



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



October 2010 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 5 No. 10

~ 2010 Officers ~

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~ Meetings & Nets ~

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

The Third Annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest has come and gone. I had a lot of fun, operating from Quail Hollow State Park in Stark County. During the early afternoon the parking lot was bustling with families, mountain bike riders, and the occasional horse trailer hauled in by the equestrian crowd. A number of folks stopped by to ask just what the heck I was doing which always provided a great opportunity to make a sales pitch for ham radio.



This year I decided to operate stationary mobile using the Icom 706MkIIIG mounted in the car. All I had to do was park my Pathfinder, string the wire antenna off the ball mount on the right rear fender and I was on the air, ten minutes, tops, for setup. Power came from my portable power pack (storage box with power supply, battery, inverter, etc.) that sat in the rear compartment. I propped my netbook on a cardboard box over the console.

Things did not go without problems, though. Placement of the power pack about a foot away from the antenna tuner in the right rear fender turned out to be a bad idea. Because the forecast was for rain I did not want to set it outside. Well the box stayed dry but it also proved to be a dandy antenna, picking up RF from the tuner and feedline and then sending it humming along, literally, through the 12 V wiring and the netbook power supply. Guess who got a number of crummy signal reports: "Sounds like you have some RF in your audio, OM"?

Despite all, I managed to snag thirty-eight parks so I was happy. The bands really died after about 6:30 p.m. and I was out of the park by eight, the last couple hours punctuated by steady a downpour of rain.



But I have to confess, now is when I get anxious. I wait to hear from Chuck, W8PT, about the number of entries he has received. I wonder how many participants we had around the state and how many parks were activated, and if there were of each than in 2009. Why? Because this contest is really important to us at PCARS. We created it, sponsor it, and hope that it grows in popularity every year.

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



### From the President - Continued from Page 1

Even though it is unique, our goal is to encourage clubs in other states to borrow the idea and sponsor a Parks On The Air contest in their own state or section. Imagine what a blast it would be if there were a half dozen of these going on, especially at the same time. A lot of out of state participants voiced their hope that a club in their state would sponsor a local POTA.



**Jim, KC8PD**

Like any contest, OSPOTA's success depends on participation. The same can be said for the PCARS Two Meter Simplex Sprint. It will be here before you know it: Saturday, October 2nd from noon to six p.m. With so much happening during the summer we decided to move it to the Fall, a decidedly better time to cruise the county as the leaves are changing color.

Even if you won't be able to operate mobile, please take some time that afternoon to get on the air from home and provide contacts for the mobile stations. They will appreciate it. If you do get on the road for the Sprint, you can stop by the club site or The Black Squirrel Oasis, aka, the home of Tom, WB8LCD. Stations will be on the air from both locations and refreshments will be available.

See you at the October 11th meeting!

73,

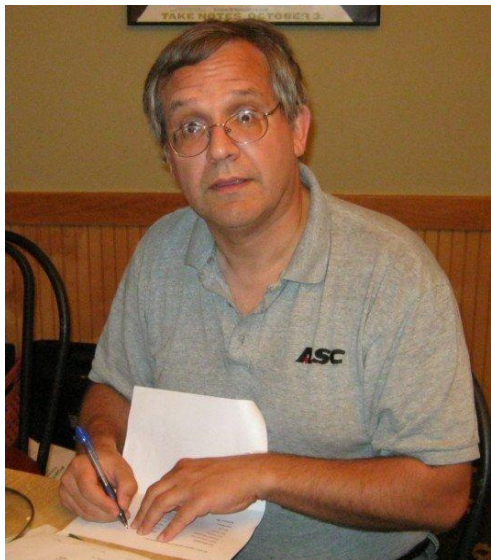
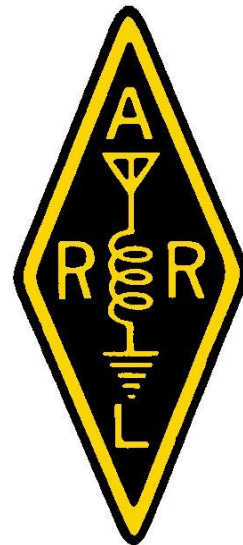
**Jim, KC8PD**

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## Join the ARRL and Help Save the World

Okay, so maybe saving the world is a teeny bit of an overstatement, but you will be helping save the amateur radio spectrum, for your own personal use and for use by every other ham in America. Here's a couple of examples of what ARRL, the National Organization for Amateur Radio, has done for you lately.

- A manufacturer of remote control rescue robots is setting the control frequencies of these devices into the 430 MHz band, even though there are other frequencies available to them. The League has taken the manufacturer to court, but the robot maker is fighting them tooth and nail, instead of just turning the dial. Read more [here](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-amends-em-petition-to-deny-em-to-include-16-additional-recon-scout-applications) (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-amends-em-petition-to-deny-em-to-include-16-additional-recon-scout-applications>).
- According to Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver K8JE, a large university wanted an additional frequency for use by their maintenance workers. They applied for a frequency inside the 430 MHz amateur band - and the FCC granted the license! The ARRL stepped in and put the skids under the license, then helped the university pick an appropriate frequency.
- A New York ham was pulled over and fined \$100 because the NY State trooper in question didn't know the difference between a cell phone and a ham radio, and didn't much care. With the assistance of the ARRL Volunteer Counsel, the ham fought the ticket in court, and won. Read more [here](http://www.arrl.org/news/new-york-judge-declares-amateur-radio-is-not-a-cell-phone) (<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-york-judge-declares-amateur-radio-is-not-a-cell-phone>).



Bill, WB9LBI

These are examples of *Spectrum Defense*. The frequencies we use are increasingly valuable, and others will try to encroach or take them away from us. One of the ARRL's primary missions is to fight off these attacks. You can help in the fight, just by joining ARRL.

PCARS is once again offering League memberships, for both new and renewing ARRL members. The cost is only \$39 for a year, and \$2 of that goes to help the PCARS coffers. And by the way, you also get a terrific monthly magazine, *QST*. The magazine alone is worth the price. Ask for a sample copy and see for yourself.

This will be the only League membership drive for the next six months. PCARS will renew your membership and take care of all the details. If your expiration is between now and March 31, please respond to the email that will be arriving at your computer soon.

**Bill, WB9LBI**  
PCARS Treasurer



## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

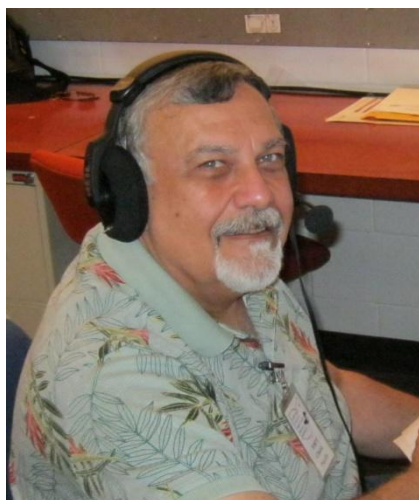
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - **PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest**
- October 11<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - PCARS Club Site History by KC8PD
- Oct or Nov - **TBD - Making a Dipole Project**
- November 8<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting - Elections - and Two Programs:** One from KD8MLF and Todd Fisher about the Ravenna Arsenal (Camp Ravenna), the other program from KC8PD on the RACES participation in "Talon Shield" at Camp Ravenna in August.
- December - **PCARS Christmas Party**



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## Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

It's October and I know that I repeat myself often but I can't get over how fast the year has been passing. There are homes already decorated for Halloween, and although I don't get excited at all over that holiday, it simply goes to prove the point that 2010 is getting close to it's end.



