



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



January 2010 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 5 No. 1

~ 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 ~

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month.  
7 pm at Sideliners  
Brimfield Plaza  
Brimfield, Ohio

~ Nets ~

Thursday nights  
8 PM  
on 146.895  
PL Tones  
110.9 Rootstown  
114.8 Kent

PCARS Incorporated  
Nov. 1, 2005  
First Meeting  
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated  
April 20, 2006

## From the President

As the new year is about to begin we hope that all PCARS members had a wonderful Christmas holiday and that Santa delivered that special item of ham radio gear that each of them had been hoping for.

As this is being written there are a couple of very special deliveries pending. Ray Larrick, KD8DFL, and Ryan Fraedrich, KD8FPP, have returned from Iraq and are stateside waiting for flights back to their unit's HQ in Columbus. After the demobilization process they can head north to Portage County to be reunited with their families. We are grateful to them for their dedicated service to our country and thankful for their safe return home.



As PCARS begins its fifth year of operation the schedule of activities starts to fill up pretty quickly with what are becoming annual events. They include Freeze Your Acorns Off, our QRP event in February; Antenna Day in May; Field Day in June; the PCARS Picnic in July; the Ohio QSO Party in August; Ohio State Parks On The Air in September; the Two Meter Simplex Sprint which will be in October this year; and the Christmas Party in December. Just like that, eight months have an activity ready to go.

You can anticipate that Dave, WB2DFC, will be putting together some other outstanding workshops and activities for the other months. Plus, you can count on plenty of additional events happening at the club site. Let Dave know if you have any suggestions for activities or meeting presentations.

Work continues at the club site with the renovations to the radio room and the installation of the computer server and related equipment in the workshop. Thanks to Frank, KD8HGI, and Mike, KD8JRE, and Steve, K8SRR, for generous donations of computer equipment. Frank, Steve and Gene, W8NET, are the PCARS IT Hardware team and their efforts are going to give us an excellent computer system for the club site.

Thanks also to Bob, K8AAB, for his donation of a tower, rotator and antennas that will be installed at the Dietrich Building (home of the club site) when Spring rolls around.

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

A very special thanks and congratulations to Mike, KB8TUY, Russ, KD8LDY, and Mike, KD8FLZ, the



recipients of this year's PCARS President's Award. All three of them have been tireless workers at the club shack. No matter what work needed to be done they were there for all of it, even taking the initiative to find extra things that needed to be done. Russ' electrician skills have been invaluable.

A great year is ahead of us with lots of ham radio fun to be had and I look forward to sharing it with all of you. Happy New Year!

73,  
**Jim, KC8PD**

**KB8TUY receives President's Award from KC8PD**



## *From the Vice President*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to and your families. I hope all of you enjoy a safe and prosperous 2010.

It's been quite a year ! Here are a few of the high points for me!

New club site digs with many improvements made. Thanks to those who have invested time and effort at the club site. Your work at the club site has made a huge difference, a place we can all enjoy and be very proud of. It is a terrific, multi-use facility. A place for PCARS members to enjoy the ham radio hobby, a place to bring potential new radio enthusiasts, a place to educate and develop current and prospective members, a place to further the Amateur Radio Cause, and a place where PCARS can provide vital assistance during an emergency. Thank you PCARS!

A new call sign ????? Absolutely !!!!! The old mouthful of a call "KD8CKP" is laid to rest, ready for re-use. Now we can proudly say "K8BF" is the voice of PCARS!. Special thanks to those who went above and beyond finding, tracking, and securing the call for PCARS. I, for one, will be very pleased to send "K8BF" on CW. Maybe we should have a contest to see who can come up with the best, most appropriate phonetics for "K8BF". Say goodbye "mouthful of a call sign" and say hello "K8BF". Thank you PCARS !

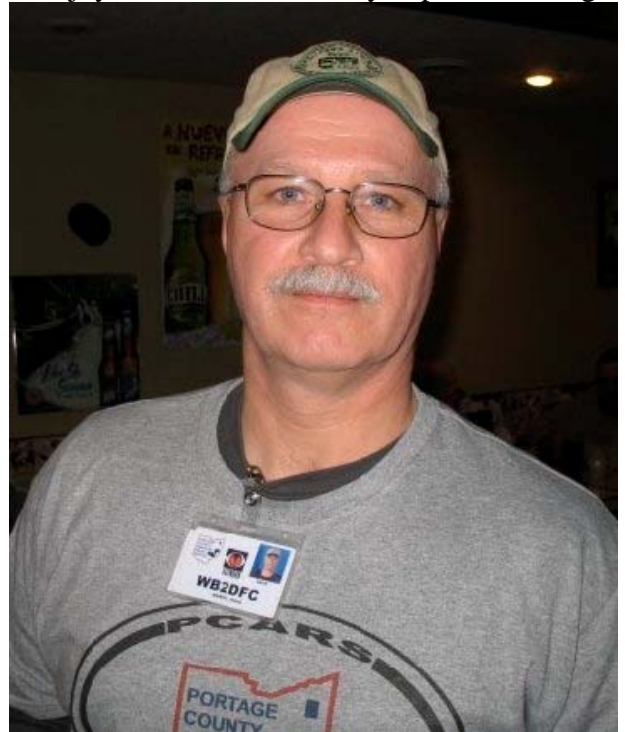
Over 150 members ??? You Bet !!! 2009 proved to be a banner year! I attribute the PCARS growth to all of our members. Word of mouth (or radio) seems to be, as it has always been, our best advertiser! So each of you PCARS folks should give yourselves a "pat on the back" for keeping PCARS out front. PCARS is widely known and respected, for it's programs, events, activities, and members. Not many organizations in the non-business world can boast over 150 active members, monthly meeting attendance by over half of the members, and significant participation in activities and events. Thank you PCARS !

