



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



April 2011 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 6 No. 4

~ 2011 Officers ~

President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD  
 Vice President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD  
 Treasurer - Bill Fraedrich - WB9LBI  
 3 Year Trustee - Sandra Getty - KD8JCY  
 2 Year Trustee - Robert Gurney - N8RLG  
 1 Year Trustee - Ed Pollack - N8EQJ

~ 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 Spring Technician Class has started and we have six students. This is the twelfth Tech class that PCARS has held since the first course was offered in the Fall of 2006. There have been eighty-four students altogether in those classes and all but a handful went on to successfully pass the Tech test and many of them have also upgraded.

Tom, WB8LCD, and Russ, KB8DPN, and I were the original instructors for the class and last year Frank, KD8HGI, joined Tom and me as Russ concentrated more of his time on the two special harmonics that he and Irene, KD8DFM, were raising. All four of us have always agreed that there is no more special reward in amateur radio than being able to welcome new hams into the hobby.



Jim, KC8PD

We are confident that our six current students will be collecting their Certificates of Successful Completion of Exam at the VE session on May 10th. With that, they will all become new members of PCARS, too. And, with that, one of them will likely be the 200th member of PCARS.

This will be a major milestone for the club. It was in June, 2008, that Bob, K8AAB, became member #101. For those of us who had been the founders of the club that was a profound moment. In barely two and a half years the club had hit the "century" mark. As much as that was an accomplishment we also felt that it was a substantial responsibility. Something had brought all those folks to PCARS and we wanted to make sure that there would always be something that would keep them coming back.

And they did. Not only that, but in a bit over another two and a half years the membership has doubled and around 175 of all members remain active in the club. At every monthly meeting it is still awesome to look at that dining room packed full of PCARS members. The same goes for the enthusiastic turnout for club projects and activities and the regular events at the club site. It is always reassuring to know that so many hams are having this much fun in an amateur radio club.

But that challenge and sense of responsibility never go away. Tom, WB8LCD, myself and the other PCARS board members want to be sure that we continue provide the club experience that you are looking for. Suggestions, comments, questions and critiques, we need all of those from you as well as your help to keep PCARS moving forward. Think of the stories that we will be able to tell member #300!

73,

Jim, KC8PD

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

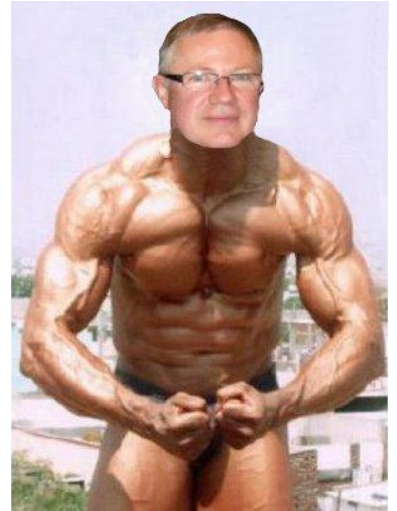


### ***From the Vice President***

Well, 2011 is certainly off to a good start! Not only are the sunspots showing up again, but the activity level at the PCARS World Headquarters on Oakwood St. has been increased dramatically. Tuesday nights have several activities taking place and seem to be the busiest nights, but every other Thursday is a "Net Nite" at the club site, and is also a good time to come out and just socialize with your PCARS friends. It's been a work in process over the last few years, but the club site has really taken hold and is fast becoming a very busy place. Make a point of stopping out and joining in on all the activities taking place there – you'll be glad you did.

I know you'll want to be present at the next PCARS meeting. Our guest speaker is Rick Swain, KK8O, Official Observer (OO). You might want to go out to the ARRL website prior to the meeting and learn just a little more about what the OO program is and I'm sure Rick will have some interesting stories, as I've heard some in the past. On Saturday April 23 we'll be building our USB / Soundcard Interface project, at the club site. We'll start at 10:00 am and I'm sure we'll have some working units by noon, or soon after. Even if you aren't building a kit, stop out and give some good advice to those of us who are.

Speaking of Big Fun, we've got a new activity we're going to try this year – sorta like a summertime FYAO, but this one will be SYBOTA. Yes, that's right, Sun Your Buns On the Air, our first all nude operating event! We'll be using the club callsign, K8BF, that's Kilo 8 Bare Friends! Bill, WB9LBI, will be the point man on this operation, so send Bill and email right away and let him know which band you want to operate. KC8UNR, after his second win at FYAO has taken on the moniker “Klondike Mike” - what will we call the winner of SYBOTA? Send your suggestions to Bill, WB9LBI. Hope to See you There! (oops, did I really say that??)



**WB8LCD all ready for SYBOTA**

Field Day is coming up fast. Our goal for the club this year is to be Number One in the Country for participation! Make your plans now, even if you don't operate, please show up and sign in, even if you can't hang around. Got some friends or relatives? Make sure they know what's going on at Ravenna City Park on the weekend of June 25/26. We need them to stop by and see what Amateur Radio has going on, and sign our guest sheet. Help us out, this is easily within reach – Be there, and bring some friends! BTW, we're going to do pretty darn good in the contest, too.

PCARS is your club. We want to provide the activities and programs that are of interest to you. Please, let me know what you would like to see PCARS doing in the next 12-24 months. If I can make it happen, I will. If you know someone who would be an interesting speaker, give me their contact information and I'll try to get them to visit us. You never know, that big time ham from afar might just be looking for a reason to come out this way to stop in at DX Engineering or AES. Why, they might even be interested in seeing what its like to participate with the best club in the hobby – PCARS!

Best 73 to all,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**



## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:



- April 7<sup>th</sup> - **Net Nite** at the Club Site - 8 pm
- April 11<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **Special Guest** Rick Swain, KK8O, Ohio Section OO
- April 20<sup>th</sup> - **Fifth Anniversary** for PCARS being **ARRL Affiliated** (2006)
- April 21<sup>st</sup> - **Net Nite** at the Club Site - 8 pm
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> - **New & Improved USB Soundcard Interface** - At the club site by K8CAV
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **Radio Orienteering aka ARDF** by Matthew Robbins AA9YH
- May 14<sup>th</sup> - **Antenna Day** - Practice set up for Field Day 2011 at the City Park in Ravenna
- May 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> - **Dayton HAMVENTION®** THE place to be in mid May
- June 25-26 - **ARRL Field Day !** Big Fun for PCARS ! at the City Park in Ravenna



### Special Interest Groups - Every Month at the Club Site - 7 pm

- First Tuesday - **Digital** Special Interest Group
- Second Tuesday - **QRP/CW** Special Interest Group
- Third Tuesday - **MARS** Special Interest Group
- Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** Special Interest Group





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

Spring is here! The temperatures are moderating somewhat. But the most important thing is that the bands are heating up due to the increase in activity from Cycle 24. Ten, 15 and 20 meters have been cooperating quite nicely so if you have been on, you should have been able to work some neat DX.



**Chuck, W8PT. Getting those ESP contacts for DX**

For instance, in March, my log shows Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Rhodes all worked on 15 m. On the 19th, between 03:30 and 04:26 UTC, I logged a couple stations in New Zealand, and added Australia and Antarctica all with 59 sigs. The log also shows Sable Island on CW and Prince Edward-Marion Island and Revillagigedo Island on SSB. And during the recent ARRL DX contest I worked 14 stations from Japan all on 15 m.

The DX is there if you have a mind to work it, so I hope that you, who are starting to put together your new country list, will take advantage of the really good propagation and work some Gud DX!

