



The

RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



October 2008

~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~

Vol. 3 No. 10

~ 2008 Officers ~

President: - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UJZ
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

This year is starting to wind down, soon to be gone. Got some outside work you need to get done so you can stay on the air this winter? If so, you better get moving on it, before it gets cold, wet and no fun to work in! I put new rope supports up on my Carolina Windham, so I should be good. I'll be anxious for winter to come and be gone as I've got some tower sections sitting in my garage with a Spring 09 anticipated planting date!

How about your 2008 operating goals? Got them all done? If not, you better get moving and make some plans, or 2008 will be another year that just passed you by! Planning a license upgrade? Get the books and materials ordered, winter's a great time to hunker down and get some of that stuff out of the way. How about that TAK-40 Kit? Mines still in the bag, too, but I'm gonna pull it out when the weather turns and get it on the air!

Have you ever heard the expression "been there, done that"? Some even like to add "got the T-shirt" to the end of it. You'll find a lot of hams that have that attitude towards Amateur Radio. They tend to congregate in clubs that aren't growing and aren't having any fun. They never make it to public service events, special events, other club's meetings and most importantly, anything educational. For them its just another boring day to get through, and that's how they present Amateur Radio to the public! Is it any wonder many people believe that our hobby is almost dead? There's only one way to change that perception, each and every one of us needs to constantly be on a n Amateur Radio Public Information crusade. We've got to turn the tide of public opinion so that others become interested in joining us and see what a great hobby Ham Radio is!

There aren't too many places where you can find such a diverse and interesting group of

people as you will find at any PCARS meeting.

And everyone of them willing to chat with you both on and off the air. There aren't too many other hobbies where in the course of a weekend you can talk to people from every corner of the world and even some who are out of this world up in space! Ham radio is a window to the future of consumer products as many of the things society takes for granted today (cell phones, VOIP, digital communication)

were being experimented with on the ham bands earlier! Look at some of the stuff hams are doing today with APRS, D-Star, and GPS – Think of the ways these things use the data and make it possible to track and connect with

others. Not familiar? Been a couple really good articles in QST the last couple months, give them a read.

The point is, Ham Radio is an exciting hobby! I don't think you or I will ever reach the point of having done all there is to do. And we keep coming up with new stuff all the time. So make sure, when someone discovers you are a ham and asks or comments about it, that they see the sparkle in your eye and feel the excitement in your voice. You may just be talking to someone who would like to be a ham but wants to know its not a "dead" hobby!

By the way, if you aren't having a ball in this hobby, get in touch with me, I got a few things I want to tell you about!

73

Tom, WB8LCD



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From the Vice President

You will find plenty of commentary about PCARS first annual Ohio State Parks On the Air (OSPOTA) contest elsewhere in this issue, but I would like to express my thanks to everyone who participated and helped make this a successful event.

OSPOTA generated a lot of good PR for amateur radio in general and for PCARS in particular. We hope that it serves as an example to clubs around the country and that they borrow the idea and start a similar event in their own state. There is no limit to the amount of ham radio fun that contests like OSPOTA can generate.

Please mark your calendars for the October 13th PCARS meeting where we will be privileged to have a presentation by Rod Ehrhart, W8NR, on Vertical Antennas and the Use of Radials. Rod works for DX Engineering and is very knowledgeable on this subject. Even if you have not used a vertical antenna before you will gain valuable information from Rod. Thanks again to Parky, KB8UUZ, for arranging Rod's visit.

Also, don't forget that in both October and November PCARS will be presenting programs to



enhance your on-the-air operating skills. On October 18th we will cover VHF/UHF operations and then on November 15th the topic will be HF techniques. Both dates are Saturdays and the programs will run from 10:00 a.m. until about 2:00

p.m. in the Community Room at the Family & Community Services office building at 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

Whether you are a new ham or an experienced ham looking for a refresher, we hope these programs will be useful for you. At the VHF/UHF meeting you are also encouraged to bring a rig or HT (and the manual for it) that may be causing you fits and the instructors will try to help you sort the problems out. We will also have a demo station operating.

If you know any new or inexperienced hams, or even folks who are prospective hams, that are not PCARS members, invite them to be your guest and bring them along.

Watch for an announcement about the need for work crews to assist with renovations at the club site. PCARS has volunteered to paint the outside of the building that houses the club station and we will be scheduling a power-washing day and then a separate painting day. In addition, work continues on the inside of the club site and the next task will be the installation of the dropped ceiling and new lights in the radio room.

Big changes will be coming in that building because F&CS has obtained a donation to renovate the east half of the building into offices and a teen activity center. This is great news for PCARS because the utility services will be fully restored and new restrooms will be added.

Work continues on the Amateur Extra class mentoring program that will be offered in 2009 and more information will be provided as we finalize the plans for it. There will also be a repeat of the General Class upgrade course in early 2009.

The Fall edition of the PCARS Technician course is underway with four students at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna. Contact me for details or call Maplewood at 330-296-2892, extension 104, to register. It is \$25.00 for the tuition and we will have manuals available. Even though the class is underway students can still register.

There will be a VE session at the end of the course on November 11th. The next regular PCARS VE session will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 4th at the Center of Hope.

73

Jim, KC8PD

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Man, is this year going by fast. It's October already and the leaves are starting to change. There is more than a nip in the air in the mornings and several flights of Canada geese have been flying over my QTH. Hopefully, we will still have several more days of decent WX to get our outdoor radio projects done.

I am aware of a few antenna projects, including my own, that are underway. My hope is to get my project completed before the snow flies. If I see that isn't going to happen, there is going to be a lot of strung wire in the trees on my property.

I have heard that the bands have been very cooperative during the last month and the reports by way of newsletters seem to confirm that. There are a lot of events scheduled for October and beyond that should get our juices running if you are a DX hunter. There are also some IOTA happenings to boot. So let's take a look and see what may be of interest.



I don't want to forget that we 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

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."

3B7, ST. BRANDON ISLAND. ARS 3B8FQ, is planning to activate St. Brandon Island as 3B7FQ, in October. The dates of the operation have not been determined. This will be a working trip, with on-air activities shared with meteorological maintenance duties. More specific details will be disseminated closer to the departure date. Please QSL via K5XK

3V, TUNISIA. RW4WM, will be active as 3V8SS from **Sousse** between September 29th and October 8th. Look for activity on CW and SSB, with some RTTY. QSLs for this operation go via RW4WM, direct or by the Bureau.

