



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



June 2008 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 3 No. 6

~ 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 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

Dayton is behind us, and Field Day is before us! We sure have a lot of fun as hams. From the last statistics I saw, hams only represent about 0.22% of the United States population. Not a very big number, but, surprisingly, growing as a percentage over the last 60 years. It's encouraging to see, and the more we add to our numbers, the better it will be for all of us. Know someone who might be the least bit intrigued by what we do? Invite them to Field Day! I guarantee they will see us having fun and using some "state of the art" technology. I know they'll see a well choreographed display of the best of what ham radio has to offer, thanks to the efforts of Bill, WB9LBI, and Ed, N8EQJ, our Field Day Co-Chairmen. And what a handsome guy that Bill is!*

Don't forget to put Saturday, July 26th on your calendar - the PCARS Picnic at The Black Squirrel Oasis. This is a time to get together with our families and make sure they know how much we appreciate them for putting up with all we do. More details will follow shortly, but I just want to make sure you all get the date saved. It's always a thrill to see my street lined with cars sporting antennas!

Can you believe the turnout we've had at the last few meetings? Wow! PCARS is the place to be on the second Monday night of the month. I want to congratulate every one of you, not only for coming out, but for being one of the friendliest bunch of hams anywhere. It's that feeling a new member gets when he (she) shows up and feels like they're welcome that makes them want to come back again. If you see someone you don't know, or don't know well, strike up a conversation - there's an awful lot of talent and knowledge among the PCARS members, be sure to tap into it. When you look back through The Radiogram and see some of the meeting topics and presentations we've had,

you know that VP Jim - KC8PD has really gone all out to bring some interesting programs in for our meetings. There's lots more good stuff to come, so, do what you've got to do, just make sure you make it to the PCARS meeting. You won't be disappointed.

In the May 2008 issue of QST, ARRL Chief Executive Officer, David Sumner - K1ZZ wrote an editorial entitled "It Takes a Club". (page 9) In it, he describes what it takes to have an active growing club, and how that is good for Amateur Radio as a whole.

If you didn't get a chance to read it, I'll bring my copy of QST to the June meeting (along with some 1N34A diodes?) so you can take a look at it. I take it as an affirmation that PCARS is on the right track! As a club we offer a VE session on the first Saturday



of every even numbered month. We've had quite a few new hams pass their first test, and more than quite a few upgrades. I want to thank the VE team listed here, the number next to their name is the number of VE sessions they have participated in: Carl-N4IT (15), Chuck-K8CMP (2), Russ-KB8DPN (15), Tom-KB8UUZ (17), Jim-KC8PD (16), Deron-N8XTH (4), Jim-N8PXW (2), Bob-N8QE (7), Russ-K8QF (2), Ed-N8EQJ (9), and Tom-WB8LCD (14).**

As you're sitting there looking at one of the best ham radio club newsletters on the planet, you've got to smile as you think about every time you've heard Tom-KB8UUZ remind us "the newsletter deadline is this coming Friday". Tom spends a lot of time putting each issue together and is

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From the President *(continued from Page 1)*

committed to putting out a quality product. I know its a product that's eagerly anticipated each month by the rest of us. Let him know his efforts are appreciated!

Well, it seems as though I've been rambling, but the point to all this is that PCARS is an *outstanding* club to be a part of! We have a lot of fun, we help each other out, we support the hobby both on a local and a national

basis. This didn't just happen because one good guy came along and made things work, this happened because *all of us* came together and made things work together! And the beauty of it is: We're just getting started! As the sunspot cycle continues to increase over the next few years (along with gas prices??)*** I truly believe that interest in Ham Radio is going to increase along with lots of exciting advancements in technology. I hope that every one of you (us) will continue to support the club, participate in the events, and do your part to keep PCARS one of the premier Ham Radio Clubs anywhere!

73 de

Tom, WB8LCD

- * Wording suggested by WB9LBI
- ** Statistics from ARRL website
- *** Lets hope I'm wrong on this one!

From the Vice President

To rephrase the question that started last month's column: how about that May meeting? Once again we broke an attendance record as some sixty or so people showed up to catch the presentation by Ed Miller, K8EHA, and Dave Bobco, the NFL Game Day Frequency Coordinators for the Cleveland Browns. You can bet that if they ever need volunteers to fill in for them there would be a line of PCARS members waiting to sign up.

Those attendance numbers put the pressure on the June meeting's speaker to try and draw the same crowd. That presenter just happens to be... me. Yep, we have adjusted the schedule a bit and moved up the presentation on Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) antennas to this month.

Why? Well we wanted to make sure that PCARS members had an introduction to the construction and use of NVIS antennas prior to this September's Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest. Plus we wanted to keep the meeting schedule flexible for August and September in the event that Geoff Howard, W0CG, who lives in Suffield and is one of the operators of the PJ2T contest station in Curacao, is available to talk to us about contesting in the Caribbean.

Don't forget that Tim Duffy, K3LR, is still scheduled for the July meeting for a presentation on his super contest station in Pennsylvania.

And speaking of contests, make sure that you have marked your calendars for the PCARS sponsored OSPOTA contest on September 6th. We have been getting terrific feedback from hams around the state and

we need your help in making this contest a success.

May has been a busy ham radio month. We had an excellent time at Antenna Day on the tenth as PCARS members under the direction of Ed, N8EQJ, and Bill, WB9LBI, the Field Day co-chairs, went through a dry-run FD setup. There is no telling what else Ed will cook up between now and FD but he will probably be trying to convince the Ravenna Parks and Recreation Department that they need a basketball backboard on a 55 foot crank-up tower.

Sorry that I missed meeting up at Dayton with all the other PCARS members who made the trip but my two-wheeled travel plans got rained out on Friday morning. There's always next year.



Thanks again to Gay, WB8VNO, for keeping us informed about opportunities to participate in public service events. Thanks to her I had the chance to ride in the lead car for this year's Rite-Aid Cleveland

Marathon. Hey, it was my fastest marathon time ever! Other PCARS members assisting at the event included Bill, WB9LBI, Bob, N8KBX, and Terry, KB8AMZ. Contact Gay at wb8vno@portcars.org if you would to help with future events.

Activity has begun again at the PCARS club station located at the former ODOT facility on Oakwood Street in Ravenna. The space is made available to us courtesy of Family & Community Services which now owns the property.

We had a meeting and walk-through of the site on the 24th so that members who had not been there before could have a look and so that everyone that stopped by could participate in the design (and hopefully the construction of) the improvements that need to be made. Input from all PCARS members is welcome – this is your club station. Also, let us know if you have particular construction skills or any materials that you may be able to donate.

Remember that we have a VE session coming up on Saturday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the Center of Hope,

located at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. VE sessions will continue to be held on the first Saturday of every even-numbered month at that same time and place.

Jim, KC8PD

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Fresh from Dayton and raring to go, but no HF antenna yet. However, the three boxes from SteppIR have arrived and I am happy. Tower moving day will probably be sometime after Field Day and I will not be bashful in putting out a call for assistance. Even if you can only come and watch, you will be welcome. We will be taking a tower down and erecting it on a new base which will allow the Hazer to come down to the base of the tower so as to allow a more relaxed construction of the antennas and to provide some protection during severe WX.



But until then, all I can do is report to you what DX might be happening and hope that you take the information and run with it. So let's see what Field Day month has in store for us.

As always, please note that this report is only as good as the information being passed on by the various DX organizations and newsletters. So there is always the chance that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of either bad G-2 or busted call signs. Please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network, the 425 DX Newsletter, and the ARRL DX Newsletter for the following DX information.

DX

Before I begin with the normal listing of DX station, I want to pass along this information. For those of us who worked **VP6DX**, the VP6DX QSL cards should be arriving soon from the printers (within two weeks). DXers will be really surprised when they receive their collectable QSL card (a 32 page booklet with pictures from the DXpedition). It will be worth the wait.

3V, TUNISIA. GM0DZH/AA8YH, is returning here in mid-November for 5 weeks. He plans to concentrate on the LF bands. He adds that he willing to accept skeds from "QRP" operators/stations, either CW or SSB. Here is a great opportunity for those of us who work QRP to set up a sked and see if you can reach Tunisia with 5 w CW or 10 w SSB. You can contact him via his E-mail address listed on QRZ.com. WB8LCD – are you paying attention??

