



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



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

~ 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
 each month. 7pm
 Thursday nights
 Nets at 8 pm
 on 146.895

PCARS Incorporated
 Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
 Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
 April 20, 2006



**Special Services
 Club**
 March 22, 2010

President's Column

Tom, WB8LCD, and Dave, WB2DFC, and I had the chance to attend the recent Ravenna Chamber of Commerce Raven Awards dinner. Family & Community Services was being honored with a Raven Award for the improvements to the Dietrich Youth Center building which also houses the PCARS club site. F&CS wanted to include the club in the ceremony because of all the work by PCARS members in building renovations. Thanks again to all of you who had participated!



Jim, KC8PD

Here come two of the busiest months of the year for ham radio fun. This month there will be PCARS Antenna Day on May 8th with the Dayton Hamvention the following weekend. Then on the fourth weekend of June it's time for Field Day.

The Hamvention is sight to behold. The world's largest gathering of ham radio operators, it is a trade show, flea market and convention all rolled into one. Around thirty thousand hams from all fifty states and countries around the world will be there. For those of us in Northeast Ohio it is less than a four hour drive to get

to the Hara Arena. How lucky is that? Even if you can only make it for one day you can still manage the drive down and back that same day. Some people are spending thousands of dollars to get to Dayton and we can make the trip on a couple tanks of gas.

Why the sales pitch for Dayton? Whether you are a new or old ham you owe yourself a trip to the Hamvention. You can see first hand virtually any kind of ham radio gear, new or old, for sale. You can meet other hams from all corners of the globe and have an eyeball QSO that will remind you of how ham radio brings us all together. You can learn more about almost every aspect of the hobby, either by attending the many forums at the arena or the off-site meetings of the special interest groups: QRP, DXing and contesting to name a few. You can stop by the ARRL Expo to get an update on all of the League's services for its members. You can also do some shopping at the DX Engineering booth and catch a brief visit with the PCARS members who are DXE staff and will be working their tails off.

We want to encourage all of our members to try to make it to Dayton. It is an experience that you won't soon forget (especially if it rains cats and dogs) and you will be marking your calendar for Dayton in 2011. If you can make it this year, try to get to the ARRL Expo at 11:00 o'clock on Saturday morning so that you can be in the PCARS group photo.

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From the President - Continued from Page 1

Back at home, Antenna Day and Field Day are hallmark events for PCARS members. Antenna Day is our annual dry run for the Field Day setup. It is also a great excuse to get out for some ham radio fun. We will spend the better part of the day at Ravenna City Park erecting antennas and putting stations on the air. You can expect that there may be a stop down the road at the club site for a thirst-quenching debriefing.

Special thanks to this year's Field Day co-chairs, Bill, WB9LBI, and Chuck, W8PT, for all of their efforts to incorporate the best of past years' Field Days with changes and improvements for this year. They have done their best to open up participation and spread responsibilities around. This year there are new captains for all of the stations (20 and 40 meters, CW, and the flex station) as well as some new assignments. One of those is James, KD8VT, (aka, the Electric Chair) who is in charge of power generation and distribution. Just wait till you see the mobile 25 kW generator that he has assembled for FD. It is amazing.

Field Day is a full weekend of fun and provides loads of opportunities for all PCARS members to get involved. You can sign up as an operator or logger, you can help with setup and tear down or even assist the food service team being led by Robert, N8RLG. By the way, make sure that you get your reservation in for that delicious Saturday night dinner. Robert needs to know how many guests he will have for dinner so that he can plan ahead. This year there will be a modest \$5.00 charge for non-PCARS members who would like to come for dinner.

So mark your calendars and try to make it to all of these events.

In the meantime we hope to see you at the May and June meetings. Things are working out well at our new meeting location, the On Tap Grille in Stow. The restaurant management has gone out of their way to make sure that they have plenty of servers to take care of the crowd. They are very happy with the business that we bring. It has been nearly a full house at each of the last two meetings.

As always, if there are suggestions that you have for PCARS programs or activities get in touch with me or Dave, WB2DFC. We always want to be sure that your club is meeting your expectations.

73,
Jim, KC8PD

From the Vice President

It's an exciting time for us with lots of up-coming events! Antenna Day, Dayton Hamvention, Field Day, contests galore, and more! A truly great time to be wrapped up in the hobby! I hope you are planning on enjoying many of these events. Almost like a Field Day "kick-off", May 8th is The PCARS Antenna Day at Ravenna City Park. This is the day PCARS uses to "proof read" the Field Day plan. If it needs to be fixed, changed, adapted, tuned up, soldered, hammered, sawed, welded, sand-blasted, etc., this is the day it happens!

The full station crews should arrive on time and get the stations on the air, test the operation of gear and antennas. It's also a great opportunity to see if any of your personal accessories will work (headphones, CW keys, paddles, etc). So bring your plug in options. Better yet, contact the station captain for some hints on what will work and what won't. See you at Antenna Day and Field Day.



KD8FDK, KD8LDY, KB8TUY, KC8RJR enjoying the QRP Day activities

members. Besides operating and making a few contacts, the chance for "eyeball" QSOs abounded. It is certainly a thrill to see members really enjoying the fellowship the club site seems to foster. I included a few pictures for your enjoyment. I hope see all of you at the PCARS Club Site.

If you attended the 1st ever PCARS QRP Swap/Shop/Op event, you saw the club site being used for exactly what it was intended. A great resource for our members, a place to meet, learn and operate. All PCARS members should make it to at least one event at the club site. The QRP Swap/Shop/Op event attracted several



More PCARS members enjoying the QRP activities at the club site

And speaking of big deals..... The Grandest of Ham-Fest Events... the **Dayton Hamvention**. If you never been there, you really must make the trek and, if you are a regular, I will see you there.

72/73 for now...and see you at Antenna Day...

Dave, WB2DFC

WB8LCD for Ohio Section Manager

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

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

Who am I?

What is my vision for the Ohio Section?

Why am I qualified for the position?

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

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

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

I've had a successful business career since I started my insurance agency in 1975. I'm an Eagle Scout and on the board of a regional non-profit organization based in Portage County. I was a founding member and the first president of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS):

www.portcars.org. In just a few short years PCARS has gone from zero to over 150 active members. PCARS has been recognized for its accomplishments by League headquarters staff and others in the ham radio community. I've had the experience to prove that I can organize and accomplish what I set out to do.

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

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



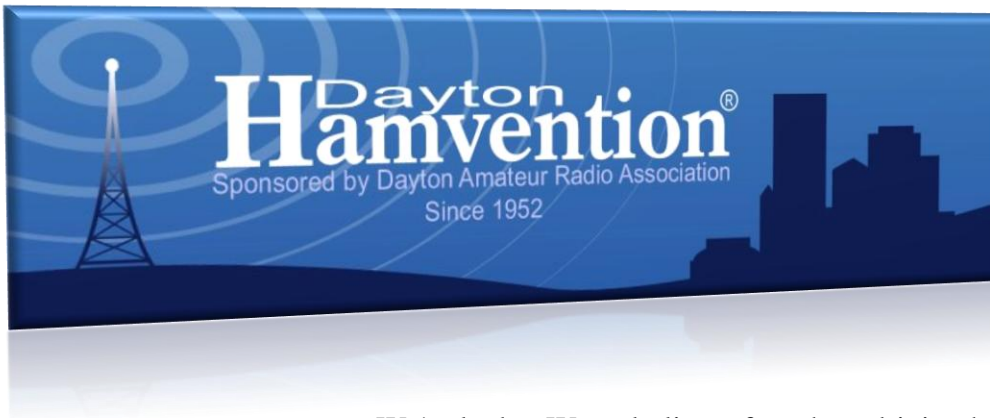
Tom, WB8LCD

73,

Tom, WB8LCD



Dayton Hamvention® 2010



Here it is - May. To hams around the world, that means its Dayton Hamvention® time again. Between May 14 and May 16, Amateur Radio Operators will be making their annual trek to Trotwood, Ohio to attend the largest gathering of ham dealers and the largest flea market - anywhere.

We're lucky. We only live a few short driving hours from the Dayton Hamvention®. Hams from all over the world dream about going, but just can't make it, and we live about 4 hours drive from there.

If you have been there - you know. If you have never been there, GO.

I can remember taking Friday off from work, leaving late Thursday night (actually about 3 am Friday) to arrive at the Hara Arena by 7:30 am. To be there at opening time and walk all around the inside vendor booths (well over 150), and then take in that giant flea market. From 8 am until about 4 pm - walk, walk, walk. Then, getting back in the car and coming home. Other times at Hamvention, I got a room or shared a room and was able to see even more, knowing I could slow my pace a bit. What a wonderful experience for an Amateur Radio Operator.

GO! Who knows, maybe you will run into that DX person you contacted once and be able to say hello in person! Even if you don't buy anything, it is worth taking the time and making the trip to the Hamvention.

