



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



July 2010 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 5 No. 7

~ 2010 Officers ~

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~ Meetings & Nets ~

2nd Monday of
 each month, 7pm
 Thursday nights
 Nets at 8 pm
 on 146.895

PCARS Incorporated
 Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
 Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
 April 20, 2006

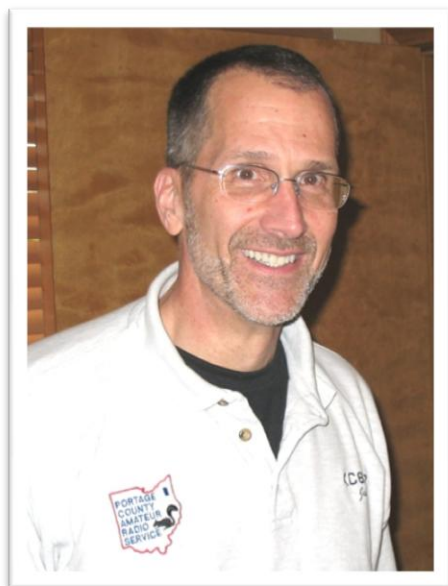


Special Services
 Club
 March 22, 2010

President's Column

This is being written as all of the final preparations are falling into place for Field Day. The weather forecast says the weather will be hot (and hopefully dry) and with luck we'll also have good propagation. No matter that, it is going to be a great weekend!

Bill, WB9LBI, and Chuck, W8PT, the FD Co-Chairs, have done a great job of putting together the Field Day team. There are captains and crews for each of the stations plus the food service team and most of the operating and logging schedules have been filled. Thanks to all of the PCARS volunteers for their efforts in making Field Day such a success. A good crowd, active stations, excellent food, ham radio camaraderie... another great example of how PCARS puts the "Big Fun" in the hobby. I hope to see you all there.



Jim, KC8PD

this year and the K8BF will be on the air from the club shack so mark your calendars and join us for the contest.

Two weeks after that will be the third annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest on Saturday, September 11th. If you have not had the chance to get out to a state park and get on the air for OSPOTA before, how about giving it a try this year? This is the signature event for PCARS and interest in the contest just keeps growing. Even if you can't make it to one of the parks you can still join in from your home station and compete for an award. Once again, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has donated a two-night cabin stay as the prize for the top individual scorer and there will be other prizes.

In August all of the ARRL members in the Ohio Section will be receiving their ballots for the election of Ohio's Section Manager. This is an important election for all of us.

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Visit the PCARS Website at: <http://www.portcars.org>



From the President - Continued from Page 1

First, the ARRL is the national organization that acts on behalf of all hams. How the Ohio Section, the largest in the League, is managed should set a standard for all of the other sections.

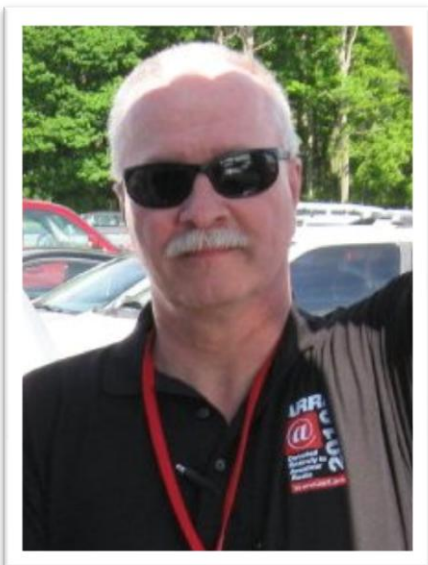
Second, one of our own, Tom, WB8LCD, is one of the two candidates in this election. Everyone in PCARS knows what an outstanding job Tom has done as a leader of this organization. His goals and objectives for the Ohio Section are just what are needed to get it moving into the twenty-first century. What he did for PCARS he can do for the Ohio Section. Make sure that when you receive your ARRL ballot that you fill it out and mail it back in. I encourage you to vote for Tom. He is the right guy at the right time for the job.

73,
Jim, KC8PD

From the Vice President

Greetings Fellow PCARS Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying this weather! A little too hot for me, but I'll take it. It's great for the motorcycle rider. And speaking of riding (or driving).... a little creative mobile-ing might be in order. I just broke out the bicycle from storage and expect it to be my next rolling station. I'll keep you-all posted. And... how 'bout some pics of your unique mobile or pedestrian set-up, send them to Parky, KB8UUZ, for the newsletter.



Dave, WB2DFC

As I write this article I am making the final prep for Field Day. I am so excited and can't wait til Saturday! This will be very much like a mini-vacation for me.... 24+ hours of ham radio, fellowship, food, and great stories for the future. And as the Captain of the CW station, I would like to thank all who are participating. It appears this will be a banner year!

June's PCARS Club Meeting presentation by Bill and Carl was very well received. I was approached by many at the meeting saying how much they really enjoyed the "Electrical Safety and RFI" topic. An education too, as we must all pay strict attention to the safety aspect of our hobby. The most important message from Bill and Carl: "be careful when working in and around power utilities". As a side note, Bill and Carl were very impressed with the size of the PCARS meeting attendance.

On the lighter side,
another mascot operator
recently arrived here at the

station. The XYL promised no more critters but arrived home with another rescue. I advised said XYL (nice way to use some police lingo on the wife) the new addition would be only be welcome if he accepted the name "Morse" and assisted with CW contests. Morse will be my contest relief when a fridge run is needed! As you will notice in the picture, he will be also be given the title of "Begali Guard Cat". I may even bring him along as a fill in operator for Field Day (hi hi).



Morse, the "Begali Guard Cat"

Hey... has anyone noticed..or had the chance to work 10 meters lately? While QRP in the back yard I heard several stations on 10 meters...and some of the signals were great! So, I think it's time to break out the 10 meter stuff! How about some 10 meter articles for the newsletter about your QSOs and equipment. I think it might spark some more interest!

73 for now,
Dave, WB2DFC

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- July 12th - meeting - **Repeaters 101** - Ed, N8EQJ



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 Yahoo Group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCARS/>.



WB8LCD for Ohio Section Manager

In August 2010, the Ohio Section of the ARRL will elect a new Section Manager. I have been nominated for and am actively running to be your next Ohio Section Manager. My name is **Tom Sly – WB8LCD**.

There are three things you should know before casting your vote for me:

Who am I?

What is my vision for the Ohio Section?

Why am I qualified for the position?

I'm a lifelong resident of Ohio and have been a ham for 43 of my 57 years. I'm married with three adult children; our first grandchild is due right about the time I'll be at the Dayton Hamvention. I graduated from the University of Akron with a degree in Finance. Since graduation I've been self-employed as an Independent Insurance Agent.

First licensed in 1967, I've always been an active ham. My current ham radio activities include QRP, contesting and DXing. I'm active in my local club and have been an instructor in the club's Technician and General upgrade classes as well as a member of the VE team.



Tom, WB8LCD

As Ohio Section Manager my goal will be to make the Ohio Section the premier section in the ARRL. I believe this can be accomplished by increasing the number of hams in our Section who are members of the ARRL and by making the Ohio Section stand out as the place where the most new hams are being licensed. I will promote ham radio in Ohio to the general public so they will know that Ham Radio is one of the greatest hobbies in the world! With positive community actions, the public in general will hold us in high regard. In the changing world of Emergency Communications there is much to be done to update and better organize the ham radio EmComm response – incorporating ARES®, RACES and MARS into a coordinated effort. I think that the Ohio Section should become a “best practices” leader in demonstrating how this can be accomplished.

I've had a successful business career since I started my insurance agency in 1975. I'm an Eagle Scout and on the board of a regional non-profit organization based in Portage County. I was a founding member and the first president of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS): www.portcars.org. In just a few short years PCARS has gone from zero to over 150 active members. PCARS has been recognized for its accomplishments by League headquarters staff and others in the ham radio community. I've had the experience to prove that I can organize and accomplish what I set out to do.

More information is available on my website: www.wb8lcd.org and I invite you to email me directly at wb8lcd@arrl.net if you have any specific questions or concerns. Please let me know what **you** think are the important issues we'll face in the Ohio Section in the immediate future.

I hope you will agree, and elect me as your section manager this coming August. In the meantime, get on the air and enjoy the greatest hobby in the world!

73,

Tom, WB8LCD

Field Day 2010 Ramp-up Round-up

By the time you read this, Field Day 2010 will be history and K8BF will be for the first time in thousands of log books all over the continent. However, the deadline for this edition of the newsletter obliges me to write this several days before the actual event. So, I'd like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a number of people who worked behind the scenes for the past five months, making plans, lining up volunteers, and generally busting their humps just you could have the best possible weekend in ham radio.

James "The Electric Chair" KD8VT spent buckets of his own money to bring us commercial grade electricity, the lifeblood of this event. Not only did he furnish his own 25 Kilowatt generator, he built weatherized distribution boxes, purchased cables, installed connectors, planned out the distribution, strung all the cables, plus anything and everything else he could think of. James spent hours building and refining this stuff. When his cables were maliciously destroyed at Antenna Day, he cheerfully came up with a new plan.

Robert "Nabob of Kabobs" N8RLG spent copious time planning out menus, locating sources of food, calculating the number dinners, rounding up kitchen equipment, organizing his Kitchen Crew, and holding meetings to keep everyone in the loop. Getting on the phone and calling around, Robert located at least three different vendors and talked them into providing supplies at little or no cost to PCARS. Food preparation started two days before Field Day, not counting shopping trips. Robert came to this position determined not just to put on a hot meal, but to provide the best Field Day dinner ever. And he doesn't even get to eat any of it!

