



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



July 2009 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 4 No. 7

~ 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
1 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
110.9 Rootstown
114.8 Kent

PCARS Established
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL affiliated
April 20, 2006

From the President



On June 20th, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the ARRL Ohio Section Manager, passed away after a brief illness. Many PCARS members had contact with Joe over the years, whether at local events and meetings, area hamfests, section meetings in Columbus, or at the Dayton Hamvention. You could usually spot Joe wearing his bright red blazer. Joe could be as colorful as his jacket and was a ham who had given decades of service to our hobby. All of us at PCARS send our condolences to Joe's family.

This is being written just before Field Day weekend and I had to take some time out from getting ready for the weekend to get this column drafted. Tom, KB8UUZ, will probably be pulling an all-nighter on Friday the 26th so that he can get the newsletter out before FD starts. A month from now he will be trying to figure out how to get all the FD pictures into the August edition.

Field Day continues to amaze me. In just a few years PCARS has become a well-organized and quite competitive club station. The setup gets more sophisticated (wi-fi network), the food keeps getting better (roast pig!), and the fun and camaraderie are non-stop. Come Sunday evening you can bet that Ed, N8EQJ, plans for a bigger, better, portable tower.

For as much as Field Day means to all ham radio operators, I think it really shows us what PCARS is all about. Planning has been going on for a year; dozens of club members have already have volunteered for setup, tear down, food service, operations and logging; generous donations have been made to defray the costs of the outing; exceptional efforts are being made by exceptional club members; new hams will be welcomed at the event and given plenty of opportunities to participate; new friendships will be made and fond memories created; and rain or shine you are still guaranteed to have a great weekend of ham radio fun.



At this point PCARS has an incredible 125 active members. The club has grown and thrived beyond all of our expectations. The club site is coming together under the direction of Tom, WB8LCD, and with luck we will have an operational station on site this summer. Rick, K8CAV, who donated his communications trailer to PCARS has been keeping his team busy outfitting and

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From the President (continued from Page 1)

improving it. Club vice-president Dave, WB2DFC, is assembling a schedule of meeting topics and club activities that run into 2010.

And we have a lot of activities to keep you busy for the rest of the year.

Make sure you have your calendars marked for the PCARS Picnic on Saturday, July 18th at WB9LCD's QTH, aka, the Black Squirrel Oasis. Watch for information from Tom about the festivities.

On Saturday August 8th, PCARS will host a Mobile Workshop at the club site in the morning followed by the Fourth Annual Two Meter Simplex Sprint. The workshop will be an opportunity for members who are having problems with their mobile installation to get some help fixing them. Then at noon everyone can hit the road for the contest. Let's see a really good turnout for mobile stations in 2009!

The Ohio QSO Party is on August 22nd and our goal is to have stations up and running at the club site for this event. Then on September 12th PCARS will be hosting the Second Annual Ohio State Parks On The Air. Interest has been growing in OSPOTA since the 2008 contest and this year we have prizes and other awards for top finishers. Check out the details at <http://parks.portcars.org>.

Add in the workshops for the Fall and the PCARS Christmas Party and you can't help but have a ton of PCARS fun.

73,
Jim, KC8PD

From the Vice President

I hope everyone is enjoying this great weather! I am told it rained quite a bit here in the last few weeks....but not where I was. Yah...sunny Florida. A great motorcycle ride to the Keys, riding only back roads for the most part. I packed the FT817 QRP station, but never opened the bag. I had to limit my radio-ing to my HT, and there was not much of that either. The ride, about 3300 miles took us down the Gulf coast across the Everglades to Homestead, then to Key West. Most of each day was spent behind the handlebars, moving from town to town. After two days in the Keys,(see photo of me on rented "hotrod" scooter) we returned on US 1 and A1A. All fantastic, except Miami, what a ZOO!



The Yaesu FTM 10R mobile installed on the bike (see photo) came in handy several times, especially using it as a weather radio. The FTM 10R is weather proof and has a wide band receiver. It also has an AM/FM broadcast radio built in and a line input for your MP3 player. It can really be used as the main media system for any type of boat, ATV, motorcycle, etc, anywhere you have a need for radio comms in an outdoor environment. It can even interface with most helmet/mic systems.



I'm really looking forward to Field Day. That one weekend a year where you can get your fill of radio..., be with great people, learn all kinds of operating styles and techniques, look at radio installations! I hope you take full advantage of this terrific event! I hope to see you all there.

And don't forget, the presentation for the July meeting, "Monitoring DC to Daylight", by yours truly. I am still looking for any of your input even, a favorite monitoring memory, or a photo of your favorite monitoring equipment, any frequency, any mode. And..... any of your own audio intercept recordings....would be great! Looking forward to hearing from you.

73 for now, see you at Field Day!

Dave, WB2DFC

Public Service - Headwaters Adventure Race

Come one - come all: Saturday July 11th. We'll be working on the 146.895 repeater. Most will need to be there at 7 AM, event step off at 8 AM. Need 1 person with an HT to ride in a canoe! I need a few high powered mobiles with good antennas, and I need a few shadows.

If you have a emergency type light for the top of your car let me know.

Due to popular demand, I will be using tactical call signs for some positions. And I will send a map with locations and calls when I send out assignments and other information.

As usual, I will need t-shirt sizes (yes - you will get a FREE T-Shirt!). For more information and to sign up, contact me *As Soon As Possible*: WB8VNO@portcars.org

Gay, WB8VNO

Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE (SK)

ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, (SK) Joe Phillips, K8QOE, who served as ARRL Ohio Section Manager since 1998, passed away suddenly at his home on Saturday, June 20. He was 68. Licensed in 1959 as KN9SYL, Phillips first joined the ARRL Field Organization as an Official Emergency Station (OES) in 1986. He became a Public Information Officer in 1989 and has served as an Official Observer (OO) since 1997. He was elected Ohio Section Manager in 1998.

A graduate of Youngstown University, Phillips had a career as a journalist and a teacher. He edited six separate ham radio newsletters in Cincinnati before becoming Newsletter Editor for the Ohio Area Repeater Council in 1984, a position he held for five years. In 1986, Phillips organized the first Ohio Repeater Directory and in 1992, organized the Ohio Section Ham Radio Newsletter Contest. He authored a weekly ham radio newspaper column in the Sunday edition of the Cincinnati Enquirer called "Ham Call" and hosted a similarly named program for cable television in the Cincinnati area.



In 1994, Phillips was elected to the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, and in 1995, he was the recipient of the ARRL's McGan Silver Antenna Award. This award is given annually to a League member who demonstrates outstanding public relations success on behalf Amateur Radio at the local, state or national level. Phillips was excited about having his photo on the cover of the May 2009 issue of QST featuring the annual Dayton Hamvention.



"Throughout a 40-year friendship, Joe and I worked closely together on many occasions," said ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE. "From his early days of supporting the county ARES/RACES unit and the Ohio Repeater Council, Joe has always provided energetic and effective leadership with a friendly, personal touch. The magnetism of his style of leadership drew the best from others who soon became solid friends, not mere associates."

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, remembered Phillips fondly: "If you have been to Dayton you have met and laughed with Joe. He was the master of the Wouff Hong ceremony. His red jacket is the stuff of legend in Ohio. Joe was more than a Section Manager -- he really gave all of himself to ARRL for 20-plus years. With him dies the last paper newsletter sent to section membership. When I answered his phone calls, he announced his call with 'Here's your Ohio Nightmare.' He loved baseball, maybe more than I did. He was a good man, and he is really going to be missed."

From the ARRL

Editor's Note: The pictures were taken when Joe visited PCARS in March of 2006

Paper Chase

You will recall each year I mention the Route 66 Special Event. This year we have a new special event that follows the same pattern. It is an event to contact all the states that made up the original 13 Colonies.

Starting on July 1st to July 5th, all thirteen 1776 original colonies will be on the air. One to several Special Event stations per Colony. A magnificent full color certificate printed on heavy card stock with a map and the state flags of all the 1776 colony states adorn this award. You can work one state or all 13 and be eligible for the certificate. Each colony state worked will be marked by the shield of the United States. Also a special "recognition" logo will be affixed if you worked all 13 stations.

