



The

RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



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

~ 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

Someone asked me recently to tell them about PCARS and I immediately began describing our monthly meetings and activities, Field Day, OSPOTA, the club site...you name it. But after a pause I told him that what really made it a club was its members, and what a great bunch of people they are.

Ham radio will always be a hobby shared by an incredibly diverse group of people with a common interest in electronic communications. I doubt that any other avocation brings together such a varied cross section of the population. The membership of PCARS is no different and each member brings something different and special to the group.

We often say that the quickest way to make a hundred new friends is to join PCARS. You will meet people like Errol, KC8RJR, who you can find participating at almost every PCARS activity; Bill, WB9LBI, "the voice of Streetsboro" with the wry and wicked sense of humor and stellar CW skills; Nick, N8WLE, a calm and steady NCS on the traffic nets; Ed, N8EQJ, who refuses to recognize any limits to what PCARS can do at Field Day and continues to update the repeater so that we can have the most reliable service; and Joe, W8KNO, who always keeps on top of the latest paper to chase and helped his XYL Rena, KD8EPF, to get licensed (now if we could just get her on the air.)



There are out-of-state members like Daryl, N5VLZ, who rarely misses a PCARS net via Echolink, brings us those terrible weather reports from Little Rock, and traveled to the Great Lakes Division convention so that he could visit with his fellow PCARS members. There's Randy, N6TL, in Antelope, California, one of our charter members who battles the three hour time difference to check in to the net.

And Jim, KC8RKY, who opened up the world of Echolink for all of us, and then opened the world up for himself on HF when he upgraded to General, and also supported his XYL Linda, KD8FLU, in her quest for her license. Or Dan, KD8EPA, whose radio controlled aircraft hobby introduced to him to ham radio and shares with us his delight and excitement with each new DX entity.

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From the President (continued from Page 1)

Let's not forget our other ham radio couples, Tom, KB8UUZ, the world's best newsletter editor and diehard contester, and Peggy, KB8SZI, the PCARS historian; and Bob, WB8OVQ, and Karen, WD8BIW, regular public service volunteers; Russ, KB8DPN, our PCARS webmaster and Tech class "Mr. Wizard" and Irene, KD8DFM, who picked up her General ticket last year and manages their two adorable harmonics.

We also have Mr. Four-Wheeler, Leon, N8GLK, and club secretary Mary Jo, KD8GGZ, who brought Leon to "Bring Your Rig Night" as her favorite hunk of ham radio gear. And our very special friends, Bob, KD8FLX, and Kathy, KD8FLW, who we saw through the Tech and General classes and want to help see them through this rough patch and have them back on the forty meter phone station for Field Day!

Not to overlook our members on the "family plan," John, N8GIE, Angie, KC8DBX, and their harmonic, Jenna, KD8GHA, (aka, "Girls Have Attitude") who provided us with a lot of her giggles in the Tech class.

Speaking of kids, how about those really young at heart members like Clarence, KD8ETS, who picked up his Technician ticket at the age of ninety-one and promptly got on the air via Echolink. Or Curtis, KD8JRI, one of our newest members who was licensed out of the same class as his grandson, Phil, KD8JRJ, and is making the switch from longtime CB'er to ham radio operator.

By the way, Phil, is also a member of the PCARS DX Engineering contingent, that includes the already mentioned Tom, KB8UUZ, Ed, N8EQJ, and Mary Jo, KD8GGZ, as well as George, K3GP, Tammie, KD8INR, and their newest hire Bob, N8QE. It's fun to join their morning mobile net as they provide each other with traffic reports on the way to the shop.

Someone else you can almost always have a chat with during the morning drive is Rich, KD8FDK, who warms up his basement shack with his pleasant and friendly conversation. Speaking of basement shacks, if you haven't yet made a visit to Bobby, WB8FEW's basement laboratory and his eye-popping collection of test equipment give him a call and stop by. He can fix almost anything and answer all of your technical questions, too. Of course an engineering degree is useful if you want to keep up with the answer!



There's Dave, WB2DFC, our recently wed vice-president who would have made the perfect "sergeant" at arms until he got promoted to Lieutenant! Dave and Tom, WB8LCD, are a couple of our diehard QRP'ers and thanks to Tom for making Freeze Your Acorns Off a PCARS tradition.

How about Mark, KC8FQV, who does a great job of singing the praises of PCARS on other area nets and rarely misses our Thursday net, depending on where he is standing at work. Other net regulars are Dick, KB8JFF, who patiently waits for a quiet moment to check in and say hello for himself and his XYL, Vee, and Russ, K8QF, always one of the first check-ins.

Never far from our thoughts are Ray, KD8DFL, and Ryan, KD8FPP, son of Bill, WB9LBI. Both Ray and Ryan were recently called back to active duty with the US Army and are currently stationed in Iraq.

I don't want to overlook anyone because it has been so great to get to know all of you, but space is limited. Take some time at each meeting or event to say hello to and make the acquaintance of some of the members that you have not had a chance to meet before. You'll be glad you did.

73,
Jim, KC8PD



From the Vice President

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the regular edition of the VPs column will not be in this issue and will (hopefully) return next month.

****NEWS FLASH****

-- Local Amateur Radio Club VP is the unfortunate victim of an experimental antenna mishap --

Sometime during the early hours of April 1st, 2009, amateur radio operator WB2DFC, Dave, was experimenting with the construction of a "Mystery" antenna. It is rumored Chuck, W8PT, gave Dave a reprint of an article describing an unusual but reportedly effective wire antenna design while they were attending the recent J-Pole Activity event, sponsored by PCARS. Overheard was Chuck telling Dave "you gotta try this one!" A witness anonymously stated Dave's facial expression was that of "pure child-like excitement".

Apparently Dave had been gathering materials all week from many locations for the Mystery antenna. He was reportedly seen stuffing PVC pipe and lots of wire in his blue SUV just before the mishap. A witness in the area of the Home Depot said "A'int never seen nuti'n like it, just makin' kinda like gruntin' noises" referring to Dave's utter absorption in his antenna project.

Sometime between 2 AM and 5 AM on April 1st, a towering beam of light was seen in the Akron Ohio area, near Dave's home QTH. Many calls to 911 were received however, when they arrived on scene, all they saw was a quiet neighborhood. Neighbors later said they heard loud chanting and "They're all gonna hear me now"

being repeatedly said in a loud voice. Neighbors discounted this report and described this as normal for the "crazy antenna guy" that lives down the street. Neighbors further stated the "crazy antenna guy" could be seen in the back yard of his house, rain or shine, cold or warm, working on antennas. One said she "expected aliens to arrive at most any time", further commenting the property values had plummeted since Dave moved into the neighborhood.

When Dave was finally located he appeared to be a changed person. He mumbled constantly saying something like "I'll be rich, I'll be rich" One look at Dave and you will see he has clearly "gone off the deep end". Once Dave had calmed to point of being able to carry on a conversation, this reporter asked Dave what happened. All he could say was "I've found the cure for baldness, I'll be rich, I'll be rich". And then he mumbled "Somehow the thing just came loose and wrapped around me at the same time I was testing to see just how much power the Mystery antenna could handle, I think I remember bright lights and voices, and that's all I remember"



Dave allowed us one photo and it's attached. See for yourself, maybe there's more to this amateur radio thing than we know about. Meanwhile, in a separate conversation with this reporter, Chuck, W8PT, asked if I knew how well the antenna worked, and could he please have the article back. Seems Chuck really liked Dave's new hair color and thought maybe a slight change in the tuning might result in a newer style or more DX. Chuck is also reportedly now involved in litigation asking for half of the profits from Dave's new hair rejuvenation contraption.

