



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



November 2008 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 3 No. 11

~ 2008 Officers ~

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

~ Meetings ~

2nd Monday of
 every month.
 7 pm at
 Sideliners
 Brimfield Plaza
 Brimfield, Ohio

~ Nets ~

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

PCARS Established

Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL affiliated
 April 20, 2006

From the President

Being the month of Thanksgiving, I'd like to say a few words of thanks. If you're reading this, then that means that somewhere along the way, you have had some contact, influence or participation with PCARS that has helped to shape the club and the experiences we have all enjoyed. Thank you.

If you are a member of the club, then you are the ones who have really made PCARS an enjoyable and productive organization. Lots of clubs and social organizations have had real challenges in the last few years finding members who not only wanted to belong, but wanted to participate in the programs of the club as well. Without an active and participating membership, there really is no club. This has not been a problem for PCARS. Thank you.

PCARS has been very fortunate to be able to tap into a large pool of really talented and intelligent hams that were willing to share their knowledge and experiences with us at our club meetings. We have had some absolutely *outstanding* monthly meetings! To everyone who has ever stood before us to present a topic at one of our club meetings: Thank you!

Tom, KB8UUZ, has done an outstanding job as the editor of one of the best club newsletters you can find in Amateur Radio today! It has been an important piece of the "magic" that PCARS has experienced from the very beginning. Thank you, Tom.

Russ, KB8DPN, has put together a very professional looking and functional website for the club. He has also maintained all the updates each month. Anyone in the club or the community at large can always know what's going on with PCARS. Thank you, Russ.

Jim, KC8PD, has been responsible for most of the club programs and activities these past three years. Not only has he provided us with an outstanding venue of events and activities, he has personally participated in almost everything that has gone on with PCARS! His passion for the club and Ham Radio in general should motivate everyone to do just a little bit more, and enjoy this great hobby! Thank you, Jim.

Way back, in 2005, before there was a PCARS, Tom, KB8UUZ, asked a few other hams if they wouldn't like to have a Ham Radio club experience that would be fun, educational, active, challenging, fun....you get the idea. We started talking and PCARS became a reality. Parky provided the spark that got PCARS lit! Thank you, Parky!

If there were no PCARS, I would probably still be thinking about upgrading my license. I wouldn't have had the "on air" experiences that I've had because the motivation wouldn't have been there to participate. Who knows what my shack and equipment would have looked like (yeah, it



In This Issue of the RADIOGRAM

8th Area QSL Buro	23
Center of Hope - Holiday Food Drive	9
Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites	3
Contest Calendar	13
Ditters on 40 Meters Fixed	10
Don, KI8SS - SK	20
Dues are Due	17
EmComm	7
Eyeball-to-Eyeball - WB2DFC	8
Final Field Day 2008 Results	19
General Class Upgrade Course, 2009	12
Ham License Plates Wanted	13
Happy Birthday PCARS Members	18
HF Basic Skills Workshop	11
KH2D's Tips for CW Contesting	13

Mark Your Calendars	18
Net (Thursday) Information & Schedule	19
Paper Chase	6
Patches & Stickers	20
PCARS Meetings	26
Pictures from the October PCARS Meeting	27
President, From the	1
Scout Jamboree On The Air	8
Skywarn Recognition Day	20
Spring Forward - Fall Back	17
Swap-N-Shop	17
Tech Cripple	22
Thanks & 73	28
VE Test Sessions & Information	13
Vice President, From the	2



PCARS ANNUAL ELECTION of OFFICERS - At the NOVEMBER MEETING

From the President (continued from Page 1)

could be worse)! Most importantly, there are a lot of you I wouldn't have known at all, or as well as I do now. And that is what I am most thankful for, the really good friends and acquaintances I have because of PCARS! What a great Club! Thank you!

November is also a month of elections. Our national elections are first, and the PCARS election of officers the following week. I hope you will make a special effort to participate in both. Everyone voting in the PCARS election will also be treated to a great ham radio program on CW operating by Bill, WB9LBI at no extra charge. What a deal!

November is also the month of the ARRL Sweepstakes! This contest lends itself to be a perfect opportunity for PCARS members to score big. It's an easy contest to participate in, and since it's all US, you can have a lot of fun with mid (or even low) power and simple antennas. Get some of the new PCARS members and hams involved with you and help them to have some fun they may not be able to have on their own. Send your scores to me wb8lcd@portcars.org and I'll report to the club in next month's newsletter how everyone did.

Don't miss the PCARS meeting on the 10th of November, the HF skills workshop on November 15th and the PCARS Christmas Banquet on December 8th. See you all there!

73,
Tom, WB8LCD

From the Vice President

A very special PCARS thank you to Rod Ehrhart, WN8R, of DX Engineering for his excellent presentation at the October meeting on vertical antennas and the importance of radials for achieving the best antenna performance. Rod did a great job of taking a somewhat technical topic and translating it into easy to understand

concepts. He certainly dispelled some incorrect notions that many of us may have had about vertical HF antennas. Thanks also to his co-worker, George Proudfoot, K3GP, for assisting.

Rod and George brought along current DX Engineering catalogs along with some DX hats as prizes for the 50/50 raffle. If you took any time to look through the catalog or have been following the growth of the company (including its recent acquisition of Comtek Systems) in recent years, you have to believe that before too long we will have one of the nation's largest distributors of quality amateur radio products just down the road from us.

Congratulations to DX Engineering and its staff for all that they have accomplished. Let's hope that they become the Summit Racing of ham radio!

Thanks to all who attended the VHF/UHF Basic Skills workshop in October. This might be a program that we repeat every few years for new hams as well as non-hams who would like to learn more about the hobby. Some seventeen people were there, a very nice turnout for the program.

More information can be found in the newsletter about this month's HF Basic Skills program on the fifteenth. We hope to see you there.



Mark your calendar for the November 10th PCARS meeting where Bill, WB9LBI, will be giving us a presentation on CW, which continues to be one of the favorite modes of HF operations. Even though the code requirement was dropped in 2007, many hams have discovered just how much they enjoy CW ops and how well the mode performs even with weak signals and poor band conditions.

As was announced at the October meeting, our plans for repainting the outside of the building that houses the PCARS club station have been put on hold until Spring 2009. Within the next few months Family & Community Services should be starting the renovations on the east side of the building and we will be directing our attention to the work in the radio room and workshop over the winter.

There will be a VE session on Tuesday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Maplewood Career Center. That is the final night of the Fall PCARS Technician License class. The next Technician course will be held in the Spring. Details will be announced as we get closer to March.

Also in the newsletter you will find information about the 2009 General Class upgrade course that will be starting in January. Please make sure that if you know any hams with a Tech license who are not PCARS members that the course is open to them.

Our next bimonthly VE session will be on Saturday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m. at the Center of Hope on Main Street in Ravenna. In 2009, PCARS will continue to hold VE sessions on the first Saturday of every even-numbered month.

Remember, if there are ideas or suggestions that you have for meeting programs or club activities please send them along to me at kc8pd@portcars.org.

73

Jim, KC8PD



Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites



OK - two more months and we will start a whole new year of DX, IOTA and Lighthouse hunting. I know that some of you have just finished working the CQWW Contest and worked a whole bunch of DX, racking up the "ton" of countries and zones. But we do have two more months to go before 2009 starts. Which means that there is still a lot of DX to work this year as shown by the information listed in this column.

The bands continue to be very cooperative, with 20 meters being the band that has been giving us the most bang for the buck

I want to thank the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, the 425 DX Newsletter, and the ARRL DX Newsletter for the following DX and IOTA information.

And as always, please note that this report is only as good as the information being passed on by the various DX organizations, newsletters and individuals. So there is always the chance that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of either bad G-2, busted call signs, or indigestion. So please adhere to the old adage of

"Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

DX News

A Repeat: **2008 FALL CLASSIC DX EVENT** (Sponsored by the CountryuncleDX Group). K4SX reports the following on September 17th: "It is my pleasure and privilege to announce today the **first annual Fall Classic DX Event** sponsored by www.countryuncledx.com. This DX Event has been founded for the primary purpose of generating enthusiasm for DXing, Amateur Radio, and to provide an inclusive way for Hams who do not like to 'contest' but would enjoy a way to compete over a longer period of time than a weekend without calling 'CQ Contest'. So the 2008 Fall Classic DX Event has been developed and launched for Amateurs to participate and enjoy DXing. The Event begins on October 1, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. All event information can be found at www.countryuncledx.com or you can E-mail K4SX or N4DA for information and details. I should also mention that this event is not intended to compete with or preclude any other DX competition or contests. It is worth also noting that all DX contacts made in contests during the event period may and will be counted. If you have any question, please contact N4DA@bellsouth.net."