Been there before? Go again. There is always something new.

Going to look for some goodies? Make a shopping list so you won't forget that special doo-hickey you want. When looking in the giant flea market, stay focused, if you see what you want, go for it! But, ask questions - does it work? Really? And, don't be afraid to haggle - \$10? Hey I'll give you \$8 - it works, and the dealers pretty much expect it.



World's Biggest Outdoor Ham Radio Flea Market

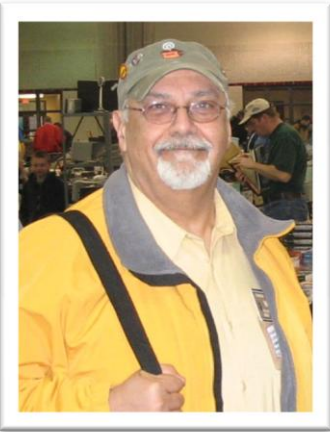
So glance through the catalogs, check over those spare parts and write up your shopping list. Get ready for the FUN at the Dayton Hamvention®. Drive safe, take pictures and I'll see you somewhere at Hamvention 2010.

Tom, KB8UUZ



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

May is here!! Dayton is only 2 weeks away!! The bands are active!! What a time to be an Amateur Radio Operator!!



Chuck, W8PT

K8NYM – Wes sent in his monthly DX report and I am starting to expect it every month, so keep up the good work Wes. The following might be a partial list but for April Wes reports working the following DX: Balearic Island, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Gibraltar, Gabon, Hong Kong, Iceland, China and Tajikistan. I repeat – Good job Wes.

KE8G – Jim also sent in a report of over 80 DX contacts. Here are some of the more interesting ones worked: E. Kiribati, Vietnam, Japan, Morocco, Albania, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, French Polynesia, Turkey, Algeria, United Arab Emirates, and Turks & Caicos. Some of these Jim worked multiple times on different bands. But ALL 80 plus contacts were made on CW at 100 watts!! WAY TO GO Jim!!

And here is what you can look for in the next few months or so.

But before we get to the DX, I want to thank those local Hams that sent me reports of their success and also the following for the forecast reports: the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW for the following DX and IOTA information. Please remember that this report can contain some erroneous information due to the simple nature of bad info or busted call signs, so do yourself a favor and please adhere to the old adage of “Work First Worry Later” (WFWL).

DX PAPER CHASE - 4M200/YV200/YW200, VENEZUELA (Special Event). Look for several different stations to be active until December 31st, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Venezuela's Independence. Some of the stations that have been active are: 4M200AJ - Operator Manuel; Activity mainly on PSK on 40/30/20/15/10m; QSL via YV5AJ.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IOTA

8Q, MALDIVES. Ron, DL5JAG, will be active as 8Q7SR and on holiday from Embudu Island, South Male Atoll (AS-013), between May 8-23rd. No other details were provided. QSL via his home call sign, direct w/SAE and proper postage for return. Log will be uploaded to LoTW 1-2 months after his holiday, and for eQSL.cc about 1 month. Also, he does mention to visit the following Web page: <http://www.protectthemaldives.de>

9H, MALTA - G0SGB, will be active as 9H3/G0SGB/p from Malta (EU-023, MIA MM-001, WLOTA LH-1113) between June 12-25th. He will also be active from Gozo Island (EU-023, MIA MM-004, WLOTA LH-0046) as 9H4/G0SGB/p. (No specific dates were provided). His activity will focus on lighthouse activations from Malta. QSL via his home callsign, direct only.

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

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 (See Web page: <http://www.tinet.cat/~jfc/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.

IS0, SARDINIA (Update). 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.

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

SA-008. Members of the Radio Club of Ushuaia (LU8XW) will once again be active from the City of Tolhuin on Tierra Del Fuego Island (W.A.P. - W.A.D.A Ref ARG-23) starting at 0100z, on May 22nd through 0300z, on May 24th. Activity is to commemorate the 25th anniversary of their radio club. Operations will be on CW, SSB, PSK, RTTY and the satellites. QSL via LoTW or direct to WD9EWK. All contacts on this expedition are valid for the Radio Club Ushuaia Permanent Diploma. For more details, check out their Web page at: <http://www.lu8xw.com/index.php>

DX NEWS

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

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

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

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

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.

HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN - OZ1MDX, will be active as HB0/OU4U between June 22-27th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and possibly PSK31. Direct QSL for HB0/OU4U is via Tim, M0URX (United Radio QSL Bureau). For Bureau QSL by E-mail requests, please visit: <http://www.m0urx.com/qs1-request-form.html>

HS8, THAILAND. Wut, HS8JYX, will be active during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th) as a Single-Op/Low-Power entry. QSL via HS8JYX, direct, by LoTW and eQSL. Visit his Web page at: <http://www.hs8jyx.com>

IS0, 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.

T30, WESTERN KIRIBATI - JA1XGI/W8XGI, reports that he will be active once again from Western Kiribati as T30XG or T30/T32XG between June 3-9th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters, including 30/17/12m, using CW and the Digital modes. QSL via JA1XGI, direct or by the Bureau.

TK9, CORSICA. Members of the the Valle Brembana DX and Contest Team will be active as TK9E between May 26-31st. Operators mentioned are: Enzo/IZ2GLU, Fabio/IZ2GMT, Andrea/IZ2AJE, Diego/IW2MZX and Claudio/IK2AOO. Activity will be on 80-10 meters including 30/17/12 meters. QSL via IZ2GLU.

TL, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Jan, DJ8NNK and Paul, F6EXV, will be active as guest operators from Christian's, TL0A, station between May 13-26th. They plan to have 2 stations on the air simultaneously. Look for Jan to focus his activities on RTTY, while Paul will be on CW. Chris will continue his SSB operation and CW/RTTY from time to time after May 26th. Bands of activity will be on 40-6 meters, maybe some 160/80m

VK4, AUSTRALIA - Operators Gary/VK4FD and Dale/VK4DMC will activate Undara Volcanic National Park (WFF VKFF-506, GL: QH21HS) from Australian Mainland as VK4YN between 0000-2359z, May 21-23rd. Suggested frequencies are per the WFF website +/- QRM. Antennas are: a 4 element tri-band Yagi 10/15/20m, double extended zepp 40m, and G5RV for 80m and the WARC bands. QSL Manager is VK4FW

Light House Activity

CQ72, PORTUGAL (LH Op!). Members of the Algarve STAR DX Team (16 operators) will activate 6 Algarve Lighthouses simultaneously between May 15-16th. There will be six teams to activate the following lighthouses using the following callsigns [CQ72LH(*)] callsigns:

CQ72LHA - Ponta do Altar Lighthouse
CQ72LHM - St. Maria Lighthouse (Culatra Island)
CQ72LHP - Ponta da Piedade Lighthouse
CQ72LHR - Vila Real St. Antonio Lighthouse
CQ72LHV - S.Vicente Lighthouse
CQ72LHZ - Alfanzina Lighthouse

To promote Algarve STAR DX Team DFFA award (Algarve Lighthouses Award <http://algarvedx.com/dffa>. Their operations are also valid for many other awards. For more details and an online log search, visit: <http://www.algarvedx.com/cq72lh/cq72lh.htm> QSL all CQ72LH(*) LH callsigns via CT2HTN, by the Bureau or direct to: Carlos Manuel Oliveira, Arroiteia CX. Postal 595 E, Livramento, 8800-102, TAVIRA, PORTUGAL.

So that's it for May. I hope to hear you working a lot of DX.

Chuck, W8PT



Hello Field Day CW Station Team

Here are a couple of links to HF gear (Elecraft K2 and Icom IC-7200) manuals expected to be used at the Field Day CW Station. I know they are lengthy, but a review of the basic ops of each radio may be valuable later.

Both radios are easy to operate but have many functions beyond the on-off, volume, VFO, band, etc controls. The receiver filtering sections of both manuals should be reviewed as they will most likely be where you make repeated adjustments.



The primary radio for the Field Day CW Station will be an Elecraft K2/100. This radio has a superior receiver and is also the 100 watt version. An auto tuner will be attached to the K2/100 with one button tuning. The Icom IC-7200 will be the back up radio, also with an attached auto tuner with one button operation. Power will be provided by a deep cycle 12 volt battery, inverter, and charger. Antenna will be a G5RV.

Elecraft K2/100 manual, about 1/2 way down the page. "<http://www.elecraft.com/>"

Icom IC-7200 manual "<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/downloads/default.aspx?Category=190>"



Until we see each other at Antenna Day, be diligent with that CW practice.... make use of the software training programs, get on the air and make some contacts..!

72/73,

Dave, WB2DFC



EmComm

PCARS Antenna Day as well as Field Day will be here before you know it and although we put a lot of emphasis on the fun aspects of FD (particularly including the food at the PCARS outing) the event has its serious side, too.

