

The



December 2009 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~

Vol. 4 No. 12

~ 2009 Officers ~

President - Jim Aylward – KC8PD Vice President – Dave Rarrick - WB2DFC Treasurer – Bill Fraedrich - WB9LBI 3 Year Trustee – Ed Pollack - N8EQJ 2 Year Trustee – Chuck Patellis - W8PT Year Trustee – Russ Anderson – KB8DPN

~ Meetings ~

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

~ Nets ~

Thursday nights 8 PM on 146.895 PL Tones 10.9 Rootstown 114.8 Kent

PCARS Incorporated Nov. 1, 2005 First Meeting Nov. 14, 2005

you in the rotation.



ARRL Affiliated April 20, 2006

From the President

Kilo Eight Bravo Foxtrot ... K8BF... a new call sign for the new year for PCARS, and it is already starting to sound familiar. We had applied for another 1X2 call, which we did not receive, and this last minute opportunity popped up. Club call sign trustee, Al, KB8VJL, adopted the radio contester's "search and pounce" technique and managed to snatch up the new call.

The call sign reassignment should be official December 11th and the club station will be activated for a special event to celebrate the new call sign. Festivities will start around five in

the afternoon and everyone is invited to come on out put some QSO's in the club log. The event will last the evening and this should be a great time.

For anyone who may miss Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Papa, well just wait two years and it can be yours. And I bet there will not be a lot of competition for it! What a mouthful that was at Field Day.

PCARS members have continued to visit other area clubs to repeat presentations that have been made at our club meetings. These are great opportunities for us to enhance relationships between the clubs in our area. Tom, WB8LCD, Bill, WB9LBI, Rick, K8CAV, Tom, KB8UUZ, and myself have all enjoyed our visits at these other clubs' meetings. It is an excellent way to get to share resources between clubs.

I had a good time as net control for the club net this month when we set a new record for check-ins on our weekly net. Including the NCS we had fifty-four stations in the net. Unbelievable! The PCARS net has to be one of the busiest club nets that you will find. That once-a-week chance to stay in touch with all of our radio friends and stay up to date on club activities and news. Most everyone has a comment to share and every net provides a chuckle or two. There are around a dozen members who have taken a turn as NCS and it is a lot of fun. If you want to give it a try contact Tom, WB8LCD, our net coordinator and he will put

I would like to thank the PCARS membership for their vote of confidence in the current club officers, Dave, WB2DFC, Vice-President, Bill, WB9LBI, Treasurer, and myself as President by reelecting all of us for 2010. All of us will continue to give it our best. As always, if you have any questions or comments about club operations, let us know. We want to be sure that your club is giving you the best value possible.

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(From the President - continued from Page 1)

It has been an incredible experience to have seen PCARS grow to its current size. By the beginning of 2010 there will be around 160 people who have joined PCARS since it began four years ago. Although we have lost a few members over time, and that is to be expected, the high renewal rate also tells us that most all PCARS members are still having a lot of ham radio fun.

We look forward to seeing you all at the PCARS Christmas Party on December 14th!

73,

Jim, KC8PD





From the Vice President

I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy your family and friends through this holiday season. And remember those in the military, keeping us safe and free. Without them, this newsletter and PCARS might not exist.

November was a very busy month, at work and play. Since I will not comment on the work part, I will write about the "play part", "playing radio" that is. Lets start with the annual camping trip to Pennsylvania.

Every October, during the Halloween weekend, a bunch of us "camping/radio/GeoCaching/cooking/eating" enthusiasts head to the hills of Hearts Content. Hearts Content is located in the Allegheny National Forest,

about 20 miles or so from Warren, Pa. The usual activities happened, including cooking campfire chili, several hikes into the surrounding hills and forests, Geo Caching, and of course, making QSOs on ham radio. As you



can see in the picture, I am enjoying two of my favorite activities, eating chili and playing radio. Several QRP contacts were made to the surrounding states with 4 watts into a homebrew vertical. I think I have found the best combo for this, my Yaesu FT-817 and Elecraft T-1 auto tuner. Very small, lightweight and easy to use.

One of the hike plans spilt our group in half, one group starting at the top of a trail and the other at the bottom. The hike was going to be about 5-1/2 miles, but Murphy showed up and

changed all of that. Just because you have a GPS doesn't ensure a successful meeting at mid hike for lunch, which was the goal of the two groups. Of course the two groups wound up on different trails. We attempted to stay in touch on 2 meters, but the hilly terrain made that nearly impossible. Trail and map info on the GPS units were not the same, even though the are made by the same quality company. I actually used my Blackberry (with GPS) to get a better location, thankful I had a usable cell signal. We finally coordinated our positions by passing the latitude and longitude over 2 meters. After miles of mud and very steep inclines, we finally met at the trail head. The mid hike cookout was postponed until back at camp.



I also participated in the recent Polar Bear Moonlight Madness event, held on November 14, 2009. All Polar Bears head to the great outdoors, set up portable QRP stations, and make as many Polar Bear QSOs as possible. Mt chosen location was in the Portage Lakes State Park, at Nimisila Resevoir. As you can see in the picture, the weather was fantastic. Although I only had three QSOs, it was a great time. Joining me for PBMME was Dan, WD8MDF. Dan headed to the nearby picnic stove and whipped an excellent batch of garlic SPAM Delight. So QRP and food made for an excellent combo. I used the same equipment as mentioned above, the FT-817, Elecraft T-1 auto tuner, and my homebrew vertical antenna. Band conditions were up and down, so making QSOs took some effort.

And now for more current news. Yipppieeee, a new call sign for PCARS, K8BF, kilo eight bravo foxtrot. A hearty thanks to those that worked on locating and getting the new club call for PCARS. This will be a great call for Field Day, especially (you guessed it) for CW. Jim, KC8PD, is planning a special December event, the activation of K8BF, which is scheduled to happen on December 11th. Keep tuned in for details on this special event activity, to take place at the PCARS Club Site.

Keep an eye on the calendar for our club meeting topics. Scheduled for 2010, January, Tom WB8LCD with his tower installation adventure, February 2010 TBD, March 2010. Matt W8DEC with a presentation on APRS, April 2010, Neil N8IL, with a presentation on D-Star, Icom's digital communications system for ham radio, and May 2010, N8EQJ and WB2DFC on AMSAT. Other topics are in the planning stages as well as activities for 2010. Based on responses from the member survey, antenna projects appear most popular, so expect a few of those. Please keep your suggestions coming, especially any project activities you think beneficial to PCARS members.

See you all at the PCARS Christmas Party. Please be safe, and until then, buckle up America, Click it or Ticket.

Best of 73,

Dave, WB2DFC

Congratulations to the Newly Elected PCARS Officers for 2010

President - Jim, KC8PD

Vice President - Dave, WB2DFC

Treasurer - Bill, WB9LBI

Three Year Trustee - Robert, N8RLG

Ed, N8EQJ is now the Two Year Trustee Chuck, W8PT is now the One Year Trustee



Christmas Party / Banquet 2009

If you've not got your reservation in yet, you better do it now! If you need another copy of the reservation form, email me at wb8lcd@portcars.org and I'll get one right out to you. (Reservations were due by December 1st)

We will have our Christmas Party / Banquet on our regular club meeting night (second Monday of the month), December 14th, at the Paradise Lake Golf and Banquet Center, 1900 Randolph Rd., Suffield, OH 44260. Doors to open at 6:30, dinner at 7:00. The party will last till 11:00 PM officially, but for all of you who don't need to get up the next day and go to work, I'm sure you won't get kicked out. We'll have a buffet dinner, as we did last year, that includes coffee, pop, and dessert. There will be a cash bar available.





We've heard from Santa that he will probably not be able to attend (something was said about having to retro-fit the sled with a bottom panel to catch raindeer droppings per new EPA standards), but we will have some of the PCARS Elves available to process the gift exchange. Our special guests this year will be Stelvis and the Graceland Band. I'm sure you'll find them entertaining, and maybe, just maybe, we can get KD8FDK to show off a few of the dance steps he learned awhile back!

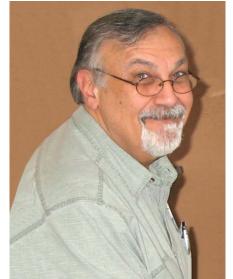
It's PCARS, and it's a party – everyone's going to have a good time! Hope to see you there.

Tom, WB8LCD

Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

Christmas is just a few weeks away and I have made my wish list for Santa. Have you? Make sure that there is something listed for the best hobby in which one could ever get involved. I am looking forward to working some DX this winter season even with the bands being somewhat quieter than the summer months. The sun

spots keep showing up, even though there are not many of them.



Local HAMs keep working DX and having fun. Here is a report from KD8FME, Jim Conlin. In October, Jim worked: EA1LJ Spain, LD6LW Argentina, VK6DU Australia, OM5DP Slovakia, RA1AN St Petersburg, Russia, EW8A0 Belarus and LY1CX Lithuania. And in November so far, Jim has worked among other stations: Zambia, AH6V Hawaii and PW6C IOTA DXpedition, Coroa Vermelha Islands, Brazil. Way to go Jim! And for the rest of you, let me know what you are working. I'm sure that Jim is not the only one having fun working DX. (*Editor's Note:* Jim, KD8FME also reached a personal milestone this past month - since he got on the air 2 years ago, he worked *ONLY* CW - and got is Worked All States award!! Way to go Jim!)

