



The

# RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



May 2008 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 3 No. 5

~ 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

Finally! Nice Weather! I've heard about lots of antenna projects in the works, don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. PCARS has lots of friendly hams who are also knowledgeable and would be happy to help you out. As it's going up, be sure to take some pictures and send them to Tom - KB8UUZ, along with a description of your project and how its working out on the bands.

Dayton is getting closer! Thanks to Russ, KB8DPN, for the countdown clock on the PCARS website.

Let's meet again at the ARRL

booth on Saturday at 1:00 PM. We'll take a group picture, so make sure you get there - and don't be late! It'll also be a good chance to share notes on everything going on and where all the good deals are. As usual, we'll use 147.52 MHz as the PCARS calling frequency. Make a special effort to monitor on even-numbered hours, on the hour.

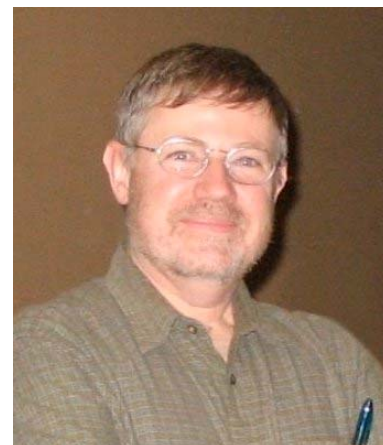


Mark Erbaugh, N8ME, is in charge of the VE testing sessions at Dayton this year. If you are a member of the PCARS VE team, bring your credentials with you to Dayton and show up for the testing session. I know Mark would appreciate having a few extra VE's on hand as you never know what kind of a turnout you're going to get, especially at a venue like Dayton. Lets do what we can to create a little PCARS goodwill!

Don't forget, the PCARS club meeting is the Monday just before Dayton weekend. This might be a good month to bring a friend, with the tie-in to NFL football, it just might be

interesting to a broader audience. That's 7:00 PM at Sideliner's in the Brimfield Plaza.

Special KUDO's to Chuck - K8CMP, Jim - KC8PD, Russ - KB8DPN and Tom - KB8UUZ for all the work done (in very short order) to get the Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) program up and running. Not only did they do a nice job putting it together, but the word is getting out and lots of positive feedback has been returned to us. Make sure to mark it on your calendar and get out there on September 6<sup>th</sup>. By the powers vested in me by PCARS, I declare it will be a beautiful early fall day, and everyone who participates is going to have a really good time and make some outstanding QSO's! So don't sit this one out.



If you want a little practice operating in the field, prior to OSPOTA, you're in luck as Field Day is fast approaching (June 28-29). Ed - N8EQJ and Bill - WB9LBI thank you for your support! Be there! PCARS has always had a Field Day experience that has been fun, but this year Ed and Bill promise we're going to kick it up a couple of notches and be more competitive than ever!

I'm excited! It's a great time to be a ham, and I'm glad I'm a member of PCARS!

73

Tom, WB8LCD



## *In This Issue of the RADIOGRAM*

April Meeting Highlites	9
Armed Forces Day Crossband Test	13
ARRL Legislative Action Program	10
Build Something!	16
Build the \$50 Transceiver Kit!	14
Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites	3
Contest Calendar	5
CQ WPX Contest	16
EmComm	6
EmComm - 1918	7
eQSL - The Final Courtesy	15
Ham License Plates Wanted	12
Ham Opportunity	17
Hamfests	17
Hamvention 2008 - Go There!	6
Happy Birthday PCARS Members	16
Mark Your Calendars	12
May PCARS Meeting Preview	18
Monthly Field Day Harangue	9
Need a Generator?	7
Net (Thursday) Information & Schedule	17
Ohio State Parks On The Air	5
Paper Chase	3
Patches & Stickers	14
PCARS Meetings	18
Pictures from the April PCARS Meeting	19
President, From the	1
Radio Room - KD8FDK	12
Stolen Equipment	5
Swap-N-Shop	16
Thanks & 73	19
Toledo Hamfest Report	7
VE Test Sessions & Information	12
Vice President, From the	2
W8H Special Event Station	8
Yahoo Site	17



## *From the Vice President*

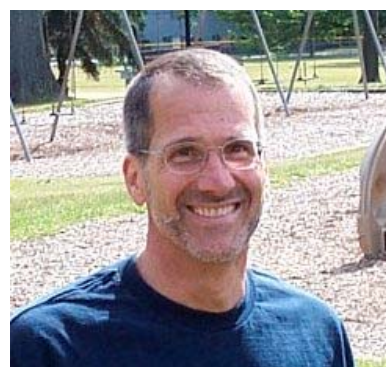
How about that April meeting? Over fifty hams signed in, plus we had additional guests. This was a record breaking meeting both in total attendance and in the addition of our 100th member. So not only is the club continuing to grow and thrive but over half the current members showed up for a meeting!

Congratulations and thanks to all of PCARS members for making the club the success that it has become.

Big news at the meeting, too, with the announcement of the PCARS sponsored Ohio State Parks On The Air contest to be held on September 6th. There is a full story in this newsletter and you will be hearing more about it over the summer. Please start making plans for to participate so that we can make this a fun-filled and interesting contest.

And speaking of September, plans remain uncertain for the Black Squirrel Festival special event station. Kent State has not yet scheduled the date for the event, though it is usually the second Friday in September. This year that would be the twelfth, the week after OSPOTA.

After last year's experience trying to run the station at Rismen Plaza (great visibility, horrible operating conditions), we concluded that if we did it again in 2008 it would have to be in a different location. Before we



start making plans I would like to hear from any and all members who may be interested in participating. We will be keeping our options open in the meantime.

May will be a busy month with Antenna Day scheduled for May 10th at Ravenna City Park. This is our dry run for Field Day so come on out and lend a hand. The following week is the Dayton Hamvention and you can bet that PCARS will be well represented there.

The current plan for our next construction project, scheduled for November 22nd, is to build two meter antennas. These can include J-poles, both twin-lead and copper pipe, as well as inexpensive beams. We need some project leaders so if you have an interest in helping out please let me know.

The General Class upgrade course has concluded and the VE session for the class members (plus walk-ins if any) will be on Wednesday, April 30th at the Center of Hope. We had a total of thirteen students and they received an interesting variety of presentations from Rick, K8CAV, Bob, N8QE, Deron, N8XTH, Bill, WB9LBI, Tom, WB8LCD, and Jim, KC8PD.

Studying for the General upgrade is no small challenge and we wish all of our students the best when they take their exam.

The Spring Technician Course will finish on April 29th giving the instructors a much needed breather. If you know anyone thinking about taking the class next year we will only be holding sessions in the Fall and Spring. For any Techs thinking about upgrading, watch the RADIOGRAM for more information because we may be offering the General upgrade class again in early 2009.

