



The

# RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



January 2009 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 4 No. 1

## ~ 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 ~

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

As PCARS starts its fourth year of operation, it's worth taking a quick look back at its first three years to see what got the club to where it is today. Then we can look at some of the goals for PCARS in the upcoming years.

In Fall 2005, the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc., was formed as a not-for-profit Ohio corporation. PCARS also filed for affiliation with the ARRL which was later granted in 2006. Also in 2006, the corporation was granted 501 (C)(3) tax exempt status by the IRS.

When the first membership meeting was held in January 2006, Tom, WB8LCD, wanted PCARS to be up and running from the get-go with meeting topics and activities already planned. And the very next month PCARS held its first Freeze Your Acorns Off event.



That first year of activities and meeting topics was pretty much by the seat of our pants. But all of us wanted to keep the club growing and moving forward, offering new and experienced hams throughout the area as many ways as possible to discover and participate in the full range of ham radio activities. PCARS' goal will always be to maximize the fun to be had from the hobby.

PCARS offered Technician classes for the hams-to-be and the General upgrade course to help the Tech's gain HF privileges. The PCARS VE team has been kept very busy with testing sessions. There have been special event stations, Santa On The Air, the Two Meter Sprint and OSPOTA contests, and PCARS acquisition of a club site. PCARS has become a true Field Day competitor, nationally and in the Ohio Section.

Active membership hovers right around one hundred and you have never met a friendlier bunch of hams. You know you are doing something right when members start arriving ninety minutes before the meeting even starts. It's the members who make PCARS, not the other way around.

So where do we go from here?

First and foremost will be maintaining the membership ranks by ensuring that PCARS delivers on the members' expectations. So let us know what programs and activities you would like to have.

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## *From the President (continued from Page 1)*

We also look to add members by continuing to offer the Technician class, promoting the club to hams in the area, and, in particular, by an outreach to the campus communities at Kent State and Hiram College.

Also high on our list of priorities will be the development of the club site and station. Once the heat is on in the building we can work during the winter months. The radio room and workshop need to be completed and then it is on to the selection and installation of radios and antennas.

Ed, N8EQJ, and Bill, WB9LBI, have agreed to co-chair Field Day again this year. So mark your calendars for June 27th and 28th and start planning for a busy, fun-filled, well-fed weekend.

PCARS will also look to coordinate activities, presentations, and friendly competition in contests with other clubs in the area and throughout the Ohio Section. Tom, WB8LCD, will be PCARS' goodwill ambassador to the other clubs.

PCARS has the best newsletter in the Ohio Section thanks to its hardworking editor, Tom (aka, Parky), KB8UUZ. The RadioGram is the voice and public face of PCARS. We want to encourage more members to submit original material on either an occasional or regular basis. How about a column on some facet of the hobby that is of particular interest to you? Also, if you run across some useful or newsworthy information that can be republished, forward it to Parky.

A new feature in the newsletter will be "Show Us Your Shack." Take some photos of your shack (better yet have someone get some pics of you at the controls) and send them to Parky along with an article that tells us about the setup at your QTH.

If there are groups of PCARS members who share a particular interest in an amateur radio topic such as QRP, kit-building, home-brewing (no Tom, not beer), digital modes, contesting, DXing, or MARS, to name a

few, we want to give them an opportunity to meet and work together.

There's always more and I hope to hear from each of you about what you want from PCARS. See you at the January 12th meeting and be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to any fellow PCARS members that you have not yet met.

73,  
**Jim, KC8PD**

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## ***From the Past President***

Hey! I just couldn't resist, I had to get myself in this slot just one more time! You know, its going to be hard getting used to being the Past President. Now that I'm retired, I've got lots more time on my hands to just hang out on the back deck, have a beer and make some Q's. I just wish I didn't live in Ohio – man, it's cold out there.

Well, its good practice for Freeze Your Acorns Off – aka FYAO, coming up on Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>. If you're a ham anywhere near Portage County, you'll want to stop by the Roy Smith shelter house at Fred Fuller Park in Kent. You'll be getting lots more info on FYAO later, but make sure you save the date, this is an event you don't want to miss. Not a PCARS member? We want you there too!

When PCARS was started, one of the concerns of the founding members was that no one person held any particular office for too long a time. Term limits were put into the PCARS Constitution and By-Laws. This was done so that the club would constantly be evolving and growing better as new leaders brought in new ideas and new programs. I know some things are going to change, and I know that the change is going to be good. I couldn't be more excited about the new officers and the enthusiasm they have for the club. If you've had any doubts at all, then show up at the next couple of meetings and I'm sure they'll soon be dismissed!

The next few years are going to be exciting times for Ham Radio in general, and PCARS specifically. The sunspot cycle is going to start turning upwards and activity on the bands is going to increase. DXpeditions are being announced to some pretty interesting locations, some of which we should be able to work with pretty plain stations. There's beginning to be a resurgence of amateur radio in the US as many have seen first hand how amateurs are able to get on the air and get the job done when catastrophes occur. I think we'll get a double hit when the US realizes that we need more industry, and that math and science education are critical to our national economic success. Fortunately, we have the ARRL as our advocate. They are a very professional and pro-active organization on our behalf. If you are not already a member, I'd encourage you to look into it.



So there you go, my first, *and last* column from the Past President!

73,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**



## *From the Vice President*

When you read this, Christmas will have passed and maybe New Years too. I wish all readers the best 2009 has to offer and hope your Christmas was enjoyable! ....and I will no longer be VP Elect.... besides, "VP" is much easier for me to spell (hi hi).



Speaking of Christmas... Santa arrived just a little early and delivered an Elecraft K2... what a fine piece of equipment. I included a photo for the newsletter. In fact... as my first official request, all of you are invited to send in a quick paragraph and photo of your favorite Christmas gift, radio related would be great. So, that new 2 meter radio, CW key, battery pack, Ten-Tec, Icom, Collins, Rohn, or whatever.... would sure look great in the February newsletter.

And speaking of gifts.... I would like to begin a new program for PCARS members in good standing. I'll call it "Help-A Ham" for now. The idea being, a new or old ham with limited resources for equipment could apply to PCARS for an equipment loan and get on the air. The "Help-A Ham" program might also be a way to return a ham to the airwaves if their equipment was damaged/stolen/etc.

No equipment is in an inventory now, but I plan on donating a Kenwood TS-520 to PCARS. The benefit to the one making the donation can be discussed, including a tax benefit and how the one making the donation would like to see the equipment used, etc. The donor can also be anonymous. Equipment donations should be in good working order and no members would ever be charged for the use of the loner equipment.

This idea is still in the formulation stages and I welcome any input. It would be nice to see a member get on the air and enjoy the privileges of the hobby. Contact me and let me know what you think.

Throughout the year PCARS has sponsored many excellent presentations at club meetings and many great projects. I would ask all members to send a note to me letting me know what topics or projects interest them and what members would like to be directly involved with presentations/activities. If you are filled with "Stage Fright", never fear, I'll help you. Give me the ideas and we can develop your ideas into meeting topics and club activities.

And lastly, if you have any ideas on regular columns you would like to see in the news letter, let me know. We have many experts among us and your knowledge is valuable and interesting. It's really great to see a member involved in a topic and write an article. The club member and membership will benefit.



