



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



March 2009 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 4 No. 3

~ 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
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~ 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

The unofficial slogan of PCARS has been "If we're not having fun, why are we doing it?" Ham radio is our hobby, our avocation. Something that should enrich our lives, entertain us, expand our horizons, give us new skills. And most importantly, be fun.

I was watching a show on the Discovery Channel the other day that reminded me about how Tom, WB8LCD, and I have often kidded each other during and after many PCARS events about who had the biggest grin on his face.

It was the "Myth Busters" show and one of the hosts, Adam Savage, was gleeful about their plans to ignite three rockets on the roof of a 1967 Chevy Impala. He joked that he was going to need a "grinectomy" to get the smile off his face. Ditto for Tom and me after Field Day and so many other events.

And that includes this year's Freeze Your Acorns Off special event station. Club members started showing up at 8:30 in the morning to get started and the building was surrounded by an eclectic collection of portable antennas.

Inside, the food table was packed with steaming crockpots and there were enough sweets and desserts for an army. You could look around the room and see a half-dozen stations on the air with operators and spectators at each rig. There was always a crowd at the tables in the middle of the room where stories and operating tips were swapped. If anyone needed a hand or relief at a radio, someone was there to help.



The entire event was just a great example of the spirit of ham radio.

It was also a reminder that despite your best plans sometimes the ham radio gremlins strike. My Buddipole decided it would be amusing if it refused to tune up on twenty meters, despite the fact that this had always been the easiest band to use it on. For a while it seemed like this was going to be the Freeze My Fingers Off event the longer that I fiddled with the antenna.

When Chuck, W8PT, took a break from his forty meter phone station he loaned me his dipole so that we could try to work some digital on forty. Not only did we snag a PSK31 QSO but also worked Bill, AJ4JZ, from Belmont, NC, running Olivia. It was a nice chance to demo a digital mode that most of those who were watching had not seen or heard before. It is weird the first time you hear the warbling bird noises of Olivia.

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From the President (continued from Page 1)

And as they say on the TV commercials, "But wait, there's more!"

Driving home after the "debriefing" I heard a station connecting to the repeater and thought it ID'd as a VE3. I gave a "QRZ the VE3 station" only to have him come back to tell me that he was VK3TKK, P.J. who lives in Sunbury, Victoria, Australia. It was nine o'clock Sunday morning and P.J. had hoped to make an FYAO contact. We had a nice chat and I told him not to worry, he was in the log.

I grinned all the way home.

73,
Jim, KC8PD

From the Vice President

Another month closer to warmer weather, and another month closer to motorcycle season! But really, another month closer to outdoor radio, like antenna day, field day and other outdoor activities where you can combine ham radio and what ever your favorite outdoor adventure might be. If you are planning a trip and you will have ham radio with you, send me an email with QSO schedules and I will send it on to the members.

On the topic of outdoor activities, FYAO was an outstanding success! It was great to see everyone getting involved. What a diverse combination of radio and antenna installations. Thanks to all who set up stations, those



making contacts, and of course, those who brought all that terrific food. Ahhh, I love food! Many photos will be in the newsletter from FYAO, all those smiling faces, you can almost hear the CW. - - - -



And, speaking of the outdoors, look for an article next month from my recent trip to central Pennsylvania. Outdoors with radio, chili, SPAM, and a very large elk herd. Bennezzette, Pa is home to more than 3,000 elk. They wander around and are quite the tourist attraction. If you are interested in traveling to this area, I have lots of info. Send me an email if you want to know more.

There are many exciting construction projects on the horizon. How about a 2 meter antenna you can roll up and put in your pack? Yep, were building that in March, on the 21st. Look for an email soon describing the project. And, is a G5RV in your future, maybe?? Look for an email on that project too. Any projects you would like to see? Let me know.

So for now, keep those cards and letters coming, and your ham radio station photos too. See you all soon.

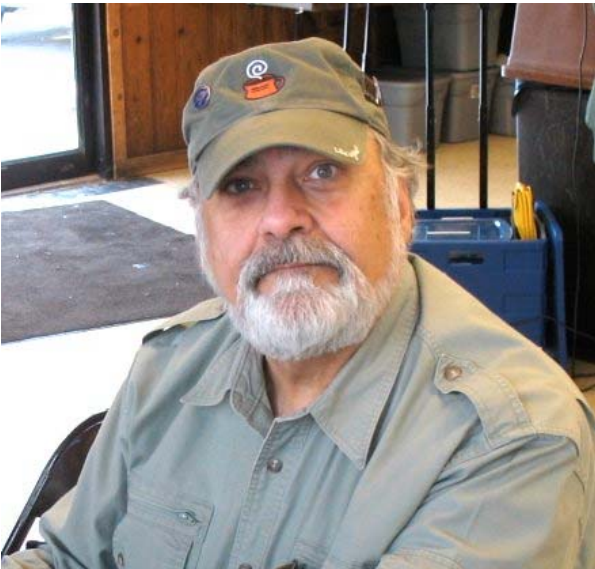
Dave, WB2DFC



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

I can't tell you how good it is to say goodbye to February. What a month...snow, ice, wind, frigid temperatures, not to mention colds, sneezing, coughing – for the shortest month of the year, it sure felt a lot longer than 28 days. But with March's arrival, we can start to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

This year's Freeze Your Acorns Off event on Feb. 21 was a hit. We had several stations set up and there was good fellowship and good food to be had. Why would I mention the FYAO in my DX column? Well, Dave, WB2DFC, our illustrious VP, was able to squeeze out a few DX contacts on his Elecraft K2 while working CW QRP and using a random long wire. If he can do it QRP on a wire, the rest of us sure can from our base stations using 100 watts and various antennas. This should tell us that if you are determined and stick with it, you can work DX under less than optimum conditions.



This past month's HF DX activity showed 224 distinct DX entities on the air. I have again made it a little easier to mark your calendars, because I have listed the events by month for the next few months.

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 info or busted call signs. So please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

DX News

March

4K, AZERBAIJAN - DL6KVA, will once again be active as **4K0CW** from Baku between local evening time on March 19th and local midday on March 25th. Activity will be CW only on all HF bands (depending on the band conditions) using 100 watts into a 84m long wire (station of 4K9W). Axel also plans to participate in the Russian DX Contest (March 21-22nd) as a Single-Op/Low-Power/CW entry. QSL via DL6KVA (Bureau OK).

5X, UGANDA - G3RWF, will once again be active as 5X1NH. He will be in Fort Portal in western Uganda starting March 11th for about two months. 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.

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.

7Q, MALAWI. By the time you read this, **7Q7HB**, should be back in Malawi. He will operate mainly on the Digi modes and CW, but he does have a Mic, so if you need him on SSB, please ask him. Length of his stay will be around 2 months. QSL only direct to G0IAS.

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.

BX5, TAIWAN - BX5AA, will be active during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. Jimmy states that BX5 is a rare prefix for Taiwan (CQ 24). QSL via BX5AA.

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

CN, MOROCCO - W7EJ, will be active as CN2R during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via W7EJ.

CT3/CS9/CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS - DF7ZS, will be active as CT3/homecall between March 24-31st. His activity will include the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th). QSL via DJ6QT or CS9L. He will sign CS9L (or CT9L) for the contest. Look for casual operation before the contest.

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

EA8, CANARY ISLANDS (AF-004) - OH6CS, will be active as EA8/OH6CS during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m) entry. QSL via LoTW. QSL is also "OK" via OH6CS, direct using the QRZ.com address.