3B8, MAURITIUS. F1BCS, will be active as **3B8/F1BCS** between October 28th and November 9th. Activity will be on 40-15 meters, including 30/17/12 meters, on SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL per operator's instructions.

3D2, FIJI. JA1NLX, will be active as **3D2YA** from **Mana Island (OC-121)** in Mamanuca Group, between November 21-27th. Activity will be on 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 meters CW. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct (w/SASE). Log will be uploaded to LoTW.

3DA, SWAZILAND (A "Flex-Pedition"). ZS6AVM, will be active as **3DA0VM** during the month of November. Activity will be on 40-10 meters. He will be using a Flex-5000A Software Defined Radio (Flex Radio Systems) and will be operating from Hawane Resort in Swaziland.

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

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

9H, MALTA - OH2YL, will be active as 9H3YL from November 1-8th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via her home callsign.

9J, ZAMBIA - S53A, will be active as **9J3A** from The Hippo Lodge, Kafue National Park, between November 22nd and December 2nd. He also plans to be active during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th). His equipment will be a IC-7000, spider-beam for the high bands, and wire beams for the lower bands. QSL via his home callsign.

9K, KUWAIT - A team of four German ops will be active from 9K2HN, station between Nov 6-17th. The team plans to be in the WAE RTTY Contest. Before and after contest they will be active on the 30/17/12 meter bands RTTY, SSB and CW. QSL via 9K2HN

A4, OMAN. Reminder: Members of the Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club (LARC) and the Norden District of the DARC (DOK I09), will be guests of the Royal Omani ARS (ROARS) and operate under the following two call signs between October 30th and November 11th: A43DLH - from the ROARS HQ and A43DLH/P - from the Omani Scout camp. Activity will be around the clock on 160 meters and up on as many bands as possible. Modes will be: CW, SSB and the Digital modes (included SSTV). The QSL Manager is DK7PE.

CANADIAN SPECIAL EVENT. Reminder: All radio amateurs in Canada are encouraged to participate in the upcoming "**Special Event Prefixes**" between October 1st and November 30th. The special event prefixes commemorate the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858. Look for radio amateurs in Canada to use the following prefixes:

VE --> CK VO --> CY VA --> CJ VY --> CZ

(ex. VE7DAO would become CK7DAO and VA7DAO would become CJ7DAO) For more details, visit the following Web site at: <http://www.hambc150.info>

C6, BAHAMAS - K2KW, will be active as **C6ATA** between November 23rd and December 1st. Activity will include participation in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (80m)/Low-Power entry. Outside of the contest he will be active on 160-20 meters, mostly CW. QSL via WA4WTG.

CQ9, MADEIRA ISLANDS - CT1BOH, will be using the special callsign CS9M during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. All QSOs will be uploaded into LoTW.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA - FK8IF, will be active in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th). Specifics regarding the operation are to be announced.

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

IOTA News

AF-004 - La Palma Island ON7AMI, will be active from La Palma Island (DIES-013, WLOTA LH-1648), November 10-15th. Activity will be on 40 meters (7007 kHz for CW and 7050 kHz for SSB), mainly during the evening hours. Activities are also planned for 15/6/2 meters, conditions permitting. QSL via ON7AMI by the Bureau.

AS-128 - Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam, RL3BM and UA4CC will be active from Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam, for a family vacation between November 5-13th. Their callsigns will be XV4BM and XV4CC. They plan to be on CW and SSB on 80-10 meters. Plans are to use an IC-7000 and K-2 transceivers running 100 watts only into vertical antennas. For 20 meters they will have a 2 element wire vertical Yagi. This will be not a "full scale" DXpedition, however, the two will do their best to be on the air as much as possible. QSL XV4BM via RL3BM and XV4CC via UA4CC.

EU-009 - Orkney Islands, G5XW will be touring the Orkney Islands between November 19-23rd. He plans to activate various islands in the Orkney Group, excluding Stromo. QSL direct only via G5XW (QRZ.com), with SASE/SAE and sufficient postage.

EU-017- Salina Island, Members of the 095 DX Team will activate Salina Island (IIA ME-015 and MIA MI-083) as ID9/homecall between November 21-23rd. Other reference number activated is SOTA reference "Fossa delle felci Mountain" (SL-022). QSL via their home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

J48, GREECE (IOTA Op). A Hungarian team will be active from **Thassos Island (EU-174)**, between October 23rd and November 8th. Activity will be on the HF bands, and they will try to work the satellites too.

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. Reminder: A35RK, will be active as KH8/KK6H, December 5-9th. Activity will be CW and SSB. Paul states, "This will be a 'casual' operation, but I will listen for Europe at local sunset (UTC+12), on 20m that should be about 0600-

0700Z, and should be a pretty good grayline path. The Americas should be a piece of cake just about anytime during local daylight hours, on 20 or 17m." QSL via W7TSQ or LoTW.

NA-138 - Talbot Island, Ops KC1SS, K4UBT, W4MKH, N4FPS, W9QGB, W7GAM, N6VX and AB4EW active from Talbot Island (USI FL-121S, Duval County, Florida), November 15-16th. Activity will be on all bands CW and SSB. QSL via N4AUG (QRZ.com).

VQ9, CHAGOS ISLANDS - K11G, active as **VQ9RD** from the U.S. Navy Support Facility on **Diego Garcia Island (AF-006)**, Chagos Archipelago, Oct 30th and Nov 11th. QSL via his home callsign, direct only or via LoTW - pse NO BUREAU CARDS.

That's it for this issue of the Newsletter. I'm hoping to be on the air in November so see you down the log.

73 for now and gud DX.

Chuck, K8CMP

Paper Chase

October began with the sad news that Steve Fossett's plane and remains had been found. He is most remembered for his exploits in the air from ballooning to flying around the world solo non-stop and without refueling, on the water for speed sailing and on the land for car racing.

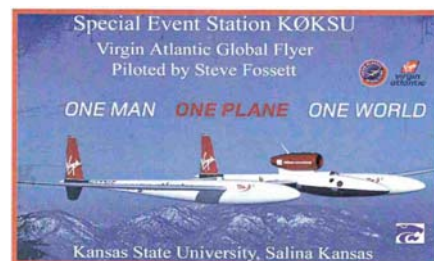


Here is a short list of some of the other things he had done: Fossett competed in and completed premier endurance sports events, including the 1,165 mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, in which he finished 47th on his second try in 1992 after training for five years. He became the 270th person to swim across the English Channel on his fourth try in September 1985 with a time of 22 hours, 15 minutes. Although Fossett said he was not a good enough swimmer "to make the varsity swim team", he found that he could swim for long periods. Fossett has run in the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii (finishing in 1996 in 15:53:10), the Boston Marathon, and the Leadville Trail 100, a 100-mile Colorado ultra marathon which involves running up elevations of more than 14,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains.

Fossett had raced cars in the mid-1970s and later returned to the sport in the 1990s. He competed in the 24 hours of Le Mans road race twice, in 1993 and in 1996, along with the Paris to Dakar Rally.

He was not the first to fly around the world non-stop but the first to do it solo. You will remember the Jeannie Yeager and Burt Rutan had done it first in the Global Voyager. If you ever get a chance to visit the National Space and Aviation Museum in Washington, DC you will see the plane hanging from the ceiling and will be amazed at how tiny it was.

What has this got to do with amateur radio. During Fossett's flight around the world, the members of the Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club made over 400 contacts operating from the KSU-Salina club station, K0KSU. This was a special event station. Special event stations commemorate many events as you just read. In November, there are at least three special event station remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald. Where can you find information about special event stations? They are written up in both QST and CQ magazines. If you do not get either of these, go to "www.arrl.org" click on "Operating Activities" and then "Special Events".



Hope to hear you in the pile up!

