



The

RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



December 2008

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

Vol. 3 No. 12

~ 2008 Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
3 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT
2 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
1 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL

~ Meetings ~

2nd 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

My last "From The President" column. Three years have gone by rather quickly! There's no possible way that I could thank you all enough for the opportunity you've given me to be president over these past three years. It's been one of the hi-lites of my life!

But, we now have a new slate of officers, and I'm confident that PCARS will continue to be in competent and inspired hands. They need you as much as I did, and they can only be successful if you continue to support the club as you have these past three years. We all became hams because we thought it looked fun. Why have a hobby if it's not fun? The same thing goes for our club. Everyone in the club is personally responsible to make sure we keep having fun and continue to be a place where every ham is welcome, and is made to feel welcome.

So, fun stuff is coming up! Our December meeting is our annual Christmas Banquet. This year we're having our banquet at Paradise Lakes Golf Course and Banquet Center. (We'll be back to Sideliner's in January) Parky promises a slide show recap of the past year that will be running continuously in the background, Santa will be there, and I'll be giving out my third President's Award – so I hope you'll all be there! One of my personal favorites, Freeze Your Acorns Off, is coming up on Saturday, February 21st at the Roy Smith Shelter House in Fred Fuller Park, Kent. We'll have the whole day to set up and operate QRP stations, we always have a pretty good carry in feast, and we've always had lots of PCARS participation and visitors from other clubs, and other area hams. Mark your new, 2009 calendars now, this is a "don't miss" event!

Part of the fun is growing in the hobby. Have you got some plans and goals for the coming year? If not, let me give you just a couple suggestions:

1. More time on the air. Hey, it's ham radio! Being on the air is the essence of the hobby. Figure out how you can get your operating time in, contests, special events, Dxing, rag chewing. It all counts, just do it!
2. Upgrade your license. PCARS has a General upgrade class starting right after the first of the year. Extra is a bit more involve, but there is help. Try www.hamtestonline.com . For a modest fee you get a two year membership and not only is it a great test review site, but it's also a great place to learn the things you need to know. Give it a try.
3. Try something new. FD chairmen would certainly like to see some more CW ops this year! Been on PSK yet? Satellites? Ever operated portable or tried a local Dxpedition? I don't care how long you've been a ham, I know you haven't done it all!

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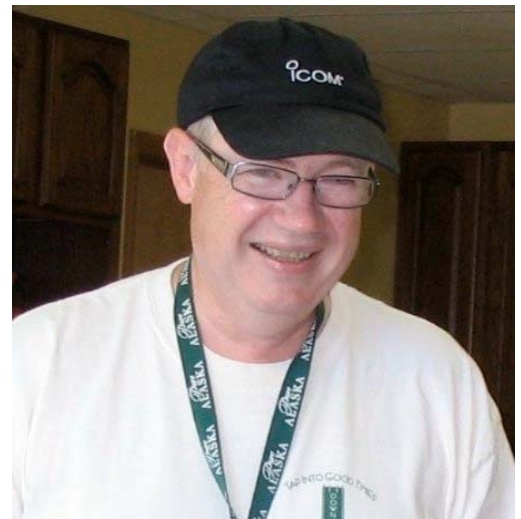
From the President (continued from Page 1)

4. Join the ARRL. They are the official voice of ham radio. They do an excellent job of representing our interests. You may not agree with them 100%, but without them, we may not have a hobby to participate in! They deserve your support, plus they'll do a good job keeping you up to date with what's going on in the hobby. Already an ARRL member? Try one of the other organizations, ARPARCI, AMSAT just to name two.
5. Join RACES and/or ARES. Learn a different style of operating. Take the ARRL EmComm classes. Participate in public service operations. Help build some goodwill in the community for Ham Radio.

There's lot's more to do, just find something that interests you and get involved!

In closing, I'll use the same last paragraph as I used in my very first "From The President" column, it's as applicable today as it was then.

"I'm *excited* about the future of this club, and I know from talking with many of you that you are too! We can make this club a shining example of what Amateur Radio has to offer to both the individual and to the community at large. The process is simple, but it's not easy. The most important part of the process is showing up! I'll be here, come on out and join me."



73,

Tom, WB8LCD

New Officers for 2009

Nominations and elections for the 2009 year were held at the November 10th meeting. The new officers start their terms on January 1, 2009. ***Congratulations go out to the new officers:***

President - Jim Aylward, KC8PD
Vice President - Dave Rarrick, WB2DFC
Treasurer - Bill Fraedrich, WB9LBI
Three Year Trustee - Ed Polack, N8EQJ
Two Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis, W8PT
One Year Trustee - Russ Anderson, KB8DPN



Hello Fellow PCARS Members

I just wanted to say "thanks" for the vote of confidence in my election as the 2009 PCARS Vice President. I know I have big shoes to fill but I will do my best to keep the club activities exciting, interesting, and hopefully, relevant to ham radio.

I say "relevant" because our members are very diversified. The skills and expertise of our membership is broad and even though all of this skill and expertise may not be ham radio related, would make for interesting and informative meeting topics. So... being off "ham radio" topic once in a while is appropriate.

I like the fact many of our meeting presentations are from members you know and trust, not to mention them being readily available. Please let me know what topics interest you and what topics you might like to present at a club meeting.

Thank you again and best of 73,

Dave, WB2DFC



From the Vice President

As I sat down to write this column all I could think was "Where did the last three years go?" It seems like it was just weeks ago that Tom, WB8LCD, Parky, KB8UUZ, Al, KB8VJL, Russ, KB8DPN, Joe, W8KNO, and I first began discussing starting a new amateur radio club in Portage County. Heck, most of us barely knew each other but in no time we found that we had a common goal: a club that gave everyone the chance to have as much ham radio fun as possible.

And out of that PCARS was born.

Little did we know just how much work we had created for ourselves. At times it felt like we had taken on part-time jobs running a non-profit business. But at all times it was a labor of love.

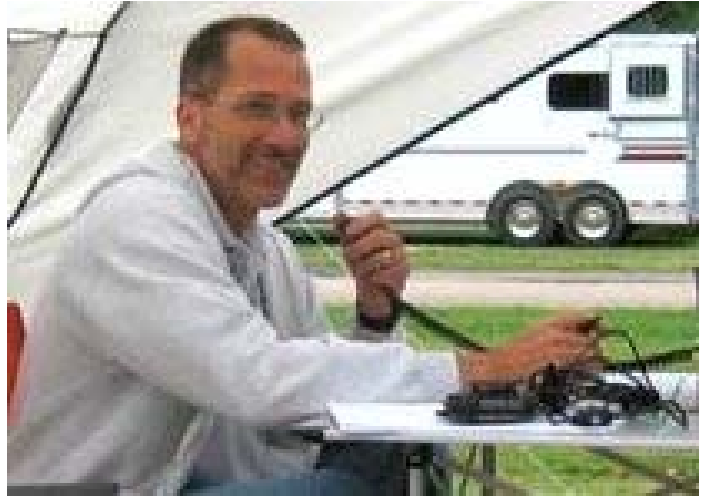
Tom had the task of steering the new club while we charted its course. Parky, in addition to being treasurer and secretary, edited what is without a doubt the best newsletter in the Ohio Section. Russ was our webmaster, Al became the trustee for the club call sign and was responsible for the club's QSL'ing, and Joe was our contest guru. And I found out the hard way what the bylaws meant by saying that the vice-president will "organize, plan and recommend activities" for the club.

