



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



September 2007 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 2 No. 9

~ 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.
 7 pm at the
 Center of Hope
 1034 West Main St.
 Ravenna

~ 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

WOW! It's been a busy summer for PCARS. And it's not going to be letting up anytime soon. We've got nets every Thursday evening - if you haven't been checking in, we'd love to hear you. Next up, we've got the KD8CKP special event station at the Black Squirrel Festival at KSU on Friday the 7th. We've got a meeting coming up on September 10th, remember, we're meeting at the Center of HOPE on Main St in Ravenna this month. Russ, KB8DPN will be doing a presentation on APRS. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided by PCARS. Coolers of other beverages are welcome.

The weekend of the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd we've got the Great Lakes Division Convention



2007 Great Lakes
 Division Convention

In association with the
 2007 Cleveland Hamfest Sept. 23, 2007

and the Cleveland Hamfest. Lots of your PCARS friends will be there for you to meet up with the Great Lakes Division manager, Jim Weaver, K8JE, and the ARRL President, Joel Harrison, W5ZN. It should be a fun weekend with lots of socializing, some outstanding forums, and the Cleveland Hamfest on Sunday! If that's not enough for you, don't forget the Findlay Fest on the 9th and the Ohio Section Conference on the 15th.

Did you make it out to the Ohio QSO party event? If you did, not only did you have a great time, but I'm sure you were all impressed with the way the KD8CKP station facility is coming along. KUDOS to Jim, KC8PD and all the others that have helped to spruce the area up - it really looks great and I know it will be the future site of a lot of PCARS fun!

I'm taking this way out of context, but the last line of David Sumner, K1ZZ's editorial from the September issue of QST said - "Let's be open to the possibilities, and alert to the opportunities". While he was talking specifically about EMCOM, I think it also rings true for Ham Radio in general. There are so many different areas we can participate in, and the possibilities to have fun and do good at the same time are endless. I hope you will all be open to the opportunities that PCARS tries to offer up for its members. You may not have a personal interest in everything we do, but by being a participant, you may expose yourself to something you never expected to be as fun or useful as it turns out to be! At the very least, by getting to know your fellow PCARS members on a more personal level, you'll always be among friends at our events.

It's great to be a PCARS ham. It's like a snowball rolling down the hill, it keeps getting bigger and picking up speed! If you have any suggestions that might make PCARS better, be sure to address them to either Jim, KC8PD or myself. We want to make the PCARS experience one that you will remember forever and want to share with your friends. Your idea might just be the one we were looking for!

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

73

Tom - WB8LCD



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From the Vice President

This has got to be the busiest stretch of the year for ham radio activities for PCARS members. Starting with Field Day in June we then have almost back-to-back the Two Meter Simplex Sprint, the Ohio QSO Party, and then the Black Squirrel Festival. If you want to get on the air and play some radio you could not miss with any one of these four events.

Myself and Laura, the loyal XYL logger, had a great time on the road running mobile for the Sprint. At least this year she didn't hit me with the clipboard. We were on the road for about six and a half hours and averaged about a contact per minute. Of course "average" means just that. It includes the ten or fifteen minutes of dead

air time as you move through one of the townships averaged out with the crazy burst of activity when you cross over into a new political subdivision and crank out seven or eight contacts in a couple minutes. Now that makes for a frazzled logger.

This year we had more mobile stations which makes for a lot more fun for everyone. You are constantly paying attention as each of you are moving across city, village or township lines so that you can contact each other again, all the while trying to make sure that you aren't duplicating a previous contact.

And boy does it ever make you appreciate that day in, day out use of the repeater. You forget what it's like to pull an FM VHF contact "out of the mud."



PCARS had its first club station operation for the Ohio QSO Party at the PCARS Shack at the Oakwood Campus of Family & Community Services, Inc., the property we still refer to as the old ODOT site. There is more to read about the event elsewhere in the newsletter.

What we want to note here is that this was our inaugural event at the PCARS Shack and it is starting to look great. The painting has been completed (other than the doors) and the carpeting was laid out temporarily in the operations room. That made a big difference in the acoustics, not to mention the appearance. In the next few weeks we will find the time to get the carpet glued down. The security door to the operations room should be installed by the time you read this and then we can safely leave equipment and supplies behind.

F&CS has donated the carpet and also made furniture and other equipment available to PCARS at no cost out of the donated materials that F&CS has received. This is making it a lot easier for us to equip the space.

Thanks to all the PCARS members who took the time to come out and lend a hand. The place is looking great and PCARS members for years to come will benefit from your efforts.

The QSO party gave us an opportunity to start exploring operational issues such as choice and location of antennas, temporary and permanent, for on-site operations. If you ask anyone who was present I am sure they will tell you that they look forward to years of activities at our own club shack.

Don't forget, we are looking for a good turnout at the PCARS special event station at KSU for the Black Squirrel Festival on September 7th. We had a terrific time there last year and intend to improve on the station this year with a two antenna setup. PCARS will also be donating a gift certificate and Technician handbook for the Festival drawing and also be offering the same package for everyone who signs up at the PCARS booth. This is a good chance for us to promote the hobby on the KSU campus.

Since the festival is on a Friday it does create complications for a lot of members who cannot get away from work for the event. But even if you cannot make it



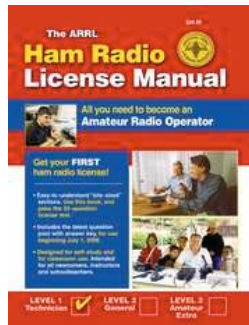
during the day, give us a shout on the Kent repeater. We will be monitoring the repeater and can give you the details for when and where to join us for the post-event debriefing at a local establishment.

Our VE team now consists of Tom, WB8LCD, Parky, KB8UUZ, Russ, KB8DPN, Carl, N4TIE, Chuck, K8CMP, Jim, N8PXW, Deron, N8XTH, Ed, N8EQJ, Bob, N8QE, and Jim KC8PD. Not bad for a team that just got started last year. Please take the time to study the VE materials and take the exam yourself. We can always use other members and it is a great way to give back to your hobby.

We 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, October 6th.

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.

The next PCARS Technician license class at the Maplewood Career Opportunity Center begins on Tuesday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m. The cost of the class is \$20.00, payable to Maplewood, and the students will also need the Technician Ham Radio License Manual. If you have any friends, neighbors, co-workers, or family members who may be interested,



please let them know about the class. They can contact me for more information.