Special event call signs will be K2A through K2M. All modes of operation should be represented-SSB, CW, RTTY Etc. The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state station. All bands will be used except the WARC bands and 60 meters. The Colony stations will be operating on or near the "13" of each band (Example: 14.213, 14.013, 14.313, 7.213, 7.013, etc.). 2 meters and 6 meters are encouraged. Why? the special event stations are on the east coast and are very close to each other. It will be harder for these states to contact each other, also 40m-160m is encouraged because of this. The Special Event will begin July 1st at 1300 and end July 5th at 0400 UTC.

Each operator is to send a contact log stating the Date, UTC, Band and call sign of each contact, along with your QSL card and \$4.00 US. PLEASE NO STAMPS.. NO SASE required. We will furnish postage, certificate and 9"x12" envelope via 1st class mail. The certificate will NOT be folded.

K2A (NY-KU2US) will issue a special event QSL card for a QSO with K2A for those Operators that request one in lieu of the certificate. SASE Please for QSL card only.

All award requests and payment are to be sent and made out to the award manager- Ken Villone, KU2US - P. O. Box 185 - Conesus, NY 14435.

It is hoped this special event will become annual event. This is going to be fun, and hopefully the propagation gods will be co-operative and I will hear you in the pile-ups.



Joe, W8KNO

Flag for Streetsboro Elementary School

This is a picture from Balad, Iraq. The man on the left is PCARS member Ray, KD8DFL, and next to him Carl Fischer, both Streetsboro residents. The flag seen in this picture was flown over Joint Base Balad, and is being sent back to the USA to fly over Streetsboro Elementary School.

Bill, WB9LBI



EmComm

One of the best ways to develop and maintain emergency communication skills is to participate in public service events. You may be deployed to a service site in the field to set up and operate a portable station. What better way to find out whether your go-kit has the necessary gear and supplies? How often do you get that equipment out and actually make sure that it is functioning properly?

Plus the events can be a lot of fun. You will likely get to meet and work with hams that you would not have otherwise known. The operating conditions are usually not that bad and there is certainly less pressure than you will find during disaster relief activities. And hey, what the heck, you may end up with a free t-shirt, too.

Locally we have had a couple of good recent examples of well run public service events and those include the 2009 CVS Cleveland Marathon and the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure.

Gay Wands, WB8VNO, does a great job of independently organizing ham radio communications for public service events, including the Cleveland Marathon. The team that organizes the marathon has turned to Gay for assistance with other events such as the upcoming Headwaters Adventure Race on July 11th and the Black Squirrel Adventure Triathlon.

For the marathon (which also included a half-marathon and separate 10K race) Gay pulled together around two dozen hams who were assigned to water stops and strategic locations on the course, as well as to the lead and SAG vehicles and as shadows to race officials. Around a half dozen or so PCARS members volunteered for the marathon.

Gay kept busy as the net control station operating stationary mobile from a spot near the start/finish line. Since the race route was kept open for seven hours for the last stragglers that makes a long day for her.

Closer to home, Walt Heeney, N8LJM, the recently appointed EC for Summit County ARES, recruited over fifty hams from five counties to assist with communications for the Tour de Cure. The TDC is a bicycling event that had five different routes: 100K, 50K "difficult", 50K "moderate", 25K, and a family fun ride. All of the rides began and finished at Blossom Music Center with the family ride take entirely on the Blossom grounds.

Communications were required for the first four routes which overlapped in some locations. The one hundred kilometer ride (also known as a "century" and is 62 miles long) was no bargain for the riders. Neither was the 50K "difficult." Nothing like having to ride out of the Cuyahoga Valley!



Rex, NX8G

There were two parallel nets, one on a two meter repeater and the other on a 70 cm repeater, each with its own net control. All participants were assigned to one or the other of the nets as their primary with the other as a secondary. The NCS's were located at the Akron General Medical Facility just east of State Route 8. Like the marathon, communication volunteers were strategically placed on the courses as well as with medical units, SAG and supply vehicles, plus two on motorcycles, two on scooters and one on a bicycle who kept track of the riders on the course.

In the photos you can see Bob, NT8K, waiting for some action at his post down in the valley; Rex, NX8G sitting by the stop sign to which he conveniently



Bob K8AAB



Bob, NT8K

lashed his antenna mast; and Bob, K8AAB, ducking into some shade at the Blossom command post. Robert, KD8GWY, was out on the course and I couldn't get a shot of him.

Lots of credit goes to Walt, N8LJM, for his organizational and recruiting efforts for this event and his willingness to gather volunteers from the region. Summit County ARES and RACES will surely benefit from having Walt at the helm and we look forward to working with him.

So keep your eyes open for the announcements about future area public service events and don't hesitate to jump in and give it a try. It is a great way to remind our neighbors of the helpful role that ham radio can play in their community.

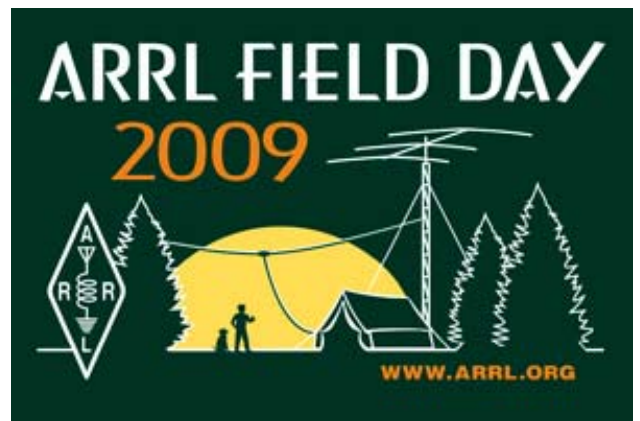
Jim, KC8PD
Radio Officer, Portage County EMA/RACES
EC, ARES® of Portage County

How People Signed Up for Field Day

This year, I asked everyone to sign up for Field Day by email. Prospective operators were asked to state, when they could be on site, what they could or would do, and anything else they thought that I should know.

In the interests of keeping you informed as to what kind of club you've gotten yourself into, and what these people are like really, I've reprinted some of the sign-up comments below. The names of the responsible parties have been removed to protect the guilty.

I could have brought you lots more comments, but they were not fit for publication. My thanks to everybody who participated in Field Day, and especially those who remembered to include "Exalted" when they signed up. I love it when you guys suck up.



KD8EPA: *When can you work? I will stay as long as possible but not over night. I will return Sunday morning for tear down. I'm looking forward to helping out wherever I can. So, if you see me standing around, feel free to tell me to get my lazy butt to work.*

N8EQJ: *Other things you should know: I am not lactose intolerant.*

WA8CCU: *I can / cannot operate PSK...never operated PSK, but I'm young and willing to learn. Other things you should know: Smokes, drinks heavily, prone to swearing when agitated.*

K8GI: *I can/ cannot operate a CW station: Cannot. I don't use a telephone with a crank or play with dinosaurs either.*

WB8LCD: *I can/ cannot operate a CW station I can operate a CW station and would be happy to entertain all those who are actually good at it! Other things you should know: I'm an Aries, I enjoy flannel shirts, quadratic equations, and touching my "feminine side" whenever possible!*

N4IT: *Other things you should know: I eat a lot.*

Bill, WB9LBI
Exalted Field Day Chairman

Club Site and Communications Trailer Renovations

Tom, WB8LCD, and his crackerjack team of Mike, KD8FLZ, and Russ, KD8LDY, with assistance from Mike, KB8TUY, having the grid work in for the ceiling in the radio room. As soon as the new furnace is wired, the ductwork can be run and with the installation of the lights it will be time to drop in the ceiling tiles. Progress continues!

In the garage, Rick, K8CAV, and his group, which has included Mike, KB8TUY, Mike, KD8FLZ, Gene, W8NET, and Sandy, KD8JCY, have been hard at work on the communications trailer. They have been getting the exterior ready for painting, installing the front window as well as a twelve volt power supply and interior wiring. The trailer will be at the PCARS Field Day site so everyone can catch up on the progress.



