



The

# RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



August 2008

~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~

Vol. 3 No. 8

~ 2008 Officers ~

President: - Tom Sly - WB8LCD  
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD  
Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UJZ  
3 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - K8CMP  
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1 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL

~ Meetings ~

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
every month.  
7 pm at  
Sideliners  
Brimfield Plaza  
Brimfield, Ohio

~ Nets ~

Thursday nights  
8 PM  
on 146.895  
PL Tones  
110.9 Rootstown  
114.8 Kent

PCARS Established

Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL affiliated  
April 20, 2006

## From the President

I know a lot of Hams. I'm involved in a lot of Ham Radio activities. This is a GREAT hobby, and there's certainly a lot of different areas to be involved in. If you aren't having fun with your Ham Radio experience, be sure to let me know, I've got some things to tell you about.

In talking with some guys who have been around for awhile, one of the saddest things I see are people who are stagnant in the hobby. I know guys who brag about being a Ham for 20, 30 even 40 years! But I also know that they really only have 1 or 2 years of Ham Radio experience, and they just keep doing it over and over without ever learning or trying something new!

I don't want to step on any toes here, but the Technician class license is designed to get people into, and started in the hobby. It was never meant to be a final destination! Now I understand there are circumstances where it will be, and that's OK. But what's stopping you from moving forward? For the past 40 years that I've been a Ham, I've always heard that it was the dreaded code requirement that kept so many back. So what's the excuse now? Honest, I'm not trying to lecture, but, if I could, I would sure like to motivate you to keep learning and keep on growing in the hobby!

With a Technician class license, you can work DX on 6 or 10 meters. You can experiment with fast scan ATV. You can make contacts utilizing one of the many amateur satellites in space. Ever heard of microwaves? How about fox-hunting? Volunteering at public service events? Did you know you can even learn CW and make contacts on 15 - 40 and 80 meters? If all you've ever done is made a contact through the repeater, get out there and try something new!

As you move up in license class, the opportunities that this hobby has for you are astounding! PCARS has, and will continue, to try to make all these different Ham Radio activities accessible to you by bringing you meeting speakers, special activities, building projects and operating experiences that will pull you out of your comfort zone and give you the opportunity to try new things without having to go it alone. If there is something of interest to you that we haven't thought of yet, point it out to one of the officers - we truly want to bring you the programs you're interested in.

Let me finish by offering these words:

"A ham radio license is a terrible thing to waste".

Join us and participate in the PCARS activities.

Keep learning, keep improving your skills, keep adding to the experiences you have as a Ham. Don't ever look back and say "I wish I had done....." in the Ham Radio hobby, but just never got around to doing it. There's too much fun to be had!

I had the opportunity to visit the Warren Amateur Radio Club in July and did my QRP presentation for them. Jim, KC8RKV and Tom, KB8UJZ were there to lend support. The presentation was fun and everyone enjoyed it.

73,

Tom - WB8LCD



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### From the Vice President

Thanks again to Gay, WB8VNO, and Jim, N8PXW, for their presentation on Fox Hunting at the July meeting. They did a great job of supplementing the video and we hope that PCARS members take the chance to participate in one of the biweekly Wednesday evening Fox Hunts offered by the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club. You can find more information at <http://www.cfarc.org/foxhunt.html>.

I appreciated having had the opportunity to attend the Massillon Amateur Radio Club on July 11th to make a

presentation on my experiences in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, as an ARES volunteer following Hurricane Katrina. It is always a pleasure to get out to other clubs' meetings and get to know other hams in the surrounding counties.

Although the photos made it into the July newsletter, the information was missing about PCARS participation at the Portage County Boy Scouts Scout-arama that was held at the Ravenna Moose Club property on State Route 14, formerly known as Holiday Sands.



KC8PD & Scouts

Dave, WB2DFC, Tom, WB8LCD, Errol, KC8RJR, Mike, KB8TUY, and myself all had an enjoyable time running the ham radio demonstration for the scouts. They learned about CW, satellite ops and digital modes and were also able to get on the air for some phone QSO's.

Just around the corner on August 9th PCARS will be holding its third annual Two Meter FM Simplex Contest. It runs from noon to eight p.m. and is a lot of fun, particularly for the mobile stations that get out there and operate from each of the thirty political subdivisions in the county. So plot yourself a fuel efficient route around the county and hit the road!

This year we are going to be operating from the PCARS club site using the club's call sign, KD8CKP. This station will not be an entry in the contest but is guaranteed to put out a signal that can be heard throughout the county. Make it a point to stop by and visit as you are going through Ravenna. Even if you aren't operating mobile, come on by and visit or even take the mic for a while.

The club site will be serving as the "Black Squirrel Oasis" for the day. There will be cold beverages and snacks available or you can bring some of your own. I will be looking for you there.

Congratulations to Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, from Leavenworth, Kansas, who has been named as the Young Ham of the Year. You can read more about her and the award at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/08/10201/?nc=1>. Emily is the daughter of Mike Stewart, K0MDS, who I had the pleasure to work with in Ocean

Springs, MS, after Hurricane Katrina. Mike is a terrific guy and an excellent ham radio operator. He has to be very proud of his daughter who I met at Dayton last year. She obviously takes after her Dad.

Activity continues at the PCARS club station located on Oakwood Street in Ravenna. We have obtained the materials for installing the dropped ceiling and lights in the radio room. After the ceiling is up, we can take care of the carpeting in that room and then start on the workshop located at the rear of the garage. Help is always needed so watch for e-mails letting you know when we will be there working.

If you know anyone interested in getting into the hobby of amateur radio, please let them know that the Fall edition of the PCARS Technician course will begin on September 23rd at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna. They can contact me for additional information.

*Jim, KC8PD*

### *Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites*

Greetings to all from Parkman, OH. I guess I don't have to tell anyone that we are in the midst of a very warm summer. At the time of this writing it is 88



degrees and very humid. I have been working on my tower site and the hole for the base is progressing with a lot of sweat and tears. Well, not many tears, but much perspiration. It will take a few days to dig since I am going to take it nice and easy. With the only yagi on the tower being for 6 meters, I have been listening a lot and low and behold, DX. The band has been open several days with some openings into the Pacific rim. Japan amateur stations were coming in very strong here on CW and SSS portion of the band was open from coast to coast. Worked Nova Scotia and a few minutes later worked California. But for those of you who have HF antennas up and working, lets see what we can look for in the months to come.

### **DX**

**9M0, SPRATLY ISLANDS** (Updated). 9M6XRO and 9M6DXX will lead a team of six operators to **Pulau Layang Layang, Spratly Islands (IOTA AS-051)**, some time in

March 2009 (1-14th was mentioned earlier). Activity will be on all bands 80-10 meters, CW, SSB and RTTY, using three stations (two with full legal limit linear amps). The callsign is to be confirmed and the QSL information is via M3SDE (direct or by the Bureau). A new Web site has been set-up for updates, and now it has a poll on it for what bands are needed. Please visit the site at: <http://www.spratly2009.com/>

**A3, TONGA** (Looking for Dry Weather/Back on The Air!). A35RK, is finally getting back on the air after record-rainfall season. He reports that the waters are receding, but the bad weather has not only badly damaged their bush road (4WD required), but the lack of sunshine has severely restricted his availability of electrical power for several months. Paul states, "my 'play radio' time has also been limited to brief periods of listening and QRP transmissions. However, our batteries are all charged up now, and I hope that I can be more active." Paul states that he will be installing a SteppIR "BIG IR" vertical with the 80m kit as soon as the ground dries out and he gets the house painted. His 3-element SteppIR yagi is working fine, and the 4-element 6M yagi is also up. Paul was heard this past week on 20 meters SSB just after 0215z.

**AT6, India.** On behalf of the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI), VU2PTT, will be active in the IARU Contest using his special callsign AT6T as the HQ station. Look for AT6T giving out the ARSI multiplier on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB during the IARU Contest. Prasad has permission to use this callsign from July 1st through the end of September 2008. Look for this special callsign possibly in other contests as well. As usual, all QSOs will be uploaded to the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) and QSL requests may be made to VU2PTT direct (QRZ.COM) or via the ARSI Bureau. Please use the current IRC for direct requests, green stamps have a habit of disappearing in the postal system along with your QSL card. It is also not legal in India to send or receive currency by postal mail, and the recipient can get into trouble.