PCARS has a newsletter ??? You have to be kidding me !!! By far, the best Amateur Radio Club Newsletter I have ever read ! And by comparison, better than most newsletters from any industry, hobby, or special interest group I have read. Membership contribution, both in writing articles and sending images, really make for great reading! As I have experienced many times, articles and pictures in the PCARS Newsletter have motivated members to become aware of new and different aspects of our radio hobby. Just think about it, you are kind of "burned out" with the hobby, you read an article by one of your fellow members, it sparks an interest, and your off !!! Just outstanding !! And what would a newsletter be without a great editor, cut and paste-er, photo shopper, etc etc etc. Parky, KB8UUZ, thank you- thank you- thank you. ..and of course, thank you PCARS !

I suppose I could go on paragraph after paragraph, but you get the idea. I am grateful and thankful to all who make PCARS what it is, a great Amateur Radio Organization. I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting. May you all have a Very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a Prosperous 2010.

72/73,

**Dave, WB2DFC**



## *Christmas Party 2009*

The second Monday of December found the PCARS meeting moved from our normal Sideliners meeting place, to the Paradise Lake Golf and Banquet Center, for the fourth annual PCARS Christmas Party. We'll be back at Sideliners for the January 2010 meeting. The Christmas Party is a good time to bring spouses and significant others, as well as kids, to a PCARS function so they can see first hand what a great group of Hams the PCARS members are! This year was no different, and the party was well attended by both PCARS members and their family.

After a buffet dinner, the meeting was officially opened so that new members could be voted in as members. They consisted of Bruce, KA8SWC, John, KD8MLH, Jon, KD8MLE, Randy, KD8MLG, Gary, KD8MLI and Eileen, KD8MLF. These were the members of the Fall 2009 Technician Class.



**Stelvis with WB8LCD**

Club president Jim, KC8PD then made his presentation of the "President's Award". This year there were three recipients: Mike, KB8TUY, Mike, KD8FLZ, and Russ, KD8LDY. Jim commented that this year's award was given to club members who had demonstrated a commitment to participating in all of the club's activities, but most importantly, contributed to the work sessions at the club site and spent extra time and effort to see that the projects there were completed so that it would be available for the enjoyment of all the club members. Only Mike, KB8TUY was in attendance, so the others will receive their award at the January PCARS meeting.

Special guests at this year's party were Stelvis and the Graceland Band. They played both during the dinner and after the meeting was closed. While maybe just a bit out of the ordinary for a PCARS event, they did provide good entertainment for the rest of the evening. They played until the last of the PCARS guests had left, but, late in the evening, one PCARS couple actually got up and danced! There will be a PCARS reward for any photos or videos shot!

There was no ice storm this year, so everyone was able to arrive and depart without incident. It was the last of the PCARS events for 2009, so we look forward to seeing all of you again in 2010! It's going to be another great year for PCARS, so please, be a part of it with us.

73,  
*Tom WB8LCD*

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## *Happy Birthday PCARS Members*

PCARS members having a birthday in January:

<b>N8RKA</b>	<b>Arthur Barbeta, Jr.</b>
<b>KD8JUH</b>	<b>Alan McClish</b>
<b>KD8LDY</b>	<b>Russell Williams</b>
<b>N8PXW</b>	<b>Jim Korenz</b>
<b>K8FS</b>	<b>Michael Evans</b>

<b>KB8SZI</b>	<b>Peggy Parkinson</b>
<b>NX8G</b>	<b>Rex Simmons</b>
<b>W8WWG</b>	<b>Charles Sharp</b>
<b>N8GIE</b>	<b>John Ziccardi</b>

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## *Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites*

Since I am not sure when this will hit the news stands, I hope that everyone has or had a great Christmas and that 2010 will be better than 2009 in all ways.



As many of you know, I now have my station on the air and am able to work DX once again. HUUURRAAAHHH!!! It has been a while in the making, but it sure was worth the wait.

I have worked several new countries and continue to make contacts with some old friends that I have not talked with for several months. I can personally attest to DX from Ascension Island, Zimbabwe, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia and Antarctica coming through loud and clear during the last few weeks.

Other local Hams have been having success working DX also. Wes, K8NYM, reports that he worked the following in December: JH4UYB-Japan; 9G5TT-Ghana; KH2L -Guam; 5R8FU-Madagascar; A71QND-Qatar; ZS1AFS-S. Africa PP2RON-Brazil; 9K2MU-Kuwait; and JY4CI-Jordan. That is a very impressive list Wes. Keep up the good work and we will see you at the top of the DXCC list.

You might also keep an ear open for Carl Capps, N4IT, who will be spending the Winter in more sunny climes. Carl will be on **Bogue Banks Island** (IOTA NA-112). He will be in the town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, January through March 2010. E-Mail to set up schedule/mode: [N4IT@portcars.org](mailto:N4IT@portcars.org)

Keep the cards and letters (actually e-mails) coming in, reporting what you have worked and we will list it here each month. Let's take a look at what is scheduled to come up in 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 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).

**4S7, SRI LANKA** - DC0KK, is now active as 4S7KKG until January 7th, 2010. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes (RTTY, PSK and WSJT). Over the past week most of his activity has been on 20 meters RTTY and PSK31. QSL via DC0KK, direct or by the Bureau.

**5N, NIGERIA** - LZ1QK, has been active as 5N/LZ1QK since October 2008. During his stay, Nick has received/used four different callsigns from different locations (5N3LQK, 5N3WQK, 5N4LQK and 5N4WQK). Next year he will operate under the special call sign 5N50K to celebrate the 50th anniversary of independence of Nigeria. His QSL Manager is LZ1CL: Vassil Shatarov, P.O Box 185, Plovdiv 4000, BULGARIA. ADDED NOTE: Currently, QSLs for 5N/LZ1QK and his other operations are momentarily not accepted for DXCC credit because the DXCC Desk has not received documentation yet.

