



The

RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



March 2010 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 5 No. 3

~ 2010 Officers ~

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

~ Meetings & Nets ~

2nd Monday of
every month. 7
pm
Thursday nights
Nets at 8 PM
on 146.895

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
April 20, 2006

Watch this
area.
Something is
coming!

President's Column

One of the tasks that Tom, WB8LCD, and I have is to put together an inventory of all PCARS assets. As we move into our fifth year of operation the club has accumulated enough stuff that it will be useful to have an itemized list of it all.

A common definition of "asset" is "a useful and desirable thing or quality." But assets are not always just "things." With PCARS, our most valuable assets are our members who bring an incredibly diverse set of knowledge and skills to the tasks, and the fun, of ham radio.

There is one of those members that I would like to single out for recognition: George Riedel, N1EZZ, whose Navy/Marine Corps MARS call sign is NNN0ICH. George just returned from Haiti where for over a week he had been serving as a Navy/MC MARS member providing communication services as part of the post-earthquake relief effort. His efforts were primarily in support of Project MediShare which is sponsored by the University of Miami.



It is the rare and exceptional volunteer like George, who is also a member of Portage County RACES, who will pack up on short notice and at his own expense get to the Florida staging point from which he was then deployed to Haiti, which was still in the throes of the disaster.

Little attention has been paid to the work of the ham radio operators like George who participated in the relief efforts. Their work may be low profile and unheralded but was crucial to the coordination of services. We hope that he can tell us more about his deployment at a future PCARS meeting.

All of us commend George for his service in Haiti and thank him for his efforts. He is truly an asset to PCARS and the amateur radio community!

NEWS FLASH

PCARS March 8th meeting will be held at the On Tap restaurant, 4396 Kent Road (St Rt. 59), in Stow. It is about a mile west of the Kent city limits. This meeting will be a "test drive" to see how well it works for us. If we like the space, the management will make it available to PCARS every month.

We will be in a large meeting room that can easily accommodate seventy or more people. It is located off the main dining room so we won't be disturbed by other activity in the restaurant. They have a good menu and a pretty decent beverage list, too! Their plan is to have one server for every twenty people. We hope to have a really good turnout for this meeting so that we get plenty of feedback from the membership about the location.

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From the President - Continued from Page 1

It is difficult to find space like this for our meetings. There are fraternal organizations that have meeting rooms but either no food or beverage service. Plus, some of them also want to charge a fee for using the room or having any staff come in for service. Some other restaurants have meeting rooms that are either too small or not available on Mondays.

Meeting rooms (like antennas?) all turn out to involve compromises. On Tap is less than fifteen minutes from Sideliners (for those who come from the south or east), just head north on St. Rt. 43 and then west on St. Rt. 59 in Kent. For a lot of folks it

will shorten their drive. In any event, we think that you will like it and hopefully we will have a new home for our meetings.

73,

Jim, KC8PD



President's Award – 2010

The PCARS President's Award is presented to PCARS members who have shown exemplary commitment to the hobby of ham radio and the mission and goals of the club.



This year three PCARS members were honored with the President's Award: Mike Ryan, KB8TUY, Mike DiCarro, KD8FLZ, and Russ Williams, KD8LDY. No matter what event was being held, they were there to assist. They were the guys who could always be counted on to be at the club site to work on the renovations and remodeling. The club radio room would never have been ready for use this past Fall if not for their efforts.

Mike, KD8FLZ, and Russ, KD8LDY, could not be present at the PCARS Christmas Party when the awards are usually presented and they received theirs from club President Jim, KC8PD, at the February meeting.



From the Vice President

Hello Fellow PCARS-ians ! Hope all of you are in good spirits, cause Spring is right around the corner. Of course as I write the word "Spring", the weather service has announced another 1 to 50 inches of snow..... Well my snow-blower is all ready for it ! And nothing like a big snowstorm to motivate you to get that antenna work finished.... and also ready to go is my FYAO station. I'm set to go, a special shelter, a small heater, QRP radio, batteries, antennas.... let the blizzard begin! What a way to test your readiness...the fireplace and hot food will be a great comfort during the operating breaks. I'm looking forward to seeing all of the stations, antennas, and all of you at FYAO.



And from the PCARS Historical Department, the First Ever PCARS Movie Day, January 30, 2010, was quite a success. I know it's been about a month since then, but I didn't want to miss taking the opportunity to thank all of you in attendance, taking time out of your weekend, to participate in a PCARS activity. So next time.... Pop Corn??? Any volunteer Pop Corn cooks welcomed!

I'm sure Jim, KC8PD, will write about our new meeting place! I won't steal his thunder, but "On Tap" has all the makings of a terrific spot for the PCARS monthly meetings. I really had no idea how difficult it would be to find a place with the food and beverage service we club members like... and the space to accommodate a crowd of around 70 people. I know Jim and other PCARS members spent a lot of time trying to find a good place for meetings..... hats to off to you guys (gals too).

And if you had the opportunity last weekend (February 20 and 21) to listen in and/or work any of the AM stations during the AWA (Antique Wireless Association) QSO Party, it was a thrill. W2AN, the AM station at AWA HQ in Bloomfield, New York (a stones throw from my old QTH, 30 years ago) operated from an old

Millen transmitter, and was my first and only AM QSO. What great audio from the Millen! Nothing like going back to the past and re-living some the fun! Check the AWA website for details of future events.

And the final topic from me this month, CW Field Day. I am putting together a list of those interested in operating the PCARS CW Field Day station. If you are one of those people, kindly send me an email with "CW Field Day" in the subject line. Once I have a list, I would like to get together, a couple times before Field Day, to get our CW heads together. Fast or slow, I ask anyone interested in CW to participate, we are going to have a blast... and score some points for PCARS (CW QSO = more points than phone).

And remember "*Click it or Ticket*"

Dave, WB2DFC



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

It appears that Cycle 24 has actually started. The bands, they have been a-poppin. And a few of you have shared what you have worked with Charlie, so as I promised, here is a selection of what has been worked.

K8NYM – Wes reports that he has worked United Arab Emirates, Oman, Andorra, Mauritius, St. Helena Is., Guinea-Bissau, St. Lucia, Central African Republic, Azerbaijan, Tahiti, Greenwich Is. (Antarctica), Pitcairn Is., Algeria and Bahrain.

W8HFY – Dave, who works a lot of CW at 100 watts, reports the following:

Dave worked 8 Stations from Japan and 2 Alaskan stations in one sitting. He also worked Australia, Antarctica, Guam, India, Falkland Is., Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, several South African stations, Austral Is., Swaziland and Algeria. In fact, Dave sent me 3 plus pages copied out of his log. They were full of DX stations from Europe, Asia, and Africa.



KD8MBH – Marty sent in a list of DX stations, which included Senegal and South Africa and just about every European country you could think of. He also had contacts with 24 Dutch stations during their recent contest. Marty is doing all this with a modest station of 100w and a homebrew vertical with only 6 radials. Maybe we need to have a closer look at this vertical. He might have a real money maker here and a future project for PCARS.

KD8GBB – Tony sent the following: I haven't had too much time to play radio but this is a nice one for me: I heard JE1LET calling CQ on 15 meters while I was just checking band conditions (21.365 Mhz) on 2/14/10 at 23:04Z. He was a good 59 with several stations calling him. I made a quick call and he came right back to me. My signal report was only a 54 but I was running 100W to a Cobra dipole and he was running 1KW to a stacked Yagi. Not bad running barefoot to the dipole. This sunspot cycle is going to be fun!

Finally we have **K8GI**, Rick, who reports that he has worked several stations from Japan, along with Zimbabwe, Latvia, Antarctica, S. Africa, Senegal, Australia, Belarus and Namibia, among many others too numerous to mention. He also sent in this very interesting tidbit of information. His good friend, HA3AUI, is now QRV as 6W2SC in Senegal and will be making periodic visits to Guinea-Bissau as J5AUP. He works

mostly RTTY and PSK-63. I had the pleasure of working 6W/HA3AUI in February of 2006 for my first contact into Senegal. So Rick, say hello from me if you talk with him in the near future.

I really, really appreciate the reports from these HAMS because they show us that DX is being worked from this area and not necessarily with full legal power and a huge yagi. So **GET ON HF AND WORK SOME DX!**

And here is what you can be looking for in the coming months.

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

5X, UGANDA - NP2OR, is active as 5X7JD from Masaka. Reports indicate that he will stay there until May. He can be found daily on 40 or 20 meters SSB between 0500-1550z. He is using a IC-718 transceiver w/100 watts into a Hy-Gain multiband vertical. QSLs only direct via Jack Dunigan, Box 100, Masaka, Uganda.

5W, SAMOA - N7OU and W7YAQ are now active from Tokelau (ZK3) between February 17th and March 10th. Operations will be on 160-10 meters but mainly on CW, with some SSB and RTTY, using 100 watts and vertical antennas. If you miss them on this trip, you will have another chance after their ZK3 operation between March 11-15th. QSL via their home callsigns.

5Z, KENYA - LA9PF, is now active as 5Z4/LA9PF until May. Look for him to be active mainly on SSB and the Digital modes. QSL only direct to: Cato B. De Savigny, POB 5642 Malindi, 80200 Malindi, Kenya.

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

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

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

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.

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

E4, PALESTINE (Update). Dates for the upcoming E4X operation have been announced. Activity will take place between May 28th and June 6th. Operations will be on 160-6 meters including 30/17/12 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with at least 3 stations on the air at the same time on different bands and modes. QSL via EA5RM: Antonio Gonzalez, P.O. Box 930, E-03200 Elche, SPAIN.

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

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

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

VP2M, MONTSERRAT. W1USN, will once again be active as VP2MPR between February 28th and March 13th (2010). Mike will

work mainly SSB and PSK31. Bob, AA1M, will also return to Montserrat and will operate mostly CW as VP2MPL between March 6-11th. QSL both operators via their home call signs.

YI, IRAQ (Update/Need Ops!). A group of operators called the "YI9PSE DXpedition team" are planning to operate from Kurdistan and be active between April 3-11th. The team will receive a ten day visa issued by the Government of Kurdistan. Suggested frequencies are also published on their Web page. They are still looking for two skilled CW operators. The group is also looking for donations to help fund their DXpedition. Donations can be made via PayPal or mail a check to: Kurdistan 2010 DXpedition, 3052 Wetmore Dr., San Jose, CA 95148, USA. Online logs will be available during and after the DXpedition.