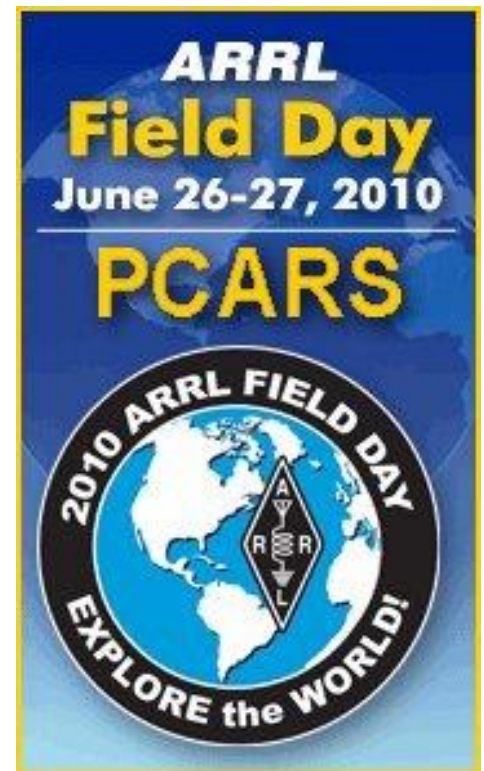
We asked Steve "Nickname Still Pending" K8SRR not just to set up a reliable computer network, but also to field a team of competent technicians on 24-hour call. Steve rebuilt equipment, installed and tested software, wrote multiple user manuals, and conducted debugging sessions. He contacted every station captain and ensured that they had all the equipment they wanted for logging.

Extra Field Day scoring points are available if you have a Get On The Air station, more if you have operators making contacts, and especially if those operators are under 18. We charged Bob "Inna GOTA Da Vida" N8QE with maximizing all of those point builders. Bob has done an outstanding job recruiting, getting everyone from young kids, boy scout troops, and even leaning on his co-workers to come out and join in the fun. This does more than get points, it helps build the future of ham radio.

All of these Field Day Captains went out and recruited a team of folks who worked tirelessly, contributing their time and often money.

And maybe you've noticed the articles about our Field Day efforts in local papers. Perhaps you've shaken hands with the Mayor or other dignitaries that drop by, seemingly by coincidence. How about that big air conditioned Emergency Communications van that houses the Flex station? Ever wonder how we get an entire pavilion to ourselves, with the run of a public park that normally closes at dusk? Thank, if you will Jim KC8PD who lines this stuff up months in advance, handles the paperwork, and makes it look effortless.

Over at the information booth, Parky KB8UUZ talks to interested passers-by, hands out literature, and gets us 100 bonus points for that effort. He's also the guy that keeps track of sign ins (essential for planning and



point-scoring) and documents everything with photography, which is also essential to support our claimed bonus points.

And for the first time this year, Mary Jo KD8GGZ kept accounts of all the meal tickets that were requested, collected, paid for, or still owing. Did you notice that whenever you picked up your ticket, Mary Jo always seemed to have it at hand?

If you had fun at Field Day this year, even if you just showed up, hung out, and maybe had a snack, it was only because these fine people took great pains to make everything happen smoothly on your behalf. Do me a favor—go find some of these great hams, and personally thank them for their fine work. You owe it to them, and they deserve it!

Bill, WB9LBI
½ Field Day Chairman

Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites – July 2010

I'm writing this column a few days before Field Day. I know that, for now, a lot of HAMS will be focused on preparations for the biggest operating event in Amateur Radio. So DX will not be high on a lot of lists. However, there is life after Field Day (no disrespect intended) and DX will be there. So, even though Field Day is right now on the top of my list also, my desire is still to let you know what will be happening in regards to DX after Field Day weekend.

K8NYM – Wes mentioned that propagation was not very good, but he still worked a few nice DX entities. Here is some of the DX Wes worked this past month. DX worked in June: Hong Kong; Andorra; Bolivia; Tajikistan; Palestine; and Borneo.

I really want to report what DX our local HAMS are working. So please, do as Wes does and send me a short report on your interesting DX contacts.

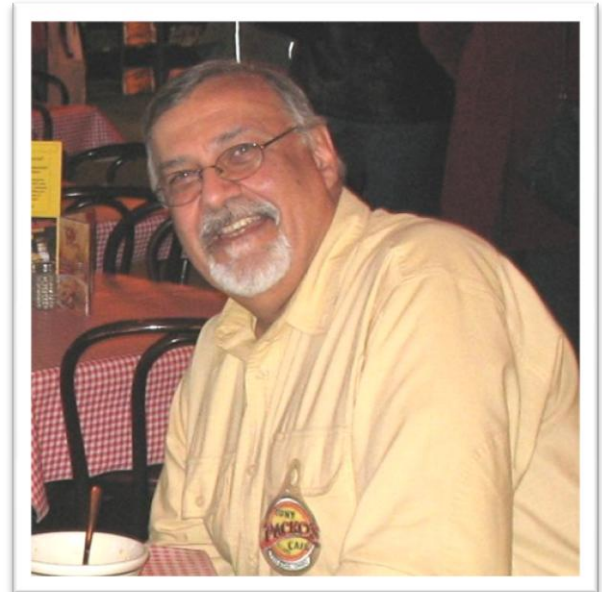
I want to thank the following for the forecast reports: the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW for the following DX and IOTA information. Please remember that this report can contain some erroneous information 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).

DX PAPER CHASE - Reminder 4M200/YV200/YW200, VENEZUELA (Special Event). Look for several different stations to be active until December 31st, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Venezuela's Independence. Some of the stations that have been active are:

4M200AJ - Operator Manuel; Activity mainly on PSK on 40/30/20/15/10m; QSL via YV5AJ.

YV200D - Operator Paolo; Activity mainly on RTTY on 30m; QSL via YV1DIG.

YW200A - Operator Alfredo; Activity on PSK and SSB on 20/15m; QSL via YV5SSF.



Chuck, W8PT

YW200ER - Operator Elvis; Activity on SSB on 40/20/15m; QSL via YV8ER.

YW200L - Operator Frank; Activity on RTTY and PSK, on 30/15m; QSL via YV5LI.

YW200T - Operator Juan; Activity on SSB, RTTY and PSK, on 40/30/20/15m; QSL via YV5JBI.

A "Bicentenary of Venezuelan Independence Award" is available by working all the 6 special callsign: 4M200AJ, YV200D, YW200A, YW200ER, YW200L and YW200T. More information is expected to be available at:

<http://www.radioclubvenezolano.org/concurso.htm>

IOTA

9H3, MALTA. (Reminder) A group of Italian operators will be active as 9H3Y between July 24-31st. No other details were provided, but it seems that they will be there for the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th). Operators mentioned are: Marcello/IT9ABY, Peter/IT9WKU, Delly/IT9ZRU, Antonella/IW9HJT and possibly others. QSL via IT9ABY, preferred direct and Bureau accepted.

AS-005. Valery, RZ9DX, is now active as RZ9DX/0/A from Medvezh'i Islands (Bear Island, RR-06-27) in the Kara Sea Coast West Group (in the Arctic Ocean Basin). Activity has been mainly on 20 meters CW and SSB, but he intends to fix his antennas for the other HF bands. His length of stay on the island is unknown at this time. QSL via his home callsign.

C6, BAHAMAS. Operators Mark/NA6M (C6AMS), Renee/N5BW (C6AMR), Scott/K2CK (C6ASH), Alan/K5AB (C6AAB) and Carolyne/W5ETY (C6ATY) plan to have some fun in the sun and activate Eleuthera Island (NA-001) between July 9-25th.

CR3, MADEIRA ISLANDS - CT1BOH, will be active as CR3E from Madeira Island (IOTA AF-014, Grid IM12JU, ITU Zone 36) during the 2010 IARU HF World Championship Contest (July 10-11th).

EU-011. Members of the Cray Valley Radio Society team will once again activate St. Mary's Island in the Isles of Scilly during the IOTA Contest (July 24-25th). The team will be there between July 20-26th. In the past the team has operated on all HF bands prior to the contest using their callsigns/P. During the contest they will be active as M8C and after until they leave the Islands under their own callsigns. QSL via G4DFI, the QSL Manager of M8C and the Club callsign.

EU-012. Fred, ON6QR, will be active as GM/ON6QR from Shetland Island during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th) as a Single-Op/ 24-Hr entry. QSL via his home callsign.

EU-076. Wolf, DM2AUJ, will be active as LA/homecall from the Lofoten Islands between June 24th and July 8th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-084. Operators Aloys/PA3DAT and Femma/PA3DWK will be active as SM0/PA3DAT from possibly Singo Island between July 23-25th. They will be an entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th).

EU-103. Operators Bernard/EI4II and Olivier/ON4EI will be active as EJ4II from Saltee Islands between July 23-25th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. They also plan to be in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th). QSL via EI4II. Details about the Saltee Islands can be found at: <http://users.telenet.be/on5kl/eu103.htm>

EU-123. Iain, MM0TFU, will be active as homecall/p from Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran between July 23-26th. Look for activity before, during and after the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th). His operations will mostly be on 6m outside of the contest. QSL via LoTW (preferred), but also direct or by the Bureau via MM0TFU.

EU-127. Peter, DF6QC, will be active from Helgoland Island during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th) as a 12H/SSB/Low-Power entry. QSL via DF6QC.

EU-136. Nicola, IZ3QWV, will be active as 9A/homecall from Krk Island (ACIA IC-105, CIA-22, IOCA CI-046, MIA MC-185, WLOTA LH-1342) between July 3-10th. Activity will be casual but on all HF bands. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

GJ, JERSEY (EU-013) - RV3ACA, will be active as GJ2A or GJ/OH8CA during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th) as a Single-Op/ SSB or Mixed entry. She will be active between July 21-26th. QSL via RV3ACA.

KH9, WAKE ISLAND – (Reminder) 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.

NA-044. Operators Curt/W3HQ and Cliff/KI4IW will be active from Battle Island as VO2/homecall during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 24-25th) as a 24H/CW and SSB/All-Bands entry. Afterwards, the operators will activate a local lighthouse (name and reference numbers not provided) running QRP on CW on 40/30/20 meters

NA-205. Ken, VO1KVT, will once again be active as VO2MK from Mundy Island (WW Loc. GO14JL) sometime between July 10-20th. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters. Please note that only a 2 day activation is planned between the above dates. QSL via VO1KVT, direct or by the Bureau.

SA-071. A team of Brazilian operators will activate Moela Island (WLOTA 1335) between July 2-4th. There will be 1 station for the WLOTA contest using the PS2G callsign and another 2 stations for DX using the PW2K callsign. QSL both callsigns via PY2WAS. The team of 12 operators are: Gerson/PY2AC, Rabelo/PY2AN, Ric/ PY2DEL, Tony/PY2DY, Ric/PY2EL, Ricardo/PY2OE, Walter/PY2IAY, Carlos/PY2VM, Fabio/PY2XM, Julio/PY2XV, Waldir/PY2WC and Alex/PY2WAS. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and RTTY.