Just a reminder that all PCARS members are welcome to visit at any of the Technician class sessions. You can stop by and observe how the class is taught and maybe spend some time sharing some of your ham radio experiences with the students.

Don't forget, if you have a copy of the Technician Class manual that you do not need any longer you can donate it to PCARS and we can sell it back to the students at half price. We can save them some money and generate a little income for PCARS.

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

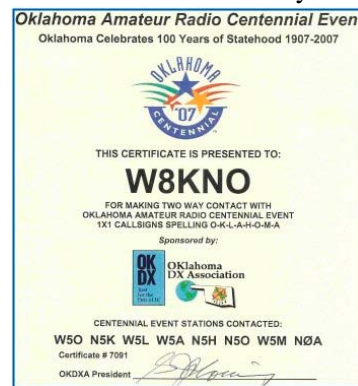
Paper Chase

Thanks go out to everyone who took part in the Ohio QSO Party especially those operating from the PCARS club station. In total, the club station handed out over three hundred contacts from Portage County.

Now that we all know how to hand out a county, let us not stop! Let's work some more. September is full of QSO Parties that have promise of being interesting if not exciting.

Dates	State	Counties
Sept 8 & 9	Arkansas	75
Sept 9	Tennessee	95
Sept 15 & 16	Washington	39
Sept 15 & 16	South Carolina	46
Sept 29 & 30	Texas	254

That is a total of 509 counties available to be contacted. Of these, Texas has the most activity. If conditions are right, you can work the mobiles in as many as twenty counties. Washington is next for good signals. South Carolina probably has the best hams as they have QSL'd 100% each year, they recently restarted their QSO Party, this will be their 5th, and it seems to get better each year. Arkansas used to have their QSO Party the same weekend as the Texas QSO Party but did not get the following. It will be interesting how the QSO Party results are since the weekend changed. Tennessee



gives the most challenge since it is so close that it is reliant upon the propagation Gods. It is not difficult to achieve an operating award in the Arkansas, Tennessee, South Carolina or Washington QSO Parties.

The big change seen this year in QSO Parties is the use of more 1x1 call signs. Oklahoma gave a special award for working 1x1 calls to spell OKLAHOMA. The promotion was such a great success that Michigan followed suit and will be distributing awards if you spelled either MICHIGAN or MACKINAC.

Just in case you are working or away on the weekends of the QSO Parties, September is the month of the Route 66 special event. The special event runs September 8th through the 16th. This year the call signs will be W6A through W6Q. You can find them around 3.866, 7.266, 14.266 and 21.366. For more information check out: <http://www.w6jbt.org>
Hear you in the pile-ups

Joe - W8KNO

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Hello and welcome to the September edition of the HF Hi-Lites. As I write this, school for most kids has already started, including many colleges and universities. The HF bands have been very noisy and propagation has been somewhat hit and miss here in North-Eastern Ohio.



This month I have not been on as much as I have in previous months but was still around to work Brunei, New Zealand, Wallis & Futuna, Market Reef, and Aves Island. And I am still woefully behind in getting QSLs out to try and get some confirmations for the DX entities I've worked.

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

Even with poor propagation here there were 205 separate DX stations reported on the air according to the AR-Cluster Network

DX News

3B7 - The 3B7C team expects to arrive on Isle du Sud, St. Brandon (AF-015) on Sept 4. Operations are not expected to

commence until midnight UTC on the 7th, by which time all stations and antennas will have been assembled. However, the 6m beacon will be activated at the earliest opportunity, so that 6m DXers can start to monitor for possible openings. There will be 12 stations altogether, with all bands covered from 160-6 and extra stations on 80 and 20 to run CW at the same time that they are operating SSB. QSL via G3NUG.

3DA - SWAZILAND. ZS2DL, ZS6DXB and ZS6J will be active as 3DA0WW during the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via ZS6DXB. Look for more info on their Web site at: <http://www.zs6dxbravehost.com>

3D2 - FIJI (Just A Reminder). Look for VK2CCC (LY1F), to be active as 3D2MT between August 28th and September 4th. Activity will be on 80-17 meters, mainly CW and an entry in the All Asia DX Contest. QSL via the LoTW or via LY1F. Visit his Web page at: <http://www.qrz.lt/ly1df>

5H - AC3A will be in Tanzania with ORBIS International (a nonprofit humanitarian organization dedicated to blindness prevention and treatment in developing countries) on September 7-17. He plans to be active as 5H3EYE during his local evening hours. QSL via AC3A.

5Z - KENYA. DL2MDU, will be active as 5Z4/DL2MDU between September 10 - 24th. Activity will be holiday style mainly on CW. Bands of operation were not provided. QSL via the bureau to his home callsign.

9H - A large group of Dutch amateurs will be going to Qawra, Malta (EU-023) for their 20th holiday/DXpedition. They will operate on 80-6 meters CW, SSB and digital modes between September 9th - 20th using a very special call sign, 9H20 (Nine Hotel Twenty, no suffix; QSL via PB9ZR).

A3 - TONGA (IOTA Op). ZL1AMO, plans to activate Lifuka (OC-169) August 27th - September 16th. Activity will be holiday style, and he hopes to renew his old callsign A35EA.

AT60 - INDIA (Special Event). Members of the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) in Hyderabad will activate the special event station AT60MY to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Indian's independence. Activity will last until November 17th. QSL via VU2NRO.

EA - EA7TV will be active as EA1/EA7TV from Arosa Island (EU-080) on September 5-7. He plans to operate on 10-40 and 6 meters. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

J3 - GRENADA. Look for DL7VOG, to be active as J3/DL7VOG from Carriacou Island (NA-147), another island in the Grenada group and be active from there until September 16th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, mostly CW and RTTY, with a little SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or the bureau using E-mail requests to: qsl@dl7vog.de

JD1/M - MINAMI TORISHIMA (OC-073). JA6GXX, will be active from Marcus Is. as JD1BMM from August 27th to September 18th. PSK31 on 20 meters but plans to be active on 80 -10 meters on CW, SSB, PSK, RTTY and SSTV.

YB - PA0HOP will be active again as YB9AQH from his QTH on Bali Island (OC-022) during the months of September and October. He plans to operate CW, PSK31 and RTTY. QSL via PA0HOP, direct or bureau.

ZD7 - KC0W will be moving to St. Helena Island on September 5th for several years. His new call sign is ZD7X and he plans to be on the air by September 15th. He expects to operate on 160-6 meters CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK, and to participate in all major contests. QSL via W0MM.