IOTA News

EU-065 - Members of the F6KOP team will be active as TM7CC from Ouessant Island (DIFM AT-001) between March 12-20th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12m bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via Bernard, F9IE. For more details, visit their Web page at: <http://www.tm7cc.com> Twitter page at: <http://twitter.com/tm7cc>

EU-068 - Members of a French DX Group will be active as TM5EL from Sein Island (AT-007, L-2721, PB-106, Loc: IN78NA), France, between April 7-14th. Activity will be on the HF bands, as well as 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm, using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via F6KHI, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-078 - EA3NT, will be making another attempt to Formigues Islands (DIE E-058, FEA E-0467, WLOTA LH-2128, ARLHS SPA-139) along with EA1DR, EA2TA and F4BKV. Callsign will be EG3FI, and operations will take place between June 25-26th. The first ever DXpedition to Formigues took place last year but only lasted for a few hours (<http://www.tinet.cat/~jfcg/eg3fi.html>). ADDED NOTE: All the members of this operation will also be involved in the upcoming Flannan Isles (EU-118) DXpedition between June 18-21st.

ISO, SARDINIA - Members of the F6KOP Team will be active as IS0R from Isola Rossa, Sardinia (EU-024, Loc. JN41ka), between May 7-15th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, using 3 stations on HF and 1 station on 6 meters. They plan to use CW, SSB and RTTY. Each station will be a FT450 with an Acom 1010 using Micro Ham and PC. Antennas include 6m Yagi Beam, Spider Beam for 30-10m, 4 square for 40m, vertical for 80m (K9AY) and an Inverted L for 160m plus a beverage. QSL route TBA.

JD, OGASAWARA (Update). JF3MYU, will be active as JD1BNN between March 28-31st. He is part of the "JD1 PROJECT 2010" and is expected to be there with four other operators who will be staying long (See the next JD, OGASAWARA). Kirk's activity will be focused on the 30/17/12m bands, SSB, some CW and 6 meters. QSL is "OK" via the JARL Bureau but write JD1BNN on your QSL (so it can be sorted easily). Also, you can receive his QSL direct if you send your QSL to his address in Kobe, JAPAN: Kirk Itaya, 5-1-35, Daikaidori, KOBE, 652-0803 JAPAN. Please enclose SAE plus sufficient return postage. For JA stations, SASE, please. For NA, SA, EU and AF include one new IRC or 2 USDs. For Asia, one IRC or 1 USD.

JD, OGASAWARA. Operators will be active from Chichijima Island (AS-031) as part of the "JD1 PROJECT 2010" between March 28th and April 12th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY.

Each operator will be active as follows:

JD1BNJ - Only RTTY and PSK31.

JD1BNK - Mainly CW on the HF bands.

JD1BNM - Mainly CW on the lower bands.

JD1BNQ - Mainly CW on the HFbands and 6m.

QSL via K8AQM, direct, by the Bureau or LOTW.

T32, EASTERN KIRIBATI (New IOTAs To Be Activated). A team of operators lead by Nils, SM6CAS, will activate four uninhabited IOTA islands (in the Southern Line Islands Group) that have never been put on the air before between mid-March and early April. Also a team of 5 Government Kiribati officers will be with them. The team will sail on the "SV Kwai" from Kiritimati (Christmas Island) on approximately March 17th, returning to Kiritimati approximately April 18th. The IOTAs mentioned to be aired are: Malden Island (OC-279), Starbuck Island (OC-280), Caroline Island (OC-281) and Vostok Island (OC-282). Per their Web site (under construction), the team will operate from two sites (two stations each) and will operate on 40-10 meters using a variety of verticals and dipoles. The T32 Southern Line Islands Dxpediton's Web page is at: <http://t32line.webnode.com>

XR9, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS (Update/Delayed). A team of operators, from the Concepcion Radio Club (CE5JA), are operating from Arturo Prat Chilean Navy Antarctic Base on Greenwich Island on the South Shetland archipelago (IOTA AN-010, WW Loc. GC07FQ), between now and the end of March. Their callsign will be XR9JA. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and the AO-51 Satellite. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1834, 3504, 7004, 14024, 18074, 21024, 24894 and 28024 SSB - (*), 3780, 7078, 14200, 18145, 21295, 24995 and 28475 kHz 6m - 50115. Please note that ALL CW contact will be done with a PC (due to the absence of their CW operator). They request to: "Be patient with us! Will try to do our best and certainly we will have enough time." QSL via CE5JA.

OK! That's all for now. You can see that there will be a lot of opportunity to work some really interesting DX in March and the following months. And with some sun spots now, even QRP stations should start to see some really good action. So until next month, 73 and gud DX.

Chuck, W8PT

Candidate for ARRL Ohio Section Manager - Tom Sly, WB8LCD

Our own PCARS former President & Charter Member Tom, WB8LCD is gearing up for the upcoming ARRL Ohio Section Manager! With that, he has a brand new web site for people interested in his amateur radio background, and what's happening during the campaign.

The web site is at:
www.wb8lcd.org

Check out the web site, and let's help Tom out in his bid for the ARRL Ohio Section Manager.

The screenshot shows a website for Tom Sly, WB8LCD, running for ARRL Ohio Section Manager. The top features a photo of Tom at a radio station with a URL <http://www.wb8lcd.org>. A green banner on the right says "TOM SLY WB8LCD FOR OHIO SECTION MANAGER". Below the photo is a black box with the text "More radio FUN for Ohio Hams!". On the left is a navigation menu with links: Home, About WB8LCD, Related Links, and Gallery. The main content area has a heading "Hi, I'm Tom Sly, WB8LCD. There are four things that the League should be doing right now, to make things better for you, the individual amateur radio operator, and for Amateur Radio as a whole." followed by a sub-heading "I'll be YOUR voice in the League". The text below discusses the importance of Amateur Radio as a natural resource managed by the FCC and the role of the ARRL. An ARRL logo is visible at the bottom left of the content area.

TUSCO Hamfest Report

January 31st brought in the first hamfest of 2010 - TUSCO. Not seeing any real signs of Global warming yet here in Northern Mantua Township, I wasn't too surprised as I was trying to get the ice off the windows of the "Redd Scrap II". With my car running to warm up while I was trying to clean off the windows, nothing helped as the ice that formed on the car sitting outside refused to part from the windows. The digital temperature readout gizmo in the car showed the outside temperature to be a crisp -2 degrees. With the front window and side windows cleaned enough to allow me to take off, I hit the road to pick up Parky, KB8UUZ.

Zippping down the highway I noticed the outside temperature remained at -2. This had to be the coldest hamfest day I ever attended! Past Madison (Lake County ARA) hamfests were sometimes cold, sometimes snowy (a couple or more

past snow storms on hamfest day), but never this cold!!!! I made it to Parky's QTH but the inside of the windows never cleaned off too much!

Parky jumped in and we headed to Ravenna to pick up Marty, KD8MBH. Marty jumped in the car while Ravenna was in a heat wave - it was about 5 or 7 degrees. On 76 with four eyes (Marty couldn't see anything from his rear seat) trying



to watch the road while Parky and I kept trying different combos of defrost and vent levels controls and the windows still didn't clear off. Marty kept asking where in the world are we? The best answer at the time I could give him was, "we are still on the road." Not wanting to be left out of this mornings big adventure Marty cleaned the ice off the inside of the window next to him. He was able to open up a hole about a inch in size. Now we had 5 eyes to peer out of the windows to keep the Redd Scrap II on the road! Two audible alarms went off informing me I was going the wrong direction and taking the wrong road! Just a very slight move of the steering wheel to the left and we left the wrong exit ramp and was magically back on the interstate heading the right direction south. During the sudden brief turmoil I think Marty was saying he was seeing something strange out his peep hole, as maybe like we were about to drive off into the twilight zone or into a Stephen King story setting?

Once we got on 77 south it was smooth sailing. Only being about one hour early we had plenty of time to visit the restaurant right next door. Empty tables and friendly folks at the restaurant, we had a very good breakfast. They let everyone in the hamfest a little early due to the cold temperatures outside. We had a good time at the hamfest. I Found what I had planned on looking for, which turned out to be a early 1950's ARRL Handbook. It was the 1953 edition and I was happy for the trip down there that morning. After a few walks around and seeing everything and picking up what we wanted we headed back to Portage County. See you next year at the TUSCO Hamfest!

Al, KB8VJL



ARRL / MARS Emergency Radio Ops in Support of: University of Miami/Medshares Global Port Au Prince Haiti Emergency Field Hospital



I departed Cleveland Hopkins on Feb 16th at 6 am, I landed and changed planes in Charlotte NC around 830 am. We were out of Charlotte around 1030 am and arrived in Miami International (MIA) at 1145 am. From there, I found Vision Air, our Charter to Port au Prince Haiti, and we departed MIA at 745 pm and arrived Port au Prince Haiti around 945 pm.



Once we arrived, we had to wait in the plane, for some one to push up a set of old fashioned stairway so we could deplane. The Captain of the Aircraft told us once you deplane, go around the front of the aircraft and proceed to the right rear of the aircraft to the rear luggage bay . Then pick up our own luggage and go to the terminal. (no kidding, luggage carousel #1 was on the tarmac, SELF SERVE)

Once we sorted through the luggage in the dark, we proceed to the terminal. We were not allowed to go inside because the building was very damaged from the earth quakes. We waited around and finally filled out our Haitian Custom Papers, and then stood around waiting for a ride to the University of Miami Hospital compound. We arrived at the Hospital Compound around midnight, I met the guy Gary I was relieving, in the Comm Tent. We exchanged greetings and got a brief overview of the Communications structure. At that time I departed to our Tent to catch a nap.

At 0620 I got up and went back to the Comm. Tent, started debriefings with Gary. Our call sign was HH2/WX4NHC, which is a mouth full and the call sign is the US National Hurricane Center Call in Miami. We used two YAESU VHF Base Radios, I forgot the model numbers,

One VHF was set on the Maritime Channel 16, the International Hailing Channel, we used that to contact the USNS Comfort, Hospital Ship that was anchored just off shore in the harbor, the other YAESU VHF was on a different freq. And we used that for our 911 Emergency Radio which was a direct voice link to US Customs and Border Patrol (ICE). ICE was just 100 yds out side our gate in their own camp.

We used an Icom 746 PRO, an MFJ tuner and an AMERITRON Solid State 600 watt amplifier, for SSB. It worked like a champ. We were on 14.300 MHz most of the time and I was loud and clear into Miami, also Net Controls in NH and MN had me loud and clear. On the 13 MHz MARS frequency USAF, AFA9AY in Hayward Calif. had me very loud and clear, at 10/9.

The 14.400 MHz was our primary SSB to Miami (Mobil Maritime Net (MMN)). We had scheduled times for checking in for passing voice traffic. We could also call anytime through the day on 14.3MHz for emergency traffic, in the evening we QSY'ed to 7.180 MHz which never worked because of noise.

