



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



February 2011 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 6 No. 2

~ 2011 Officers ~

President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
 Vice President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
 Treasurer - Bill Fraedrich - WB9LBI
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 2 Year Trustee - Robert Gurney - N8RLG
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~ Meetings & Nets ~

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

PCARS Incorporated
 Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
 Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
 April 20, 2006



**Special Services
 Club**
 March 22, 2010

President's Column

Winter just won't let go. Except for those few warm days around New Year's we have had snow on the ground since the beginning of December and it has been just plain cold. For the winter sports enthusiasts this has been all good news, for the rest of us it has gotten old.

But for PCARS members there has been plenty of club activity to distract us from the crummy weather and keep us busy with amateur radio fun.



In January each of the Special Interest Groups held their first meetings at the club site: Digital on the first Tuesday followed by QRP/CW, MARS, and DX/Contesting on the successive Tuesdays. Despite nasty weather almost every Tuesday evening, they were well attended including around eighteen for Digital and a dozen or so for DX/Contesting.

There is no format for these meetings so each group can decide how it wants to proceed. They can select a moderator to guide the discussion and planning or simply have an informal get together. Everyone is welcome for any one of these meetings. There are no membership requirements.

The SIG's will repeat every month in the same rotation and regular reminders will be sent out by e-mail. Let me know if there is any other interest group that you would like to get started and we will find room for it.

This has all made for some busy evenings at the club site, particularly on the 25th when the DX/Contesting group met in the radio room while the General upgrade class was going on in the adjoining classroom and the new PCARS Digital Net was on the air from the club site. Some of the digital operators had also set up stations in the garage to try their rig and computer combos on the air. It was great having so much going there on at one time.

We have eleven students in the General class and the Spring edition of the Technician class will be starting in mid- to late March. The Portage County Educational Service Center, which leases the classroom space from Family & Community Services, has graciously made the room available to PCARS for our classes. This is a big help since it enables the club to have two meetings going on at the same time.

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



From the President - Continued from Page 1

There have been two club Net Nites so far and, big surprise, the weather was lousy for both nights. Turnout has been light so far but I am sure it will improve as the weather improves. The Net Nites are on alternating Thursdays and the next one will be on February 3rd. The doors open around 6:30 p.m.

There are still some interior renovations and equipment installation to be completed so watch for announcements about opportunities for club members to help with those tasks at the club shack.

On top of all that, Tom, WB8LCD, is putting together a variety of activities for upcoming months that will be held at the club site and Chuck, W8PT and Joe, W8KNO will be putting together a schedule of contest operations to put K8BF on the air.



This is your club site. Come on out and enjoy it!

73,
Jim, KC8PD



From the Vice President

It's been widely rumored that Ham Radio, if not already *dead*, has both feet in the check out lane. Most hams are older, hamfest attendance is down, and there's really nothing exciting about a bunch of dots and dashes being sent between a couple of geezers in the middle of the night using equipment that glows in the dark (you remember "hollow state" technology, don't you?). The Ham Radio nay-sayers want you to believe that they have found some hip new world where amateur radio has no place. Sadly, I have to say, it appears as though the nay-sayers haven't got a **FREAKIN CLUE!** I'm here to tell you folks – looks like we got us a live one here!



Tom, WB8LCD

Did you see the article in the last QST about the new satellite going up? Where else but Ham Radio are you going to have access to a satellite? There's a You-Tube video going around about Ham Radio on the International Space Station – Amateur Radio Operators are having direct conversations with them – let me know how that's working out for you on your new cell phone. Interested in computers and programming? There are all kinds of ways to blend computers and RF – but you gotta have a ham ticket to do it! It's sad that there are not too many kids (or adults) interested in science and technology these days, but if you are, Ham Radio is where you want to be.

PCARS is at the very epicenter of all the excitement that is Ham Radio. As a general interest club, we want to try to appeal to everyone's interests, and if you find something you aren't familiar with, then we want to help you find out what you need to know to get involved. We've started four different special interest groups, hopefully one will appeal to you. If not, then let us know, there could be some stuff we didn't think of yet. So, be sure to look at the "**Mark Your Calendars**" listing below to see all the exciting things coming up in the near future for PCARS.

We'll let you know when we get the schedule confirmed further out, but I can tell you right now it's going to be a fun year with PCARS! Make sure you're a part of it. And if you have a "Ham Radio" related topic you would like to see covered, or know of someone you would like to see as one of our presenters, please let me know – we'll get it on the agenda. So, get up off the couch, turn the TV off, and have some fun. Ham Radio is alive and one of the most interesting places you can spend your time and attention.