4O, MONTENEGRO. Joska, HA9RT, will be active as 4O/HA9RT from Budva between May 30th and June 6th. Activity will be mainly CW on the HF bands. QSL via his home callsign.

4U1WED, AUSTRIA (Special Event). Look for special event station 4U1WED to be active between June 1-30th. Operations will be from the Vienna International Amateur Radio Club (4U1VIC) at the United Nations in Vienna. Activity is to celebrate the "World Environment Day" (WED) on June 5th. QSL via 4U1VIC.

5X, UGANDA (Correction/Update). DJ5MR (not DC7NF as reported), is now active as 5X7FN until the end of June. He is currently there teaching at the "Butende Technical School" near Masaka, 120km north of Kampala City. Activity is expected to be mainly on 40 and 20 meters SSB. Most of his activity so far has been on 20 meters on various frequencies (mostly 14250 kHz) between 1700-2100z. He is only using a dipole and 100 watts. QSL via Albert, DC7NF.

6 METER CARIBBEAN DXPEDITION - K7BV, will be active this summer from the Caribbean, but on 6 meters ONLY. Look for him to sign as **V3/K7BV** from **Caye Caulker Island (NA-073, WW Loc. EK57XR)**, **Belize**, from June 20-26th, and as **HK0/K7BV** from **San Andres Island (NA-033, WLOTA LH-2990, WW Loc EK92DM)** between June 28th and July 6th. His equipment will be a FT-450 with ACOM-1000 amplifier, running 1KW into a 7 element and 3 element beam. The main frequency will be 50.106.2 MHz USB and /B. The pilot station will be Pat, W5OZI. QSL direct only to W1JJ (QRZ.com)

BT1, CHINA (Special Event Stations). BD5RV/4, reports that the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) has announced that five special event stations will be active during the 2008 Beijing Olympics starting May 18th and ending September 17th. Each of the five different call signs will represent one of the 5 Olympic Games ring symbols: BT1OB for Beibei (blue), BT1OJ for Jingjing (black), BT1OH for Huanhuan (red), BT1OY for Yingying (yellow) and BT1ON for Nini (green). Activity will be on 160-10 meters using SSB, CW, and RTTY. The contacts can be used to apply for a "Beijing Olympics Award" which will be available soon. Also. look for operations on SSTV, PSK, the satellites, EME, and possibly other modes. Contacts using these modes will not be valid for the award. The QSL Manager for these special event stations is BA4EG, by the Bureau or direct. QSL cards will be sent out starting October 2008. A Web site is now active with news updates, station setup, logs, award info and QSL status, at: <http://www.bj2008ses.com.cn>

C6, BAHAMAS. W2GJ, K3IXD and W3PP will be active as C6APR from here between July 25-28th. Their activity will include the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th) as a Multi-Op DXpedition entry. The team will be on Crooked Island (NA-113, LH BAH-005 and Grid FL22tt). Look for activity outside of the contest on 80-6 meters including 30/17/12 meters, CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL via K3IXD.

CU3, AZORES. F5LMJ, will be active as CU3/F5LMJ from **Terceira Island (EU-175)** during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th). QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the REF bureau.

TC17, TURKEY - TA0U, will be active as TC17GS between June 1-15th. Operations will be on 40 and 20 meters.

YI, IRAQ - WD6V, is now active as YI9WV possibly until late November (2008) unless he receives an extension. He is currently operating near Fallujah, using a dipole antenna and a low power radio (FT-817) but is expected to receive another rig soon and will be able to run 100 watts. Activity is limited to his free time, mainly on CW and PSK31, but may operate SSB at times and possibly RTTY. All contacts thus far have been with Europe and Russia stations. QSNs show Kitch was heard on 20 meters CW after 1345z. QSL YI9WV via NI5DX.

YU8, KOSOVO. LZ1BJ, is now active from here using the call sign YU8/LZ1BJ. Boyan says that he will be here over the next few months. Activity has begun on 10 meter SSB and 40/20 meters RTTY/PSK. He plans to be on 40/30/20/17/15/12/10 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and RTTY. QSL via LZ QSL Bureau.

IOTA News

AS-024. JE3NJZ and JA0KNM will be active as homecall / JA6 from **Kuro Island**, June 6-9th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters, CW and SSB. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the bureau.

EU-097. DL5ME and DG3HWO will be active as OH2/DL5ME from **Emsalo Island, Finland**, between June 5-8th. Activity will be on the 40/30/20/17 meters on CW/SSB. Antennas will be a Butternut vertical and Spiderbeam. QSL via DH5MM using the QRZ.com address only.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA - F5NHJ, will be active as FK/F5NHJ from the main island of **Grande Terre (OC-032, DIFO FK-001, WLOTA LH1280)** between August 12-29th. Activity will be mainly on CW and the Digital modes on 30 meters. During his stay, Jean Louis will try to activate one or several other FK islands. More details should be forthcoming. QSL via his instructions because F5NHJ's address is being changed.

JD1, OGASAWARA. Look for a team of Japanese operators to activate two islands in the **AS-031 Ogasawara Islands** group during June. All operators will be signing homecall/JD1. Their schedule is as follows: Chichi Island - June 12-18th and Haha Island - June 19-22nd Activity will be

on 160-6 meters, CW and SSB. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the bureau.

That's it for now. As always, there's a lot more going on so please let me know what you are working and what you are hearing. I'll post it in this column. And it's best if you report your activity via e-mail to me rather than telling me. We won't go into the whys and wherefores. Until next month, this is Charlie the Tuner saying, 73 and gud DX to u.

Chuck, K8CMP

Hamvention 2008

No doubt, the Dayton Hamvention is the biggest event in ham radio where hams from all over the world actually come together to celebrate the Greatest Hobby



in the World! Following is the list of PCARS members I'm aware of who were in attendance (I didn't get to see all of you): Bob-WB8OVQ, Karen-WD8BIW, Dave-WB2DFC, Errol-KC8RJR, Russ-KB8DPN, Ed-N8EQJ, Chuck-K8CMP, Tom-KB8UUZ, Mark-KC8FQV, Bob-NT8K, Jack-K8HGX, Greg-KD8FDN, Terry-KB8AMZ, Bob-N8QE, Rich-K8CAV, Steve-K8SRR, Bob-KD8GWY, Ray-KD8DFL, Jim-K8JE and Tom-WB8LCD. If you were there and I didn't include you in the list, let me know and I'll publish an addendum next month. Other "friends of PCARS" seen were Joe-K8HTB and Scott-KD8FKG.

The good news was, the weather man was wrong about the rain! Although it rained Wed. night, it was pretty dry the rest of the time until I got back to the Akron area on Sunday afternoon. Not too warm, not too



cold, but it was a bit breezy a time or two. All in all, it was very pleasant weather wise. I've not heard the final number, but my guess is the total attendance was down, just a bit. The inside vendors were there in the numbers

you would normally see. Outside in the flea market, it was pretty full on Friday, but Saturday morning there were a lot of open spaces where someone had been on Friday. I didn't go back to the flea market on Sunday, but I was told it started clearing out pretty good on Saturday evening.



There was lots of "stuff" in the flea market. Any real radio gear (transceivers, receivers, amps, power supplies) seemed to be priced pretty high (author's opinion), and I'm not convinced too much was selling. Inside was a different story. Lots of new stuff was flying off the shelves (thanks for the rebate Pres. Bush!). I went by the AES booth late Saturday afternoon and it almost looked like they were sold out. HRO didn't have a lot on the shelves either! I know Parky kept busy at the DX Engineering booth.

Chuck and Ed hung out with the DX and the Contest groups. I think they both enjoyed the forums and banquets and came away with a lot of good operating tips. Russ and I hung out with the QRP group. It was neat to see some of the homebrew projects these guys put together! I enjoyed the banquet, and as usual, didn't win any of the major prizes. Still, it was a lot of fun.

At the ARRL booth I got to see and talk with lots of the staff, including Norm Fusaro-W3IZ and Katie Breen-W1KRB. Also Jim-K8JE and Joe-K8QOE. Beyond that, I talked with lots of hams, some previously known to me and some who are now new friends. I told everyone I talked with about PCARS, some were familiar and everyone was excited to hear about a club that actually does stuff!

Will I go back to Dayton next year? You bet I will. You should too!