S7, SEYCHELLES (Update). Juan Carlos, EA2RC, will be active as S79SAL from Mahe Island between July 18-31st. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

PIRATE ALERT. It was announced that a station signing TS7C has been active. The callsign TS7C was a DXpedition to Kerkenah, Tunisia, in January 2009. This callsign is unique and hasn't been reissued. All activity in 2010 under this callsign is the work of a pirate.

DX NEWS

5V7, TOGO (Change in Plans). The announced DXpedition to Gabon (TR) by the Italian team lead by Silvano, I2YSB, has been cancelled. The new destination for the Italian team will now be Togo (5V), and the operation will take place during the month of October. The team will be the same. They plan to operate with three stations on all the bands. No other details have been provided other than the pilot station will be IK7JWY.

6V7, SENEGAL. Four HAMS from Spain will be active as 6V7W between July 24-31st. The team will try to have three stations on the air at the same time. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. There will be a special emphasis on the 6 meters band (Grid Locator IK14LL). Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1824, 3527, 7027, 10117, 14027, 18077, 21027, 24897, 28027 and 50100

SSB - 1840, 3790, 7060, 14190, 18140, 21290, 24940, 28490 and 50110

RTTY - 3590, 7040, 10145, 14085, 18105, 21080, 24920 and 28080 kHz

QSL via EA5KA: Raul Blasco Villarroya, P.O Box 20, 12080 Castellon, Spain. They plan to have logs online during the operation.

9Q, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – (Reminder) ON5NT (ex-9Q1NT), reports that Georges, VE2EK, will once again be active as 9Q1EK from Kinshasa very soon and will be the ONLY radio amateur station left in the DRC with a VALID LICENSE.

A9, BAHRAIN (Update). EI3IO, has received his license and is expected to be active as A92IO from Sar, Northern Region, Kingdom of Bahrain (AS-002). His activity will last until at least August 2011. His focus will be on 80-10 meters, but he does plan to be on 160 meters. QSL direct to: Dave Court, P.O. Box 31183, Budaiya, Bahrain. QSL can also go by the Bureau to EI3IO. For more details about QSLing, please see QRZ.com.

AEGEAN VHF & 6M CONTEST 2010. The Aegean DX Group announces that the AEGEAN VHF & 6m Contest will take place on July 3-4th. Many stations with special callsigns will operate from all over Greece (J4x, SX1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7x and also from all Greek islands SX5, 8, 9), as well as from all the Greek Locators (of course and KM37) and in every mode CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, SSTV, PSK etc. It will be a great opportunity for every radio amateur to get a QSL cards from Greek stations on VHF & 6m band for their VHF or 6m Awards or to simply to confirm Greece on VHF & 6m. The Contest will be held according to the IARU Band Plan of Region-1 on 50, 144, 432 MHz. There will not be any QSOs in FM modulation on 50 MHz because it is restricted by the Greek authorities.

CY0, SABLE ISLAND (Update). Randy, N0TG, reports (edited): "Everything continues to move along preparing for operations October 22-31st. The charter aircraft has been booked as well as travel arrangements for the team to meet up in Halifax a couple days prior.

E2/HS, THAILAND (6 meters!). E21EIC, reports that Thai hams just received a temporary license for 6 meters (50-54MHz) for CQ WW VHF Contest from NTC (National Telecommunications Commission). They will allow them to operate 2 days between July 17-18th, 2010 (July 18-19th, 2010 Thailand time), which support from RAST by John/HS1CHB and Champ/ E21EIC. Champs states that no operations on 6 meters have ever been allowed for 30 years since previous RAST Founder Gen.Kamchai Chotikul or Kam, HS1WR (SK). However, the last 6 meters operation did take place during the 1992 SEANET convention in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

J6, ST. LUCIA. By the time you read this, Howard, WB6WXE, will once again be active as J6/WB4WXE until July 6th. His activity will be mainly on 6 meters, with some HF operations on 17, 15 and 40 meters when 6 meters is dead. He will use a 6 element beam with 350 watts and operate from a site which is at 2,000 feet ASL. He will use a 2 element beam on 17 and 15 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

VP2, MONTSEERRAT (NA-103). Graham, M0AEP, will once again activate VP2MDD between June 14th and July 12th. Activity will be mainly on 6 meters, but also on HF bands, including 60 meters. He will use a TS-480-HX into a Carolina Windom (80-10 m [incl. 60 m], 5 element Eagle 50 MHz yagi on 18' boom and a 50 MHz half-wave vertical. QSL via M0AEP, by the Bureau or direct.

XU7, CAMBODIA. Laurent, F8ATM, will be active as XU7ATM from a Hill Side View Guest house in Sihanoukville between August 10-17th. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and RTTY. An online log search will be available at: <http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/XU7ATM> QSL via F8ATM, by the Bureau or direct. For direct QSL request, please include a SAE and sufficient postage (IRC or 2 USDs). All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW when he returns to France.

YJ0, VANUATU (Update/Press Release). Bill Horner, VK4FW, President of the ODXG (Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group Inc.), sent out the following (edited): "Vanuatu 2010 DXpedition News Release -- In co-operation with ODXG, a group of four Australian amateurs will be activating Vanuatu (YJ0) from August 27th until September 2nd. The accommodation and flights are booked and the team is waiting on callsign allocation from the Vanuatu government. Chris/VK3QB (Leader), Allan/VK2CA, Luke/VK3HJ and Brenton/VK3CBV will spend six days and nights working the HF bands from the Island of Efate – as well enjoying some of the sites of this beautiful country. More details will be released in the coming 2 weeks including Web site details, QSL details and likely bands/modes. However, at this stage the team plans to keep things simple with two HF stations limited to 100 watts and vertical and wire dipole antennas.

Well that's it for this month. Until next time, Gud DX!!

Chuck, W8PT
a.k.a. Charlie the Tuner



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in July:

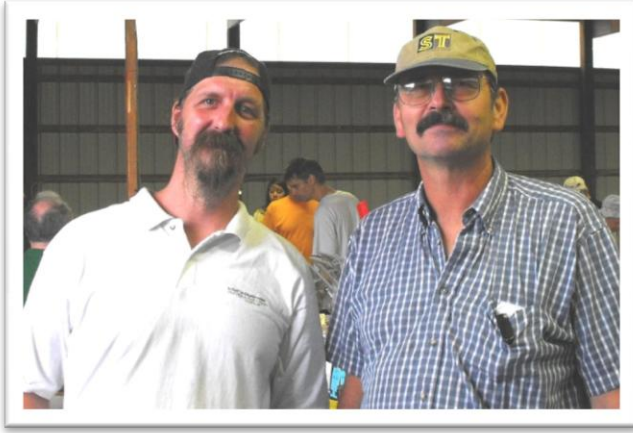
W8PT	Chuck	Patellis
N8FTP	Larry	Cole
KB8JFF	Dick	Ward
N4PKW	Rod	Thompson
WB9LBI	Bill	Fraedrich
N8HUC	Karen	Andrews

N8JLC	Ray	Hyer
G0BPS	Dick	Pascoe
AB8IE	Ken	Westover
AK8U	Wayne	Schaefer
KD8EPA	Dan	Porcase



Breezeshooter's Hamfest Report from KD8MBH

It was another up and at em early Sunday morning because I was going to another hamfest with Parky-UUZ and Al-VJL. I was timing myself for a 5 min early arrival at Parky's house, but at that early on a Sunday, with no traffic at all, and AC/DC turned up loud, I realized I was driving down State Route 88 at a high rate!! 95 or so. Of course I was 25 minutes early, and found Parky in his drive way scoping out the weather. We both scoped the sky waiting for Al.



KD8MBH & KB8VJL at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest

We hit the road around 6:00 am maybe a few minutes before, and bee-footed it toward Butler, PA. I admit that I dozed a little on the way, but once we got to the hamfest, I was wide awake. There were alot of people there ahead of us!!!!

We headed into the first of 3 indoor building's immediately, and then came the rain. Yes it came down hard for a few minutes, but was gone in no time, and it was on to searching for the gizmo's I came for. There were 3 buildings full of vendors, with new and old gizmo's to drool over!!! And boy did I drool!!!! I suspect Parky and Al were drooling while they were off on their own treasure searches,

but they wiped their mouths before we met back up. I thought there was a good mix of used and new, as well as allot of things for the builders and do it yourselfers in each building.

I saw a very good turn-out of fellow PCARS members through out the grounds, in fact I ran into PCARS members all day, inside each building, and outside in the swap meet areas. It was great to see all of you, and I am glad you all did not miss this wonderful hamfest on the count of a little rain and clouds. And then the outside swap meet. Yep, it rained, and Yep there was a bit of muddy spots to walk through, but it was well worth it to see all the vendors!!!! This was my first trip to Butler's hamfest, and I was informed by Al that prior years had more outside vendors, but we both agreed that all things considered, there was a good amount to see, and plenty of treasures, goodies, and gizmos.

I found everything on my gizmo list, and even saved a good amount on my purchases. We all walked away with something, and I think we all considered them bargains.

The Butler PA Hamfest "Breezeshooter's" is a definite must do for next year, and if the little bit of water scared you away, it was your loss!!!! I can still smell the Italian Sausage cooking between the buildings mmm... I didn't eat one, but came darn close...so close... We did stop at Eat-N-Park, and had an enjoyable meal after we left Butler, and chattered about our day. And what a day it had been!! This hamfest was awesome!!!! I might add, Al, Parky, and me topped the day with what might be becoming the ceremonial trip to the nearest Harbor Freight Store for some more looking at gizmos.

My conclusion? Breezeshooter's Hamfest 2010 Butler, PA. gets a 9 out of 10 score.

Thank you Al and Parky for an awesome ham radio day!!