I really want to thank the following for the forecast reports for April and beyond: 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 could contain “Pirate/SLIM” operations or busted call signs. Please do yourself a favor and adhere to the old adage of “Work First Worry Later” (WFWL).

### ***DX News***

**3W, VIETNAM.** (Reminder) Bruce, XW1B, from Vientiane, Laos, is planning an operation from Danang, Vietnam using the call sign 3W3B. He states that he will be living in Danang most of the year and anticipates being very active on the bands. At the start of his activity, he will use a simple station/antenna but plans to improve things later. QSL only via E21EIC. NO eQSLs.

**5X, UGANDA** (Reminder). Nick, G3RWF, will once again be active as 5X1NH from Fort Portal in western Uganda, and will be there between February 19th and April 14th. Usually he is there to do voluntary work, so his activity is usually outside the work hours. He prefers to operate CW but plans to also be on the Digital modes with some SSB. Activity will be on all bands except 160m (no room for an antenna) and 6 meters is not licensed. He mentions that he will be taking a linear (thanks G3PJT) and hopes to make a better effort on 80 meters. His rig is a K3. QSL via his home call sign and LoTW.

**9N, NEPAL,** Operators Dov/4Z4DX/9N7DX and XYL Anat/9N7YL will be active between April 13-30th. Activity will be mainly 20/15/10/6 meters using mostly CW, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via 4Z4DX. Dov has activated a new Web page for this operation at: <http://www.9n7dx.com>

**9Q5, DEM. REPUBLIC OF CONGO** – Reminder: CX2CC, is now active as 9Q5OAR from the City of Goma, near the Rwanda border and is there working for the United Nations for one year. He hopes to be active on CW (slow), SSB and the Digital modes. He is using a TS430 transceiver into a Log Periodic or wire dipole. QSL via his home call sign CX2CC: Christian Cardarello, Avenida Italia 3319, CP11600 Montevideo, Uruguay, South America. QSLs will not be answered until his return in December 2011. Please, direct QSL send a SAE with 2 USDs or a new IRC.

**W8, PARKMAN.** Chuck W8PT, will be active as W8PT from mostly Amish territory of Parkman, Ohio between April 1-11<sup>th</sup>. Activity will be holiday style on 40 through 10 meters usually in the morning hours of 7:30 am through 11:30 am Eastern Standard time using SSB, PSK-31 and CW. QSL via home call listed in QRZ.COM.

**FM, MARTINIQUE.** Oliver F6ARC, will once again be active as FM/F6ARC from Martinique (NA-107) between April 6-21st. Activity will be holiday style probably on 160-30 meters CW. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct (QRZ.com).

**FR8, REUNION ISLAND.** Frederic, ex-F5INL, will be active as FR8NE from Reunion Island (AF-016) until July 2012. Activity

will be on 20/17/15/12/10 meters using mostly CW. QSL direct to Frederic Bossu, 2 Chemin des Grenadiers, 97490 Sainte Clotilde, Reunion Island or by the Bureau.

**H44, SOLOMON ISLANDS.** Bernhard, DL2GAC, reports that he will once again be on a DX vacation in the Solomon Islands. He is expected to arrive in Honiara, the capital, on January 13th and will (expected) depart on April 12th. He will once again be active as H44MS, usually on SSB only but will probably focus on the 80 and 40 meter bands. QSL via DL2GAC .

## ***IOTA News***

**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

**EU-042.** Operators Mathias/DJ9MD, Jens/DK8MIL, Jan/DK7JAN and Thomas/DK9BTX will be active as DF0TM from Sylt Island (GIA/DIDN-016, WLOTA 2057) between April 15-18th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. QSL by the Bureau or direct (see DF0TM on QRZ.com). For possible updates, see the Web site at: <http://www.df0tm.de>

**EU-055.** Helge, LA1QDA, will once again be active from his summer QTH on Sotra Island between July 11-31st. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using mainly SSB and CW. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

**EU-123.** Operators Adrian/M0PAI, Alan/G0JNJ, Arthur/M0GWF and Keith/ G3VKF will be active as GS4MWS from Lamlash, Isle of Arran, between April 2-7th. Activity will be mainly on the HF bands. More details will be forthcoming on the operating times and frequencies. They also plan to Twitter from the GS4MWS operation live @gx4mws while on the island. QSL via M0PAI.

**NA-184.** Rick, K6VVA, will be active as K6VVA/6 from St. George Reef in the California State North IOTA Group between April 8-9th. Activity will be on 40-15 meters using mainly CW with some SSB. However, this DXpedition is subject to weather and helicopter landing, so dates may change slightly. QSL via N6AWD. For updates, watch: <http://www.k6vva.com/iota/na184>

**OC-239. (Reminder)** Joni, YB9WZJ, will be active as YB9WZJ/p from Doom Island during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 30-31st) as a Single-Op entry. QSL only direct to YB9WZJ.

**P4, ARUBA.** Dee, W1HEO, (who happens to be the present editor of the Cleveland Chapter One of the Quarter Century Wireless Assoc. Newsletter) will be active as P4/W1HEO from Aruba (SA-036) between April 3-16th. Activity will be from the P49V contest station and will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB, with emphasis on the higher HF and 30/17/12 meter bands. Operations will be on the IOTA frequencies: CW - 10115, 14040, 18098, 21040, 24920 and 28040 kHz SSB - 14260, 18128, 21260, 24950 and 28460 kHz. Although this is a semi-holiday outing, major effort will be devoted to maximizing operating time. A special color photo QSL will be available. QSL direct only to the W1HEO (QRZ.com address) or by the Bureau.

**S7, SEYCHELLES.** Operators Norbert/F6AXX, Romain/F8DSI and Bernard/F5HEW will be active as S79UFT from Mahe, Seychelles Islands (AF-024) between March 24th and April 15th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW and some PSK. Suggested CW frequencies are: 3524, 7013, 10115, 14025, 18083, 21025, 24903 and 28025 kHz. PSK will be on the usual PSK frequencies. QSL via F6AXX, direct (QRZ.com) or by the French REF-Union Bureau. There's a lot more listed for March but again, because of space, I need to limit my report. So get on the air and see for yourself. Have a great March and until April, 73 es gud DX.

**SV5, DODECANESE.** Fred, PA1FJ, will be active as SV5/PA1FJ/p from Pigadia village on the Island of Karpathos (IOTA EU-001, GIOTA DKS-016, MIA MGD-013, WLOTA 1570) between May 8-14th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters, using his FT-817 into a Buddistick and 2x5m dipole. QSL via his home call sign, the Bureau is preferred.

**XV2/XV4, VIETNAM.** Mal, VK6LC, will once again be returning to Vietnam between April 10-25th. This will be a dedicated culture tour of northern Vietnam, but he plans to be active from two different locations using two call sign: V2LC - April 10-15th; from Ho Chi Min City. XV4LC - April 20-25th; from Mekong Delta. Activity will be on 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via VK6LC only direct. He does NOT use the QSL Bureau.

Have a great and safe April and I hope you work some gud DX this month and I also hope that you are getting ready for DAYTON HAMVENTION 2011!!

73,  
***Chuck, W8PT***  
aka 'Charlie the Tuner'



## 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/>.



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## Is it time to renew your ARRL Membership?

It's the beginning of Spring, so naturally every ham's thoughts turn to their ARRL Membership and if it's time to renew. It probably is, but if you're not sure, take a look at the label on your latest QST Magazine and look at the top line of the address. Your expiration date is coded in there somewhere.