IOTA News

EU-016. 9A2NA, will activate Korcula Island (CI-041, MC-163, WLOTA L-1315) from September 1-10th. Activity will be on SSB and the HF bands. Also, he plans to activate two new IOCA islands: Cerin and Prznjak Mali. He will use a FT-897 and vertical/dipole antennas.

EU-037. DL5ME and DG3HWO active as SD7ME from Oland Island, Sept 6-11th. Activity will be on the 40/30/20/17 meters on CW and SSB. They plan to use a Butternut and Spiderbeam. QSL via SD7ME (QRZ.com address).

EU-074. HB9ASZ, will be active as F/HB9ASZ/P from the Island of Brehat in Brittany, France, Sept 1-22nd. Activity CW only with a very modest station (100w and a multiband-dipole). His operation will be mostly in the evenings since it is a family holiday trip and he reports that he favors 30m.

EU-110. OK1HWS, OK1JK, OK1JST and OK1UXH will be active as 9A/homecall from Porer Island (ACIA IC-46, CIA-35, IOCA CI-090, MIA MC-313, WLOTA LH-0240), September 9-14th. Activity will be on 80 thru 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL all calls via OK1JST.

EU-136. ON4LO, will be active as 9A/ON4LO from Losinj Island (ACIA IC-116, CIA-25, IOCA CI-058, MIA MC-204, WLOTA LH-4295), September 8-28th. Activity will mainly be on 10/15/20m SSB, VHF and 6m. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

EU-170. DD1MAT, will be active as 9A/DD1MAT from Dugi Otok Island (ACIA CI-367, CIA-10, IOCA CI-018, MIA MC-074, WLOTA LH-2375), September 1-15th. Look for activity around the usual IOTA and island frequencies. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

OC-022. Rich, PA0RRS, will be active as YB9/PA0RRS from Bali Island (LH-2589) from August 26th to September 24th. Most activity will be on 40-10 meters, but Rich will also give 80 and 6 meters a try. QSL via his home callsign.

Lighthouse News

LIGHTHOUSE AND USI ACTIVATION: Look for special event station **W3B** to operate from the Blackstone Lighthouse (ARLHS USA-060(H)) on St. Clements Island (USI MD-028R) from 1400-2000z on Sept 15th. Activity will be on 40/20/17 meters CW/SSB & possibly PSK-31. QSL with SASE to KA3UNQ (See QSL instructions on QRZ.com.) You will receive a photo QSL with a certificate on request.

F - EB1BOA and his brother, EC1KV active as F/EB1BOA/P from several French lighthouses between Sept 6 and 24. Further info can be found at <http://ea1cs.blogspot.com/>. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

There looks to be a lot of activity planned for September. Remember, I only listed a portion of the info I have received. As I mentioned in the last

Newsletter, if I can do it, I will try to bring some updates during our weekly PCARS Net. As I have been saying now for awhile, keep listening for that weak signal from some HAM having a great time on some mountain top or some beach somewhere. Remember, it may be you one day out there looking for a friendly voice to come back to your CQ. Until next month A BIG 73 to all!

Chuck - K8CMP

OQP - 2007

The 2007 Ohio QSO Party was a fantastic way to roll out the PCARS club shack in the shadow of the old ODOT antenna tower. The facility is really shaping up and first time visitors to the site were able to see all the improvements that have been made so far.

Early arrivals were on-site by 0900 and had three



3 of the 4 Antennas
to install the antennas.

hours to get the stations up and running. Most of the folks in the morning work crew had been present for our dry-run setup on August 11th so they already had a pretty good idea about how we wanted

Chuck, K8CMP, put up his Buddipole for twenty meters, first as a horizontal and then later as an "L", in the parking lot just outside our radio operations room. Ed, N8EQJ, installed the same forty meters inverted vee that he used for Field Day this year. For the eighty and forty meter CW station a G5RV was mounted running north-south at about twenty-five feet between portable masts.



KC8PHY and WB9LBI

The multi-band off-center fed dipole that was also used at Field Day was strung between the roof of Family & Community Services office building and a portable mast at about thirty feet.



KC8RKV and KC8RJR

Three other stations were set up in the operations room.

All feed lines were run through the windows to the four stations. In the repeater room, Ed, N8EQJ, had his Kenwood TS2000 running on forty meters phone for the entire event.

One Icom 706MKIIG was dedicated to CW operations which were primarily on forty and eighty depending on band conditions. Chuck's IC 7000 was the twenty meter phone station. The fourth station was an Icom 746 intended for phone operations on ten and fifteen meters as well as eighty later in the evening.



KD8FDK and N8EQJ

Other PCARS members who assisted in the setup were Dan, KD8EPA, Bill, WB9LBI, Mike, KB8TUY, John, KC8KYW, Tony, KD8GBB, Parky, KB8UUZ, and Tom, WB8LCD.

Logging was done on laptops that Jim, KC8RKV, was able to get on loan for the weekend using N3FJP's Ohio QSO Party software. This is not a networked program so at the end of the night Parky, KB8UUZ, had to



KC8KYW and N8QE

download the results from each computer so that the results could be compiled for the entry.

We were cutting it close on the setup. The forty meter phone station went on the air at around 1150 hours and the other three went live a few minutes after twelve.

Now, about those band conditions. How else to put it: ten and fifteen meters simply did not exist. No activity was ever heard on ten and only a very persistent Joe, KD8EOZ, was able to make two contacts via ground wave with nearby stations on fifteen meters.



K8CMP on 20 Meters

Twenty meters was not much better. A very unhappy Chuck, K8CMP, stared in frustration at a rig that would not talk back to him. Only a handful of contacts were made on twenty and most of those were DX. As poor Chuck said "I can't get any stateside stations and I get a 5/9 from Portugal!" Some days...

On forty meters Ed, N8EQJ, spent the afternoon doing battle with a transient noise spike that produced a noise level that was ten to twenty db over nine. Between the noise and some same band interference from the forty meter CW station, Ed had to work his tail off to log



Club Members Talking Ham Radio

Bill, WB9LBI, was Mr. CW with assistance from Dan, WD8DAU, and Joe, W8KNO. The CW ops generated an excellent number of contacts. The CW contacts made a huge difference in our score.

Other ops and loggers included Deron, N8XTH, Bob, N8QE, John, KC8KYW, Tom, WB8LCD, Parky, KB8UUZ, Rich, KD8FDK, and Jim, KC8PD.