**9J, ZAMBIA.** (Continued Reminder) 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** – (Continued 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.

**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](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.

**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>

**CE9, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS** (Reminder). A team of operators will be operating from Arturo Prat-Greenwich Island-South Shetland archipelago (IOTA AN-010, WW Loc. GC07FQ), between January 10-24th. Their call sign will be XR9JA. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and the AO-51 Satellite. QSL via CE5JA.

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>

**ER, MOLDOVA** - RA4LW, will be active as ER4KAA during the CQ 160M CW Contest (January 29-31st, 2010) as a Single-Op/High-Power entry. QSL via his home callsign direct.

**FO/A, AUSTRAL ISLANDS.** DL1AWI, DL3APO and DL5XU will be active as FO/homecall from Raivavae Island (OC-114, DIFO FO-122, WLOTA L-2581) in the Austral Islands group between January 18th and February 5th. Their focus will be mainly the lower bands 160-30 meters, but will work some higher bands on SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.

**HS8, THAILAND** - HS8JYX, from Paknum Muang Krabi, is planning to be in the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest (January 29-31st) as a Single-Op/Low- Power entry. QSL via HS8JYX, LoTW or eQSL. He states he will use an inverted L antenna and transmit the power limit at about 50 watts.

**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.

**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 1 year while on work. Activity will be limited to his spare time. QSL via K2PF.

**OH0, ALAND ISLAND** - OH6GLE, OH6XX and OH5TS will be active as OH0Z during the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest (January 29-31st) as a Multi-Op entry. QSL via W0MM.

**PJ2, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES.** Members of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium (CCC) will activate Signal Point Station on Curacao (SA-006, WLOTA LH-0942) as PJ2T during the CQWW DX 160m CW Contest (January 29-31st, 2010) as a Multi-Op entry. Ops will be Jeff/K8ND and Jim/W8WTS. QSL via LoTW or direct to N9AG.

**PJ5, ST. MAARTEN/ST. EUSTATIUS** - K1NA, will be active as PJ5NA. Activity includes: ARRL DX CW Contest (Feb 20-21st) as Single-Op/All-Band entry. He also reports that he will be at PJ5NA between Jan 10th and Mar 27th, operating mostly WARC bands outside of the contests and 160/80/40m during his night time hours. He also mentioned that he should have all of the antennas up by the 13th of January. QSL via K1NA (100% QSL direct only with SASE) No bureau cards will be answered. DX stations MUST have SASE or SAE with 1 USD. No IRC! USA stations SASE only.

**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.

**ST26, SUDAN.** Look for the special callsign ST26ASC to be used between January 22–28th (2010). This activity coincides with the 26th Arab Scouts Conference from Khartoum, Sudan. No other details were provided. QSL Manager will be ST2M.

**V88, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM** - DL7JAN, 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.

**VK6, AUSTRALIA** - G6PAA, is now active as VK6/G6PAA from Western Australia (IOTA OC-001, WLOTA LH-1520) until January 13th, 2010. Activity will be 80-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. Jim will use 100 watts into a dipole. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

**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 callsigns.

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

**ZL, NEW ZEALAND** - After his Australia trip, Jim, G6PAA, will head to New Zealand and be active as ZL/G6PAA between January 16th and March 1st, 2010. 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 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. Jim will use 100 watts into a dipole. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

Well, that's it for January 2010. I am looking forward to this year and what PCARS members and others who read this column will be working. So please let me know. Remember, you don't have to be a PCARS member to e-mail me your interesting or rare DX. Just send it to [W8PT@portcars.org](mailto:W8PT@portcars.org).

So for now, 73 and gud dx.

*Chuck, W8PT*

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## **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.



## K8BF – PCARS New Call Sign

PCARS application for the K8BF call sign was a bit of a shot in the dark. Through Fred, W5YI, we had applied for W8FD but on Friday, November 20th, the call was assigned to one of the other four applicants. That same day Fred advised us that K8BF had been the call of a SK and it was going to become available but immediate action was necessary if we wanted to apply for it. That same evening, Al, KB8VJL, the club's call sign trustee, shot an e-mail off to Fred giving him the go-ahead.



The next Monday Fred advised us that the application had been processed and that PCARS would be assigned the call on Friday, December 11th. This was new territory for all of us and questions popped up about whether we could be sure that nothing could happen to derail our application. Fred and his crew said not to worry about it but we did anyhow.

Plans were made to put the club station on the air on the eleventh to celebrate the new call and we kept our fingers crossed. About 0130 hours on the morning of the eleventh, KB8VJL was online checking the FCC site and there it was! The call sign was ours.

Later that day the HF and VHF rigs were up and running at the club shack with plans to get on the air after 5:00 p.m. I was in the garage about that time talking with early arrivals, Dave, WB2DFC, and Martin, KD8MBH, when I heard "Kilo Eight Bravo Foxtrot this is KD8EPA" from the VHF radio in the repeater room.

It took a moment till I recognized the call and realized "Hey, Dan's calling us!" I beat feet to the radio and called him back and with that Dan had the honor of being the first station to work the club using its new call.

A certificate for the call sign K8BF. At the top, "K8BF" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the text reads "Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)", "QSL Mgr: KB8VJL - 12433 Chamberlain Rd. - Aurora, OH 44202 USA", and "Grid EN91 - CQ Zone 4 - ITU Zone 8 - Portage County, Ohio - USA". There is a section for "Confirming contact with:" followed by a table with columns for DD, MM, YY, UTC, Band, RST, and 2X. Below the table, it says "Pse QSL Tnx 73". To the right of the table is a logo for "PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE" featuring a squirrel and a diamond-shaped sign with "A R R". At the bottom, there are fields for "Operating From:" and "Operator / Rig / Power & Antenna:". The PCARS Web Site is listed as "www.portcars.org".