I want to see some reports from our local HAMs who work some of the DX stations listed in this month's report. So let's get to it.

As always, I need to thank the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW for the following DX and IOTA information. Please remember that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of bad info or busted call signs, so do yourself a favor and please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

5P15, DENMARK (Special Event/IOTA). Look for special event station 5P15COP from Zealand Island (EU-029) to be active between December 7-18th. Activity is taking place during the big United Nations "Copenhagen Climate Change Conference" < http://www.cop15.dk. Operators would like to "invite all radio amateurs worldwide to show their concern and care about the environment and climate, by contacting this special event station." Operations will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via OZ5BAL, direct or by the Bureau. For more details about the project, QSL card and awards available, please visit: http://www.5p15cop.dk

9J, ZAMBIA. (Continued Reminder) YO4HEK, will be here for one year and will be active as 9J2YO. Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB, and PSK31. Over the past week Gabriel has been very active on 40/30 meters between 1700-2030z. QSL via YO4ATW.

9M2, WEST MALAYSIA – (Continued Reminder) EA4ATI, is working now in Malaysia. He has been issued the call sign 9M2TI and will be operating from Kuala Lumpur city. Using a vertical antenna with 400 watts, look for Dani to be active on 40/20/15/10 meters using CW and SSB. He also mentions that he will participate in the main international contests (like the CQ WPX) from a different location with a better station. Dani will stay in Malaysia for at least one year. QSL via his home callsign.

CE9, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS (Reminder). A team of operators will be operating from Arturo Prat-Greenwich Island-South Shetland archipelago (IOTA AN-010, WW Loc. GC07FQ), between January 10-24th. Their call sign will be XR9JA. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and the AO-51 Satellite. QSL via CE5JA.

FO/A, AUSTRAL ISLANDS. DL1AWI, DL3APO and DL5XU will be active as FO/homecall from Raivavae Island (OC-114, DIFO FO-122, WLOTA L-2581) in the Austral Islands group between January 18th and February 5th. Their focus will be mainly the lower bands 160-30 meters, but will work some higher bands on SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.

J3, GRENADA (NA-024). G3VCQ and M3VCQ will once again be active as J38CW and J38SW from Beru between March 11-25th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. All QSLs are via G3VCQ, direct or by the bureau.

- **J6, ST. LUCIA**. K9HZ, will once again be active as J68HZ from Labrelotte Bay, Castries, St. Lucia (NA-108, WLOTA L-1336) between now and December 5th. Activity will be on 80/40/20 meters using CW and SSB. Suggested frequencies are: CW 3550, 7050 and 14050 kHz SSB 3770, 7155 and 14155 kHz He also mentions to watch 40 meters between 2000-2400z daily. Operations from other local islands are possible. QSL via his home call sign.
- **J6**, **ST. LUCIA**. NE1RD, will be active as J6/homecall between February 2-10th (2010). Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW.
- J6, ST. LUCIA. Members of the "Buddies in the Caribbean" DXpedition group which specializes in 100 watt or less low power radios and the Buddipole portable antenna system is off again to a new DXpedition site on February 2-11th, 2010. This is an annual effort to demonstrate "ultra-lite" DXpeditioning into magnificent "vista" locations, operate a field portable battery-only radio with backpackable, lightweight antennas and most of all "have fun!" The nine operators from eight states will have fixed operations from a cliff-top villa and portable operations from various points on the island using CW, SSB, and the Digital modes. Operators mentioned are: Budd/W3FF, Chris/W6HFP, Scott/NE1RD, Dan/WZ1P, Steve/WG0AT, Mike/KC4VG, Guy/N7UN, Paul/KB9AVO and Wey/K8EAB. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or mail to operator's home callsign (SASE required). For more details, see: http://sites.google.com/site/caribbeanbuddies/home http://caribbeanbuddies.blogspot.com/
- **J8, ST. VINCENT**. K2CM, will be active from the Island of Bequia, in The Grenadines (NA-025), between January 8th and February 12th (2010). Call sign was not provided. Activity will be on 20 meters using CW and SSB, and maybe 40 meters CW. QSL by the Bureau or direct (SASE/SAE) to K2CM.
- JD1/O, OGASAWARA. JG7PSJ and JI5RPT will once again be active from Chichijima Island (AS-031) between Sunday, December 27th, and Friday, January 1st (2010). Their callsigns will be JD1BLY (JI5RPT) and JD1BMH(JG7PSJ). Activity will be on all bands 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via the Bureau to the JD1 callsigns or direct to their home callsigns. For more info, visit their Web pages at: http://www.ji5rpt.com/jd1 http://www.ji5rpt.com/jd1
- **S2, BANGLADESH** (IOTA DXpedition). S21RC, S21AM, S21S and S21D are preparing a DXpedition in February 2010 to St. Martin's Island (AS-127) located in Chittagong Region Group. Dates mentioned are February 21-25th. QSL Manager will be EB7DX. More details will be forthcoming.
- **ST26, SUDAN.** Look for the special callsign ST26ASC to be used between January 22–28th (2010). This activity coincides with the 26th Arab Scouts Conference from Khartoum, Sudan. No other details were provided. QSL Manager will be ST2M.
- **TJ, CAMEROON**. F5PSA, currently active as TJ3SL, will be here until around December 15th. His activity has been sporadic, but he is trying to be active daily, propagation permitting. Operations have been mainly 20 and 17 meters usually between 0930-1700z. QSL via F5PSA.
- **TX3, CHESTERFIELD ISLAND**. AA7JV and HA7RY continue to be active as TX3A until December 6th. As of print time, their log shows just under 27k QSOs. Activity has be on all HF bands but with an emphasis on the lower bands. Modes used have been on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via HA7RY. For more detailed information and updates, visit their Web page at: http://www.TX3A.com
- **V3**, **BELIZE. PA0WWV**, will be active as V31WV from Sarteneja (northern Belize) between now and December 20th. Activity will be on CW and SSB using a FT1000mp MarkV w/amp at 750 watts. His antenna is a 30 ft. vertical close to the beach. QSL direct only with 2 USDs plus SAE (NO IRCs).
- **VP2M, MONTSERRAT**. W1USN, will once again be active as VP2MPR between February 28th and March 13th (2010). Mike will work mainly SSB and PSK31. Bob, AA1M, will also return to Montserrat and will operate mostly CW as VP2MPL between March 6-11th. QSL both operators via their home callsigns.
- **YN, NICARAGUA** (Reminder) K9GY, will once again be active as YN2GY from YN2N's QTH in Grenada, during the 2010 ARRL DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. He will be there between February 18-22nd. Outside of the contest, look for CW activity on 30/17/12 meters. QSL via LoTW or to his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.
- Well, that's it for December and for 2009. I hope to hear more of you on the air in 2010. So until January, 2010, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. And remember, you don't have to be a PCARS member to e-mail me your interesting or rare DX. Just send it to W8PT@portcars.org.

So for now, 73 and gud dx.

Chuck, W8PT

QRP Update from KC8UNR

To all my friends at PCARS, hope you are well and ready for the holidays! Well I have been outdoors when mother nature (and the wife) allows it. I have been getting cheap lately, going to West Branch State Park mostly, saves allot in time and gasoline from my QTH.

Anyway I found, after much looking around the garage and basement, my camping fishing pole. It is a 5 piece fishing pole when broken down, the longest piece being a foot long. Great! This should really help in getting those wires high into the trees! Now for a cheap weight, fishing sinkers are well, too expensive to loose if it gets stuck in the tree. And boy do they ever!



I thought "snags" were bad fishing, try having a snag 40-50' up in a tree. I sure hate to break the line, then you have clutter left in the park. I am somewhat of a tree/whale hugger and ex-boy scout. Hence being upset with trash, pollution etc. causing problems for the environment. I hate to think an animal will get caught in any leftover fishing line. I know it is everywhere in a park but I put it there so I should take it out with me.

I found cheap weights using all of those nuts and bolts that collect in drawers, basement tables, floor of your car

etc. etc. etc. I also figured out that at 10-20 cents a piece I could buy a fair amount of fishing sinkers.

So here we are at the park. Got all the stuff out of my pack, set up the station and now time to cast a line into the tree. Which one I wonder, I quickly figured out only put a line over a long branch that is fairly empty of any leaves or newer growth. Also the branch should be a few feet away from other branches should you cast over your target. Wow has the fishing pole made it easier to get the antenna up in the tree at a good height. Now I have to tie off the ends of the dipole (which is the type antenna I prefer to use), I know quit being cheap and buy a QRP tuner then I can use a random length wire and loose allot of weight from the dipoles I carry in my pack. Well good thing I bought more rope. I used it very quickly with the 35-40' heights I was now making.

My most memorable QSO was only to Long Island, New York but I was only using 0.5 watts and AA2XK was using 1 watt into a loop at 50'. Signal reports were 4x4 to 5x5 we held the QSO for about 10 minutes. He was running a 40 meter net that just happened to be very slow with few check in's that morning.

The worst things happening lately is all of the bathrooms are now locked in most parks. Only the main shelters at Cuyahoga Valley National Park are open still. I guess this means my QRP'ing will soon be over for a while. Maybe next time I will do a short bio since I wont have anything to type about.