KD8FPP Receives Award



PCARS member Ryan KD8FPP received the Army Achievement Medal for his work on the flight line, providing communications security for helicopters, which is critical to their mission. Ryan was recognized by Lt. Col. Tony DiGiacom in a ceremony on June 15 in Balad, Iraq.

Bill, WB9LBI

Editor's Note: Army Achievement Medal: Description: A Bronze octagonal medal, 1 1/2 inches in diameter, with one angle at the top centered. On the obverse is a design consisting of the elements of the Department of the Army (DA) plaque and the date "1775" at the bottom. On the reverse, in three lines, are the words "FOR MILITARY

ACHIEVEMENT" above a space for inscription and below there are two slips of laurel. The Army Achievement Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or to any member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation, who while serving in any capacity with the Army in a non-combat area on or after 1 August 1981, distinguished himself/ herself by meritorious service or achievement of a lesser degree than required for award of the Army Commendation Medal. On 10 April 1981, the Secretary of the Army approved establishment of the decoration.



Hamfests

11 Jul 2009 - 8th Northwest Pennsylvania Hamfest - Greene Township Municipal Building - 9333 Tate Road - Erie, PA - Union City & Wattsburg Wireless Associations - <http://www.nw-pa-hamfest.com> - Talk-In: 146.700 (PL 186.2) Contact: Ron Rycek, KB3QBB - 1412 Grant Avenue - Erie, PA 16505 - Phone: 814-833-6829 - Fax: 814-833-6829 - Email: kb3qbb@arrl.net

12 Jul 2009 - North Hills Amateur Radio Club - Northland Public Library - 300 Cumberland Road - Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - <http://nharc.org> - Talk-In: 147.09 - Contact: Cathy Heiles, KB3OYS - 134 Easley Road - Phone: 412-486-2785 - Fax: 412-647-9268 Email: nharchamfest@hotmail.com

18 Jul 2009 - NOARSFEST - Lorain County Community College (Spitzer Conference Center) - 005 North Abbe Road - Elyria, OH - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - <http://www.noars.net> - Talk-In: 146.70- (open repeater) - Contact: Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS - 4122 Bush Avenue - Cleveland, OH 44109 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: dfohman@att.net

26 Jul 2009 - Portage Hamfest - Portage County Fairgrounds - Randolph, OH - Portage Amateur Radio Club - <http://Hamfair.com> - Talk-In: 144.790/145.390 - Contact: Joanne Solak, KJ30 - 9971 Diagonal Road - Mantua, OH 44255 - Phone: 330-274-8240 - Fax: 330-274-8527 - Email: kj3o@arrl.net

16 Aug 2009 - Warren Amateur Radio Association - Trumbull County Fairgrounds - 899 Everett Hull Road - Cortland, OH - <http://www.w8vtd.org> - Talk-In: 146.970 - Contact: Chris Brister, KD8BHR - 5714 Ensign Road - West Farmington, OH 44491 Phone: 440-548-5616 - Email: kd8bhr1@yahoo.com

27 Sep 2009 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Road - Berea, OH - Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc. - <http://www.hac.org> - Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9) - Contact: William Beckman, N8LXY - Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc. - PO Box 81252 - Cleveland, OH 44181-0252 - Phone: 800-CLE-FEST

1 Nov 2009 - Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Massillon Boys and Girls Club - 730 Duncan Street SW - Massillon, OH - <http://www.marcradio.org> - Talk-In: 147.18/.78 - Contact: Dan Anastis, N8DZM - 4770 12th Street SW - Canton, OH 44710 Phone: 330-478-6149 - Email: ddann@sbcglobal.net



The Fraternity of Hams

I grew up on the west side of Cleveland, in a little town called Parkview (which was later annexed into the city of Fairview Park). All my friends and family called me T.R. - my initials for my first and second name – Thomas Ralph. I'm told I was a scrawny, skinny kid, and my parents worried that I might not fill out, but I've proven them wrong on that one!

The Hillman's lived right behind us, with Steve and Nick who were one and two years younger than me. We were good friends, and played baseball and football together with a bunch of other kids in the neighborhood. But their house was different. It had tall towers outside with big antennas on top. There were rooms in the basement we had to keep out of, and a room off the kitchen called a “shack” that we had to stay out of too. Occasionally I could hear strange noises and learned that Mr. Hillman was a ham radio operator (W8FZS, SK), although I wasn't too sure what that meant. Our parents would participate in the games with us (mostly the baseball games) and I remember that Mr. Hillman shortened my name and just called me T.

At some point I heard about and decided that I wanted to build a crystal radio set. I had a magazine article that described a set built into a cigar box. The only part I was able to come up with on my own was the cigar box, so my parents suggested I go talk to Mr. Hillman and maybe he could help me. He took me downstairs into one of the rooms in the basement the kids were not allowed in, it was unlike anything I'd ever seen before! (Think Bobby, WB8FEW's basement, but not quite as modern) There were radios, test equipment, parts, and then lots more of each! I could hear people talking from the speakers, and every once in awhile Mr. Hillman would talk back to them. As that was going on, Mr. Hillman picked up some parts, started wiring them together, soldering, and talking to the guys on the radio, all at the same time. He had looked at the magazine with the plans in it for about two seconds, then never gave it another look. About a half hour later I walked home with a working



crystal radio set, built in a cigar box, with a set of headphones. I also had a sense of awe at how it was put together without looking at the plans, and an interest in radio and hams that has never passed.

Mr. Hillman was always available to me as a kid to explain about radio, and more specifically ham radio. My parents were supportive, and I still have the Knight Kit Span Master regenerative receiver my dad helped me build in 1964 (I was 11 years old then), but unfortunately, just good memories of the first communications receiver they later bought for me, a Hammarlund HQ-110. Even though we had just moved to Aurora, Mr. Hillman gave me the Novice test around the end of 1967, and I got the call sign WN8AAB. Shortly after we were going to some sort of a ham function, I don't remember what it was, but I do remember that I started to say something with "Mr. Hillman....." and I got stopped short. I was told, now that I was a ham, there was no more "Mr. Hillman" and I could just refer to him as "Stan".

That was probably one of the most significant moments in my life as a ham. I was now part of a special group and had been accepted as one of their own. To this day, I consider my ham radio ticket as a membership certificate in a very special fraternity. Most of my best friends have been hams through high school and college, my business partner is a ham, and I've almost always been active as a ham.

PCARS is responsible for ramping up my interest and involvement in the last few years, and I consider you all my best friends in the world! About six months ago, on a Thursday night PCARS net, someone said hello to Jenny. Then another one did and then another. I had no idea what the heck was going on here. I found out later that Jenny had found a PCARS list with email address' on it and had spent the day emailing everyone on the list asking them to say HI to her on the net! Saying HI to Jenny on the net pretty much became a regular thing to do, and I'm not sure why, but I asked her if she would like to be in the Spring Tech class and she said she would! After the first few classes she started taking the practice tests online. When the last night of class came, Jenny was passing some, and not passing some. We were both disappointed when she didn't make it. But, the next PCARS VE session was just around the corner, Jim, KC8PD, gave her some good encouragement, and she kept practicing. The night before the VE session I knew she was going to make it.



Tom, WB8LCD watches Jenny sign the CSCE



Jenny, KD8LIR

I probably never expected I would ever say that to her, and I'm pretty sure she never expected to hear it from me. But it was one of those moments, just like when Stan told me I didn't need to call him "Mr. Hillman" anymore. We have a different relationship now. We're still father and daughter, but now we're more - we're fellow hams.

Tom, WB8LCD



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in July:

W8PT	Chuck	Patellis
N8FTP	Larry	Cole
KB8JFF	Dick	Ward
N4PKW	Rod	Thompson

WB9LBI	Bill	Fraedrich
N8JLC	Ray	Hyer
AB8IE	Ken	Westover
KD8EPA	Dan	Porcase

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.



Skywarn Update

Thankfully so far this year our weather hasn't been too bad when one considers what has been happening in other parts of the country. With summer now upon us and days being longer and warmer, increased vigilance is a must!