Field Day has its roots in emergency communications. It was a practical way to provide all hams with an organized event that would encourage them to literally get out in the field and operate from there, just as they might have to if a disaster struck. Could you put a portable station on the air and keep it running for twenty-four hours? That was the challenge.



There would need to be some planning and organizing to avoid haphazard setups. Just what equipment would you need? Would it be suitable for portable operations in an outdoor, and possibly inclement, setting? How could you quickly erect appropriate, though temporary, antennas? Could you provide adequate power to keep your station on the air? Would you be better off with a team putting the station on the air or by operating solo?

By adding a contest component the ARRL also focused on both the station's effectiveness as well as the operator's skills. It was one thing to set up a station in the field, but would it be able to be heard by other hams on the air? Plus, did you have the ability to operate under the pressure of a contest in unfamiliar surroundings and maybe even overnight?

Remember that even starting with the Technician license hams are trained to make sure that they have the capability to help during an emergency. New hams are taught that one of the best ways to ensure that they are prepared is to get their gear out at least once a year and put a portable station on the air. Sound a bit like Field Day?

No matter where you are on the weekend of June 26-27th take the opportunity to get on the air as a Field Day participant. If you can't make it to a club FD, why not set up in some place like your backyard or garage? Check out that gear that you haven't used in a while. Make sure that you remember how to operate it and that things haven't been broken or misplaced and that your backup power supply is functional. It will be worth the effort.

If you have the chance to get out to a FD like PCARS holds, go for it! Have some ham radio fun with a bunch of your amateur radio best friends. You can develop and improve your EmComm skills while you are at it. Plus the food is terrific!

Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH

Radio Officer, Portage County EMA/RACES

EC, ARES of Portage County

Emergency Operations Officer, Ohio Army MARS

Hamfest Report - Toledo

The engine was running when Marty, KD8MBH pulled in my drive for the start of the road trip to the Toledo hamfest. Had he been a half a minute late he may have been left behind with the woman and children! It was a nice cool morning as we headed out in my wife's van.

Stopping at Tom's (WB8LCD) along the way we also picked up Sparky, KB8UUZ and Parkman Chuck, W8PT.

Another most pleasant ride on the Ohio Turnpike with almost no traffic... I think we left a tad too early? This year the hamfest was moved to the Owens Community College. What a nice new facility! And for us driving from the east it was just a short/easy drive once we got off the Turnpike. The Toledo Hamfest is always a nice hamfest... that makes up for the few extra miles folks from Portage County must drive to get there.



First Stop - Signing the letters to our political representatives at the ARRL Great Lakes Division table

Inside the main building in the hall way were rows of soft bench seats. That really was a nice touch as we arrived early and they had not opened the doors to the large area where the hamfest was set up so I chose to sit down to wait. And at the end of the hall way was a cafeteria (serving real food) with tables and chairs to sit at. I was really impressed with this new hamfest location!!!

The doors opened and we five went off on our separate ways. Lots of stuff to see there.



W8PT, KB8VJL, WB8LCD, KD8MBH, KB8UUZ at the Toledo Hamfest



WB8LCD and K8JE



KD8MBH and K8JE

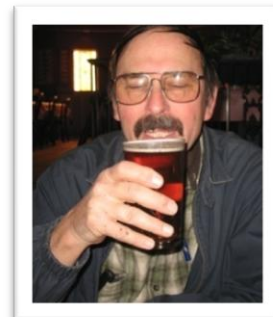
We spotted Jim Weaver, K8JE ARRL Great Lakes Division Director and walked over to say hello and sign the letters the Great Lakes Division would be sending in for support of the antenna legislation.

I picked up a new "The Nifty! Mini-Manual" for my Yaesu FT-857D...there is just too much stuff to have to play around with that radio! But since the Mini-Manual has laminated pages... it should hold up better then the manual that came with the radio.... when I am flipping the little pages A ZILLION TIMES!!!



KB8UUZ, WB8LCD, W8PT, KD8MBH, KB8VJL enjoying lunch at the world famous Tony Paco's

After a few walks around and a couple other small gizmo's I picked up, we PCARIANS got back together again and headed to Tony Packo's on Front Street for lunch. What is the Toledo Hamfest without a visit to Tony Packo's cafe???? They go hand-and-hand!!!!!!!!!!!!



KB8VJL One for the road at Tony Paco's

Only one small side trip this time... a ride though the Toledo downtown area and THEN over the new suspension bridge over the Maumee River back to the east side and Front Street. That new Bridge is a true work of art!!! What a sight...and what a view from that big bridge!!!!

Good food and good drink ended our day for Toledo Hamfest 2010!!!!

Al, KB8VJL



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in May:

K8NYM Wesley Ferrell
KC8ZZG Al Godfrey

WB8FEW Bobby Pruett



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- May 10th - meeting - **MARS in Haiti** - George, N1EZZ
- May 8th - **Antenna Day** - Ravenna City Park on Oakwood St.
- June 14th - meeting - **Electrical Safety**
- July 12th - meeting - **Repeaters 101** - Ed, N8EQJ



Mr. Field Day Person Answers Your Mail

Editor's Note: We have received a number of letters with questions and comments about Field Day (June 26 – 27 at Ravenna City Park). In this issue of The Radiogram, noted expert Mr. Field Day Person gives you the straight dope on all things Field Day.

Dear Mr. Field Day Person: What's for dinner, and when to we eat? –RF, Streetsboro

This is the number one inquiry that I receive about Field Day, which shows you where the priorities of most PCARS member lie. Our menu this time is Beef & Chicken Kabobs with Afghan rice, Curried Celery root and Apple salad, fresh mixed fruit for dessert. Dinner will be around sixish. It's going to be absolutely delightful, I can promise you. If it's not, Chef Robert will be taken out and shot.

Dear Mr. Field Day Person: Somebody, I think it was (name withheld) told me that I had to buy a ticket just to have dinner. Since when do we charge for the Field Day dinner? What's up with that? –BP, Ravenna

Everyone must have ticket for dinner. No tickee, no eatee. That's because Field Day has grown so much that we are feeding upwards of 100 people, and we have to plan carefully so we don't run out. If you're a PCARS member, your ticket is free. You can bring all the family and friends to dinner that you want, but it's \$5 for each guest. That's a pretty cheap date, if you ask me. And don't pay any attention to (name withheld); he's an idiot.

Dear Mr. Field Day Person: My question concerns Antenna Day. May 8 is pretty early for that, almost two months ahead of Field Day. What are you guys thinking? And why call it Antenna Day? Field Day has antennas too, doesn't it? I mean, wouldn't it make more sense to name it Set Up Day, or Rehearsal Day, or Son of Field Day, or something like that? Just sayin. - AA, Mantua Township

The last three weekends in May are taken up by Hamvention, Memorial Day, and The Weekend That Most Of the Spineless Field Day Committee Promised Their Wives That They Would Do Chores. We had toyed with calling our pre-Field Day event Harry Truman's Birthday (b. 1884), but nobody will bring their rigs to Ravenna City Park for Harry Truman.



Dear Mr. Field Day Person: I want to operate at Field Day, but I've never done it before and I don't want to screw up and embarrass the club. What should I do? MS, Aurora

Man up, sissy boy. Field Day is nothing to be scared of. If you're a new ham, start out at the Get On The Air Station where Bob N8QE will show you how to work the contest, and how to use the computer logging software. Next, go hang out at any of our six stations and watch how it's done. Half an hour of observing the old hands will show you how it's all done. Finally, ask any one of the station captains to plug you into the schedule. They'll find a spot for you and make sure you have all the back-up and help that you need.

Dear Mr. Field Day Person: I want to work the 20 meter station, and only the 20-meter station. 40 meters, six meters — ugh. It's just 20 for me, baby. Who do I have to bribe? – CP, Parkman

All 20 meter bribes should be directed to Deron N8XTH, who is this year's 20 meter goombah. Better email him first. If you're low on cash, you can probably work out a deal to fill a late night slot for little or no money.

Dear Mr. Field Day Person: It's going to beastly weather, I can just feel it. I'm predicting major storms, torrential rain, baseball-sized hail, and possibly a plague of locusts for Field Day. I advise everybody reading this to take shelter now. Point is, I don't think we should even set up a Field Day site. Why take chances getting struck by lightning? Gotta run—I have to run the Skywarn net in five minutes. -DS, Little Rock

Field Day will be held rain or shine. We will set up and operate in rain, so bring your wet weather gear. We will postpone or suspend operations for high winds, lightning, tornados, and locusts.

Dear Mr. Field Day Person: Could you say Hi to me in The Radiogram? I have five cockatiels at home. Can I bring them to Field Day? Thanks, and don't forget to say Hi to me! -JS, Sugar Bush Knolls

Hi, and NO.

