



The

RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



June 2009 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 4 No. 6

~ 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

It was a privilege to have Dick Pascoe, G0BPS, the current President of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International, as our speaker at the May meeting. More importantly, it was a pleasure to meet him and have a chance to share a beer and some conversation with him. What a great guy! After ten minutes I felt like I had known him for years.

So when I got down to Dayton who is one of the first people that I run into: Dick, who was one of the volunteers staffing the QRP/ARCI booth, and it was like meeting up with an old friend. Now we have to find a way to arrange the PCARS field trip to the United Kingdom!

Also at Dayton, while I was at the ARRL area who should I see heading my way but Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD, who will be our speaker at the June meeting. Nancy was featured in a QST cover photo two months ago with none other than Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the Ohio Section Manager.

Nancy works for NASA at the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland and you can count on hearing some great stories about the work that she does there as well as active involvement in amateur radio.

We have a busy PCARS summer coming up. Field Day will be here before you know it and it promises to be a blast. Bill, WB9LBI, and Ed, N8EQJ, have high expectations for how we can top last year's point total. Every one who participated at Antenna Day knows how to get those antennas up quickly and the stations operating. Tom, WB8LCD, Robert, KD8GWY, and Errol, KC8RJR, promise an outstanding dinner on Saturday night.

There will also be the PCARS Picnic July 18th at the Black Squirrel Oasis (aka, WB8LCD's QTH) and the Two-Meter Sprint in August. Watch for information on some other activities that may also pop up in the meantime.

A lot has been happening at the PCARS club site. Power washing has been completed and next we will be scheduling a Paint Party on an upcoming weekend. A bunch of volunteers will be needed for the painting and if we can put a crew on each of the outside walls we can probably finish it in half a day.



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From the President (continued from Page 1)

Tom, WB8LCD, and his crew have been making headway on the installation of the dropped ceiling and lighting in the radio room. Once the ceiling is in they will be working on the countertops that will be constructed from some solid wood doors that were donated by Ed, N8EQJ. If all goes well we should also be getting some new carpet installed after that.

When the radio room renovations are completed we can then move on to equipping it with radios and additional gear and then get HF antennas installed. If all goes well in the meantime we will be able to run a club station from there for the Ohio QSO Party.

The roof drain still needs to be repaired where it has been leaking in the garage and that will be taken care of by the contractor doing the building repairs. Our next task will be to start on the workshop at the back of the garage.

Rick, K8CAV, and his team have been getting a lot of work done on the communications trailer. His goal is to have it ready to roll out at Field Day even if it is just there for display and not to house one of the stations.



All in all, there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved and lend a hand. Thanks in advance for all of your help and support for the club!

73,
Jim, KC8PD

From the Vice President

Hi All!! Welcome to warm weather.... suntan oil, shorts, tee-shirts, barefoot in the grass. Time for cookouts and family gatherings, yard work, camping, motorcycle riding etc. Why not include amateur radio in your events? Take your HT to the family picnic, your laptop with EchoLink to a family gathering, your HF radio on a camping trip. A lot of fun for a little extra packing. You might even get someone interested in the hobby. Hope all of you can enjoy some outdoor operating!

Dayton !!!!! What can I say, a terrific time! It was really great to see everyone from PCARS and many others I haven't seen for years. I especially enjoyed bumping into Dick Pascoe at the QRPARCI booth. What a big plus Dick is for QRP and Amateur Radio. And... what a treat to finally meet in person one of my outdoor QRP heroes, Steve Galchutt, WG0AT (ex N0TU - and very famous goat-radio personality). When Steve let me know he would be at Dayton, I made finding and having an "eyeball" QSO with him a high priority!



After several trips to the Buddipole booth, I finally hooked up with him. Steve is as nice in person, as he is on the radio. He very graciously showed up at the ARRL Booth for a group PCARS photo. In the photo, Steve is the guy with the harmonica.... and next year, rumor has it, the goats may be in the photo. According to Steve, the "boys" are coming along next year! The "boys" are Rooster and Peanut, Steve's goats. They haul all of Steve's gear up the mountain when it's time to operate QRP from a remote area. Steve calls home Monument, Colorado. Thank you Steve, for taking time out of your busy Dayton trip to visit with us.



Another high point of the Dayton trip was the HF Pack pedestrian mobile net. Saturday afternoon the net was held on 17 meters, 18.1575 MHz. The net was run by Mark Francis, KI0PF. Mark has run the net for a few years and this one was as much fun as any I can remember. I don't know the roster count, but many checked in. At least one of the check-ins was from out of state. The band opened for a short time and I think I heard Missouri. I'll have to wait for the check in list to verify it. I checked in with my trusty FT-817 set up in the parking lot. Later many of the HF Pack pedestrians met in the front of HARA Arena for a group photo. Google HF Pack and see the photo. A lot of fun in a small package!

June looks to be an exciting month. Field Day is the biggy!! Show up for some great Amateur Radio activity. Remember, it's a 24+ hour event, so there will be many opportunities to participate! I hope to see all of you there!

All for now, 72 and 73

Dave, WB2DFC



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

Unfortunately the DX Newsletters that contain information for June and beyond are still continuing to come slowly but there is activity that I can report.

Thanks goes to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW for the following DX and IOTA information. Please note that this report is only as good as the information received from the various sources. 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).



