



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



January 2008 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 3 No. 1

~ 2008 Officers ~

President: - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
3 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - K8CMP
2 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
1 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL

~ Meetings ~

2nd Monday of
every month.
7 pm at
Otto's Lounge
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

Here's hoping you all had a great holiday and you're all ready to start a new year. We've got lots of stuff in store for you, so, if you want to have FUN in Ham Radio, just stick around with us (PCARS), because that's what we're all about! If you've got something in mind that you would like to see us doing, drop me an email and I'll make sure the officers try to get it on the agenda.

An important aspect of our club is the meetings. We've tried hard to keep the boring stuff to a minimum, and have an interesting presentation for you each month. No matter how good it is, it's still

not all it could be if you're not there with us! Please try to attend our meetings as often as you can. Same goes for our other monthly activities and weekly nets – the more participation we have, the more fun it is for everyone. Can you bring a guest? Absolutely! EVERYONE is welcome to participate with us.

I'm hoping that Amateur Radio sees a resurgence in its popularity as a hobby. The elimination of the morse code as a “gate keeper” certainly opens the doors to lots more technically minded people. All the favorable press Ham Radio has received in recent years from EmComm efforts has also increased the public interest level. PCARS as a group, and each of us individually, needs to make sure that any newcomers to the hobby immediately start having FUN and feel like they are welcome to



join us. That's what will keep them interested and active. Maybe, with a larger customer base, radio and equipment manufacturers just might be motivated to introduce more new and exciting products, and be able to offer them to us cheaper! Expanding our ranks is a win/win for everyone. Please do whatever you can to promote this great hobby to those you come in contact with.

We all have different commitment levels, time constraints, family obligations and other items that demand our time and attention. If ham radio is important to you (and I hope it is) be sure to schedule as many of our club activities as possible as well as your own personal operating / building / experimenting time. Plan to do it, or it will just get lost in the shuffle of other activities that draw you away. I believe that Ham Radio is the “Greatest Hobby” in the world, and I hope that 2008 is the year you get to fulfill all your ham radio ambitions!

73

Tom, WB8LCD

From the Vice President

Well it's time to get the PCARS New Year started. The past two years have been extremely busy and, with any luck, this year will be a bit easier with that experience under our belts.

Club President Tom, WB8LCD, will usher in the New Year for us with an outstanding presentation on QRP operations. The Fall and Winter have been very busy for Tom who has been up to his eyeballs in work on his home remodeling project. Having seen the results of his efforts I can tell you that Tom clearly knows his way around the tool box. But he still found time to pull this presentation together and we look forward to all of you joining us at Otto's in Brimfield on the fourteenth for this inaugural event at out our new meeting place.

In This Issue of the RADIOGRAM

A New Look for ARRL Century Club Awards	12
Batteries Needed ? Help PCARS	13
Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites	3
Contest Calendar	6
Dues are Due	4
E7A-E7Z - New DXCC Prefix	11
Echo Link in Nice Weather	8
EmComm	5
Ham License Plates Wanted	6
Happy Birthday PCARS Members	8
Mark Your Calendars	7
Membership Application for PCARS	16
Net (Thursday) Information & Schedule	12
New Amateur Extra Pool Released	12
New Meeting Place	9
Paper Chase	3
P-A-R-I-S Calling CQ	14
Patches & Stickers	8
PCARS Meetings	9
PCARS Stickers Show Up All Over	6
PCARS VE - Thanks	7
Pictures from the December PCARS Meeting	15
Plasma TV - Mother of All RFI	10
President, From the	1
President's Award - 2007 - KD8EPA	4
Remember When? Remember Now	13
Santa's Promise	15
Spring Technician Class	6
Swap-N-Shop	8
Thanks & 73	15
VE Test Sessions & Information	7
Vice President, From the	1
Yahoo Site	12



From the Vice President (con't from page 1)

Then on Saturday, January 26th, Rick, K8CAV, and I will be putting on the Digital Modes Workshop at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room at the Family & Community Services office building on Oakwood Street in Ravenna. This is a follow up to the Soundcard Interface Kit Project and is a chance for everyone to get more familiar with a wide variety of digital modes that you may have not tried before. Rick has a wealth of information and technical insights on digital modes so you do not want to miss this.

The QRP presentation and the Digital Modes

Workshop together provide a great lead in to the Third Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off event in February. Many of the digital modes are excellent performers even at low power. QRP is not just for CW. So let's not be put off by those crummy HF band conditions and instead get out and show what we can do with low power portable operations.

Also in February, at our meeting on the eleventh we are going to be treated to a presentation by Tim Duffy, K3LR, one of the country's top contesters, on his contest station in Pennsylvania. If you want to see what it takes to put together a state-of-the-art, multi-op contest station, Tim is the guy to do it. Gee, he may also make us realize why most of us will also be sticking with portable QRP instead.



The Winter edition of our Technician Course will be starting on Tuesday, January 22nd at the Maplewood Career Center. The tuition is a modest twenty dollars plus the cost of the Technician Ham Radio License Manual. The class runs for eight weeks and the last night of class we will have a VE session that is open to everyone.

Speaking of VE sessions, the PCARS VE team will begin its second year of bimonthly testing at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of every even-numbered month at the Center of Hope on West Main Street in Ravenna. The first session will be on February 2nd. The VE sessions are open to everyone including walk-ins. You do not have to register in advance to take a test.

Thanks again to the members of the PCARS VE team: Tom, WB8LCD, Parky, KB8UUZ, Bob, N8QE, Carl, N4TIE, Russ, KB8DPN, Chuck, K8CMP, Jim, N8PXW, Deron, N8XTH, and Ed, N8EQJ. We can always use additional VE's. Let me know if you have any questions on how to become one.

If you have your General ticket and have been thinking about upgrading to Amateur Extra class, the new question pool has been released by the National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) and the question pool is available from the NVCED in a variety of formats at:

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338>

The new question pool will be put into use on July 1st so if you have been studying the materials for the current version of the test you may want to take a crack at the

exam before the end of June. Hope to see you at a VE session!

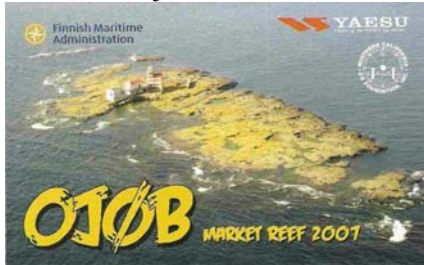
I want to say thanks to all of the PCARS members for their continued confidence in the PCARS officers. We have been trying very hard to make the PCARS experience as much fun as possible for every member of the club. If there is anything that you think we should be doing, just let us know. We want to be as responsive as possible to the interests of all of the PCARS members.