Mike, KC8UNR

PCARS Yahoo Site

Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Group 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.



Center of Hope - Holiday Food Drive

It has become an annual tradition for PCARS and its members at the November meeting to collect donations for the Center of Hope in Ravenna and for the club to donate the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle. This year was a record setter.



There were enough food donations to fill the back of a car and between the members' cash donations and the 50/50 proceeds the total cash contribution to the Center of Hope was \$850.00! A few days after the meeting, Deron, N8XTH, and Mike, KB8TUY, delivered the donations to Sister Denise Stiles, the program manager at the Center. It could not have come at a better time as Thanksgiving food baskets were being assembled and distributed.

The Center of Hope is a program of Family & Community Services and the building has been used regularly by PCARS over the past four years.

PCARS is grateful for the use of the facility and the annual food drive and donation is our chance to show our appreciation.

Thanks again to all of the PCARS members for their generosity which made this year's drive such a success!

Jim, KC8PD



31 Jan 2010 - Tusco Amateur Radio Club (W8ZX) - Wallick Auction House - 965 North Wooster Ave. - Strasburg, OH - http://tuscoarc.org - Talk-In: 146.730 - Contact: Kyle Quillen, KD8HDJ - 518 Fair Avenue NW - New Philadelphia, OH 44663 - Phone: 888-447-2403 - Email: hamfest@tuscoarc.org

14 Feb 2010 - Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show - InterCity Amateur Radio Club - Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 North Home Rd. - Mansfield, OH - http://www.w8we.org/hamfest.htm - Talk-In: 146.940/71.9 - Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG - 1094 Beal Rd. - Mansfield, OH 44905 - Phone: 419-589-2415 (1-7 PM please) - Email: metal07man@yahoo.com

18 Apr 2010 - 56th Annual Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 East Bath Rd. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2010.html - Talk-In: 147.27 - Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Ave. - Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 330-688-2013 - Email: w8tts@w8tts.com

14-16 May 2010 - Dayton Hamvention - Dayton ARA - Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd. - Trotwood, OH - http://www.hamvention.org/ - Talk-In: 146.94(-) or 146.64(-) - Contact: Dayton Hamvention - PO Box 964 - Dayton, OH 45401-0964 - Phone: 937-276-6930 - Email: info@hamvention.org



FCC Looks to Revise, Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules

On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* -- <u>WT Docket No. 09-209</u> - seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing the vanity call sign system, but indicated that the procedures "would be set out in the *Public Notices* announcing 'starting gates' for the groups receiving initial

priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from gate to gate as experience dictated." The procedures announced in the *Public Notices* announcing the gates are still in effect, but they are not set forth in the Commission's Rules. The *NPRM* states that the FCC "now believe[s] that certain provisions should be codified in our rules, and others added, so



that the vanity call sign system will be fair, equitable and transparent to all amateur service licensees. The Commission also decided in the *Vanity Report and Order* [issued in 1996] to resume issuing new club station licenses. We believe that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate."

Availability of Call Signs Assigned to Stations of Deceased Licensees

Normally, the call sign of a deceased amateur is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years after the license expires or is canceled. With the *NPRM*, the FCC wants to clarify the process by which such call signs become available for reassignment.

In order for a vanity call sign to be assigned to an amateur, the call sign must be assignable at the time the application is processed. Even if a licensee is deceased, the call sign is not available if the license is still active in the FCC database. When the FCC receives what they call "proper documentation of the licensee's passing" (a signed request for license cancellation accompanied by a copy of a death certificate, an obituary or data from the Social Security Death Index [SSDI] that shows the date of death), they then cancel the license as of the licensee's date of death.

"We propose to amend our rules to codify these procedures by adding a new paragraph to <u>Section 97.21</u>," the *NPRM* states; currently, the procedure for canceling a license due to the grantee's death is <u>outlined on the FCC's Web site</u>, but is not codified in their rules. "We believe that this will make our cancellation process more equitable and transparent, and facilitate the availability of desirable call signs," according to the *NPRM*.

The FCC calls their rules "ambiguous" concerning call signs that become available for reassignment "as to whether the waiting period runs from the date of death or the date that the Commission cancels the license in light of the licensee's death." As such, they are proposing to amend the rules "to clarify that a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death is deemed to have been canceled as of the date of death, regardless of when the licensing database is updated to reflect the licensee's death."

But according to the FCC, this "can create an arguably inequitable situation. We often receive a request from an unrelated person to cancel the license of a licensee who died more than two years earlier, and a vanity application from the same person requesting the deceased's call sign." The Commission stated in the *NPRM* that since the cancellation request is not usually processed before the application requesting the call sign is received, only the applicant knows that the deceased's call sign is about to be available for reassignment.

The FCC proposes to modify their processes to ensure that the deceased's call sign is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for at least 30 days after the staff updates the licensing database to reflect the licensee's death. "Specifically, we

propose to amend the rules to provide that the call sign shown on a license that is canceled due to the death of a licensee more than two years earlier remain[s] unavailable to the vanity call sign system for 30 days following the date the staff takes action to cancel the license. Providing a short period after we process a cancellation request would allow the assignability of a desirable call sign to become known, and would provide an opportunity for other licensees to apply for the call sign. This would further the major concern expressed by the Amateur Service community that the vanity call sign system be fair."

Exceptions to the Two Year Waiting Period

In certain situations, the FCC will issue a vanity call sign to an amateur before the two year waiting period has expired. Back in 1996 when the vanity program came into being, the FCC made exceptions, allowing those licensees who formerly held a call sign to apply for that call sign ahead of other licensees. The Commission noted that such an exception "was perceived as fair by the amateur service community generally, and this exception has been included in various public announcements detailing the procedures of the vanity call sign system." Since this exception is noted in the FCC's rules, the *NPRM* seeks to amend the rules reflect this exception.

With the advent of the vanity call sign program, the Commission also decided to allow close relatives of a deceased former holder of a call sign to apply for that call sign ahead of other licensees, provided that the relative holds the requisite class of operator license. The Commission defined "close relatives" to include, among others, an in-law of the deceased former holder. In order to avoid any confusion, the FCC proposes to amend Section 97.3 to define the term "in-law" to include only a parent or stepparent of a licensee's spouse; a licensee's spouse's sibling; the spouse of a licensee's spouse's sibling; or the spouse of a licensee's sibling, child or stepchild." The other "close relatives" are the deceased former holder's spouse, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, stepparents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Another exception to the two year waiting period applies to licenses for club stations who request the call sign of a deceased licensee "when the club station trustee has the written consent of a close relative of the deceased. The exception was intended to apply only to clubs of which the deceased was a member, but this limitation is not reflected in our rules (though it is specified in other Commission pronouncements regarding the vanity call sign system)."

Ineligible Applicants

When a vanity call sign application is granted, the call sign currently assigned to the licensee's station is surrendered and is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years. Occasionally, the FCC said, vanity call sign applications have been granted to applicants who "erroneously or fraudulently indicated that they fell within an exception to the two-year waiting period. Sometimes, after the situation is brought to the applicant's attention, the applicant applies for and is assigned another call sign, thereby surrendering the improperly obtained call sign."

Under the usual procedure, the FCC stated that the improperly obtained call sign would not be available to the vanity call sign system for another two years, but because this additional delay would be "unfair to prospective applicants who expected the call sign to become assignable at the end of the original two-year period, the <u>Gate 3</u> and <u>Gate 4 Public</u> <u>Notices</u> specifically stated, 'Where a vanity call sign for which the most recent recipient was ineligible is surrendered, cancelled, revoked or voided, the two year requirement does not apply.'

The policy mentioned in the Gate 3 and Gate 4 Public Notices is not codified in the Commission's rules. As such, the FCC proposes to amend Section 97.19(c) to clarify that "a new two-year period does not commence when the most recent recipient acknowledges, or the Commission determines, that the recipient was not eligible to be assigned the call sign. Information regarding the acknowledgement or determination of ineligibility will be posted to the license in the Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) so that other licensees will be able to recognize that the surrender did not commence a new two-year waiting period."

Other Club Station Licensing Issues

For purposes of club station licensing, the FCC defines a club as "a group with at least four persons and that has a name, a document of organization, management, and a primary purpose devoted to amateur service activities consistent with Part 97." A licensee trustee is designated by an officer of the club to hold the club station license grant.

The NPRM stated that sometimes the Commission receives disputes regarding just who is the club's trustee in the

context of a contested application to modify the license to change the trustee: "In order to avoid Commission involvement in what are essentially internal club matters, and to ensure that an application changing the trustee of a club station reflects the intent of the club, we propose to amend the rules to require that applications requesting a change in trustee include documentation signed by an officer of the club when the application is submitted to the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA). Additionally, we believe that by accepting applications only from the licensee the club station record in ULS shows is the trustee of the club station, the CSCSA can minimize the number of disputed applications that are filed with us."

While the Commission's rules limit individuals to holding only one operator/primary station license grant and, therefore, one call sign, "there is no similar limit on how many license grants a club may hold," the *NPRM* said. "This affords club stations an advantage over individuals seeking desirable call signs, reduces the pool of vanity call signs available to individuals and other club stations, and increases the possibility of conflict over particular call signs. We therefore propose to limit club stations to holding one license grant and, consequently, one call sign. Clubs that currently hold more than one call sign would not be allowed to obtain any more call signs, but could renew or modify their existing station license grants."