Our VE team began operating in the Fall of 2006. Since then we have held fourteen (14) VE sessions and administered 103 exams. Thanks to all of the other VE team members, Tom, WB8LCD, Parky, KB8UUZ, Deron, N8XTH, Chuck, K8CMP, Jim, N8PXW, Carl, N4IT, Russ, KB8DPN, Ed, N8EQJ, Russ, K8QF, and Rick, N8OIL, for their efforts in staffing the VE team.

Let me know if you are interested in becoming a VE, we can always use additional volunteers. This has to be one of the most rewarding activities for members of our hobby to participate in.

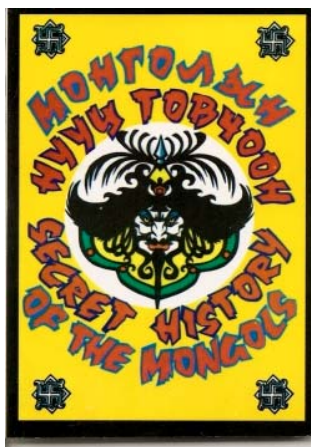
Remember that we have a VE session coming up on Saturday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the Center of Hope, located at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. There will also be a VE session on the last night of the General Class upgrade course at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30th, also at the Center of Hope. And if someone wants to take an exam in May, we will also have a VE session on the last evening of the Technician Class course at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6th, at the Maplewood Career Opportunity Center on St. Rt. 88 in Ravenna.

**Jim, KC8PD**

## Paper Chase

Here is an award that is just fun to be eligible for: The **Chinghis Khan Award**.

This award is dedicated to the 750th anniversary of the ancient masterpiece "*The Secret History of Mongols*". Submit proof of contact with one Mongolian station and with 12 other stations from different DXCC countries, any letter of their suffix being used to spell the words: CHINGHIS KHAN. (JA7CAQ = C, WB3DFH = H, DL5EIs = I, etc.) The award is sponsored by the Mongolian Radio Sport Fed.



General Requirements: Fee for all awards is \$5 or 15 IRCs. Send money by Registered Mail. Contacts must have been since 1 Jan 1958. All bands and modes. SWL OK. Apply to: MRSF Awards Manager, PO Box 639, Ulanbaatar-13, Mongolia, Asia.

**Joe, W8KNO**

## Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Spring has sprung and the grass has rizz, wonder where the DX is? Well, if you're wondering, then you haven't been on the HF bands. April had a week with 223 separate countries active. In fact, not a week in April went by that had less than 200 DX entities active.

Don't ask if I have worked any. I am still off the air and will be for some time. But it's for a good cause. I will be moving my tower and putting up a new HF yagi. The present antennas are now more than half way down the tower on their hazer and I will be very busy doing all the prep work necessary before the new antenna shows up. But my silence on the air doesn't mean that I won't be checking the DX clusters to see what I am missing. It also means that I won't stop encouraging all of you to get on the bands and work some DX!



Let's see what we have coming up in May and some more distant dates. And 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).

## DX

**5X, UGANDA** - PA5M, is now in Uganda and is currently active as 5X1DX until an unknown specific length of time.



His activity will be limited due to his work (mostly his evenings and weekends). Mike, who works for the United Nations World Food Program (UNWFP), was heard this past week on 30/20 meters CW between 1600-1700z. QSL via PA7FM.

**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)

**8P, BARBADOS** - G0TSM, will be active as 8P9TS from May 21st to June 1st. Activity will be limited because he is on holiday, but look for him to be on CW, the HF bands and 6 meters. He will also be in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (May 24-25th) as a Single-Op entry using the callsign 8P2T. QSL via G0TSM.

**9N, NEPAL** - JA8MWU, will be staying in Katmandu between April 27th and May 5th for his vacation. He hopes to operate during his free time using the callsign 9N7WU on SSB. Look for him on 14180, 18120, 21280 and 28480 kHz. QSL via his home callsign.

**A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** - After almost five years in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Philippe, 9Q1TB (F5LTB), will be leaving the region in the coming months and will be stationed in U.A.E. Philippe is a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) worker. He hopes to obtain from authorities a callsign in a reasonable time, and as a first step, be authorized to use A6/F5LTB. SM7DJZ is his QSL Manager.

**H44, SOLOMON ISLANDS** - H44MD, continues to be active on 20 meters SSB usually around 14190-14200 kHz between 0700-1230z. He is only using 100 watts and a dipole but is being worked by NA and OC stations. PLEASE NOTE: His address listed on QRZ.com is incorrect. The correct address is: P.O. Box 490, Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS.

**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.

**HP, PANAMA** - W4JKC, will be active as HP4/W4JKC from Colon Island (NA-088) between May 5-10th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, CW and SSB. QSL via W4JKC, by the Bureau or direct.

**SV5, DODECANESE** (EU-001)\_ OZ6B (5P1DX), will be active as SV5/OZ6B from Ialysos between May 31st and June 7th. Activity will be only 20 meters SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

**T32, EAST KIRIBATI** - JA1XGI/W8XGI, will be active as T32XG from May 27th to June 3rd. Activity will be on 40/30/20/17/15 meters, mainly on CW, but some SSB and Digital mode. QSL via JA1XGI, direct or by the Bureau.

**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, by the Bureau or direct (w/SASE & 1 USD/1 IRC).

**ZL7, CHATHAM ISLAND** - ZK2CZ, is planning to be active as ZL7M from May 10-11th. Activity will be SSB only. QSL via VK2CZ direct.

## IOTA NEWS

**AS-117 - No Island** (JIJA AS-117-106) Look for JA4ZKI/4 and JE6QIG/4 to be active from JA4 Yamaguchi Pref, from May 10-11th. QSL via their home callsign. You can go direct or by the bureau.

**EU-012 - Isle of Yell** (IOSA SH-03, SCOTIA SI-20), - G3USR, will be active as GM3USR/p from the Shetland and Fair Isles, June 4-8th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters SSB only with 100 watts. QSL via G3USR, direct preferred but by the bureau is "OK".

**EU-037 - Oland Island** (WLOTA LH-0588), - SM7DAY and SM7NGH will be active as SM7DAY/p from May 5-12th. Activity will be on most HF bands, CW and SSB. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or by the bureau.

**EU-127 - Neuwerk Island** Five German Amateurs will be active as DA0T/p between July 25th and 27th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters, including 30/17/12m, using CW and SSB with 100 watts and two stations, verticals and dipoles. Operations will include the RSGB IOTA Contest. QSL via the DARC Bureau.

**NA-088 - Colon Island** (Bocas Del Toro Province), Panama, W4JKC, will be active as HP4/W4JKC from May 5-10th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

## LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Members of the Group Mistongo DX Tandil (GMDXT) Radio Club (LU2EE) will activate the lighthouse of Punta Piedras (ARG-058) between May 1-4th. Activity will be on 80/40 meters SSB. Grid Loc. GF14. This lighthouse was inaugurated

in 1917; it is 31 meters in height. QSL via Radio Tandil Club, C. C. 184, 7000 Tandil, BA, Argentina.