Jim, KC8PD

Paper Chase

In the 1960s, one of the most wanted DXCC entities was Market Reef. Today if you look at the list of the top 100 most wanted you will not find it. The reason is that since 1960 a DXpedition has gone there each year. The picture on the QSL card from OJ0B shows the reef. You can see that you would have to want to go there as there is nothing more than a lighthouse on a rock.

The Market Lighthouse was built in 1885 to guide ships along the important sea routes of the stormy Baltic Sea. Market Reef is under the jurisdiction of Finland beyond another DXCC entity, the Aland Islands, OH0. The Market Reef Light was still manned in 1969 when it also qualified as a new DXCC country and became known throughout the world. In the same year at Christmas, Market Reef was activated for the first time (OJ0MR) by a team of Erkki Koskinen, OK2BW, the late Sigge Mansnerus, OH0NI, and led by Martti Laine, OH2BH. They were soon followed by lighthouse keeper Karl-Erik Eridsson entering the world radio scene as OJ0MA under the sponsorship of the Northern California DX Foundation.



During the summer of 2007, 30 years after its automation, the Finnish Lighthouse Society maintained a presence in the lighthouse and took the first steps for its renovation. There is a high urgency not only to secure the heritage of Market Reef but also to rebuild the breakwater so as to enable the lighthouse to endure the assaults of the stormy sea. You can view the events of 2007 at <http://www.lighthouse.fi/eng/>.

Hope to hear you in the pile ups!

Joe, W8KNO

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

A great big HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Newsletter readers. I am looking forward to 2008 and am



anticipating working some new countries and maybe getting enough confirmed that I will be able to get my DXCC this year. There are some very interesting things that will be happening DXwise in the next few months. So lets get right to it.

First though, I'd like to thank the Northern Ohio DX Association, the Ohio/Penn DX PacketCluster, the 425 DXNews and the ARRL DX Newsletter for the following DX information.

Also, think about the fact that there were 219 separate countries active during a single week in December, so the DX is there if you want to work it.

DX

3D2/R, ROTUMA. 3D2AG, is now very active as 3D2AG/p until the end of January. Most of his activity has been on 20 meters CW, but he has been on 20 meters SSB and 40/17 meters CW. Logs will be sent to Sam, FK8DD, and will be posted on: <http://www.3d2ag.fr.tc>

4S7DXG (Illegal Operation). 4S7VK, Secretary RSSL, reports: "I am sorry to inform you as the Secretary of the Radio Society of Sri Lanka that Ivan, a Ukranian Ham, is operating without a valid license. He is also claiming to be operating from Barbaryn Island IOTA 171. It's sad to say this but any contacts with this station will not be valid.

3Y, BOUVET ISLAND. On December 19th, ZS6GCM, was granted temporary permission to operate an Amateur Radio Station for the duration of the 2007/2008 scientific expedition from Bouvet Island. The call sign will be 3Y0E.

5Z, KENYA. DL7UCX, will be active as 5Z4/DL7UCX from December 31st through January 12th. Activity will be on 160-17 meters, mainly on CW and a focus on the lower bands. This will be a holiday style operation using 400 watts into a 18m vertical. QSL via DL7UCX, by the bureau or direct.

9L, SIERRA LEONE. 9L1FZ, is currently is active and has been heard 20 meters SSB. His transmitter varies with output using 60-100 watts (depends on battery voltage). His antenna system is a homemade loop 20'x60' with SGC automatic tuner, estimated 10 ft. above ground. It was reported that the QSL info is via " qsl.9l1fz@mac.com ".

CY0, SABLE ISLAND. Here is a very interesting DX opportunity. The call signs for the 6 meter DXpedition planned in 2008 between June 25th - July 5th, have been announced. Look for Sable Island (NA-063, CISA NS-004) to be activated by VE3IKV, K5AND, W3CMP (No relation to yours truly),

and W4TAA. Activity will be on CW and SSB. The fixed 6m station (in FN93) will use the call sign CY0X and CY0RA (for the portable station in GN03). The fixed station will use 800 watts into a 7 element beam up 40 ft. The portable 6m station in GN03 will have 100 watts into a 5 element beam up 30 ft. Other references are: Sable Island - East Lighthouse (ARLHS SAB-001, TWLHD WLH CY0-001, WLOTA:0758, WW Loc. GN03CX) and Sable Island - West Lighthouse (ARLHS SAB-002, TWLHD WLH CY0-002, WW Loc. FN93XW).

IOTA

8Q, MALDIVES (AS-013). G7COD, will once again be active from Embudu Island, South Male Atoll (WLOTA L-3911), using the call sign 8Q7AK between January 21st and February 2nd. This will be the fourth time being active from here. Activity will be mainly SSB with some CW. He plans to be operational everyday (approx.) between 0900-1100z, 1400-1600z and 1800-1830z. Suggested frequencies are: 7093, 10123, 14147, 18133, 21253 and 24953 kHz (+/- 10 kHz). For complete details of operating times, suggested frequencies, For QSL information please check 8Q7AK on QRZ.com. QSL via G7COD, direct or by the bureau.

FH, MAYOTTE (AF-027). DK7LX, will be active as FH/DK7LX from June 11-23rd (2008). Activity will be mostly CW on all bands with an emphasis on 80/40/30 meters. Operation will be holiday style, using vertical arrays as well as dipoles. More details will become available in 2008 and look for updates on his Web page at: <http://www.dk7lx.mayotte.2008.ms/>

FJ, ST. BARTHELEMY (NA-146). Active this past weekend was FJ5KH. This is the club station of the "Radio Club of the Association des Radio-Amateurs de St. Barthelemy". Club members DK6ST, FJ5AB, FJ5BC and FJ1CM came on the air early Saturday morning and were expected to end on Sunday evening. DO NOT WORRY IF YOU MISSED IT! W6IZT, is expected to join their club as a full privilege member. He will be on St. Barth between January 14-16th (2008) and will be active from their club station FJ5KH, if he finds an accommodation. QSL FJ5KH via FJ5DX (qrz.com). Also members of the RZS Amateur Radio Club (W2RZS) are currently finalizing plans to operate from the new DXCC entity of St. Barthelemy for the upcoming CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th).