Chuck, W8PT

I hope that all of you have had a good year of DX so far. There are still a lot of opportunities to work some great DX before the winter months hit us. You will read below that there are some operations that will go on through December, so don't let the cold winter months deter you from having fun on the HAM bands.

There will be an event this month that will eliminate some DX entities and at the same time create others. I speak of the plans to change the two existing Netherlands Antilles. There will be activity on PJ5 and PJ7, however, from my reading it is not yet clear if any contacts made during the end of this year will count as DXCC. You be the judge:

**"To clarify the administrative process by which the anticipated changes to the two existing Netherlands Antilles DXCC entities will be made, the ARRL Awards Committee has determined that at 0400Z (12:00 AM local time in the islands) on 10 October 2010, the two Netherland Antilles DXCC entities will be deleted. Commencing at 0400Z (12:00 AM local time) on 10 October, 2010, operation from the islands of Curacao, Bonaire, Saint Maarten, Saba, and St Eustatius will count for a yet-to-be-determined number of new entities under the DXCC List Criteria, and Political Entities, Rule 1 and/or Rule 2 Geographic Separation Entities. When the Awards Committee determines what Rule 1 or Rule 2 actions apply, it will announce the final disposition of the entities on the DXCC list. The DXCC desk will not accept confirmations for these new entities until after 1 January, 2011. "**

So my suggestion would be to work the stations you hear and hope for the best when the ARRL allows the dust to settle after Jan. 1, 2011. And check out the information in this column regarding activity on the islands.

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

**DX PAPER CHASE – Yet Again Reminding:** 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>

**5H, TANZANIA** - W8FV will be returning to **Mwanza** and will be active as **5H9PD** between October 2-30th. Activity will probably be on 40-10 meters, depending on propagation, mostly CW with maybe some PSK31. There may be some 80 meters. QSL via his home call sign.

**5R, MADAGASCAR** (5R8X and Low Bands) - OH2BN, sent out the following press release on September 14th (edited): "The group of Martti/OH2BH, Pertti / OH2PM, Veijo/ OH6KN, Antti/OH7EA and Juha/ OH8NC will escape the Nordic ice and snow to provide you with a 5R8 on the low bands and a Zone 39 multiplier. Their destination will be **Antananarivo, the Republic of Madagascar**, and the call sign **5R8X** will hit the bands from October 26th-November 10th, including the CQWW DX SSB Contest (Oct 30-31st). OH2PM and OH6KN will dedicate their efforts to 160m and 80m. This activity is primarily targeted to satisfy the global demands on the low bands. The team will be using a large field and a setup of vertical antennas on all low bands. WARC activity will also be provided. The 5R8X team will be using lightweight K3 radios by Elecraft and appreciate their support and cooperation. This operation will be conducted in cooperation with Ake, 5R8FU"

**8P, BARBADOS – (Reminder)** G0OPA, will be active as 8P9LJ between Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and Nov 8th. No other details were provided.

**BX5, TAIWAN (AS-020)** - BX5AA, from **Changhua City, Taiwan** (WLOTA 0022), will be active during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 30-31st) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. Jimmy states that BX5 is a rare prefix for Taiwan (CQ 24). QSL via BX5AA, direct (see QRZ.com). Visit his Web page at: <http://blog.yam.com/bx5aa>

**CG3, CANADA (Special Event)** - Operators of the Canadian Coast Guard Station / VBA (VE3VBA) will activate the special call sign CG3MUG during the month of November. Activity is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of "Thunder Bay MCTS Centre (Canadian Coast Guard Radio Station)" located at the western end of Lake Superior. They plan to be active on VHF and HF bands using CW, SSB, PSK, RTTY and FM, as well as VoIP (CQ100) and perhaps other Digital modes. There will be several options for amateur radio stations and SWLers to obtain a special 100th anniversary CG3MUG QSL card (a certificate may also be designed). As it gets closer to the event, and they make the final preparations, they will update the CG3MUG listing on the QRZ.com.

**E51, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS** - N7OU, informs that he is once again returning to **Rarotonga (OC-013)**, and will be active as E51NOU between October 18th and November 13th. Activity will be limited to his spare time because of his Global Volunteer work on the island. [www.globalvolunteers.org/cook/default.asp](http://www.globalvolunteers.org/cook/default.asp) [http://www.globalvolunteers.org/1main/cook/volunteer\\_in\\_cook\\_islands.htm](http://www.globalvolunteers.org/1main/cook/volunteer_in_cook_islands.htm) Operations will be on 40-10 meters running 100 watts into a vertical. QSL via N7OU.

### **IOTA News**

**AF-018** - IK1QBT, will be active as IG9/IK1QBT from **Pantelleria Island (IIA TP-001)** between November 23-30th. Activity will also include the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 27-28th) as Single-Op/Single-Band (80m) entry and signing as IH9X. QSL via IK1QBT, by the Bureau or direct (see QRZ.com).

**AF-019** - IZ8TDP, will be active as IG9D from **Lampedusa Island (IIA AG-001, MIA MI-126, WLOTA 2312)** in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 30-31st) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (??) entry. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

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

**NA-066** - AB6Z, will be active from **San Clemente Island (USI CA008S, WLOTA 2332, Los Angeles County, CA)** between October 1-30th. Activity will be limited due to his work schedule, but look for him on 40/20 meters using mainly CW (with some SSB). He will operate with only 100 watts and a vertical antenna. QSL via K5OAZ (w/SASE/SAE). Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL

**OC-172 - (Reminder)** VK4LDX, will be active as VK4LDX/P from **Fitzroy Island** between October 16-22nd. He will be on the island with his wife, so his activity will be holiday style. Operations will be on 40/20/15 meters using SSB, PSK31 and RTTY. His equipment will be an Icom IC706MKIIG with verticals. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct (w/SAE and one USD or an IRC [VK operators - just send a SASE], if you send your card direct with no return postage, QSL will be sent to you via the Bureau). He does not eQSL or use LoTW. For updates, visit his blog at :<http://vk4ldxoc172.blogspot.com>

### **Other DX News**

**J2, DJIBOUTI.** Freddy, F5IRO, who has been active as J28RO since July, is planning to be active in both the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 30-31st) and CQWW DX CW Contest (November 27-28th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. He is expected to stay here for about another 22 months. His normal activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. His QSL Manager is F8DFP. QSL direct (w/SAE + valid IRC - PLEASE NO MONEY AT ALL), or by the French REF-Union Bureau. The direct cards without the above mentioned will be answered by the Bureau. For updates and more info, visit his Blog at: <http://j28ro.blogspot.com>

**PJ5 & PJ7, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES** (Update). (See my intro at the beginning of this column) With the strong possibility of two new DXCC entities to be created on October 10th, Will, AA4NC, plans to activate St. Eustatius (NA-145) between October 9-15th, as PJ5/AA4NC, followed by Saint Maarten (NA-105) between October 15-18th, as PJ7/AA4NC. Activity will be a portable operation with low power on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via LoTW, and by the Bureau or direct to AA4NC.

