

~ 2009 Officers

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR

RADIO SERVICE

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ARRL Affiliated April 20, 2006 October 2009 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 4 No. 10

From the President

This month, Chuck, W8PT, and I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club and giving a presentation on the Ohio State Parks On The Air contest. We really enjoy getting out to other clubs' meetings and having the chance to renew old acquaintances and to make some new ones with other area hams.

Clubs can assist each other by sharing programs and participating in each others events. For the club member who is responsible for programming it makes life a lot easier when he or sure can tap the resources or members of a neighboring club. Bill, WB9LBI, has taken his excellent presentation about the history of CW on the road and, likewise for Tom, WB8LCD, on QRP and Tom, KB8UUZ, on QSLing.

One of our projects at PCARS is to develop a network for clubs in Northeast Ohio that will make it easier for them to share information about club presentations and activities. We'll keep you advised as it develops.

Watch for more PCARS activities to be taking place at the club site on the Oakwood campus. Our Fall Technician class is meeting there even as the renovations continue. As this is newsletter is being sent out, the countertops in the radio/meeting room are being installed and shelves will be added above them. The repeater room will get its



own countertop and cabinets and then we can start on the workshop at the back of the garage.

The technical team will be working up the plans for the installation of antennas and the selection of radios and related equipment for the radio room. Their goal will be to have the station on the air before winter weather sets in.

On November 1st PCARS will be officially four years old. At the October meeting we will be adding some new members and this will take us past 150 total members since the club began. Some have become inactive but there are well over a 130 active members. It has been an amazing and gratifying time for all of the current and former officers and board members as we watched the club develop and grow. We hope that all of the members continue to find the PCARS experience to be just as rewarding for them as it has been for us.

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From the President (continued from Page 1)

Let me wrap up this column by expressing my thanks and appreciation to the Great Lakes Division of the ARRL for presenting me with the Amateur of the Year award at the GLD Symposium in Findlay. It was a real surprise and I am honored and humbled by it.

It would not have occurred but for PCARS. My opportunities to be involved and contribute to the hobby of ham radio would not have been there if PCARS had not been there. PCARS sponsored the programs, activities and classes that I have been involved in and provided the members for RACES and most of the members of ARES of Portage County. Without their willing participation, those programs would not exist.

So "thank you" to PCARS and its members for providing me with the chance to make the most of my involvement in amateur radio. The GLD award is something that I share with you.

Jim, KC8PD

From the Vice President

Hello Fellow Ham Radio Enthusiasts! Thanks to everyone for the very positive feedback for the HF Pack club presentation. I enjoyed talking about this aspect of amateur radio and hope some of you will get involved. It doesn't take much, maybe a mobile or portable rig, any mode. Maybe a small 2 meter or 440 beam antenna could fit in your backpack. Some of these antennas are easy to build and got together fast! Why do I mention

this, because 2 meter and 440 hill topping can be as rewarding as an HF QSO. Your compact dual band mobile and a small gel-cell battery could really get you in the game, just think of the possibilities.

One area I didn't mention during the HF Pack presentation was logging while operating as an HF Pack or portable station. Sometimes the paper log is a little cumbersome and if it gets rain soaked, there goes your QSO info. I make use of a small, portable, digital recorder. The recorder I currently use is programmed with the date and time of any recorded entry. As long as I set the date and time correctly, I have an accurate audio record of my QSO.

I am using a second generation RCA VR5220-A, purchased at the



local Wal-Mart for under \$40. In addition to the date and time being attached to the recording, one of it's other best features is a built in USB connector. The memory on-board the RCA recorder contains the operating software so any computer with a USB port can be used to download and save audio files. Just

plug it in to the USB port, convert the file (part of the RCA software) to any of the standard audio files, rename it, and 'waahlaah', your QSO appears as an audio file on your computer. The RCA V@5220-A will hold up to 35 hours of audio recording..... see if you can fill that up!

Just think of the possibilities, send the file to the PCARS Yahoo files section so other club members can listen to your QSO, send the audio file to ham at the distant end of your QSO, let them hear what they sound like! And if you make portable HF, 2 meter, 440 contacts and record them, let me know. I would like to listen

Enjoy the Fall season, get those antennas and feed-lines in top condition. 72/73 for now.

Dave, WB2DFC

Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

October??!!! And I still don't have an HF antenna up. I sure hope that someone in PCARS has been carrying the DX flag and working a good amount of DX. I know that Parky, KB8UUZ has worked Glorioso Island, FT5GA, as probably W8KNO has. At least I assume they have since they have been urging me to get on with the tower project. Well soon I will no longer bore you with the constant "no progress" reports on the antenna and tower. It will be done before the end of October. At that time, if anyone wants to visit the QTH / Shack, you will be more than welcome.

Now lets get on with the DX news for October and months following. But first, I want 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).