Special event station W3S will be operating from the grounds of the Piney Point Lighthouse (ARLHS USA-601), St. Mary's County, MD, during their annual Waterfront Festival Saturday, May 10th, from 1300-2000z. Activity will be on 80/40/20/17 meters. They hope to have 3 active stations on SSB, CW and BPSK-31. A photo QSL is available, and a certificate upon request. QSL with S.A.S.E. via KA3UNQ.

Well there you go. We even have a station from Iraq to shoot for. No pun intended. Don't forget to let me know what DX you are working. I know that some of you are working DX so let's not be shy. 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**

## Ohio State Parks On The Air

PCARS proudly announces the first Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest (OSPOTA) which will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2008, from the hours of noon to eight p.m. EDT (1600Z to 2400Z). Our members know that the number one goal of PCARS has been to create opportunities for amateur radio fun and this contest is our way of sharing that fun on a wider scale.



For hams throughout the State of Ohio this contest presents an opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the seventy-three beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. You can spend the day or even spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts you will find that the parks are one of Ohio's greatest assets. Find out more about the parks and all that they have to offer at:

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/default/tabid/80/Default.aspx>.

This contest places a premium on working stations at the State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. So all you PCARS members need to get out there and participate at any one of the dozen or so State Parks in our immediate area. Even better, how about a road trip and a ferry ride to one of the Lake Erie islands?

The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. Contacts can be made with any mode on the HF and VHF bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters and all contacts have the same point value. This is a great chance to try something new, like an NVIS antenna or two meter SSB.

Individuals and clubs can operate high or low power park stations and there is a special award for the club that activates the greatest number of parks! PCARS is not eligible for that special award since it is the sponsor of the contest. Non-park stations in Ohio as well as outside of Ohio can also compete with each other.



So get to an Ohio State Park and get On The Air in September. Have some fun with this contest!

You can get complete information, including rules, forms and FAQ's, at <http://parks.portcars.org>, or contact the OSPOTA contest chairman, Chuck, K8CMP, at:

[OSPOTA@portcars.org](mailto:OSPOTA@portcars.org). Check back at the web site for future announcements about additional prizes and information updates.

## May Contest Calendar

May 2008	
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 3 to 0400Z, May 4
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 2400Z, May 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 6
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 10
MARAC SSB QSO Party	0000Z, May 17 to 2400Z, May 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 19
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24 to 2400Z, May 25
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 25 to 0300Z, May 26

## Stolen Equipment

We regret to report that some of the equipment that was loaned for the Yaesu sponsored 3B7C DXpedition was stolen when the container returned to the UK.

It would be appreciated if you could please look-out for any of the following being offered for sale or trade-in, and if seen then please contact the police quoting the following Incident Number.

Crime Incident number : 44070539181

FT-2000 100W Serial number: 7D170271  
FT-2000 100W Serial number: 7D170459  
FT-847 100W HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver: 3C131053  
FT-847 100W HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver: 3C131054  
VP-1000 Quadra Power Supply unit: 7F920017

**Yaesu UK** is offering a **reward** for information leading to the conviction of the criminals responsible.

## Hamvention 2008 - GO THERE

April Showers Bring May Flowers, May Flowers Bring HAMVENTION!!!! Yes indeed, it is THAT time



of year again when Amateur Radio Operators from ALL over the world make the trek to Southwestern Ohio - That Mecca of Ham Radio we refer to as Hamvention.

Ahh, yes, the sites, the sounds, the smells - there's nothing in the world like it. So much RF in one small spot. Where else can you go and see 20,000 to 30,000 other people that share the same interests and hobby as you do?

There are hams out there that have NEVER been to Hamvention (oh, the horror, the horror). They can only dream of going there. We live just a few hours away, and even with the gas prices what they are, it is still very much worth the expense to go to the once a year festivities. Even if you don't buy a single item, it's still worth seeing all the new goodies at the dealers and seeing all the old goodies in the flea market.

This will be my 13th Hamvention, and I'm looking forward to it just as much as I did the first one I went to.

The ARRL has been setting up the "ARRL Expo" just off the main arena area. You'll find all kinds of interesting things in there, and hey, you may even be

able to meet and greet some of the ARRL officials while your there!

So make your plans, even if you only get there for one day then home (I've done that). Please go and see all that you can see - you will be very happy that you did go. I'll be looking for you at the Dayton Hamvention!!!

**Tom, KB8UUZ**

## EmComm

Emergency communication services can often be divided into two types: short haul and long haul. The former may be used to supplement or replace local communications when they have been disrupted or overwhelmed. The latter is typically used to move traffic into and out of an affected area when local, usually VHF, emcomm services are either insufficient or inappropriate for the traffic or mode being used.

At times, the distinction between short and long haul can get somewhat fuzzy. Is short haul only one to twenty miles, or maybe anything within a particular state? Does long haul necessarily mean 250-1000 miles? Just what are we talking about when a relatively wide-area net needs to be used, say one covering the Ohio Section? Is it short or long haul? Does it make a difference? Do you really care?



Statewide communications over an area the size of Ohio are too often not given much consideration by the average ham. We tend to focus on our day in and day out radio use which may be VHF/UHF simplex or repeater contacts, or at the opposite extreme chasing DX on HF.

Unless you participate in an HF traffic net, MARS activities, or some 40/80 meter social nets you may not have given much thought to what is really a medium range for HF communications: 50-300 or so miles.

Now's your chance to take a crack at this type of HF activity, as well as, perhaps, some six or two meter SSB: the Ohio State Parks On The Air contest this September. There is a full announcement of the event elsewhere in the newsletter. But for hams that have an interest in emergency communications this is an excellent chance to try out a field exercise, in a contest format, that will enhance your skills at making these medium range contacts.





Here is a link for a great site to start learning about Near Vertical Incidence Skywave antennas, <http://athensarc.org/nvis.asp>. If you would like more information or help getting ready for this contest, contact: Jim, [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org) or Chuck, [k8cmp@portcars.org](mailto:k8cmp@portcars.org).

We'll be looking for you on the air on September 6th.