DX News

4U1W/4U30, AUSTRIA (Special Event). The Vienna International Amateur Radio Club station, 4U1VIC, will be active using the following special event callsigns as follows: 4U1WED - During June to celebrate World Environment Day 4U30VIC - Between July and December to celebrate the Vienna International Centre's (UN building in Vienna) 30th anniversary. QSL via 4U1VIC: Amateur Radio Club, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA. PLEASE NOTE: For DXCC purpose, all (including 4U1VIC) counts as Austria (OE)

5H2, TANZANIA. DK9IP/KH7CD, will be active as 5H2WK from **Arusha** between May 28th and June 5th. Activity will be a holiday style, so his operations will be limited. QSL via DK9IP.

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.

7X, ALGERIA (Update/Special Event Callsign Change/Ham Meet). Members of the Algerian Radio Amateur Association (A.R.A) and Djelfa Radio Club (7X2VFK) will activate the special event callsign 7U2ISM during the International Algerian Sahara HAM Meeting (June 15-21st). A number of stations will be on the air on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB with some sporadic RTTY and BPSK. A special diploma will be issued instead of a QSL card. QSL via 7X2DD.

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

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

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

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

HV, VATICAN. As Joe, W8KNO mentioned during our NET, Members of Saronno ARI section will be active from HV5PUL, the amateur radio station at the Pontifical Lateran University, on June 1st and 3-4th. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to:HV5PUL, c/o Pontificia Universita Lateranense, 00120 Vatican City State.

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

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

S2, BANGLADESH - DU1UGZ, is expected to be active as S21UGZ from Dhaka City until June 20th, depending on his work schedule. He will be using a low band dipole at first, so his emphasis will be on 80/40 meters SSB and RTTY. From May through June, he will be using a beam for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters. He hopes to have a linear in use starting in May as well. QSL via DU1UGZ.

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.

IOTA News

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

C6, BAHAMAS - Look for C6APR to be active again from the **Crooked Island Lodge, Pittstown Point, Crooked Island (NA-113), Bahamas**. Activity will take place between July 23-27th, and during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th) as a Multi-Op/Mixed-Mode/High-Power/DXpedition entry. Operators mentioned are: W2GJ, K3IXD, W3PP and K4QO. Operations before and after the contest by C6APR will be on 80-10 meters including the 30/17/12 meter bands using CW and SSB. Also, look for C6AXD to be on RTTY and C6AQO on 6 meters (grid FL22). All three call signs are good for **Bird Rock Lighthouse (ARLHS BAH-005)** as well as IOTA NA-113 and Grid Locator FL22tt. All QSLs go to K3IXD.

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

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-048 - DL5MO, will be active as F/DL5MO from **Groix Island (DIFM AT-012, WLOTA 0050)** between June 29th and July 10th. Activity will be holiday style with operations mainly on 40/30/20 meters. QSL via DL5MO, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-078 - EC2ADN and EA3NT will be active as EG3FI from **Formigues Island, June 6-7th. This will be the first activation of Formigues Island** since this island was added to the EU-078 group. Christian submitted all the necessary documents to be added. QSL via EA3NT, direct or by the bureau.

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

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

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

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

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

GD0, ISLE OF MAN (EU-116) - GM4AFF, will be active as GD0F during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/SSB/24-Hrs/Island entry. QSL via M0CMK.

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

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

ZK2, NIUE (Update/OC-040). ZL1CT (GM3WOJ), is now active as ZK2V through June 20th. Resources are limited, so activity will be mainly on 80/40/20/15 meters using CW and SSB, with some 30/17/12 meter activity and RTTY. Planned operations include entries in the 2009 ARRL CW and Phone Contests. He is told that he will have Internet access from his QTH. If so, his plans are to upload logs to LoTW on a daily or every other day basis. More details and Chris's online logs will be available on his DXpedition's Web page at: <http://www.zk2v.com>

DXPedition

TI9, COCOS ISLAND. Henry, TI2HMG, is trying to put together another operation to TI9 which will take place in February of 2010. If you are interested in being part of the DXpedition, send an E-mail to: ti2hmg@qsl.net Look for updates and details on: <http://www.qsl.net/ti2hmg/cocos.htm>

OK. That's it for this month. There looks to be a lot of activity taking place this summer so I hope to catch some of you on the air. So for now, 73 and gud DX to all.

Chuck, W8PT



EmComm

I would like to thank Pete, K8OUA, for inviting me to speak to the Warren Amateur Radio Association (WARA) at their May 19th meeting. It is always great to get out and meet members of other clubs and find out more about amateur radio activities in their communities.



The topic for the meeting was emergency communications, in particular the similarities and differences in the services and activities of RACES and ARES® as well as MARS. The material seemed to be well received and probably served as a convenient refresher on the basic differences between RACES and ARES®.



But developments at the Dayton Hamvention the previous weekend made the presentation on the Military Affiliate Radio System all the more timely. At the MARS Forum Chief of Army MARS, Stu Carter, AAA9A, announced that a Department of Defense directive was

going to be causing some changes to MARS, including its name which will later be changed to the Military Auxiliary Radio System. The Civil Air Patrol will also apparently be merged into MARS operation.

Even more significantly, the future of Navy/Marine Corps MARS is uncertain at this time. I have heard that this could either be the result of the dissatisfaction of the Navy/Marine Corps leadership with the proposed restructuring of the tri-service MARS or due to budget issues. In any event, it could lead to the termination of Navy/Marine Corps MARS.