What's that you say? Spring is all about baseball, flowers, and bunnies bearing brightly colored eggs? Is that you feel? Huh, that's pretty weird. Okay, so let's try another approach.



Your anniversary is right around the corner and this time you know you've got to get a nice present for your spouse—not like last year. You still haven't lived that one down. So what does your Significant Other really want this time? A nice year of membership to the American Radio Relay League, that's what. You know the old saying: "Promise her anything, but give her access to the Outbound QSL Buro. Only 39 bucks!"

She's not the romantic type anymore? But you both love your country, so pay close attention here. You probably didn't know this, but nothing strikes fear into the heart of Osama and his minions than hundreds of thousands of red blooded Americans, aligned in unity against his Forces of Evil. In fact, next month they're taking "Devoted Entirely to Amateur Radio" off the masthead of QST and replacing it with "You're either with the League, or you're with in league with the Terrorists."

You don't seem to be convinced yet. Let's go back to Spring. What do people think about in Spring? Of course, they think about WB9LBI and what would make him happy. You can't argue with this line of reasoning, because I know from my own experience that it's true. Not a day goes by in the Spring that I don't think about what would make WB9LBI happy. So I'll tell you: WB9LBI would be really pleased if wrote out a check for \$39 and sent it to him with a note to renew your ARRL membership. Do that, and I can promise you that he won't trouble about the matter for year. In fact, go get your check book right now.

You're so lucky you have me here to remind you about these things.

**Bill, WB9LBI**

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## How to have a "Poor Man's Alpha" for half the cost

I operate Navy MARS as NNN0QCK and I was looking for a good reliable amplifier which used a single 8877 tube. There were two reasons I wanted to use this tube. First the 8877 is readily available as New Surplus or as a Used Pull both at fairly reasonable prices. Secondly I already had a pair of amplifiers that run the 8877 tubes. However the problem was that both of these amplifiers are configured for 100% duty cycle no time limit operations like RTTY or contesting and each run a pair of 8877s. It did not make sense to run time up on two tube filaments for the low duty cycle use on MARS frequencies where I usually run 800 watts or less depending on conditions. I had

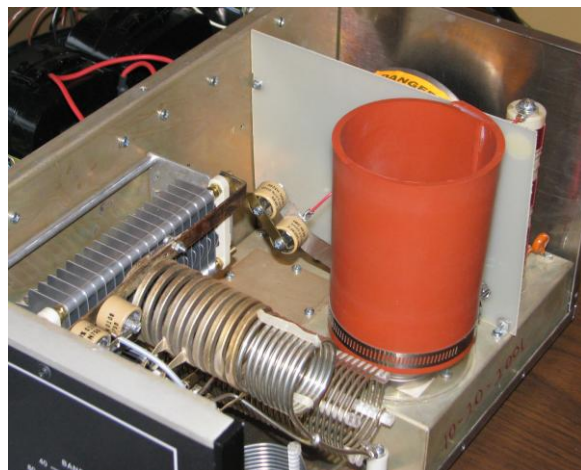


considered another Alpha until I saw the cost, \$7950 for a new amp and used ones were non-existent. That is when I began to look at an Ameritron AL-1500 which is about \$3500 new.

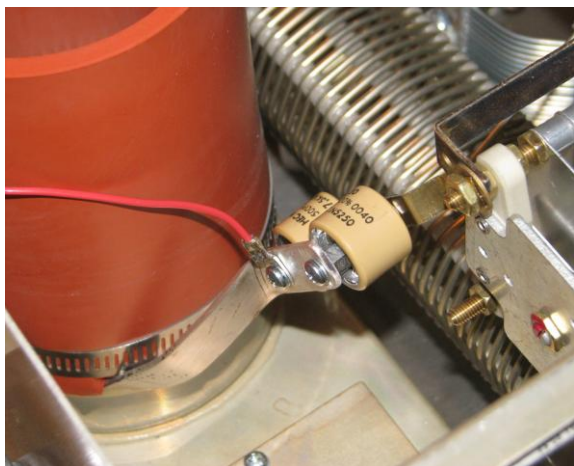
I recently obtained a used Ameritron AL-1500 amplifier thru an ad on QRZ with low hours and a new spare Eimac 8877 tube for \$2900 which is less than half the price of an Alpha 9500. Initially I was a little reluctant to purchase an Ameritron amplifier since they were now owned by the same folks that own MFJ. However when I got my newly acquired AL-1500 home and powered it up I was somewhat surprised and disappointed all at the same time. I was surprised to find that the amplifier has a stainless steel chassis on the bottom and back. This was a big improvement from the zinc chromate plating used on the AL-1500 I owned back in 1990. However on the other hand to my disappointment this Ameritron AL-1500 was just as noisy as the one I owned more than twenty-years ago.

From my past experience I knew that this amplifier also had some problems with heat due to the fact that the air exiting the cooling fins on the anode of the tube was allowed to fill the tank circuit compartment prior to exiting the cabinet. This allowed heat to be transferred to the tank circuit components, the top and side of the cover as well as the tuned input circuitry. Also there was an excessively large gap between the circumference of the anode and factory cooling chimney. The fact that some air was not passing thru the cooling fins plus the heat transfer coupled with the fact that a small amount of this hot air was actually drawn back thru the fan for a second pass caused the amplifier to run quite hot during extended operations. I had solved this problem 20 years ago so I knew what to do for the air flow issue. To prevent any of the hot air from transferring heat to other components or bring re-circulated it needed to be ducted out of the cabinet.

Therefore I purchased two 26" x 19" sheets of 3/16" thick silicone rubber on Ebay for \$27 including shipping. Silicone rubber sheeting is orange-red in color and will withstand temperatures up to 500 °F. Silicone rubber is easily glued with clear silicone rubber caulking and will dry within 24 hours. So I measured just enough sheeting to wrap the anode of the tube and overlap about 1/2". I then wrapped the sheeting around the tube to form a cylindrical tube about 12 inches long. Since I had two 8877 tubes handy I used one on each end of the cylindrical tube and used stainless ring clamps to hold it in place until it dried. In between the ring clamps I used packing tape to hold the cylinder closed until the silicone rubber dried.



AL-1500 showing the completed Air Chimney.



Modified AL-1500 plate connections.

The DC Plate supply connection was run thru the hot exhaust air column. You will need to remove the brass strap

Once the silicone rubber has dried you are ready to install the air tube. It must be cut to exact length so that it fits from the top of the air chimney around the tube up to the top cover. The easy way to do this is to remove the anode connection from the tube and install the air tube on the anode of the tube. Be sure to push it all the way down to the air chimney. Then lay a straight edge like a metal yard stick across the top of the amplifier from the back to the middle divider. Carefully draw a line on the silicone rubber air tube and then trim to length. Next we will modify the anode connection to make it work with the silicone air tube.

The original connection to the anode of the tube was made by using a fuse clip like you would find in a 50-60 ampere cartridge fuse holder. The brass strap that connected to this clip as well as the DC Plate supply connection was run thru the hot exhaust air column. You will need to remove the brass strap

from the plate DC Blocking capacitors to the fuse clip. Also remove the DC connection to this clip by unsoldering the wire. Then remove the brass strap that connects the DC Blocking capacitors to the plate tuning capacitor. You will need to start about 3/8" below the hole where this brass strap connected to the plate tuning capacitor and bend a 90 degree offset for about 1/2" away from the plate tuning and then bend the remaining strap parallel to the part that connects to the plate tuning capacitor. You will need a 1/2" x 5" piece of strap that is about 1/32" or thinner. This may be made from copper however silver plated copper or silver copper alloy is recommended. You will need to use the original brass strap that went from the fuse clip to the DC Blocking capacitors as a drilling template for the capacitor screw holes in this new strap.