**Jim, KC8PD**

## Need a Generator ??

**S & K Sales**

7099 State Route 303 - Freedom Twp.  
330-527-3170 [www.sk-sales.net](http://www.sk-sales.net)



### Special Pricing for PCARS Members

#### RedHawk Equipment:

TG1200	Retail: \$120	PCARS Price: \$100
GG1200DC	Retail: \$170	PCARS Price: \$160
TG3000A	Retail: \$250	PCARS Price: \$230
JD3500	Retail: \$380	PCARS Price: \$350
JD6500E (Inc. Battery)	Retail: \$750	PCARS Price: \$700

Please visit [www.redhawk-usa.com](http://www.redhawk-usa.com) for detailed product information. \*\*Prices effective 4/15/2008 through 11/30/2008

[Special Thanks to Al, KB8VJL for obtaining this discount for PCARS members]

## EmComm - 1918

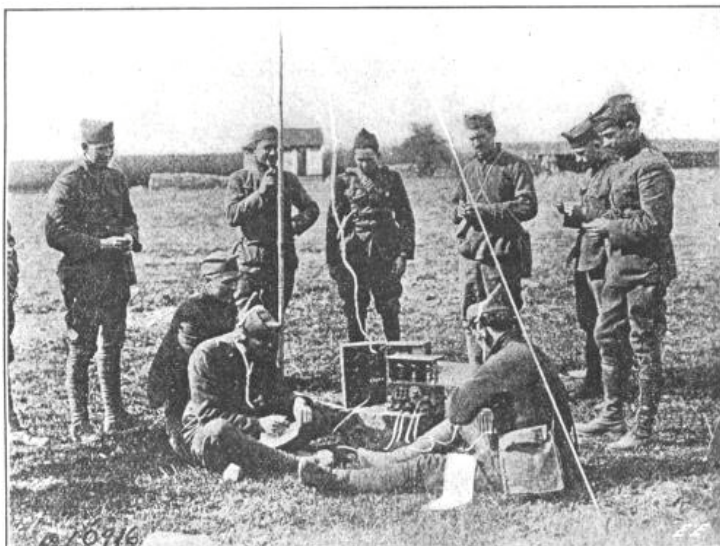
### U.S. Signal Corps Radio Outfit in France

The Radio Division of the U. S. Signal Corps has been wonderfully enlarged since our entrance into the great world war, and thousands of portable wireless outfits are being assembled and shipped to Europe at this time. The accompanying photograph shows one of the Signal Corps Radio Squads on duty in France. A collapsible telescopic mast is usually supplied with this apparatus so that the antenna can be raised or taken down at a moment's notice.

When the troops are entrenched in dugouts, then the radio men install their apparatus in a well protected underground cavern and lead their antenna wires from the apparatus up through dark passageways and out to the aerial itself. In trench warfare the antenna is a low affair not extending over three to four feet above the trenches. The antenna under these conditions is given a fairly good length to make up for the low altitude.

When the army makes a rapid advance, then the radio

crews move forward with the troops and carry their wireless apparatus and aerial paraphernalia on mules or horses, or still more often nowadays, on auto trucks, some of which are assigned to the radio divisions for the purpose. There are also a large number of portable wireless outfits mounted in auto trucks which can travel over the field very rapidly, and which can be put into operation in less than a minute's time. These wireless trucks carry a telescopic aerial mast made of steel tubing, and are provided with special means for quickly raising and lowering the mast.



One of Pershing's Signal Corps Squads Operating a Portable Radio Outfit in France.

**Electrical Experimenter, September, 1918, page 316**

## Toledo Hamfest Report

Another great hamfest for 2008. This year Parkman Chuck-K8CMP made his first visit to the hamfest. I drove him, Radio Bob-N8KBX and Sparky-KB8UUZ this year to Toledo. I finally wrote down the model number of my Weller soldering iron so I could get some replacement parts from the soldering equipment vendor this year and sure enough he was there so I got what I needed. I failed to pick up some high current power connectors while there. I have a project planned and was looking them over but didn't buy them. I think I made a mistake when I passed them up



**K8CMP and KB8VJL**

that day! I did see three different tables with bags of a dozen or so of Power Pole connectors for sale and at a good price... but I have them already. I did get a couple other small items while there. That is a nice Hamfest to

go to.... very light traffic on the turnpike... driving was breeze that morning.

Repeater Ed-N8EQJ showed up there and we invited him to go with us for lunch afterwards. Once we all roamed around there and looked at everything we want to see we headed off to Tony Packo's for grub.

As we were walking out Radio Bob crossed paths with AES Matt-KB1LCS and we invited him to tag along with us to Tony Packo's on Front Street! Off we go and I am sure the navigator (Sparky) in the right front seat told me to turn right. Right I turned left after leaving the hamfest parking lot. About 5 minutes later we discovered the three of us were driving in three different directions! It only took a few miles and a couple stops to get everyone back together and on the right bearings to Packo's!!!!

I wanted to go south and along the river.. but we were already going north so we just skipped the river side drive this year. HOLD DA PHONE- HOLD DA PHONE ...While driving across town I looked in the



outside mirror and saw a hub cap rolling across the roadway to the side! It appeared it was off AES Matt's car!!! AND back behind us was a cop car. ( normally at work we say.. 'here come da cops- here come da cops')... well the cop was parked at the end of the road and from where I was at... it appeared the hub

cap was rolling to near were the cop was parked! I handed my HT ( that was our link to AES Matt and Repeater Ed during our convoy to Packo's) to Radio Bob to relay traffic to AES Matt from me while I was driving. My message to AES Matt was that the cop took his hub cap since he was driving Ford also.. I am sure of it... and recommend he go back and tell the cop he wants his stinking hub cap back!!!!

AES Mat gave up looking for his hub cap and caught up with us up ahead. We arrived at Packo's and there waiting for us was my nephew Jessie who is living in Toledo going through law school. So now we have 7 in our party for the yearly lunch at Tony Packo's on Front Street.

Sparky and I have been there before many times but it was a first for the other guys. We had a great time there... as usual! On the turnpike Repeater Ed and AES Matt took off for their homes. Parkman Chuck was the official Hawk spotter. He spotted Zillions of them



everywhere along the Turnpike resting on fence posts... waiting for critters' to get run over so they would have easy pickings!

Those of you who do go to the Toledo hamfest next year... stop in at Tony Packos on Front street about 11:30/12:00 and join us! AI- KB8VJL from northern Mantua Township

*AI, KB8VJL*

## *W8H Special Event Station*

On the air May 3-11, 2008 - HF/SSB/CW and AM (operators preference). Frequencies: 14.275, 7.275, 3.975, 1.875 MHz.

**W8H**



Special Event station W8H celebrating Hamilton Ohio's first amateur and broadcast radio station. Using the original transmitter building and one of the early towers. Circa 1915: Doron Brothers amateur callsign was 8ZU, and broadcast call letters WRK. Shuler and Joseph made keys, couplers, various parts under Marconi patents, and radio sets in a local factory.



Thank you for either operating, working, or supporting this historic event. QSL to W8KJ or W8H - 7035 Morris Rd. - Hamilton, OH 45011 with a SASE, for a certificate.

Please visit: <http://w8h-wrk.blogspot.com>

**Joe, W8GEX**

## Monthly Field Day Harangue

How many ways can you have fun on Field Day? Let us count the ways...

- Sign up as an operator. We have SEVEN different stations you can help out on, and we want to keep as many of them going around the clock as we can.
- Do you know CW? We have a station just for you.

- Sign up as a logger. This is the person who sits at the computer and keys in the contacts into our logging software. If you are comfortable with a keyboard, or just wanting to stick your toe into the Field Day waters, this is for you.