Needless to say it was all that I could have expected...and more! To paraphrase the ARRL slogan, “When all else fails...put on the presentation yourself.” But we learned by doing and by listening to the members and by trying to provide the meeting topics, programs, projects, and activities that they were interested in.

Don, KD8ICR, became member number 110 at the October meeting and PCARS has maintained nearly one hundred active members, each of them a friend to his or her fellow PCARS members. Dozens of new hams have earned their licenses or upgraded thanks to PCARS classes and we hope that everyone has had more ham radio fun than they ever could have imagined possible.

As the last sentence says in PCARS mission statement: “Our satisfaction will be in part derived from the advancements our assistance and services provide to our members and the community in which we live.” Those words have never been more true than they are today. All of us involved in the operation of PCARS are proud of what it has become and proud of its members because they have made it a success.

Word about the club has been spreading. PCARS has been recognized by Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, in the ARRL Club News and it even earned a mention in the QST column of Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, the ARRL’s CEO. Lots of hams want to know about PCARS: there have been nearly 26,000 hits on the KD8CKP page on qrz.com!



When we started PCARS we established term limits for the officers so that this would never be a club that was always run by the same few people. We felt that way when we drafted the original bylaws and still feel the same way today. Only today we finally have to deal with the reality of making that change.

Just when I feel like I have hit my stride organizing the club’s meetings and activities it is time to hand that task off to someone else. But Dave, WB2DFC, was a great selection by the membership to take on the office of Vice-President and I look forward to working with him on the full range of club operations.

Ditto, for Bill, WB9LBI, who is the new PCARS Treasurer and Ed, N8EQJ, the new three year Trustee. All three of these guys have been busy club activity facilitators and participants and each has made a true commitment to the continuing success of PCARS. So has Mary Jo, KD8GGZ, who has graciously agreed to accept the appointment as club Secretary.

A very big thank you goes to their predecessors, Parky, KB8UUZ, as Treasurer and Secretary and Al, KB8VJL, as Trustee, whose terms are expiring. PCARS would not be the club it is today without all of their hard work.

And thanks again to PCARS members for having the confidence in me to follow Tom, WB8LCD, as the club President. Tom has done a wonderful job as President, bringing knowledge, enthusiasm and good spirits to all that he has done for the club. I am glad that the members agreed to keep the past-president as a member of the board. Tom will be invaluable there.

Now let’s all go have some ham radio fun together!

It wouldn't be a Vice-President's column if I did not take the opportunity to thank Bill, WB9LBI, for his outstanding presentation on CW at the November meeting. Without a doubt he generated the most positive feedback of any of our monthly speakers. Now all of you: get back to that code practice! We will need you as operators on Field Day.

A reminder that there will be a VE session at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 6th at the Center of Hope in Ravenna. Be there early and don't forget that the ARRL VEC fee goes up to fifteen dollars in 2009.

Make sure you check out the flier found at the end of the newsletter for the General Class upgrade course that begins January 13th. Give a copy to any Tech's that you know who are looking to upgrade. Even if you have your General or Extra you are welcome to stop by for the class and use it as a refresher course.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

73

Jim, KC8PD

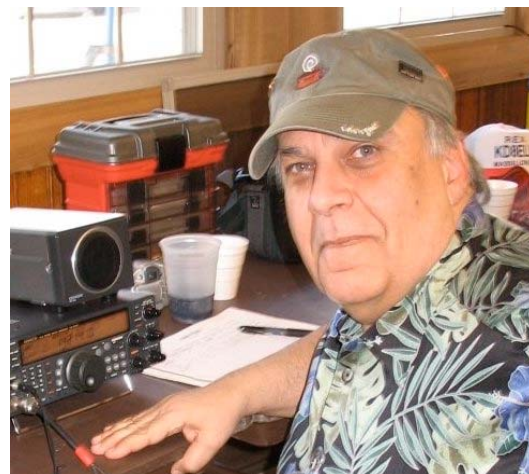


Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Well here it is – December – and Christmas is only 25 days away. I hope that all of you have a great list for Santa and that it contains some neat items for your HAM shack. And I hope that at least one of those items will allow you to work DX more effectively.

N4IT, our own Carl Capps, was overheard saying that he worked a VK on 40 meters during a recent AM opening. Way to go Carl!! The bands have been cooperating somewhat due to the few sunspots that are now showing up in cycle 24. Things will only get better, but it may still take awhile.

I just got a couple of QSL's from Trinidad and Tobago. It was a DXCC entity that I needed confirmed. It shows that good things come to those who wait. Why would I say that? Both cards were from the same station and both QSL's confirmed contacts made in early 2005. He sent the QSL's direct, not through the bureau, in answer to my QSL's, which I sent direct many moons ago. It always pays to send cards. It's the final step in completing the contact.



Let's see what's in store for December and beyond for you DX hunters.

I first want to thank the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, the 425 DX Newsletter, and the ARRL DX Newsletter for the following DX and IOTA information. Please note that this report is only as good as the information being passed on by the various DX organizations, newsletters and individuals. So there is always the chance that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of either bad G-2, busted call signs, or indigestion. So please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

DX News

A Repeat:

2008 FALL CLASSIC DX EVENT (Sponsored by the CountryuncleDX Group). K4SX reports the following on September 17th: "It is my pleasure and privilege to announce today the first annual Fall Classic DX Event sponsored by www.countryuncledx.com. This

DX Event has been founded for the primary purpose of generating enthusiasm for DXing, Amateur Radio, and to provide an inclusive way for Hams who do not like to 'contest' but would enjoy a way to compete over a longer period of time than a weekend without calling 'CQ Contest'. So the 2008 Fall Classic DX Event has been developed and launched for Amateurs to participate and enjoy DXing. The Event begins on October 1, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. All event information can be found at www.countryuncledx.com or you can E-mail K4SX or N4DA for information and details. I should also mention that this event is not intended to compete with or preclude any other DX competition or contests. It is worth also noting that all DX contacts made in contests during the event period may and will be counted. If you have any question, please contact N4DA@bellsouth.net."

6W & J5, SENEGAL AND GUINEA-BISSAU – (Repeat) HA3AUI, will once again be active from Africa and will also activate again both Senegal (as 6W2SC) and Guinea-Bissau (as J5UAP), between November 15th and March 31st (2009). His activity from both places will be mostly Digital with some SSB and CW upon request. Operations will be on 160-6 meters using a spiderbeam, verticals, dipoles, and 500w (in 6W) or 100w (in J5). QSL via HA3AUI, direct or by the HA Bureau.

8Q, MALDIVES - SP2JMB, will be active as 8Q7SC from November 26th and December 10th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters CW. He will also be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th). QSL via his home callsign, direct by the address on QRZ.com or LoTW.

AU2, INDIA (Special Event). Be looking for several Indian stations to sign with the AU2 prefix between now and December 8th to commemorate/celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Jagadeesh Chandra Bose who they consider as the father of radio communications.

E7, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (Special Event). Members of the Radio Club Trebinje (E73DPR) will be active as E760DPR until December 31st. Activity is to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their club. Most of their activity has been on 80/40/20 meters CW and PSK31. Please QSL via E73DPR.

GB90, ENGLAND (Special Event). Look for G4PLY to be active as GB90WWI until the end of December. Activity is to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the end of World War I. He will be operating from his home QTH on all HF bands mainly SSB and CW with occasional PSK. QSL cards are fine via the bureau.