W3ZU Fred Moore in Inverness FL was our contact, he would relay traffic to the University of Miami VP.s at the Hospital, also Fred would establish phone patches for us to the hospital.



was strung up between two hospital tents. Up at 20 ft at the ends with a droopy sag down to 12 to 14 ft in the middle. It was fed with RG8, in the middle. There also was some type of discone antenna and some one strung a slinky across the tents, but we never used them.

For VHF/UHF we had a 5 ft Comet on a pole about 12 ft which worked just great to contact the USNS Comfort Hospital Ship and radio checks with ICE.

UM/MEDISHARES Emergency Hospital: With Doctors , Staff and volunteers, we were between 300 plus people. Crews would rotate in and out every three of four days. Doctors and Nurses from all over the world were there, saving lives.

US Army, Air Force, United Nations (UN) helicopters and ground vehicles would bring in wounded and dying, day and night. Also Civilian vehicles would bring in patients.

The US 82nd Airborne, USAF, USN, US Border Patrol (ICE) had our security and we needed it. The were all armed with clips in the weapons. We have several incidents during the week that could have escalated into problems , and just the presents of our troops stopped any thought of that.



N1EZZ at the radio in Haiti

We also used an ICOM 718 later, for SSB and used the ICOM PRO for PACTOR III. We had the PACTOR III capability but never used it. Mostly we used the inter net via WINLINK which was always up and working.

Our HF antenna was a Doublet that was broken, and repaired, and it



Our quarters were very nice tents, we only eat MRE's and snacks. It was important to stay hydrated. The only water we had was bottled water brought in via supply charter, or what was donated by the US ARMY, AIR FORCE and ICE. Our supplies were limited.



Hygiene: Open showers, with plywood dividers, so you could shower and chat with the nurse next to you!! We had an open air urinal for the boys and porta potties for every thing else.

Temp: Between 90 and 100 degrees F during the day, 80's at night.

When we departed the camp to be relieved by COMM TEAM #5, we packed up and went back to the airport, while en route, we had another earthquake that knocked out the landing lights at the airport, no flights were now allowed to land till after 830 am. So our inbound relief team #5 was stuck in a holding pattern over Port of Prince, all 160 of us were stuck on the tarmac.

The inbound flight was diverted in to the Dominican Republic , and we started to camp out , outside on the tarmac. A USAF Lt. McKim, whom I known from the Comm Tent, (Technician) came by, with and his men advised that we were stuck on the tarmac until 830 am. Lt McKim kind of smiled, and the next thing we knew, giant tow motors arrived with MRE's and bottled water. After that more giant tow motors arrived with about 200 brand new cots, which the USAF helped us set up.



After everything was set up, we all had MRE's and water, we settled



down for a good nights sleep outside, and the wonderful USAF placed an armed security detail around us all night. At 6:00 am we got up and USAF security helped us take down the cots, pack them up and away they went.

When our Vision Air Charter did take off for Miami, I noticed two humvee's on each side of our aircraft, with armed security that escorted us all the way on taxi way, until our air craft turned onto the take off runway.

God Bless them military kids, I am so proud of all of our Troops in Haiti and around the world.

George, N1EZZ

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in March:

AB8YN	Ray	Czech
AE5WX	Daryl	Stout
K8QF	Russ	Conklin
K8SRR	Steven	Randlett
KB3GXB	Jennifer	Andrews
KD8BHX	Lorraine	Davison
KD8CGF	Arthur	Dembinski

KD8FDK	Richard	Taushanoff
KD8FLU	Linda	Godfrey
KD8JRF	Rodney	Stickle
KJ4MPN	Herschell	Taylor, Jr.
NOJIW	Ralph	Wagnitz
W8KNO	Joe	Wehner
WB8LCD	Tom	Sly
	Richard	Preisendorfer

Renew Your ARRL Membership Through PCARS and Help Save the Planet

If you're not already a member of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio, you really should be. Here are several good reasons for you to join up or renew:

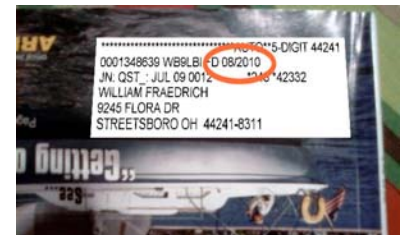
- Ham radio is regulated at the federal level, and we need to be represented to the FCC and Congress. There are any number of interest groups that would love to get their paws on amateur radio frequencies, and the League has done a tremendous job of defending our valuable spectrum.
- At the state level, Emergency Communication efforts are coordinated largely by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). State and local traffic nets are also organized under the League's NTS Structure.
- The monthly QST magazine just keeps on getting better and better. There's something for every ham, every month.
- Tom, WB8LCD is running for Ohio Section Manager. In order to vote, you must be a League Member. You want to help Tom win, don't you?
- Who do you think sponsors Field Day, the biggest operating event in the amateur radio world?

Speaking of Field Day, make your plans to attend on June 26-27th, and also put Antenna Day, May 8th, on your calendar. We encourage every PCARS member to come out to Ravenna City Park and have fun. Field Day is going to be great this year! Robert has a terrific menu planned already. Ed swears he will have the co-station interference problem licked this time. But I digress.

PCARS stands to make a commission if you sign up through the club. It doesn't cost you anything more to sign up this way, and it helps throw a few coins in the club's coffers. That's the "saving the planet" part.

If you aren't already an ARRL member, please contact me and I'll sign you up. \$39 is all it takes for a year.

If you are already a League member, please do me a favor: take a look at a recent QST (you must have a pile of them around somewhere) and check the mailing label for your expiration date. The picture shows where to find your expiration date. Email that date to me, and I'll remind you when it comes renewal time. In fact, why don't you put down this newsletter and get me that information right now. Just STOP READING and CHECK YOUR QST MAILING LABEL. Back already? Good, email me at WB9LBI@PORTCARS.ORG, and I'll take care of the rest. Thanks, and you can finish reading the Radiogram now.



Bill, WB9LBI



Hamfest Report - Mansfield

Sunday the 14th of February, found me up earlier than usual, as I chugged a pot of coffee. I was in a bit of a rush you see, because when you commit to a hamfest with Parky, KB8UUZ and Al, KB8VJL, you had best believe they will be leaving early, and on time.

The guys showed up on the dot at 4:45 am. I climbed aboard, and we were off and rolling to the 2010 Mansfield Hamfest. I would like to say I enjoyed looking at the snow covered houses, fields, and hills, but it was still too dark.

We rolled into the hamfest around 6:45 am, after a brief fuel and breakfast stop, and to our surprise, the parking lot was already half full!!!

We quickly parted ways, in search of our want lists, and other amateur treasures. I headed into the first of three heated buildings, and was immediately in a field of ham eye candy!!! Old stuff, new stuff, ham stuff, computer stuff, lots of good stuff!!! I started searching my pockets for my list of things I came for, and soon realized it was setting next to my coffee mug back home. So with a quietly muttered disappointment expressing word, I took off with just my wits and a few bucks.

It turned out however, that by looking at all the loot, I eventually saw everything on my list, and walked away a happy ham.

Al, KB8VJL was a busy shopper, as he hovered around tables of little gizmo's and widgeits, and found some really good finds for mobile antenna projects, between lots of photo's and the temporary crisis of dead batteries in the camera gizmo. In no time, Al was back up and running with the camera, and it was a good time had by all.

We ran into quite a few fellow PCARS members, all of whom seemed to be in a "happy kid in a candy store" sort of way. Although I did not attend, Jim, KC8PD was hosting a presentation / forum on MARS, which I'm



sure was both informative and fun, for him and all that participated. Tom Sly, WB8LCD was there a day early to attend a function the evening before, and was up early, arriving the same time we did. For anyone not knowing, Tom is running for Ohio Section Manager and as a fellow PCARS member, please show him your support in his efforts, and wish him the best.

All in all, the 2010 Mansfield Hamfest was, in my opinion, well worth the short trip. The vendor turn-out was very good, with a well balanced mixture of both old and new ham gear, and pieces-parts for the do-it-yourselfers. I rate this Hamfest an absolute MUST for next year, and if you missed this one, I'm sorry and don't miss it next year. Although it was cold, the place was full of warm fellowship.

Martin, KD8MBH

More on the Mansfield Hamfest

4 am and trying to clean off the Redd Scrap II windows... but this is not new! Every evening the windows are cleaned off 100% and every morning I have to scrape the snow and ice off before hitting the road. Having three window scrapers in my car, they allow me to match three degrees of Ohio winter WX waiting for me in the mornings. Arrived at Parky's KB8UUZ QTH on time. I transferred to his waiting and warmed up SUV gizmo. We picked up Marty, KD8MBH at 4:45am ON THE DOT!!!! Marty had reset all his clocks to be in sync with WWV to test Parky and I after I told him we don't screw around... when we say be ready to roll at 4:45am... BE READY TO ROLL AT 4:45 AM!!!!!!!!!!!! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA



No ice on the windows this trip. We stopped for a restroom /coffee/ gas fill up at about the half way point which was just before we got on 71 going south. Parky saved about 30 cents per gallon on the gas as the price was that much lower then back home around our area. I did point out to him that it was cheap because they add water to it to lower the costs. I think we were about 50 minutes early and they let us park inside the fairgrounds area this year

instead of waiting in a four hundred car line up outside the locked gates like last year. Matter of fact... we walked inside with many others who also arrived early!

Boy was this a good hamfest!!!! I needed some new replacement AA batteries for my HT and I bought them there. These latest ones are rated as 2,700 mA but they are shown to be have an output well above 3,000 + mA.. Saw many different items and ham radios that would have appealed to many of the hams who stopped in that day. The many items on the tables made that hamfest a well balanced event.

I did take some pictures for our PCARS NEWSLETTER of some of the many the PCARS members who also showed up there. PCARS President Jim, KC8PD was there to give a talk on ARMY MARS and past PCARS president Tom, WB8LCD who is running for ARRL Ohio Section Manager was also there making the rounds.

I had spotted about 15 PCARS members and PCARS friends there at the hamfest and didn't hear one complaint from anyone I had talked to while there. Everyone had a great day at the hamfest!

We stopped for a late breakfast on our return trip back home and still made it back in time for the Daytona Race! It certainly was a win-win day!!!!!!!

Al, KB8VJL

PCARS Yahoo Site

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



EmComm

An interesting topic for discussion on a recent ARES® of Portage County net concerned how amateur radio operators should conduct themselves if they are one of the first persons to come upon a serious traffic accident, structure fire or some similar event, that may need to be reported to appropriate safety forces.

Things like this can happen right in front of us and be quite startling. But first and foremost we need to stay calm and act deliberately, promptly gathering the necessary information and then reporting it. Don't rush headlong into things. Yes, time may be of the essence. But a hurried or rash response could put you or others at risk.