Got a question for noted expert Mr. Field Day Person? Write it on back of a \$50 bill and send it to Mr. FDP, c/o The RadioGram, 9992 State Route 700, Mantua, OH 44255

*Real Editor's Note: Yes, this article was sent in by our own Field Day 2010 Chairman - **Bill, WB9LBI**
Bill's humorous articles are a real joy to read!*

What Sets Us Apart?

In the last couple of months I've been talking and corresponding with hams from all over Ohio. I've heard of a lot of good things going on, and at the same time a lot of stories of once active clubs now just getting by. One comment that has been repeated over and over is "that nobody is ever out there anymore". The reference is to activity on the local repeater. There's usually an added comment about how the repeater used to be active all the time and there was always someone who would come back to you. Those were the "good old days" in the minds of many.

You've heard the saying "been there, done that, got the T-shirt"? Well, if you've been around long enough, talked to the same people over and over, and put no imagination into your conversations, that might be how you start to feel about QSO's on the local machine. Next thing you know, you don't even bother to turn the radio on and since you're never heard your buddies go find something different to do, too! It's a self-fulfilling prophecy, and the next thing you know, the repeater is dead, and everyone complains that there's no one out there, so you might as well watch TV.



" This is WB8LCD listening "

There's two ways to beat this scenario:

1. Bring new hams into the hobby. As long as there are new people to talk with, it remains interesting. And, with new hams, there is a natural tendency to seek out the more experienced hams for advice and information on all the new activities they'd like to try. So far, PCARS has done a really good job at bringing new hams into the hobby! Where else can you have this much fun and access the cutting edge of technology like you can with Ham Radio? Let your friends and acquaintances know what we're up to and invite them to be a part of the fun we're having!

2. Be there! Almost everyone has access to 2 meters, turn the rig on. When someone announces they are listening, go back to them. Even a short QSO is better than no QSO. Don't let yourself fall into the "been there done that" attitude – talk to new people, or talk to the same old people about new ideas. It's not really ham radio if you never make a contact!

PCARS has the use of a tremendous asset in the form of the N8EQJ repeater. Listen whenever you can and be the station that comes back when someone gives a shout. If you've got the capability, listen to 146.52 simplex, too. Let's not have any hams come through Portage County and wonder what happened to ham radio here.

Hope to hear you on the air! 73,

Tom, WB8LCD



Yes, I am an iPhone-aholic...

It has been said that I am an iPhone-aholic... OK, OK, I won't argue with that. I'll admit it. I get laughs when I pull out my iPhone as someone asks a question that I don't have an answer. Why do I do this? Well, to be honest, my brain can't hold all the knowledge I need to possess. Go figure! Back when I was in nursing school (and I won't give away how long ago that was), my nursing instructor gave us advise that I hold true today. She said that we won't possibly be able to remember everything we need to know. The key is to know where you can find the information when you need it. Good advice, I'd say.

The iPhone has a tremendous number of applications that can be downloaded from the iTunes website. Well, wouldn't you figure that I have a lot of resource applications on the iPhone? And, a few games, I might add.

Some of these apps, in fact, a lot of these that I have, are related to amateur radio. In addition to the iPhone, I believe some of these apps are compatible with the iPod and possibly with the new iPad. So, if you don't own an iPhone because you have a different cell phone carrier, you may be able to download and use some of these apps with those products. Some apps are free and others may cost a couple bucks. Some need a GPS integrated into the device.



Sandy, KD8JCY

Here are some of the ones I have on my phone:

Echo link

Advantages: You can check in to the net or to anywhere from anywhere in the country just like when using Echo link on your computer. The app works really well. It doesn't need to be connected to a radio.

Disadvantages: I does use a lot of battery power compared to standby mode because it is in use constantly. It would be the same if you were on the phone talking continuously. When using the text box, you can't type as fast as when touch typing on the computer keyboard.

So, it looks like I may be able to check in to Thursday night nets even when I am on vacation or on any one of my excursions I plan to take this summer.

APRS

Advantages: There are few apps for APRS. Some have good reviews and others less good. I chose “Pocket Packet”. This is a fun app if you don't have a mobile radio for APRS.

Disadvantages: You need a GPS system integrated into the device to make it work. If you leave the device on to send out signals, it also uses a lot of battery life. It cannot transmit while plugged in to the cigarette lighter. It's better to turn the app on and off at certain intervals if you want someone to track you on your travels.

Hey, it gave me a chance to try APRS to see if I am interested in investing in a system for my car. Yep, I think I will.

MORSE CODE TUTORING AND PRACTICE There are several apps that are made to learn and practice Morse code. Some are games like “Morse Free” and “Morse Game”. Some use flash cards or mimicking sounds and sound recognition. I have “Dah Dit”, “iMorseX”, “Morse Code”, “Morse-It”, “The Morse Code”. “Morse Code Driller” Some let you tap out a message and some you listen and type the character it is sending.

Advantages: There are a lot of choices for apps. Be sure to check the reviews before choosing. Some apps are better than others. Why do I have so many? Well, each one uses different techniques for you to practice and learn. Having this on your iPhone gives you a chance to practice while you are hanging around waiting for something or on your break at work or whenever you have a spare minute. And, I'm all about having fun! I learn best when I'm having fun.

Disadvantages: Certainly there are other computer programs that are better to learn Morse Code (I have some of them, too. Ha!) But, if you are going to be waiting around and need to keep your mind occupied, why not learn something while you are sitting around? The sound for these apps comes out of the phone only, not the ear phones, so it may be disturbing to bystanders or in a socially acceptable quiet environment. Don't try this in church! With all these apps, would you guess I am trying to learn Morse Code? It's not coming easy but I am learning with the help of all my programs. Field Day is coming and I

want to make some contacts for the club.



Sandy's iPhone Display

STUDYING FOR YOUR NEXT LICENSE EXAM There are several apps with the latest pool questions for the amateur radio licensing exams including Tech, General and Extra.

Advantages: A portable means to study for your test. I have an app that uses the flash card technique called “ARRL General” (for the General test). Good for studying on your break, while at the doctors office or whenever you have some spare time.

Disadvantages: I can't think of any.

RESOURCES FOR HAMS There are some general resources that may be helpful to the ham. I have such apps as “Ham Bands” which gives a quick reference to the frequencies that each class of operator may use. The ” iGrid Square” uses the integrated GPS device in the iPhone to locate your current grid square or it will calculate

the desired grid square by longitude and latitude. "Electronics Toolbox" helps with identifying electronic parts, calculations and more than I will probably ever use. "Ham Clock" quickly gives the local time and UTC time so you don't have to figure it out. If the GPS is able to get a clear satellite signal (usually outside), it calculates the sunrise, sunset and grid square based on your location.

Also, if one wanted to get these apps, first, they need to go to: <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>. From there, you can download the iTunes app to your computer for free. My iPhone also came with the iTunes app already on it. After you have installed it and created an account with iTunes, you can go to the iTunes store. For these apps, click on the tab "app store". In the top right hand corner of the screen, you can put "amateur radio" in the search box. This will bring everything on the site related to amateur radio. There are podcasts that you can subscribe to, but click on "see all" next to the iPhone apps (also iPad) and it will bring up all the apps for amateur radio. Pick and choose which ones you want.

There are certainly more apps for interested hams available. More are being added, so be sure to check back on iTunes apps often. Hey, it just makes ham radio a little more fun.

Sandy, KD8JCY

PCARS Yahoo Site

Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Group dedicated to PCARS information. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list. Check out the PCARS Yahoo Group at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCARS/>.



Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 15, 2010, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted 08 May 2010 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (14-16 May 2010), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Military-to-Amateur cross band operations will take place on the dates/times in ZULU (UTC), and frequencies listed for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some

stations may not operate the entire period, depending on propagation and manning. Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military MARS frequencies and listen for amateur radio stations in the Amateur bands indicated in the www.eham.com article. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. Some stations will use CW to provide the opportunity to check in by Morse Code.

You can obtain the complete list of stations and frequencies at www.netcom.army.mil/mars/docs/AMC_Test_2010.pdf or in the Files section of the PCARS Yahoo group or by contacting Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI at aylwardjim@aol.com.

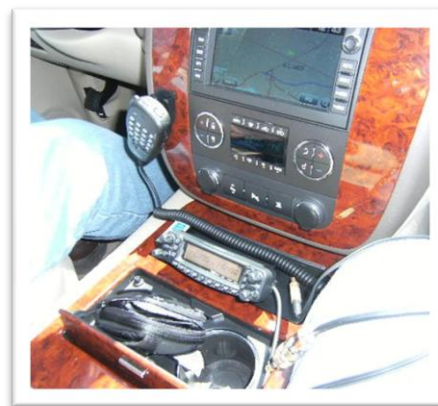
Jim, KC8PD



K8BF goes mobile with KC8RJR & N8RLG

After seeing how much fun PCARS has had with the Portage County 2 Meter Sprint, the folks over at Alliance Amateur Radio Club decided to resurrect the Stark County VHF QSO Party. According to the contest cover letter, the last time this contest was run was five years ago and it was sponsored by the Canton Amateur Radio Club.