HF0, SOUTH SHETLANDS (AN-010). SP3GVX, has been on King George Island since November 2007. He is at the Polish "Henryk Arctowski Antarctic Station" managed by Polish Academy of Science (Institute of Antarctic Biology). At the moment he has many duties to perform, but he should soon be active as HF0POL. This is his 4th time there, and he is going to be there the whole year during 2008. His QSL manager is the same as last time: Tom, SP3WVL

HQ, Roatan Island (NA-057). WQ7R, will be active as HQ9R from Roatan Island (WLOTA L-1671), for the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest (January 26-27th) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry. Outside of the contest look for him to be active as HR9/WQ7R. QSL both callsigns via K5WW.

VK4, South Molle Island (OC-160). G0UIH, who recently activated Great Keppel Island (OC-142) this past week, will

now activate South Molle Island (OC-160), January 7-11th. His call sign will be VK2IAY/4, the same as the previous operation, and he plans to operate mainly around 14260 kHz, with the possibility of some 17/15m operations also. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

Well, I hope that there is enough here to wet your DX whistle. I certainly will be listening to see if I can work some of these interesting stations. Hope you had a great Christmas and remembered the "reason for the season". So until next month, this is Charlie the Tuner saying, 73 & 60 and a lot of gud DX to u.

Until next time, 73

Chuck, K8CMP

2008 Dues are Over Due

Yep - it's that time of year again. The 2008 dues for PCARS are due *no later than* January 31, 2008. A new dues structure is in place for Senior and Family memberships. Check out the PCARS web site for the latest membership form to be used that has the new dues.

Tom, KB8UUZ

President's Award - 2007

Congratulations to Dan, KD8EPA, as the recipient of the 2007 President's Award! If the award was just given for being a "nice guy", Dan would have still been a contender for this years award.

Dan was in the first ever PCARS Technician Class offered at Maplewood last fall (2006). Dan got his tech ticket at the end of the class and right away joined the



club and got active. He's participated in almost *all* of our weekly nets this past year, and I've gotta give him a pass on the one he did

miss! He attends the PCARS meetings, and this past November, he and Mike (KB8TUY) provided us with an *outstanding* presentation on radio controlled model aircraft. Dan has attended our monthly activities where I'm sure he's learned a lot, but he's also added a lot to the enjoyment of all of us by being a part of our group. Lots of times I find Dan on the repeater when no one else is around to talk to.

For any group like PCARS to be successful, it needs dedicated members who support the activities and programs of the Club. Dan has been there, and because of his enthusiasm and dedication to both the hobby and the club, I felt he was deserving of the 2007 President's Award. Thanks Dan!

Tom, WB8LCD

EmComm

Looking for a great way to improve your amateur radio skills while also providing a public service? Then why not consider joining the Portage County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)?

Here is a bit of background information. In the past there was supposed to have been a local RACES group. Unfortunately it existed in name only. There are no records of it ever having become operational. In late Spring 2006, Mark Griffiths, the former Director of the

Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA), asked if I would draft a new RACES plan for the county. Within a few weeks he had the proposed plan and the somewhat drawn out process of approving it began.

The Portage County Commissioners referred the plan to the Prosecutor's Office for review and a few minor language changes were made at their request. Mark also sent the plan to the State of Ohio EMA office for their review and they were satisfied. Before the plan could be resubmitted to the county commissioners Mark left for a job with ODOT in the Fall of 2006.

A couple months later, Jim Manion, the interim EMA Director, returned the document to the commissioners for their final approval which was quickly given. Since the commissioners were still in the middle of the appointment process for the new EMA Director they requested that we not become operational until after the appointment was made.

Subsequently they appointed Jon Barber as the

permanent replacement and Jon was very receptive to the idea that amateur radio could be a useful tool in meeting the EMA's mission.

Recruitment began almost immediately and as the applications arrived the names were forwarded to the Portage County Sheriff's Department for a criminal background check. That's right, a background check. Remember that RACES can provide assistance to the safety forces in the county and those folks want to know that they can trust the people who show up to assist. By April we had received clearance for all applicants.

Portage County RACES has been up and running now since our first net on May 10, 2007. We have fifteen members, all of whom have been active in our biweekly training nets and monthly meetings, as well as our first in the field drill this past Fall. Everyone has had input into the drafting of our operating policies and procedures, net operations, and guidelines such as the creation of the standard RACES go-kits. RACES will always be a collaborative effort of all the members.

Jon Barber and John Mason, the Assistant Director, have been terrific to work with. They have attended our meetings and shared their ideas and suggestions for how RACES and its members can be a valuable component of the EMA's operations. They have already proposed a substantial upgrade of the amateur radio equipment at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), where we hold our meetings, including the ability to work digital modes.

At our most recent meeting on December 22nd, Jon brought the county's Mobile Command Center (MCC) to the EMA to provide us a tour of the vehicle. It is a large motor home that has, among other things,



communications gear compatible with all safety forces in the county as well as the Ohio MARCS system and can patch signals from any of those systems into any of the others allowing true cross-band communications.

The vehicle is divided into a meeting area in the front third and the comm gear in the back. All of the operators' positions can be disconnected and rolled out the back for installation at the Rootstown Fire Department where there is a backup EOC.



Jon envisions a role for the RACES members to not only provide amateur radio communications but to also become trained in the operation of the communications equipment in the Mobile Command Center. Nice! We will soon begin our training in the MCC.



He also showed us the recently acquired trailer that will become a mobile medical treatment center. In addition, we took a look at the Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) truck. What a rig! Although it began life as a beer truck, it now hauls about \$200,000 in rescue equipment which the firefighters from the various participating departments train with monthly.



What a rig! Although it began life as a beer truck, it now hauls about \$200,000 in rescue equipment which the firefighters from the various participating departments train with monthly.

equipment which the firefighters from the various participating departments train with monthly.

All of the RACES members can be proud of the progress that we have made to date and can look forward to plenty of opportunities for training and participation in the upcoming year. How about joining us? Any licensed ham in the area is welcome to apply. All you need to do is pass the background check and then meet and maintain the training requirements. We will make you welcome and you will enjoy the chance to serve. Want more information? Send me a note at KC8PD@AOL.COM.