**R1, ANTARCTICA** - RW1AI (ex-UA1AFM), currently active as R1ANP from the Progress Antarctic station, is planning to activate the **Chinese's Zhongshan Antarctic Base for the first time ever**. Look for him to be active as R1ANP/A from Zhongshan station in October and November. He will be using 100 watts into vertical antenna. If you would like to see pictures of the base, visit the French Polar Team's Web site at: [http://www.french-polar-team.fr/BY\\_Chinese\\_Stations\\_Antarctica.php](http://www.french-polar-team.fr/BY_Chinese_Stations_Antarctica.php)

**VC1, CANADA (Special Event)** - Members of the Westcumb ARC in Amherst, NS, will activate the special event call sign VC1J on October 24th. Activity is to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Operations will be from the "Joggins Fossil Cliffs" which became a UNESCO site last year. Look for them on many different modes. A special event QSL card will be available. Listen for QSL instructions.

**VK0M, MACQUARIE ISLAND - (Reminder)** Reports indicate that Kevin, VK4KEV, is expected to be operating as VK0KEV from **Macquarie Island (AN-005)** sometime between the end of October and beginning of December 2010 for possibly up to 18 months. Activity will be mostly on 40 and 20 meters using SSB and the Digital modes. Presently, Kevin is operating as VK4KEV/VK7, in Hobart, Tasmania, while undergoing training for his upcoming long stay on Macquarie.

**VY0, CANADA** - N3SL, says "The Bret Favre of ham radio is back! " Jay "J", VY1JA, has obtained permission (from the Canadian Forces CFS Alert) to set up a station at his work assignment in the Nunavut territory and will be active as VY0JA between October 6th and November 9th. He will be taking a FT-990 and wire antennas, and activity will be barefoot on CW (preferred) and perhaps some RTTY and SSB. "J" has updated his QRZ.com page to indicate the new QTH, which is the northernmost permanently inhabited site on Earth. Also, look for him to be in the California QSO Party (October 2-3th) as VY1JA to test the equipment before he leaves for Nunavut. He says that once this VY0 operation is over, he'll be "back into retirement" vis-a-vis ham radio. "(Go Bret!)" QSL both call sign via N3SL (JA ONLY to JA3JM).

**XW1, LAOS** - XW1B, from Vientiane, will be active during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 30-31st) as a Single-Op/Lower-Power entry. QSL via E21EIC, direct or by the Bureau.

Well there you are. Some really great DXpeditions, Special Events, and rare DX to work. Hope you have a great time on the air in October.

3 es gud DX

**Chuck, W8PT**  
*aka 'Charlie the Tuner'*

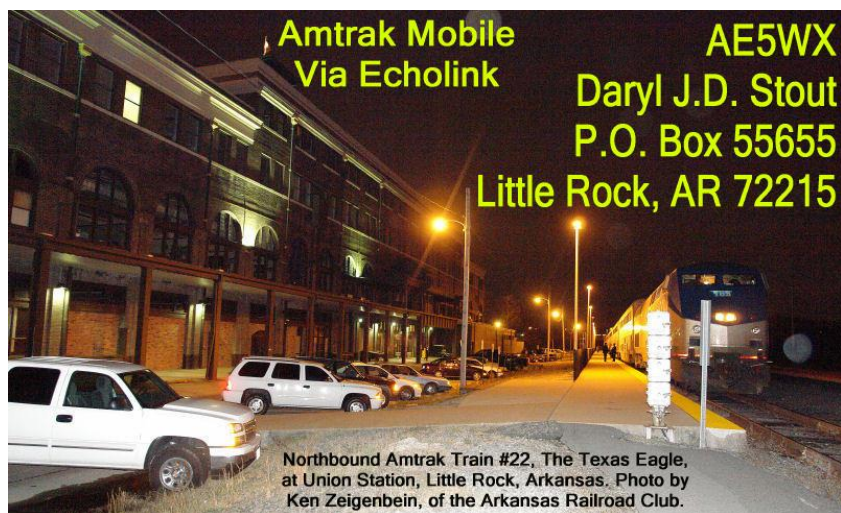




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## Report from the Amtrak Trip

While I didn't get to operate Amtrak Echolink Mobile as much as I would have liked (the laptop, aircard, and Echolink didn't want to work together), I did get a brief QSO with Tom, WB8LCD, when I was in El Paso, Texas... before the connection died.



However, I did find an excellent URL for those "ham railfans" who like to monitor the train frequencies, with information between the engineers, conductors, dispatchers, hotbox detectors, etc. Of course, one can't disclose what they hear, but it makes for some neat listening. The URL is at:

<http://www.on-track-on-line.com/amtrak-freqs.shtml> From there, just select the desired route, and have fun!!

*Daryl, AE5WX*

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## Attention Portage County Sprinters!

It's been a couple years since I've really been able to participate in the Portage County 2-Meter Simplex Contest. I'm looking forward to it! Rain or shine, I'll be operating from the back deck (or covered porch, depending on the weather) making sure that wherever you go in Portage County you'll be able to get Sugar Bush Knolls in your log.

For those of you who remember, the exact spot I'll be operating from has been formerly referred to as the "Black Squirrel Oasis" and I'm happy to report that the Oasis will be open for business. What that means to you is, if you're parched and hungry as you traverse the county roads, stop on in! I'll have hot dogs, hamburgers, snacks, beverages (beer/pop/water) - and I'd love to work *you* from Sugar Bush Knolls, too.



Not working the contest? Want to just hang out for awhile? That's OK, I could probably use a hand at the mic or the grill, whichever gets the busiest.

Hope to hear you on Two!

*Tom, WB8LCD*

## ***ARRL Awards Committee Makes Statement on Dissolution of Netherlands Antilles***

To clarify the administrative process by which the anticipated changes to the two existing Netherlands Antilles DXCC entities will be made, the ARRL Awards Committee has determined that at 0400 UTC (12:00 AM local time in the islands) on October 10, 2010, the two Netherland Antilles DXCC entities will be deleted.

Commencing at 0400 UTC (12:00 AM local time) on October 10, 2010, operation from the islands of Curacao (home of PJ2T), Bonaire, St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius will count for a yet-to-be-determined number of new entities under the DXCC List Criteria and Political Entities, Rule 1 and/or Rule 2 Geographic Separation Entities.

When the Awards Committee determines what Rule 1 or Rule 2 actions apply, it will announce the final disposition of the entities on the DXCC list. The DXCC desk will not accept confirmations for these new entities until after January 1, 2011.



***From the ARRL***

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## ***PCARS VE Test Sessions***

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



***October 2 - December 4 - February 5 - April 2 - June 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**

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## ***PCARS Yahoo Site***

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





## *EmComm*

Fall is here and that means that the ARRL sponsored annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) season is also upon us. Roughly targeted for the first weekend of October it can actually be conducted anytime in the Fall in order to meet the needs and schedules of local ARES units.

Last year ARES of Portage County participated in a training exercise that was organized by RACES of Portage County and that also included Ohio Army and Navy/Marine Corps MARS units. This year ARES of Portage County will be part of the ARES District Ten SET which is being conducted on September 28th in conjunction with the biennial Perry Nuclear Power Plant drill.

That drill is conducted by the Lake, Ashtabula and Geauga county Emergency Management Agencies as an integral component of their emergency planning should some untoward event occur at the power plant. The ARES teams in each of those counties also participate in the drill.



The District Ten DEC, Matt Welch, W8DEC, came up with the excellent idea of running a district-wide SET, pulling in Lorain, Cuyahoga and Portage Counties, and structuring the SET around the Perry drill. There will be a district net on 80 meters and local nets will run on their regular primary or secondary frequencies. Traffic can be passed as needed between the nets. All in all this is a smart way to get six ARES units working together while also meeting the goal for each to complete an annual SET.