- Are you shy? Maybe you'd be more comfortable banging out QSO's on the PSK31 digital station.
- If you're a people person, we can put you to work greeting visitors and showing them around the site.
- Nightowl? Good—this is a 24 hour contest and we need you late at night.
- Not a PCARS member? Not a problem. We need all the help and encouragement we can get.
- Not a ham? We don't care! You can work the contest anyway! Come out and have fun in the biggest amateur contest in North America.
- Got a son, daughter, spouse, or secret girlfriend? Bring them along and work on the air together.
- Not available on the weekend of June 28<sup>th</sup>? Join us for Antenna Day, the dry run where we set everything up and make sure that it works, May 10 at the Ravenna City Park on Oakwood Street (same place Field Day will be held).

- Invite your friends and neighbors to come out and visit. Or, just come hang out yourself.
- Fabulous dinner, prepared by Errol KC8RJR and his grizzled assistant Igor WB8LCD. And other tasty treats around the clock. Nobody goes away from Field Day hungry!

But what we need from you right now is commitment. Please put Field Day 2008 on your calendar for the weekend of June 28-29. Then, contact me by phone or [wb9lbi@portcars.org](mailto:wb9lbi@portcars.org) and let me know what you'd like to do. You must RSVP for the dinner. CW operators – I especially need to here from you!



**Bill, WB9LBI**

## April Meeting Highlites

At our April meeting, PCARS gained two significant new members. Doug Donley, KG8NX, became PCARS 100th member. Welcome aboard, Doug, and congratulations on setting that milestone!



**WB8LCD and K8JE**

Jim became member #98 when PCARS President Tom Sly, WB8LCD, presented him with a certificate awarding an Honorary Lifetime membership, as well as a proclamation honoring Jim's contributions to the amateur radio community and to PCARS.

Jim was our guest speaker at that meeting and provided us with a detailed description of the roles and duties of the ARRL's board



members and the headquarters staff. He also reminded us of the distinctions between the operations at the national level versus the field operations in the various sections.

For all of us who are ARRL members it useful to have a regular reminder of just how the League functions. For non-League members it is helpful for them to understand how critical it is for all licensed amateur radio operators to have a national organization that can advocate in Washington and elsewhere on behalf of all of us.

As Jim said, we may disagree at times with the League's positions (heck, sometimes he does too) but its strength comes from its diversity of membership and its ability to unify all of those disparate viewpoints into a respected voice that can speak on behalf of all of us.

It is a privilege for all of us in PCARS to have our friend, Jim Weaver, K8JE, as a fellow member of the club. We look forward to his continued ARRL board service on behalf of all of us in the Great Lakes Division and to sharing with him in the fun of amateur radio.

***Jim, KC8PD***

## ***ARRL Legislative Action Program***

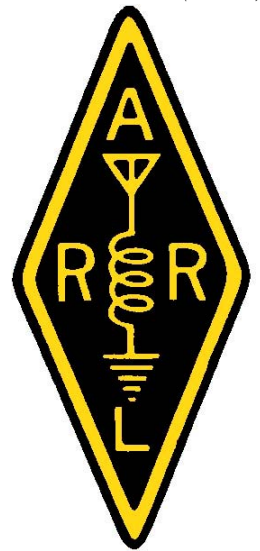
As the newly appointed DLAC (District Legislative Action Chairman) I would like to familiarize you with what we are doing, where we're going and how you may help. This process has been proven in the field and at the present time seems to work the best as it is laid out.

What is the ARRL Legislative Action Program? The ARRL Legislative Action Program is designed to make it possible for ARRL members to promote and protect Amateur Radio through coordinated, legitimate political action at the Federal government level.

Why should I become involved in this program? Isn't talking with our Congressmen a waste of time? Federal Legislators frequently vote based upon their understanding of the wishes of their constituents. As a constituent, your opinion is important to them. *Elected officials view their constituents as "resources" and want to hear from them. They need input from their constituents to gauge positions on a piece of legislation and determine how it will impact the voters in their districts. As a licensed Amateur Radio operator, you can provide a valuable resource to your member of Congress. More often than not, the knowledge Legislators have of Amateur Radio is fairly limited.*

*Therefore, your combination of being a constituent and a federally licensed operator can help make a difference by ensuring that your Congressman and staff receive the balanced information they need to make good decisions on Amateur Radio related legislation.*

How is this Program organized? *The ARRL Board of Directors (Board) selects legislation that is to be supported or opposed through the Program. The ARRL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages the day-to-day operations of the Program. The ARRL President monitors operation of the Program and reports on this to the Board and, between Board meetings, to the ARRL Executive Committee (EC). The EC ensures compliance with the policies of the Board during periods between Board meetings. Each ARRL Division Director is responsible for the operations of the Program in his/her Division. The Director may appoint a Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) to manage on his behalf. The Director or DLAC appoints, trains and manages one or more Legislative Action Coordinators (LAC) for each state in the Division. The LAC appoints, trains and manages Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) to meet with Federal Legislators/Congressmen or with their legislative aides in their offices "back home." The discussions and the materials left after the meetings encourage Legislators to support laws friendly to Amateur Radio. Visits to Legislators' "home" offices are made only when requested by ARRL Legislative Action Program managers through Division officials. These visits may involve key Legislators or all Legislators. Depending on the specific situation, managers in the Program will be requested to have all members in relevant Divisions, states or Congressional Districts to write in support of the ARRL legislative position to their Federal legislators.*



Who chooses which legislation we will support or oppose? The ARRL Board of Directors chooses the legislation to support or to oppose.

Who develops strategies and tactics for the Program? The ARRL President, ARRL CEO, ARRL General Counsel, ARRL Executive Committee and the Congressional Relations firm the League retains work together to develop strategies and tactics to be used in the Program.

Why doesn't the Program operate at the state and local levels of government as well as Federal? Each Section Manager (SM) is encouraged to maintain a program in the Section to support or oppose legislation at the state and local levels. A person known as the State Government Liaison (SGL) typically heads this program. The SGL position was established in Minute 20 of the July 1982 Board Meeting. Persons who participate in the state and local program may also choose to participate in the Federal program and vice versa. To learn more about this state and local program, contact your Section Manager at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/>.

I thought ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and that US IRS rules do not allow it to become involved in lobbying and the law-making process. *ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As discussed in the "It Seems to Us" editorial in the August 2006 issue of QST, "What is prohibited [to us and other tax-exempt non-profit groups] is any involvement in a political campaign. Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns at the Federal, state and local level, and violating it could result in revocation of tax-exempt status."* Also explained in the August 2006 QST editorial, *ARRL is allowed to promote or work against specific public policy issues. Issues we have found of significant interest to Amateur Radio include Federal legislation to control excessive interference from Broadband Over Power Lines, Federal legislation to protect Amateur Radio frequencies and Federal legislation essentially to ensure all amateurs are allowed to install an antenna.*

I have often contributed to and worked for one or more political candidates in my area. Do I need to stop being active in political campaigns if I work in the ARRL Legislative Action Program? *No, as a citizen of this country you are encouraged to speak and act for yourself in political campaigns if you wish. If you do this, what you need to do is to ensure that your participation in the political process is clearly understood to represent your own, personal position and actions, and not the position and actions of ARRL. When you act as a private citizen, be certain to wear your "private citizen" hat and not your ARRL hat.*

Who is eligible to participate in the Program? ARRL members who are willing to follow the guidelines of the

Program are eligible to participate in it. Members who wish to become Division Legislative Action Chairs (DLACs), Legislative Action Coordinators (LACs) and Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) need to participate in a brief training program before making calls on legislators.