Remember that if you are driving your vehicle the smartest thing to do is to get off the road to a safe spot and then make your radio or phone call. Avoid multi-tasking, i.e., driving, dialing and eyeballing, which will detract from your ability to safely operate your vehicle. Others on the road may be doing the same thing and this could quickly result in collision number two.



Put yourself in a spot where you can assess the situation and gather the necessary information. When you make your call you should be able to provide the specific location of the event. Use street names for intersections, mile markers on the highway, compass directions and/or distant estimates from known landmarks.

Stay on the line in case the dispatcher needs more information. Don't be reluctant to identify yourself or to provide a call-back number.

Don't overstate anything! If you are not sure about something, say so.

Never rush into an accident scene where there may be a fuel spill or release of hazardous materials or you too may be a casualty. Don't put yourself into a risky situation by trying to direct traffic or perform some other task that you are not trained, equipped, or prepared for.

Don't attempt anything other than basic first aid (and only if you truly know what to do) because moving an injured person may cause additional harm to him or her. If they have to be moved out of harm's way, do it carefully. Otherwise, leave it to the first responders. They are trained for this.

You may want to consider programming the phone numbers for your local police and/or fire departments into your cell phones. Calling 911 is always an option but even enhanced 911 systems may not always be able to accurately identify the location of the caller. When you call the local department directly the response will always be faster.

At one time ham radio operators (and, yes, CB'ers) were generally the only average citizens on the road with wireless communications equipment. Now cell phones (those 800 MHz HT's) are ubiquitous. Heck, most of us have them. And the phone just may be the quickest means to report an event. But we are still hams and we pride ourselves on our communication skills. So no matter whether it is by radio or by phone, how we respond should reflect well on our training.

If you don't have a phone or choose to use your ham gear, put out a call on a local repeater by stating "EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" and then standby. If there is a QSO in progress wait for the first break in it and then call. If you cannot find activity on a repeater, try 146.520, the National Calling Frequency, and hopefully someone will hear you. This is a good reminder for all of us to keep that frequency as one that we monitor on a regular basis.

If you get a reply, advise the other ham of the situation and that you need a relay of information. If you know for sure what jurisdiction you are in (city, village, etc.) let that ham know because he or she may be able to find the correct local emergency number. If he or she needs to use 911 they will need to be able to assist the dispatcher in identifying your location.

In sum, remain calm, take the time that you need, collect accurate information and pass it on as concisely and as accurately as possible. You may just save a life.

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



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- March 8th meeting - **APRS** - Matt, W8DEC
- April 1st - **Skywarn Training** - 6:30 pm at Maplewood Career Center
- April 12th meeting - **D-Star Digital Communications** - Neil, N8IL
- May 10th meeting - **AMSAT** - Ed, N8EQJ & Dave, WB2DFC
- May 8th - **Antenna Day** - Ravenna City Park on Oakwood St.



Hamfests

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

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

Skywarn

The annual state-wide tornado drill will be held on March 25th at 9:50 AM on the 145.39 repeater. I will be taking reports from stations in Portage County only as to whether or not the warning sirens are heard at their location and how well. If you work out of the county during this time, I would suggest checking in to the Skywarn net for the particular area you are in at the time.

At its completion, I will prepare a report on the results of the activity and forward it to the National Weather Service in Cleveland. They will survey the results and advise the counties in Ohio how to best rectify any problems in alerting the public during severe weather so your participation is greatly appreciated.



SKYWARN

The National Weather Service will be presenting annual Skywarn Spotter Training on April 1, 2010 at the Maplewood Career Center on State Route 88 in Ravenna starting at 6:30 p.m. The training will encompass identifying various types of weather phenomena, safety tips, safeguards, updated reporting criteria and how to report weather to local authorities.

At its conclusion, all attendees will be issued a Skywarn Spotter ID number and card. Use the number when reporting weather related events to the NWS. If you are already a registered spotter you must bring your current spotter ID card in order to receive credit for the training. While you are expected to attend one of these classes every two years, if you have not attended since 2008 and miss this session, your certification will be invalid until such time you attend a 2010 training session.

You do not need to be registered Skywarn spotter to make a report to the NWS. Anyone can do that. But the training is very useful so that you know what to look for and what needs to be reported.

The training is free and open to the public so also invite your friends and neighbors to attend as well. The class will last approximately 2 hours. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me via email at wb8yyys@arrl.net.

73,

Gregg, WB8YYs
AEC, ARES® of Portage County
Skywarn

Paper Chase

With the reports of better conditions and the number of members reporting contacts with stations in Europe, here is an award that is not easy but easier during March.

The Worked EI Counties (“WEIC”) Award is for working stations located in the different counties of Ireland. The original rules and conditions for the WEIC Award were drawn up and proposed by Michael



McNamara EI2CL in 1982-83, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the IRTS in 1932. From its beginning, the award was managed by Michael McNamara. After several years Sean Donelan EI4GK took over the job; currently it is managed by Sean Nolan EI7CD.

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

The WEIC award, issued by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, is available to licensed amateurs worldwide who have worked stations located in different counties of Ireland (EI/EJ). A claim for the WEIC Award must be accompanied by a certified log extract, to include date, time, frequency, mode, station worked and its county. Contacts made only on or after January 1st 1982 are valid.

There will be a charge of US \$10.00 for the award. Band endorsements will be available at the time of first application. A separate "All 26" sticker will be available for confirmation with all 26 counties. Requirements: Work 20 of the 26 EI/EJ Counties. Certified log extract - the log extract should be certified as a correct extract from the claimant's log by an officer of a Radio Club or by two licensed radio amateurs / experimenters.

The 26 EI Counties are: Carlow Cavan Clare Cork Donegal Dublin Galway Kerry Kildare Kilkenney Laois Leitrim Limerick Longford Louth Mayo Meath Monaghan Offaly Roscommon Sligo Tipperary Waterford Westmeath Wexford Wicklow

Look for the rarer Irish counties to be activated each St. Patrick's Day (17 March) by the IRTS. Hams with an Irish ancestry can join IRTS as honorary members. Mail GCR list and fee : IRTS Award Manager, Box 462, Dublin 9, Ireland.

Erin go bragh!
Joe, W8KNO



Of Dipoles and Feathers

Although it is now late February I wanted to tell everyone of the unique encounter I had with some visitors. These were of the bird kind, large hunting kind, our national bird. Yes BALD EAGLES. Newton Falls is situated on the Mahoning River (the end of my street), and between 3 state parks and a reservoir so we usually see a bald eagle every so often. It was on January 26th around 10:00 am I was working on my 80 meter dipole when I saw a very large brown bird in the distance.

At first I thought it was a hawk as we have many of them in a small rural town. I then realized that there was a second large bird not far behind. As they approached I could see that the two had white heads and tails. I had

been pulling rope through my tree for my dipole, and I was making the branches sway heavily. Since it is winter time and most of the waters are now ice, large birds of prey take whatever they can for food, including squirrels as I have read. This is the only reason I could think of why they would seem so interested in my tree and dipole.



I really wanted to run in the house and get my camera but I did not want to miss anything. I also did not want one of our cats to sneak out the door and become eagle food! The first bald eagle (the larger of the two) circled around my house about 6 times, and seemed to have a great interest in the dipole that I was pulling up.

Suddenly she swooped down for a close up flying right next to the balun and wires. This greatly concerned me as I did not want them to get tangled up in the wire and become injured. This eagle could not have been more than 25 feet away from me when she did this! She then took off and let the other bald eagle in. He only flew around the house and tree

twice but never went by the dipole. They both then flew together around our street a few times before heading off in a south easterly direction (toward Lake Milton). I hope they found what they were looking for, food I am guessing. Humm, I think I am going to need a much bigger bird feeder.

So keep an eye out when your hanging your favorite wire. You never know who or what will come and inspect it!

Mike, KC8UNR



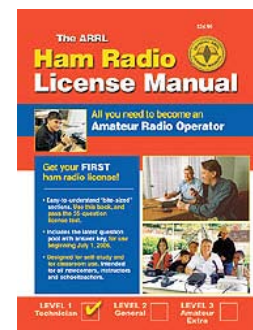
Spring Technician Class

It's that time of year again. Right on the heels of finishing the General upgrade class we will be starting the tenth edition of the PCARS Technician course on Tuesday March 23rd. Russ, KB8DPN, Tom, WB8LCD, and myself find it hard to believe that this will be our tenth time teaching the course but it has been a lot of fun and a great way to welcome new hams to the hobby.

The class runs for eight weeks and the final evening will be a VE session. The class will be held at the PCARS club site and the cost is twenty-five dollars which also includes a one year membership in PCARS! If the student is a member of the family of a PCARS member, the cost is only ten dollars. We will be using the current edition of the ARRL Technician Manual and books will be available for purchase at a cost of \$25.

The class will start at 7:00 p.m. and run till around nine or so each evening. PCARS members are always invited to stop by and share their comments and insights about ham radio.

So if you know anyone who has been thinking about getting licensed make sure that you tell him or her about the class. Remember that the Technician question pool will be changing after July 1, 2010.



Anyone who is interested can contact me at aylwardjim@aol.com or 330-297-7979.

Jim, KC8PD



PCARS Thursday Net Control

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

March	
4	N8XTH
11	KD8VT
18	KC8PD - St Pat's Day plus 1
25	WB2DFC



May	
6	KC8PD
13	N8XTH - Hamvention Week
20	WB2DFC - On his NEW radio
27	N8QE - Full Moon



April	
1	N8QE - April Fools Day
8	W8PT
15	KB8UUZ - Tax Day
22	WB8LCD - Earth Day
29	N8EQJ



June	
3	W8PT
10	N8RLG
17	KB8UUZ
24	WB8LCD - 1st week of Summer

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

Tom WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator



FYAO Preparations



What would FYAO be without good Chili? Here's a shot of Mike, WB8VYW stirring the pot in my kitchen Friday evening in preparation for Freeze Your Acorns Off on Saturday - Feb 27th.

Pictures from FYAO will be in next month's newsletter.

73 for now,

Tom, WB8LCD



Some Words From Weaver

ARRL Board Adopts Position on 97.113

Throughout the past several months there has been much discussion over the desirability of allowing employee-hams to perform training and emergency communications work for their employers. The FCC has responded to this discussion by liberalizing part 97.113 of the Amateur Radio rules and allowing exceptions to the rule for government-sponsored drills. Rather than have the Commission announce rulemaking in the area without first receiving Amateur Radio input, the Board developed a proposed modification of current rule.

Before taking action, the directors studied a report by a special committee that was established at the Board meeting last July. The committee reviewed 97.113 to determine the possible actions the Board might wish to take. Three basic actions, including suggesting no change in the rule, were presented to the directors. Petitioning for a change was the action we chose following a healthy debate. We voted unanimously to modify 97.113 (3) to read:

"(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer, except that the station licensee or control operator may, on behalf of an employer, participate in emergency preparedness and disaster drills that include Amateur operations for the purpose of emergency response, disaster relief or the testing and maintenance of equipment used for that purpose. Amateur operators may, however . . ."