See you there,

Tom, WB8LCD

June Contest Calendar

June, 2008	
Digital Pentathlon	1800Z-2200Z, Jun 6
RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, Jun 7-1500Z, Jun 8
IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, Jun 7-1459Z, Jun 8
Alabama QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 7-0400Z, Jun 8
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, Jun 14-0200Z, Jun 15
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 14-0300Z, Jun 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 16
SMIRK Contest	0000Z, Jun 21-2400Z, Jun 22
Feld Hell Sprint	1000Z-1200Z, Jun 21 & 2200Z-2400Z, Jun 21
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Jun 21 (144) & 1900Z-2100Z, Jun 21 (432)
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jun 21
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 28-1400Z, Jun 29
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 28-2100Z, Jun 29

Antenna Day & Field Day 2008

So many good things happened on Antenna Day, it's hard to know where to start. In no particular order:

- A record turnout of club members turned out, armed to the teeth with rigs, cables, rope, poles, and oddly enough, antennas. Everybody participated in setting up and tearing down, so our ramp up to Field Day should take place in no time at all.
- Our biggest change this year is locating the 20-meter station about 80 yards to the north in the smaller shelter. Chuck K8CMP has his own operating area, and his very own 3-element beam, complete with 30-foot tower.
- John KC8KYW brought his own station, an unexpected surprise. After some fiddling around with antenna positioning, John proceeded to chat up special event stations down the East Coast.
- Establishing some sort of new operating mode, Tom WB8LCD managed to transmit pizza to all of us at Ravenna City Park, from a secure, undisclosed location in the south.

Of course, there were a few problems. There was no electrical power going into the main shelter house, which really put a damper on the whole affair, until we located 50 yards of extension cords to reach the nearest working outlet. Then, our 40 meter digital station decided that it was going to ignore all PSK31 signals, no matter what sort of technical wizardry that KB8DPN attempted to conjure.

Problems like this are what Antenna Day is all about. It's better to find these road bumps now, while there's

plenty of time to work them out. When the day of the actual contest arrives, we'll be able to get on the air fast, because we're prepared. Proving our emergency readiness is the whole idea behind Field Day, unless you talk to my co-chairman Ed N8EQJ, who will assure you that Field Day is meant for racking up a big point score. We've prepared for that too, by getting you, our members, to sign up for a session or two of operating.

Ed has queried some of the really big Field Day guns around the county, and found that successful stations are the ones who have all of their transmitters manned around the clock. It's the gaps in the operating schedule that miss points, not massive antennas or big amplifiers. This is where you come in. I'd like to see all of our stations manned for the entire 24 hour period. If you can work late night or early morning, we really need you. If you have a preference, for specific hours, specific bands or modes, let me know and the Field Day mavens will accommodate you.



If you haven't already signed up, contact Ed or me and we'll find a place for you. That's my last Field Day diatribe for the year. See you out there!

Bill, WB9LBI

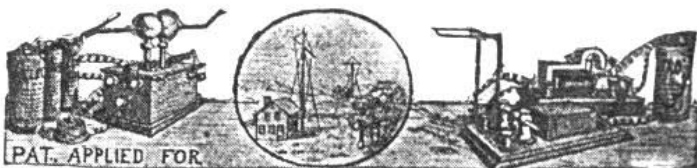
Editor's Note: The following people signed in at the Antenna Day Event: K8CMP, KB8DPN, KB8UUZ, KB8VJL, KC8KYW, KC8PD, KC8RJR, KC8RKV, KD8ELX, KD8EPA, KD8FDK, KD8FLW, KD8FLX, KD8GWY, KD8ICP, N1EZZ, N4IT, N8EQJ, N8JLC, N8QE, WB2DFC, WB9LBI

Telimco Wireless Telegraph Outfit

This advertisement for the Electro Importing Company's new radio transmitting-and-receiving package, the "Telimco Wireless Telegraph Outfit", ("Guaranteed to work up to one mile"), first appeared in *Scientific American* magazine on November 25, 1905, and then began running weekly starting two weeks later. The Telimco system included a battery-operated spark transmitter, shown on the left, plus a tapping-coherer receiver, also battery operated, shown on the right. (The use of a spark transmitter and tapping-coherer receiver meant it could only be used to send and receive telegraphic dots-and-dashes, and not full audio.) This small ad--which measured just 2-1/4 inches wide by 1-1/8 inches high (60 by 28 millimeters)--appeared on the back pages of the magazine, mixed in with the

advertisements for sundry offering by numerous other small firms. It is generally believed that this was the first-ever advertisement run by a company selling complete radio systems to the general public.

Hugo Gernsback later reported that some people were so suspicious whether the Telimco Outfits could really be sold so cheaply, that the New York City police department sent over an officer to check things out and make sure the ads weren't really some sort of scam. Also, at some point, Gernsback appears to have forgotten the exact date on which the first Telimco advertisement appeared. The Electro Importing catalogs from the mid-teens state that the ads premiered in *Scientific American* in November, 1905. However, in a special issue of *Radio Craft* published in March, 1938, Gernsback gave the date as January 13, 1906, and even included a picture of the January 13, 1906 ad, which is slightly different from the actual first ad that appeared six weeks earlier.



WIRELESS TELEGRAPH

The "Telimco" Complete Outfit, comprising 1 inch Spark Coil, Strap Key, Sender, Sensitive Relay, Coherer, with Automatic Decoherer and Sounder, 4 Ex. Strong Dry Cells, all necessary wiring, including send and catch wires, with full instructions and diagrams, \$8.50. Guaranteed to work up to one mile. Send for Illust. Pamphlet & 64-page catalogue. **ELECTRO IMPORTING CO., 32 Park Place, New York**

The Telimco brand name was a contraction of *The Electro Importing Co.* In addition to Telimco Wireless Telegraph Outfits, you could also buy Telimco Experimental X-Ray Outfits, Telimco-meters, Telimphones, etc.

Scientific American

November 25, 1905, page 427

EmComm

More ham radio fun may not be the first thing that you think of when discussing emergency communications, but the April meeting of the Portage County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) proved to be both informative and entertaining.

In 2007 the RACES group took on the task of coming up with its own description of what each RACES member should have in his or her jump-kit (aka, go-kit or turnout kit.) Chuck, K8CMP, had the task of coordinating all of the suggestions as well as reviewing various other go-kit lists that other emcomm groups had

put together.

We ended up with three lists, each dependent on the expected length of deployment: three to six hours, twenty-four hours, and seventy-two hours. The longer term lists would include everything in the shorter term kits and all kits would consist of operational (communication) gear as well as personal supplies.



The training activity for the April meeting was for each member to bring his short-term kit, though only the communications component and not the personal supplies. For some this was limited to the three to six hour kit, though others had merged that kit into the twenty-four hour version.



What a variety of kits! Some like Jim, KC8KYW, took a modular approach, dividing his gear into kits for each time frame. That way he could just grab one, two or all three of them depending on where he was being deployed. Russ, KB8DPN, showed how some homebrewing and hamfest shopping could put a versatile and cost-effective kit into one compact bag.



As always, we could count on Al, KB8VJL, to assemble the most eclectic kit that also displayed some of Harbor Freight's best buys. Bob, N8KBX, had some commercial HT's that had been adapted for amateur radio use (and could be used to drive nails) and Mike, KB8TUY, had condensed his kit into a very manageable package.



Mike, KD8FLZ, Chuck, K8CMP, and Ed, N8EQJ, all took interesting approaches to putting their kits into wheeled boxes for both mobility and ready accessibility.

Everyone agreed that Chuck's kit would prove popular due to his inclusion of some, ahh... personal needs supplies. Ed is working to refine his "power cube" which is a cooler on wheels with a deep-cycle AGM battery, power supply and PowerGate to handle the switching to the battery backup if the A/C power fails.



Maybe the most ambitious project was that of Bob, K8FEW. He attached wheels and a handle to a metal cabinet in which he had installed two dual band radios, plus an HF rig and power supply, with all three radio faceplates and mics attached to the front of the cabinet. It was quickly dubbed "R1D1", the earliest forerunner of R2D2 who found fame in the movie "Star Wars."

The bottom line to all of this is that by organizing and supplying these jump-kits not only do we make ourselves better emcomm volunteers but we also make ourselves better all-around hams. RACES and emcomm can offer lessons and training useful to every ham, not just for their personal safety, but also to participate in what has always been one of the primary missions of amateur radio: providing communications assistance during times of emergency.