Whatever the reason this is an important issue for a number of PCARS members who are also active members in the Ohio Navy/Marine Corps MARS unit. They are committed to the mission of their MARS unit and I hope that they are able to continue as MARS members no matter what decision is made by the service's leaders.

The past few years have been quite tumultuous for the MARS teams, particularly for Army MARS. It has been about three years or so since Chief Carter was appointed and in the meantime there have been significant changes in the primary MARS mission as well as the training and participation requirements for its members.



Army MARS is now focused on being an emcomm service provider to federal and state agencies including, for example, the federal Transportation Security Administration. One way it will do this is by providing information on events at ground level. For another, it has developed a robust system for providing mid- to long-haul digital communications. Plus, all Army MARS members are being required in 2009 to complete a twelve week MARS 101 course that includes participation in at least one training net for each of those twelve weeks followed by a final exam.

MARS takes its mission seriously and is very much a “top-down” operation with standardized policies and procedures promulgated at the national level for all units to follow. Watch for more updates on MARS activities and contact me if you would like information on how to get involved.

Also, a reminder to all that we will be hitting our peak period for severe summer weather over the next few months. Locally, Skywarn nets will be found on the 145.390 machine. Stay alert for severe weather warnings and watches and if you observe severe weather conditions make your reports either directly to the National Weather Service or via the Skywarn net.

Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI
Radio Officer, Portage County RACES
EC, ARES® of Portage County



Contesting

A special congratulations and thank you go out to the following members for their participation in the following contests:

In the Ten-Ten Winter Phone Contest, we had Tom KB8UUZ, Al KB8VJL, Bob N8QE and Rex NX8G (his new call).

In the November Sweepstakes Phone Contest, we saw Russ K8QF, Tom KB8UUZ, Al KB8VJL, Rex KD8ELX (his old call), Bob N8QE and myself W8KNO.

Joe, W8KNO



Paper Chase

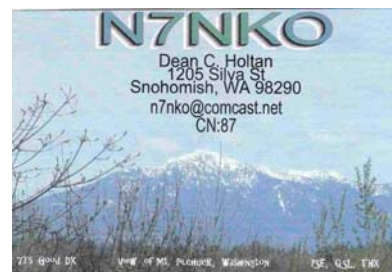
Every month I write an article and about obtaining some paper and it usually costs some money. This month I will make a few suggestions how to get something that may be of interest to you and only cost you the postage. These are only suggestion and you may modify your collection to anything you like. What is the collection I refer to? It is QSL cards. The only requirement to obtain the cards is to get on the air and communicate.



Five examples would be: Collecting QSL cards containing the same letters as those in your suffix. Collecting cards whose suffix are your initials and working any county the same name as your county (there is only one other Portage county and that is in Wisconsin). Other items that would be interesting to collect are ships and trains. Just get on the air and good things will happen to you.

Hear you in the pile-ups.

Joe, W8KNO



Thank You PCARS !

I want to thank everybody at PCARS for the warm welcome I received at the May club meeting. Thanks to many generous people who came forward at that meeting, cases of powdered Gatorade, G2, lemonade, and other drink mixes have been gathered up and sent off to our soldiers in Iraq. Your contributions made it possible to obtain special prices from our local merchants.

Each of the boxes in this picture contains several packets of single-serving drink mix. To save space and shipping expense, I opened up the boxes and only shipped the packets. The Post Office has special cartons that let you ship as much as will fit into the carton, no matter how much it weighs.

My son Ryan, whose call letters are KD8FPP, said that the water at his base "Tastes like dirt, on a good day." Temperatures are now over 100 degrees on most days. The soldiers in the desert have to drink a lot of water to make up for this, so it really helps to have something that tastes good and also help balance their electrolytes.



Robin Fraedrich

*Family Readiness Group Leader
Company B, 638th Aviation Support Battalion
Ohio National Guard*

Hamfests

7 June - 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)

What does the ARRL do for Me? - Part 2



Last month I began this series of discussions on the benefits members receive from membership in ARRL. I provided a simple listing of services and noted which were available with no fee associated with them. I also referred to a number of the best-known services (e.g. DXCC, contest) as being superficial. By superficial I mean they are great activities that provide many of us with needed relaxation and a lot of fun (admittedly, with a little frustration at times), but they don't do much of earthshaking consequence for Amateur Radio or the public.

ARRL is the only ham radio organization in this country that can mount a sustained, full-scale effort to achieve the regulatory and legislative action Amateur Radio deserves. Through this effort, Amateur Radio, and you and I benefit.

What other ham organization in the US could have brought a successful lawsuit against the FCC in Federal Court? None.

However, because of ARRL, the FCC has been prevented from putting an ill-conceived regulation into effect. A US Court has required FCC to suspend implementing it and to go back to the drawing board. The Commission is required to follow its own operating rules in developing a new regulation, provided it wants to develop a new regulation.

ARRL successfully showed the Court the Commission ignored its own rules when it paid no attention to relevant data it had received in developing rulemaking. The resulting rule would give unlicensed transmitters dominance over licensed transmitters. In other words, Part 15 unlicensed devices could interfere with license radio services (including Amateur Radio). The most notable Part 15 device at this time is BPL.



When one considers only BPL, if you operate from 160 through 2 meters, you have benefited from the League's fight to keep Part 15 devices, including BPL, to operate free of interference to ham operations.

Next month I'll feature another aspect of something ARRL "Does for Me."