Ohio PRB-1 Bill has Hearing

Ohio State House of Representatives bill HB 212 received its second hearing by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee on January 19. Section Manager (SM) Frank Piper, KI8GW, State Government Liaison Nick Pitner, K8AP and bill ramrod Assistant SM Steve Katz, N8WL headed the group that provided testimony on behalf of the bill. The legislation awaits its third hearing after which it is expected to be released to the floor of the House for action.

A companion bill was introduced into the Senate in December and is awaiting further action.

Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK and his legislative team are also working a PRB-1 bill through the Michigan House.

ARRL Receiving Applications for EPR Manager

The ARRL continues to solicit applications for the open position of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Manager. Several applications have already been received.

The job is based at ARRL HQ in Newington, CT. The successful applicant will represent the League with government and non-government emergency and disaster response organizations and partners for planning, continuity and operational purposes.

Requirements for the position include holding a General Class or higher amateur license, having a minimum of 5 years experience in ARES® or equivalent and hold a Bachelor-level or higher degree. For further requirements and a description of the EPR Manager position, go to <http://www.arrl.org/announce/jobs/>. Interested amateurs should follow the instructions on the Internet notice to apply.

Assistant to EPR Manager Authorized

Not content with obtaining a new Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Manager, the ARRL Board authorized a new position to support the this manager. The new position will be filled after the new EPR Manager has been able to determine the form of support needed.

Williams Appointed to ECAC

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK to represent the Great Lakes Division on the ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC).

The ECAC was established by the ARRL Board of Directors at its January meeting. As is true of other ARRL advisory committees, the ECAC will be composed of one representative from each of the 15 ARRL Divisions. This is the first ARRL advisory committee that is open to section managers as well as typical League members. Dale was among several qualified candidates considered for the post.

Thanks to Dale for his willingness to assist. I also thank other candidates who stood ready to serve.

The ECAC will advise the Board and HQ on matters related to multi-regional and nationwide emergency response planning.

New MOU with Red Cross Offers Much

The new MOU between Red Cross and ARRL does much more than include an agreement to support RC and to acknowledge the appropriateness of criminal background checks for its ham supporters. When it is signed by both organizations it will provide a clear distinction between amateurs as official Red Cross volunteers and amateurs as partners but not RC volunteers. This should be a very helpful distinction. Basically it means that amateurs can provide volunteer communications support to the community through RC without becoming RC volunteers if this is what they choose.

Why is this potentially an important distinction?

It has been my personal experience that RC chapter officials typically conclude anyone who provides support to them is a RC volunteer. This conclusion may be justifiable for "the man on the street" who walks in to a chapter house and says he wants to help. On the other hand, the conclusion may or may not be accurate regarding individual members of an ARES(TM) unit that also offers to help. The ARES member may, in fact, be volunteering to support ARES in its assistance to RC, but not be interested in being a RC volunteer.



One important feature of the new MOU is that it clearly distinguishes between ARES members and RC volunteers. ARRL and ARES are referred to as partners and in similar terms, not as RC volunteers. The MOU solidifies this distinction even further when it agrees that ARES amateurs should be encouraged to become RC volunteers and that RC amateurs who do not belong to ARRL/ARES should be encouraged to join these organizations.

Again, why is this distinction important?

As a RC volunteer, an individual may be required to sign certain agreements that are not required if the individual is not a RC volunteer. One agreement is the Intellectual Property Agreement that basically gives the RC first rights to ideas, inventions, developments, and other property developed by the individual even though these were not developed for Red Cross or as a direct result of being a RC volunteer. Those of you who work for major corporations may have signed a similar agreement with your employer to get a job and earn a living.

I am aware of at least one local Chapter for which the Intellectual Property Agreement is a big issue. Many ARES members in its service area are very reluctant to sign the agreement, but are equally interested in providing valuable service to the community through the RC. They view the situation as being one of lose-lose.

Because the new MOU recognizes that ARES members do not need to become Red Cross volunteers, it should not be necessary for amateurs who choose not to be RC volunteers to sign the agreement. This same philosophy will apply to other requirements of RC volunteers.

Unfortunately, it may be necessary to wait until the new MOU is published to convince many RC chapter managers that radio operators are not required to become RC volunteers and, therefore, are not required to sign these agreements.

One final thought. Becoming an official RC volunteer may not be one-sided. This may depend on the specific chapter, but some chapters reimburse their volunteers (including amateurs) for certain expenses while performing RC duties. It would be justifiable for these reimbursements not to be offered to hams who choose not to be RC volunteers.

Destroy Applications for Obsolete Credit Cards

Individual amateurs and hamfest officials who have applications for ARRL credit cards that were distributed before February 22 please note. Toss these applications in the trash. Better still, put them in the paper recycle bin. These applications were made obsolete by the new credit card laws.

Jim, K8JE
Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division



POZIDRIV ?

Ever have problems removing a Phillips head screw? The driver just seems not to grip and pops up out of the screw? Maybe it's not a Phillips head screw.



To quote the HP manual: "Pozidriv Screwdrivers. Many screws in the Signal Generator appear to be Phillips type, but they are not. To avoid damage to the screw slots, Pozidriv screwdrivers should be used. HP 8710-0899 is the No.1 Pozidriv. HP 8710-090 is the No.2 Pozidriv." Additionally, most Pozidriv screws have a small dimple, or circle, on the head.



GE Master 2 radios used these extensively, as did HP test instruments. The drivers and bits are usually marked "PZ1", "PZ2", or "Z1", "Z2". The larger sets of bits usually contain them along with the standard Phillips "P1", "P2".

Jim, N8PXW



Have you ever tried the Digital Modes?



I got curious one evening and downloaded some free software called MMVARI found at www.mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca. The setup was pretty simple. I ran a patch cord from the headphone jack on my radio to the input of the soundcard in my computer. Within a few minutes, I was looking at a "waterfall" and text scrolling across my monitor. I watched QSO after QSO. It didn't take long until I realized I could "hear" DX countries that I couldn't hear on phone after dark, which seems to fall so early in the winter. This made me want to participate in this digital magic.

So I made another patch cord to run from the soundcard output to my radio microphone input. I hooked the transceiver to the dummy load and tuned a portable receiver to the frequency of the transmitter. To my disappointment, I heard 100 watts of nasty computer noise on the receiver. I guess if I want to get on digital, I'll have to buy one of those interface devices.

Several suppliers have a popular model for \$100. I don't want to spend a hundred bucks on something I'm just curious about. So I started thinking about how to isolate the computer from the radio. I fooled around with some capacitors inline between radio and computer, but found that a small isolation transformer worked best. Since Radio Shack no longer carries these, I got online to www.jameco.com and ordered two of their part number 125357 transformers for \$2.25 each.

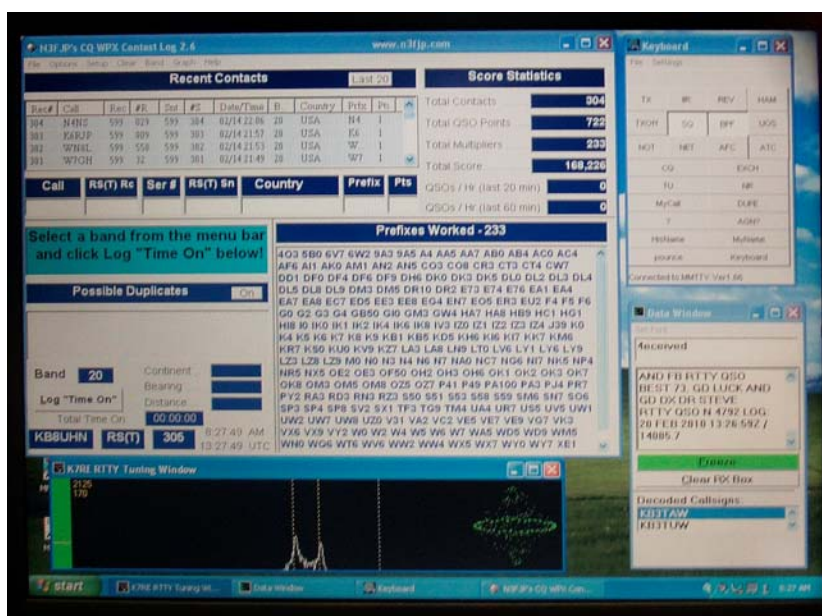
When they came in the mail, I soldered them to a small perf board, soldered patch cords to both sides of the transformers, and tried it out. This time I got seven tenths of a watt of computer noise into the dummy load. It was that simple. Put isolation transformers inline between computer and radio. Much better. But does it work?

I was quite nervous at first. Not knowing if this is going to work, plus, I never learned how to type. More on that later. I tuned to 14.080 PSK31 and watched some QSO's. Finally, I got the nerve to hit the transmit button and talked to a Emmanuel TG9AHM in Guatemala. Then Ricardo CO1RG in Cuba. Both gave me a fine report. perfect copy.

Excited as I was, I added some 1/8 inch phone jacks for external mic, speaker and PTT jack for a foot pedal. Enclosed in a project box nice and tidy.

Now, about the typing problem. I finished this project in time to participate in the CQ-WPX-RTTY contest. I found some RTTY contest software called K7RE (www.k7re.net) which easily interfaces with the N3FJP logger and the MMTTY RTTY engine. The K7RE software has macro buttons that you can program with your call sign, contest exchange information, or anything you want. I worked almost the entire contest with clicks of the mouse. I made 304 contacts including Australia and Oman.

I've worked RTTY, PSK31, and SSTV so far. The mic jack was added for phone contesting. The N3FJP software has a "voice keyer" in which you can record your call (or CQ contest) and save your voice. With the touch of a button, you can transmit the recording through the isolator.



The picture shows the isolator, an isolation transformer, the RS232 plug for PTT. (you can get the schematic for the PTT switch on the MMTTY page. It's a simple transistor switch housed inside the RS232 hood.). It also shows a docking hub which I also bought at Jameco. It plugs into your USB and gives you a mouse and keyboard input, RS232, parallel port and four USB ports. You can also see one of the pigtails that I made for my mic connectors. I have three radios all with different MIC/PTT configurations, so I made these connectors to come out and connect to 1/8 inch phone plugs.

So if you ever get curious about the digital modes, build this isolator for 10 or 15 dollars and try it out. It doesn't have to be fancy. Just get two patch cords, cut them in half and put the transformers between them. If you are curious about contesting, try the next digital contest. Kick back in your easy chair and let your mouse work the contest for you.