Till I see you again, very best of 73, and 72 (qrp style)

***Dave, WB2DFC***



## *Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites*

HAPPY NEW YEAR from W8PT and family to all my fellow PCARS members and others who read this column. I hope that you received some great presents from Santa and that you had a great Christmas. I hope to hear about all the neat "hard stuff" additions to your radio shacks. That's "hard stuff" as opposed to soft stuff like socks and underwear.

Three more months and should start to see evidence of the WX breaking. "Come on Spring"!! Anyway, I am also looking forward to increased sunspot activity as the months continue to pass. But while we wait, there



are some activities during the winter months that should keep you busy. Me....I've been busy printing out some new QSL's since the call sign change and it is satisfying and frustrating at the same time. Satisfying when the finished product looks good. Frustrating when go old Word doesn't seem to want to cooperate.

Well, enough of what's going on at my QTH. There are some very interesting DX, IOTA, and Lighthouse activities coming up in the next few months. So let's get to it.

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. Please 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 G-2, busted call signs, or too many 807s. So please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

### **DX News**

**4A, MEXICO** (Special Event). Members of the DXXE (Mexican Contest and DX group) will celebrate their 4th anniversary by using the special callsign 4A1DXXE between December 25th and January 6th (2009). Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via N7RO and the LoTW. QSOs with this station are good for the DXXE Award.

**6W & J5, SENEGAL AND GUINEA-BISSAU** - (Reminder) HA3AUI, will once again be active from Africa and will also activate again both Senegal (as 6W2SC) and Guinea-Bissau (as J5UAP), between November 15th and March 31st (2009). His activity from both places will be mostly Digital with some SSB and CW upon request. Operations will be on 160-6 meters using a spiderbeam, verticals, dipoles, and 500w (in 6W) or 100w (in J5). QSL via HA3AUI, direct or by the HA Bureau.

**9M2, WEST MALAYSIA - 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.

**JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA**. JA6GXX, will once again be active as JD1BMM starting around December 23rd through January 6th. His activity will be on the low bands. QSL via his home callsign.

**TR50, GABON**. (Reminder) F8EN, will be back again in Libreville from mid- December to mid-January. Look for him to use the special call sign TR50R until December 31st. After January 1st, he will then use the call sign TR8CR. PSE QSL via F6AJA.

**XU, CAMBODIA** (Reminder) (Also XV and XW). KC0W (ZD7X), who has been working here, expects to be active as XU7XXX in a few contests in the next several months. Look for him to be active during the ARRL 160-Meter Contest (December 5-6th), the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest (January 23-25th [2009]) and the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 21-22nd [2009]) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry.

**V5, NAMIBIA** (Satellites, VHF, UHF and EME). Six amateur stations will be active from the moonrise on January 7th to moonset on January 16th (2009). Their QTH will be in Luderitz, Namibia (Grid Locator JG73NI). Activity will be mainly on 50, 144, 432 and 1296 MHz EME. At the same time, they will be active for transatlantic Tropo on 144 and 432 and on the satellites (AO-7, FO-29 and AO-51). For more details and updates, watch the following Web page at: <http://hb9q.ch/joomla/index.php>

**BLACK SEA CUP INTERNATIONAL.** The members of the Ukrainian Black Sea Contest Club (BSCC) invite all amateurs to participate in the 2009 Black Sea Cup International, which is held during the first full weekend of February beginning 12:00 UTC Saturday and ending 00:00 UTC Sunday (February 7-8th). The object is to contact as many other amateurs, BSCC members, amateurs of Black Sea countries, especially IARU member society HQ stations around the world, as possible, using the 160/80/40/20/15/10 meter bands using CW and SSB. For complete details, visit the BSCC Web page at: <http://www.bscc.ucoz.ru>

## **IOTA News**

**5H, TANZANIA** - DL7DF and his XYL will be on holiday in Zanzibar (AF-032), February 3-13th. Look for Sigi to sign 5H1DF and be active on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV as often as possible. QSL via DL7DF, by the German QSL Bureau (DARC) or direct.

**AS-015. PA0RRS**, will once again be active as 9M2MRS from Penang Island (WLOTA LH-2743) between November 17th and February 6th (2009). QSL via his home callsign.

**KH2, GUAM** (OC-026) - JE2EHP, will be active as K1HP/KH2 from here between January 16-19th (2009). Activity will be on all HF bands and 6m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL is via Bureau to his home call sign JE2EHP.

**KP2, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.** Operators JA1CJA (KP2/AE6XY), JA3BZO (KP2/AE6YQ) and JA3AVO (KP2/W3AVO) will be active from K9BZ's rental shack (RADIO REEF) between January 17-22nd. The trio will arrive on St. Croix, January 16th, but spend 22 days at Radio Reef before returning to St. Croix on the 23rd for departure. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes.

**S7, SEYCHELLES** - DL7JAN, will be active as S79JF from Praslin Island (AF-024) between February 22nd and March 6th (2009). Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly PSK31. QSL via DL7JAN, direct or by the Bureau.

**ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND.** Look for six members of the Cambridge University Wireless Society to activate Ascension Island (AF-003) using the call sign ZD8UW between December 31st and January 9th (2009). Activity will be on all HF bands using CW and SSB. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW shortly after the DXpedition. QSL via G7VJR.

## **Lighthouse Activities**

Members of the "Old Barney Amateur Radio Club (OBARC) will be active as N2OB/150 (or N2OB/LH) starting at 0000z, on December 27th, through 2359z, January 4th (2009). Operations will be on all bands and modes available. Activity is to celebrate the relighting and the 150th anniversary of the "Barnegat Lighthouse" (nicknamed "Old Barney"). Yes, "Old Barney" will officially be relit on January 1, 2009, which is the 150th anniversary of its original lighting on January 1st, 1859. The lighthouse was officially shut down in 1944 and became a state park in 1957. Since that time only a 250 watt light was lit for aesthetics only. On January 1st, a new light with a new fresnel lens will be lit and "Old Barney" will once again be an official (private) navigational aid.

Members of the Turkish group called TCSWAT (Special Wireless Activity Team) will activate a series of lighthouses during the following five 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:

December 20-21st - Karaburun Lighthouse (TUR 036) as TC1KLH  
27-28th - Karaburun Lighthouse (TUR 036) as TC1KLH  
January 17-18th - Sile Lighthouse (TUR 046) as TC2SLH  
January 24-25th - Anadolu Lighthouse (TUR 014) as TC2ALH  
February 21-22nd - Ahirkapi Burnu Lighthouse (TUR 056) as TC1ALH  
March 21-22nd - Rumeli/Turkeli Lighthouse (TUR 053) as TC1RLH  
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>

Amateur stations WB3AAL, KA3UNQ and N2US will be active as home call/p during the ARLHS Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party (between December 20th and January 4th) from the lighthouse (ARLHS USA-857) in Turkey Point, Maryland. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via the station's home call sign with a SASE or by the Bureau. N2US uses the LoTW. For details on the Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party (LCL), see: <http://arlhs.com/LCL-2008-guidelines.html>

### **Pirate Alert**

**5X1AB PIRATE ALERT.** Phil, K6EID, who is the QSL Manager for Arik, 5X1AB, states that, Arik was active on October 9th, 2008, until 1740z when he then QRTed. Someone apparently used his call sign working many USA boys after that until 2100 or 2200z. Phil states, "I've received loads of cards and had to return them as NIL. Arik confirmed that he did not make these QSOs. Anyone working a station signing 5X1AB after 1740z on October 9th, 2008, you worked a pirate, save your postage."