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

FR, REUNION ISLAND (Update/Change) - F4EGZ, will be active as FR/F4EGZ during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th) as a Single-Op entry. He will be there for 3 weeks but will only be on the air for the contest. During the contest, he states he will be active only on 20 meters band with a moxon antenna using 500W. However, he also states that at the beginning (of the contest) he will be active on 40 meters but does not think there will be a large open window to Europe and USA.

OR3/OR4, ANTARCTICA - ON5AX and ON3AX will be active as OR4AX and OR3AX, respectively, from the RV Professor

Khromov (Spirit of Enderby) and from the region of the Ross Sea in Antarctica between February 9th and March 10th. QSL via ON5AX.

V2, ANTIGUA - W4OWY and W9OP will be active as V25WY and V25OP between March 10-19th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters. QSL via their home callsign or by the bureau. Logs will also be uploaded as before to LoTW and eQSL.

VK9L, LORD HOWE ISLAND (Update) - VK4FW, member of Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group Inc. (ODXG), reports that the VK9LA March departure date is fast approaching, and all team members are ready to go. Operations will between March 23rd and April 3rd. The operators will travel to Lord Howe on March 22nd to immediately begin unpacking. On March 23rd, 4 other operators will arrive and the rest will arrive as originally planned on March 24th. Bill states (edited), "We will assemble 7 full HF stations at 2 separate sites as well as one for 6m. Modes of operation are SSB, CW and RTTY. We will use mono band yagis and mono band verticals to allow us to possibly have 2 actual stations on the same band simultaneously. There are also a quantity of wire antennas for the low bands. A full list of operating frequencies will be designed to enhance our plans.

VK0B, ANTARCTICA - VK0BP, is currently working at Antarctic Davis Base Station (**AN-016, Gridsquare MC81xk**) until November 1st. His activity is limited due to his workload, but he is expected to be on all HF bands. However, due to local scientific experiments certain bands may be 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.

April

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

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

IOTA News

March

J3, GRENADA (NA-024) - G3VCQ and M3VCQ will be in **Beru** from March 12-26th. Colin will be active as J38CW in the BERU CW Contest (March 14-15th). Colin will only work Commonwealth stations during the contest. Outside of the contest, look for activity to be on all bands from 80 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. All QSLs are via G3VCQ, direct or by the bureau.

OC-164 - VK6HZ, will once again be visiting **Rottnest Island** this year. Dates of operation will be March 3-9th. Operation will be holiday style (he states "in between beer, swimming and, of course, quality time with my family!") Equipment will be IC-7000 running 100w into a Buddipole, running all modes. QSL via VK6NE.

PACIFIC TOUR - JA2NQG (SSB) and JH2BNL (CW/RTTY) will be active from the Western Pacific during March from the following islands and IOTAs. Their schedule and callsigns are as follows:

March 4-6th - **Chuuk Island (OC-011)**; Micronesia; V63AR and V63WW
March 6-9th - **Pohnpei Island (OC-010)**; Micronesia; V63AR and V63WW
March 9-11th - **Kosrae Island (OC-059)**; Micronesia; V63AR and V63WW
*Also, callsigns V63C, V63P and V63K will be active during these dates.
March 11-14th - **Majuro Island (OC-079)**; V73J and V73M
March 14-16th - **Palau Island (OC-009)**; T88CD and T88WW
March 17-19th - **Guam (OC-026)**; NH0AA and AH0F/KH2

April

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

Mogador Island - **AF-065**; WW.Loc. IM51CM; ITU 37; CQ 33
Essaouira Island - WW.Loc. IM51CL
ARLHS Lighthouses (callsign/m):
MOR-019 Cape Sim-Essaouira; WW.Loc. IM51CL
MOR-036 Sidi Magdul-Essaouira; WW.Loc. IM51BJ

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

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

AN-016 ANTARCTIC OP & CRUSIE. F5PFP and ON7ZM should be getting ready for their expedition to the Antarctic peninsula. Their sailboat was expected to leave Ushuaia on Wednesday, February 18th, depending on the weather conditions. They plan to visit several Antarctic bases which include the **South Shetland Islands (AN-010)**, **Palmer Archipelago (AN-012)** and the **Antarctic mainland (AN-016)**. Activity will mainly be active on 20 meters SSB (14315 kHz), with some activity on 40/30/17 meters. [90% on SSB, 10% on CW, 80% on 20m] They plan to have one station continuously on the air with a trapless vertical using 500 watts and another station sporadically active using a trapless vertical and 100 watts. Operating times are between 1800-2200z, earlier and later when it is possible. Expedition will last through March 17th. QSL via F5PFP, by the bureau or direct. You can download and see the route of the sailboat on Google Earth at: <http://www.french-polar-team.fr/Antarcticexpedition2009/maps.htm>

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

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.

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.

Lighthouse Activities

Members of the Turkish group called TCSWAT (Special Wireless Activity Team) will activate a series of lighthouses during the following months from the historical lighthouses around Istanbul. In collaboration with the Directorate General of Coastal Safety, TCSWAT is organizing the "Istanbul Lighthouses On The Air" activities which will take place from Karaburun (TUR 036), Sile (TUR 046), Anadolu (TUR 014), Ahirkapi (TUR 056), Rumeli/Turkeli (TUR 053) and Fenerbahce (TUR 021) Lighthouses during the last two weekends of December 2008. The dates, locations and callsigns are as the following:

Mar 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>

I have a whole other report I can do but Parky would kill me. There are so many IOTA DXpeditions that are going to take place in March and April that I would love to list but I just don't have the room. If you are really interested, drop me an e-mail at w8pt@nls.net and I will give you some additional information on Fox Island listed as #1 on the NA IOTA Most Wanted and Mellish Reef (VK9M). So for now, 73 and gud DX to all.

Chuck, W8PT

Paper Chase - Worked EI Counties

The Worked EI Counties ("WEIC") Award is for working stations located in different counties of Ireland. The original rules and conditions for the WEIC Award were drawn up and proposed by Michael McNamara, EI2CL in 1982-83, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) in 1932. From its beginning, the award was managed by Michael McNamara. After several years Sean Donelan, EI4GK took over the job; currently it is managed by Sean Nolan, EI7CD.

In December 2006, the requirement for QSL cards was replaced by a requirement for a certified log extract.

1. The WEIC award, issued by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, is available to licensed amateurs worldwide who have worked stations located in different counties



of Ireland (EI/EJ).

2. A claim for the WEIC Award must be accompanied by a certified log extract, to include date, time, frequency, mode, station worked and its county.
3. Contacts made only on or after January 1st 1982 are valid.
4. There will be a charge of US \$10.00 for the award.
5. Band endorsements will be available at the time of first application.
6. A separate "All 26" sticker will be available for confirmation with all 26 counties.

Certified log extract: The log extract should be certified as a correct extract from the claimant's log by an officer of a Radio Club or by two licensed radio amateurs operators.

The 26 EI Counties are:

Carlow	Cavan	Clare	Cork	Donegal	Dublin	Galway	Kerry
Kildare	Kilkenny	Laois	Leitrim	Limerick	Longford	Louth	Mayo
Meath	Monaghan	Offaly	Roscommon		Sligo	Tipperary	Waterford
Westmeath	Wexford	Wicklow					

May the Irish Luck be with you and if you do not work them at least have a **green pint**.

Hear you in the pile ups,

Joe, W8KNO



FYAO 2009

The fourth annual "Freeze Your Acorns Off" PCARS QRP operating/special event is now part of the official PCARS history. It was cold outside, but it was certainly toasty inside – we didn't even need to light the fire! All acorns remain intact.

