



The

RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



February 2010 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 5 No. 2

~ 2010 Officers ~

President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
 Vice President - Dave Rarrick - WB2DFC
 Treasurer - Bill Fraedrich - WB9LBI
 3 Year Trustee - Robert Gurney - N8RLG
 2 Year Trustee - Ed Pollack - N8EQJ
 1 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT

~ 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 Incorporated
 Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
 Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
 April 20, 2006

From the President

At the January PCARS meeting, past-President Tom Sly, WB8LCD, announced that he is a candidate for the position of Ohio Section Manager in this year's election. The current Section Manager is Frank Piper, KI8GW, who was appointed to fill the remainder of the term when Joe Phillips, K8QOE, passed away last year. As of this writing, Frank has not announced whether he intends to run.

This is an important election for the Ohio Section, one of the largest in the American Radio Relay League's field organization. It is an opportunity to set new goals for the growth of ham radio in our state and to inspire and assist all of the ARRL affiliated clubs to come up with ways to attract new members and then provide those hams with plenty of activities to enjoy the fun of our hobby.



Tom is just the person for the task. In a little over four years PCARS has grown from a handful of members to a thriving organization with around 150 active members. That doesn't just happen. It takes the commitment and zeal of a guy like Tom who has been a ham for his entire adult life and who would like to see every ham, and every potential ham, have as much fun as he has had in the hobby of amateur radio. What he has done for PCARS he can do for the Ohio Section.

Let's not sit idly by as members of the ARRL. Let's show how important we think it is for the League and its field operations to have effective and progressive leadership. Let's get the word out to all of the other hams that we have contact with, whether on the air or at hamfests or other activities, and let them know that Tom, WB8LCD, is the candidate to support as the next Ohio Section Manager!

I hope to see you all at the February 8th PCARS meeting. I will be giving a presentation on EmComm, including an update on local activities. The terrible tragedy in Haiti over the past few weeks that resulted from the worst earthquake that the country had suffered in two hundred years was a harsh reminder of how serious natural disasters can be. An earthquake of that magnitude in this country could be just as deadly, isolating and devastating as it was in an impoverished island nation.

Don't be complacent about the potential risks here at home. Communications disruptions can result from a variety of causes and if you participate in local emergency communications activities and programs you can be part of the ham radio solution should the need arise. I hope that the presentation encourages you to get involved. See you there!

73,

Jim, KC8PD

In This Issue of the RADIOGRAM

3905 Century Club Nets	15
Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites	3
Contest Calendar	18
Dues are Due	23
DXCC Most Wanted List	6
Electronic Submissions by Email - ARRL Contests	7
EmComm	10
Field Day 2010	12
Freeze Your Acorns Off Flier	28
FYAO 2010	7
FYAO Operating Contest	17
Ham License Plates Wanted	19
Hamfest Schedule	8
Happy Birthday	7
It Seems To Us: Not an Emergency Radio Service?	13
Listen and Get the Job	18
Mark Your Calendars	15
Membership Application	27
Net (Thursday) Information & NCS Schedule	11
OSPOTA	9

Paper Chase	9
Patches & Stickers & Mugs	16
PCARS Census Updated Around the Clock	15
PCARS Meetings	24
Photo CD - PCARS 2009	10
Pictures from the PCARS January Meeting	25
President, From the	1
RF Noise Identification	12
Skywarn Information	22
Swap-N-Shop	20
Thanks & 73	26
VE Test Sessions	18
Vertical Challenge	19
Vice President, From the	2
What's Your Funniest Experience w/ Ham Radio?	8
Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?	15
Winter 2010 General Class	23
Word Search	24
Word Search - Answer	26
Yahoo Site	7



From the Vice President

Yep...it's cold, yep,...its snowy... but I'll bet there's some action somewhere on the bands. Now is a great time to work on your QSO skills. Whether you prefer SSB/voice mode, CW mode, or a digital mode, now is a great time to get on the air and develop a "mode skill". What I'm saying is.... pick some part of ham radio operation you enjoy and become an expert. You will, at some point in your ham radio career, be able to "donate" or provide a valuable service to your community. Imagine being a key part of the rescue and recovery in your neighborhood!. All that because your were a competent communicator, because you developed and practiced a "Mode Skill". I look forward to reading about you helping your community!

2010 looks like another great PCARS year. We started the year with a great tower building presentation by Tom, WB8LCD. The upcoming PCARS February meeting includes an EmComm presentation by Jim, KC8PD. Other topics for the coming monthly meetings will cover APRS, ICOM D Star, AMSAT, to name a few. PCARS activities are many.... the first ever "Movie Day", FYAO, Antenna Day and Field Day, and many more. So stay tuned...!

Please keep your cards and letters coming... (shack shots and descriptions please)... All of the readers really like those shack shots.... makes them think "hey that's a great set-up! Maybe I should ask about that station, use



some of their ideas, add some of my own, and then send in my own shack shot" Your station pic just might be the one to motivate another to make those improvements and changes !

So, make some 2010 resolutions. Develop a "mode skill", create a topic to present at a club meeting, and send in your station pictures and descriptions. Remember, our members are our most valuable asset and are the best people to pass along their knowledge to others. Contact me with what ever you would like to present to fellow PCARS Members.

72/73 and see you all at the February meeting and FYAO.....

Dave, WB2DFC



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

Only three and a half month's until Dayton!! Wow!! And this month we have Freeze Your Acorns Off! Wow!! So many things happening and lots of DX on top of everything. WOOOOWWW!

I know that at least two PCARS members have found "gud DX" and worked it. One of the members is yours truly. Since the other member worked some of the same countries, I won't repeat them for myself. The other member is Wes Ferrell from Stow. Here is a partial list of what he worked: 9Y4D Trinidad, ZR4LP S. Africa, VK6ANC Australia l/p, JA3CZY Japan, VP8LP Falkland Is., E51WWA Raratonga, S. Cook Is., VU2PAI India, 4K1AZI Azerbaijan, A71CT Qatar, 9K2FM Kuwait l/p, 3DA0TM Swaziland, KC4AAC Antarctica, 4X4FR Israel, 9H1SP Malta, ZA1E Albania and V51GB Namibia. Most worked on 20, a few on 15. I worked several of the same stations and I hope that others did even though they did not submit a list. Keep it up Wes.



I have asked every month for reports of DX worked by our members. Only a couple of you have bothered to send anything. If you send me a report of any DX you worked, I will post it in this column.

I want to thank the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW for the following DX and IOTA information. Please remember that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of bad info or busted call signs, so do yourself a favor and please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

Case in point: **PIRATE ALERT**. Station signing ZF2AS during the December 2009 160 meter contest was apparently a PIRATE. DO NOT QSL your card to W1UA. He is **NOT** the QSL Manager for this operation.

5I, TANZANIA - After the Tonga operation as A35HA and his Falkland Island operation as VP8BUH, Uruguayan globetrotter, CX3AN, will visit Tanzania during the first 2 weeks of February. Look for him on the bands, joined by UA3DJY and 5H3PF to activate the Dar Es Salaam's Institute of Technology (DIT) radio club station **5I3A**. Activity will be mostly SSB and CW using a FT-1000 MP and a log periodic between 20-10 meters.

6V7, SENEGAL - F5RAV, will be active from La Somone between February 18th and March 1st. He will operate from 6W7RV, QTH as 6W7RV. QSL via only direct to his home callsign.

7Q, MALAWI - 7Q7HB (G0JMU), is again heading to the warmer climate of Malawi for a period of 3 months or so. He was stuck in Nairobi but was hoping to be in 7Q-land via Lusaka. Activity will probably be on the Digital modes and CW. QSL as usual is ONLY DIRECT to G0IAS with sufficient funds for return cards. NO BUREAU cards. NO eQSLs. Just old fashioned paper cards DIRECT!

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 –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 call sign.