DX News

3D2, FIJI - SP5EAQ and SP5DRH active as 3D2MJ and 3D2KJ, from Viti Levu (OC-016), starting October 1st for 4 weeks. Activity on all bands, but with an emphasis on the lower bands. They plan to use 2 stations with small amps and vertical antennas. The amount of this DXpedition is an estimated \$64,000. So you can see these trips are not cheap. QSL via their home callsigns.

3W, VIETNAM (Update [VERY RARE IOTA - #2]). An international group of operators will be active as 3W6C from Con Co Island (AS-185), Vietnam, in April 10-18th, 2010. This multi-national project, being coordinated by Swiss ham-radio operators, consists of roughly 20 individuals with members not only from Switzerland but also from Vietnam, Germany, USA and Japan. During their stay, they plan to have 4 stations on the air. Their goal is to make contacts on as many different frequencies as possible, even on the 80 meter and 160 meter bands, which makes this DXpedition very special. But this goal also means that the group must transfer considerable amounts of equipment - including radios, antennas, power generators, computers, and various ancillary supplies - with them to the island. The team is looking for sponsors (whether individuals, ham-radio clubs or commercial) to help offset the costs. Complete details are available at: http://www.3w6c.qrv.ch ADDED NOTES: Con Co Island, with a land surface of just 2 square kilometers, is 32 km off the central coast of Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin.

4W, TIMOR-LESTE - Currently, 2 ops are active from here. CT1GPQ, now active as 4W6AL, will be there until October 3rd. This is "NOT A DXpedition"! CT1GPQ is in Timor-Leste with a medical team and radio operations will take place only during his spare time. He was heard this past weekend on 20 meters CW at various times between 0800-1300z. QSL via Toze, CT1GFK. Online log is now available at: http://algarvedx.com Second operator is VK4FR, now active as 4W6FR, will be there until mid-October. He is also on a work assignment. Chris was heard this past weekend mainly on 30 and 20 meters using PSK31. QSL 4W6FR via VK4FW.

5B, CYPRUS - HA3JB, active as 5B/HG3IPA Sept 25 - Oct 2. This is a new IPA activation and is valid for HA-IPARC Award (Hungarian International Police Association). Find IPARC Award info at: http://www.ha3jb.com/award.html Gab plans to be in the CQWW RTTY Contest (September 26-27th). Online log will be available on his Web page at: http://www.ha3jb.com

7Q, **MALAWI** - G4AHK, will once again be active as 7Q7BJ between September 23rd and October 12th. Activity will be on all HF bands, mainly on CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

7Q, **MALAWI** - IN3VZE, informs us that he will be active once again as 7Q7CE from the southwest shore of Lake Malawi from the shack of his good friend Harry, 7Q7HB, between October 2-20th. Activity will be holiday style with planned operations on all bands using SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

9J, ZAMBIA. (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.

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA - JJ2CJB/AC2AI will be active as 9M6/JJ2CJB from "Langkah Syabas Beach Resort" located near the city of Kota Kinabalu on the Island of Borneo (OC-088) for the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 24-25th). He plans to run 400 watts into a Force12 C4 beam. QSL via LoTW, e-QSL or the JA Bureau.

9M8, EAST MALAYSIA (IOTA Op) - 9M6DXX, from the Island of Borneo (OC-088) plans to busy from East Malaysia over next 2 months. Look for Steve as 9M8Z from Sarawak, East Malaysia (OC-088), between October 22-26. Activity is SSB only but will also include ops in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (Oct 24-25) as Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power/Unassisted entry. QSL via LoTW, or QSL direct or by the Bureau to M0URX (or request direct or bureau cards on-line [see info at: http://www.m0urx.com/direct-a-bureau-instructions.html]). In early Nov, 9M6DXX will be joined by 9M6XRO and the ops will activate Pulau Labuan Is. (OC-133) between Nov 6-8 (and possibly for 1 or 2 hours on Nov 9 after 0000z). The callsigns and operations will be as follows: 9M6DXX/P - On 80-10 meters; SSB only. 9M6XRO/P - On 160-10 meters; CW and RTTY.

A5, BHUTAN - JA1FJJ, will be active as A52FJJ between October 8-20th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. He plans to use 500 watts into a G5RV antenna. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE - IK1RAE, active as C91VM between October 5-23rd. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB and running 100 watts into a vertical. Marco plans (if possible) to activate IOTA groups AF-061, AF-066, AF-072 and AF-088. QSL only direct.

EA6, BALEARIC ISLANDS (EU-004). AA5UK, will be active as EA6/AA5UK from Ibiza (JM09tb), October 14-29th. Activity will be holiday style on 160-10 meters using mostly SSB and various Digital modes. Also, look for satellite activity on various birds. He will also be active during CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 24-25th). QSL via his home call sign, by the bureau, LoTW or eQSL.

