to miss.

**May 16 - Wednesday night** - Contest Super Suite at the Crowne Plaza opens for the first of 4 nights. Hosted by Contest University. Details: [hamvention.org/alternate.htm](http://hamvention.org/alternate.htm)

**May 17 - Thursday all day** - Contest University at the Crowne Plaza. Space is limited. Details:  
[www.contestuniversity.com](http://www.contestuniversity.com)

**May 17 - Thursday night**

- Contest Super Suite at the Crowne Plaza hosted by The Mad River Radio Club (MRRC), Frankford Radio Club (FRC) and North Coast Contesters (NCC) with a midnight pizza party sponsored by K8CC and K3LR.

<http://hamvention.org/alternate.htm>

**May 18 - Friday**

- Antenna Forum at HARA Arena Room #1 2:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Moderator: Tim Duffy, K3LR Speakers: Dr. David B. Leeson, W6NL-Antenna Secrets from the W6NL/HC8L Notebook Dr. James Breakall, WA3FET and Tim Duffy, K3LR  
-The Design, Construction and Operation of the 28 Element OWA 15 meter Stacked Yagi Array at K3LR Dr. Ted Rappaport, N9NB  
- People I Know and The Antennas They Grow Dean Straw, N6BV  
- What's New in the 21st Edition of the ARRL Antenna Book

**May 18 - Friday night** - Contest Super Suite at the Crowne Plaza with a midnight pizza party sponsored by the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC).

[hamvention.org/alternate.htm](http://hamvention.org/alternate.htm)

**May 19 - Saturday**

- Contest Forum at HARA Arena Room #1 11:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Moderator: Doug Grant, K1DG Speakers: Atilano Oms, PY5EG-WRTC2006 Video Randy Thompson, K5ZD/PT5Q; John T. Laney III, K4BAI/PW5Y & Charlie Wooten, NF4A (referee of PT5O)  
- Memories of the WRTC2006 Experience Dick Norton, N6AA/PT5K  
- The 40-Zone Adventures of Phil Goetz, N6ZZ Champ C. Muangamphun, E21EIC (PS2T in WRTC2006) - Contesting from Thailand & South East Asia Tim Duffy, K3LR/PT5G  
- The K3LR Multi-Multi Station and Video Notebook

**May 19 - Saturday evening** - 15th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner hosted by North Coast Contesters at the Crowne Plaza. Space is limited. Details and tickets are available at <http://www.contestdinner.com>

**May 19 - Saturday night** - Contest Super Suite at the Crowne Plaza with a midnight pizza party sponsored by the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC).

<http://hamvention.org/alternate.htm>

CU in Dayton! 73!

**Tim - K3LR**

## 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.

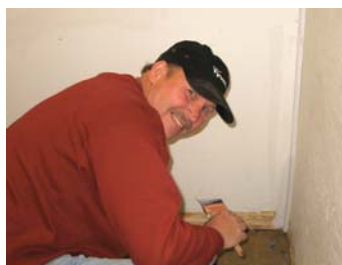
## Clean-N-Paint

A number of PCARS members got together on April 28th at the old ODOT site for a Clean-N-Paint event. PCARS now has a radio site established at the old ODOT site - which gives us access to the 200 foot tower, two rooms and a garage area we can call our own and use for club activities. Clean-N-Paint (part 1) went very well with all the help that showed up. There's more to be done, and this was a great start.



Thanks to the following for helping out: KC8PD, WB8LCD, KB8UUZ, KB8VJL, KB8DPN, K8CMP, KC8RJR, N8EQJ, KD8EPA, KB8TUY, KD8FLW, KD8FLX, K8FEY, and KC8PHY (I hope I didn't miss anyone).

Following the clean-n-paint it was decided to rather than have pizza delivered, we all went to Pizza Hut for lunch.





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## *Pictures from the April Meeting*



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## *Sad News*

*This is part of the notice that came in on Friday April 27th from Daryl, one of our regular Echolink check-ins and newsletter contributors:*

It is with deep regret that I announce the untimely death of my beloved wife, Janice Elaine Harvey Stout.

I do not know when the funeral will be offhand, but my BBS and ham radio involvement will be curtailed until further notice. This includes running various nets, and the operation of my BBS.

After losing my father not 3 months ago from pancreatic cancer, this loss of "the woman of my youth" just 3 weeks shy of our 4th anniversary is particularly devastating.

Your understanding and prayers for the family will be greatly appreciated.