Tom, WB8LCD, was in charge of food and refreshments and it is fair to say that no one went hungry or thirsty. Operations shut down when the pizza arrived for dinner. Thanks to all who brought snacks and beverages to share.



WD8DAU

Additional PCARS members in attendance included Errol, KC8RJR, Peggy, KB8SZI, Russ, KB8DPN, Irene, KD8DFM (with the harmonics), Phil, KC8PHY, Dave, WB2DFC, John, N8GIE, Jenna, KD8GHA, Sam, KC8PIZ with guest Conni, Joe, KD8GHB, Westy, AB8IE, and Al, KB8VJL (who showed up in a tuxedo). Other guests included Mary and Laura, the XYL's of WB8LCD and KC8PD, respectively. We



Shannon Fox

were also honored by a surprise visit from Shannon Fox, the Communications Manager for FireCom.



N8XTH and N8EQJ

By around a quarter to twelve things started to shut down. Rigs and gear were packed up to be hauled out but the antennas had to wait for the Sunday morning crew to disassemble them. There are some things that just should not be done in the dark.

How did we do? Well we had one heck of a lot of

fun...and that is what PCARS is all about. And our totals weren't too shabby either. We had 322 contacts and 130 multipliers for a grand score of 19,528. Hey, so far that is our record score. How about helping us beat it next year?

Jim - KC8PD

Sept. 2007 Ohio Section Conference

NEW LOCATION: SAME WINNING AGENDA

The Ohio Section Conference, which annually draws nearly a hundred Buckeye hams, will be held in a new location but the same time - 9 a.m. the Saturday after Findlay Hamfest - or September 15th for you calendar buffs.

This year the Section Conference, with the famous PIZZA LUNCH, has been moved to the Ohio State Fire Academy, 8895 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. It is on old Ohio US 40 east of town - just east of Columbus. And about three miles from the Interstate 70 exit 118.

The conference is exactly one week before the Great Lakes Division Convention - which is September 22 in Cleveland.

The Fire Academy auditorium is only a year old and the lunchroom facilities are very comfortable for Ohio Section's Social Event of the year - PIZZA LUNCH.

Here is a tentative agenda - tentative, because if you have an item you want addressed, contact the Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE (513-874-0006 or jphillips@arrl.org) with your request.

TENTATIVE AGENDA - SATURDAY, SEPT. 15

Time	Event	Speaker
9:00 am	Welcome	SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE
9:15	ARES	SEC Frank Piper, K18GW
9:30	Division / ARRL Matters	Vice Director Gary Johnston, K14LA
10:15	Break	
10:30	Official Observers	OOB Rick Swain, KK8O
11:00	Open Q & A Sessions	All in Attendance
11:15	Newsletter Awards	PIC Scott Yonally, K8SY
11:45	Pizza Lunch	
12:45 pm	Severson Award	SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE
1:00	Ohio Law & PRB-1	SGL Nick Pittner, WB8TMF
1:30	OSSBN	ASM Connie Hamilton, N8IO
2:00	Break	
2:15	Open Q & A Session	All In Attendance
2:30	Digital for Dummies (Like K8QOE)	TC Tom Holmes, N8ZM
3:00	Parade of Emergency Vans	ECs W/ Emergency Vans
3:15	Wrap-up / Visit Vans	SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE

FOUR QUICK NOTES ABOUT THE SECTION CONFERENCE

ONE - if you have an item of interest you would like to present at the conference OR you have an idea for a Conference topic you would like us to cover-call me immediately at 513-874-0006. This is why we call this a "tentative agenda."

TWO - the PIZZA LUNCH is the social event of the year. Great time for all of us to exchange ideas on what others are doing across Ohio. This is the "can't miss" event of the day.

THREE - The State Fire Academy had adequate parking and does not have the security limitations of our old facility. We still start at 9 a.m. though and I suggest you try to be on time and not miss anything.

FOUR - For the first time in years, The Ohio State University Buckeyes are playing an away game during Section Conference. Thank you Coach Tressel. No football traffic in Columbus during Section Conference this year.

Joe Phillips - K8QOE
Ohio Section Manager

Emcomm

The following story ran on the ARRL website on July 31st:

Dennis Dura, K2DCD, Joins ARRL Staff as Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager

The ARRL is pleased to welcome Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD to the Headquarters staff in Newington. Dura's major responsibilities include addressing the development and implementation of an organizational disaster response plan as well as a continuity operations plan, complete with supporting procedures and training. Integral to these plans are the recommendations of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) report. "By instituting these base components for the organization, the emergency communications resources of Amateur Radio and the League will become truly disaster resilient on all fronts," Dura said. "Emergency communications cannot stand alone. As an organization, we must have disaster plans in place and know what we must do to continue operations when they are impacted. Without this, our support to the field will be lacking."



Dura also will play an integral part in the management of ARES, and in future negotiations with served agencies with whom ARRL shares or creates Memoranda of Understanding.

Dura comes to the ARRL with more than 26 years of experience in the emergency management field. He started as a volunteer coordinator in his home township's emergency management program and turned this experience and training into a consulting career, working on off-site emergency plans for nuclear power plants and the jurisdictions where they are sited around the country. At the same time, he joined the American Red Cross as a volunteer Disaster Consultant in New Jersey, leading to paid positions as Manager of Disaster Services in St Louis, Director of Disaster Preparedness in Chicago and a Disaster Preparedness Specialist in New Jersey.



After some years working in the non-governmental organization side of the field, he joined the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM). Dura progressed through the ranks in NJOEM and served in numerous positions such as Operations Officer and Hurricane Preparedness Officer. As a Principal Planner, he was part of the group to develop the first Terrorism Plan for New Jersey prior to 9/11, specializing in human services issues, especially Mass Care. As part of New Jersey's response to the 9/11 attack, he served on a specialized inter-governmental team to establish the Family Assistance Center at Liberty State Park.

He left NJOEM in 2003 to become the Deputy State Emergency Coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJDHS), the position he held prior joining the League. Dura's focus in NJDHS was spread across several areas such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Mass Care and Business/Continuity of Operations.

During his time at the NJOEM, Dura was the Assistant State RACES Officer. He was also the liaison to the National Weather Service (NWS) for NJOEM and became involved in the SKYWARN program. Through a successful grant submission, he was able to secure two National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All-Hazards Radio transmitters for unserved areas of New Jersey. His work on this project resulted in the Mark Trail Award in 2002. The Chairman of the Mt Holly NWS Forecast Office SKYWARN Advisory Committee for many years, Dennis has also been a member of his county ARES program.