Most recently a Skywarn net was needed on the evening of June 1st around 11 PM with thunderstorms moving through the southern part of the county. Although nothing of consequence happened, trained spotters checked in on 145.390 for about 30 minutes just in case something did. Your efforts so late at night are much appreciated.

Severe weather was once again in our area on both June 16th and 19th in the form of tornado watches and warnings as well as severe thunderstorm activity. While in only adjacent counties, it stresses the need to be "Storm Ready" in case those storms decide to take a turn in our direction. I monitored the Skywarn nets in Tuscarawas, Carroll and Columbiana counties on those evenings and believe me, they had their hands full. Consider that from June 16th when Tornado Watch 442 was issued for Tuscarawas and Carroll counties to Severe Thunderstorm Watch 482 on June 19th for the same counties, there had been 40 watch/warnings issued nationwide over those two days. Certainly the ability to detect and predict severe weather has taken a quantum leap from years past and our ability to safely and accurately report that weather must keep pace as well.



At this time I am asking all local ham radio operators who participate in Skywarn to provide me your location and National Weather Service spotter number if you have one. I am going to develop a database of those operators in order to reflect who is where specifically at any given time. You can email me your info at WB8YYYS@arrl.net.

As always, if severe weather hits or is forecast and you wonder whether or not a Skywarn net has been called for our area, listen in to the 145.390 repeater for either an "A" or "W" on the squelch tail. In any event, I'm probably already on there anyway and can tell you what if anything is going on!

73 till next time and keep your eyes on the skies and ear to the radio,

Gregg, WB8YYYS
ARES® of Portage County, Skywarn AEC

July Contest Calendar

July 2009	
RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 4 to 2359Z, Jul 5
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 4 to 1059Z, Jul 5
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 5
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 11
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 11 to 1200Z, Jul 12
DMC RTTY Contest	1200Z, Jul 18 to 1200Z, Jul 19
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 18 to 2100Z, Jul 19
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 18 to 0600Z, Jul 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 20
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 25 to 1200Z, Jul 26

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

On your contest entry: Don't forget to put "**Portage County Amateur Radio Service**" as your club name!

Some of the PCARS members have been active in contests. The results for the 2008 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, the 2008 ARRL Sweepstakes (phone), the 2009 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, and the 2009 ARRL RTTY Round-Up, and the were just released by ARRL. PCARS even did pretty good in the Affiliated Club Competitions!

2008 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	Check	Hours	160	80	40	20	15	Club
1	KB8UUZ	61,124	413	74	A	OH	94	18	1	234	139	30	9	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
2	W8KNO	38,216	281	68	A	OH	59	15		108	84	49	40	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
3	KD8ELX	23,168	181	64	A	OH	06	16		75	61	33	12	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
4	KB8VJL	2,464	44	28	A	OH	94	7		28	11	2	3	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
5	K8QF	1,680	40	21	B	OH	07	4				40		Portage County Amateur Radio Service
6	N8QE	330	15	11	Q	OH	66	1		14	1			Portage County Amateur Radio Service
	Totals	126,982	974	266				61	1	459	296	154	64	

2008 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Power	Section	Club
1	NX8G	6,288	132	24	B	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
2	WB2DFC	4,116	64	21	A	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
3	N8QE	1,938	49	17	A	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
4	KC8UNR	1,260	42	15	B	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
5	KB8UUZ	990	33	15	B	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
6	W8KNO	928	30	16	B	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
7	KC8PD	624	28	12	A	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
8	KB8VJL	572	23	13	B	B	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
	Totals							

Affiliated Club Competition

Local Category	Score	Entries
Central Virginia Contest Club	209,928	6
Midland ARC	154,270	7
Low Country Contest Club	153,898	9
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	130,894	8
West Park Radiops	87,172	5
Western Washington DX Club	50,920	7
Metro DX Club	48,266	6
Austin ARC	38,666	4
Athens County ARA	23,340	4
Redmond Top Key Contest Club	21,830	3
Lincoln ARC	19,510	4
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	16,716	8
West Allis RAC	15,792	5
Spokane DX Association	14,658	4
Bergen ARA	10,238	4
Menden ARC	9,446	3
Panhandle ARC	3,120	3

2009 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	Club	50 QSO	50 Mult	144 QSO	144 Mult
1	KB8UUZ	630	45	14	A	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service	45	14		
2	W8KNO	275	25	11	A	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service	14	6	11	5
3	N8QE	120	24	5	A	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service	21	4	3	1
4	KB8VJL	100	3	1	A	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service	3	1		
	Totals	1,125	97	31							

Affiliated Club Competition

	Score	Entries
Local Category		
New Mexico Big River Contesters	1,028,508	10
Maritime Contest Club	617,332	10
Lincoln ARC	514,152	9
Spokane DX Association	321,422	7
Kansas City DX Club	234,374	3
Northern Arizona DX Assn	227,308	3
South Jersey Radio Assn	222,522	3
Sterling Park ARC	215,148	8
Ashe County ARC	208,316	5
Sussex County ARC	202,572	4
West Park Radiops	200,678	9
Green Mountain Wireless Society	198,934	3
Southwest Ohio DX Assn	153,814	3
Low Country Contest Club	152,024	7
Wireless Association of South Hills	146,042	6
Meriden ARC	143,108	6
Portage County Amateur Radio	126,982	6
Pocatello ARC	122,644	5
West Allis RAC	109,856	3
10-70 Repeater Assn	88,754	3
Bay Area Wireless Assn	85,346	3
Granite State ARA	77,888	3
Hazel Park ARC	70,300	4
Central Michigan ARC	65,766	5
Cedar Mountain ARC	64,392	4
Mille High DX Assn	57,424	3
Athens County ARA	49,734	3
Panhandle ARC	48,320	5
Albany ARA	45,620	3
Great South Bay ARC	9,280	3

2008 ARRL November Sweepstakes - Phone (Left)

2009 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes (Right)

Affiliated Club Competition

Club	Score	Entries
Local Club Category		
Nacogdoches ARC	563,145	7
Eastern Connecticut ARA	107,249	4
Murgas ARC	78,589	4
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	29,202	4
Granite State ARA	11,464	6
Burlington County Radio Club	9,203	8
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	8,738	5
Metro DX Club	2,990	3
West Park Radiops	2,923	3
Meriden ARC	2,497	4
Ventura County Amateur Radio Society	2,158	3
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	1,270	3
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	1,028	4
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	292	3

2009 ARRL RTTY Round-Up

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Power	Section	Club
1	NX8G	10,047	200	51	S	A	OH	Portage County Amateur Radio Service
	Totals	10,047	200	51				

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. Your help would be greatly appreciated and it's a lot of fun too!

July	
07/02	KB8UUZ
07/09	N8QE
07/16	N8EQJ
07/23	KD8ICR
07/30	W8KNO

August	
08/06	WB8LCD
08/13	KC8PD
08/20	W8PT
08/27	KD8ICR

September	
09/03	N8XTH
09/10	KD8FLZ
09/17	KB8UUZ
09/24	KD8VT

October	
10/01	N8QE
10/08	KD8FLZ
10/15	KD8GWY
10/22	KD8ICR
10/29	W8PT

November	
11/05	KC8PD
11/12	WB8LCD
11/19	N8XTH
11/26	WB2DFC

December	
12/03	KD8GWY
12/10	KD8VT
12/17	N8QE
12/24	KB8UUZ
12/31	WB8LCD



The PCARS net is Fun - tell your friends to check in via RF or Echolink!

Tom WB8LCD - PCARS Net Control Coordinator

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

August 1 - October 3 - December 5

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!!!!



A Very Special VE Session

Someone who is near and dear to all PCARS members, Jennifer Sly, daughter of past-president Tom Sly, WB8LCD, passed her Technician exam at our VE session this month. Jen was a student in our most recent Technician class and she has been making regular appearances on the club's nets and getting some air time

using Tom's call when they were mobile together.

Even though Tom could not participate in the administration and scoring of Jenny's exam, as the proud dad of one of Portage County's newest hams Tom had the honor of presenting Jenny with her Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam.