TR50, GABON. Reminder: F8EN, will be back again in Libreville from mid- December to mid-January. Look for him to use the special call sign TR50R until December 31st. After January 1st, he will then use the call sign TR8CR. PSE QSL via F6AJA.

XU, CAMBODIA (Also XV and XW). KC0W (ZD7X), who has been working here, expects to be active as XU7XXX in a few contests in the next several months. Look for him to be active during the ARRL 160-Meter Contest (December 5-6th), the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest (January 23-25th [2009]) and the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 21-22nd [2009]) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry.

ZY7, BRAZIL (Special Event). Look for ZY7EAM to be activated to celebrate "Brazilian Sailor's Day" between December 4-7th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via PY7GK, by the Bureau.

IOTA News

3B7, ST. BRANDON ISLAND (Update). 3B8FQ/3B6FQ, says unforeseen difficulties have arisen with his working trip to St. Brandon (AF-015) that was expected to take place later this month. The trip has officially been delayed until sometime in 2009. Information will be announced as soon as a new date has been scheduled. The callsign will be 3B7FQ. Meanwhile, Rachid is very active from Mauritius on 40-10 meters with an emphasis on the 30/17/12 meter bands. CW is Rachid's currently preferred mode. Please QSL via K5XK.

5R, MADAGASCAR. Look for F6ICX to be active as 5R8IC from Ile Sainte Marie (AF-090) between November 18th and December 14th. Activity will be CW on 30-10 meters. Please QSL via F6ICX.

9M0, SPRATLY ISLANDS (Postponed). A team of six operators were expected to activate Pulau Layang Layang, Spratly Islands (IOTA AS-051), some time in March 2009 (1-14th was mentioned earlier). However, according to their Web page (dated November 14th): "Due to a combination of personal and logistical reasons unfortunately it has been necessary to postpone the proposed March 2009 Spratly Island DXpedition. It is hoped that the DXpedition will go ahead at a later date."

AS-015. PA0RRS, will once again be active as 9M2MRS from Penang Island (WLOTA LH-2743) between November 17th and February 6th (2009). QSL via his home callsign.

E5, NORTH COOK ISLANDS. JA1KAJ, will be active as E51QQQ from Manihiki Atoll (OC-014) between November 18th and

December 9th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA (IOTA Op). F5AHO will be active as FK/F5AHO from November 23rd to December 13th. He will stay on Grande Terre (OC-032) between November 23rd and December 5th, Lifou Island (OC-033) between December 7-8th, and Pins Island (OC-032) between December 10-12th. His activity will be on SSB on 40/20/17 meters. Watch the IOTA frequencies. QSL via F5AHO, direct or by the bureau.

FT5W, CROZET ISLAND (Update). F4DYW will be leaving Reunion Island on December 3rd, on the boat "Marion Dufresne". He is expected to arrive on Crozet Island around December 8th. He hopes to be on the air around December 10th or 15th using the callsign FT5WO. He will be active on 40-10 meters SSB (and possibly 80m). He will stay there until the end of November 2009, and will return back home in early 2010. QSL via F4DYW, direct or by the bureau after he returns back home.

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. Reminder: A35RK, will be active as KH8/KK6H, December 5-9th. Activity will be CW and SSB. Paul states, "This will be a 'casual' operation, but I will listen for Europe at local sunset (UTC+12), on 20m that should be about 0600-0700Z, and should be a pretty good grayline path. The Americas should be a piece of cake just about anytime during local daylight hours, on 20 or 17m." QSL via W7TSQ or LoTW.

SA-027. Operators PP5AVM, PP5AX, PP5JY, PP5LL, PP5WB and PP5MQ will be active from Paz Island, December 6-13th. They expect to use the call sign ZV5Z and/or ZV5V. Activity will be on 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 meters using CW and SSB.

XV4, VIETNAM (Update/IOTA Op). HB9BXE will be active as XV4BX from Phu Quoc Island (AS-128) between November 22nd and December 30th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, mainly CW, using 100 watts only into a two element vertical and Windom antennas. He will also be an entry in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th). Please QSL via EB7DX.

ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND. Look for six members of the Cambridge University Wireless Society to activate Ascension Island (AF-003) using the call sign ZD8UW between December 31st and January 9th (2009). Activity will be on all HF bands using CW and SSB. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW shortly after the DXpedition. QSL via G7VJR.

That's it for this issue of the Newsletter. I hope you had a great Thanksgiving Day celebration and hope you have a fantastic Christmas. Until 2009, 73 and gud DX

73 for now and gud DX.

Chuck, W8PT



Paper Chase - The Rag Chewers' Club Award

The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) is pleased to offer the ever popular Rag Chewers' Club award. This prestigious award is available to all amateur radio operators who submit evidence of having "chewed the rag" using amateur radio.

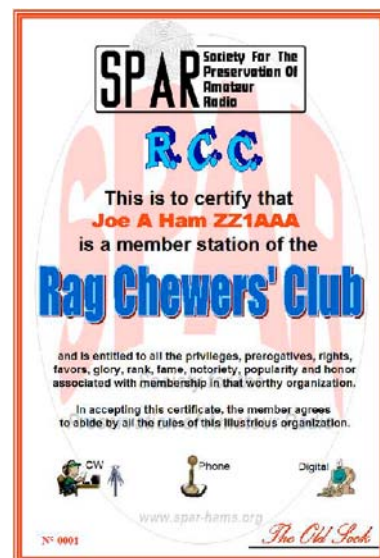
History. The Rag Chewers' Club award was offered by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for many years. It was initially free of charge and very popular, especially for new hams. Later the ARRL began charging for the award and its popularity waned. Finally, in 2004, the ARRL decided to discontinue the award due to lack of interest. In view of the history and goodwill embodied in this most noble of ham radio activities, Rag Chewing, SPAR has reactivated this unique and illustrious award.

Basis. One of the most popular ham activities is simply chatting about nothing in particular. In other words, chewing the fat, or in ham jargon, "Rag Chewing." Based on this popular activity, it seems only right that rag chewing should be acknowledged as a truly ham activity. For anyone not familiar with the term, rag chewing isn't just contacting someone. It involves actually conversing, talking and listening for more than a few minutes. Have you ever had a ham QSO and later wrote the time down in the logbook and wondered "Where did the time go?" Congratulations, you are a bona fide "Rag Chewer!"

To qualify for the Rag Chewers' Club award, you need to submit a report of having had a 2 way QSO (not a net) using amateur radio that lasted at least 30 minutes. RCC members are encouraged to invite new hams of any age or license class to apply for the award. Of course, all the rules and regulations pertaining to the Amateur Radio Service must be followed during any QSO.

Official Rules:

1. Submit the report of a QSO that lasted at least 30 minutes. Any mode, band is eligible.
2. The awards are numbered in the order issued.
3. The award may carry an endorsement by operating mode for Phone, CW and Digital.
 - * Phone (Any voice mode: AM, FM, SSB)
 - * CW
 - * Digital (Any digital mode: RTTY, PSK31, MFSK, SSTV, Hellschreiber, etc.)
4. Details of the report must include
 - * Station contacted
 - * Date, time and length of QSO
 - * Frequency and mode of QSO
5. Endorsement for additional modes should be requested by submitting a new application. The certificate number will not change, only the listed endorsements will be updated on the new certificate.
6. Recipients of the RCC Award will be listed on the SPAR web site.