**E51, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS** - N7OU, says that he will again be operating from Rarotonga as E51NOU between September 15th and October 11th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using low power and CW only. Bill states, "For most of my stay I'll be operating around a work schedule, but I'll make a special effort to be on at grayline times to Europe." QSL via N7OU.

**EP, IRAN** - JH1NBN, is currently active as EP3BN. The length of his stay is unknown. He was heard on 20 meters SSB this past week between 1330-1600z. QSL via his home callsign.

**FH, MAYOTTE** Remember that F6BFH, will be active as FH/F6BFH from now until August 9th. Activity will be on all bands, CW and SSB, but he will pay particular attention to the lower bands.

**HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN** (25 Years of DXpeditions to HB0). Members of the Rhein Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA) will be active as HB0/HB9AON and will be celebrating their 25th DXpedition to Triesenberg, Liechtenstein, between October



18-31st. The German team will also be active in the CQ World-Wide SSB DX Contest as a Multi- Multi entry. QSL via DJ2YE.

**P41, ARUBA.** W3BTX (P49T), W3TEF and P43JB will once again be using the special issued prefix and call sign P41USA (in remembering the USA attacks on September 11, 2001), between September 3-12th. Activity will be on all bands 160-2 meters. QSL Manager is W3TEF. ADDED NOTE: Bob states, "Last year was the 1st time for P41USA, and we worked over 4,000 QSOs and over 100 countries."

**PIRATE ALERT.** Mamuka, 4L2M, informs us that a station active as 4L6X has been on the air and is operating without Georgian permission.

**VO2, CANADA** (Rare Canadian IOTAs). VE3LYC and G3OCA will activate two rare Canadian IOTAs that have been on only once about 13-14 years ago. Look for them to operate from **Finger Hill Island (NA-194)** and **Paul Island (NA-205)**, between July 30th and August 5th using the call sign **VO2A**. They intend to operate for three days from each island with two stations on the air from 40-6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via VE3LYC, direct or by the Bureau (G/GM/GW/GI stations can confirm via G3OCA).

**YU8, KOSOVO** (DXCC=Serbia). Look for YU8/S56M to be activated by the Slovenia Contest Club team, which will visit Kosovo during the first part of August 2008. Main target is participation in the WAE CW Contest. Activity outside of the contest will be on all HF bands and modes including 6 meters. QSL via S57U. More information will be available on the SCC home page at: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc>

**ZS8, MARION ISLANDS.** There is still no activity reported. For updates and the first official announcement of ZS8T being on the air, please visit the official ZS8T Web site at: <http://zs8t.net>

## IOTA NEWS

**ATTENTION JCC COLLECTORS.** Individuals who are interested in collecting Japanese cities for the JCC award (Japan Cities-Century Award) will be very interested and happy to hear that the very rare JCC 4614 will be on the air August 9-11th. JH3LBD will be active from Nishinoomote City during this time. This is also **IOTA AS-032**. He is expected to be on 7021 kHz at 1100z each day.

**EU-123** - GM3VLB and MM0NDX plan to activate **Bass Rock (CS-02)** on Saturday, August 16th, from early to late. They plan to have two stations on the air (Battery power) using vertical and Inverted V antennas. Bass Rock hasn't been activated since 2004.

**NA-067.** AB3FX, KB3PVA and KB3NVH will be active as AB3FX/4 from **Ocracoke Island (USi NC-001S, WLOTA LH-0466**, Hyde County, North Carolina) between August 10-16th. This will be a holiday style activity with activity mainly on 20 meters. They also hope to take part in the later part of the Maryland-DC QSO party. QSL via the bureau to AB3FX.

Direct is "OK" for U.S. stations; there is no need to include an SASE unless you would like a card back in an envelope (otherwise it will come as a postcard).

**SA-037.** The "4M5DX Group" is planning another IOTA activation this time to **Blanquilla Island**. Operations will take place between August 4-9th and the call sign will be YW5IOTA. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. The dates may undergo a small change due to the Navy of Venezuela, which will transport them to the island. Sponsors and individual donations are welcome. Interested parties may contact the QSL Manager Corrado, IT9DAA. Visit their Web page at: <http://yw5iota.4m5dx.info>

## LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY.

**LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP ACTIVITY** (ILLW - August 16-17th) Members of the Kungälv Radio Club (SK6NL) will once again activate **7S6LHT** from **Vinga Island (EU-043, ILLW SE0028, WLOTA LH-1517)** during the International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW), August 16-17th.

**5P0MF/LH** - From **Nordborg, Isle of Als** (Not IOTA). The grid locator is: JO45UC. Lighthouse reference numbers: JY-001, DK0006 and DEN-029. QSL via DH1LAO, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the DARC Bureau. To be activate during the International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW), August 16-17th.

**5Q3R/LH** - From **Romsø Island (EU-172)**. The grid locator is: JO55JM. Lighthouse reference number: DK0008. QSL via OZ Bureau. To be activate during the International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW), August 16-17th.

**OZ0MF** - From **Nordborg, Isle of Als** (Not IOTA), The grid locator is: JO45UC. Lighthouse reference number: DEN-029 and JY-001. QSL via DH1LAO, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the DARC Bureau. To be activate during the International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW), August 16-17th.

Members of the Kerry Amateur Radio Group will be active as **EI1KARG** from the **Cromwell Point Lighthouse** (ARLHS IRE-077, ILLW IE0001, WLOTA LH-2484), Ireland (EU-115), for the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) (August 16-17th). QSL via EI9FVB, direct or by the bureau.

**MM5PSL**, will be active as GB2ELH from the **Eshaness Lighthouse on Shetland Islands** (EU-012, ARLHS SCO-075, ILLW UK0058, TWLHD WLH GM-026, WLOTA LH-0867, Admiralty A3838) during the International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW), August 16-17th. QSL via MM5PSL.

**PJ2LS/LH** - will be active from **"Light Punt Kanon"** (ARLHS NEA-009, WLOTA LH-0942, WW Loc. FK52PB) on the Island of Curacao (SA-006) during the International Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW), August 16-17th. The grid locator is: FK52PB. The lighthouse is solar powered, no electricity is available in the area; therefore it will be a fully "self supporting" activation by using generator power. A special lighthouse event QSL card will be available by sending

your QSL to PD1DRE. For Bureau QSLs, please write "PD1DRE QSL Region Number R23" on the backside of the card. This will allow an easier sorting of the cards by the Dutch QSL Bureau.

**SV**, Greek operators will activate for the first time the lighthouse called **Ipsili (WLOTA: L-0237, ARLHS: GRE-123) on the rocky islet Strogili (IOTA: EU-001, GIOTA: DKS 001, MIA: MGD-022)**, from July 25th to August 4th. The lighthouse was built in 1917. The altitude of the tower is 9 meters and the height of focal plane is 85 meters. The call sign will be **SX5C**. Activity will be on all bands from 160-2m on all modes. QSL manager is **SV1HER**. Also, for more details please look at the Web page at: <http://sx5c.blogspot.com/>

Well there you have it for this month. There is a lot going on and I will say it again. Please let me know what you are working so that I can let others know by posting it in the Newsletter. For now, 73 and gud DX.

**Chuck, K8CMP**

## Scout – O – Rama

Scout – O – Rama was held on Saturday, June 14, at the Moose Club (the old Holiday Sands park) in Ravenna. Scouts from Portage County (Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts/Adventure Scouts) were able to camp out for the



**WB8LCD with a group of interested Scouts**

weekend, and on Saturday have a range of demonstration activities to participate in. These activities included the basic scouting skills, but went on to include demonstrations from others such as "Search and Rescue" and "Amateur Radio".

Participating with PCARS were Errol **KC8RJR**, Dave **WB2DFC**, Mike **KB8TUY**, Leon **N8GLK**, Ted **WD8CVH**, Jim **KC8PD** and Tom **WB8LCD**. First and foremost, we all had a fun day of Amateur Radio! We got to set up antennas in the rain. We had an HF station running all day producing contacts up and down the east coast on both SSB and PSK. **WB2DFC** made several

satellite contacts. **WD8CVH** did a demonstration on radio direction finding and fox hunting. **WB8LCD** did a demo on morse code. **KC8PD** even used his pactor modem to send text messages to scout leaders who had their cell phones with them!

Lots of scouts got to see what ham radio was all about. There was one small group of kids about 11-12 years old who seemed really interested and kept circling back through the course of the day to see more. Hopefully their interest will bring them back on Field Day or to some other future PCARS event! It was a good day and a good way for PCARS to get some additional exposure in the community.