DD	MM	YY	UTC	Band	RST	2X

Maybe another fifteen PCARS members were at the shack for the rest of the evening until we pulled the plug on the stations. Among others, Chuck, W8PT, worked the HF sideband station and Bill, WB9LBI, reprised his Field Day trick of using the Up and Down buttons on the mic to put the first CW contacts into the K8BF log. We ended up with over twenty VHF contacts and about a dozen on HF and they can all receive the commemorative certificate for the event.

Thanks to Rex, NX8G, who reminded us that KD8CKP had disappeared from qrz.com and that we needed to update the K8BF posting with information about the club. That was something that we had all forgotten about. Right after the FCC canceled KD8CKP, qrz.com deleted the listing.

There are plenty of phonetics that have been suggested for the call but one that sure does fit is "Big Fun." That has always been the goal of PCARS and now the club's call sign symbolizes it. And the new call will make life a lot easier for all of the Field Day operators. Plus, Tom, KB8UUZ, will never again have to wince when he hears someone say "Kirk Douglas Ate Chicken Kung Pao."

*Jim, KC8PD*





## *Hamfests*

**31 Jan 2010** - Tusco Amateur Radio Club (W8ZX) - Wallick Auction House - 965 North Wooster Ave. - Strasburg, OH - <http://tuscoarc.org> - Talk-In: 146.730 - Contact: Kyle Quillen, KD8HDJ - 518 Fair Avenue NW - New Philadelphia, OH 44663 - Phone: 888-447-2403 - Email: [hamfest@tuscoarc.org](mailto:hamfest@tuscoarc.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@hamvention.org)



## *PCARS General Upgrade Class*

The third annual General Upgrade Course will begin at seven p.m. on Tuesday, January 19th in the radio room at the PCARS club shack. The class will run for eight weeks followed by a special VE session for the students.

As in the past, there is no charge for the class for PCARS members. For anyone else who would like to take the class there is a \$25 registration fee which also gives them a 2010 PCARS membership. The text will be the ARRL General Class Manual and the books may be purchased from the club.

Even if you already have your General Class license you are welcome to use the class as a refresher course. Virtually everyone who has taken the class has upgraded. This is a great opportunity to acquire HF privileges.

If you want to register for the class please contact: Jim, KC8PD, at [KC8PD@portcars.org](mailto:KC8PD@portcars.org) as soon as possible. You can also contact him at 330-297-7979 if you have questions. Let him know if you want to purchase a General Manual since the club will be ordering books from the ARRL after January 9th.

There is a flier detailing the information at the end of this newsletter .



## *2009 PCARS Photo CD*

With the final event being the Christmas Party, I assembled all the pictures taken during 2009 at the PCARS events and meetings. 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 January or 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.

*Tom, KB8UUZ*



## EmComm

It is a device that is dirt simple yet capable of providing crucial information. It is both inexpensive and portable and no go-kit should be without. In the right circumstances it could prove to be a mission critical lifesaver.

What it is it? A simple magnetic compass.

At one time or another we have all owned a compass but most of us have never really mastered the use of one for direction finding and route planning in the field. While assisting in getting from point “A” to point “B” and beyond is its typical use, for communicators it can also assist us in aiming directional antennas.



Magnetic compasses come in a variety of forms and one of the most useful is the compass that is mounted on a base plate that can be placed on a map to plot a course. No matter what type of compass you have be sure to hold it level so that the needle can rotate freely. Make sure that you are not near to large metallic objects that may affect the reading.

Understand that magnetic “north” and the direction “North” may be somewhat different and depending on where you are the difference (also called declination) between true North and magnetic north may be enough that you have to use the outer dial of the compass to adjust for the offset.

That outer dial or ring should have numbers on it, generally from zero to 359, although the size of the ring may limit the numbers to zero, ten, twenty, etc., with small marks for the numbers in between. Zero is North and the other numbers are the azimuth measurements for all other directions between the other cardinal points of East, South and West. The numbers can be used to provide a bearing or heading from any point relative to north.

You can find some very useful information online about using a compass. One good site to start with is [www.compassdude.com](http://www.compassdude.com). Google “how to use a compass” and you’ll be amazed at how many web pages the search will return. Check [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), too, for some good hands-on demos. Many of the sites will also provide information ranging from basic to detailed about maps and map reading.



Lots of hams also have GPS devices for mobile or portable use and many of them also use them for geocaching activities. Just remember that you will not always be able to acquire usable satellite signals and electronic gear is subject to failure or loss of power. Given the cost and potentially fragile nature of a GPS it only makes sense to carry a compass as a backup.

A compass may not be a piece of communications equipment but you should not deploy without one. They are easy to find, most suppliers of outdoors and camping gear sell them, and basic models cost as little as ten to fifteen dollars. Pick one up today and add it to your go-kit. Get a spare and keep it in your vehicle. You never know when it will come in handy.

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



## *Some Words from Weaver*

### **Operating Courtesy**

Our ability to drive on streets and highways in reasonable safety depends on orderly driving practices by our fellow drivers and us. Our ability to conduct day-to-day business depends largely on basic honesty between other people and us. So too, our ability to operate and enjoy Amateur Radio depends on mutual courtesy between our fellow amateurs and us.

To exist in harmony with each other, we need to respect the needs and rights of each other. When it comes to this, all that is needed is to observe the Golden Rule -- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.



It is unfortunate that too many hams overlook the Golden Rule. Instead they fail to observe good operating practices and FCC regulations when operating. This occurs most noticeably, but not totally, during contests and DX pileups.