5Z, KENYA. 5Z4/RW1AU, continues to be quite active from Nairobi and is currently, only on 20 meters SSB, but a keyer is enroute, and if it arrives safely, Val will be very active on CW in the near future. Since Val is on a temporary work assignment, it is not known how long he will be in Kenya. Look for this station on weekends, and periodically on weeknights after work (after 1500z). He will reply to eQSL requests and should have his LoTW documentation completed soon. QSL via RW1AU's instructions on QRZ.com; His QSL Manager, K5XK, has a new address, which is also "OK" on QRZ.com. Color QSLs are being printed and will be mailed out within the next 2-3 weeks.

A2, BOTSWANA. Just a reminder that DL7DF and a team of operators will be active as A25/DL7DF this week from Botswana between September 23rd and October 6th. They plan to have several stations on the air on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. One station will be exclusively dedicated to RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. Please QSL via DL7DF, direct or by the DARC Bureau.

A4, OMAN. Members of the Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club (LARC) and the Norden District of the DARC (DOK 109), 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. 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>

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Operators F1HAR, F5HRY, F6FGZ, F6FVY and FY5FY will be active as FY5KE during the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Multi-Single entry. Please QSL via FY5KE.

T6, AFGHANISTAN (Just a reminder). KE6GFF will once again be operating as T6EE from Kabul during the month of October. He will be on 20 meters SSB (14.2 MHZ +/- QRM as dictated by his Afghan license). His station will consist of a FT897d, YP3 yagi, Buddipole dipole and wire antennas, using a truck battery for power. QSL via his home call sign: John Kountz, 1065 van Dyke Dr., Laguna Beach, CA 92651.

T8, PALAU. Operators HL1IWD and WX8C will be active as **T88YB** and **T88OO**, respectively, from October 24-27th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and possibly some RTTY. The operation will include an entry in CQWW SSB contest as T88YB. Please QSL via their home call signs, by the Bureau or direct.

T8, PALAU. JK2VOC and JA2BNN will be active as **T88FY** and **T88AC**, respectively, between October 23-28th. Activity will include the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All- Band entry. PSE QSL via their home call signs.

TR50, GABON. 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

NA-233. (New One!) The same group that activated Chuginadak Island (NA-234) is now planning to activate **Gareloi Island (NA-233)** in the Delarof Islands Group next year. They will use the call sign KL7RRC between July 20-30th, 2009. Look for details on: http://www.na234.com/contact_chuginadak_expedition.html

OC-035. VK4HAM, will be active as YJ0AAC from **Efate Island**, **Vanuatu**, between March 25th and April 1st of 2009. Activity will be on 80-10 meters. He also plans to be in the 2009 CQ WPX SSB Contest. PSE QSL via VK4HAM.

JX, JAN MAYEN. LA9SN, will once again be active as JX9SN for only a few hours on October 8th. Watch for him on CW on 30 and 20 meters. QSL direct to LA9SN.

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. 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.

LONGER PACIFIC TOUR (Update). K6HFA, is now making a longer trip/stay in the Pacific before he joins up with the team who will be activating three IOTAs in Papua-New Guinea. Look for him to be active from **Tonga** between September 23rd and October 11th. He will then go to one of the Papua New Guinea islands in the **Bismarck Archipelago (OC-008)** group before joining the team between October 12-18th. For more details and updates, visit:
http://www.425dxn.org/dxped/p29_2008/

That's it for this month's column. There are a lot more happenings and I am counting on you DX'ers to let me know what you hear and work. Till next month, 73 and Gud DX.

Chuck, K8CMP

Paper Chase - A4X Award

With the first sun spot in a month being seen, many believe that a new solar cycle has started. To the average ham operator it means that DX will improve and all of us will be able to contact those hard to reach places. The A4X Award is one of those awards that you thought were out of the realm of reality but you might be

wrong. To earn the award you need to contact eight stations on ssb or 5 on cw. Send a GCR and 10 IRCs to: Award Manager, ROARS, PO Box 981, Muscat, The Sultanate of Oman. I am only half way there but with a little luck I will make it! Be aware, you never know who you are speaking with when contacting Oman. A41LZ competed 100,000 QSOs on November 18, 2000, the 30th National Day of Oman. The men you see pictured on the QSO card are:

- 1 - A41LZ Murtadha
- 2 - A41SM H.E. Minister of Communication
Suhail Mustahil
- 3 - A41FK Shaik Ahmed Suwaidan Al Balushi
- 4 - A41LI Abdul Noor

- 5 - A41JT Abdul Razak (ABDI Secretary
General ROARS)
- 6 - A41LD Waleed Kassim
- 7 - A41LL Abdul Wahab Al Manthri
- 8 - A41FI Moosa Al Wahaibi
- 9 - A41KM Khalid Hilal

Hear you in the pile up!

Joe, W8KNO

EmComm

Well it was an ill wind that blew no good on September 14th when a weather front that received a boost from the remnants of Hurricane Ike blasted



Ohio. Only a handful of counties escaped unscathed and in the rest of the state damage levels ranged from moderate to severe.

However, the most serious consequences of the event were the significant electrical power outages suffered throughout the state. Estimates ranged as high as one and a half million households that were without power. Despite the massive response by First Energy and American Electric Power, some homes were still without electricity more than a week after the storm.

There were no communications disruptions in our immediate area and although some residents received temporary shelter while the power was out in their homes, there was no need for the activation of RACES or other amateur radio communication services.

But the story does not end there for us. Over the past few years this column has stressed the need for all of us to engage in personal emergency preparedness for ourselves and our families. Our personal safety is more important than just how quickly we can get our stations on the air.

In addition, Tom, WB8LCD, in his President's Column has encouraged all PCARS members to assess not just how ready they are to ensure their safety during an adverse weather event but also to



meet their own needs during the aftermath.

So how well did you do? Did the power go out at your home QTH? If not, you were fortunate. If it did, were you ready with a backup power supply, either generator or batteries, or both? Did you have fuel for the generator and an adequate and safe means for running it and getting power into your home? When was the last time that you had "exercised" the generator to make sure that it would start up when you needed it?

Many of us live in areas of the county that are not served by public water supplies and, instead, rely on wells. When the electricity goes out that also means that you are also without water. So for our rural residents, in addition to bottled water for drinking, do you maintain a supply of water for hygienic needs?