I am not a member of ARRL, why can't I participate in the Program? We would like to be able to work with all amateurs to make this program as successful as possible; however, Federal IRS regulations place limits on the amount of effort ARRL as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, can devote to nonmembers regarding legislative affairs. We invite you to join ARRL and become a key part in this program. For information on ARRL, go to <http://www.arrl.org/aarrrl.html>.

How do participants in the ARRL Legislative Action Program get information and materials needed to call on or write to US Representatives and Senators? *Background information on legislation, the names and addresses of "your" Congressmen, educational leave-behind leaflets and more that are needed to make visits to Congressional offices can be found at the Grassroots link on the Members Only area of [www.arrrl.org](http://www.arrrl.org). This information is available to be printed out. Draft letters to Congressmen are similarly available at this same location.*

So, as you can see there is nothing too hard to do and it doesn't take a lot of time when we work together on legislation.



If you are interested in helping in this area here is whom you may contact. In Kentucky the Legislative Action Coordinator e-mail for your information is Patrick R Thrush, N4PRT at [n4prt@hamtechtalk.com](mailto:n4prt@hamtechtalk.com), in Ohio send it to Brent C Stover, WD8PNZ at [wd8pnz@yahoo.com](mailto:wd8pnz@yahoo.com), and at this time we are in need of a Legislative Action Coordinator in Michigan. Until one is seated e-mail me NB4K with your information at [nb4k@arrrl.org](mailto:nb4k@arrrl.org).

If you have any questions on this feel free to call or e-mail me. We need our frequencies and this is just one avenue that we have to protect them.

73

**John D. Meyers, NB4K DLAC**  
[nb4k@arrrl.org](mailto:nb4k@arrrl.org) 859.472.6690



## 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 re-newed, you can (for about a \$7 fee) get NEW plates issued (same call sign). Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a permanent part of PCARS history!!

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

*Tom, KB8UUZ*



## PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

*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!!!!

*Jim, KC8PD*  
*PCARS VE Coordinator*

## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- o May 10th – **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 26<sup>th</sup> – **PCARS Picnic at the Black Squirrel Oasis, aka WB8LCD's QTH**
- o August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting – **PCARS Club Station Update and Discussion**
- o August 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Ohio QSO Party**
- o August activity – **TBS - Two Meter Sprint**
- o September 6<sup>th</sup> – **Ohio State Parks On The Air**
- 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 – **Rod Ehrhart, WN8R (DX Engineering), Vertical Antennas and Radial Systems**
- o October 18<sup>th</sup> – **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) station (very tentative)**
- 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 – **TBS – Christmas Party**
- o January – **TBS – QRP Kit project**

## Radio Room - KD8FDK

Everybody needs his or her space and I am no different. Most of us are solo hams in our own homes and as a result our space is usually what is remaining after all other things are given a home. For me it's a 50-sq. ft. area right next to the furnace across from the workbench that is piled with electronic gizmos and tools.

The desk in the shack is made of two 3/4 particle boards glued together to form a 1 1/2 inch slab covered with Formica. There are two of them. One is 2 X 5 feet and the other is 2 X 6 feet and is arranged "L" shape. Two drawers are hung underneath. I built shelf assemblies that place the radios about 2 1/2 inches above the bench allowing space for papers, wires, etc. to slip under the radios and be out of the way. Upper shelves were added to store the tuners, meters, speakers, and other miscellaneous items and are high enough to allow air to circulate below. Operating the radios is reasonably ergonomic and I feel comfortable with it.

In the shack there are three rigs and one general coverage receiver all of which were purchased used. The general coverage receiver is a Drake R8 that I purchased in the early 90's. My first rig is a



combination of a Drake R4 receiver and a Drake T-4X transmitter. The R4 I purchased from a ham about five years ago and stored it until I became a ham. When I acquired my Tech ticket I began to study for my General and I purchased the T-4X on e-bay in anticipation of passing the test. That happened so I was now in business to operate. It took all summer but I put up a G5RV and was then enjoying playing radio. The T-4X will load into the G5RV without a tuner but a tuner helps to keep the SWR lower. I use an MFJ-948 because it allows me to use the tuning circuit or by-pass it and load direct. I can tune into an antenna within a range of input resistances but a G5RV; being used to cover 80 through 10 meters has resistances that are out of range requiring an additional tuner.

I added a 2-meter mobile Yaesu FT-3000M (mobile) rig that I mounted to the bottom of the shelf mainly for use to check in to the Thursday night net. As winter approached I looked to purchase a solid state rig to get me through the season. I purchased a used Kenwood TS-140S, which is a good entry-level radio. (for a few bucks more you can purchase an ICOM 618 and be farther ahead). I use an active audio filter to augment the audio and null any heterodyne. With the Kenwood I use a Heathkit HFT-9A tuner and a Daiwa CN-101 SWR meter.

I don't care much for using handheld microphones and so I have desk types for now. On the Drakes I use a Heil Classic Rock N Roll Hall of Fame limited edition. The Kenwood has a Heil HM-10 plugged into it. I also have a Turner LMB-5 modified for radio and a D-104 style mike with a replacement cartridge of unknown origin which works very well but is not an Astatic replacement part. Other supplementary items include an

indoor / outdoor thermometer with remote sensor and a few clocks showing local and UTC time. The chair is an old 1940's office chair and I also use a typewriter for QSL cards. A computer is also included and is located under the bench. I asked my daughter, Amy, to make dust covers for the radios and microphones to protect them during the long periods of non-use that I am anticipating for the summer.

Antenna switches are used to ground the antennas when not in use. I still have to do the work to adequately distribute the operating power. Unfortunately, the work that needs to be done never seems to get done.

This shack is set up for one man and I have a lot of stuff in a small space yet I plan to add another rig and eventually an amp. It'll fit, somehow.



Well, that about is all I have here. I'm sure we all have similar stories. I hope you have as much fun building and rebuilding yours as I do with mine. After all it's all a part of what we do.

73's

***Rich, KD8FDK***

## ***Armed Forces Day Crossband Test***

On Saturday, May 10th, the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard will sponsor the Annual Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Celebration on Saturday. This annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes.

It also allows an opportunity for Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) to demonstrate their technical skills, and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise.

Hams can do this by listening on the published military frequencies while transmitting on the amateur frequency designated by the military station.

Individuals participating will receive a QSL card later after the event acknowledging their contact, and a

certificate will be given to individuals who copy the Secretary of Defense message.