ANTARCTICA TOUR –(VP8, VP8/G, VP8/H, VP8/O and KC4) - W2APF, will be traveling on board the ship "**National Geographic Explorer**" heading to the Antarctica region between February 8th and March 5th. He is expected to be operating under the following call signs (specific dates were not provided): W2APF/C6A/MM – While on board the ship "National Geographic Explorer"; http://www.expeditions.com/Ship_Detail92.asp?Ship=20 W2APF/KC4 – While in Antarctic territories VP8DML – While in the territory of the Falkland Islands (VP8) including South Shetlands Islands (VP8/H), South Orkney's Islands (VP8/O) and South Georgia Islands. QSL all activity via W2APF.

OR4, ANTARCTICA - OR4TN's, stay at the Princess Elisabeth Station in the Antarctica has been extended now until February 25th. His license was only valid until end of January. Thanks to the concerned authority in Belgium for their very fast reaction, the OR4TN license has now been extended also to the end of February 2010. QSL via ON5TN. Updates on OR4TN can be found regularly on: <http://www.qrz.com/db/or4tn> For more information about the Princess Elisabeth Station, go to: <http://www.antarcticstation.org>

BLACK SEA CUP INTERNATIONAL 2010. The Black Sea Contest Club (BSCC) will sponsor the "Black Sea Cup International Contest 2010" which will be held between 1200z, February 6th and 1159z, February 7th. For more information on the contest, please visit the BSCC Web page at: <http://bscc.in>

CE0Z, JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND –LA9SN, will be active as CE0Z/LA9SN from March 16-23rd (possibly to the 26th), 2010. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using mostly CW and 100 watts. QSL via his home call sign (may change). For updates, visit his Web page at: <http://www.la9sn.com>

CN, MOROCCO - MJ0ASP, will be active as CN2MR Feb 18–26th. Activity on the HF bands using mostly CW. He likes to contest, so he will probably be in the ARRL International DX CW Contest (Feb 20-21st). QSL via his home callsign (see QRZ.com).

E5, NORTH COOK ISLANDS (Update). AD7AF, currently active as E51WWA from Muri Beach on Rarotonga (OC-013) in the South Cook Islands, has announced that he will be active as E51WWB from Tauhunu Village, Manihiki (OC-014), in the North Cook Islands, February 3–15th. Activity will be 40-15 meters using mainly CW. SSB and the Digital modes will be used as propagation conditions allow. Also, 80 and 10 meters will be used if conditions are favorable. He will use a K3 operating barefoot into a vertical and wire antennas. QSL via AD7AF.

EF8, CANARY ISLANDS - EA8AY, EA8CN, EA8NC and SM6CNN will be active as EF8N during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via EA8AY. Visit the contest team's Web page at: http://www.ea8ay.com/an8r_team

J3, GRENADA (NA-024). G3VCQ and M3VCQ will once again be active as J38CW and J38SW from **Beru** between March 11-25th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. All QSLs are via G3VCQ, direct or by the bureau.

J6, ST. LUCIA. NE1RD, will be active as J6/homecall between February 2-10th (2010). Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW.

J6, ST. LUCIA. Members of the "Buddies in the Caribbean" DXpedition group which specializes in 100 watt or less low power radios and the Buddipole portable antenna system is off again to a new DXpedition site on February 2-11th, 2010. This is an annual effort to demonstrate "ultra-lite" DXpeditioning into magnificent "vista" locations, operate a field portable battery-only radio with backpackable, lightweight antennas and most of all "have fun!" The nine operators from eight states will have fixed operations from a cliff-top villa and portable operations from various points on the island using CW, SSB, and the Digital modes. Operators mentioned are: Budd, W3FF, Chris, W6HFP, Scott, NE1RD, Dan, WZ1P, Steve, WG0AT, Mike, KC4VG, Guy, N7UN, Paul, KB9AVO and Wey, K8EAB. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or mail to operator's home callsign (SASE required). For more details, see:

<http://sites.google.com/site/caribbeanbuddies/home> <http://caribbeanbuddies.blogspot.com/>

J8, ST. VINCENT. K2CM, will be active from the Island of **Bequia**, in **The Grenadines (NA-025)**, between January 8th and February 12th (2010). Call sign was not provided. Activity will be on 20 meters using CW and SSB, and maybe 40 meters CW. QSL by the Bureau or direct (SASE/SAE) to K2CM.

JD1, MINAMI-TORISHIMA. Masa, JA6GXX, will once again be active as JD1BMM from **Marcus Island (IOTA OC-073, JIA OC-073-001)** between Jan 20th and mid-Feb. Activity is usually on all bands and modes. QSL by the Bureau or direct (QRZ.com address). PLEASE NOTE: A report states that this may be "the last chance to make a QSO with JD1/M" for some time. The Japanese Coast Guard radio station on the island is closing down on December 1st, and the amateur radio club station will close in Feb.

KH9, WAKE ISLAND - WA2YUN, will once again be active as KH9/WA2YUN from Wake Island (OC-053, USI OI-012S, WLOTA LH-2293) for about one year while on work assignment. Activity will be limited to his spare time. QSL via K2PF.

PJ5, ST. MAARTEN/ST. EUSTATIUS - K1NA, will once again be active as PJ5NA. Activity will include the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) as Single-Op/All-Band entry. He also reports that he will be at PJ5NA between January 10th and March 27th, operating mostly WARC bands outside of the contests and 160/80/40m during his night time hours. QSL via K1NA (100% QSL direct only with SASE) No bureau cards. DX stations MUST have SASE or SAE with 1 USD. No IRC! USA stations SASE only.

PZ, SURINAME - PA1LP, will be active as PZ5LP from **Nieuw Nickerie** between February 26th and March 26th. Specific bands or modes were not provided, but he will be using a FT-857 w/100 watts into a G5RV and LDG Z100 tuner. QSL via eQSL.

T6, AFGHANISTAN - WA2EWE, will be active as T6AF from Kabul during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. When Jim can find time, you can usually look for him on RTTY or PSK on 20 or 17 meters. QSL via LoTW, eQSL or WA2EWE by the Bureau or direct.

TR8, TUNISIA - Members of the Club Central D'Amateur Radio Scouts Tunisien (CAST) and the Radio Club of Tunisian Scouts (3V8ST) will be active with a special callsign TS8RW until February 14th. Activity is to celebrate the "Ariana Rover Scout Leader" (ARSL) organized event called ROVER WEEK. This is an activity for adults (Rover Scout Leader) which include amateur radio workshops, cultural activities and conferences on "Radio Scouting - Service for Others".

S2, BANGLADESH (IOTA DXpedition). S21RC, S21AM, S21S and S21D are preparing a DXpedition in February 2010 to **St. Martin's Island (AS-127)** located in Chittagong Region Group. Dates mentioned are February 21-25th. QSL Manager will be EB7DX. More details will be forthcoming.

V3, BELIZE - N7MSU, will be active as V31SU from various locations in Belize (NA-123) between February 4-23rd. Activity will be mainly 40 and 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct (see QRZ.com) or by the Bureau.

V88, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM - DL7JAN, will be active as V88/DL7JAN from Bandar Seri Begawan between February 22nd and March 3rd. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via DL7JAN, by the Bureau or direct.

VK9N, NORFOLK ISLAND (OC-005) - VK2ACC, will be active as VK2ACC/9 between February 4-9th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-6 meters using SSB and possibly PSK. He will operate with only 100 watts into a Buddipole and end-fed wire. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.

VP2M, MONTSERRAT. W1USN, will once again be active as VP2MPR between February 28th and March 13th (2010). Mike will work mainly SSB and PSK31. Bob, AA1M, will also return to Montserrat and will operate mostly CW as VP2MPL between March 6-11th. QSL both operators via their home call signs.

YN, NICARAGUA – (Reminder) K9GY, will once again be active as YN2GY from YN2N's QTH in Grenada, during the 2010 ARRL DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. He will be there between February 18-22nd. Outside of the contest, look for CW activity on 30/17/12 meters. QSL via LoTW or to his home call sign, direct or by the bureau.

ZL, NEW ZEALAND - After his Australia trip, Jim, G6PAA, will head to New Zealand as ZL/G6PAA until Mar 1st. He will probably visit both the North Island (OC-036, WLOTA LH-0069) and South Island (OC-134, WLOTA LH-0342). Activity will be 80-10 m using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. Jim will use 100 watts into a dipole. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

That's it for February. 73 and gud dx.