FT/G, GLORIOSO ISLAND (Update). The FT5GA team is now active. The team had some antenna problems at first due to windy weather conditions and a faulty contact on a WARC Spiderbeam (which was fixed). Indications seem that all 3 stations are now on the air. Most stateside stations report that FT5GA signals are very weak and propagation is not helping. Activity has been on all bands and the CW/SSB modes with some RTTY. Ops will last until October 5th, per the Web page at: http://glorieuses2008.free.fr

HL9, SOUTH KOREA (Update/Attention PFX Hunters!). KE7WRJ, will be here for over 2 months starting September 9th. He plans to be active as HL9QST, September 10th, but no later than 11th. This is a rare prefix only assigned to U.S. Service members assigned to Korea. His tentative schedule is to operate from 4 different locations in South Korea as follows: Sept 10-12th: Seoul - Sept 14-24th: Camp Casey - Sept 25th-Oct 18th: Camp Humphreys - Oct 19-29th: Camp Carroll - Oct 30th-Nov 13th: Seoul. Activity will be on 40-10 meters, depending on the propagation, using CW and SSB. Operations will be at least 8 hours a day during the week and longer over the weekends. Look for him to be in both the Extra and General portions of the bands. His equipment will consist of a 5000A by Flex Radio, a "3 element Yagi in a Bag" from Super Antennas. QSL via KE7WRJ, direct or LoTW.

JW, SVALBARD – Operators LA7WCA, LA3XIA and G4ATA will be active as JW7WCA, JW3ZIA and JW/G4ATA, respectively, between October 8-13th. Activity will be on most bands using SSB and RTTY. QSL via the operator's home call sign.

P29, PAPUA NEW GUINEA - VK2GR, will be active as P29CW from the Western Province between September and December. Activity will be only during his spare time because he is there working with "Australian Doctors International" http://www.adi.org.au. Due to the limited availability of power, Allan may not be active on the many field trips during his stay. QSL direct to Tommy, VK2IR, with 3 USDs or new IRCs. PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT send QSLs to the Papua New Guinea address.

PIRATE ALERT. The infamous "YL 40m CW Pirate", ZK3T, was active again. Operator was Tanya, on 7007 kHz at 1626z. Save your green stamps.

XW, LAOS - XW1B, active during CQWW DX CW Contest (Nov 28-29) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via E21EIC.

VK0B, ANTARCTICA - VK0BP, is currently working at Antarctic Davis Base Station (AN-016, Gridsquare MC81xk) until Nov 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 cetain 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.

Additional IOTA News

CE0Y, EASTER ISLAND (SA-001) - Reminder 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.

OK – that's it for October's DX News. There are other activities going on but not enough room to list them all. Get on the air and see what you can hear and work and then – LET ME KNOW! I will list your DX worked in the next month's column. And 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

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



Paper Chase

H.L. Hunley - The Worlds First Successful Combat Submarine

On September 19th & 20th, 2009, a group of Amateur Radio operators in Charleston, South Carolina, activated a Special Event Station N4H at the site of the Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley.



Raised on August Raised on August 8th, 2000, and located at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center on the old Charleston Navy Base, the H.L. Hunley

is being preserved in a 90,000 gallon water tank as archaeologists investigate the cause of the vessels sinking. The Hunley disappeared without a trace, on a return journey, after using a 135 pound torpedo to sink the U.S.S. Housatonic four miles off the coast of Charleston, SC. on February 17th 1864, making it "The

World's First Successful Combat Submarine".

The submarine has been around for a long time as this special event illustrated. There are over a dozen cities that have a museum submarine located in their city. Cleveland has one, the USS Cod (SS-224).



Each year, there is a special event weekend when each of the museum ships gets on the air. This event includes not only submarines but all types of ships, from aircraft carriers to the Presidential yacht. Watch special event listings as some of the ships are on at many times during the year.

By the way, USS Ohio is a submarine SSGN-726.

Hear you in

the pile up!

Joe, W8KNO

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in October:

KD8JRI	Curtis	Kesling	KD8EBV	Donald
K8JAA	Jane	Avnet	KD8FDN	Greg
KB8PHJ	Doug	Gardner	KC8DBX	Angela
K8AAB	Bob	Evans	K8CAV	Rick
WB8VNO	Gay	Wands	KD8GBB	Anthony
KD8EPG	Ken	George	W8NET	Gene
KD8IUA	Mike	Battershell	KD8MQ	John

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Robinson Long Ziccardi Kruis Romito Marsh Myers What's new on the PCARS website?



Our newest feature: the <u>Links page</u> to ham radio sites, and personal sites for PCARS members. If you you'd like your own page listed, or have a good link for us, contact <u>webmaster@portcars.org</u>

Online membership roster. Click the <u>Members</u> page and search for anyone in the club by first name, last name, callsign, callsign suffix, city, and more. What do you mean, you've forgotten your password? That's third time this month! Contact <u>webmaster@portcars.org</u> and we'll get you squared away.

