



# The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



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

~ 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 ~

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

~ Nets ~

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

PCARS Established  
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL affiliated  
April 20, 2006

## From the President

One of the hallmarks of a successful club program is the attendance at the meetings and events. Based on the February meeting and FYAO – PCARS is Alive and Well! Everyone who has any part in putting the PCARS program together puts at least 110% into it – your attendance is Greatly Appreciated!

I've reminded you (over and over) that the two main tenants of PCARS are: 1) We're going to have FUN with Ham Radio; and 2) Everyone is welcome to participate with us. We've had lots of activities and interesting meetings that have provided the "FUN" component for us. The "Everyone is welcome" part is a little bit harder to actually attain. We all (Officers and Members) have the responsibility to make sure that no-one ever feels like they were ignored or did not "fit in" with our group. I have to say, so far we've all done a really good job at this and I think PCARS is one of the friendliest clubs around! May you always feel welcome at PCARS.

To that end, I want to encourage you to attend our March meeting. Billed as "Bring your Rig Night" I gotta tell you, the first time we did this (about two years ago) I thought it sounded pretty hoaky! It turned out to be one of our best early meetings and I think largely responsible for a lot of our friendly atmosphere. It's hard to talk with everyone at each of our meetings and events. Sometimes we naturally gravitate towards others who seem to have the same interests that we do.

But, sometimes that guy/gal you never get around to talking with has some interests and ideas you might find interesting! Bring your rig night will give you the chance to get to know the other PCARS members a little better.

PCARS wants to get it's name up in lights – and you can help! Lots of us are contesters or wanna-be contesters! If you participate in contesting, you know that many contests allow

clubs to aggregate the scores of their individual members, and then lists that total as a club score. You're still in the contest as an individual, but the club also gets the benefit of your points, whether you worked a little or a lot, it all helps to contribute to the club's score. So, we would like you to have some Ham Radio FUN and participate in some contests, but then, make sure you get your score submitted for the benefit of the club! If you have any questions on how this needs to be done, get a hold of one of our contest coordinators – Joe, W8KNO or Chuck, K8CMP. They can make sure you get the score submitted properly so PCARS gets the credit for it. Even if you don't think you have a competitive score, it may be all that PCARS needs to put us over the top! There just happens to be a "Big One" coming up at the end of March, the CQ WPX SSB contest on March 28-29. Give it a shot, and make sure PCARS gets credit for your Q's!



Happy Days are Here Again! As reported in the March QST (and others) we are now officially in Solar Cycle 24, and for at least the next few years, conditions on the HF bands are going to be getting better! If this will be your first trip to the top, hang on, it's going to be fun. If you've been through it before, you know what I am talking about. Not got privileges on the HF bands? You better get a hold of Jim – KC8PD and make sure you're on the roster for the General ticket upgrade class, this is going to be Ham Radio Fun at it's finest! Don't miss out. By the way, as we move into spring, summer and fall, PCARS has lots of fun activities to participate in – I hope to see you there!

73

Tom, WB8LCD

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### *From the Vice President*

A busy 2008 is in store for PCARS members. Our goal has been to get to the point where meetings and activities are scheduled up to twelve months in advance. That gives all of us time to arrange our schedules for the meetings and events that we don't want to miss. Of course we hope that you don't want to miss any of them!

If you check the calendar you will find that we have tried to balance the meeting topics with presentations by PCARS members as well as special guests such as Jim

Weaver, K8JE, Ed Miller, K8EHA, and Tim Duffy, K3LR. Likewise with the monthly activities they are a mix of workshops, kit projects, and on-air operations.

We are also trying to keep the schedule flexible, particularly as we get six months or so out. We have tentative commitments from other presenters who are still watching their calendars till they can say for sure which month will work for them. Meeting topics for the second half of the year can be bumped over to 2009 if necessary and that also gives us a head start on next year's schedule.

You will also note on the calendar that some activity dates are still To Be Set (TBS). Those dates are being kept open until we know for sure that facilities will be available, etc.

Remember that the March 10th meeting topic is "Bring Your Rig Night." This is a program that is unique to PCARS and it has been two years since we first tried it. We had a lot of fun and laughs that night and hope for the same this time. This is a terrific way for everyone to share some personal story about ham radio and what it has meant to them. So drag along whatever item of ham radio memorabilia you have that will lead to an interesting, funny, embarrassing, or enlightening story. We're counting on you!



I am pleased to report that I had a very productive meeting with Elliot Bennett, the District Executive for the Seneca Trail District of the Boy Scouts of America Great Trail Council. The Seneca District includes Portage County. We have been trying for some time to develop PCARS involvement with the Boy Scouts but it had been a bit of a challenge.

Elliot made it clear that he sees the potential benefit to area scouts by having an amateur radio group that is willing to provide educational programs and activities for scouts. Not only does it enable them to learn more about electronic communications and work toward their Radio Merit Badge, but it can help them achieve the fundamental Boy Scout principle of being prepared.

Tom, WB9LBI, who is an Eagle Scout, will be taking the lead in developing PCARS relationship with the scouts. He would like to hear from any PCARS member who is or has been involved in scouting or who would

like to get involved in scout activities. Mark your calendars: the Jamboree On The Air is on October 25th and 26th and this year we can probably count on having scouts involved in a PCARS JOTA station.

On a related note, PCARS sends its thanks to Bill, WB9LBI, for making a ham radio presentation to an Aurora Boy Scout troop on a very snowy February evening. Knowing Bill we are sure that it was informative and entertaining.

The first ever PCARS General Class upgrade course will begin on Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Center of Hope in Ravenna. The class is free for PCARS members and \$25.00 for non-PCARS members, although they also get a one year membership in PCARS as a bonus. We will be using the ARRL General Manual as the text for the course.