All total there were 36 people signed in, and I'm sure there were a few that were there without officially signing the guest book. The usuals were there with stations set up – KC8PD, W8PT, WB8LCD along with KA8FTS and WD8MIU from Massillon. New stations set up were KD8JCY (running 2 meters and Echolink – Thanks Sandy!), WB2DFC (on a mission to work N0TU and Peanut in Colorado – he did), KD8GWY (trying out all kinds of stuff) and NT8K (who had the coolest station in a box!). Once again, everyone discovered operating portable QRP is not all that easy. But, lessons are being learned and the QSO count is improving over past years.



Did I mention that we had food? It wouldn't be a PCARS event without lots of really good eats, and the kitchen was open from early morning until we closed in the late afternoon. I don't think anyone went away hungry, and with all the different dishes, there was certainly something to satisfy everyone. One enterprising ham even used the opportunity to take his spouse out for dinner! What a thoughtful caring guy the rest of us should learn from. Thanks to everyone who brought something to share.

In addition to those who came to set up a station and operate, there was a good sized group that showed up with no other purpose in mind but hanging out with a bunch of like minded friends and enjoying the day. From the amount of local QRM I'd say they all had a good time too!

The only one missing from the event was Propagation. The bands seemed rather dead, but not so much that a few decent contacts couldn't be made. In addition to the local QRM, there was a lot of intermod and interference from so many stations and antennas being in such close proximity. Plans for next year will definitely include trying to accommodate spreading out just a bit more. And from here on out, propagation should be on the rise for the next 4-5 years anyhow, so it's only gong to continue to be more fun each time we get out there.

If you couldn't be with us this year, be sure to plan on it for next. Once again, thanks to all who participated and made FYAO 2009 another Fun PCARS event!



73,
Tom, WB8LCD



EmComm

This is a column that I still find myself somewhat surprised to be writing. At the February PCARS meeting, Dave Kaltenborn, N8KBC, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) District Emergency Coordinator for District Five in the Ohio Section announced that I had been appointed as the Emergency Coordinator for ARES of Portage County.

This is both a privilege and a challenge. I appreciate the trust and confidence that have been placed in me. My favorite aspect of the amateur radio hobby is emergency communications and it will be great to have the opportunity to share in that interest with other ARES members.

You may remember from Part 97 that one of the fundamental reasons for the existence of amateur radio is "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."



EC, KC8PD and DEC, N8KBC

ARES is the emcomm and public service communications field operation sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and you can find more information about it at the League's web site, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html>.

Nationally, regionally and locally, ARES has been working to revamp its operations and redefine its organization and services in the post-Katrina world. Hundreds of ARES volunteers headed to the Gulf states after Hurricane Katrina to assist with the emcomm response. Many lessons were learned about how the emcomm mission has changed in a twenty-first century response to a mass disaster.

This is the chance for all of us to participate in the revival and renovation of ARES of Portage County. Membership in ARES is open to every licensed amateur radio operator. Membership in the ARRL or any other organization is not a prerequisite. This is not an operation of any club or other group.

I want to invite all hams who read this column to consider participating with us in making ARES of Portage County an emcomm service that we can all be proud of. You don't need to reside in Portage County to participate. You just need to have the willingness to learn, to develop your emcomm and public service skills, and to participate in drills and exercises as well as service events.

A new Operations Manual has been developed for ARES of Portage County and there will be regular training nets and programs for you to participate in. Your participation in them and your suggestions for improvements will be critical. Remember, ARES is a collaborative effort that can only thrive when it has the maximum participation of area hams.



There will be an organizational meeting for ARES of Portage County at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th at the Center of Hope at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. There will be a general discussion regarding the goals, plans and activities of ARES of Portage County and copies of the Operations Manual will be available. If you have time, please stop by for the meeting and I hope you will submit an ARES application. It would be great to have you aboard.

If you cannot attend and would like to receive an application, send a note to ARESPortage@aol.com.

*Jim, KC8PD
EC, ARES of Portage County*

Hamfests

15 Mar 2009 - Toledo Hamfest and Computer Fair - Toledo Mobile Radio Association - <http://www.tmrhamradio.org> - Talk-In: 147.27+ (no CTCSS) - Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR - 4463 Holly Hill Drive - Toledo, OH 43614 - Phone: 419-385-5624 - Email: brian.harrington@utoledo.edu - Lucas County Recreation Center - 2901 Key Street - Maumee, OH

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

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

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

PCARS Yahoo Site

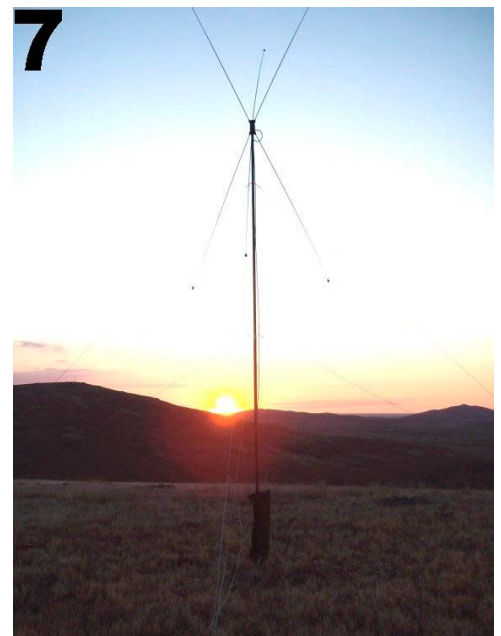
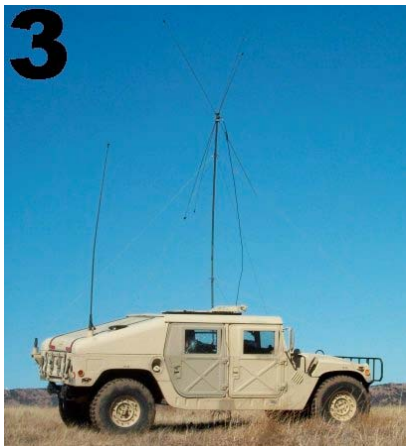
Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Site dedicated to PCARS information. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list. Check out the PCARS web site at <http://www.portcars.org> and follow the link to sign up.



News from Fort Sill - KD8FPP

PCARS member Ryan, KD8FPP sent these radio related pictures from Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

1 - KD8FPP shows off his primary rig. **2** - Ryan ventured out into the wilds of Oklahoma to set up this repeater station for military aircraft. A second antenna is set up for receiving, some distance away. **3** - The repeater is powered by a generator in this Humvee, which has its own antenna and radio not related to the repeater. **4** - Like most military radio gear, this antenna relies on N connectors. **5** - The Communications Section has to get up early to get the repeater set up in the remote section of Ft. Sill that is a dead spot for aircraft communication, and stay all day. **6** - After a long day out in the boonies with nothing but MRE's to eat, native cactus starts looking pretty tasty. **7** - Repeater installation at dawn.



Regarding the portable military repeater - Ray, KD8DFL advises that it operates in the general military band around 39 MHz.

Bill, WB9LBI



Rebuilding and Making a Good Product Even Better

I recently was faced with the task of repairing some non-working NCG Comet Power Pockets that would no longer hold a charge. The Power Pocket is simply a 2 Ah Lead Acid battery that comes in a durable canvas soft case with an auto accessory jack. (We used to call them cigarette lighter jacks.) At work we have several of these units in use with HT's our crews use out in the field.

The battery pack gives a longer use without changing batteries. The down side is that the unit comes with a "wall-wart" type charger that the operator is manually supposed to charge for 18 hours and disconnect. After a few years of poor maintenance, it was time to not only repair the unit, but perhaps find a better way of charging the packs.