Jim, KC8PD

Portage County RACES Radio Officer

January Contest Calendar

January 2008	
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 12 to 2400Z, Jan 13
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 12
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 12 to 0600Z, Jan 13
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 13
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 19 to 0600Z, Jan 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 26 to 2359Z, Jan 27



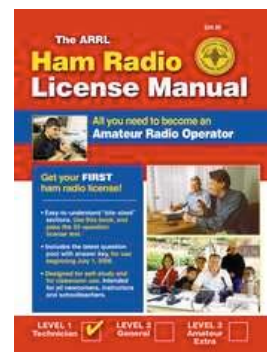
PCARS Stickers Show Up All Over

Here's a quick photo of Al, KB8VJL hard at work, outside, in the cold. Look close - there's a PCARS sticker on the truck at the back of the bucket.



Spring Technician Class

The next Technician license class will start on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at the Maplewood Career Center - 7075 State Route 88, Ravenna, OH. Classes start at 7:00 pm. Please pass this information on to anyone interested in attending this 8 week class. The last evening class will be a VE session, and is open to anyone for testing/upgrades.



Contact the Maplewood Career Center to register: Adult Education Department at Maplewood at 330-296-2892, ext. 104. The text book will be available the first night of the class.

For more information contact **Tom Sly, WB8LCD** at 330-626-1901 or **Jim Aylward, KC8PD** at 330-297-7979.

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 already up there, 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 \$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 renewed, 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

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- © January 14th meeting – QRP Operations, **Tom, WB8LCD**
- © January 26th – Digital Modes Workshop, **Rick, K8CAV**
- © February 11th meeting – **Tim Duffy, K3LR**, The K3LR Contest Station
- © February 23rd – **Freeze Your Acorns Off**, QRP special event
- © March 10th meeting – “**Bring Your Rig**” night
- © March activity – TBS- Powerpole Junction Box, **Russ, KB8DPN**
- © April 14th meeting – **Jim Weaver, K8JE**, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director
- © April activity – TBA – tentative, **Echolink Workshop**
- © May – TBS – **Antenna Day** – dry run for Field Day
- © June 28th and 29th – **Field Day!!!**

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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



2008 Schedule

Feb. 2, April 5, June 7, 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

PCARS VE - Thanks

----- Forwarded E-Mail Message -----

From: Michael Stranathan <kc8wuc@yahoo.com>
To: KC8PD@portcars.org
Date: Thu, 6 Dec 2007 14:43:28 -0800 (PST)
Subject: Comments about membership in Dec 2007 newsletter

Dear Jim:

I just wanted to thank you and the other members of PCARS that worked last Saturday as VE's at the exam session (I was the one that sat for the Extra class upgrade). Having been there just for the exam, I didn't feel a great desire to kibitz and had things to do after the test, however, the fact that you and Tom and members of the VE team went out of your way to welcome me and send me an e-mail after I passed meant a lot. Even taking just a few minutes to talk to someone about their interest in ham radio at a meeting and not have an agenda seems so uncommon any more.

As you can deduce, my experience with ham radio clubs hasn't been all that pleasant or memorable, which has reinforced my opinions about them. The last club I belonged to was a few counties to the southeast: this club was populated by most of the same people who founded it, nothing ever got done, no one ever was able to get any activities off the ground without the permission of the "legacy", and no one's opinion mattered except for theirs (the founding members). Any suggestions made by anyone other than the founders were quashed and technical advice offered by anyone who wasn't an Extra class was dismissed out of hand as being "amateurish" or ill-founded. While relatively new to amateur radio, I have a significant background in broadcast engineering and felt that I might have something to offer the club, but was seen as being an outsider. My attempts to engage the "pros" were met in the form of passive-resistance, as they were too busy to Elmer someone or look at a technical issue, yet were also quick to criticize. This pretty much turned me off.

My intention of writing you is not to whine or complain about other clubs, but to tell you that you hit this right on the head about what a club should be. The offer to Elmer someone is welcome, as is the unconditional acceptance of new members and their ideas.

I hope to meet with you and the other members of PCARS in the new year.

73's

Michael, KC8WUC

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

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Six PCARS members having a birthday this month!

N8TPK	Scott	McKinney
N8PXW	Jim	Korenz
KB8SZI	Peggy	Parkinson
KB8VSQ	Michael	Lee
W8WWG	Charles	Sharp
N8GIE	John	Ziccardi



Swap-N-Shop

WANTED: 3 HW-100 knobs. Will swap 2 Eagle Stamp Savings Books. One has an orange and green front and contains 6 50 & 1 10 point stamps. The other has only a green front and contains no stamps. - Contact **Joe** at - W8KNO@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Uniden HR 2510 President 10 Meter 25 Watt SSB Transceiver Good working condition with manual. \$150.00. **Gordon West WB6NOA Extra Class Software & Book Education Study Package** \$25.00. Contact: **Bob** - N8QE@portcars.org

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

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

FOR SALE: Tripp Lite Power Supply - PR40 \$100 - Mirage B-1016 2 Meter Amp - 10w in, 160w out \$175.00 - Mirage B-5018G 2 Meter Amp - 20-60w in, 160w out \$200.00 - Mirage B-2530G 2

Meter Amp 10w in, 300w out \$475.00 - Three HR2510 10m AM/FM/SSB/CW \$150.00 each - Contact **Ted** - **KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

FREE to the First Claimant: Three HP Large Tri-color Inkjet Cartridges HP 51549A also known as 49. Contact **Joe** - W8KNO@portcars.org

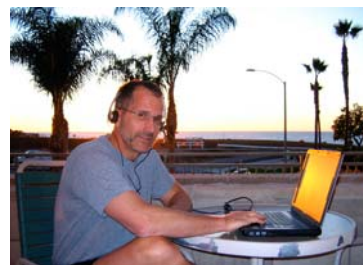
WANTED: 20 amp or better **Power Supply**, and an **Antenna Tuner**. Contact **John** - KC8KYW@portcars.org

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

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

Echolink in Nice Weather

During the December 7th PCARS Thursday night 2 meter net **Jim, KC8PD** was in Carlsbad, California on vacation and checked into the net through Echolink.