I refer to the bad operating that occurs when in their eagerness to compete, contesters or DXers thoughtlessly transmit on top of ongoing QSOs. Equally bad is when a member of a scheduled net or QSO acts as though the frequency belongs to them and barges into another QSO, contest or DX pileup to claim the frequency by brute force. Either situation represents poor operating practice -- and maybe a flagrant rules violation.

There are gray areas associated with QRM. These gray areas often occur as propagation shifts. As this shift occurs, distant, previously-unheard stations may come into range . . . right on top of an ongoing QSO or net.

When propagation shift results in QRM, which station is at fault? Neither, probably. The situation is an act of the propagation gods. Yet, much of the time we hear one or both stations complain ad nauseum about the discourteous behavior of the other guy who suddenly started to QRM. Never mind that the other guy may have been on frequency for at least as long as the other operator.

A mature operating attitude is all that is needed to resolve coincidental QRM such as this. Someone probably should QSY.

If you are a net control or net manager, the message is that the net does not own a frequency; any frequency. Most NTS nets of which I am aware understand this and act accordingly. Members of a few other nets sometimes seem to be uneducated about this fact and often try to capture "their" frequency by stomping all over (technical term) other operators.

Courtesy is a free, readily-available commodity. It should be exercised more frequently and more fully.

### **ARISS going Strong**

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is going strong. Updates about earth-ISS QSO scheds and other aspects of the program are sufficiently plentiful to cause ARISS team mentor Charlie Sulfana, AJ9N to send bulletins about the program on a weekly or semi-weekly basis. Members who attended the Great Lakes Division Symposium this past September will remember Charlie as one of the presenters at this gathering. Info on the ARISS program can be obtained by going to:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/ariss/news/arissnews.rtf>.

## New Canadian Driving Laws Effect Visiting Hams

In looking into the impact of the new Ontario law that requires operation of mobile, two-way radios to be hands free, it was learned that Quebec also has a law that impacts Amateur Radio. In Quebec, driving while holding a hand-held device with a "telephone function" is outlawed. This is true even though the telephone function is not being used. There is no exemption for amateurs.

In Ontario, the new, hands-free law applies immediately to non-residents. Ontario residents are granted a 3-year grace period before the law is enforced. These new laws appear to be consistent with Canadian-US treaty regarding Amateur Radio.

Finally, Manitoba has passed a hands-free law that is not yet in force. Enforcement will begin only after detailed regulations have been completed.

Thanks to Marsha Fleming, N8FE of Oak Park, MI for obtaining much of this information from Richard Ferch, VE3KI of Ontario. Rich is Vice President, Regulatory Affairs of the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). The RAC is the national organization for radio amateurs in Canada.

*Jim, K8JE*

*Director - ARRL Great Lakes Division*

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## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- January 11th meeting - **"On The Air With Power To Spare"**, the Tom Sly, WB8LCD tower story
- 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



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## 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](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org). Your help would be greatly appreciated and it's a lot of fun !



January	
01/07	KC8PD
01/14	WB2DFC
01/21	KB8UUZ
01/28	W8PT



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



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

*Tom WB8LCD*

**PCARS Net Control Coordinator**

## ***FEMA Encourages Winter Weather Preparedness***

WASHINGTON – With the winter season approaching, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reminds individuals to be prepared for winter storms and extreme cold. While the danger of severe winter weather varies across the country, everyone can benefit by taking a few easy steps now to prepare for emergencies. A first step, regardless of where you live, is to visit the Ready.gov Web site to find preparedness ideas you can use all year long.

"Severe winter weather can strike at any time. Even areas that normally experience mild winters can be hit with a major snowstorm or extreme cold," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "I encourage everyone to get an emergency supply kit, develop and practice a family emergency plan and stay informed about emergencies that may affect your area. Families can log onto Ready.gov to learn more."

Severe winter weather can include snow or subfreezing temperatures, strong winds and ice or heavy rain storms. An emergency supply kit both at home and in the car will help prepare you and your family for winter power outages and icy or impassable roads.

Both kits should include a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. In addition, your home kit should include a three day supply of food and water. Thoroughly check and update your family's emergency supply kit and add the following supplies in preparation for winter weather:

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways,
- Sand to improve traction on driveways and sidewalks,
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment,
- And adequate clothing and blankets to help keep you warm.

Ensure your family preparedness plan and contacts are up to date and exercise your plan. Learn about emergency plans established in your area by state and local officials and make sure your family plans and contacts are up to date.

Finally, make sure to familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a winter storm hazard and discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued. Terms used to describe a winter storm hazard include the following:

- Freezing Rain creates a coating of ice on roads and walkways.
- Sleet is rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes roads to freeze and become slippery.
- Winter Weather Advisory means cold, ice and snow are expected.
- Winter Storm Watch means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two.
- Winter Storm Warning means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.

For more info and winter preparedness tips, visit: <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/winter.html>



***FEMA***

## 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 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 the club Treasurer: Bill at [wb9lbi@portcars.org](mailto:wb9lbi@portcars.org)

## 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

## January Contest Calendar

January 2010	
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0600Z, Jan 10
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 16 to 0600Z, Jan 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 18
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 29 to 2159Z, Jan 31

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

## Ham License Plates Wanted

Dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station. We have 24 plates up on the wall now (plus a two new plates I just put up, but didn't get a picture of them...), 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.



## How Much is Your Data Worth?

Many hams are keeping operating logs on computers in their shack. You really, really don't want to have to try and reconstruct your logs from eQSL or Logbook of the World! Same goes for your Ham Radio Deluxe settings, or other software used in the shack. Like the title of the article says, can you put a price on your family vacation to Hawaii, or that important Power Point for the big presentation on Monday? Lately, I ran across some cases where having an extra back-up could have spare my customers a lot of time and trouble.