John, KB8UHN



IARU Region 2 Award

In October 2009, IARU's Region 2 announced a new award - the IARU Region 2 Award - available to amateurs and shortwave listeners who submit confirmed QSLs with 20 Region 2 countries or entities. To be considered for the award, contacts must have been made after April 16, 1964 - the date when IARU Region 2 was founded.

US applicants must submit QSL cards -- along with the application and certification form (<http://www.iaru-r2.org/wp-content/uploads/r2-award-form.pdf>) to either the ARRL Awards Branch or ARRL Card Checkers for certification; non-US hams must submit their cards, application and certification form to their IARU Member Society to be approved. Applicants will also need to provide an envelope with sufficient postage affixed so the person checking the cards can forward the application and supporting materials to the IARU Region 2 Awards Manager in Venezuela (from the US, postage is approximately 98 cents).

Applicants may also submit photocopies of the QSL cards (front and back) that have been authenticated by both the applicant and an appointee of the ham's IARU Member-Society, or the original QSLs (no authentications necessary) to the IARU Region 2 Awards Manager. Both methods require sending the application form.

The IARU Region 2 Award Manager may request the presentation of one, several or all the QSLs together with the application. Electronic QSLs -- such as Logbook of The World (LoTW) or eQSL -- can not be used for this award.

Contacts can be made using the following bands: 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. You can make all your contacts on one band, or mix it up and use them all -- it's up to you. Contacts can be made using phone, CW, digital or satellite modes. But keep in mind that all contacts must be made from the same location using any official call letters that belong to the applicant (including special licenses for contests or events) and must be bilateral or two-way. Contacts in crossed modes and/or bands will not be accepted, except for satellite mode.

So get out those QSL cards and see if you have at least 20 from IARU Region 2 countries or entities: Anguilla, Antigua y Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucie, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turk & Caicos Islands, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

If you have any questions regarding the IARU Region 2 Award, submit them via e-mail to the IARU Region 2 Awards Manager: awardmanager@iaru-r2.org.



ARRL - Contact Newsletter

PCARS Patches & Stickers



PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!!

Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket. The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting.



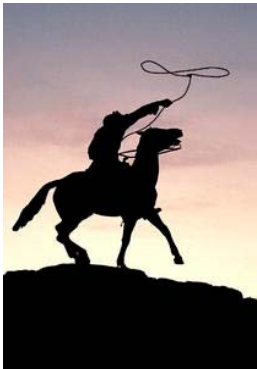
There are 2 types of stickers available. A 4"x6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each.



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

Rookie Roundup - Contest

Calling All Rookies -- and Non-Rookies, Too! Get On the Air for the ARRL Rookie Roundup. The ARRL Rookie Roundup is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio, similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995. The Rookie Roundup brings the fun and Elmering of the old Novice Roundup into the 21st century. Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December. Time period: 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. 18 April = SSB, 15 August = RTTY, 19 December = CW.



The Rookie Roundup will be scored 100 percent in real time through the www.getscores.org scoring system. There are three ways to participate: by using your favorite logging software with the real time scoring support, by downloading a simple logging program from the www.getscores.org Web site or by logging your contacts directly into a www.getscores.org Web page. No separate logs are required -- it all happens online in real time and final scores will be available online within hours of the end of the contest! More information is available on all of these options at www.getscores.org. Of course, you can get on the air and make contacts without logging them, but you won't have as much fun!

Who Can Participate?

Any ham licensed for 3 years or less qualifies as a Rookie. If you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, you can compete in the 2010 Rookie Roundup. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies, while Rookies may work everybody. A major part of the success of this contest will be non-Rookies getting on the air and working the Rookies, just as in the Novice Roundup. Just like in the Novice Roundups of years past (when Novices could work anyone and non-Novices could only work Novices), Rookies may work anyone, be they Rookie or non-Rookie; however, non-Rookies are limited to only working Rookies.

Entry Categories

Single Operator Rookie, limited to a maximum of 100 W. Spotting assistance or using call sign and frequency alerting systems is allowed, but self-spotting or asking somebody to spot you is not. All Rookies must identify themselves as a rookie. Example: "Kilo Bravo One Quebec Alfa Whiskey, Rookie." Non-Rookies only need give their call; no designation is needed.

Awards

Certificates will be available for all participants to download. The top five high scores from each US call area, Canadian province and Mexican call area will be recognized on their certificate. No national winners will be recognized.

Go to www.getscores.org for more information on how to participate. Be sure to check out the April 2010 issue of QST for complete rules and other information. The Rookie Roundup -- a fun event for all amateurs! Time period: 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. 18 April = SSB, 15 August = RTTY, 19 December = CW

To read the rules, goto: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/rr.html>

From the ARRL



PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

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

VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10:00 am at the **Center of Hope**: 1034 West Main St. in Ravenna. Walk-ins are always welcome. *Please* bring your original license, a copy of your license, your FRN number if you are already licensed or registered with the FCC (or your SSN number if you're not registered), your original CSCE (if you have one), a copy of your CSCE (if you have one), a photo ID, and \$15.00 in cash or a check for \$15.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC". We look forward to seeing you there!!!!



Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Team Liaison



Snowbound VE Session

One of the newest members of the PCARS VE team, Jim, KE8G, sent me an e-mail on Friday, February 5th, asking if the VE session for the next day would be canceled due to the dire weather forecast. I replied telling him that we had never canceled a session but not to worry if he couldn't make it. Why risk the drive down from Parma when we always had plenty of VE's? Plus, I guessed that things would be okay because the forecast for our immediate area was only two to four inches of snow and even less to the north.

Boy, was I wrong.

By the morning of Saturday February 6th about fourteen inches of fresh snow had been dumped on Ravenna. Northeast Ohio was supposed to be on the fringe of the massive storm moving through the Mid-Atlantic states but the system moved a bit further north than expected and our area got clobbered.

While I was out clearing the driveway around 7:30 Saturday morning and looking at our road that remained unplowed I thought "this is crazy, no one should be coming out for a VE session in this weather." So I went in the house and called Tom, WB8LCD, who could not get out of his drive, and we decided that the safe decision was to cancel the testing. We hate to disappoint anyone who was hoping to test, but there are limits.

I sent an e-mail out to Jim, KE8G, and another note to the entire team advising that the session was canceled and then followed up with phone calls to each of them. Only one or two had actually thought about trying to drive to the Center of Hope. Two people had called about taking the Tech test so I called them to advise that the session was off. Al, WA8CCU, who was hoping to take the Amateur Extra test called and I told him to stay home.

Things seemed okay until around 10:00 when Jim, KE8G, telephoned. He was at the Center of Hope looking for the rest of us. He had left his home early and had missed the e-mail. He took the news in good spirits and said that his wife Claire had ridden down with him and that they would probably stop at Aurora Farms for some shopping on the way home. All seemed fine.

A few minutes later Jim called back. Unbeknownst to him, Claire had been studying for her Technician license and planned to surprise him by taking the test that morning. She was crushed. Could we still do something that day, she asked?

With that the phone calls started and both Russ, KB8DPN, and Mike, KD8FLZ, said that they could be there at noon. The Tech test was back on! Calls went out to the other two prospective hams and both said that they would be there. By noon the sun was shining, the Center of Hope lot had been plowed, and we were all there and ready to go when Al, WA8CCU, called to ask if could also come also come down for the test. KE8G who is an Extra readily agreed to stay so that he could be the third VE for Al's exam.

We are happy to report that both Clair, KD8NCD, and Al passed their tests. Even if the sun hadn't been shining, their broad smiles would have melted the snow for the drive home.

Jim, KC8PD

March Contest Calendar

March, 2010	
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 6 to 2400Z, Mar 7
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 13 to 1600Z, Mar 14
Elecraft QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 13 to 1800Z, Mar 14
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 13 to 1900Z, Mar 14
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 14
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0100Z, Mar 15
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 20
Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 20 to 0100Z, Mar 21 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 21
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 20 to 1800Z, Mar 21
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 20 to 0100Z, Mar 22
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 27 to 2359Z, Mar 28

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

Mail Order Karma (Ninja QSLing)

I like QSLing. There, I've said it. In this, as in so much of life, not everyone agrees with me. Some Hams consider it the Darkside of Radio; a drudgery, not a delight; a job, not a joy; labor, not leisure. I find it challenging and satisfying and rewarding. QSLing is one of the most enjoyable aspects of Ham Radio for me. Before you shake your head and turn the page, let me point out that many things in life can be transformed entirely by a small change in perspective. I hope to share with you some thoughts about QSLing that may change your perspective on the ritual of exchanging rectangular pieces of solidified wood pulp.

I have lots of QSL cards and I like to just go through them and remember the excitement of the initial contact. It's like holding a tangible memoir of the QSO. It seems like a more concrete connection for both of us to have taken the time to fill out a card and send it off. I always put at least a short handwritten comment on each card, and I always sign them. It's like sending out little packets of positive Karma. These days I don't automatically send out cards for repeat contacts, but I will always send a card if requested. I'm a new ham, but the old-timers saying of "the final courtesy" certainly rings true to me.

Another appealing aspect for me is that I have a very efficient system for QSLs. Largely because of the automation of the DXLab software, and my finely honed procedures (hey, I've had a lot of practice!), I can really crank out some mail. I always joke at the Post Office that they should give away free Ham radios, and they would come out way ahead on the postage. When I decided to pursue my Worked All US Counties, I needed to send out about 600 domestic cards in order to get counties confirmed. It was very satisfying to me to be able to efficiently generate those. I guess it's just the engineer in me! My return rate is also pretty good; it really helps that I have antique postcards of the Goodyear Blimp for cards. We found them in an old file cabinet in the Club Shack at work and people just seem to love those cards!

I also save all the envelopes for the DX cards. The stamps are interesting to me. They often show the most prominent feature of a country, or a famous person or political leader. I intend to learn more about the stamps and perhaps figure out how best to catalogue them as time allows. I think that would make an excellent new hobby for me, as soon as I find an extra minute to start.

Sometimes, the thrill is in the difficulty of the chase. For instance, lately I have been trying to close the loop on my Worked All Zones (WAZ) award. The one zone which has eluded me has been #22 – the subcontinent of India. There are quite a few hams on in VU-land, but I can never even hear them with my modest antennas, let alone complete a QSO. Then, suddenly, during one of those recent rare but becoming more common 17M openings, I hear VU2PAI on CW, and I hear him pretty well. Wow! The first time I've ever even heard India – this guy must have a terrific antenna farm. I go back to him and discover that most of the USA has also discovered him. The pileup is terrific and I am in the thick of it. I zig, I zag, I try to anticipate his next move, but his pattern isn't very regular. This is becoming the norm lately for well-equipped Hams; they have a bandscope, either in their radio, or on their computer, and they just click on a strong signal, which gives me no pattern at all to follow. So I try to find a quieter frequency in the middle of the pack and call after each completed QSO. An hour and a half into the battle and I'm pretty discouraged; the Big Guns are getting through but I seem to be wasting my time. I can't walk away, though, because this is INDIA, my last Zone!!! I am hitting the macro key, but hardly listening anymore – the situation seems hopeless. Then, unbelievable – I hear my call coming back – at least most of it – apparently I'm not getting through that well. I send my call 3 more times and a signal report. He comes back with my complete call and a report. He calls QRZ while I dance across the living room shouting at my wife and daughter, "India, India, India, India". They just shake their heads and turn back to the TV.