Dave is confident he will make field day and names several squirrels as close family members. His new wife, Vicki, is happy to have another blond in the house.

Dave, WB2DFC



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

As I write this column, we have not had any recordable snow for 22 days. But we know that in NE Ohio, that doesn't mean anything until about May 10.

The DX Newsletters have been slow in being issued so new items are at a premium. But there are so interesting happenings on the bands.

As always, I want to thank the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW), the 425 DX Newsletter, and the ARRL DX Newsletter for the following DX and IOTA information. Also as always, take note that this report is only as good as the information being passed on by the various DX organizations, newsletters and individuals. So there is always the chance that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of bad info or busted call signs. So, do your self a favor and please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

W8PT Listening..



DX News

5X, UGANDA - G3RWF, continues to be active as 5X1NH. He has been in Fort Portal in western Uganda since March 11th and will be there for about two months total. He mentions, "I prefer CW but I have now worked over 20k CW QSOs, so I have it in mind to work some data (RTTY and PSK31). Will work SSB whenever signals are good enough." Since he is doing voluntary work there, look for Nick on the air mainly during the early mornings, evenings and weekends. QSL via G3RWF.

5Z, KENYA (HF and EME Op). Operators PA3CEE, PE1L and PA3EWP will be here and active between April 1-12th as 5Z4EME on 2 meters and 70 cm EME. For 2 meters they will be using two 10 element yagis, a 400 watt amp and a preamp (there will be a smaller setup for 70cm). Suggested frequencies for transmitting and receiving will be on 144.124 MHz. PA3EWP will be active on HF with the call 5Z4/PA3EWP using a Elecraft K2 with a homemade amplifier and vertical antennas for 40-10 meters. QSL 5Z4EME via PA3CEE. QSL 5Z4/PA3EWP via PA7FM. For complete details, please visit: <http://www.emelogger.com/kenya>

7Q, MALAWI. 7Q7HB, should be back in Malawi. He will operate mainly on the Digi modes and CW, but he does have a Mic, so if you need him on SSB, please ask him. Length of his stay will be about another month. QSL only direct to G0IAS.

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 callsign.

C9, MOZAMBIQUE – (Reminder) Members of the Texas DX Society are pleased to announce their next DXpedition. Six members will travel to Bilene in the Maputo Province, March 25th to April 5th. Bilene is 180km from the capital city of Maputo. They will be on all bands 160-10 meters and will operate CW, SSB and RTTY. There will be 3 stations, two with amplifiers. Antennas will include log periodics for 20-10m and various verticals for the low bands. They will operate in the CQWW WPX Phone Contest. Callsigns have not yet been assigned but will be announced when available. QSL Manager for all callsigns will be W5PF. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW after the trip.

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS – (Reminder) NL8F/VK4COF, will be active for 14 days from **Rarotonga Island (OC-013)** sometime between March 21st and April 4th. Activity will be on 80/40/20/15/10 meters SSB and possibly 17 meters. QSL Manager for this operation is K8NA.

FG, GUADELOUPE – (Reminder) F4EBT, will be active as FG/F4EBT from the area of Sainte Rose on north **Basse-Terre Island (NA-102)** in the Guadeloupe Island group between March 21st and April 11th. Activity will be a "holiday style operation", SSB only on 80/40/20/17/15/12/10 meters using a TS-50 w/100 watts into a FD4 Multiband antenna.

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.

S0, WESTERN SAHARA. An international team of operators (known as the Tifariti Gang) will be on the air from Western Sahara from April 12-17th using the callsign S04R. Activity will be on all bands from 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via EA5RM.

TL0, CENTRAL AFRICA - TL0A (ex-TZ9A and 5U5U), is now active from here. He has been very active on 17 meters, usually around 18150 kHz at various times. There has been some activity also on 20 and 80 meters SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct to: Christian Saint-Arroman, Chemin de Mousteguy, F-64990 Urcuit, France.

VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND (Update) – (Reminder) VK4FW, member of Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group Inc. (ODXG), reports that the VK9LA March departure date is fast approaching, and all team members are ready to go. Operations will be between

March 23rd and April 3rd. The operators will travel to Lord Howe on March 22nd to immediately begin unpacking. On March 23rd, 4 other operators will arrive and the rest will arrive as originally planned on March 24th. Bill states (edited), "We will assemble 7 full HF stations at 2 separate sites as well as one for 6m. Modes of operation are SSB, CW and RTTY. We will use mono band yagis and mono band verticals to allow us to possibly have 2 actual stations on the same band simultaneously. There are also a quantity of wire antennas for the low bands. A full list of operating frequencies will be designed to enhance our plans. (Note: They are there as evidenced by my trying to work them on 20 m CW. They have been working split freq. So make sure that you don't call them on their transmit frequency.)

VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND (Update) - JA1XGI/W8XGI will be active between April 4-11th, on all bands including the lower bands using CW and the digital modes. QSL via JA1XGI, by the bureau or direct

VK0B, ANTARCTICA - VK0BP, is currently working at Antarctic Davis Base Station (**AN-016, Gridsquare MC81xx**) 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 unavailable 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.

XU, CAMBODIA - OH4MDY, will once again be active as XU7MDY from Sihanoukville between April 9-21st. Activity will be on the HF bands 80-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL only direct to XU7MDY address on QRZ.com.

ZF2, CAYMAN ISLAND - K9WZB and XYL K7WZB will be operating from Cayman Island as ZF2ZB between April 21st and May 6th. Activity will be on all bands 160-6 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. They will be monitoring 6 meters most of the time for openings to U.S. and Europe. QSL direct only via K9WZB.

IOTA News

5C, MOROCCO (IOTA Op) - IK7JWX, is preparing for a DXpedition (with 9 operators) to activate **Mogador Island (AF-065)** between April 18-26th. Activity will be on all HF-VHF bands and all modes. Some of the reference numbers to be activated during this operation are:

Mogador Island - AF-065; WW.Loc. IM51CM; ITU 37; CQ 33

Essaouira Island - WW.Loc. IM51CL

ARLHS Lighthouses (callsign/m):

MOR-019 Cape Sim-Essaouira; WW.Loc. IM51CL

MOR-036 Sidi Magdul-Essaouira; WW.Loc. IM51BJ

MOR-040 Grand Jetee-Agadir; WW.Loc. IM50EJ

Activity will be on all bands (HF-VHF) and modes (CW, SSB, RTTY PSK31).

AF-065 - (Update/IOTA Op) - IK7JWX, informs that one more operator has been added to the **Mogador Island** Dxpediton, April 19-26th. IS0AGY, will join the group and sign 5C2B. QSL via his home callsign. He also announced the following suggested frequencies:

CW - 1825, 3525, 7025, 10115, 14025, 18075, 21025, 24895 and 28025

SSB - 1845, 3775, 7055, 14255, 18145, 21255, 24955 and 28455

RTTY - 3585, 7040, 10145, 14085, 18100, 21085, 24920 and 28085

BPSK31 - 3595, 7040, 10145, 18100, 21075, 24915 and 28075 kHz

Activity will be on 2m (SSB and Meteor Scatter) and 6m: Stand-by on E sporadic. The group is still looking for sponsors and donations. For details on how to help and updates, visit their Web page at: <http://www.mogador2009.altervista.org>

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.

EU-037 - DL8AAV, will be active as SD1B/7 from **Oland Island (WLOTA 0588)** between May 31st and June 12th. Activity will be on the HF bands, SSB only. QSL via DL8AAV, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-108 - MM0BQI, will be active as homecall/p from the **Treshnish Isles**, April 24-27th. Look for activity on or near the usual island and IOTA frequencies. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

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.