Another great idea from Matt is the development of an Emergency Communications Conference for Northeast Ohio and all points beyond. He hopes to make this an annual event and the first one is scheduled for July 16, 2011, and will be held at the Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills.

This will be an all day event and the plan is to have the conference focus on the Incident Command System, both in its general use and operation and specifically in how amateur radio communications can be a part of it. It will be open to the public since there a lot of other community members (volunteer fire fighters, Civil Air Patrol, Community Emergency Response Team, to name a few) who could benefit from the program. It also provides a great opportunity to showcase amateur radio to the non-hams.

Matt's planning team, which is also organized based on the Incident Command System, has already met and begun their work. Watch for more upcoming details and make sure you mark your calendar for this conference next July 16th.

Mike, KD8FLZ, and Ray, KD8DFL, of RACES of Portage County are putting together the RACES fourth quarter exercise for October 9th. It will simulate a Search and Rescue event in the area of Nelson Ledges State Park, employing an on-site cross-band repeater.

The Ohio units of Army and Navy/Marine Corps MARS conducted a joint exercise on their evening nets on September 22nd. It provided the members of each service with the opportunity to check into the other service's nets. The objective of the exercise was for participants to generate messages to be sent to their local EMA directors, first posting them on the net and from there a traffic handling station forwarded them via Winlink.

ARES of Portage County provided communications support for the Mantua Potato Stomp 15K race on September 11th. All went well and the race organizers were extremely happy to have real-time radio communications throughout the race.

There are plenty of opportunities for local hams to get involved in emcomm and public service activities. Let me know if you would like more information as to how you can participate.

**Jim, KC8PD**

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

## Paper Chase

Last month I wrote about the Route 66 Special Event. In participating, I found that how you manage your

operating time has changed significantly since the event started eleven years ago. In 2000 the first year of the event, you read in publications or on the internet the frequencies that were to be used by the stations. Knowing the time frame and frequency, you would search for the individual stations and if you were lucky they might even tell you what frequency the other stations along Route 66 were operating on. Today, nearly everyone checks the DX Clusters to see who is on and where.

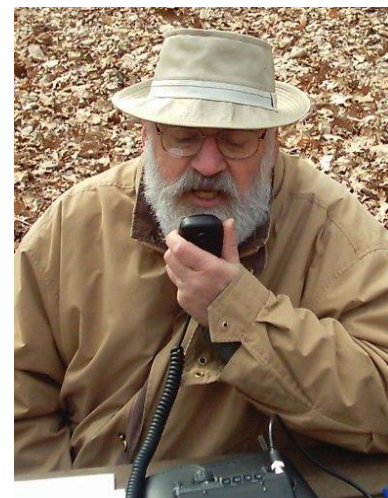


The screenshot shows the DXSUMMIT BY RADIO XARCALA website. The main content area displays a list of DX spots with columns for call sign, frequency, and location. A sidebar on the right contains a 'SEND SPOT' button and a 'SEND SPOT' form. The website has a dark theme with a red 'X' logo.

Have you ever wondered how the DX spots get there? I had always thought that the spots were sent to the cluster by the logging program. It may be true but it is not the only way. While trolling the bands last week, I heard

VK6AU/W1 calling CQ and since no one was responding, I answered. During the QSO, I learned that K1BV and VK6AU were activating Ned's Point Lighthouse at Mattapoisett, Massachusetts. I was asked to spot them on the cluster as they had friends who were waiting for them to activate the lighthouse.

When I said, "I do not know how" K1BV directed me to on line to [www.dxsummit.com](http://www.dxsummit.com) and click on "SEND SPOT." When you do this, you go to the entry page that asks for your callsign, the DX callsign, frequency (make sure you enter the frequency to one decimal point) and any comments limited to 34 characters. I did this and went to the K3LR Cluster and sure enough there it was. The moral is "you can teach a new trick" and you can do it too.



**Joe, W8KNO**

Hope to hear you in the pile-ups!

**Joe, W8KNO**

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in October:

KD8JRI	Curtis Kesling
K8JAA	Jane Avnet
KB8PHJ	Doug Gardner
K8AAB	Bob Evans
WB8VNO	Gay Wands
N8ONI	Pat Karl
KD8EPG	Ken George
KD8IUA	Mike Battershell
K8DER	Donald Robinson

W8ZL	John Davison
KD8FDN	Greg Long
KC8DBX	Angela Ziccardi
K8CAV	Rick Kruis
KD8GBB	Tony Romito
K8MSF	"Bud" Green
W8NET	Gene Marsh
KD8MQ	John Myers



## PCARS Family Fun Net

**When:** October 21, 2010 - 8:00 pm local time

**Place:** N8EQJ repeater 146.895 MHz - PL tone 110.9 or 114.8  
Echo Link - KC8RKV Echo link node

**Net Control:** Sandy, KD8JCY

**Who:** All hams, spouses, relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. Maybe you know someone who is curious about radio. Maybe you'd like to introduce radio to your kids or grand kids. Here's their chance to check it out and say something on the radio!



**Instructions:** Net control will take regular check ins, then during the comment time for each ham, their "guests" can also say "hi" on the radio. The ham will need to be present as the control for their station per FCC rules.

Check in and say, "Hello!"

*Sandy, KD8JCY*



## Hamfests

**10/16/2010 - Ohio Section and ARES® Conference** - Educational Service Center of Central Ohio - 2080 Citygate Dr. - Columbus, OH 43219 - Website: <http://www.arrlohoio.org> - Contact: Scott Yonally , N8SY - 258 Valley Hi Dr. - Lexington, OH 44904 - Phone: 419-884-5105 - Email: [n8sy@arrl.net](mailto:n8sy@arrl.net) - **Our own Tom, WB8LCD will be giving a talk on clubs!**

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





## ProClip Mounting Systems

If you are like me, you have probably tried all types of mounting schemes for you mobile installation. I've tried the kinds you have to drill holes, others that stick into the vents, etc. I never liked them.

New cars and trucks are getting harder and harder to find the right place to mount a radio head that won't block something or get in the way incase an airbag has to deploy. Most newer radios have remote head mounting capabilities, so it's a bit easier to find *someplace* to mount just the radio remote head instead of the entire radio. I miss the old cars that had real metal dashboards and room to mount stuff!.



In my quest to find a better mount, I found ProClip In-Vehicle Device Mounting Solutions ([www.proclipusa.com/home/home.aspx](http://www.proclipusa.com/home/home.aspx)). You can find a mount for just about any vehicle. These are made vehicle specific and do not require drilling holes. Some vehicles have more than one type and there are some generic mounts as well. Look around the site to find the various options you may have.

When it arrived in just 3 days by FedEx I was pleasantly surprised to see how sturdy this mount is.

I have an Icom IC-208H and ordered the ProClip for my new car.



The instructions were written clearly and have pictures. And, just like they say in the instructions, installation is 2 minutes on average. Once I had the ProClip in place I used velcro for the radio remote head, and used the standard Icom microphone mount.



The clip can be removed and no damage is done to your car. No holes either!

I'm glad I ran into this mounting system and would recommend this to anyone mounting a radio (or GPS, or Phone, etc.) in their vehicle.