Well, if you can't find something to interest you in this column, then simply cut the coax to your antenna. DX, IOTA, Lighthouse, Satellite, EME. A full buffet for Amateurs. Till next month, keep hunting the bands and listen, listen, listen.

73 for now and gud DX.

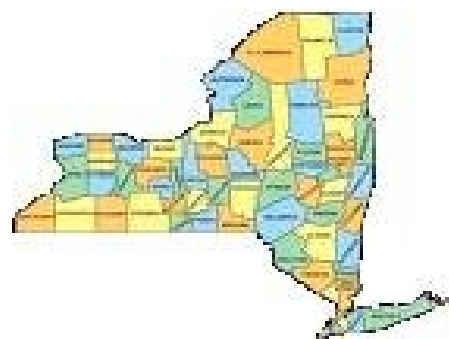
**Chuck, W8PT**



### ***Paper Chase - Worked All Counties - New York State***

Work each of the 62 counties in New York state. Short Wave Listeners requests are welcome. Contacts can have been made at any time. All bands may be used; repeater QSOs are OK. aThe "General Certification Rule" applies and must include a list of the counties including Call, Time, Date, Signal Report, Mode, Band.

Endorsements for single band, QRP, SWL and single mode on request. Fee for US/VE stations is \$US6. Award is a colorful image of the Stars and Stripes on heavy grade paper. Apply to: Award Manager KU2US, PO Box 185, Conesus, NY 14435-0185.



Hope to hear you in the pile up!

**Joe, W8KNO**



### ***EmComm***

It's the middle of winter (forget that official first day of Winter, this one started the second week of November) and so far Northeast Ohio has fortunately not been clobbered by serious ice or snow storms that put the public at risk or cause serious power disruptions.

But have you ever stopped to consider that we are at greater risk from winter storms than we are from those during the summer? Knowing that, how well prepared are you to meet your power needs at home if a significant outage occurs?

Here's a solution that you probably never considered. As reported by the Harvard Press and reprinted in the New York Times on December 22nd: "The Prius has a new use, and it does not involve driving. The Harvard Press — which serves the Massachusetts town of Harvard as opposed to the university — reported that the car's battery helped keep the lights on for some locals during the recent ice storms.



“The newspaper reports that John Sweeney, a resident who lost power, ‘ran his refrigerator, freezer, TV, woodstove fan and several lights through his Prius, for three days, on roughly five gallons of gas.’

“Said Mr. Sweeney, in an e-mail message to The Press: ‘When it looked like we were going to be without power for awhile, I dug out an inverter (which takes 12v DC and creates 120v AC from it) and wired it into our Prius.’

“According to the newspaper, the device allowed the engine to run every half hour, automatically charging the car battery and indirectly supplying the required power.”

Now you have another great reason to run out and buy that new car!

Well, maybe not, but it should get you thinking about how well you are prepared to provide your backup power at home if you don’t have a Prius sitting in your garage.

Do you have a generator? When was the last time that you started it up to make sure that it would still run and generate power? Most manufacturers recommend that you start and run a generator with a load on it once a month. Is the gas tank full and have you added any fuel stabilizer? Do you have a safe place to run it so that exhaust fumes don’t enter your home? Do you have power cords of the correct gauge and length to get power to the circuits or appliances that have priority?

If you are using any unsealed deep cycle batteries as a backup for your shack, check the electrolyte levels on a regular basis. Eyeball gel and AGM batteries for any obvious defects and periodically check the voltage on all storage batteries. You might want to invest in a West Mountain PWRgate that uses your power supply to maintain a float charge on the batteries and will automatically switch from line current to the batteries if there is a power failure.

Aside from what is in your go-kit, do you have enough spare batteries (AAA, AA, C, whatever) for flashlights and electronic devices at home? Watch for sales on batteries, particularly during the holiday season when many stores offer substantial discounts and two for one sales.

What about all of your rechargeables? Familiarize yourself with the battery type (NIMH, Lithium, etc.) and check the manufacturer’s recommendation for type of charger and how often out of service batteries should be recharged. It may be a good idea to pick a regular date, say the first of every other month, and make sure each battery or battery pack gets a full recharge.

Otherwise, at the worst possible moment you are likely to discover that you have a bunch of dead batteries and no way to recharge them. The only way to be prepared is to be prepared. You don’t have to call it a New Year’s resolution, either. It is simply a timely update to your home safety plan.

Be safe!

73,

**Jim, KC8PD**  
**RACES Radio Officer**





## ***ARISS Finalizes Plans for Silver Anniversary of Amateur Radio from Space***

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz. After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.

"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week -- Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yuri Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater or digital - will also be eligible to receive a certificate.

To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way (receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 × 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage." If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15."

Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!"

***From the ARRL***



## *The “Magic Band” Commercial Radio Transformation*

PCARS folks have discussed in great length many topics from HF, HF radios, 2m radio types and brand names. We’re a facet of people who either favor HF – or there are those who mostly hang out on VHF. You’ll hear many a repeater conversation on VHF about putting that HF station together, or upgrading to General class to use the HF amateur portions.

In this article let’s talk about some different venues of band operation that hasn’t been discussed as much. Specifically speaking, let’s enter into the realm of the “magic” 6 meter band. Just why is this band magic?

When the 6m band is up, it’s amazing. Subject not only to “skip”, it is often party to a phenomenon called “tropospheric ducting” that has a way of trapping a radio signal between hot and cold layers, forming a duct that will pick up a signal a put it down where it wants.

When the 6m band is down, 6m is used reliably for local point to point communication -- more specifically, FM simplex and repeater operation.

Now the HF folks will tell you that 6m SSB portions are the top range of the HF arena and manufacturers have been including this band into their HF radio offerings. Then there are the VHF people who will tell you that 6m is the low portion of VHF operation. Hmmm... Both HF and VHF? And, let’s remember also that ALL amateurs (sans those still licensed as a NOVICE) have 6 meters privileges.

What many local folks may not know is that the Northeast Ohio area holds several very high profile, very nice 6m repeaters just sitting available with many friendly hams just waiting to make your acquaintance.

My vocation has had me working in the VHF Low band FM arena for almost 25 years. For what ever odd reason, my employer has decided to stay located around 47 MHz which is just below the amateur 6m band that runs from 50 to 52 MHz. Thus – I have experienced first hand the local point to point operation of the magic band, the characteristic of ducting, and the ins and out of the commercial equipment available for the band.

One of the perks that comes with my position is knowing what commercial equipment is available, and what to look for. One of the radios we use at work is the Kenwood TK-630H . This radio is available in 3 different band splits. They are:

**The TK 630** - FCC ID: ALHTK-630H-1: 29.0 to 37.0 MHz. This radio could be used on the 10m FM portions of the amateur band. (Repeater Input Channels: 29.520, 29.540, 29.560, and 29.580 MHz., Simplex Channel: 29.600 MHz and Repeater Output Channels: 29.620, 29.640, 29.660, and 29.680 MHz.)

**The TK 630** - FCC ID: ALHTK-630H-2: from 35.0 to 43.0 MHz. This radio is useless to hams without being converted. Pass on this model.

And the **The TK 630** - FCC ID: ALHTK-630H-3: from 41.0 to 54.0 MHz. Bingo! – This the radio to use for 6m FM.