Dura said he is excited to be working at ARRL Headquarters. "It is a tremendous opportunity to take my many years of emergency management experience and apply all of it to the ARRL. It wasn't a hard move [to the ARRL] at all -- take the disaster experiences and meld them with a tremendous hobby...that ends up serving the nation and the world."

Dura holds a BS in criminal justice from The College of New Jersey and is currently completing graduate level work in homeland security and emergency management. He is a Certified Business Resilience and is a member of numerous professional and emergency management organizations.

Well, this is a huge step forward for the ARRL and we will be interested in hearing Mr. Dura's comments at the Great Lakes Division Convention on September 22nd. Clearly the ARRL wants to professionalize its emcomm operations starting in Newington. As has been noted in this column a number of times, expectations have been raised throughout the disaster response community for the type and quality of emergency communication services. Served agencies now expect more from their commercial service providers and their in-house staff and also expect more from amateur radio.

Nationally the amateur radio emcomm community is struggling to redefine and reorganize itself. The same has been happening at a much faster rate and in a more organized fashion within the Military Affiliate Radio Service (MARS).

The ARRL is the only truly national organization for amateur radio operators and it created the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Unfortunately, ARES, lacking any standardized practices or procedures, operates in a haphazard fashion around the country. ARES is supposed to organize from the local level upward, not from the top down. As a result, in some localities ARES is virtually non-existent whereas in others it is highly organized and functions smoothly.

If you will excuse the analogy, in some locations ARES is like the unorganized militia, just a bunch of guys who show up with pitchforks and muskets ready for battle while in others it is a modern National Guard, well equipped, trained and organized.

Mr. Dura's challenge will be to find the way for the ARRL to impose standardization and best practices for local and section ARES operations while also devising methods to coordinate and direct regional or national responses, directing human and technical resources to where they are most needed and then supporting them. He has to recast ARES as a more top-down operation.

Don't look for major changes soon. That is just not possible. But do watch for proposed changes to meet

these structural deficiencies and evolving emergency communication demands. Then watch and listen for the ARES response. Will ARES units get with the program or howl in protest? Or, even worse for some communities, say nothing and just keep conducting business as usual?

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

October 6, December 1 - Center of Hope - 10 am

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

Jim - KC8PD
PCARS VE Coordinator

Great Lakes Division Convention

Ham Radio Alive and Well in Northern Ohio:

Something special is taking place late September. For the first time (so they say) the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) will be holding their Great Lakes Division Convention (GLD) on September 22nd in Independence, Ohio. The GLD Convention is usually held every two years in different cities, so this year it is in the Cleveland area (the day before the Cleveland Hamfest). So, what goes on at a convention? Sponsors, many informative Seminars, Hospitality Room, Award presentations, Dinner Banquet with a guest speaker, Prizes, Special Ceremonial of "The Royal Order of the Wouff Hong" and a great time with plenty of camaraderie with other hams.

It all starts Friday evening (September 21st) at the Sheraton Independence Hotel with early registration beginning at 7:00 p.m. and a Hospitality Room provided

by the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society (CARS), Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association (LEARA) and the Northern Ohio DX Association (NODXA). On Saturday morning there will be continued registration, sponsor tables, and the hospitality room will open at 9:00 a.m. The hospitality room will host card checking and free refreshments both Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Opening ceremonies begin at 11:30 a.m. The first seminar will start at noon with Bob Heil/K9EID and Chip Margelli/K7JA in a joined three room session. Bob's, K9EID, pioneering work in the Amateur Radio world has led to significant improvements in audio quality throughout the industry. His company, Heil Sound, is the leading manufacturer of microphones and boom-sets for the world of Ham Radio. Chip, K7JA, has been active in DXing for over 42 years. You may have seen him on the Tonight Show with Jan Leno competing with (and defeating) the U.S. Champion cell-phone text messenger in a message-completion speed contest.

The room will then be divided into two rooms. One room will go into an intense DX session, and the other will cover 3 different amateur radio interests seminars:

1:00-1:10 P.M.: Tedd/KB8NW (NODXA President and Editor of the OPDX) will open and moderate DX seminars. Guest speakers will include (times may vary):

1:10-1:45 P.M.: Bernie McClenney/W3UR Editor of "The Daily DX and Weekly DX" and QST's "How's DX?" column. He will give a talk on the "History of DX from the beginning to today".

1:45-2:10 P.M.: Don Karvonen/K8MFO, Ohio's number one DXer who is in the top ten of the ARRL's DXCC Challenge, is expected to give talk about 6 meter DXing.

2:10-2:40 P.M.: John

Papay/K8YSE, one of the KH8SI operators, will talk about activating Swains Islands as a brand new DXCC entity.

2:40-3:25 P.M.: Bob Allphin/K4UEE, recently appointed DXAC Chairman, will talk about the DXAC and his recent VU7RG activity.

3:30-3:55 P.M.: DX seminars will end with a question and answer panel consisting of KB8NW, K8YSE, K4UEE, K8MFO, K4ZLE, W3UR and possibility others.

Other seminars (second room) taking place:

1:00-1:55 P.M.: Dennis Dura K2DCD ARRL's new Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager.

2:00-2:55 P.M.: ARDF by Bob Frey/WA6EZV and Dick Arnett/WB4SUV. Lots of great equipment will be demonstrated and on display. Photos and information from International Competitions will also be available. 3:00-3:55 P.M.: Jim Sanford/WB4GCS Amsat's Eagle Satellite



Project Manager will discuss new developments and talk about what the new Eagle high orbit satellite will mean for everyone.

4:00 P.M.: Seminar rooms will once again be joined and will close with Tim Duffy/K3LR, an expert on Antennas/Contesting. He will talk about his K3LR Multi-Multi Contest Station. Many of you may have seen his station while traveling on I-80 when in Pennsylvania near the Ohio line.

5:00 P.M.: Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver/K8JE will present the Great Lakes Division Awards

The banquet will start at 7:00 P.M. where the President of the ARRL, Joel Harrison/W5ZN will be the keynote speaker. Following the banquet the top secret Wouff Hong ceremony will begin for any interested ARRL Member.

Please support this great event by attending. Sponsors have helped make ticket prices lower than usual. Advanced sale tickets are available for purchase online at www.2007gldc.org along with complete information and any late news or changes.

