



The

RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



September 2008 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~

Vol. 3 No. 9

~ 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
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~ 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

September is National Preparedness Month. What does that mean to you as an individual, and what does that mean to you as a ham? The Boy Scout Motto is: Always Be Prepared – but what do you need to be prepared for and how do you get ready? These are not easy questions, and there are as many different answers as there are people trying to get



prepared. No one can say: “I have arrived, I am prepared” because it is a process and not a destination. No one ever reaches the end of preparing for the unknown.

So what can you do? You have two choices, do nothing, or do something. Those who do nothing will rely on someone or some other entity (i.e.: Government) to provide for their needs. Chances are good they will be disappointed. Those who do something are more inclined to rely on themselves, and will most probably have better results. And it's not just you. Everyone in your household should be made aware of the things they can do and how they can be prepared if you're not there.

Speaking to that last point, if you plan to be involved in providing emergency communications as a participant in RACES, ARES, SATERN, or others, does your family have a full understanding of what that means to them, and do they support you in it? Make sure your family is prepared so that they can handle themselves in your absence.



You won't be much good to an emergency operation if you're worried about what goes on at home, and whether you're going to be welcome when you return!

Here are a few of the important items:

- (1) Make sure everyone in your household knows where and how to turn off the main power. (Also make sure they know how to do it safely.)
- (2) Make sure everyone in your household knows where and how to turn off the main water supply. Water can do a lot of damage very quickly.
- (3) Make sure everyone knows where the gas main is and where to find the proper wrench to turn it off.
- (4) Have at least a small supply of water and food to get you through a time when it might not be available. Three days worth is recommended. Also have extra water for washing and toilet flushing.
- (5) Flashlights and extra batteries, how about some candles and don't forget the matches! You might even want to burn some old furniture in the fireplace to keep warm.
- (6) If you have to evacuate, make sure you have a family rendezvous point, a back up point, and communications points, both local and distant.
- (7) Learning some basic first aid and CPR could be quite useful.
- (8) Are you in good physical shape? What could you do to improve that? If you had to walk 10 miles to safety would you survive, or would you be a statistic?

The list can go on and on, but the point is, the time to prepare is now, when you think you'll never need it. When the event occurs, it's too late.

There are lots of places where information is available to you – www.ready.gov is the site being touted this month. It contains a lot of useful information on preparedness in a general sense. But there's also some good Ham Radio related opportunities.

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From the President (Continued from Page 1)

The ARRL Emergency Communications Courses offer a broad overview of the communications role in relation to emergency operations. NIMS courses are offered on-line and again offer a good overview of emergency operations and emergency operations management. More specifically, I would like to suggest the Portage County RACES. This unit has worked at making ordinary hams more efficient at message handling and net operations.

In the event of a local crises, it also provides the framework for the efficient deployment of ham operators to provide communications support exactly where they are needed. It involves a bit of commitment, but I believe the skills you will learn will be useful even if never called upon in an emergency situation. If you'd like to know more, contact KC8PD@aol.com.

Ham Radio has reaped lots of positive press in the last few years in relation to emergency communications service. It's been positive because the hams that have shown up on the scene were prepared and trained to handle the task. "Always be prepared" – not a bad motto to have. You might also want to try to "do a good turn daily".

73,

Tom, WB8LCD

From the Vice President

Like a lot of other PCARS members I am anxiously awaiting the first edition of the Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest to be held on Saturday,



September 6th. A lot of work has gone into getting this event off the ground and we hope that this year and for years to come it will be the fun ham radio event that everyone will look forward to on the first Saturday after Labor Day.

Thanks to the ARRL for publishing the article about OSPOTA on the League's web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/08/25/10281/?nc=1>.

We hope that plenty of PCARS members will be heading out to state parks for the contest, but even if you can't work from the field you can still enter from your home station. There is also an OSPOTA Yahoo group that has been set up so participants can share information. You are welcome to join that group and it can be found at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OSPOTA/>.

Despite high gas prices we still had a respectable number of mobile stations on the road for the Two Meter Simplex Sprint on August 9th. The club station, KD8CKP, was on the air from the club site and served as an excellent demonstration of the coverage provided by the new antennas on the tower.

Speaking of the club site, we should have a lot of activity coming up there as we continue the renovations.



If Family & Community Services (the owner of the building) finalizes a grant for the overhaul of the east side of the building, PCARS has committed to providing the labor for painting the exterior of the former ODOT Test Lab. We

can probably complete the job in one day so watch for an announcement of a possible date.

We will also be working on the inside, installing the ceiling, work tables and carpeting in the radio room. The workshop at the back of the garage will also need to be completed.

Don't forget the September 8th PCARS meeting when our guest speaker will be Jon Barber, the Director of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA). Jon will be bringing the county's Mobile Command Center for you to tour and will give us an update on activities at the EMA. I will have a chance to put on my RACES Radio Officer hat and let you know what the new RACES unit has been doing for the past year and describe new ways for you to be involved in RACES.

Mac, N8MC, who lives in Kent, has let me know that he has a three element beam on a 50 foot tower that needs to come down. Mac is one of our senior hams in the area and at age eighty-four has decided that it might not be a bad idea to seek some assistance with this project. If you are interested in helping, contact me and I will put you in touch with Mac.

Keep an eye on the PCARS activities schedule because some changes have been made. On October 18th from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the F&CS office building at 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna, we will be offering a "Basic On-Air Skills – VHF/UHF" program. The following month on November 15th at the same time and location we will offer the follow up program, "Basic On-Air Skills – HF." Watch for more information on these programs.

Work continues on the Amateur Extra class mentoring program that will be offered in 2009.

Remember that the Fall edition of the PCARS

Technician course starts this month on September 23rd at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna. Contact me for details or call Maplewood at 330-296-2892, xt-104, to register. It is \$25.00 for the tuition and we will have manuals available. 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.

Jim, KC8PD

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Greetings to all from Parkman, OH. August is history and Fall will be on us very soon. I hope that many of you have been working DX. As you know, without an HF antenna, I have been having to count on you folks to let me know what has been happening on the bands. Bob, N8QE sent in the following report during August.



"20 meters was really hot yesterday late afternoon. I worked 3 Russians in the RDAC contest in like 10 minutes, but I was running about 50 watts output to my Alpha delta DX-EE. I skipped the NAQP. The only problem I had was 20 meters was so wide open to Russia & W6 land with every available frequency occupied and the Russians couldn't hear the W6ers and the W6ers couldn't hear the Russians on the same calling frequency, but both could hear me so QRM was high and confusing."

Sounds like someone was having some fun. There was activity on 6 meters also with periodic E skip opening into the plains states and the Southwest. I was able to work some DX on 6 meters but not enough to satisfy my DX fever. I hope that the following report will get some more of you on the HF bands looking for those rare stations. So lets see what we have for the September and a few months beyond.

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

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

DX NEWS

3A, MONACO. F5RBB, will be active as 3A/F5RBB between August 31st and September 10th. Activity will be on 40/20/15/10 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

5R, MADAGASCAR. Some reports indicate that F1HDI, will be part of a DXpedition team planning to activate Sainte Marie Island (AF-090), from September 20-25th. Activity seems to be focused on 144 MHz EME, but HF is mentioned. More details are forthcoming.

6V, SENEGAL (Special Event). The Senegalese SNRASEC ARC (6W7PCT) will activate the special call sign 6V7SPACE during the Space Week between October 4-10th. A rendezvous is scheduled on October 4th for an air meeting between a class at the Grandcour school (Switzerland, Fribourg Canton) and the Scientific Club of the College IV of Mbour (Senegal). Radio and SSTV exchanges are planned.

7Q, MALAWI. IN3VZE, will once again be active "Holiday Style" from the southwest shore of Lake Malawi between August 29th and September 11th. His call sign will be 7Q7CE, and he will be on all bands using SSB & Digital modes. QSL card is "OK" via the bureau or direct to his home call sign.