One case was a professional photographer that keep her clients photos on a aging and failing laptop computer. I am talking gigabytes of photos, not megabytes. How about the graduate student that was working on her master thesis. All it took was one bad virus on face book to take her down a peg. Or, the son who almost backed up his hard drive, but didn't. He lost the last photos he would have of his dad before he passed away.

I cannot stress this enough. back-up, back-up, and then back- up some more. To show I am not perfect, I have my own horror story of not backing up. A friend and I had pieced together a desktop computer only to have a complete system crash, losing photos of a close friends missionary work and photo of a event of a young military career starting.

So how many back-ups are enough? What if you house catches fire and burns down? Bad enough you lost so many physical things but you can prevent the lose of your digital life. Just one back up to a external hard drive is not enough. You need to have on-line back-up, and an off-site back-up. What is an off site back up? It might be a writable CD, stored in your car, Or, a thumb drive at work, a another one with a trusted friend, maybe a lock box in a bank. Get creative!

Some people store their data in a cloud. "Cloud computing" is a phrase that you hear a lot these days. It means using an internet service to do something that used to be done on your own computer. There are several internet services that you can sign up with, and they handle all of the back up and storage chores for a monthly fee. Here are some links: [www.Carbonite.com](http://www.Carbonite.com) [www.mozy.com](http://www.mozy.com) [www.adrive.com](http://www.adrive.com)

*Al Craig*

**Editor's Note:** Al Craig is a friend of PCARS member Ryan, KD8FPP - Al's not a ham yet, but I'm sure Ryan is going to be working on that! Concerning backups: I routinely (at least once a month) back up my ham log data along with all the PCARS newsletter files and pictures - just in case. CDs (700 MB) and single layer DVDs (4.7 GB each) are pretty cheap now-a-days, even cheaper than what the old 3.5" floppies used to be way back when. The last DVDs I bought were only \$21 for 100. Thumb drives have come down in price as well. The last one I got was only \$25 and it is 16 GB. With over 16,700 contacts in my ham log I would dread having to enter it all again by hand..... (yes, I keep a paper back up as a second source).



## Swap-N-Shop

**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]

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

Contact **Tom** - [KB8UUZ@portcars.org](mailto:KB8UUZ@portcars.org) or call 330-527-7609

**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](mailto:N4IT@portcars.org) or call 330-221-9725

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:N8QE@portcars.org)

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

Contact **Joe** - [W8KNO@portcars.org](mailto: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 1/2" Heliac® \$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 1/2" Heliac®, 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 1/2" Heliac® \$15.00 each (6 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

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

3/25/10]

**Used Andrew L45W**, N-male, all brass connector for Andrew LDF5-50A 7/8" Heliac® \$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" Heliac® \$10.00 each [exp 3/25/10]  
**Andrew L6TDM**, DIN-male connector for Andrew LDF6-50A 1¼" Heliac® \$20.00 each (9 Available) [exp 3/25/10]  
**94 Feet of New Andrew ½" Heliac®** with one N-male connector installed \$100.00 [exp 3/25/10]  
**84 Feet of New Andrew ½" Heliac®** \$84.00; 74 Feet of New Andrew ½" Heliac® \$74.00 [exp 3/25/10]  
**Approximately 150 feet of Used Andrew 7/8" Heliac®** \$150.00 [exp 3/25/10]  
**553 Feet of New RFS FLCH114-50A**, 1¼" Heliac® 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](mailto: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.



## 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!

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*



## 3905 Century Club WAS and DX Nets

At some point in mid-1992, after recently upgrading my license, I bought my first HF SSB-capable rig: A Kenwood TS-520S, complete with the optional Digital Frequency readout. I was in heaven. Along with my newly deployed 40m dipole at 30 ft., I was ready to have some serious fun with HF phone.

After a few days of having some fun on 40m, I ran across a net in operation on 7.2335 MHz. It was the 40m operation of the 3905 Century Club WAS and DX Awards Net. The Century Club has been in continuous operation since 1977. It originally started out as the Bicentennial Net in 1976, and continued operation with a more formal organization afterward (some of the original charter signers and original members still check in!).

I listened for a while, and heard some interesting exchanges. It seemed those checked into the net were quickly exchanging signal reports, rapid fire, with stations all over the country. Oregon was making contact with Florida, California with Ohio, Rhode Island with Texas. "Wow!", I thought, what a great way to get enough states for WAS!

For those of you familiar with the County Hunters net, signal report exchanges are very similar. When it is your turn, you have three options: you can take a "pass" (no call), you can call a specific station that is checked in, or you can "go up for grabs"- which is similar to calling QRZ - and pick a station out of the pile-up. Once a station is chosen, you send that station a signal report. They acknowledge the report you sent, then send you a report back. Here's a sample of how it might go:



W1BML: “K7MI, K7MI this is W1BML in CT. Your report is 5-7, 5-7 over.”

K7MI: “W1BML this is K7MI. Thanks for the 5-7 report. Your report is 5-5, 5-5 in OR, over.”

W1BML: “K7MI thanks for the 5-5 report. W1BML back to net.”

I listened in to this net for a couple nights, and then decided to try to check in. I hoped I had learned enough about how it operated to not make too much of a fool of myself. The Net Control Station (NCS) that night was KD0GAH, Judy Kneubel, in Kansas (turns out she was the club president at the time). Judy made me feel very welcome and thanked me for joining the net that night. I was not really prepared for what came next, but it sure sounded like a good group of hams.

Well, that first night I made some 30 contacts. Many of the stations checked in called me, thanked me for checking in, and helped me out as I stumbled through my first night. I don't recall every contact I made that night, but I remember two in particular: KI5RN(SK), Glen Van Rheeden was my very first contact. He called me. Glen was very friendly, and followed up with a nice letter welcoming me to the net! (Glen and I became very good friends in the following years) The other contact I recall was with KL7IYD, Jim Cummins in Juneau, Alaska. What a thrill working Alaska on my very first net! I was hooked.