**Tom, KB8UUZ**

From the ProClip web site:

ProClip provides Vehicle / Car Dashboard Mounts /Clips / Brackets and Device Holders / Mounts / Cradles / Docks that are used as a 2 PART SOLUTION or Car Kit. The ProClip Vehicle Mount clips tightly into the seams of the dashboard, providing a very sturdy bracket for your device. The Device Holder mount, cradle or dock attaches to the Vehicle Mount creating a secure and convenient mounting position where the device is in close reach. It keeps the device in an upright position for better reception and can be angled towards you for optimal viewing. Average installation time for this 2 PART SOLUTION is approximately 2 minutes, and anyone can do it. No dismantling of your dashboard is required and there is no damage to the vehicle interior. ProClip products can also be used individually or in combination with other products.



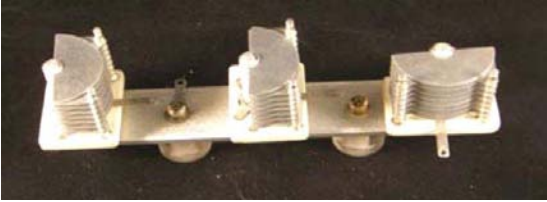
## PCARS Triplexer Project - Part 2 of 3

I am working on the aluminum bar that holds the variable capacitors. This is a 1" X 6" X 1/8" thick aluminum bar stock.

It is dimensioned to put the capacitors in line with the coils and connect them all together for connection to the output connector. There are 3 holes for the capacitors and 2 holes for the insulated standoffs.



Variable Capacitor Parts



This is the completed assembly for the Variable Capacitor Bar

The insulating spacers are made from the same material used to make the coil plugs. They are drilled and tapped to accept the mounting hardware. Now it is time to assemble the parts to the bar.

The next installment will complete this part of the project - 73,

*Allan, AB8AA*



## Interference on the Century Club Net Solved

For those of you who were witness to this interference and helped out with recordings, signal and direction verification – THANK YOU! Please see the notice below regarding the FCC enforcement action.

\*\*\*\*\*  
NOTICE  
\*\*\*\*\*

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Charles A. Hathaway  
(address withheld)  
(address withheld)

September 3, 2010

Re: WARNING NOTICE: Amateur Radio License W8ROX

EB-10-GB-0104



Dear Mr. Hathaway:

In March of 2010, the Commission received several complaints of interference to the Century Club Net operating on 3902 KHz. At my request, staff at the Commission's monitoring station began investigating in order to determine the location of the interference. Over the next month, the staff at the monitoring station confirmed that the interference was taking place and used their direction finding equipment to determine that the signal was coming from a location north of Athens, Ohio. The Commission's Detroit Field Office was notified and they began a field investigation into the matter. On July 21, 2010 at approximately 10:20 PM, the field agents heard an audible transmission interrupt the ongoing Century Club Net. They began using their vehicle's direction finding equipment to determine the location of the offending party. At 12:40 AM, they had a positive DF to a beam antenna located at (address withheld). At that time, they knocked on the door and attempted to inspect the station. No one answered the door. They returned the next day at 4:21 PM and inspected the station.

During the inspection, you indicated to the agents that you were unaware that your station had been transmitting during the time in question because you had been having problems with your push to talk button getting turned on accidentally. As part of the inspection, the agents took pictures of your equipment, including a close up of your push to talk button and its relative position to your microphone and the rest of

your equipment. Your argument that you were unaware that your station had been transmitting during the time in question because of this problem with your push to talk button is unpersuasive. One of the Commission's field agents specifically noted in his report that your push to talk button is not located on or near the rest of your equipment as it is strung through the handle of your desk drawer and away from the desk top where the remainder of your equipment is located. Moreover, according to the agents, the push to talk button appeared to be in working order during the inspection.

Your operation as described above, and verified by the Commission's field staff, is contrary to the basis and purpose of the amateur radio service as set out in Section 97.1 of the Commission's rules and a violation of Section 97.101(d). Please be advised that the Commission expects you to abide by its rules. This letter serves as notice that, if operation of this type reoccurs after receipt of this letter, you could be subject to severe penalties, including license revocation, monetary forfeiture (fines), or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies upon which you may operate.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Smith  
Special Counsel  
Enforcement Bureau  
Cc: Detroit Field Office  
Northeast Regional Director  
See 47 C.F.R. S:S: 97.1 and 97.101(d).

Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

=====

FYI, the FCC – while slow to act – DID act in the appropriate and professional manner. Kudos to Laura Smith and her team at the FCC for an excellent job.

***Gene, W8NET***



## ***One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio***

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber - his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produced the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.



Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, W0QE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"



I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

*Dan, KB6NU*

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You can keep up with all of Dan's dumb ham radio activities by reading his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). When Dan's not doing dumb ham radio things, he programs websites and does community-service type stuff as a member of the Ann Arbor (MI, USA) Rotary Club. You can email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



## Five Cent Fix to an RF Problem

After this year's OSPOTA I happened to hear Steve, K8SRR, on the 146.895 repeater describing a problem that he ran into with his Honda 2 KW generator. It created some nasty interference on 75/80 meters, the prime band for working the other state parks.

Hhmm... that was the same hassle that I ran into on OSPOTA Saturday. I was also using a Honda EU2000 generator and the bugged created an S-9 noise on 75/80 that I could not get rid of. I tried moving the generator farther from my vehicle (I was operating stationary mobile) and all around it. Nothing helped. Even unplugging the extension cord made no change. I gave up and operated using the 60 AH battery in my portable power pack.

This is a popular (though a bit pricey) generator. Compact, relatively lightweight, efficient, low mechanical/exhaust noise, quiet inverter, and not known for creating RF noise. What gives?



A search of the internet led to a tip in a review of the generator on eham.net. It was dirt simple. Pop the lid off the access hole for the spark plug, then wrap the ignition



module, plug wire and plug cap in a double layer of aluminum foil. For extra measure I added an additional double layer under the cover.

Cost? About five cents. The value? Unbeatable. The noise was completely eliminated even with the generator sitting right next to the mobile HF antenna. Steve's results were the same. Life sure will be easier at OSPOTA 2011.



*Jim, KC8PD*



## The Great Geauga County Fair



Some of the District 10 ARES folks taking a >MUCH< needed break at the 2010 Geauga County Fair .... after they rounded up some cows that got loose.

"BREAK... BREAK..." (Matt hears a call on 440 simplex) .... "Station Rabbit Barn calling NCS" .... "NCS(Matt) to Rabbit Barn, What is your traffic, over?" "Rabbit Barn reporting 47 little gizmo's just got loose... send help...OVER!"

*Al, KB8VJL*

PS... Matt's tip of the day: *NEVER* wear white shoes to the fair!



## PCARS Thursday Net Control



October	
7	N8RLG
14	KC8PD
21	KD8JCY
28	WB2DFC

November	
4	KB8UUZ
11	N8EQJ
18	N8XTH
25	N8QE

December	
2	WB8LCD
9	KC8PD
16	KD8FDK
23	KB8UUZ
30	WB8LCD



The PCARS net is **Fun** - tell your friends to check in via RF or Echolink! If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a shot, please contact me at: [WB8LCD@portcars.org](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org) and take one of the slots in the roster. Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

**Tom WB8LCD**  
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

## 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](mailto:WB9LBI@portcars.org)



## October Contest Calendar

October 2010	
PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest	Noon until 6pm Local Time, Oct 2
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 2 to 2159Z, Oct 3
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 9 to 2200Z, Oct 10
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 10
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10 (10-10-10 !)
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 17 to 0100Z, Oct 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 18
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z, Oct 31
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 30 to 2359Z, Oct 31

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



## ***ARES® of Portage County Supports the Mantua Potato Stomp***

There was a lot to do in ham radio on September 11, 2010. I was able to be involved with ARES® of Portage County when we supported communications for the first time in the history (as we know it) of the Potato Stomp.