Daryl - N5VLZ

*Editors Note: Cards & letters can be sent to Daryl at:*

Daryl Stout  
10434 West 36th Street 24C  
Little Rock, AR 72204

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## *Thanks*

Well, that's the 5th 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, N4TIE, KB8DPN, KB8VJL, WB9LBI, K8JE, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web.** With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**  
*Newsletter Editor*





**ARRL** The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO  
[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## ARRL EXPO 2007

Dayton Hamvention®

# EXHIBIT & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

## May 18-20, 2007

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, welcomes members and friends to Dayton Hamvention®. Use this handy guide to find ARRL-sponsored activities and exhibits.

### ARRL EXPO

ARRL EXPO is a large exhibit area located in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths). This is a showcase of ARRL exhibits and activities to enhance your Amateur Radio experience.

### Special Appearance - Friday May 18 Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, NASA Astronaut

ARRL EXPO welcomes NASA Space Shuttle veteran and International Space Station Expedition 12 commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR. The first astronaut to work all states from space, McArthur has been applauded for inspiring others through his ham radio activities from NA1SS. He'll be on hand Friday to greet and talk with visitors.

### ARRL Bookstore (ARRL EXPO area)

Visit the HUGE ARRL bookstore to purchase popular ARRL publications, join or renew your ARRL membership, and pick up official ARRL merchandise.

- FREE Gift!...when you join ARRL or renew your membership at ARRL EXPO.
- FREE ARRL Dayton 2007 Button!
- FREE ARRL Frequency Chart!

### ARRL Passport

ARRL Passport is the ultimate convention scavenger hunt. Pick up your free ARRL Passport at the ARRL EXPO exhibits area. Use your ARRL Passport as you wander from exhibitor to exhibitor and from activity to activity. Look for Passport signs throughout the convention, and collect Passport codes to qualify to win great prizes! No purchase necessary to participate. **Each copy of ARRL Passport includes the official rules and entry form.** Limited to the first 5,000 visitors to the ARRL EXPO exhibits area. Pick up your ARRL Passport, and join the fun!

### ARRL Passport Prizes

(confirmed by press time)

Icom IC-7000 HF/ VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver  
Icom IC-2820H VHF/UHF Base/Mobile Transceiver  
Icom IC-PCR2500 PC Controlled Receiver  
Yaesu FT-450 HF & 6M Transceiver  
Yaesu FT-8800R FM Mobile Dual Band Transceiver  
AOR DS3000A Wideband Discone Antenna  
AOR DS3000A Wideband Discone Antenna  
AOR DS3000A Wideband Discone Antenna  
Alinco DJ-C7T 144/440 MHz Micro Hand-Held Transceiver



**ARRL Field Day is  
June 23-24**



**BITTEN BY THE BUG!**

### The ARRL Stage (ARRL EXPO area)

See live presentations every half hour at the ARRL Stage. A list of presentations is posted near the stage. Hear from ARRL volunteers and staff on a variety of topics!

### ARRL Internet Café and WiFi

ARRL EXPO is equipped with wireless Internet. Any laptop or device equipped for wireless will enjoy Internet access within the ARRL EXPO vicinity. ARRL EXPO will also include a small Internet café with computers set up to browse. Access your e-mail and the Internet. Surf away—*compliments of ARRL!*

## ARRL Journals **QST** **NCJ** **QEX**

Pick-up a FREE copy of **QST**, **NCJ** and **QEX** magazines – while supplies last. Here's your chance to meet some of ham radio's most well-known authors and editors: **Steve Ford, WB8IMY**, **QST** Editor, and author of many ARRL publications; **Joel Kleinman, N1BKE**, **QST** Managing Editor; **Joel Hallas, W1ZR**, **QST** Technical Editor and author of *Basic Radio - Understanding the Key Building Blocks*; **Dean Straw, N6BV**, **ARRL Antenna Book** Editor, and editor of many ARRL publications.

### More ARRL Exhibits

**ARRL Development** – You can support Amateur Radio...now and into the future: Spectrum Defense, Education & Technology, W1AW Endowment, The Legacy Circle, The Diamond Club and **The Diamond Terrace at ARRL**.

**The ARRL Foundation** – Scholarships and Grants for Amateur Radio.

**The ARRL Lab** – Your questions answered: power line noise, RFI/EMI information, BPL presentation and more.

**ARRL Education Services Department** – See displays of ARRL program kits, projects, activity boards and other resources available to schools and teachers. Information about the Education & Technology Program, the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS).