**W8NET, Gene Marsh (left) with KC2PUF, Shep Kilby, at Niagara Falls, NY during a “mobile NY VE3” trip for the Century Club, July 31 –**

**August 1, 2009**

40m, 75/80m and 160m, and in a variety of modes: SSB, RTTY, PSK and CW. There is a ton of information available about the Century Club on the club's website, [www.3905ccn.com](http://www.3905ccn.com). There one can find information about the club and its operations, net schedules, operating procedures and - most importantly - the club's free QSL bureau and awards program.

You may be familiar with the ARRL bureau or other bureau operations. The Century Club bureaus are the most efficient and effective in existence. The way they operate is quite simple: you send some SASEs to the bureau, along with the cards for stations you work. The bureau distributes your cards to others who have envelopes in the bureau, and stuffs your envelopes with cards from others. You get your cards within a couple weeks, and save a ton of postage! The club also has a free DX bureau, so you can get your DX cards in only a few weeks as well!

The Century Club awards program is quite extensive. All of the awards are based on contacts made on the Century Club nets (though you can certainly use the contacts for other, non-Century Club awards such as DXCC or ARRL WAS). But the Century Club awards go well beyond simple WAS. Many of the awards are based on making contacts with stations that have differing call prefixes or suffixes. For example, there are awards that include sections for three-letter suffixes that are “three of a kind” (WD4TTT, K5TTT, VE2TTT), or are sequential (K5MNO, WZ8RST, W4ABC). Other awards require you have contacts with YLs (WAS-YL

From then until mid-1997, I made some 6500 contacts with every state, 37 countries and every Canadian province - all on the Century Club nets. Later in 1997, we moved to Ohio, where I did not have an easy way to get an HF station on the air. I was out of HF until late 2007, when I set up both a modest vertical for HF and a mobile setup in my Ford F-150. Since my return, I have made over 5500 contacts, including 24 additional countries and many while mobile all over the Midwest and eastern US, and in VE3. I've also had a lot of fun operating as the Net Control Station. It's a lot of work, but very rewarding, assisting others in making contacts. It's a real thrill when a station works that Idaho contact they needed to complete WAS, and they do it on your watch!

The Century Club has many net operations, on 20m,

Award), or contacts with the SAME STATION mobile in 13 states (Bakers Dozen ward), or contacts in state capitals (WAS-CAP). There are also awards for stations operating AS mobile (such as the Nomad Award).

Whether you check in regularly to work toward the Club awards, or only occasionally to pick up a few contacts, I encourage anyone with HF privileges to check out the Century Club nets. It's a lot of fun, a whole bunch of good people and operators, and a great way to make contacts.

73,  
**Gene, W8NET**  
Century Club Master #47

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## ***PCARS Members Home From Iraq***

PCARS members Ray, KD8DFL and Ryan, KD8FPP returned from a year long deployment in Iraq, just in time for Christmas. Both serve with the 1st Battalion 137 Aviation Regiment, headquartered in Columbus and part of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Over 3,000 people turned out in the snow on December 23, for a Welcome Home ceremony at St. John Arena at Ohio State University in Columbus.



**Ryan, KD8FPP is welcomed by his dad Bill, WB9LBI**

Chief Warrant Officer Ray Larrick, KD8DFL flew UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, ferrying soldiers, carrying out Special Forces missions, and developed special software for mission planning. He was met in Columbus by his wife Sue, KD8ERY, daughter Brienna, KD8HMW and brother Ron, KA8VRA, along with other members of his family. Ray is President of Stellar Instruments.

Ryan Fraedrich, KD8FPP served as a computer network specialist and section supervisor. While in Iraq he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal and promoted to Sergeant. In civilian life, he studies mechanical engineering at the University of Toledo.



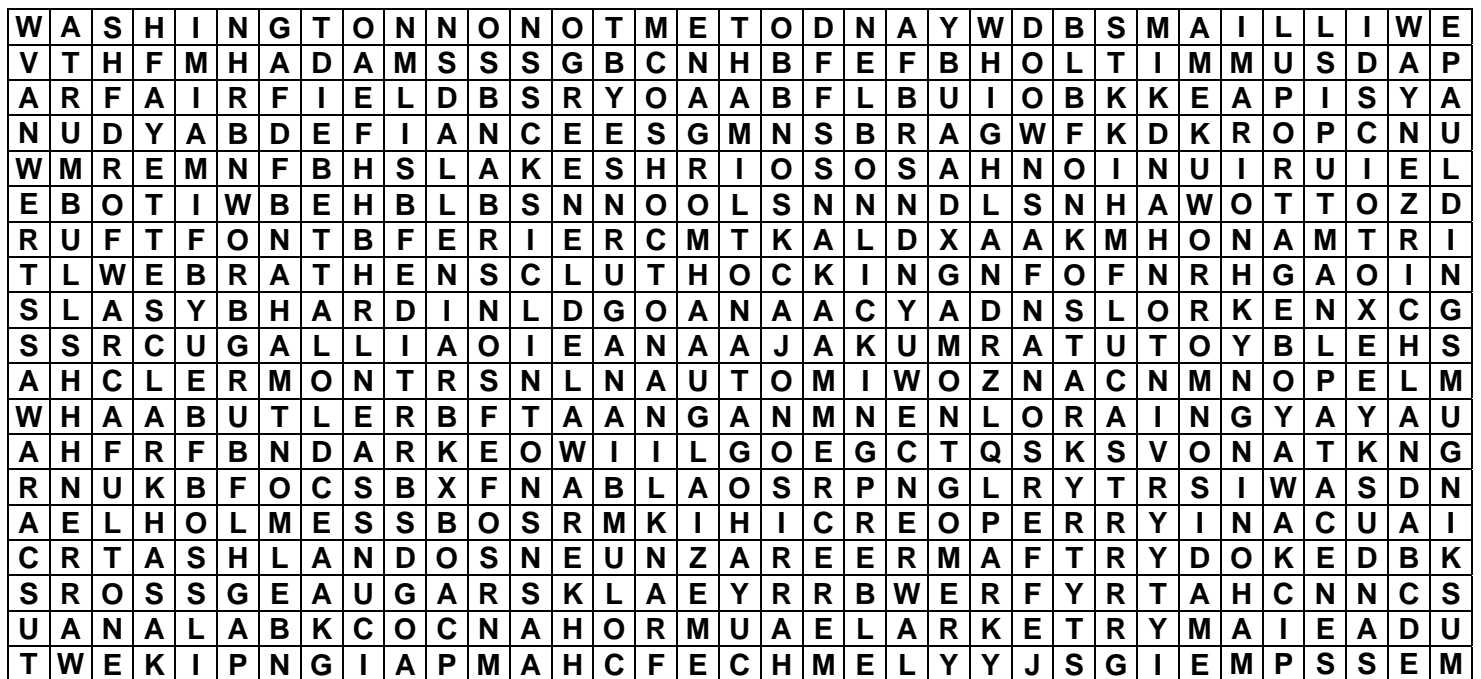
**Ryan, KD8FPP steps off the bus in Columbus, appropriately dressed for Christmas in a dirty green furry outfit reminiscent of the Grinch.**