How about joining us? RACES membership is open to any area ham. The basic requirements for joining and maintaining your membership are easily met. You will find it to be a valuable and rewarding experience. Send me a note at kc8pd@aol.com or ask me about RACES the next time you see me. I will be glad to answer your questions and provide you with a membership application.

Jim, KC8PD
RACES Radio Officer

Legislative Action Assistant (LAA)

Taken from: ARRL Legislative Action Program Management Manual

The number of LAAs in a state depends upon the number of US Senators and US Representatives for the state. LAAs work in teams of two or three members to visit local Federal legislators. Their activities are

coordinated by the LAC. LAAs are the front line troops who will make the all-important contacts in congressional districts. In the case of key legislative districts, you may wish to identify five or six members to form two LAA teams. These teams will be able to share the task of making all important visits to their local legislators to put a face to the Amateur Radio issues with which the Legislative Action Program is concerned. While only two or three should be the number making the visit, potential scheduling problems may dictate the wisdom of recruiting a larger than necessary for a group. But avoid allowing more than one team to make visits to a legislator on the same legislative issue. Visits by multiple teams may create confusion during visits and may result in the Congressman receiving a confused message about ARRL legislative goals.



Important Considerations for LAAs:

1. Must be a current member of ARRL.
2. Must be a registered voter who has voted in recent elections.
3. Must be readily accessible by both phone and e-mail.
4. Must be familiar with the workings of the program. (Please have them read the material previously provided by the Legislative Action Committee so they will understand their place and function.)
5. Must have the skills necessary to work in a two or three person team.
6. Must be reasonably articulate and presentable.
7. Must be willing, when needed, to help recruit additional registered voters who are also ARRL members living and voting in the Congressional district.
8. Must be willing to coordinate receipt of material and training needs to fulfill the mission of the Program.
9. Must be willing to speak to local clubs about the ARRL Legislative Action Program
10. Must clearly understand their mission, as LAAs during meetings with legislators or their aides, is to discuss **only** Amateur Radio legislative issues selected to be supported or opposed through the Legislative Action Program. As private citizens, LAAs may wish to support or oppose other hot-button issues of their choosing, but they must avoid appearing to do this in the name of ARRL. These personal hot-button issues should be discussed in meetings separate from meetings held on behalf of the Legislative Action Program.

Primary Responsibilities of the LAA:

1. Schedule face-to-face meetings with local legislative staff and members of the US House of Representatives or US Senate.
2. Make follow up visits and stay in contact with the Congressional office over a long period of time to keep the Legislator current about Amateur Radio issues

important to ARRL.

3. Request Congressmen support or oppose certain bills or resolutions.
4. Explain the legitimacy of the ARRL position on Federal legislation.
5. Work in a coordinated team of ARRL members in the local area who desire to make the ARRL Legislative Action Program a success.

Skills and Knowledge of use to the LAA:

1. Be a personal acquaintance with or be motivated to become acquainted with local Federal legislative staff and elected officials.
2. Have the ability to work with other local ARRL members to coordinate a team to participate effectively in the Program.

Does this interest you? If so, and your in Michigan contact Lou Gembolis, KG8Nk at kg8nk@arrl.net, in Ohio contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ at wd8pnz@arrl.net and in Kentucky contact Patrick Thrush, N4PRT at n4prt@arrl.net or to me at nb4k@arrl.org.

I hope to see you'll consider this position and help us protect the future of our hobby.

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Division Legislative Action Coordinator

Hamvention from the Other Side

This was my 13th Hamvention, but this time it was completely different. This year I was one of the 11 people working on the 'other side' of the counter with DX Engineering (Booths 1-7 in the main arena).

My Dayton weekend actually started on Wednesday at 6:30 am I reported to work. The DX Engineering caravan then headed south west in one van, one car, and two large trucks filled with all kinds of products and the booth display units and counters.



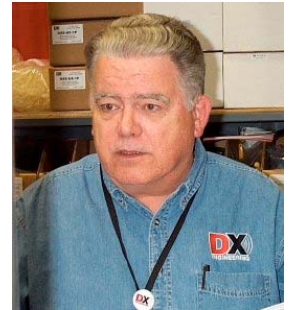
After one stop for coffee, we arrived at the Hara Arena at just before noon for our noon to 2 pm unload time. That was the first time I ever saw the flea market completely empty in 13 years. It would be another day before the flea market people started arriving. Inside some of the major dealers were already starting their set ups and assembling various items. Well, Kenwood was still unloading and the fork lifts were all busy, so we waited until about 2:30 before they started unloading us.

The other DX Engineering people had been through this a few times and knew exactly what to do, so I

followed their lead and we got all the big boxes opened and the displays and counters unloaded. We worked until 7 pm when the arena people turned off the lights.

Thursday, up and at 'em, we arrived just prior to 8 am and worked setting up everything just so. Assembled the antennas that were on display and stocked the shelves. We finished up about 8 pm - long day.

Friday - opening day!!! We arrived about 7:45 and the inside areas opened at 9 am. The crowds made their way into the arena to see all the new products and drop off their raffle tickets. Two of the first PCARS people I recognized were Chuck, K8CMP and Ed, N8EQJ. Both of them got there right away to get their Signalink USB units. We only had a limited number of those and we knew they would go fast. By 1:45, they were all gone.



Lunch was a quick burger and sitting in the arena stands for about 15 minutes. The day was long and we worked until 6 pm. By then my legs were really hurting from all the standing. Needless to say, after a quick dinner, then back to the motel followed by a quick shower, I just laid in bed watching some TV. By 9 pm I shut the TV down and went to sleep.

Saturday - up early again and the show was open from 9 until 5, a repeat of the day before, on the go, standing up all day. Legs got really sore. Sure was fun talking to the hams that stopped by to ask questions. My highlight of the day is when one guy walked up - no badge, or name tag, and asked some questions about one of the vertical antennas. I



knew who it was right off, and he said yes, he was Riley Hollingsworth (Mr. FCC Enforcement himself!). He said he was looking around incognito, but if you have been in this hobby for a few years, you know who he is. Anyway, that was a fun afternoon!

Sunday was our last day! Up early and in for the opening bell. I did manage to visit the ARRL Expo area real quick during my 'lunch break' and say hello to Norm Fusaro, our friend at ARRL HQ. I also made a

quick trip to get some new 2700 ma rechargeable batteries. The Hamvention officially closed at 1 pm, and we started taking the booths apart. Later on the fork lift driver would bring in the cartons for us to load up. By 6 pm we were done. Four hours later, we pulled into work and in another 45 minutes I was home. One very tired person! And, yes, I was at work the next morning.

So, that's what it's like being on the other side of the counter at Hamvention. Fun - YEP!!! And, I'm already looking forward to next year.

Tom, KB8UUZ

It's Antenna Time

Here in Michigan, the daffodils are blooming and the birds are singing. That means only one thing--it's antenna time! Since my lot is a city lot and not really suited to towers, I mostly play around with wire antennas. Currently, I have a random wire for 80m, a wire ground plane for 20m, and a 40m/30m "fan dipole" that also loads up on 15m and 10m. This year, I want to experiment with two new wire antennas -- a horizontal loop and Windom antenna.

The "Loop Skywire" The concepts behind the full-wave loop antenna have been known for many years, but the antenna has become more popular after the publication of the article, "The Loop Skywire" in the November 1985 issue of QST. This article is available as a PDF from the ARRL website, if you are a member www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/8511020.pdf. A lot more information is available on Internet. Just Google "loop skywire," and you'll find hundreds of references.

Basically, the antenna is a full-wave loop of wire for the lowest band that you wish to operate. For 80m, that would be about 272 feet. For 40m, the length will be 136 feet.

Ideally, you'd like to set up the loop so that the area inside the loop is at its maximum. This occurs when the loop is a circle. Unfortunately, that's usually impractical. From a practical point of view, most guys shoot for a square configuration using four supports.

Another consideration is how to feed the antenna. The Loop Skywire article calls for a coax feedline, but the practice these days seems to favor ladder line. The reason for this is that the SWR on bands higher in frequency than the band for which the antenna was cut can be quite high. Coax is quite lossy when the SWR is

high, but that's not the case with ladder line.

How does it perform? Well, it's been my experience that guys with loop antennas often have the strongest signals here at KB6NU. And they seem to get through even when band conditions are poor. Guys who use them also report that they are great DX antennas as well. So, all things considered, it sounds like it's worth a shot.