The **NCG Comet Power Pocket** provides you with dependable 12 Vdc power on the go! The Power Pocket is a 12Vdc 2 AH rechargeable sealed lead-acid battery pack. It provides 12Vdc of portable power for hand held radios or any consumer electronic product. Equipped with a cigarette lighter socket, use your cigarette lighter adapter to power all kinds of devices. Thermal switch protects against short circuits and over charging, recharges in 6-8 hours and weighs only 30 ounces. This product includes: Soft case with belt loop, Shoulder strap/belt strap and AC Wall charger. Average price is about \$65, available at AES or Universal Radio, Inc.



I wanted to make those interested in emergency e amateur community aware of my findings, and how I think I improved a good product. Even if one decides to construct their own version of the Powerpocket, I think the information will be helpful.

I found a company in Utah called PowerStream Lund Instrument that manufactures and sells a 12Vdc 750 mA Pb-Acid Battery charger for about \$18. The best thing about this charger is that it's entirely automatic. The unit will charge the battery, and shut off. It will also trickle charge the unit during storage. The website is: <http://www.powerstream.com/lead-acid-charger-Catalog.htm>



When rebuilding the packs I used PowerPatrol SLA1020 12Vdc 2.0 AH batteries. These are a direct replacement for the batteries that fit in the softpack of the Power Pocket. These are priced around the \$30 range.

My other modification was to parallel an Anderson PowerPole connector across the output of the battery. I then outfitted the charger with a PowerPole for easy charging. Having the connector on the battery is also great for powering other devices I have already outfitted with PowerPole connectors.



The following pictures are the result of my efforts:

Russ, KB8DPN



Hamfest Report - Mansfield

I sure hope this is Mid Winter! Setting my alarm clock for 4:00 am to be able to get ready and hit for road to take off with Tom, KB8UUZ, I found I didn't need the clock! I woke up earlier than what the clock was set for! Oh well, at least I wouldn't be late this time getting over to Tom's house for the trip.

Another "cool" Ohio Winter Sunday morning but the past snow fall was gone from the roads and yards so with that the promise of a possible end to our rotten weather can't be far off? We had no problems with the drive to the Mansfield area at all, matter of fact we arrived early and had the honor of being about the 21st car waiting in line for the opening of the event. That was at 7:40 am . They did not let any cars in to park until 8:00 am and there must have been over 100 cars in line by then!



Once in there I saw lots of stuff there on the tables. So if a person couldn't find something he needed or wanted at the Mansfield hamfest, I would say they better give up attending!



I crossed paths with many PCARS members and other friends there. I took a number of pictures while there for our club's newsletter for those who didn't go to see what they missed out on.



Our trip home was also most relaxed. And after we stopped for some grub it was even more relaxed. Home early this time, I took the opportunity to relax in one very comfortable chair in the living room. Later, when I woke up, I noticed the ground was now covered with snow and it was still snowing. Our Ohio winter "coolness" now has dropped to 25 degrees with a clearing late evening sky after dumping about two inches of snow.

The Mansfield hamfest in the morning and the Daytona 500 race on TV in the afternoon turned this Ohio winter day into a GREAT DAY!!!! Oh well, one day it will warm up around here our hamfest trips and visits will be even more fun!



Al, KB8VJL



March Contest Calendar

North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Mar 1 - 0300Z, Mar 2	Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 - 0100Z, Mar 16
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 6	10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 21
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 7 - 2400Z, Mar 8	Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 21 - 0100Z, Mar 22 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 22
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 8	North Dakota QSO Party	1700Z, Mar 21 - 0100Z, Mar 22
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 14 - 1600Z, Mar 15	Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 21 - 0100Z, Mar 23
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 - 1900Z, Mar 15	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 28 - 2359Z, Mar 29
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15		

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



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in March

W8KNO	Joe	Wehner
K8SRR	Steven	Randlett
KD8FLU	Linda	Godfrey
N5VLZ	Daryl	Stout
KD8JRF	Rod	Stickle

K8QF	Russ	Conklin
AB8YN	Ray	Czech
N0JIW	Ralph	Wagnitz
KD8FDK	Richard	Taushanoff
WB8LCD	Tom	Sly
KD8CGF	Arthur	Dembinski

South Carolina has the Worst Hams



Last September, while vacationing in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, I found a specialty shop specifically for ham radio operators that consistently display atrocious operating habits. I simply had to take a picture of the "shingle" hanging above the entrance.

George, K3GP

LIFETIMES

LAURA NETHKEN, LIFETIMES EDITOR • PHONE: (330) 296-9657 ext. 1255 • FAX: (330) 296-2698 • EMAIL: Lifetimes@recordpub.com

A6 Thursday, February 12, 2009

AROUND STREETSBORO

Last month, five Streetsboro High School graduates — and soldiers — attended the Call to Duty Ceremony in Columbus. When National Guardsmen **Sgt. Carl Fischer**, USMC, and **Chief Warrant Officer Raymond Larrick** came to the Family Readiness meeting last August to learn about their upcoming deployments to Iraq this spring, they were pleasantly surprised to find each other. Carl and Ray both graduated from Streetsboro in 1980; they had no idea that they would be assigned to the same unit.

Carl's wife, **Sandy (Pelkey) Fischer**, is the MD Unit teacher at Campus Elementary School. She also found it interesting that Ray was in the same unit, since she, Carl, Ray and his wife, **Sue (Powell) Larrick**, were all 1980 Streetsboro graduates. Sandy and Sue played in the band with Ray, while Carl played football for the Rockets. The four have been in touch throughout the years through alumni functions; now they will be even closer with Carl and Ray deployed. Sandy said that it will be nice to have Sue with her during the deployment. If Sandy doesn't hear from Carl, she can call Sue who talks more often to Ray and have him tell Carl to call home!

Other Streetsboro graduates are also in the same unit, which officially is the 1st Battalion 1-137th Aviation Regiment, including **Spc. Ryan Fraedrich**, class of 2005; **Sgt. Daniel Maag**, class of 1997, and **Pvt. Ryan Kluchurosky**, class of 2007.



KARYN
HALL

class of 2007.

Ryan Fraedrich, who is in his third-year as a mechanical engineering student at the University of Toledo, is continuing a family tradition of service. His father, **Bill**, served in Vietnam; his grandfather, **Raymond Jackson** of Ashtabula, served in World War II; and both of his great-grandfathers, **Frank Buran** and **Charles Gallimore**, served in World War I.

Sandy created two bulletin boards at Campus Elementary honoring our service members from Streetsboro High School and in the community. She sent a note home with the students asking them to send in photos of any family members who are currently serving here and abroad. She estimates that there must be about 25 graduates and another 15 or so from the community. Everyone is welcome to contribute to this bulletin board — drop off photos and information at Campus Elementary to Sandy's attention.

We would like to thank our Rockets in the 1st Battalion 1-137th Aviation Regiment for their valiant and selfless service to our country.



CW3 Ray Larrick and Sgt. Daniel Maag

Save the date: ARRL National Convention to be held at 2009 Dayton Hamvention

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention May 15-17 at Hara Arena. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, the ARRL National Convention will be filled with activities and exhibits. "Our host organization, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, has three big days planned, chock-full of every bit of Amateur Radio you can think of," Inderbitzen said. "ARRL volunteers from across its 15 National Divisions will be present, alongside thousands of out-of-towners who will make Dayton their home-away-from-home during the event. The centerpiece of ARRL's convention

planning is ARRL EXPO -- a huge showcase of ARRL program representatives and activities. Many new exhibits are being planned, with special focus on operating and project-building." A preview of what is planned for ARRL EXPO can be found at the ARRL EXPO Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/expo>>.