OZ, DENMARK (IOTA/Lighthouse Op) - I2AE, will be active from some Danish islands between May 1-15th. Some of the Danish island groups mentioned will be **EU-029, EU-125, EU-171 and EU-172**. It was indicated that there are a lot of lighthouses on these islands, and they will be activated also. No call sign mentioned. It is suggested to monitor mainly 7050-7060 and 14250-14260 kHz.

Lighthouse Activities

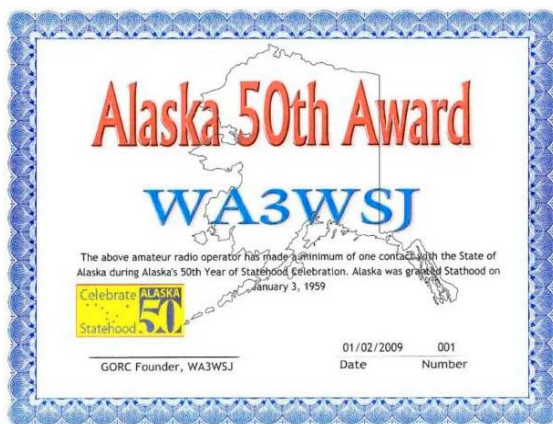
Members of the Turkish group called TCSWAT (Special Wireless Activity Team) will activate a series of lighthouses during the following months from the historical lighthouses around Istanbul. In collaboration with the Directorate General of Coastal Safety, TCSWAT is organizing the "Istanbul Lighthouses On The Air" activities which will take place from Karaburun (TUR 036), Sile (TUR 046), Anadolu (TUR 014), Ahirkapi (TUR 056), Rumeli/Turkeli (TUR 053) and Fenerbahce (TUR 021) Lighthouses during the last two weekends of December 2008. The dates, locations and callsigns are as the following: April 4-5th - Fenerbahce Lighthouse (TUR 021) as TC2FLH Stations contacting four or more of the lighthouses will receive an "Istanbul Lighthouses On The Air Award". Details will be announced later on the following Web sites at: <http://tcswat.tripod.com> & <http://ta0u.com>

Well, that's it for this month. I hope to catch some of you on the air. Please e-mail me with any interesting DX you may have worked and I will mention it in the column. So for now, 73 and gud DX to all.

Chuck, W8PT

Paper Chase - State of Alaska 50th Anniversary Award

The U.S. Senate approved the purchase of Alaska from the Russian Empire on March 30, 1867, for \$7.2 million or about 2 cents per acre. When adjusted for inflation, the total sum paid equates to approximately \$111 million in today's dollars. The land went through several administrative changes before becoming an organized territory on May 11, 1912 and the 49th state of the U.S. on January 3, 1959. The name "Alaska" was already introduced in the Russian colonial time, when it was only used for the peninsula and is derived from the Aleut "alaxsxaq", meaning "the mainland", or more literally, "the object towards which the action of the sea is directed." It is also known as Alyeska, the "great land", an Aleut word derived from the same root.



To celebrate Alaska's 50 years of Statehood, the Great Outdoors Radio Club (GORC) will issue the, "Alaska 50th Award." To receive this award an amateur radio operator has to have one QSO with a ham operating in The State of Alaska anytime during the year of 2009. Any mode can be used including CW, FM, AM, PSK31, RTTY, other digital modes, SSB, Echo Link and repeater contacts.

The award is free to all GORC Members. All others please send your log and \$3.00 to cover costs of printing and mailing to: GORC, Attn: Alaska 50th Award, 775 Moonflower Ave., Reading, PA 19606-3447

Alaska 50th - 50 Award Gold Seal

If you make 50 QSOs with Alaska during 2009, an embossed gold seal endorsement will be placed on your certificate. You may work the same station on the same mode, but to count for one of the 50, each contact will have to be made on different days! However no more than three QSOs per day with the same station on the same mode.

GORC 5

If you work "5" different Alaskan Stations, GORC will send you a U.S. postage stamp honoring Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood to place on the award. The stamp bears a photograph taken by Alaska photographer Jeff Schultz, and features DeeDee Jonrowe and her dog team set against a stunning mountain backdrop. The stamp was released on January 3, 2009



Joe, W8KNO

EmComm

This month I thought it might be helpful to provide everyone with an update on local emcomm activities here in Portage County.

ARES of Portage County held its reorganizing meeting on March 4th and over two dozen hams attended. Copies of the new operations manual were distributed and there was a general discussion about the changes to ARES within the county.



As of this date there are twenty-six members of ARES and all area hams are invited to participate. Anyone needing information can send a note to aresportage@aol.com and they will be sent an application and a copy of the manual. You do not have to reside in Portage County to be a member.

We have begun biweekly training nets at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. The ARES nets will alternate with the RACES nets from week to week. The ARES nets will always open on the 146.895 repeater but will also use the 145.390 repeater. We have been averaging around two dozen check-ins and the nets run forty-five minutes to an hour. The next net is on April 2nd.

The nets are open to any ham who wants to check in. You do not need to be a member of ARES to participate in these nets. Each net will have a training session with useful information for hams interested in emergency communications.

ARES of Portage County will continue to facilitate Skywarn operations locally and Skywarn nets will be on the 145.390 repeater. Gregg Gary, WB8YY5, is the AEC for Skywarn operations. Gregg was the Net Control Station for the annual Tornado Drill held on March 25th and there was an excellent turnout for the net with twenty stations participating.

The annual National Weather Service Skywarn training will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8th at the Maplewood Career Center on St. Rt. 88, north of St. Rt. 14. Immediately following the NWS program there will be Skywarn net training conducted by Gregg and myself. We hope that you can attend.



As this column is being written plans are underway for a RACES drill to be held on Saturday, March 28th, in conjunction with the Portage County Red Cross. Members will be deployed to shelter sites around the county as well as to the Emergency Operations Center and the Red Cross office. Stations will be set up at the shelter sites followed by net operations.

RACES members also participated in the Emergency Management Agency's recent Volunteer Reception Center training at NEOUCOM in Rootstown. The VRC will serve as the reception and training center for unaffiliated volunteers responding to a large scale event. RACES will be the communications link from the VRC back to the EMA Emergency Operations Center, service sites and served agencies. RACES will also be participating in the VRC drill to be held in June.

You are welcome to monitor the RACES nets but may only check in if you are a RACES member. If you would like more information about RACES send a note to kc8pd@aol.com.

Things have been busy on the local emcomm front and there are plenty of opportunities for all are hams to participate. I hope that you will join in! Your community is counting on you.

Jim, KC8PD
Radio Officer, Portage County RACES
EC, ARES of Portage County

Federal Stimulus Grant

The PCARS board is extremely pleased to announce to the membership that the organization's application for a grant pursuant to the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has been approved. This grant will provide all of us with an opportunity to upgrade our amateur radio gear.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

PCARS qualified for this grant because it is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that can provide interoperable electronic communications as envisioned by the federal Interoperable Telecommunications Act of 2007. Pursuant to the grant, the club can purchase the radio equipment and distribute it to members who will use it for emergency communications.

The grant qualified under the economic stimulus package because of the number of jobs that it will "create." A careful reading of the bill revealed that Congress never defined "jobs" as actual gainful employment. Under our interpretation of the act volunteers are therefore also included.

Borrowing a time computation formula that has been used by others, any time on the air counts as one hour. Accordingly, as long as you key up that mic and get on the air for an activity that counts as an hour. Voila! In no time the membership can rack up forty hours of operation and that counts as one week of full-time employment. We can generate hundreds of hours per week at this rate, not that anyone is ever likely to ask us to actually document it.