Chuck, W8PT



DXCC Most Wanted Listing

The following list shows the top 100 most wanted DX entities and compares 2008 to 2009.

2009	PREFIX	ENTITY	2008
1	P5	NORTH KOREA	1
2	KP1	NAVASSA	3
3	ZS8	MARION ISLAND	5
4	3Y-B	BOUVET	7
5	7O	YEMEN	2
6	VKØ-H	HEARD ISLAND	8
7	FT5W	CROZET	9
8	FR-G	GLORIOSO	4
9	FT5Z	AMSTERDAM	10
10	VP8-S	SOUTH SANDWICH	12
11	BS7	SCARBOROUGH	19
12	VP8-O	SOUTH ORKNEY	11
13	SV-A	MT ATHOS	13
14	HKØ-M	MALPELO	16
15	VKØ-M	MACQUARIE	15
16	FR-T	TROMELIN	18
17	ZL9	AUCKLAND & CAMPBELL	14
18	KH5K	KINGMAN REEF	21
19	PYØS	ST PETER & ST PAUL	17
20	KH5	PALMYRA	20
21	FR-J/E	JUAN DE NOVA	23
22	KH4	MIDWAY	24
23	KH9	WAKE	29
24	3D2C	CONWAY REEF	22
25	BV9P	PRATAS	32
26	VP8-G	SOUTH GEORGIA	30
27	E3	ERITREA	31
28	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND	41
29	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	27
30	KH3	JOHNSTON	35
31	FK-C	CHESTERFIELD	33
32	CEØ-X	SAN FELIX	36
33	KH1	BAKER & HOWLAND	37
34	VU4	ANDAMAN	34
35	3CØ	ANNONBON	39
36	ZD9	TRISTAN DE CUNHA	42
37	KH7K	KURE	38
38	FT5X	KERGUELEN	40
39	XZ	MYANMAR	50
40	JD1-M	MINAMI TORISHIMA	25
41	1S	SPRATLY	44
42	PYØT	TRINDADE	49
43	3Y-P	PETER I	57
44	S2	BANGLADESH	55
45	3D2R	ROTUMA	71
46	EP	IRAN	60
47	YA	AFGHANISTAN	75
48	T33	BANABA	45
49	C2	NAURU	51
50	KH8-S	SWAINS ISLAND	82

2009	PREFIX	ENTITY	2008
51	E4	PALESTINE	48
52	YVØ	AVES ISLAND	69
53	FO-M	MARQUESAS	54
54	VK9-M	MELLISH REEF	26
55	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP	46
56	T5	SOMALIA	74
57	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	76
58	ZK3	TOKELAU	47
59	FO-A	AUSTRAL	52
60	4W	TIMOR LESTE	59
61	T3Ø	WESTERN KIRIBATI	53
62	H4Ø	TEMOTU	43
63	R1MV	MALYJ VYSOTSKIJ	95
64	CEØ-Z	JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND	68
65	CYØ	SABLE ISLAND	72
66	XF4	REVILLA GIGEDO	70
67	E5-N	NORTH COOK	73
68	VK9-X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	66
69	VP6	PITCAIRN	61
70	XX9	MACAU	91
71	A5	BHUTAN	67
72	9N	NEPAL	92
73	1AØ	SOV.MIL. ORDER-MALTA	84
74	EZ	TURKMENISTAN	87
75	VK9-C	COCOS KEELING	80
76	AP	PAKISTAN	100
77	CY9	ST PAUL ISLAND	85
78	FJ	ST BARTHELEMY	58
79	TN	CONGO	77
80	D6	COMOROS	>100
81	4U-UN	UN HQ NEW YORK	64
82	FW	WALLIS & FUTUNA	81
83	3W/XV	VIETNAM	88
84	YK	SYRIA	94
85	JX	JAN MAYEN	>100
86	VP8-SS	SOUTH SHETLAND	97
87	T2	TUVALU	56
88	TL	CENTRAL AFRICA REP	65
89	TT	CHAD	93
90	FO-C	CLIPPERTON	78
91	T32	EASTERN KIRIBATI	79
92	5V	TOGO	>100
93	A9	BAHRAIN	>100
94	JD1-O	OGASAWARA	90
95	HV	VATICAN	>100
96	TJ	CAMEROON	96
97	XU	CAMBODIA	>100
98	9U	BURUNDI	99
99	XW	LAOS	>100
100	TI9	COCOS ISLAND	>100

Tom, KB8UUZ



FYAO 2010

Don't forget about Freeze Your Acorns Off!

Saturday, February 27th 9:00 AM Setup, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Operation

At the Roy Smith Shelter House, Fred Fuller Park, 497 Middlebury Rd. in Kent, OH.

Bring your QRP rigs, donuts, coffee, coffee cake, pop, sandwiches, soup, snacks – plenty to share. It's always been a feast! Bring your friends who want to have fun and try their hands at QRP.



NEW THIS YEAR: The FYAO QRP Operating Contest! See "*FYAO 2010 Operating Contest*" later in this newsletter (page 17).

FYAO was the first operating event of the new PCARS in February 2006. At the time, it was considered a great success, and an indicator of the things to come for our new club. This is the 5th running of the event, and every year so far it has been a growing and fun event for all involved. Let's make this year the best year yet for FYAO!

73,
Tom, WB8LCD

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in February:

N4IT	Carl Capps
K8JE	Jim Weaver
KC8LJY	Mike Bakes
W8HFY	David Reith
KD8KCY	James Gurney
KD8DFL	Ray Larrick

KC8YYS	James Albright
KD8INR	Tammy Liddle
KD8FLX	Bob Leasure
KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro

Electronic Submissions via e-mail for ARRL Contests.

Files in the required Cabrillo format may be emailed directly to the contest robot for that contest at the appropriate e-mail address.

The Subject of the email must contain ONLY the participant's callsign, such as: SUBJECT: W1HQ (Don't use the example, please use your own callsign.) Do not include anything extraneous to the callsign such as contest name or category, the file extension of the log file (.txt or .cbr for example). Anything other than the callsign will cause your entry to be returned.

Joe, W8KNO

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.



What's Your Funniest Experience with Amateur Radio?

I've had several, but the one that "takes the cake" was at an area hamfest several years ago. Now, I've been legally blind, wearing glasses since I was nine years old... but hope to alleviate that with upcoming cataract surgery.

Anyway, I was chairperson of both the Talk-In Station, and of the Packet Station at the local hamfest. I had several totally blind hams helping me with Talk-In... hams who can program a tri-band HT in seconds... with their eyes open... pun intended!! So, the joke was "Talk-In is being run by a bunch of hams who can't see a darn thing... and yet, they're giving us directions to and from the hamfest"!!



However, the "kicker" was that it was a Friday evening and Saturday day event. At the hamfest complex, they had sealed off some of the exits out of the parking lot complex on the west side. The overhead street lights were not working, and the striping of the spaces, etc. was all but gone. I groaned "Man, I am lost in this parking lot... I can't find my way out of here".

Immediately, one of the blind hams (who I was providing transportation for), grabbed the mic, keyed up the repeater, and announced "QST! QST! QST! This is a Talk-Out Net for the Talk-In Station, who can't find his way out of the parking lot"!!

TO THIS DAY... I have people ask me if I need help getting out of parking lots... and I obviously will NEVER live that one down. Never mind that the upcoming cataract surgery probably won't help me in that regard, either (hi hi).

The bottom line, though...is this: "If you can't laugh at your own mistakes, there is something wrong with you".