8Q, MALDIVES. G7COD, will once again be active for the fifth time from the Island of Embudu in the Kaafu Atoll, Maldives (AS-013), using the call sign 8Q7AK between 0800z, Oct 12th and 0800z, Oct 25th. Activity will be on 40-12 meters using CW and SSB. He plans to be operational every day from approximately 0730-0830z, 0900-1030z, 1300-1500z and 1730-1745z. Suggested frequencies are (+/- QRM): SSB - 7063, 14147, 18133, 21253 and 24953 kHz CW - 7003, 10103, 14003, 18073, 21003 and 24893 kHz. For comprehensive details of operating times, spot frequencies, QSL info, etc, please check 8Q7AK on QRZ.com.

9M0, SPRATLY ISLANDS (Updated). 9M6XRO and 9M6DXX will lead a team of six operators to Pulau Layang Layang, Spratly Islands (IOTA AS-051), some time in March 2009 (1-14th was mentioned earlier). Activity will be on all bands 80-10 meters, CW, SSB and RTTY, using three stations (two with full legal limit linear amps). The call sign is to be confirmed and the QSL information is via M3SDE (direct or by the Bureau). A new Web site has been set-up for updates, and now it has a poll on it for what bands are needed. Please visit the site at: <http://www.spratly2009.com/>

C6, BAHAMAS (IOTA/Lighthouse Op). Look for C6APR to be activated again from Crooked Island Lodge, Pittstown Point, Crooked Island (NA-113) between October 23-26th. Activity will include the 2008 CQWW SSB Contest. Before and after the contest, C6APR will be on the HF bands including 30/17/12 meters using CW and SSB. Also before and after the contest, the call sign C6AXD will be used on HF

RTTY. Both calls are good for Bird Rock Lighthouse (ARLHS BAH-005, TWLHD WLHC6-002, WLOTA LH-0118, Admiralty J4792) as well as IOTA NA-113 and Grid FL22tt. All QSLs go to K3IXD.

CN, MOROCCO. CN8NK, will be CN4P during the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (band not provided) entry. QSL via EA5XX.

EY, TAJIKISTAN. EY8MM, from Dushanbe, plans to be active during this year's CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) and CQWW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th), as a Single-Op/Single-Band (80m) entry. QSL via K1BV. PLEASE NOTE: Nodir will pay special attention for NA.

HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN. Operators DL1ZBO, DJ5BX, DK9FEC, DL1FX and DF4OR will be active as HB0/DK9FEC during the CQWW DX RTTY Contest (September 27-28th) as Multi-Op entry. QSL via DK9FEC.

HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN (25 Years of DXpeditions to HB0). Members of Rhein Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA) will be on as HB0/HB9AON and celebrating their 25th DXpedition to Triesenberg, Liechtenstein, between Oct 18-31st. The German team will also be active in the CQ World-Wide SSB DX Contest as a Multi- Multi entry. QSL via DJ2YE.

XU, CAMBODIA. 7K3BKY, will be active as XU7YYY from Sihanoukville between September 3-8th. Activity will be mainly CW. He will also try to be in the All Asia DX SSB Contest (September 6-7th). QSL via 7K3BKY.

IOTA NEWS

AF-018. OL5Y, will be active as IH9N from the African Italy Island of Pantelleria during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (40m)/Low-Power entry. QSL via OK1MG.

AS-045. A team of 8 Korean operators will be active from Tok Island using a specially issued call sign D9D between September 13-18th. However, some operators may sign as homecall/5 (ex. DS2GOO/5), sometimes for individual purposes. Activity will be on 80-10 meters (including 30/17/12m) using CW/SSB/FSK/PSK31. They plan to use 4 HF Transceivers with two 600 watts linear amps with various vertical and wire antenna systems. QSLs for D9D go via 6K2BWA. All others via their home callsigns.

EU-007. A four man team will activate Ireland's most difficult IOTA, The Great Blasket Islands, between September 10-14th. EU-007 is quite rare and ranks amongst some of the most needed IOTAs throughout Europe. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using both CW and SSB. The team states that the landing on EU-007 "can be (and often is) difficult, and quite often, there can be no sailings for days. Please excuse if there should be any delay but this would be beyond our control." QSL via EI9FBB, by the bureau or direct to: David Deane, 7 Spriggs Road, Gurranabraher, Cork City, IRELAND. A special double folding card will be available to commemorate this activation. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL in

due course. For more details, please visit:
<http://basketisland2008.blogspot.com>

E51, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS - N7OU, says that he will again be operating from Rarotonga as E51NOU from Sept 15th and Oct 11th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using low power and CW only. Bill states, "For most of my stay I'll be operating around a work schedule, but I'll make a special effort to be on at grayline times to Europe." QSL via N7OU.

EU-010. DK1ROB, active as MM/DK1ROB from the Isle of Barra (IOSA OH-11, SCOTIA HI-02, WW Loc. IO66GX) between September 28th and October 3rd. Activity will be on 40-2 meters and 70cm using SSB, RTTY and possibly PSK63. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

EU-032. DK8NT, from Oleron Island (DIFM AT-025, also counts for WLOTA LH-1369) between now and Sept 5th. Call signs and bands/modes of activity were not provided. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by bureau. Note: no eQSL please.

EU-074. Members of the Granville ARC (F5KAQ) will be active from Brehat Island (MA-012 and WLOTA 2010), September 1-8th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, RTTY, PSK and SSB. They will also be on 144 MHz to 10 GHz SSB. During this week's activities, some QSOs may be valid also for lighthouses, castles and mills.

H40, TEMOTU PROVINCE (Rare IOTA). KM9D and KF4TUG will once again begin sailing soon and plan to make their first stop to Temotu Province (H40). They hope to activate Vanikolo Island, a rare IOTA in the OC-163 group.

OH0, ALAND ISLAND. Operator Ari, OH5DX, will be active as OH0Z during the CQ WW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m)/High-Power entry. QSL via W0MM.

TO4, SAINT MARTIN. K1XM is planning to be operating from French St. Martin for both CQ WW DX Contests this year. The call sign for both contests will probably be TO4X. For the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) he will be a Single-Op/All-Band (possibly an assisted) entry (depending on an Internet connection). For the CQ WW DX CW Contest (November 29-30th) he will be a Multi-2 or maybe Multi-Single entry with WA1S and KQ1F. KQ1F will be the QSL Manager for both operations.

P41, ARUBA. W3BTX (P49T), W3TEF and P43JB will once again be using the special issued prefix and call sign P41USA (in remembering the USA attacks on September 11, 2001), between September 3-12th. Activity will be on all bands 160-2 meters. QSL Manager is W3TEF. ADDED NOTE: Bob states, "Last year was the 1st time for P41USA, and we worked over 4,000 QSOs and over 100 countries."

Well that's it for another month. There are a lot of seldom heard islands that will be activated this month. Pay particular attention to the DXpedition to the Great Blasket Islands, EU-007. As mentioned, this is one of

the very rare IOTA spots. AS always, please let me know what you are working so that I can let others know by posting it in the Newsletter. For now, 73 & gud DX.

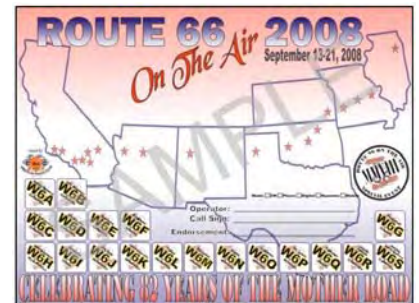
Chuck, K8CMP

Paper Chase

It is that time of the year again, Route 66 On the Air! This year the call signs are again 1x1, starting with W6: A-Santa Monica, CA; B-Los Angeles, CA; C-San Bernardino, CA; D-Victorville, CA; E-Barstow, CA; F-Kingman, AZ; G-Flagstaff, AZ; H-Albuquerque, NM; I-Amarillo, TX; J-Elk City, OK; K-Oklahoma City, OK; L-Tulsa, OK; M-Riverton, KS; N-Joplin, MO; O-Lebanon, MO; P-St. Louis, MO and Q-Chicago, IL. In addition, there will be two rovers: W6R- Goletan, CA and W6S-Santa Barbara, CA. There is also a change in this years event as to Mobile Stations. They can only be one of the above listed stations not anyone getting on Route 66 and reporting Mobile 66 or M66. The stations will be on using CW, SSB and Digital (remember Digipan).