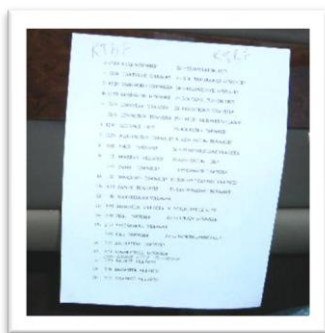
AARC could not have picked a more perfect day for this outing! The weather was awesome; clear sunny skies with temperatures in the mid 60's. Around 11:45 Errol, KC8RJR arrives at the home QTH to get things squared away before we head out. It quickly becomes apparent that Errol wants to make a good showing for PCARS. He has on-board GPS to back



The Command Center - This is where the Magic happens

up his highlighted Stark County map that has our course for the day. According Errol's calculations, we should be able to hit every multiplier by 6 PM. With log sheets in hand we are ready to rock!

Final preflight checks – Amplifier, on. Radio, suggested frequencies programmed. Headset, plugged in. List of multipliers, taped to the dash. On air radio check, FAIL! We cannot bring up the N8EQJ repeater. What's going on? Errol and I are scrambling trying to figure out what has happened. Errol says the



We've made our list and we'll be checking it twice

repeater was up and running as he was coming to get me; Tom, WB8LCD and Ed, N8EQJ were having a conversation. We

key again, nothing. All the connections look good; everything is online. The only thing we could figure was the repeater was either down for a moment or we were positioned too close to the house. Errol checks a Canton repeater, BINGO! Whew, that was close. We're off.

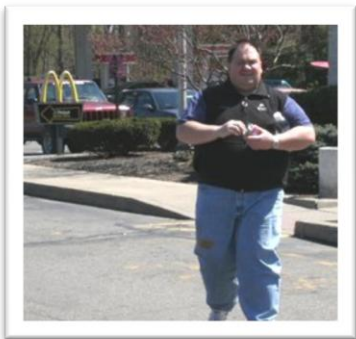
Operating as K8BF/M we make our first contact with W8NP at 12:01. By 12:06 we are operating exclusively from Stark County.



KD8MQ Rollin' Solo - He did all his own driving, contacting and logging

For the next six hours we would tear up Stark County, city by city, township by township, village by village. Our friends for the ride? Why they would be KC8QOD in Plain Township, WB8LKY in Alliance, N8PW in Canton and W8AL in Canton along with a host of others.

We picked up the trail of KD8MQ down around Alliance. As it would turn out we would follow him most of the day. Or was he following us? I think he was following us, yes. We did have an eyeball QSO at one point. It was at the McDonald's down in Waynesburg. (Potty break and fatty cakes!)



Me Happy - Fatty Cakes!

Our best signals that day came from Pike Township. We were on a big hill and the simplex QSO's sounded great. We were able to hit Canton, Lake and Perry like they there were in the backseat.

Other than getting turned around once or twice, we hit every multiplier and were done by 5:40 PM. Nice planning Errol.

I kind of felt bad for Errol, I was so busy trying to bang out contacts that I am sure I made for a lousy co-pilot/conversationalist.

All day long all he got to hear was CQ, CQ, CQ this is K8BF/M for the Stark County VHF QSO Party. I am sure I sounded like a broken record by the time six o'clock came. At the end of the day we had logged 186 QSO's with a calculated score of 11, 854 points.

Honestly, I had a great time and the company was awesome. To John and the folks at AARC, I say, "well played old man, well played indeed". I am looking forward to next year. Now if John, KD8MQ would just turn in his log as a member of PCARS and not the President of AARC we'll have the club score locked!



CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ
Whadda' You Lookin At?

Robert, N8RLG

DX Activities Abound at ARRL EXPO at the Dayton Hamvention®



ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, reports that plans for a plethora of DX activities at the ARRL EXPO -- part of the 2010 Dayton Hamvention -- are wrapping up. "We are excited about the activities that will be taking place," he said. "Visitors to the EXPO will see a lot of activities relating to DX, including DXCC card checking, a chance to drop off QSL cards for the ARRL Outgoing QSL bureau and even an expanded International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) area."...

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An International Flavor

The IARU area, led by incoming IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, will feature each of the three IARU Regions. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) will represent Region 1, the ARRL will represent Region 2 and the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) will represent Region 3. The ARRL will sponsor a



RUFZ CW copying competition throughout the event and JARL will be on hand to check applications for the IARU's Worked All Continent (WAC) and 5-Band WAC awards. According to Patton, they will check QSL cards and issue the award certificates on the spot.



JARL representatives will also check applications for certain JARL awards (AJD, WAJA, JCC, JCG, ADXA and ADXA-Half) and issue them at the convention. JARL staff members Masa Ebisawa, JA1DM, and Hiro Tamama, JA1SLS, will check applications for other JARL awards at the JARL corner; certificates for these awards will be mailed from JARL headquarters. Ebisawa and Tamama will be glad to answer questions about JARL activities, as well as the reciprocal licensing procedures.

Applicants for JARL awards do not need to have the QSL cards present; a list showing the call signs of stations worked, date, band and mode (or other data required by each award) of the contacts is sufficient. A statement making an oath that the QSL cards of the contacts listed are in the possession and that the items are correctly listed should be attached to the application. Applicants may use a DXCC Record Sheet for their QSL card list. The JARL award fee is \$16. Check out the JARL Web site for more information about JARL awards.

On Friday and Saturday of Hamvention, Herb Aeby, HB9BOU -- the QSL Manager for 4U1UN, the Amateur Radio Station at the United Nations -- will be in the DXCC area of ARRL EXPO issuing QSL cards for both 4U1UN and 4U1ITU, the Amateur Radio station at the International Telecommunications Union (QSLs for the special 4U1ITU operations 4U1WRC, 4U0ITU and 4U9ITU will not be available). According to Patton, you only need to bring a log extract listing your contacts with the station(s). QSOs with 4U1UN will be confirmed if it is in their electronic log; this log covers the period 1993 to the present. Manfred Oberhofer, HB9ACA, and Bertrand Bladt, HB9SLO, will also be on hand to assist.

Homegrown Tastes

ARRL staff and DXCC Card Checkers will offer full DXCC card checking and award applications as always, and will also be able to check applications and QSLs for the Worked All States (WAS) and the VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards.



Visitors to the ARRL EXPO will be able to check out the Logbook of the World (LoTW) "Call Sign Lookup." This nifty program will allow anyone to see how many times LoTW users have submitted their call sign to the 222 million QSO log database! ARRL staff will also be able to assist with LoTW signup and problems throughout the weekend. For those who have not yet signed up to use LoTW, bring a copy of your license to show to staff and they will be able to help expedite the sign-up process.

The DXCC booth located in the ARRL EXPO, is where you can have your QSL cards checked & verified for various ARRL awards, such as DXCC & WAS (K1SFA, Photo)

For the first time ever, ARRL members will be able to drop off their QSL cards to be sent through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. If you have QSLs that you would like to send through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau (your QSLs going to foreign stations --no US-US QSLs please), you can save the shipping cost to ARRL by bringing them to Dayton and the League will transport your cards to the Bureau in Newington.

In order to take advantage of this exciting benefit, all of the standard QSL Bureau rules must be followed: Cards must be sorted by DXCC country; they must go to countries where a bureau exists, and you must be an ARRL member to use the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Patton said that hams utilizing this service do not need to box the cards, but they should be wrapped with rubber bands; ARRL will weigh the cards on-site in the ARRL EXPO area.

The rates are \$5 for the first .5 pounds of cards or portion thereof. Keep in mind that approximately 75 cards weigh .5 pounds. The rates increase to \$10 for one pound, and then \$5 for each additional half-pound. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards should include the fee of \$15. A package of only 10 cards or fewer costs just \$1.50, 11-20 cards are \$2.50 and 21-30 cards are \$3.75. Members can pay for this service via check, cash or credit card.

Why not make 2010 your year to go to Dayton? Experience all the fun and excitement of the ARRL EXPO at the Dayton Hamvention. It's not too late to make plans to join us in Dayton May 14-16.

From the ARRL



Hamfests

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

17 July - NOARSFEST - Lorain County Community College, Spitzer Conference Center Elyria, OH - <http://www.noars.net> - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Contact: Darlene Ohman , KA8VTS 4122 Bush Avenue Cleveland, OH 44109 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: dfohman@att.net

25 July - Portage Hamfair - Portage County Fairgrounds - Randolph, OH - <http://Hamfair.com> - Portage Amateur Radio Club - Contact: Joanne Solak , KJ30 - 9971 Diagonal Rd Mantua, OH - 330-274-8240 - Email: kj3o@arrl.net

8 August - CFARC Tailgate Fest - Emidio & Sons Party Center - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - www.cfarc.org/tailgate2010.html - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Contact: Frank Tompkins , W8EZT - 124 Chart Road Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223 - Email: tailfest2010@cfarc.org



What's Going On Here?