Daryl, AE5WX

Hamfests

7 Feb 2010 - Winter HamFest - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Gargus Hall - 1965 North Ridge Rd. - Lorain, OH - <http://www.noars.net> - Talk-In: 146.70 - (open) - Contact: Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS - 4122 Bush Ave. - Cleveland, OH 44109 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: dfohman@att.net

14 Feb 2010 - Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show - InterCity Amateur Radio Club - Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 North Home Rd. - Mansfield, OH - <http://www.w8we.org/hamfest.htm> - Talk-In: 146.940/71.9 - Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG - 1094 Beal Rd. - Mansfield, OH 44905 - Phone: 419-589-2415 (1-7 PM please) - Email: metal07man@yahoo.com

18 Apr 2010 - 56th Annual Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 East Bath Rd. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2010.html> - Talk-In: 147.27 - Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Ave. - Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 330-688-2013 - Email: w8tts@w8tts.com

14-16 May 2010 - Dayton Hamvention - Dayton ARA - Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Road. - Trotwood, OH - <http://www.hamvention.org/> - Talk-In: 146.94(-) or 146.64(-) - Contact: Dayton Hamvention - PO Box 964 - Dayton, OH 45401-0964 - Phone: 937-276-6930 - Email: info@hamvention.org

Ohio State Parks On The Air

Well, the submitted logs have been reviewed and the scores tallied. The results have been posted on the OSPOTA Website and on the OSPOTA Yahoo Group site. We would like to extend our appreciation for all the stations that participated in the 2009 Ohio State Parks On The Air contest sponsored by PCARS.



The certificates for participation as well as the awards for those who finished in first place in the various categories will be mailed in the very near future. We are addressing the envelopes even as I type this article.

The OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind: to promote public awareness of ham radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system; to contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology; and to promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio operators. It has been with your participation that we believe those goals were achieved.

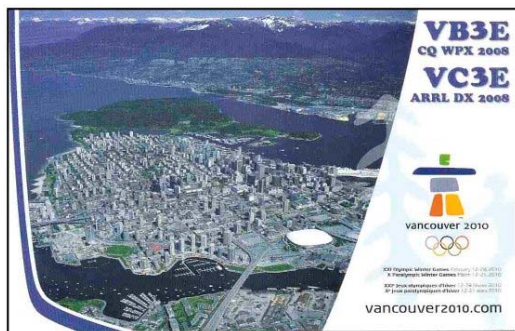
We are already planning OSPOTA 2010 and we are taking into account the suggestions that some of you have given us. We are looking forward to this event and will be working harder to make it a great success.

So for now, 73, and I hope to meet a lot of you during OSPOTA 2010.

Chuck, W8PT
OSPOTA Committee Chairperson

Paper Chase

If you have been watching the ads on TV, you may know that February is the month of the XXI Winter Olympic Games. It will be your opportunity to obtain a QSL card to remember the event. Four years ago, Italy had fifteen special call signs, one for each event. At the end of those games, as tradition dictated, The Olympic Flag was given to the mayor of Vancouver and has been on display in the City Hall since.



The 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games had five Special Event Amateur Radio Stations. The five special calls, represented the five rings of the Olympic flag. The calls were BT1OB, BT1OJ, BT1OH, BT1OY and BT1ON. The last letter of the call sign corresponded to the color of each of the rings of the Olympic flag - Beibei (Blue), Jingjing (Black), Huanhuan (Red), Yingying (Yellow) and Nini (Green). At the completion of the Summer Olympics, the Olympic Torch was passed to Canada and it was embodied with the issuing of a special QSL Card during the CQ WPX and the ARRL DX contests.



This month's Winter Games again are going to be honored by a special event station using the call sign VG7G. The event is sponsored by the Vancouver Amateur Radio Group (VOARG). Bill, VE7XS, will be point man for this event and the station will be on the air from February 1st until March 31st. The station will celebrate the XXI Olympic Winter Games, February 12-28, and the X Paralympic Winter Games, March 12-21.

QSL cards can be sent via the bureau or direct to: VOARG - 9362-206a St. - Langley, BC V1M 2W6 - Canada.

Joe, W8KNO



2009 PCARS Photo CD

All 1700+ pictures, plus a movie, all of the 2009 newsletters, plus a few other bonus items are all on one CD for PCARS members. You'll have to be at the February PCARS meeting to get your FREE copy! My thanks goes out to Larry, N8FTP - After I got everything all set, I took a master CD all the blank CD's to Larry - he has a CD duplicator set up so I didn't have to burn one disk at a time. Mary Jo, KD8GGZ, PCARS Secretary has the CD's and the member list to check off when you get your PCARS 2009 Photo CD. Enjoy!

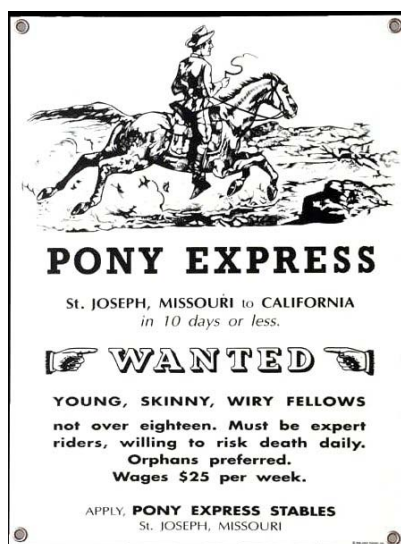


Tom, KB8UUZ



EmComm

The Pony Express is perhaps one of the most iconic Old West symbols of American ingenuity, initiative and enterprise. Many of us grew up reading stories or watching television shows about the heroic adventures of the fearless Pony Express rider who grabbed a saddlebag of mail, flung it over his horse and then tore out of town. With a fresh horse every ten miles or so and a new rider every hundred, the nearly two thousand mile route could be covered in ten days instead of thirty by an overland stage.



Their motto was “The Mail Must Go Through” and they played a vital role in how the West was won. As a kid it was easy to imagine that the Pony Express pursued its mission for years, if not decades, as the vital communications link to the frontier and all the way to Sacramento, California.

But such was not the case. In reality it was a short-lived money losing venture. Although they delivered over 34,000 pieces of mail and only lost one delivery, the completion of the transcontinental telegraph immediately spelled the end of the Pony Express. Instead of a ten day ride, messages could be routed across the country by wire. Delivery time could now be measured in minutes.

Nineteen months after it started the Pony Express rode off into the sunset of obsolescence, replaced by a technology that was faster and could handle a much greater volume of messages.

What's the lesson in this for the amateur radio EmComm community? Well, if you have a horse and saddle you can still climb aboard and ride to the next county or wherever to deliver a message. If the message's

destination is farther than you can ride, how many relays will it take for the message to be delivered? How reliable will each leg be along the entire route? By the time the message reaches the recipient will it already be outdated? Sure the means of delivery may still work but does it meet the true needs of those who are relying on it are simply keeping you and your pony in shape?

The point is that even tried and true methods of wireless communication that have near iconic status may not have either the relevance or utility that potential consumers may require. Yes, it may be the manner and mode of communication that the operators are accustomed to, but will it meet the actual need?

This is not meant to be a particular criticism of the National Traffic System because it can apply just as well to local operations, too. Do the people and agencies that we serve need a capacity for more lengthy and detailed messages? Rapid delivery to multiple recipients? Message attachments? Images as well as text? Inter-modal movement of messages?



Some may disparage services such as Twitter, but is a twenty-five word limit for a Radiogram all that different from the 140 character limit for a tweet?

It seems that every few months we are reading about some new digital mode for amateur radio, many of them soundcard based freeware. Sure it is difficult to keep up with all of them and none has become a standard, other than, perhaps, Airmail. But it is easy to begin sampling them and see what works.

We all have an obligation to expand our communication horizons by acquiring new skills and exploring new modes and technologies that we can interface with traditional modes. Otherwise we run the risk of standing around holding the reins on our proverbial pony waiting for someone to ask us to help.

Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH

Radio Office, Portage County EMA/RACES

EC, ARES of Portage County

Emergency Operations Officer, Ohio Army MARS



PCARS Thursday Net Control

If ***YOU*** would like to be a net control operator, please let me know when you are available and I'll get you into the rotation - email: WB8LCD@portcars.org. Your help would be greatly appreciated and it's a lot of fun !