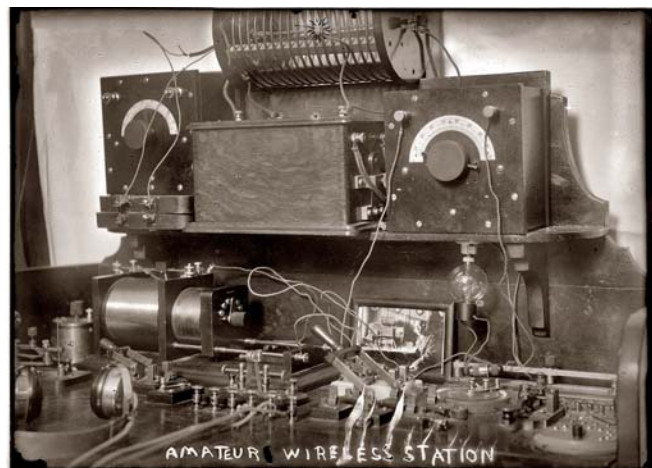


Here's a photo of him showing just how nice it was out side during the net, while we, in Northeastern Ohio were getting hit with the start of really foul weather.

His trip home was not as nice. Remember that terrible snow storm? Jim and his wife Laura flew right into the middle of it and were stuck in Chicago. They had a heck of a time getting back to our snowy area.

From 1920

What a change from then to now.
From homemade Spark to Echo Link on a portable PC.



PCARS New Meeting Place

For the last few months, PCARS has been a “Club without a Home”. We were certainly fortunate to have Mike’s Place available to us for our first year and a half. It met all of our needs. Towards the end, we were certainly starting to push the limits there as far as capacity is concerned. When Mike decided to move the bar back into the Castle, it pretty much sealed our fate.

Looking for a new location started with determining what our needs really were:

- 1) Had to have a meeting room large enough to hold us now, and hopefully accommodate future growth.
- 2) Location needed to be central to Portage County and convenient to get to.
- 3) Plenty of parking, close in, easy access to the meeting room.
- 4) Good food and beer, cheap (hey – we’re hams after all!).
- 5) No charge for the meeting room (see above comment).

We considered lots of places. A couple examples: Diggers in Kent, met all the qualifications except the back room would only hold about 20-25. Ray’s in Kent, good food, might have been able to have the upstairs to ourselves on Monday night but, not cheap, poor parking, lots of stairs to get up there. The Rusty Nail in Twin Lakes, not cheap, very good food, very short drive for WB8LCD, but, they would not open the banquet hall to us, and the meeting room in the restaurant was just too small. There really aren’t a whole lot of places around that met all of the needs.

I’m happy to announce, we did not come up empty handed! Otto’s Restaurant and Lounge, located in Brimfield Plaza seems to fit the bill. Just a couple miles south of where we’ve been meeting, it’s easy to get to, has good parking and a huge meeting room offered to us for free! The food is good and inexpensive.

Our first meeting at Otto’s will be Monday, January 14th. I hope as many of you as possible will come out and check it out. We’ve got some really good meetings planned for January/February/March – you won’t want to miss them anyhow! So, check it out, and after a few months, give me your opinion. If everyone likes it, we’ll call it home. If everyone hates it, we’ll continue the search. But, I think you’re all going to like it!

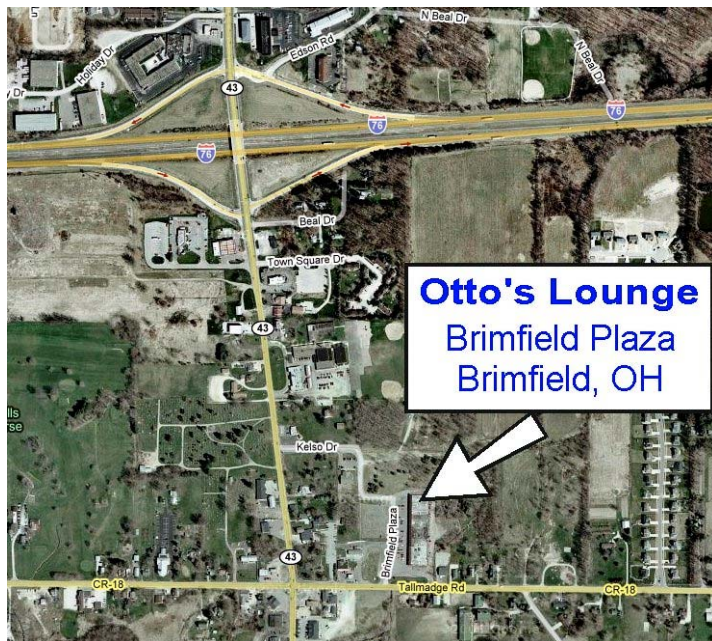
See you there!

Tom, WB8LCD

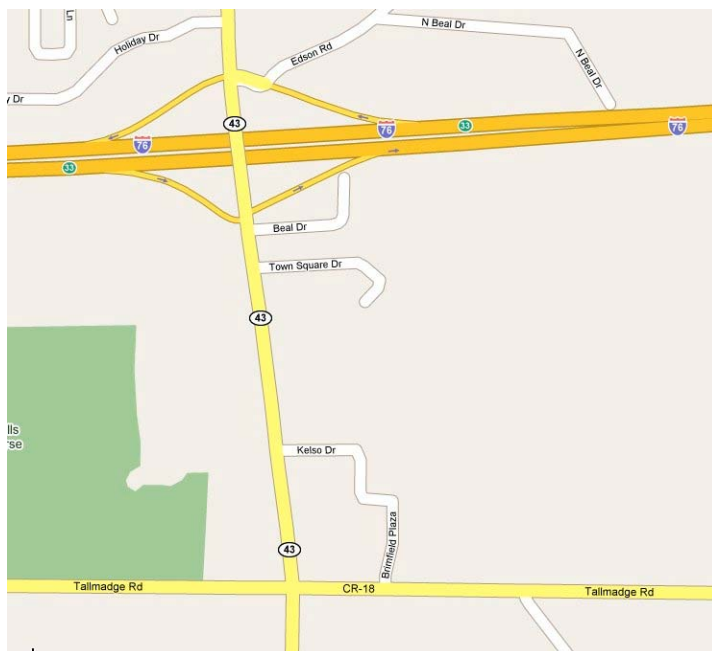
PCARS Meeting

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) next meeting will be at:

***Otto's Restaurant & Lounge
located in the Brimfield Plaza
just South of Interstate 76 off Route 43 in
Brimfield, OH.***



**PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm
See You There!!!!**



Plasma TV

Mother Of All RFI Producers

Have you noticed the big sales push by Best Buy (and others) of those plasma TV screens? You know, the ones whose prices have 4 digits in them. There are even payment plans where the price is spread over months or years to help you afford them. Many of these are going to be sold this holiday season. Unfortunately, no one is mentioning the horrendous RFI that these things put out on HF.