Following is a little history of Route 66 in Illinois. Route 66 defined a remarkable era in the growth of our nation. As it threaded its way across eight states, it left its indelible mark on our nation's physical, historical and cultural landscape. No other road symbolizes optimism, freedom and the American Dream quite like Route 66.



It began with an Oklahoma businessman and entrepreneur, Cyrus Avery, who envisioned a road stretching diagonally across the country between Lake Michigan and the Pacific Ocean. The diagonal course made it possible to connect hundreds of rural towns throughout the country and provide small communities access to a national highway system. The road was officially named Route 66 in 1926, but it was Avery who proclaimed it the "Main Street of America."

Many "main streets" in Illinois were already connected by the Pontiac Trail, the original automobile route between Chicago and St. Louis. In 1920, State Bond Issue 4 enabled the construction of a new "hard road" to connect the two cities in a more direct fashion -

the first in a series of efforts to make highway travel more efficient. Already paved in concrete by 1926, the Illinois stretch of US-66 was the first to claim it was "slab all the way."

Over the next fifty years, the road carried travelers of all kinds: migrants from the Dust Bowl, military personnel, truckers, farmers and eventually vacationers. Enterprising business people along the road quickly recognized the need for food, lodging and auto services and the travel industry was born. Eventually, other amenities, such as motor courts, souvenir shops and roadside attractions sprang up to meet the growing demands of travelers.

Illinois was no exception. From the Wishing Well Motel in Countryside to the Chain of Rocks Motel in Granite City, from the Lou Mitchell's Restaurant in Chicago to the Ariston Cafe' in Litchfield; from the Standard Oil Station in Odell to the Soulsby Station in Mt. Olive, the road was lined with businesses eager to serve Route 66 travelers. Many of these familiar landmarks became regular stops, not just for the goods and services they provided, but for the warmth and hospitality served on the side. Route 66 became a linear community that spanned more than 2400 miles between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Ultimately, the desire for faster, safer and more efficient roadways led to the construction of a 4-lane Route 66 following World War II. In addition to the extra lanes, the road was realigned to bypass the small towns that had grown accustomed to heavy traffic and the commerce that came with it.

By 1977, Interstate 55 had completely replaced Route 66 in Illinois and in 1984 the last remaining section of US 66 in Arizona was bypassed by Interstate 40. Route 66 was officially decommissioned by the federal government in 1985.

Fortunately, the legacy of Route 66 has survived. Today, travelers of the historic highway in Illinois can cruise nearly 400 miles of road, including some of the original 1926 concrete segments. Historically significant structures have been preserved to help bring the Route 66 experience to life and many authentic businesses welcome the opportunity to serve today's Route 66 traveler.

Last month I traveled from Chicago to St. Louis on Interstate 55 and stopped just south of Normal, Illinois at a Dixie Truck Stop and inside was a wall of Route 66 "STUFF!" I am now the proud owner of a Route 66

Root Beer bottle and it sits in its place of honor on top of my bookcase.

Remember this year's event takes place from September 13th and 21st and you can find the stations on frequencies ending in 66 or close by. The application form and more information can be found at www.w6jbt.org. Hear you in the pile up,

Joe, W8KNO

EmComm

"To your health." For many of us that phrase may just be the toast we hear from PCARS President Tom, WB8LCD, as he tosses back one of his favorite India Pale Ales. Today it's going to be the topic for this column.

In the past we have written about both personal and communications preparedness in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Personal preparedness extends to you and your family or other household members. For example, do you have food, water, and other supplies, as well as backup power, etc., to sustain you for days or weeks? Do you have an emergency plan for evacuation, staying in contact and reuniting?

Communications preparedness is another matter entirely. If as a communications volunteer you are going to respond to an incident, it is important that you are properly trained, equipped, and supplied.



But in either case, whether dealing with the crisis at home or as a deployed volunteer, are you physical ready to rise to the task?

Physical health and condition have become hot topics on a number of the emcomm reflectors and mailing lists, even prompting some discussion in the ARRL ARES E-letter a short time back. They turned out to be pretty sensitive subjects.

The stereotypical ham (and with apologies to the YL's, just picture him in your mind's eye) is not usually seen as someone for whom health and fitness is seen as a priority. Like most stereotypes, there tends to be a basis in fact for the belief.

So why does this make any difference at all? First, if for no other reason than to have better health and longer and more fulfilling lives (take a guess at the

average age of the American ham radio operator) we should all take better care of ourselves. There are plenty of reasons that health care has become a hot political topic and paying for health care and medical insurance has become so expensive.

But more specifically for hams, especially those who are emcomm volunteers, they owe it to themselves and the communities that they hope to serve to make sure that they are physically capable of performing the duties. Aside from the physical stress and strain of moving and installing communications gear and operating under demanding conditions for extended periods of time, you will also find yourself at an elevated level of emotional stress.

So what should you do to prepare yourself? Start with an honest self-assessment of your health and physical condition. When you look down can you see those toes? Get short of breath going up a couple flights of stairs? Do you consider twirling the VFO dial to be physical activity?

Don't just rely on that self-assessment. If you have not seen your family physician in a while, make an appointment and get a physical. Ask for the doctor's advice about any cautions you should follow before increasing your level of physical activity.

Watch that diet, get out for a walk, take the stairs instead of the elevator, push a mower rather than riding on one, or skip the cart and walk the course if you are a golfer. Does your community have a fitness center? Why not join it? The more physical activity that you build into your daily routine, the more your health and fitness level will improve.

The whole idea is to help ensure your safety and well-being during demanding times. Just find that level of physical activity that is appropriate for you.

Physical restrictions may limit your ability to participate in emcomm activities but they don't exclude you from helping. We all bring something different to the party, be it experience, skills, equipment, or personal ability. As long as the group or agency that you will be working with knows your personal situation they can make the best decision as to how they can apply and benefit from your expertise.

So once again, "To your health." Do all that you can to enhance and improve it and the better you will be able to help "When All Else Fails."

Jim, KC8PD
Portage County RACES Radio Officer

FCC & BPL

US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, finds FCC Violated Administrative Procedure Act in its BPL Decision. The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the APA by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation. This means the FCC doesn't have to retract BPL just that they need to redefine it. So, where does that leave us, the Amateur population? Needing some type of legislation before the FCC can change or make any new rules.



Senate Bill (S-1629): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007. A bill to request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR) cosponsor Sen. Michael Crapo [R-ID]. Also, House of Representatives (H.R. 462): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007 To request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor Rep. Mike Ross [D-AR] and cosponsors Rep. John Barrow [D-GA], Rep. Roscoe Bartlett [R-MD], Rep. Baron Hill [D-IN], Rep. Steve Israel [D-NY], Rep. Ron Lewis [R-KY], Rep. Michael McNulty [D-NY], Rep. Tim Murphy [R-PA], Rep. Sue Myrick [R-NC], Rep. Ronald Paul [R-TX], Rep. Collin Peterson [D-MN], Rep. David Price [D-NC], Rep. Bart Stupak [D-MI], Rep. Timothy Walberg [R-MI].

People, who think members of Congress or the House of Representatives pay little or no attention to constituent mail, are plain wrong. Concise, well thought out personal letters are one of the most effective ways Americans have of influencing lawmakers. But, members of Congress and the House of Representatives get hundreds of letters and emails every day. Whether you choose to use the Postal Service or email, here are some tips that will help your letter have impact. Most of the time, we as Amateurs, write our Senators or House

of Representatives complaining that a certain Act or Bill will not be good for Amateur Radio. But, this time we all need to write and let our Representatives know that we would like them to support these Bills and that we appreciate the fact that they are looking into the future of the service of Amateur Radio. If you're not sure who to write then go to the leagues web site (<http://www.arrl.org>) click on Members Only and a new page will pop up with the listings of the Congressman/Congresswomen, Senators and House of Representatives in your District.