Jim, K8JE

Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in June:

N8ZDR	Richard Wilson
WA8SJU	Howard Evans
WB8OVQ	Robert Warner
KD8EPF	Rena Martin-Wehner
AB8AA	Al Avnet

WD8DAU	Dan Trout
K8HGX	Jack Alpern
KC8PIZ	Sam McCoy
KD8IHQ	Chuck Kulig



PCARS Yahoo Site

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



June Contest Calendar

June 2009	
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0600Z, Jun 6
SEANET Contest	1200Z, Jun 6 to 1200Z, Jun 7
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Jun 13 to 2400Z, Jun 14
Portugal Day Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Jun 13
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 13
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 13 to 1500Z, Jun 14
REF DDFM 6m Contest	1600Z, Jun 13 to 1600Z, Jun 14
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Jun 13 to 0300Z, Jun 15
SARL Youth Day Sprint	0700Z-1100Z, Jun 16
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 20 to 2400Z, Jun 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jun 22
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	1200Z, Jun 27 to 1200Z, Jun 28
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 27 to 1200Z, Jun 28
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 27 to 1400Z, Jun 28
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 27 to 2100Z, Jun 28

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



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

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

June 6 - August 1 - October 3 - December 5

VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10:00 am at the **Center of Hope**: 1034 West Main St. in Ravenna. Walk-ins are always welcome.



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

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Ham License Plates Wanted

Dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station. We have 24 up on the wall now, but we can use more!

Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. It costs about

\$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. In about 2 weeks or so, the plates come in the mail. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be renewed, 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 Group site.



Tom, KB8UUZ

Field Day Q&A - 2009



Q: When do we eat?

A: Ah, the most important Field Day question of all. We will be serving the best damn dinner of any Field Day site in America, at around 6 pm. Breakfast on Sunday morning around Eightish. Snacks and beverages are available around the clock. Basically, you can nibble your way through the whole event. There is no charge to PCARS members for food.

Q: Can I bring a guest?

A: Yes, please bring your friends, neighbors, kids, coworkers, and anyone else you can think of, to Field Day. If you can't haul them along, suggest they stop by at their convenience. Invite your local politicians to stop by. Bring your wives and girlfriends, but think twice before inviting both at the same time. Your guest may join us for dinner. We are asking a minimum \$5 donation for each guest.

Q: Should I bring beer?

A: No beer, booze, drugs, fireworks, or automatic weapons, please. However, if you have access to a helicopter or tank, that would be pretty cool.

Q: I can't commit to a shift. Can I still operate at Field Day?

A: You are welcome at the Field Day site at any time, and just let the FD chairmen or station captains that you'd like a chance to sit down in front of the rig. They will try to work you in.

Q: What if I have to cancel?

A: Notify Bill WB9LBI as soon as possible. He will secretly curse you behind your back. You deserve it.

Q: I'm afraid to get behind the microphone. I've never done a contest before.

A: Don't be such a wuss. There's a first time for everything. If you've never operated before, head down to the 20-meter station and watch Chuck, W8PT, the master at work. It's not all that hard. Once you get the idea, tell the FD Chairmen (Bill, WB9LBI or Ed, N8EQJ) or a station captain, that you'd like to give it a whirl. People will be on hand to help you out. We will also be running a Simulated Field Day Coaching Session, so that you can practice before you get on the air.

Q: I don't know how to log

A: Really, it's not hard. There's just three pieces of information for each contact, and if you've never seen it before, it will take you about two minutes to learn.

Q: I don't know anything about computers

A: Really, logging isn't hard. You must be able to type, however. Two fingered typing will do just fine. If you can't type, don't volunteer to log.

Q: If I don't operate or log, is there anything else to do?

A: We need people to help us set up (11 am Saturday) and tear down (2 pm Sunday). You might get pressed into service on some miscellaneous task. You can always hang out at any of our six transmitters, or just hang out in general. Lots of people do, because PCARS is a fun bunch of people. You're having fun just reading this, aren't you?

Q: Well, um...

A: Never mind. Next question.

Q: I tried to sign up for a specific shift but it was already taken

A: Take another shift, another station, or just come and hang out. We will probably need operators in the overnight hours, if history repeats itself.

Q: Should I set up a tent?

A: No, there is no campground at Ravenna City Park

Q: What should I bring with me?

A: Hat, sunglasses, bug spray. Rain gear, and jacket if you're going to be there at night. An HT wouldn't hurt, either. If you are there for setup/tear down, bring tools and work gloves.

Q: Can I work at the CW station if I don't know Morse Code?

A: You can run PSK-31, if there is no CW activity taking place at the time. Never done PSK-31? It's not hard.

Q: Will you ever shut up about Field Day?

A: Not unless you pay me. It's too much fun. See you June 27 and 28!

Bill, WB9LBI



Antenna Day Pictures

Antenna Day - the annual "Let's make sure everything works before Field Day" was held on May 9th.



From the ARRL Letter

THE 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND DAYTON HAMVENTION: THREE DAYS OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FESTIVITIES

When Hara Arena closed its doors on Sunday, May 17 after three days as the 57th annual Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org> came to an end, many agreed that this was one of the best Hamventions in recent memory. With so much to do -- including close to 50 hours of forums and the world-renowned flea market, as well as vendor tables that seemed to stretch for miles -- the arena floor was filled with excitement.



Held in conjunction with Hamvention, the 2009 ARRL National Convention was the largest exhibit at the event <http://www.arrl.org/expo>. At the ARRL EXPO, hams had the opportunity to do some kit building, pick up the latest League publications and Field Day T shirts, get a little competitive at the IARU table and drop off DXCC cards, as well as meet ARRL Officers, Directors and staff members.