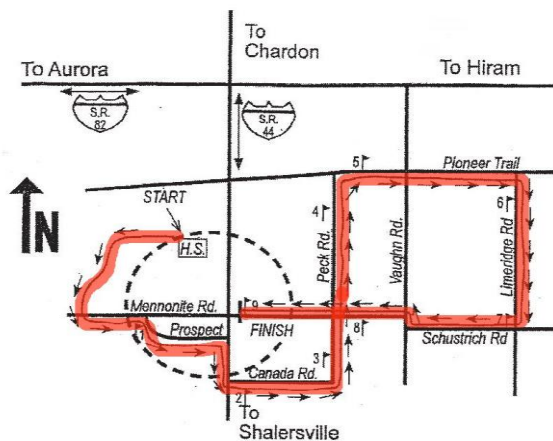
With 10 of us participating, we provided race staff with communications they never had before. Nick, N8WLE served as net control and was quite excellent at this. Jim, KC8PD shadowed the race director and Bob, N8KBX followed the SAG (Supplies and Gear) vehicle. Tom, WB8LCD, Mike, KD8FLZ, Pat, N8ONI, Russ, KD8LDY, Bob, NT8K, and myself, KD8JCY covered various locations throughout the race.

We were able to provide staff with locations of the first runner and the last runner and were able to assist the staff with questions they had out in the “field” by communicating to the appropriate personnel. No major incidents were communicated, but hams did assist law enforcement, at their request, with traffic control while still being able to be effective communicators. It seems the run staff were quite pleased with having the extra communications support. All hams were quite skilled in their communications. I was especially proud to be one of the volunteers to provide this service for the community.



**Sandy, KD8JCY**

You should consider volunteering for ARES® of Portage County. There's free training and chances to use what you learn when you participate in the biweekly nets and public service. We do a lot of preparation for the “big one”. You know that time when “only amateur radio will work”. But, you know it doesn't have to be a huge event to be called to help. There are just times



when cell phones, telephones, safety service radios, and many

other forms of communications will just not work. Amateur radio can many times help in these circumstances. And, with the knowledge base that the amateur radio community possesses, we will come through.

Join us during the bi-weekly training nets on Thursday nights. You don't have to be registered with ARES® or be a PCARS member to participate in the nets. But, if you would like to volunteer, it's best to register as an ARES® volunteer before you are needed. If there is an area of interest you would like to learn about or could speak to, please let me know at [sgetty@zoominternet.net](mailto:sgetty@zoominternet.net).

**Sandy, KD8JCY**  
**ARES® of Portage County**  
**Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Training**



## Destination Stickers

Destination Stickers, sometimes known as Euro stickers, are oval bumper stickers that usually get affixed to a car after a particularly enjoyable vacation trip. Here are a few stickers from recommended vacation spots that are of interest to specific PCARS members.

Long Beach Island, NJ. My personal favorite, on the Atlantic coast. I've never been there, but it looks wonderful just from the sticker alone.



Padanaram, MA: Overlooking Buzzard's Bay, at the base of Cape Cod



Vermont: Especially beautiful in October

Minnesota **Democratic Farm Labor Party**, the fine folks who brought you U.S. Senator Al Franken



Grand Lake, CO. completely surrounded by the Rocky Mountain National Park.

Finger Lakes, NY: It's no accident that it's known as "America's Crystal City".



Tingley Lake, PA: Miles and miles from...well, from anywhere, really.

Red River Gorge, KY. While you're visiting, take in the nearby Daniel Boone National Forrest.



Key West, FL. If the weather gets bad, monitor the Hurricane Net on 14.325 MHz

This sticker is usually spotted around Nelson Ledges when the **Insane Clown Posse** is in town



I didn't make these up; they are all legitimate stickers you can buy on [www.ovalstickers.net](http://www.ovalstickers.net). Let me know if I missed any of interest to you.

*Bill, WB9LBI*



## *Some Words from Weaver*

### **Kentucky QSO Party in November**

The 2010 running of the Kentucky QSO Party will be from 1400 UTC Saturday, November 13 through 0200 UTC Sunday, November 14. The object for stations in the Commonwealth is to contact as many stations in any location as possible. Stations outside Kentucky contact as many stations inside the Commonwealth as possible. The full rules and additional information are at <http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/>. Click on 2010 Ky QSO Party Rules at left of page.



**Jim, K8JE**

The KYQP is sponsored by the Western KY DX Association.

### **The New ARRL Web Site**

As I mentioned last month, the new web site is coming nearer to completion. Difficulties remain with a few features. These are being addressed by Fathom, the web site contractor. Once these problems have been resolved, a few tweaks will probably need to be applied here and there as well. These tweaks are likely to include alterations in page layout and presentation as HQ learns membership preferences.

If you run across a glitch in navigating the site, please take a few minutes to report it to Katie Glass, KB1ULQ at [kglass@arrl.org](mailto:kglass@arrl.org). It is most helpful to report where you were (the internet address or page name), where you wanted to go and specifically what you did to get there (e.g. clicked on link XYZ) when you ran into the problem.

Include any error message (or screen shot of it) you received wherever you ended up, and its internet address. Doing this will give Katie the information needed to get the problem fixed by the correct person in the shortest possible time. Saying, for example, "there is a problem in getting to the membership database" is generally not helpful.

### **Ohio Section Manager Frank Piper, KI8GW Elected to Own Term**

The election of Frank Piper, KI8GW as Ohio section Manager puts him in the position of having his own term in office. Piper, who won a strongly-contested race with Tom Sly, WB8LCD, had been appointed by Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N to fill the vacancy caused by the death of long-time SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE. The margin of victory was 91 votes.

Of his appointment as Ohio SM, Piper had said, "I had 3 goals, keep the Section running, keep the Section smooth, and keep the Section quiet." In noting the closeness of the election he commented, "... it sends to me (there is, ed.) a clear picture that maybe the Ohio Section does not want the status quo."

To Frank, good luck in your full term as SM. To Tom, thanks for your knowledgeable competition to make the election a true race. It is through friendly competition that ARRL grows stronger.

As a reminder, SMs serve for two years. Directors and vice directors serve for three years.



## **What's On The Air**

This is not a statement. It is not a question. It is the name of a former magazine about broadcast radio in the US and Canada. It was "The Magazine for the Radio Listener." A non-ham friend loaned me a copy of the April, 1931 issue. This was issue No. 6 which suggests the monthly magazine was introduced in November, 1930. It was published by the What's on the Air Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

What's on the Air (WOTA) magazine is interesting partly because it attempts to cover nearly everything the listener may want to know about . . . well . . . Listening. This issue devoted a 14" x 11" page to the Federal Radio Commission (FRC). It was written by G. Franklin Wisner, the chief of Press Service of the FRC. The article discussed "Controlling Radio's Traffic Lanes." The FRC recognized that doing this related to ". . . a world problem of momentous proportions" because airwaves are not limited to national borders. Of course, Hiram Percy Maxim, aka W1AW today, had arranged in 1925 for the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) because he recognized the same fact.

In 1931, NBC and CBS existed. WOTA listed their programming as well as contained photos and articles about their personalities. The truly interesting part of the magazine is its listing of all BC stations with power rating of 100 watts and over. Of these, Kentucky had 5 stations, Michigan had 14 stations and Ohio boasted a great total of 19 stations.