Once the holes have been drilled the DC Blocking capacitors should be reassembled with the straps. Then the brass strap with the offset should be reconnected to the Plate Tuning capacitor but don't tighten the nut. You will now want to form the end of the new strap so that it runs down to the top of the factory air chimney and turns up alongside the circumference of the anode of the 8877 tube. **DO NOT CRUSH THE RADIUS OF THIS BEND FLAT.** Once this has been done the excess strapping extending above the side of the anode should be trimmed with tin snips. Now the silicone rubber air tube can be installed over the tube while holding the strap against the anode. Make sure to push the silicone rubber air tube all the way down against the air chimney and the secure it in place with a stainless steel ring clamp. The screw on the ring clamp as well as the seam on the silicone air chimney should be on the side of the tube toward the back of the amplifier. This concludes the air ducting/heat control modification.

Now we will move on to quieting the blower noise. I did a little research on the web and I found several sites that discussed using a silicone rubber gasket between the blower and the chassis along with nylon screws to re-mount the blower. I cut out a gasket for the blower being careful not to obstruct the air outlet from the blower. I reinstalled the blower along with the gasket using #10-24 x 1" nylon screws and nuts I purchased at Lowes. I also glued some rubber scraps to the inside of the cover using clear silicone rubber caulk to reduce the sound transmitted by the cover. When doing this care must be taken to ensure you don't install rubber in an area where the cover must make metal to metal contact or interfere with the interlock switch. Once again this will need to be allowed dry for 24 hours before you reinstall the cover. However this will allow you ample time to make one final modification which will save you from having to remove the thirty-one (31) screws that hold the cover in place when a meter light burns out.



Modified AL-1500 Cover with rubber glued in place for sound dampening.

I found some LED meter light replacements for the AL-1500 on Ebay for \$15 plus shipping. You simply remove the existing meter lights by cutting their wires at the terminal strip. The light sockets must also be removed and this can be done by pulling them out with a pair of needle nose pliers. The LED meter light strips come in your choice of blue, red, bright white or warm white. I picked blue as blue will match my FT-DX 5000MP's meter lighting when I get it. The LED meter light strips have a double sided foam tape for attaching them above the meters. Solder the four LED lighting strip wires to the correct terminals on the existing terminal strip and re-install the cover to complete the project.

I was amazed with results I obtained. The blower and air flow noise was reduced by more than half. The Ameritron AL-1500 is now nearly as quiet as my Alpha PA-77DX. When comparing this Ameritron AL-1500 to the Alpha 9500 which also runs the 8877, has a plate transformer of the same 3.6 KW rating and makes similar power output it really looks like the Poor Man's Alpha. The Alpha 9500 does however have auto-tuning but it is hard to justify spending \$4450 so I won't have to tune the amp. I could use this \$4450 to buy me a really nice HF Rig.

*James, KD8VT*



A preview of the Digital Interface Kit project, spearheaded by Rick K8CAV, inadvertently left out the circuit diagram, which is as follows.:



## *Happy Birthday PCARS Members*

PCARS members having a birthday in April:

<b>KD8MWE</b>	<b>Jeff Burke</b>
<b>AI8P</b>	<b>Dennis Conklin</b>
<b>KD8GHB</b>	<b>Joe Rocco</b>
<b>N8OQQ</b>	<b>Bryan Buchwalter</b>
<b>N8QE</b>	<b>Bob Hajdak</b>
<b>WB2DFC</b>	<b>Dave Rarrick</b>
<b>KC8FQV</b>	<b>Mark Studer</b>

<b>N1EZZ</b>	<b>George Riedel</b>
<b>KW8KW</b>	<b>Bill O'Neil</b>
<b>AB8SX</b>	<b>Mark Eldridge</b>
<b>KA8BNS</b>	<b>Liz Milford</b>
<b>N8GLK</b>	<b>Leon Loveland</b>
<b>W8JJW</b>	<b>John Wagner</b>

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## *PCARS VE Test Sessions*

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

**April 2 ~ June 4 ~ August 6 ~ October 1 ~ December 3**



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 with your FRN number if you are already licensed (or your SSN number if you're not registered), your original CSCE (if you have one), a copy of your CSCE, 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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## *Honey, They Got the Radio Fixed*

A certain ham always had difficulty getting his XYL to approve of him getting new gear. So, after purchasing a big ham radio rig awhile back, he saved the huge box that it was in.

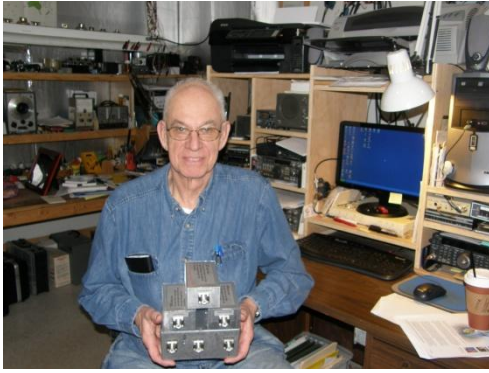
When he wanted to get a new rig, he'd lug the box out of the basement shack, and tell the XYL that "the rig was broken... and I've got to go get it repaired".

Later that day, he'd come back with the same box... but this time, instead of being empty, it had a new rig in it!! He said "They've got a great service department there... they got it fixed, and it's working again"!!

Too bad his XYL finally caught on to it one day (hi hi).

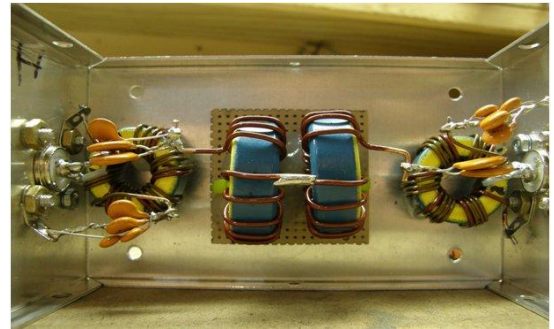
**Daryl, AE5WX**  
Heard on the Courage Handi-Hams midday net

## Band Pass Filters Project - FINI !



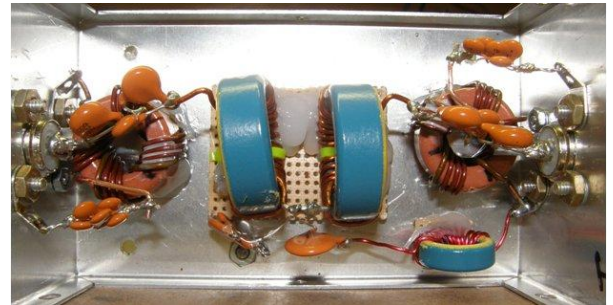
This is the last article for the Triplexes and Band Pass Filters. Now that the Band Pass Filters have been finished, it is time for the whole story. If I had to do it all over again I would have just purchased them. I had not idea what I was getting into when I started. There was the winding of the toroidal cores. I had wound some small cores before but nothing like these. Once I had figured out how to do it then it was simple. Then I started to tune them up. It is not as simple as adding one capacitor for each toroidal core. In order to arrive at the required capacitance it required several capacitors in series and/or parallel combinations. It did take between 9 and 20 capacitors per filter.