Could you find the flashlights? Did they work or did they have green fuzzy batteries? What steps did you take to ensure that refrigerated food supplies were safe to use? Did you have an adequate supply of non-perishable foods to sustain you?

The list of questions can go on and on. But this was no test for many of us, it was the real thing. This is why you have been encouraged to make sure that you and the other members of your household know how to respond when disasters, whether large or small, strike.

There was some irony in the fact that September was National Preparedness Month because for many people in Ohio, not to mention residents of Texas and the other Gulf of Mexico states, it brought a harsh and violent reminder that personal preparedness is not just a slogan. You can find a good deal more information about personal and business preparedness at <http://www.ready.gov/>.

So if you got hit by this one, now is the time to store the emergency gear, restock the supplies that you used, and make a checklist of the lessons that you learned and any changes you need to make for the next time.

And if you got a pass and your power stayed on let this serve as a reminder that calamities come in

all varieties and during all seasons and, yes, they do hit Northeast Ohio. Use this the opportunity to reassess your home situation and make sure you are ready for the next one.

Jim, KC8PD

Department of Homeland Security Interoperability Manual

From the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC)-- "The National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG) is a collection of technical reference material for radio technicians responsible for radios that will be used in disaster response applications. The NIFOG includes information from the National Interoperability Frequency Guide (NIFG), the instructions for use of the NIFG, and other reference material; formatted as a pocket-sized guide for radio technicians to carry with them. If you are not familiar with interoperability and mutual aid communications, start with the "How to Use the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide" section. We encourage you to program as many of these interoperability channels in your radios as possible. Even if geographic restrictions on some channels preclude their use in your home area, you may have the opportunity to help in a distant state where the restrictions do not apply. Maximize your flexibility." For a copy of the manual, see: <http://www.npstc.org/documents/NIFOG%20v1.2%204-14-2008.pdf> --

Mark, N7XYO, Assist SEC, OK

New National Emergency Communications Plan

DHS has also recently released the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) to address gaps and determine solutions so that emergency response personnel at all levels of government and across all disciplines can communicate as needed, on demand, and as authorized. The NECP is the nation's first strategic plan to improve emergency response communications, and complements overarching homeland security and emergency communications legislation, strategies and initiatives. More on the

National Emergency Communications Plan:
<http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1217534334567.shtm> and
<http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1217529182375.shtm>.

Les, N1LF, Shelby Co., AL EC

From the ARRL ARES Newsletter

Ohio Section Conference

The Ohio Section Conference was held on Saturday, 13 September 2008 at the Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio SM, sponsored the program and provided a pizza lunch for all in attendance. As would be expected, there was no leftover pizza for Joe to take home.



Rick Swain, Official Observer Coordinator for Ohio discussed the OO program and noted that the ARRL and the FCC have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the OO program. If you receive a notice from an OO please take it seriously, read it carefully, and adjust your operating habits as necessary. He also pointed out that the Canadian Amateur Radio Service has had a band plan change and you may hear Canadian Stations in the lower ends or 40 and 80 using voice. OK for them – not for you!

Jack Sovik, KB8WPZ, the new Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, suggested all hams take the ARRL and FEMA EmComm courses, and if possible check in to the OSSBN to learn and become proficient at passing traffic. He also said that all county EC's should be in contact with their local EMA officials to build a working relationship.



Jim Weaver, K8JE, spoke about the ARRL hierarchy and that ARRL is currently reviewing their 5 year plan. If you would like to make

comments you can do so on the web-site. He also commented on the move to digital communication modes for emcomm work.

Emily Wells, KC8RAL, Ohio Public Information Officer, announced the winners of the section newsletter contest. The winner was News on Wire from the Grant Amateur Radio Club. Unfortunately, it is not available online.

Joe Phillips announced the winner of the Allan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award (basically the Ohio Ham of the year award). It was won by Nancy Rabel-Hall – KC4IYD. Nancy is currently president of the NASA Glenn Amateur Radio club (NGARC), see:



<http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/Clubs/NA8SA/>. She and several members of NGARC helped 3 local schools talk to the Space Station astronauts using amateur radio among her many other accomplishments. As Joe pointed out, she *is* a rocket scientist!

Tom Sly, WB8LCD, (yeah!) gave a summary of the OSPOTA contest. Many of the hams present had participated in the contest and the interest level was high!



Nick Pittner, WB8TMF, Section Governmental Liaison, talked about Ohio H.B. 563, which is basically an Ohio version of PRB-1. Hope is that this will pass in one form or another relatively soon. Thirty plus other states have already enacted their own state version of PRB-1.



Overall, the Section Conference was a very worthwhile event, and I'd encourage you to participate in future conferences. Rich, KD8FDK, rode down with me, and I certainly appreciated that as 71 between here and Columbus is about the most

boring ride in the world! Bob, N8KBX was also there, giving PCARS a good representation. Altogether there were approximately 76 in attendance – about 20 more than a typical PCARS meeting! There was no other representation from Portage County.

Tom, WB8LCD

Contesting

October has two major contests. They are the California QSO Party and the CQ WW DX Contest. There is one major change in the California QSO Party this year. Stations that have previously been located on a county line will no longer be able to give you all the counties in the same transmission. This year they will be required to make a transmission for each county, similar to the Indiana QSO Party.

If you participate in the CQ WW DX Contest and you want to have your score count for the club competition, please notify me that you participated and your score and remember to submit your logs to <ssb.@cqww.com>. I will submit the list of participants and their scores.

Joe, W8KNO

PCARS Trailer

Thanks to the generous donation of Rick Kruis, K8CAV, PCARS now has a trailer to use for station deployment during emergencies, field day, or any other activity in the field! Although it needs some



finishing up, Rick has made the trailer road worthy and installed an operations table and some interior electrical wiring and lights. The basic unit began its life as a Swiss Red Cross trailer. Rick obtained the body of the unit, fabricated a boat trailer frame for it and has made sure it's got decent rolling stock under it.

We'll now need to install a window on the front

of the unit, do any other interior finishing we deem necessary, a small amount of body work, and new paint. If anyone knows of a body shop that might be willing to donate the body work and paint job, please get in touch with me so we can contact them and get this project moving! Not having the work donated means we'll need to do it ourselves, stay tuned.



The trailer is at the club site in Ravenna, just waiting to get its new life started as a PCARS Amateur Radio Station! Be sure to thank Rick when you next see him!