New Members are on the front page. Introduce yourself at the next club meeting. Or, why not drop the new folks a line and welcome them to the club?

Birthdays, but without people's ages, because that would be too depressing. Why not surprise them and put a birthday card in the mail? Or in the case of WB9LBI, lavish gifts?

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About The PCARS Thursday Night Net But Were Afraid To Ask. The schedule, Echolink instructions, Net Control schedule, Net Control instructions and log sheet. It's all on the <u>Nets</u> page.

DX Gallery – People from all over the world check out <u>portcars.org</u>. There's a gallery of national flags and count of page hits by country from all sorts of exotic places. Now if we could only get QSL cards...



The Radiogram is new every month and can be downloaded anytime from anywhere. Available on the <u>Newsletter</u> page, along with back issues since roughly the beginning of time.

PCARS Web Committee: Dave WB2DFC, Bill WB9LBI, Steve K8SRR, Russ KB8DPN. The web committee welcomes your comments and suggestions. Just be nice about it, or we'll spam your email into oblivion.





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 <u>http://www.portcars.org</u> and follow the link to sign up.



EmComm

When we talk about ham radio operators and "public service" our first thought will always be of communications for events such as marathons, parades and so on. But a number of our local hams have found another way to provide a true public service that does not necessarily involve communications.

All of the members of our local RACES unit must undergo a background check before they are admitted into the RACES team and receive their EMA credentials. That ID is important because it provides assurance to the people and agencies that we assist that they should be able to trust us.

The EMA found itself in a situation where it needed to have background checked volunteers for a special task and when the EMA staff asked the RACES members if they would be willing to help, all volunteered.

Local public health agencies in Ohio and other states are receiving distributions of medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Those materials need to be stored locally and then distributed on an as needed basis in the event that the number of H1N1 flu cases place undue strain on the regularly available commercial supplies.

RACES members went through training this month on the various tasks that they may be called on to perform, including the filling of orders and their distribution to facilities around the county. They deserve a lot of credit for being willing to perform these additional, non-ham radio services on their own time.

October 10th is going to be a busy day locally when the multi-agency, multi-service communications exercise gets underway. It will involve Ohio Navy/Marine Corps and Army MARS members deployed at

Camp Ravenna (the former Ravenna Arsenal), as well as the local RACES and ARES units. Other participating agencies will include the EMA, Robinson Memorial Hospital, NEOUCOMP, and the American Red Cross. Even if you are not a MARS, RACES or ARES member you may want to take some time from around 11:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. to monitor the activity on the local repeaters.

Who knows, maybe it will pique your interest

in RACES, ARES or MARS. If you would like any information about joining those programs, just let me know.

On a personal note, it was my privilege to have been appointed this month as the Emergency Operations Officer for Ohio Army MARS. My billet call will now be AAM5EOH, though my personal call remains AAR5AI. This is a nice opportunity to promote MARS and its mission to state and local agencies throughout Ohio and to enhance the interaction of MARS with the amateur radio emergency communications services.

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





Great Lakes Division Convention

I've had a couple busy weekends in September, beginning with the Great Lakes Division Convention on Saturday 9/12. Bill Kelsey, N8ET, of the Findlay Radio Club did a great job of putting the whole program together! Unfortunately, it was not as well attended as it should have been based on the program they had arranged. The keynote speaker, Dr. Tony England, WOORE, talked about how amateur radio was woven into all of his endeavors in his life as an astronaut, researcher and now as a college professor at the University of Michigan.

After Dr. England's talk, there were two options to choose from for each session. Topics included:

Contesting, EmComms, Working with Youth, Clubs, Getting started in VHF, Satellites and others. The ending session, presented by Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and Assistant Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, was the presentation of the Division awards. My apologies to the other winners, but I was too excited to get other pictures after the presentation of the Great Lakes Division Amateur of the Year Award was presented to our own Jim Aylward, KC8PD!



Tom, WB8LCD

ARRL - The National Association for Amateur Radio Headquarters, Newington Connecticut Great Lakes Division Amateur of the Year Award This certifies that James Aylward, KC8PD

Has dedicated his time, talents and services to the Great Lakes Division of the ARRL in a manor that exemplifies the spirit of Amateur Radio. Presented on 12 September, 2009 AD

Signed by Jim Weaver - Great Lakes Division Director Gary Johnston - Great Lakes Division Vice Director





Findlay Hamfest

The day after the GLDC, Sunday 9/13, was the Findlay Hamfest. The Findlay Hamfest has <u>always</u> been one of my favorites. If I could only pick one other hamfest to go to each year besides Dayton, it would be Findlay! I really felt like I was at a HAMFEST as opposed to just stopping at a garage sale somewhere. This is the fest where they give away a handheld radio every hour. It's at the Hancock County Fairgrounds and it's big and well attended. You can ask Ed, N8EQJ; Jim, N8PXW; Bob, WB8OVQ or Karen WD8BIW - the other PCARS members I saw there.