Anyone interested in the class should get in touch with me, or even show up on the first night of class if they don't make up their mind until then, and we will get them enrolled. The class instructors include, Rick, K8CAV, Bob, N8QE, Bill, WB9LBI, Deron, N8XTH, and Tom, WB8LCD. Thanks to all of them for their hard work.

The Winter edition of our Technician Course will conclude with a VE session on March 11th. This has been a tough class to teach since we lost two nights when the Maplewood Career Center closed due to adverse weather.

The Spring session will be meeting on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. starting on March 18th at Maplewood. The tuition is still only twenty dollars plus the cost of the Technician Ham Radio License Manual. Students can register as late as March 18th.

It is likely that we will only offer the Technician course in the Fall and Spring next year. Two sessions should be plenty and will also give the instructors a much needed breather.

The PCARS VE team continues its 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 next session will be on April 5th. The VE sessions are open to everyone including walk-ins. You do not have to register in advance to take a test. See you at the March 10th meeting!

**Jim, KC8PD**

## Paper Chase

If you have received QSL cards, you may have enough to earn an award, you know it only takes 100 different countries for a DXCC or 100 different grids on VHF for a VUCC. In looking at the cards I have, the largest amount from outside of the United States come from Germany, 1-1/2" thick pile. What award/awards could I/you obtain from Germany?

Many German awards require the working of DOK's.



The DOK is the letter and number combination used by the DARC to identify regional radio clubs. The first letter is the district, and the next two numbers identify the respective club in the district. For example, DK4SY uses DOK P05. P is the District of Wuerttemberg and 05 identifies the Radio Club of

Heilbronn. DOK P40 is another radio club in the same town. German stations are excellent at including this identifier on their QSLs, since a very important use is that of a QSL distribution system, whereby cards are sent to the respective clubs monthly. One is the: Goethe Award

The Goethe Award is issued by the DARC Division Ilmenau (DOK X30) in commemoration of the famous German writer Goethe. The aim of the award is to contact regions or locations which were closely associated with the major events in his life. Earn 100 points after 1 Jan 1998. SWL OK. 3 classes: Shortwave, VHF/UHF and VHF/UHF including repeaters.

Each different station from the following DOK's = 5 points: X03, X04, X09, X11, X18, X19, X21, X22, X24, X30, X34, F05, F49, F57, S30, S31, S37, Z05, Z83 and Z91. Club stations from these DOK's = 10 points. Special event stations with special DOKs, = 20 points. No mode or band restrictions. CW contacts count double. At least one of the following club stations must be contacted: DL0WEI (X03), DK0TUI (X30), DF0TUI (X34), DA0HQ/DF0HQ (X34) or DL0RUD (X24).

GCR list and fee of 5 Euros or \$8 US to: Wilfried Besig, DH5WB, Sperrberring 17a, D-98693 Ilmenau-

Oberpoerlitz, Germany. (also: Darc e.V. OV-X30, "Goethe Award", PSF 100261, D-98682 Ilmenau, Germany. Hoping to hear you on the air waves,

**Joe, W8KNO**

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

Boy, February has been a really tough month – snow wise. Here in Parkman, we have been hammered a number of times in February. March is now upon us and I'm not sure if it will be any different. For all the good Groundhog day is, someone from the deep South should make a trip North and take those furry little rodents and make a good stew out of them.

If you haven't already heard, gusting winds for two days in excess of 60 mph, vibrated my Mosley TA33 Sr. enough that it lost the 28' reflector. Fortunately for me, it landed flat on the ground cushioned by the snow so that no apparent damage was done to the element. After talking to one of our members about Mosley antennas, I've made up my mind to replace it with something slightly better. I know there are a lot of TA33 Sr.'s out there that are doing just fine, but I don't want to mess with replacing elements every year or so.



Even though I do not have a reflector, I was able to work both Ducie Island DXpedition and the DXpedition to Cocos Island. Not the usually strong reports I get but good enough to get the QSO logged and really that's what counts. There are some really good things coming up for both DX and IOTA especially.

As always, 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 fine work they do in gathering the DX information and making it available to us in various newsletters and web sites.

Please note that this report is only as good as the information being passed on by the various DX organizations. 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. So please keep to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL). And you might notice that some of the

information contained here is the same as last month. I have done this because the events have yet to happen.

## **DX**

**5X, UGANDA** - G3RWF, will once again be active as 5X1NH from February 23 - March 22. Activity will be limited because he is on holiday. Activity will be on all bands except 160m and 6 meters. Modes will be CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. He will use 100 watts and wire antennas. QSL via G3RWF.

**5Z4, KENYA**. Look for DL7DF, who will be at Diani Beach at the coastline of Kenya. He will be active as 5Z4HW from February 27th to March 11th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV. Operations will be limited (holiday style). He will use an IC-735 and Linear TY900. Antennas will be a R7 vertical and 18m Tower for 160/80m. QSL via DL7DF, direct or by the DARC Bureau.

**6 METER CARIBBEAN DXpedition** - K7BV, 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).

**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).

**DAYTON HAMVENTION DX DINNER BANQUET**. Jay, K4ZLE, announces that the SouthWest Ohio DX Association is pleased to sponsor the 23rd annual DX Dinner to be held in conjunction with the 2008 Dayton Hamvention. The dinner will be Friday evening, May 16th, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located in Dayton City Center. This is the same venue as in years past. The program details are not final yet, but they will have a good one. Although it should not be our main reason for attending, remember, attendees have a chance at some nice attendance prizes as well! Tickets are \$37.00 per meal, payable in U.S. funds to SWODXA. (Sorry, they do not process PayPal or Credit Card payments.) Please advise if you want a vegetarian meal when you order. You may order from Pete Meyer, N0FW, at his CBA with SASE. They will attempt to honor group-seating requests when tickets are ordered together. There is not a bad seat in the house, but seating is definitely limited. Come join them for an evening of fun and

fellowship. This was a very interesting event that yours truly attended last year and I recommend it. The program was very good, but the discussions around the dinner tables were a treat.