The ARRL EXPO, located in the large exhibit area in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths), will showcase exhibits and activities to enhance the ham radio experience. Open to both ARRL members and nonmembers, ARRL EXPO is packed with official ARRL program representatives, activities and forums. Visit the ARRL bookstore for popular publications and products, join the ARRL or renew your membership, and pick up official ARRL merchandise. All who join the ARRL or renew their membership at the Dayton Hamvention will receive a free gift.



Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check DX cards and applications. All cards will be eligible for checking -- including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160 meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards (more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available). Check out the ARRL Awards Web site for the latest program information and current forms <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>>.

Inderbitzen said that a special event operating station is planned, so be sure to have a copy of your license on hand -- get in the hot seat of W1AW/8 and get on the air! You can also meet W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, part of the team that supports the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.

The ARRL Youth Lounge in the ARRL EXPO is the place to meet and socialize with other young hams. Whether you're 1 or 21, the Youth Lounge is sure to offer something that young hams will enjoy. Come to chat with other hams, listen to music, grab a snack or participate in one of the many activities, such as fox-hunts, scavenger hunts, Morse code fun, a QSL card designing contest, crafts, prizes and more. Whether or not you're licensed, you are welcome to come by and join the fun! If you are looking for other young people at Hamvention, check out the youth calling frequencies at 145.540 MHz (107.2 Hz CTCSS) primary and 146.430 (233.6 Hz CTCSS) secondary.

If you enjoy waxing-nostalgic over the gear of yesteryear, then drop by the exhibit area to meet vintage equipment photographer Joe Veras, K9OCO. He will be autographing of his new book, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228>>, recently published by ARRL. There are some other "vintage" surprises planned, as well, Inderbitzen said.

"If you can't make it to Dayton," Inderbitzen said, "you can still catch all the latest news on the Convention's Weblog <<http://www.arrl.org/blog>>. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will once again be blogging about Hamvention. Proving you can indeed go home again, Steve will regale readers with the adventures of staying with his mother at his childhood home in Dayton." For the past few years, thousands of readers have been entertained as Steve has related stories about new gear making its debut at Hamvention, the weather in Dayton and the overall feel of the event -- as well as the ever-popular antics at "Casa de Mi Madre."

The ARRL will introduce a new blog at this year's National Convention: ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, will blog from a young ham's perspective. MacLachlan, who will be assisting former Youth Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, and her father Scott, KF4PWI, in the ARRL Youth Lounge, will

explore the Hamvention exhibits, forums and events, giving his first-time take on the Hamvention experience. "Duncan's youth perspective is a welcome addition to the ARRL National Convention team," Inderbitzen said. "We hope you'll explore all of Dayton's nooks and crannies through his reporting."

ARRL staff are getting ready for all the excitement that a National Convention brings. Teaming up with the Dayton Hamvention is sure to bring everything to a fever pitch, so why not make plans to join in on the fun? Travel and lodging information is available on the Hamvention Web site
<<http://www.hamvention.org/travel.php>>.

From the ARRL

Ham License Plates Wanted

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



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

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

Tom, KB8UUZ

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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



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

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

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

*Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Team Liaison*

PCARS VE Team

The PCARS Volunteer Examiner team continues to hold VE sessions at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each even-numbered month at the Center of Hope, 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. The next one will be on April 4th.



Anyone who is taking an exam needs to bring a photo ID and the original plus a copy of his or her license if they are upgrading. The fee has been increased to \$15.00 by the ARRL which is the Volunteer Exam Coordinator (VEC) for PCARS. The entire fee goes to the League.

PCARS has excellent participation by the VE team members. It is not uncommon for VE's to outnumber test takers when eight or nine VE's attend!

At our February session, one of our VE's, Robert, KD8GWY, was excluded from participating in the administration or scoring of one of the exams. Instead, he had the honor of awarding the Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination to his son, James, KD8KCY, who passed the Technician exam. Congratulations to father and son!



Additional congratulations to Mike, KB8TUY, who upgraded to Amateur Extra, and to Jeannine, KD8KDA, who passed both the Technician and General tests at the same session. Way to go!

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Some Words From Weaver

Triple Play Award and Logbook

First, let me correct an error in my comment last month about the early winners of the Triple Play Award. The call sign given for Jeffrey Wheeler, winner of the second Award earned, was incorrect. His correct call is W7JW, not W7JIO. Sorry, Jeffrey.

My Triple Play comment brought a question. To summarize, the question is, "Why has ARRL initiated the new, Triple Play Award (ed., Available only through Logbook of the World.) but still requires paper QSL cards to be submitted for the VHF/UHF Century Club Award?"

This is a good question. On the surface, initiating a new award that requires confirmation only by LoTW, but not allowing LoTW to be used for VUCC doesn't make sense -- on the surface, this is.

Below the surface, the answer and the logic are quite simple. Resolving the issue is more complex. It involves programming. LoTW simply was not set up to service VHF/UHF Century Club.

For the Triple Play, the only thing that was needed was to tweak the existing WAS portion of Logbook to add the new award. In the case of VUCC, the programming hurdle is much greater.

Marrying VUCC with LoTW is a definite objective of the ARRL officers, senior staff and each of us 15 Directors. The fact, though, is that the project to complete the redo of the ARRL web site has much more precedence. The VUCC-LoTW project must wait for now.

The ARRL A-1 Operator Club

One of the relatively unheralded awards given by ARRL is the A-1 Operator Award. This Award recognizes good personal operating and good equipment operation. It is an award each of us who take Amateur Radio reasonably seriously should want to achieve.

Before I get jumped on by someone who has the mistaken idea this award is for CW ops, only, let me say this is not correct. It is open for ops using any mode available and on any band assigned to amateur use.

One unique feature of the A-1 Operator Award is that the recipient must be nominated by two amateurs who already hold it. In most instances, the recipient of the award does not even know they have been nominated. A-1 Operators are eligible to receive a nice lapel pin that identifies them as members of the club.

Information about the A-1 Operator Club is available at www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/. Members of the Club are listed at www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/roster. Rules the procedure for nominating amateurs to the club are at www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/a1v11.html#who.

As of January 30, 2009, there are 5,252 members of the A-1 Operator Club. Why not double check your operating procedure against Club requirements. One never knows when two Club members will hear or work you and nominate you to join the Club.

Jim, K8JE
Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division

Field Day - 2009

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



RADIOGRAM Wins Award

Well, we can't say that the RADIOGRAM is the best non-winning club newsletter around anymore. At the February PCARS meeting Past President Tom, WB8LCD presented a newsletter award to Tom, KB8UUZ.

The award says: "The BEST Ham Radio Newsletter On The Planet Earth". In the text it says: "Presented to Editor Tom Parkinson, KB8UUZ, this 9th Day of February, 2009 in recognition of and gratitude for, his dedication to the monthly production of The Radiogram. PCARS and it's membership have benefited greatly from the Radiogram, and it serves as an official record as to where we have been and where we are heading. Thank You"



I figure that Tom, WB8LCD is a little biased toward PCARS and the PCARS newsletter, but, wow - best on earth?! Thanks goes out to all of you that make the monthly contributions. Without your inputs, our newsletter would not be as big as it is. Keep the inputs coming, and thank you for the award!

Tom, KB8UUZ

Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Astron 12 Amp Power Supply, good condition \$35.

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

WANTED: Antenna Tuner, 600 watts or more.