Joe, W8KNO

EmComm

On Saturday, October 11th, a field exercise was held to simulate a RACES response to a natural disaster. We had hoped to hold it the same weekend as the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 4th but schedule conflicts prevented that.

We used the recent severe wind event for the scenario that volunteers would be responding to. When possible, two person teams were sent to each service site. Those included the Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross, two shelter locations, the kitchen located in the former county nursing home, as well as the PCARS club station.

In order to simplify the response, teams were deployed to those locations but did not always establish a station inside the facility. Activation of stations within facilities will be a part of future drills and exercises.

The Net Control Station was located at the PCARS club site. PCARS has allowed RACES the use of the club's facilities because the tri-band antenna on the tower provides excellent simplex coverage for the entire county.

Members were notified of the drill by phone beginning at 0800 hours on Saturday morning and the net went live about forty-five minutes later. A dozen volunteers participated in one form or another during the drill. On-air operations lasted just over an hour. After the stand-down had been issued the participants reported to the PCARS site for debriefing. An After Action Report (AAR) was then prepared to assess the event.



Overall the drill was a success. The AAR noted that the only substantive problem was the failure of any of the stations to act as the Alternate Net Control Station between the time of the notification and the designated NCS opening the net. Any confusion about how that was to be done was resolved during the debriefing session.

On-air operations went extremely well. Formal traffic was moved on a simplex frequency in order to avoid tying up the operational net. Stations would move to the simplex frequency, pass their traffic, and then report back into the net. Operators at various sites also generated tactical traffic on their own, basically role-playing for staff who would have been at those sites.

Everyone who participated in the drill showed a good understanding of net operations, handled traffic and use prowords properly, kept on-air communications to the minimum necessary for effective ops, and maintained net discipline. The quality of their performance reflected their efforts in biweekly training nets.

As near as we can tell this was the only local emcomm effort to coincide with the annual SET. Drills and exercises such as this go a long way to improving the skills of emcomm volunteers. They are also an interesting, informative and, yes, even fun way to apply your ham radio expertise.

If you have an interest in participating in RACES activities, send me a note at kc8pd@aol.com. You do not have to be a Portage County resident. You just need to have an interest in helping others and furthering the number one reason for amateur radio: providing emergency communication services.

73,

Jim, KC8PD
RACES Radio Officer

Scout Jamboree On the Air

Boy Scout Troop 573, out of Rootstown, OH, inquired if we might be able to come out to where they were camping, in Hiram, and set up a station for Jamboree on the Air. It sounded like a great opportunity to go out and play radio, do our “good deed” for the scouts, and get some exposure for Ham Radio, all at the same time. On Saturday, October 18th, Dave – WB2DFC, Errol – KC8RJR, Mike – KB8TUY, and Tom – WB8LCD headed out to the Johnson Farm in Hiram to set up a station.



We set up two stations, one with a vertical antenna and the other with an inverted V. Both worked great and we were on the air in no-time. There were only 3 scouts at our setup, but each one had the chance to get on the air and talk to other scouts at other locations. We worked stations in



Texas, Maryland and Virginia. The Maryland and Virginia stations were both located at district Camporee's, so there were plenty of scouts to talk to on the other end! I was in QSO for about an hour just working the scouts at the camporee's after all of our scouts had a chance to talk on the air.

It was an absolutely gorgeous day, the setup and tear down went like we were doing this all the time, and I think we made some friends while we were there. It was a great day!

Our trip to scout camp on November 14th had to be postponed due to some work they were doing at the camp. We'll be rescheduling that trip for sometime in either January or March of next year.



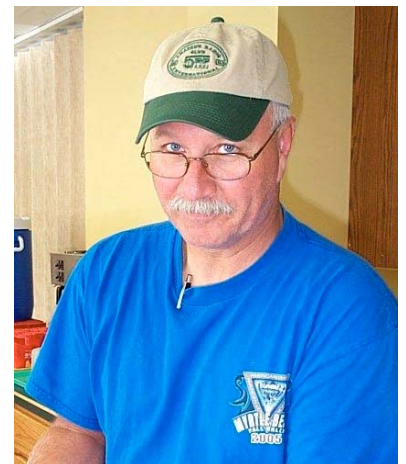
Tom, WB8LCD

Eyeball to Eyeball – WB2DFC

This month's “Eye to Eye” is with Dave Rarrick, WB2DFC. Dave was born in Webster, NY, which is a suburb of Rochester and grew up in Syracuse. Dave attended high school in Westvale, NY and after graduation, attended Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY and received a degree in Electrical Technology.

Dave started his employment career with Radio Shack in Pittsford, NY, and spent 9 years with the company, starting as a Salesman and ending as a Sales Manager. He also spent about a year in the insurance field and had a short stint in the recording industry. Dave subsequently was hired by the United Telephone Company and became a National Account Manager, covering Ohio, Mich., Indiana, and PA. He worked for United until 1993.

He had previously looked into law enforcement, but the opportunity did not open for Dave until 1993 when he started to attend the Police Academy at night and was hired by the University of Akron in their Campus Police Dept. He also took a part time job with the Ravenna Police Dept. That job became his full time present job in 1994.



Presently, Dave lives with the love of his life, Vicki, in Ravenna. Dave has two grown daughters, Samantha and Jennifer, who both have families of their own – giving Dave four grandchildren.

Dave's interest in HAM radio began very early. In fact, he got interested when he was 4 years old and an uncle gave him a crystal radio as a gift. He was so taken with listening to the stations that this radio could pick up, that his very understanding mother allowed him to go to bed listening to the radio through its earphone.

As he grew, his interest grew also and so did his radio collection. Next came a homebrew 2 tube transmitter with a 3.725 crystal. In 1974, Dave took and passed his Novice test and received his call – WN2DFC. Along with the crystal transmitter, Dave added a Hammerlund receiver.

In 1975 he added an HW 101, which he built. In 1977 Dave took his technician test and passed and thus his interest began in 2 meter AM and FM and 6 meter FM. Dave moved to Ohio in 1983 and he upgraded to General.



His Amateur Radio hobby suffered some lax years until about 4-5 years ago when he got involved with the HF Pak Group. He bought a FT-817 and thus began his work in QRP. Dave loves the outdoors and camping and he had set up his FT-817 as his pack rig.

His shack now has quite a few radios. The list consists of first of all, his pride and joy, a Collins KWM2. He also has a FT-920, a FL7000 amp, a FT-747, a Kenwood TS-520 and a TS-820. He has a Heathkit SB100 and a HW-8. For VHF he has an Icom IC-820, an Icom 2720 and a Yaesu FT8800. His present pack rig is an Icom IC 706MkII.

His antennas include a Butternut vertical, a G5RV Jr. and a Cush Craft MAB5 Compact Beam.

Besides camping and hiking, Dave and Vicki also love to take trips on their motorcycles. Dave has a 2002 Harley Sportster and a 2006 Harley Electra Glide Ultra Classic. Vicki rides a 2008 Harley Sportster. Oh yeah, Dave doesn't forget about Amateur Radio while on the bikes. His bike has a new FT10R rig mounted on the handlebar of his cycle.

Please say hello to Dave when you see him at the meeting. And don't drive too fast while going through Ravenna. You may just meet Dave under less than satisfactory circumstances.

73,
Chuck, K8CMP

Center of Hope – Holiday Food Drive

PCARS members have become familiar with the Center of Hope as the site for our General upgrade course as well as a variety of our activities, including our bimonthly VE sessions. The Center has graciously opened its doors at no cost to PCARS for all of these activities.

The Center of Hope was founded over ten years ago by the late Sister Jordan as a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. It provides hot meals and distributes food and home products to thousands of our county's less fortunate residents every year. F&CS is also the owner of the building that houses the PCARS

club station and has made that space available to us at essentially no cost. F&CS also allows PCARS to use the Community Room in its office building on Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

As the fall ends and winter approaches, the staff of the Center of Hope face the enormous task of trying to help brighten the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for the Center's clients. You can imagine how distressful it could be to not be able to provide a holiday meal for your family.

This is PCARS opportunity to return the favor to the Center. Let's assist the Center of Hope in meeting its goal of helping as many families as possible at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are asking that all PCARS members who attend the meetings in November and December make a donation of food or, even better, a financial contribution to the Center of Hope. Donations are tax deductible because the Center is part of a 501(c)(3) organization.