One of the highlights of both the National Convention and the Hamvention was private astronaut Richard Garriott, W5KWQ <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/21/10660/?nc=1>, son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL. In 1983, Owen Garriott was the first ham to make QSOs from space while aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Richard, a guest of the ARRL and AMSAT <http://www.amsat.org/> at Dayton, told convention crowds about his journey to the International Space Station (ISS) http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html. Ever gracious, he spent time with ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, in addition to speaking and signing autographs at the ARRL EXPO area, the ARRL Youth Lounge, and ARRL and AMSAT forums. Garriott also spoke at a Saturday afternoon forum, telling how he fulfilled his lifelong dream of experiencing space travel. Combining Amateur Radio and spaceflight, he had QSOs with more than 200 hams while on the ISS.

The busiest place in the ARRL EXPO was definitely the kit building area. Led by ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, with assistance from QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and ARRL Instructors, hams (and non-hams, too!) sat down in front of a circuit board and soldering iron to build either a 24 hour clock or electronic keyer. "We saw a lot of people of all ages -- including a large number of kids -- coming over to build," Allison said. "A large majority had never built a kit before. They were so excited to be able to build something that they can use immediately." He pointed out that ham parents brought in their non-licensed children to build kits: "The little ones had a blast, and the parents were so proud that their kids are getting interested in Amateur Radio through the kit building projects."

The ARRL National Convention offered an expanded IARU exhibit area this year. Led by new IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, the booth was staffed by representatives from the three IARU Regions: The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) <http://www.darc.de/> from Germany represented Region 1 <http://www.iaru-r1.org/>, the ARRL represented Region 2 <http://www.iaru-r2.org/> and the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm> represented Region 3 <http://www.iaru-r3.org/>.

"It was exciting to see how many people came over to visit with us," Ellam said. "With the JARL processing applications for the IARU's Worked All Continent (WAC) <http://www.iaru.org/wac/> and 5-Band WAC awards, there was a steady flow of amateurs here." In addition to the WAC awards, the DARC sponsored a world flag

identification contest and the ARRL offered a RUFZ <http://www.rufzxp.net/> CW copying competition throughout the event.

"It's certainly well known that hams from all over the world come to Dayton for the Hamvention," said ARRL International Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD. "We truly had an international flavor in the ARRL EXPO, though, as this was the first time that we had representatives from all three IARU regions in the IARU booth. We were glad to see many hams stop by and visit with IARU representatives from all corners of the globe."

A massive forum schedule was one of the key features of the Dayton Hamvention. In keeping with this year's theme -- DREAM: Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More -- there were numerous forums featuring digital radio. ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, presented a forum on digital contesting. Tying in with this, Shelby Sommerville, K4WW, led a forum on RTTY, both from the operations side and from the contesting side. ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, piloted a multi-level forum on D-STAR.

According to ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, there were close to 35 new products featured at Hamvention. From a 2 meter transverter module for the Elecraft K3 to a traditional hexagonal five band Yagi from DX Engineering to antenna tuners from Ten-Tec and Palstar, there was definitely a wide variety of the latest in ham radio gear to satisfy even the most hard-to-please ham.

For more on the 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention -- including a look at some of the new and exciting products -- check out the July issue of QST. The 2010 Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 14-16.

FCC LOOKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-126A1.pdf>. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>>.



The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/31/105/>> to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$201,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory

fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/>> will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>>, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>>. There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.htm>>. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms <<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>>.

From the ARRL Letter



Hamvention 2009 - PCARS Views & Comments

It will be interesting to see the total attendance figures for this year's Hamvention, but we had to have set a record for the number of PCARS members at the show. Including all of the members who were working their tails off in the DX Engineering booth, there had to be at least thirty of us there!

The Hamvention experience gets more interesting and less overwhelming for me every time I go. Plenty of familiar faces and acquaintances to renew, lots of side events such as the forums to attend, and the endless variety of vendors. It's a trade show, convention and hamfest rolled into one event. Mark your calendars for May 14-16, 2010!



KB8UUZ, KC8PD, KD8JRJ, N8QE

Jim, KC8PD

Got a great deal on a used Kenwood! And, yes it works just great! This was my first time at Hamvention and it was fantastic! Even the newly licensed XYL - Coletta, KD8LEA was there with me and we both enjoyed our first Hamvention together. Fun? You bet!

John, KB8UHN

About the Hamvention: This was my first Hamvention and it's safe to say that I was overwhelmed! Even though I talked to a lot of hams about it before hand, it didn't prepare me for how BIG it really is. All the major manufacturers and most of the vendors I have ever heard of had displays there and the flea market was HUGE!

I attended Contest University along with fellow PCARS members Chuck, W8PT and Robert, KD8GWY on Thursday and attended the Contest Dinner Saturday evening.

And yes, I did purchase a lot of goodies for my shack, including a new radio!! Hamvention 2010 is already on my calendar!



Rex, NX8G

My OM - Allan, AB8AA and I had a great time at Dayton this year. We met old friends from Southern CA as well as current friends from SAARA and PCARS. We even got a chance to visit at the DX Engineering booth with KC8PD and KB8UUZ.



Here's a picture of me and Wild Bill KB8MNE, a SAARA friend, we were racing to lunch, yeah sure!