Add tables of stations and frequencies, lists of what programs were on and where, indication of which programs are "chain" (network) programs, and photos and articles on personalities and other topics about broadcast radio and you have 35 pages (with no advertising) for a cost of 35 cents per issue or a whopping \$1.50 per year.

## **This Month's Final**

Great Lakes Division (GLD) members recently received requests to support two legislative initiatives in the US Congress. The first of these requests was specifically related to Amateur Radio. It asked Ohio members to write letters to Ohio's US Senator Voinovich requesting that Amateur Radio mobile activities be excluded from restrictions under national distracted driving laws. The request was for letters to Sen. Voinovich, only, because of his membership on the Senate Committee that is considering these bills. This series of requests went to each state that has a senator on the Committee. Depending on the progress of this legislation, we all may be asked to write to our US senators at a later date.

The second request is not so obviously related to Amateur Radio. It asks members throughout the Division to write their US Representative and US Senators to include an expanded increase in tax deduction for mileage driven while supporting the work of non-profit organizations. Although an increased deduction would benefit amateurs as well as non-amateurs, it is probably not the type of legislation that pops into our minds when we think of Amateur Radio.

The point of this note is that ARRL has become much more active at the grassroots level than in the past in advocating for legislation that favors Amateur Radio. This is true whether the benefit is direct or indirect. Involvement of individual members by following through on requests for letters, for phone calls or for personal visits to legislators is key to the ultimate success of these legislative activities.

It is commonplace for us as individuals to be skeptical that "our" letter will do any good. This is an understandable reaction in modern society. On the other hand, letters from individual members in other

organizations are firmly accepted as benefiting their cause. Possibly the best example of this is the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Highly restrictive gun laws are few in this county, partly because of the responsiveness of individual NRA members to requests they contact their legislators about legislation.

It is true there are more gun owners in the US than radio amateurs. What this really means is that we hams need to work together even more closely than larger organizations to be heard as a strong, unified voice. When we individual hams come together for a cause we can and will be successful.

Please join the ham chorus when you are asked to make your voice heard.

***Jim Weaver, K8JE***  
Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division



## ***Swap-N-Shop***

**WANTED: Icom BP-4 battery case.** For alkaline or rechargeable batteries it was used on the IC-2AT handheld radios. If you have one and would like to sell it please let me know. [ 11/27/10]

Contact: **John** - [N8GIE@portcars.org](mailto:N8GIE@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: MFJ-434B Voice Keyer**, \$130.00 or best offer. [ 11/01/10]

Contact: **Rex** - [NX8G@portcars.org](mailto:NX8G@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: Hallicrafter model S108**, looks good but doesn't work: \$50 [ 11/01/10]

**FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ100C** with manual. Good appearance but doesn't work: \$50 [ 11/01/10]

**FOR SALE: Bencher IAMBIC Paddle, BY1**, appears to be new in box, asking \$80 (currently in AES catalog at \$119) [ 11/01/10]

Contact: **Leon** - phone 330-296-2651 or [N8GLK@portcars.org](mailto:N8GLK@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: Cushcraft 10-3 ten meter 3 element beam.** I've dry fit it and it seems that the only piece missing is a 6" x 6" aluminum mast plate. \$299 new, I'd like to get \$100 plus shipping (should be around \$16.00 to ship). [ 12/28/10]

Contact **Randy** - [N6TL@portcars.org](mailto:N6TL@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 \$250 [ 11/01/10]

**FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Auto tuner cable** for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$20.00 [ 12/25/10]

**FOR SALE: 7" Screen GPS** - Great for all you APRS people, or for those that have an Icom IC-7000 mobile (you can use the GPS to also display the IC-7000 screen through a video port!). Brand new, with everything including suction mount. \$150 [ 11/27/10]

Contact **Tom** - [KB8UUZ@portcars.org](mailto:KB8UUZ@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-570S** 160 m through 6 m HF/VHF Transceiver. Has MARS/CAP modification and includes the .5 ppm TCXO. With original Kenwood microphone, power cord with Anderson power pole connectors, Kenwood user manual and schematics, and Nifty mini-manual. \$650.00 [ 11/01/10]

**FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX Vertical** 80 m through 10 m - Good condition with manual \$150.00 [ 11/01/10]

Contact **Rick**: [K8CAV@portcars.org](mailto:K8CAV@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: Best Technologies "Ferrups"** commercial grade UPS, model FE850VA/14C, 850VA continuous; includes battery cables with power poles for external deep-cycle battery(ies). \$75 each (I have two for sale). [01/01/11]

**FOR SALE: Gator GR-4S rack case**, 4 rack units (the ultimate "go kit"). \$110 [01/01/11]

**FOR SALE: 6 ½ ' heavy duty rack cabinet** with rails front and rear, two locking doors, good condition. \$125 [01/01/11]

**FOR SALE: 6' medium duty cabinet** with rails front and rear, two locking doors, very good condition. \$110 [01/01/11]

**For Sale: Huber-Suhner EMP protector**, model 3400.17.0024, 824-960 MHz, with two N-F connectors. \$5 each (I have two for sale) [01/01/11]

**FOR SALE: Decibel Products DB8802BA-100** remote reading digital power meter (forward, reflected & swr) & alarm, 406-1000MHz .\$95 [01/01/11]

**FOR SALE: Bird 43 watt meter**, nice condition, with 4 slugs: 250A, 25-60 MHz, 250W : 50E, 400-1000 MHz, 50W : 500H, 2-30 MHz, 500W : 250C, 100-250 MHz, 250W. Watt meter and 4 slugs for only \$325 [01/01/11]

Contact **Rick:** [K8GI@portcars.org](mailto:K8GI@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: [ 11/30/10] 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 32 plates up on the wall now, but we can use more!

Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. It costs about \$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and



We have room for YOUR Ham Radio plate

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!!**

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

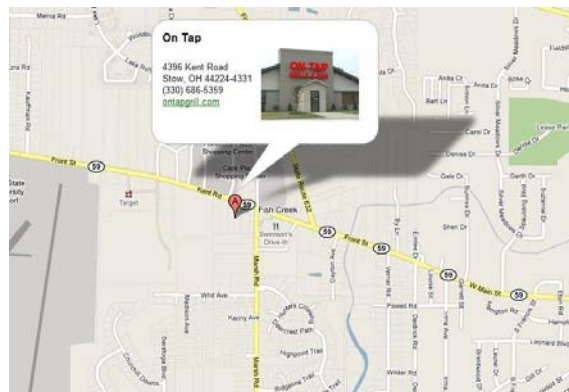
## PCARS Meetings

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

The next meeting will be at: **On Tap Grille**, 4396 Kent Road (St Rt. 59), in Stow. It is about a mile west of the Kent city limits.

**PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm Second Monday  
of Every Month**

(January through November. December is the Christmas Party)





## *Pictures from the September PCARS Meeting*





## Section Manager

September 17, 2010

To: All Amateur Radio Clubs in the Ohio Section

Re: Ohio House Bill 212 and Ohio Senate Bill 218

This letter is being sent to all Amateur Radio Clubs in the Ohio Section to bring you the latest information on Ohio House Bill 212 and Ohio Senate Bill 218. Each of these bills request tat all Ohio Municipalities adopt Federal PRB-1, to allow for licensed Radio Amateurs to erect reasonable antennas on their property.

The following text is authored by ARRL State Government Liaison Nick Pittner, K8NAP, and gives a current status of these State Bills. It also gives contact information of the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee members, in which these Bill currently reside.