**S2, BANGLADESH** - KX7YT, will once again return to Dhaka as S21YV. He will be there between January 24th and March 11th. He plans to be active in the CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest (February 9-10th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry and also the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 1-2nd) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via KX7YT.

**T6, AFGHANISTAN** (6/2m EME). Ross, ex-VK1UN / VK8UN, 4W6UN and EX1UN, active as T61AA from Faizabad for possibly 2 years. Reports he has been on 20 meters SSB (PLEASE SEND QSNs). Ross is expected to be active soon on 6/2 meters EME from Afghanistan (MM57). He is using an IC-7000 into a Tokyo Hi-Power HL-1.5KFx Amp for HF/6m and also a new Acom for HF/6m. Ross is currently using a 2x8 element antenna on 2 meters but plans to increase the size as weather permits. His operations are good for DXCC. QSL via T61AA: Ross Ballantyne, PO Box 99, World Trade Centre, Victoria 8005, Australia.

**ZA, ALBANIA** - F4DTO will be active from Elbassan, Central Albania, under the call sign ZA/F4DTO, between April 22nd and May 3rd. Activity will be on 20/17/10 meters SSB with an emphasis on 10 meters. They will be using a FT100 w/100 watts into a Wave vertical on 10m and dipoles on other bands. QSL only direct.

## IOTA

**2J/MJ, JERSEY**. 2E0WMG (2J0WMG) and M0MJH (MJ0MJH) will be active from Jersey (EU-013) between March 20-26th. They also hope to activate Les Minquiers Reef (EU-099) during their trip. QSL via their home call signs

**5R, MADAGASCAR** (AF-013). F4DBJ, will be active as 5R8HT from Ivato between March 30th and April 17th. His bands and modes of activity were not provided, but it was reported that he plans to activate Nattes Island (AF-090).

**FR, REUNION** (AF-016). Look for F5HIJ, to be active as FR/F5HIJ from Bernica, near Saint-Paul, between March 3-31st. He will use a FT-897 and 2x20m dipole. It is suggested to look for him during his evenings between 1800-2000z

**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). 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).

**H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS**. DL2GAC, will be active as H44MS from Honiara, on Guadalcanal Island (OC-047, it will also count for WLOTA LH-0086) between March 5th and April 27th. Look for Bernhard to confirm all QSL cards via the bureau or direct after his return home.

**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

**NA-076 - AA8LL**, will be active as AA8LL/4 from Cedar Key, FL, February 2-5th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-15 meters, mostly CW on the IOTA frequencies and RTTY. He will try to get K8LIZ/4 (his XYL) to operate some SSB. QSL direct or by the bureau to AA8LL. Logs will also be uploaded to the LoTW.

**OC-164 - VK6HZ**, will be active as VK6ARI from Rottnest Island (WLOTA LH-2197), March 27 to April-3rd. This will be a holiday style operation using an IC-7000 on SSB, PSK and RTTY, possibly CW. Antenna will be a Buddipole. Activity will be around the usual IOTA frequencies. He will also be active during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th). Look for him to be active on the 17/12 meters bands before and after the contest. Online logs will be available during his operation at: <http://www.vk6hz.com> Logs will also be uploaded LoTW. QSL is via VK6NE.

**PJ4, NETHERLAND ANTILLES**. N0VD, will be active from Bonaire (SA-006) as PJ4/N0VD between March 1-8th. This is primarily a business trip so activity will be as time permits. QSL to W3HNM. Kelly is working on building a DX/Contest rental QTH on Bonaire.

Again, there was much more to report, but not enough space, so get on the air and work some DX. And please, please don't forget to let me know. I will post your call and the DX you work in the next news letter. Until next month, this is Charlie the Tuner saying, 73 and gud DX to u.

**Chuck, K8CMP**

## Cabrillo

As mentioned at the last club meeting, it would be nice if we entered the CQ World Wide WPX Contest. CQ likes logs to be submitted in Cabrillo format. Below is a sample of what it looks like.

### Cabrillo QSO template for CQ WPX

```
-----info sent----- -----info rcvd-----
QSO: freq mo date       time call       rst exch call       rst exch t
QSO: ***** **  yyyy-mm-dd  nnnn ***** nnn ***** nnn ***** n
QSO: 3799 PH 1999-03-06 0711 HC8N      59 001  W1AW      59 001  0
00000000011111111122222222223333333334444444455555555566666666677777777788
12345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901
```

Most logging programs now support the Cabrillo format. If yours does not, check to see if there is an upgrade for your program. If you do not have a logging program, CT is now freeware and is available from <http://www.k1lea.com/>. You can also find more

information at <http://www.cqwp.com/logs.htm>. Also if you only make a few contacts you can enter them by going to <http://b4h.net/cabforms/>.

If you do not know what the CQ World Wide Contest is, it is contest in which you try to work as many stations as you can with as many different Prefixes. In our club alone, we have thirteen prefixes locally. The contest covers 160-10 meters, so if you are technician remember you can get on ten meters from 28.300-28.500.

If you would like to start to work on your DXCC, this is one of the contests that helps build your total as people go all over the world to get distinct call signs. But most important, on the CLUB line of the Cabrillo format make sure it reads CLUB: Portage County Amateur Radio Service.

**Joe, W8KNO**

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### ***The QRP/CI Fireside SSB Sprint***

For the second year in a row, I decided to participate in the 2008 Fireside SSB Sprint contest on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. While most of you were getting ready for the Super Bowl, I was getting ready to operate as a portable station. This year I mounted my PAC-12 antenna on the south side of the house and operated off of a folding table by the windows in our dining room. I figured that would



be a little bit better logistically than last year when I operated off the kitchen table. Good call! I set up my FT-817 to operate off battery power, got the logging software for the contest downloaded and working. Then it was wait till 4:00 PM local for the start of the 4 hour operating sprint!