Let's show how generous the spirit of amateur radio operators can be by offering our support to an organization that helps so many families in our community! Any items or funds donated at a meeting will be delivered the next day to the Center of Hope.

Jim, KC8PD

Ohio Hams Discover, Fix "Ditters" on 40 Meters

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina. According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits' so we could get this resolved as soon as possible," Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."



Once the general location had been pinpointed, Skolaut called on ARRL Ohio Section Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O for assistance. Swain immediately alerted his team of Official Observers (OO) to check out the situation. "Neither I nor the OOs could hear the transmitter," Swain said in his report. "In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. At just about the same time, I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] -- just above the noise level -- for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Swain also placed a call to Assistant Section Manager Bill Carpenter, AA8EY. "Bill lives within the target area. I briefed him on the situation and he went right to his station," Swain said. "Bill checked the frequency and told me he was hearing [the 'dits'] at about S9. He said he thought he might know who it could be and that would make some calls."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7. I called Bill's house and left a message telling him I was on my way to Westerville to track down the signal. If he wanted to ride along with me while I looked for it, he was more than welcome to come." Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

When Swain arrived in Westerville, he had a list of the names and addresses of 172 licensees in the area, as well as a general idea of where the signal should be, based on the data from the FCC's HFDFing station. He also had his HF radio, an all-band screwdriver antenna, a GPS receiver and a VHF radio for information and directions.

"I drove around the area checking the signal and noted that it was about S9 and climbing," Swain said. He and Carpenter met up and continued the search together. About 15 minutes later -- with Swain driving and Carpenter giving directions -- "we noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street, saying that there was an address on the list we should check out. We stopped at that address, but no luck."

Swain said he then injected 30dB of attenuation and continued to drive in the same direction: "The signal was now reading 20 dB over S9 with the attenuator still on. We turned down the next street and the signal rose another 20 dB. I pulled into a parking lot and made a 360-degree turn as to determine the signal's direction. The turn indicated that we should proceed to a newly constructed housing area adjacent to the parking lot."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to the housing development and found that signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna. We went next door and spoke to the neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do."

With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter. No other explanation could be possible without the owner hearing the transmit relay clicking."



When Swain and Carpenter left the house, they listened to the receiver and discovered the signal had disappeared.

"This was a great example of coordinated cooperation by the FCC and OOs to resolve a problem in a timely fashion," Skolaut said. "The DFing station told us that hopefully the OOs could handle it as the FCC District Office was unable to work the case at this time."

From the ARRL



HF Basic Skills Workshop

On Saturday, November 15th, PCARS will be offering an HF Basic Skills Workshop starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room at the Family & Community Services office building at 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

This is a follow-up to the VHF/UHF Basic Skills program that was held in October but by no means is attendance limited to those who attended that presentation.



Our plan for the HF workshop is to have it serve as an introduction to HF operations and modes for new

hams or those who have recently upgraded to General. But it can also be an excellent refresher course for hams with HF privileges who have been inactive for a while and are now getting back into the hobby.

Even better, if you know someone who has an interest in amateur radio and who would like to find out more about what they can do with a ham radio license please invite them to attend as your guest and bring them along!



There will be a number of instructors and we will be using a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Ward Silver, N0AX, as a general outline for the presentation, taking time out to expand on topics of interest and to answer your questions. We encourage HF experienced PCARS members to also stop in and share their advice and operating tips.

So please join us for an interesting discussion and learn more about the ham radio fun to be had on the HF bands.

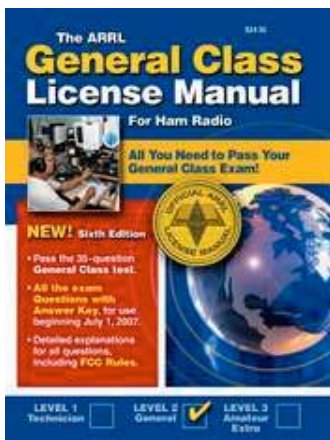
Jim, KC8PD



2009 General Class Upgrade Course

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

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



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

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

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

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

Jim, KC8PD



November Contest Calendar

November, 2008	
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 1 to 0300Z, Nov 3
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 8 to 0200Z, Nov 9
CQ-WE Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 8 (CW/Digital) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 9 (Phone) and 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 9 (Phone) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 10 (CW/Digital)
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 15 to 0300Z, Nov 17
EU PSK63 QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 17
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30

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

Ham License Plates Wanted

One of the suggestions we came up with was to have a wall of ham license plates in the club station. So, dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station. We have a few more that came in, but we can use more!

Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. It costs you about \$19 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. In about 2 weeks or so, the plates come in the mail. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be re-newed, you can (for about a \$7 fee) get NEW plates issued (same call sign). Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a permanent part of PCARS history!!



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

Tom, KB8UUZ

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

Coming Up in 2008: 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

KH2D's Tips For CW Contesting

CW Equipment:

An automatic device, preferably with memory is a must for CW contesting. Before the contest starts, it is imperative to load the memories and properly adjust the speed of the device. Use of an automated device also eliminates sending mistakes, which can be embarrassing during a contest. Try and think of EVERYTHING you will need to send during a contest and make sure it's programmed into a memory.

contest and make sure it's programmed into a memory.

CW Equipment Adjustment:

Adjusting automated CW sending devices can be tricky, but if you follow this simple equation, you will minimize the problems in doing so. First, tune around on any HF band where you can find stations who are sending CW. Listen until you find a station who is sending at the MAXIMUM speed you can copy. Then, with your automated device in the 'off the air' mode, emulate that station and determine the speed at which he is sending CW. The number derived is your BASE CW SPEED number. Once your BASE CW SPEED number has been determined, the proper sending speed for you to use during a contest is found using a simple formula: $(\text{BASE CW SPEED}) \times (2.3) = \text{CONTEST SPEED}$

Yes, I know you can't SEND that fast MANUALLY, but don't worry, during the contest you will be using ONLY the memories in your automated sending device so nobody will know. Yes, I know you can't COPY that fast either, but don't worry, during a contest there are many tricks to get the other station calling you to slow down, which we will cover later. To be successful at CW contesting, you MUST realize that EVERYBODY in the world copies CW faster than you do, but unless you appear to be as fast as they are, you have no hopes of winning a CW contest.

Fine Tuning Your CW Equipment:

If you are fortunate enough to own an automated sending device with the capability of programmable speed changes, you should by all means program the speed of all the mundane stuff (like the words 'TEST', '599', and 'K') to approximately 86 words per minute. You will save many milliseconds during the contest by doing this, and you will impress many other people with the automation capabilities of your station. Don't worry about speed changes confusing anyone. Remember, you MUST realize that EVERYBODY in the world copies CW faster than you do.



Computer Equipment:

It's 2002, and if you don't have a computer in your shack, you shouldn't be thinking about CW contesting.

Why? Simple. We have already established the fact that CW contests are run at CONTEST SPEED, and that everybody in the world can copy CW faster than you can. You will most definitely need a computer and some software to take care of the more mundane tasks associated with CW contesting, like figuring out what country or zone the guy you just worked was in because you couldn't copy the exchange at CONTEST SPEED. If you don't have a computer, go get one.

Equipment Summary:

Always send very fast. The faster you call CQ, the more other stations will call you because they think you are a REAL contest station. Use your equipment to it's fullest capacity. Never forget that everyone else in the world can copy CW much faster than you can.

Now that we have our CW equipment properly set up, let's move on to operating skills. These, I feel, can be addressed best with the good old FAQ format of questions and answers.

Frequently Asked Questions About CW Contesting

Q. HOW DO I FIND A FREQUENCY TO CALL CQ ?

A. Tune around until you can't hear anything on a particular frequency for at least 30 milliseconds. Then press the 'CQ CONTEST' button on your keyer. If you hear other stations when the CQ CONTEST message is finished, simply press the button again. Continue to do this until other stations begin to call you, no matter how long it takes. NEVER NEVER send 'QRL?' before CQ'ing. REAL contest stations never do that. Don't spend a minute listening to make sure that a frequency is clear before you CQ, that is a major waste of time. If you wound up on a frequency that already had somebody calling CQ, no problem. CQ DUELING is just a part of contesting. If the other guy is serious about contesting, it will only take you a few minutes to make him go away. Save that frequency in memory. It's your home CQ frequency. If you QSX to work multipliers, always go back it again.