What do you see?

- (a) An A4S after a wind storm.
- (b) An A4S being used for EME communications.
- (c) An A4S being repaired.
- (d) It is not an A4S it is an A3S

Answer: It's an A4S being repaired.

If you look carefully, you will notice that the down side of the driven element is missing its capacitance cap. To replace the cap it was easier to rotate the driver vertically and replace the cap than take down the antenna and repair it..



Joe, W8KNO

Rookie Roundup

The ARRL decided to hold its first “Rookie Roundup” as a successor to the now nearly forgotten Novice Roundup. As can sometimes be expected for a first time event, the run-up to the contest suffered from some deficiencies in how the League promoted and described it. Much to our relief no one showed up in a Star Wars costume having mistaken this event for a “Wookie Roundup.”

The League’s difficulties were complicated by the problematic roll-out of its new web site, but that is a whole other story. The two main issues were the confusing information about who was eligible to participate as a rookie plus the unfortunate online, real-time logging/scoring scheme that they wanted us to use. If it never gets used again that would be okay by me.

“Rookies” were supposed to be hams that had been licensed for three years or less. It then turned out the League meant this to be three calendar years. In other words you could only participate as a ‘rookie’ if you had been licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010. Hhmm, that would be twenty-eight months. So all the hams licensed in 2007 got stiffed. This was a bonehead decision that eliminated thousands of hams who otherwise could have joined in. Hopefully the ARRL revisits this restriction.



KD8JCY with NX8G



KD8FME

But the good news is that we had four PCARS members who came to the club site to get their feet wet as first time testers. They were Alan, KD8LEB, Sandy, KD8JCY, Jim, KD8FME, and Russ, KD8LDY. KD8FME was first licensed in 2007 so he had to participate as a non-rookie. All of them owe a special thanks to Rex, NX8G, who was their

dedicated coach for the contest. He patiently walked them through the basics and then provided helpful and encouraging instructions while they operated.



KD8LDY

They each had ninety minutes of air time on the FT-920 that Dave, WB2DFC, has loaned to the club. It is an excellent rig and it performed flawlessly. We can’t say the same about our rookies, but that’s okay. This was all new to them and was their chance to learn and then develop some basic contesting skills. It was great to see how each of them improved during their time on the air. Whether searching and pouncing, calling CQ and running a frequency, catching the call sign of another station, or logging a contact, each rookie learned a lot.



KD8LEB

Not that there weren’t some mishaps. Imagine Alan, KD8LEB’s, dismay when he inadvertently spun the VFO knob while reaching past the radio in his haste to write down the call sign of the station that was

responding to him. Fortunately he was able to remember what frequency he had been on and get back to it before the contact was lost. These contacts were all special for Al because this was his first time on HF.

Around two dozen PCARS members and visitors stopped in during the day and a fun time was had by all. We will look forward to repeating this activity next year. And for you new hams, don't forget that there will be separate RTTY and CW Rookie Roundups this Fall.

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 !



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

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



ARRL, Red Cross Sign Memorandum of Understanding

On Thursday, March 25, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed a new *Memorandum of Understanding* ([MoU](#)) with the American Red Cross ([ARC](#)) at ARC National Headquarters in Washington, DC. The *MoU*, which replaces an earlier *Statement of Understanding* that expired in 2007, provides a "broad framework for cooperation" between the ARRL and the ARC "in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial."

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the signing of the *MoU* at its January 2010 meeting following the completion of negotiations. The Red Cross requires the completion of a criminal background check to participate in Red Cross activities and provides a process by which a volunteer may have a criminal background check performed at no cost to the volunteer. In the case of ARRL volunteers, the Red Cross has agreed to accept

an alternative process: ARRL volunteers may arrange, at their own initiative and expense, to have the criminal background check performed by a state or local law enforcement agency.

The Red Cross also has agreed that ARRL volunteers shall not be asked or required to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports in order to provide a communications function.



The ARRL and the Red Cross encourage interested volunteers in their respective organizations to become members and to participate in the activities of the other organization. ARRL volunteers should be aware that if they wish to become Red Cross volunteers, they may be required to consent to additional background checks in accordance with Red Cross policy that may include credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports.

Per the *MoU*, "both ARRL volunteers and ARC workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties as recommended."

During a Red Cross Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) and depending on their training and qualifications, ARRL volunteers may perform in one or more of several roles, including Amateur Radio Liaison, Communication Equipment Operator, Communication Equipment Installation/Repair and Disaster Assessment. ARRL volunteers who are assigned roles by the Red Cross during a DRO will be provided with Red Cross credentials as required by the role, consistent with Red Cross policy.

"Because of the importance of emergency communications, we are happy to be able to continue the League's long-standing relationship with the American Red Cross," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "The ARC and other served agencies give Amateur Radio operators the worthwhile missions in our communities that allow us to thank America for the privilege of being hams."

ARRL

PCARS Patches & Stickers



PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo!! The patch is approximately 3".

The embroidery on the white patch is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting.

There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x

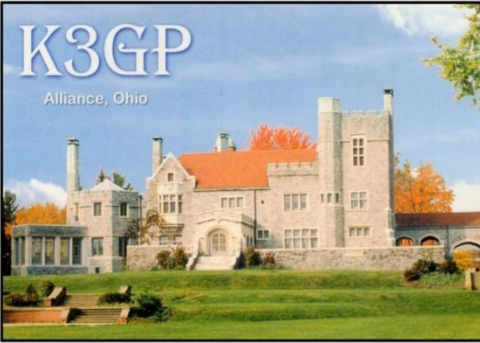
6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! If you would like to order by mail contact the club Treasurer: Bill, WB9LBI at: WB9LBI@portcars.org



Club Member QSL Cards

Editor's Note: Thanks to K8GI for suggesting this new section of the newsletter. Send me a scan or photo of your QSL card or give one to me at a meeting and you'll see it here with other PCARS member cards.

Quite a few people sent in cards and they will be highlighted in the upcoming issues. It's nice to see the creativity and maybe your card will inspire someone else to get their card and send it in.




K3GP
Alliance, Ohio

Alliance, Ohio - Stark County - USA


K3GP

CQ Zone 4 - ITU Zone 8 - Grid EN90kv

To Radio: _____



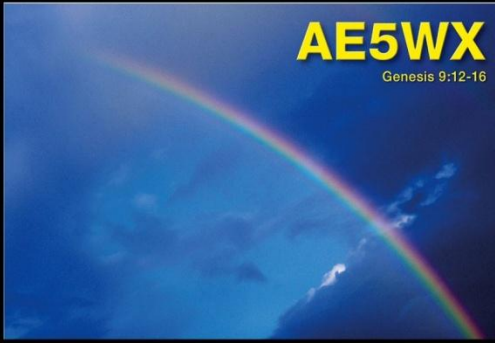
Front: Glamorgan Castle - Alliance, Ohio - Built 1904-1909 - See my web site for additional information



GEORGE A PROUDFOOT
QSL ADDRESS:
PO BOX 343
LOUISVILLE OH 44641 USA

E-Mail: k3gp@arrl.net
Web: www.qsl.net/k3gp

73!



AE5WX
Genesis 9:12-16

AE5WX

CFMG ☐ OUR QSO ☐ YOUR SWL REPORT

DATE		UTC
MHz	2-WAY	RST
TRX	WATTS	ANT


GRID EM34TR - CQ ZONE 04 - ITU ZONE 07

DARYL STOUT
10434 WEST 36TH STREET 24C
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72204-6655
USA
PULASKI COUNTY

PSE / TNX
QSL
73

VIA _____

TO RADIO _____



GOODYEAR

Station _____

Confirming QSO of _____ 19 _____

Time _____ GMT Mode _____

RST/QS _____ Freq _____ MHz

Xmitter _____

Rcvr _____

Antenna _____

Remarks _____

Tnx/Pse QSL 73


A18P
Member of the Goodyear
Amateur Radio Club, Akron, Ohio

POST CARD

P30023P

KENT, OHIO USA
Portage County - EN91

Randy Morrow
565 Vine Street
Kent, OH 44240
randymorrow@aol.com



KD8MLG

KD8MLG

Confirming QSO with: _____

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

UTC: _____ MHz: _____

RST: _____ MODE: _____

Transceiver: _____

Antenna: _____

Pse QSL ☐ Tnx QSL ☐

Remarks: _____


73, Randy

www.chuappb.com

MASSILLON, OHIO USA

NX8G

Stark County



Rex Simmons
2505 Upland Ave SW
Massillon, OH 44647

EX WN8MSF (1974) KD8ELX (2006-2008)

Grid: EN90fs ITU Zone : 08 CQ Zone: 04

NX8G

Confirming QSO with: _____

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

UTC: _____ MHz: _____

RST: _____ MODE: _____

Transceiver: _____


Antenna: _____

PSE QSL ☐ TNX QSL ☐

Remarks: _____

73, Rex

www.chuappb.com



WSPT

Post House in Parkman

This is a view of the Post House Restaurant as it would have appeared in the 1940's. This building still exists today and is only 2 blocks from my QTH. It served as a stage coach stop for years on the road between Pittsburgh, PA and Cleveland, OH. It gradually was transformed into a Greyhound Bus stop for a number of years. It has finally settled as a popular restaurant. And has enjoyed this reincarnation for years.