Just like last year, 4:00 PM local is just about the time that the foreign SW broadcasters start to show up on the 40 meter band (my band of choice). About 4 minutes into the contest, I made my first contact – KC8PD from Ravenna, OH! It was rough copy, but we were able to get it done on both ends, and Jim is another QRP/CI member, so that meant 5 points instead of just 2 for the contact! My next contact was WB9GKZ from Green Bay, WI. He gave me a solid 55 and we chatted for about 8 minutes. At 4:27 I snagged my 3<sup>rd</sup> contact, KA1DWX, from Kent County Delaware. He was running about 300 watts, working the DE QSO

Party – points for both of us! By now the BC QRM was getting pretty obnoxious. It wasn't until 6:08 that I made my 4<sup>th</sup> contact, AI4QT in Huntsville, AL. Again, he gave me a solid 55 and we chatted for about 10 or 15 minutes. At 7:40 PM I made my 5<sup>th</sup> and final contact – N4TIE in NC! That was the highlite of my afternoon, thanks for pulling me out of the QRM, Carl.

So, in 4 hours, running QRP SSB, I made a total of 5 contacts (3 more than I had made last year!), I had a lot of fun, and I emptied quite a few “807's” in the process. Because I operated in the “portable” class, my total score was 5065. By the time I finished cleaning up and putting everything away I saw about the last 4 minutes of the Super Bowl and that's all I really needed of that. I probably won't win a plaque (duh), but I had a great time and it was a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon and evening.



**Tom, WB8LCD**

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### ***EmComm***

This story was posted on the ARRL web site on February 26th and is reprinted here with their permission. This event provided a great deal of insight into the future of emcomm and the benefit of cooperation between amateur radio and MARS and the various served agencies.

#### **State Agency Calls Army MARS into Action**

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) called Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) into action as tornados swept across the Southeastern United States February 5-6. According to Army MARS Chief Stuart Carter, "For the first time as far back as we can remember, a state government called for MARS deployment in response to an actual emergency. The resulting teamwork and use of Army MARS Winlink capability gave

TEMA its only e-mail link during President Bush's visit to the storm-stricken area." At least 70 messages were sent during the state operation ranging from casualty figure updates and signal reports to staff rosters and photos.



TEMA's Chief of Communications David Wolfe, WA4VVX (MARS call sign AAR4CY), said, "Although there was no commercial power at the deployment site, TEMA's communications infrastructure was fully operational. Both the VHF high band and 800 MHz repeater systems had good coverage for voice command and control. Our shortage was Internet connectivity, and our unmet needs were e-mail and the ability to send pictures. MARS Winlink provided exactly what was not available by any other means."

Carter said that this event illustrates the importance of detailed preparation and training that has taken place during realistic disaster response exercises over the past several years. "In the case of Tennessee, the story goes back a year and a half. Steve Waterman, K4CJX (MARS call sign AAA9AC) began working with Wolfe in late 2006, preparing for just such a deployment. At the time, Army MARS was just beginning to adopt the Winlink 2000 radio e-mail network system, and with the assistance of the then-Tennessee State Director Paul Drothler, WO4U (MARS call sign AAV4DJ), Army MARS had just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TEMA. This MOU just served to strengthen an already strong relationship between TEMA and Army MARS. Wolfe led TEMA staffers who were already hams to becoming MARS members and to become qualified MARS Winlink 2000 operators. The rest of Wolfe's team soon obtained their Amateur Radio and Army MARS licenses."

The next step, according to Carter, was joint training for TEMA staff and Tennessee Army MARS members. Some was classroom training followed up with extensive field training. The culmination of the field training was TNCAT07, a massive exercise that included the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), an eight-state alert consortium along the New Madrid fault line. This exercise also included the participation by ARRL Amateur Emergency Radio Service (ARES), Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and other EmComm services that clearly demonstrated interoperability between TEMA, Tennessee Army MARS, the Amateur Radio community and other municipal communications services.

"To make a long story short," Carter said, "we now have seen a demonstration of seamless collaboration between Army MARS and one of our supported agencies under 'Real World' emergency conditions. This was the first Army MARS deployment since the Katrina/Rita disasters two years ago. Successfully meeting the challenge involved deployment readiness on the part of our members, and it required total Winlink 2000 mobility. First of all came the building of relationships with existing and potential customers, and

then came meticulous training of state and federal staffers, and frequent exercising at home and in the field. With this pattern of established collaboration between our customers and MARS members, we enter the new era of Army MARS Emergency communications support."

*Jim, KC8PD*

## March Contest Calendar

March, 2008	
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 1 to 2400Z, Mar 2
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Mar 1 and 0430Z-0459Z, Mar 1 and 0500Z-0529Z, Mar 1 and 0530Z-0600Z, Mar 1
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 8 to 0200Z, Mar 9 & 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 9
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 8 to 1600Z, Mar 9
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 8 to 1900Z, Mar 9
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 9 to 0100Z, Mar 10
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 15
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 - 0200Z, Mar 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 17
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 - 2359Z, Mar 30



## FYAO - 2008

Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO) was the first event that PCARS sponsored in 2005. It was, and continues to be a well attended and FUN event! Our first event was held outside, at Towners Woods, and it was cold with a strong wind and we all felt like we had "frozen our acorns" off. In our second year, moving the event to the Roy Smith Shelter House at Fred Fuller Park in Kent, we found a home where we could "brave the elements" in the comfort of an enclosed and heated shelter. This year's event was again a well attended and Fun event!