Q. THE STATION CALLING ME IS SENDING TOO FAST. WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

A. Press the button for the memory containing 'AGN ?'. Do this repeatedly, and sooner or later, the calling stations ESP filter will kick in and he will slow down. If he doesn't have an ESP filter, then he will just go away and leave you alone so you can work somebody else. If he doesn't go away, just press the button you have programmed for 'SRI QRN QRZ TEST', which will get rid of the most persistent high speed callers.

Q. WHEN SHOULD I CALL CQ ?

A. Always. REAL contest stations don't tune around. They just sit in one spot and call CQ for 48 hours. Never mind where you are. Somebody will call you, sooner or later. You must establish your importance by planting your feet firmly on a frequency and calling CQ.

Q. HOW LONG SHOULD THE PAUSE IN MY KEYS BE BETWEEN CQ's ?

A. Lucky you. No more formulas, I have already figured this one out for you. It takes me exactly 2 seconds to send my call at 28 words per minute (KH2D - four characters). So you should program the pause to at least 2.1 seconds, which will give you 1/10 of a second to listen for me calling you before you start CQ'ing again. Don't worry about the guys with six character call signs, they aren't real testers anyway - real testers only have 3 or 4 letter calls.

Q. IF I ONLY CALL CQ, HOW DO I GET MULTIPLIERS ?

A. Easy. Most stations in rare locations are never serious testers. They just get on so they can give out multipliers to the serious testers in Japan or California. If they were serious, they would be CQ'ing, not calling you. When somebody you need for a multiplier calls you, you just ask him to QSY to four or five other bands, and then when that's finished you return to CQ'ing on your established home frequency. Be persistent when QSY'ing people. Beg if you have to. Get nasty. Do whatever it takes. Never mind the guy doesn't have an antenna for 160, insist he goes to that band to try with his 40 meter antenna. This system has been proven to work by many Caribbean contest expeditions.



Q. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE GUY I JUST WORKED STARTS TALKING TO ME AT CONTEST SPEED ?

A. Simple. Just hit the button for the memory you have programmed to '73 QRZ TEST'. Real testers don't ragchew during contest time. They contest.

Q. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE SAME STATION CALLS ME SIX TIMES IN THIRTY MINUTES ON THE SAME BAND ?

A. Work him six times. Just don't put him in the log the last five. Never fail to realize that if he called you six times, he probably can't copy your callsign, he doesn't know who he is calling. He is just trying to help out by giving people contacts. Don't send 'QSO B4'. That will only confuse him. Just send his report and '73'. He'll be back in ten or fifteen minutes - repeat above procedure.

Q. I'M TIRED OF CQ'ing. NOW WHAT CAN I DO ?

A. Well, that happens to even the best tester. When your rate drops below 10 or 15 contacts an hour, it's not unusual to get a little bored. Some things you can do are take the family out for dinner, go cut the grass, or clean the swimming pool. These are, believe it or not, contest related activities. When your buddy up the road asks you "HOW'D YOU DO IN THE CONTEST, OM ?" and you find out he beat you by 800,000 points, you can always respond with "WELL, I COULD ONLY OPERATE THREE HOURS, I HAD TO TAKE THE FAMILY OUT TO DINNER, CUT THE GRASS, AND CLEAN THE SWIMMING POOL". If you have decided you want to tough it out, you need to discover the second form of contesting, which we call SEARCH AND POUNCE.

Q. HOW DOES THE SEARCH AND POUNCE THING WORK ?

A. Basically, you just tune up and down the bands looking for other stations calling CQ, and you call them. Start at the top or the bottom, and work your way up or down the band. Don't forget to check way up above the RTTY frequencies, a lot of the Super Contest Stations hide up there while they are eating lunch, so they can have one hand free for a baloney sandwich.

Q. I HEAR SOMEBODY CQ'ing BUT I CAN'T COPY HIS CALL. WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

A. Press the button with your call programmed into the memory keyer. Hopefully if he answers, you can recognize the

first few letters of your own call. Note the time he worked you - after you have worked him, you can listen to him work other stations for 10 minutes and figure out what call to log. Even if nobody else is calling him, you can figure his call out by listening to him CQ. The computer will figure out the exchange for you.

Q. I JUST TUNED TO A FREQUENCY AND SOMEBODY JUST STOPPED SENDING. WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

A. Press the button you have programmed for '?'. Most stations in a CW contest who aren't working anybody will repeatedly call CQ, with a three to five second pause between CQ's. It's totally unrealistic for anyone to expect that YOU would wait 4 seconds to hear his call again, your time is much too valuable for that. Sending the '?' makes the other station realize that a REAL contest station has just shown up on his frequency, and will force him to manually originate another CQ call, saving you a few seconds of your valuable time. (NOTE: Don't try this trick with KH2D. If you '?' KH2D and then call him the next time he CQ's, he'll get your call wrong six times and it will take you 3 minutes to work him. Much faster for everybody to wait the extra 3 seconds.....)

Q. I HEAR A GUY CQ'ing. HE's 40 OVER S9. HE WON'T ANSWER ME. HE WON'T ANSWER ANYBODY ELSE. WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

A. Wait about three minutes until he comes back from the bathroom, then call him again. Practice copying his call until he gets back.

Q. I DON'T LIKE THIS SEARCH AND POUNCE THING, IT'S TOO MUCH LIKE WORK. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO ?

A. Well, we already talked about equipment, but since you already have the computer, you can just add the packet cluster interface, the CAT interface for your radio, and a rotor interface and you can turn search and pounce into point and click. Software is available that you can use to let everybody else do the searching for you..... they search..... you pounce. And you don't even have to worry about copying the callsigns any more. Almost as much fun as the W7PHO Family Hour.

Q. I'VE GOT A LOT OF CONTEST EXPERIENCE, I WON THE DELAWARE QSO PARTY. WHAT'S NEXT FOR ME ?

A. That little island in the Caribbean, what else. But before you hop on the plane, here are a few tips for island contesting:

1. Always try and get on the island and operational a few days before the contest. Work as many people as you can before the contest starts. The pileup during the contest will be big anyway, and if you can eliminate the casual ops who need you for a new one before the contest, you won't have to deal with them while all the fun is going on.
2. Use the 47.75/.25 rule. CQ for the first 47 3/4 hours. Then use the last 15 minutes to look for all the multipliers you didn't work, especially those little islands out in Pacific, because those guys gave up calling the Caribbean years ago. You really don't need them anyway, you can work EU and NA until you turn blue, so why waste more than 15 minutes on them.
3. During the last fifteen minutes of the contest, if you do happen to hear a Pacific station calling CQ and you work him, ask him to stop what he is doing and QSY to other bands with you. Tell him to hurry, because the contest is almost over. Don't take no for an answer, be persistent. Get nasty if you have to. You reserved the last fifteen minutes specifically for working multipliers, and he has no right to screw up your plans.
4. If someone makes the mistake of calling from the Pacific for 30 minutes at their sunrise, trying to get you off the side of your antenna while you run Europe, and finally does get thru, don't let them get away until you have told them what bands/times/frequencies they MUST show up on to give you some more mults. Ask them if they have any friends on other islands they could call on the phone and get them up on frequency for you. Grasp the opportunity of the moment and use it.
5. If you happen to make the mistake of realizing the band is open to Asia, work only JA's. Never ask the JA's to hold



still to see if anyone else you might need for a mult is calling you. Stations in the Pacific and Asia just love to sit in pileups with 3,000 JA's for an hour. You are enhancing their contest enjoyment. If one does happen to get thru the JA pileup, don't let them get away until you have told them the what bands/times/frequencies they **MUST** show up on to give you some more mults. Ask them if they have any friends on other islands they could call on the phone and get them up on frequency for you. Grasp the opportunity of the moment and use it.

Well, that's about all I can think of to help you be successful in CW contests. I have a long list of things that you can do to make testers unhappy, but I don't think I want to pass them out to the general public. Not yet, anyway...

Jim Kehler, KH2D

Editor's Note: Yes, for those of you wondering, this is a humorous article and not really what you should do. However, it is a good way to get you interested in the PCARS November meeting topic: Bill, WB9LBI, will be giving a presentation on **CW Tips and Techniques, Equipment and Software**. So make sure you're at the next PCARS meeting on November 11th. --. --.