Jane, K8JAA



It pays to hang around for the hourly drawings. On Sunday I won an MFJ Dual Band mobile antenna worth \$40!!

I stuck around for the 2:30 main prize drawings, but as luck would have it, my ticket was not pulled.

Following the last drawing, I headed to Kings Island amusement park for the rest of my week end. Hamvention was lots of fun!

Mark, KC8FQV

Well, my Hamvention experience for 2009 was mainly seen from inside the DX Engineering booth along with four other PCARS members that are DX Engineering people: Ed N8EQJ, Bob N8QE, Phil KD8JRJ and George K3GP. Even though my Hamvention went from 0330 on Wednesday until 2300 on Sunday with plenty of work driving down there in a truck driven by Ed N8EQJ, setting up, standing and talking, tearing down and driving back, I was glad to be there! Boy, were my legs sore at the end of the day!



N8EQJ at the Wheel on the way South

I had the opportunity to talk to many hams during the show. I even managed to see some of the sites during my 45 minute lunch breaks. I wasn't planning on it, but I ended up getting a new radio and a few other goodies from HRO. They were located in the main arena, not far from DX Engineering. The new goodies arrived by UPS three days after I got home.

It was great to see all the PCARS members show up for a group photo and to talk with the ones that were seeing Hamvention for the first time. You could tell they were tired, but having a great time. Something tells me they will be back again next year. Once you see what Hamvention has to offer, you're hooked!

One of the best lines I heard is when Jim, KC8PD said that "Robert, KD8GWY was so excited about being at his first Hamvention, when he first got there, his T-Shirt was just plain white...."

So, if you were there - GREAT - I'll see you there again in 2010. If you missed it - plan on going next year!! I guarantee you'll have FUN!



KD8GWY's T-Shirt



PCARS Members visit the DX Engineering booths for a group photo



Wednesday Set-Up N8EQJ, N8QE, Ed, K8EUR



N8QE, N8EQJ and K3GP grab some doughnuts about 15 minutes before the arena opens on Friday

Tom, KB8UUZ



Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

FOR SALE: ICOM 775 10-160 meters, 200 Watts includes HM-36 mic, Rack Mount Handles, two SP-20 Speakers w/Audio Filter - all for \$2500.00

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

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

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

FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX multi-band vertical antenna. Put up in 2002 taken down in 2007, in good condition with original manual. \$399.99 New, will sell for \$199.00

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

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

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-690S - HF + 6 Meters. Solid performer - No Mods. Comes with hand mic, power cord, instruction manual and original boxes - works great! \$695.00 *Only reason for selling this gear - making room for new radio!*

FOR SALE: Heil HM-10 Dual (HC4 & HC-5 elements) microphone. Original manual & case. Wired for Kenwood. \$99.00

FOR SALE: Heil ProSet Headphones/Mic (HC4). Works great. Wired for Kenwood. \$99.00

FOR SALE: Kenwood SP-950 Speaker. Filters & dual inputs. Great shape, sounds terrific. With original box & manual. \$120.00

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

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

FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Autotuner cable for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$30.00

FOR SALE: Mirage A-1015G, 6 Meter Amplifier - 10 watts in, 160 watts out - Original manual & box - works great - \$279.00

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

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

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

WANTED: Antenna Tuner , 600 watts or more.

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

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: I have a partially assembled **TAK-40 kit** that I have lost interest in. If someone in the club would like it, I would gladly give it to them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dayton Hamvention - New News and New Stuff

Undoubtedly, the most buzz was generated by the monstrously attractive 44-meter crank-up tower by Luso. A popular activity seemed to be having your picture taken standing next to it. Probably, just to scare the pants off the rest of the family! Kinda tough to get one in the overhead bins on the way home, though. I had to stand wayyyy back and use the wide-angle lens for this photo of Luso's 44-meter crank-up tower! Do you think the neighbors would notice? (Photo - N0AX)



There was a lot of interest in the new Elecraft 144 MHz, 10-watt module for the K3. It is an internal module, not an external transverter. This extends the high performance of the K3 beyond the 1.8 - 54 MHz of current versions, including the IF output for SDR accessories. Perhaps adding 2 meters to this state-of-the-art rig will attract more HF contesters to VHF+ contesting?

The folks at Bencher have expanded their Yagi offerings with the new Skylark 12 and 17 meter Duoband Yagi. At 38 pounds and 6.5 square feet of wind loading on a 16-foot boom, this WARC band antenna would look nice above your 20-15-10 meter beam.

Ten-Tec was showing off the Model 238C, an update to the highly-rated 238B antenna tuner with a silky-smooth variable inductor, and the Model 715 outboard RF speech processor to increase average power on 'phone for rigs without one.

Gary, KD9SV has a new reversible Beverage antenna system that uses old military WD1 or WD-1A Field Telephone Wire or twisted-wire version. (Thanks, Rich KL7RA)

Lots of folks got a good cramp craning their necks to inspect DX Engineering's new hexagonal beam. (Photo - N0AX) DX Engineering was showing off a couple of new tilt-up verticals for 80 and 160 and a new hexagonal beam that you can see in the photo. Pssst - maybe you can put some fabric over it and convince the neighbors it's a really cool patio umbrella!



Mactenna was demonstrating a portable Yagi called the SB20-10 Simple Beam. The design is similar to that described in the September 2008 QST article on the same subject. (Thanks, Pete N4ZR)

Portable operators should take a look at Super Antenna's YP3 Yagi-in-a-Bag and PR-1 Portable Rotator. (Would that be a Bagi? Just thinking...) Supplemented by mast, tripod, and mobile antenna accessories, this may be the answer to putting out a more potent signal as a stop-and-op entry in your State QSO Party!