Now, for most hams that is where the adventure ends, but did I mention that I like QSLing?? I realize that this guy is the loudest signal coming out of India. He also has a PO Box as a QSL address. His profile on QRZ.com says that sometimes he has trouble because the QSL cards don't get through to him. I figure from all of this that he is getting a ton of QSL requests, and getting my card from him might take longer than I can stand. I can't bear the thought of my lonely card being at the bottom of a huge sack of QSL requests, waiting forlornly for whenever he might have time to catch up on his paperwork. That's when I decided to go all the way, all the way to Ninja QSL. It's time to pull out all the stops!

I have quite a few Indian friends at work. I start canvassing them for information about the city where VU2PAI lives (Mangalore). I find 2 friends with connections, and I work them both in parallel. Nishant knows an Indian dentist here in Akron, who will be returning to India this month for a visit – and his family is in the same city as VU2PAI. The dentist also has bought Ham gear in the US for hams back in India and taken it over to them – so he is connected to the Ham

radio community in the city where VU2PAI lives – the odds against this are practically infinite. I get my card and self-addressed envelope to Nishant who assures me that his friend the dentist can deliver the card in person.

Phaniraj is another Indian who is in my group; he tells me that his brother is a University Professor just outside the same town. He offers to mail my card to his brother, and have his brother send the card over by registered mail from about 15 miles away. I figure this is also an excellent way to stand out from the crowd and keep from becoming another anonymous card in the huge stack of QSL requests. I now have a 2 front war going, and I am spending more time working this QSL than I am spending on the air.

I wait excitedly for news for the next 2 weeks. Meanwhile, I email VU2PAI asking for confirmation of the QSO. He doesn't reply, and I continue to fret about whether I am really in his log. Phaniraj confirms that his brother has sent the Registered Mail, and the dentist has left for India. Now I can only wait.

That Saturday, one month after the original QSO with VU2PAI, I am on the radio when I see a spot for him on 15M. I go up on 15, and I can hear him! The only 2 times I have ever heard India, and it was VU2PAI both times. Again, I can only imagine the antennas that are at the other end of that transmission. I jump in the pileup and start working. I find a nice quiet spot in the middle and try to get through. Then it happens – this was actually in Morse code, but I'll give you the character version of what I heard.

AI (short pause), AI (short pause), (series of dots) (long pause – I was getting pretty freaked out by now - seemed like a year, was probably 10 seconds). Then: AI8P got your card today.

I responded R R R, too stunned to think of anything else, we exchanged reports, and he returned to the pileup.

WOW! What are the odds? I think the pause was while he figured out where he had put my card so he could check that it really was the same call. So my 2nd ever contact with India was the same guy on the exact day that he received my QSL card for the first contact. I definitely think that I made an impression and will not be an anonymous card at the bottom of the stack. In fact, I got my card from him about a week later, so he must have filled it out and sent it pretty soon after our 2nd contact. I asked Nishant to call off the dentist, since Phaniraj's brother's Registered Mail had done the trick. Meanwhile, I started filling out the WAZ paperwork. Soon after arriving at my QTH, my precious card from India joined 39 other cards on a trip to Mississippi, where WAZ #8635 was awarded (I can't believe there have been less than 9000 WAZ awarded!).

So, for this QSO, which was more exciting, the QSO or the QSL? Which was more challenging? Which was more satisfying? Which was the greater Karma?

I leave you with the thought that perhaps QSL cards can be more than drudgery, perhaps they can significantly enhance the Ham experience. They do for me, anyway; your mileage may vary.

Dennis, AI8P

Editor's Note: Dennis sent this in, he originally posted it on E-Ham, if you want to leave a comment visit: <http://www.eham.net/articles/22930>

Stark County VHF QSO Party



Make as many contacts as you can on 2 Meter FM Simplex!

Stark County contacts are worth **2 Pts**,

all others are worth **1 Pt!**

36 Multipliers!

3 Bonus Stations Will Be On The Air!

Sponsored by:

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Download Entry forms, Rules, and Information at: www.w8lky.org,

or

e-mail: 2mcontest@w8lky.org!

Ham License Plates Wanted

Dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station.

We have 29 plates up on the wall now, but we can use more!

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



Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Heavy Duty Ball Mount & Whips: Want to work mobile?? I have come across a supply of "new - old stock" items from the now defunct Antenna Specialists, formerly of Solon, OH. You can get a heavy duty ball mount, with stainless spring and 96" stainless whip, all for just \$30.00. Let me know how many you want. [exp 3/25/10]

FOR SALE: New, Belden 9913, RG8U coaxial cable. In the AES catalog it costs \$99.99 for 100'. My price is \$75 for 100', and I won't charge any wretched taxes or shipping! If you want any, let me know and we'll work it out. [exp 3/25/10]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Coax & Connectors:

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

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

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

New Andrew L4TNM-PS, N-male Positive Stop connector for Andrew LDF4-50A 1/2" Helix® \$15.00 each (6 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew L4PNM-RC, Older style heavy duty premium N-male connector for Andrew LDF4-50A 1/2" Helix®, these are out of the package as they were used for training but were never installed on any cable. \$15.00 pair [exp 3/25/10]

New Andrew L4TDMV2-C, DIN-male connector for Andrew LDF4-50A 1/2" Helix® @ \$15.00 each (6 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

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

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

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

Andrew L6TDM, DIN-male connector for Andrew LDF6-50A 1 1/4" Helix® \$20.00 each (9 Available) [exp 3/25/10]

94 Feet of New Andrew 1/2" Helix® with one N-male connector installed \$100.00 [exp 3/25/10]

84 Feet of New Andrew 1/2" Helix® \$84.00; **74 Feet of New Andrew 1/2" Helix®** \$74.00 [exp 3/25/10]

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

553 Feet of New RFS FLCH114-50A, 1 1/4" Helix® with one New N-female connector \$1000.00 [exp 3/25/10]

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

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

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

W8KNO Winner - South Carolina QSO Party



If you missed last month's meeting. You missed seeing Chuck, W8PT, standing in as a presenter for the Columbia Amateur Radio Club. Chuck presented the plaque for being first place non-South Carolina for the 2009 South Carolina QSO Party. I mentioned that I had been participating since 2002 when the QSO Party was restarted and he was extremely happy to receive the award and thanks Kevin, K4NWS, for the mobile contacts from 13 counties. I also encourage everyone to get on the air and have fun.

Joe, W8KNO



CW - no, not Country & Western.....

I had the opportunity to speak on **The Entire History of Morse Code (That I Could Steal Off the Internet)** at the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association club meeting that was held on February 23rd. The presentation covered the early history of Morse Code and the people behind it, showed off vintage CW equipment in actual operation, and demonstrated the latest software for CW contesting. I also laid out several good reasons why 21st century hams should consider getting involved in a 19th century communications mode.

I did not actually speak during this presentation, but delivered the entire presentation in Morse Code at about 20 words per minute instead of 120 or so PowerPoint slides. It took about an hour, so people in the audience just tried to smile and nod politely.

When I did this presentation at Lake County ARA, Rick N8BY in Painesville said that KI8U got fed up and started to heckle him, I got sore and bashed Dennis in the head with a Vibroplex. That woke everyone up real fast.

Bill, WB9LBI

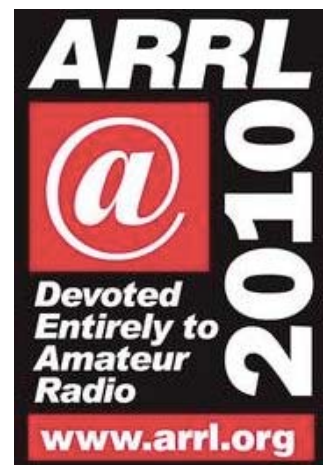
Editor's note: PCARS Treasurer, Bill, WB9LBI is a Net Control station for the Ohio Section CW traffic net, an instructor on the Maryland Slow Net, and Net Control station for the Tri-County Traffic Training Net on the 147.015 repeater. On Field Day, you'll find him holding down the CW station for PCARS. **Country music fans** may remember him as an air personality for WGAR for almost 20 years.



Launch of New ARRL Web Site Delayed to "Get it Right"

After meeting with ARRL staff on February 23 -- two days before the new ARRL Web site was to launch -- ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, made the decision to delay the unveiling of the Web site until late March. "Work on the new ARRL Web site has progressed at a frantic pace but there are still some potential 'bugs' that could affect members. We need to be sure we get it right," Kramer said. "Our members' security, information and ability to actually use of all the options on the new site outweigh any rush to meet an artificial deadline. It's just good customer service."

The new Web site -- which will contain the online store, class registrations, audio, video, DXCC information, contest data, individualized member options and other 21st century opportunities for members -- is one of the largest technology upgrade activities that ARRL and Fathom, the company programming the site, have ever undertaken. "Reviewers have been unanimously impressed and are helping make sure we create the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible," Kramer explained.