Tedd Mirgliotta - KB8NW

Website: www.2007gldc.org



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:

- **September 7th – KSU Black Squirrel Festival** – special event station at Kent State University.
- **September 10th club meeting – APRS by Russ, KB8DPN**
- **September 22nd – ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention** in Cleveland
- **October 8th club meeting – Jim Weaver, K8JE**, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director
- **October activity** – tentative project – **Working the Satellites Demo - Ed, N8EQJ**
- **November 12th meeting – Radio Controlled Aircraft - Mike, KB8TUY, Dan, KD8EPA**
- **November activity** – tentative project –sound card interface kit
- **December 10th – Christmas Party**
- **January activity** – tentative – **Powerpole Junction Box**
- **January 14th club meeting – QRP Operations, Tom, WB8LCD**
- **February club meeting** – topic open
- **February 23rd – Freeze Your Acorns Off**, QRP special event

September Contest Calendar

Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 8 - 0600Z, Sep 9 1500Z-2400Z, Sep 9
ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 8 - 0300Z, Sep 10
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 9 - 0300Z, Sep 10
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 15 - 2100Z, Sep 16
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 15 - 0700Z, Sep 16 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 16
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 15 - 1800Z, Sep 16
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 17
144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 17
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 29 - 0200Z, Sep 30 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 30

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Six PCARS members having a birthday in this month!

WB8VYW	Mike Hutsler
WD8BIW	Karen Warner
KD8FME	Jim Conlin
N8KBX	Bob Magree
KC8NOW	Ed McKivigan
KC8KYW	John Kametz

Hamfest Calendar

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

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

28 Oct 2007 - Massillon Hamfest and Auction - Massillon ARC - <http://www.marcradio.org> - Talk-In: 147.180 (PL 110.9) - Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Circle NW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 - Email: truss@sssnet.com - Massillon Boys and Girls Club - 730 Duncan St SW - Massillon, OH

Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Tripp Lite Power Supply - PR40 \$100 - **Mirage B-1016 2 Meter Amp** - 10w in, 160w out \$175.00 - **Mirage B-5018G 2 Meter Amp** - 20-60w in, 160w out \$200.00 - **Mirage B-2530G 2 Meter Amp** 10w in, 300w out \$475.00 - Three HR2510 10m AM/FM/SSB/CW \$150.00 each - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

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

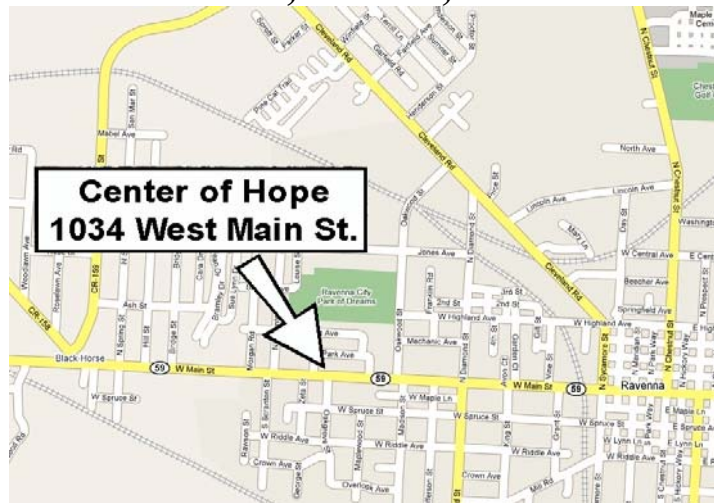
For Sale: TS440SAT Kenwood Transceiver, **PS50** Kenwood Power Supply, **MC60A** Kenwood Desk Microphone, **SP430** Kenwood External Speaker. Sold as package only. Mint condition, Original owner, Non-smoker, Original Packaging and all manuals. Asking \$1000. Contact me if interested: **Bob - N8QE@portcars.org**

HF Rig Wanted: I passed my General Test! I am now looking for good used HF rig so I can begin using my new privileges. Contact **John - KC8KYW@portcars.org** or at (330) 688-1725

PCARS Meeting - Center of Hope

Due to re-modeling at Mike's Place Restaurant, the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) next meeting (September 10th) will be at:

The Center of Hope - 1034 West Main Street, Ravenna, OH.



This is where PCARS has the VE test Sessions, and we've also had a number of club projects at the Center of Hope.

PCARS meeting - Sept. 10, 2007 - 7:00 pm
Center of Hope - 1034 West Main St.
Ravenna, OH See You There!!!!



Eye-Ball to Eye-Ball - KB8DPN

If you happen to meet at one of our meetings a tall, bearded man with a quick smile and a mischievous twinkle in his eye, carrying the largest travel mug seen East of the Mississippi, then you have just met Russ Anderson, KB8DPN, our E2E for September.

Russ is, and has been for some time, a radio technician for the State of Ohio Department of Transportation. Russ was born in Cleveland, OH some moons ago and grew up in Streetsboro. He has spent his life in Ohio, living at various times in Kent, Chardon and now in Ravenna where he makes his home with his

lovely wife, Irene, KD8DFM, and their two children – Russell Jr., who will be 4 in October and the newest addition to the Anderson family, Allison, who is 2 months old.

Russ got his initial interest in things electronic, as a boy building a crystal radio set, winding the coil around a toilet paper cardboard tube. (As a boy scout, I can remember that.) Russ thought that what he would eventually hear would be music from commercial broadcast stations. What he did hear were foreign language broadcasts and this got him interested in trying to get long distance stations. (Ahh – DX!)

At about the time Russ was 12 or 13 years old, the CB craze was happening and his dad got a CB unit in the car and one for the home and Russ had a ball talking with his dad on the radio. He continued to listen to the home brew radio and put up a long wire antenna for better reception. Unfortunately there were no HAMS in the area that Russ knew of. Otherwise, he would have had his Amateur license much earlier in life. With no Elmers to bring him along, he still kept his interest going in electronics and went on to attend some technical schools and got a summer job with ODOT.

He was put into the radio department of all places, and there he met a couple of HAMS that worked for ODOT. One was Bill Sovinsky, K8JSL, who started to talk to Russ about Amateur Radio and took Russ to his first Hamfest. (Russ said that when he first heard about Hamfests, he thought, Ham, bacon, OK I'll go!) Another of his fellow workers was Nick Drotor, W8BIP. Nick's QTH was Ravenna and he had what Russ described as a station with all the bells and whistles. HF, VHF, RTTY – the whole 9 yards!