At PCARS we are "shovel ready" so to speak. We can spend these funds as fast as it takes to drive to AES in Wickliffe and pump those dollars right back into the economy. So start putting that wish list together. What new rig will work for you? Is this the time to upgrade to D-Star? Don't set those sights short, think big! After all, this is how we can help put the country back on track, one HT at a time.

So put those proposals together and send them to either Tom, wb8lcd@portcars.org, or Dave, wb2dfc@portcars.org. Time is of the essence. The deadline for applications is April 1st!

Jim, KC8PD

20 Signs: You Are a Ham

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
3. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
4. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
5. The local city council doesn't like you.
6. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
7. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.
8. When you see a house with a metal roof, and your only thought is what a great ground plane that would be.
9. Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.



10. A lightning storm takes out the Laptop, TV, and DVD player, but all you care about is if your radios are okay.
11. Your wife was excited when you were talking about achieving that critical angle, but very disappointed when you finally did.
12. You have deep anxiety or panic attacks during high winds or heavy ice.
13. The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.
14. You always schedule the third weekend in May for vacation.
15. Your wife threatens you with divorce when you tell her that you are going on a "fox" hunt.
16. You and the FedEx/UPS men are on a first name basis.
17. You really start to miss people that you've never seen.
18. You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
19. Your neighbors thought you were nuts when you ripped up your lawn to bury chicken wire.
20. If you sold all your Ham radio equipment, you could pay off your mortgage.

73,
Steve, K8SRR

Hamfests

19 Apr 2009 - 55th Annual Hamfest, Electronics, & Computer Show - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2009.html> - Talk-In: 147.27 - Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Avenue - Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 330-688-2013 - Email: w8tts@w8tts.com - Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 East Bath Road - Cuyahoga Falls, OH

15-17 May 2009 - ARRL National Convention - Dayton Hamvention - Dayton ARA - <http://www.hamvention.org> - Talk-In: 146.940 - Contact: Mike Kalter, W8CI - Phone: 937-776-7898 - Email: w8ci@arrl.net - Hara Arena - Shiloh Springs Road (Trotwood) - Dayton, OH

7 Jun - Breezeshooters Hamfest and Computer Show - Breezeshooters ARC - www.breezeshooters.net - Talk-In: 147.300+ - Contact: Robert W. Benna, N3LWP - 1010 Willow Drive - Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2225 - Phone: 412-366-0488 - Fax: 412-366-0486 - Email: n3lwp@verizon.net - Butler, PA - Butler Farm Showgrounds - Route 68 (next to Roe Airport)



Hamfest Report - Toledo

Dateline: Parkman

It was a dark and stormy night, suddenly a shot rang out, a woman screamed, a dog barked, then I turned off the alarm!

Well, it could have happened that way. Getting up at 3:30 AM in order to be at Tom's (WB8LCD) QTH by 4:45 AM had me stumbling around for awhile. So by 4 AM I was in the little green pocket rocket heading toward Sugar Bush Knolls from my QTH in Parkman.

There were precious few people on the road at that time and I had enough time to stop and get a decent sized coffee to go at the Speedway in G'ville. Back into my little buggy and on the road again. By the time I got to Tom's QTH, Tom and Rich, KD8FDK, were standing outside, sipping their own coffees. Russ, KB8DPN, was calling Tom on the N8EQJ repeater to let him that he was on the way. This would be the fearsome foursome that would make the 2+ hour drive to Toledo to attend the Toledo Hamfest. Yes, I had gotten special dispensation from my normal Sunday duties, so that I could go along.



When Russ pulled in, I had called "shotgun" but was told by Tom that I would probably have to arm wrestle Russ for that honor, and discretion being the better part of valor, I slid into the back seat with Rich.

We were off! Ya-Hoo!

I think the excitement of the trip and looking forward to attending an Amateur Radio event kept us all awake on the trip out. It was a different story on the way back.



You cannot make a 2+ hour trip without at least one stop to "stretch one's legs." My family has a saying, "60 minutes or 60 miles, whichever comes first." I have learned that whenever we are on an FO (that's "family outing" but we don't mention that term because strange things happen) I know that we will be making stops every 60 miles or 60 minutes. Hi Hi

In any event, having completed our brief stop, with Rich picking up something to nibble on, we were on our way again. Tom had brought along his aging Garmen GPS unit and it, indeed, got us to within a mile of the Hamfest site before it's poor electronic, synaptic connections failed. Within one mile of the event, the GPS unit took us back onto the Turnpike with no difficulty at all. And of course, Tom followed the GPS's directions. Short of actually going through the toll gate, Tom made a "U-ee" and we tried to find our way back to the site. We finally had to pull over and use his rig to get a "talk in" to the event. A few more false turns and we arrived.



A line had started to form, even in the VERRRY crisp morning air, but we again chose to use discretion and stayed in our vehicle. We waited the 20 minutes or so (even with the wrong turns we were 20 minutes early) and finally joined the queue to wait our turn to pay the \$6 to enter.

Attendance seemed to be much the same as last year's event. However, the number of vendor tables in the first hall was down. There were several empty slots. I had a small shopping list with me and once in the hall, we split up to walk the event. My list consisted of Anderson Power poles and the red/black power cable. In the end, I had a bag of 30 amp connectors but opted not to pay the seemingly high prices for the cable. Small rolls of the stuff were going for \$25 and I just could not bring myself to do that.

I came across the ARRL table in the second hall, and stopped to greet Jim Weaver, our Division Director and fellow club member. In passing, he introduced me to his sidekick for the day, John Meyers, the Legislative Action Chair for Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan. John asked if I would be interested in helping write some letters, when necessary, to our US

congressmen when the need arose. I thought, why not, and put my name down. Welllllll, W8PT is now the ARRL

Legislative Action Assistant

for the 14th Congressional District. (Note: Be mindful of what you sign.) Truth be told, I am glad to have a voice for the HAMS in this district. I know that Tom sly is also an ARRL LAA for the district that includes Portage County.



The Hamfest was a treat to attend, since it gave me a chance to get to know Rich better, and to trade some interesting stories on the way to and from Toledo. And of course, the stop at Tony Packo's for lunch afterward, was also a great thing to anticipate.

Upon leaving the Hamfest, we made our way to Tony Packo's and arrived, again, about 20 minutes early. We did miss the traditional site-seeing tour that Al, KB8VJL, normally gives us of the more scenic sites of Toledo and it's environs. Maybe next year Al.

The meal at Tony's was well worth waiting for. The dogs with chili and cheese were great. Of course, Tom had something with chicken. (He's the only one that I know that will go to a steak house and have a chicken dinner.) Anyway, one of the things I learned from Rich is that, like me, he LOVES hot peppers. So I made him a gift of a jar of Tony Packo's famous Hungarian Yellow Hot Peppers. I will need a report, Rich.



Most of us slept on the way back, at one time or another. I didn't check on Tom who was doing all the driving so I can't say if he had the vehicle on auto pilot or not. All in all, it was a pleasant trip and a good time of fellowship with good friends.

Chuck, W8PT



Directional Propagation for 432 from a Vertical

We always complain that interference is BAD. But did you know, that by properly configuring an interference generator you can increase the strength of your 432 signal.