This is the 20-Meter Band Pass Filter. The right side is the input (transceiver) side and the left is the output (antenna) side. The top set of capacitors on the right side tunes the input to 50 ohms. The lower set of capacitors tunes the input to output circuit. The lower set of capacitors on the left side tunes the output to 50 ohms. The top set of capacitors tunes the input to output circuit. This one took 13 capacitors to tune it up.



This is the 15-Meter Band Pass Filter. The right side is the input (transceiver) side and the left is the output (antenna) side. The top set of capacitors on the right side tunes the input to 50 ohms. The lower set of capacitors tunes the input to output circuit. The lower set of capacitors on the left side tunes the output to 50 ohms. The top set of capacitors tunes the input to output circuit. This one took 9 capacitors to tune it up.

This is the 10-Meter Band Pass Filter. The right side is the input (transceiver) side and the left is the output (antenna) side. The top set of capacitors on the right side tunes the input to 50 ohms. The lower set of capacitors tunes the input to output circuit. The lower set of capacitors on the left side tunes the output to 50 ohms. The top set of capacitors tunes the input to output circuit. This one took 20 capacitors to tune it up. This Band Pass Filter also has an additional Core to tune the center of the two center cores.



It also takes some special equipment that I do not have. So at that point I sent them off to the Ham I was working with to get them built. He took them and did all the work to get them setup perfectly. Then sent all of them back to me. Now all that is left is to use them. There is only one warning on the Band Pass Filters. DO NOT GO OVER 100 WATTS. !!!!!!!





## EmComm

When is a drill not a drill? Well that was sort of the case on the morning of Wednesday, March 23rd when the Ohio Statewide Tornado Drill was scheduled to take place at 9:50 a.m. The drill is held annually to provide local governments a chance to check their tornado sirens in a coordinated manner. Some other events such as school tornado drills are also held at the same time.

There were no severe weather forecasts for the state but a couple of weather systems were moving through Ohio that morning that could have included thunderstorms. Someone at the state level made the decision to cancel the statewide drill and siren test, apparently to avoid any confusion in communities where storms were occurring.

Local public safety agencies could still choose to have a drill and a number of communities in and around Portage County still held theirs. In Ravenna, Lt. Dave Rarrick, WB2DFC, supervises the city's new state-of-the-art dispatch center and coordinated the city's siren test from there. I had the chance to observe the operation and discuss it with the city's very professional dispatch staff.

Mayor Joe Bica also stopped in for the drill and that gave me the chance to tell him that over two dozen amateur radio operators were participating in an ARES® of Portage County net and reporting on whether warning sirens were heard at their locations. The mayor was impressed by the fact that this many volunteers would take their time to assist with the drill.

Thanks go out to AEC Mike DiCarro, KD8FLZ, as the net control station and to all of the other hams who checked into the net. It was a well run net that offered good practice for everyone as well as a fine demonstration of the professional public service that hams can provide.

If it's springtime then you know it is time for the National Weather Service's annual Skywarn training. The Portage County session was held on March 21st at the Maplewood Career Center and was sponsored by the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and its RACES unit.

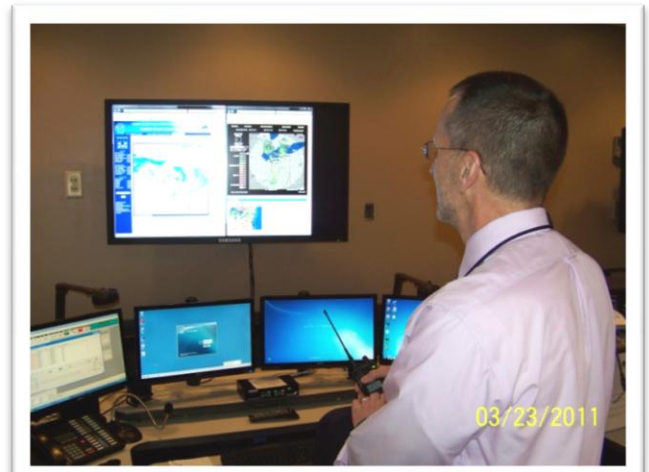


The updated presentation by Gary Garnet from the Cleveland NWS office was interesting and educational. More than eighty weather spotters attended including thirty-one who were attending for the first time.

A lot of good lessons can be learned from the Skywarn training and not just about watching for and reporting severe weather conditions. Gary stressed the need for everyone to first be aware of their own personal and family safety and to never jeopardize it by underestimating weather dangers. Whether it's a flooded road or distant lightning, weather hazards can be deadly to those who ignore them. Be careful out there!

Remember that ARES of Portage County will activate a Skywarn net on the 146.895 repeater when there are severe weather warnings. Please take the time to participate in those nets. Your assistance may be critical to getting timely information to the NWS.

You can also make reports directly to the Cleveland NWS by calling 1-800-262-9683. Give them your name and your location with some specificity (e.g., "one half-mile east of the intersection of State Routes 5 and 14 in



Jim, KC8PD looks over one of the operating positions at the new Ravenna dispatch center

Portage County”), plus the nature of the severe weather (“sixty plus miles per hour wind”) and the time of the event, such as “five minutes ago.”

You can make reports over the internet after your first sign up to be an “e-spotter” at <http://espotter.weather.gov/>. If you missed the Portage County Skywarn training you can find the schedule for upcoming sessions at <http://tinyurl.com/4lcnhlq>.

73,

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

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## Field Day 2011 - We Need Ops & Loggers

We're still looking for volunteers to help man the stations for the PCARS 2011 Field Day. We will be working shifts from the start to the end of Field Day. Are you looking to have BIG FUN? Well, you will if you sign up NOW. Contact one or more of the station captains and get your name on the lists. Field Day is always lots of fun for all PCARS members and this year will be even better!

Here are the station captains to contact:

**20 Meter Station** - contact [WB8LCD@portcars.org](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org)

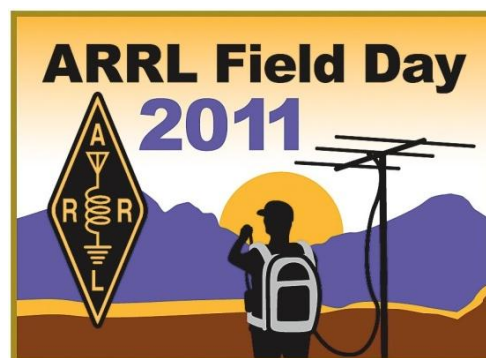
**40 Meter Station** - contact [N8EQJ@portcars.org](mailto:N8EQJ@portcars.org)

**Flex Station** - contact [K8MSF@portcars.org](mailto:K8MSF@portcars.org)

**CW Operators** - contact [WB2DFC@portcars.org](mailto:WB2DFC@portcars.org)

**VHF Station** - contact [KC8RJR@portcars.org](mailto:KC8RJR@portcars.org)

**GOTA Station** - contact [KB3OQV@portcars.org](mailto:KB3OQV@portcars.org)



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## PCARS Thursday Net Control



April	
7	N8XTH
14	KD8FLZ
21	KD8JCY
28	N8QE



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). Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

Don't forget, check in to the Thursday evening PCARS net 10 times in a row, and you will receive a beautiful, suitable for framing, certificate! Once you get 10 consecutive check ins, drop me an email at: [wb9lcd@portcars.org](mailto:wb9lcd@portcars.org) and I'll check the weekly logs to confirm it and get the certificate for you!

Congratulations goes out to Gay, WB8VNO and Ted WD8CVH for getting their 10 consecutive PCARS Net Check Ins and they received their certificates at the March meeting.