Spring Forward - Fall Back

On November 2nd - Sunday morning - 2:00 am (Eastern Daylight Time), don't forget to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour. That's when we change from Daylight Savings Time (EDT) to Eastern Standard Time (EST).



However, remember GMT (or UTC) time **DOES NOT CHANGE**. So, on Saturday morning at 10:00 am EDT, the proper UTC time is 1400 hours (4 hour difference). On Sunday, at 10 am EST, UTC time will be 1500 hours (5 hour difference)

Tom, KB8UUZ

PCARS Dues



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

Tom, KB8UUZ

Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: FINCO Stinger A-62 6&2 Meter Beam - New in Box - \$100 - Contact Bob N8QE - 330-633-5408 - N8QE@portcars.org

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Want to work mobile?? I have come across a supply of "new - old stock" items from the now defunct Antenna Specialists, formerly of Solon, OH. You can get a heavy duty ball mount, with stainless spring and 96" stainless whip, all for just \$30.00. Let me know how many you want. **Tom - WB8LCD@portcars.org**

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

FOR SALE: Uniden President HR2510 CW/SSB 10 Meter Transceiver with Shakespeare 376-6B 10 Meter Vertical Antenna. \$175.00 Contact Bob: 330-633-5408 or e-mail **N8QE@portcars.org**

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

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

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



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- November 10th – **Bill, WB9LBI, CW Tips and Techniques, Equipment and Software**
- November 15th – **Basic On-Air Skills – HF**, Community Room, Family & Community Services, 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna
- December 8th – **Christmas Party**, Paradise Lake Country Club
- January 12th meeting – **Chuck, K8CMP, Contesting**
- January 24th activity – **Tom, KB8UUZ, Coax and Connectors**
- February 9th meeting – **Ham Radio Deluxe**
- February 21st – **Freeze Your Acorns Off**
- March 22nd activity – **Jim, KC8PD, J-Pole Antenna Kits**



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in November

N8ATV	Jerry Jarze
K3GP	George Proudfoot
KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland
KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
KC8SUI	Rick Smith

K8FEY	Bob Hewett
KC8SYD	Ted Kost
N8WLE	Nick Rothermel
AB8VX	James Bailey

And.... PCARS is 3 year old on November 14th



PCARS Thursday Net Control

November							
6	KB8UUZ	13	N8QE	20	KC8PD	27	WB8LCD
December							
4	K8CMP	11	KB8UUZ	18	KC8PD	25	KB8UUZ

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



Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator



Final Field Day 2008 Results

First, the bad news: we were not the highest scoring station for the ARRL Field Day 2008. That honor belongs to the Potomac Valley Radio Club with 33,664 points. Of course, they were running 23 transmitters, so there was some minor advantage there. Nor were we the station with the most participants; The Jupiter Tequesta Repeater Group of south Florida had 196 signed-in operators. I wonder what their picnic looked like.

But with all that said... we did pretty well! With our four transmitters and 65 participants, we scored in the top 15% of all 2,410 Field Day stations everywhere. There are several ways to slice the pie: by score or participants, by section, or division, or nationally, and by our 4A category or for all stations. I thought you'd be interested in the following chart showing how PCARS ranked..



4A CATEGORY		
Ohio	Score	2 nd
	Participants	1 st *
Great Lakes Division	Score	3 rd
	Participants	1 st *
Nationally	Score	13 th
	Participants	7 th

ALL CATEGORIES		
Ohio	Score	7 th
	Participants	1 st *
Great Lakes Division	Score	15 th
	Participants	3 rd *
Nationally	Score	154 th
	Participants	56 th *

* Indicates tied with at least one other station for the same rank

If you participated in Field Day this year, you are now one of the top testers in America. Give yourself a pat on the back. Nice work, everybody!

Bill, WB9LBI



PCARS Patches & Stickers



PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket!! The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available. A 4"x6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! If you would like to order by mail contact:

kb8uuz@portcars.org



PCARS Yahoo Site

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



Don, KI8SS - SK

Editor's Note: Don's article on his humorous adventures during the OSPOTA contest was published in the October issue of the Radiogram. The day after I sent out the newsletter, I received an e-mail from Jane Avnet:

I'm glad you enjoyed Don's article that was in the October issue of the Radiogram as much as I did. Unfortunately Don passed away 9/30/08. He was only 61, a good guy, a good friend, and a great Ham who loved contesting. This (OSPOTA) was probably his last contest. Thanks for including his article in your newsletter. He would have appreciated it. And thanks for mentioning SAARA, I appreciate that. His wife's name is DeeDee, not a Ham.

Don - KI8SS (Donald L Stoddard) - Bio from QRZ:

"I have been in radio since I was a youngster in the 1950's I watched my father fixing TV sets and that peaked my interests. I went through electronics school in Biloxi, Mississippi in the Air Force and have enjoyed repairing and building equipment. I am a past officer for the 20/9 radio club, having held every position in our club over the years. I am also a member of the 3905 Century Club and enjoy making contacts daily as time permits. I like 160M the most and only lack Hawaii to have my WAS on 160. I also like 75M and 40M Bands. I can be found on two meters on the 145.270 Repeater. I am married to my wife DEE and have 10 Children, 25 Grand-children and 3 Great Grandchildren. (This week, Hi Hi) Love it at Christmas Time. Thanks for reading this Bio. Get out there and Elmer a New Ham. 73"

73,

Jane, K8JAA

Editor of the SAARA Newsletter

Skywarn Recognition Day

The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd said, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, an amazing 15,888 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted. "The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year!"



Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Suddenly there was incentive for more NWS staffers to either obtain a license or upgrade so that more people could work ham radio during severe events. In addition, many club members had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology."

And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs. "Perhaps the most unusual contact occurred in 2000 with an airliner 39,000 feet above Utah," Floyd said. "The pilot ended the QSO with a request for a 'spot weather forecast' for his arrival at Salt Lake City airport."

SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices and local ham clubs participating has increased, until now more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to the staff and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!"

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, "such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri."

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, Winlink and the use of e-mail reflectors."

2008 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 6 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event. If you haven't joined in the fun, make 2008 your year to do so!



From the ARRL



Tech Cripple

Approximately 20 years ago at age 13 I booted up my first computer and was instantly addicted. My obsessive-compulsive personality took over, and I had to know every aspect of how they worked, and what you could do with them. At that time computers were still a nerd hobby, and your average Joe user didn't exist. Luckily for me, the computer age boomed and my hobby transformed into a career. Computers are now a common household appliance, no different than a microwave or television. It was an interesting time to live through seeing the Internet go from a university to university, extremely expensive luxury to a \$15 per month service available in most towns across the country. Today, most of my personal and work life is organized and maintained by a computer. My bills are paid online, I track stocks online, I look up phone numbers online, get directions to places online, shop online, and research many many topics online. How did anyone learn about stuff before Google? At my office, we are constantly trying to go "paperless." Moving more and more information from filing cabinets into digital forms and modifying processes to reduce our paper use. There is a property unique to data that sets it apart from many other items we deal with; data can be duplicated in exact form at no cost. We can maintain multiple copies of files spread across many different servers all across the country. The obvious advantage is if our brick-and-mortar office burns to the ground, all of our "paperwork" is not lost. There are also advantages in searching, sorting, and updating that can be tedious and inefficient in a file-cabinet paper environment.



Okay Steve, you're doing a lot of blabbing about computers, doing stuff online, and storing data, but what's your point? You're writing this for the PCARS newsletter, not Wired Magazine, what does this have to do with Amateur Radio?

A few months back we had a short power outage followed by nearly a week of no Internet access here at my house. My home telephone is VOIP based, so without Internet I also had no phone service. No computer to distract me, no phone to interrupt me... hey, this is a great time to play radio! I had not had a chance to really exercise my new antenna and my General privileges. My HF rig at the house is setup to run off batteries and I had some quiet time, time to throw some RF! Okay, let's hit 40 meters... let me see, what are those frequencies I'm allowed in.... let me Google that real quick.... oh wait... hmm, no Internet... I know I have that General book around here somewhere...