The FCC also proposes to permit Novice class licensees to serve as club station trustees. The Commission noted that there was an historical prohibition against Novice class licensees serving as club station trustees since Novice licenses originally were not renewable. Because such licenses now may be renewed on the same basis as any other Amateur Service license, "we believe that this prohibition is no longer necessary," the *NPRM* noted.

FCC Seeks Comments on Proposed Changes

In its *NPRM*, the Commission said that it is their belief "that the public interest will be served by amending certain rules in order to make the Amateur Service's vanity call sign system more equitable and transparent. We also propose changes in the rules governing club station licensing, to promote equitable and administratively efficient processes. We therefore seek comment on these proposed rule changes. In addition, we invite commenters to propose any other amendments to the rules governing the vanity call sign system and club station licensing."

The comment period for WT Docket No. 09-209 will extend for 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. Historically, items appear in the *Federal Register* approximately 7-10 days after they appear on the FCC Web site. Reply comments can be made up to 75 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Information on how to make comments can be found in the *NPRM*.

ARRL Letter



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in December:

| KB8AMZ | Terry | Morris |
|---------------|-------|-----------|
| KB8UHN | John | Tomasik |
| KC8PD | Jim | Aylward |
| KC8PHY | Phil | McCoy |
| KC8RJR | Errol | Jordan |
| KC8RKV | Jim | Godfrey |
| KD8EPE | John | Hart |
| KD8FLV | Larry | Krempasky |

| KD8FLW | Kathy | Leasure |
|--------|--------|-----------|
| KD8GHA | Jenna | Ziccardi |
| KD8ICP | Tim | Gehri |
| KD8JLY | Leslie | Honeywell |
| KD8LLN | Mike | Polack |
| KDFPP | Ryan | Fraedrich |
| N8EQJ | Ed | Polack |
| N8XTH | Deron | Boring |

Field Day 2009 Rankings

PCARS ran KD8CKP in the 4A (four transmitters on generator power) category. Here's how we stack up against all the other stations.

Score: We had 7,206 points.

We ranked:

4A Ohio Section #3 of 9 stations 4A Great Lakes Division #4 of 18

4A Overall #16 of 130

Ohio (all categories) #7 of 126

Great Lakes Division (all categories) #13 of 238

Overall #124 of 2,612

QSO's: We racked up 2,349.

We ranked:

4A: #2 of 9 Ohio: #4 of 126

Great Lakes Division: #7 of 238

Overall: #75 of 2,612

Participants: 65 members and guests turned out to Ravenna City Park.

We ranked:

4A Ohio #1 of 9 Ohio #1 of 126 Great Lakes Section #6 of 238 Nationally #59 of 2,612



ARRL FIELD DAY

Score-wise, we were beaten by the Cuyahoga Falls club who came in #2 in the 4A Ohio category, even though they had fewer QSO's. Their secret: more CW activity. If you're an ARRL member, you can get complete details at http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/scores.html?con_id=176

Bill, WB9LBI





EmComm

Winter will soon be here and this is an ideal time to make sure that your backup and emergency power resources are ready for use.

If you have a generator it should be started up and run at least once a month, not just in the winter but year round. Don't just start the engine and let it sit there. Put a substantial load on it to ensure that the generator is functioning properly and keep it running for twenty minutes to a half hour.

If it is a fixed installation genset that is supposed to fire up on its own when the line current disappears, follow the manufacturer's instructions on simulating a loss of line AC. Make sure that the starter battery is fully charged and if it is close to the end of its usable service replace it. If this is a gasoline fueled generator, add fuel stabilizer to the generator's fuel supply as well as to your backup gas cans if you are not using that gas during the winter for snow blowers, etc., and the supply is being renewed.

Do you have a safe, secure and properly ventilated location to operate the generator? Never run one inside your living quarters and don't use one in a closed garage or similar structure. Make sure there are no fire hazards such as stored materials or fuel supplies in the area of the generator.

If you are using extension cords to connect appliances to the generator, check to make sure that they are the appropriate gauge to handle peak currents and of adequate length to get power to where you need it. Don't



compromise your safety by using cut rate extension cords. If they have been around for a few years make sure there no cuts or nicks in them. If the generator connects to your breaker box with a transfer switch, check it to make sure that it is functioning properly.

If you use twelve volt storage batteries for backup, keep an eye on the electrolyte level for lead acid batteries which should be installed in secure vented containers. A defective or shorted battery can explode and cause serious injury.

If you are using gel cells or AGM batteries, make sure to follow the manufacturer's specifications for charging voltage. If you are using a float charger, check its output voltage to be sure it is adequate. You can also use

your shack's power supply to maintain the charge on the batteries. Take a look at the West Mountain PWRgate for a handy device to both maintain the float charge and give you an immediate switch to battery power if the commercial power fails.

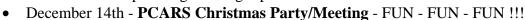
Do you have an adequate supply of AA's for radios and other gear and C cells for flashlights? Check the expiration dates on all batteries and rotate your stock to ensure that you have fresh, usable storage batteries. Use up the oldest batteries and safely discard discharged or outdated cells properly. If you use rechargeables, once a month run them through a charging cycle to keep them at peak voltage. Periodically it may be a good idea to fully discharge them before recharging. As always, follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Don't wait until it's too late and you are standing in your garage with a dead flashlight, a generator that won't start, and an HT that won't work. Be safe by being prepared.

Jim, KC8PD
Radio Officer, Portage County EMA/RACES
EC, ARES® of Portage County

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:





- February 27th Annual **Freeze Your Acorns Off** (FYAO) special event more details to follow.
- March 8th meeting **APRS** Matt, W8DEC
- April 12th meeting **D-Star Digital Communications** Neil, N8IL
- May 10th meeting AMSAT Ed, N8EQJ & Dave WB2DFC



Club Site Open House

There was a great turnout at the Open House for the PCARS club site, around seventy-five members and guests. It was a nice opportunity for members to meet and visit with each other, especially for those who had the chance to make some new acquaintances.

Many of those attending had a hand in the ongoing renovation project and they could see how their efforts had contributed to the project. Some had never seen the facility and it is probably fair to say that they were all impressed. Tom, KB8UUZ, put the first contact into the log, an Italian DX station.

If you are new to PCARS here is the real short history of how we acquired our space on what is now known as the Resources On Oakwood (The ROC) campus and was formerly the district ODOT headquarters:

Three years ago PCARS contacted ODOT to see about acquiring either use or ownership of the tower on the then abandoned site. It was quickly decided that this was way more of a financial commitment than PCARS would be able to take on. After ODOT was advised of that, PCARS learned that ODOT was making plans to raze all of the structures on the property. So Family & Community Services was brought into the picture and in about six weeks a deal was struck with ODOT and F&CS assumed ownership of the entire property.



PCARS was given access to the tower and, though it took some time, eventually ended up with three



antennas on it. But the club also had its eye on the space in the old ODOT Test Lab building right beneath the tower. Because of F&CS' appreciation for PCARS' role in the acquisition of the property, a lease was negotiated with the agency at very generous terms.

Then the work began. First the inside of the garage bay was painted. Later the doorway was reopened between the room that houses the FireCom repeater and what is now our radio room where the walls were

cleaned and repainted. At that point things went into a bit of a

holding pattern. We had to wait for F&CS to obtain funding for the renovation of the other half of the building and work began on that this past Spring.



Once the building was secured (new exterior doors plus



doors for the radio room), we could feel more confident about leaving items in our space. Over the summer the leaking roof drain in the garage was repaired and the ceiling in the radio room was sprayed with foam insulation and a new furnace was installed just for that room. Then club members could install the dropped ceiling and lights. Soon after, the carpet was laid and the countertops were installed. Just before the open house the furnace in the garage was repaired.

And the outside of the building looks pretty neat, too, since PCARS donated the labor for repainting it.

At long last, our space was fully functional. We held the Fall Technician class in the radio room which will also be the location for the General class in January.

A lot still needs to be done. The Facilities Committee will keep working on things like the shelves over the countertops, the space for VHF/UHF station in the repeater room, and the workshop at the back of the garage.



The Technical Committee will be making recommendations for antenna installation (we recently received a tower donation) and radio equipment. The IT Committee will be working on the computer network and server.

In the meantime one antenna is up and we can put an HF station on the air and hold meetings and activities at the site. Plus, the Communications Trailer team can continue its work indoors in heated space.

There are dozens of club members who deserve our

appreciation for their generous donations of time, labor and materials for all of the work that has been done. You can see many of them in the photos that accompany this story. They are creating a place that will be enjoyed by PCARS members for decades to come. They have truly made it a home for PCARS and we thank all of them.























Jim, KC8PD

Pictures from the PCARS Open House



FYAO - 2010

As you've heard me mention on the net a few times already, Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO) 2010 is on the calendar for Saturday, February 27th. 2010, so be sure to mark the date of on your schedule now. Once again will be at the Roy Smith Shelter House in the Fred Fuller Park located in Kent, OH.

We're asking everyone to help us put on a really big feast by bringing in soup, sandwiches, snacks, desserts, drinks, etc..... That way we'll have plenty for all our guests, as FYAO has become an event for lots of local hams to stop in and enjoy the fellowship, since there's not much else going on at that time of year.