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

## ***FCC to Require Re-Testing When Renewing Your License***

In response to the thousands of complaints by long term amateur radio operators as to the 'dumbing down' of the requirements to hold an amateur radio license, the Federal Communications Commission released in Public Order 040111, a new requirement for current license holders to verify their technical knowledge.

Starting at the beginning of April 2011, when your license comes up for renewal, you will be required to pass the current test element for the class license you hold. If you fail to pass, you will have 30 days to either re-test, or to start over. The re-testing will be required every three years.

Example: if you currently hold an Amateur Extra license, and fail to pass that test, you will have 30 days to re-test and pass. Or, you can take the Technician Test and General Test to retain your license, but at a lower privilege level. If you fail to pass the Technician test, your license will be immediately revoked.

This is being done to ensure the current licensees are in fact up to date with the technology and knowledge required to be an amateur radio operator. Regular VE fee schedules will be used and the testing will continue to be done at authorized VE Test Sessions.



***From the FCC***

## ***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)



## ***Hamfest Calendar***

**04/09/2011 - 55th Annual Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show** - Location: Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 East Bath Rd. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 - Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2011.html> - Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Public Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Ave. Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 330-688-2013 - **Note this is a SATURDAY hamfest.**

**05/20/2011 - 05/22/2011 - Dayton Hamvention** - Location: Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd. - Dayton, OH 45401 - Website: <http://www.hamvention.org/> - Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

**06/05/2011 - Breezeshooters Hamfest and Computer Show** - Location: Butler Farm Showgrounds - 627 Evans City Rd. - Butler, PA 16001 - Website: <http://www.breezeshooters.net> - Sponsor: Breezeshooters ARC - Contact: Robert Benna, N3LWP - 1010 Willow Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - Phone: 412-366-0488 - Email: n3lwp@verizon.net



## Corrections April 2011

An audit of The Radiogram shows that certain errors have crept into our reporting from several previous issues, despite our best efforts at fact-checking. We correct the record as follows.

Dave Rarrick's call sign was incorrectly given as WB2 $\pi$ FL. His call sign is, in fact, 1/WB2 $\pi$ FC. However, when taken together, these two callsigns are resonant on 7.040 MHz.

An article on ARES® activities stated that Portage ARES® is being sued in connection with its support of the Mantua Potato Stomp by the Commission for Potato Rights. It now appears that there is no such commission and the charge of Cruelty to Vegetables is bogus. Organizer Gay WB8VNO denies that any potatoes were harmed by ARES members.

A story profiling PCARS member “**V**” Ward failed to point out that her first name is legally “**V**”. The other letters of her name were lost in 1962 in a freak spelling accident.

Before the PCARS club site was available, Technician licensing classes were held at Maplewood Vocational School in Ravenna, not “in the alley behind the old Kent Hotel” as stated.

An article titled "A Boring Interview with Deron N8XTH", improperly asserted that he worked as a “Deus Ex Machina”. He is actually a Guardian Ad Lytum, which is Latin for “Defender of Light Beer”.

ARRL Headquarters has taken issue with The Radiogram's coverage of the Ohio Section Manager election. The League maintains that WB8LCD was beaten by 91 fully qualified votes, not “sinister alien forces” as revealed in an exclusive cover story.

The story on Field Day results, which compared the results from other stations around the country, omitted the following information:

Calories Consumed at Field Day (We ingested 14,738 calories\*)

#1 in 4A Category

#1 Great Lakes Division

#1 Nationally

*\* Excludes breakfast, snacks, and anything consumed by Art N8RKA*

Further research now proves that Karen N8HUC, Kristen KB3OQV and Jennifer KB8GXB are not the subject of the song Buffalo Gals Won't You Come Out Tonight. The song, copyrighted in 1844, 84 years before Karen was born in 1928.

An article on the PCARS elections did not include the vote tallies for the candidates. Here they are:

TRUSTEE	
Sandy KD8JCY	52
Rex NX8G	12
Mike KC8FLZ	9
Steve K8SRR	0

VICE-PRESIDENT	
Tom WB8LCD	76
Bill WB9LBI	2

PRESIDENT	
Jim KC8PD (Unopposed):	78
Chuck Norris (Write-in candidate):	1

TREASURER	
Bill WB9LBI (Unopposed)	1
Chuck Norris (Write-in Candidate)	1
“Anybody other than WB9LBI, <u>please</u> ” (Write-in candidate)	5

The biography of Russ KD8LDY incorrectly alleged that he had camped outside of a store for a week prior to Black Friday. The reporter meant to say that KD8LDY camped out next to his computer for a week in readiness for Cyber Monday.



The device at the PCARS club site that dispenses cold beer is called a “kegorator”. It was mislabeled as the “Center of Hops” which is the location in Ravenna where VE Testing is conducted.

Previously published corrections to The Radiogram ended with a byline and an Editor’s Note implying that the corrections were an attempt at humor by WB9LBI. That editorial note was a glitch in the printing process that should have appeared elsewhere.

A preview of the Digital Interface Kit project, spearheaded by Rick K8CAV, inadvertently left out the circuit diagram, see page 9 of the newsletter for an updated circuit diagram.:

37,  
**Bill, WB9LBI**

## April Contest Calendar

April 2011	
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 2 to 2400Z, Apr 3
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 9 to 2400Z, Apr 10
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 9 to 2359Z, Apr 10
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 16 to 0400Z, Apr 17
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 16 to 1800Z, Apr 17
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 23 to 2359Z, Apr 24
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 23 to 1700Z, Apr 24
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 30 - 0159Z, May 1 & 1200Z-2159Z, May 1

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

## KD8VT - Oil Changing

When oil changes for his vehicles are due, James, KD8VT wastes no time.

He doesn't go an extra 10 miles to a dealer or a quick oil change store, he does right at home.



Seen here, James uses what ever he has on hand so he does not have to crawl on the ground to change oil like the rest of us do. Let's just hope the hydraulics on that lift are really good.....



## Swap-N-Shop

**FOR SALE: ALS-600, 600 watt solid state, no tune amplifier.** With 10 meter kit and linear power supply - \$800 [07/01/11]

**FOR SALE: QSK 5, PIN diode QSK switch.** Handles 2500 watts PEP and 2000 watts CW - \$200 [07/01/11]

**FOR SALE: MFJ -994B, 600 watt auto tuner** Perfect match for the ALS-600 - \$200 [07/01/11]

**Contact: Bob -** [KD8CGH@portcars.org](mailto:KD8CGH@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: Samlex 23 Amp Switching Power Supply** - \$80.00 - You can see a picture of the power supply at [www.ab8sx.webs.com](http://www.ab8sx.webs.com) and click the "items for sale" link. [07/01/11]

**The following Books are for sale:** [07/01/11]

ARRL Operating Manual - 8th edition - \$10.00

Now you're talking - 2nd edition - \$5.00

Now you're talking - 5th edition - \$7.00

ARRL General Class License Manual - 5th edition - \$5.00

Radio Shack "Listening to Shortwave" - \$2.00

**The following Audio CD's are for sale:** [07/01/11]

ARRL "Your Introduction to Morse Code" - this is a 2 cd set with pouch and instruction booklet. - \$10.00

**Contact: Mark -** [markAB8SX@gmail.com](mailto:markAB8SX@gmail.com)

**FOR SALE: MFJ-434B Voice Keyer** - \$130.00 or best offer. [07/01/11]

**FOR SALE: Alinco DJ-175** - 2 meter HT with spare battery - \$100.00. [07/01/11]

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

**WANTED: Two Position Antenna Switch for 100 watt HF use.** Anyone having a working antenna switch just laying around? Happy Time Price preferred. [06/01/11]