During that week a few things became very clear to me. Primarily that most of my documents and reference material are either stored digitally on my computer, or digitally somewhere out on the Internet. When was the last time I picked up a telephone book? Do we even have one? When I needed to call a business, I would simply search the web for the phone number and call the place. Do I have a street map handy if MapQuest isn't available? If my cell phone battery goes, do I know anyone's phone number? Are they written down anywhere? The only phone numbers I have memorized are ones before the cell phone was commonplace. What are the frequencies and tones of nearby repeaters? What if we have to drive into an area I'm not familiar with? Do I really want to sit and scan for a repeater? Do I know the amateur bandplan and emergency frequencies? My Kenwood D710's manual came on a CD with the rig. There was only a very basic install manual actually printed out. What if I needed to use a seldom used feature, such as cross-band repeat in an emergency, and the computer wasn't available? What if the power is out and I can't use my computer at all? Even storing data on your computer locally (meaning copying Internet documents to your computer so you don't need to be connected) is useless if the computer can't be started! If the power or Internet go out, my tech-centric world is crippled! "When all else except my computer fails..." Wait, that doesn't sound right...

My mind began running through scenario after scenario. There was only one real solution I could see to solve these "disaster" situations.... save everything locally on your computer, and print essential documents. Oh, how painful for a tech guy; print out stuff on paper and organize it in folders. You might as well force me to sit through a lecture from Bill on CW!

There are some alternate ways to solve some of these issues, such as using generators, cell-phone based Internet, and multiple computers with copies of all your important data. These are worth looking into and implementing but be aware that all of the alternatives have issues of their own that can fail. Generators need gas and can have engine issues, cell phone networks drop, particularly during disasters or "mini" disasters. Do you have everything you need to run and operate your rig if you had no computer or Internet? Do you want to have to startup a generator to simply look up a phone number? At the most basic level all you need is the ability to read to use printed documents. It is a KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) philosophy. At a minimum, it is a good idea to get all the information you need copied from the Internet to your computer. Losing connectivity to the Internet is more common and outside of your control. If the documents are on your computer, there are options within your control to obtain a power source and access the files.

I am currently working on putting together a "Ham Pack" of essential and useful radio related documents along with an updating application which will help keep the information current. Once I complete the program I'll make it available for PCARS members. The Ham Pack will take much of the data scattered on the Internet, consolidate it together, and make data available locally on your computer. For some of the critical documents, it is best to print them out and have them in a folder. Perhaps you'll never need to open up that folder, but if you do, you'll be glad you have it.

Steve, K8SRR



8th Area QSL Bureau

The 8th call area bureau operates as part of the ARRL's volunteer QSL bureau system. We handle cards having the numeral 8, such as K8, N8, W8, AA8-AK8, KA8-KZ8, and WA8-WZ8, in the call sign. We handle American Samoa cards as well, ie AH8, KH8, WH8.

The Bureau address is: 8th Area QSL Bureau - P.O. Box 307 - West Chester, Ohio 45071-0307

Bureau Manager - Jay Slough, K4ZLE - k4zle@arrl.net

GENERAL QSL BUREAU INFORMATION

The 8th call area bureau operates as part of the ARRL's volunteer QSL bureau system. As such, the operating expenses are paid by the league's members, although the bureau service is open to all US hams whether ARRL members or not. If you are not a league member, and use the incoming bureau, won't you consider joining today?

The bureau is 100% volunteer staffed. Each bureau worker forgoes their time to provide a service to you and we want to provide the best service possible within the bounds of reasonableness and fiscal responsibility. If you will follow the guidelines listed here, you will receive better service and our volunteers will have time to enjoy other aspects of our hobby, etc.

DO NOT SEND YOUR OUTGOING CARDS TO US

We cannot process them; they will be sent back to you in your bureau envelopes. Outgoing cards should be sent to ARRL HQ.

PLEASE BE PATIENT

QSL cards are rarely received by the bureau for contacts less than four months old. Most cards are for contacts made between a year and two years prior. Some cards come through the system as much as five years or more after the QSO. Some foreign bureaus send out cards only a few times a year. Most come by boat, which is very slow mail, indeed. There was a survey done of all cards received over a two month period. Of those cards that had "TNX QSL" checked, less than 5% were for contacts within a year of the QSO. This means if the station you worked waited for your card before returning one, the minimum turn-around will be a year or more. Many DXers who are relatively new to DXing tend to work "big gun" or loud stations. These stations work many U.S. stations, and in most cases, wait for your card before sending you one. Those DX stations who answer your CQ are much more likely to send their cards first, rather than those whose CQ you answer.

KEEP ENVELOPES ON FILE WITH THE BUREAU

If you work DX at all, you should expect to receive bureau cards, especially if you work any DX contest. Do not forget that most SWLs send via the bureau. So not only might you receive cards from the station you worked, but also from SWLs. Unclaimed cards are the bureau's biggest problem. Send NON-clasp-fastening, end-opening envelopes, between 5X7 and 6X9 inches in size. Unless you receive lots and lots of bureau cards DO NOT send more than three or four (self addressed stamped envelopes) SASE at a time. DO NOT use envelopes smaller or larger than 5X7 or 6X9. Smaller envelopes won't hold some of the larger DX cards; larger envelopes won't fit in our files, are more likely to come apart in the mail process AND with current postage rates, cost more to use. (See discussion below on postage rate changes effective summer 2007.) Non-standard and padded envelopes may be returned to you empty. Padded envelopes are larger than 1/4 inch and incur a higher fee just like envelope larger than 6 x 9.

Most of our Managers have email access. If you have an EMAIL address, PLEASE INCLUDE IT when ever you write to the bureau or your Letter Manager. Make sure to include your EMAIL address when you send SASEs to the bureau or your Manager as well. This will help us to communicate with you much more quickly than by conventional snail mail. If your EMAIL address changes, make sure you notify your Manager of the change.

Please DO NOT SEND USED ENVELOPES to the bureau. We will *NOT* attempt to use used envelopes. More than one trip through the postal system greatly increases the chance the envelope will come apart in the postal system, with the loss of your cards.

When you prepare envelopes for us, NEATLY print your call, in BLOCK LETTERS , in the upper left corner, in the place where a normal return address goes. Some people do such a poor job of writing their calls we need to look up the suspected call in the Callbook and match the name/address to make sure of the call. Certain letters can be especially troublesome--like V and U, for instance. Take the time to make a very pointed V and a round or square bottom U. Keep this in mind when filling out cards to send via any bureau. It is a real headache for bureau workers trying to decide who the card really goes to; we don't want to guess which letter you really mean. And if a Manager can't read the call you put on your card, it may end up in the round file. Address each envelope to yourself in the center. Remember, these are your cards. If we can't read your call or the postman can't read your address, you won't get them. If you have a change of address, send us address labels to cover your old address. Many people write so large, there is no room to write a change of address on their SASE.

Affix enough postage to cover at least one ounce of weight. Currently, the first ounce is 41-cents. The post office is selling a "forever" stamp now good for one unit of postage. We do not know how long they will sell these stamps, but now would be a good time to stock up on them for use with your bureau SASEs. You may staple some extra stamps to each SASE. Only you know how much DX you work and how much postage to put on your SASE. Use the following guide as to how much postage to put on your SASE. Cards are mailed out approximately every four to six weeks. We try to send the amount of cards equal to the postage you place on your SASE. This means five to seven cards for one ounce, 15-17 cards for 2 ounces.

The official W8 bureau recommendation is use 6 x 9 or 5 x 7 envelopes. You should not apply more than 58 cents postage under current postage rates. If you are a "heavy hitter" work out with your individual letter manager how to handle your situation. The usual method for handling those who receive lots of cards is for them to send money the letter manager handles getting them boxed and shipped using the parcel rate, or perhaps priority mail.

We do clear out all cards once a year. No matter how much postage on your SASE, and how few cards you have, once a year we will send you what you have. When postal rates go up, you should send extra stamps to cover the cost increase. Most people never think to send us extra postage when the rates go up.

We much prefer you send us SASE, but if you can not find 5X7 or 6X9 envelopes, we will sell them UNDER ONE CONDITION ONLY. You MUST send address labels along with your order. We will provide four 5X7 envelopes, with one unit of postage on each SASE for \$2.00. Our Managers have enough of a job sorting and mailing your cards without asking them to keep track of money for hundreds of people. PLEASE NOTE: Some Managers may not wish to purchase and prepare your envelopes. Be sure to check with your individual Manager prior to sending them money to purchase your supplies for you. As was already said above, we much prefer that you send us SASEs.