This got Russ really thinking about Amateur Radio and Nick, who was a member of the Cuyahoga Falls club back then, invited Russ to attend their license class. And so, about 1985, Russ studied the technical part and learned the code and got his novice ticket – KB8DPN. By this time, the FCC had stopped using the "N" designation as an indicator of a holder of the Novice ticket. A few months later Russ got his Technician ticket and the rest is history.

When he got licensed he was able to get on the air with a 220 rig loaned to him by Bill, K8JSL. Then he got his own rig and got into HAM radio in a big way. He was on VHF, HF, SBB, Packet Radio, RTTY, Low Band operation. He was the Radio Officer for the Cuyahoga Falls ARC for some years and got so heavily involved that he says he simply burned out in the early '90s. He got out of radio for awhile. He didn't have Bill or Nick around to guide him since they had become SK.

Fortunately for Russ and for us in PCARS, he was

persuaded to get back into Amateur radio by a good friend who had gone through a similar burn out.

Today, Russ' main interests are VHF, digital modes of any kind, and APRS. Russ really likes computers and he gets as much enjoyment out of figuring out how to



connect electronic devices so that they will talk to each other, as he does in making contacts.

His equipment consists of a Yaesu FT 100, a D700 HT, and a 6 meter rig. His antenna is a G5RV and he uses a Diamond vertical for some VHF work. With all the interest in emergency communications, Russ has configured his station to be housed in a rack mounted crash case. Along with a rig blaster and rig runner, he said that he could take his station out in about 10 minutes. Did I mention that Russ is the keeper of our Web site? He is a very busy man.

We are very fortunate to have a person of Russ' caliber in PCARS. Thank you Russ for all you are doing for PCARS and for simply being a good friend.

Chuck - K8CMP

Improve Your CW Speed for Fun & Profit!

At last, I can reveal the secret plan to becoming rich using CW. Pay close attention:

- 1) Improve your CW speed.
- 2) ???
- 3) Profit!

Okay, so I haven't perfected one or two details on the profit part yet. But as you can see, I'm hard at work on this.

However, I have the fun aspect of Morse Code well in hand. I had a blast working CW on the Ohio QSO party, and personally had my best contest ever. I'd like you to join me for the next contest. To do that, and to really enjoy CW, you'll need to bring your code speed up to a point that you're happy with. Here's how to do it.

If you don't know Morse Code at all, or just rusty, you need some basic training. Go to your computer (not to hard since you're already there) and download the training program from <http://www.g4fon.net>. This free trainer will teach you letter by letter, all of the basics of Morse Code in about 12 hours. Not in one sitting, mind

you. 24 thirty-minute sessions should do the trick.

When you get comfortable with the various letters and numbers, you need some steady practice. W1AW, the official station of the American Radio Relay League, offers code practice on all HF bands several times daily, Monday through Friday. I usually tune in on 3.5815 MHz. The schedule and frequencies are published in every issue of QST, or you can get them from the League web site at



<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw.html#wlawsked>

No HF receiver? No problem! You can download the W1AW code practice at your choice of speeds in MP3 format from this page:

<http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/morse.html>

However, this page doesn't get updated too often. As I write this, the code practice audio files have not been refreshed for that past two weeks. If you listen to any one file more than a couple of time, you'll start to memorize it, and it loses its value for training. This is why I don't like code tapes. They fool you into thinking you're up to speed, then you find that you can't copy anything you don't already know.

For fresh material, go to:

<http://aa9pw.com/radio/morse.html>

and create your own custom code practice sessions at any speed that you like. You can create random letter groups, on-air QSO's, or my favorite, the latest headlines from ABC News or BBC News. Practice your CW and catch up on current events at the same time. Not a bad deal!

I have three pieces of advice for you in copying Morse Code:

1. When you copy, you're going to miss some letters. Let 'em go. Move on. It will happen less frequently as you improve, but it will never stop. Relax and enjoy your new skills.
2. Whenever you can, use 20 word-per-minute code spaced out to whatever speed you're currently comfortable with. That means that the computer will send 20 WPM letters, but space them out at, say, 7 WPM. There's a good reason for this. Once you learn a given letter in Morse Code, you can copy it at any speed. It's the spacing between the letters that counts. You're not going to be a 7 WPM guy; you're aiming to be a 20 WPM master telegrapher.

3. WHEN I COPY CODE, I WRITE ALL BLOCK LETTERS EXCEPT FOR LETTER e. e IS THE SHORTEST LETTER IN CODE (ONE DIT) BUT THE LONGEST ONE TO WRITE BY HAND SO I USE LOWER CASE. IT LOOKS FUNNY BUT IT GETS THE JOB DONE.

There's one more thing I want you to do, and that's get a key and code practice oscillator. These are obtainable at most hamfests, or you can order something online. Straight key or paddles, it's up to you. If you've got an HF rig made in the last 20 years, you probably can set the mode to CW and the break-in setting to OFF and use your transceiver as the Worlds Most Expensive Code Practice Oscillator. Try to make your code sound just like the training software. You need to be able to transmit as well as receive. There are entirely too many sloppy fists out there. Don't be like them.

I'm telling you, CW is as easy or challenging as you want it to be, but it's always Big Fun. I'll keep working on the profit angle; you go and practice now.

Bill - WB9LBI

Some Words from Weaver

New EmComm Director on Board

Dennis Dura, K2DCD, is on board as the first ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager. Dura's major responsibilities include addressing the development and implementation of an organizational disaster response plan as well as a continuity operations plan, complete with supporting procedures and training.

Integral to these plans are the recommendations of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) report. Dennis brings considerable professional experience in emergency, disaster and support communication with government and private agencies to this new post.



K8JE

You will be able to get a good look into Mr. Dura's plans for ARRL and ARES at the Great Lakes Division Convention in Cleveland. He will lead the EmComm seminar on September 22.

Division Convention -- More

As good as earlier Great Lakes Division Conventions of the modern era have been, the 2007 offering will be just as much better. Top experts will lead seminars in which we all can learn something new, interesting and

helpful. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will speak and fill us in on what is happening in the rather hectic world in which we hams compete. In addition, he and I will be on hand to check 160 M QSL cards for DXCC and other ARRL awards. This in itself is a rare treat and avoids the usual need to mail these cards to HQ for this checking.