**ARRL Media and Public Relations** – featuring ARRL's newest PR campaign: **Emergency Radio...Getting the message through for your family and community**. Learn how to use this campaign to help promote your local ham radio activity. Free PR materials provided.

**ARRL Great Lakes Division** – Meet ARRL leadership representing the Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan region: Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA and other volunteers.

**ARRL Section Managers and Section Leaders** – Visit this gathering area for ARRL Field Organization networking.

**TravelPlus for Repeaters™** software demonstration

**ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator** – Licensing forms, testing information and more.

**ARRL Regulatory Information Branch** – Help with rules and regulations (FCC Part 97), including issues with antenna ordinances and other restrictions (PRB-1 and CC&R).

**The National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers**

**United States Power Squadrons®**

**U.S. Bank – ARRL Visa® Card**

### DXCC Card Checking

**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday**

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check your DX cards and applications. All cards will be eligible for checking, including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160-Meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards (more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available). See [www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc](http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc) for the latest program information and current forms.

### ARRL Youth Activities

**ARRL Youth Activities and Youth Lounge** – Drop by the ARRL Youth Lounge to meet and socialize with other young hams. Whether you're one or twenty-one, the Youth Lounge, located in the ARRL EXPO area, is sure to offer something that you'll enjoy. Come to chat with other hams, listen to music, grab a snack, or participate in one of the many activities: fox-hunts, scavenger hunts, Morse code fun, a QSL card designing contest, crafts, prizes, and more. Even if you're not licensed, you're welcome to come by and join the fun! *Special thanks to ARRL volunteer Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, for organizing the ARRL Youth Activities.*

**ARRL Youth Calling Frequencies:** If you're looking for other youth during the convention, try calling them on the youth calling frequencies: 145.540 MHz (107.2 Hz CTCSS) primary and 146.430 (233.6 Hz CTCSS) secondary.

**2007 ARRL Dayton Youth Dinner, Saturday May 19, 5:30 PM** - Attention all youth! Join us for the third year in a row at the ARRL Dayton Youth Dinner. Parents are welcome to come, as well, but they'll be seated at separate tables, so that youth can be youth and parents can be parents. If you know you'll be coming, let us know in the ARRL Youth Lounge, so that we'll have a preliminary head-count. However, an RSVP is not required, so feel free to just show up. See Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, with any questions.

**Dinner Location and Directions:** Ryan's Grill Buffet & Bakery, 6999 Miller Lane, Dayton, OH 45414. (937) 415-5718. From Hara Arena: Take a RIGHT onto Wolf Road and travel 0.4 miles. Turn LEFT onto Turner Road. Continue going straight for approximately three miles; Turner Road will become Shoup Mill Road, then Needmore Road. Take a LEFT onto North Dixie Drive, and travel 1 mile. Take a RIGHT onto Stop 8 Road and travel approximately 0.3 miles. Turn LEFT onto Miller Lane, and travel approximately 0.6 miles. It's also exit 59 on I-75. *Talk in will be on one of the youth calling frequencies: 145.540 MHz (107.2 Hz CTCSS) primary and 146.430 (233.6 Hz CTCSS) secondary.*

### Commercial License Examinations

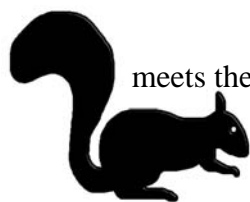
**Friday morning, May 18**

FCC Commercial License testing (GROL exam) will be provided by NARTE, the National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers. Testing fee is \$50. For more information or pre-registration contact NARTE at 1-800-89-NARTE or visit [www.narte.org](http://www.narte.org).

Got an idea for next time?  
Please contact the  
office of the  
ARRL EXPO Coordinator,  
email [expo@arrl.org](mailto:expo@arrl.org).

## THANK YOU!

ARRL expresses its gratitude to the 2007 Dayton Hamvention® Committee and volunteers "that contributed to the success of ARRL EXPO 2007 in Dayton, Ohio.



**The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**  
 meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Mike's Place – Routes 261 & 43 in Kent  
 All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!



## "When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

**PCARS Uses Repeater: 146.895 MHz (PL 110.9 – Rootstown, Ohio PL 114.8 – Kent, Ohio)**

**Repeater is graciously provided by N8KW for use by PCARS members**



### PCARS 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

**Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**

Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor  
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**PCARS Web Site: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)**



NLC