Thanks to all who participated!

**Tom, WB8LCD**

**Editor's Note:** The pictures for Scout-A-Rama are in the July issue of the RADIOGRAM.

## Paper Chase

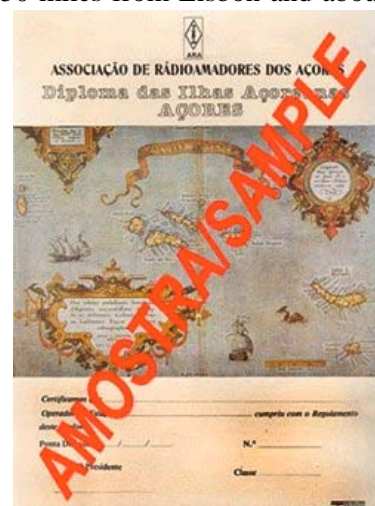
### Azorean Islands Certificate

When you ask the question, "Where are the Azores?" People often say they are the islands located just off the coast of the north-western Africa near Morocco and Western Sahara. **WRONG!!!** Those are the Canary Islands.

The Azores are a Portuguese archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, about 950 miles from Lisbon and about 2,400 miles from the east coast of North America. The two westernmost Azorean islands Flores and Corvo actually are 1,200 miles from St. John's in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The award is sponsored by the Associacao de

Radioamadores dos Acores (A.R.A.) and is available to all amateurs that have contacted Azorean (CU) stations since 1 Jan 1986. Two different classes of the award are available, and for each, you must contact at least 5 different Azorean Islands via any mode. A contact with the Island of San Miguel (CU2) is required for either award. The table below shows the number of contacts



required for each award.

Locality	1st Class	2nd Class
USA	12	6

Below is a list of the Islands with their callsign prefix.  
CU1 Island of Santa Maria, Vila do Porto  
CU2 Island of Sao Miguel, Ponta Delgada, Ribeira Grande, Vila Fraca do Campo, Lagoa, Nordeste, Povoacao.  
CU3 Terceira Island, Angra do Heroismo, Praia da Vitoria  
CU4 Graciosa Island, Santa Cruz da Graciosa  
CU5 San Jorge Island ,Sao velas, Calheta  
CU6 Island of Pico, Madalena, Lajes, Sao Roque.  
CU7 Island of Faial, Horta  
CU8 Island of Flores, Santa Cruz, Lages  
CU9 Island of Corvo, Vila Nova do Corvo.

Send a GCR list and \$US10 or 15 IRCs to:

A.R.A. - RA-Associacao de Radioamadores dos Acores  
Apartado 211 - 9501-903 - Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel,  
Acores Portugal

You may find out more information at:

<http://www.cu2ara.com>

**Joe, W8KNO**

## ***Tower Power***

The long awaited PCARS antennas have now been installed on the 200 foot tower located next to the PCARS club site. Good things do come to those who wait.

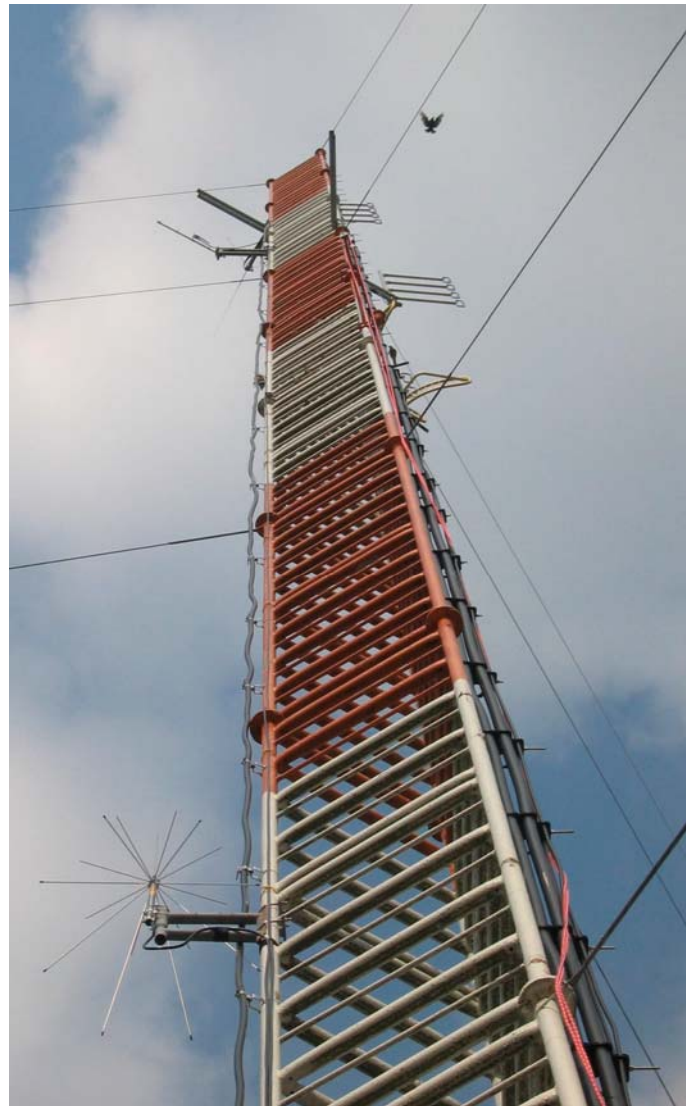
A quick recap for those might not recall the whole story:

At the end of the Summer of 2006 the PCARS board had discussed the possibility of contacting the Ohio Department of Transportation about acquiring space on ODOT's FCC licensed antenna tower located on the Oakwood Street site in Ravenna that ODOT had abandoned when it moved the district operation over to Summit County.

In September, Russ, KB8DPN, who is employed by ODOT, got wind of the fact that ODOT was planning on demolishing the tower and all of the buildings on the site. He put us in touch with the appropriate ODOT staff but after the PCARS board weighed its options we decided that the preservation of the tower would be a bigger and more expensive project than PCARS could safely tackle.

Information about ODOT's plans for the site were passed along to Family & Community Services, Inc., a local non-profit social services agency, that quickly made the decision to pursue discussions with ODOT about acquiring the entire property. It was an intense and fast paced six weeks as all of the negotiations were wrapped up and ODOT conveyed the property to F&CS.

PCARS was able to make arrangements with F&CS to have the continued use of the antennas that were on the tower as well as the use of the space that is now the club site. At that same time, FireCom, the safety forces



dispatch service operated by Ravenna Township, was in immediate need of a tower site for the installation of its upgraded radio system. Their funding sources wanted the installation to occur before the end of 2006.

FireCom approached F&CS which readily agreed to lease space on the tower to FireCom in order to get them out of a tight spot and on the air. Unfortunately, during the installation of the FireCom antennas the contractor



had assumed that there were no intended uses for the old ODOT antennas and removed most of them and their coax with the okay from an F&CS staffer who had no idea of PCARS' plans for the antennas.

When ODOT left there was a ground plane antenna at the top of the tower along with two verticals at lower elevations, a VHF beam, and a discone closer to the ground. Only one of the verticals survived.

PCARS had formed a committee to consider the use of the tower and the site and the decision was made to propose that the tower essentially be restored to its prior condition by the installation of a two meter vertical near the top of the tower, a tri-band antenna to replace the remaining vertical, a 220 beam to replace the beam that had been removed, plus the installation of a new discone and a pulley that could be used to hoist the end of a wire antenna. FireCom agreed to the proposal.

Coordinating the process with all of the respective players became a much more protracted process than had been anticipated, punctuated by a long break over the 2007-2008 Winter when tower climbing was out of the question.

By late Spring of this year FireCom's antenna contractor made a suggestion that PCARS be given a filtered receive signal off the FireCom array at the top of the tower in lieu of the installation of hardline and a two meter vertical. The recommendation made sense and we agreed to it. Ravenna Township had signed off on a lease addendum that committed to PCARS use of the tower and the FireCom antenna. Then it was just a matter of waiting until the contractor and steeplejack could schedule the job.

We got the word on July 15<sup>th</sup> that they planned to do the work the next day and luckily Ed, N8EQJ, could be at the site to help coordinate the process. Things went smoothly. We now have a receive signal on 146.295 MHz (the N8EQJ repeater input) and the beam pointed toward the repeater transmitter at KSU. The tower can now serve as a backup receive site for the repeater.