An online application form can be found at the Award Application web page. Award applications may also be submitted by email to awards@spar-hams.org. The award document suitable for printing and framing in the form of an Adobe PDF file will be sent as an attachment via return email. In the case that email attachments are not acceptable, please make a request with the application and other arrangements will be made if feasible.

Hope to hear you in the pile up!

Joe, W8KNO



EmComm

We had a visitor at the November PCARS meeting, Dave Kaltenborn, N8KBC, who had been serving as the Portage County ARES Emergency Coordinator. Dave advised that he had recently been appointed as the Ohio Section District Five ARES District EC, replacing Jack Sovik, KB8WPZ, who had been promoted to the Ohio Section EC.



Dave informed Tom, WB8LCD, that applications were being accepted for the Portage County EC position and provided him with copies of the application which were available for distribution at the meeting. If you would like more information or are considering applying for the EC position you can contact Dave at n8kbc@neo.rr.com.

Also on the local front, the Portage County RACES unit has begun its planning for training nets and field exercises in 2009. The goal is to hold a drill each quarter, each drill having a different format and set of objectives. It should make for an interesting year.

RACES will also be updating its frequency matrix for field operations and plans are also in place to begin integrating soundcard based VHF digital modes into the RACES plan.



RACES currently has seventeen active members and meets monthly at the Portage County Emergency Operations Center located at the Portage County Sheriff's Department/Justice Center in Shalersville. RACES also holds training nets every other week at 1900 hours local time on the 146.895 repeater, that is one hour before the PCARS net. Stop by and monitor the net to get familiar with how RACES operates. If you would like to get involved send a note to me at kc8pd@aol.com and you will be sent an information sheet and application form.

On the national level it is fortunate that Gulf coast and East coast each made it through another hurricane season without any hurricane activity that approached the destructive levels of Hurricane Katrina. But a quiet season should never lull us into a false sense of safety. Serious weather events can strike at any time.

Why not make your first New Year's resolution to develop your own home security and disaster response plan as well as a schedule for regularly checking your radio gear, charging batteries, etc.? It is never too soon to make those preparations. Remember, even though you may not hear a Skywarn net for snow and ice storms those events can be just as deadly and destructive as a severe summer storm.

73,

Jim, KC8PD
RACES Radio Officer



Center of Hope - Holiday Donation

At the November meeting PCARS members showed just how generous they could be, raising over \$750.00 and a carload of food to donate to the Center of Hope for its holiday food drive. The Center of Hope runs a daily hot meal program and also operates a community food pantry for those in need. Its service are especially critical during the holiday season.

Two days after the meeting, Tom, WB8LCD and Dave, WB2DFC, delivered the donations to a very appreciative Sister Denise Stiles, program manager at the Center of Hope.



WB8LCD - Sister Denise Stiles - WB2DFC

Ticket sales for the 50/50 raffle set a new record, especially due to the generous contribution of Tom, WB8LCD, of a brand new Yaesu VX-170 as a prize. Deron, N8XTH, was the winner of the 50/50 and Rick, K8CAV, was the lucky winner of the HT.

All in all it was an outstanding demonstration of the appreciation that PCARS members have for the use that the club has had of the Center of Hope and the Community Room at the Family & Community Services office building, not to mention the PCARS club site.

Thanks again to all who donated at the meeting or sent a contribution directly to the Center of Hope!

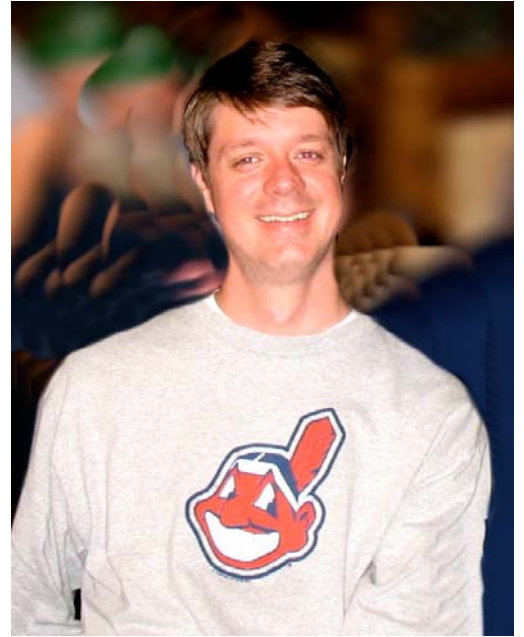
Jim, KC8PD

Eyeball to Eyeball – N8XTH

This month's "Eye to Eye" is with Deron Boring – N8XTH. Deron was born and raised in Rootstown. He attended Rootstown High School and upon graduation, he went on to Malone College (now University), near Canton. After graduation from Malone, Deron applied and was accepted to The University of Akron, School of Law. He graduated in 2004 and has been in private practice with his total focus in Estate Planning and Probate. He still lives in Rootstown.

His interest in Amateur Radio began because he and a friend, who lived in Ravenna, wanted to communicate with each other on a regular basis. His parents drew his attention to an Amateur Radio Club located at the YMCA in Alliance. So this was really his parent's idea. Deron said that the members really taught him a lot and he became licensed in 1993 at the age of 13.

Like many of us, Deron lost some of the zeal for HAM radio during high school and he let it slip away. But a meeting with, and strong urging from Jim, KC8PD, after a court session, found Deron getting his interest back into the hobby. His only call has been N8XTH.



Deron says that he has a modest station with his rig being an Icom IC-706 MkIIG and a G5RV. He also has an HT for 2 meters.



Deron's overall interest is in contesting, but he feels that his station is not big enough to tackle the main contests. Therefore, Deron concentrates his efforts on State QSO parties. I must say that he does so with very good results. Deron has finished #1 in the Virginia QSO Party in the Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power category and also finished #1 in the Idaho QSO Party in the same category.

Outside of HAM radio, Deron is involved in a lot of volunteer work. He is the past President of the Young Alumni Association at Malone University. He also is involved with his church group where he is in a leadership role for high school boys at a youth camp. He said that this is why we do not see him so often because of his volunteer work.

One other thing that Deron can be commended for is his passion for the Cleveland Indians. GO TRIBE!

Please greet Deron, N8XTH, when you see him at one of our events or at our meetings. That's our E2E for December, so until January 2009, have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.

73,
Chuck, W8PT

HF Basic Skills Workshop

On November 15th PCARS offered its HF Basic Skills workshop. The program was attended by around fifteen club members with another half dozen members participating as instructors.



For those who had attended the October VHF/UHF Basic Skills program, the back-to-back sessions provided a good deal of practical information and demonstrations as well as solutions to the problems typically encountered by new hams.

The program included the “HF-101” PowerPoint presentation by Ward Silver, N0AX, which is distributed by the ARRL for use by affiliated clubs.

It provided a very thorough general outline of the materials.

In addition, Tom, WB8LCD, gave a presentation on basic wire antennas; Dave, WB2DFC, spoke about portable operations and displayed an HF backpack outfit; Chuck, K8CMP, reminded everyone about following proper radio etiquette on the air and being an ethical ham; Bob, N8QE, provided a useful explanation on the importance of station grounding and how to accomplish it; and Bill, WB9LBI, explained the utility of antenna tuners and gave a demonstration on the proper use of a tuner.