The Windom Antenna The Windom antenna is an antenna that I've just become familiar with. It's intriguing because, like the loop antenna, it is also a multi-band antenna.

The Windom is a half-wavelength antenna, but instead of feeding the antenna in the middle as you would a dipole antenna, you feed it about 1/3 of the way from one of the ends. At this point, the feedpoint impedance is about 200 ohms. With a 4:1 balun, you can feed it with 50-ohm coax.

The interesting thing about this antenna is that the feedpoint impedance is 200 ohms not only on the fundamental frequency, but it's close to 200 ohms on all harmonics of that frequency. So an antenna cut for 40m, will also have a feedpoint impedance close to 200 ohms on 20m, 15m, and 10m.

You do need a 4:1 balun for this antenna to operate properly. Fortunately, these are not difficult to make. I made one a couple of years ago, just for fun (<http://kb6nu.com/even-more-fun-with-baluns/>). Now, I have an application for it!

There's all kinds of information on the Net about the Windom antenna as well. One of the Web pages I found most useful was written by W8JI: http://www.w8ji.com/windom_off_center_fed.htm

I certainly have my hands full this antenna season. Whatever you decide to put up, remember to be safe.

When Dan isn't thinking about antennas, he's operating CW on the HF bands or teaching ham radio classes. He's just published a printed version of his No-Nonsense Tech Class Study Guide. See his blog, www.kb6nu.com, for more details.

Dan, KB6NU



Crystal Radio Ear Phones

I'd like to know if anyone else is interested in purchasing some of these earphones to build a crystal radio.

According to the ad: Sold in sets of 2 Ceramic Earphones the piezo electronic devices have over 20 million ohms resistance. These are some times sold as Crystal Earphones they having man made crystals instead of natural crystals. These are about 100 times better than natural crystal earphones and are good for battery operated projects also saving on battery life.



You can have as many as 50 pair sent for the same shipping of \$3.95. Maybe we can all get together and assemble them. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible at: KD8EPA@portcars.org.

Dan, KD8EPA

TAK-40 Radio Project Update

I thought that if I was lucky, maybe 10 people would want to build the \$50 QRP transceiver kit. After all, how many of us are confident enough to take a schematic diagram and a bag of parts, and turn it into a working radio?

As it turns out, there are 38 people, just in and around PCARS, that have been bitten by the building club. This includes five families that ordered multiple kits, hams who aren't affiliated with PCARS, and people from out of town and out of state. **Yow!**

The TAK-40 transceiver, you will recall, is the winner out of four entries for the ARRL Home Brew Challenge to create a 40-meter SSB/CW transceiver costing no more than \$50 in new parts. You can find a picture of all four candidates on the cover of the May 2008 issue of *QST*.

Here's where the project stands as the RADIOGRAM goes to press:

- Parts for the radio kits are beginning to arrive at our World Headquarters in Streetsboro. Five different suppliers were used, chosen such that we could get the best prices and immediate delivery.
- The circuit boards have arrived from the factory. Ray, KD8DFL, redesigned the boards so that all four sub-assemblies were manufactured on one large board, which builders will cut into its component

parts. This yielded a tremendous cost savings. I've seen the results, and the PC boards are professional in every way.

- Designer Jim Veatch, WA2EUJ tagged certain components as "optional", so he could get the radio under the \$50 price limit. We have included all optional components in the kit, and added a few that we felt were essential, but were not on the Bill of Materials.
- Programming for the PIC processor chips will begin the first week of June. All kits will be delivered with their processors pre-programmed.

Several people, among them Jim, N8PXW, Bobby, WB8FEW, and Glenn, KA8CMD, have stepped forward to volunteer their expertise and spare parts to assist other builders. We will be scheduling a few group sessions to address aspects of the project, such as winding toroid coils and debugging circuits.



WB9LBI teaches soldering

The level of enthusiasm and excitement has really been something to see. Ray and I want to thank everybody that's shown an interest; even those of you who reluctantly decided you couldn't participate after all. We will keep you update as the TAK-40 Project progresses.

Bill, WB9LBI

International Space Station - ISS

On Saturday, May 3rd, hams and SWL'ers across the upper Midwest and into the eastern and mid-Atlantic states had a chance to listen to the International Space Station's downlink on 145.800 MHz. This was one of the ISS's prearranged contacts with a group of students who were located at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

The total time from signal acquisition to loss of signal as the ISS moved out over the Atlantic was barely ten minutes. The contact had begun before I first heard their transmission so I am not sure which of the two astronauts on board was speaking. They currently have a Russian cosmonaut as a fellow crew member.

The astronaut made efficient use of the airtime by precisely and concisely answering each of the questions that the students raised. Only the answers were heard, there was no copy on the uplink.

His answers dealt with conditions on the ISS, how long their clothing lasts, the increase in crew size when the shuttle docks with the ISS, the use of both Russian



and English by the crew, the Soyuz capsule which is their lifeboat off the ISS, their view of Earth and cities as they pass over them, use of retro-rockets to

maintain orbit, photography from the spacecraft, homesickness, and physical activity on the craft including the use of a treadmill, stationary bike and resistance training, just to list some of the topics.

Like I said, it was a busy ten minutes!

Information about future contacts, plus lots of other details about these ISS/school contacts can be found at: <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/upcoming.htm#NextContact>, and tracking information is at: <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/tracking/index.html>.

If you get a chance give a listen to a future contact. This is a fascinating use of amateur radio. You can even hear these with an HT and a stock antenna.

Jim, KC8PD

QRP ARCI Hoot Owl CW Contest

Once again bitten by the QRP bug, I planned on entering the Hoot Owl QRP CW Contest Sunday Night May 25th. The contest was set to run from 8 PM to midnight local time. And, once again, being stricken with



CRS (can't remember &*^%), I completely forgot about the Hoot Owl until 7:30 PM.

Of course an extra 5000 points was an attractive bonus (requires battery operated station, temporary

antenna, and QRP power level) so I threw my "No Counterpoise" wire antenna in the tree in the backyard, strung the coax through the kitchen window, took over the dinning room table, and tuned up. All I can say is, "Lack of Planning is not an excuse", not to mention not being too popular with the "significant other" after commandeering the Dinning Room table.

After several attempts on 20 meters (14.060+-) with no joy, I tuned up on 40 meters (7.030+-) and over the next 3.5 hours made 5 contacts. The band conditions were poor and atmospheric noise was high. Also a factor, QSB. Deep signal fades really made it tuff to make QSOs quickly.

During the contest at the top of each hour, new stations could be heard, as their local time and the time zone difference came into play. So, I called "CQ TEST" a LOT!. I varied my CW speed from 18 WPM to about 28 WPM, depending on speeds of other stations. Sometimes the high CW speeds made it better for getting QSO info, between fades.



The station for the contest was an FT 817, MFJ 945D tuner, a Radio Shack DSP unit, White Rook paddle, and a 12 volt auto battery pack/booster. I used the high power setting on the FT 827, rated at 5 watts. I attached a few photos. (note: the Miller Genuine Draft cup had iced tea in it! Thought our club pres might pick up on that (hi hi))

What a great time, even with only 5 contacts! ...And each contest helps me improve my CW speed. (my conversational CW speed is around 15 to 18 WPM) ...And, using low power improves your operating skills and persistence.

I highly recommend joining one of the many fine QRP clubs. I belong to QRP ARCI as other PCARS Members do. They have a great quarterly magazine and sponsor many "on the air" events. ... And QRP lends itself well to heading out into the Great Outdoors with minimal equipment and antenna requirements.

Best of QRP 73's

Dave, WB2DFC

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 \$19 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. In about 2 weeks or so, the plates come in the mail. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be re-newed, you can (for about a \$7 fee) get NEW plates issued (same call sign). Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a permanent part of PCARS history!!

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

Tom, KB8UUZ

General Class Upgrade Course

It was with some trepidation that PCARS decided to offer its first ever General Class upgrade course. Although a number of PCARS members had been asking if the club might offer this program, we really weren't sure exactly how many folks would actually sign up for it.

In addition, although Tom, WB8LCD, Russ, KB8DPN and myself felt that we had hit our stride teaching the Technician course at Maplewood, we knew that we would not be up to the task of taking on all of the material. This was some work that had to get spread around!

Fortunately there were other PCARS members who were up to the task and willing to volunteer. First and foremost among them was Rick, K8CAV, who had been advocating for the class for some time.