The six meter, two meter and 70 centimeter tri-band is in place and works great. The pulley and discone are also installed and ready to go.

It certainly took longer than we ever expected but the finished product was worth it. This has been a big step forward in adding functionality to the PCARS club site. Watch for more to follow!

***Jim, KC8PD***

## ***Some Words From Weaver***

### ***+++ What is Amateur Radio? +++***

At the risk of boring you to tears, let's start at the very beginning (this ought to make a good song title).

Ama-ture -- from the Latin, amo. Loosely means love. An amateur does something for the love of doing it. An amateur may be paid well, poorly or not at all. The key is that the task is done for the love of doing it.

Ra-dio -- from radiate. In Amateur Radio, this refers to radiating an electronic signal from what has become known as a station. There is commercial radio, military radio, government radio, public radio and, best of all, Amateur Radio -- i.e. radio for the love of doing it.



Let's clear up a great misimpression. This is that all workers are either "professional" or "non-professional," and that Amateur Radio operators are non-professional. This misconception resulted from the corruption of the English language largely during the last half or so of the 20th century. The confusion and corruption has not cleared since the enlightened days of the early 21st century.

It has been said that the French don't care what they say so long as it sounds good (the French language is beautiful). It can also be said that we Americans don't care what we say so long as we know what we (the speaker) intends to say. Neither position helps ensure accuracy of communication.

In times past, calling a person a "professional" had nothing or at most, little to do with money. For example, even though we call paid baseball, football and other athletes "professional," none of them are "professional" in the true sense of the word. They are paid, skilled commercial athletes.

Although we now call highly skilled craftsmen professional, this use of the word also differs from its true meaning. Craftsmen can be referred to as Master, Journeyman or Apprentice plumbers, carpenters, etc. Each term is a legitimate and appropriately complimentary title.

Back in my rural, northwestern Indiana community, we didn't have Master or Journeymen craftsman. In our simplicity, we referred to appropriately-skilled people as

being highly skilled, did good work or hire-"him"-if you needed something thrown together. The worker's skill level was well know, appreciated and rewarded. But, he was not a professional.

One could also add the term "artisan" to our list of categories. Artisans include good sculptors, real life or abstract art painters and musicians. They aren't professional. You know the people to whom I refer.

The term "Professional" was limited to people who obtained special education that permitted them to perform at a different plane from those in the trades or crafts. Professionals included teachers, physicians, dentists, scientists, attorneys, ministers. This does not at all mean that highly skilled or trained non-professionals are slouches. They deserve great respect also.

Where does this take me? Right back to Amateur Radio (hams).

In my book, a radio amateur is a person who recognizes the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service. This especially includes providing emergency communication for no charge to the public or served agencies.

As a body, Amateur Radio operators strive to continue and extend their proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and science. They encourage and improve the Amateur Radio Service through programs that facilitate advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art. Their effort to expand the existing reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts is a continuation and extension of their unique ability to foster international goodwill.

All this is what makes Amateur Radio operators true professionals.

Fabled newscaster and commentator Walter Cronkite, who narrates the CD "Amateur Radio Today," also states that hams are professionals. This statement is accurate in the true meaning of the word. We are professionals not because we are paid, but because of the education and training we have put ourselves through. Just as physicians, teachers and others I refer to as true professionals, every ham operator who holds an FCC license has what might be called a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Amateur Radio.

Many amateurs have Ph.D.s in Amateur Radio not merely because they are licensed, but because they have become self-educated to the degree at which they can

out-perform a number of college-educated engineers.

Amateur Radio -- a hobby? Yes, it is this and much more. It is a service; a service to the public, thanks to the discoveries, innovation and disaster relief activities we have performed and continue to perform.

This line of thinking leads me to believe you and I are Professional Amateur Radio Operators in the Amateur Radio Service. We are not merely amateur radio operators. Many Professional Amateur Radio Operators have sub-training in Morse code, Digital Communication, Emergency Communication, Systems Design and Development and other facets of the degree. All of us are Professional, regardless of which, if any, sub-specialties we pursued or continue to pursue.

Don't let anyone try to tell you otherwise. To borrow a phrase, we are the proud, the few, the Professional Amateur Radio Operators.

### **+++ Another member helps vs. Part 15 device interference +++**

Another Great Lakes Division amateur has reported excessive radiation from a Part 15 battery charger. This is another step taken by a Great Lakes Division member to clean-up interference by an unlicensed device.

In helping a neighbor resolve a case of interference, Lambertville, Michigan amateur Denny Hilbert, K8KAS traced the problem to a pulse battery charger in the home. He obtained the charger and sent it to Ed Hare, W8RFI at the ARRL testing lab. Ed and his staff tested the charger and found it was emitting signals at 27 dB above the maximum level allowed by FCC rules.

With Denny's agreement, the charger was forwarded along with the lab report to Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KID. Chris included the charger and data in an official complaint to the FCC.

This is another great example of how the initiative and action of an individual amateur played a major role in enabling ARRL to fight interference. It is also another great example of how individual amateurs can take action to protect the Amateur Radio service we enjoy so much and that is so valuable in our assistance to our communities. Thanks Denny.

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



## EmComm

Congratulations from all of us at PCARS to Matt Welch, KB1LCS, who was recently named as the District Emergency Coordinator for the newly created ARES District Ten in the Ohio Section. The district covers the north coast, including Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula and Geauga counties.



Apparently the powers that be in the Ohio Section decided that these counties would be better served if they were combined into one new district. It has been a number of years since Cuyahoga County has even had an EC of its own. Matt has been on the road already, getting the emcomm word out to the clubs in Cuyahoga County and looking for some volunteers.

Matt has quite a challenge ahead of him and a lot of ground to cover but he should be up to the task. He is a US Navy Veteran who served as a Corpsman for almost 6 years and he completed 3 years as a Medic (91W) in the Army National Guard. He has volunteered for over 50 public service events including Hurricane Katrina and the 2005 Marine Corps Marathon.

He is also currently the Radio Officer for the Lake County Amateur Radio Association and Net Manager for the Lake County ARES Net, a Net Control for the Tri-County Traffic Training Net, a member of the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and a member of Navy Marine Corps MARS, NNN0IGGT. Matt's wife Lynette, KB1LGB, and his oldest son Hector, K14LKX, are also hams.

Many of us also know Matt as the helpful guy working the counter at Amateur Electronic Supply up in Wickliffe. You can always depend on Matt for quality advice and assistance whether you are shopping at the store or catch him on the phone.

We hope to see Matt down here in the future and look forward to working with him in the future.

Stuart Carter, AAA9A, the Chief of Army MARS, holds a "chief's net" on HF every couple weeks. For those who can't make it to the net, Stu distributes a transcript of the entire net.

He made a number of interesting observations in his most recent net, in particular the importance of MARS members obtaining accurate and complete information before submitting what MARS calls Essential Elements

of Information. The EEI's are used by MARS members in the field to report back up the chain of command about the actual conditions found in an affected area.

Since the vast majority of EEI's that moved through the MARS traffic system are sent just for practice, the MARS station originating the message has to create the fictional EEI from scratch.

Chief Carter's concern is that MARS members don't get practice collecting actual information, first-hand, from knowledgeable sources.



His recommendation? Get to know your local officials and agency representatives who can provide accurate and timely information. These could include police and fire department representatives, elected officials, or EMA directors, just to name a few. What should be avoided is the creation of EEI's from second and third-hand sources such as TV and radio station reports.

Chief Carter's suggestions are particularly relevant locally where we have the benefit of an active RACES operation under the auspices of the EMA and the chance for MARS members to be involved directly with the EMA.



It was also a good reminder, in another vein, that severe weather nets such as Skywarn should consist of actual reports of real time events by stations in the net and not chats about what the weather radio is showing on the television.

Good operating practices are a benefit in every type of emcomm net. The more we practice them the better we will perform if disaster strikes.