The “H” designator at the end means “HIGH” power – as in 110 Watts. This radio can be programmed with up to 160 channels and subtones. This radio is available only in the US, so your best bet is looking on eBay. The nice thing about this particular unit is that many agencies feel that this radio has fulfilled it’s useful life, and are dumping them for newer radios, or are moving to trunking. That means that there are plenty of these great units filtering down to be used by us hams. At this writing, one of these units was going on eBay for as little as \$25.

The radio must be programmed, and tweaked a little to lock the PLL circuit, but otherwise needs no other parts to make the unit work on the ham bands. I have the programming cable and the software available if anybody decides to try out a surplus TK-630H.

I was able to pick one of these units as salvage for a good price, and I have included my programming chart with this article. Even if you decide to pass on finding one of these commercial radios, the chart is a starting reference of what’s available in the Northeast Ohio area on the 6m FM band.

One of the other suggestions that make this radio attractive is that you MAY already have a 6m antenna. Through the magic of the amateur radio relationship of bands (you know, the half of 80m is 40m – half of that is 20m, etc...) is that a 5/8-wavelength mobile antenna works out to be around 1/4-wavelength 6m antenna. You just have to find a happy spot that makes a acceptable SWR on both 6m and 2m.

The last thing I want to mention is that a good friend (and co-worker) Marty Baker, N8XPK has spent quite a bit of time in creating the 53.170 N8XPK repeater system. This machine has FANTASTIC coverage, and Marty has been looking to find a local site for another input, perhaps in Kent. This system alone (in my opinion) is worth making the jump to 6m.

I’ve cobbled my list of frequencies together from the internet, trial and error. The chart has some asterisks next to the CH name if I am certain the input/output and PL frequencies are correct. The others are SUPPOSED to be out there, and I have either not got it right, or have not been able to bring up the machine for confirmation. I am of course looking for any additions/deletions or corrections to this chart.

Lets make 2009 a year of trying something new, and perhaps playing around on the 6m “Magic Band” might be one way to discover another facet of our great hobby!

6m FM Programming Table -- December 2008 Version					
##*	RECEIVE	TRANSMIT	CTCSS	CALL	INFO
01	51.640	51.140	100.0	NC8W	New Franklin , Ohio COLUMBIANA COUNTY -- Need to UPDATE to 107.2
02*	51.660	51.160	107.2	W8EOC	Leitchfield, Ohio – MEDINA COUNTY
03*	51.660	51.160	091.5	W8EOC	Leitchfield, Ohio – MEDINA COUNTY
04	52.525	52.525	SIMPLEX		NATIONAL SIMPLEX CHANNEL
05	52.540	52.540	SIMPLEX		SIMPLEX CHANNEL
06	52.550	52.550	SIMPLEX		SIMPLEX CHANNEL
07	52.680	51.680	107.2	WB8APD	Newbury, Ohio – GEAUGA COUNTY
08	53.010	52.010	136.5		
09	53.030	52.030	107.2	KB8FMV	Salem, Ohio – COLUMBIANA COUNTY
10*	53.050	52.050	136.5	WA8GXM	Massillon, Ohio – STARK COUNTY
11	53.110	52.110	136.5	WA8WSO	Cleveland, Ohio – CUYAHOGA COUNTY
12	53.130	52.130	136.5		
13*	53.150	52.150	136.5	WB8UTW	Norton, Ohio – SUMMIT COUNTY
14*	53.170	52.170	107.2	N8XPK	Massillon, Ohio Input – SUMMIT COUNTY
15*	53.170	52.170	136.5	N8XPK	Richfield, Ohio Input – SUMMIT COUNTY
16*	53.170	53.170	TALK AROUND	N8XPK	Simplex

17	53.190	52.190	107.2	N8OVW	Brunswick, Ohio – MEDINA COUNTY
18	53.210	52.210	131.8	KC8WY	Canfield, Ohio – MAHONING COUNTY
19	53.230	52.230	136.5	WR8ABC	Highland Hills, Ohio – CUYAHOGA COUNTY
20	53.250	52.250	136.5	W0OZZ	Canton, Ohio – STARK COUNTY
21*	53.310	52.310	136.5	N8BHU	Brecksville, Ohio – CUYAHOGA COUNTY
22	53.390	52.390	136.5		
23	53.450	52.450	136.5		
24	53.570	52.570	162.2	W8ATF	Waynesburg, Ohio – STARK COUNTY
25	53.630	52.630	136.5	KB8SHE	N. Waterford, Ohio – COLUMBIANA COUNTY
26	53.770	52.770	136.5	WD8OCS	Elyria, Ohio – LORAIN COUNTY
27	53.830	52.830	131.8	K8ZFR	Shaker Heights, Ohio – CUYAHOGA COUNTY
28	53.500	52.500			
29					
30					
31*	47.220	47.220	114.8	KA87870	ODOT -- DIST 12 – CLEVELAND
32*	47.340	47.340	114.8	KA87870	ODOT -- DIST 04 – AKRON, Ohio - PORTAGE, SUMMIT, STARK, MAHONING, TRUMBULL and ASHTABULA COUNTIES.

\* = Confirmed

*Russ, KB8DPN*

**Editor's Note:** If you plan on traveling out of the local area with the 6 meter rig - check out the *ARRL Repeater Guide* - It lists all the 6 meter repeaters as well as repeaters on other bands.



## *Hello from Hudson & Alaska*

Well after 10 hours on a packed plane, 2 layovers, 3 expensive airport meals, a run in with convicted felon Senator Ted Stevens, 2 crying babies, and an hour in a car, I'm finally back in Hudson from college at The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) where I'm studying electrical engineering. Watching the baggage crews at Cleveland Hopkins working in the 40 degree weather while getting rained on reminded me how much I hate Ohio weather. The cold, dry climate of Interior Alaska suited me just fine. I'll take cold over wet any day.

It's been months since I've seen my radio's. I didn't have room to bring them along. It was a shame since I spent so much money on them. I was surprised I didn't hear more about amateur radio up there. I thought emergency communications would be really big because it is very isolated. Especially Fairbanks, which is the only real city with in 250 miles. With a population around 70,000, we are the major hub for all rural communities in the interior and the far north. I bet a lot of you want to know about amateur radio in Alaska. We learned a lot about communication in interior Alaska during our Intro to Engineering class. The 2 fiber optic cables coming up from the more heavily populated Anchorage area ends in Fairbanks. These cable are routinely cut by punks on backhoes, landslides, and other natural mishaps. So the need for emergency communication is definitely there. But anybody who has worked emergency communication with amateur radio knows it's limitations. These limitations are simply unacceptable for most of Alaska's emergency communications.