Now this year I've asked for some honest to goodness winter weather, with snow, but not too cold or windy! We're going to spread out over the whole park and set up stations in the field so we're not all interfering with one another, and it's going to be a "special event" for those who contact us, and a "contest" for all the individual PCARS stations that participate. More details on that as they develop.

So, practice up on your QRP skills. Put your station equipment together. Stop out and scope out the park and decide where you'd like to set up your operating position. Plan your antenna and operating strategy. Be ready for a FUN day of QRP and maybe with the help of a few sunspots we'll get a few more Q's in the logbooks.

Finally, spread the word. Invite any ham in the surrounding area to stop in and have some fun with us. Any stations you work between now and then, either in the QSO or on the QSL card, let them know we'd love to have a Q with them on February 27th.

It's going to be another PCARS day of Good Ham Radio Fun on both ends!

Tom, WB8LCD

Hamfest Report - Massillon

What a super day for the hamfest! Not too warm and not too cold! Hitting the road a might on the side of early... I would say. I headed to Tom's house (KB8UUZ) to get a ride. Concerned that I may be a tad late (Tom likes to leave >>> ON THE DOT <<< for these events) I switched on all the lights on the front of my car and made a radical adjustment to cars MPG. I could hear the fuel pump trying to sucking the gas tank dry but the good side was I could see 5 miles ahead with all the max light I could power up in case I had to hit the brakes. Arriving at Tom's in a flash...I jumped in his SUV thingy which was on hot stand by (and I think he had it in drive as not wanted to leave a half second late)!

On the road now heading to



Ravenna to pick up Marty (KD8MBH) there were few cars out that early. Picked Marty up and on to the hamfest. In route; I was requested to check the speed on the Tom-Tom gizmo I brought and give a running report to our driver... as he noted what his vehicle speed was at that point in time. The story reported was he has been receiving the Bird lately as he commutes back and forth to work. There was small difference... but I think his car is programmed to just go slower as the driver gains in age? As I noticed the first time I drove down to Florida with the wife on vacation...all the older drivers were going about 50 mph under the speed limit and all the local younger drivers were going about 50 mph over the speed limits??? Speed-O-Meter corrections on Post-It notes stuck on Tom's dash should take care of the one finger salutes!

We arrived at the hamfest only about 30 minutes early and was able to park in the front. Frost on the near by roof tops and the line was building at the entrance of which we also added to. This was Marty's first hamfest in many, many years.... and his first as a ham again and also his first hamfest having the honor of being PCARS member #150!!!!! The three of us parted ways inside and both Tom and I crossed paths with ex-coworkers from many years past. I think I spent more time talking to people I haven't seen in a while then what I spent looking around the tables! Ran into many local hams from Portage County and many more from PCARS!

I took a number of pictures while there and had the honor of snapping one of our ARES DEC Dave N8KBC with PCARS member #150 who also is a Portage County ARES member!

What a great day at the Massillon 2009 Hamfest with all our PCARS members there also!!!! After some more hello's and how-are-you-doings we departed for home. But... we wanted to stop somewhere for breakfast first so we went cross county into Arlington. After a good breakfast we walked next door to check out the latest Tools at the Harbor Freight store. Our morning now complete... we headed for home. The three of us really enjoyed our morning and are looking forward to the next Massillon Hamfest next year!

Al, KB8VJL



SKYWARN Recognition Day

The 11th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (<u>SRD</u>) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 5, 2009. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (<u>NWS</u>) as a way to recognize the



commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their <u>local participating NWS office</u>, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

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

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, almost 16,000 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted. "The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year."

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Many local club members who came to that first event had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology."And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs.

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices participating with local ham clubs has increased; more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!"

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

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink, *Winlink* and the use of e-mail reflectors." In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are <u>asked to include a weather report of their location</u> in their exchange.

In 2008, the Des Moines office reported the most QSOs -- 1203 QSOs -- than any other NWS office; the Melbourne, Florida office, with 1192 QSOs, ran a close second. Melbourne also contacted the 74 NWS offices, the most reported last year. Lincoln, Illinois, was close behind, with 70 QSOs to other NWS offices.

2009 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 5 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and more than 40 countries during the 24 hour event. Even if you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Just submit a list of the station(s) you worked to Submit a list of the NWS stations you worked with a self-addressed stamped envelope to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2009 your year to do so!

From the ARRL





PCARS Thursday Net Control

If **YOU** would like to be a net control operator, please let me know when you are available and I'll get you into the rotation - email: WB8LCD@portcars.org. Your help would be greatly appreciated and it's a lot of fun!







| December | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 12/03 | N8RLG | | | | | | |
| 12/10 | KD8VT | | | | | | |
| 12/17 | N8QE | | | | | | |
| 12/24 | KB8UUZ | | | | | | |
| 12/31 | WB8LCD | | | | | | |

ARS net is *Fun* - tell your friends to check in via RF or Echolink!

Tom WB8LCDPCARS Net Control Coordinator





PCARS logo patches & stickers & mugs are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket, show off that PCARS mug!! 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. Mugs are full color with the PCARS logo on both side and only cost \$5 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers,

use the mug! If you would like to order by mail contact the club Treasurer: Bill at wb9lbi@portcars.org

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

December 5 - February 6, 2010 - April 3, 2010 - June 5, 2010 - August 7, 2010

VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10:00 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 (if you have one), a copy of your CSCE (if you have one), a photo ID, and \$15.00 in cash or a check for \$15.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC". We look forward to seeing you there!!!!!



Jim, KC8PD PCARS VE Team Liaison



December Contest Calendar

| December, 2009 | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ARRL 160-Meter Contest | 2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z, Dec 6 |
| ARRL EME Contest | 0000Z, Dec 5 to 2359Z, Dec 6 |
| NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint | 0130Z-0330Z, Dec 9 |
| ARRL 10-Meter Contest | 0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13 |
| Feld Hell Sprint | 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 12 |
| MDXA PSK DeathMatch | 0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13 |
| International Naval Contest | 1600Z, Dec 12 to 1559Z, Dec 13 |
| CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run | 2100Z-2259Z, Dec 13 |
| Russian 160-Meter Contest | 2100Z-2300Z, Dec 18 |
| Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party | 0001Z, Dec 19 to 2359Z, Jan 3 |
| Run for the Bacon QRP Contest | 0200Z-0400Z, Dec 21 |
| RAC Winter Contest | 0000Z-2359Z, Dec 26 |
| Stew Perry Topband Challenge | 1500Z, Dec 26 to 1500Z, Dec 27 |

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



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 24 plates up on the wall now (plus a two new plates I just put up, but didn't get a picture of them...), 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 about \$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio



plate fee. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be re-newed, you can 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 Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS Yahoo Group site.

Tom, KB8UUZ

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: A50-5S 5-element 6 meter beam. Good condition, with paperwork, asking \$100. [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Antique Siltronics 10/11 meter transceiver. Needs restoration. Make offer. [exp 3/1/10]

Contact John - KC8KYW@portcars.org or call: 330 734-7888 (cell phone) or home, 330-688-1725.

WANTED: HF Rig with general coverage - working - under \$300. [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Icom 2200H 2 meter mobile rig. Asking \$120. [exp 3/1/10]

Contact **Don** - KD8ICR@portcars.org or call 330-842-1067.

FOR SALE: ICOM 775 10-160 meters, 200 Watts includes HM-36 mic, Rack Mount Handles, two SP-20 Speakers w/Audio Filter
- all for \$2500 [exp 3/1/10] Contact Ted - KC8SYD at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

FOR SALE - YAESU FT-90R - Micro Mobile - 2m/440 Dual Band - Detachable Front Panel - Asking: \$250 OBO [exp 3/1/10]

Contact Mike - KC8LJY at 330-673-1035

FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX multi-hand vertical antenna. Put up in 2002 taken down in 2007, in good condition with original

FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX multi-band vertical antenna. Put up in 2002 taken down in 2007, in good condition with original manual. \$399.99 New, will sell for \$199 [exp. 3/1/10]

For Sale: Kenwood TS-570S 160M through 6M transceiver with TCXO .5ppm high stability master oscillator option, MARS/CAP modification, manual, microphone, and power cord. \$650 [exp 3/1/10]

For Sale: Yaesu FT-90R 2M/70CM FM Transceiver with MARS/CAP modification, microphone, manual, 8 inch fused power cord w/ Anderson Power Pole connector, squelch problem when hot. \$100 [exp. 3/1/10]

Contact **Rick - K8CAV@portcars.org** or 330-274-2869 evenings

FOR SALE: Heil HM-10 Dual (HC4 & HC5 elements) microphone. Original manual & case. With cable for Kenwood. \$95 [exp 3/1/10] FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Autotuner cable for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$24 [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Mirage A-1015G, 6 Meter Amplifier - 10 watts in, 160 watts out - Original manual & box - works great - \$275 [exp 3/1/10] Contact Tom - KB8UUZ@portcars.org or call 330-527-7609