Martin, KD8MBH

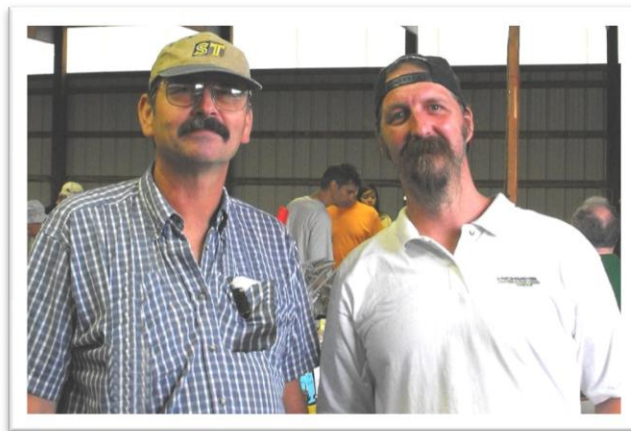


Breezeshooter's Hamfest Report from KB8VJL

Off to PA with Marty KD8MBH and Tom KB8UUZ on that fine Sunday morning! It may have looked like the end of the world when one would look up at the sky and the possibility of a storm or two but we had clear sailing all the way! Didn't have to lower the "sheets" once on the trip and two hands or more on the tiller was not required!

Tom parked his SUV gizmo up a ways on a ridge...just in case the ground may become moist if it would rain... so we could get a running start once we headed for home. With a sky filling more up with some rather dark clouds we headed for the nearest out building from Tom's vehicle.

About ten minutes later it started to rain. So, turned out Tom had taken off for the main building and Marty and I were still in same outbuilding we first stopped at. After about 25 laps around the interior looking at the same stuff it finally stopped raining. Not sure that I remembered a river or canal in the middle of the fairgrounds in the past years I had attended this hamfest; I paused to scratch my head and ponder a spell. Ok, I remembered that there was a paved road running through the fair grounds...and not a river. Gauging the water depth; Marty and I took off for the main building. My rubber bottom boots I had on kept my feet dry... but the wake and rooster tails from Marty running ahead of me did make my lower pants legs a might damp.



KB8VJL & KD8MBH at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest

We had to go to the second large building as the main building was packed to the limit. A few minutes more and everyone returned outdoors and the buildings cleared out. I had dropped off some of Tom Sly's WB8LCD Ohio Section Manager campaign notices since >>>many<<< Ohio hams were in attendance there also!!!! I found what I went there for, a new antenna for my Ht and some SMA connectors/adapters.

This was Marty's first trip to Butler so he was really impressed with the hamfest. A lot of stuff to see outside and we all crossed paths with other PCARS club members. I crossed paths with our ARES District 10 DEC Matt, W8DEC a number of times. One good thing about the rain that morning.... it appeared to allow others to collect a dog or two.... as I saw many folks walking around with dogs.... so, that was a big plus when it "rained cats and dogs". Didn't see any cats...but saw a lot of dogs there!

We got there before 8 am and they were letting everyone in so we had no waiting at the gate this year. It was a really good hamfest and the early rain didn't matter much at all. We stopped on the way home for some grub and the obligatory stop at Harbor Freight Tools. We then returned home early in the afternoon.

73 until the next hamfest,

Al, KB8VJL

EmComm

There is a great deal of news this month about ARES of Portage County and all of it is good news.

At the Dayton Hamvention I was advised by the Ohio Section Manager that Portage County was being moved from ARES District Five of the Ohio Section into District Ten. At this point the reasons for that change are pretty much irrelevant. But the outcome of the change is outstanding!

ARES of Portage County now has the benefit of being in a district managed by perhaps the most forward thinking and energetic District EC in the entire state: Matt Welch, W8DEC. Many of you may be familiar with Matt as one of the sales staff at the AES store in Wickliffe or you may have met him at a PCARS meeting. He gave a presentation on APRS at the club's meeting two months ago.

There is a lot more to Matt's involvement in the hobby of ham radio, particularly when it comes to emergency communications. A couple of years ago Matt was appointed as the first DEC of the newly created ARES District Ten, which then consisted of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula, and Geauga Counties.

Matt appointed himself as the Acting EC for Cuyahoga County where ARES had been dormant for a number of years and then did a great job of reviving the program. He works hand-in-hand with the county EC's providing assistance and suggestions. He has held district-wide exercises and training programs, set up a web site for the district, and holds quarterly district meetings for all of the EC's and AEC's, the most recent meeting was June 19th. Our county will benefit greatly by being in Matt's district.

ARES of Portage County held a meeting in June and the principal topic for discussion was the operation of Skywarn nets. Since the mid-eighties ARES of Portage County has been the local sponsor of Skywarn nets. A few months ago a few area hams decided to start their own Skywarn net thereby causing a good deal of confusion for local hams. After a thorough discussion, the ARES membership chose to continue to operate the ARES Skywarn net. It turns out that the National Weather Service welcomes as much participation as possible in Skywarn activities and sees multiple nets as a benefit.

There are some new staff positions for ARES of Portage County that have been filled by very competent volunteers. Mike DiCarro, KD8FLZ, is the new AEC for Net Activities, Sandy Getty, KD8JCY, is the AEC for Training, and Martin Fodse, KD8MBH, is the AEC for Skywarn. Tom Sly, WB8LCD, continues as AEC for Operations.

All of them encourage other area hams to get involved in ARES. The entire community benefits when as many hams as possible lend their services to the EmComm effort. Watch for news about an upcoming training program that will be open to all hams.

If you have an interest in helping with public service events, contact Gay Wands, WB8VNO, for information about the Headwaters Trail Triathlon on July 10th, the Black Squirrel Triathlon, August 7th, and the Bellefaire Duathlon on August 22nd. In addition, check the Summit County ARES web site at www.sumco-ares.org for information and registration to work at the Stow Parade on July 5th and the Akron RoadRunner Marathon on September 25th.



73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH
Radio Officer, Portage County EMA/RACES
EC, ARES® of Portage County
Emergency Operations Officer, Ohio Army MARS

Stark County VHF QSO Party - PCARS WINS

April 10th was the date of the 2010 Stark County VHF QSO Party. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon for a drive, and drive, you did! Errol, KC8RJR, and Robert, N8RLG, signing K8BF, managed to activate all Stark County Multipliers during the six hour contest. In doing so, they won first place in the mobile category.

The other PCARS entry was Steve, K8SRR. Steve's score contributed to the club aggregate score, which was more than enough to secure the Club High-Score plaque, which was presented to PCARS at the June club meeting.



K8SRR receives a certificate from KD8MQ

Believing that imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, we patterned the contest after both the PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Sprint, and the Worked all Stark County Contest which was previously sponsored by the Canton

Amateur Radio Club. Our goals for the contest are to:

- a) Provide an opportunity for local Amateurs to enhance their station and operating skills.
- b) Simulate emergency conditions (with NO repeaters).
- c) To enhance utilization of the 2 meter band and simplex operation
- d) To have fun.

Next years contest has been planned for Saturday, April 9th, 2011. Look for the contest announcement sometime around the second week of January.

John, KD8MQ



The winners: N8RLG, KC8RKV receive their certificate from KD8MQ



KC8PD receives Club Plaque from KD8MQ

39 Ways to Sound Like a LID

Note: This "Rusty Bumpers" column is from the May 1993 issue of "Solid Copy", the Richmond (VA) Amateur Telecommunications Society's monthly newsletter. Most of the examples used by "Rusty" have happened on the local repeaters exactly as written, although some of the items are exaggerated slightly for humor.

In many areas I have noticed a tendency of people making a distinct effort to sound like a "LID" on the local repeater. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this incomplete guide to radio LID-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

- 1) Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. For example, "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt," but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK." I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.
- 2) Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi." No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW rag chewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.
- 3) Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory." It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."
- 4) Always say "XX4XXX" (Insert your own call) "for I.D." As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more "LID points".
- 5) The better the copy on the repeater, the more you should use phonetics. Names should be especially used if they are short or common ones. I.E. "My name is Al... Alpha Lima" or "Jack.. Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible use the less common HF phonetics "A4SM... America, Number Four, Sugar Mexico." And for maximum "LID points", make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob... Billibong Oregano Bumperpool."
- 6) Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a great memory test. You may also use "and the group" if you are an "old timer" or just have a bad memory. Extra points for saying everyone's call and then clearing in a silly way - like "This is K2xxx, Chow, Chow."
- 7) Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation", and vice-versa. And even if the amplifier you're using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your "linear." Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as "linears." You'll be king of the "wrong terminology" hill. Or better yet, refer to them as "lin-e-yars."
- 8) If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, taking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker, and if it is an emergency, encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.
- 9) Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.
- 10) The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.
- 11) If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals, his mother, or both; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.
- 12) If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to make a call to someone else. Make sure that it's only a simple contact. It's also very important that you run for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.
- 13) You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if

several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have driven out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

- 14) Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.
- 15) See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are un-copyable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.
- 16) Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or.... well, you get the idea.
- 17) Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," "I'm destined" and "Negatory on that."
- 18) Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.
- 19) Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)
- 20) Start every transmission with the words "Roger", "Fine Business" or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.
- 21) When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.
- 22) Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!
- 23) Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex -- especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.
- 24) If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. ("I'm sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you're full quieting into the repeater. How about me?")
- 25) In the same vein as the previous step, when monitoring a repeater, you should always give signal reports as if the repeater didn't exist. ("Yep, I'm right under the repeater. You've got a whopping signal. You're S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.")
- 26) On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say "over." Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed, but don't let that stop you. Say "over," "back to you," or "go ahead." It serves no useful

purpose, but don't worry -- it's still fun.

- 27) Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You're getting the idea.
- 28) Never say "My name is....". It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases: A) "The personal here is...." B) "The handle here is...." Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it's OK to use them anyway. Don't forget, this has worked just fine for Cbers for years. The best retort I ever heard: "My handle is pink, my name is..."
- 29) Use "73" and "88" incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "best of 73's" or "88's". Who cares if it means "best regards" and "love and kisses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds"! Or be funny and say "seventy turds." Or talk like a 1960s Cber and sign off with "Threeeeeeees to ya!". (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3, the average Cbers IQ.)
- 30) Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you're in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" (i.e. "we've been doing this...", "we're doing that...", "we're clear"). Everyone knows you're by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Clinton.
- 31) Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you'll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.
- 32) Test repeater functions repeatedly (that's why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of time the repeater has been keyed-up. That stuff is fun to track. Test the outside temperature, or the transmitter heat sink temperature as often as possible. The farther the temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test it. Also, if you get a pager set to the repeater's output frequency, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.
- 33) If the repeater is off the air for service, complain about the fact that it was off the air as soon as it's turned back on. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because that one repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. Even though you have never donated a penny to help out with the upkeep of it, and despite the fact that you have all 42 local repeaters programmed into your mobile radio.
- 34) Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. Also, make sure you work through a repeater that you can hear very well, but it cannot hear you. This will put out a kind of "LID mating call": "Well, Joe, I can hear the repeater just fine here. I wonder why it can't hear me?" You will score maximum LID points if you are mobile, and with the radio lying in the passenger seat.
- 35) If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other "LID" buddies have a "coded" frequency list. Even though "CODES" are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice "James Bond" tactics.
- 36) Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently moved from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is "rolling" in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!
- 37) Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.
- 38) Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like "roger, roger" or "fine business, fine business". I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.