There is also a sample letter there that is already written for you. Copy and paste it into an email and fill in the appropriate places with the Representatives name, then the place with your name and information in the proper places. We must make sure we can congratulate as well as complain. Remembering that no matter what way we do it we must do it with respect to them and in confidence. Here are some examples for writing a Senator, Congressman/Congresswomen or House of Representative.

It's usually best to send letters to the Representative from your local Congressional District or the Senators from your state. Your vote helps elect them -- or not -- and that fact alone carries a lot of weight.

John Meyers, NB4K

ARRL Great Lakes Division Legislative Action Coordinator

Some Words From Weaver

Dumbing down?

I continue to hear amateurs say FCC licensing exams have become too easy. This increased easiness is blamed for a "dumbing down" of Amateur Radio.

I don't believe the licensing exams are the cause of any current problems and I'll tell you why. First, though, let's look back about 50 years ago.

Back when the Novice license was introduced, many older hams believed it would lead to the dumbing down of Amateur Radio. (Sound familiar?) In spite of their predictions, hamming continued to prosper for decades. Adding the Novice license simply made things different . . . not worse. It was a change. Many people resist change.

People who currently bemoan the dumbing down of Amateur Radio are largely the same people who benefitted from the supposedly "dumbed down" Novice license. Obviously, the dumbing down waited until after they -- and I -- were licensed.

Just how tough was this Novice (entry level) license so many say was harder than the current Technician exam? The Novice exam required four simple things. It required us to learn: how to use Ohm's law, how to calculate power, how to calculate the proper lengths of wire antennas, how to apply FCC rules pertaining to the



Novice license, enough about electrical safety to avoid being electrocuted and just enough electronics theory to enable us to learn more if we wanted to learn more. This was far from being enough to earn an associate degree in electrical or electronics engineering.

We also learned how to draw the schematic for a Colpitts and a couple of other extremely simple oscillators. How many of us can still draw one of these? Moreover, who cares?

We didn't need to learn much to obtain an amateur license 50 years ago, did we?

Back then, the training manuals for the Novice, Technician and General licenses, each, were less than 1/4" thick with pages about 5 1/2" by about 7 1/2". These study guides were far from being encyclopedic in content. They contained relatively few study questions.

Compare the study guide of about 50 years ago with the study guides of today and a huge difference immediately jumps up and hits one in the face. Modern study guides are thicker than 1/2" with pages of about 8 1/2" x 11. This means even at first blush, that there is about four times as much material to study today than there was in "the good old days." A review of the contents of current and old study guides confirms this first-blush impression is accurate.

For sake of discussion, let's assume Amateur Radio is dumbing down. Who is at fault? In my view, the main problem newbies face is a lack of knowledge of proper operating procedures, not a lack of technical knowledge (as compared with the requirements of 50 years ago). How did we OM's and OW's (Old Men and Old Women) learn proper operating? We learned them from experienced hams who took the time to guide us. We called these people "Elmers."

Elmering of newbie or wanna-be amateurs is largely a lost practice. The most unfortunate thing is that the FCC

in its infinite wisdom has done nothing to help the situation under its newer rules. Still worse, too many of us old timers do no more than sit back and complain about newly-licensed amateurs instead of reaching out to help them.

Rather than being a dumbing down of Amateur Radio, I suggest what we see today is a "letting down" -- a letting down of new people by us more experienced hams.

Adhering to the license manual is fine. Having 1-day crash courses for licensing is fine. I believe that what we ought to do, though, is to take the extra step needed to develop these book-taught amateurs into rounded operators.

If we do this, new inexperienced operators who have no concept of operating courtesy and ethics will become the type of new operators who had been coached by Elmers. The new people will still make mistakes, but so did we. We still do. The difference is that they as did we will understand they don't know everything and will be eager to continue to learn.

This is my opinion. What is yours?

New Canadian band plan

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has adopted a new band plan for Canada. The new plan and rationale for adopting its provisions are at:

http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband_e.php

Replacement for Riley

When Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired from the FCC, Amateur Radio and ARRL lost a good friend in a key position. It isn't that Riley did anything for us that he would not have done for anyone else, but that he was dedicated to doing it -- i.e., the right thing. He also had the support of his supervisors in the Commission to do his job. Riley nearly single-handedly oversaw cleaning house of the truly bad actors in Amateur Radio.

FCC advertised for applicants for Riley's former position. Apparently, there was considerable interest in the position and several applications have been received. Evaluating the applicants is said to be in progress.

Incidentally, Riley remains very interested in Amateur Radio. He was and is a true amateur operator.

Great Lakes Division candidates certified

The ARRL Elections & Ethics Committee has reviewed and certified nomination applications for four candidates. I was certified to run for Director. With no

opposition, the Committee declared me elected per ARRL rules. I look forward to serving the members of this Division for another three years.

Three candidates have been certified for the Vice Director position. In call sign order, these are John Meyers, NB4K, of Butler, KY; Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, of Ann Arbor, MI and Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, KY.

Gary is the current Vice Director. John is former Kentucky Section Manager and is the current Division Legislative Action Chairman. Dan Romanchik is the current Michigan Affiliated Club Coordinator and is a member of the Board of Directors of the ARROW Communications Association of Ann Arbor.

Ballots will be mailed about the end of September.

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division

Ohio ARRL Section News

JACK SOVIK, KB8WPZ IS THE NEW SEC FOR OHIO

A Youngstown newspaper executive who has long time experience in Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will be the new Section Emergency Coordinator for Ohio.



The DEC for District Five, Jack Sovik, KB8WPZ, becomes SEC on September 1, Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, has announced today.

Hams and particular members of ARES will have two opportunities by mid-September to meet the new SEC.

Jack Sovik succeeds SEC Frank Piper, KI8GW, of Pickerington. Frank announced his resignation a month ago because his job requires he go back to school plus he has new duties after recently being elevated to be Grand Knight of his Knights of Columbus unit.

The new SEC will head the ARRL forum at the Findlay Hamfest, Sunday, September 7 at the Hancock County Fairgrounds. The forum begins at 9 a.m. in the forum room designated by Hamfest officials. Then the following Saturday, September 13, Jack will again be the featured speaker at the SEC portion of the Ohio Section Conference held at the State Fire Academy east of Reynoldsburg. The Section Conference begins at 9 a.m.

Jack wants all 88 ECs and 10 DEC's to make an effort to join him for one or both appearances.



SM Phillips said Jack was selected after a process in which eight applicants applied and three were given personal interviews. "During his tenure as DEC, Jack demonstrated great people skills he also uses in his work for the

Youngstown Vindicator," said the Section Manager, "It was obvious in the interview that he was the strongest candidate to continue the job of enriching the talent in our ARES administration which SEC Frank had started."

Both Jack and current SEC Frank are now hard at work making the changeover as smooth as possible. "Jack was my first DEC appointment, shortly after taking over a SEC in 2006," said Frank, "Jack has been a great supporter of the ARES program in the Ohio Section, and was a key player in projects such as the OSERP revision, the Ohio Section EC guidelines, and the reorganization of the ARES Districts" In addition, Mr. Piper said Jack's drive for professionalism in ARES, and his abilities to work with people will give him the advantage to push the Ohio Section ARES to a greater level. "I am extremely proud of Jack and wish him well in his new role as SEC," Mr. Piper added.

Sovik was first licensed as KB8WPZ in 1995, earning his extra class in 2000 he has his WAS, WAC, and DXCC. Sovik has held various positions including, District Emergency Coordinator for District 5, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Mahoning County. He also currently holds the positions of Official Observer, Public Information Officer, Volunteer Examiner, and Official Emergency Station. Sovik has taken the ARRL EMCOMM classes 1-3 and FEMA classes IS100; 200; 546; 700; and 800. He is currently Vice President of The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association.

OHIO SECTION CONFERENCE SEPT 13 FEATURE NEW SEC-PIZZA LUNCH

The new Section Emergency Coordinator will be one of the featured speakers at the September 13th Ohio Section Conference which also features the famous PIZZA LUNCH - Ohio's big ham radio social event. The Section Conference, open to all Ohio hams, begins at 9

a.m. at the State Fire Academy east of Reynoldsburg on old US 40.