Constructive Interference

For a maximum signal at P at a given wave length, stronger signals occur at:

$$\begin{aligned}\sin a &= 0 \\ &= 1/d \\ &= 2/d \\ &= 3/d \text{ etc.}\end{aligned}$$

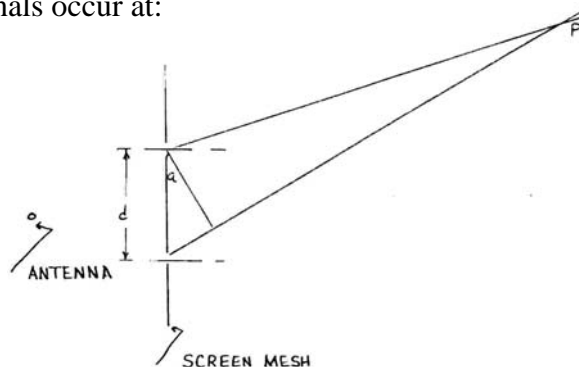
Therefore, conditions for a maximum occur at: $d \sin a = k \lambda$

d ... spacing between slits

a ... angle

k ... order of the maximum (0, 1, 2, ...)

λ ... wavelength



Therefore you may place your 432 vertical behind a 1/4 inch mesh screen and cut out two vertical sections 12 inches high and 8 inches apart and by locating the screen at different locations you will be able to increase your signal to specific locations (steering your signal). Try it.

Joe, W8KNO

PCARS Yahoo Site

Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Site dedicated to PCARS information. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list. Check out the PCARS web site at <http://www.portcars.org> and follow the link to sign up.



April Contest Calendar

April, 2009	
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 3
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 4 to 2400Z, Apr 5
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 4 to 0500Z, Apr 5 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 5
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 0359Z, Apr 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 12
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 0500Z, Apr 19 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 20
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 25 to 1700Z, Apr 26

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

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in April

KD8GHB	Joe Rocco
WB2DFC	Dave Rarrick
N1EZZ	George Riedel
W8JJW	John Wagner

N8QE	Bob Hajdak
KC8FQV	Mark Studer
N8GLK	Leon Loveland

Ham License Plates Wanted

One of the suggestions we came up with was to have a wall of ham license plates in the club station. So, dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station. We have a few more that came in, but we can use more!



Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. It costs you about \$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. In about 2 weeks or so, the plates come in the mail. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be re-newed, you can (for about a \$7 fee) get NEW plates issued (same call sign). Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a permanent part of PCARS history!!

The official form for obtaining your Amateur Radio license plates here in Ohio is on the PCARS Yahoo site.

Tom, KB8UUZ

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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



April 4 - June 6 - August 1
October 3 - December 5

VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10 am at the Center of Hope: 1034 West Main St. in Ravenna. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Please bring your original license, a copy of your license, your FRN number if you are already licensed or registered with the FCC (or your SSN number if you're not registered), your original CSCE, a copy of your CSCE, a photo ID, and a check for \$15.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC". We look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Team Liaison

FCC Raids QRP Station

A local ham, well known for (what he called) his QRP activities was the subject of a predawn raid by the enforcement arm of the FCC. Rick Campbell, of Carpenter Street, was charged with running a 5000-watt station.

"I should have realized something was wrong when the bamboo spreaders on my quad caught fire", Campbell remarked ruefully, as they led him away.



A Radio Shack milli-amp meter mislabeled as a micro-amp meter seems to have been the culprit. "I couldn't get the proper power output", Campbell said, "so I just kept adding transistors to the final amp. I had just achieved an indicated 5 watts, when my SWR meter went haywire. I went out to check my antenna just as the fire trucks rolled up".

All of Mr. Campbell's equipment was impounded. "I never seized an amplifier before that had nine thousand 2N2222's in parallel", the special FCC investigator, Rufus Bluthund, commented. "We're using it now to heat our office. It does a fine Job".

So far, the ARRL DX desk hasn't responded to Campbell's application for the first 10-meter CW DXCC by EME.

Bob, W3SYT

**From -Chirps & Clicks & Spurious Emissions, newsletter of the Kalamazoo, MI
Radio Club via the April 93 Steel City ARC (Carnegie, PA)
Kilo- Watt Harmonics, Bob Rockwell, W3SYT Editor.**



Corrections

The March issue of the *Radiogram* contained certain factual and editorial errors. In accordance with our policy of fairness and accuracy, we hereby set the record straight.

"GOTA Coach" is the official title of the designated amateur responsible for the Get On The Air station at Field day, not "Inna-GOTA-Da-Vida".

The PCARS February operating event is called "Freeze Your Acorns Off", was incorrectly identified as "Ohio Parkas On the Air".

There is no "Ohio Packers On The Air" event. Brett Favre has never participated in this or any operating event, as he is not a licensed ham.

The TAK-40 radio builders held "Coil Winding Day" in early August as reported. However, the planned "Solder Bridge Day" was canceled at the last minute after press time.

The *Portage ARES News* article now appears to be a hoax. Editors the *Radiogram* have determined that in fact, there is no ARES news from Portage County.

Freedom Township Trustees are objecting to a statement in the President's column, which asserted that Freedom is "just another name for nothing left to lose."

A photograph of Jim N8PXW wearing a helmet bristling with antennas and radials erroneously implied that Jim uses this device to stay in touch with his home planet. In reality, nobody really understands why he wears that thing.

There is no credible evidence, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources reports, that Gay WB8VNO is gathering fox pelts to be made into a coat. No actual foxes are harmed during a Fox Hunt.

The presentation by Tim Duffy K3LR, regarding his contest station, was postponed several times because of scheduling conflicts with business trips, not because he was kidnapped by aliens.

The Field Day Committee has dropped plans to replace Mary Jo KD8GGZ with a Deadly Fembot, due to maintenance issues.

In the 1950's TV sitcom "Leave it to Beaver", Jerry Mather played the Beaver, not Mark KC8FQV

Several alert readers noted that the Presidents Message seemed too long, and too complex. The Presidents Message was actually ghost-written by Tom KB8UUZ.

Arkansas Tourism Bureau has submitted weather records disproving the claim made by Daryl N5VLZ that the state is a "hell hole of unceasing storms, floods, tornados, disease, and pestilence."

Regarding the recipe for Carrot Fennel Soup, the ingredient list should read "2 cups vegetable broth", striking the phrase "2 cups chlorine bleach".

The Treasurer's Report contained a line item for \$415 under the category "Bribes". This was actually the balance the Field Day account.

A caption erroneously identified a photograph as that of Ray KD8DFL flying a military helicopter. In fact, the aircraft pictured was actually an toy model of an X-wing fighter from the movie *Star Wars*.

An article wrongly stated that Thursday Night PCARS Net is Close-Captioned for the hearing impaired, sponsored by Ten-Tec. That sponsorship expired in January.

The same article also implied that the *Radiogram* is close captioned for the humor impaired. In fact, the *Radiogram* does not print humorous articles.

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The profile of Ray KD8DFL contained multiple errors. Ray pilots a UH-60 military helicopter in Iraq. There is no "B1-RD" designation for military aircraft, there are no US troops deployed to the Mountaineer Casino, and his civilian work does not involve accordion repair.

Photographs of a military antenna system shown are strictly to support aircraft communications, and have no connection with the SETI Project. Ryan KD8FPP now says he regrets his remarks, which were "ill-considered sarcasms. I never thought you guys would actually print that."

A schematic diagram showing three XOR logic circuits connected in parallel was incorrectly identified as a bi-stable multi-vibrator. The circuit shown is actually a "Maybe Gate". A logical 1 applied at the input will variously produce at the output logical 1, logical 0, or logical -5000, in difficult to predict pattern.

The previous correction may in fact not be correct. It has been brought to the attention of the Editor that the "Maybe Gate" circuit diagram only appeared in some, but not all, copies of The Radiogram. We have been unable to determine which readers may have received this diagram. The Editor apologizes for any confusion, or not, as applicable.

Bill, WB9LBI



Eyeball to Eyeball – KD8GGZ

This month's E2E is with Mary Jo Loveland, KD8GGZ. If you don't know, Mary Jo is PCARS' new Secretary, being appointed right after the new officers were elected.