- 39) If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that magic moment when you can find a fellow "LID", and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than five air miles from you.

These easy steps should put you well on your way to "LID-Hood". I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect "LID". I should also note that these steps can also apply to simplex operation, but nobody really cares because that pawn-shop HTX-202 isn't going to get out too far with just a rubber duck.

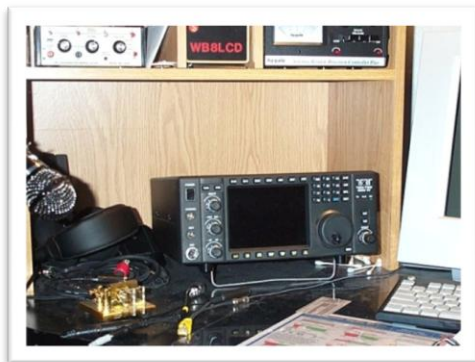
73,
Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

P.S. "Rusty Bumpers" is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.

Forwarded by Rex, NX8G

My Big Deal from Dayton this Year

This year I was fortunate to spend most of my time at the Hamvention in the ARRL booth as a volunteer. Because of that, I didn't spend too much time roaming around, especially outside in the flea-market. While outside catching some sun, late Saturday afternoon, I happened to meet Pat Osborn, KI4RFT, who had a flea-market space showing off her radio covers.



Before the cover

I've thought about radio covers many times in the past. Where my radios live, down in the basement, there's always something going on that's either making or stirring up a mess. Quite often, the mess ends up on the radios and other equipment, which is not an ideal situation. I've always thought it looks

“professional” vs “amateur” when

you see a station not in use, with all the equipment covered and

protected. And with the investment most of us have in our rigs, I decided the time was right to take care of this. The price was right, too!

These covers are custom made for the radio they will cover, come in many colors and can whatever you like (within reason of course) embroidered on the front of them. They look good, they perform an important function, and the price is right – a winning combination!



The new cover in place

So, if you want to protect your valuable radio gear, check it out: <http://www.pyiradiocovers.com>
Here's a before and after picture from my shack, and my radio couldn't be happier.

73,
Tom WB8LCD

Burke Airport Drill - ARES®



I just received word from the Cuyahoga County EMA that there will be a drill at Burke Lakefront Airport, on Saturday August 7, 2010. Actual time is still to be determined. The actual scenario is still being developed, but this looks like a mass casualty drill. I expect it to be very similar to what we did at Cleveland Hopkins Airport last September.

The participation of ARES® is requested, and expected. So please reserve the date on your calendar and plan to participate. As more information about this becomes available, I will pass it along to all of you.

73 de,
Eric Jessen, N8AUC
Emergency Coordinator
Cuyahoga County ARES®
n8auc@yahoo.com

Up Five

It has been a tough week. My XYL is out of town on business, and my First Harmonic seems to have some extracurricular activity every day after school. The leaves are piling up in the yard, the boat hasn't been winterized, and Jack Frost is nipping at the freeze plugs. My crops are rotting on FarmVille because I never can find time to go online and harvest them.

I pop out of bed about 6 AM and decide to peruse Spot Collector before getting ready for work. Hmmm, there's an XR0Y on 80 M phone that claims to be Easter Island. I have Easter Island plenty of times, but apparently I need them on either 80 M or Phone. I think everyone I have ever worked from there was CE0Y/home call, or something similar. This XR0Y is a new one on me - I settle into the chair, turn on the rig and the tuner, click on the spot and wait for the reliable Palstar to resonate the wire. There is a YL (or XYL) working a big pileup. Easter Island is not that rare, and this is an unusually large pileup for 6 AM EST on a weekday. Looks like I'll be using all the toys today, as I reach over and energize the Flame Thrower. I hope I don't melt my printer today!

The band is in excellent shape this morning. It's quiet and the YL is armchair reading. Probably S-6 on the meter, but no background crashes to drown her out. The band has a rich quietness, like black velvet, and the strong signal stands out like a sparkling jewel. The op seems competent, although she is having difficulty getting call signs. She announces "QRZ, up 5" after each QSO. I set the big Mark-V Field split and start tuning around above her to find the pack of snarling dogs. It doesn't take long as I find them all exactly 5 KHz above her transmit. I've got the YL in one ear and the dogs in the other. I listen as the tail wags the dog - everyone tries to tail end, and then they tail end the tail end, and so on, and so on and so on such that there is an essentially constant stream of multiple stations calling the DX. Eventually she gets a call and goes back to them - sometimes multiple times before the pack quiets down enough for the QSO to proceed. I listen to half a dozen QSOs and every time she goes back to someone who is exactly 5 kHz above her. I keep waiting for her to work someone 6, or 7, or 8, or 9 or 10 kHz above her, but she never turns her VFO from that spot exactly 5 kHz up. When she says "Up 5", she really means "Up 5.00". This is not good. I have only a moderately competitive station on SSB, and instead of spreading us around so I can find a quiet spot and try to sneak through, she is making us all go head-to-head.

I've got a little time before I have to start my morning ritual, so I adjust the knobs on the Amp and prepare to subsidize Ohio Edison. I am very surprised when I get through on my 3rd attempt. The RF Gods have surely smiled on me today; and the Voice of God speech processing also helped. I click the Capture button and hordes of my electron minions scurry to record all the details. This was almost disappointing, no epic tale of calling until I'm hoarse, no finding a quiet spot in the pileup, no decoding her operating pattern and getting there first - just a full gallon and a half, a processed voice that would peel paint, and the exceptional early morning low band propagation that this QTH seems to have, seasoned with a generous dollop of luck. That's okay - this doesn't begin to make up for the hours I've spent unsuccessfully fighting the Big Guns for a variety of DXpeditions.

That was the strangest split DX I have ever worked. I have never seen anyone else work a single split frequency without spreading the dogs out. And I don't recommend it. It did make for an interesting morning, though, and I even made it to work on time!

73,
Dennis, AI8P

CW Ohio

I took a few pictures when I was in Conneaut, Ohio a couple of weeks ago. I was at the train museum and looking around the old rail yards and came across a company who is occupying some of the old buildings in and around the old yard. As soon as I spotted this, I thought of my other hobby - Ham Radio !

73

Mike, KC8UNR



Hamfests

07/17/2010 - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center - 1005 North Abbe Rd. - Elyria, OH 44035 - Website: <http://www.noars.net> - Contact: Darlene Ohman , KA8VTS - 4122 Bush Ave - Cleveland, OH 44109 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: dohman@roadrunner.com

07/25/2010 - Portage Hamfair '10 - Portage County Fairgrounds - 4215 Fairgrounds Rd. - Randolph, OH 44265 - <http://Hamfair.com> - Contact: Joanne Solak , KJ30 - 9971 Diagonal Rd. - Mantua, OH 44255 - Phone: 330-274-8240 - Email: kj3o@arrl.net

08/08/2010 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Tailgate Fest - Emidio & Sons Party Center Parking Lot - 48 East Bath Rd. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 - Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/tailgate2010.html> - Contact: Frank Tompkins , W8EZT - 124 Chart Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223 - Email: tailfest2010@cfarc.org

08/15/2010 - Warren Amateur Radio Association - Trumbull County Fairgrounds - 899 Everett Hull Rd. - Cortland, OH 44410 - Website: <http://www.w8vtd.org> - Contact: Jackie Williams , KD8DNE - PO Box 809 Warren, OH 44483 - Phone: 440-636-2806 - Email: kd8dne@yahoo.com

09/12/2010 - Findlay Radio Club - Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky St. - Findlay, OH 45839 - Website: <http://www.findlayradioclub.org> - Contact: Eric Wilkinson , K8ERW - PO Box 587 - Findlay, OH 45839 - Phone: 567-429-9077 - Email: hamfest@findlayradioclub.org

09/26/2010 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Rd. - Berea, OH 44017 - Website: <http://www.hac.org> - Contact: William Beckman , N8LXY - Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc. - PO Box 81252 - Cleveland, OH 44181-0252 - Phone: 800-CLE-FEST - Email: click "e-mail" on Web site

10/16/2010 - Ohio Section and ARES Conference - Educational Service Center of Central Ohio - 2080 Citygate Dr. - Columbus, OH 43219 - Website: <http://www.arrloho.org> - Contact: Scott Yonally , N8SY - 258 Valley Hi Dr. - Lexington, OH 44904 - Phone: 419-884-5105 - Email: n8sy@arrl.net

10/31/2010 - Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Massillon Boy's & Girl's Club - 730 Duncan St. SW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Website: <http://www.marcradio.org> - Contact: Terry Russ , N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Dr. NW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 -Email: truss@sssnet.com



PCARS Thursday Net Control



July	
1	N8QE
8	WB2DFC
15	KC8PD
22	*** OPEN ***
29	WB8LCD

August	
5	N8XTH
12	KB8UUZ
19	*** OPEN ***
26	W8PT



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

If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a shot, please contact me at: WB8LCD@portcars.org and take one of the "open" slots in the roster. Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

Tom WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator



PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

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 FCC license, a copy of your FCC 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

13 Colonies Special Event - July 1-5, 2010

The week of July 4th is right around the corner and we are at it again, except better! The Original 13 Colonies Special Event July 1st-5th, 2010. More State operators, a NEW certificate, longer operating time and "Better Propagation".

Go to the bio of KU2US at QRZ.com for info and a link to our website. You can download our log sheet in plain text or HTML. Getting all "13" this year is a distinct possibility for all! So join with us while we celebrate our Independence and also honoring the original 13 Colonies and the folks who made the USA possible.



The thrill of the hunt, The patriotic theme, The 4th of July week, and loads of fun for YOU and the State Colony Operators. We did over 12,500 QSO's in 2009. We expect to at least double that this year! So join in with us for some super fun-all with ham radio. Hope to work you all!