Tom, WB8LCD

Year of the State QSO Party Award

In recognition of the organizations that sponsor State QSO Parties and to encourage all hams to participate in these exciting on-the-air activities, The ARRL announces the Year Of the State QSO Party Award for 2009! This award is available to any amateur that makes a contact with stations participating in their own State or Regional QSO Party during 2009.



Similar to collecting US state quarters, the downloadable, 8-1/2" x 11" certificate has blanks for state flag stickers from all fifty states. The stickers are available as a page of graphic images that can be printed on a sheet of standard labels, Avery label type 5160. As you make QSOs in each state, the appropriate flag is attached to the certificate, until all of the states have been worked.

The page of state flag image stickers is designed to print correctly on a sheet of Avery 5160 labels. Then cut the labels out manually and attach them to the certificate.

For a schedule of State and Regional QSO Parties, see WA7BNM's Contest Calendar Web site at www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/stateparties.html

As of July 2008, no State or Regional QSO Parties are scheduled for Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, New York, North Dakota, or South Dakota.

After the final State QSO Party is held in November, a list of stations having worked all 50 states in either their state or regional QSO party will be posted on the ARRL web site. No endorsements or recognition will be posted, only call signs in alphabetical order. To submit your call sign for the list, download the WAS application and fill it out, showing each QSO made during the year. Email the application to contest@arrl.org or mail it to Year Of the State QSO Party, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Year Of the State QSO Party Rules

- 1) A particular state flag sticker may be affixed to the certificate when a contact is made with that state during any of the following:
 - a) the State QSO Party for that state
 - b) a QSO Party for any region that includes the state
 - c) any contest sponsored by the ARRL or National Contest Journal after (a) and (b) has passed or if no such event is conducted during 2009An SWL may claim credit for a state by logging a QSO by a station in that state during any of these events. It is preferred that contacts be made or logged during (a) or (b).
- 2) Following the contact, the applicant must submit a log containing the contact to the contest sponsor within the time limit specified by the sponsor. Any log format and submission method accepted by the sponsor will be satisfactory. Submitting a checklog is acceptable for the purposes of this award.
- 3) All contacts must comply with the rules of the contest in which they are made.
- 4) Contacts can be made using any band, mode, or power level accepted by the contest sponsor. The applicant can self-endorse a particular style of operating as noted on the award's Web site.



- 5) Applicants that submit a written list showing that all QSOs for the award were made solely during state or regional QSO parties will be listed on the Year Of the State QSO Party Web site.
- 6) All contacts must be completed between 0000Z on 1 Jan 2009 and 2359Z on 31 Dec 2009.

From the ARRL

Hamfest Calendar

26 Oct 2008 - Hamfest & Auction - Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Massillon Boys and Girls Club - 730 Duncan St SW - Massillon, OH - <http://www.marcradio.org> - Talk-In: 147.78 (PL 110.9)

Why I'm Running for Great Lakes Division Vice Director

Amateur radio is a great hobby and a real public service. Amateur radio has given me a lot, and I have tried to give back to this great institution:

I have served as the Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator for the past four years.

I have served as president, and currently am on the board of directors for ARROW, our amateur radio club in Ann Arbor, MI.

I teach both Technician and General Class license courses. In addition to teaching, I've written study guides that have helped many pass the Technician and General Class written exams. These study guides are available for free on my website at www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual.

I helped organize and have participated in "Radio Merit Badge Day," an event jointly sponsored by our club and the local Boy Scout council. Over the past two years, nearly 300 Boy Scouts have earned their radio merit badges at these events.

I am spearheading a project called Ham Radio at the Hands-On Museum. The goal of this project is to set up a permanent amateur radio station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum (www.aahom.org). This station will be in operation by the end of October 2008.

If you vote for me for Great Lakes Division Vice Director, I'll use the experience that I've gained with

these activities to help even more people obtain their licenses, make amateur radio more enjoyable for those of us already licensed, and work to ensure that amateur radio continues to serve the public interest. Here are some of my “hot buttons:”

- Increase ARRL membership. Currently, less than 25% of all licensed amateurs are ARRL members. If the ARRL wants to truly call itself the “National Association for Amateur Radio,” that number must be higher. Let's set a goal of 30% or more and devise plans to get us there.
- Get hams more involved. We need to find a way to get hams more involved, both with the hobby in general and with the ARRL in particular. Hams who are not active and committed do not write letters to their congressmen, do not participate in emergency communications and public service activities, and do not see any reason to belong to the ARRL. An active, committed membership is key if we are to reach the goals we have set for ourselves.
- Support clubs and educators. Clubs are often the first point of contact that people have with ham radio, and successful, thriving clubs will encourage more people to become active amateur radio operators. We need to improve the Affiliated Clubs program so that there's more incentive to become an affiliated club and provide more support to those currently teaching ham radio classes or who want to teach ham radio classes.
- Act in accordance with all five “purposes” of amateur radio. Part 97 spells out five different purposes for the existence of the Amateur Radio Service. These include “advancing the state of the radio art” and “enhancing international goodwill.” I would like to see the ARRL devote more time and energy to these endeavors. This is another reason to get more hams involved. These are not small undertakings and we'll need every ham we can get, first to define programs and then to execute them.

Please feel free to contact me about any of these issues or issues that you think need addressing. My e-mail address is kb6nu@arrl.net.

Thanks for your time. I appreciate your vote.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

3rd Annual ARRL Auction

The Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicks off October 23, running until November 1 on the ARRL Web site. This is your chance to pick up one-of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 16. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 3000 registered bidders from more than 40 countries. While the majority of buyers were from the USA, Canada and the UK, there were buyers from Australia, Malaysia, Grenada, Vietnam and Tanzania.



According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's on-line auction -- our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 162 items and raised just over \$50,000." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as creating instructional materials.

ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, encouraged everyone to come and peruse the wide variety of offerings: "Browse through the Web site frequently, as items will be added on a daily basis. We also encourage you to look through the 'Help' and 'About Us' sections. You'll find useful information about bidding, FAQs and a host of other facts. To ensure an enjoyable experience, please be sure to read all policies in the 'About Us' section."

This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column and have thus been thoroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. There will be many vintage items offered, as well. Also, returning by popular demand will be four ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes. These boxes have a starting bid of \$50 and have almost anything you could ever possibly imagine in them. No one --

except the ARRL Lab staff -- knows what exactly is inside each box, but each is guaranteed to be full of things that the Lab staff consider valuable (but keep in mind that they collect just about anything).