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

FOR SALE - 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 **Parky** - KB8UUZ@portcars.org

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

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

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

FOR SALE: 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

Nets - Observations from Little Rock

When I check into the PCARS Thursday Night 2 Meter Net... which I have to do via Echolink...I've noticed that when the Net Control Station starts taking check-ins, it's like the mad rush at the stores the day after Thanksgiving... or as if they're breaking down the doors to Hamvention to get to the best deals!!

It's as if everybody wants to be the first person to check-in, and get out of there. To me, the only stations that should "rush to check in" is if they have emergency or priority traffic... in which case(s), the net is obviously stopped, until those things are resolved... and I have been in those situations as a Net Control Operator.

I know there are other things besides amateur radio...after all, this should be a "hobby", but some of us consider it an obsession (hi hi). However, the mad rush of check-ins just causes doubles, triples, etc. As a result, more often than not, the Net Control Station doesn't get anybody... and all that rush to check-in "is for nothing".

The PCARS Net isn't the only net with this "problem". I've done nets where you had to "beat the bushes" to get anybody to check-in (some nights, I was the only one)... nets where it was as if a dam broke, for everyone wanting to check-in... and nets where check-ins came at a steady, but not overwhelming pace. It's even more pronounced on HF nets when the bands are wide open (seemingly only at the top of the sunspot cycle!), or if a net is hooked up to several other repeaters.



I've been getting into the PCARS Net late the last few weeks, because of my involvement with another net on CQ100. that starts an hour before the PCARS Net does. But, it seems to be better to check into the net late, as one seems to have a better chance getting in... although I still doubled with folks on the Feb. 19 net, even though I thought I had waited long enough to key up, because of the Echolink audio delay.

The downside to a late check-in, is that unless you're there early, you miss all the important club announcements of upcoming events, etc. Even though I rarely can travel long distances anymore (for health and financial reasons), I still like to keep informed on what's going on with the club...after all, I am one of the PCARS members...even though I don't live in Ohio...I get stuck with the bad Arkansas weather (hi hi).

I don't know how far the PCARS Net reaches via RF, but with one of the statewide linked systems here in Arkansas (known as AR Links), splits the check-ins up into various regions of the state...after doing the mobile, portable, short time, and Echolink stations. The thing is, some stations may say "short time", to just get on the log first, when they actually aren't short time at all... so it's a "darned if you do, darned if you don't" situation.

When I do a net, when I get to the "final call for check-ins", I ask if anyone that had checked in wants to recheck, or if there are late check-ins. If I get some, I keep the net going... if not, I shut it down... and I repeat this as often as necessary. That way, no one can say they didn't have ample opportunity to check in. When folks do check-in, I ask if they have traffic or comments... and if they don't get any indication of such, I gather they're just on the log for the count only.

On these CQ-100 Nets II run, where I get a large number of check-ins (I had 34 on a net last week... and another Net Control Station had 49 on her net), I have to continually remind folks to "be patient", and I'll get to

them as quick as possible. I even heard of an HF Net (I think it originated in Tennessee) that had close to 200 check-ins one night (the band must've been hot that evening!!).

At times, I've noticed that stations checked in via Echolink will do a textbox check-in, because of the "mad rush"...and I've done it as well... especially considering I run a 2 meter RF Net on Thursday nights, just after the PCARS Net ends. So, I usually am always "short time".

To make a long story short, I guess the bottom line is "patience"...and that seems unheard of in today's society of "instant gratification"... or as the joke goes "Lord, give me patience, and I mean right now!". The saying "good things come to those who wait" applies to checking into a net as well. Yes, it may take a bit longer... but if you are constantly doubling and tripling with other stations trying to check-in, and Net Control can't pull anybody out of the pileup, all that effort is for nothing.

Daryl, N5VLZ

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

Spring Technician Class

On March 24th PCARS will once again be offering its Technician License class at the Maplewood Career Center on St. Rt. 88 north of Ravenna. The class meets at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and runs for eight weeks and on the last night of class there will be a VE session.

This will be the eighth time that PCARS has offered the class with Tom, WB8LCD, Russ, KB8DPN, and Jim, KC8PD as instructors. The class offers hands-on activities and classroom demonstrations of ham radio operations. We have had a very good passing rate for the students who have taken the Technician test.

If you know anyone who is interested in obtaining his or her Technician License, please let them know about the class. Registration can be made through Maplewood by calling 330-296-2893, ext. 551010. They can

register students over the phone. Maplewood is charging a \$30.00 fee for the course and all of that money goes to the school.

We will again be using the ARRL Technician Manual which can be purchased from PCARS for \$25.00. Anyone wanting more information can also contact me at kc8pd@portcars.org.

PCARS members are always invited to stop by and visit with the students and share with them some of your ham radio experiences. Let them know how much fun you have in the hobby of amateur radio!

Jim, KC8PD



10 Meters Calling

Well boyz... here is the story from Northern Mantua Township: I took Friday off from work so I could get a REAL early start Friday morning in getting another Killer antenna up for this 10 meter contest and I even brought home my high rubber boots to wear in the yard on this project!

After many evening pondering what gizmo antenna to put up it came down to a Long wire for 10 meters. I had paced off the distance between two of the tallest trees in my yard and found that about 202 feet was about the limit. Of course the trees would only permit a west-east run for the wire. The only other HF antenna up is the 100 foot sloper dipole, sloping south. That antenna wasn't bad for the ARRL ten meter contest but I wanted more gain this time. So, up early Friday and after a couple of movies on TV and a whole morning of eating snacks and drinking coffee and hot tea I got off to an early/middle afternoon start. I replaced the string in my homemade sling-shot/fishing reel set up with some fresh 10 pound line. Rounding up the antenna wire and other needed items I had elected to skip the Ladder lock, Coax feed and Balun up in the air at the feed point. I used a common flea market special ceramic insulator for the center and also for the end insulators. Turns out I had a length of 450 ohm balance line so I just split off the two leads and ran them up through the two holes with the antenna loops and brought them down and attached the ends to each line. I wanted the lightest possible antenna set up since I was trying to support it with the highest tree branches possible.



Using a compound bow I fired an arrow with a line from the reel stuck in the snow. The arrow made it over the first tree in one shot. I pulled some 5/32" rope line up over the tree for the antenna. Moving on to the second tree I had to shoot the arrow up twice before I found a perfect spot for the line to rest on. That compound bow sure worked out better then the Sling-shot!!! MUCH better!!! So I pulled another 5/32" rope line up over the second tree.

I end fed the long wire at the 1/4 wave point. I was going to add a 10 meter trap and add another 8 feet so it would tune better on 20 meters, but my traps were made for way too high to work on ten meters and I didn't want to screw around for ever with the antenna. At a later date I will lower the one end and add one and see what was up!

Good thing I had measured the feed line in advance, I remembered I didn't know how long the coil of antenna wire I had was. I couldn't remember if I used any for that 100 sloper or what! Oh well... what can you do, "what can you do?" I pulled the feed line back towards direction of the other tree and along the path of the

antenna wire I had laid on the ground. The wire was longer than what I needed, but I needed to know how long the thing was to try and match some known wave length! So back in the snow in the yard that was about to the top of my tall boots I headed for the other tree dragging the tape measure and measuring the antenna wire as I went. Of course the tape I had at the time was only 50 feet long. So it took a number of times and a couple rechecks to figure out how long it was. I stopped at 5 wave lengths for 10 meters which came out to about 164 feet. I could have added a little more, but did not have another full wave length of space left at the east tree.

Now came the part of selecting the balun for this thing. Being tuckered out from walking back and forth in the deep snow here I elected to use reuse the one on the line for the sloper since it was only head high and tied in a small tree out back here. After pulling the coax out of the snow drifts and ice bergs, I connected the feed line to the balun and fired up my radio at about 5:00 pm.