Ken, KU2US

PCARS Patches & Stickers



PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo!! The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery on the white patch 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" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! If you would like to order by mail contact the club Treasurer: Bill, WB9LBI at: WB9LBI@portcars.org



Special Service Events

Hi folks... here is the next event: Headwaters Adventure Triathlon - July 10, 2010 - Buchert Park, Mantua. You can view the map here <http://www.portageparkdistrict.org/hrace.html>

Other events:

- August 7 Black Squirrel Triathlon, Kent
- August 22 Bellefaire JCB Biathlon, Shaker Heights

If you are interested in any of these, or would like more information, contact me at: WB8VNO@portcars.org

Thanks,
Gay, WB8VNO

QSL Cards from PCARS Members

AB8SX
Grid Square - EN91gb

Mark Eldridge
342 Strader Rd.
Akron, Ohio 44305
USA

Confirming QSO with	Date	UTC	Freq / Mode	Pwr Out	Report
73, from Mark (AB8SX)					

Tnx QSL Pse

KD8MQ

2006 PA QSO Party

Portable in Clarion City, PA

N5VLZ

DARYL J.D. STOUT
5301 Larch Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209
PULASKI COUNTY

AMATEUR RADIO STATION

W8CDL

OHIO

Coletta Tomasik
157 Malacca Street
Akron, OH 44305

ON THE AIR SINCE 1955

GREETINGS FROM
AMATEUR RADIO STATION

W8HFX

LOCATOR: EN91hd - PORTAGE COUNTY

DAVID JEROME REITH
520 HARVEY STREET
KENT, OHIO 44240 USA

TO RADIO
CONFIRMING OUR QSO
DATE: _____ UTC
TIME: _____ MHZ
FREQ: _____
MODE: TWO-WAY
SIGS: RST
REM: _____

73 _____ QSL

WA8CCU

Al Nagy
208 Cambridge Dr.
Aurora, Ohio 44202
Lat. 41.316 N. Long. 81.380 W.
Grid: EN91hh CQ Zone: 4 GMT: -5

W8PT

K8GI

kilo - eight - golf - india

AMATEUR RADIO STATION
WB0LBI

Bill Fraedrich Streetsboro, Ohio Portage County USA
Grid EN91hf 41.248684 N 81.545809 W

To _____ Date _____ Time _____
Freq _____ Mode _____

W8PT

Geauga County
Grid EN91k
CQ Zone 4 - ITU Zone 8

E-Mail: w8pt@nls.net
Ex: WA8FQK & K8CMP

Yaesu FT 2000 PEP
Rigs: Kenwood TS-570 SG
Icom IC-7000
Icom IC-V8000
Kenwood TM V71A

Antennas: SteppIR 4el w 40/30@63'
M2 6M7JHV 7el for 6m@ 32'
M2 2M12 - 12 el for 2m @ 42'

Power: 100 w or watts / AL-80B

Chuck Patellis
18118 Madison Rd.
Middlefield, OH 44062 USA

☐ PSE ☐ QSL ☐ TNX ☐

ATWATER, OHIO 44201-9536 USA
5888 CLARK RD.

WA8GCF DAVE DeSIMIO
KB8CLH VIVIAN DeSIMIO
KA8ZQZ DAVE E. DeSIMIO

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE
	DAY MONTH YEAR				

☐ PSE ☐ QSL ☐ TNX ☐
PORTAGE COUNTY GRID EN91 A WXXK QSL 73,

Your First HF Dipole

What you need to know to make your first antenna work. A few weeks ago I posted a little recipe on the E-Ham.Net Elmers forum, showing how a simple single-band, coax-fed HF dipole antenna could be constructed, with the least possible investment in time and study. My thinking was and remains that the new ham wants to get on the air as quickly and effectively as possible, and then, if he stays with it, learn more about how antennas actually work.

There were a great many comments and much discussion about resonance, matching and about other antenna types that I know you'll find helpful. I encourage you to read those in the "Tower Talk" forum, under the heading "Putting up HF Dipoles".

It was at some point suggested this should have been an article, so I will now attempt to correct that mistake and to add some other simple, non-technical suggestions. I hope new hams are able to benefit from this writing, and I hope the more experienced of you will add helpful suggestions you've picked up along the way.

The original recipe (more or less): Putting Up HF Dipoles

This is going to be a mono-band antenna one-half wavelength long, fed in the center with 50 ohm coaxial cable. This is probably the most common antenna used on the ham bands today, and it is useful for both local and DX work.

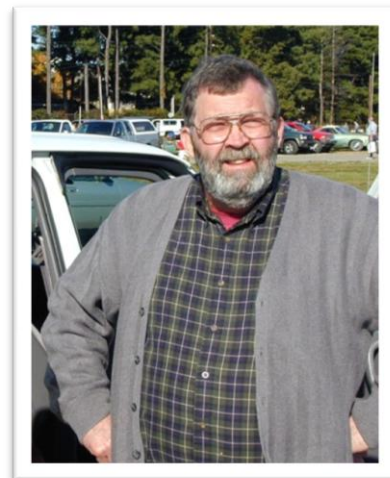
Here's how to do it:

1. Decide what frequency you want to have in the middle of your planned operating range.
2. Divide the number 468 by that frequency in Mega Hertz. The result will be the overall length (in feet) the antenna should be, between the ends of the loops on the extreme ends of the antenna, where the wire passes through the insulators.
3. Take notice that the overall length is just a little longer than the sum of the two wires from inside loop to outside loop. That's because the part of the feed line that attaches to the middle insulator (where it's fed) is antenna, too. The length of the antenna is the total length from where the wire passes through the insulator on one end, to where the wire passes through the insulator on the far end. If you want to be really precise on the higher bands, add an inch or so for the loop going through the insulator. Each side of center will be one-half the total length of wire.
4. Cut the wire for each side a little longer than the formula says. Adjustment will be required, and it's easier to remove wire than it is to add. By "a little longer", I mean ten inches or so on 20 meters, proportionally more on the lower bands, less on the higher. Whatever actual finished length you have, **WRITE IT DOWN**.
5. There are several good reasons to use a 1:1 balun or a ferrite choke balun at the feed point. Without going into detail, suffice to say using one will help in terms of telephone and other RF interference, and will probably help keep RF off your microphone.
6. Put the thing in the air as high as you can. Then find the frequency where the SWR is lowest. This might be at the bottom of the CW band or at the top of the phone portion. It doesn't matter. **RECORD** that frequency.
7. Then take the actual length of the antenna (you wrote it down, remember?) and multiply it by the frequency (in MHz) of the lowest SWR. That number will be your new constant, to replace 468.
8. Divide the new constant by the frequency you want to have in the middle of your preferred range. This is the length the antenna should be. Now you need to adjust the one you have in the air to this length. You might find it's easier to simply add or take away equal lengths on either side near the center insulator rather than on either end.
9. After doing this haul the antenna back up into position. It should now give you the lowest SWR at the desired frequency.

If for some reason you later want to trim an HF wire antenna (say, you decide to move to a different band segment), don't waste your time cutting a half-inch at a whack. You can estimate how much to cut or add based on the band and how far you have to move it.

For example, compare $468 / 14.0 = 33.42$ ft with $468 / 14.35 = 32.61$ ft, so only about 10 inches to move the width of the entire band on 20 meters.

On 75/80 meters, the difference between the band extreme edges is better than sixteen feet. So you see, if you think about it and plan ahead, it'll sure simplify getting your dipole up right and do it in a hurry. Now for some more stuff.



Phil, K4DPK

Insulators:

Obviously insulators need to be non-conductive; otherwise they wouldn't be called insulators. You can buy porcelain or plastic insulators at most hardware stores, including Tractor Supply, Home Depot and Ace Hardware. Basically, they just need to be a piece of plastic or porcelain about 2-4 inches long with a hole in one end for the wire and a hole in the other end for a rope. I've made a lot of them from ¼ inch Plexiglas. Years ago when glass Coke bottles were common, you could pop the rings off the top of 'em. I've used those glass rings for low-power antenna insulators. The point is, you just have to be resourceful. Consider the power you'll be running and the mechanical stress the insulator will need to withstand. Anything fairly close will work.

Coaxial Cable:

Coaxial cables are grouped in classifications of an electrical property called impedance. It is this number which gives us an indication as to where along the length of a piece of wire the transmission line should be attached to obtain optimum transfer of power. Impedance varies along the length of the antenna wire, and has to do with the length of the wire and the ratio of voltage to current at particular points along that wire. There is a wealth of information available on this subject when you are ready.

The most common coaxial lines used in feeding ham antennas are probably the 50-ohm variety. Over the years, this family has been called both 50 and 52 ohm, but we are talking about the same thing.

Some of the common 50-ohm lines are RG-8U, RG-8X, RG-213, 9913 and a couple of small ones for low power, RG-174 and RG-58. Usually, the smaller ones are less expensive but they also have greater loss. That is, not as much of the transmitted energy reaches the antenna to be radiated, as compared to their larger kin. There are charts for comparison in the ARRL Handbook and on the Internet. It is worthy of note that most manufacturers have adopted 50 ohms for the design output impedance of modern transceivers.

Baluns:

The word balun is a combination of the words BALanced and UNbalanced. As the name hints, it's a device that connects a balanced system to an unbalanced one.

Baluns are often used to connect a balanced antenna (like the half-wave dipole) to an un-balanced feed line (like the coax). The balun, among other things, helps prevent current flowing on the outside of the coax. Otherwise, when this current (called common-mode current) appears on the outside of the shield, the feed line behaves as if it were an antenna. There are several reasons why this isn't what we want to have happen. If the feed line is behaving like an antenna, and it passes near a phone line on the way inside, you will probably interfere with the telephone. Since antennas work both ways, if the feed line comes close to a noisy power line, chances are it'll pick up the noise and bring it inside to the receiver.

That's not to say antennas won't work without a balun. Quite the contrary, but it generally will be true you'll have fewer problems with noise and interference if you take steps to avoid current on the outside of the feed line.