**Jim, KC8PD**  
*RACES Radio Officer*

## August Contest Calendar

### August 2008

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 2 to 2359Z, Aug 3
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 2 to 1800Z, Aug 3
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 2 to 0600Z, Aug 3
PCARS 2M Simplex Contest	Aug 6, noon to 800:pm EDT
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 , Aug 16 - 2400 local, Aug 17
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 16 to 0600Z, Aug 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 18

## The Lo Buk Antenna

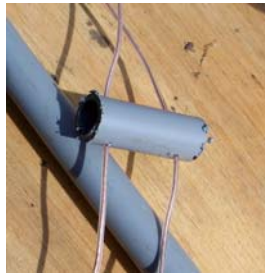
Another hot July holiday weekend without a lot on the schedule. ...So, I decided to experiment with some feedline/antenna ideas I had rolling around the ole' nogin. I call it "The Lo Buk Antenna". I think minus the mast, I might have \$20 in the whole project, including the mount. The telescopic mast is in my regular inventory for many different applications.

I wanted an antenna that would tune on all HF bands, so I researched the G5RV stuff and other open wire feed designs and decided to make my own. I was too cheap and lazy to find 300 ohm cable and didn't want to buy any antenna insulators (needed to have extra \$\$ on hand for the cheap beer), so I made an open wire feed cable and used the remainder of the wire for the antenna portion.

I started with a roll of radio Shack speaker wire, 100 feet. I decided the feed line would be the length of the telescopic mast. So I measured and marked the wire every three (3) feet and cut 10 insulators/spacers from some old plastic conduit from the junk pile. I did not arrive at the size of the insulator/spacer by any scientific means, I used the SWAG approach. (silly wild a\$\$ guess).



I made all insulators/spacers the same size and then drilled holes to pass the speaker wire through. As I made each insulator/spacer, I separated the two (2) speaker wire conductors to allow for the spacing on the insulator/spacer, then passed the wire through and used a hot glue gun to keep the spacers in place. Again, through no scientific effort, I decided to drill the holes in the insulator/spacer using the tried and true SWAG system.



At the top, I made another insulator out of the same plastic conduit and used it to attach, or in this case, route, the wire out each side, creating a dipole type antenna. The theory behind the dipole portion when feeding it with an open wire is to make the dipole long enough for operation on the lowest frequency desired. Since the mast is 31 feet high, the remainder of the 100 feet of speaker wire (used a calculator) 69 feet, became the legs of my dipole. I measured for 40 meters and 80 meters and used the now famous "Aylward Resonance Wrap" method of stowing unused wire. When I want to

operate on 80 meters and I have enough space to deploy the entire antenna, I activate the "ARW" (Aylward Resonance Wrap) system and get underway. By the way, I added the LDG 1:1 balun at the bottom, which if research is anywhere near correct, I should be able to connect the antenna directly to a coax feed line and eliminate the balun. I'll have to try that later.



"How does it work you ask???" Well, 20 watts from the back yard to a station in Cincinnati, 20 watts to Tennessee, and then 80 watts to the Finger Lakes in New York. I made a few QRP CW contacts as well. I am pleased with the project and expect it to work well.

I am taking the "Lo Buk Antenna" to OSPOTA to try as an NVIS antenna. Not wanting all my eggs (or wires) in one basket, I will also have a plain old dipole (POD) for 40/80 and masting, in case I was a victim of exceptional propagation while checking out the Lo Buk Antenna.



So.... I'm always interested in antenna projects. Any ideas are welcomed and might be tried. (of course I'll take all of the credit) HI HI.

73 to you all

**Dave, WB2DFC**

## W1AW/KL7 to Operate from Arctic Circle

Just 300 miles south of the Alaskan Arctic Ocean -- where the Arctic Circle crosses the Dalton Highway (66 degrees, 33 minutes north) -- **W1AW/KL7** will be on the air (grid square BP56) July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters.

This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz. The



Alaskan summer skies are ablaze with grayline-enhanced propagation effects, providing six to eight hour spurts of activity to most of the ham radio world. **W1AW/KL7** plans to be active from 0600 UTC-1400 UTC to maximize gray line propagation. From Alaska, signals will take off in both directions at the same time: Europe to the East on one side, with Asia to the West on the other side. For an illustration of how Arctic gray line propagation works, see page 21 in the August 2008 issue of QST. The 2008 Alaska ARRL Convention will run from August 1-4, 2008 in Anchorage. -- From the ARRL and Information provided by:

**Bill Balzarini, KL7BB**

## **ARRL Contest Club Entry Update**

Submitting your score for a club is fun, but be sure to get the name right! Log checker Tree N6TR reports that there is a great deal of variation in how club names are spelled in a log file. For example, logs crediting the "Podunk Amateur Radio Club" might contain variations such as "Podunk ARC", "Radio Club of Podunk", "PARC", "PRC", "Podunk RC", and so forth. Club names are frequently mis-spelt, as well. Help the log checkers get it right by spelling the name of your club correctly and encouraging all members to use the same form of the club name.

### **From the ARRL Contest Update**

**From the Editor:** When submitting contest logs, please enter in the club name: "Portage County Amateur Radio Service". Don't add anything else, and don't abbreviate.

## **Hamfest Calendar**

**17 Aug 2008** - Warren Amateur Radio Association - Trumbull County Fairgrounds - 899 Everitt Hull Rd - Cortland, OH - Talk-In: 146.970 <http://kc8pvh.com>

**28 Sep 2008** - Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show - Hamfest Assoc. of Cleveland - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Rd - Berea, OH - <http://www.hac.org> - Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9)

## **Volunteering**

Excerpts taken from the ARRL 1988 Communications Manual

A volunteer; A person who performs or offers to perform a service of his or her own free will, A person who renders aid, performs a service, or assumes an obligation voluntarily. Do you fit this description?

As the Great Lakes Division Legislation Action Coordinator (DLAC), I have asked the State Legislative Action Coordinators (LAC) when making first contact

with prospective Legislative Action Assistants (LAA) to make sure before they accepted the position that they were asked to take, to read the description before they make a decision. In accepting the volunteer position they will be expected to do the work, knowing that circumstances do arise and that make it impossible to carry through. But all in all we all are expected to do the job we accept.

The LAC has asked you to take this position because they feel you can and will do the work involved. They have asked you to take this position because they need it done and feel you were the best person to do it. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the ARRL. They are difficult to find, more difficult to keep, and at times, we all can be difficult to work with. Volunteers come in a wide variety of shapes, colors, sizes, backgrounds, skills, experience, and levels of motivation. They have their own reasons for participating and their own specific needs which must be met if they are to continue to volunteer. Their needs, abilities, and accomplishments determine the ultimate success or failure.

We must remember that volunteers are human beings with human needs, goals, attitudes, abilities, strengths and weaknesses. Since volunteers are the basic resource that we will be working with, it will be to our advantage to get to know each other as well as possible. Generally, volunteers will do precisely what they are asked to do - no more - no less. As each individual has his own likes and dislikes, it may be necessary to demonstrate the full value of some assignments which are important though unpopular.



Volunteers must believe in what you are asking them to do is really needed. Volunteers don't like to be underutilized, and tend to disappear when kept cooling their heels for a significant length of time. They will work for long hours under the worst conditions as long as they can see the need for it. Most will do anything you ask as long as they're treated properly. If you mistreat or abuse them, they may not volunteer their help again.

It would be physically impossible to discuss in this article every possible reason why people join a volunteer group. Generally speaking, they volunteer and join to satisfy a personal need. The majority of your volunteers though joined out of a need they have to serve the public or hobby in a way they best know how: as communicators. These are the volunteers you should direct your efforts toward. You've got to find out what



their needs are before you can attempt to satisfy these. In short, the best way to find out why your members volunteered is to ask them!

As volunteers they have a right to expect courteous, considerate, fair and impartial treatment from the leadership. Courtesy is always in order; rudeness will cost us dearly. In addition to learning and compensating for their weaknesses and being tolerant of their faults, you must also consider their feelings. Don't forget that you are taking precious time from their families. They also have the right to expect you to make a reasonable effort to learn and apply the skills and techniques of communications management. You will be expected to make mistakes -- admit them openly, and learn from them as you grow into your new role. You will also be expected to keep them informed as to what is happening and why. Unfortunately, some members will expect much more of you than they have a right to expect, and often more than you can do. They may expect you to change situations over which you have no control, force other volunteers to change their habits, provide them with privileged treatment or status, fire a useful assistant because they happen to dislike him, or other equally inappropriate actions. In short, they will tend to forget that you deserve the same treatment from them that they expect from you. Each member has different job demands and family requirements, as well as other outside interests.

**John D. Meyers, NB4K**

Great Lakes Division

Division Legislative Action Chairman

## Field Day After-Action Report

Our Field Day Score came in just south of 6,000 points, a 54% increase over 2007. bonus points accounted for 25% of that. We were able to score bonus points in every available categories except one.