February	
02/04	N8RLG
02/11	WB8LCD
02/18	N8QE
02/25	KD8FDK



March	
03/04	N8XTH
03/11	KD8VT
03/18	KC8PD
03/25	WB2DFC



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

Tom WB8LCD

PCARS Net Control Coordinator



PCARS Field Day 2010

We have been making announcements every chance we get regarding PCARS participation in this year's ARRL Field Day Event. It is the single, largest special event on our HAM calendar.

We are still looking for volunteers. Here is a list of various critical positions that have been filled so far.

Co-Chairs: Bill Fraedrich, WB9LBI and Chuck Patellis, W8PT
20 meter Station Captain – Deron Boring, N8XTH
40 meter Station Captain – Ed Polack, N8EQJ
CW Captain – Dave Rarrick, WB2DFC
Flex Station Captain – Rick Kruis, K8CAV
GOTA Station Captain – Bob Hajdak, N8QE
Power Distribution – James Andrews, KD8VT
IT Captain – Steve Randlett, K8SRR
Food Captain – Robert Gurney, N8RLG
Public Relations Captain – Tom (Parky) Parkinson, KB8UUZ



We still need to cover a 6 meter station and a possible Satellite station if someone volunteers. Station Captains may not volunteer for the Satellite station.

The various Station Captains will be responsible for, among other things, getting their stations covered by operators for the 24 hour period of Field Day. So if you see a station or stations where you would like to help out, please contact the specific Station Captain and volunteer. And please let me point out that Dave really needs CW operators, so you who have good “fists” please talk with Dave.

The FD committee will be making our progress known. Please help out where you can, even if it's for a couple of hours. I know that you will benefit from the experience.

73 for now,

Chuck, W8PT



RF Noise Identification Website

While searching the internet for one thing, you always find something new. I ran into this website and was amazed at the number of examples of various RF noise. So, book mark this site, and when you run into that strange noise, check out the files available and maybe it will help you track down that interference.

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/rfi-noise/>

Identify the RFI that interferes with your reception

About the RF Noise Website

Ken Alexander, VE3HLS first created this website to assist hams and SWLs in identifying annoying noises (QRN) that interfere with reception. It's not always easy to identify where QRN is coming from, and it's even harder to describe it to someone else if you're looking for their help! Now maintained by Craig Miller, KA1GYB, the RF Noise Website is here to help you identify QRN by comparing it to audio samples of noise from known sources...a kind of "audio fingerprinting".

The samples provided are just a beginning. It's our hope that users will also contribute their own QRN soundbites, either noises that you have positively identified, or those from unknown sources that will be posted in a special area for unidentified (unid) QRN. That way, other users can listen and possibly identify it and solve the mystery for all of us. In this way, everyone can learn to identify - and hopefully eliminate - the noises that ruin our listening!

A Word About The Files

What happens when you click on the links will depend on how your computer is configured. If you have an audio player like WinAmp set up as your default MP3 file player then clicking on a link will likely start WinAmp and play the file with no further action on your part. If you don't have a player configured then your system will likely start downloading the MP3 file and ask you where you'd like to save it.

If you have a player configured and you'd like to download the file instead of playing it online then you should be able to do so by right-clicking on the link, then click on Save Target As, and specify where you'd like to save the file. Feel free to download any of the files that interest you.

You can also click on the View Waveform button to see what the noise might look like if you could view it on an oscilloscope. The waveform views are 0.1 seconds wide, which is sufficient magnification to see what's going on. For example, noises that are based on 60 Hz line voltage will have 6 pulses in a 0.1 second window ($60 \text{ Hz} / 10 = 6$), or six repetitions of a recognizable pattern in the case of the Sony TV waveform.

The Files!

- Household appliances and electrical equipment
- Computers and related equipment
- Transmitters and intentional RF emitters
- Electric Utilities , BPL and industrial equipment
- Miscellaneous Equipment
- Unidentified

Tom, KB8UUZ



It Seems to Us: Not an Emergency Radio Service?

The FCC raised a few eyebrows by including the following sentence in its Public Notice DA 09-2259:
"While the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service *is not an emergency radio service* [emphasis added]."

We might take umbrage at that, but the fact is that you'd be hard pressed to find a definition for "emergency radio service" -- or any other radio service that would qualify as one. The ITU Radio Regulations make no use of the term; rather, the ITU defines "safety service" as "Any radiocommunication service used permanently or temporarily for the safeguarding of human life and property" and offers radionavigation and other safety services a bit of extra protection against harmful interference. The ITU recognizes that a wide variety of radio services including the amateur and amateur-satellite services play a role in public protection and disaster relief (PPDR).

Even the FCC itself no longer uses the term "emergency radio service." There was once a Special Emergency Radio Service (SERS) but it disappeared a decade ago in a consolidation of Private Land Mobile Radio services. SERS spectrum is now part of the Public Safety Pool.

So, let's not waste a lot of energy worrying about what the FCC thinks we are not. Like many other radio

services, the amateur service sometimes provides emergency communications. That's not our day-in, day-out function, but neither is it the daily function of any other radio service that's defined in the FCC rules. The point that the FCC presumably was trying to make is that we are not just an emergency radio service. We have a much broader mission as "a voluntary, non-commercial communication service authorized for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by licensed persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest." Our "self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations" are what create our value to the public. That value doesn't come from our licenses; it comes from the knowledge we have acquired, the skills we have developed, and the stations we have constructed in pursuit of our "personal aims" in the field of radiocommunication.

The result is a radio service that is uniquely equipped to serve in emergencies. If we're not an "emergency radio service" it is only because we are so much more.

Watch the Band Edges!

Following the relocation of most broadcasting stations from the 7100-7200 kHz band there has been a significant increase in DX activity by US amateurs on 40 meter phone. Judging from what we're hearing and what others are reporting from around the country, a reminder about band edges is in order.

When in SSB mode, most transceivers display the frequency of the suppressed carrier. This can be a bit confusing, because ideally your station isn't emitting any energy at all on that frequency. All of your transmitter power is going into the voice passband that extends roughly from 300 to 3000 Hz on one side or the other of that frequency.

The bottom edge of the US phone band for Amateur Extra and Advanced licensees is 7125 kHz. Without getting into hair-splitting debates about how wide your SSB signal might be compared to others, if you're operating on lower sideband (LSB) with a carrier frequency below 7128 kHz you're out of the band because some of your transmitter power is below 7125 kHz. For General licensees the band edge is 7175 kHz, so the lowest carrier frequency a General can use on LSB is 7178 kHz. At the top edge, as long as you're on LSB the situation is different; if you're confident that your opposite sideband and carrier suppression are up to snuff you can snuggle up to the band edge of 7300 kHz.

Two other bands where "falling off the edge" is too common an occurrence are 20 and 17 meters, and here -- because upper sideband (USB) is the norm on these bands -- the problem occurs at the top end. Carrier frequencies above 14,347 kHz and 18,165 kHz respectively are verboten. On these bands the lower band edge is not generally a problem because on USB, the carrier and lower sideband are suppressed.

As station licensees and control operators we are responsible for the proper operation of our stations. If a DX Cluster spot lures us out of the US phone band that's our fault, not the spotter's. If a DX station is on 18,160 kHz and is listening "5 to 10 up" it's our fault, not his, if we go up more than 5. And as long as we're talking about 17 meters -- a great band, by the way -- US amateurs must remember that RTTY and data modes are not allowed above 18,110 kHz, even if a RTTY DX pileup extends above that frequency. And remember, too, that if you're generating a RTTY or data signal by injecting audio into an SSB transmitter your actual operating frequency is different from what's shown on your display. How much different? Only you and your software know for sure!