Almost as soon as all of the instructors were signed up, the General Class Handbook chapters were parceled

out, one or two to each instructor, so that preparations could begin. Space was reserved at the Center of Hope (PCARS second home for a lot of activities) and we started registering students.

From the start we decided that this class would be at no charge for PCARS members, but we decided to offer it to non-members for the modest price of \$25.00. Then we gave them a one year membership as a bonus! The class roster changed a bit over time and we ended up with thirteen students.

By the second night of class we realized that our schedule was a bit ambitious (hey, this was the first time teaching the material, we didn't know how long it would take) so we added two extra weeks, one for lecture and one for a review night.

The first night's chapters were "Procedures and Practices" and "Rules and Regulations" with yours truly as the instructor. Next came Rick, K8CAV, teaching "Components and Circuits" which was a monster chapter that took two weeks. This had to be the most challenging material.

Bob, N8QE, followed with "Radio Signals and Equipment" and the next week Bill, WB9LBI, covered "Antennas" along with a very brief look at "The Ham's International Language" or CW as we know it.

Next up was Deron, N8XTH, who smoothly covered the "Antennas" chapter and the last lecture was ably handled by Tom, WB8LCD, reviewing "Electrical and RF Safety."

Having this first class under our belts, all of the instructors are more comfortable with the material and would be willing to consider offering the class again, maybe even on an annual basis. It was very rewarding for all of us to assist our friends and fellow hams with their upgrade to General Class.

Jim, KC8PD

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

Coming Up:

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!!!!

General Class VE Session

The big day came on April 30th and nine of the students from the upgrade course decided to tackle the General test at the VE session that had been scheduled for the class. Some of the students elected to wait a bit until they were entirely comfortable with the material. That is always a smart choice because each of them is the best judge of when he or she will be ready.

The VE team for that night included Parky, KB8UUZ, (who always handles the paperwork because he has the neatest handwriting), as well as Tom, WB8LCD, Bob, N8QE, Deron, N8XTH, Ed, N8EQJ, and Jim, KC8PD.

You know how it goes at a VE session: as soon as the completed tests are turned in for scoring the backlog starts. Each test needs to be graded by three VE's and then after the Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam is filled in both it and the Form 605 still have to be signed by each of the VE's.

The wait can be excruciating for the examinees! They sit there watching for some hint about how they did while the VE's practice their poker faces.

Finally, Tom, WB8LCD, PCARS President, had the honors



of handing out the CSCE's to each (yes, each...they all passed!) of the hams and offering them the club's congratulations.

So hats off to our new Generals: Dan, KD8EPA, Mike, KD8FLZ, Mary Jo, KD8GGZ, Irene, KD8DFM, George, N1EZZ, Robert, KD8GWY, Doug, KB8PHJ, and Tim, KD8ICP.

Way to go! You earned those privileges. Now come on out to Field Day and put them to use!

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Coordinator

Congratulations & Thanks

Congratulations to all of my classmates for passing their General class upgrade!

A Special thanks to the instructors that put more work into their presentations than we did trying to learn the material, they were: Jim KC8PD, Rick K8CAV, Bob N8QE, Bill WB9LBI, Deron N8XTH, Tom WB8LCD. Thanks Guys.

I'd also like to thank the VE team for holding a special exam so that we could take the exam while it was still fresh in our minds.

And a special thanks to the PCARS Portage County Amateur Radio Service for putting it all together for us, what a great group.

Now I'd like you to indulge me for a minute for something I've wanted to do for a long time, so here goes: *"CQ CQ CQ DX This is Kilo Delta 8 Echo Pa Pa Alpha Temporary AG looking for a long distance hook up."*

Wow That was great. Thanks everyone and good night. Now back to the net. 73.

Dan, KD8EPA

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- o June 9th meeting – **Jim, KC8PD, NVIS Antennas**
- o June 28th and 29th – **Field Day!!!**
- o July 14th meeting – **Tim Duffy, The K3LR Contest Station**
- o July 26th – **PCARS Picnic at the Black Squirrel Oasis, aka WB8LCD's QTH**
- o August 9th - **PCARS Portage County 2 Meter Sprint**

- o August 11th meeting – **Jon Barber, EMA Director with the EMA Mobile Command Center, Jim, KC8PD, RACES update**
- o August 23rd – **Ohio QSO Party**
- o September 6th – **Ohio State Parks On The Air**
- o September 8th meeting – **Bill, WB9LBI, CW Tips and Techniques, Equipment and Software**
- o September 12th – date tentative – **Black Squirrel Festival**
- o October 13th meeting – **Rod Ehrhart, WN8R (DX Engineering), Vertical Antennas and Radial Systems**



Eyeball to Eyeball – KC8KYW

This month's E2E is with John Kametz, KC8KYW, whose QTH is in Stow, OH. John lives there with his wife, Deborah, and they will be celebrating their 22nd wedding anniversary in September. They have a daughter, Kristen, who is also a HAM (KC8NGI).

John was born near Lakewood, OH and attended Lakewood High School. After graduation, he attended Kent State University and majored in Journalism, getting his degree and going on to work as a reporter for the Sun Newspaper Group. He worked as a reporter for 32 years before retiring about a year ago. During his time as a reporter, he migrated around N.E. Ohio ending up in Stow for the past 20 years. He now works as a Teacher/Interpreter/Actor and Historian at Hale Farm in Bath. As many of you know, Hale Farm is a working farm that has a 19th century setting. John also spent four years in the Navy just after college graduation.



Like many of us, John had an early childhood interest in electronics and used to hunt the short wave bands on an old GE console radio. He is very proud of the fact that he was the first on his block to hear Sputnik on this radio by using a chart to calculate the signal and tuning to it. This was an exciting thing for a growing boy with a keen interest in anything having to do with electronics and radio.

John got into CB for a while after that but lost interest in this mode of radio with all the truckers doing their thing on the band. He looked into Amateur Radio but the code requirement kept him at bay for a while. Then

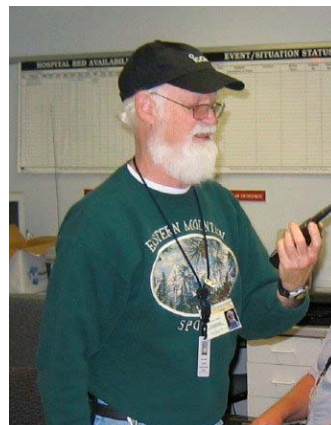
a friend at the church John was attending, got John's interest focused back on HAM radio and he started studying again along with his daughter. He took his Technician exam on September 17, 1998 and passed and upgraded to General last year.

His present station consists of an ICOM IC-718 HF transceiver, an ADI 2 Meter FM rig and a 6 meter QRP rig. He also has an MFJ 9406 SSB rig. His antennas include a 3 element, 6 meter beam, 2 meter vertical, a 10 meter vertical, along with a 20m/40m dipole and a dipole for 17 meters.

John's main interest at present is on SSB working DX on the HF bands. He also can't wait for 6 meters to open so that he can work some 6 meter DX. He's worked into Europe with 7 watts and has 100 QSLs from his 6 meter work.

On HF, John has a number of contacts into the UK and Europe. He also has many contacts into the Caribbean Islands. He now has some working experience using the digital modes, working on 2 meter Packet and 10 meter PSK 31.

John is active in RACES and Skywarn and really enjoys helping in these areas. I really don't have to mention his active participation in PCARS, since he is at almost every event we have and I'm counting on John to help me man the 20 meter station during Field Day.



Outside of Amateur Radio, John has a real interest in Amateur Astronomy and has a small portable telescope. He mentions that many Amateur Radio operators are also into astronomy in a big way. He often searches the night skies with a very good pair of astronomical binoculars. I'm hoping that maybe one of these days we can persuade John into giving us a talk on this other fascinating hobby.

The next time you see John at a PCARS meeting, introduce yourself if you haven't done so already and get to know John. I'm sure that he has a lot of interesting stories he can share regarding his days as a reporter as well as his interest in astronomy.

73's

Chuck, K8CMP

Echolink Workshop

Ever since PCARS has been having its weekly nets we have been encouraging area hams to become familiar with the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) mode known as EchoLink. Why? Well because we are fortunate that Jim, KC8RKV, has maintained an EchoLink node that has made the N8EQJ repeater an EchoLink gateway that is accessible to all of us.