There were some very good questions from those in attendance and we hope that we provided helpful answers. If anyone who was there still has questions just direct them to any one of the instructors. They will all be glad to assist.

The program lasted nearly four hours and considering how lousy the weather was that day it was a perfect way to use the time. Plus, everyone got home in time to put those skills on the air in the ARRL Sweepstakes.



At PCARS we are always looking for ways to help new hams get on the air and enjoy all that the hobby of ham radio has to offer. Remember to check the back page of the newsletter for the names of the volunteer mentors and contact them whenever you need help with a ham radio dilemma.

See you at the next club activity!

73,
Jim, KC8PD



Desecheo Island - Dates set for DXpedition

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009 <<http://www.kp5.us/>>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard to work areas of Asia and Europe. This and with our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come." Desecheo is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe.



According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of amateur activity on Desecheo is due to the USFWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The USFWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

On Friday, December 19, three DXpedition team members, USFWS personnel and an unexploded ordnance (UXO) expert will go out to Desecheo to sweep and clear the assigned area of unexploded ordnance and other hazards. "We are uniquely fortunate for a 'sneak preview' of our operating site the week before Christmas," Johnson said. "We will spend a day on Desecheo clearing hazards from our operating sites. Rarely does such a most-wanted entity have an opportunity for a sneak peak to optimally plan logistics, stations and antennas." There will be no radio operations on this trip.

The KP5 DXpedition team will assemble in Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 8 for mandatory UXO training. They will spend the next few days training, preparing and staging the several tons of equipment for transport to the site and set out for Desecheo on February 12. Allphin said that as soon as they land on Desecheo, two stations will be "immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26."

Allphin is an experienced DXer, having visited 80 DXCC entities and operated from 40, including Peter I Island, Howland Island, Kingman Reef, the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia Island. Allphin and Johnson have both participated in DXpeditions to Heard Island and Bhutan.

"For a team leader, the challenges are pretty much the same for Desecheo as they were for Peter I and other remote DXpeditions," Allphin told the ARRL. "Take logistics -- you still must make sure everything you need gets there. Although there is a Radio Shack 20 miles away, the boat trip is \$1000! The team must be selected on compatibility, experience and operating skills; that never changes. The difference this time is that Glenn and I have been inundated with requests to join the team. The close proximity makes it look like an easy DXpedition, I guess!"

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager and experienced DXpeditioner Dave Patton, NN1N, said that both Desecheo and Navassa Islands (currently third on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list) saw frequent operations in the late 1970s through late '80s, but operations from the islands have been very limited since then. With the islands under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, combined with decaying "infrastructure" on Navassa, there are more issues that must be dealt with than there were 25 years ago.

"A well-organized and lengthy operation from Desecheo will be a nice treat for the world's DXers," Patton said. "With W0GJ and K4UEE leading the operation, I think we can all count on a first class effort that will give maximum exposure to Asia/Oceania and Europe where KP5 is most needed. I also think that Glenn and Bob can demonstrate to the Fish and Wildlife Service that a DXpedition can take place and not damage the environment or cause big problems amongst other hams or for other agencies. I hope hams will be invited back to Desecheo more frequently in the future and expand the places where hams may operate."

Desecheo

The 360 acres (0.56 square miles) island of Desecheo is located in the Mona Passage between Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, 19 kilometers (14 miles) off the coast of Rincón. The island was discovered by Christopher Columbus, but it was not named until 1517 by Nuñez Alvarez de Aragón.

Desecheo terrain is rugged, its highest peak reaching 676 feet.

The Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge established in 1983 has been serving as a nature reserve. Today is an important site for seabird nesting. Desecheo is home to 3 endemic lizards and the endangered cactus. The island has no permanent inhabitants.

Coordinates: Latitude: 18.40° N Longitude: 67.55° W

Area: 1.5 sq. km



In 1979, upon the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee, Desecheo Island was added to the DXCC list for contacts made after March 1 of that year. KP4AM/D -- with operators N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (now KP2A) and KP4AM (now W4DN) -- made the first DXpedition to Desecheo in March 1979. Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994. "It is so exciting that our DXpedition to Desecheo coincides almost exactly 30 years to the day of the first operation from Desecheo," Johnson told the ARRL.

In June of this year, CNWR invited written proposals from hams who had previously made inquiries about an Amateur Radio operation from Desecheo; CNWR indicated that they would allow one group to activate the island. After reviewing the proposals, CNWR would then select a group and prepare to issue a Special Permit to the successful party, limiting the group to no more than 15 people staying no longer than 14 days. Applicants had 45 days to prepare and submit their proposals. According to Allphin, seven groups submitted proposals.

"A panel of three Fish and Wildlife Service employees, from areas within the Service outside of the Caribbean refuge, spent September 24 and 25 reviewing and evaluating the [seven] proposals," Allphin said. "The selection criteria used were those outlined in the proposal invitation letter and points were awarded for how well criteria were addressed for thoroughness and documentation."

"It was truly an honor to have our proposal and team selected from the stiff competition," Johnson told the ARRL. "This has been a true team effort on our part from the start. We look forward to activating an entity in the Top 10 Most Wanted that is located in our own back yard! We are most grateful to the USFWS for giving us this opportunity to activate this rare entity."

From the ARRL

December Contest Calendar

December - 2008			
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5 - 1600Z, Dec 7	ARCI Holiday Spirits - Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 21
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13 - 2400Z, Dec 14	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 22
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 20	RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 27
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	0001Z, Dec 20 - 2359Z, Jan 4	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27 - 1500Z, Dec 28
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 20 - 1559Z, Dec 21	Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Dec 27 - 1500Z, Dec 28

Yes - there are even more that what are listed here. Check the internet for contest activity from around the world.

School Honors Military Hams

Two area hams are being honored for their military service at Campus Elementary School in Streetsboro. Both Ray KD8DFL (a PCARS Member) and Ryan KD8FPP, attended Campus School and graduated from Streetsboro High School. Their photos, along with other Streetsboro residents in the military, are the centerpiece of a prominently displayed bulletin board.

Both hams, along Carl Fischer, another Streetsboro man who is not a ham, are shipping out to Iraq in January with the 137th Assault Helicopter Battalion, part of the Ohio Army National Guard. Ray flies Blackhawk helicopters, and in civilian life is president of Stellar Instruments, an electronic engineering firm. Ryan, an engineering student at University of Toledo, will serve as an Information Technology network security specialist. He is also cross trained as an avionics technician, and diesel mechanic. Mr. Fischer, a truck driver, serves as a door gunner on Blackhawk missions. All three men will spend most of 2009 stationed in Bilal, about 50 miles northwest of Bahgdad. The 137th Battalion departs on January 4th.

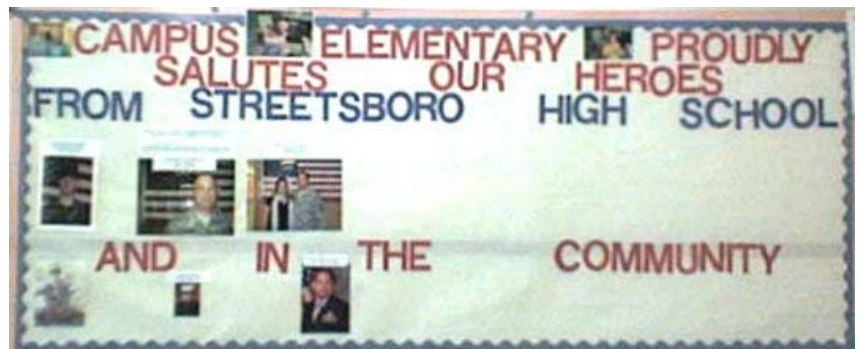


PHOTO CAPTION: Shown in the center of this display at Campus Elementary School in Streetsboro, Ryan Fraedrich KD8FPP (left), Carl Fischer, (center) and Ray Larrick KD8FPP (right).