HOLY TOLEDO..... E76C was on 20 meters!!! I ran upstairs and looked on QRZ.... (my PC downstairs is not connected to the internet) BOSNIA!!!! Dropped down a few KHz... and HOLY TOLEDO.. S56P calling



DX..... I ran back up stairs and looked on QRZ again... SLOVENIA!!!! Not bad for an antenna running west-east!!!! The loop in the end insulator must be sending all the RF east wards!? I dropped down to 160..... HOLY

TOLEDO!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 160 is filled..... rag chewers

EVERYWHERE!!!! I never heard more than two hams on 160 before and even that was rare!!! Of course most of my past antennas were 10 meter dipoles, so I would have to say that was a big part of it! I never heard one person on 160 ID so I went back to 10 meters. Tuned the antenna tuner in for 10 meters and then took a break.

The contest started... the contest started!!!! I didn't call CQ. I just took it easy and listened. K8NYK, Wes was on so I answered his call. Turns out he was the one only I could hear Friday evening and he was Kent. Got up early and worked AA5EY from TX. AA5EY couldn't believe he was working Ohio and NY when his beam was point east towards FL. So he went out side and checked his beam direction thinking his rotor screwed up! No, his antenna system was working correctly!!!! He had to point east to work us up north. He said he had never seen anything like that before!!! He was an S-3 to me. Next Contact was Engineer Bob, N8QE! He was weak, maybe an S-1/2. Next contact was NA5TR, Rusty from TX. He was an S-0 but I could copy him OK with my Ten-Tec radio. Next was WB8LCD, Tom. He was an S-5 and 1/2 here. I forgot to ask him what my signal looked like on his new Ten-Tec radio with that TV screen gizmo. Tom was talking to KC8RKV, Jim, so I waited till their QSO ended and jumped in to contact Jim. Jim's signal was about a S1. I was tapping on my S-meter thinking the thing was broken. I asked Jim how much power was he running because he was very weak. I'm not sure what he said. I think he said he was running about 3 watts. I came back to him and told him to increase the power if he could. He upped the power to about 100 watts and came up to an S-7. Jim said he turns the power down to the minimum on his radio when he can.

Another break then and I went out side and added another 3/4 wave length of wire to the east end of the antenna - BECAUSE MORE IS BETTER!!! The west end will have to wait another day . I also cut two feet off the 450 line to make it 1-1/2 wave length to the balun from antennas feed point. Later, I made a contact to KB8UUZ, Tom. After he swung his beam around he was an S-7. No Hiram Joe, no Parkman Chuck. I had a great time making just a few contacts. Had 7 contacts for 12 points.

The rag chewers were on 28.336 but I didn't bother them. Sunday a couple other rag chewers were on 28.450. Heard another new ham drop in and out and he was located in Northfield, Ohio. My antenna SWR dipped (somewhat) at 31 MHz before I added another 3/4 wave length of wire and cut off two feet from the 450 feed line. Now the SWR dips (somewhat) at 28.0 MHz. As I said; 160 and 20 are booming in along with all the upper end of 40m. Too bad the 10 meter band was dead again this year. There is always next time!!!

Al, KB8VJL

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!

March	
03/05	W8PT
03/12	KD8GWY
03/19	WB8LCD
03/26	KB8DPN

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

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

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

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



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

PCARS Net Report

The PCARS Thursday 2 meter net continues to grow. Congratulations to Russ, K8QF, who now holds the record for number of check-ins at 49 for the net held on February 19th! Who will take us over the 50 mark? Anything you can do to help us build traffic is appreciated, so get the word out there that this is a net you should check into.

You've probably noticed some new voices as PCARS net control station lately. Thanks to both Don, KD8ICR and Rich, KD8FDK. Both did an outstanding job as NCS in the month of February and should be an inspiration for us all to try something new in Ham Radio! Who knows, it just might turn out to be fun. If you'd like to try being the net control station for the PCARS net, send me an email (wb8lcd@portcars.org) and I'll get you on the roster.

A special note to our friends on Echo-Link: please try to get logged onto Echo-Link *before* the net actually starts, and if at all possible, remain logged in until the net closes. The Echo-Link computer "announces" both log-ons and log-offs from the system, and it seems to take over the audio portion of the repeater causing some serious interference with either the NCS or any individual station checked in via RF.

On a personal note, I appreciate everyone who has said hello to Jenny on the net! It's certainly been a thrill for her, and a confirmation to me of what a great bunch of people PCARS has as its members and friends. Thank you.

Hope to hear you all next Thursday on the net!

73,
Tom WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator



Hamvention Bus Trip Scheduled

Are the gas pumps keeping you from the Hamvention? Is the thought of driving down to Dayton and then parking your car in some shopping center to be then bused to the Hamvention keeping you from going? Why not take our bus to the Dayton Hamvention where you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance. You can save \$10* if you book before April 28th.

The cost of the Bus & Entrance ticket to the Hamvention: \$65* before April 28, 2009

The cost of the Bus Only to the Hamvention: \$50* after April 28, 2009

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25)

We will take riders right up to departure that morning if there are seats available. Departure time is 5:30 AM Sharp so please be on time so you don't miss the bus! Parking will be in the back of the church. There will be a stop for breakfast at McDonald's and a dinner stop at the Hometown Buffet all of which will be on own.

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company. This bus is a smoke free bus so there will be no smoking permitted. To Order: Joy Spencer KA8TDF - 2101 Bigelow St - Akron, OH 44314 - Or call 330-745-5115 - E-mail: KA8TDF@arrl.net - Make Checks Payable to PARF - "Please include an email address for a return confirmation of receipt."



Location of Departure is: Akron Baptist Temple - 2324 Manchester Road - Akron, Ohio 44314 - Located on Rt 93 just north of Rt 224 - Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

PARF needs at least 20 riders by April 14th for this bus to be a guaranteed trip. So don't delay and please pass the word out to all of your ham friends & computer geeks. The above pricing does not include any tips.

Thanks

From the Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc., W8CTT



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- March 9th meeting – **HF Antennas Roundtable**
- March 21st activity – **Jim, KC8PD**, J-Pole Antenna Kits
- April 8th, at 6:30 p.m. for the annual **National Weather Service Skywarn training**. It will be held in the cafeteria of the Maplewood Career Center, located on State Route 88 just north of State Route 14.
- April 13th meeting – **Bill Weisinger, WB8UAH**, Low Power Commercial-Free FM
- April 25th activity – **G5RV Antenna Workshop** (tentative)
- May 11th meeting – **Dick Pascoe, G0BPS**, President, QRPARCI
- May activity – **Antenna Day** (date TBS)
- June 8th meeting – **Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD**, NASA researcher, 2008 Alan Severson Award winner
- June 27th-28th – **FIELD DAY!**

Shack Shots

Hello PCARS! My shack includes a Yaesu FT-897D transceiver with a LDG AT-897 auto tuner along with an MFJ-969 roller inductor tuner. The rig is powered from a Jetstream 35 amp DC power supply with battery backup. All of this is hooked to a Comet G-15 Tribander antenna and for HF an Alpha Delta DX-40 dipole strung up in an inverted 'V'.



For mobile I have a Yaesu FT-8900R quad band with a Diamond CR-8900A quad band antenna. I also have a Yaesu VX-170 hand held. Computer system is a Dell with Vista (ugh).

I've been enjoying my new General privileges and have been making some good DX contact on HF. I find myself grinning from ear to ear when those DX contacts come back to me! What a fun hobby this is!!!