There was a lot of good stuff there, and it was priced right. The deal of the day was a Heathkit SB-104A, speaker, power supply, station counsel, antenna tuner AND kW amp, all in extra nice condition. The selling price? \$500! Sold! There were a lot of other good HF deals there too. I saw quite a few Kenwood TS-520's and Yaesu FT-101's all in the \$200 to \$400 range. If you were looking for it, it was probably there. Once again, KUDOS to the Findlay Radio Club for putting on a good event.

Tom, WB8LCD



PCARS Member KD8FPP was home for a few days break from his National Guard duties in Iraq. On his trip back to the Middle East he had a few pictures taken with him showing off the PCARS mug!



Upper Left: In Gander, Newfoundland. Upper Center: 30,000 feet over Turkey Upper Right:: near Kuwait City Lower Left: Former throne of Saddam Hussein, at the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad Lower Center: Learning to drive in Kuwait Lower Right: Traffic congestion in the desert

Bill, WB9LBI

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: <u>WB8LCD@portcars.org</u>. Your help would be greatly appreciated and it's a lot of fun !



Tom WB8LCD PCARS Net Control Coordinator

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 the club Treasurer: Bill at <u>wb9lbi@portcars.org</u>

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

October 3 - 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

October Contest Calendar

October 2009	
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 3
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 3 to 2159Z, Oct 4
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 10 to 2200Z, Oct 11
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 10
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 11
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 17 to 1459Z, Oct 18
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 19
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 24 to 2400Z, Oct 25
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25



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!

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 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

KC8NOW	&KC8RKV	KC8PD	WB8LCD	KB8UUZ
KD8FLZ	N8JLC_	N8KBX	WSKNO	KB8SZI
KB8TUY	KB8DPN	NEGIE	W8RJG	NATIE CAROLINA
N8EQJ	KD8DFN	KB8JFF	KD8EPA	KC8RJR
	K3GP	WBJJW	KD8GWY	KD8FDK

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.

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- October 12th meeting Slowscan TV, Rick, K8CAV
- November 9th meeting Election of 2010 Officers
- November 9th meeting Dayton Experience, the movie
- December 14th PCARS Christmas Party/Meeting More to follow on this one
- January 11th meeting "On The Air With Power To Spare", the Tom Sly, WB8LCD tower story



OSPOTA Feedback

Had a nice drive down to Lake White State park, got all set up, and even had a surprise eye-ball QSO with Ralph, K8RYU. Things were lookin' good !!!!

About 90 minutes into the contest, my laptop battery



croaked. Turns out the inverter I was using to power the laptop had blown a fuse. I replaced the fuse and it blew again after a short time. By the way, that inverter was the only piece of gear I was using that had not been put to heavy contesting use in the past. So I guess I gotta take the blame for not having put it through its paces.

Oh, just before the battery went, the confuser went a little nuts and sent my transceiver into semi LA-LA Land. I happened to look down at the display and instead of calling CQ on 3840, where I had been for a while, I was now calling CQ in the CW band, which is fine 'cept I was still on SSB !!!! That's not a good way to win friends and influence people, especially the FCC.

Oh well. I packed things up and headed home (Well, not immediately. I got to yackin' with some picnickers who were interested in what I was doing and they gave me a burger and a dog, fresh off the grill !!!!) Hopefully the Buckeyes will beat USC tonight and make me feel lots better.

Joe K8MP



Sue KD8ERY operates in her very first contest from Tinker's Creek State Park at OSPOTA 2009. Her logger and coach is Ray KD8DFL, at home on leave from his duties as a helicopter pilot in Iraq.

Rich, KD8FDK

Here's some pictures from OSPOTA at Wolf Run State Park. The trailer is my set-up. The mast at the rear is the center of an 80m dipole about 11 feet off the ground which I used almost exclusively and the mast at the



front is a hamstick dipole.

The tent set-up is my friend Tom, WD8MBE. His antenna on the white posts is called a cloud burner or cloud warmer, I can't remember which. It has 2 wires running along the ground





Rex, NX8G

We had a decent turn out at Sycamore State Park. Everyone that came out seemed to enjoy themselves. We lost a few bodies to a public service event. Mr. Murphy reared his ugly head with us too. Fortunately after being informed by AB8DD just before the contest we were able to do some quick trouble shooting and determined somehow RF was getting back in to the transmit audio on phone through the RigBlaster (that has worked fine portable and fixed before). It was removed and phone worked great. Unfortunately this killed our PSK attempts till late in the day when one of our members drove home and got his, but to no avail.

Only activity he found was European and on 20m. Still have to go over all the logs but we got at least 34 parks. Got to work a large outdoor rock concert tomorrow so our official results will be delayed by a couple days.

See you all next year! Bring on OSPOTA 2010!