Bill, WB9LBI

2009 General Class Upgrade Course

Starting Tuesday, January 13th, PCARS will again be offering its General Class license upgrade course. The course will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Family & Community Services office building located at 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

This will be the same course that we offered earlier this year and all of the instructors will be returning for this second edition. We will be using the ARRL's General Class License Manual as the textbook. The material will be covered in the same order as the book's contents.

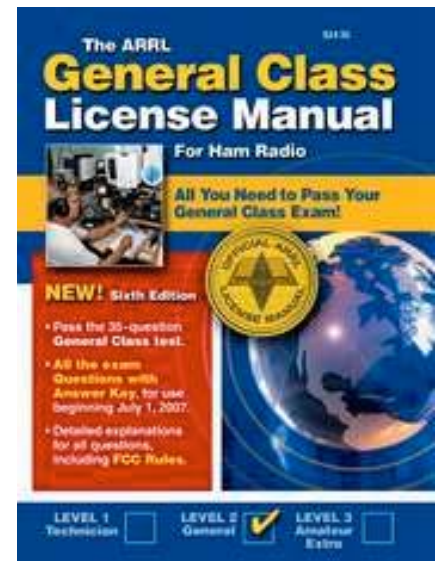
The students who completed the class in 2008 found it to be valuable and all of them who took the General Class Element Three examination passed it.

Just as before, PCARS members pay no fee for the program. It is one of the benefits of membership. The class is open to the public and for anyone who is not a PCARS member there is a modest fee of \$25.00 which includes, at no extra charge, a one-year membership in PCARS! You can't beat that deal.

All PCARS members are invited to attend. Even if you have your General or Amateur Extra class license you are still welcome to join in the program and use it as a refresher course. Maybe you will be able to add some additional useful information for the students, too. If you have your Technician license but aren't sure whether you want to upgrade at this time the class will still be a great way to begin to familiarize yourself with the material in the General Class question pool.

If you have an interest in the class or need more information, send me a note to me at kc8pd@portcars.org.

Jim, KC8PD



Technician Course Update

In November, Tom, WB8LCD, Russ, KB8DPN, and myself finished the seventh edition of the Technician License class that PCARS has sponsored at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna since Fall 2006. What a rewarding experience this has been for all three of us.

To date we have had fifty students and we are proud to say that forty-two of them have passed the Technician test and become licensed hams. It has been our pleasure and honor to welcome them to the hobby.

The students have been a remarkably diverse group. In age they have ranged from Jenna, KD8GHA, who was licensed at age ten, to Clarence, KD8ETS, who got his ticket at age ninety-one, and all ages in between. We have had high school and college students in the class, students who are working and those who are retired, some with backgrounds in electronics or radio theory and those to whom it was all brand new.

Many of our students have become active PCARS members and some have since upgraded to General or Extra class licenses. They have made us proud.

Tom, Russ and I send a thank you to all of the PCARS VE team members who have been there on that last night of the class sessions to assist with the testing.

We also thank Parky, KB8UUZ, for being the net control station for all of our demonstration nets, and Frank, KD8HGI, for putting together the DVD video that we use on the first night of class as an introduction to

ham radio. And thanks also to each of the PCARS members who dropped in to visit and offer personal encouragement to the students.

If you know anyone interested in attending the next session of the PCARS Technician course you can advise them that it will begin on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at Maplewood. They can contact me for more information or register with Maplewood by calling 330-296-2892.

Jim, KC8PD

Ham License Plates Wanted

One of the suggestions we came up with was to have a wall of ham license plates in the club station. So, 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. We have a few more that came in, but we can use more!

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 \$20 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.

Tom, KB8UUZ

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

Last one in 2008 is December 6th. Coming Up in 2009: Feb Apr Jun Aug Oct Dec.



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" (Fee goes to \$15.00 in 2009). We look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Coordinator



Contesting QSL Card

When in the course of contesting, You will come across a QSL card that stands out among the rest. That occurred recently because I worked a county I had not worked in Texas, Kinney County. The face of the card is a photograph of bright gas emissions on the sun, photographed by the Transition Region and Coronal Explorer, a mission of the Stanford-Lockheed Institute for Space Research. If you would like to learn more go to <http://trace.ismal.com/>.



Joe, W8KNO

New PCARS Harmonic

Hello PCARS. I'm still here in Indiana and wanted to let everyone know about the newest harmonic in the Ramsey family. Her name is Olivia Rose Ramsey and she was born 11/13/08 at 4.55 am She weighed in at 6 lbs and 14 oz and was 20 1/4 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well And my son is holding well hi hi.



John, KC9ACX

PCARS Dues



Time flies when you're having fun! 2008 is coming to a close. That means that your 2009 dues will be coming up sooner than you think. So, PLEASE check out the PCARS web site, look under Membership and review the membership application for the dues amounts. Are you a Regular, Senior or Family member? The rates are different. In any case, please get you dues in early. It makes it easier to get the books balanced... Also, by re-newing your dues in PCARS, you're telling everyone you support all the great fun activities that PCARS does to promote this great hobby of ours. Without you, there would be no PCARS!

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 - Clear Speech DSP Speaker CSS-2 - 12VDC, New & in the box - \$125 - Contact **Tom - KB8UUZ@portcars.org**

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

FOR SALE: Ameritron 811H Amplifier. It is in excellent shape. I would like \$625.00 for the amp. and \$25.00 dollars for the custom cover by Stan in Calif. Contact Russ, K8QF at 330-475-4959 or K8QF@portcars.org.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TM-D710A 2-meter/440/TNC/APRS.

Retails new \$600. Will sell for \$550. It's brand new (April 08). I'd like to sell it so I can buy other equipment I need. Contact Carl - N4IT@portcars.org

FOR SALE - High Sierra Sidekick Screwdriver antenna, black, 6-80 meters. Comes with optional Spurs (capacitance hat), controller & manual - costs \$460 new. - In great shape, will sell for \$350. Contact **Tom** - KB8UUZ@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

WANTED: Antenna Tuner , 600 watts or more. Contact **Carl N4IT** at ccapps2439@yahoo.com or 330-673-2764

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

FOR SALE: Dual Band Trunk Lid Antenna, 2m/440 like new \$25. Contact **Carl N4IT** at ccapps2439@yahoo.com or 330-673-2764

FOR SALE: Astron 12 Amp Power Supply , good condition \$35. Contact **Carl N4IT** at ccapps2439@yahoo.com or 330-673-2764