We had over 37 people logged in, including both members and guests, and quite a few more who never did sign our log in sheet! There were QRP stations set up for 40 meter SSB, 40 meter CW, 20 meter SSB, 20



meter PSK, 10 meter PSK and 6 meter SSB. We must be learning something, as we made quite a few more contacts this year than we had in the past two years. QSO's were made across the U.S.A. and even one into Havana, Cuba!



It seems a hallmark of any PCARS event is the food, and this one did not disappoint! We had donuts and coffee, Sloppy Joes, meatballs, chili, soup, beer bread, muffins, pretzels, crackers, snacks and pies for dessert! I want to thank



everyone who brought something along, and especially the XYLs who provide for us! It was all good and more than enough.



Probably the best part of the whole day was just having a chance to get together, get some stations set up and get on the air. We had several first time visitors to PCARS and lots of the usual suspects. Once again, PCARS proved that we are *"the friendliest club around"* and I'm sure everyone had a



good time! Looking forward to next year? The shelter house has already been reserved – hope to see you there!

*Tom, WB8LCD*

## *Some Words From Weaver*

### **8th Region Incoming QSL Bureau - 2007**

8th Region Incoming QSL bureau Manager Jay Slough, K4ZLE has summarized the activity of this Bureau for 2007. He and the Letter Sorters in 8-land received and redistributed approximately 89,028 overseas QSL cards over the year. This figure compares with 111,734 in 2006, 110,905 in 2005, 138,236 in 2004 and 154,054 handled in 2003. The effect of the bottom of the sun cycle is evident.

Regardless of the lower number of cards processed this past year, the gang at the 8th Region Bureau did a splendid job. This job will start to become larger for the next several years as the new cycle begins to show itself and grows in strength.

I want to thank Jay for his excellent leadership of the Bureau, and for the great work of the letter sorters who have supported him and the Bureau.

Incidentally, the 8th Region Bureau serves only the amateurs who have 8s in their call signs. At one time, of course, this was amateurs in Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. Now, an amateur's incoming Bureau is the one that has the same number in its name as the amateur's call sign, regardless of where the amateur lives.

Following this format, 4-land amateurs use the 4th Region Bureau.

### **What to do when someone becomes a SK**

It is not necessary ". . . to mail the physical license (ed. to the FCC) but the next of kin should contact the FCC with either a death certificate or obituary and letter asking the license be cancelled." Among other reasons for this, it prevents a pirate from stealing the call and using it with impunity until the term of the call expires.



The second action to take is to notify the ARRL Silent Key Administrator (sk@arrl.org). This notification should include a copy of the obituary or



other means to establish the accuracy of the report and the call sign.

Why the need to confirm the report? I think it was W. C. Fields who one time said, "The report of my death has been greatly exaggerated." The fact is that none of us wishes to be involved in reporting the death of a friend or acquaintance when they have not died!

In the case of ARRL members, their loved ones are eligible to receive QST and other ARRL periodicals, if they wish, that had been going to the SK.

### Members only choices

This is just a reminder that there are a number of e-publications and forms of messages that are available to ARRL members. Essentially all of these are opt-in or opt-out depending on one's preference. Go to Members Only at [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) to make your selections -- in or out. I certainly hope you continue to opt-in on receiving these messages from me as well as from your Section Manager.

Of particular noteworthiness is the fact that HQ on fairly rare occasion partners with outside companies that provide services of value to amateurs. When this happens, you are likely to receive an e-mail from HQ that promotes the partnership. You can opt-in or opt-out of receiving these messages.

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

### Field Day '08 Planning Underway

FIELD DAY! Or better yet, you will be FED DAILY!

There, now that we have your attention this is a reminder that if YA FIDDLE around, and that's a DEADLY IF, and don't start planning you could miss out on PCARS premier fun event, FIELD DAY.

Don't wait for updates with your DAILY FEDex delivery. Act now! Your PCARS FIELD DAY co-chairs, Bill, WB9LBI, and Ed, N8EQJ, held their first FIELD DAY committee meeting on February 16th and have begun assigning tasks and recruiting operators.



They want to hear from you ASAP so that you can get first dibs on the times/modes

that you will be available to operate. They have high expectations for topping last year's point total so they particularly need CW operators. Don't worry, you won't get stuck on one frequency, either. They promise you they won't DEFY DIALing the VFO on FIELD DAY.

Just like last year, Ed, N8EQJ, will be running the forty meter SSB station under the screened canopy so the ops and loggers don't have to worry about being FLY AIDED. No bugs in that FIELD DAY tent!

This is an event where there is something for everyone who wants to participate. Setup, operations, food service, operators, loggers, you name it. And we need everyone's assistance. If you have been to FIELD DAY before you know how much fun it is. If this will be your first FIELD DAY you will learn that it is not a FAD YIELDing to other activities. It is a tradition that you can be a part of.



So send a note to Bill, [wb9lbi@portcars.org](mailto:wb9lbi@portcars.org), and let him know how you would like to be involved. Remember that we will be holding Antenna Day on May 10th. That's our dry run for FIELD DAY, not just a DAY FILED away. Come on out on the tenth, lend a hand, learn how to log, get some operating hints, and, hey, just have some ham radio fun!

**Jim, KC8PD**

### FCC Denies Morse Code Petitions

In a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MOO) released today, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, that eliminated Morse Code Testing, which became effective Feb. 23, 2007. Further details are available at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/28/100/?nc=1>

**Daryl, N5VLZ**  
From the ARRL

### Dollar Store Magnetic Stickers

As what I consider to be a frugal but enterprising amateur radio operator (ahem... aka a cheap ham) I am always on the lookout for items that are useful at a good

price. In a recent trip to the local dollar store I stumbled upon a product that was both.

It was pink and sealed in a cellophane sealed package and simply said "Create Magnetic Photos with Ease." It's distributed by a company called Greenbrier International, Inc. of Chesapeake, VA 23320. Simply put: It is a 10" x 12" sheet of plastic magnetic material with adhesive on one side. I paid a mere \$1 a sheet.