To a very special young lady, Jennifer Sly, KD8LIR, a very special PCARS congratulations on her hard earned and well deserved license. Welcome to the hobby and the club, Jen!

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Ham License Plates Wanted

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 up on the wall now, 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

Club Site Power Washing

The weather was perfect for power-washing the building that is home to the PCARS club site. Mostly sunny and around seventy degrees. As soon as Bill, WB9LBI and Ed, N8EQJ, had finished the Field Day Committee meeting we got to work. Ed and Jim, KC8RKV, headed up to the Ravenna City Park to scope out some possible issues with the Field Day Wi-Fi logging system.



There were three power-washers and teams formed up, each taking a different wall. Seeing that there were enough people on each team, Rick, K8CAV, and Tim, KD8ICP, latched onto a power mower and started in on the overgrown landscaping.

All in all it went well and quickly, only taking about two hours to finish off the entire building. If only the painting could go that fast! One special touch was having Robert, KD8GWY, etch his name and PCARS into the paint.

Also lending a hand were Leon, N8GLK, and Mary Jo, KD8GGZ, along with Dave, WB2DFC, Mike, KD8FLZ, Rex, NX8G, Al, WA8CCU, Errol, KC8RJR, Mike, KB8TUY, and one of our brand new members Russ, KD8LDY, who has also been working on the ceiling project in the radio room. Thanks to everyone!

Watch for an announcement on the paint date. We would like to have four crews of five to six people each. Hope to see you there for the painting!

Jim, KC8PD

Swap-N-Shop

WANTED: HF Rig with general coverage - working - under \$300.

FOR SALE: Icom 2200H 2 meter mobile rig. Asking \$120.

Contact **Don** at 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 \$2500.00

Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

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

Contact **Mike - KC8LJY** at 330-673-1035

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 \$199.00

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-50 HF radio with original box and manual. Has MARS/CAP transmit mod. \$300.00

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

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-690S - HF + 6 Meters. Solid performer - No Mods. Comes with hand mic, power cord, instruction manual and original boxes - works great! \$690.00 *Only reason for selling this gear - making room for new radio!*

FOR SALE: Heil HM-10 Dual (HC4 & HC-5 elements) microphone. Original manual & case. Wired for Kenwood. \$95.00

FOR SALE: Kenwood SP-950 Speaker. Filters & dual inputs. Great shape, sounds terrific. With original box & manual. \$115.00

FOR SALE: MFJ-401D Electronic Keyer - Works great. \$45.00

FOR SALE: MFJ-434 Voice Keyer - Great for contesting! Original box & manual. - \$ 125.00

FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Autotuner cable for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$25.00

FOR SALE: Mirage A-1015G, 6 Meter Amplifier - 10 watts in, 160 watts out - Original manual & box - works great - \$275.00

FOR SALE: MFJ-906 - 6 Meter Tuner - Cross Needle - works great - \$65.00

Everything subject to haggling - make an offer!

Contact **Tom** at KB8UUZ@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Dual Band Trunk Lid Antenna, 2m/440 like new \$25.

FOR SALE: Dual Band Mag Mount Antenna, 2 meter/440. Never used except in shack...a few times \$25.

WANTED: Antenna Tuner , 600 watts or more.

Contact **Carl** - N4IT@portcars.org or call 330-221-8725

FOR SALE: Kenwood TR-9000 2m All Mode, works well except the display is erratic until it warms up, \$125.00 or best offer.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-450S HF Transceiver, comes with hand mike, power cable, owner's manual, service manual and computer control cable. Radio is in good condition and it works well. \$425.00.

Contact **Rex** - NX8G@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Ameritron AL-811H Linear Amp, \$800.00

FOR SALE: Tokyo Hy-Power HL-1.2Kfx Solid State Linear Amp, \$2,000.00

FOR SALE: MFJ 989D Legal Limit Versa Tuner V Antenna Tuner, \$300. 00

All three units used LESS THAN ONE HOUR. All in pristine, like new condition, with manuals and original boxes. Will deliver in NE Ohio.

Contact **Bob** - nt8k@portcars.org

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.

FOR SALE: New, Belden 9913, RG8U coaxial cable. In the AES catalog it costs \$99.99 for 100'. My price is \$75 for 100', and I won't charge any wretched taxes or shipping! If you want any, let me know and we'll work it out.

FOR SALE: New, Belden 8267 (RG-213) coaxial cable - 100 Feet for only \$85 - no shipping/no tax! Need another length? Let me know.

Contact **Tom** - WB8LCD@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Shakespeare 376-6B 10 meter vertical antenna \$50.

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

What's Your EPC Number?

For all you PSK fans out there, this organization is pretty nifty. It's FREE! (The words that every ham loves to hear) and you'll have fun going for the various EPC awards as well.. Visit the EPC web site at: <http://eu.srars.org/>

The European PSK Club, or EPC for short, is an informal club of amateur radio operators dedicated to maintaining high levels of amateur radio communications on PSK modes. Its purpose is to promote activity and good operating practice on the PSK modes on all amateur bands. Membership is FREE for any licensed radio amateur, club or SWL. All of our managers serve on a voluntary basis. A high quality and colorful membership certificate in PDF format is sent via email to new members when membership is granted. Each new member is assigned a unique "EPC Number" which is retained for life. A EPC number is never re-issued and it is listed in the Membership Records forever. All EPC members are eligible to participate in various club's activities and award programs. Please pass this information to others you think might be interested in joining our club.



What are the benefits in belonging to the European PSK Club?

The EPC is like any other HAM radio organization, a group of HAMs who are interested in promoting the PSK modes. In order to keep interest up on the PSK Modes, the idea of collecting "EPC Numbers" has been developed. Personally, each member enjoys the camaraderie of kindred spirits, whether the activity is informal rag chewing or numbers chasing or a more formal EU PSK DX Contest or QSO Party. All EPC awards are issued in high quality PDF format and sent via email to the applicants. In an effort to make EPC Award Programme more affordable to PSK enthusiasts, we have provided EPC members the opportunity to get all awards FREE of charge.

How do I join and where do I get my EPC number?

Any licensed amateur or club authorized to operate PSK Modes or SWL can join EPC. There are no special requirements. Just fill in our EPC Membership Registration Form. We will assign you a EPC number and email it to you along with your membership certificate.

What do I do with my EPC number now that I have received it?

You can exchange it with other EPC members (on PSK modes, of course) and keep a record of their number. We are issuing numerous awards for collecting EPC numbers. You can just give your number to others when asked for it. It is strictly up to you as to how involved you want to get in EPC and our Award Program.

Some PCARS members are members and already have their EPC number - why not join in on the fun?

Tom, KB8UUZ

PCARS Web Site

Check it out - things have changed - it's a new look! Kudos to Steve, K8SRR, Bill, WB9LBI, and Dave WB2DFC for getting the new site up and running.

The new site is set up with a calendar of events, the layout is new, but some of the same things you liked in the old system are still there in the new system. There's even a bit of humoe here and there - take a look at the PCARS cereal! Check it out!