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- December 8th – **Christmas Party**, Paradise Lake Country Club
- January 12th meeting – **Chuck, W8PT**, Contesting
- January 24th activity – **Tom, KB8UUZ**, Coax and Connectors
- February 9th meeting – **Jim, KC8PD**, et al., Ham Radio Deluxe
- February 21st – **Freeze Your Acorns Off**, Roy Smith Shelter House, Fred Fuller Park, Kent
- March 9th meeting – **HF Antennas Roundtable** (tentative)
- March 22nd activity – **Jim, KC8PD**, J-Pole Antenna Kits
- April 13th meeting – **Bill Weisinger, WB8UAH**, Low Power Commercial FM
- April 26th activity – **G5RV Antenna Workshop** (tentative)
- May 11th meeting – **Dick Pascoe, G0BPS**, President, QRPARCI
- May activity – **Antenna Day** (date TBS)
- June 8th meeting – **Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD**, NASA researcher, 2008 Alan Severson Award winner
- June 27th-28th – **FIELD DAY!**



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in December

KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KD8EPE	John Hart
KD8GHA	Jenna Ziccardi
KD8FLW	Kathy Leasure
KD8FLV	Larry Krempasky
KC8PHY	Phil McCoy

KC8RKV	Jim Godfrey
KB8AMZ	Terry Morris
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8EQJ	Ed Polack
KC8RJR	Errol Jordan



PCARS Thursday Net Control

December							
4	K8CMP	11	KB8UUZ	18	KC8PD	25	KB8UUZ

And, wait, there's more: **January 1, 2009 - WB8LCD**



Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

Ham Radio Products on your Grocers Shelves

You can't help but be impressed by the vast selection of magazines for sale at your local supermarket. Imagine my surprise when I was searching the rack for this month's *Maxim*, and instead found *CQ Magazine*!



You'll find it in the General Interest section, between *Popular Mechanics* and *Forbes*. While *CQ* is the only magazine of specific interest to hams, Giant Eagle also carries periodicals of more general interest to Amateur Radio operators, such as *National Enquirer* ("OPRAH HEARTBROKEN OVER STEADMAN'S CHEATING WAYS") and *Cosmopolitan*.

These magazines are only a few examples of fine ham radio products that are easily obtained at your local grocery store. The most obvious example is beer, a beverage without which no credible amateur radio endeavor can function. Just look at the monthly PCARS meeting. Without beer, we would probably all be out of the meeting before 8pm. Your local grocer purveys an outstanding variety of beers for all tastes and budgets, from low-cost supermarket swill right up to hand crafted porters and lagers such as Guinness or Anchor Steam. If you need a recommendation, WB8LCD will gladly provide guidance.

Bill, WB9LBI

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



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.



Some Words From Weaver

KI4LA is re-elected Vice Director

To ensure as many members as possible have heard the news, incumbent Vice Director, Gary Johnston, KI4LA of Edgewood, KY has been reelected to his post for another three years in a very close, 3-candidate race. In addition to Gary, the candidates were former Kentucky Section Manager and current Division Legislative Action Chairman John D. Meyers, NB4K of Butler, KY and current Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator Dan Romanchik, KB6NU of Ann Arbor, MI. Voting in this election ended at noon, November 21. The results of the vote count as reported on the ARRL web site were:

Gary Johnston, KI4LA = 1218

Dan Romanchik = 1205

John Meyers = 1155

Upon learning of the election results, I sent the following message by e-mail to the three candidates:

"Gentlemen,

Congratulations to Vice Director Johnston for his re-election victory in the just-completed election (the counting machine is still warm as I write this). I look forward to the assistance of Vice Director Johnston during the coming three years as together we strive to further the interests of Amateur Radio, the ARRL and the Great Lakes Division. Congratulations also to Dan and John on their strong campaigns.



"Thanks to the three of you for the deep interest you demonstrated in the ARRL electoral process. It is through spirited competition such as you displayed that ARRL is assured of competent leadership in coming years. I feel confident that each of you will continue your leadership support of the League regardless of the precise form this will take. "73"

Thanks to each Division member who voted in the just-completed election. It is votes of members such as you that select each of the 15 directors on the ARRL Board of Directors. The directors determine ARRL policy. Vice directors perform services to support their respective divisions as requested by their director and fill-in for the director as necessary.

Directors and vice directors serve terms three years in length. The terms begin at noon on January 1 following the election. One-third of the 15 directors and their associated vice directors are elected each year on a staggered basis. Director and vice director elections for the Central, Hudson, New England, Northwestern and Roanoke Divisions will be held in 2009.

Section Managers including Joe Phillips, K8QOE (OH), Dale Williams, WA8EFK (MI) and Jim in contrast serve for terms of two years.

73,

Jim, K8JE

Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division

Halloween in the Hills, 2008

Once again it was time to pack all of the essential and non-essential stuff (gotta have lots of toys) for this annual trip to the Hearts Content Primitive Recreation Area. The area is located north and east of Tidioute, Pa, a neat little town, where the Pennsylvania Fishing Tourney is held every year, very well known.

Packing for the trip includes everything from shorts and T-shirts to winter weather gear. Over the 25+ years I have been traveling to Hearts Content the weather has been unpredictable, from 75 and sunny to 0 and heavy snow. There are miles of trails so footwear is also very important. This trip..... heavy winter wear and pack boots!!

Packing for the trip also means taking amateur radio gear and back up to the amateur radio gear. No cell phone service from here, so HF and 2 meter equipment is vital. This years list included the backpack radio which is an Icom IC-706 with an LDG tuner, a simple wire antenna set up as an inverted "V", and several VHF/UHF portables. Others along on the trip were Dan, WD8MDF and Larry, WD8MDE. Both had mobile radio VHF/UHF and Larry had an Icom IC-706 with a



screwdriver antenna. So one way or another, radio contact could be made.



While driving to Hearts Content, several snow squalls were encountered. In some areas, no snow at all... others had several inches on the ground. When we arrived in Tidioute, Pa, we fueled the vehicles and headed for the top. I was pulling a small 5X8 cargo trailer, so Dan and Larry went ahead to check the road. The closer we got to camp, the more snow on the ground, with the road eventually getting down to one lane. At one point I stopped and waited for a car to pass from the other direction, about a 20 minute delay.

Well, into 4X4 we go. The drive up to camp took much longer than usual. Heavy snow and no plowed roads. At the entrance to Hearts Content Campground, I put the Nitro into 1st gear and held on. The Nitro and cargo trailer made it to the top with a lot of gentle coaxing.... (ha ha, thought I was going to call for rescue shoveling). Up on top, a campsite had been picked. I just gave it the gas and drove straight into the snow pile, hoping the snow would melt enough in a few days to let me get out (it did). The snow pile was my camp for 5 days.

Of course all of the normal camping activities were enjoyed. Campfire chili was in pot cooking only an hour after arrival, the amateur radio HF station was set up and tested, the sleeping area set up and a walk



around camp to recon the area. One other camp site was in use, but they left the next morning... too much snow I guess.

Several HF contacts were made from close to our area (NVIS) to across the country. Power output was kept at 30 watts to conserve the battery. Adding "QRP" to callsigns on the HF bands certainly helped get the attention of net operators, especially MIDCARS, which we checked into daily. HF signal reports were good from S9 to in the noise. We also made a few VHF contacts while in the area.



Dan, WD8MDF, brought a neat device with him, The Spot (Google FINDMESpot). This little orange device is a combo GPS unit with the ability to transmit a preset message to a satellite. Preset status messages are used to notify anyone on your pre-programmed list. The messages can be anything from "we are ok" to "send help now". The messages are sent by pushing one of the buttons on the front of the SPOT unit. All messages are sent to email and cell phone text services, with any emergency messages sent to local law enforcement/rescue agencies. All messages

include your position by latitude and longitude. If you have a life threatening situation, the emergency button on the SPOT will get you help quickly. Fortunately our biggest emergency was running out of tomato juice, hardly a SPOT emergency.