I am asking you to forward this letter to your newsletter editor and/or webmaster for immediate publication.

I appreciate your efforts on this matter, and I appreciate everything you clubs does to promote Amateur Radio in the Ohio Section.

73,



Frank J. Piper, KI8GW  
ARRL Section Manager - Ohio

Attachment

From: Nick Pittner, K8NAP  
ARRL State Government Liaison, Ohio Section

It's an election year. Every office in the Ohio House of Representatives is open for election in November. Some members are term-limited and can't run. Others may choose not to run, while most who can will run. In the meantime, nothing is happening by way of committee hearings or efforts to pass legislation. But, there is a curious event that often happens between the general election and the end of the year when the legislative term is about to expire. It is called the "lame duck" session, and it often results in the passage of a large number of dammed-up bills that have been waiting for attention while more important matters (e.g., elections) were being tended to.

At this point we don't know for sure if there will be a lame duck session in the Ohio General Assembly this year. But, if there is one, we very much want our antenna legislation, H.B. 212 and S.B. 218 to be passed as part of that session. S.B. 218 has already passed the full Senate and been transmitted to the House, where it has been assigned to the Homeland Security Committee. What is now needed is for the Homeland Security Committee to pass the bill on for a floor vote of the entire House of Representatives. Passage there would result in the bill being transmitted to the governor for signature.

So, how do we make that happen? Remember, it's politics. At the moment, the House of Representatives is controlled by the Democrats. However, every vote matters, so if you haven't called your representative, regardless of political affiliation, in support of this legislation, now's the time to do that. Four representatives who hold leadership positions are especially important to our effort at the moment. The first is Speaker Armond Budish, who represents the 8<sup>th</sup> District in Cleveland (Columbus office telephone number 614-466-5441). The other two are Matt Szollosi, Speaker Pro Tempore, who represents the 49<sup>th</sup> District in Toledo, (466-1418) and Jay Goyal, Majority Whip, who represents the 73<sup>rd</sup> District in Mansfield (466-5802). Finally the Chair of the Homeland Security Committee, Tracy Heard of Columbus (466-8010). Those of you who live in any of their districts are especially encouraged to make a call, as soon as possible and encourage you fellow-amateurs to do likewise. Better yet, how about a reminder at your next club meeting?

If we are not successful in getting our legislation passed and signed into law by the end of this year we must start all over again next year. Let's make this our year and get on to more important things, like enjoying the sunspot cycle. It's up to you!

## Be Careful

Summer went by way too fast and Fall came in pretty quick. School is in session now. The mornings are getting darker just when the kids are out waiting for the big yellow buses. So be on the alert when your out driving in the mornings and again when the kids are on the way home in the early afternoons.

October also means Halloween is coming soon - and again, kids will be out prowling the streets to get those goodies in the bag and not paying attention to traffic. So, please watch out.



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## Thanks & 73

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



Thanks goes out to this months contributors:

KC8PD, WB9LBI, W8PT, AE5WX, WB8LCD, W8KNO, KD8JCY, KB8UUZ, AB8AA, W8NET, KB6NU, KB8VJL, K8JE, KI8GW, K8NAP, the ARRL, and the World Wide Web.

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

**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor

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## Editor's Parting Shots

When Jim, KC8PD sent in the article on using Tin Foil to fix his generator's RFI problem, all I could think of was Tin Foil hats.... I added the one with the cat in his article. And, here are a few more pictures I thought were amusing.





*There's Still Time to get in the class:*

## - 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 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Starting September 28, 2010 for eight weeks

Official Amateur Radio License testing will be held  
at the end of the course

Where:

Community Room  
Family & Community Services  
705 Oakwood Street  
Ravenna, OH

Registration:

First night of class

Cost:

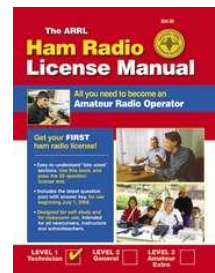
\$25.00 Registration fee - which also provides  
the attendee a One Year Membership in PCARS  
\$24.95 Text – “Ham Radio License Manual”  
(text may be purchased first night of class)

Information:

Contact Jim Aylward, KC8PD:

by e-mail at: [KC8PD@portcars.org](mailto:KC8PD@portcars.org)

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](http://www.portcars.org) , or contact  
Jim Aylward, KC8PD, at [KC8PD@portcars.org](mailto:KC8PD@portcars.org), or by phone at **330-297-7979**

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



presents the

## 5th Annual PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest



**Saturday - October 2, 2010  
12:00 pm until 6:00 pm**

*See if you can Work All of Portage County, Ohio*



This 2 Meter FM Simplex contest is sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.(PCARS). The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

Contest is open to all - you don't have to be a member of PCARS, you don't even have to be inside Portage You can operate from home, mobile, or portable. Even if your passing through (or near) Portage County.

Heck, you don't even have be a 'contester' to have fun during this contest - just have some FUN!

Special Participation Certificate for all that send in a log! Hams belonging to clubs out side Portage County can also submit scores for themselves and your club scores, too!

See how many Cites, Villages, and Townships throughout Portage County  
you can make contact with on 2 Meter FM Simplex.

In Portage County, there are:

5 Cities: Aurora, Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Tallmadge,

7 Villages: Brady Lake, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogadore,  
**Sugar Bush Knolls** (*home of the Black Squirrel Oasis!*), Windham

18 Townships: Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Franklin,  
Freedom, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna,  
Rootstown, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham



**Complete Rules, Summary Sheets & Log Sheets  
are available for download on the  
PCARS web site:**

**[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)**

We'll be listening for you!

*Join us in the fun and see just how far your rig will go on simplex.  
Best of all - let's have a FUN day on the radio!!*

*Need more information? E-mail [2Meters@portcars.org](mailto:2Meters@portcars.org)*





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

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM

Check the PCARS website [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org) for meeting location

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



# "When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

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

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

### PCARS Appointments & Committees 2010

ARRL Awards - VUCC	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
Club Call Trustee	<b>KB8VJL</b>	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	<b>W8KNO</b> <b>W8PT</b>	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2010	<b>WB9LBI</b> <b>W8PT</b>	Bill Fraedrich Chuck Patellis
FYAO	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
Historian	<b>KB8SZI</b>	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Mgr.	<b>KB8VJL</b>	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
Newsletter	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA 2010	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
PIO	<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
Proxy Check In	<b>KB8VJL</b>	Al Atkins, Sr.
Secretary	<b>KD8GGZ</b>	Mary Jo Loveland
Web Master	<b>K8SRR</b>	Steve Randlett



PCARS  
VE Team

<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
<b>KB8DPN</b>	Russ Anderson, Sr.
<b>N4IT</b>	Carl Capps
<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
<b>N8XTH</b>	Deron Boring
<b>N8PXW</b>	Jim Korenz
<b>N8QE</b>	Bob Hajdak
<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
<b>N8EQJ</b>	Ed Polack
<b>K8QF</b>	Russ Conklin
<b>K8GI</b>	Rick Patterson
<b>WB8VNO</b>	Gay Wands
<b>WD8CVH</b>	Ted Wands
<b>NX8G</b>	Rex Simmons
<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
<b>AB8AA</b>	Allan Avnet
<b>K8JAA</b>	Jane Avnet
<b>KD8FLZ</b>	Mike DiCarro
<b>KE8G</b>	Jim Blanca
<b>W8RID</b>	Bob Davet



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

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



NLC