PCARS Patches & Stickers & Mugs



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: Bill at wb9lbi@portcars.org

Word Search - "Antennae"

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N	Q	R	D	F	H	K	B	W	O	N	A	O	V	S	W	P
U	C	K	A	T	E	K	S	L	I	Y	G	V	B	U	S	J
T	S	Z	R	B	C	R	E	Q	U	A	N	N	E	T	N	A
M	O	X	O	N	O	E	I	W	N	O	S	A	Z	F	J	H
N	R	A	D	T	F	L	H	S	L	A	I	D	A	R	P	K
I	C	G	A	Y	D	E	I	T	P	N	G	B	L	S	Y	E
A	V	T	S	O	N	M	T	C	K	M	N	C	W	R	J	L
G	O	H	W	M	R	E	P	O	D	S	A	Y	K	E	P	I
R	B	E	M	N	F	N	E	M	I	I	L	D	Z	W	X	V
X	D	Q	A	I	G	T	D	H	P	J	S	O	L	O	C	B
C	O	F	G	D	I	S	A	M	O	N	Q	H	P	T	U	N
P	A	E	M	I	X	Y	N	U	L	K	R	M	E	D	O	C
M	R	E	O	R	Z	A	C	N	E	W	D	S	D	I	P	E
B	U	D	U	E	S	B	E	A	M	K	Z	Y	T	U	L	L
C	R	L	N	C	T	Y	O	L	C	Q	P	A	E	R	A	V
M	E	I	T	T	L	U	W	Z	U	O	I	H	F	C	G	J
S	S	N	G	I	C	B	N	D	L	D	S	M	I	W	L	E
K	P	E	W	O	B	Q	F	E	A	D	U	T	N	G	F	W
S	P	O	Q	N	Z	A	X	R	R	I	R	X	R	B	A	L
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antenna, beam,
buddy pole,
dipole, elements,
feedline, gain,
ground plane,
impedence,
j pole, loops,
magmount,
Moxon,
multiband, ohms,
omnidirectional,
parabolic dish,
polarity, quad,
radials, radiation,
rotators, signals,
SWR, towers,
tuner, vertical,
yagi

Sandy, KD8JCY

Hamfests

Overview

The term "hamfest" is short for "ham radio festival"... a place where you can go to meet other ham radio operators, make new friends, and renew old acquaintances, buy and sell new and used gear, take a license exam for a new or upgraded license, attend informative forums on various aspects of the hobby, and more. For those who have never attended one of these fun events, this page is a "brief guide to a hamfest".

Hamfests Big and Small

Hamfests can be as small as those hosted by one local club... or it can be a state, regional, or division convention... or go all the way to the king of the hamfests, the Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio in mid-May. The latter has been termed "a 3 day ham radio orgy". Not to sound vulgar, but if you want to eat, sleep, and do whatever else as it relates to ham radio, Dayton Hamvention is the place to be.



Depending on the scope of the hamfest, there may be just a morning and early afternoon event... to lasting three full days, such as Dayton Hamvention.

Admission and parking fees... as well as to how big the parking areas and the event venues are... can vary widely, depending on the size of the event. Be sure to check with the contact persons for all the information noted on the specific hamfest website. You can find a list of upcoming hamfests at the ARRL Hamfest Database.

Getting to the Hamfest

There will usually be a "talk-in" frequency, to direct you to the hamfest site. Having run these in the past myself, you have to be sure to help visitors from out of the area to find the hamfest. The talk-in station should also have basic information about parking, admissions, testing, forums, prizes, etc.

Another thing to consider is if the hamfest is more than a one day event, are the accommodations where you will stay while in town. The Dayton Hamvention has such a **HUGE DEMAND** for rooms, that they usually **SELL OUT OVER A YEAR IN ADVANCE**, and the room rates are **NOT** cheap!! In fact, the closest rooms may be as much as an hour or more away.

Most other hamfest venues and conventions will usually not have this "huge demand", but it's best to not wait until the last minute to book a room. Also, check the gasoline prices and locations in the area. You don't need to run out of gas, or have vehicle trouble going to or from the hamfest.

Once there, you may have to walk a great distance to, from, and at the event itself. So, if you have a disability, bear that in mind. Many places usually have parking for the disabled, but you need to have either a license plate or a special hang tag. The local police agencies **WILL** ticket and/or tow your vehicle, if you park in one of these spaces without authorization.

At the Hamfest

After you take care of parking and admission fees (bring cash, as most may not accept checks or credit cards), you're likely to see the following at a hamfest. Note that the bigger the event, the more of these there will be:

- 1) **Dealers**, that sell new gear, accessories, antennas, connectors, software, manuals, etc. If you buy computer hardware or software, be sure you scan it for viruses and spyware before using it.
- 2) **Flea market tables**, where you can usually get a good deal on used gear, that you couldn't afford new. However, the phrases "**buyer beware**", and "**you get what you pay for**", **APPLY!!** Unfortunately, some of the gear that is "sold" ends up as a "worthless boat anchor doorstop"... as the original owner may be wanting to "make some money off of a worthless item". Try to avoid purchasing "antique radios"...and "learn the smell of burnt or overheated electronics". Replacement parts for vintage gear, or where the electronics have been burned out, will be **EXTREMELY DIFFICULT**, if not **IMPOSSIBLE**, to obtain. If the hamfest has a "**Test Bench**", try the gear out **BEFORE** you shell out the money, write a check, use your credit card, etc... and, if the person won't let you test the gear before you purchase it, it's best that you **POLITELY DECLINE** their offer!! Remember, if the price is "too good to be true", it probably is.
- 3) **Forums**, discussing any of several aspects of the hobby. There may also be an ARRL forum, where you can meet your **State Section Manager**, **ARRL Division Director**, or other officials from the ARRL.
- 4) **VE Testing**, where you can take an exam for a new ham radio license, or for a license upgrade. For an overview of what a test session may entail.
- 5) **Concessions**, where the local club is selling food and drink, so you don't have to leave the hamfest site to grab a bite to eat, if you don't want to. Bear in mind that the menu is usually what you'll find at a ballgame (hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, etc.). Restaurants are usually nearby, if you prefer to eat out, as it were.
- 6) **Prize drawings**, the main draw of the hamfest. The smaller prizes can be manuals, books, repeater directories, etc. -- while the big prizes can be HT's, mobile or HF rigs. You usually have to be present to win, except for maybe the grand prize.
- 7) **Wouff Hong**. If the event is an ARRL State, Section, or Division Convention, lasting for more than a day, there may be the **Wouff Hong ceremony**. This **Secret Society**, and its ceremony is a **FUN** part of the hobby... however, I can **NOT** go into the details as to what goes on... you have to experience it for yourself. I went through it at the 2007 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention, and let's say that "a good time was had by all".
- 8) **DFing and Fox Hunting**. Sometimes there will be a "fox hunt" set up where you try to hone your direction finding skills, to locate a hidden transmitter... with the winner usually receiving a nice prize.
- 9) **Displays** of various emergency communications or other vehicles, related to amateur radio.



Conclusion

Hamfests can be termed as "family reunions", because as an amateur radio operator, you are part of a worldwide "family". While you may not be able to go to as many hamfests as you would like, go to the ones that you can attend. Many clubs that put these on use them as fundraisers for the expenses that their club incurs each year, with the repeaters, etc.

If you're licensed, bring your HT... especially if you're coming as a family or group, to keep track of folks. FRS Radios are available for those who aren't licensed... to keep track of those in your group... as it's easy to get lost among a large crowd of people.

If you are a part of a club that puts these on, you'll find out in a hurry that there is a **LARGE AMOUNT OF VOLUNTEER WORK** to be done... before, during, and after the hamfest... and it takes a large commitment to make the hamfest a success. Whether you do Talk-In, Admissions, Concessions, Security, VE Testing, Forums, Parking, or something else... your offer to help will be greatly appreciated.

Sadly, many hamfests are disappearing, for a lack of people wanting to put in the effort to put on the hamfest in the first place. So, when you attend a hamfest, let the organizers know how you felt about it. While no hamfest is perfect (there are bound to be glitches), simple encouragement, and "constructive criticism" to those who work with it can help prevent those things from occurring at a future hamfest. Don't berate and lecture them as if they committed the unpardonable sin... this spirit of discouragement is one of the reasons that folks don't want to put on hamfests anymore... as if monetary costs (high gasoline prices, etc.) nowadays weren't enough of a deterrent to hamfests.

So, the future of the hamfest... and of the hobby of amateur radio is up to you. Do what you can to keep it alive... and be part of the solution... not part of the problem.

Daryl, AE5WX



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

By the time you read this column, Field Day 2009 will be history, so I trust we all had a great time. So we can now start to focus on DX for the rest of the summer months.