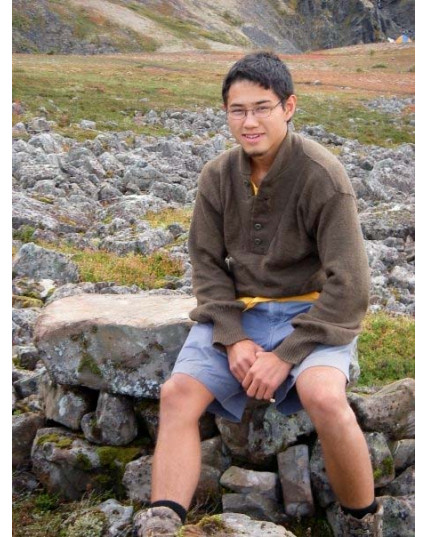


Satellites and microwave repeaters are utilized much more often. Satellite phones have a lot of benefits over radio. Hauling a HF radio gear in the field is simply not feasible in most of Alaska. The nearest gas station may be 200 mile away. You can't just drive 10 minutes for fuel to feed the generator powering your 500 watt amp

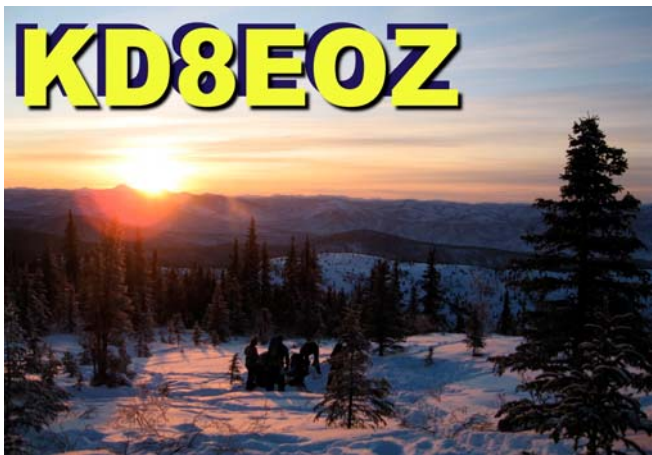


that doesn't always get you through anyways. Satellite Internet dishes are simply faster, more reliable, and require less to run. The commercial communication systems in interior and rural Alaska are designed and built to be able to run with limited or no infrastructure. Of course there are situations where radio is the best form of communication but amateur operators are rarely at the helm of these operations. It's a lot easier to complain about paid employee's than volunteer amateur operators. And paid employee's are more reliable than amateur operators because it's their job to be ready to go. Amateur radio operators have other jobs. They can't always just drop what they are doing to go provide em comm.

I love this hobby. I wouldn't be an electrical engineering major if it wasn't for amateur radio. PCARS and other hams prepared me to understand the engineering talk of the professors at UAF. I walked into my first engineering course knowing most of what was covered just from hanging around PCARS and the very knowledgeable people in it. Amateur radio has served as a spring board for me. But I am currently experiencing why many hams take a



break from the hobby at my age. I'm at the age where I have lots to do and not enough time to do it. For example I could go out and party, get trashed, and do other stupid stuff like many of you did in your college years. I could stay home, sleep in, make good food, and study like mad so I don't fall behind the next week. I can go skiing, hiking, camping, or climbing with friends. Or I could stay home on the weekends and play radio. I most often find myself studying or skiing, though I wish I was getting wasted and doing stupid stuff more often.



But now I'm on winter break, I might have more time for the radio. But then again I probably have to get a job unless I want to eat ramen noodles all next semester. College isn't cheap anymore. There are fees, books, beer, food, and other stuff to pay for. I really don't want my next semester to be all somber and sober. So I have another choice. Booze and good food or radio and ramen noodles. Tough decisions.

*Joe, KD8EOZ*



## *Hamfests*

**25 Jan** - Tusco Amateur Radio Club - <http://noard.com/tuscoarc.htm> - Talk-In: 146.730 (PL 71.9) - Contact: Kyle Quillen, KD8HDJ - 4925 West Main Street - Berlin, OH 44610 - Phone: 330-231-6269 - Email: [hamfest@tuscoarc.org](mailto:hamfest@tuscoarc.org) - Strasburg, OH - Wallick Auction House - 965 North Wooster Avenue

**1 Feb** - Winter HAM Fest - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - [www.noars.net](http://www.noars.net) - Talk-In: 146.70- (open repeater) - Contact: Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS - 4122 Bush Avenue - Cleveland, OH 44109 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: [dfohman@att.net](mailto:dfohman@att.net) - Lorain, OH - Gargus Hall - 1965 North Ridge Road

**15 Feb** - Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show - InterCity Amateur Radio Club - [www.w8we.org](http://www.w8we.org) - Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 71.9) - Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG - 1094 Beal Road - Mansfield, OH 44905 - Phone: 419-589-2415 - Fax: 419-884-6177 - Email: [metal07man@yahoo.com](mailto:metal07man@yahoo.com) - Mansfield, OH - Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 North Home Road

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

**15, 16, 17 May** - Dayton Hamvention - [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org) - Hara Arena - Trotwood, OH

**7 Jun** - Hamfest and Computer Show - Breezeshooters ARC - [www.breezeshooters.net](http://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](mailto:n3lwp@verizon.net) - Butler, PA - Butler Farm Showgrounds - Route 68 (next to Roe Airport)

## Freeze Your Acorns Off

It's that time of year again – PCARS **\*Freeze Your Acorns Off\*** QRP Operating event! Get it on your calendar now! Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. This is much more than an operating event, this is a Ham Radio Social Event! So, if you're a ham (PCARS member or not), and you can make it to Kent, this is as good as a hamfest, but without that pesky \$6 charge to get in! The FYAO flier is included elsewhere in this newsletter with all the pertinent details.



PCARS members! Get out your QRP rigs, projects and associated “stuff”, bring it on over and set up a working station, a static display or whatever! We'll be using the club callsign - KD8CKP - but I'll be asking each operator to keep his own log and turn it in at the end of the day. We'll see if a couple ops might be deserving of a PCARS FYAO award of some kind!

I'm asking EVERYONE in PCARS to show up with some kind of EATS to share! We've had everything from soup to nuts, so let's make sure we have a good spread again this year. If you can, drop me an email and let me know what you'll be bringing so I can plan to pick up anything extra we might need.

Most Important: Get the word out on this event! Download the flier and send it to everyone you know. Personally invite them to stop out and spend some time with us. If they can't come by in person, look for us on the air! Lets keep FYAO growing and Fun!

**Tom, WB8LCD**

## January Contest Calendar

January 2009			
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4	ARRL January VHF Sweeps	1900Z, Jan 17 to 0400Z, Jan 19
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 10 to 2359Z, Jan 11	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 19
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 10 to 0600Z, Jan 11	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 22
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 17 to 0600Z, Jan 18	CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25

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



## ***Skywarn Recognition Day - Little Rock***

Hello fellow PCARS members! I was active on Skywarn Recognition Day at the National Weather Service here in North Little Rock. Nearly 200 contacts on the HF bands were made by Marlene Keesler (KE5HQU) and her husband, Brian (N1WNC). I made 16 contacts on Echolink. Three of those that I made were with National Weather Service offices: one in Cleveland, Ohio, one in Springfield, Missouri, and one in Taunton, Massachusetts. Overall, several National Weather Service offices as well as individuals, were part of the contacts.

I'm the one with the black cap...and some of the old time hams might consider me "the villain", since most stations that connected with me were not through a regular "RF means" (hi hi). In the photos, clockwise from bottom left, are:

Dale Temple (W5RXU), Marlene Kessler (KE5HQU),  
her husband, Brian Kessler (N1WNC),  
Earl Glover (K5ROC),  
Daryl Stout (N5VLZ), Mark Barnhard (KD5AIV),  
Jerry Dixon (N5WVI) and Diane Meador (KD5QNN).



Jerry Stokes (reporter for local CBS-TV affiliate, KTHV,  
Marlene Keesler (KE5HQU), her husband,  
Brian Keesler (N1WNC), and Daryl Stout (N5VLZ).

One station that checked in, had the callsign suffix PBJ and his "alternate phonetics" were "peanut butter and jelly". I thought Marlene would laugh herself right out of the chair!!