After a long morning of "honey-do" chores, I packed up the HF Pack station and headed to Quail Hollow State Park. I set up in a parking area using

two telescopic poles and an 80 foot long wire, 20 foot counter-poise on the ground.

The back pack radio, and ICOM IC-706 MkII, is connected to a tuner from LDG. I set the power out to about 8 watts and operated 80 meters, QRP. 80 meter conditions were

not too bad. About 20 or so Q's and a great time! See ya-all next year! 72/73,

Had a great day at MTG, great WX and nice location. 80m was great but not much else. PSK was a bust. 20m band was long, worked a couple of DL and EA, but nothing local. 40m was noisy and didn't have any PSK signals till late and then Europeans again. Called many times on 80m and never saw a single signal. Did see the tail end of one OSPOTA PSK signal on 20m but never came back to me when I called and never heard them after that..

Don't have the final count but 34-35 parks worked close to 100 stations worked. Had a number of hams come over from neighboring counties to check things out and a couple of people just passing by stopped and ask what we were doing. Good job portage!!!!!

Gary, N8EMR







Rob, KB8UEY

Dave, WB2DFC

Due to a last minute change of plans I was unable to be at Quail Hollow State Park for this year's OSPOTA. It had been a convenient location to get to and set up at, plus I had some pretty good results there!

Since I was going to be in Findlay, that pretty well limited my options. A quick look at the State Parks map showed that north central probably has the fewest number of state parks. Fortunately, Van Buren State Park was only about five miles north of where I needed to be in Findlay.



We arrived at the park just before noon and the antenna was up and tuned in less than ten minutes. It was the same setup as last year: a ninety foot length of wire attached to the ball mount on the side of the car and then strung between two lightweight masts at about twenty feet. The Icom AH-4 mounted inside the fender provided the match for the mobile Icom 706 MkIIg.



I only had a little over an hour to operate but managed to work twenty-three parks with a total of three dozen contacts, all on eighty meters. It was really encouraging to hear that many parks on the air so early in the contest and it was a good sign that more parks might be activated than we had in 2009.

Here's hoping that OSPOTA grows in popularity every year. It is a fun and unique contest and a great reason to get out and visit a state park.

Jim, KC8PD

Swap-N-Shop

 FOR SALE: A50-5S 5-element 6 meter beam. Good condition, with paperwork, asking \$100. FOR SALE: Antique Siltronics 10/11 meter transceiver. Needs restoration. Make offer. Contact John - <u>KC8KYW@portcars.org</u> or call: 330 734-7888 (cell phone) or home, 330-688-1725.
WANTED: HF Rig with general coverage - working - under \$300. FOR SALE: Icom 2200H 2 meter mobile rig. Asking \$120. Contact Don - <u>KD8ICR@portcars.org</u> 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 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 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 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
 FOR SALE: MFJ-401D Electronic Keyer - Works great. \$44 FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Autotuner cable for Kenwood - Original box & manual \$24 FOR SALE: Mirage A-1015G, 6 Meter Amplifier - 10 watts in, 160 watts out - Original manual & box - works great - \$275 Contact Tom - <u>KB8UUZ@portcars.org</u> or call 330-527-7609

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

FOR SALE: Heathkit SB-630 combo: SWR meter, phone patch, and clock which can be set for GMT, \$50.

FOR SALE: Heathkit HW-101, crystal controlled, worked last time I used it, \$75.

FOR SALE: Tripp Lite Power Supply 3 amps, \$15.

Contact Carl - <u>N4IT@portcars.org</u> or call 330-221-9725

FOR SALE: Ameritron AL-811H Linear Amp, \$800

FOR SALE: Tokyo Hy-Power HL-1.2Kfx Solid State Linear Amp, \$2,000

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

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

FOR SALE: MFJ-941E HF Antenna Tuner w/4:1 Balun, Meter & Antenna Switch, Like New, \$100

Contact Rex - <u>NX8G@portcars.org</u>

WANTED: 2 Meter Vertical Base Antenna to be used for MARS. Must be able to tune outside ham band around 148.4

Contact: George - <u>N1EZZ@portcars.org</u>

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.

Contact: Russ - <u>KB8DPN@portcars.org</u>

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 Ft for only \$85 - no shipping/no tax! Need another custom length? Let me know.

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! Contact **Tom -** WB8LCD@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.

Contact Gene - W8NET@w8net.com

FOR SALE: Shakespeare 376-6B 10 meter vertical antenna \$50. Contact Bob - 330-633-5408 or e-mail <u>N8QE@portcars.org</u>

FOR SALE: Square D QO230 30 Amp 240 Volt Breakers - 2 of them - \$10 each. FOR SALE: Square D QOB220 20 Amp 240 Volt Bolt In Breakers - 3 of them - \$20 each FOR SALE: Square D QOB260 60 Amp 240 Volt Bolt In Breaker - \$20 FOR SALE: Square D QOB2100 100 Amp 240 Volt Bolt In Breaker - \$40 FOR SALE: RFS Hardline - 533 Feet, 1-1/4" w/1 new N-female connector - \$1,000





Halloween is Coming

Be on the alert, with Halloween coming there will be kids running all over pursuing their quest to gather candy from everywhere. Trouble is, they may not be looking for traffic when dashing across the street. So, it's up to you to watch out for them. Every community has their own 'Halloween night', so please, when out driving this month - watch out for the little ones.