Although Armed Forces Day is actually on May 17th, the Crossband Test is moved up a week to accommodate all of the hams that will be attending the Dayton Hamvention on the 17th.



There will be fourteen military stations located throughout the US participating, including Alaska and Hawaii representing Army MARS. Call signs, hours of operation, locations and frequencies of these stations will be published in many amateur radio magazines.

You can log on the Army MARS website: <http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/>, and clicking the Armed Forces Day link for further detail information, including the locations and frequencies of the participating military stations.

The listings also include information for the military stations that will be employing a variety of digital modes to broadcast the Secretary of Defense's message.

**Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI**

## 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)

## Build the \$50 Transceiver Kit!

If you haven't seen the May 2008 issue of QST, go take a look at the cover. You'll see four different home brew 40 meter transceivers, all of which can be built for under \$50 in new parts.

These radios are the entries in the ARRL \$50 Radio Competition, which challenged designers to come up with a rig that could handle SSB and CW across the 40-meter band, with a 5-watt output. The TAK-40 transceiver, with the white front panel and funky wooden frame, is the winning entry. The feature article inside QST has details on how it works. Some of the features include:



- 7 Watt output
- Full coverage of the 40-meter band
- On-board speech processor
- Digital Readout

So, how would you like to build one? It would make a nice complement to your NutRunner. Ray KD8DFL has obtained the circuit board designs, and determined that we can have a complete set of four circuit boards for around \$13 a set if we order in a minimum quantity of 10 from a board fabricator. We can also expect a price break on the parts if we put in a group order.

Of course, there are a few caveats you should be aware of:

- The \$50 figure did not include microphone, power supply, speaker, or cost of commercially made boards. If you don't have these things in your junk box, it will add a few bucks to the kit cost.
- As the magazine cover shows, the author couldn't fit the cost of an enclosure into the budget, either. Personally, I'm leaning toward the metal lunchbox that houses one of the other kits shown in the picture. This also adds to the project cost, and we have yet to figure out what we're going to do with the little thermos that goes inside.
- It wouldn't be a radio project if we didn't have to wind coils, and this transceiver has four of them. Bring your magnifying glass and a tweezers.



- This is **not** a project you can build in one day. This will take several sessions to build and test. I consider this an intermediate level kit. If you've never built a project from parts and a schematic before, this will be a challenge.

If there's enough interest, we will put in a batch order and work out the remaining details. Go read the QST article, then email me at [wb9lbi@portcars.org](mailto:wb9lbi@portcars.org) if you'd like to participate. At the very least, you'll be all set for the next Bring Your Rig Night.

***Bill, WB9LBI***

## ***eQSL - The Final Courtesy***

The world's first and only eQSL exchange center, [www.eQSL.cc](http://www.eQSL.cc), started the year 2001 with a bang. Only a few weeks earlier, on the first of December, it had blown through the 1 million card mark, and now 2 million cards were in the central database. But instead of slowing down, the rate increased as thousands of eQSL cards were uploaded every hour.

The eQSL.cc site was launched in April of 2000, and included about 1500 hams who had been part of an earlier experiment in an electronic QSL card exchange. The "big" idea was that eQSLs should not be sent around from person to person via e-mail, but should be available at any time through a web-based exchange system and a central database.

Other concepts using e-mail or by posting one stock QSL card on a web page and calling it an eQSL were not satisfactory, because security could not be guaranteed, e-mail addresses had to be looked up, and the sender had to laboriously design his QSL card using graphic design software.

So, we used our 25 years of software development and database design experience to develop a site where each user could guarantee his identity with a scanned image of his ham license, could lay out an eQSL card design using simple point-and-click forms, and could upload logbooks either one-at-a-time, or by uploading an entire ADIF format log file at once. The concept is such a breakthrough, we have patents pending on its technology.

To retrieve one of these eQSL cards, the recipient only need enter the callsign, date, and band of the QSO he wants to retrieve, and if the other ham has entered that QSO into the system, up pops the complete eQSL card, ready for printing on a local printer. Furthermore, if the recipient registers his callsign with us, he can get a listing of all incoming eQSLs, and can just point and click to print each card received. Sending a reciprocal card back is a matter of clicking a button!

Apparently, most everyone else thinks this is the right way to do it, too. Another six weeks after hitting the 2 million card mark, it appears the number of cards will double again to 4 million.

Many of the members of the eQSL.cc site are using stock images for their eQSL card designs. But since it is possible to upload a graphic image to use on one's card, there are many custom cards online as well. Users are signing up from over 180 countries all over the world. In many places, a stack of 500 traditional QSL cards might well cost the average ham operator an entire year's salary. On eQSL.cc, 500 beautiful full-color cards can be sent for free!

In an era when "dot coms" are failing left and right, it is noteworthy that the eQSL.cc site, which is supported almost entirely through voluntary donations, has been operating in the black since Day One. Since the site runs virtually without any human intervention, the only ongoing expenses are for development of new features, and for continually increasing disk space, processor power, and bandwidth. A small amount goes to answering the questions and suggestions that come into the webmaster's office by e-mail. In most cases, replies are returned within the same day.

Not everyone agrees that eQSLing is the way to go. Some people like to get their hands on that stiff cardboard with the exotic stamps that spent months in transit from the jungles of some island that is only above water for 3 weeks out of the year. Others are bothered that some amateur organizations still have "no electronic transmission" clauses in the rule books for their awards. Others still are spooked by the privacy issues that this interconnected new world brings up.

But it's very difficult to argue - as the saying goes - with success. And 4 million cards is success by anyone's measure. At the present growth rate (with the number of eQSLs doubling every month), eQSL.cc could be home to virtually all of the world's amateur radio operators within a couple of years. Contest "big guns" will be able to "QSL 100%" within a matter of minutes, saving hundreds of hours of time and thousands of dollars in the process. DXpeditions will be able to "QSL 100%" on the spot, whether it be from that desert island with a dial-up Internet connection, or when the crew gets back to "civilization". It's just a quick log file upload, and they are done!

And eQSLs, unlike their traditional cardboard counterparts, can be verified through automated computer interfaces by amateur organizations wanting to validate award and contest submissions. The presence of a scanned license image on file for each user goes way beyond the simplistic checking that is possible using the older traditional QSL cards.

And now eQSL.cc is also a favorite site for SWLs, because users can identify themselves as either licensed amateur operator, or SWL. The eQSL cards between SWLs and hams are automatically configured to contain proper SWL phrasing, making their lives easier and saving them tons of money.

Complex systems shouldn't be designed in a vacuum, so we have assembled a capable group of hams and SWLs into an Advisory Board. Among these advisors are users with satellite and DX experience, contesting backgrounds, and international origins, as well as technology gurus and people with long-term operating histories. This group discusses current issues and future development plans for the site on a daily basis. Just another feature of the interconnected world we have entered as the 21st Century dawns.