I recently installed a CCTV system to keep an eye on my toys. The security company, ADT, suggested a Panasonic 42" Plasma TV/CCTV monitor since the light output was high enough that the pix could be viewed in broad daylight.

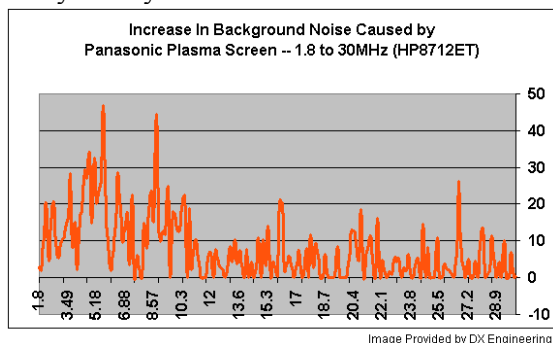
The morning after the installation of the plasma screen, I noticed a huge digital signal about 7.001 MHz and a few other places on the same band. Next, I checked 20 meters. Then 15 meters. Same signal but a little weaker as I went up in frequency. Then, I looked at 80 meters – a gigantic noise at 3.505 MHz and other frequencies in the band. 160 meters was the same. What was this!

I did a little direction finding and found that it was coming from my house! Sure enough when I switched off the recently installed plasma display, the noise disappeared and I could hear the DX again.

The security company, ADT, talked with Panasonic, who informed them that there was nothing that could be done. I owned it. I hooked up my HP Network Analyzer to see just how bad the problem was across the HF spectrum. It was unbelievably strong!

How strong was it?

Below, is a graph that shows the noise output of the plasma TV on the HP Network Analyzer. Those numbers on the right side of the graph represent db above the ambient noise level here inside the house. Yes, that would be 50 db at the top. That's about 8 S-units! Notice how the noise is the worst on the low bands, but the rest of the bands are impacted as well. Your new Super Duper Signal Sucker receiver will definitely find this baby on any of the HF bands!



How did I get this graph?

First, I turned the Panasonic OFF.

Then, I placed a 2m rubber ducky antenna about 10 feet from the front of the Panasonic Plasma display. I took a reading across the HF spectrum and saved it to a diskette file, which I then imported to an Excel file. This allowed me to graph the ambient noise of the area.

Next, I turned the Panasonic ON and repeated the test, again importing it to the Excel spreadsheet. After subtracting the ambient noise curve from the second curve with the screen operating, I obtained the noise produced by the screen alone.

So What?

So, you are now saying, "So what – there's a big difference between 10 feet away and the distance between me and my closest neighbor. I might not hear that thing at all." You are SO wrong!

I have a 40m antenna that is located a quarter mile from my house and the signal levels from the Panasonic Plasma screen are still S-3 to S-5. Plus, this is off the back of the unit where the signals are attenuated by the metal casing. The signals off the front are stronger.

I have a 4 square for 40m located about 150 feet from the side of the screen and my 'MP says it's S9+10db. So, unless the DX is stronger than that, you're likely to have a problem hearing them.

Let's look at some numbers

Just one Panasonic unit produces an S-3 raspy signal on lots of frequencies at ¼ mile away from my antenna. How many houses are within a ¼ mile radius from your house? 500? 1000? OK, now what percentage of those houses will have one of those super efficient raspy RFI generators by say, 2004? Let me guess at 2 percent. That means that you will have 10 to 20 of these things within the ¼ mile radius of your station. Plus the prices are coming down which will result in a lot more of them. Got the picture?

The FCC will protect us, right?

This device, which is allowed to pollute the entire HF spectrum, is allegedly consistent with Part 15 rules; they say so right in the literature. It says that this device can't cause any licensed station any interference and it has to accept all the interference from licensed devices. Now all you have to do is get the rule enforced against all those people that surround you. Good Luck.

Some of the commercial airplane manufacturers are getting ready to use these things on commercial flights. The communication systems of the Friendly Skies are more concerned with VHF/UHF than the HF spectrum, so it's lucky for them that the spurious output of the

screens is reduced as we go up in frequency. Even so, in order to comply with the regulations, some of the screen manufacturers have had to resort to a mesh over the front of the screen to form a sort of Faraday Shield that reduces the signals. Of course, this reduces the picture quality, too. So, don't expect your neighbors to start pulling the mesh over their screen to help you listen for the latest weak signal.

Apparently, the manufacturers don't think that those of us on the ground are worth the investment in shielding and the FCC backs them up with the limp Part 15 rules. Or maybe the Part 15 spawned the unthinking use of high voltage switching for a bright picture and RFI be damned attitude.

What can we do?

You could try one of the noise reduction boxes like the one made by MFJ or JPS but my experience has been that they require a lot of fiddling and retuning every time that you change frequency.

In any case, get ready for the RFI storm. It's forming right now at your local Best Buy and lots of greedy electronics manufacturers who don't mind polluting the spectrum while grabbing your money.

Is it true that if a device puts out a spurious signal on a certain frequency that it is susceptible to incoming signals of the same frequency?

That's just a question. I'm not advocating anything.

Paul, NO8D

Editor's Note: This was originally posted on E-Ham - on November 27, 2002. But it seems that new plasma TV's are causing even more problems today since there are more of them being sold. If you have a sudden and dramatic increase in interference, you may want to find out which neighbor is bragging about the big plasma TV he just got..... Here is one cure: A generous application of Lead Shielding in the form of round pellets forcefully inserted through the plasma TV..... However, as Paul mentioned above, we are not advocating any dramatic action such as this....



E7A-E7Z - New DXCC Prefix

New Prefix for Bosnia-Herzegovina Officially



Announced In response to a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in August, the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) withdrew the call sign prefix allocation T9A-T9Z for Bosnia and Herzegovina and made a new allocation, E7A-E7Z. The change was made initially on a provisional basis under authority of the ITU Secretary-General and was confirmed by the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference to be effective November 17, 2007.

According to International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Ministry of Communications and Transport (BiH) held a press conference in Sarajevo on December 18 to formally announce the change. Minister Dr Bozo Ljubic explained the desirability of changing a prefix that initially was allocated during wartime and how it was now being replaced with one that has no connection to that troubled time; similar steps have been taken with regard to passports, drivers' licenses and automobile registrations, he said. Ljubic also observed that the costs associated with the change were minimal compared to the benefits. Amateur Radio station licenses bearing E7 prefixes will be issued beginning in January 2008, and the use of other prefixes will be phased out.