Some baluns have the ability to transform to a higher or lower impedance. This has to do with the ratio of turns contained in the windings of the balun. You'll see baluns called 1:1 or 4:1, etc. This is the ratio of impedances the balun is intended to connect. For instance, if one wanted to connect a 450-ohm balanced feed line to a 50-ohm unbalanced line, he would select a 9:1 balun. You will learn later this is a convenient way (for instance) to bring a balanced open wire line from a multi-band antenna into the house, using a short length of coax.

In our case however, since the center of a half-wave dipole is closer to 50 ohms impedance than it is to most other standard feed lines, and since we are using 50 ohm coax, we need to have a 1:1 balun.

Wire:

Antenna wire can be almost anything at all, so long as it will support the weight of the antenna, conduct electricity, withstand expected wind and ice load, and lend itself to a good long-term low-resistance electrical connection. Usually this means a copper wire of sufficient size, although it wouldn't surprise me to hear of someone's having used barbed wire. I'm sure I've come pretty close in my early years.

Antenna wire for HF can be new wire, or it can be pieces of dissimilar wire properly soldered together. What matters is the length, and as mentioned earlier, its mechanical strength. It doesn't matter if the wire is insulated or bare, solid, stranded or a mix of them all.... If you follow the steps given earlier about finding a new constant replacement for 468, it'll all turn out well. Just make sure your connections are OK.

Measuring:

Measure the antenna length from one outside end to the other, counting the center insulator as part of that length. If you have loops that go through the end insulators, and the ends are wrapped back around the wire, then measure from the outside ends of the loops.

Don't get carried away with precision. There is no need for great pains to be taken with the measurements on HF antennas. On two meters, a half wave antenna is around 38 inches, and obviously an inch is an appreciable percentage. On eighty meters, though, an inch will only "move" the antenna about three kHz.

As mentioned elsewhere, it takes around fifteen feet to change from one end of the 75-80m band to the other. Obviously, the higher in frequency, the greater the measurement precision required and vice-versa.

Putting it in the Air:

There are as many ways to hang a wire as there are situations, but in general, to pull the antenna up you first must have a rope already over a tree limb, yardarm, post, pole or some other elevated stationary point.

The simplest way is to just throw a rope over a limb. Remember the old Gene Autry movies? Well that would work, but we want to be a little higher off the ground than was customary in dealing with horse thieves.

Usually, it's easier to put a pilot line of, say, 15-20 lb. monofilament fishing line over the limb, pull the rope up with that, and then pull the antenna with the rope.

You can put the pilot line up in a number of ways:

- Throw it by hand with a weight on the end
- Use a fishing/spinning/casting rod
- Slingshot
- Bow and arrow
- Potato gun

There are lots of others that I can't think of right now, and these can all be used in combination or with great modification and still work, but you get the idea. One caution, though.... Don't be tempted to use your socket wrenches for weights. Sometimes, the line becomes tangled in the tree, and you don't get your weight back. There's a nice house over in Rome GA with a complete socket set dangling high up in the pines. I wonder if the new owners ever noticed.

I've learned that a 2-3 oz lead pyramid weight painted fluorescent orange works really well. It comes down through the limbs nicely and it's easy to spot in the brush.

Anyway, once you get the line over the tree, remove the weight, tie on the rope and pull it up through the tree. Then tie on the antenna and haul it up.

Don't EVER throw wires or anything else over power lines, and don't ever haul antennas up over the top of power drop wires. That's as good a way as I know to make a complete ash of yourself.

Rope:

Twisted or braided polyester in either 3/16" or 1/4" diameter size is probably the best general-purpose rope for putting up antennas around here, but up "Nawth" folks may need something a little more substantial.

Polyester has good UV resistance and doesn't rot or degrade over time. It also has better abrasion resistance than many other ropes, and has normal moisture content of only 0.4%, compared to nylon 6,6 having 4.4%. Dacron is DuPont's

registered name for polyester. Most of these ropes are available in colors, and OD or black is best. Your wife will explain this to you if you hang a new white rope across the front lawn. Nylon is second choice. Polypropylene or olefins are awful and should be avoided.

Whenever you cut any synthetic (thermoplastic) rope, it's a good idea to melt the cut end together, so it won't fray. If the end of the rope catches on fire, don't try to snuff it out with your fingers. You'll see why if you try it.

Pulleys:

Sometimes, situations present the need for a pulley, but pulleys are not a good idea when putting up wire antennas. Use ceramic egg insulators, or "Johnny ball" insulators instead.

Pulleys can rust if they are the wrong material, or the rope can jump off the wheel and jam itself between the wheel and the housing. Whenever this happens, you'll tear the whole thing down and start over, at least on that end.

Ceramic insulators are very slick, very tough and have no moving parts. I have some up that have been in use as pulleys for over twenty years with no problems.

Shape of the antenna:

Dipole antennas usually are installed in either flat top or inverted V configurations. On the HF bands, though, antenna dimensions sometimes exceed the accommodation typical lot sizes offer, so it's occasionally necessary to stray from the ideal.

OK, now there are a few things you need to know about the electrical properties of the half-wave antenna. You should read up on antennas and understand why these are true.

1. The electrical current is highest at the center and lowest at the ends.
2. The voltage is lowest at the center, and highest at the ends.
3. It is the high-current portion of the antenna that radiates the most.

Reasons no. 1 and 2 show why we can feed the dipole in the center with a low-impedance line. The impedance is lowest there on the band it's cut for, and at practical heights it is very near the impedance of the 52 ohm coax we are going to use for this single-band dipole. (Later, you can learn how to build multi-band antennas fed with open wire line.)

You can see from this information how important it is to have as much of the center portion at the highest possible point (Reason #3), but it is also permissible to allow the ends to droop or even hang straight down if need be. Don't have the ends so low the neighborhood kids or anyone else can touch them. There are very dangerous voltages present (Reason #2).

Some liberty can be taken with whether the wire follows a straight path. I suspect there are a lot of 160 m inverted Ws and Zs out there, and they still, for the most part, work. The point here is to get the antenna as high as you can, as straight as you can, but if you need to, there is some "wobble room".

Just be safe, stay away from power lines and think about what you're doing so you don't unwittingly set a trap for someone.

Coax connectors:

It is very likely that most of the problems experienced by new hams (if they find their newly-erected first antenna won't work), are due to improperly assembled coax connectors.

Always use good high-quality connectors. If you must use the cheap nickel-plated stuff, use a small file and remove the plating around the holes in the inner barrel. Tin these well with solder before inserting the coax.

Examine the braid closely after removing the insulation. Make sure no stray shield filaments are left that might touch the inner conductor. I usually tin the braid very lightly before pushing it into the barrel. (Don't forget to put the outer body on the coax before installing the inner barrel). Use a good hot iron. 250-300 watts is ideal. That way you can get the

connection heated up in a very small area, solder it and take the iron away before the heat migrates very far into the coax insulation. If you leave the heat on the connector or coax very long, you're gonna melt something important.

A good friend reminded me of a neat trick. Keep a damp sponge or cloth handy to quickly cool the connector after soldering.

Once you have the connectors on the line, use an ohmmeter to check continuity of the shield and inner connections, and also make sure you don't have a short between the inner and outer conductor.

Do this without the balun connected. Some configurations of wound baluns show a short to a DC ohmmeter, but they are perfectly OK at radio frequencies. You can see why by reading up on baluns in any good electronics/ham radio handbook.

Weatherproofing:

A lot of folks use a putty-type coax sealant on their connectors. I don't because it's very difficult to remove and separate the connection after it's been on there a while.

I use Scotch 33 black plastic tape over the connectors, stretching a couple of layers over the tightened connector and the adjacent coax, in order to prevent any possible moisture entrance. On the final wrap of tape, I leave a tab sticking out and fold the tape on itself so I can find the end later if I want to remove it.

I use RTV on coax when there is an exposed raw braid end without a connector, such as would occur when attaching coax to a dipole without use of a balun.

Conclusion:

Remember, your license is a license to learn. Study the handbooks and antenna manuals, and you'll understand how what you've constructed works.

Get yourself an ARRL Antenna Handbook, and go to places like www.w8ji.com and start reading. Many of the Elmers on e-ham and elsewhere on the web can explain the details just as fast as you can absorb them. Don't pass up these valuable resources when you get over the excitement of the first few contacts and start your serious education.

There are hundreds of different antennas, and they satisfy uses ranging from local to DX, gain to low-noise reception, directional and mobile, simple and exotic. Antennas offer a wonderful place to begin learning and experimenting as you grow in ham radio. All we've done here is scratch the surface with of the simplest of all.

Good luck,

Phil Chambley Sr., K4DPK

Editor's Note: Article was first published on E-HAM.NET. I thought it was great info for newer hams and reminders for older hams. Phil granted PCARS permission to re-print it in our newsletter.



July Contest Calendar

July 2010	
RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 10 to 1200Z, Jul 11
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 17 to 2100Z, Jul 18
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 17 to 0600Z, Jul 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 19
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 24 to 1200Z, Jul 25

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

Ohio QSO Party Coming Up in August

The **Ohio QSO Party** - this Ohio operating event will be held on **Saturday August 28, 2010** from local noon to local midnight. Every year during the Ohio QSO Party (OhQP) Ohioans light up the airwaves and make QSOs all over the world. In this event, Ohio stations are the "DX" and are sought after. Get on and call CQ, and experience the thrill of the world calling you!

Event Basics: Ohio stations send consecutive serial number + county. Suggested frequencies are: CW: 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz; SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,450 kHz.

Full details and an operating guide can be found on <http://www.ohqp.org/>. We hope to hear you on the air!



73,
Kenny, K2KW

Out and About

Eric Bartholomew, KF8YK, President of the Geauga Amateur Radio Association (GARA) thanks Tom, WB8LCD, for his presentation at the May GARA meeting. Tom spoke about the history of the ARRL and some of the special contributions of it's founder, Hiram Percy Maxim.



Eric, KF8YK and Tom, WB8LCD

Pat Karl, N8ONI, attended the May GARA meeting with his wife Valeri and their newborn daughter, Marissa. He is one proud poppa!