With my PCARS membership this year I received my bumper sticker and couldn't figure out where I wanted to use it. With my new found magnetic material, my problem was solved.

The instructions asked that you trim your picture (or PCARS STICKER) to the desired shape and cut a piece of magnetic material to the same approximate size. Peel off the magnet's backing and then apply to the back of the cutout. You finish by trimming the magnetic material more precisely.

I would suggest taking the backing material off of both the magnetic material AND your PCARS sticker.

When I created my magnetic PCARS sticker, I also did three other items, and even had room to place one of my business cards. I saved a few of the leftovers and replaced the backing material for future small projects.



I had great luck using another dollar store \$1 item in trimming my stickers with a device made by Fiskars which is used to cut photos and paper. (Pictured below.) It did a fine job on trimming the magnetic material.

I bet hams could come up with all kinds of items they might like to put magnetic backing on. How about your QSL card, a copy of your license or even a frequency chart? These items stick great on file cabinets, refrigerators, tool boxes – or a host of other metal surfaces. Your biggest problem might actually be finding metal on your automobile!

**Russ, KB8DPN**

## 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**

## PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

### 2008 Schedule

**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

## Mark Your Calendars

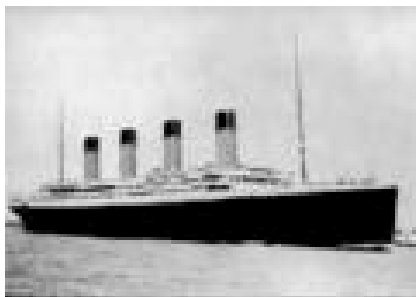
On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- o March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting – **“Bring Your Rig”** night
- o March 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Powerpole Junction Box**, Russ, KB8DPN
- o April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Jim Weaver, K8JE**, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director
- o April 26<sup>th</sup> – **Jim, KC8RKV, Echolink Workshop**
- o May 10<sup>th</sup> – **Antenna Day** – dry run for Field Day
- o May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Ed Miller, K8EHA, NFL Game Day Coordinator for the Cleveland Browns Stadium**
- o June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Jon Barber, EMA Director with the EMA Mobile Command Center, Jim, KC8PD, RACES update**
- o June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> – **Field Day!!!**
- o July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Tim Duffy, The K3LR Contest Station**
- o July activity – **TBS- PCARS Picnic**
- o August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting – **PCARS Club Station Update and Discussion**
- o August activity – **TBS- Two Meter Sprint**
- o September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Bill, WB9LBI, CW Tips and Techniques, Equipment and Software**
- o September 12<sup>th</sup> – date tentative – **Black Squirrel Festival**
- o October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Tom, WB8LCD, Personal Preparedness, Home QTH Safety**
- o October 25<sup>th</sup> – **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)** station
- o November 10<sup>th</sup> – **Jim, KC8PD, NVIS Antennas**
- o November 10<sup>th</sup> – **PCARS Elections**
- o November 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Two Meter Antenna Kits**
- o December 8<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Party**
- o January – **TBS – QRP Kit project**

## WØS - Titanic

WØS - Special Event Station - The 96th Anniversary of the Titanic Disaster

Your club members have been invited to come operate with us in Branson, MO for the 96th Anniversary of the Titanic Disaster. Last year our press release hit 111 news wire services around the world in two days. This is an internationally recognized Special Event Station and here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate.



Icom is our official supplier of radio equipment. Last year we had two Icom 756 Pro III transceivers and

two PW-1 amplifiers. If more HF stations are needed, Icom will supply us as many stations as needed. We have crank up towers with TA-33 beams, as well as, wire dipoles for the lower frequencies. There is room for all, hams and non-hams. We are in full view of the public between the Entrance and Exit outside the Museum. This is to honor the two brave wireless operators Jack Phillips and Harold Bride.

Please visit our website at [www.w0s.org](http://www.w0s.org). for more information and scheduling of operating times. All updates for this event will be on this website, so please visit often for new information. We would appreciate this announcement on your local nets and club website. If any questions, please feel free to contact me at [wa0sap@att.net](mailto:wa0sap@att.net).

**Dave, WAØSAP**

Thank you from the “Titanic Four”:  
Dave “SAP” Beckler, WAØSAP, Al Gallo, WØERE,  
Rich Vogt, KB9YZE, and Rod Kittleman, KØADI

## Alliance ARC Fox Hunt

On Sunday, March 9th, the Alliance ARC is holding the first of what we hope are three fox hunts this year. The fox begins transmitting at 2 PM. The starting point will be the north parking lot of Glamorgan Castle, which is in the center of Alliance, on State Rte, 183. Talk in on hunt day will be on the 145.370 repeater

Also known as Radio Direction finding, T-hunting, Orienteering, or bunny hunting Fox hunting is a fun event which also has public service applications. A hidden transmitter goes on the air at the specified time, using a fixed schedule of on, and off keying. The hunters then home in on the signal, using directional antennas, attenuators, and gray matter to find the transmitter.



There are plenty of ways to declare the winner of any hunt, but we prefer to use a combination of time & distance traveled to determine the winner.



A couple days before the hunt, there will a program on fox hunting tips & techniques,

immediately following our March 5th club meeting. All are welcome to attend. The meeting will be at 7:30 PM, in the 2nd floor conference room at the Alliance Community Hospital.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to e-mail, or call me.

**John, KD8MQ**

VP, Alliance ARC

Editor, Zero Beat

e-mail: [tvguy07@gmail.com](mailto:tvguy07@gmail.com)

cell: (330) 936-5021

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Ten PCARS members are having a birthday this month!