Check out the Dayton Hamvention blog of the ARRL's Contest Branch manager Sean KX9X. The ARRL Expo booth was full of folks meeting the red-shirted ARRL staff and associates every time I dropped by. Fingers were flying at the ARRL Buildathon and there was a lot of interest in the DARC and JARL booths, too. I hope you got your ARRL Field Day button!

So how does one survive a multi-day event like the Dayton Hamvention with miles of aisles? Here's a tip - take one pair of comfortable, but different, shoes for each day. That way, at least different parts of you will hurt the following day!



The ARRL Contest Update Letter

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

Field Day Tips and Techniques that Everyone Can Use

Many amateurs treat [ARRL Field Day](#) (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

- 1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
- 2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Pa-pa, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
- 3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators. PCARS Call sign is "KD8CKP - Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Pa-pa", not "Kirk Douglas Ate Chicken Kung Pow".
- 4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Pa-pa, copy four Alpha Ohio, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.



- 5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Pa-pa, copy 4A, Ohio?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.
- 6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
- 7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Kilo Delta Eight Charlie Kilo Pa-pa."
- 8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
- 9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.
- 10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

From the ARRL

Editor's note: I changed the call sign in the original article to match PCARS call sign KD8CKP.



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!



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



Old Technology Fades Away

Here are just some of the obsolete or rapidly disappearing technologies and the skills that go along with them. These are little chores that are quickly retiring from our lifestyle:

Loading film into a camera. • Licking stamps. • Paying with a check. • Using a pay phone. • Winding your watch. • Ripping the trim with the holes off the sides of computer paper. • Calling someone collect. • Popping popcorn with hot oil. (Although I still do, FREQUENTLY) • Getting up to manually change the channel. (Except when we lose the remote...) • Repairing a TV set. • Using correction fluid. • Cleaning a vinyl record. • Defrosting the refrigerator. • Refilling a fountain pen. • Using carbon paper to make copies. • Sending a handwritten letter. • Writing in cursive. • Delivering milk. • Manually entering prices into an old-fashioned cash register. • Sniffing freshly mimeographed tests. • Changing the ribbon on a typewriter. • Rewinding audio or video cassettes.

Taken from the Akron Beacon Journal, 5-8-08

In addition, here are 25 things that are headed towards a permanent vacation -- and why or what reason they are vanishing...

25. Pit Toilets - Only .6% Americans lacked indoor plumbing in 2000
24. Yellow Pages - Due to Internet
23. Classified Ads - Google, Craigslist, Ebay
22. Movie Rental Stores - Netflix
21. Dial-up Internet Access - High speed Internet (Ahem, Parky?)
20. Phone Landlines - By the end of 2006, 1 of 6 homes had a cell only.
19. Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs - Overfishing, pollution
18. VCRs - Changing to DVRs
17. Ash Trees - Emerald Ash Borer from Asia
16. Ham Radio - In past 5 yrs, # has dropped by 50,000 (Yikes! WE are an endangered species...)
15. Swimming holes - Shut down by lawsuits
14. Answering machines - Landline usage dropped 55% since 2000
13. Cameras with film - Gone digital
12. Incandescent bulb - New energy bill to phase out in 4-12 years
11. Stand-alone Bowling Alleys - Being built in recreation centers
10. The Milkman - Better home refrigeration, supermarkets
9. Hand Written Letters - In 2006, estimated 183 billion emails sent each day!
8. Wild Horses - Selective euthanasia
7. Personal checks - Checks used for 49% of bill payments, down from 72% in 2001
6. Drive-In Theaters - No new ones built since 2005
5. Mumps & Measles - Due to vigorous vaccination program
4. Honey Bees - Most dire thing on this list; necessary to the survival of our food supply; due to CCD— colony collapse disorder in US and Europe, wiping out 50-90% of colonies. (Gads! Can "The BEE Movie" be partially real?)
3. News Magazines & TV news - Evening news programs are a dying breed
2. Analog TV - 85% of homes get TV from cable or satellite
1. Family Farms - Land going to subdivisions

GOING, GOING, GONE

Russ, KB8DPN

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

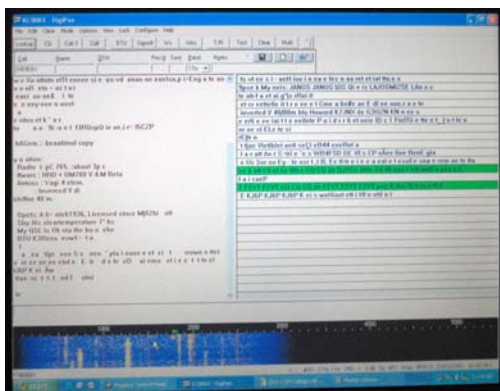
- June 8th meeting – **Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD**, NASA researcher, 2008 Alan Severson Award winner
- June 27th-28th – **FIELD DAY!**
- July 13th meeting - **Monitoring, DC to Daylight**
- July 18th - The **PCARS Picnic**, at the QTH of WB8LCD
- August 10th meeting - **Geocaching**
- August 8th - **PCARS 2 Meter Sprint**
- August 22nd - **The Ohio QSO Party!!!** More to follow on this one.
- September 14th meeting - **HF Pack**
- September 12th - **Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest
- October 12th meeting - **Slowscan TV**
-



Shack Shots - KC8RKV

My shack is new to HF thanks to Peter Kozup, K8OUA from Warren, Ohio who gave me a Ten Tec Pegasus 550 computer controlled HF rig that he was not using.