**Contact: Brian -** [N8OQQ@portcars.org](mailto:N8OQQ@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: The MFJ-976 Tuner.** 1500 Watt full legal limit fully balanced antenna tuner. Very wide matching ranges (12-2000 ohms) and continuous 1.8-30 MHz coverage including all WARC bands! It handles a full 1500 Watts SSB and CW. \$479 new, will sell for \$350.00. Used only a few times. Do not need with a 4 element SteppIR. . [07/01/11]

**Contact: Chuck -** [W8PT@portcars.org](mailto:W8PT@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). [07/01/11]

**Contact Randy -** [N6TL@portcars.org](mailto:N6TL@portcars.org)

**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 [04/01/11]

**FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Auto tuner cable** for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$20.00 [07/01/11]

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

**FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX Vertical** 80m through 10m - Good condition with manual \$150.00 [07/1/11]

**FOR SALE: Hamstick Antennas** - Two, 75 meter Hamstick style antennas, \$20.00 each. [07/1/11]

**FOR SALE: Hamstick Antennas** - Two, 40 meter Hamstick style antennas, \$20.00 each. [07/1/11]

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

**FOR SALE: Coleman Cable 165 Feet of 8/4 SEOOW** 600 Volt 105° C rated cable with 125/250 Volt 30 Ampere twist lock connectors. The plug is a Hubbell L14-30P 125/250V 30A and the receptacle is a Hubbell L14-30R 125/250 V 30A. The new cost for this cable and connectors was \$480.00. Price \$400.00 [05/1/11]

The above cables were only used once in 2010 at the annual PCARS Field Day for 27 hours as a generator feed cables. The first two cables were one of the 165 foot cables that was replaced by a 4/4 SEOOW cable to feed the pavilion. The second cable will be replaced by a 6/4 SEOOW cable if it sells.

**FOR SALE: 553 Feet of NEW 1-1/4" RFS Heliac.** \$1000.00 [05/1/11]

**Contact James -** [KD8VT@portcars.org](mailto:KD8VT@portcars.org) or call 330-206-4909

**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: [04/01/11] 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 38 plates 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.



We have room for YOUR Ham Radio plate

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).

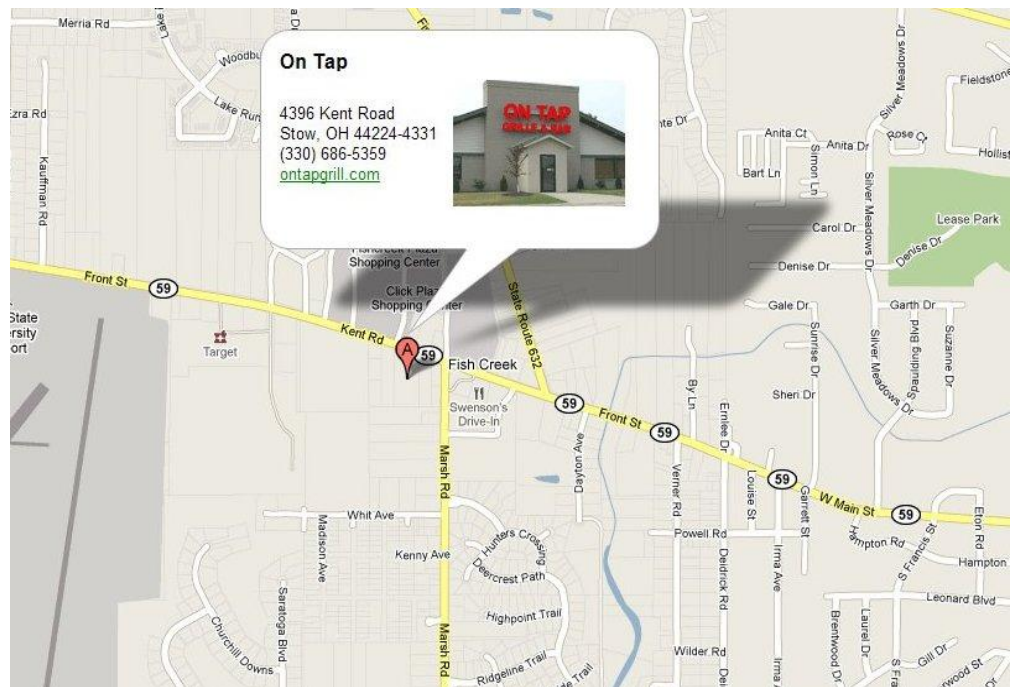
Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history!!** The official form for obtaining your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS Yahoo Group site.

## PCARS Meetings

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

Meetings are at the  
**On Tap Grille,**  
4396 Kent Rd. (St Rt. 59),  
in Stow.

The On Tap Grille is on the south side of Route 59, about a mile west of the Kent city limits.



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

(Meetings are held January through November. December is the Christmas Party)

## Shack Shot - KB8VJL



Most of you already know that after a *gazillion* years of service, Al, KB8VJL retired from the telephone company. If you get AT&T service, your bill should go down now that they don't have to pay Al so much money.

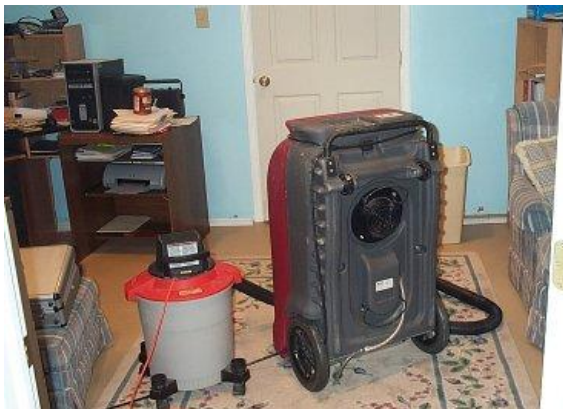
Anyway, Al has found out that retirement is not all that it's cracked up to be, so he had to take on a second career. But, it does give him the opportunity to get on the air more since he does have an HF rig behind the counter to keep him busy when sales are slow.

Next time you in downtown Ravenna, stop and say hi to Al.

Al also forwarded a picture of him with his new retired person four-wheeler.



## Shack Shot Update - WB8LCD



OK, so last month you saw my finished shack, before I started to get moved in. I was getting some stuff installed when one week after completion of construction we had the flood.

These photos show the day after the flood.



I'm very slowly getting some stuff resettled in there, but it's going slow with the rest of the basement including Jenny's apartment to do too.



So, next month, you'll have some photos of my twice redone, finally on the air shack!

**Tom, WB8LCD**



## Shack Shot - WB2DFC At Work

Dave, WB2DFC sent along this picture of him behind the controls of one of the newest crime fighting tools for the Ravenna Police Department.

Yes, they will now have motorcycles to help in their fight against crime in Ravenna. Dave is shown here with the newest model which includes a sidecar, screwdriver antenna and a ham radio for contacting the Portage County RACES group during emergencies.

Dave reported that funding for this project had been approved years ago, but they had difficulty finding the motorcycles that matched the specifications that Dave had required.



It's also reported that they will be trying out special snow skis in order to use the motorcycles all year long.