David Sumner, K1ZZ
ARRL Chief Executive Officer



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- February 8th meeting - **EmComm** - Jim, KC8PD
- February 27th - Annual **Freeze Your Acorns Off** (FYAO) special event
- March 8th meeting - **APRS** - Matt, W8DEC
- April 12th meeting - **D-Star Digital Communications** - Neil, N8IL
- May 10th meeting - **AMSAT** - Ed, N8EQJ & Dave, WB2DFC



PCARS Census Updated Around the Clock

The US Constitution requires that government conduct a census every ten years. Thanks to webmaster Steve K8SRR, you can conduct your own PCARS census any time you want, from the comfort of your own computer. Steve's installed a new button on the club website www.portcars.org that runs a thorough analysis of the membership in seconds. Click on the MEMBER STATS button, and you'll see something like this:

Member Info	
Active Members	142
Former Members	14
SK Members	1
Inactive Members	15
Life Members	3

By Class		
Extra	52	36.6%
General	48	33.8%
Tech	37	26.1%
Advanced	3	2.1%
Tech Plus	1	0.7%
Novice	1	0.7%

Members By City		
Ravenna	26	18.3%
Kent	16	11.3%
Akron	8	5.6%
Atwater	8	5.6%
Mogadore	7	4.9%
Stow	7	4.9%
Streetsboro	7	4.9%
Uniontown	6	4.2%
Aurora	4	2.8%
Cuyahoga Falls	4	2.8%
Hiram	4	2.8%
Mantua	4	2.8%

The numbers are generated directly from our database and are always the most current available.

You can also look up other members, their locations, and phone numbers, even search for specific hams. To access these tools, you must login with a user name and password, available to all members. If you've forgotten your password, contact Steve, K8SRR or Bill, WB9LBI.

If you've moved, or changed license class, email address, or phone numbers, please notify club secretary Mary Jo, KD8GGZ so that we can keep you current on the database.

Bill, WB9LBI

Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?

On the Ten-Tec Omni VII Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ten-Tec-Omni-VII/>), one ham wrote: "If I was 17 years-old I would be hacking I-phones and other items like George Hotz, the 17 year-old from New Jersey who was able to unlock the Apple I-phone so that it could be used on other cell service networks.

"When I was his age, I was hacking dial telephones. Then one day the phone company showed up at my house. My parents were not impressed with my technical abilities.

"This morning there is a story that George has just hacked the 'un-hackable' Sony 3 Play Station. He says the hack was 95% software and 5% hardware.

"A quick check of the modifications site run by that guy over in Denmark, shows that there are NO MODS for the O7...interesting. I just wonder how many strange and wonderful things can be done with those 36 buttons/switches on the front panel. Can the O7 be made even better?"

In my reply, I asked, "Why stop at pressing some buttons on the front panel? Why doesn't someone really hack the Omni VII and develop a completely new software package for it?" Rigs like the Omni VII and the Elecraft K3 would seem to be perfect candidates for this kind of hacking.

Sure, there is an order of magnitude difference between a \$300 iPod and a \$3,000 radio, but we're big boys, aren't we? Besides, aside from overdriving the finals, what real damage can you do to the radio? It seems to me that even if you manage to screw up the software in the rig, you can get back to square one by simply re-loading the manufacturer's software.

Ham radio operators have a long history of modifying their radios. Page through any stack of QSTs or CQ Magazines from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and you'll find many articles describing modifications to the popular radios of the day. About the only thing hams do to their rigs today is to clip a diode to allow it to operate out-of-band.

What does it say about the technical capabilities of today's hams that we haven't yet done with our gear what some 17-year-old kid has done with the iPhone and the PlayStation? Why don't we have any third-party software for Omni VII or the K3? I think if a manufacturer actually encouraged third-party software development, they'd quickly gain a following and make their brand even stronger, don't you?

Dan, KB6NU

PCARS Patches & Stickers & Mugs



\$1 each. Mugs are full color with the PCARS logo on both side and only cost \$5 each.

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



Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers, use the mug! If you would like to order by mail contact the club Treasurer: Bill, WB9LBI at: wb9lbi@portcars.org

FYAO 2010 Operating Contest

This year, the operating format for FYAO will be a “contest” for all participants that set up a station and operate from FYAO. The winner will receive a plaque, which will have the annual winner named on it, which he can keep and display proudly in his shack, until the plaque is re-awarded to the following years winner! 2010 will be the ONLY year where you will have the opportunity to win the coveted first position on the plaque!

Contest rules are as follows:

- 1) Maximum power: 5 watts CW / Digital 10 watts pep SSB
- 2) Each operating station is an entry into the PCARS contest and will use the club callsign & log sheet as part of the FYAO Special Event operation.
- 3) Each operating station will operate within the privileges of the control operator at that station.
- 4) Each CW / Digital QSO = 2 points
Each SSB QSO = 3 points
- 5) Each station set up outside of the main shelter house will receive 100 Bonus Points. (you are allowed to bring/erect your own shelter as long as all park rules are obeyed)
- 6) 100 Bonus points will be awarded for bringing a hot dish to the event to share, and, 50 Bonus points will be awarded for bringing a cold dish to the event to share (cookies, pies, snacks, etc....)
- 7) Each station will have a guest register – each registered guest adds 2 points to the score before multipliers.
- 8) Each state or country contacted will be a multiplier – add up all multipliers, times the number of QSO points + Bonus points to compute final score. You must verify the state or country the other station is operating from.
- 9) All logs will be turned in before leaving the event. The contest will run from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM EST.
- 10) The winner's plaque will be awarded at the March meeting following the event, and returned to the FYAO coordinator at the February meeting the following year.



So there you have it! Set up a station, bring lots of food, invite your ham friends from all over NE Ohio to come visit us. It's going to be a great day, and as tradition dictates, there will be a debriefing to follow the event, location to be determined on the day of the event. Hope to see you there and hear you on the air! Good Luck in the contest.

73,

Tom, WB8LCD
FYAO Coordinator, 2010

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

February 6 - April 3 - June 5 - August 7 - October 2 - December 4

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

February Contest Calendar

February 2010	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 6 to 2400Z, Feb 7
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 6 to 0100Z, Feb 8
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 6 to 1759Z, Feb 7
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 7
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 13
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 26 to 2159Z, Feb 28
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 27 to 0600Z, Feb 28

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

Listen & Get the Job

"Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait n until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office ... and walked right in.

Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet.

They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified. Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled." The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute. I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's unfair."

The employer said, I'm sorry, but the last several minutes while you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse code: "IF YOU UNDERSTAND THIS MESSAGE, THEN COME RIGHT IN. THE JOB IS YOURS." None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

Randy, K5NDX

Editor's Note: Daryl, AE5WX, our PCARS member from Little Rock, AR forwarded this article for the RADIOGRAM.

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 29 plates 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. When your Amateur Radio plates need to be re-newed, you can get NEW plates issued (same call sign). Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history!!** The official form for obtaining your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS Yahoo Group site.



Vertical challenge

During the Christmas season, one motorist stumbled across a motoring mystery. On her way from Ohio to Michigan to visit her family, she and her husband paid \$4 for a stint on the Ohio Turnpike.

On their way back, they were charged \$6.75 for traveling the same stretch. Whoa, they said. What's the deal? Same vehicle, a Dodge Durango. **The only difference: For the return trip, her husband had attached a CB antenna.** When they complained to the toll-taker, they learned that the antenna had tripped a height sensor, which jacked up their vehicle to the next classification.

Along with a host of other changes introduced in October, the Turnpike Commission began to charge not by axle weight, as before, but on the number of axles and the height of the vehicle above the first two axles. Goodbye sensors in the pavement. Hello sensors set at 7-1/2 feet off the ground. Therefore, adding the big antenna costs \$2.75 - a 69 percent jump!

"It got me wondering. If people have SUVs and pack stuff on top, will that also trip the sensor to bump them to a higher rate?" Yep. "Typically," says Turnpike spokeswoman Lauren Hakos, "an antenna should not be picked up by the height sensor. But that really depends on the size of the antenna and the base. Any part of a vehicle that trips a height sensor at 7 foot 6 inches or above, is bumped into a higher classification. That would include an SUV with luggage on top or a car-carrier or a bike."