W8KNO	Joe	Wehner
K8SRR	Steve	Randlett
KD8FLU	Linda	Godfrey
N5VLZ	Daryl	Stout
KD8EOZ	Joe	Stribrny
K8QF	Russ	Conklin
AB8YN	Ray	Czech
KD8FDK	Rich	Taushanoff
WB8LCD	Tom	Sly
KD8CGF	Art	Dembinski

## PCARS Patches & Stickers

PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat,



your shirt, your jacket!!



The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting.

There are 2 types of stickers available.



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

## Swap-N-Shop

**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](mailto: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: Heathkit HW-101** 2 meter crystal controlled.

**FOR SALE: Heathkit SB-630** Combo SWR meter and phone patch. Both of these are collector type items. Prices negotiable.

**WANTED:** Would like to buy a good used 2-meter HT - cheap - I dropped mine and broke it.

**HELP:** If anyone knows how to work on a ICOM T7H Sport HT, would like to hear from them. Contact: Carl - [N4TIE@portcars.org](mailto:N4TIE@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](mailto: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](mailto:N8QE@portcars.org)**

## NutRunner-1

Here it is! The PCARS NutRunner-1, a twelve volt power distribution block using Anderson Powerpole connectors, the standard connector for ham radio operations.

Parts need to be ordered and there will be a maximum of twenty-five (25) kits available at a cost of \$15.00 apiece. We expect that these will sell quickly. So if you want to get one, I need to hear from you soon. Let me know how many kits you want.



The kit construction day is March 22nd (location to be announced) and that day we will also have 30 amp Powerpole connectors available for purchase at \$1.00 per pair. This is a great chance to get both the kit and all the connectors that you need for your gear.

Don't wait! Get those orders in promptly. See you on March 22nd for another great PCARS activity.

**Jim, KC8PD**

## 200 Megabyte Morse Code Course

"Here, take this CD," said the woman at the Mansfield hamfest. I hadn't asked her for anything; I was just walking by. She was presiding over a table of club information, ARRL information, and (I swear I am not making this up) mammography brochures. "This CD" turned out to be the K7QO Morse Code Course. Is there something in my face that tells strangers I'm a CW guy? Freaky...

Anyway, I took it home and gave it a spin. Chuck K7QO has put together a program that includes 20 hours of MP3 files, that will take you from zero to 30 words per minute if you stick with it. There are over 500 audio files in all.

Chuck's method starts out with an audio file with the Letter A and nothing else. The second file is Letter B, and the third is a combination of the two. He then introduces Letters C and D in their own files, followed by an exercise of Letters A-C. The course continues in this pattern for the entire alphabet.

Next come common two-letter words, followed by three, then four-letter words. It isn't long before you are copying entire QSO's. Starting around Lesson 91, the course switches over to text files where you start to work on building up speed.



The companion 17-page manual, in PDF format, recommends that you obtain a spiral notebook, a gel pen, and write down the entire course in (I swear I am not making this up) cursive handwriting! The author maintains that this is the only way you can write fast enough above 20 WPM. He also claims this will improve your penmanship, which you desperately need. The whole course weighs in at over 200 Mb of files, which explains why I can't locate a download site for this course. Nobody wants to shell out the money required for that kind of internet bandwidth. The FISTS CW organization ([www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org)) will send you a CD if make a donation. If you'd like to try the course, the documentation and first 100 audio files are downloadable from [www.k17kc.com/codecourse.htm](http://www.k17kc.com/codecourse.htm). If you like it, I'll burn a copy of my CD for you.

My impression is that even if you already know Morse Code, the practice files make an excellent tool to hone your code speed. Take the practice text files starting at the speed at which you're comfortable, load them on to your office PC or MP3 player, and practice anytime you get a few minutes. Contesters, take note.

K7QO seems to be a man of many talents. The code course manual includes the following statement: "I find that CW operation and especially contest operation helps me to concentrate for longer periods of time. I play poker tournaments where I may have to sit and concentrate or several hours at a time before a break comes along. Look for me on ESPN starting in July 2007 in one of the shows."

I swear I'm not making that up, either.

**Bill, WB9LBI**

## ISS

For a little "vertical DXing", try the ISS cross-band FM repeater. The system is back up and functioning as of a few days ago. The uplink is on 437.800 MHz and the downlink at 145.800 MHz. It is quite strong and can be heard well on a simple setup. <http://www.amsat.org>



**AMSAT Weekly Bulletin**

## Hamfest Calendar

**16 Mar 2008 - Toledo** - Hamfest and Computer Fair - Toledo Mobile Radio Association - Lucas County Recreation Center - 2901 Key St. - Maumee, OH <http://www.tmrahamradio.org> - Talk-In: 146.27+ (will be in net mode - no tone needed) - Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR - 4463 Holly Hill Dr. - Toledo, OH 43614 - Phone: 419-385-5624 - Email: [bharrington@meduohio.edu](mailto:bharrington@meduohio.edu)

**20 Apr 2008 - CFARC** - 54th Annual Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 East Bath Rd. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - [www.cfarc.org/hamfest2008.htm](http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2008.htm) - Talk-In: 147.27 - Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Ave. - Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 330-688-2013 - Email: [hamfest2008@cfarc.org](mailto:hamfest2008@cfarc.org)

**16-18 May 2008 - Dayton Hamvention** - Hara Arena - Dayton, OH - Dayton Amateur Radio Association - Contact: PO Box 964 - Dayton, OH 45401 - Phone: 937-276-6930 <http://www.hamvention.org>

## PCARS Yahoo Site

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



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## Ham Opportunity

Do you have an Amateur Radio License and excellent verbal and written communication skills? Are you able to correctly explain difficult technical concepts to your friends? Do you enjoy helping others solve problems?

Are you detail oriented? Do you feel satisfaction with a job well done?