FOR SALE: Dual Band Trunk Lid Antenna, 2m/440 like new, \$25. [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Heathkit SB-630 combo: SWR meter, phone patch, and clock which can be set for GMT, \$50. [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Heathkit HW-202, crystal controlled, worked last time I used it, \$75. [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Philco Floor Model Radio circa 40s. Has been refinished and many tubes replaced. Was working fine a few years ago, but due to non-use has some dirty switches right now and I have taken time to pull it out and clean them. Speaker is about 12-15" and sounded great. Has AM and 2 shortwave bands. Price \$250... negotiable. [exp. 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Tripp Lite Power Supply 3 amps, \$15. [exp 3/1/10]

Contact Carl - N4IT@portcars.org or call 330-221-9725

FOR SALE: Ameritron AL-811H Linear Amp, \$800 used LESS THAN ONE HOUR. In pristine, like new condition, with manual and original boxes. Will deliver in NE Ohio. [exp 3/1/10] Contact **Bob** - NT8K@portcars.org

WANTED: 2 Meter Vertical Base Antenna to be used for MARS. Must be able to tune outside ham band around 148.4 [exp 3/1/10] Contact: George - N1EZZ@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Z-Pole Kits - same as the PCARS Nutrunner that was a club project in Feb 08 (Power Pole Breakout Box), with updated enhancements. These new kits are now called the "Z-Pole" and cost \$20 each. [exp 3/1/10]

Contact: Russ - KB8DPN@portcars.org

FOR SALE or TRADE: Kenwood AT-200 160-10 antenna tuner. Also measures SWR/FWD/REF power. 200W max. Very good condition. \$40 or trade for 500 ft spool of 14 ga stranded wire. [exp 3/1/10]

Contact Gene - W8NET@w8net.com

FOR SALE: ENT Carlon Flexible Conduit 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch, and 1 inch rolls. "Non Metallic" easy to cut, and no sharp edges to catch your wires. made to be buried or concrete over. Never used. Sell all, or trade all, or ??? by the roll. Let me know what you need. Most of the rolls are 25 ft. the size is the I.D. 1/2", 3/4", and 1". In all, with current pricing, I have roughly 1200.00 worth. Will trade for ham stuff or Sell all for one price at 600.00: Current prices 1/2"=.58 per ft. 3/4"=.87 per ft and 1"=1.24 per ft.(McMaster Carr) 1/2"x25ft-8.00 ea. 35 rolls - 3/4"x25ft-14.00 ea. 11 rolls - 1"x25ft---- 20.00 ea 3 rolls - 1/2"x150ft-60.00 ea 3 rolls - 3/4"x100ft-60.00 ea 2 rolls Great for under ground coax runs.

Contact: Martin - KD8MBH@portcars.org or call: 330-297-6822

FOR SALE: Heavy Duty Ball Mount & Whips: 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. [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Coax Jumper Cables - made of Belden RG-213, 3 foot jumper \$10, 6 foot jumper \$15. As many as you need! Yes, they all have PL-259's on them! They are complete jumper cable assemblies! Can also supply any custom lengths you need! [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: 1.5" OD x 12 ft aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$75.00 $_{\mbox{\scriptsize [exp 3/1/10]}}$

FOR SALE: 2" OD x 12 ft long aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$100.00 [exp 3/1/10]

Contact **Tom** - <u>WB8LCD@portcars.org</u>

FOR SALE: TS-440-SAT Kenwood Transceiver, PS-50 Kenwood Power Supply, MC-60A Kenwood Desk Microphone, SP-430 Kenwood External Speaker. *Sold as package only*. Excellent condition, Original owner, Non-smoker, Original Packaging and all manuals. Asking \$1000. [exp. 3/1/10]

Contact Bob - 330-633-5408 or e-mail N8QE@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Square D QO230 30 Amp 240 Volt Breakers - 2 of them - \$10 each. [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Square D QOB220 20 Amp 240 Volt Bolt In Breakers - 3 of them - \$20 each [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Square D QOB260 60 Amp 240 Volt Bolt In Breaker - $20_{\text{[exp 3/1/10]}}$

FOR SALE: Square D QOB2100 100 Amp 240 Volt Bolt In Breaker - \$40 [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: RFS Hardline - 533 Feet, 1-1/4" w/1 new N-female connector - \$1,000 [exp 3/1/10]

FOR SALE: Coax & Connectors:

New Andrew F4A-PNMDM-22-NX1, 22' FSJ4-50A Superflex® jumpers with N-male on one end and 7-16 DIN male on the other end. \$20.00 each (20 Available) [exp. 3/1/10]

New Andrew F4A-PNMDM-22-NX1, 22' FSJ4-50A Superflex® jumpers with N-male on one end and 7-16 DIN male on the other end and supplied with an extra Andrew F4PNMV2-C, premium N-male connector so the jumper can be configured as an N-male to N-male at any length up to 22'. \$30.00 each (20 Available)_[exp 3/1/10]

New Andrew F4PNMV2-C, premium N-male connector for FSJ4-50A Superflex® coax \$15.00 each (12 Available) [exp 3/1/10]

New Andrew L4TNM-PS, N-male Positive Stop connector for Andrew LDF4-50A 1/2" Heliax® \$15.00 each (6 Available) [exp 3/1/10]

New Andrew L4PNM-RC, Older style heavy duty premium N-male connector for Andrew LDF4-50A ½" Heliax®, these are out of the package as they were used for training but were never installed on any cable. \$15.00 pair [exp 3/1/10]

New Andrew L4TDMV2-C, DIN-male connector for Andrew LDF4-50A 1/2" Heliax ® \$15.00 each (6 Available) [exp 3/1/10]

New Andrew L5TNF-PS, N-female Positive Stop connector for Andrew LDF5-50A 7/8" Heliax® \$35.00 each (2 Available) [exp 3/1/10]

Used Andrew L45W, N-male, all brass connector for Andrew LDF5-50A 7/8" Heliax® \$15.00 [exp 3/1/10]

Used Radio Frequency Systems FLC78-50NF, premium N-female connectors in excellent condition, fit both RFS and Andrew 7/8" Heliax® \$10.00 each [exp 3/1/10]

Andrew L6TDM, DIN-male connector for Andrew LDF6-50A 11/4" Heliax® \$20.00 each (9 Available) [exp 3/1/10]

94 Feet of New Andrew 1/2" Heliax® with one N-male connector installed \$100.00 [exp 3/1/10]

84 Feet of New Andrew 1/2" Heliax® \$84.00; 74 Feet of New Andrew 1/2" Heliax® \$74.00 [exp 3/1/10]

Approximately 150 feet of Used Andrew 7/8" Heliax® \$150.00 [exp 3/1/10]

553 Feet of New RFS FLCH114-50A, 11/4" Heliax® with one New N-female connector \$1000.00 [exp 3/1/10]

For SALE: Used 30' Rohn 25G tower with hinged base plate, good condition \$150.00 [exp 3/1/10]

Contact: James - KD8VT@portcars.org

Editor's Note:

Starting January 1, 2010 - Ads will run for 3 months then be dropped from the listing *UNLESS* you send it in again. Each ad will have a expiration date that looks like: $[exp \ 3/1/10]$ when they will be removed. This will help ensure the listings are kept current.



NCVEC to Release New Tech Question Pool to Public in January 2010

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is due to release the <u>new Technician class (Element 2) question pool</u> to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010.



According ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years to ensure that the questions are kept current with the latest amateur practice and technology, as well as addresses information relevant to that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the

education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes." Green is a

member of the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee. Other members of the QPC include Chairman Roland Anders, K3RA (Laurel VEC), Larry Pollock, NB5X (W5YI VEC), Jim Wiley, KL7CC (Anchorage VEC) and Tom Fuszard, KF9PU (Milwaukee VEC).

Green said that earlier this year, the QPC solicited input from Amateur Radio operators concerning the new question pool, accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or deletions: "The QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC seeks input from the amateur community concerning a revision."

The new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010, and it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination. This question pool will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current <u>General class question pool</u> was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current <u>Amateur Extra class pool</u> was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

From the ARRL

I Hear Noise

For the last couple of months, I've noticed a pulsating "white noise like" thing on my HF rig. It wasn't always there, but when it was, it would come in S3 to S5. A bit irritating, but we're hams and we're used to

white noise. It was all over the 10, 15, 20, and 40 meter bands and it seemed to have a rhythm to it. That's what bothered me. It could also be heard on Coletta's (KD8LEA) rig which is in a separate part of the house and on a different antenna. It had to be coming from outside somewhere.

So it was time to take the dog out for a walk to check out a suspicious street lamp. Portable HF receiver in hand, I noticed the noise stopped when we left the house. Uh oh... that's not good. I already tore my shack apart last month looking for ac hum! Now what? The street lamp was noisy, but not the problem.



After checking the entire house, I came back down to the shack. The noise was louder there. Specifically, by my USB hub. I unplugged each component one at a time. The noise disappeared when I unplugged the wireless network receiver. Huh? Plugged it back in and it made a different loud noise. Hmmm.

I yanked my computer out of it's cubby hole and plugged the wireless receiver straight into the USB on the computer. Quiet as can be.

So the wireless network receiver doesn't like being ran through the USB hub. It's a Staples brand hub and a Belkin wireless adapter. I wonder how many hams in my neighborhood I was interfering with. Are you hearing a pulsating white noise? (Yea in my sleep).