It started around freezing when I got there at 8 am EST Saturday (I operated Echolink until 6 pm EST), and we got up to 51 degrees, and it was breezy outside at times. We operated from the library inside the NWS itself. There was no precipitation here in Little Rock, but heard several reports of snow and I think the Cleveland area was one of them.

73,  
***Daryl, N5VLZ***

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## ***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.





## ***PCARS 2008 Christmas Banquet***

Our regularly scheduled PCARS meeting for December 8, 2008, was replaced with our annual Christmas Banquet and gift exchange, this year held at Paradise Lakes Golf and Banquet Center. Once again, it proved to be an enjoyable evening where PCARS members could gather with their spouses and families and just spend the time enjoying each others company.



Weather wise, it was probably one of the worst nights we've had yet, with a sheet of ice covering the roadways and especially the parking lot. Despite that, everyone who made a reservation showed up and had a good time. The banquet center had been completely renovated after a small fire earlier this spring, so everything was nice and fresh. The buffet was all very good, and I don't think anyone went away hungry! Tom, KB8UUZ had the slide show of all the past years activities running throughout the evening.



The main event was Santa Clause! Santa personally passed out presents for all the kids and the gift exchange gifts for the adults. Most went away pretty happy, and a few were anxious to get home to look on the internet to try to figure out just exactly what they did get! As he left the building, Santa's Ho Ho Ho was replaced by Ouch Ouch Ouch as he was attacked by a pack of miniature JEDI Knights wielding light sabers! That's gotta be a first!

It was a fun night and the perfect way to finish out the year!

***Tom, WB8LCD***

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## ***KD8FPP helps out at the Campus School***



PCARS member Ryan, KD8FPP made an appearance at his alma mater Campus School in Streetsboro, to help these children make their own Christmas ornaments. Ryan will be deployed overseas with the his National Guard unit during 2009 and 2010.

***Bill, WB9LBI***



## President's Award for 2008

The "Presidents Award" was established as a way to recognize the efforts of a PCARS member who has proven himself (or herself) to be an asset of the club. The only rule is that it can't be presented to an officer. It's a way to recognize and honor a club member and let them know how much they are appreciated. It's never been easy to choose just one member from all of those who have done so much for the club. So this year I didn't! I chose two.

Ed Polack, N8EQJ. If just being a nice guy were all it took, Ed would certainly deserve it! But there's a whole lot more than that to Ed. Since getting active in PCARS, Ed is always there, and Ed is always involved. Ed has shown that even though he's been a ham for a lot of years, there are still a lot of new and exciting things

to do. If you need help with anything, Ed is there for you. (Note: The fact that PCARS uses the repeater with the N8EQJ call sign did not even enter into this calculation, but I must comment on how vital that repeater has been to the success of PCARS from the very beginning.)

Bill Fraedrich, WB9LBI. Bill's a nice guy too - with just a touch of sarcasm on the side! You never know exactly what Bill might say in any situation, but you always know it's going to make you smile. Bill became the very first PCARS legend when at Field Day number 1 he wowed



**Ed - N8EQJ Tom - WB8LCD Bill - WB9LBI**

the crowds with his CW abilities, even without a key or keyer! And when Bill puts on a presentation for the club, it's always something special, and something that amazes everyone – even those who might have thought they weren't interested in the topic.

Either Ed or Bill deserves the Presidents Award on his own merits. But what they did together in chairing the Field Day committee for 2008 really put us over the top! Our score was improved, our position in the standings was greatly improved, and it was all done while being the most fun Field Day we've had yet. Ed and Bill will again be co-chairing the 2009 PCARS Field Day and will again provide the Yin and the Yang that inspires everyone else to work together as a team!

I appreciate their efforts on behalf of the club, and for this year it only made sense to issue two Presidents Awards. Congratulations, and Thank You on behalf of PCARS!

Former President Awardees: 2006 - Errol KC8RJR, 2007 - Dan KD8EPA

**Tom, WB8LCD**



## ***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***

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## ***PCARS VE Test Sessions***

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



***February 7 - 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!!!!

## ***PCARS VE Team Report***

PCARS held its first VE session in the Fall of 2006. As of December 2008 the team had conducted twenty-one VE sessions. Thirteen of those were our regular bimonthly exams which have been held at the Center of Hope. Seven followed our Technician class at Maplewood and one session was held after the General upgrade course this past winter.

Seventy-two new hams earned their Technician licenses, forty-four hams upgraded to General Class and an additional seventeen hams achieved their Amateur Extra Class licenses. In addition, two hams passed Element One, the CW test while the five wpm exam was still required for upgrade to General.

Thanks to all of the VE's for their dedication and service: Tom, WB8LCD, Parky, KB8UUZ, Russ, KB8DPN, Carl, N4IT, Chuck, W8PT, Jim, N8PXW, Bob, N8QE, Deron, N8XTH, Russ, K8QF, Rex, NX8G, Rick, K8GI, Ed, N8EQJ, and Gay, WB8VNO.

Each of them can tell you that there is no more rewarding ham radio activity than the chance to be part of the process where we welcome new hams into the amateur radio community and congratulate fellow hams on their upgrade to a new license class.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner, just send me a note at [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org) and I will help you get started.

**Jim, KC8PD**  
**PCARS VE Team Liaison**

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## Ohio Hams

Ohio is ranked # 4 in the nation with the total number of licensed hams. The break down for Ohio hams (as of 22 December) is:

Total	Novice	Tech	Tech Plus	General	Advanced	Amateur Extra	Clubs
30276	1132	13067	936	6731	2809	5138	463

**From the FCC**

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## 75th Sweepstakes Mug, Pin Orders Accepted Through January 31, 2009

The dust has settled from the 2008 ARRL November Sweepstakes and the log submission deadline has passed. How did you do? If you submitted a log with more than 100 QSOs, you qualify for a Sweepstakes Participation pin! If you submitted a log with a Clean Sweep -- working all 80 ARRL/RAC sections -- you qualify for a Clean Sweep coffee mug!

According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, pins and mugs have a long-standing tradition as trophies in the November Sweepstakes. "This year's participation pin will feature the colorful 75th year logo -- the same logo you see on this page," he said. "They are stamped with either CW or SSB, so be sure to tell us what mode you want in your order. The Clean Sweep mugs this year are quite special indeed; for the 75th running, this year's mugs are fine etched glass and will really stand out on your shelf or operating desk. We won't be offering etched glass mugs again anytime soon, so these are truly collector's items."



If you would like to order a Sweepstakes pin or mug, you can either send a copy of your Sweepstakes summary sheet (if you filed a paper log) or a copy of the first page of your Cabrillo file (if you submitted an electronic log via e-mail) with your check for the correct amount by January 31, 2009. You can also call Kutzko at 860-594-0232 and he can take your credit card information over the phone. Sweepstakes Participation pin are \$6; Clean Sweep mugs this year are \$16. All costs include shipping charges.

Kutzko advises that these items are not in stock. "We will make our order to our supplier once we know how many requests we have," he explained. "Mugs and pins will likely be shipped in late March. The 75th running of the November Sweepstakes was a great event, with lots of participation and fun! Be sure to commemorate your effort with a pin or mug this year. All orders for Sweepstakes mugs and pins must be received by January 31, 2009."