Dan, KD8EPA

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



ARRL DX Phone Contest Brings DX in Full Force to HF Bands

With the 2009 ARRL International DX CW Contest now history, the first full weekend in March brings the next round of competition: The 2009 ARRL DX Phone Contest. Like its CW predecessor, this event focuses on DX station working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period.

"While the origins of the ARRL DX Contest go back to 1927, the first Phone weekend wasn't until 1937," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "AM was the voice mode used at that time. The rules may have changed since the event was held back in the 1930s, but the premise remains the same: How many contacts with stations in far-away locales can you make?"

Just as in the CW contest a couple of weeks ago, US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX stations -- this means stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada.

How can you participate? Kutzko said you're only limited by your imagination and willingness to get on the air: "Even though we are at the bottom of the 11-year solar cycle, there will be plenty of chances to work DX, even for stations running 100 W and a dipole or vertical antenna. If you live in an area where antenna restrictions exist, take your contest effort on the road! Operate from your car, set up a



Mike DeChristopher, K1KAA, hunts DX on 20 meters in the 2008 ARRL International DX Phone Contest.

[S. Khristyne Keane, K1SFA, Photo]

portable antenna in a park or campground or see if a friend's station is available. If you have a station and won't be using it, consider opening your doors to members of your club to try their hand at working some DX. If you make 100 QSOs, you're eligible to purchase a commemorative pin for your efforts."

The ARRL International DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 7 to 2359 UTC Sunday, March 8. Complete rules and forms are available online. Why let all this DX pass you by? Get on the air and have some fun!

From the ARRL



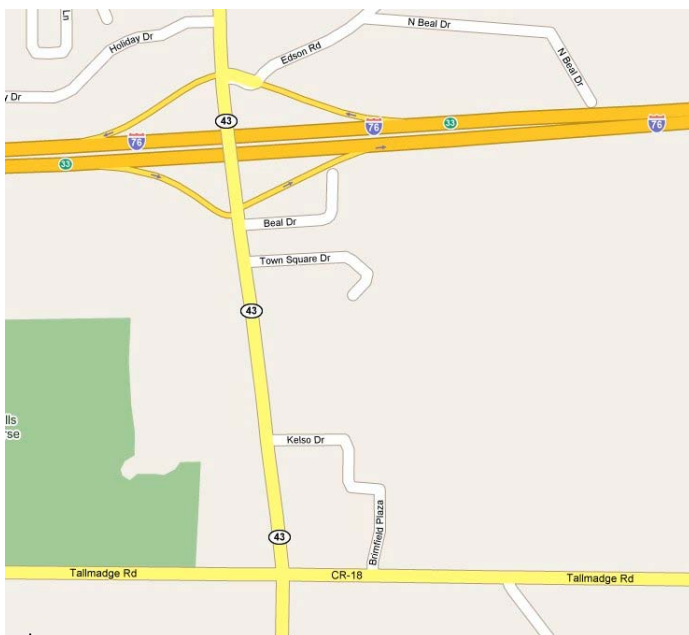
PCARS Meetings

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

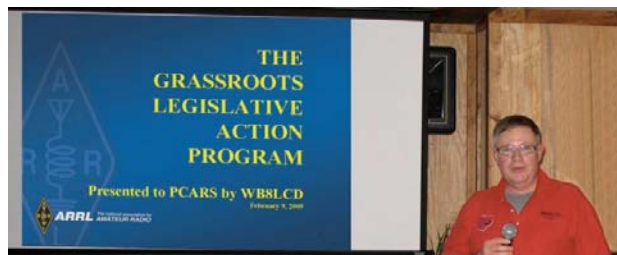


*Located in the **Brimfield Plaza**
Just South of Interstate 76
off Route 43 in **Brimfield, OH.***

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



Pictures from the February PCARS Meeting



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Amateur Radio Class – Registration Opens

The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**
will be offering a Technician course in conjunction with the



Maplewood Career Center

that will enable *you* to obtain
your FCC Technician license as an

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR



When: Tuesday evening 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Starting March 24, 2009 for eight weeks
License testing will be held at the end of the course

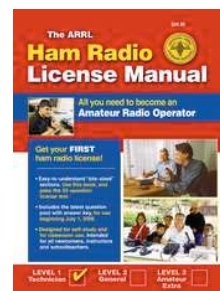
Where: Maplewood Career Center
7075 State Route 88
Ravenna, Ohio 44266



Registration: Contact the Adult Education Department
at Maplewood at 330-296-2892, ext. 104

Cost: \$30.00 Registration fee to Maplewood
\$24.95 Text – “Ham Radio License Manual”
(text may be purchased first night of class)

Information: Contact Jim Aylward, KC8PD:
by e-mail at: kc8pd@portcars.org
or phone at: 330-297-7979



As a licensed **Amateur Radio Operator** you will be able to

- **Contact other ham radio operators in the area and around the world**
- **Serve your community – ham radio operators are the critical communication link during disasters and emergencies**
- **Participate in a fascinating and rewarding hobby**

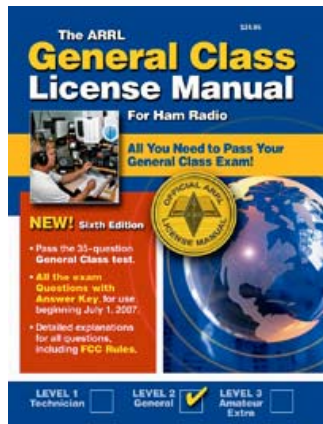


For more information about PCARS, go to www.portcars.org , or contact
Jim Aylward, KC8PD, at kc8pd@portcars.org, or by phone at **330-297-7979**

General Class Upgrade Course

The 2009 General Class Upgrade Course wrapped up on February 24th and will conclude with a VE session on March 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Family & Community Services building on Oakwood Street in Ravenna. Walk-ins are also welcome for the VE session.

We had six students plus some regular guests who attended the program as a refresher course.



All of the instructors from the original class were back for this session. Once again, Rick, K8CAV, did the heavy lifting taking two nights to cover the lengthy Components and Circuits chapter. He did a great job of making this very technical material easy to understand.



Bob, N8QE, aired some great information on Radio Signals and Equipment; Tom, WB8LCD, gave an electrifying presentation on Electrical and RF Safety; Bill, WB9LBI, beamed his way through Antennas; Deron, N8XTH, hopped and skipped through Propagation; and Jim, KC8PD did his best to make Procedures and Practices as well as Rules and Regulations somehow interesting.

PCARS plans to repeat the General upgrade class in 2010 so if you have your Technician license, or plan on getting licensed in the meantime, keep the class in mind!

Jim, KC8PD



KC8PD

WB9LBI

N8QE

WB8LCD

N8XTH

K8CAV

Thanks & 73

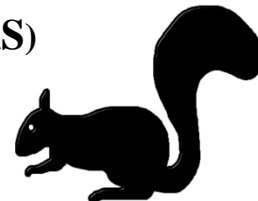


This is the 3rd issue of the PCARS official newsletter the '**RADIOGRAM**' for 2009. I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **KC8PD, WB2DFC, W8PT, W8KNO, WB9LBI, WB8LCD, KB8UUZ, K8JE, KB8DPN, K3GP, N5VLZ, W8CTT**, the **Record Courier**, the **ARRL**, and the **World Wide Web** - With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom - KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



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



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

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


"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

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

Repeater is graciously provided by N8EQJ for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees 2009

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO W8PT	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2009	WB9LBI N8EQJ	Bill Fraedrich Ed Polack
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KD8GGZ	Mary 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	
KD8GWY	Robert Gurney	
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.

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

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

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



PCARS
www.portcars.org



NLC