NEVER put more than one call on an envelope. We can not cross-reference upgrades, vanity calls, and family calls.

Again, the normal mailing cycle for the bureau is about every four to six weeks. If you don't worry about us wasting your postage, put "mail every cycle" on the bottom of each SASE and we will send you what you have each time, without the need to fill your SASE to the value of postage you've placed on it.

The Standard Operating Guidelines for ARRL QSL Bureaus states: "QSL cards on file which are unclaimed for a period longer than 90 days may be destroyed by the Bureau Manager (or Letter Manager) without further authority." PLEASE NOTE : Individual Letter Managers may elect to hold unclaimed QSL Cards for a longer period of time, at their discretion. Once we have made reasonable attempts to contact you that you have cards at the bureau and have received no correspondence (SASE) from you and destroyed your cards, we will make a note in our files and *NOT* contact you again. We will continue to destroy your cards on a continuing basis until we receive instructions to the contrary. You may consider this extreme, but consider again that the biggest problem we have is unclaimed cards and the effort our volunteer letter managers expend trying to get them to the intended recipients. Before we destroy the cards, the following has occurred. A card has been sent, not at your expense, to your address of record, according to the FCC data base. (If that address is incorrect, you are not complying with the FCC regulations and are actually operating illegally!) In addition to the card, an email has been attempted using the address,<your-call>@arrl.net and/or any address in the various on-line callbooks. And as a last resort, you call may have been listed on the "You've Got Cards Page". If your call is listed on the "You've Got Cards Page", it is highly possible you have received an ARRL NTS message notifying you that you need to provide an envelope to the bureau.

BUREAU OPERATING PROCEDURES

The mail is picked up at the PO Box on a regular basis, approximately once per week. There may be as little as five pounds to as much as 200 pounds in a week. You can visualize this by thinking of a stack of QSL cards ranging from 9 inches high, to over 29 feet high, each week.

At the central bureau we sort the cards into 27 piles - one for each letter of the alphabet according to the first letter of the suffix and one for miss-sorts from the other bureau, cards sent to the 8th area bureau that should go to the 9th area bureau, for example.

The cards are then conveyed to the individual Letter Managers. Some managers will personally pick the cards up from the central bureau every few weeks. Most are mailed via USPS or UPS every four to eight weeks, depending on volume. If you send a request for information to your Letter Manager via the Bureau address, it may have just missed the last pickup, requiring another six weeks to make it to your Letter Manager. It will save you time to check directly with your Letter Manager if you just want to check on the status of your cards and SASE. See the complete Letter Manager list, at the top of this page, to know who does your cards. Send e-mail direct to your Letter Manager, along with a copy the Bureau Manager.

Our goal is to mail out cards at least every two months, and sooner if possible. However, remember we are all volunteers and also take vacations, go on DX trips ourselves, get sick, have family issues that need immediate attention, etc., so occasionally it may take a bit longer. Put it in perspective, if most of the cards you are receiving are for QSOs more than a year in the past, what is another 2 months? If you are working a good deal of DX, and don't have too much postage on your SASE, there should be no reason why more than six months should go by without cards. We want to know whenever this happens. We will lend a temporary hand to the Letter Manager or give it to another if we can't get the cards out at least every three months.

We must assume each Letter Manager is doing a good job if you don't tell us there is a problem. It's a good idea to mark your calendar each time you get bureau cards. That way you know for sure how long it has been. If you do work a good deal of DX, let us know any time you go over 6 to 9 months without cards. When we ask a Letter Manager if he has problems and he says, "I got behind, but I'll take care of everything next week," we have to assume that happened. We've had instances where we asked the Letter Manager if he got everything out a few weeks later. He says "yes" when in fact he didn't. We need to hear from you to make sure he in fact does the job as it should be done. The Letter Manager can clean up his act and have the same problem some time later. There's no way for us to know of problems if you don't tell us.

Good cooperation between the DXer and the bureau is important to ensure a smooth flow of cards. Remember that the people who work at the bureau are all volunteers. At the peak of the last cycle, we handled over two tons of cards a year. In the trough of the cycle relatively few cards are received. We are on the downslide now. For that reason and with the implementation of Log Book of the World, you should expect card volume to begin to drop off. With that in mind, please pay close attention to the above information, and the following DO'S and DON'TS.

THE DO'S and DON'TS

DO keep self-addressed 5X7 or 6X9 envelopes on file with your call in the upper left corner. Affix at least one ounce of postage to each. After checking the Letter Manager list above, you may send your SASE directly to your Letter Manager.

DO put your Call Sign on the outside of all envelopes containing SASEs or requests for information, sent to the Bureau or your Letter Manager. This will keep your envelope from having to be opened by Bureau Staff to determine where it should be forwarded.

DO keep envelopes at all Letters and Bureaus where you expect to receive Cards. If you have had a call sign change, we have no way of forwarding your old cards to your new Letter Manager, so please have an SASE waiting at both the old and new call sign Letter Managers Bureau.

DO include your E-Mail address with all correspondence to the Bureau or your Letter Manager.

DO send the bureau enough postage to cover the SASE on file and enough to cover postal rate increases.

DO respond quickly to any bureau request for more SASE or additional postage. Remember, unclaimed cards are the bureau's single biggest problem.

DO include an SASE with any information request to the bureau.

DO notify the bureau in writing if you don't want your cards.

DON'T expect DX cards to arrive for at least a year after contact. Overseas delivery is very slow. Most cards are over a year old when received by the Bureau.

DON'T send your outgoing cards to this bureau.

Jay Slough, K4ZLE
8th Area Bureau Manager

Editor's Note: I've had a few e-mails over the last month asking me how the BURO works, so I thought there may be a few more out there wondering the same thing, so this should help you out. For more information about the BURO - both incoming and outgoing, check out the ARRL web site.



PCARS Meetings

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

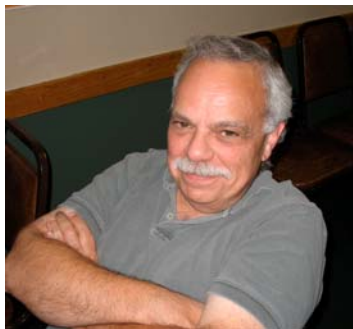


*Located in the **Brimfield Plaza**
Just South of Interstate 76
off Route 43 in **Brimfield, OH.***

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



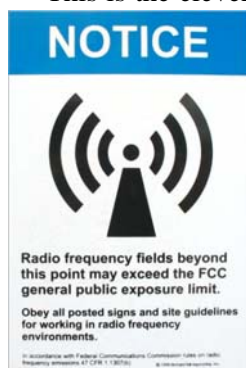
Pictures from the October PCARS Meeting





Thanks & 73

This is the eleventh issue of the PCARS official newsletter the '**RADIOGRAM**' for 2008. This month I formatted the newsletter a bit different. Most people seem to be reading the RADIOGRAM on line rather than printing it out (save the paper, save the ink!). This new formatting should make that easier. Let me know what you think about it. Send me an email at: kb8uuz@portcars.org .



I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **WB8LCD, KC8PD, K8CMP, W8KNO, KB8UUZ, KH2D, WB9LBI, K8SRR, K4ZLE, 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)

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at **Sideliners**
in the Brimfield Plaza, Brimfield, OH - Off Route 43 Just South of Interstate 76



All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!

"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

PCARS Uses the N8EQJ Repeater: 146.895 MHz (PL 110.9 – Rootstown, Ohio PL 114.8 – Kent, Ohio)

Repeater is graciously provided by N8EQJ for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees 2008

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site Coordinator	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO K8CMP	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2008	WB9LBI N8EQJ	Bill Fraedrich Ed Polack
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Repeater	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
 VE Team	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
	N4IT	Carl Capps
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8CMP	Chuck Patellis
	N8EQJ	Ed Polack
	K8QF	Russ Conklin
	K8GI	Rick Patterson
Web Master	WB8VNO	Gay Wands
	WD8CVH	Ted Wands
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

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

This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, the RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail. The RADIOGRAM is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that. To remove yourself from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuZ @ portcars.org

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