Beside the PIZZA LUNCH and the new SEC, the Conference also features the awards - the 18th annual Ohio Newsletter Contest awards as well as the naming of the newest honored Ohio ham as receiving the Allan Severson, AB8P (SK) Memorial award.

TWO THINGS TO CONSIDER

All of us want to properly assist our fellow Americans in any disaster such as Hurricane Gustav may become in the next few days. Here are two points I would like us all to consider.

NUMBER ONE is that in a disaster area, the local civil authorities and safety officials have enough to do. They SHOULD NOT be burdened with individuals, no matter how well meaning, who enter the area without prior supervision and without an established mission. I ask only ham radio operators go to the disaster site, where ever it is, as part of a supervised ARES unit directed by your local EC and/or DEC and under the direct authority of Section Emergency Coordinator.

NUMBER TWO is that ARRL Headquarters in Newington has announced procedures for possible handling Health and Welfare message traffic. We want to make sure America continues to know Amateur Radio is ready "when all else fails."

The Red Cross Safe and Well site allows those directly affected by a disaster to let their loved ones know of their well-being. Residents of affected areas should be encouraged to take advantage of the Safe and Well website and you can use the site to post information prior to evacuation.

As you evacuate, if you have one call to make to before you leave home, call some one you love and tell them you are safe. Then, ask them to register you on the Red Cross Safe and Well site accessible at www.RedCross.org or www.SafeandWell.org

For those that do not have internet access, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to register yourself and your family. Follow the prompts for disaster information. (From Allen Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Information Director).

Joe, K8QOE,
Ohio ARRL Section Manager

Hamfest Calendar

28 Sep 2008 - Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show - Hamfest Assoc. of Cleveland - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Rd - Berea, OH - <http://www.hac.org> - Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9)

New Board Set for TAK-40 Project

A new version of the TAK-40 Radio printed circuit board set has been announced by Ray KD8DFL, who produced the most popular version of these circuit boards. All of the issues with the original boards, uncovered by the pioneer builders of the TAK-40, have been corrected in the new board set. The



Version 2 board set consists of four printed circuit boards for variable frequency oscillator, power amplifier, intermediate frequency, and digital control.

Over 30 local hams, most of them PCARS members, are building a TAK-40 transceiver from the original board set and parts kit that was offered by Ray and Bill WB9LBI. The TAK-40 radio was the winning entry in the ARRL Home Brew Challenge to design a 40-meter SSB/CW transceiver for \$50. The radio was featured on the cover of the May QST issue.

The new boards will be available for \$12.00 per set. Like the original design, the boards dual-sided, masked, and all components are clearly labeled. Holes are plated through on both sides of the each board. There are no current plans to offer another set of parts. Inquiries should be directed to Ray at kd8dfl@portcars.org.

Independently, FAR Circuits is now offering their own version of the TAK-40 board set, available through the web at www.farcircuits.net/tcvsr1.htm at \$24.50 plus \$5.50 shipping.

Bill, WB9LBI

What is a Ham?

I saw an interesting poster at the recent Duke City Hamfest. It was an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper on which was printed the following: "Echolink is a nail in the coffin of amateur radio!" Juxtapose that with Bob Bruninga's fascinating article in the September, 2008 QST, entitled Maximizing the Mobile Motorist Mission. As he talks about all the things we can do with an APRS enabled radio (Yup, I sold most of my VHF gear and will be buying a Kenwood 710 this week), the aggregation of

wired and wireless communications to facilitate amateur communications is breathtaking.

These two divergent opinions exemplify the debate about what our hobby is and should be.

There are self-described purists who still believe that we should withhold operating privileges from those who can't demonstrate Morse proficiency. They share our precious bandwidth with people who can communicate internationally on a hand held via IRLP.

With Fay bearing down on my kids in Florida, I'm listening to the hurricane net on 14.325 (nothing heard), watching the Ham generated spotting information pop up in real time on my WXSpoTS application and listening to Amateur manned EOCs talk to the NHC on the WX_TALK conference room on Echolink. Licensed Amateurs are donating their time, talent and treasure via all of these applications. And as the technological arts continue to evolve, Hams will likely be at the forefront, even as the radio-only crowd contends that anything that doesn't involve an RF carrier isn't Amateur Radio.



So here's my definition of a Ham:

We are Communications Solutions Specialists who serve the public good by deploying robust, survivable telecommunications systems in time of need.

What does this mean? It means that when disaster strikes, Amateurs are among the first on the scene to set up emergency FM repeaters, long range low band (and satellite) communications systems and wireless broadband networks to seamlessly interconnect emergency services personnel and impacted citizens with the critical resources they need to ensure health and welfare. We are the common communication mechanism that can interconnect diverse emergency services organizations. We can provide expertise on everything from prorogation to CAT-5 and we have a McGyver can-do spirit that keeps the information flow going, no matter what.

In almost all disaster situations, the traditional communications and utility infrastructure is compromised. Hams have the technology and the expertise to quickly deploy applications that can re-connect effected areas with the telecom grid. It may start with FM and HF, but our HSMM laptops can relay email, pictures, video, data and voice communications

even more effectively, using interfaces that are familiar and easy to operate. As WB4APR reminds us, we have our own unique text messaging infrastructure that can mirror the button punching we do on our cell phones. With an IGate, those messages seamlessly move from our spectrum to the light speed fiber optic networks that are the backbone of the Internet.

When Dennis Dura, K2DCD spoke to our hamfest banquet, The ARRL's Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager cautioned us that the frequencies we use are worth billions to a government who likes to sell our resources to the highest bidder. The foundation of our small foothold in this space, he said, is Amateur Radio's unparalleled record of community service.

This is the story we need to keep telling over and over.

Just as spark evolved to modulated carrier, Amateur Communications in the 21st century must inevitably become an ever expanding suite of wired and wireless applications, aggregated to best serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Our hobby has room for everyone and this definition should not stop you from banging the Vibroplex, if that's your passion. But we should change our mindset of who we are, from Amateur Radio to Amateur Telecom.

Hams have been connected with every technological innovation from CW to the Internet. We will invariably be at the forefront as the paradigms of amateur telecommunications continue to shift.

This is the magic that attracts new blood to the hobby. And it can be the secret sauce preserves and expands the five pillars that are the foundation of the American Radio Relay League: Public service, advocacy, education, fellowship (membership) and technology.

Just as our neighbors call us first for advice on how to set up the security on their Internet routers, they can also depend on us to be there with radios, routers, antennae, solar panels, batteries and brainpower, "when all else fails". Scott Westerman, W9WSW

Rick, K1CE
The ARRL ARES E-Letter



Eye-Ball to Eye-Ball - N8QE

This month's "Eye to Eye" is with Bob Hajdak, N8QE. Bob has had many calls in his Amateur Radio career. Bob is ex WN3FNT, WA3JDT, WB8FAR, WD8BRF and N8CMZ. His radio hobby began officially in 1966 when he was licensed as a Novice. At the time, he was living in Greenville, PA thus the Novice "3" area call sign. Bob's mentor was his uncle Joe Novotny, K8QAT, who lived in Youngstown. (I need to tell the readers at this point that Joe was the one who administered my Novice and Technician tests. Small world isn't it. Unfortunately, I never met Bob during this time because I took my tests 3 years earlier.)



Bob moved to Youngstown to attend YSU in 1969 and majored in Electrical Engineering Technology. He received his Associates degree in 1972 and the received his BS in Engineering in 1976. He worked for General Electric at their Lamp Plant facility in Youngstown.

Bob now resides in Tallmadge with his wife, Tina, who is a Registered Nurse at Summa Health in Akron. They have a son, Joseph, 23, who is a graduate of Kent State with a degree in Marketing, and they have a daughter, Helen, 16, who is a junior at Tallmadge High School.

Bob's main interest when he first started in Amateur Radio was CW. He concentrated his efforts on 80 and 40 meters. Now he is widened his interest to include 6 meter and 10 meter operation as well as HF DX hunting. He has also ventured into the world of Digital Modes with his focus on PSK31. And Bob said that he has really liked working QRP for many years.