Jahnke said that due to many requests last year, "all product review items in the On-Line Auction include a link to a PDF file of the actual Product Review, as well as a reference to the QST issue that the review appeared in."

From the ARRL

October Contest Calendar

October, 2008	
Oceania DX Phone	0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 2159Z, Oct 5
10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
YLRL Anniv. Party, SSB	1400Z, Oct 10 to 0200Z, Oct 12
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 0500Z, Oct 12 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 12
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 12
NAQCC Straight Key / Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 15
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
50 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Oct 18 to 0300Z, Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 20
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 20 to 2400Z, Oct 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest - SSB	0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26
10-10 Int. Fall Contest	0001Z, Oct 25 to 2359Z, Oct 26

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

WAC Certificates Get New Looks

On Friday, the ARRL Awards Branch unveiled a new design for two IARU award certificates: the Worked All Continents Award (WAC) and the 5 Band Worked All Continents Award (5BWAC). WAC is awarded to amateurs who have confirmed contacts on any band with Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, North America and Oceania, while 5BWAC recognizes



hams who have made confirmed contacts with those continents on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

The WAC/5BWAC rules state that all contacts must be made from the same country or separate territory within the same continental area of the world. Contacts made on 10/18/24 MHz or via satellites are void for the 5-band certificate and 6-band endorsement. All contacts for the QRP endorsement must be made on or after January 1, 1985 while running a maximum power of 5 W output or 10 W input. US amateurs must be ARRL members to receive these awards; foreign amateurs must be members of their IARU Member-Society and should apply through their Member-Society.

According to ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the WAC award -- originally announced in April 1926 issue of QST - continues to be a popular award around the world with more than 6000 participants. "Besides the certificate design change, the WAC certificate will also display the award holder's name alongside their call sign. We do this already on the 5BWAC certificate."

Moore said there are a couple of ways that hams interested in applying for WAC or 5BWAC can do so. "They can download the form from the WAC Web site and send it via regular mail (along with QSL cards and payment) to ARRL, or DXCC recipients can send an e-mail, referring to their DXCC award. We can look into your account to verify the contacts; just include your payment information in your message," he said.

WAC is currently not supported in ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW), but Moore said that an upgrade to do so is currently in the planning stages. Any comments or questions regarding the WAC or 5BWAC program should be referred to the WAC Desk.

From the ARRL

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:

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

17th Ohio Ham Radio Newsletter Contest

GRANT RADIO CLUB WINS 17TH OHIO HAM RADIO NEWSLETTER CONTEST. It had scored second place in 2007, so the newsletter of the Grant ARC of Georgetown stepped up one place to win the newsletter contest in 2008, announced by Ohio Public Information Coordinator Emily Wells, KC8RAL.

PIC Wells made the announcement and awarded certificates to all three winners during the Ohio Section Conference at the State Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg. During the presentation ceremony, John Harrell, KD8DFV, the winning editor, described putting the Grant RC newsletter together. Mrs. Wells also announced the 18th Newsletter contest began immediately.

The winners announced were:

First Place - News Unwired, Grant Amateur Radio Club from Georgetown, OH: John Harrell, KD8DFV, editor - 79 points.

Second Place - Feedback, Massillon Amateur Radio Club from Massillon, OH: Gary Kline, WC8W, editor - 78 points.

Third Place - Cleveland Chapter One Newsletter, Cleveland Chapter One QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Assoc., Inc.) in Lakewood, OH, D. E. (Dee) Logan, W1HEO, editor - 76 points.

PIC Wells also announced three newsletters tied for **honorable mention** with 75 points each - these were: RF Carrier, Dayton Amateur Radio Assoc., Jerry Miler, WD8QAI, editor; **Radiogram of Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Tom Parkinson, KB8UUZ, editor:** and Watts Happenin,' Wayne Amateur Radio Club, Russell McQuate, K8RMC, editor.

The Ohio Ham Radio Newsletter contest, originated in 1992, is administered by the Public Information Coordinator, is not only conducted to reward excellence in our newsletters but to reward growth and improvement among all participants.

Points are awarded in categories with the intent to reward service and value to readers over attractiveness of display and editing.

From the Ohio ARRL

Is it the Right Knot for the Job?

At the OSPOTA (Ohio State Parks on the Air) event, Bill – WB9LBI, helped me with installation of my inverted-V antenna. As I set each of the four guy ropes to their stationary points I said aloud the knot that I used for each mount point. At the end of the event Bill helped me disassemble my antenna. He was amazed at how easy it was to release the knots that I had used for my guy ropes and asked what the specific knots were that I was using. Bill suggested I write an article for the newsletter. So, here is my contribution to this month's newsletter.

I was a Boy Scout through high school, many years ago, and have carried many traits with me since then. One of those traits is making use of some of the knots that I learned to earn my Knots Merit Badge. I typically use about five knots when setting up a temporary antenna. They are the tautline hitch, the cloveline hitch, the two half hitches, the square knot, and occasionally the sheepshank and the sheepbend.

Tautline Hitch – I use this primarily for adjusting tension on my guy ropes. On permanent many hams use turnbuckles. This knot replaces the turnbuckle for temporary use. The tautline is adjustable for tensioning the rope.



Cloveline Hitch - Some mounting points, like the leg of swing set make the tautline a difficult knot to use because any tension on the guy rope may slide the knot up the leg of the swing set. For these instances I use the Cloveline hitch.



The cloveline hitch grips the mounting point and won't slip. If I feel that there might be slippage (see the next knot) I will tie two half hitches on the back side of the knot.

Two Half Hitches – this knot is used for securing the end of the rope to a mounting point where adjustment is not required.



Square Knot – this is sometimes confusing tied as a Granny knot to secure two different ropes to make one continuous rope. If tied in the Granny fashion there's a strong likelihood that the knot will slip. Any easy to remember how to tie the Square knot correctly is, hold one rope in your right hand and the other rope in your left hand. Cross the two ropes, either Right over Left or

Left over Right. Whichever rope end crosses over top of the other rope, pass down under the other rope. The next step is to cross Left over Right or Right over Left, then pass whichever end crossed over the top, pass it down under the other rope. Now pull the two rope ends in opposite directions so that the knot is tight. The knot actually looks like a square, thus the designation, square knot.



I always use Right over Left, then Left over Right. A Granny knot is tied using Right over Left, then repeating Right over Left. If the Granny knot is used and is really tied tight it may be difficult to untie the knot without much aggravation. The square knot is easy to untie, no matter how tight it is tied, by pulling on the two ends in opposite directions.