Although the toll-taker reduced their fee to \$4, Hakos says that was an aberration, because if the sensor is tripped, the toll is supposed to be higher. So if I have, say, a little Honda Civic with one bicycle on top, I have to pay 69 percent more than if I didn't have the bike on top? I'm not exactly beating up your pavement with my 20-pound bicycle, but you're going to charge me just as much as a fully loaded U-Haul truck? "I understand what you're saying," Hakos responds. "That may be something that, at some point, the commission would take a look at." Well, this would be a good point. The whole theory in setting tolls is that heavier vehicles do more damage and should therefore pay more.

Meanwhile, if your vehicle is hovering right around the 7-foot-6 mark, you can enhance your chances of sneaking through by slowing down. "You'd be amazed at how fast customers come into the lanes," says Hakos. "If they're close to the 7-6 in height and they're flying into a lane or hit a bump or there's some shift in their vehicle as they hit an entrance, that could push them from Class 1 to Class 2." And in this case, being low-class is a good thing.

Jason Liss

Article from the Beacon Journal



Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Dual Band Trunk Lid Antenna, 2m/440 like new, \$25. [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: Heathkit SB-630 combo: SWR meter, phone patch, and clock which can be set for GMT, \$50. [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: Heathkit HW-202, crystal controlled, worked last time I used it, \$75. [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: Philco Floor Model Radio circa 40s. Has been refinished and many tubes replaced. Was working fine a few years ago, but due to non-use has some dirty switches right now and I have taken time to pull it out and clean them. Speaker is about 12-15" and sounded great. Has AM and 2 shortwave bands. Price \$250... negotiable. [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: Tripp Lite Power Supply 3 amps, \$15. [exp 3/25/10]

Contact **Carl** - N4IT@portcars.org or call 330-221-9725

FOR SALE: Alinco DM330-MVT power supply - new in box. Variable voltage, switching power supply that delivers 5 to 15 VDC at 30 amps continuous or 32 amps surge. Large back-lit Amp/Volt meter displays the status of the power supply. Sell for \$125 plus shipping (\$10). [exp 4/25/10]

Contact **Randy** - N6TL@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Mirage A-1015G, 6 Meter Amplifier - 10 watts in, 160 watts out - Original manual & box - works great - \$275 [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: Heil HM-10 Dual (HC4 & HC-5 elements) microphone. Original manual & case. W/cable for Kenwood. \$95 [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Autotuner cable for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$24 [exp 3/25/10]

Contact **Tom** - KB8UUZ@portcars.org or call 330-527-7609

FOR SALE: ENT Carlon Flexible Conduit 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch, and 1 inch rolls. "Non Metallic" easy to cut, and no sharp edges to catch your wires. made to be buried or concrete over. Never used. Sell all, or trade all, or ??? by the roll. Let me know what you need. Most of the rolls are 25 ft. the size is the I.D. 1/2", 3/4", and 1". In all, with current pricing, I have roughly 1200.00 worth. Will trade for ham stuff or Sell all for one price at 600.00: Current prices 1/2"=.58 per ft. 3/4"=.87 per ft and 1"=1.24 per ft.(McMaster Carr) 1/2"x25ft- 8.00 ea. 35 rolls - 3/4"x25ft- 14.00 ea. 11 rolls - 1"x25ft---- 20.00 ea 3 rolls - 1/2"x150ft-60.00 ea 3 rolls - 3/4"x100ft-60.00 ea 2 rolls Great for under ground coax runs. [exp 3/25/10]

Contact: **Martin** - KD8MBH@portcars.org or call: 330-297-6822

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. [exp 3/25/10]

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. [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: New, Belden 8267 (RG-213) coaxial cable - 100 Ft for only \$85 - no shipping/no tax! Need another custom length? Let me know. [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: Coax Jumper Cables - made of Belden RG-213, 3 foot jumper \$10, 6 foot jumper \$15. As many as you need! Yes, they all have PL-259's on them! They are complete jumper cable assemblies! Can also supply any custom lengths you need! [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: 1.5" OD x 12 ft aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$75.00 [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: 2" OD x 12 ft long aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$100.00 [exp 3/25/10]

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

FOR SALE: TS-440-SAT Kenwood Transceiver, PS-50 Kenwood Power Supply, MC-60A Kenwood Desk Microphone, SP-430 Kenwood External Speaker. *Sold as package only.* Excellent condition, Original owner, Non-smoker, Original Packaging and all manuals. Asking \$1000. [exp 3/25/10]

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

WANTED: 15/17" analog TV - preferably working. [exp 3/25/10]

Contact **Joe** - W8KNO@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Coax & Connectors:

New Andrew F4A-PNMDM-22-NX1, 22' FSJ4-50A Superflex® jumpers with N-male on one end and 7-16 DIN male on the other end. \$20.00 each (20 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew F4A-PNMDM-22-NX1, 22' FSJ4-50A Superflex® jumpers with N-male on one end and 7-16 DIN male on the other end and supplied with an extra Andrew F4PNMV2-C, premium N-male connector so the jumper can be configured as an N-male to N-male at any length up to 22'. \$30.00 each (20 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew F4PNMV2-C, premium N-male connector for FSJ4-50A Superflex® coax \$15.00 each (12 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew L4TNM-PS, N-male Positive Stop connector for Andrew LDF4-50A ½" Helix® \$15.00 each (6 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew L4PNM-RC, Older style heavy duty premium N-male connector for Andrew LDF4-50A ½" Helix®, these are out of the package as they were used for training but were never installed on any cable. \$15.00 pair [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew L4TDMV2-C, DIN-male connector for Andrew LDF4-50A ½" Helix® \$15.00 each (6 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew L5TNF-PS, N-female Positive Stop connector for Andrew LDF5-50A 7/8" Helix® \$35.00 each (2 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

Used Andrew L45W, N-male, all brass connector for Andrew LDF5-50A 7/8" Helix® \$15.00 [exp 3/25/10]

Used Radio Frequency Systems FLC78-50NF, premium N-female connectors in excellent condition, fit both RFS and Andrew 7/8" Helix® \$10.00 each [exp 3/25/10]

Andrew L6TDM, DIN-male connector for Andrew LDF6-50A 1¼" Helix® \$20.00 each (9 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

94 Feet of New Andrew ½" Helix® with one N-male connector installed \$100.00 [exp 3/25/10]

84 Feet of New Andrew ½" Helix® \$84.00; **74 Feet of New Andrew ½" Helix®** \$74.00 [exp 3/25/10]

Approximately 150 feet of Used Andrew 7/8" Helix® \$150.00 [exp 3/25/10]

553 Feet of New RFS FLCH114-50A, 1¼" Helix® with one New N-female connector \$1000.00 [exp 3/25/10]

For SALE: Used 30' Rohn 25G tower with hinged base plate, good condition \$150.00 [exp 3/25/10]

Contact: **James** - KD8VT@portcars.org

Editor's Note: Ads will run for 3 months then be dropped from the listing **UNLESS** you send it in again. Each ad will have a expiration date that looks like: [exp 3/25/10] when they will be removed. This will help keep the listings current.



Skywarn Information

Just a few passing words while we wile away the hours of another Ohio winter. With the snow flying constantly anymore, the Skywarn operations are at a low level but I would remind everyone that severe weather comes in all forms at all times of the year and it would not be uncommon for the National Weather Service to call upon us for reports of snow, ice, freezing rain and what have you especially in the event of blizzard conditions.

The buzz word for now is to slow down, take your time and put both hands on the wheels if you must travel. A good website to check if you have to venture out or are planning a trip would be www.buckeyetraffic.org. On this site you can check roads conditions throughout the state as well as road construction and closures plus selected sites have real time web cams to monitor road and traffic conditions. An option I have used many time over the last couple of years. Getting back to the Skywarn issue, I again would like everyone who hasn't already done so and is a qualified Skywarn spotter to email me that information to wb8yys@arrl.net. I apply that info to a laminated map of Portage County as an operating aid to identify at a glance who is available and where they are located. I already have much of that information from those of you that have already sent it but I am sure there are more spotters out there than I have info on. Just something to think about when you get around to it.



While the weather is the way it is for now, I'd recommend that everyone monitor either their favorite or local repeater in the event someone runs into difficulty and might need assistance. Thanks to the kind accolades from Jim, KC8PD, I monitor at least 6 sites when it comes to the weather and if it's out there, I'll see it and be available to pass it on. Usually I can be found on the 145.39 repeater and be glad to tell you what I know or am seeing.