The Man In The Shed

To the members of PCARS:

I would like to thank everyone I have meet in the last two weeks, for the friendliness both given and received. I am very impressed at how such a new and large group of people can rally around a single goal so well. Well done, and two thumbs up!!!! Keep it up. Now for a little history on myself and amateur radio.

"THE MAN IN THE SHED"

I first licensed in 1996 after meeting your very own Al Atkins, KB8VJL at another clubs field day. As I walked around the field day event, wandering aimlessly, and being bored out of my mind, I saw a man in a shed. A man in a shed, alone. A man in a shed alone, for over an hour!!!!!! Well, since I had no one approach me in any way for that hour, I decided to get closer to that guy in the shed. I guess I was curious both why no one was speaking to either of us, and what was he doing in that shed, so why not go look before I leave.

As I peeked in at him, and saw the glow from the radio, and over heard the guy in the shed saying "CQ CQ" What is this guy talking about? Is he crazy? Is that why he was in the shed? Maybe he's crazy, and lives in that shed!!!!? But as I turned to walk away, I heard a voice come over his radio, and as I stood in amazement of HF DX, we exchanged greetings, and I ended up sitting in the shed with Al for the rest of the day. Al answered my questions, and let me fidgit with his rig a little. And as I drove home, I was excited about this new found interest, and a bond was made between me and the guy sitting in a shed alone.

I immediately started studying, and soon had my "NO CODE TECH" license (KC8BWF), and a few years later, I upgraded to TECH PLUS. I still called Al with questions, and he was always patient and answered my questions as only Al could. I owed my license to Al!!! Had it not been for the guy in the shed, I would have left that field day, and never looked back.

Now lets fast forward a little.... I borrowed two books from Al.... the other club.... in-laws.... divorce... lost Al's books... no money... out of radio.... moved twice.... license expired.... lost touch with Al.... time went by.... found Al's books about 3 weeks ago.

Now with that all said, I tracked down Al's address, and drove out to his house to return his books. He wasn't there. Three or four days later, he called me. That was about 2 weeks ago.

We caught up a little, and talked a lot of radio. Later that day, I thought about my call from Al, and I realized that he did it again!!!

That crazy man from the shed 13 years ago again fueled my interest in Amateur Radio again!! And, on the 20th of September 2009, I drove to Elyria OH to test, and walked out with the TECH, and GENERAL PASSED!!!!! My new call sign was posted on FCC Site Sept 24th - KD8MBH. And once again, I owe my license to that crazy man in the shed..... hmmm.... coincidence?.... I think not.

Al, I thank you for your patience, knowledge, and your friendship. And thanks again to all I have meet from PCARS. Your club has a good thing going, make it last!!!

Martin, KD8MBH

Announcing:

The CQ Diamond Jubilee Worked All Zones Award Celebrating 75 Years of WAZ

he Worked All Zones (WAZ) award is 75 years old, and CQ is offering a special, limited-time version of the award in celebration. WAZ, CQ magazine's premier operating award, was introduced in the November 1934 issue of R/9 magazine, a predecessor of today's CQ. It is earned for making confirmed contacts with radio amateurs in each of 40 zones into which the world has been divided. It is considered one of the most difficult and most prestigious operating awards in amateur radio today. It is also be-lieved to be the oldest U.S.-sponsored operating award, predating the ARRL's DX Century Club (DXCC) by a little more than a year (DXCC was announced in the January 1936 issue of QST). The only older award currently offered, to our knowledge, is the International Amateur Radio Union's Worked All Continents (WAC) award.



CQ Diamond Jubilee WAZ

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of WAZ, CQ is pleased to announce the **Diamond Jubilee Worked All Zones** award. It will be issued upon presentation of log extracts showing twoway contacts with each of the 40 CQ zones of the world (SWL okay as well) during the periosth from November 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010 (UTC), and payment of the appropriate fee. Log extracts must list contacts in zone order, from 1 to 40, and must show date, time, band, and mode of contact, along with the callsign of the station contacted. There will be a single award with no band or mode endorsements available. Awards will be numbered in order of issuance. Applications and log extracts for the *CQ* Diamond Jubilee Worked All Zones award must be received by the WAZ Award Manager by March 31, 2011.