His first station consisted of an Eico 720 CW transmitter and a Hammerlund HQ110C. When he upgraded to General in 1976, his station consisted of a Yaesu FT101E and also a Heath Kit HW-8 QRP radio.

Bob's present station consists of the following equipment: Yaesu FT2000, Yaesu FT817 QRP transceiver, Kenwood TS440 S, Yaesu FT 2800 M for 2 meters and a VT150 HT. His antennas consist of an

Alpha Delta multi band dipole, a 2 meter ground plane and stacked Squalos for 6 meters.

Bob's other interests include golfing, with much of it being done at Sunny Hills Golf Course in Brimfield. He was a soccer coach for 10 years in the community recreational league helping youngsters learn the basics of the game and good sportsmanship. He has also been actively involved in Cub Scouting, holding the position of Webelows leader for Pack 3310.

Last but certainly not least, Bob has been very active in PCARS and takes part in as many of our activities as he can. So please introduce yourself to Bob the next time you see him at our monthly meeting.

Chuck, K8CMP

Help Promote These Bills

US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, finds FCC Violated Administrative Procedure Act in its BPL Decision. The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the APA by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation. This means the FCC doesn't have to retract BPL just that they need to redefine it. So, where does that leave us, the Amateur population? Needing some type of legislation before the FCC can change or make any new rules.

Senate Bill (S-1629): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007. A bill to request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor [Sen. Mark Pryor \(D-AR\)](#) cosponsor [Sen. Michael Crapo \(R-ID\)](#). Also, House of Representatives (H.R. 462): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007 To request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor [Rep. Mike Ross \(D-AR\)](#) and cosponsors [Rep. John Barrow \(D-GA\)](#), [Rep. Roscoe Bartlett \(R-MD\)](#), [Rep. Baron Hill \(D-IN\)](#), [Rep. Steve Israel \(D-NY\)](#), [Rep. Ron Lewis \(R-KY\)](#), [Rep. Michael McNulty \(D-NY\)](#), [Rep. Tim Murphy \(R-PA\)](#), [Rep. Sue Myrick \(R-NC\)](#), [Rep. Ronald Paul \(R-TX\)](#), [Rep. Collin Peterson \(D-MN\)](#), [Rep. David Price \(D-NC\)](#), [Rep. Bart Stupak \(D-MI\)](#), [Rep. Timothy Walberg \(R-MI\)](#).

People, who think members of Congress or the House of Representatives pay little or no attention to constituent mail, are plain wrong. Concise, well thought

out personal letters are one of the most effective ways Americans have of influencing lawmakers. But, members of Congress and the House of Representatives get hundreds of letters and emails every day. Whether you choose to use the Postal Service or email, here are some tips that will help your letter have impact. Most of the time, we as Amateurs, write our Senators or House of Representatives complaining that a certain Act or Bill will not be good for Amateur Radio. But, this time we all need to write and let our Representatives know that we would like them to support these Bills and that we appreciate the fact that they are looking into the future of the service of Amateur Radio. If you're not sure who to write then go to the leagues web site (<http://www.arrl.org>) click on Members Only and a new page will pop up with the listings of the Congressman/Congresswomen, Senators and House of Representatives in your District.

There is also a sample letter there that is already written for you. Copy and paste it into an email and fill in the appropriate places with the Representatives name, then the place with your name and information in the proper places. We must make sure we can congratulate as well as complain. Remembering that no matter what way we do it we must do it with respect to them and in confidence. Here are some examples for writing a Senator, Congressman/Congresswomen or House of Representative.

It's usually best to send letters to the Representative from your local Congressional District or the Senators from your state. Your vote helps elect them -- or not -- and that fact alone carries a lot of weight.

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Great Lakes Legislative Action Coordinator
Great Lakes Division

September Contest Calendar

September, 2008	
MI QRP CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 1 - 0300Z, Sep 2
Ohio State Parks On The Air	1600Z-2400Z, Sept 6 See OSPOTA Flier on Page 24
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 7 - 0300Z, Sep 8
Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 13 - 0600Z, Sep 14 & 1500Z-2400Z, Sep 14
ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 13 - 0300Z, Sep 15
Colorado QSO Party	1000Z, Sep 20 - 0400Z, Sep 21
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 20 - 2100Z, Sep 21
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 20 - 0700Z, Sep 21 & 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 21
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 20 - 1800Z, Sep 21
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 22
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 - 0200Z, Sep 28 & 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 28

FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 25

On August 11, the Federal Communications Commission announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 25, 2008.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to



recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not

only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 26, 2008 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008," includes regulatory fees expected to recover a total of \$312,000,000 during FY2008, encompassing all the services the FCC regulates.

More information is available at,
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/11/10257/?nc=1>.

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

Warren Hamfest Report

The Warren Hamfest was pretty good this year. The weather cooperated and there were a number of dealers and lots of ham goodies to be obtained.

This is the second year that the Warren ARA had been at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds which offers plenty of room both inside and outside for dealer and lots of easy close parking. The turn out seemed up from last year and as the word gets out about the newer location, I'm sure it will grow in size and attendance every year.



It was nice seeing PCARS members there, enjoying the good weather, and finding a few more goodies for the ham shack.

Russ, KB8DPN

License Upgrade Road Trip

I have been thinking about upgrading to Extra Class. It has been a long time since I had to study for a test. My Novice license was from 10/14/69 to 10/14/71. Then my first Advanced license ran from 8/13/71 till 8/13/76. I enjoyed almost two years as a Novice, with only CW privileges on the four HF bands. My good friend Paul Petrowski, K8DJF, and I went to Detroit for testing. Paul had given me the Novice tests.

Paul took the Advanced test and I took the General and Advanced. I passed both, but Paul didn't make Advanced. His failure upset me more than him.



He was a terrific CW operator, experimenter, and friend. I could identify his CW before hearing his call. He passed away in 2006 from Prostate Cancer. Some of you might have worked him on the 145.390 repeater. Even though he lived in Canton, he had a full quieting signal into the repeater. I miss him a lot.

I think it was June of 1971 when we went to Detroit. At that time it took about two months to receive your license, and they would not even tell you if you passed the test. Almost everyone took both the General and Advanced tests at the same time. You didn't get to take the Advanced test unless you passed the General. So most people took both, just to find out if they passed the General.

The CW tests were given before the written ones. If you didn't pass the 'copy' part of the test, you didn't get to send. First the 20 WPM for Extra, then 13 WPM for General. I copied the Extra CW on the back of my paper, just for practice. I remember one 2 inch high letter "W" in the middle of the 13 WPM sheet. I was called up to the front desk for the sending part of 13 WPM test. You not only had to copy 13 WPM, but also had to send on a straight key at the same speed.

The examiner ask me what the "W" was for? I told him I was nervous. He handed me a paper and said "Send from the top." I had only sent about 4 or 5 words when he said "Stop!" I was shocked! "What was I doing wrong?" He said "I don't have to listen all day to know you can send good CW at 13 WPM. But, you were sending good at closer to 30 WPM. Go sit down."

I remember missing one question on the General, and

none on the Advanced. How did I know this? The FCC official giving the tests was Mr. Cotton, W8DX. He was known for being very strict. But I found him to be a very concerned amateur, looking to turn out quality hams. While I was waiting to take the Advance test, he called me up to his desk a second time. I saw my General answer sheet with every answer but one marked with a red mark. That one was circled. I thought I had missed all except one!

The question booklet was laying open on the desk, to a page where he indicated a question. He asked "How could you miss this question? You had to have the right answer, or you would have missed the question before it." I replied with the answer I knew was correct. He answered with "Make sure you MARK the right answer from now on!" Boy, was I nervous, but happy.