DX Engineering has a phone Sales Rep opening for a person who will be responsible for answering customer communications, and recommending DX Engineering products to improve the performance of their ham stations. This person will handle both email and telephone correspondence. Would you like to convert your avocation to your vocation? Call or write DX Engineering today. This position is located at the corporate offices in Tallmadge, Ohio. Relocation reimbursement is not available. Contract/work from home cannot be considered. Please send resumes to: [thesketh@dxengineering.com](mailto:thesketh@dxengineering.com) or mail to: Tim Hesketh - PO Box 1491 - Akron, OH 44309. Fax: 330-572-3270.

*Alex - K8EUR*

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## Buss Trip to Dayton Hamvention

The Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, INC. is putting together a charter bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention Saturday May 17, 2008 5:30 AM

Are the gas pumps keeping you from the Hamvention? Is the thought of driving down to Dayton and then parking your car in some shopping center to be then bused to the Hamvention keeping from going? Why not take our bus to the Dayton Hamvention where you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.

You can save \$10 if you book before April 22nd. The cost of the Bus & Entrance ticket to the Hamvention: \$60 before April 22, 2008. The cost of the Bus Only to

the Hamvention: \$45 after April 22, 2008. (You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25)

We will take riders right up to departure that morning if there are seats available. Departure time is 5:30 AM Sharp so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!

Parking will be on the south side of the church park in the first row close to Manchester Road. There will be a stop for breakfast at McDonald's and a dinner stop at the Hometown Buffet all of which will be on own.

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company. This bus is a smoke free bus so there will be no smoking permitted.

*Joy, KA8TDF*

To Order, contact: Joy Spencer KA8TDF - 2101 Bigelow St. - Akron, OH 44314 - Or call 330-745-5115 - E-mail: [w8ctt@arrl.net](mailto:w8ctt@arrl.net)

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## PCARS Thursday Net Control

At the time of this writing we've only had two nets so far in February, so for now, I'll just update you as to the January nets. All net totals include the net control station.

On January 3rd, we had 28 check-ins including an echolink check in from KT1NG in Brooklyn, CT. and N5VLZ in Little Rock, AR. On January 10th, we had 32 check-ins (a new record high!) with N4TIE from North Carolina via echolink, and N3NTG from Fredonia, PA making a direct hit on the repeater! On January 17th we had 23 check-ins, including KT1NG from CT and N4TIE from NC, both via echolink. On January 24th we had 26 check-ins, including N5VLZ in AR and N4TIE in NC, both via echolink. On January 31st, we had 29 check-ins, including KE5QGX, Josh from Paris, TX, N4TIE from NC and N5VLZ from AR.

All total we had 138 Check-ins, including echolink from Connecticut, Arkansas, North Carolina and Texas, and a direct check in from Pennsylvania. WOW! Nets typically last between 45 minutes and an hour.

Congratulations to Russ, K8QF, for the record net total! Not that this is a competition, but if you want a chance at the next big total, you've got to get on the net control list! We're already booked through March, and I'll be making up the list for the next three months by March 15th, so let me know if you want to be a net

control station! No pressure, its a lot of fun, and it certainly helps you to get to know the names and the calls and how they go together. Drop me an email and I'll make sure you get added to the list.

**Net Control Schedule**

March '08		April '08	
6	KCSPD	3	
13	KB8UUZ	10	
20	KD8EOZ	17	
27	KB8DPN	24	

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

**PCARS Meeting**

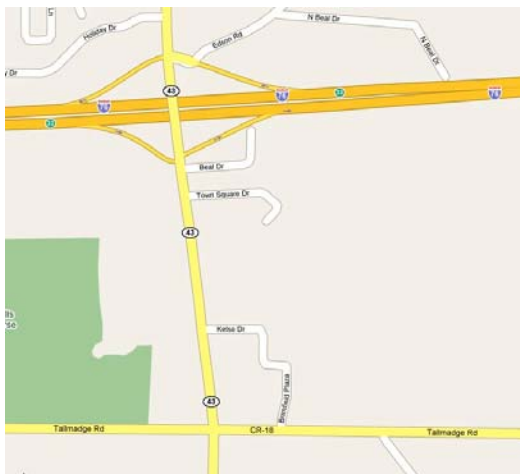
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month at:

**Sideliners**

*(formerly known as 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!!!!**



**Need Batteries? Help PCARS**

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

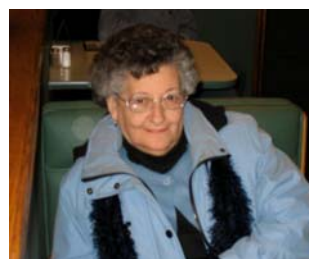
There are over 10,000 different batteries on the website, and they're shipped to your doorstep in just a few days. You already buy these for your remotes, cell phones, lap tops, digital cameras, etc. Just enter our coupon code when checking out & PCARS gets helped.



**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

1. Visit [www.interstatebatteries.com](http://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!

**Pictures from the February Meeting**





## Thanks & 73

This is the third 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, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI, N5VLZ, K8JE, KB8DPN, WA0SAP, KD8MQ, KA8TDF, K8EUR, AMSAT, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web.**

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

**Tom - KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor

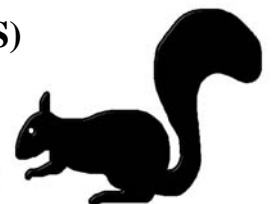






# The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Sideliners  
in the Brimfield Plaza, Brimfield, OH - Off Route 43 Just South of Interstate 76  
All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!



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

PCARS Uses 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 K8QF	Jim Aylward Tom Parkinson Russ Anderson, Sr. Carl Capps Tom Sly Deron Boring Jim Korenz Bob Hajdak Chuck Patellis Ed Polack Russ Conklin
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

PCARS Mentors – Need some help or advice? Contact by email at <callsign> @portcars.org

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



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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

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NLC