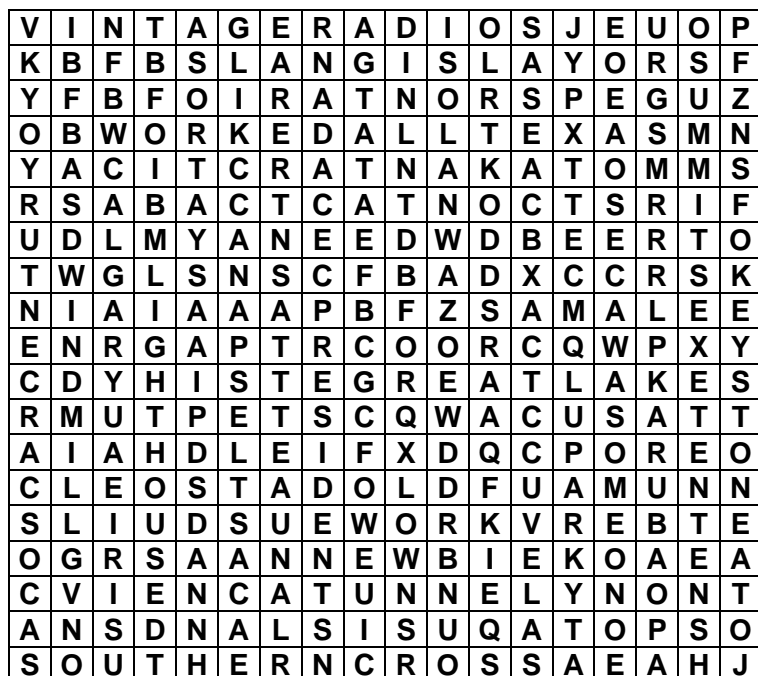


According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the current ARRL Web site is not only used by ARRL members, but is a prime reference source for engineers, hams and wireless technicians around the world, making it the premier place to find information about Amateur Radio, its activities and the sciences behind it. "The Web is our main face to the world, and the new Web site will be fantastic," he said. "Although we all regret the delay, I believe our members will appreciate our diligence about the ease of use, security and navigation for the new site."

from the ARRL



Word Search - AWARDs



AMSAT
 ANTARCTICA
 ARUBA
 CALGARY
 CASTLES
 CQ DX FIELD
 CQ WAC USA
 CQ WPX
 DIG
 DOK
 DXCC
 FIRST CONTACT
 GREAT LAKES
 IOTA
 KEYSTONE
 LIGHTHOUSE
 ONTARIO
 OSCAR CENTURY
 OSPOTA

PRESIDENTS
 RCC
 ROYAL SIGNALS
 SOUTHERN CROSS
 STATE CAPITALS
 SUMMITS
 TEN TEN
 TUNNEL
 US ISLANDS
 VINTAGE RADIO
 VK
 VUCC
 WAC
 WAS
 WAZ
 WINDMILL
 WORKED ALL TEXAS

Tom, KB8UUZ

PCARS Meetings

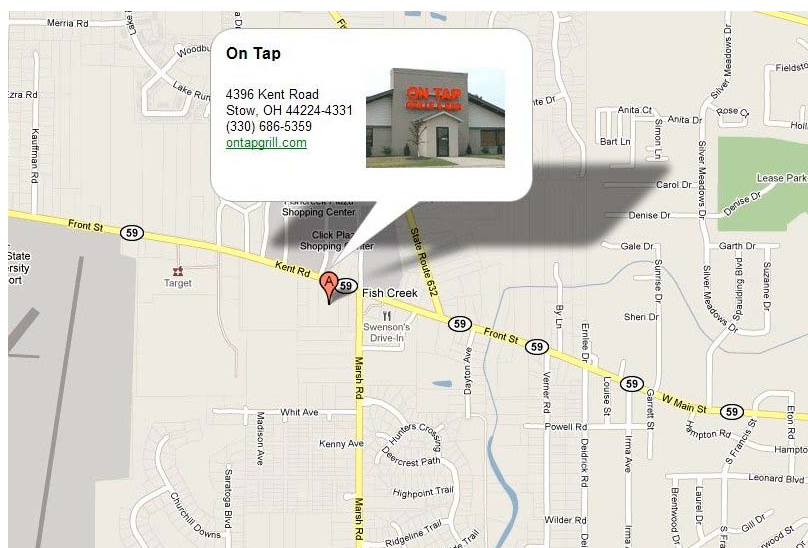
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month.



The March 8th meeting will be at: the **On Tap** restaurant, 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)



Pictures from the February PCARS Meeting



Special Notice



As you know, next month is **April**. I've been doing an annual **April Fools issue** and many of you have enjoyed them. Check out the PCARS website for past April issues. Some fun stuff, some serious stuff and some of the usual stuff. So, dust off that keyboard and give it a try - write up something for the annual April Fool issue of the RADIOGRAM and get it to me as soon as possible.



Tom, KB8UUZ

Thanks & 73

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

AI8P, K8JE, KB8UHN, KB8UUZ, KB8VJL, KC8PD, KC8UNR, KD8MBH, N1EZZ, N8PXW, W8KNO, W8PT, WB2DFC, WB8LCD, WB8YYS, WB9LBI,
the ARRL and the World Wide Web.

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



Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



- Amateur Radio Instruction Class -

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

will be offering an Amateur Radio Technician course

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

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR



When:

Tuesday evening 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Starting March 23, 2010 for eight weeks
Official Amateur Radio License testing will be held
at the end of the course

Where:

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

Registration:

First night of class

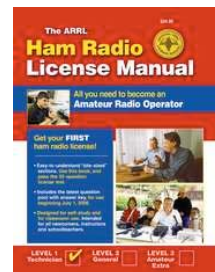
Cost:

\$25.00 Registration fee - which also provides
the attendee a One Year Membership in PCARS
\$24.95 Text – “Ham Radio License Manual”
(text may be purchased first night of class)

Information:

Contact Jim Aylward, KC8PD:

by e-mail at: aylwardjim@aol.com
or phone at: 330-297-7979



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

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

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

OSPOTA 2009 Contest Results

As was reported in last month's issue of the RADIOGRAM, the results for the 2009 Ohio State Parks On The Air contest were posted on both the OSPOTA Yahoo Site (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OSPOTA>), and the OSPOTA web site (<http://parks.portcars.org>). A copy was also sent out to all participants. But, just in case you did not see them and you may have been wondering how others did in the contest, here are the results.

73,

Chuck, W8PT
OSPOTA Chairman



Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) Contest - September 12, 2009 - Winners -

Overall High Score Winner	
Call	Score
W8DYY	8214

Overall High Score Winner
Framed Certificate sponsored by: W8PT

Club or Multi - From a State Park - High Power			
Place	Call	State Park	Score
1	W8DYY	Cowan Lake	8214
W8DYY - Winner of a DX Engineering 80 Meter Dipole Kit donated by N8GLK and KD8GGZ			
2	W8MRC	Stonelick	7263
3	K8UU	Hueston Woods	4699
4	AB8DD	Kiser Lake	4248
5	W8VTD	Mosquito Lake	3815

First Place Framed Certificate Sponsor: PCARS

Club or Multi - From a State Park - Low Power			
Place	Call	State Park	Score
1	K8QYL	Grand Lake St. Marys	3132
2	WW8OH	Buckeye Lake	2754
3	W8ZPF	Buckeye Lake	1848
4	KB8UHN	Barkcamp	1755
5	W8UKE	Strouds Run	900

First Place Framed Certificate Sponsor: PCARS

Single Op From a State Park - High Power			
Place	Call	State Park	Score
1	K8RYU	Lake White, Scioto Trail, Great Seal, Tar Hollow & A.W. Marion	6253
Highest Single Op Score from an Ohio State Park K8RYU receives the prize donated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources: A two night stay in an ODNR cabin at any Ohio State Park that has cabins			
2	W8RGE	Findley	3536
3	KD8DJE	Lake Alma	2160
4	N8RMZ	Forked Run	1323
5	N8PJ	Forked Run	1225

First Place Framed Certificate Sponsor: PCARS

Single Op From a State Park - Low Power			
Place	Call	State Park	Score
1	K8FH	Findley	3649
2	KD8EIR	Burr Oak	3526
3	N8MWK	Burr Oak	2940
4	NX8G	Wolf Run	2926
5	K8FAY	Deer Creek	864

First Place Framed Certificate Sponsor: N8QE

Single or Multi Op - Not in a State Park Inside Ohio		
Place	Call	Score
1	W8EOT	1353
2	K8NYM	1024
3	W3AG	168
4	W8KNO	99
5	N8QE	49

First Place Framed Certificate Sponsor: PCARS

Single or Multi Op - Outside Ohio			
Place	Call	State	Score
1	WB8YYY	MD	1189
2	KA5VZG	TN	644
3	W3GEG	WV	456
4	AD8J	PA	378
5	W9KVR	IL	182

First Place Framed Certificate Sponsor: PCARS

Most Parks Activated by a Club		
Club Call	Club Name	Parks Activated
WA8UXP	Goodyear ARC	10



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

website: www.portcars.org

OSPOTA website: <http://parks.portcars.org>

Updated 16 January 2010

Ohio State Parks On The Air

2009

Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) Contest - September 12, 2009 - Contest Results - Complete Listing of Participants -

Category List:

- A - Club or Multi - From an Ohio State Park - High Power
- B - Club or Multi - From an Ohio State Park - Low Power
- C - Single Op From an Ohio State Park - High Power
- D - Single Op From an Ohio State Park - Low Power
- E - Single or Multi Op - Not in a State Park - Inside Ohio
- F - Single or Multi Op - Outside Ohio

BOLD = Category Winner



Call	Category	Score
W8DYY	A	8214
Overall High Score Winner		
<i>Framed Certificate Sponsored by: W8PT</i>		
W8MRC	A	7263
K8RYU	C	6253
Single Op Score Winner		
<i>Winner of the prize donated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources: A two night stay in an ODNR cabin at any Ohio State Park that has cabins</i>		
K8UU	A	4699
AB8DD	A	4248
W8VTD	A	3815
W8FHF	A	3800
K8FH	D	3649
W8RGE	C	3536
KD8EIR	D	3526
K8QYL	B	3132
N8MWK	D	2940
NX8G	D	2926
WW8OH	B	2754
KD8DJE	C	2160
K8ZUK	A	2046
KD8DFL	A	1891
W8WE	A	1881
W8ZPF	B	1848
KB8UHN	B	1755
W8LBZ	A	1728
KC8NNO	A	1590
W8EOT	E	1353
N8RMZ	C	1323
N8PJ	C	1225
WB8YYY	F - MD	1189
K8NYM	E	1024
WD8MBE	C	945
KC8PD	C	900

Call	Category	Score
W8UKE	B	900
K8FAY	D	864
AB8XG	C	864
W8WTD	C	800
K8SRR	A	712
KA5VZG	F - TN	644
N9AG	C	609
N8RLG	C	561
W3GEG	F - WV	456
AD8J	F - PA	378
K8JCM	C	224
W9KVR	F - IL	182
W3AG	E	168
K8AB	D	150
KC8RJRV/E3	F - ON	100
W8KNO	E	99
KD0JBN	F - MO	49
N8QE	E	49
W3AG	C	35
N8FXL	C	26
W3PLJ	F - PA	20
WA8UXP	A	14
W8NNC	D	11
KO8HIO	A	10
K8FEY	C	Check
N8IHI	A	Check



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

website: www.portcars.org

OSPOTA website: <http://parks.portcars.org>

Updated 16 January 2010



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

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM

Check the PCARS website 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	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2010	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
FYAO	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland
Web Master	K8SRR	Steve Randlett



VE Team

KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
N4IT	Carl Capps
WB8LCD	Tom Sly
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
N8EQJ	Ed Polack
K8QF	Russ Conklin
K8GI	Rick Patterson
WB8VNO	Gay Wands
WD8CVH	Ted Wands
NX8G	Rex Simmons
N8RLG	Robert Gurney
AB8AA	Allan Avnet
K8JAA	Jane Avnet
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro
KE8G	Jim Blanca



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

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

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



NLC