As we finished the advanced test and handed it to him, he had us stand by the door. Before Paul had finished the Advance test, Mr. Cotton got up and was leaving. His assistant would finish the session. He walked up to where all of us that had finished our testing were standing. I took the opportunity to ask him if I had passed the advanced test. His loud response was "I can't tell you that!" But he leaned close and whispered "You didn't miss as many as on your General." I was very surprised, in shock, and extremely happy. He escorted us out the door. I asked where I could wait for Paul. "Wait here in the hall, if you must" was his only answer. I remember it like it was yesterday.

The test wasn't the only nerve racking event in Detroit. Paul had driven us there in his VW "Bug". After checking into the hotel, we studied for several hours. It was about 7:00 PM when we got hungry. Neither of us knew anything about Detroit. So we asked the hotel clerk about a place to eat. He told us about a good, but reasonable restaurant about 5 or 6 blocks away. So off we went.

I think we were close to the restaurant, when we were surrounded by 7 large men and a smaller one. The smaller man was dressed in a suit and tie, and was wearing a hat. He did all the talking, and introduced himself as "Jimmy". He explained "We want you to donate all your money to us." We were being robbed!

There was no need for them to show a weapon. Eight to two was not the odds one has a chance of doing anything against. So Paul and I looked at each other, gave a shrug, and pulled out our wallets. I was worried they would grab our wallets, so I held onto it tightly. I had a single \$20 and Paul had \$35. We handed the bills to 'Jimmy'. I put my wallet away quickly and reached

into my front pocket for some change. 'Jimmy' said for us to keep our change and have a cup of coffee on him. How generous!

Both Paul and I had gotten Post Office money orders to pay the \$9 fee to the FCC for testing. The FCC didn't take personal checks, credit cards, traveler's checks, or even cash. Those who didn't have postal money orders had to go downstairs to the Post Office and get them.

I knew if we lost them, we might as well go home. But while we were handing them our money, another fellow walked by. They steered him into the circle with us. He also had \$35. After getting his money, all eight of the men ran in different directions. They must have done this many times before, because they were very coordinated. All of a sudden we were standing alone.

The third fellow who had joined us was from Canada and had come to Detroit for the weekend. We talked a bit and all decided to tell the police about our experience. I kept looking back to see if we were being followed. Before we had gone a block, I saw a police car approaching on our side of the street. We flagged him down and I told him our story. He listened about a minute, then asked "If we catch them, will you return to Detroit to testify?" Without waiting for an answer, he said "I didn't think so." And off he drove.

We were all shocked at the policeman's behavior. He must have been through similar events before and knew we would not drive all the way back to Detroit for \$20 to \$35. And he was correct. Paul and I left our new comrade and returned to the hotel. We were really in a spot. We needed gas to get home, supper, and at least breakfast. We thought about what to do.

Paul had a ham friend who lived on the outskirts of Detroit. But he didn't know his last name, so finding him was out. Where would we look for some help? Where would we find someone willing to trust us? It was about 8:00 PM so the Traveler's Aid might not be open. How and where could we look for another ham?

There are several radio and TV stations located in downtown Detroit. There must be at least one ham working at one of them. The phone book gave us the location and phone number for the stations. The first station we called, a TV station, was answered by their security person. He had me wait on the line while he checked with the person in charge. Voila! The evening station manager was a ham!

The station was located only three blocks from our hotel. We were already broke, so what did we have to

lose? When we arrived at the station the guard welcomed us and went with us to the control room. We introduced ourselves to the manager. I told him our story and asked if he could help us find Paul's friend. He didn't know him and after a couple phone calls to his friends, we were no closer to help.

The manager took us to their cafeteria and treated us to a welcome supper. Even a Bologna sandwich would have looked like steak by then. I don't remember what we had to eat, but it was really good. We talked while eating and without identification, he offered to loan us \$20 to get home with. Boy! I know we sounded like real amateurs on a quest to better ourselves with license upgrades. After loaning us the \$20, I made sure we had his name, call, and mailing address to return the money.

The supper was followed with an hour long tour of the station. Paul put the \$20 bill, loaned to us, in his sock so it would be safe should we experience another holdup. But the station manager offered to drive us back to the hotel. He said it would be safer than walking in downtown after dark. We were tired, but satisfied when we got back to our room. I know I went to sleep as soon as we got to the room.

The next morning we decided on having breakfast while waiting for the FCC to open. Being only a few blocks from our destination, the walk felt good. We studied while having breakfast and afterward until the Post Office opened. After the tests, we considered having some lunch. Paul's VW could get us home with \$5 for gas, so no worry.

When I got home, I told my wife all about our trip and how lucky we were to be hams. I looked for the station manager's address to send him a check. OH NO! I looked all through my clothes, suitcase, wallet, and every where I could possibly have put the piece of paper. I called Paul, but he was sure he had given it to me. I was just as certain he had given it to me. What a mess! I would pay him back, no matter what I had to do.

For the next several months I searched over and over for that piece of paper. Nothing! Neither one of us remembered which TV station we went to. We couldn't remember his amateur call sign. All we knew was his first name. So, I tried calling all the TV stations in Detroit. Not even one person with the same first name, worked the afternoon shift. Paul got in touch with his friend in Detroit, who also called around with no luck. What had happened to the friendly ham who came to our rescue? For almost a year, it was always on my mind. I kept trying to think of somewhere I had not looked. Nothing!

Another ham friend wanted to upgrade. I said I would loan him my study guide. He opened it and started to look at the questions and answers. He pulled out a small piece of paper and asked what it was. I could have kissed him! There was the ham's call, name, and address. I had spent almost a year worrying about. I immediately sent him a letter with the \$20 and an explanation for the long delay.

Why couldn't Paul and I find him? Well, the name he gave us was his 'handle', not his name. No one at the station knew him by his amateur 'handle', only by his name. Why didn't they know him by his job title? That evening I decided he was due a personal apology. It didn't take long to get the right station. I asked for him by his 'real' name. The security guard who answered the phone, even remembered our visit. He told me the ham we had been looking for had moved to day shift.

The next day I contacted him. What a relief! He told me he had not been worried about the money. He figured something had come up which prevented the return of the money. His real fear was for us! He thought maybe we had been in a traffic accident, or some other bad situation. His worry was not for the money, but for a couple of hams who had been having bad luck on their trip to better ourselves. He was very grateful to learn we had not met with more bad luck. He thanked me for calling. He could now stop worrying.

Bobby, WB8FEW

News from the ARRL Club Newsletter

Above The Fold

I have been reading the club newsletters and from the looks of things it appears that there were a lot of successful Field day operations. The majority of clubs reported large member participation and lots of contacts in spite of poor solar conditions.

All clubs reported on the excellent banquet conditions for Field Day. Remember that the Field Day soapbox is still accepting comments and photograph of your event. Incidentally, the soapbox is a primary source for photographs used in web extra and QST articles.
http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con_id=155

Speaking of newsletters, many clubs are doing a great job of informing their members about on air activities. For instance, the Glorious Society of The Wormhole club in Florida provides information about the club nets as well as an extensive list of several HF and VHF nets taking place every day of the week.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service in Ohio has a monthly column titled Charlie the Tuners HF Hi-Lites that provides information on upcoming DXpeditions and DX activity as well as IOTA and lighthouse activity.

Other notables about the club newsletters that we receive are the number of clubs that have switched to electronic formats allowing them to produce some high quality bulletins. Because printing and postage are not a concern clubs are able to provide more detailed information as well as high resolution photographs.

Amateur Radio And The Internet

Today the World Wide Web offers extended range for much of the population but before the internet radio amateurs ventured beyond the local neighborhood through the magic of radio. For decades, long before the internet, hams would sue radio as a means to maintain friendships, stay in touch with loved ones and help others contact family in remote places of the globe.

Long distance chess was once a popular on air activity. Amateur Radio operators would set up chess boards and moves were exchanged over the air. Each radio operator maintained their chess board according to the moves transmitted by each other. Often these games would be played out over the course of days or weeks during scheduled contacts. The activity was not about finishing the game quickly as it was it was about meeting on the air often.

A lot of naysayers have claimed the internet to be the death of Amateur Radio. In fact some non-radio people when asked about ham radio will respond with "hasn't the internet made that obsolete?" On the contrary, if anything the internet has enhanced Amateur Radio. Think about the many ways hams use the internet.