Thank you's go to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW for the following DX and IOTA information. Since there is always the chance that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of bad info or busted call signs, do yourself a favor and please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

DX News

4U1W/4U30, AUSTRIA (Special Event). The Vienna International Amateur Radio Club station, 4U1VIC, will be active using the following special event call signs as follows: 4U30VIC - Between July and December to celebrate the Vienna International Centre's (UN building in Vienna) 30th anniversary. QSL via 4U1VIC: Amateur Radio Club, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA. PLEASE NOTE: For DXCC purpose, all (including 4U1VIC) counts as Austria (OE)

5R8, MADAGASCAR (Update). Texas DX Society (TDXS) member, W5KDJ, will be active as 5R8KD from **Antananarivo** between July 4-17th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW and RTTY. Wayne will also be active in the IARU Contest (July 11-12th) and operate from the shack of 5R8FU using his new TH-11-DX. QSL via his home call sign. Online log search will be available. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL.

8R, GUYANA. The **6 Meter Beacon Project, Inc.**, is happy to announce a HF-50 MHz DXpedition here between June 16th and July 6th. Antenna for 6 meters will be a 6M7JHV yagi at 45 ft. on the Atlantic Ocean pointed towards EU and NA, and using a 3CPX800A7 amp. Activity will be split between two teams: 11 days will be by W3CMP and N3DB, the other 11 days by K4RX and AC4TO. They hope to get some decent openings to, amongst other places, Northern EU, 5B/4X and W6/W7. They expect to have internet access most of the time. Operating frequencies and Web site will be announced at a later date.

9A09, CROATIA (Special Event). Members of the Djurdjevac Radio Club will activate special event station 9A09P (Nine Alpha ZERO NINE Papa) between now and December 31st. Activity is to celebrate the city of Djurdjevac, and operations will be on all bands and modes. A special QSL card will be issued with the city's story on it. Under the new administrative division of Croatia, Djurdjevac gained the status of a city only in 1997. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the Bureau.

9J, ZAMBIA. 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 – (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 call sign.

E51, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS (Update). G4KIU, now active as E51SC from the **Island of Rarotonga (OC-013)**, is expected to

be active on 80-10 meters mainly on SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and with some CW. Nigel announced this past week he will be an entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th) as a Single-Op. Direct QSLs are to be sent to: Nigel Peacock, P.O. Box 880, Rarotonga, Cook Islands (via New Zealand). Please send a SAE, plus 2 USDs or 2 new style IRCs. Any direct cards received without the above items will be returned via the Bureau. Bureau QSLs go to: E51SC via G4KIU/RSGB. ****IMPORTANT**** There is no QSL Bureau in the Cook Islands. Cards without G4KIU on them will NOT be received. Please "DO NOT" send direct cards to any G4KIU address in England - they will NOT arrive. All E51SC contacts will be loaded to LoTW about once a week. He does not use e.QSL at all.

JT1/JT4, MONGOLIA (Update). A research team is currently in JT-land on a Mongolian Vertebrate Parasite Project (MVPP). The team has been assigned two club call signs for two different regions in Mongolia. While in Ulaanbaatar (and north of the Gobi region), they will use the call sign JT1N. In the Gobi region they will use the call sign JT4N. Their host in Ulaanbaatar is Naran, JT1BV. It is recommended to watch 20 meters (14190 kHz after 1030z). At the end of May, they will be doing field work in and around the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park in southern Mongolia through August. QSL via KC0KHA.

KH4, MIDWAY ISLAND. It was announced this past week by N4XP and WB4JTT that "A multi-national team of 19 operators will activate Midway Island in October 2009. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WLS) has authorized amateur operation from this rare U.S. entity for only a 10 day period, its first radio activity in almost 10 years. Midway Island ranks number 24 worldwide and number 13 in Europe on the DX Magazine's "Most Wanted List". Activity will be on 6 meters to 160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. Major efforts will be made to meet the demand to the most needed geographical areas, the low bands and RTTY.

VK0B, ANTARCTICA - VK0BP, is currently working at Antarctic Davis Base Station (**AN-016, Gridsquare MC81xk**) until November 1st. His activity is limited due to his workload, but he is expected to be on all HF bands. However, due to local scientific experiments certain bands may be un- available at times. He seems to like 20 meters between 1500-1800z. Operations have been on SSB and PSK31, but he plans to operate on other modes later on during his stay at the Davis Station. QSL via VK2CA.

IOTA News

AS-077. (Special Event) Look for 8J6SL to be active from the Kumamoto Museum between May 1st and October 31st, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Hisatsu (Railroad) Line (Steam Locomotive) on the **Island of Honshu (JIA AS-077-001)**. Activity will be on all bands and modes. Possibly 5 stations will be on the air. QSL via the JARL Bureau.

AS-117. (Special Event/WLOTA Op) Members of the Tokyo Dental College RC (JA1YUC) will activate the special event callsign 8J120TDC/2 from **Mikomoto Island (WLOTA-2126)** between July 26-28th. Activity will mostly be on 40/20/17/15 meters using CW and SSB which will include an entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th). Special event callsign is to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Tokyo Dental College. Mikomoto Island lighthouse WLOTA number will be activated for the first time. The lighthouse was also selected by the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) as one of 100 lighthouses particularly important historically in various countries of the world. QSL via JA1YUC, by the bureau or address on QRZ.com.

C6, BAHAMAS - Look for C6APR to be active again from the **Crooked Island**

Lodge, Pittstown Point, Crooked Island (NA-113), Bahamas. Activity will take place between July 23-27th, and during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th) as a Multi-Op/Mixed-Mode/High-Power DXpedition entry. Operators mentioned are: W2GJ, K3IXD, W3PP and K4QO. Operations before and after the contest by C6APR will be on 80-10 meters including the 30/17/12 meter bands using CW and SSB. Also, look for C6AXD to be on RTTY and C6AQO on 6 meters (grid FL22). All three call signs are good for **Bird Rock Lighthouse (ARLHS BAH-005)** as well as IOTA NA-113 and Grid Locator FL22tt. All QSLs go to K3IXD.

CE0Y, EASTER ISLAND (SA-001). Amateur Stations SQ8X and SV2KBS are planning to be active as CE0Y/homecall from here between October 31st and November 15th. They are looking for one or two operators to join them on this operation. Plans are to have two stations on the air. They understand that Easter Island (SA-001) is not on most wanted lists, but there is a demand by some European stations to work CE0Y (this will be their main goal). More details will be forthcoming.

EU-008 - DL6MHW, will be active as MM/DL6MHW from the **Ilse of Mull, Scotland**, during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th). QSL via DL6MHW.

EU-010 - Members of the Workington and District Amateur Radio Club will once again be active as MS0WRC from Crannag Cottage, NE Coast **Isle of Barra (IOSA OH-11, SCOTIA HI-02, WAB NF70, WLOTA 3126), Outer Hebrides**, from September 26th to October 3rd. Operators mentioned are: G0MTD, M1PAF, M0WCR and M3XUH. Activity will be on all HF bands but mainly 80/40/20/17 meters SSB and VHF/UHF FM. The group also plans to travel around the island (active as mobile or portable) and possibly activate some rare WAB Squares. QSL direct to G0MTD or by the Bureau to either MS0WRC or G0MTD. More information can be found at: <http://www.g0mtd.co.uk>

EU-020 - DK2ZF, is planning to be active as SM1/DK2ZF from **Gotland Island (JO96CV)** during the month of July. Activity will be mainly 6 and 2 meters as well as 432, 1296 and 2320 MHz. Preferred times will be during Sporadic E and Meteor-scatter. More details are forthcoming.

EU-048 - DL5MO, will be active as F/DL5MO from **Groix Island (DIFM AT-012, WLOTA 0050)** between June 29th and July 10th.

Activity will be holiday style with operations mainly on 40/30/20 meters. QSL via DL5MO, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-049 - SV1EJD, will be active as SV8/SV1EJD while on vacation from **Lesvos Island** between July 12-22nd. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using SSB and RTTY. More details will be forth coming on: <http://www.sv1ejd.gr/lesvos.htm>

EU-122 - Members of Kilmarnock and Loudoun ARC (GM3YS/GM0ADX/GM7A) will be active as GI3YS from **Rathlin Island** (WLOTA 0039), Northern Ireland during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th). QSL via MM0DHQ, Bureau is preferred.