The art work is a copy of a painting by a local artist, who is also my neighbor, Gregg Sirak. The art work is copyrighted © 2002 and is used with his expressed permission. All rights are reserved.

Rigs: Yaesu FT 2000 PEP ☐
Kenwood TS-570SG ☐
Icom IC-7000 ☐
Icom IC-V8000 ☐
Kenwood TM V71A ☐
Antennae: SteppIR set w/40/30 @ 63' ☐
M2 6MT JHV 7el for 6m @ 32' ☐
M2 2M12 - 12 el for 2m @ 42' ☐
Power: 100 w or _____ watts / AL-808 Amp

WSPT
Chuck Patellis
18118 Madison Rd.
Middlefield, OH 44062 USA
Geauga Co., Grid EN91k

E-mail: chuckwpt@gmail.com

Ex: WA8PQK & K8CMP

CQ Zone: 4 ITU Zone: 8

☐ PSE QSL TNX ☐

These are some two-sided cards. More PCARS member cards will be shown next month

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

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



Jim, KC8PD
PCARS VE Team Liaison

May Contest Calendar

May 2010	
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 1 to 2359Z, May 2
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 1 to 0700Z, May 2
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 1 to 0400Z, May 2
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 1 to 2400Z, May 2
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 8
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 17
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 29 to 2400Z, May 30
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 30 to 0300Z, May 31

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

Some Words from Weaver

WA8EFK named ECAC Chairman

Last month I was pleased to announce the appointment of Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK as the Great Lakes Division representative on the new ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC). This month it is my great pleasure to announce that Dale has accepted ARRL President Kay Craigie's, N3KN appointment to chair this committee. Congratulations and thanks, again, Dale. I will add a great thank you to Judy, Dale's wife, for her willingness to share her husband with Amateur Radio.

Ohio OO Clearly a Good Guy

"After receiving a call about a transmitter stuck on 10 meters, an Ohio OO was able to help the family of a SK who had just passed away during the night. Not knowing what to do after seeing his equipment still on, a family member finally asked on the air if anyone was hearing them and that they needed help closing down the station. The OO was able to locate the QTH since the family member gave the ham's call sign after seeing it on his desk. After arriving, he learned the story and was asked to later contact this amateur's friends to pass on the news. A rather unique service provided by an OO." (From the ARRL February OO Summary.)

Outline of Division Conventions Revised

The outline of Division conventions has been one topic discussed during recent teleconferences. The goal of the discussions has been to make the conventions easier for members to attend, to have the sessions draw a larger audience, and to create timely, relevant and interesting seminars. We would like the input of clubs and individuals concerning the following general outline for future conventions.

Future conventions:

- Would be held concurrent with hamfests/swaps in this Division (Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio).
- Would be sponsored by the host hamfest.
- Would consist of a series of seminars that would last the duration of the hamfest.
- Would include, when practical, an informal group dinner the evening before.
- Would occur once each year and would rotate through the three sections in the Division.

Host hamfests/swaps would be requested to arrange:

- For one or two rooms suitable for the seminars.
- For a suitable restaurant for any evening-before dinner when appropriate.
- For publicity about the Convention to be included with hamfest publicity.

The Division would arrange:

- For the seminars. The hamfest committee would participate in arranging the seminars if it desires.
- For Division awards that will be given at the dinner or during a seminar.
- For a keynote speaker if appropriate.

Host hamfests/swaps will not be expected to incur expense related to the convention.

It is planned that this revised outline for Division conventions will take effect in 2010. Clubs interested in discussing the possibility of hosting a Convention are requested to contact me at k8je@arrl.org.

Division Awards Process Updated; Criteria Refined

The process for giving Great Lakes Division awards as well as the criteria for these awards have been reviewed by the Division Cabinet. During this process, the operation of the awards committee has been outlined, and the criteria for determining the winner of our awards have been tweaked. Five awards are available from the Division at each Division Convention. These are the George S. Wilson, III, W4OYI Lifetime Achievement Award, the Great Lakes Division Amateur of the Year Award, the Technical Achievement Award, the DX Achievement Award, the Amateur Radio Youth Award and the Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE, Newsletter Award.



Jim Weaver, K8JE

Thanks for the Letters

I thank each member who sent Faxes and letters in support of Senate Bill S. 1755 in the US House of Representatives.

Do I have Cards at the Bureau?

"Do I have cards at the QSL Bureau?" is a frequent question. The answer to this question is quite simple. Know who your QSL letter manager is and be sure to have envelopes and postage on file with him or her. If this is done, QSLs received from overseas will automatically be sent to you.

This being said, people who expect they may receive cards from DX stations should read the information at the web site for the correct Incoming QSL Bureau. The correct Bureau is determined by the number in your call sign. If you are KD3NEW, your QSL Bureau is the Third Area Bureau regardless of the FCC call area in which you live. Similarly, the QSL bureau for K4ZLE is the Fourth Area bureau even though Jay lives in the Eighth Area and is the Manager of the Eighth Area bureau. With my call, K8JE, my cards come via the 8th Area bureau. As a result most amateurs in Michigan and Ohio will use the 8th Area bureau and most amateurs in Kentucky will use the 4th Area bureau.

The first thing to remember is to become familiar with the procedures used by the QSL Bureau that services you. Read the information at its web site.

The second thing to do is to realize you cannot receive cards from your bureau unless you have envelopes and postage on file with your "letter manager." Your letter manager is the ham who volunteers his or her time to sort cards according to the first letter of the suffix of the call sign. You can learn who this is at the Bureau web site.

A third thing to remember is that the letter sorter is not a mind reader. If you put postage stamps on the envelope it is logical for the sorter to think you want to have the card and QSLs sent to you only after you have enough cards to use up the amount of postage you've put on the envelope. For example, only a very active DXer would put \$5 worth of postage on an envelope if he expects the envelope to be sent back to him in a month. Talk with your letter sorter to let him know how often you want cards mailed to you and how he wants you to submit envelopes and postage to him.

After you've done these things, sit back, work DX, wait for the cards to come back and enjoy Amateur Radio. Remember it often takes over two years (or longer) for DX stations to send reply QSLs. No one has ever claimed the Bureau works with great speed. For this, look forward to the day when Logbook of the World is used by nearly all DXers worldwide.

Links to all Incoming QSL Bureaus can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/qs/qslin.html>.

Will you be a Flea Marketer at Dayton?

If you plan to Flea Market at the coming Dayton Hamvention (TM) you may be interested in this offer. Bob Reiff, WA8ULW of Mason, OH has arranged to make rigid, 8'x8'x12' watertight, portable storage units available to Hamvention-going amateurs at the cost of delivery and pick-up. The roll-up doors on these units can be locked to protect goodies in them. The units will be delivered to and picked up from the flea market area. Contact Bob at wa8ulw@arrl.net for details.

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Director - ARRL Great Lakes Division



Swap-N-Shop

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

FOR SALE: 1.5" OD x 12 ft aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$75.00 [exp 6/25/10]

FOR SALE: 2" OD x 12 ft long aluminum mast - 1/4" wall, \$100.00 [exp 6/25/10]

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

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

FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Auto tuner cable for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$20.00 [exp 6/25/10]
Contact **Tom** - KB8UUZ@portcars.org or call 330-527-7609

FOR SALE: TS-440-SAT Kenwood Transceiver, PS-50 Kenwood Power Supply, MC-60A Kenwood Desk Microphone, and SP-430 Kenwood External Speaker. Sold as package only. Excellent condition, Original owner, Non-smoker, Original Packaging and all manuals. Asking \$1000. [Exp 6/25/10]

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

Editor's Note: Ads run for 3 months then are dropped from the listing **UNLESS** you send it in again. Each ad will have an expiration date that looks like: [exp 6/25/10] when they will be removed. This will help keep the listings current.



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 31 plates up on the wall now, but we can use more!

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



31 Plates and Counting - We have room for YOUR Ham Radio plate

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



DXpedition plans for the Bahamas

Preliminary plans are being made for Randy KD8MLG, Coletta W8CDL and myself KB8UHN to go to Nassau, Bahamas in November. We would like to take a radio with us and have a one-day DXpedition. We will be flying to Florida and taking a cruise ship to Nassau. None of us have ever done this before, so if anybody has any suggestions, please e-mail me at kb8uhn@portcars.org. My biggest concern is traveling with radios and antennas. Any help will be appreciated.