Then Ed, N8EQJ made a house call and put up a 80-10 meter G5RV, connected the LDG AT-200 auto tuner and a D-104 microphone and I was on HF. My first HF contact was a 20 meter phone QSO with KN4SA in Jacksonville, NC. N8EQJ and I were grinning ear to ear.



Albert, KC8ZZG setup a computer, a RigBlaster interface and tidied up the feed line and grounds.

I have had many hours of HF fun and now hooked on PSK31/63 as can be seen in my screen shot and my growing QSL card collection. Linda, KD8FLU (my wonderful XYL) knows where I will be when propagation is good.



Plans are underway to put up an antenna at the cabin on Canada so I can get on the air from VE3 land this Summer!

Thank you all for assisting me with the best hobby going.

Jim, KC8RKV

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## Shack Shots - KC8UNR

Greetings fellow PCARS members, this is a picture of me on the 2 meter morning net on 146.550 at 0900 Monday through Saturday, hence the pajamas. I always have a cat or two, or three, with me.

I hope to continue to learn everyone's call and name sometime in the next year. I received my ticket in 2002 then I had to try to make time for my other hobby TRAINS !!!! Now if I only had enough money for both.

I enjoy most aspects of ham radio other than the math involved for earning your extra license which I hope to do in the future. I wish I had joined PCARS when it first began, I really enjoy the club, the members and all activities.



In the picture I have a Yaesu FT-2800, Icom V-8000, Kenwood TS-480-AT and the usual assortment of switches and cables, I am also lucky enough to have two different 40' towers on my city lot! I have to give some credit to my wife Rosemary for allowing me to have my hobbies (except when she wants to go somewhere or do something).

Hope to see everyone at a meeting or activity - 73!

**Mike, KC8UNR**

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Shack Shots - Mobile - KC8KYW



Several cars were broken into recently at Hale Farm & Village (my workplace), so I decided to remove my 2-meter Yaesu rig from under the dash, and get it out of sight. After a little thought, drilling and cutting, I relocated it inside the center storage bin between the two front bucket seats of my GMC Sonoma.

When I was done making a couple more holes in the bottom of the bin for the power cord and antenna coax, I mounted the radio inside the compartment. When I close the lid, my rig is completely out of sight (from thieves) but ready to go whenever I want to use it. Even the mic fits in the bin, out of sight.

Rig is Yaesu FT-1802, and antenna is a Larsen 5/8-wave mag-mount. My wife took the picture of me in truck.

John, KC8KYW - Mobile

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



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ARRL, AMPLIFIER, AMPS, AC, ARES, AF, ARC, AM, BEAMWIDTH, BANDWIDTH, BUG, BOARD, BALUN, CYCLONE, COAX, CARD, CLICK, CD, CHART, CODE, CAP, CLEAR, CONTEST, COUNTY, CW, DC, DUPE, DIPOLE, DIODES, DRIP, DIT, DOT, EMA, EPA, EOC, EST, EXTRA, FREQUENCY, FIRST, GROUND, GUY, GMT, GAP, HI, ICOM, ID, ISS, IAMBIC, INSULATOR, IF, LIMIT, LOSS, LED, LEAK, KEY, KV, MIC, METERS, MARS, NIL, ORBIT, ONAIR, OM, PLOT, PCARS, PSK, PUSH, PULL, POT, PLOT, PARKY, QSL, QSO, QRP, QSY, QRO, RADIALS, RASTER, RACES, RC, RADIO, ROTATOR, RST, ROPE, RTTY, RFI, RIG, RADAR, PORTAGE, RIGS, PHONES, PARTS, PSK, RULES, SAR, SPEAKER, SWITCHES, SIGNALS, STAR, SET, SKYWARN, SPKR, TOWER, TALL, TUNE, TORROID, TEST, TRAPS, TOPO, TECH, TOOL, UHF, US, USA, USB, VERTICAL, VHF, VOLTS, VOLUME, WIRE, WAS, WAC, WOUND, XYL, YAGI, YAHOO, YARD, ZAP

Editor's Note: Sandy, KD8JCY is the regular PCARS Word Search maker, but this month she's on the mend from hand surgery, so I tried making a Word Search for this issue of the newsletter - hope you like it. Sandy will be back again next month!

**PCARS
Members
meet at
the ARRL
area during
Hamvention
2009**



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.***

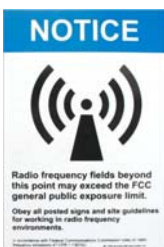
**PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm
Second Monday of Every Month**



Pictures from the May PCARS Meeting



Thanks & 73



This is the 6th issue of the PCARS official newsletter the '**RADIOGRAM**' for 2009. I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **KC8PD, WB2DFC, W8PT, W8KNO, Robin Fraedrich, K8JE, WB8LCD, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI, KB8UHN, NX8G, K8JAA, KC8FQV, KB8DPN, KC8KYW, KC8UNR, KC8RKV, ARRL Letter, ARRL Contest Update Letter and the World Wide Web** - With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom, KB8UUZ PCARS Newsletter Editor



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

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

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



"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

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

Repeater is graciously provided by N8EQJ for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees 2009

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