Mary Jo was born and raised in Barberton, OH, one of six children from a tight knit family. She grew up learning to love Polka music due to her father's influence. You see, Mary Jo's dad was the leader of a Polka band called the Vari-A-Tones and they played at weddings, special events and even had a regular gig at the Turkeyfoot Sportsmen's Club. She told me that she would rather go to a good old fashion wedding where Polka music was being played, than do many other things. (Frankly, I agree. You never go hungry at a wedding where Polka music is being played.)

Mary Jo attended Barberton High and later went on to Akron University where she earned an Associates Degree in Technological Business Management. She was a straight A student in high school but oddly enough, didn't like school.

She did, however, learn a strong work ethic, starting early by cleaning tables at Macko's Restaurant in Barberton, for fifty cents an hour. In the 9th grade she worked at the Barberton library. She finally got what she terms her first real job in college, working at Marshall's Dry Goods, again in Barberton. Later she worked at the 1st National Bank and through a bank customer, got a job at Tru-Bore Machine. She was their Office Manager and worked there for 13 years.

In June of 1994, she got a job at Summit Racing Equipment where she has been ever since. She is Summit's Benefits Coordinator. She fits right in where the company motto is "Make Money and Have Fun". Sounds eerily like PCARS notion of having fun being the bottom line of whatever we do. Anyway, this is where her



path crossed that of Leon Loveland, N8GLK, who would turn out to be her future husband. Leon worked in Sales and obviously there was some chemistry between the two because they have been happily married for 10 years now.

Mary Jo is not new to having responsibilities. She was the first woman president for the Magic City Kiwanis Club, and she presently holds the secretary position for the SUV 4 Adventure off-road club. Members love to take their 4 wheel drives for off road excursions. Leon and Mary Jo are proud owners of a red 1999 Jeep Wrangler, and from the picture I saw, it could be called Miss Piggy, because it's probably been through more mud than many

farm animals have ever seen. (No offense with the car name intended, Mary Jo.)

This group not only has a lot of fun trekking through the off road byways, but they hold a rally every year to raise funds for needy charities. One of these is near and dear to PCARS – The Center of Hope in Ravenna. They donate funds every year to this worthy cause.

Leon, as you would have guessed, was the reason that Mary Jo got involved in Amateur Radio. Leon was very active in a search & rescue group and when he got involved in HAM radio, she would go along. She finally figured that if she was going to be attending all these functions with Leon, she might as well get really

involved. I don't think that Mary Jo is a shy person; I don't think you can be, coming from a family where you had 5 siblings.

Leon had attended another local radio club, but wasn't impressed with the lack of activity. But both of them showed up at a PCARS Field Day and they really enjoyed themselves. They came back and a year later, joined the club. Mary Jo got her Technician license in May of 2007 and upgraded to General in May of 2008, with the help of a PCARS General License class at Maplewood.



At present, they are planning on moving so there are a lot of things in flux at their QTH. In fact, I took her away from packing boxes to do the interview. They really haven't had a "HAM shack" per se, but they do have 2 Yaesu VX-170 HT's and Leon does have an ICOM 2 meter rig. Mary Jo says that Leon has a wish list and when they get moved in to their new QTH, a HAM radio antenna will be very high on the list of things to get done.

Please introduce yourself to Mary Jo at the next meeting. You'll know her by the fact that she will be the one furiously writing down everything that Jim, our president is saying.

Chuck, W8PT



J-Pole Workshop

Just when you think that PCARS activities can't get any busier...we had the J-Pole Workshop on the 21st. Wow! A third of the club's members showed up, this would have been a respectable turnout for some clubs meetings.

Thanks to Dave, WB2DFC, we had a kit that you just could not beat. It was ideal for go-kits or when you found yourself someplace where the rubber ducky on the HT just wouldn't get it. For three bucks you got the basic J-pole: twinlead, a short piece of coax and a BNC connector of your choice, male or female. For a measly fifty cents a foot you could add a feed line to the antenna.



of coax in the store. A few lucky buyers were able to buy the ends with the PL-259's already attached. Twenty-eight kits were sold.

Dave set up a template for cutting the twinlead and he was one busy guy as he was also trimming custom lengths of coax. We used up all of the twinlead and then had to send Tom, WB8LCD, off to Radio Shack to buy what must have been the only two boxes of 25 foot lengths

Every table in the Community Room at Family & Community Services was packed with club members busily trimming and clipping the twinlead and coax and soldering the connectors. Anyone who needed some help readily found someone else will to lend a hand.

Everyone had a chance to check the SWR on his or her antenna and they were strung from every convenient location for testing. For reasons that are yet to be understood some of them were resonant at a bit too high a frequency even though they had all been cut to the same length. Ah, the mysteries of antennas.



It makes a great (and cheap) vertical for use at home and is a very good prospect for a future workshop.

All in all, the workshop was a blast. Dave had a demo version of another J-pole made from stiffer twinlead that is then inserted inside a length of PVC



Another neat option that Dave displayed was the use of a plastic container such as a medicine bottle for the terminal end of the coax. The connector can be placed inside the container which can then be made waterproof with some silicone. Bob, K8AAB, took one look at it and was off to CVS for a bottle of aspirin.

It was a terrific time and sure makes you look forward to the next event.

Jim, KC8PD



Tornado Drill - Portage County

I would like to thank all of the amateur radio operators in the Portage County area who participated in the annual Tornado Drill held in cooperation with the National Weather Service and Skywarn. The net, held at 0950 hours, March 25th on the 145.390 Skywarn repeater, yielded 20 check-ins.

Reports from those stations ranged from sirens that were easily heard, to those that were marginal, barely audible or not heard at all. This is important information that can be used by the NWS as well as the county EMA for future planning as these sirens are used to alert the public to not just tornadoes but any emergency that may occur countywide or in a particular community.



To my way of thinking, this test shows that in many areas we ham radio operators may be the only source of information available in those communities where the sirens were not heard clearly or were non-existent.

Again my thanks to all that took the time to participate and I ask for your continued support in Skywarn and ARES activities. We are approaching tornado season, but as we all know here in Ohio, our weather, good or bad, can change at any time.

73,

Gregg, WB8YYS

ARES AEC Portage County, Portage County Skywarn Coordinator

Field Day - 2009

The word is out - Get ready to have loads of fun with PCARS & Field Day!



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: Kenwood TM-D710A 2-meter/440/TNC/APRS. Retails new \$600. Will sell for \$550. It's brand new (April 08). I'd like to sell it so I can buy other equipment I need.

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

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-60 , 2/440 HT - like new, works on battery pack or AA batteries. Comes with manual and charger cord. Regularly sells for \$189.95 plus shipping. Great for new ham. One year old. Price is negotiable.

WANTED: Antenna Tuner , 600 watts or more.

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

FOR SALE: Icom 706 MkIIg - FM/AM/SSB/CW 160-10 meters HF, 6 m, 2 m, 70 cm VHF/UHF - Full Power, works great! Comes with original boxes, Mic, Pwr Cord with Anderson Power Plugs installed, Manual, AND mobile mounting brackets with remote cable. Also has a special tuning plug on rear which makes the unit put out a 30 w CW signal for tuning. Has internal mod for cooling. Will sell for \$600.00

FOR SALE: Hamstick HF Antennas - 6 meters, 10 meters, 20 meters, 40 meters - \$10 each while they last.

Contact **Parky** - KB8UUZ@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Want to work mobile?? I have come across a supply of "new - old stock" items from the now defunct Antenna Specialists, formerly of Solon, OH. You can get a heavy duty ball mount, with stainless spring and 96" stainless whip, all for just \$30.00. Let me know how many you want.

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.