Lastly, as mentioned on a previous PCARS net, several PCARS members are close to obtaining their WAS or have already and I am one of the WAS VHF/UHF Awards managers in the Ohio Section. I can check your cards for you locally without having to send your cards in to Newington. Drop me a line and let me know!

73,

Gregg, WB8YYS
ARES of Portage County
AEC Skywarn Coordinator

Winter 2010 General Class



The Winter 2010 General upgrade class is underway at the PCARS club site. We have fifteen students registered for the course and three of them will become new PCARS members. Welcome aboard to Jeff, KD8MWE, William, KD8EZJ, and Ron, N8JAM!

It sure makes for a full house in the radio room. I don't think we could squeeze anyone else in. But it is comfortable and it sure is nice to holding the class in the club's own space.

Most all of the instructors are back for this, our third session of the upgrade class, with Dave, WB2DFC, taking the place of Bill, WB9LBI, on the topics of Antennas and CW.

The class is held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings and PCARS members are welcome to stop by and visit or to sit in on the class as a refresher course. Rick, K8CAV, will be covering Components and Circuits on January 26th and February 2nd. Bob, N8QE, will have Radio Signals and Equipment on the ninth, followed by Tom, WB8LCD, on the 16th who will lecture on Electrical and RF Safety. Dave will take Antennas and CW on the 23rd with Deron, N8XTH, wrapping up the lectures on March 2nd on the topic of Propagation.



Jim, KC8PD

Dues are Due

With the new year, dues for membership in PCARS are due. You can either bring your dues to the next meeting, or mail them in. You don't want to miss out on any of the fun, so send in your renewal now! If you mail it in, send to: Mary Jo Loveland, KD8GGZ, at 4838 Campellsport Road, Ravenna OH 44266. Also, please let me know if you are an ARRL member and when your League membership expires.



There's a PCARS membership form at the end of this newsletter so you can see what amount is due. If you have any changes in your information (address, e-mail, phone, license class), please fill out the information. If there are no changes, you can just send in a check payable to "PCARS" for your 2010 dues.

Mary Jo, KD8GGZ
PCARS Secretary

3905 Century Club WAS and DX Nets

As a follow up to last month's article on the 3905 Century Club, here is their net schedule for those of you that may want to listen in, or check in and make some contacts!

3905 Century Club Net Schedule

UTC Time	Day	Freq	Net	Net Coord	Remarks
SSB Nets					
23:30	Daily	7.178	40m Early	open	
0300	Daily	3.902	75m Early	WB5FDP	
0300	Daily	1.892	160m Early	WK7K	
0400	Daily	7.2335	40m Late	W6EST	Alt freq 7.178
0600	Daily	3.903	75m Late	K7MI	Alt freqs 3.897 or 3.895
0600	Daily	1.892	160m Late	K2CV	
CW Nets					
0400	Sat	1.8125	160m Late	K8PG	
0400	Sun	7.046	40m Late	KI7PM	Slow Speed
2000	Sun	14.053	20m	KI7PM	
0400	Mon	3.5475	80m Late	AC7XF	Slow Speed
0200	Tue	7.046	40m Early	KI7PM	
0300	Fri	3.5475	80m Early	AC7XF	Slow Speed
PSK Nets (USB, 1500 Hz Mark Tone)					
1900	Sat	14.0680	20m	KI7PM	
0200	Wed	7.070	40m	N7WH	
0300	Thu	3.572	80m	N7WH	
RTTY Nets (LSB, 2125 Hz Mark Tone)					
2100	Sat	14.084	20m	KI7PM	
0200	Wed	7.084	40m	N7WH	
0300	Thu	3.586	80m	N7WH	

QSL Bureau for 40M SSB is [W5IL](#). [WM9H](#) for all other nets. DX to [N9KNJ](#).

Please note that Net Control Stations will do their best to start nets on published frequencies, but all nets are +/- QRM. There are times that you will find the nets in operation plus or minus a few kHz if the frequency was in use and not relinquished by net time, or due to broadcast interference or QRM. Net Controls will usually post changes to the [3905checkins Email Group](#) advising of any delays or time/frequency changes, etc.

Word Search - PCARS

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

Okay, here's a new type of word search. Black out the squares that contain either a B, F or K.
(Answer is shown on Page 26)

Tom, KB8UUZ

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**

(January through November.
December is the Christmas Party)



Pictures from the January PCARS Meeting



Answer to the Word Search

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

K8BF - I bet it didn't take you long to figure that one out...

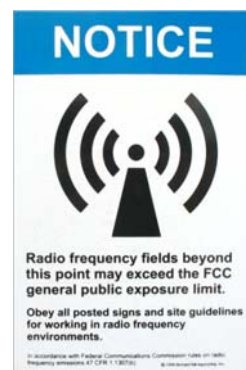
Thanks & 73

I really appreciate your help in getting material for this newsletter. All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors:

K1ZZ, KB6NU, KB8UUZ, KC8PD, KD8GGZ, AE5WX, K5NDX, W8KNO, W8PT, WB2DFC, WB8LCD, WB8YY, WB9LBI, Jason Liss, and the World Wide Web.

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

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



HAMFESTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

OHIO - K8BF 5th Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO) QRP Special Event Station, Saturday, February 27, 1500 UTC - 2300 UTC. Fred Fuller Park, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS). General areas of 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters both CW & SSB. Also Echolink through the KC8RKV echolink node. Certificate available - SASE to: Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd., Aurora, OH 44202

NEW JERSEY - New Providence ARC Auction, February 19, New Providence Municipal Building Gym, New Providence. Sellers 5:30 pm, buyers 6:30 PM, auction starts 7 PM. Contact: Tom, KB8UUZ, 1583-2

SOUTH CAROLINA - Charleston Feburary 78, La 146.79 Summe info: www.w

WASHINGTON - Washin of Geo





Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [] New [] Renewal

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: _____ Year: _____

Birthday: Month: _____ Day: _____ (don't need year)

A \$5.00 initiation fee will be assessed in the first year of membership for all new members.

Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31st the following year.

Dues are as follows: Example - Regular Member Pays on Jan 1st \$20 for entire year. If paid on June 1st, \$15 for entire year, etc.

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Full Membership	Pay January 1 through May 31 = \$20.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Membership	Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Senior Full Membership (65+)	Pay January 1 through May 31 = \$16.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Senior Membership (65+)	Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family* Member Call Sign of Regular Member: _____	Pay January 1 through May 31 = \$10.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months) Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month)

(*Family = wife, husband, brother, sister, son, daughter, father, mother that is a licensed amateur radio operator who's FCC license has the same address as the paid regular member's FCC license)

Checks can be made out to either "PCARS" - or - "Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc."

What are **YOUR** Ham Radio interests:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Member #:

Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
c/o: Mary Jo Loveland KD8GGZ
4838 Campbellsport Road
Ravenna OH 44266-8895

Date Received:
New Renewal
Date Voted:
○ Database Updated

Initiation Fee \$
○ Cash ○ Check Dues \$
Results: Total Amount: \$

Rev 2009 0501



PCARS - K8BF

Fifth Annual

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



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

When: *Saturday - Feb. 27, 2010
Set up: 9am*



Operating Time: *10am - 6pm EST*

We will be active on CW & SSB in the General areas of the 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Echolink on the KC8RKV echolink node) and anything else we can get working)
Club Call Sign **K8BF**

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



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

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



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org





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 2010

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2010	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
FYAO	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland
Web Master	K8SRR	Steve Randlett

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
N8RLG	Robert Gurney
AB8AA	Allan Avnet
K8JAA	Jane Avnet
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro
KE8G	Jim Blanca



VE Team



The 'RADIOGRAM' is the official newsletter of the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.** - copyright © 2010. Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify it. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inputs submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month - newsletter contact: KB8UUZ@portcars.org

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 you 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
9992 State Route 700
Mantua, OH 44255



NLC