Radio Clubs

Club members can stay informed all the time through the use of e-mail reflectors. Various users groups allow people to exchange ideas and information about their favorite piece of equipment or operating mode. If you think about it these user's groups are like virtual specialty clubs for people with a shared interest. Many clubs use the internet to distribute electronic newsletters and maintain websites to keep members informed and attract new members.

The DX Game

Some of you may remember two ringers, when your buddy would call your house and let the phone ring two times then hang up. This code was to let you know about some hot DX that was on the air. Of course you

would not dare answer the telephone before the second ring for fear of someone incurring a long distance charge. Today, through the use of the internet we can utilize real-time DX spotting networks to find out which stations are on the air. If you have your rig interfaced with your PC using the appropriate software the network will automatically switch your transceiver to the DX's operating frequency.

The internet has enhanced the DX game in other ways by providing Dxpedition log information on line while the Dxpedition is still in operation. This helps eliminate the "insurance" QSOs and allows the Dxpedition work as many stations as possible while limiting the number of duplicate contacts.

There are software programs available that monitor the DX cluster and if a needed DX station is spotted you will receive an e-mail alert on your Blackberry or other personal e-mail device. How cool is that? Just look at it as the digital version of the two ringer DX alert.

Contesting and Awards

ARRL's Logbook of The World would not be possible without internet technology. LoTW's use of public and private keys lets users all over the world to upload electronically signed logs and when QSOs are matched the users receive credit for their contacts to be used toward awards. More information about Logbook of the world can be found on the ARRL website. <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>

Contest scores are now published on the internet allowing participants to quickly sort and analyze the data.

Public Service

A variety of public service groups such as ARES use the internet to call up volunteers, maintain databases of people and equipment available for disasters and to inform the public of their services.

Being able to transmit digital information via radio and then inject it into the internet electronic mail system has allowed radio amateurs to move messages much faster than was possible using the antiquated relay system.

Licensing and Education

Today many people will prepare for their Amateur Radio license exam by using one of the many practice exam websites. These sites will randomly quiz the user from the VEC question pools and score the results. This undoubtedly eases some of the test jitters and exposes areas of strength and weakness.

ARRL offers an on-line license class for those applicants who may have scheduling conflicts with traditional classes or just enjoy doing things at their own pace. <http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html>

In addition to licensing courses ARRL offers a series of Emergency Communications courses (EmComm Level I, II, III) and other subjects such as Antenna Modeling, Radio Frequency Interference and HF Digital Communications. <http://www.arrl.org/cep/>

On The Air

The Internet Repeater Linking Project (IRLP), Echolink and remote base stations could not exist without the internet. These technologies have opened the world of Amateur radio to a whole new group of users as well as offered areas of experimentation to seasoned radio amateurs.

Adaptability

Traditionally the Amateur Radio service has always made use of whatever was available. Whether salvaging parts from discarded television sets in the 1950s, repurposing surplus military equipment in the 1960s or integrating electronic hardware today, hams have always utilized technology in creative ways to suit their needs. An internet connection in the ham shack is as common as the J-38 straight key once was. The fact that you are reading this e-letter demonstrates the positive influence the internet and computers have had on Amateur Radio.



Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

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

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:

- September 6th – **Ohio State Parks On The Air**
- September 8th meeting – **Jon Barber, EMA Director with the EMA Mobile Command Center, Jim, KC8PD, RACES update**
- October 13th meeting – **Rod Ehrhart, WN8R (DX Engineering), Vertical Antennas and Radial Systems**
- October 18th – **Basic On-Air Skills - VHF/UHF**
- October 18th – **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)** station (very tentative)
- November 10th – **Bill, WB9LBI, CW Tips and Techniques, Equipment and Software**
- November 15th – **Basic On-Air Skills - HF**
- 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.

Positions are 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

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

Anyone up for a Boy Scout camping trip?

PCARS has been invited to participate in a campout on Nov. 14-16 at Camp Beaumont in Rock Creek, OH. They would like us to put on a ham radio display, and work with the scouts interested in radio merit badge. That is a Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday AM - we'll need to vacate no later than noon on Sunday.



Just to make it a little more interesting, that is the weekend of the ARRL Phone Sweeps! Could be a good time with a lot of activity on multiple bands with multiple transmitters.

If you are interested and would be willing to participate, please contact me ASAP at wb8lcd@portcars.org so we can start making preparations. Thanks!

Tom, WB8LCD

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in September.

WB8VYW	Mike	Hutsler
WD8BIW	Karen	Warner
KD8FME	Jim	Conlin
KD8HGI	Frank	Sheline III
N8KBX	Bob	Magree
KC8NOW	Ed	McKivigan
KD8GWY	Bob	Gurney
NT8K	Bob	Whiddon
KC8KYW	John	Kametz

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.



SEPTEMBER 6th

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

PCARS Thursday Net Control

Net Control Schedule



September	
4	KC8PD
11	K8QF
18	KB8UUZ
25	N8QE

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

Pictures From the August Meeting

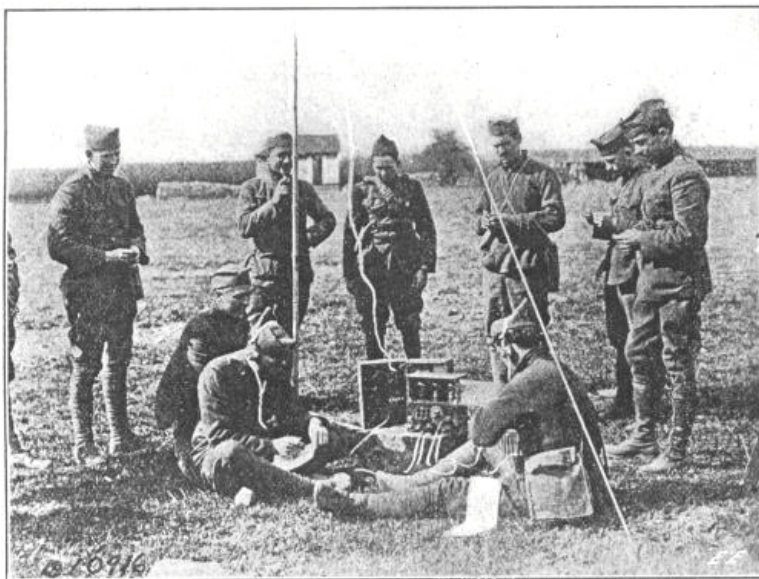


U.S. Signal Corps Radio Outfit in France

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

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

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



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

PCARS 2 Meter Contest

On August 9 hams were roaming all around Portage County for the 3rd annual PCARS 2 meter Simplex Contest.

Even with the high price of gasoline, there were a number of mobile units out there activating all the Cities, Villages and Townships inside Portage County. Everyone that participated said they had fun!

Tom, WB8LCD is going through the logs that have been submitted and in the next issue of the RADIOGRAM, the results will be published and the winners announced.

Jim, KC8PD activated the club site and was trying out the new 2 meter antenna located up the tower. Jim reported that he had no problem contacting anyone and coverage over the entire county was great.



WB8LCD and KC8RKV at the Black Squirrel Oasis



KB8DPN and KC8PD at the PCARS Club Site

Thanks & 73

This is the ninth 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 month's contributors:

**WB8LCD, KC8PD, K8CMP,
W8KNO, KB8UUZ, NB4K, K8JE,
K8QOE, WB9LBI, K1CE,
KB8DPN, WB8FEW, W3IZ,
ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER,
ARRL, and the World Wide Web**

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

Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



The **P**ortage **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **S**ervice, Inc. (**PCARS**)
announces the *first*

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 6, 2008, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **73** Ohio State Parks

Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

A special entry allows clubs compete to see which club activated the greatest number of Ohio State Parks



Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park and have some Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!



Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?

Check out **all** the details at: <http://parks.portcars.org>

While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: www.portcars.org



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
Web Master	K8GI	Rick Patterson
	WB8VNO	Gay Wands
	WD8CVH	Ted Wands
	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