Sheepshank – sometimes my guy rope is too long. To shorten up the rope, without cutting it, I'll employ the sheepshank in the middle of the guy rope and use the tautline hitch at the end mount point where I want to be able to adjust the tension on the guy.



The two loops used to shorten the length of the are secured with a Half Hitch over each loop end. As long as there is tension on the half hitches the rope length will remain shortened. Then at my mount point, usually a tent stake, I use the tautline so I can adjust the tension on the guy.

I usually carry three dimensions of rope for temporary antenna use. Infrequently I may half to connect two different diameter sized ropes together. A square knot could be attempted, but because of the two different diameters the knot can become loosened. It just doesn't grip like to ropes of the same diameter.

Therefore I use a **Sheepbend** – to secure two different diameter ropes together.



Many of the PCARS members are former Boy Scouts. If you need personal instruction to tie these knots, ask the member whether they were a Boy Scout. I am sure that they will help you tie any of these knots. Or, ask Ted Wands – WB8CVH whom is actively involved with the Boy Scouts of Northeast Ohio.

Best 73,

Terry, KB8AMZ

OSPOTA - SAARA

DON (KI8SS) & DEE'S ADVENTURE OHIO STATE PARKS ON THE AIR

On Saturday, Sept 6th, 2008 Dee and I had the pleasure of operating in a new contest. The Portage Amateur Radio Club (PCARS) came up with an idea to "get the Hams out of the shack and into the field for something other than Field Day. It was also designed to increase the visibility of the ham radio community to the public's eye. It qualified as an emcomm exercise as well. "With 73 parks spread around the state, no one would have to go far to get to one. More importantly, it was a nice chance to develop a relationship with Ohio Department Of Natural Resources in a way that could only benefit ham radio in the future."

We started out to our location, after having a nice breakfast at the Sand Trap Restaurant in Lake Milton, and arrived at the Meshel Picnic Area around 11:45 A.M. on the eastern side of the Lake. We were ready to go, as we had loaded our antenna analyzer, our "to go Bag" with all the goodies. Two rolls of coax, a roll of #12 copper wire, and that fine, all band, mobile antenna. (2 mtr, 6mtr, 10 mtr, 15mtr, 20 mtr, 40 mtr.) the night before. I put the mobile antenna together, and Dee and I started tuning each band.

At 12:30, we had three out of six bands set and decided to get on the air. OK, six meters should be up this time of day, I thought. I tuned and tuned, no one, nowhere. (I'm really going to show Dee how good I am at this stuff). She smiled as I switched to 10 meters (I know someone will be on ten!!) Sorry, not this day. I switched to 40 meters (She smiled.) Again, same result, no one, nowhere. All right, it has to be the location, It could not be me... I fired up the engine, after tying down the antenna, and went over to the Causeway.

What a great location, sun was shining and weather was perfect. I untied the antenna and was ready to go. Turning up the volume, and tuning on forty meters I finally hear something coming from the speaker.(other than static). Listening, I recognize it as some one from Guilford Lake SP.

Wow; I hear him good, and a State Park contact too. I turned the mike gain up and started tossing out my call as he shouts CQ. I shouted, and shouted, and shouted and shouted again for what seemed like twenty minutes, (only five). No reply! The laughter from the other side of the van was deafening. Gee honey, look at all those fish swirling out there in that water! I said dejectedly! After watching the fish for a long, long time, I decided to move again to the western side of the Lake.

We arrived at approximately 2:00 PM at the beach area parking area and picked a spot by the water so she could see the boats. I am getting serious this time, someone has got to hear me today. I started tuning and shouting CQ, CQ, CQ. 6 Meters, nothing; 10 meters, nothing; 20 meters, nothing; 40 meters (Last Hope), nothing. Honey, how would you like to go yard saleing around the Lake? I asked glumly. Sure she replied, wiping the tears from her eyes.

After two hours of yard sale fun, I calmly replied; let's try that Meshel area again. (I'm all tuned up and ready to go, again). We arrived at the Meshel area around 4:30PM, and found a nearby house fire fully engulfed. We watched the fire and I tried all the bands. Nothing! Around 5PM I took the antenna off the Van and we headed home.

Dee smiled, but wouldn't look me in the eye. Arriving at the home QTH, she headed for the TV as I unloaded the feed lines, wire, cooler, mobile antenna. I'm going to try one more time, I thought, as I disconnected the mobile antenna mount from the van. I pulled out another type of mount from the drawer, and installed it to the van. This time I have all the resonators for 5 bands. This has to work. (I thought!)

Come-on Honey, I shouted, as I fired up that engine again. Let's try that Meshel area, again, I said. Let's check on that fire, she said. Seven o'clock (1hour of contest left) Look out, I have a new antenna system and I'll show you. (I said to myself) 6 meters,-Nothing; 10 meters,-Nothing; 40 meters,-Nothing...

Don, KI8SS
From the SAARA Newsletter
October 08

OSPOTA - at Quail Hollow

I had selected Quail Hollow as my QTH for the inaugural OSPOTA because I thought it was a small park that might be overlooked by other ops. Much to my surprise I was one of three stations at the park that day!

August 6th started off rainy and cool and it was still raining when I arrived at the park around 10:30 a.m. The first order of business was getting an antenna up in the air. I decided that once it was up if the rain continued I would just operate from inside the car until the rain stopped so I was pleasantly surprised that the rain stopped as the antenna was going up.

My plan was to put up two antennas: a long wire for eighty and forty meters and the Buddipole for twenty. I figured that I could work the other parks on eighty and maybe forty and that forty would also be good for short hop work. Then I could switch to twenty to work stations at a greater distance.

The wire antenna is a ninety foot end-fed that attaches to the ball mount on my Pathfinder with a quick disconnect, replacing the whip antenna. It is matched by an Icom AH-4 antenna tuner that is mounted just inside the fender. The wire was routed up and through the tips of two collapsible masts that were at about twenty feet and spaced roughly seventy feet apart. It worked great on both bands.



With the usual fiddling around the Buddipole tuned up absolutely flat on 14.250 MHz. Despite that I probably only spent about fifteen minutes calling CQ on twenty and worked no one. Given the success of 80/40 I won't bother with the second antenna next year.

I also had another mast set up for a 2 meter beam but I never got around to assembling the beam and getting a two meter station on the air. As it turned

out this was no loss either.