Later in the week, two Youngstown area hams ventured to our area to GeoCache. This is another hobby that lends itself well to ham radio (Google Geocaching for details) ... Yep, outdoors and ham radio. So off all of us went into the forest. Dan, WD8MDF, had hidden a GeoCache last year and the trek to the cache was made to complete repairs and add supplies. We all had a great hike, cooked fried baloney (not those micro slice types of baloney either) sandwiches in the woods, and returned to camp.

Another great trip came to a close. The week went by so fast... but what a fantastic experience! We look forward to the trek to Hearts Content every year... and ham radio is always a big part of enjoying the trip. So.... all of you... put on your winter parkas... and go to the great outdoors.... and take your radios!



73... and look for my next radio adventure article... February 2009 in Central Pennsylvania. Hope there is a LOT of snow!!

Dave, WB2DFC



PCARS Meetings

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

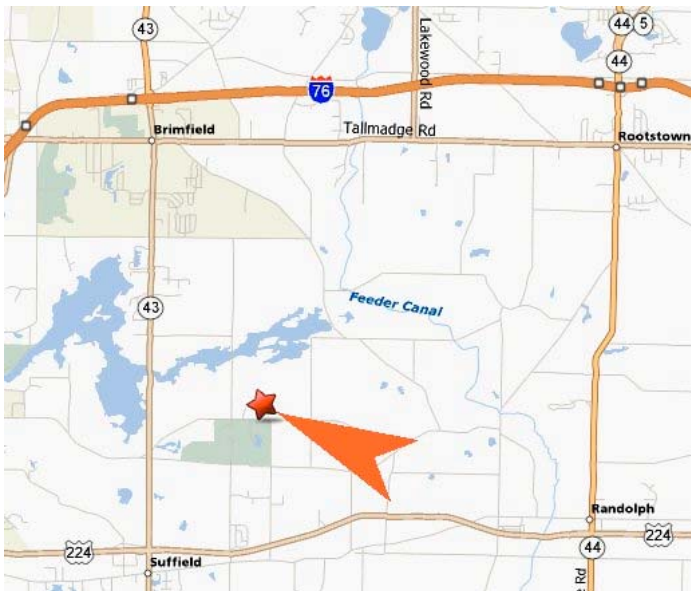


*Located in the **Brimfield Plaza**
Just South of Interstate 76
off Route 43 in **Brimfield, OH.***

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



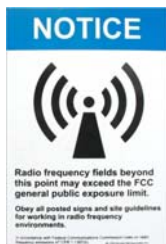
***EXCEPT in DECEMBER - Our Christmas Party/Meeting for
December will be at the Paradise Lakes Country Club***



Pictures from the November PCARS Meeting



Thanks & 73



This is the 12th and last 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, WB2DFC, KC8PD, W8PT, W8KNO, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI, KC9ACX, K8JE, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web** - With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

Amateur Radio GENERAL Class Upgrade Class



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) is offering a General Class Upgrade course !!

When: Tuesday Evenings 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Starting January 13, 2009
License testing will be held on March 10th at 7:00 pm

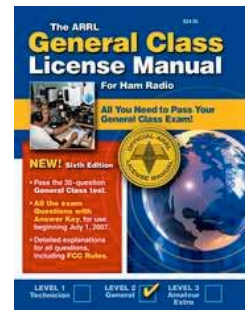
Where: The Community Room at the Family & Community Services office building located at 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

Cost: **FREE for PCARS Members !!!!!!!!!**

\$25.00 Registration fee for non-PCARS members
Your \$25 fee includes a One Year Membership in PCARS !!

Text – ARRL “General Class License Manual”

Information and Registration: Contact **Jim Aylward, KC8PD**
by e-mail at: **kc8pd@portcars.org**
or phone at: **330-297-7979**



Get registered as soon as possible !!



As a **General Class Amateur Radio Operator** you will be able to Contact other ham radio operators in the area and around the world on the HF Bands !! It will open up a whole new world of fun !!





Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [] New [] Renewal

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: _____ Year: _____
Birthday: Month: _____ Day: _____ (don't need year)

A \$5.00 initiation fee will be assessed in the first year of membership for all new members.

Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31st the following year.

Dues are as follows: Example - Regular Member Pays on Jan 1st \$20 for entire year. If paid on June 1st, \$15 for entire year, etc.

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Full Membership	Pay January 1 through May 31= \$20.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Membership	Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Senior Full Membership (65+)	Pay January 1 through May 31= \$16.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Senior Membership (65+)	Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family* Member	Pay January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months)
	Call Sign of Regular Member:	Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month)

(*Family = wife, husband, brother, sister, son, daughter, father, mother that is a licensed amateur radio operator who's FCC license has the same address as the paid regular member's FCC license)

Checks can be made out to either "PCARS" - or - "Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc."

What are **YOUR** Ham Radio interests:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Member #:

Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
c/o: Tom Parkinson – KB8UUZ
9992 State Route 700
Mantua, OH 44255

Date Received:
New Renewal
Date Voted:
Database Updated

Initiation Fee \$ Dues \$
O Cash O Check Total Amount: \$
Results:

Rev. 14 January 2008

Merry Christmas

WB8LCD KD8CKP KC8PD KB8VJL K8CAV
KB8SZI KC8RJR N8QE W8PT AB8UD KB8DPN AB8IE
K8GI N5VLZ N8KBX NT8K KB8TUY N8EQJ K8JE N8FTP
N6TL KB8UUZ WB9LBI WB8VNO N4IT KD8DFM N8GIE
N8ATV N4PKW KC8PIZ WB8FEW KB8JFF KC8RKV KC8FQV WB8VYW
W8KNO KD8EPF WB8FEW KB8JFF KC8RKV KC8FQV WB8VYW
K8HGX KC8NOW KD8ETS K8FEY KD8EOZ AB8VX WB8OVQ
W8RJG KC8ZZG KD8FLZ K8QF KD8EPE N8WLE WD8BIW
KC8SYD KD8EPG KD8EPA N8PWX
W8WWG KC8LJY N8ZDR WD8DAU
N8XTH WB2DFC KD8FDK AB8YN
K8SRR KC8KYW N1EZZ KD8GGZ KD8GHB
KD8HGI KB8AMZ KD8GWY KD8FME
N8JLC NX8G KD8CGF KD8ICP KD8GGBB KB8PHJ
KC8DBX K8AAB KD8INR KD8IHQ W8NET KD8GHA
KG8NX K3GP KD8ICR W8JJW W8HFY KC8UNR KD8JCY KD8DFL



and Happy Holidays

from ALL of Us at

PCARS



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

Meetings: 2nd 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



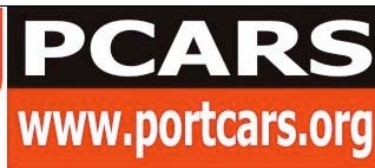
PCARS Appointments & Committees 2008

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site Coordinator	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO W8PT	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
	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	N8EQJ	Ed Polack
	K8QF	Russ Conklin
	K8GI	Rick Patterson
Web Master	WB8VNO	Gay Wands
	WD8CVH	Ted Wands
Web Master	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 yourself 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