John, KB8UHN

20 (more DX) Questions (aka Part 2 of 2)

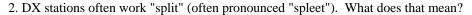
Notes: Question 1 last month had an incorrect answer (good start, eh?):

P43 calls are resident calls in Aruba, while other P4 calls are given to non-resident operators. P43 and P40 were reversed as the "correct" answer. Most contest calls are P40. See: www.qsl.net/aarc/w_p4_license.htm

Question 20 was more or less correct. The CEPT agreement permits amateurs to operate for a limited time in most European countries and their non-European possessions without a reciprocal license under certain conditions. American Novice AND Technician classes are ineligible; General class privileges are limited. See: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/#cept

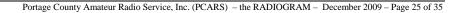
I nearly flunked my own test, so **caveat emptor**: you may need it again this time.

- 1. What was the last entity (country) added to the DXCC list?
 - 1. Scarborough Reef, BS7H (and I hope it is deleted soon)
 - 2. Montenegro, 4O
 - 3. Swain Island, KH8S
 - 4. Saint Barthelemy, FJ
 - 5. Temotu Province, H40



- 1. They operate in one mode and receive in another, e.g., transmit in phone and receive in CW
- 2. They split themselves off from American band limits so that they are not overwhelmed with calls and operate only out of band to US hams
- 3. They transmit on one frequency and receive on another (or many others) frequency
- 4. It means they split incoming calls into segments of 5 or 10 and then answer that group of calls before accepting another split group
- 5. They split incoming calls by call area, e.g., only 8's; or by prefix, e.g., only J's or only G's
- 3. My P5RS7 QSL was rejected for DXCC credit. Why?
 - 1. P5 is not allocated as a prefix by the ITU
 - 2. The station did not have proper documentation
 - 3. The station never submitted documentation
 - 4. The country represented by P5 is not a member of the ITU
 - 5. P5 is on the list of countries banned for US operators (What? You have never heard of such a list?)
- 4. Evaluate the following statements:
 - A. The QSL bureau does not accept cards for stations with managers.
 - B. The "standard" amount to include for return postage for a DX QSL is \$2.00.
 - C. The minimum number of countries (entities) required for the DXCC award is 100.
 - 1. A is true, B and C are false
 - 2. B is true, A and C are false
 - 3. C is true, A and B are false
 - 4. All statements are false
 - 5. B and C are true, A is false
- 5. Evaluate the following statements:
 - A. The GO List includes information on all governmental organizations worldwide that involve reciprocal licensing.
 - B. QRZ.com can locate nearly every amateur callsign in the world.
 - C. A "barefoot DXer" is someone who does not yet have DXCC.
 - 1. All statements are true
 - 2. A is true, B and C are false
 - 3. B and C are true, A is false
 - 4. C is true, A and B are false
 - 5. B is true, A and C are false





- 6. Bouvet Island in Antarctica politically belongs to:
 - 1. Australia
 - 2. France
 - 3. Austria (the only landlocked country in the world with a maritime island)
 - 4. Norway
 - 5. Russia
- 7. Evaluate the following statements:
 - A. e-QSL's can be used for DXCC credit.
 - B. Current speculation is that the Netherlands Antilles will be the source of at least four new DXCC entities (countries).
 - C. Current speculation is that the Netherlands Antilles will be the source of a net of two new DXCC entities (countries).
 - 1. All statements are true
 - 2. All statements are false
 - 3. A and C are true, C is false
 - 4. B and C are true, A is false
 - 5. B is true, A and C are false
- 8. Which one of the following is not a mini-state in Europe?
 - 1. C3
 - 2. HB0
 - 3. HV
 - 4. FP
 - 5.3A
- 9. The unique thing about SV/A is that:
 - 1. it is an exclave of another country but uses a Greek prefix
 - 2. men cannot find a female date in it
 - 3. it was deleted, added, deleted, and added again to the DXCC list
 - 4. the only mode of operation permitted is SSB
 - 5. HF operations are permitted only one day a year (August 17)

10. The IARU is divided into:

- 1. 3 regions and 75 zones
- 2. 178 Member Societies
- 3. 6 continental areas
- 4. a hierarchy of continents and countries
- 5. digital and phone authorities
- 11. Morokulien is famous in amateur radio annals for being:
 - 1. a place without an authorized prefix
 - 2. having both Norwegian (LG5LG)and Swedish (SJ9WJ) callsigns (and the only radio station on Norwegian soil operating with a Swedish callsign)
 - 3. the home of Marconi
 - 4. the QTH of OH2BH (Martti Laine, a famous DXer)
 - 5. the site of the world's highest amateur radio tower at 368 meters
- 12. The IOTA program is headquartered in:
 - 1. UK
 - 2. Portland, Maine
 - 3. the ARRL offices
 - 4. Malta
 - 5. Italy







- 13. The Worked All Continents award is issued by:
 - 1. ARRL
 - 2. IARU
 - 3. RSGB
 - 4. IOTA
 - 5. CQ Magazine
- 14. N8KOJ, N9AG, and N8KOL are important in Ohio DXing circles because they:
 - 1. are field DXCC Card Checkers
 - 2. are members of the ARRL DX Committee
 - 3. have been in more DX'peditions than anyone else in the state
 - 4. are the only Honor Roll DXers in Ohio
 - 5. actually have DXCC on both 2 meters and 160 meters

15. INDEXA:

- 1. sponsors the annual DX forum at the Dayton Hamvention
- 2. meets daily at 11:30 UTC
- 3. is a library-type bibliographic record of all DX'peditions
- 4. conducts a DX Information session on 14.236 mHz
- 5. is the DX newsletter of the RSGB
- 16. Bill Bennett, the founder of the Family Hour DX Net, was:
 - 1. also the control operator for the Southern Cross DX Net
 - 2. actually an SWL only and never held an amateur license
 - 3. the only DXer to work every single DXCC entity (country), both current and deleted, until his death (a record that now can never be matched)
 - 4. also the founder of Heathkit in Benton Harbor, Michigan
 - 5. W7PHO

17. SFI, A, and K indices are:

- 1. solar numbers that affect DX propagation
- 2. required on all QSL cards; otherwise, the card is invalid
- 3. WWV timestamps
- 4. reflections of an operator's habits and efficiency
- 5. now the best they have been in more than a decade
- 18. The many different lists of the "Most Wanted DXCC" all agree that the most-wanted entity (country) is:
 - 1. Crozet
 - 2. Bouvet
 - 3. North Korea
 - 4. Bhutan
 - 5. Pitcairn
- 19. Mary Ann Crider, WA3HUP:
 - 1. operated NA1SS from space in 2008 (a very long path)
 - 2. was the first yl recipient of the 5BDXCC
 - 3. founded the YLDX Net
 - 4. had her license suspended by the FCC for deliberate interference during the 2005 IARU phone contest
 - 5. is a world-class QSL manager (much like Joe Arcure, W3HNK)
- 20. What was the callsign of the fraudulent North Korean station of 1999?
 - 1. P5/OH2BH
 - 2. P5DX
 - 3. P5000A
 - 4. P5/UA9SNT
 - 5. P5RS7

The answers:

| .20.5. | 2.91 | 18.3 | 1.71 | 2.91 | 15.4 | 14.1 | 13.2 | 12.1 | 11.2 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 10.2 | 2.6 | 4.8 | t.7 | t ·9 | 5.5 | £.4 | 3.2 | 2.3 | t.1 |

Dave, W8HFY





Russian KGB in Portage County?

Hello fellow PCARS members, I hope you all are fairing well as we move forward into December. Also a quick heart felt thank you to all the members that have came up and introduced themselves, and complimented me on my previous newsletter stories.

Now to the news at hand... Lets step backwards in time to President Ronald Reagan's term, and all the conflict and scary feelings projected in the news about the Russians and all the havoc of our cold war.

In 1981, I remember getting letters home from my older brother, Darrell, God rest his soul,who was serving in the U.S. Army over-seas in Germany. He would tell of the tension as his tank patrol would guard the West German side of the Berlin Wall. My brother's writings were both un-nerving, and down right scary at times, lending to my conscious and continual awareness that any moment, the comrades were going to invade my back yard.



door opened more when I knocked, and I peeked inside....

That being said, I grew up in Paris Township, OH, very close to the old Paris school house. If you know where this is, then you know how remote the area is, and can imagine how hard it was for a kid on a bicycle to make some spending cash. The only thing I could do to raise some capital, was to go house to house and see if anyone had chores or odd jobs to do. I did just that, and made a few bucks. But then one day everything changed...

I rode my bike up a driveway to a farm house, and found an older woman in need of help with several chores around her place, and I set to working along side of her, for several hours. She was quite out going, and down right entertaining, as we worked and chatted the day away. As the work came to a close, she treated me to snacks and a cool beverage, and then it happened...

She sent me across the road to tell her son Kenny that she needed him to come over, and I willing complied (WILL-CO). As I rode my old rattly bike down the drive, I saw the grass was only half mowed, and the front door was ajar. I walked up and knocked on the door, and gave a "HELLO?". The and I peeked inside

And there it was... A whole line of radio equipment in the living room, covering most of the wall, and I heard voices talking, and saw microphones...and then it hit me......

This nice woman across the street had a son who was a RUSSIAN KGB SPY..!!!!!! My mind saw visions of the Russian tanks just over the horizon!!!! I panicked, and said something in my head like "FEET, DON"T FAIL ME NOW!!!!!" I bolted to my bike, and peddled so hard, I think I bent the handle bars.... I steered up her drive, and she asked if Kenny was coming over, and at a lack of a better lie, I just said "HE WASN'T HOME" and I quickly explained I needed to get home.