Sumner and IARU Region 1 President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, of Norway, were invited to speak at the press conference. Accompanying them was IARU Region 1 Executive Committee member Nikola Percin, 9A5W, of Croatia. They expressed congratulations and support for the change, eliminating an issue that has complicated relations among the radio amateurs of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Also invited to speak was Miroslav Nikše, President of the Union of Radioamateur Associations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (URAS), a recently formed umbrella organization of amateur radio associations based in different parts of the country. He thanked those involved in promoting the change.

In his remarks, Dr Ljubic pledged support from the Ministry of Communications and Transport to the umbrella organization for the development of Amateur Radio repeater and digital networks that would cover the whole of the country, enhancing emergency communications capabilities.

From the ARRL

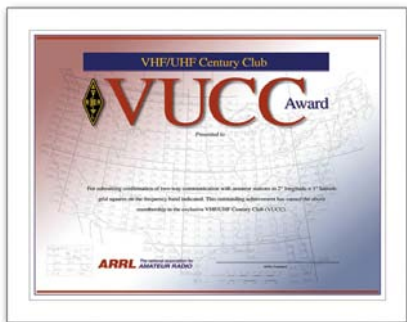
A New Look for Two ARRL Century Club Awards

The ARRL has completed the finishing touches on certificates issued through the 5-Band DXCC (DX Century Club) and VUCC (VHF/UHF Century Club) programs. The awards program staff worked with the ARRL in-house graphic designers to create a fresh new look for these traditional awards.

The new 5-Band DXCC certificate recognizes the achievement of this award with a distinctive graphic display that incorporates the ARRL diamond and globe design that is familiar throughout the DXCC program, as well as stunning raised gold leaf enhancement; when framed and hung in your shack, it will definitely mark your accomplishment. The new



VUCC award is a full color diploma that features red, white and blue shading over a grid square map with a stylish VUCC logo.



Radio amateurs earn the 5-Band DXCC award by confirming two-way contacts with at least 100 DXCC entities on each of the following amateur bands: 80 meters, 40 meters, 20 meters, 15 meters and 10 meters. Earn the VUCC award by confirming two-way V/UHF contacts in 2×1 degree grid squares. Complete rules for all ARRL operating awards are available on the Awards section of the ARRL Web site.

Both full-sized 11×17 awards are numbered and dated, bearing the signature of ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. The newly designed certificates are being issued for all new award applications. Anyone who has previously been issued a VUCC or 5-Band DXCC certificate may request a new design certificate for the cost as specified in each program's rules.

From the ARRL

PCARS Thursday Net Control

PCARS has one of the best nets on the air! We usually have between 20-30 check-ins, most with comments, and nets usually last about 45 minutes to an hour. It's a great way to keep in touch with everything that's going on at PCARS, so make it a priority to check in every week. Don't forget, there is a special certificate for 10 consecutive check-ins, and Echolink counts, so you don't have to be a local to check in and earn the PCARS net certificate!

Kudos to our net control operators, the keep the net moving and often provide topics for comments. Following is our schedule of net control operators, but, this list is flexible! If you would like to be a net control operator, drop me an email and I'll make sure you get the opportunity to give it a try. Everyone should give it a try at least once, and the more you do it, the better you will be at getting the calls and names of the PCARS members correct! Following is the net control operator schedule for the first part of the year:



Net Control Schedule

January	
3	WB8LCD
10	K8QF
17	KC8PD
24	KB8UUZ
31	KD8EOZ

February	
7	K8CMP
14	KB8DPN
21	WB8LCD
28	K8QF

March	
6	KC8PD
13	KB8UUZ
20	KD8EOZ
27	KB8DPN

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

PCARS Yahoo Site

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



New Amateur Extra Pool Released

New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Released (Dec 26, 2007) -- The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released the new pool of questions for the Amateur Extra class license. This pool will become effective for examinations given on or after July 1, 2008, and should be in service until June 30, 2012. The pool, which consists of 741 questions and 12 graphics, can be downloaded from the NCVEC Web site <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338> in Word, PDF or RTF formats.



From the ARRL

Need Batteries? Help PCARS

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

There are over 10,000 different batteries on the website, and they're shipped to your doorstep in just a few days.

You already buy these for your remotes, cell phones, lap tops, digital cameras, etc. Just enter our coupon code when checking out & PCARS gets helped.



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

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

Remember When? Remember Now

At one time or another we have all drifted back to happier, simpler times to help ease the stresses of life. While many professionals might agree that an occasional trip down memory lane is healthy and often therapeutic, few would recommend that we live in the past. Our human brains are wired to remember things that are comforting and suppress unpleasant memories. That is why we tend to use phrases like "the good old days" even if the time in reference was peppered with hardship.



Depending on how you look at it, ham radio like the automobile, has either hardly changed over the last 100 years or has advanced dramatically because of technological progress. Today's automobiles are loaded with safety features and convenience gimmicks yet the basic car is still a wheeled vehicle that burns fossil fuel in an internal combustion engine in order to transport passengers from point A to point B. In comparison radio operators still modulate and demodulate electromagnetic signals to communicate with stations near and far. Computer processing and micro electronics play a big part in how these illustrations have evolved, but have things really changed?

Amateur Radio is just one of many sectors where we see state-of-the-art technology blended with traditional concepts. A trip to any marina will find modern

sailboats made from composite materials and loaded with the latest navigational electronic devices but the basic component, harnessing energy from the wind to propel a vessel, has not changed in the thousands of years since its discovery. I am sure that you can think of your own examples where the application of modern technology has reshaped an old-fashioned idea, but the point is that while it is nice to remember and replicate things from the past, we live in the present.

Many people have an image of Amateur Radio as a nostalgic remembrance of another time when radio seemed to be magical when in fact it has always been cutting edge and futuristic. This portrayal of ham radio is reinforced by radio amateurs themselves through their reluctance to accept change and their insistence on preserving old technologies. The propensity to look back is not as prevalent in other activities as it is in Amateur Radio. When I go fishing I don't run into any anglers sporting woven rattan creels and bamboo fishing poles yet there is not a day that goes by when I am not reminded that "real radios glow in the dark" or some other witty reference to bygone times. How far back do we want to go to be authentic before it becomes absurd? "If it ain't spark it ain't radio?"