Both hams served at Joint Base Balad, a large air base about 90 Km northwest of Baghdad. Normally, they are assigned to the 638th Aviation Support Battalion in North Canton.

***Bill, WB9LBI***



## Word Search - Ohio Counties



Sandy, KD8JCY said she ran out of words for a while, so I jumped in here for this month's word search. Okay - for all you County Hunters out there - find all 88 Ohio Counties!

*Tom, KB8UUZ*

## Shack Shots - K8JAA

My radio is one of the Kachina's that we have three of. They sort of multiplied like the towers in our yard did. We bought one, reasonable out west when we had \$\$, and acquired two others, one for parts. They aren't very showy, so I'm sending you a picture of Al's desk, quite impressive, but mine will look like it does now - a mess. I do a couple newsletters, a couple web pages, and am secretary of our local Beekeepers Assoc. also my personal banking there. I just can't keep it neat. I did come up with a flier for the new club. I'll attach it too, but we've started to distribute it.



Here's a picture of the yard, which includes my new Mosley Classic 36 HF 10-15-20 meters; a 10 through 80 meters Hy-Gain vertical HF antenna. AB8AA Al's tower: Hy-Gain HF beam 10-15-20 meters and a 40 and 80 meter wire. On the house: 2m, 440 vertical, 220 vertical a 12-15-30-40-80-160 meter trapped wire, which Al built.

73,  
*Jane, K8JAA*

## Shack Shots - KD8LIR

Jenny, KD8LIR, first harmonic of Tom, WB8LCD, is excited to have a new radio set up that qualifies as a "Radio Shack"! Over the Thanksgiving holiday she purchased a Yaesu FT-1900 and a Samlex power supply. Both have been installed on the desk in her bedroom, which is now her shack.

Since the tower installation at WB8LCD included a 2 meter stick at the top, Jenny has inherited the 2-meter 5/8 wave ground plane antenna attached to the chimney of the house, and it works FB to get her into the N8EQJ repeater via the Kent input. Now she doesn't have to run upstairs with the handi-talkie or wait for a turn on dad's radio to check into the net! Jenny appreciates all of her PCAR's friends, and gets a thrill every time someone says "hello" to her and the dogs on the weekly net. Remember: That's KD8LadyInRadio!



73's  
**Jenny, KD8LIR**

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## 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 with December being the Christmas Party)

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## 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 month's contributors:

**KC8PD, WB2DFC, W8PT, WB8LCD, K8JE, KB8UUZ, KD8GGZ, W8NET, K8JAA, KD8LIR, FEMA, Al Craig and the World Wide Web**

With your continued help – we can keep making this a great newsletter in 2010 and beyond.



**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor



**PCARS  
Christmas  
Party  
2009**



# 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cash  Check Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Results:

Rev 2009 0501



# Amateur Radio GENERAL Class Upgrade Class



The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)** is offering a General Class Upgrade course

**When:** Tuesday Evenings 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Starting January 19, 2010  
License testing will be held on March 9th at 7:00 pm

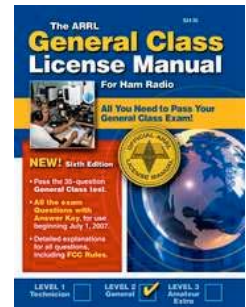
**Where:** At the PCARS Club Site in the Radio Room located in the Dietrich Building - 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

**Cost:** \$25.00 registration fee for non-PCARS members  
*Your \$25 fee includes a One Year Membership in PCARS*  
There is no fee for current PCARS members

**Text – ARRL “General Class License Manual”**  
Books may be purchased from PCARS for \$25.00

**Information  
and Registration:**

**Contact: Jim Aylward, KC8PD**  
by e-mail: [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org)  
or phone: **330-297-7979**



Please register with KC8PD by January 9th  
You can pay the registration fee the first night of class



As a **General Class Amateur Radio Operator** you will be able to Contact other ham radio operators in the area and around the world on the HF Bands. It will open up a whole new area of fun for you in Amateur Radio.



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



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



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

## "When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

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

**Repeater is graciously provided by N8EQJ for use by PCARS members**

### PCARS Appointments & Committees 2010

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



VE Team



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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](mailto:KB8UUZ@portcars.org)

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