For the first time, we faced periods of bad weather that caused a shut-down. We were ready, and we weren't off the air for long.

## Successes

Once again, Antenna Day pays off big time. By setting up the whole operation ahead of time, everybody knows exactly what to do in preparation for the actual contest.



**Bonus points claimed:** Check each block as appropriate and include required proof of points with your submission. All bonus points will be verified at ARRL HQ and added to your score.

- ☒ 100% Emergency power (Max. 20 transmitters)
- ☒ Media Publicity
- ☒ Set-up in Public Place
- ☒ Information Booth
- ☒ NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC
- ☒ WIAW Field Day Message
- ☒ Formal NTS messages handled (# 10)
- ☐ Satellite QSO completed
- ☒ Natural power QSOs completed
- ☒ Site Visit by invited elected official
- ☒ Site Visit by invited served agency official
- ☒ Educational Activity Bonus
- ☒ Youth Element achieved
- ☒ GOTA Bonus (total bonus points: 160)
- ☒ Submitted using the b4h.net applet

**Total Bonus Points Claimed:** 1,630

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
<b>80 M</b>	0	100	0	25	207	100
<b>40 M</b>	191	100	0	25	607	100
<b>20 M</b>	1	100	7	25	676	100
<b>15 M</b>	0	100	0	25	8	100
<b>10 M</b>	0	100	0	25	107	100
<b>6 M</b>	16	100	0	25	38	100
<b>2 M</b>	0	100	0	25	0	100
<b>GOTA</b>	0	100	0	25	84	100
<b>Totals</b>	208	CW	7	Digital	1,727	Phone

**Claimed QSO Score** 4,314

Our three phone stations did a fine job. Oddly, we had more business on ten meters than 15.

GOTA was very well-run this year. We were able to introduce several people to ham radio thru the GOTA station, and bag some points from it at the same time. Six meters openings were promptly pounced on, using both phone and CW.

The combination of in-line band filters, spreading out the antenna field a bit more, and uninterruptible power supplies solved most of the issues identified in 2007.

Everybody had a great time, and everybody ate like kings. Errol KC8RJR, Robert KD8GWY, and Tom WB8LCD outdid themselves.

And did you see that fancy, air conditioned communications van? All the other ham clubs are insanely jealous.

## Areas for improvement

Last minute configuration changes introduce confusion into the process. That fancy van managed to wipe out the wireless network for our whole site, until sharp digital detective work by Jim KC8RKV and Russ KB8DPN figured out the problem. We didn't have the Comm Van in the mix for antenna day, and spent the beginning of Field Day dealing with paper logs because of it.

Looks like FM is the wrong satellite mode for Field Day. Everybody was calling CQ, and nobody could answer. The FM transponder was completely jammed., and we completed no satellite QSO's at all, leaving us with the only unfulfilled bonus point category. We might have better luck with sideband.

The CW station posted a small gain in points over 2007. I don't think we called CQ even once. There's plenty of room for improvement, but it will take serious operator effort, and computer automation.

**Bill, WB9LBI**  
*Field Day Co-Chairman*

## Notes From Field Day 2008

This year's Field Day was, for me, different from the past two years in that the 20 meter station was separate from the rest of the gang.

My first thought was that it would be more lonely being out of the center of things. But as it turned out, those who worked 20 meters were able to focus without any distractions - not counting the generator which kept cycling off and on throughout the entire time.

I had much more help this year than in the previous two and was able to get rest when needed. I think this helped a lot in our score because we had a lot of fresh voices and minds to run the station. I am not sure how the station fared as compared to the other stations running, but I believe that everyone that operated on 20 meters had fun and all contributed to what I hope was a good showing for our station.

My appreciation to all who helped by getting on the air or logged. I am looking forward to next year. PS: Working with a yagi for Field Day was a real treat.



Hopefully next year we have a rotor to go along with the beam. Thanks Ed for all the welding. It sure paid off.

**Chuck - K8CMP**  
*20 Meter Station Captain*

I had a great, but marathon, time at Field Day. The 20 meter station was well run and included that AMAZING antenna tower and trailer! As always, the big meal (prime rib) was excellent, along with all the side dishes and desserts.



One thing I could have used is some sort of tent or trailer where I and other weary operators could catch a nap. My truck seat -- even reclined -- wasn't much help. That said, I'm ready for next year!

**John, KC8KYW**

Like everyone else who attended, I had a great time at the PCARS Field Day event. This was our third Field Day as a club and it was easy to see how we have found some rhythm and routine to the entire operation. Planning, setup, operations and tear down all went smoothly.

It was particularly enjoyable for me since Bill, WB9LBI, and Ed, N8EQJ, had taken on the duties of the Field Day chair. Having been the event chair for the past two years it was a nice change of pace to have someone else do all that work.

I was a bit worried when the EMA's Mobile Command Center had not arrived by 1330 hours. That was to be the location of the band/mode "flex" station that I was responsible for. The station was no sooner set up in the pavilion when Jon Barber arrived with the van around 1345 hours. We hurriedly relocated the station to the van and it was on the air at the 1400 hours start time.



There were some real advantages to having the station in the Mobile Command Center, such as air

conditioning and no insects. The disadvantage was being away from the center of activity in the pavilion. But all in all it made a good station location, particularly after we shut down its on-board wifi network that was so strong that it was interfering with the logging network.

We operated phone on ten and fifteen meters during daylight hours and had a lot of activity on eighty meters overnight. We also got in some PSK31 on twenty meters.

A great time, a record high score for the club, excellent food, and a good chance to hang out with the PCARS crew. What more could you ask for? See you at Field Day in 2009!

***Jim, KC8PD***

=====

I had a blast at Field Day this year. For the first time in several years I decided to try my hand at the CW station. With the help of my logger, Terry (KB8AMZ), I was able to make several CW contacts for the club in the few hours I operated. Oh, and the food was good too.

It was great to see everyone out there. Thanks to all who made this possible. I will definitely be there again next year!

***Nick, N8WLE***

=====

Okay, here goes. I was originally scheduled to work FD for PCARS Sunday from Midnight to 0200 EDT, and on Saturday work FD with my other club, North East Ohio - OMIK. I arrived at NEO-O site at 1430 EDT, set up my wire dipole. I went inside to set up my rig and tuner but found it was setup for me a couple club members were working SSB. Not my cup of tea. I checked my instruction manual (I hadn't open the box since purchase at Dayton Hamvention) and discovered the cable I used for my Kenwood T-S140 and MFJ keyer is not compatible with my new Yaesu FT-857D. Off to Radio Shack to purchase the correct cable. Upon return I found everyone had taken down their antennas and packed up their gear. Apparently the Park Ranger frightened them about an impending storm headed our way. I tried to explain to them that that storm had already been here. I had to pack up my gear and leave too. Not a single contact or CQ made.

I drove to Ravenna Park to join up with PCARS. I had previously planned on arriving around 2100 EDT for a late dinner (if anything was left). I arrived at the park

at 2020 EDT and checked in with Bill, WB9LBI. Explained why I was there early and told him I could work CW early if there were any openings. He asked if I had dinner yet? I told him No and he sent me off to eat.

I was pleasantly surprised to find the main course of Prime Rib. I asked Tom, WB8LCD who provided the Prime Rib. He advised that Errol, KC8RJR donated it to the club. While eating Errol passed by and I thanked him for the Prime Rib. This was a FIRST for a Field Day meal.

Advised Bill about 20 minutes later I was ready to work if he had a slot open. His 2000 to 2200 person didn't show, but one person was working while another person was logging. He was about to set me down at the 40 meter CW station when Nick, N8WLE arrived with his Mother.



**Nick, N8WLE and Terry, KB8AMZ**

I was going to log for him. He listened and tried a few call backs but received no response. After an hour had passed with no contacts I asked if he'd mind if I took over the key. No problem. Another ham who's name I don't recall logged for me as we begin making contacts. I started around 20 wpm receiving/sending and gradually picked up my code speed (I hadn't worked CW since last year's Field Day). I was getting frustrating with my fist ... I kept messing up. I hate sending bad code. Finally worked copy up to 30+ wpm and beginning sending much better. I traded off and on with another guy, Rick, K8CAV. This guy is really good with code. I learned that he was a coder in the U.S. Navy for about 28 years. We worked good as a team which made my Field Day experience more enjoyable. I'd log for a while and he made the contacts then we'd trade off. I was able to work from 2200 Saturday to 0215 Sunday.