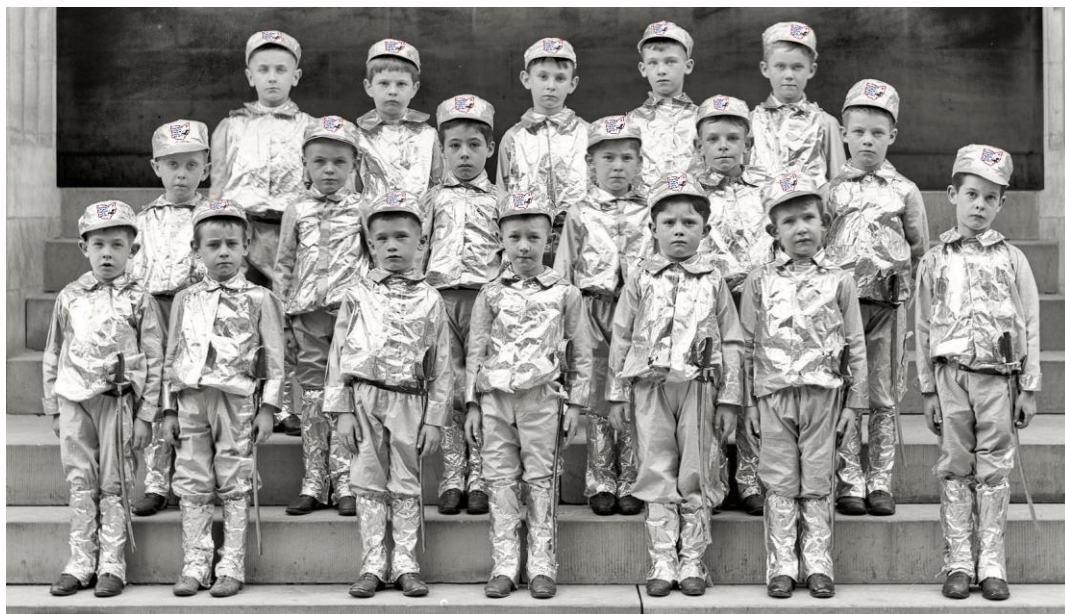




## Latest Technician Class

Congratulations go out to the participants in the latest Technician Class held at the PCARS club site. All of the classmates passed their Technician license exams and are now part of the Amateur Radio fraternity.

Tom, WB8LCD informed them that they had to wear a special uniforms for the first year since they were new Technicians.



The uniforms have something to do with aluminum foil hats, vests and spats, swords and errant RF signals. We're not sure what signals Tom is concerned about, but evidently he was successful in convincing the new Technicians.



One Used Yaesu FT-101EE Transceiver .....	\$350.00
33' of #14 awg Antenna Wire .....	\$2.64
Two 1 1/4" Green Ceramic Insulators .....	\$1.00
100' of RG-213 Coax Cable .....	\$37.00
One 8' Copper Clad Ground Rod with Clamp and Strap ...	\$15.00

Realizing You Don't Need The Internet To  
Communicate Around The World

**PRICELESS!!**

**When All Else Fails There Is Amateur Radio**



## *Pictures from the March PCARS Meeting*





## *Dues Are Really Due*



Look at the calendar - it's April already! And, some of you have not renewed your annual dues to PCARS.

Without your membership support we can't do all the nifty things that we do as a club. All that pizza and soda costs lots of money!

So, while you are reading this - SEND ME YOUR DUES.

PLEASE, give me a break and let me get all the renewal paperwork completed so I can enjoy some of the PCARS activities as well.

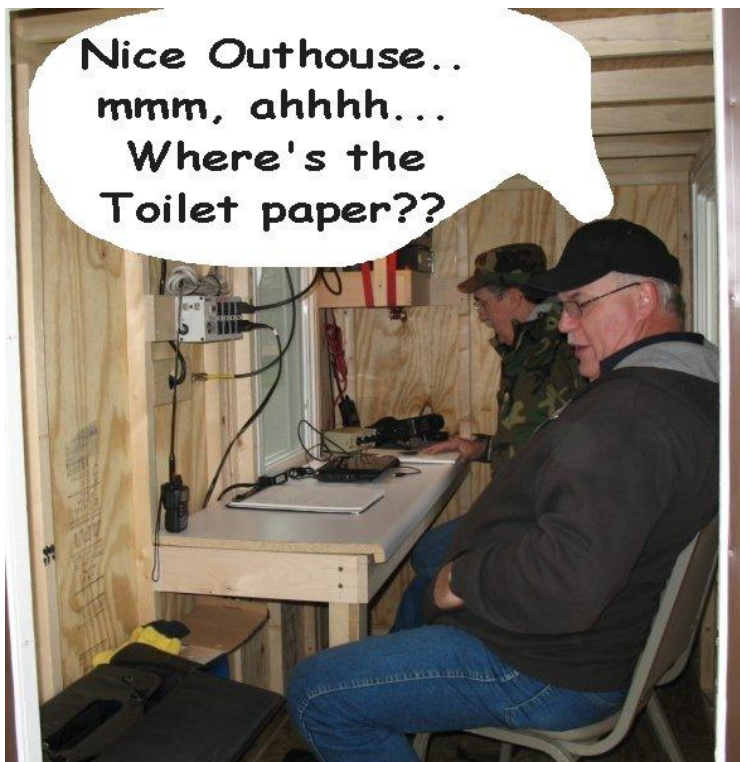
**Mary Jo, KD8GGZ**  
**PCARS Secretary**

**Editor's Note.** No, Mary Jo did not write this - I did. I just had to have something for the April issue to go with this picture I took of her at one of the club meetings. Mary Jo would *NEVER* yell at you like that.

## *Portable Shack Shot - K8CAV*

Rick. K8CAV sent in this picture of him and Mike, KD8FLZ in his new portable EmComm shelter.

Mike wasn't sure what it was when he first went in there, but reports were heard saying to stay away until the air freshener caught up.....





## Shack Shot - KC8PD

Jim, KC8PD sent in this picture of his latest radio room make-over.

Jim is at the controls of the latest in radio technology in his effort to stay on the leading edge of radio communications. With this new gear, he'll be able to make contact with every emergency agency in the entire State at the same time.

All of this is capable of operating on battery or solar power and does not require the main electricity supply to be operational.

As a back up, he also has a tread mill connected to a generator so he can get a work out and charge the system batteries as well.



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## Thanks & 73

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

Thanks goes out to this month's contributors: **KC8PD, WB8LCD, W8PT, WB9LBI, KD8VT, AE5WX, AB8AA, KB8UUZ, FCC, The ARRL** and the **World Wide Web**.

Yes, there were a few articles that were April Fools inspired. If you're not sure which ones they were, look at the "In This Issue of The RADIOGRAM" listing. You'll see some article titles are in *Italics* - those are the April fools articles. And, that part in Tom's column about the Nude special event station - he threw that in as an April Fools item as well. Hope you enjoyed the fun stuff as much as I did.

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



**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor





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

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM  
at the **On Tap Grille**, 4396 Kent Road (SR 59) in Stow

*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 or PL 114.8 ~ Kent, Ohio)

PCARS thanks N8EQJ for making the repeater available to area hams and for PCARS activities.

### PCARS Appointments & Committees 2011

ARRL Awards - VUCC	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
Club Callsign 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 2011	<b>K8CAV</b>	Rick Kruis
F.Y.A.O.	<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 2011	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
P.I.O.	<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
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
<b>K8MSF</b>	Bud Green
<b>KD8LEB</b>	Al Zielinski



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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. **Are you interested in getting news emailed directly to you?** Send an email to [news-subscribe@portcars.org](mailto:news-subscribe@portcars.org) to join our news emailing list. 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.

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



2011  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Black Squirrels loose in Portage County