Confirmations are not required; however, amateurs are expected to uphold the hobby's longstanding tradition of honesty and self-regulation. Be especially careful of contacts in Zones 2 and 17, as errors regarding the borders of these zones are common. Applications determined to be false or fraudulent, or containing excessive errors, will be disqualified. Decisions of the WAZ Award Manager in this regard will be final. An application form and log extract form will be posted on the *CQ* website. Use of these forms is not mandatory, as long as the required information is presented in the same sequence as on the forms. The standard WAZ application fee (\$6 for *CQ* subscribers, \$12 for non-subscribers) will apply. E-mail applications are acceptable and encouraged. Payment may be made by check, money order, IRCs (International Reply Coupons), or via PayPal (see the main WAZ page on the *CQ* website: <www.cq-amateur-radio. com/wazrules.html>) for details. Applications will not be processed until payment has been received.

Mailed applications and payments should be sent to:

CQ Diamond Jubilee WAZ Award c/o Floyd Gerald, N5FG 17 Green Hollow Road Wiggins, MS 39577 USA

Questions regarding the *CQ* Diamond Jubilee WAZ Award may be directed to WAZ Award Manager Floyd Gerald, N5FG, at the above address or by e-mail to <n5fg@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

Visit Our Web Site

Word Search - Emergency Preparedness

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BATTERIES BLANKET BLEACH CAN OPENER CASH **CELLPHONE** CHARGERS **CLOTHES** COMMUNICATE DIAPERS DOCUMENTS DUCT TAPE FIRE EXTINGUISHER **FIRST AID KIT FLASHLIGHTS** FOOD GARBAGE BAGS HAND SANITIZER

INFANT FORMULA MAPS MASK MATCHES **MEDICATIONS** MOIST TOWELETTES PAPER PENCIL PET FOOD PLAN PLASTIC **PLIERS** PRACTICE RADIOS WATER WHISTLE WRENCH

Sandy, KD8JCY

Arizona Worked All Counties Award

After twelve years of no activity, the re-birth of Arizona Worked All Counties, sponsored by the Yavapai County Amateur Radio Club in Prescott, Az., will officially begin issuing awards on October 1, 2009.

Sponsored by the YAVAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB in the Mother of all Arizona Counties

Purpose: To acknowledge and recognize the achievement of contacting radio operators in each of Arizona's 15 counties.

Rules: Any Amateur who confirms two-way QSO's via CW, SSB, FM, RTTY or Satellite with stations in each of the 15 Counties in Arizona may apply for this award. There are no endorsements for single band, single mode, or multiple distinct contacts at this time.

Cross Mode, Cross Band, (except satellite QSO's), Repeaters, Echo Link, CQ100 and IRLP contacts do not count.

Valid contact and Exchange: Any completed contacts

meeting other award criteria may be submitted. Mobile operators who change counties are considered valid contacts in each county you work them.



Applications: Applications for the Arizona Worked all Counties Award must be submitted on the AZ-WAC application form showing Call Sign of station worked, Date, Band, Mode and County.

Submission of QSL cards is not required. Any two (2) non-family Amateur Licensees, General class or higher, can verify your QSL cards or log entries. The honor system will govern.

Send completed application and county record sheet to: Yavapai Amateur Radio Club - Attn: AZ-WAC - P.O. Box 11994 - Prescott, AZ. 86304-1994 Questions: may be directed to: AZ-WAC@W7YRC.org

Awards: Serialized awards will be e-mailed in .pdf format ready to print. This award is offered at no charge. If you prefer a pre-printed award to be mailed to you, please include \$ 5.00 US funds with your submission.

A special centennial award will be issued if all claimed contacts are made in 2012.

E-mail AZ-WAC@W7YRC.ORG for an application Subject line: AZ-WAC application





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



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

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



Thanks & 73

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, WB9LBI, WB8LCD, K8MP, KD8FDK, NX8G, KB8UEY, N8EMR, K8FEY, KD8MBH, KD8JCY, KB8UUZ and the World Wide Web

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



Tom, KB8UUZ PCARS Newsletter Editor

Pictures from the September Meeting





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



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

Repeater is graciously provided by N8EOJ for use by PCARS members

		Joe Wehner	W8KNO	Awards
MATE		Al Atkins, Sr.	KB8VJL	Club Call Trustee
× × ×		Jim Aylward	KC8PD	Club Site
		Joe Wehner	W8KNO	Contest
		Chuck Patellis	W8PT	Coordinators
2		Bill Fraedrich	WB9LBI	Field Day
MIEL		Ed Polack	N8EQJ	2009
		Peggy Parkinson	KB8SZI	Historian
		Al Atkins, Sr.	KB8VJL	KD8CKP QSL Mgr.
		Tom Sly	WB8LCD	Net Coordinator
		Tom Parkinson	KB8UUZ	Newsletter
Г		Jim Aylward	KC8PD	PIO
		Mary Jo Loveland	KD8GGZ	Secretary
		Steve Randlett	K8SRR	Web Master
	-	1		

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR SERVICE





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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

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