Years ago companies like Heath provided a way for many to get involved with Amateur Radio through kit building. The radio kit was less expensive than factory produced gear and, depending on the skill level of the builder, the finished products performed pretty well. Maintenance and repairs were easily performed because the builder had an intimate knowledge of the circuitry. Today, mass production and robotic manufacturing processes help drive down the cost of electronic equipment and in many situations make replacing a device more cost effective than repairing it. A current manufacturer of Amateur Radio that started life as a kit company quickly experienced a similar evolution. After a few short years of producing kits, the company found that they could offer a better product at a lower cost by providing assembled circuit boards populated with surface mount components. Assembly is a matter of plugging-in boards and configuring systems similar to how a computer is built. Digital electronics has allowed the experimenter to trade-in the soldering iron for computer software codes and the term home-brewing, once a common ham radio activity, has now given way to a more descriptive phrase -- soft-brewing.

Developers like Joe Taylor, K1JT have completely re-written the rules when it comes to EME, meteor scatter and other exotic digital modes once reserved for the eccentric radio amateur. Today many hams employ WSJT software with modest stations to ricochet information to one another via the lunar surface. Other software experimenters are developing new modes and

tools for the radio amateur to exploit the power of digital processing. Commercial interests are able to offer feature packed equipment that is relatively less expensive than gear offered in the past, and hams are finding applications for this stuff that could only be imagined a short time ago.

Amateur radio has many examples of innovation and creativity. Sometimes an idea can be ahead of its time. Take for instance an article that appeared in the July 1934 issue of QST that suggested "International Round Table Nets and Globe Circling Relays" using an elaborate network of tape machines and relays to remotely control HF stations as far as 200 miles away so that the ARRL broadcast could be made simultaneously in all 48 United States. We are able to do that exact thing today using Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) but there are some who will argue that this is not "real" radio. Phooey!

ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW was a forward thinker who moved in the same circles as Edison, Ford and Firestone, people who changed our world. Maxim was innovative and has many inventions to his credit. When the spark gap transmitter used at Maxim's station 1AW, could no longer generate radio signals it was replaced by a modern transmitter that used vacuum tubes. When asked if there were plans to repair the spark gap transmitter Maxim acknowledged the position of employing modern technology when he remarked "The voice of the spark set at 1AW will not be heard again." (QST, January 1923, pg 14)

Maxim was always looking beyond the horizon. Displayed in a showcase at ARRL headquarters is the Elser-Mathis cup. This trophy was inspired by Col Fred Johnson Elser, W6FB and SCM Lt Cmdr Stanley Mathes, K1CY after Elser learned of Maxim's fascination with the planet Mars. The unique wooden cup is waiting to be awarded to any radio amateur for the first Amateur Radio Contact between Earth and Mars. I am certain that "tongue may have been firmly planted in cheek" when this award was conceived but I believe that this trophy may be awarded to some radio amateur in my lifetime.

I would like to think that if Mr. Maxim were here today he would be very happy to see that Amateur Radio and the ARRL have stood the test of time and continue to attract newcomers to the hobby nearly 100 years since the League was founded. However I would not be surprised if The Old Man shook his head in bewilderment to find that we have spent much time and energy worshipping the past instead of looking ahead to the future.

It may be comforting to stroll down memory lane and fire up the vintage radio for the evening. The warm

glow of the tubes and the refreshing aroma of heat radiating from the chassis will create soothing reflections and transport you back to a time when there was no internet, e-mail or cell phones. As you blow smoke rings from your briarwood pipe and replicate the authenticity of what you refer to as "real radio," try to remember that the icons of technology that you pay homage to were once state-of-the-art, modern appliances that filled the dreams of many. As much as Amateur Radio owes to its past, adoration of vintage radio should not take away from Amateur Radio's future.

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

ARRL Club Newsletter
December 14, 2007

P-A-R-I-S Calling CQ

ARP Radio-Club de Paris Special Events Start January 1, 2008. The ARP Radio-Club de Paris will be operating five special event call signs to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Ville de Paris department, created January 1, 1968.

The five special event call signs are TM8P, TM4A, TM1R, TM2I and TM7S. Together, the suffixes spell PARIS. Dates and frequencies are listed below.

TM8P from 1 Jan to 15 Jan 2008

TM4A from 26 Jan to 9 Feb 2008

TM1R from 16 Feb to 2 Mar 2008

TM2I from 29 Mar to 12 Apr 2008

TM7S from 24 May to 7 Jun 2008

Time: 0000Z-2359Z.

Frequencies: 14.275, 10.110, 7.075, 3.775

A QSL card is available to all who make contact. QSL information should be sent to: Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, ARP Radio-Club de Paris, 66 Avenue de la Republique, Paris 75011, France. (Remember: US postage is not valid for replies.)



January 1, 2008 also begins a new ARP Award Program -- Diplôme de la Ville de Paris (DVP) -- that creates the word "PARIS."

You can obtain this award by having a QSO with each of the five valid ARP stations, thereby spelling "PARIS."

Rules and more information are available at:

http://arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg

From the ARRL

Santa's Promise Comes Through

Seems that Russ Jr. (Son of KD8DFM & KB8DPN) had asked Santa for an Ant Farm. Santa came through and there are (at last count) 24 ants residing in that special enclosure. Now, we'll see how long before Russ Jr. decides to let them out for some fresh air.....



Pictures from the December Meeting and Christmas Party



Thanks & 73

This is the first issue of the PCARS 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, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8VJL, KB8DPN, KB8UUZ, KC8WUC, NO8D, W3IZ**, the 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)
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:

Check One	Dues Amount:
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Full Membership	January 1 through May 31= \$20.00 June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Senior Full Membership (65+)	January 1 through May 31= \$16.00 June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Senior Membership (65+)	September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family* Member	January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00
Call Sign of Regular Member:	September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00

(*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 \$
☐ Cash ☐ Check Total Amount: \$
Results:

Rev. 9 December 07



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

meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Otto's Lounge
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 Repeater: 146.895 MHz (PL 110.9 – Rootstown, Ohio PL 114.8 – Kent, Ohio)

Repeater is *graciously* provided by N8EQJ for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees

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

PCARS Mentors – Need some help or advice?

Contact by email at <callsign> @portcars.org

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



The 'RADIOGRAM' is the official newsletter of the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.** - copyright © 2008. Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify it. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inputs submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month - newsletter contact: KB8UUZ @ portcars.org.

ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: the Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys & gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and have migrated and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. So when you spot a black squirrel – **think PCARS!**

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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor

9992 State Route 700

Mantua, OH 44255



NLC