I was scrambling to get everything put together (antennas, canopy, table, and station) by noon and it was about 1204 hours when I first called CQ on 80 meters and, wham!, there was Bob, K8AAB, coming right back at me.

After a while I switched over to forty meters and one of the stations I worked was Gene, W8NET, a new PCARS member who was mobile and on his way to Quail Hollow to operate. He stopped in so we could visit for a bit and then he switched his antenna to work on 80 meters. He moved to the other side of the park and while he was on the air for the next hour or so I stayed on 40 meters.

It turned out that a couple members of the Diebold Amateur Radio Club, W8ATM, had also set up on the east side of the park and we discovered each other on forty meters. Talk about a full quieting signal! They then moved over to eighty and had a lot better luck there. We could just about co-exist on eighty but their signal still almost blanked the front end of my receiver. We also had a chance to visit when they shut down.



Working forty was a benefit because I was able to work a lot of stations who weren't in the contest but heard me calling "CQ contest" and stopped to give me what I call a "courtesy QSO." With almost every one of them I took a minute to explain the contest and make a pitch for PCARS.

The day stayed cool but the bands warmed up and by the end of the day I had just over 160 contacts (about evenly divided between 80 and 40) and had worked twenty-four states and two provinces as well as thirty-five parks. I was thrilled with the results.

A little after 1900 hours I went QRT figuring that it would take close to forty-five minutes to

disassemble and pack all the gear and I did not want to run out of daylight. By eight o'clock I was on the road home.

What a blast! Whether as a solo or team effort this is a contest that will provide lots of ham radio fun for all of us for years to come.

Jim, KC8PD

OSPOTA - at Punderson

Up and at 'em - off to Punderson State Park. A quick stop at Al's KB8VJL house to gather up the rest of our equipment and off we go. We arrived at Punderson around 11 am. There is only one covered shelter in the entire park, so we thought we would check it out since it looked as if the rain might dampen things. Well, we found out you have to reserve it, and it was already reserved. So, off to our original spot we had scouted out the week before. We hauled all the equipment from the car & van to our little area. Mary Joe, KD8GGZ and Leon N8GLK drove up and said they wanted to see what this contesting stuff was all about. We welcomed them to join in and have some fun.

After getting the shelter up, we put up the 80/40 NVIS antenna, ran the coax and then got the generator running. Hooked up the rest of the cables and such and powered up the laptop for logging.

The 40 meter was a bit slow at first, but one of our first contacts was into Maine. We made a few more and even got Mary Jo to call CQ and make a few contacts. Things slowed up a bit and Mary Jo



and Leon had to leave. They did say they had fun & that's what it's all about.

When we switched to 80 meters, that's when things got interesting. More OSPOTA people on the air here. We were going along pretty good. The NVIS antenna was doing the job just fine and we were making contacts all throughout Ohio and beyond. Around 2 pm I ran to the Punderson dock area and grabbed some hot dogs for our late lunch.

More contacts on 80 and 40 and things seemed to be going good. The all of a sudden, the laptop froze up and try as I might - we lost the last 15 or 20 contacts..... What a bummer. It was about 4 pm and Al and I just looked at each other and said, well, we might as well break it all down and go get some dinner. So, after 4 hours of fun, we called it quits. Put all the gear in the van and car and off to Burton for dinner.



All-in-all, we had allot of fun. Although we were out in the open, nobody came up to see what we were doing. The park did not have many visitors since it did look as if it was going to rain all day. So, that may have kept the crowds away. Best of all, we had fun and are looking forward to next year already

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: 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 & activities are:

- October 13th meeting – **Rod Ehrhart, WN8R (DX Engineering), Vertical Antennas and Radial Systems**
- October 18th – **Basic On-Air Skills - VHF/UHF** Community Room, Family & Community Services, 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna
- October 18th – **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)** station
- 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 – TBS – **Christmas Party**
- January 12th meeting – **Chuck, K8CMP, Contesting**
- January – TBS – **QRP Kit project**

Job Opportunity for a Ham

Make your Hobby a part of your Career! Electronics Technician - DX Engineering

DX Engineering is looking for a candidate who can lay out, build, test, troubleshoot and modify developmental and production electronic components, assemblies, systems and related products.

The position will entail the use of standard and special test equipment and fixtures, and the analysis and interpretation of test data. Some operation of hand and machine tools may be required to build and test prototype assemblies.

Minimum Associate Degree in Electronics required, Bachelor Degree in Engineering Technology preferred, 7-10 years as an Engineering Technician. Must possess radio frequency product experience.

Amateur Radio license required - Extra Class strongly preferred. Position is full-time and come with our generous benefit package and very competitive compensation. All positions are located at the corporate offices in Tallmadge, OH. Relocation reimbursement is not available. Contract/work from home will not be considered. Please contact/send resumes to the HR department: pjones@dxengineering.com

Pat Jones - P.O. Box 1491 - Akron, OH 44309
Fax: (330) 572-3262

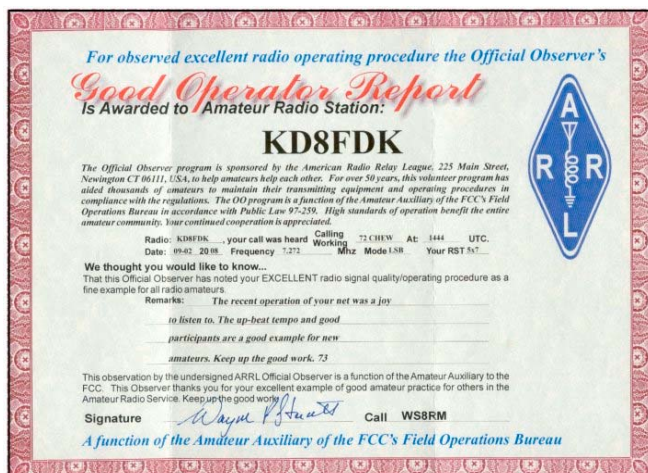
OO's on the Prowl

When you hear that someone got a card, or 'pink slip' from an OO (official Observer) that usually means there may have been a problem, or an infraction of the Part 97 rules.

But, did you know that OOs will send out letters to those operators that are in fact doing everything correct? Yep, they also send out compliments.