I staggered to my car around 0340 for some much needed sleep. I awoke around 0840 and found a great



breakfast and coffee. Bill asked if I could work the key again as someone else had not shown up for their shift. Sure! I put in another 3 hours. I had a great time. A nerve in my back was causing me some pain around tear down time but I was able to help until 1500 EDT.

Why is it that tear down takes much less time than setup?

**Terry, KB8AMZ**

=====

WOW! I've never see so many people pitch in and help with setup and take down without being paid. It was great to see everyone working with one goal. Field Day was a hoot, lots of fun for everyone.

I had a contractor scheduled to do some roof repairs on my house and he needed some parts and some decisions to be made, so I was drawn away for a couple of hours right after setup was completed. I couldn't wait to get back to the city park. Once back, I took a turn at logging on the 6 meter station and was having a ball. To me it is a big thrill to talk to someone far, far away.



After a couple of hours logging I was to go to dinner with my wife and oldest daughter Lisa, her husband and two sets of twins. That was about as much as I could take for the day.

Sunday morning I was able to get in a couple of flights at the RC field and then ran back to the park to help with the take down of the equipment. Everything went well and we finished up in short order.

All in all it was a great time for two days. I'm looking forward to next year and really want to work some DX.

**Dan, KD8EPA**

## **News from Little Rock, AR**

Hello fellow PCARS members... Below is a sample EQSL card that I'll be using while operating Amtrak Mobile via CQ100 on several upcoming Amtrak Train Trips in 2008 and 2009. Unfortunately, the aircard on my laptop would NOT work with Echolink... even with a proxy server, so I had to choose CQ100. I know the

"purists" will say that "CQ100 is not RF"... but this is a "novelty operation".

The frequency chosen is 3.821 -- the one time FIDONet Computer Bulletin Board System (BBS) network identifier for Little Rock, Arkansas. If you don't hear me on the frequency, just try again later. Times are in UTC, and are subject to change, due to train schedule, internet reception conditions, etc. All QSL contacts will be confirmed via [www.eqsl.cc](http://www.eqsl.cc)

Operations will begin shortly after breakfast, local time (1300 to 1400 UTC)... and continue until 30 minutes before the final destination, with breaks for lunch (1730 to 1830 UTC) and dinner (2330 to 0030 UTC). Phone operations will terminate at 0200 UTC, due to "quiet time" (the Sleeping Car walls are rather thin), but I'm looking at operating for a short time afterwards on PSK31... the frequency is yet to be chosen.



I will also try to operate some from the various hotels, and possibly from the depot passenger lounges in Chicago and Washington, but these are not guaranteed. The sooner I can get to the Dining Car (you don't call me late for dinner (hi hi), the sooner I can resume operations afterwards.

The trips are as follows (travel time to/from the event, plus the event itself, are included)

### **2008 Trips:**

1) July 31 through August 3 - ARRL Texas State Convention, Austin, Texas. Operating CQ100 on Thursday, July 31 and Sunday, August 3. The train departs Little Rock at 0810 UTC, July 31, arriving in Austin at 0000 UTC, August 1. On the return trip, the train departs Austin at 1430 UTC, August 3, arriving in Little Rock at 0430 UTC, August 4.

2) October 6 through 15 - National Underwater Marine Association, Denver, Colorado (belated birthday present for my Mom). Operating CQ100 on October 7 and 8, and October 13 and 14. The train departs Little Rock at 0430 UTC, October 7, arriving in Chicago at 1815 UTC, October 7. After an overnight stay, the train departs Chicago at 1900 UTC October 8, arriving in Denver at 1315 UTC, October 9. On the return trip, the train departs Denver at 0110 UTC, October 13, arriving in Chicago at 2050 UTC, October 13. After an overnight stay, the train departs Chicago at 1845 UTC, October 14, arriving in Little Rock at 0810 UTC, October 15.

3) October 21 through 30 - Visting my late XYL's grave in Apopka, Florida (near Orlando), plus meeting some hams in that area I've met on CQ100. Operating CQ100 on October 22-24, and October 27-29. The train departs Little Rock at 0430 UTC, October 21, arriving in Chicago at 1815 UTC, October 22. It departs Chicago at 0005 UTC, October 23, arriving in Washington, DC at 1830 UTC, October 23. It departs Washington, DC at 0030 UTC October 24, arriving in Orlando at 1810 UTC, October 24. On the return trip, the train departs Orlando at 1855 UTC October 27, arriving in Washington, DC at 1245 UTC, October 28. It departs Washington, DC at 2105 UTC October 28, arriving in Chicago at 1340 UTC, October 29. It departs Chicago at 1845 UTC, October 29, arriving in Little Rock at 0810 UTC, October 30.

If you have any questions, email me at either n5vlz@portcars.org or n5vlz@arrl.net -- 73!!

### ***Daryl, N5VLZ***

**Editor's Note:** *Daryl, one of our out of state PCARS members who regularly checks into the Thursday night net by Echolink, is a very active train rider and promises to keep us up to date on his future trips. He may even make the trip again to North Eastern Ohio in 2009 for the Great Lakes Division Convention.*

## ***Talking Dog***

During a recent trip my wife and I were on, we drove around the back woods of East Texas near Athens. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog For Sale."

Well I needed a break, so I stopped to see what the deal was. I went into the backyard and saw a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. "You talk?" I asked. "Yep," the Lab replies. Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?" "Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a Tar Heal screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?" "How did you know that?" I asked. The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my Ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW." "The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around



the communications centers and with my keen hearing, I could copy the transmissions, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years."

"Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 in CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Oklahoma QSO Party two years in a row." "Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from ham radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party."

I said, "Let me see what I can do." I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy said. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?" "Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's a No-Code Technician."

***From The Keynote  
Issue 2 2008, published by  
the F.I.S.T.S. radio club***

## ***Ham License Plates Wanted***

Dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to



be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station.

Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. It costs you about \$19 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. In about 2 weeks or so, the plates come in the mail. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be re-newed, you can (for about a \$7 fee) get NEW plates issued (same call sign). Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a permanent part of PCARS history!!

The official form for obtaining your Amateur Radio license plates here in Ohio is on the PCARS Yahoo site.

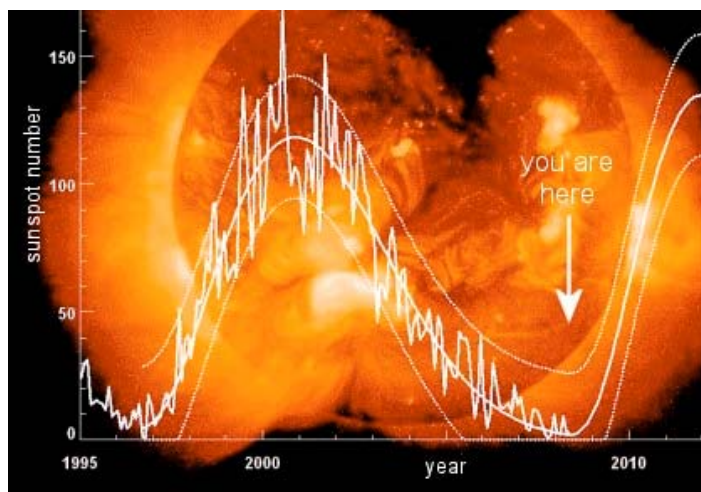


## *What's Wrong with the Sun? (Nothing)*

July 11, 2008: Stop the presses! The sun is behaving normally. So says NASA solar physicist David Hathaway. "There have been some reports lately that Solar Minimum is lasting longer than it should. That's not true. The ongoing lull in sunspot number is well within historic norms for the solar cycle."

This report, that there's nothing to report, is newsworthy because of a growing buzz in lay and academic circles that something is wrong with the sun. Sun Goes Longer Than Normal Without Producing Sunspots declared one recent press release. A careful look at the data, however, suggests otherwise.

But first, a status report: "The sun is now near the low point of its 11-year activity cycle," says Hathaway. "We call this 'Solar Minimum.' It is the period of quiet that separates one Solar Max from another."