One of the very first PCARS meeting programs was a presentation by Jim on EchoLink basics. As more club members began to use (or in some cases attempt to use) EchoLink many of them had questions about the installation or use of the program. Jim graciously offered to present an EchoLink workshop that would delve into the intricacies of the program and help folks get over some of the hurdles that they had been facing.

Proof of the level of interest in the subject was the fact that more than thirty people showed up for the workshop on April 26th. It was a packed house. Family & Community Services had hardwired a LAN cable in the Community Room so that it would be available for this event.

Jim gave a brief recap of his previous presentation and explained the setup at his house and the 250 mw Kenwood rig that provides the RF link to the Kent receive site for the repeater. His original interest in EchoLink was due to its ability to provide him with a communications link via a repeater in Canada when he and his family were up there at their cottage.



He explained the EchoLink uses the same codec as cell phones and that is why it does not provide the same signal/audio quality of IRLP.

Jim then walked everyone through the download, installation and setup of EchoLink. A number of the hams in the audience had brought their laptops so they could follow along at each step of the program setup.

He gave a detailed description of how to deal with issues such as firewall and router configurations, IP addresses, and port forwarding. That was followed by the configuration of the program's various parameters and an explanation of the use of public and private proxy servers. Jim also explained how to adjust the computer's audio levels for the best transmit audio.

It was a thorough, detailed and well documented presentation. Jim even uploaded his PowerPoint presentation to the PCARS Yahoo group so that it could be downloaded for use as a reference. Another good reason for PCARS members to join that group!

We appreciate all of Jim's fine work on this presentation and his maintenance of the EchoLink node. He has really opened people's eyes to the utility of EchoLink and the fun that you can have communicating with other hams around the world using it.

It was just a few days after the workshop that I was operating mobile and heard the EchoLink computer voice announcing that KL1ZA was connecting. That was followed by Jim, KL1ZA, calling from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. We had a terrific fifteen minute QSO that never would have happened if KC8RKV had not made EchoLink available to all of us. Thanks again Jim!

Jim, KC8PD

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

2008 Public Service Events

Saturday - June 7 - Nordonia Hills Duathlon
Sunday - July 27 - Bicentennial Duathlon at Portage
Metroparks
Sunday - August 24 - Bellefaire JCB Biathlon

Nordonia Hills Duathlon is a quick event; which will be done by 11:00 am. T shirts & food provided.

Bicentennial Duathlon new this year for the Portage County Bicentennial. T shirts provided.

Bellefaire JCB Biathlon A fun event that goes through 5 jurisdictions along Shaker Blvd. Again, good T shirts and food.

For those of you who are new to public service a BIATHLON is a run & bike event; a DUATHLON is a run, bike, run event. Also, there are places for you to work even if you have not worked an event before. If you need to leave early your schedule can be accommodated.

Thanks to those PCARS members who came out to provide communications for the Cleveland Marathon. You helped make the run safer for the 10,400 entrants! Howard, the official we work with, wrote, " All I can say is great show. Things went very smooth and you were a big help. Even the doctor was happy! Thanks to you and everyone."

Public service events are a good way to practice our communication skills, as well as have fun and serve the public.

The June 7 Nordonia Hills Duathlon is an easy, fun event and a good one for those new to working these events. Hope to see you there!

If you can help please call:
Gay Wands
330 474-1573
gwands@neo.rr.com

Gay, WB8VNO

Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

WANTED: Would like to buy a good used 12-15 amp power supply and a 1000 watt tuner. Contact: Carl - N4IT@portcars.org

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

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

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

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Six PCARS members are having a birthday in June!

N8ZDR	Richard	Wilson
WB8OVQ	Robert	Warner
KD8EPF	Rena	Martin-Wehner
WD8DAU	Dan	Trout
K8HGX	Jack	Alpern
KC8PIZ	Sam	McCoy

Contest University at Hamvention 08



I was pleased when Parky asked me to write a column about the Contest University that Ed, N8EQJ, and I attended this year at Dayton.

I learned about the course in Contesting last year while attending my first Hamvention. I was introduced to my first DX Banquet last year by Parky, and I promised myself that I would try something new this year. That "something new" turned out to be Contest University. This was the second annual event for the course and they had an advanced or graduate class for those who attended the first course last year. I already know what I will be adding to my next Dayton trip - the graduate class!

But getting back to this year's course, I'd like to give you readers an idea of what we learned and why I thought it was really worth the \$75 entrance fee.

First of all, the Contest University (CTU) is hosted by a fairly distinguished group of testers, headed by Tim Duffy, K3LR. The professors for the course were as follows:

Randy Thompson, K5ZD, who has won the CQWW CW Contest Single Op for the USA a total of 8 times and is the current USA record holder. In fact, he was inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame during this Hamvention.

Jim Stahl, K8MR, who now resides in suburban Cleveland. He invented the "Single Operator, Multi Station" category in the November CW SS, where he operated from as many as six different stations in a single weekend.

Doug Grant, K1DG, who was the editor of the CQ Amateur Radio Almanac, past president of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, past chairman of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, member of the CQWW Contest Committee, and has chaired the Dayton Hamvention Contest Forum for over 10 years. He has also placed first in single op, single op assisted, multi-single, multi-2 and multi-multi op categories.

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, whose 10 acre QTH houses a multi-multi contest station that has dozens of DX Contest wins to its credit.

Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, whose World/USA multi records are frankly too numerous to mention here due to space constraints, was President and Board Member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club and since 2002 has been the Conductor of the World Above 50 MHz in QST.

Other professors included: Rob Sherwood, NC0B, who has probably forgotten more about receiver performance than most other people will ever know. Ed Muns, W0YK, who in 2005 operated P40X and took second as single op, high power in the world! In 2006 and 2007, he set new world records as P49X, and in 2007 he broke the single op, high power World Record in CQWW WPX RTTY by 30%. And last but not least Ward Silver, N0AX. Ward has written many articles for QST, including the Hands-On Radio column, and is also the author of "Ham Radio for Dummies" and two other "Dummies" titles.

This is the group of Amateurs that Ed and I had the privilege of hearing from 8 AM to 5 PM on the Thursday of Hamvention.

The topics covered ran the complete spectrum of contesting and, I must say, even covered things that every station operator should consider or do, whether in a contest or simply DX hunting or rag chewing. The course started with an in depth discussion on **Ethics**. Yes, ethics, and there are ethical practices that we should be following when operating our stations. This is critical if we are operating in a contest. In this case, ethics means "the discipline dealing with what is good and bad, and with moral duty and obligation." In other words, determining what is good and bad and then the moral part of it: the guidelines we use for defining what is good and what is bad. I understood it to mean, "What I do when no one is watching." We operate on an open forum when we get on the air, so we should not do anything we would not want to become public. We learned what makes a station and had a detailed discussion of "**The Operator**," including ergonomics and the actual setup of one's station: where everything should be placed so as to make operating easy on our bodies. This cuts down on fatigue and pain when operating in long contests. We had a unit on **Techniques** for both CW and Phone operation. During this time we learned about certain crutches we could use to make contest operating a lot more efficient and we learned about managing time and managing scores. We talked about **Fitness** – getting enough sleep before a contest and eating light snacks not heavy meals (I still want my steak at Field Day) and that beer was off limits forever during a contest.

We had units of the **Inside Stuff** – radios, amps, switching, labeling, computers and networks, and the **Outside Stuff** – antennas, feedlines, towers and other hardware.

Another surprise topic was the **Environment**: No, not plants and trees and such, but how to prepare for the contest by doing things in advance. We learned to get contests on the calendar so that the family knows that there is something special happening on a particular weekend. We were strongly urged to make sure that if we were going to be competing in contests, that we should make sure that we also compensate the family by having family outings that were entirely for the family and had nothing to do with Amateur Radio. Environment also included discussions regarding property, power lines, and neighbors.

We learned about using **Resources** such as local clubs and ARRL publications, as well as the various contesting sites on the Internet. Finally, we looked at **Priorities**, which come in the following order: Operator, Technique, Antennas, Radios, and Gadgets.

At some point in time, I may be able to pull my notes together and, hopefully with Ed, give PCARS a more detailed presentation on what we learned. As mentioned, I certainly am planning to attend the Graduate Course next year, Lord willing, and I urge any reader who has gone to Dayton and plans on attending again, to set aside Thursday of that week to attend Contest University. In my opinion, it is money well spent.