PCARS member Rich, KD8FDK recently received an envelope in the mail and the following were enclosed:

Good Operator Report	
Radio <u>KD8FDK</u>	your call was heard calling/working <u>7.272 MHz</u> at <u>1444</u> UTC
Date: <u>09-08-2008</u>	Frequency <u>7.272</u> MHz Mode <u>LSB</u> Your RST <u>5x7</u>
We thought you would like to know...	
That this Official Observer has noted your EXCELLENT radio signal quality/operating procedure as a fine example for all amateurs.	
Remarks: <u>The recent operation of your net was a joy</u>	
<u>to listen to. The up-beat tempo and good</u>	
<u>participation are a good example for new</u>	
<u>amateurs. Keep up the good work. 73</u>	
This observation by the undersigned ARRL Official Observer is a function of the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC. This Observer thanks you for your excellent example of good amateur practice for others in the Amateur Radio Service. Keep up the good work.	
FSD-15(7-04) Signature <u>Wayne P. Staats</u>	Call <u>WB8RM</u>



So, you never know who is listening when you're on the air. Make sure you are in full compliance and who knows, maybe you'll get a letter from an OO and be proud to show everyone!

Tom, KB8UUZ

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

N5VLZ On the Road Again

Once again in October, I will be operating CQ100 Amtrak Mobile during 2 train trips that I will be taking. The first one will be to Denver, Colorado the first part of the month... and to Apopka, Florida (near Orlando in late October). The Denver trip is a belated birthday present to my Mom, to join her at this years National Underwater Marine Association Convention. The Florida trip is to visit my in-laws, and my late wife's grave one last time.

I will be operating on 3.821 on CQ100 from the Sleeping Car compartment, on my laptop computer, and with my aircard. For more information on CQ100, go to www.qsonet.com -- for the differences between CQ100 and Echolink, go to www.wx1der.com/elk.htm#view2 -- this is a "novelty operation", and all EQSLs will be done via eqsl.cc - a sample EQSL card is attached.

If the train is running late, these times will obviously change...where there may be additions, changes, or deletions. Also, there may be areas where I can't get an internet connection with the aircard, so that will also affect operations. The approximate start and end times (UTC) on the respective dates, are as follows:

- Tuesday, October 7 - 1300 UTC to 1630 UTC, and 1800 UTC to 1900 UTC.
- Wednesday, October 8 - 1930 UTC to 1630 UTC, and 1800 UTC to 0200 UTC.

** In Denver, Colorado, Oct. 9 through 12 **

- Monday, October 13 - 1300 UTC to 1630 UTC, and 1800 UTC to 2030 UTC.
- Tuesday, October 14 - 1900 UTC to 2200 UTC, and 2330 UTC to 0200 UTC.
- Wednesday, October 22 - 1300 UTC to 1630 UTC, and 1800 UTC to 1900 UTC.
- Thursday, October 23 - 0030 UTC to 0200 UTC and 1300 UTC to 1630 UTC.
- Friday, October 24 - 1300 UTC to 1630 UTC.

** In Apopka, Florida, Oct. 24-26 **

- Monday, October 27 - 1915 UTC to 2200 UTC and 2330 UTC to 0200 UTC.
- Tuesday, October 28 - 2330 UTC to 0200 UTC
- Wednesday, October 29 - 1900 UTC to 2200 UTC, and 2330 UTC to 0200 UTC.

I will send out an EQSL from the laptop at my respective destinations to those who make contact.

73,
Daryl, N5VLZ

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.



TNX From KB8DPN & KD8DFM

After having to postpone for rain once, the weather finally cleared up and the antenna day at the QTH of Russ & Irene was a 'go' (Sept 27th). The word was sent out to PCARS members and a gang of workers showed up to give a helping hand. On tap was installing some new antennas and doing some maintenance on existing antennas. The following are now installed, operational and ready for the winter weather: G5RV, Diamond 2000 6m/2m/440 vertical on a tripod with andrews heliax, 2m/440 vertical, 9db gain vertical beam, 9db gain horizontal beam, 6m 4 element horizontal beam, and one huge monster 12' boom TV antenna on a tower/tripod.



Unbelievable... Started at 10 AM and finished about 5 PM. I can't even begin to tell you how much Irene and I appreciate all of your hard work, donations, fun and just everything!

Thanks goes out to: Tim KD8ICP, Frank KD8HGI, Errol KC8RJR, Leon N8GLK, Mary Jo KD8GGZ, Chuck K8CMP, Gene W8NET & Kevin, Dave W8HFY, Tom WB8LCD, Mike KB8TUY, I'm including Ed, N8EQJ to this list, because even though he couldn't be here, he hauled over that monster TV antenna, rotor and small tower/tripod.

Russell and Mary Jo, KD8GGZ became great friends... Ally ran around everywhere and everyone would pick her up and bring here back into the fence. Mary Jo and Irene sat out in the light rain for a small duration and watched us under an



umbrella. The weather was FANTASTIC except for the 15 minute light rain, then the sun came out. I am just overwhelmed. This club and ham radio is phenomenal. It was like an Amish barn raising or something, only with hams.

After all the dust cleared, I sat down out in the yard with my son Russell, and told him if he was able to remember anything about today, if you have friends like the friends who showed up today in your lifetime, then you are truly rich. All the money in the world can't buy what we experienced today.

It's overwhelming, amazing, humbling and just plain wonderful the amount of work we accomplished today. We had fun. We're all exhausted here at casa de KB8DPN/KD8DFM -- and words cannot describe the emotions of gratitude we have for all of you. Let me just simply say: **"Thank You."**

**Russ, KB8DPN
Irene, KD8DFM**

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in October

KC9ACX	John	Ramsey
KB8PHJ	Doug	Gardner
K8AAB	Bob	Evans
WB8VNO	Gay	Wands
KD8EPG	Ken	George
KD8FDN	Greg	Long
KC8DBX	Angela	Ziccardi
K8CAV	Rick	Kruis
KD8GBB	Anthony	Romito
W8NET	Gene	Marsh

PCARS Thursday Net Control



October	
2	WB8LCD
9	KD8FDK
16	K8CMP
23	WB8LCD
30	K8QF

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

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

Thanks & 73

This is the tenth issue of the PCARS official newsletter the '**RADIOGRAM**' for 2008.

I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors:

WB8LCD, KC8PD, K8CMP, W8KNO, KB8UUZ, KB6NU, KB8AMZ, KI8SS, N5VLZ, KB8DPN, KD8DFM, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web

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

Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



Pictures From the Sept Meeting





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: kb8uu @ portcars.org

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



NLC