**From the ARRL**

## ***World Radio – SK***

In case you missed the announcement, after thirty-eight years WorldRadio ceased publication with the release of its January 2009 edition. The magazine was sold to CQ and the announced plan is that WorldRadio will continue as an on-line offering of CQ. Even if that happens, it still won't be the same as retrieving the monthly edition from the mailbox.



If you aren't familiar with WorldRadio, it was quite different from the other two amateur radio magazines, QST and CQ. Both of those are full-color, printed on glossy paper and have that look and feel of a modern periodical. WorldRadio was published on newsprint with no color, just black and white, like something from another era.

The publisher, Armond Noble, N6WR, said in his farewell column that he wanted a magazine that reported the full range of amateur radio activities and not spend so much space reviewing equipment and homebrew projects. As he wrote, he wanted the magazine to focus on the fact that "What we did with this wonderful thing called Amateur Radio was more important than what we did it with."

So you could always find stories in WorldRadio about small scale DXpeditions, public service and emcomm, QRP, MARS, county hunting, CW, and old-time radio, just to name a few topics that rarely saw the same degree of coverage in the other magazines.

The various columnists were writers who actually had opinions about ham radio issues and they weren't reluctant to express them. It seems like I could always find something to disagree with in John, W3BE's Rules & Regs column. But hey, those were his opinions and interpretations of the rules and the current state of ham radio and it is perfectly acceptable to agree to disagree about some of them.

And just who the heck was "Krusty" Kurt N. Sterba, the Aerials columnist? My guess was that the name was a pseudonym for the true author because the byline never included an amateur call sign. But his columns, though at times a bit gruff, always provided interesting and insightful views on antenna theory and useful applications.

WorldRadio filled the gaps left by the upscale and more commercial QST and CQ. It was a welcome change of pace in each month's mail. We wish the publishing team well in retirement. It is best to go out on your own terms and while your product is still performing at the top of its game.

We send our thanks and say "73" to the WorldRadio team for being another voice for ham radio for thirty-eight years.

***Jim, KC8PD***



### ***Swap-N-Shop***

**WANTED: HF Rig** with general coverage - working - under \$300. Contact **Don KD8ICR** at [KD8ICR@portcars.org](mailto:KD8ICR@portcars.org) or call 330-842-1067.

**WANTED: Second hand ARRL General Class** license book (current version) I could use for the upcoming General class. Contact **Don KD8ICR** at [KD8ICR@portcars.org](mailto:KD8ICR@portcars.org) or call 330-842-1067.



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**FOR SALE: ICOM 775** 10-160 meters, 200 Watts includes HM-36 mic, Rack Mount Handles, two SP-20 Speakers with Audio Filter - all for \$2500.00 - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

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**FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-920** - 10-160 + 6 meters - 100 Watts, includes hand mic. \$800.00 - Contact **Ted - KC8SYD** at home 330-947-3530 or cell 330-760-2726.

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**FOR SALE - YAESU FT-90R** - Micro Mobile - 2m/440 Dual Band - Detachable Front Panel - Asking: \$250 OBO - Contact **Mike - KC8LJY** at 330-673-1035

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**FOR SALE: Ameritron 811H Amplifier.** It is in excellent shape. I would like \$625.00 for the amp. and \$25.00 dollars for the custom cover by Stan in Calif. Contact **Russ, K8QF** at 330-475-4959 or [K8QF@portcars.org](mailto:K8QF@portcars.org).

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**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. Contact **Carl - N4IT@portcars.org**

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**FOR SALE - High Sierra Sidekick** Screwdriver antenna, black, 6-80 meters. Comes with optional Spurs (capacitance hat), spare spring contact, controller & manual - costs \$460 new. - In great shape, will sell for \$350. Contact **Tom - KB8UUZ@portcars.org**

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**FOR SALE:** Want to work mobile?? I have come across a supply of "new - old stock" items from the now defunct Antenna Specialists, formerly of Solon, OH. You can get a heavy duty ball mount, with stainless spring and 96" stainless whip, all for just \$30.00. Let me know how many you want. **Tom - WB8LCD@portcars.org**

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**WANTED: Antenna Tuner** , 600 watts or more. Contact **Carl N4IT** at [ccapps2439@yahoo.com](mailto:ccapps2439@yahoo.com) or 330-673-2764

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**FOR SALE: Uniden President HR2510** CW/SSB 10 Meter Transceiver with Shakespeare 376-6B 10 Meter Vertical Antenna. \$175.00 Contact **Bob, N8QE** at: 330-633-5408 or e-mail [N8QE@portcars.org](mailto:N8QE@portcars.org)

-----  
**FOR SALE: Dual Band Trunk Lid Antenna**, 2m/440 like new \$25. Contact **Carl N4IT** at [ccapps2439@yahoo.com](mailto:ccapps2439@yahoo.com) or 330-673-2764

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**FOR SALE: Astron 12 Amp Power Supply** , good condition \$35. Contact **Carl N4IT** at [ccapps2439@yahoo.com](mailto:ccapps2439@yahoo.com) or 330-673-2764

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## PCARS Dues



Time flies when you're having fun! 2009 has just begun. That means that your 2009 dues are due now! So, PLEASE check out the PCARS web site ([www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)), look under Membership and review the membership application for the dues amounts. Are you a Regular, Senior or Family member? The rates are different. In any case, please get you dues in early. It makes it easier to get the books balanced... Also, by re-newing your dues in PCARS, you're telling everyone you support all the great fun activities that PCARS does to promote this great hobby of ours. Without you, there would be no PCARS!

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## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in January

N8PXW	Jim	Korenz
KB8SZI	Peggy	Parkinson
NX8G	Rex	Simmons

KB8VSQ	Michael	Lee
W8WWG	Charles	Sharp
N8GIE	John	Ziccardi

## PCARS Thursday Net Control

I'll be adding up all the numbers for 2008 and will report to you in the Feb issue of the Radiogram. In the meantime, I'll be working on the net control schedule for Feb/March/April/May 2009.

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!

YES - There will be a PCARS net on Thursday January 1, 2009! Hope to hear you there!

January							
1	WB8LCD	8	W8PT	15	KC8PD	22	N8QE

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



**Tom, WB8LCD**  
*PCARS Net Control Coordinator*

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## Some Words From Weaver

### Gary Johnston, KI4LA re-elected Vice Director

Current Great Lakes Division Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA was re-elected to the Vice Director chair for another three years in a term that will begin at noon, January 1. Gary won a highly-contested race over Michigan Official Club Coordinator Dan Romanchik, KB6NU and Division Legislative Action Chairman John Meyers, NB4K. Meyers is also former Kentucky SM. Gary edged Dan by a 13-vote margin and John by 63 votes in an election that saw 3578 votes cast. Gary served as Vice Director to former Director George Racer, WB8BGY. Gary served as director for six months after George resigned.



### Triple Play season to open

It has nothing to do with the "hot stove league" or "fantasy baseball" or even "Tinker to Evers to Chance," but it should prove to be a lot of fun. What is it? It is the new Triple Play WAS Award that has just been unveiled by the ARRL. It refers to a new form of Worked All States (WAS) that begins January 1 and requires working three new WASs -- one each on phone, CW and RTTY/digital. QSOs for the Triple Play award must be submitted through Logbook of the World (LoTW) to receive credit. Paper QSLs are not accepted for this award.



QSOs for the award must be dated no earlier than January 1, 2009. Three sets of confirmed QSOs with each of the 50 US states must be presented via LoTW for the award. All bands available to US amateurs may be used for the Triple Play with the exception of 60 M.