Above: The solar cycle, 1995-2015. The "noisy" curve traces measured sunspot numbers; the smoothed curves are predictions.  
*Credit: D. Hathaway/NASA/MSFC.*

During Solar Max, huge sunspots and intense solar flares are a daily occurrence. Auroras appear in Florida. Radiation storms knock out satellites. Radio blackouts frustrate hams. The last such episode took place in the years around 2000-2001. Hathaway anticipates more spotless days, maybe even hundreds, followed by a return to Solar Max conditions in the years around 2012.

*From THE ARCLITE newsletter*

July 2008

**GARLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** - Garland, TX

## *PCARS VE Test Sessions*

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for the first Saturday of every other even numbered month.

*Coming Up:*

**August 2, Oct. 4, Dec. 6**

VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10 am at the Center of Hope: 1034 West Main St. in Ravenna. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Please bring your original license, a copy of your license, your FRN number if you are already licensed or registered with the FCC (or your SSN number if you're not registered), 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!!!!



**Jim, KC8PD**

*PCARS VE Coordinator*

## *Mark Your Calendars*

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- August 9th - **PCARS Portage County 2M FM Contest**
- August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Geoff Howard W0CG - PJ2T**  
Caribbean Contest Consortium - Curacao, Netherlands Antilles
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Ohio QSO Party**
- September 6<sup>th</sup> – **Ohio State Parks On The Air**
- September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Jon Barber, EMA Director with the EMA Mobile Command Center, Jim, KC8PD, RACES update**
- October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Rod Ehrhart, WN8R (DX Engineering), Vertical Antennas and Radial Systems**
- October 18<sup>th</sup> – **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) station** (very tentative)
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – **Bill, WB9LBI, CW Tips and Techniques, Equipment and Software**
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Two Meter Antenna Kits**
- December – **TBS – Christmas Party**
- January – **TBS – QRP Kit project**

## *Public Service Events*

**Sunday - August 24 - Bellefaire JCB Biathlon**

**Bellefaire JCB Biathlon** A fun event that goes through 5 jurisdictions along Shaker Blvd. Again, good T shirts and food.. Public service events are a good way to practice our communication skills, as well as have fun and serve the public.



If you can help please call:

Gay Wands

330 474-1573

[gwands@neo.rr.com](mailto:gwands@neo.rr.com)

**Gay, WB8VNO**

## PCARS Picnic

The PCARS picnic was held Saturday, July 26th at the home of our President Tom, WB8LCD, and his wife Mary. Tom's QTH is better known as the "Black Squirrel Oasis". Turn out was great and fine food and spirits were enjoyed by all that attended. If you missed the party, you missed a good one. The rain crept in twice, but did not last too long. Everyone managed to keep out of the rain drops with no problems. Tom was the master chef on the grill and the hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hot dogs were fantastic! Deserts were plentiful and delicious. Light breezes, great food, and PCARS, what could be better?



## PCARS Patches & Stickers

PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket!! The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any



PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available. A 4"x6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! If you would like to order by mail contact: [kb8uuz@portcars.org](mailto:kb8uuz@portcars.org)



## PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest

Mark your calendars! Saturday, August 9th is the day that hams will be looking to make contact with other hams throughout Portage County.

The fun part is the contest is on 2 Meter Simplex! Jim, KC8PD will be at the club station trying out the new antenna system to ensure all of Portage County is covered in simplex mode. So, he'll be looking to hear from all the mobiles out there for sure!



[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)

This is a good, fun contest with no pressure. See how many Townships, Villages, and Cites you can contact throughout Portage County. See the flier attached to this newsletter for more details. Also check out the complete rules, and all the files you need on the club web site:

## More Pictures from the PCARS Picnic



## Swap-N-Shop

**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 - YAESU FT-90R** - Micro Mobile - 2m/440 Dual Band - Detachable Front Panel - Asking: \$250 OBO - Contact **Mike - KC8LJY** at 330-673-1035

**WANTED:** Would like to buy a good used phone patch. Contact: Carl - [N4IT@portcars.org](mailto:N4IT@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE:** Want to work mobile?? I have come across a supply of "new - old stock" items from the now defunct Antenna Specialists, formerly of Solon, OH. You can get a heavy duty ball mount, with stainless spring and 96" stainless whip, all for just \$30.00. Let me know how many you want. **Tom - WB8LCD@portcars.org**

**FOR SALE: Uniden President HR2510** CW/SSB 10 Meter Transceiver with Shakespeare 376-6B 10 Meter Vertical Antenna. \$175.00 Contact Bob: 330-633-5408 or e-mail [N8QE@portcars.org](mailto:N8QE@portcars.org)

**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: Yaesu-FT-60R** NEW (bought in March-used very little) (2 meter/440) rig. Has manual and handy Nifty Accessories pocket manual. Regularly sells for \$189.95 plus shipping. Will sell for \$169.95. Ten months of warranty left on it. Contact **Carl N4IT** at [ccapps2439@yahoo.com](mailto:ccapps2439@yahoo.com) or 330-673-2764

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in August.

AB8UD	Mike McDivitt
N8EEL	Frank Jones
W8RJG	Ron Good
KB8TUY	Mike Ryan
N6TL	Randy Wilson
K8GI	Rick Patterson
KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
KG8NX	Doug Donley
KD8ETS	Clarence Hollow
KD8DFM	Irene Anderson



## 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 <http://www.portcars.org> and follow the link to sign up.



## PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month at:



located in the **Brimfield Plaza** - just South of Interstate 76 off Route 43 in **Brimfield, OH**.



**PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm**  
**Second Monday of Every Month**

## PCARS Thursday Net Control

Net Control Schedule



August	
7	KC8PD
14	K8CMP
21	WB8LCD
28	KB8UUZ

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
**PCARS Net Control Coordinator**

## Pictures from the July Meeting







## OSPOTA on NEWSLINE



The Ohio State Parks On The Air contest has been getting some really good press circulation in the amateur radio community. Recently, Amateur Radio Newsline™ had coverage of OSPOTA. Remember, OSPOTA will be on September 6, 2008 and amateurs from all over will be activating Ohio State Parks for a fun contest! Check out the flier on page 22 of this newsletter and make your plans now to get out of the house, visit an Ohio State Park, have fun and GET ON THE AIR!!!



For those of you getting this newsletter by e-mail, [click here](#) to listen to the Amateur Radio Newsline™ talking about PCARS and OSPOTA:



## Thanks & 73

This is the eighth issue of the PCARS official newsletter the 'RADIOGRAM' for 2008.

I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors:

**WB8LCD, KC8PD,  
K8CMP, W8KNO, K8JE,  
WB2DFC, KL7BB, NB4K, WB9LBI, KC8KYW,  
N8WLE, KB8AMZ, KD8EPA, N5VLZ, KB8UUZ,  
The KEYNOTE, The ARCLITE, Newsline, ARRL,  
and the World Wide Web**

With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor



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



presents the

## Third Annual PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest



**Saturday - August 9, 2008  
12:01 pm until 8:01 pm EDT**

*See if you can Work All of Portage County, Ohio*



This 2 Meter FM Simplex contest is sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.(PCARS). The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

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

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

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

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

In Portage County, there are:

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

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

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



## Complete Rules, Summary Sheets & Log Sheets

are available for download on the

PCARS web site:

**[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)**

We'll be listening for you!

*Join us in the fun and see just how far your rig will go on simplex.  
Best of all - let's have a FUN day on the radio!!*

*Need more information? E-mail [2Meters@portcars.org](mailto:2Meters@portcars.org)*





The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**  
announces the *first*

# *Ohio State Parks On The Air*



## **Ohio State Parks On The Air contest**

Saturday, September 6, 2008, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **73** Ohio State Parks  
Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

*A special entry allows clubs compete to see which club activated the greatest number of Ohio State Parks*



**Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park and have some Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!**



**Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?**

Check out **all** the details at: <http://parks.portcars.org>

While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)





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

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at **Sideliners**  
in the Brimfield Plaza, Brimfield, OH - Off Route 43 Just South of Interstate 76



*All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!*


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

**PCARS Uses the N8EQJ 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 2008

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 2008	WB9LBI N8EQJ	Bill Fraedrich Ed Polack
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.
	N4IT	Carl Capps
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8CMP	Chuck Patellis
	N8EQJ	Ed Polack
Web Master	K8QF	Russ Conklin
	K8GI	Rick Patterson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

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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 this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please **have them send me an e-mail**. The RADIOGRAM is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that. To remove your self from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuz @ portcars.org

**Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**  
Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor  
9992 State Route 700  
Mantua, OH 44255



NLC