Pat, N8ONI & Marissa

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Cushcraft 10-3 ten meter 3 element beam. I've dry fit it and it seems that the only piece missing is a 6" x 6" aluminum mast plate. \$299 new, I'd like to get \$100 plus shipping (should be around \$16.00 to ship). [exp 9/25/10]

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

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 6/25/10]

FOR SALE: 1.5" OD x 12 ft aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$75.00 [exp 9/25/10]

FOR SALE: 2" OD x 12 ft long aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$100.00 [exp 9/25/10]

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

FOR SALE: Mirage A-1015G, 6 Meter Amplifier - 10 watts in, 160 watts out - FM/CW/SSB - Original manual & box - Cost new \$389, works great - will sell for only \$275 [exp 6/25/10]

FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Auto tuner cable for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$20.00 [exp 9/25/10]

FOR SALE: Vibroplex Iambic Key - Highly polished decorative chrome base with the brass plate. Jeweled movements. Has custom made clear plastic dust cover. Works great. New: \$199.95. Original box & instructions. Will sell for \$145.00 (includes cord with 1/4" jack & dust cover). [exp 9/25/10]

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

FOR SALE: TS-440-SAT Kenwood Transceiver, PS-50 Kenwood Power Supply, MC-60A Kenwood Desk Microphone, and SP-430 Kenwood External Speaker. Sold as package only. Excellent condition, Original owner, Non-smoker, Original Packaging and all manuals. Asking \$1000. [Exp 9/25/10]

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

Editor's Note: Ads run for 3 months then are dropped from the listing **UNLESS** you send it in again. Each ad will have an expiration date that looks like: [exp 09/25/10] when they will be removed. This will help keep the listings current.

Radios in Railroading

What do these terms have in common: frogs, rails, turnouts, semaphore, M.O.W., classification yard, hump track, R.I.P., and the most famous of them all -DO NOT HUMP- Well trains and railroading of course! I know what does this have to do with radios? Just a short factual story about early radios in railroading enter the "train phone". So its early 1930's the rails are booming and the railroads are trying to find a communication system that will hold up to the punishment of railroading. All messages had to be past by hand, or passed up to the locomotive by the "Y" pole (I do not know the actual name for this piece of equipment) with the message hung by string and the engineer leans out the window while the train goes by (a building, tower, station etc) so the engineer can reach out and catch the message.

Early radios were still experimental, and tube type. Steam locomotives did not have much for an electrical systems as of yet, Some electrical wizard came up with the idea of electromagnetic induction phones. Using the rails



and caboose. Primarily the PRR or Pennsylvania Rail Road is who first trialed this, and was considered perfected by 1943.

Remember there was no actual RF signal with this system and interference was a real problem in the electrified areas of the railroads. Hence abandoned in late 1950's for "vhf space radios "

themselves, or the wires that run along side they could communicate for several hundred feet, not much but at the time it was enough. This system used a low frequency current, in the hundreds of kilohertz, the train was the receiver, with the telegraph lines and tracks being the transmitter. As the train passed along the track or wires a current would be induced into the trains antenna. This took the form of a ladder like structure running parallel usually on the locomotives

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 32 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 renewal time comes around for your Amateur Radio, 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!!**



We have room for YOUR Ham Radio plate

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

Shack Shots - WA8CCU



Not really a 'in the shack' picture, but a new antenna. A two meter Hustler G6 antenna up and operational, purchased from DX engineering and delivered to me at the June PCARS meeting.

This antenna performs great! SWR does not exceed 1.4 anywhere on the 2 meter band and 1.2 is the most common.

I'm hearing and working repeaters I have never heard before! Easy to assemble, easy to tune and easy to erect. Height of the antenna base is 12' above ground.

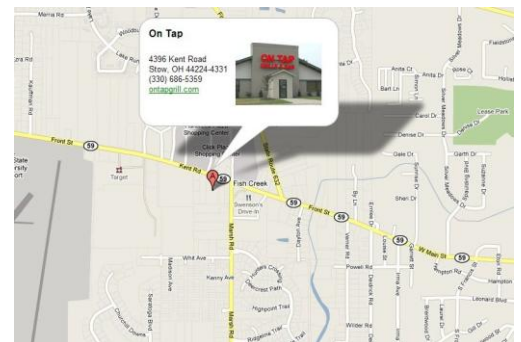


73,
Al, WA8CCU

PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month. The July 12th meeting will be at: **On Tap Grille**, 4396 Kent Road (St Rt. 59), in Stow. It is about a mile west of the Kent city limits.

**PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm Second Monday
of Every Month**
(January through November. December is the Christmas Party)



Shack Shots - N8RLG

Welcome to my shack. Six months ago, you would have seen most of this stuff in the garage on an old kitchen table covered with blankets and me wearing a parka to operate. Now I am inside and out the elements, yay me! What you see here is a Yaesu FL-2100B 1.2 KW linear amplifier that goes into an MFJ-949E tuner which is fed by a FT-897D all band all mode transceiver. For digital work, I use a Tigertronics Signalink USB. I



run HRD, AC Log and DM400. The antennas are a G5RV pulled up to about 45' into the tree. For VHF/UHF I have an Arrow J-pole fixed to 20 feet of surplus military poles.

The linear I just picked up this evening after work. I wasn't going to plug it in. (I am terrified of amplifiers because I know nothing about them). You know what they say about curiosity... The fellow I bought the amplifier from W8CQ said there was an interface already on the amp (his doing). All I needed to do was rig a cable from the CAT/Linear port on the radio to an RCA jack on the linear and feed 12 volts to this crazy little plug (according to him or least that's the way I understood it).

I must of read the instructions twenty times and couldn't figure out what to do. I made a couple of alligator jumpers and plugged them into a made up spare PowerPole ready cable for the radio. I used this power the 12 volt funny plug portion. Next I plugged in the red line from my footswitch into the RCA interface on the back of the amplifier. Mind you I have butterflies at this stage because I am afraid I am going to fry my radio, the amplifier or worse myself!

I tune the tuner up and hit the footswitch and nothing. All I am getting is the 50 Watts out of the transceiver. It seems I ran the patch cables wrong. Radio to amp, amp to tuner, tuner to antenna not the crazy way I had it. After switching things around, I hit the footswitch again. Bingo 300 Watts forward power (according the MFJ tuner and maybe 5 Watts reflected). I worked a few Russian stations this evening and a Swedish station. Even hit the big island of Oahu. My best though.... I got Israel tonight. It was tough going and I pushed the tuner a little past 300 to do it, but nonetheless I got the QSO.



Now, I am still not sure if I have the darn thing hooked up right. All I know is the plate voltage never dropped below 2 kV and at idle it was 2.3-2.4 and on the amp needle it barely budged. The smoke stayed in both radio and amplifier and I didn't get any RF burns. (I really do need an Elmer for this part of my hobby development). 73, and thanks for stopping by!

Pictures from the June PCARS Meeting



**June
2010**



N8B/P



U.S. Freshwater Island On The Air

Grid EN81



Lat: 41.716715
Long: 82.816576

Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Massillon, OH

BANDS / FREQUENCIES

PHONE:

7.250 mhz
14.250 mhz — 14.260 mhz
28.450 mhz

Note: 14.260 be reserved for and given way to IOTA operations.

CW:

3.530 mhz
7.025 mhz (may need to scan the band to find the frequency in use.)
14.040 mhz
18.098 mhz
21.040 mhz

On July 23, 2010 the Massillon Amateur Radio Club will depart on their first expedition that will take them to North Bass Island. MARC will setup world wide radio communications and attempt to qualify this island for U.S. Islands Award Program. This expedition will coincide with I.O.T.A (Saltwater Islands). North Bass Island will be the home for some 15 amateur operators who will on July 24, 2010 begin on-the-air operations commencing at 1200 UTC until July 25, 2010 1600 UTC. During this period they will attempt to make as many world wide contacts on many frequencies and modes.

North Bass Island is located on Lake Erie, north of Port Clinton, OH and 8 nautical miles from the Canadian border. Without the generosity and hospitality of the islanders this event would not be possible.

If you would like to make a donation to help defray costs, please make checks payable to 'M.A.R.C.' or Massillon Amateur Radio Club. Mail to: WD8MBE (Tom) 235 Leonard Ave NW, Massillon, Ohio 44646. Thank You

For those that are chasing the Worked All Ohio State Parks Award, this is a rare opportunity to obtain a contact from North Bass Island.

International Amateur Radio Union Region 3

IARU Region 3 Operating Award



1. The award is available to licensed amateurs and SWLs.
2. Contacts made after April 5, 1982 are eligible.
3. QSL cards NOT required. Send certified list of eligible contacts from [Log Book](#). Include Country in log.
4. Cost is NZ \$3.00, Overseas US \$4.00.
5. Eligible countries are those in ITU Region 3 whose amateur societies are members of IARU

Region 3. These are:

Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China (PRC), Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Fiji, French Polynesia (FO8 only), Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

PLUS - ONE Country credit from US Territories in the Pacific from Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Wake Island, Baker Howland Group, as represented by ARRL or ONE Country credit from Chago Archipelago (VQ9), represented by RSGB.

Current total of available 'countries' is 31. Requirements for Award as from January 1, 1986: Basic, 7 areas; Silver Endorsement, 15 areas; Gold Endorsement, 20 areas.

These to be reviewed as considered necessary by the custodian who would recommend appropriately to the Secretariat.

6. Awards may be endorsed for any mode or band.
7. Application to NZART Awards Manager.

Alan Chapman ZL3GX - NZART Awards Manager - PO Box 1733 - Christchurch 8015 - New Zealand - Home / Fax: +64 (0)3 338 9720 - or E-mail: nzart.awards.manager@xtra.co.nz

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!

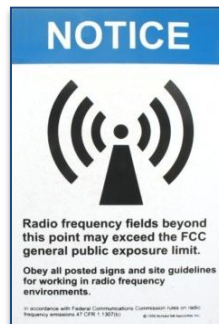


"Parky", KB8UUZ

Thanks goes out to this months contributors:

KC8PD, WB2DFC, WB8LCD, WB9LBI, W8PT, KD8MBH, KB8VJL, KD8MQ, N4LID, NX8G, N8AUC, AI8P, KC8UNR, KU2US, WB8VNO, K4DPK, K2KW, WA8CCU, N8RLG, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web.

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



Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



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

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM
Check the PCARS website www.portcars.org for meeting location

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 - VUCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO W8PT	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2010	WB9LBI W8PT	Bill Fraedrich Chuck Patellis
FYAO	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Proxy Check In	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
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



PCARS
VE Team



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This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter**, the **RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail. The RADIOGRAM is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that. To remove yourself from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: KB8UUZ@portcars.org

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



NLC