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

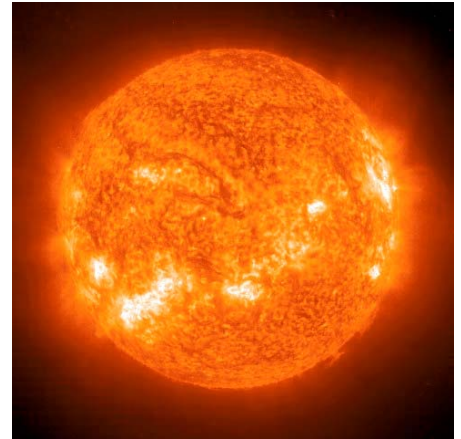
No Joy in Hamville

News Release for April 1, 2009
Space Center, Houston, Texas
Writer: Ben Franklin

Space scientists warn that sunspots may be in short supply during cycle 24 which means that DX propagation would be poor for at least 12 to 14 more years. If so, amateur radio operators, also known as “hams”, will be greatly disappointed and have to find other aspects of the popular hobby to explore. The ham community had anticipated new sunspots appearing any month now and excellent DX working conditions.

Space experts say the sun has expended large amounts of energy as global warming, just as former Vice President Al Gore had warned. Gore has predicted that so called “global warming” is going to wreak havoc on planet earth, burning crops, melting glaciers thus raising the ocean tides which will flood massive amounts of land near the coastal areas of the world causing massive evacuations of residents into the inland areas, violence and food shortages.

The space scientists say that if sunspots don't make an appearance in the next five years, there may not be any in cycle 25 either. The scientists will have an update on sunspots and propagation in about 12 months.



Carl, N4IT

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

Public Service Events

Here is the 2009 public service schedule. There will be additions as I learn about them. If you're interested in joining in and lending a hand, contact Gay, WB8VNO by e-mail at: gwands@neo.rr.com, or call at: 330-474-1573.

Sunday, May 17	Cleveland Marathon, Half Marathon & 10K
*Sunday, July 26	Portage Metroparks Biathlon
	*Tentative date based on previous year's event
Saturday, Aug 1	Black Squirrel Adventure Triathlon
Sunday Aug 23	Bellefaire JCB Biathlon

As we begin the new year let's mark our calendars for public service opportunities. Not only do we provide a service, we have fun. And it is good practice for emergency communication. "Newbies" are always welcome.

I will be giving updates as events the year progresses.

Gay, WB8VNO



Some Ham Radio Observations

As noted in the March 2009 issue of QST, new Amateur Radio Licenses issued has been increasing over the past 3 years: 21,112 in 2006, 26728 in 2007 and 28,066 for 2008. As I've stated before, more new hams is good for all of us! The bigger the market we present to manufacturers, the more they will try to sell to that market with newer, better, cheaper products and services that we all want to obtain. Still, with a total US population of approximately 303,824,640 (July 2008 est), the Amateur Radio population, at 663,500, only represents about 0.2% of the population. We are indeed a select group of people!



Closer to home, there are approximately 11,466,917 people in Ohio (US Census 2007 est) and out of that 30,181 are licensed hams (sorted from FCC database, includes club calls), so we can say approximately 0.26% of the population, just a little better than the national average. The population of Portage County is about 155,869 (US Census 2007 est) and of those 468 are hams. That's about 0.3% of the population, now we're getting somewhere! To top it all off, about 20% of all hams in Portage County belong to PCARS!



One last bit of useless knowledge I'd like to share with you: Out of the total US Ham population, about 51% hold a Novice or Technician ticket. PCARS has 23% of its members listed as Techs on the March 2009 roster. Nationwide, 21.8% of all licensees are General Class Hams – PCARS has 37.2% listed as Generals. Advanced Class Hams are 9.3% of the nations hams, but only 1.8% of PCARS Hams. Finally, 17.5% of all hams hold the Extra Class License, yet in PCARS we are 38% Extra Class Hams!

Whatever class license you hold, we welcome you at PCARS and hope you will actively participate with us. If you have the desire to upgrade your license, we will do whatever we can to help you. Ham Radio is a GREAT hobby, and whatever class license you hold, you are truly a member of a very elite group and should be proud of your accomplishment!

73,

Tom, WB8LCD



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!

April	
04/02	KB8UUZ
04/09	K8QF
04/16	N8QE
04/23	WB8LCD
04/30	WB2DFC

May	
05/07	N8XTH
05/14	open
05/21	WB8LCD
05/28	KC8PD

June	
06/04	KD8ICR
06/11	N8QE
06/18	W8PT
06/25	WB2DFC

July	
07/02	KB8UUZ
07/09	WB8LCD
07/16	N8EQJ
07/23	KB8DPN
07/30	W8KNO



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

Tom WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator



Burghardt Amateur Center out of Ham Retail Business



In another sign of the times, Jim W0MJY announces that Burghardt Amateur Center Inc will now be called Burghardt Radio Repair, Inc and will no longer sell amateur radio transceivers and accessories. All backorders have been cancelled. Burghardt will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Burghardt is one of ham-dom's oldest radio outlets, so it's sad to see them changing to a repair-only business, but it's also good to hear that radio repair is going to keep their doors open.

From ARRL Contest Update Newsletter



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- April 8th, at 6:30 p.m. for the annual **National Weather Service Skywarn training**. It will be held in the cafeteria of the Maplewood Career Center, located on State Route 88 just north of State Route 14.
- April 13th meeting – **Bill Weisinger, WB8UAH**, Low Power Commercial-Free FM
- April 25th activity – **G5RV Antenna Workshop** (tentative)
- May 11th meeting – **Dick Pascoe, G0BPS**, President, QRPARCI
- May activity – **Antenna Day** (date TBS)
- June 8th meeting – **Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD**, NASA researcher, 2008 Alan Severson Award winner
- June 27th-28th – **FIELD DAY!**



Shack Shots

David Reith, W8HFX. I was licensed in 1955 as WN8HFX, became W8HFX later that year, and have held the call ever since. My operating is almost entirely HF, with about 75 percent or more on CW and the rest on phone. Except for a handful of contacts a year, all operating is DX, and much of it is for fun - not competitively - in contests. I ragchew occasionally with TF3DX, a good friend who has stayed with us in Kent; and with OA4SS, an old high school friend; anyone who works DX will recognize those calls. A number of years ago, WorldRadio published my article on QSL practices; since many of the statistics in that article likely have been modified by electronic QSLing, I am in the process of revisiting the article to understand how much traditional QSLing has been affected.



My current station was established in 1989. It consists of a Kenwood TS-440S, running barefoot 100 watts into a Mosley TA-33 at 11 meters. I also have an ICOM IC-3210 for 2 meters that I turn on when I can remember how to do it! All logging remains manual, as does a handwritten note on every QSL I send out. Except for using the KN4F online packetcluster, I guess I am a kind of a neo-Luddite ham!

I have 332 current DXCC entities confirmed as well as 8 deletions for a total DXCC count of 340. In addition, one entity, FT5ZH (Amsterdam), remains unconfirmed. However, my official count is 112. I would point out to new hams who might have a DX interest that low power with good operating practices will get you everything you want. DXCC in a weekend contest is wholly possible.



I would encourage any amateur traveling to look into either international agreements or reciprocal licensing. Nearly all European countries and the United States participate in the CEPT Convention and many Latin American Countries and the US participate in the IARP Convention; both agreements permit American licensees to operate in foreign countries without obtaining a foreign license (and in European dependencies around the world for CEPT).

Dave, W8HFX

Station you see: Collins S line I purchased new in 1962. Kenwood TS-830S purchased about one year ago from an old friend, Dennis Had (founder of Dentron). Palstar tuner, dummy load and Yaesu scope. Mic is an old Japanese multiple crystal cheapie. Not shown in these pictures is a Collins 30L-1, (just in case bands are marginal).