Jim Weaver - K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division



PCARS Thursday Net Control

Net Control Schedule

September	October	November
6 <i>WB8LCD</i>	4 <i>KB8UUZ</i>	1 <i>WB8LCD</i>
13 <i>KB8UUZ</i>	11 <i>W8KNO</i>	8 <i>KC8PD</i>
20 <i>K8CMP</i>	18 <i>K8CMP</i>	15 <i>KB8DPN</i>
27 <i>KC8PD</i>	25 <i>KB8DPN</i>	

The PCARS, Thursday evening 2-meter net continues to thrive. It's a great place to catch up with what's going on with your fellow PCARS members, and there is a lot going on! Our net is open to all amateurs in the area, on 146.895 (110.9PL), or, if you're out of the area on the KC8RKV echolink node. On average our nets run from 45 minutes to an hour, and we usually have somewhere between 20 and 30 check-ins. As you talk to other hams across the country, always encourage them to check in, it's always fun to get a new check in via echolink from some place far away and hear what kind of ham radio fun they are having!

Without the net control operator there would be no net. We've been fortunate to have a dedicated group of net control ops, and I certainly appreciate their participation. I've included the net control op schedule for the next couple of months, but this is totally flexible. If you would like to try your hand at net control, please contact me and we will accommodate you. If you'd like to check it out before you commit to it, contact any of the listed net control ops and ask if you can sit in with them on their night. I'm sure most would welcome your visit. Finally, if you would like to give it a shot, we could always meet at the club station, get a 2-meter station set up and be there with you as you give it a try.



We need more net control operators so we can spread the responsibility among a larger group. We don't want any one to get burned out. Being net control op gives you valuable experience for situations you might find yourself in if there is ever a disaster in the area. It makes sense to get your experience before the catastrophe. Net control ops have the chance to really get the names and calls down together, it will make you a better club member. Most importantly of all, being a net control op will help everyone else in the club get to know you better! Please, give it a try!

Tom - WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

Editor's Note: Jump in there and be a Net Control Operator. Sure, at first you'll be a bit nervous, but before long you'll realize how much fun it is!

PCARS Yahoo Site

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



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.

OQP-07 & PCARS - The Numbers

The logs have been sent in to the OQP entry site and the results will probably be out in about 6 to 10 months. Some contests take a long time to publish the results. In any case, we did pretty good for our first time out as a

club entry. Especially considering we were at a new site, the antennas were all temporary and not in ideal locations. The experience we gained this year will really help us for next year. The best part of the 12 hour



amateur radio. Tom, WB8LCD had said he wanted to emphasize the word 'Party' in Ohio QSO Party. I think everyone had a great time at the new club site.

Now on to the scores we managed to get. Here's a break down by band/mode. We used 4 laptops for logging since each band/mode had to have it's own log because of issuing a sequence number as part of the contest exchange. That actually helps keep things in order and easy to look at.

Station A: SSB 40 meters
142 contacts, 49 multipliers = 6,958 points

Station B: SSB 15,80 meters
50 contacts, 31 multipliers = 1,550 points

Station C: SSB 20 meters
8 contacts, 5 multipliers = 40 points

Station D: All CW 20, 40 80 meters
122 contacts, 45 multipliers = 10,900 points

Our total submitted score was: 19,528

During the contest we managed to contact 29 of the 88 counties in Ohio. We also made contacts into 42 states (only a few more and the club could get a Worked All States award!). So - keep the third weekend in August open for Ohio QSO Party 2008!

Tom - KB8UUZ

PCARS 2 Meter Sprint

Just a quick note: The PCARS 2 meter Sprint was held on Saturday August 18th and it was FUN! The weather was perfect and the 2 meter band was alive with people all over and around the county. Next month we'll have more information about the contest since the log deadline is September 18th. Once all the logs are in Joe, W8KNO be able to give a complete report.



Need Batteries? Help PCARS

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

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



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

Special Event Stations Around Ohio

September 2007

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

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

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

From the ARRL



Pictures from the August Meeting



More Pictures from the OQP



Thanks

Well, that's the 9th 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 month's contributors: **WB8LCD, KC8PD, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI, K8JE, KB8NW, K8QOE**, the **ARRL**, and the **World Wide Web**. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.



Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

2007 ARRL

Great Lakes Division Convention in conjunction with the 2007 Cleveland Hamfest

Date: Saturday, September 22, 2007 opening ceremonies at 11:30am

Location: Sheraton Independence Hotel, 5300 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131

*We are very proud to announce our featured Banquet Speaker
will be Joel Harrison W5ZN, President ARRL*

Jim K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director will host the
Great Lakes Division Awards Ceremony

Top vote getting Seminars you ask for:

- Bob Heil K9EID and Chip Margelli K7JA, Heil Sound Workshop
- Speaker to be announced on Emergency Communications
- Bob Frey WA6EZV & Dick Arnett WB4SUV all about ARDF
- Tim Duffy K3LR "The K3LR Multi Multi Station"
- Jim Sanford WB4GCS Eagle Project Manager from AMSAT
- All about DX from beginners to Honor Roll Hams, seminars hosted by Tedd KB8NW, John K8YSE, Bernie W3UR, Don K8MFO, Bob K4UEE on VU7RD DXpedition plus a question & answer panel
- Wouff Hong ceremony after the banquet
- Hospitality room courtesy of CARS, LEARA & NODXA
- Card checking - DXCC , WAS, VUCC Low Bands & VHF Fri. 7 to 11pm & Sat. 1 to 3pm
- Please visit our sponsor tables Saturday 9:00am to 6:00pm



Joel Harrison W5ZN



Seminars only	\$25.00 advance - \$30.00 at the door
Banquet only	\$37.00 advance sales only
Full ticket	\$50.00 save \$12.00 advance sales only
Full ticket with a room	\$45.00 save \$17.00 advance sales only

Order your tickets on line now using a credit card or send a check!

Option: Reserved tables for 8 people may be requested with your payment

All Hams and those interested in becoming Hams are welcome.

Please attend the Convention to see what the ARRL has to offer.

Join the ARRL if you like what you see and hear!

Questions, ticket orders and latest news call 216-524-7711 - 216-524-1750 or goto:

www.2007gldc.org



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

meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM
at the Center of Hope - 1034 West Main Street - Ravenna
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 N8EQJ for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site Coordinator	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO K8CMP	Joe Wehner 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 KB8UUZ KB8DPN N4TIE WB8LCD N8XTH N8PXW N8QE K8CMP N8EQJ	Jim Aylward Tom Parkinson Russ Anderson, Sr. Carl Capps Tom Sly Deron Boring Jim Korenz Bob Hajdak Chuck Patellis Ed Polack
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

PCARS Mentors – Need some help or advice?

Contact by email at <callsign>@portcars.org

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



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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
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PCARS
www.portcars.org



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