One added major point is that US applicants for the Triple Play award must be members of ARRL. Further details on the new award may be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/?nc=1/>

Happy hunting!  
73,

**Jim, K8JE**  
*Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division*

## ***Time to Change Your Shortwave Radio Dial***

After seventy years of broadcasting Canada's official time, NRC's shortwave station CHU will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 KHz transmitter to 7850 KHz.



Science  
at work for  
Canada

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CANADA

**COMMUNIQUE**

The change goes into effect on 01 January 2009 at 00:00 UTC.

CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada, broadcasting 24 hours a day from a location approximately 15 km south-west of downtown Ottawa. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, voice to announce the time in French and English, and digital data to set computers.

The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories in Ottawa, at the National Research Council Canada. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time), which is now the reference for official time used by all countries. UTC is the modern implementation of Greenwich Mean Time.

"Coincidentally, this frequency change comes at a time when NRC is investing resources to refurbish the aging transmitters at CHU in order to provide clear, dependable shortwave services as part of NRC's mandate to disseminate time to all Canadians." said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "The shortwave time service is especially beneficial for those in remote locations where there is limited access to internet and telephone communication. CHU also provides a back up against failure of other services."

In April 2007, the International Telecommunications Union re-allocated the 7300-7350 KHz band from a fixed service to a broadcasting service. Since then, interference on the 7335 KHz frequency has come from many information broadcasters around the world.

CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 KHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference. We have heard from amateur radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers, and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. As well, comments were received from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment.

To give notice to users, CHU will broadcast an announcement in both English and French. More information about CHU can be found at:

[http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time\\_services/shortwave\\_broadcasts\\_e.html](http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html)

Comments about the CHU change can be sent by e-mail to [radio.chu@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](mailto:radio.chu@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca).

***National Research Council Canada***



## ***Looking for a Map to Track your Contacts?***

If you need a map of the world or one of the USA, You can get them free at the AAA automobile club if you are a member. I just received one of each after showing my membership card. They are really nice for putting on a cork board near your shack, then you can stick pins on the map of your contacts.

***Dan, KD8EPA***



## PCARS Patches & Stickers



PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket!! The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available. A 4"x6" oval and a 3" x 10 " bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers!



If you would like to order by mail contact: [wb9lbi@portcars.org](mailto:wb9lbi@portcars.org)

## The Triple Play Worked All States Award

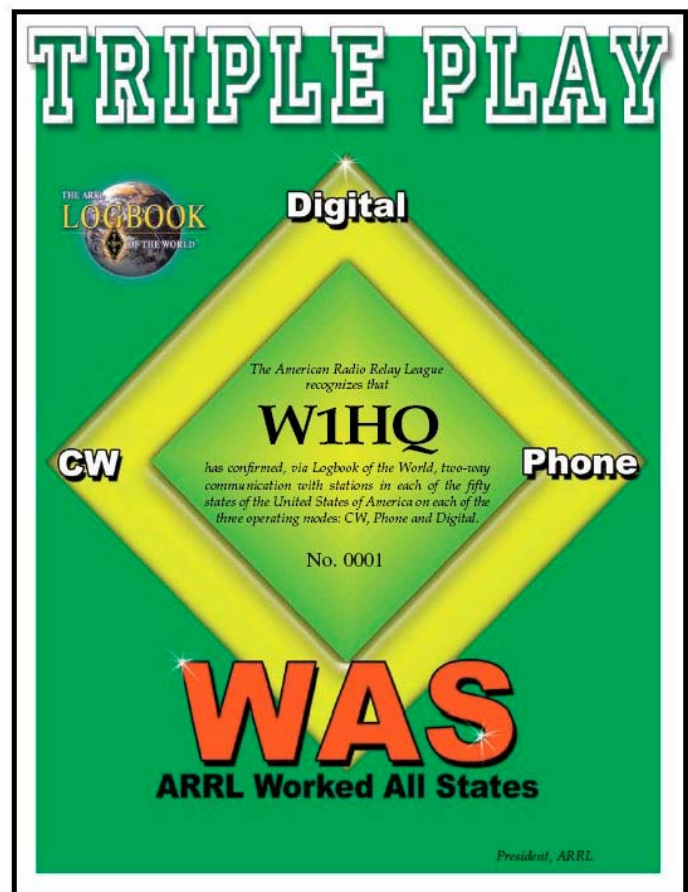
As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: The Triple Play Worked All States Award. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW). All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors, decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, K0HB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone) following soon after.

"Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones." He warns that it can be addictive once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award!





The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members. Any attempt to falsify data, logs or other application operations may be grounds for disqualification. The decision of the ARRL Awards Committee is final.

*From the ARRL*



## **Mark Your Calendars**

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- January 12th meeting – **Chuck, W8PT**, Contesting
- January 24th activity – **Tom, KB8UUZ**, Coax and Connectors
- February 9th meeting – **Jim, KC8PD**, et al., Ham Radio Deluxe
- February 21st – **Freeze Your Acorns Off**, Roy Smith Shelter House, Fred Fuller Park, Kent
- March 9th meeting – **HF Antennas Roundtable** (tentative)
- March 22nd activity – **Jim, KC8PD**, J-Pole Antenna Kits
- April 13th meeting – **Bill Weisinger, WB8UAH**, Low Power Commercial FM
- April 26th activity – **G5RV Antenna Workshop** (tentative)
- May 11th meeting – **Dick Pascoe, G0BPS**, President, QRP/ARCI
- 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!**



## **Thanks & 73**



This is the 1st 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, WB8LCD, WB2DFC, W8PT, W8KNO, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI, KB8DPN, N5VLZ, KD8EOZ, KD8EPA, K8JE, National Research Council Canada, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web** - With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor

## ***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**



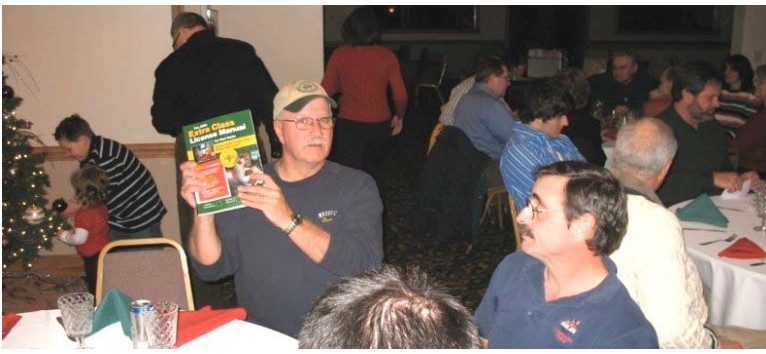
## ***Pictures from the December PCARS Meeting & Christmas Party***















***Have a Safe and Wonderful New Year from  
ALL of US at PCARS to ALL of YOU***



## PCARS - KD8CKP

*Fourth Annual*

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



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

**When:** *Saturday - Feb. 21, 2009  
Set up: 9am*



**Operating Time:** *10am - 6pm EST*

We will be active on CW & SSB in the General areas of the 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Echolink on the KC8RKV echolink node) and anything else we can get working)  
Club Call Sign **KD8CKP**

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



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

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



Check PCARS out on the web at: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)







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

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Joe 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
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 yourself from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuz@portcars.org

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



**PCARS**  
[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)



NLC