73's
Al, WA8CCU



Editor Note: Send in a photo 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!

Someone Help This Person, Please....

Seems that poor old Bill, WB9LBI, our Streetsboro radio guy, just cannot get it correct. After three years of being in PCARS, he still gets confused over what a Black Squirrel looks like. This photo was recently taken of him with what is obvious to you and me, not a Black Squirrel. Bill was overheard after the picture saying, "Gee these Black Squirrels sure do stink, and they have sharp teeth, too." Even with a couple of gallons of tomato juice, Bill still has that 'country aroma'. So if you see him in the near future, you may want to keep at arms length, or loan him some after shave lotion. Thanks goodness he's not in charge of dinner for Field Day - can you imagine what 'road kill' he'd try to grill??

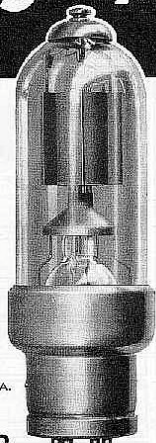


Whew.....

Word Search



HERE'S the power and performance you have been wanting. A transmitting tube with 100 watts output, and much more possible properly handled. New simplified, extra-rugged design for long, hard service. No "getter" to impede heat radiation. No plate-supporting collar on stem, eliminating that cause of stem breakdown (plate suspended from envelope dome). No internal insulators. Grid and plate elements made of Tantalum as protection against gassing. Thoriated Tungsten shielded filament. Nonex glass envelope. Conservative plate dissipation 100 watts. Widely adaptable, use unrestricted. Designed, made, and sold by—



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May You Be In QRP — In Identify You and Help QRP

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T W I R E S I X V H L F I T
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R I R U T Y J N A M N G F O
O O T M A N T E N N A N L A
O T R A F F I C N K A S C I
N S M A C H I N E K H G E M
N M R M Y T E F A S F G C V
M G D J F F B D I G I T A L
H K O R E T A E P E R J N F
G G F I A M P L I F I E R S
E H K H U W V D D A G I T E
C O H G E N E R A T O R R N
B S I M P L E X V F R O G D



Hamvention Analog Radio Simplex Communications Repeater
Antenna Machine Wires Generator Amplifiers Digital Circuits Safety
Electric Fun Rig Amplifier Shack Connectors Digital Ohms Traffic

Sandy, KD8JCY

For those who go South in the Winter

When the Temperature hits:		
+70 degrees	Texans turn on the heat and unpack the thermal underwear.	People in Ohio go swimming in the Rivers.
+60 degrees	North Carolinians try to turn on the heat.	People in Ohio plant gardens.
+50 degrees	Californians shiver uncontrollably.	People in Ohio sunbathe.
+40 degrees	Italian & English cars won't start.	People in Ohio drive with the windows down.
+32 degrees	Distilled water freezes.	Lake Erie water gets thicker.
+20 degrees	Floridians put on coats, thermal underwear, gloves and woolly hats.	People in Ohio throw on a flannel shirt.

+15 degrees	Philadelphia landlords finally turn up the heat.	People in Ohio have the last cookout before it gets cold.
+10 degrees	People in Miami all die.	Buckeyes lick the flagpole.
0 degrees	Californians fly away to Mexico.	People in Ohio get out their winter coats.
-10 degrees	Hollywood disintegrates.	The Girl Scouts in Ohio are selling cookies door to door.
-25 degrees	Polar bears begin to evacuate the Arctic.	Ohio Boy Scouts postpone "Winter Survival" classes until it gets cold enough.
-30 degrees	Mount St. Helen's freezes.	People in Ohio rent some videos.
-40 degrees	Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.	Buckeyes get frustrated because they can't thaw the keg.
-45 degrees	Microbial life no longer survives on dairy products.	Cows in Ohio complain about farmers with cold hands.
-60 degrees	ALL atomic motion stops (absolute zero in the Kelvin scale).	People in Ohio start saying, "Cold 'nuff for ya?"
-100 degrees	Hell freezes over.	The Cleveland Browns win the Super Bowl!

Author Unknown. (Must be from Florida!!)

Jay, KC8GNL

From the January 2009 Airwaves Journal
Newsletter of the Intercity Amateur Radio Club,
Jay Bookwalter, KC8GNL editor.

Puzzle Fun

	$3+4$	$(\frac{1}{3})^{-1}$		3^2		$\sqrt{16}$	
$\sqrt{81}$			0100	$\frac{d}{dx}3x$			$3\int_1^2 x^2 dx$
			3!				2^3
	2^2					$\frac{24}{8}$	$\sum_{k=1}^3 k$
$\frac{252}{36}$							$\log_{10}(10)$
	$\sqrt{4}$	74-65				0101	
$13\triangle_{12}$					$-(i^2)$		
0110			FF-F8	$\sqrt{64}$			$5\triangle_4?$
	$\sqrt[3]{27}$			$\sqrt[3]{64}$	$\sin\frac{\pi}{2}$	$\sqrt{49}$	

Answer on Last Page

Joe, W8KNO

Bill does it Again....



Contact person listed was Bill, WB9LBI

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**



Pictures from the March PCARS Meeting





Puzzle Answer

1	3 ⁷	(3)	8	9	2	6	4	5
9	8	6	4	5	3 ^x	2	1	3 ⁷
4	5	2	6	1	7	9	3	8
8	4	1	2	7	5	3	6	9
7	6	5	9	3	4	8	2	1
3	2	7	9	1	8	6	7	5
5	9	7	3	6	1	4	8	2
6	1	4	7	2	8	5	9	3
2	3	8	5	4	9	1	7	6

HINTS:

$$\frac{d}{dx} 3x = 3$$

$$3 \int_1^2 x^2 dx = 3 \left(\frac{2^3 - 1^3}{3} \right)$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^3 k = 1 + 2 + 3$$

$$\log_{10}(10) = 1$$

$$3! = 1 \times 2 \times 3$$

$$i^2 = -1$$

$$F8, F9, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF$$

$$\pi = 3.14$$

Operating Portable

Unfortunately, Mary Jo, KD8GGZ and her OM Leon, N8GLK have been talking with Bill, WB9LBI about operating in portable conditions. (See the earlier articles concerning Bill's familiarity with wild life here in Portage County).

This photo, recently taken by Bill, WB9LBI shows Mary Jo, KD8GGZ and an uninvited guest that came wandering in while she was listening to the HF bands.



Bill reportedly said to Mary Jo, "Don't worry, he's a regular here in the park, just don't move fast, and what ever you do, don't let him try and call CQ, he just cannot get that CW stuff correct"

Meanwhile, Leon, N8GLK was on the ground rolled over in a ball laughing for over 30 minutes. Bill could not figure out what was so funny

Disclaimer

Yes, this is the APRIL issue of the Radiogram - as we have done in the past, this is an April Fool issue. Some of the articles are indeed April Fool articles. I hope you enjoy the sprit of how they were written and presented. I also 'edited' some of the pictures for your enjoyment. Dave, however, sent his picture in as you see it! And, Bill, WB9LBI - thanks for letting me poke fun at you a few times in this special issue. Who's turn will it be in 2010?

Thanks & 73



This is the 4th 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 look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **KC8PD, WB2DFC, W8PT, W8KNO, K8SRR, KB8UZZ, W3SYT, WB9LBI, WB8YYS, N4IT, WB8VNO, WB8LCD, W8HFY, WA8CCU, KD8JCY, KC8GNL**, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web - With your continued help - we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom - KB8UZZ
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
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

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

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

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NLC