I needed to do something, so what better source of knowledge that mom? I explained in great detail how this Kenny guy was a Russian spy, and how he was communicating with Gorbachev from his house, to call in a nuclear attack, and how we should take the proper precautions, buy quickly retreating to a bomb shelter in South America. I was cool and prepared, and even explained to my mom that we should take enough food for a year, and not forget to take the dogs....... There...... it was out in the open, and in minutes the U.S. Military will be swarming the area to thwart the Red Communist onslaught..... saving us all........... because I told my mom on em........... so long commies!!!!!!

Looking back...... I feel sorry for my mom, god rest her soul..... her youngest son was not wrapped to

tightly sometimes...... not the sharpest crayola in the box, so to speak....

Well, as I started packing for the bomb shelter, I left it in mom's capable hands...

Now lets time travel to the November PCARS meeting 2009. I received my membership packet, and once returning home, pulled it out to review it, and found the members list. And then it caught my eye, and I remembered the KGB Agent. He was a member of PCARS!!!! I would know his name anywhere!!!!!! AB8IE Kenneth "Westy" Westover was the Russian Spy from my childhood. I had to laugh out loud as I remembered the day I told my mom "Better dead than Red"

I recently called Ken, and told him my story. We reminisced a bit about his mom, and how I enjoyed talking with her, and how out going and happy she was. I know I'll never forget her kindness. As we talked, I was made aware of Ken's military service, for which I thank him greatly. Ken's interest in radio's goes way back to before I stumbled onto his shack, and I hope my recent call to him leads to a lifelong friendship with someone I would be very proud to introduce as such.

In short, things and people aren't always what they seem. take time to get to know someone better before forming a profile. And when you try to get to know some one, show a little effort in being a friend. If someone seems hard to get to know, think outside the box, and realize where they may have been, and what they may have been through. Friendship is like any other relationship, you have to work at it a little. Try to be the friend you have always wanted, and it will turn full circle and come back to you if you show some effort.

To think, I though a Vietnam Veteran was a Russian SPY!! How dumb was I?????? Sorry Mom..

Special thanks to Ken, AB8IE, Al, KB8VJL, Russ, KD8LDY, and all other PCARS veterans. Please come up and introduce yourselves, and tell me about you service, so I can shake you hand in person and give a personal thank you.

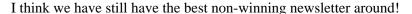
Martin, KD8MBH



RADIOGRAM Statistics

Many PCARS members joke about how many pages the RADIOGRAM has every month. Yes, there are on average about 29 pages. (I can hear those ink cartridges groaning....) I took a close look at the 2009 issues and came up with the following interesting statistics:

| Month | Pages | Paragraphs | Lines | Words |
|---------|-------|------------|--------|---------|
| Jan | 30 | 690 | 1,830 | 12,724 |
| Feb | 27 | 601 | 1,614 | 12,133 |
| Mar | 32 | 699 | 1,874 | 13,771 |
| Apr | 29 | 802 | 1,844 | 12,666 |
| May | 25 | 906 | 1,799 | 9,559 |
| Jun | 28 | 1,017 | 2,032 | 12,125 |
| Jul | 27 | 1,273 | 2,345 | 13,041 |
| Aug | 31 | 735 | 1,578 | 10,996 |
| Sep | 30 | 1,336 | 2,474 | 14,805 |
| Oct | 22 | 912 | 1,810 | 9,435 |
| Nov | 34 | 1,240 | 2,425 | 15,015 |
| Dec | 35 | 1,259 | 2,533 | 16,375 |
| Totals | 350 | 11,470 | 24,158 | 152,645 |
| Average | 29 | 956 | 2,013 | 12,720 |





Tom, KB8UUZ

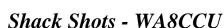
Word Search - Slow Scan TV

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| Ε | Α | Н | I | D | Α | X | J | С | Ν | Υ | S | С | F | Κ | N |
| L | L | F | L | Α | Р | Υ | S | Α | Е | W | Е | Κ | 0 | Н | Α |
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| ANALOG | MARTIN |
|----------------|------------|
| CAMERA | MODE |
| CHROMIANCE | PICTURES |
| COMMUNICATIONS | PIXEL |
| COMPUTER | ROBOT |
| DEMODULATOR | SCOTTIE |
| DIGITAL | SEGMENT |
| EASYPAL | SOFTWARE |
| FIELD | SOUND CARD |
| FRAME | SSTV |
| | |

FRAME SSTV
GRAPHICS SYNC
HARDWARE SYNC LOCK
IMAGE TELEVISION
INTERFACE TRANSCEIVER
LUMINANCE TRANSMISSION

Sandy, KD8JCY





Pictures are my new Gap antenna installation. I have heard people either love em, or hate em. I love this antenna. It has gotten me into Europe, Hawaii and Africa

on 20 and 15 through pile ups running at 100 watts.

Mounts shown is are a homemade fold over system. I can supply sketches for any club members who would like to build a set.

Just for fun, I tried loading the antenna without the ground plane rods..... I found out real quick that they are very necessary as the antenna will not load without them.

73, *Al, WA8CCU*

Shack Shots - WB8LCD

Finally back on the air after working on antennas for most of the summer. Rig here is Ten-Tec Omni VII. Antennas

are Carolina Windham 40 at about 30', and Cushcraft A3S with a 40 meter rotatable dipole at about 45 feet. More on the antenna installation at the January meeting!

Got a chance to work the ARRL Sweeps this past weekend – a lot of fun! I managed 261 Q's with 75 (out of 80) sections worked for a total score of 39,150. Not exactly setting the world on fire, but OK for me, because no one else had more fun than I did.

because no one else had more fun than I did.

I also have the Yaesu FT-817 that I use for 2 meters in the shack (45 watt brick when necessary), an LDG-200 auto antenna tuner and the computer. Note the picture is a tight shot on the desk and the radios. Panning out would reveal a very messy basement. But that's my next project - putting up a couple walls

and making the radio area a separate room from all the tools, workbenches and storage. Also note: No Cats!

73, *Tom*, *WB8LCD*

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

(January through November with December being the Christmas Party)





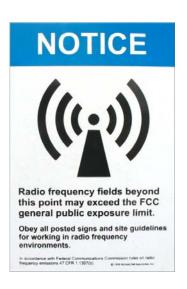
I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs!

Thanks goes out to this months contributors:

KC8PD, WB2DFC, W8PT, WB8LCD, KC8UNR, KD8MBH, WB9LBI, KB8VJL, KB8UHN, W8HFY, KD8JCY, WA8CCU, KB8UUZ, the ARRL and the World Wide Web

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

During 2009, the following people (and organizations) contributed to the RADIOGRAM. Thanks to all of you, and keep the inputs coming for 2010!



2009 Contributors:

| AB8AA | K8MP | KC8FQV | KD8EOZ | N5VLZ | Record Courier | WA8CCU |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| AE5WX | K8WLF | KC8GNL | KD8EPA | N8EMR | Robin Fraedrich | WB2DFC |
| ARRL | KB6NU | KC8KYW | KD8FDK | N8EQJ | The ARRL | WB8LCD |
| K3GP | KB8DPN | KC8PD | KD8GWY | N8ET | W3SYT | WB8VNO |
| K8FEY | KB8UEY | KC8RKV | KD8JCY | NASA | W8CTT | WB8YYS |
| K8JAA | KB8UHN | KC8UNR | KD8MBH | NRC - Canada | W8HFY | WB9LBI |
| K8JE | KB8UUZ | KC8ZZG | N1EZZ | NB4K | W8KNO | World Wide Web |
| K8SRR | KB8VJL | KD8DFL | N4IT | NX8G | W8PT | |

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

Pictures from the November PCARS Meeting





Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Fifth Annual

"Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) QRP mini-field day Special Event Station



Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh at the Roy Smith Shelter House

Saturday - Feb. 27, 2010 When:

Set up: 9am

Operating Time: 10am - 6pm EST



We will be active on CW & SSB in the General areas of the 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Echolink on the KC8RKV echolink node)

> and anything else we can get working) Club Call Sign K8BF

Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you send your QSL card and a large SASE to the club call trustee: Al Atkins KB8VJL - 12433 Chamberlain Rd. - Aurora, OH 44202

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your

support will be very much appreciated!

Check PCARS out on the web 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 2009

| W8KNO | Joe Wehner |
|--------|--|
| KB8VJL | Al Atkins, Sr. |
| KC8PD | Jim Aylward |
| W8KNO | Joe Wehner |
| W8PT | Chuck Patellis |
| WB9LBI | Bill Fraedrich |
| W8PT | Chuck Patellis |
| KB8SZI | Peggy Parkinson |
| KB8VJL | Al Atkins, Sr. |
| WB8LCD | Tom Sly |
| KB8UUZ | Tom Parkinson |
| KC8PD | Jim Aylward |
| KD8GGZ | Mary Jo Loveland |
| K8SRR | Steve Randlett |
| | KB8VJL KC8PD W8KNO W8PT WB9LBI W8PT KB8SZI KB8VJL WB8LCD KB8UUZ KC8PD KD8GGZ |







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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 your self from the mail list - send an e-mail to me at: KB8UUZ@portcars.org

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





NLC