Chuck, K8CMP

Some Words From Weaver

Red Cross: Good news; not-so-good news

The good news: As announced in the ARES forum at the Hamvention(r), National Red Cross (RC) sent a letter to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, saying it will limit its demand for background checks of ham volunteers to criminal background checks only. RC said it is directing Mybackgroundcheck.com to remove the demands that volunteers agree to having credit and mode of living checks done.

This letter seemingly meets the requests made by ARRL when it protested RC's demand that all volunteers agree to having widespread background checks (criminal, credit, manner of living) performed.

The not-so-good news is that aspects of the letter are confusing if not contradictory. This includes the discussion of the changes in wording RC says it will make. The fact that RC did not involve ARRL in a dialogue to resolve the issue doubtlessly contributed to the confusion that still exists.



The League continues to attempt to open communication with RC to clear the issues. In the meantime, there still is no Memo/Statement of Understanding (SOU) between RC and ARRL. The previous SOU expired at the end of 2007 when RC failed to respond to our offer to begin discussions to develop a new SOU.

The RC letter offers promise for resolving the issues between RC and ARRL, but it does not resolve them. ARRL remains eager to join in discussions with RC to help relieve the concerns of both parties.

FCC to raise vanity call fee?

On May 8, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) designed to increase fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The Commission proposes to raise the fee to \$12.30. This is a \$.60 increase over the current fee of \$11.70. As is true of regular call sign licenses, vanity call licenses are good for 10 years. Vanity call fees have varied from a high of \$50.00 to the current low of \$11.70.

The FCC expects to receive about 15,000 vanity call applications during the coming fiscal year.

Hamvention is over for another year

There is less than a year to before the 2009 Dayton Hamvention(r).

I don't know about others who attended the 2008 Hamvention, but I had a ball. Nearly all of my time was spent in the ARRL Expo area talking with fellow amateurs from the Great Lakes Division. As usual, the weekend experienced its allotment of rain, but this didn't seem to dampen the spirits of being in Dayton.



My congratulations to the Dayton ARA and the Dayton Hamvention Committee for another great event. The Hamvention, indeed, is the largest hamfest in the world regardless of the yardstick one uses to measure it.

Director candidacies announced

Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC) Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, announced his intended candidacy for Great Lakes Division director at the Hamvention(r). Dan has served Michigan Section clubs well as ACC.

I will be a candidate for re-election to the directorship also. I welcome Dan as a competent competitor. As I've said repeatedly, competition for ARRL elected positions is good for the organization.

Good luck, Dan. I promise to compete in a friendly, fair manner.

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division



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.



From Fin Del Mundo VIA EchoLINK with an HT

The folks on Tierra del Fuego, the far southern island at the tip of Argentina, consider that they live at Fin del Mundo, or, in English, the End of the World. And, for all practical purposes, they do! Tierra del Fuego is the last stop in Argentina before heading across the Drake Passage to Antarctica. I found myself there in March as I was returning from a wonderful Antarctic adventure where I participated in the Antarctic Marathon / Half-Marathon with my son. I've enclosed a photo of me crossing the finish line in the half-marathon for those of you who might not believe that these old bones could actually make a 13.1 mile (20.2 km) walk.

I did not want to make such a trip as this one without trying to work amateur radio into the picture. However, I was concerned about antennas -- like what kind of antenna could I take that far away and still make contact with a low power rig. I began to talk about possibilities with my friend Jim Godfrey, KC8RKV, from Kent, and we decided to try to set up an Echolink contact. Unfortunately, we could find no listing of Echolink



repeaters in Argentina. There were, however, a number of Echolink links, stations that could accept my 2 meter signal and put it on the internet and send it on its way north to one of the local repeaters. Several of these were in Buenos Aires, but though I tried while in Buenos Aires to hook into one of these links I was not successful. There was one, though, in Rio Grande, on the

east coast of Tierra del Fuego. As I knew I would be travelling by bus through that town I decided to stop there and spend a night and try to make contact with folks back in Ohio by using Echolink. I am not very familiar with Echolink, though I have used it on occasion.

First, though, I needed permission to operate from Argentina. To do this I needed an IARP (International Amateur Radio Permit) from the ARRL, but had little time to obtain it. I was helped thoroughly in this by Perry Green, WY1O, of the ARRL, who expedited my application so that I received it a couple of days before I was scheduled to leave. Without Perry's help I would not be writing this article as I would not have had permission to operate in Argentina.

I then wrote up a list of stations that were Echolink links in cities that I would be travelling through, cities such as Rio Grande. Jim Godfrey KC8RKV and I practiced the contact procedures a few times, and I was off. As I mentioned above, I did try to work into some of the links in Buenos Aires to no avail. I would have to wait till the Antarctic portion of my trip was over and I was travelling through Patagonia (southern Argentina and Chile) on my way home.

I took the bus from Ushuaia (the southernmost city in the world) to Rio Grande, a distance of about 115 miles. There I found a hostel, the Noala Hosteria, in a residential area. After checking into my room, I took out my HT, tuned it to 147.000 MHz simplex, the frequency for the link identified as LU5XP-L, and identified myself. At first I heard nothing, then I realized that a station was calling me, a local station on 147.000 MHz. I responded and was told in broken English that I was talking with Aldo, LU5XP-L, the owner of the link, and he wanted to know where I was. When I told him the name of my hostel he said he would be right over. It turned out that my hostel was around the corner from his home. He came over with his son and we had a pleasant chat. I took a photo of him and me together, and he explained that he could not stay but that I was welcome to use his equipment. Unfortunately, later in my trip I lost my camera, and thus lost the photo of Aldo and me together. Below is the log entry recorded on the **KC8RKV-R:**

EchoLINK logfile:	
Start Date / Time	2008-03-14 18:09:23
End Date / Time	2008-03-14 18:25:07
Callsign	LU5XP-L
Location	Tierra delFuego Tierra del Fuego

I returned to my HT, punched in the numbers for the

N8GO repeater in Liberty and received confirmation that we were connected. Unfortunately, though I called and called on frequency, I received no answer. I was told later by Dennis Alexander, KC8LMC, that he had heard me and had called me back, but I did not hear him. I have no explanation for that. So, I tried another repeater, the N8EQJ repeater in Kent via EchoLINK node #159944 KC8RKV-R, where I was pretty sure that Jim was hanging out. Sure enough, after connecting and receiving confirmation that we were, in fact, connected, I heard Jim calling me. We had a pleasant chat, and it was neat talking to a ham friend some 10,000 miles away using a 2 meter HT running 5 watts. I'm sorry that I was not able to hear other stations on either repeater, but KC8RKV was the only callsign I heard. I was pleased, though, to discover that it was possible to work such distances using Echolink. No, it certainly wasn't HF DX, but we did make contact using simple equipment with the help of a friendly Argentine ham and EchoLINK.

Peter, K8OUA

Article submitted by Jim, KC8RKV

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

PCARS Thursday Net Control

Net Control Schedule

June	
5	WB8LCD - Tom
12	KC8PD - Jim
19	KB8UUZ - Tom
26	N8XTH - Deron

July	
3	K8CMP - Chuck
10	KB8DPN - Russ
17	WB8LCD - Tom
24	KB8UUZ - Tom
31	K8QF - Russ



Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

Pictures from the May Meeting



more Pictures from the May Meeting



Thanks & 73

This is the sixth issue of the PCARS official newsletter the 'RADIOGRAM' for 2008. I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **WB8LCD, KC8PD, K8CMP, WB9LBI, KB8UUZ, NB4K, KB6NU, KD8EPA, K8OUA, KC8RKV, WB2DFC**, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web.

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

Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

NOTICE

Radio frequency fields beyond this point may exceed the FCC general public exposure limit.

Obey all posted signs and site guidelines for working in radio frequency environments.

In accordance with Federal Communications Commission rules on radio frequency emissions: 47 CFR 1.1307(b) © 1998 National Safety Council, Inc.

Pictures From Antenna Day





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 K8CMP	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2008	WB9LBI N8EQJ	Bill Fraedrich Ed Polack
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Repeater	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
 VE Team	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
	N4IT	Carl Capps
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8CMP	Chuck Patellis
	N8EQJ	Ed Polack
K8QF	Russ Conklin	
K8GI	Rick Patterson	
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 your self from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuz @ portcars.org

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)
Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor
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NLC