EU-123 - G3VCQ, M3VCQ, M0GAV, 2E0JOX and 2E0TJX will be active as MM3M from **Isle of Arran, Scotland**, during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th). QSL via G3VCQ. They will possibly be active as GS3RCM/p before and after contest. QSL OK via RSGB Bureau or direct.

EU-123 - MM0BHX, MM0GPZ, GM0LIR, GM0OQV and GM0NBM will be active as GM0B from the **Isle of Bute, Scotland**, during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th). QSL via MM0BHX.

EU-128 - DL1AXX, will be active as DL1AXX/P from the small **Island of Warder** (O-32 for the German Island Award), between July 11-18th. Activity will be on 80/40/30 meters CW only. QSL via DL1AXX.

EU-146. Three Amateurs will be active from **Schouwen Duiveland**, July 24-26th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters, using mainly CW and SSB. They will also be in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th). QSL via their home callsigns, direct or by the bureau.

EU-172 - Look for operators PA1H and PA7PA to be active as OZ/homecall from **Lango Island** (FY-019 and NOT EU-029!!!) between July 25th and August 1st. Lango Island belongs to the Langeland Island group, and there is only one house on the island. So it is a unique location situated in "The Lindelse Nor". Activity will be on 160-10 meters using SSB and the Digi-modes. They also plan to be active during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th). There may also be some VHF operations. QSL via their home callsign, by the bureau or direct (QRZ.com addresses).

OC-130 - PA3GZU, will be active as DU9/PA3GZU from **Mindanao Island (WLOTA 2803)**, July 6th through August 1st. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands with low power. QSL via his home call sign, the Bureau is preferred.

SX5, DODECANESE (GIOTA Op). Members of the Dodecanese Radio Amateur Association (DRAA) will be active as SX5SYMI from **Symi Island** between July 31st and August 3rd. Activity is good for the GIOTA (Greek Island On The Air) as DKS 032 and also the IOTA as EU-001. QSL direct to SV5FRI.

VR2009, HONG KONG (Special Event). Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association (HARDXA) will use the special event call sign VR2009EAG between July 1st and December 31st, to promote the Hong Kong 2009 East Asia Games. Operations will be primarily on the HF bands from 40-10 meters and VHF on 6 meters. The modes used will be primarily SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL Manager VR2XMT: Charlie Ho, PO Box 900, Fanling Post Office, Hong Kong. There will be no e-QSL or LoTW. To see QSL cards, go to: <http://www.qrz.com/vr2009eag>

Lighthouses

GB2, ENGLAND (LH Op). Members of the "Bittern DX'ers" will activate for the 8th time "**Blakeney Mariner's Light**" GB2BML for the ILLW 2008, on the weekend of August 15-16th. Reference numbers are: ENG-292 and WLOTA 1841). Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, and 2m FM/SSB. QSL via M0CNP, direct or by the Bureau. Visit the Bittern DX'ers Web page at: <http://www.bittern-dxers.org.uk>

That's it for July and somewhat beyond. So for now, 73 and gud DX to all.

Chuck, W8PT

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- July 13th meeting - **Monitoring, DC to Daylight**
- July 18th - The **PCARS Picnic**, at the QTH of WB8LCD
- August 10th meeting - **Geocaching**
- August 8th - **PCARS 2 Meter Sprint**
- August 22nd - **The Ohio QSO Party!!!** More to follow on this one.
- September 14th meeting - **HF Pack**
- September 12th - **Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest
- October 12th meeting - **Slowsan TV**

Shack Shots - Air Mobile - KD8DFL

It's not a picture of the shack but it is a picture from my office. About 700 feet above the out skirts of Baghdad.

The temperature is about 110 to 120 degrees F during the day a drops to about 90 at night. Good thing for air conditioners!



Raymond, KD8DFL



Shack Shots - Mobile - W8PT

The mobile rig is a Kenwood V-71A Dual Band with a dual band antenna mounted on the trunk. The hardest part was getting everything in and not drilling any holes in the lease vehicle !



Chuck, W8PT



Shack Shots - Mobile - KD8JCY

The mobile rig is a Yaesu FT-8800R Dual Band with a dual band antenna. Thanks goes out to the PCARS people that installed everything in one evening as a special project for my participation as a RACES member!



Sandy, KD8JCY



Editor's Note: Send in a photo (or two) of you in your shack or mobile set up along with a description of your gear and let other club members see you in "Shack Shots". And, don't hesitate to brag about your setup!



Time

At exactly 5 Minutes and 6 Seconds after 4:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time, on the 8th of July, 2009.

The Time and Date will be: **04:05:06 07-08-09** This won't happen again until the year 3009.

Yes - you could say it as 0405:06 UTC on July 8, 2009 - works the same for 04:05:06 07-08-09 CDT, MDT, PDT and others...

PCARS Meetings

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



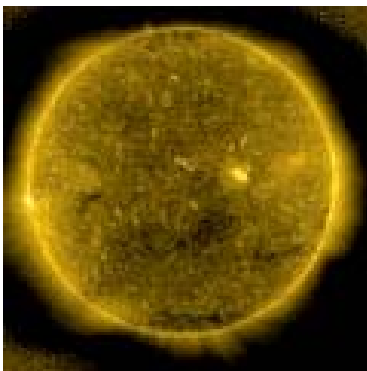
Located in the **Brimfield Plaza**
Just South of Interstate 76
off Route 43 in **Brimfield, OH.**

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



Solar Cycle 24: New Sunspot Group Emerges

Some possible good news on the propagation and maybe the D-X front as well. Thomas Giella, NZ4O, reports that on Monday, June 22nd, a new solar cycle 24 sunspot group emerged in the South-West quadrant of the Sun. Also that NOAA was expected to assign it the designation 11023 with a beta magnetic signature.



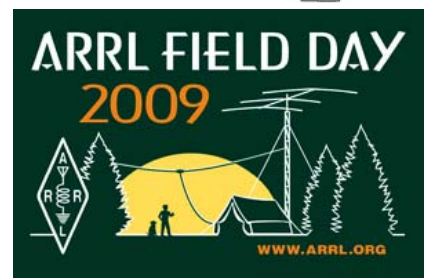
Tom, who lives in Lakeland, Florida, notes that sun watchers have seen four solar cycle 24 sunspot groups this month and six in the past 30 days. He adds that it appears as if solar cycle 24 has finally come alive.

And in what may be related news, word on the VHF Reflector that the 6 meter band has been open in various parts of the world with skip contacts of several hundred to more than a thousand miles. These reports seem to coincide with the emergence of the new sunspot group being reported by NZ4O, but whether or not there is any direct connection between the two events is unknown.

Coming Up In Next Month's Issue of the RADIOGRAM

Field Day 2009 - PCARS Report: All the facts and figures, LOTS of pictures showing all the FUN we had as a Club!

Yes, we're already planning for 2010....



Pictures from the June PCARS Meeting



PCARS

June 8, 2009

NOTICE

Radio frequency fields beyond this point may exceed the FCC general public exposure limit.

Obey all posted signs and site guidelines for working in radio frequency environments.

In accordance with Federal Communications Commission rules 47 CFR, frequency emissions of 1.25W, 1.5W/2W.

Thanks & 73

This is the 7th issue of the PCARS official newsletter the 'RADIOGRAM' for 2009. 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 month's contributors: **KC8PD, WB2DFC, W8PT, KB8UUZ, KD8JCY, WB8VNO, W8KNO, AE5WX, KD8DFL, WB9LBI, WB8LCD, WB8YYS, The ARRL and the World Wide Web** - With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

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

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


"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

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

Repeater is graciously provided by N8EQJ for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees 2009

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO W8PT	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2009	WB9LBI N8EQJ	Bill Fraedrich Ed Polack
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland
 VE Team	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
	N4IT	Carl Capps
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	N8EQJ	Ed Polack
	K8QF	Russ Conklin
	K8GI	Rick Patterson
	WB8VNO	Gay Wands
	WD8CVH	Ted Wands
NX8G	Rex Simmons	
KD8GWY	Robert Gurney	
AB8AA	Allan Avnet	
K8JAA	Jane Avnet	
Web Master	K8SRR	Steve Randlett

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

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

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Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor
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NLC