May the propagation Gods smile.

John, KB8UHN

April 21 Fox Hunt (already known as The Foxhunt from H)***

I was hiding in Twinsburg off of Route 82 just West of Bob Evans. I was in a warehouse parking lot backed up to the building facing east. I didn't anticipate or plan on this being a problem as it was open to the South. In fact, I thought it would be a straight shot up Route 91, West on Route 82 to me. Hah!



Gay, WB8VNO

7:30 K8RJM 7:37 N8ZUA 7:53 WD8CVH 8:03 KD8MQ & K8OMO
N8PXW AND W8EZT showed up at the Bob Evans on a clue.

K8RJM, KD8MQ/K8OMO, N8PXW, AND W8EZT all had various types of equipment problems.

I believe this one will go down in Fox Hunt history.

Your Fox,

Gay, WB8VNO

PS: To all ARES® of Portage County members -

This year's Cleveland Marathon will be held on Sunday, May 16th. As in past years, amateur radio communications support for the event is being coordinated by myself, Gay, WB8VNO. If you are interested in participating, send me a note at WB8VNO@portcars.org

Shack Shots - W8NET in Years Past

OK, here's a blast from the past. This is a photo of the shack of N9OZI (now W8NET) from 1992 in Plano, IL.

Equipment: Kenwood TS-520S with digital display/frequency counter; Drake MN-2000 tuner; MFJ notch/audio filter (can't remember the model); Ameritron AL-811 amp; homebrew speaker assembly.

I wish I still had the Drake tuner.

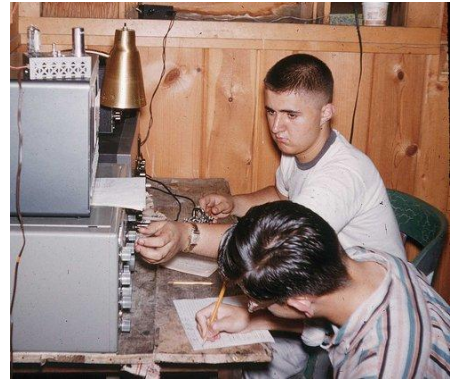


Gene, W8NET

Shack Shots - W8HFY in Years Past

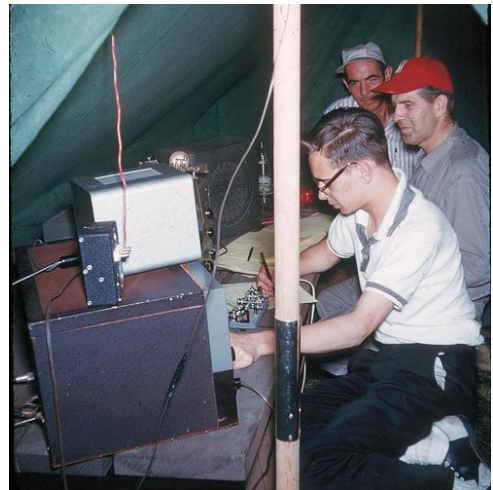
W8CGF (now N7FF) operating and W8HFY (me) logging at 1957 Field Day with the Fort Hamilton (Hamilton, Ohio) Amateur Radio Club.

My equipment that I can identify there: Viking II transmitter, NC-173 receiver, WRL VFO, and the Hallicrafters speaker.



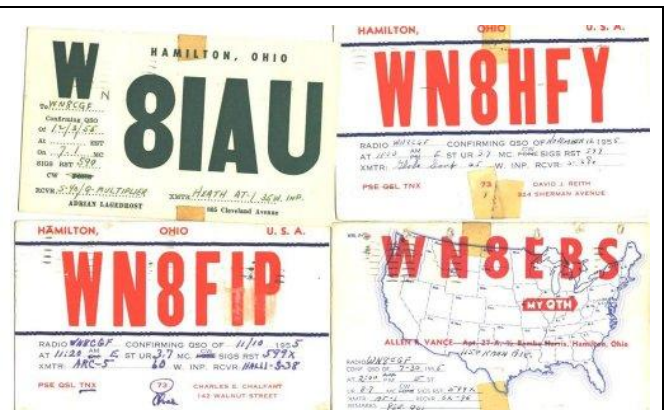
W8HFY (me) operating at the 1958 Field Day with the Fort Hamilton (Hamilton, Ohio) ARC. I do not know at the moment the other two guys in the photo are, though they were hams as well and apparently just visiting because I am also doing the logging.

My equipment that I can identify there: Viking II transmitter and the WRL VFO on top of the transmitter; and the Blue Racer bug, which I "sometimes" still use (and, of course, saddle shoes). I cannot see the receiver, but I suspect it was probably my NC-173 that year, as well.



My first QSL card (upper right). The entry level license was the Novice Class, which was good only for one year and was non-renewable, and used the "N" to indicate a novice licensee.

These four cards were from guys who all got our tickets at about the same time in 1955.



Dave, W8HFY



FCC Looks to Lower Fees for Vanity Call Signs

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on April 13 seeking to lower the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$13.40 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go down to \$13.30 for 10 years, an decrease of 10 cents.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available at, www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html.



The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 13 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 14,800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$196,840 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal four years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

From the ARRL

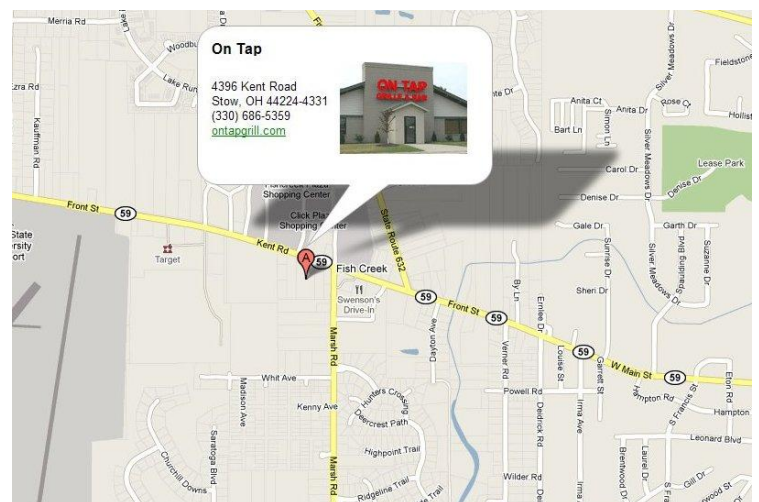
PCARS Meetings

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

The April 12th 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)



Word Search - Dayton Hamvention Dealers

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

ACOM
AES
Alfa
ALINCO
Aluma
AMERICAN MORSE
Ameritron
AMSAT
Anna
Array Solutions
ARRL
Batteries America
Batteries Plus
Begali
Bencher
Bird
Bonito
Buckmaster
Buddipole
Comet

Comtek	EZ Hang	Hustler	MFJ	RFP (RF Parts)
CQ	EZNEC	Hy-Gain	Micon	SteppIR
Daiwa	FARA	Icom	MicroLog	TAPR
Davis	Fists	ICS	MINI-CIRCUITS	UPS
DC Ace	FlexRadio	Jetstream	MOTOROLA	VIS
DC Power	GAP	Kanga	NWS	Winradio
Diamond	Green Heron	Kenwood	Palstar	Yaesu
Down East	Ham Station	LUSO	Peet	
DX Engineering	Heil	Maha	R & L	
Elecraft	HRO	Marconi	RAC	

Tom, KB8UUZ

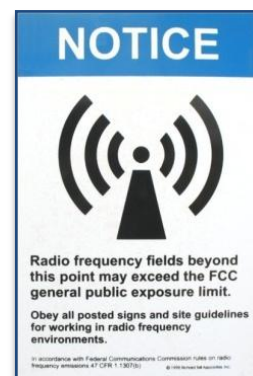
Thanks & 73



"Parky", KB8UUZ

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:

KC8PD, WB2DFC, WB8LCD, KB8UUZ, W8PT, KB8VJL, WB9LBI, KD8JCY, N8RLG, W8KNO, K8JE, KB8UHN, WB8VNO, W8NET, W8HFY, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web.



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

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

Pictures from the April PCARS Meeting



PCARS

April 12, 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
Proxy Check In	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Secretary	KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland
Web Master	K8SRR	Steve Randlett

The logo is circular with a gold border. Inside the circle, the words "AMATEUR RADIO" are written in a curve at the top, and "VOLUNTEER EXAMINER" is written in a curve at the bottom. In the center, there is a dark blue rectangle with the text "ARRL" in large white letters and "VEC" in smaller white letters below it. To the left of the "ARRL VEC" text is a small gold diamond shape containing the letters "R E S E R" in a vertical arrangement.

PCARS
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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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

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NLC