There were nay-sayers when SSB first began to push CW aside. There were those who thought packet radio was just a short-lived fad. Others thought we shouldn't be wasting money on amateur satellites. And some people think eQSLs are "not natural". But for tens of thousands of hams and SWLs who upload their entire logbooks nightly in an effort to live up to the "100% QSL" promise of amateur radio, the final courtesy of a QSO is an eQSL.

**Dave, N5UP**

Founder and Webmaster, eQSL.cc

*Permission granted to reprint this article in whole or in part.*

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Two PCARS members are having a birthday in May!

KC8ZZG	Al Godfrey
WB8FEW	Bobby Pruett

## 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](mailto: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**

## CQ WPX Contest

The finals are cooling off from the contest. I have received reports that eight people took part in the contest. They were: K8QF, KC8PD, KD8ELX, N8QE, NT8K, W8KNO, WB8LCD and WB9LBI. Jim, KC8PD, was the leader with 200 QSOs. Good going Jim! Thanks go out to everyone who took time out to participate and help spread the enjoyment of amateur radio and the Portage County Amateur Radio Service.



**Joe, W8KNO**

## Build Something!

A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can't really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair. That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build, but are useful additions to the ham shack.

Here are a couple of sources:

\* Elecraft ([www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com)). In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about anything on the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation. I also have and use the W1 wattmeter.

\* TenTec ([radio.tentec.com/kits](http://radio.tentec.com/kits)). While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits.

\* QRP Kits ([www.qrpkits.com](http://www.qrpkits.com)). QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit (\$40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience:

- \* Small Wonder Labs ([www.smallwonderlabs.com](http://www.smallwonderlabs.com))
- \* Wilderness Radio ([www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html](http://www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html))
- \* Milestone Technologies ([www.mtechnologies.com](http://www.mtechnologies.com))
- \* Almost All Digital Electronics ([www.aade.com/index.html](http://www.aade.com/index.html))
- \* FAR Circuits ([www.farcircuits.net](http://www.farcircuits.net))
- \* Jackson Harbor ([home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm](http://home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm))
- \* QRPme ([www.qrpme.com/](http://www.qrpme.com/))
- \* Linear Amp UK ([www.linamp.co.uk](http://www.linamp.co.uk))

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts only for a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out:

- \* American QRP Club ([www.amqrp.org](http://www.amqrp.org))
- \* Four State QRP Club ([4sqrp.com/kits/kits.htm](http://4sqrp.com/kits/kits.htm))
- \* NORTEX ([www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm](http://www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm))

Ready to rock and roll? Here are a couple websites that you might want to check out before you dive in:

- \* Electronic Construction from A to Z ([www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm](http://www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm)). This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder.
- \* Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station ([www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html](http://www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html)).
- \* The Art of Kit Building ([ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html](http://ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html))

I hope that I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

What have you built lately? Let Dan know. Email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

*Dan, KB6NU*

## 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.



## Hamfest Calendar

**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 Thursday Net Control

### Net Control Schedule

May	
1	WB8LCD - Tom
8	KC8PD - Jim
15	K8QF - Russ
22	KD8ELX - Rex
29	KB8DPN - Russ

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*

## 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*



## May PCARS Meeting Preview

Ed Miller, K8EHA, who serves as the back-up NFL Game Day Frequency Coordinator at the Cleveland Browns Stadium, will be our speaker along with his GDC partner, Dave Bobco.

For most of us, the hobby of amateur radio is our only regular contact with the science and art of telecommunications. For Ed, well it is truly a hobby because he has had a nearly fifty year career in the telecommunications industry.

Although he has been “retired” since 2004, he has continued as a GDC coordinator for the Browns and for Broadcast Sports, Inc., and has also been the on-site day-of-event frequency coordinator for the Cleveland Grand Prix, and he still works with Patlin Electronics as a 2 GHz microwave broadcast consultant.



Ed, who is a Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer, has had a varied and extensive career in both radio and television broadcasting in Northeast Ohio, including over twenty-five years with WEWS-TV, ten of those years as the Engineering Manager.

In addition to working as a communications consultant to local school systems, Ed has been a lecturer on telecommunications issues at both academic and public events. He has been very active in professional broadcast organizations, including five years on the Society of Broadcast Engineers board of directors, and serving as the chairman of the SBE Cleveland Chapter 70.

Ed has also kept busy with volunteer activities such as spending twenty-seven years as the Northeastern Ohio FCC/SBE Frequency Coordinator for all Part 74 Broadcast Auxiliary Services. He had also been selected as the engineering consultant to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and arranged and planned the technical support for the Hall's 1995 grand opening.



This is a presentation that you will not want to miss. Hear from a fellow ham who has had a distinguished

career in broadcasting and still has the really cool part-time gig of on-site frequency coordination for the Browns games! See you there!

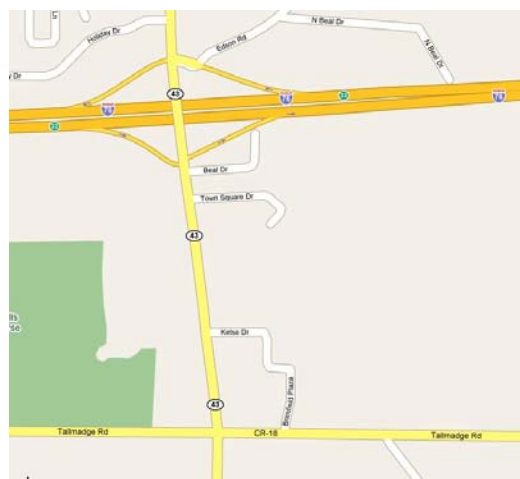


## PCARS Meetings

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



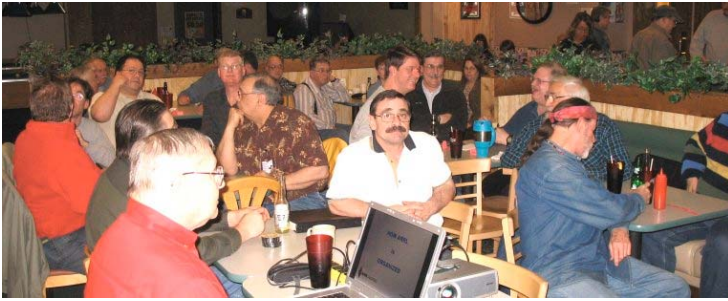
located in the **Brimfield Plaza** - just South of Interstate 76 off Route 43 in **Brimfield, OH**.



**PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm**



## Pictures from the April Meeting



## Thanks & 73

This is the fifth 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, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8UUZ, KB8VJL, W8GEX, WB9LBI, NB4K, KD8FDK, AAR5AI, N5UP, K8EUR, KB6NU, 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	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	K8CMP	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.
	N4TIE	Carl Capps
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8CMP	Chuck Patellis
	N8EQJ	Ed Polack
	K8QF	Russ Conklin
	N8OIL	Rick Patterson
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

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

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



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

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

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

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



NLC