Best 73 to all,
Tom, WB8LCD



LoTW Seminar and Workshop - March 19, 2011

The LoTW seminar and workshop at the club site on March 19th site will be here before you know it.



Do you already have a LoTW certificate? If not, have you applied for an initial LoTW password postcard to be mailed to you? At a minimum, you will need to have your postcard to participate in the "hands on" workshop portion of the seminar. **Do it NOW!** Step by step instructions for obtaining your LoTW postcard can be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/LoTW-Postcard>

George, K3GP



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:



- February 1st - **Digital SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- February 3rd - **Net Nite at the Club Site** - 8 pm
- February 5th - **VE Session** at Center of Hope in Ravenna - 10 am
- February 8th - **QRP/CW SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- February 14th - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **Wire Antennas** by WB8LCD
- February 15th - **MARS SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- February 17th - **Net Nite at the Club Site** - 8 pm
- February 19th - **Freeze Your Acorns Off** - *See the flier in this newsletter*
- February 22nd - **DX/Contesting SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- March 14th - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **QSL'ing** - KB8UUZ and W8HFY
- March 19th - **Logbook of the World (LoTW)** - Hands On Seminar at the club site - 10 am
- April 11th - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm - **Special Guests** Rick Swain, KK8O Ohio Section Official Observer and Frank Piper, KI8GW Ohio Section Manager
- April 23rd - **New & Improved USB Soundcard Interface** - At the club site by K8CAV
- May 9th - PCARS Meeting - **Ravenna PD Dispatch Center information** by WB2DFC
- May 14th - **Antenna Day** - Practice set up for Field Day 2011 at the City Park in Ravenna
- June 25-26 - **ARRL Field Day ! Big Fun for PCARS !** at the City Park in Ravenna



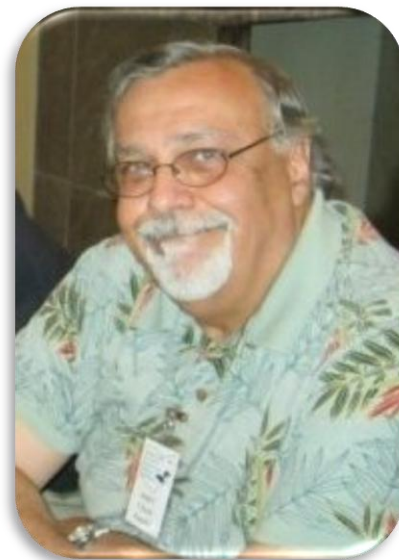
Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Welcome to February. The year is starting to move quickly. As I sit here and write this, there are only 66 days to the first day of Spring. So how's that for looking ahead.

I hope that you have been on the HF bands and have been working some DX. As I have asked in the past, please let me know what you've worked that is either rare or new for you and I will post it in this column and give you some kudos pats on the back.

The bands have been open at various times during the last few weeks, but I must admit, the openings have been somewhat noisy (QRN). Some of the DXpeditions have started to show up as well as some of the many planned outings listed in this column in the past few months.

I want to thank the following for the forecast reports for February 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. So do yourself a favor and please adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).



Chuck, W8PT

2011 DX MARATHON IS UNDERWAY!! John, K9EL, CQ DX Marathon Administrator, reports: "CQ Magazine's 2010 DX Marathon is now over. Please visit <http://www.dxmarathon.com> for details on submitting your score. Submissions must be in by 2359 z, January 31st, 2011. High claimed scores will be posted on the website after the submission deadline. Winners for 2010 will be

announced mid-year 2011 in CQ Magazine. The 2011 Marathon is now underway. EVERY Country is a new one! 2011 Score Sheets are available on the website."

3B8, MAURITIUS (AF-049). Slavo, SP2JMB, will once again be active as 3B8SC from here between February 8-17th. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW. QSL via his home callsign.

3B8 & 3B9, MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES ISLANDS. Bogdan, SP2FUD, will be active as 3B8/SP2FUD from **Mauritius Island (AF-049)** between February 8-17th, and as 3B9/SP2FUD from **Rodrigues Island (AF-017)** between February 18-22nd. Activity from both places will be on the HF bands using SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home call sign.

3D2, FIJI. Udo, DL9HCU, is once again in the Pacific for about 2 months and will be active as 3D2HC from **Fiji (OC-017)**. He likes 20 meters CW, so watch 14002 or 14025 kHz between 0500-0800z. Also, watch 14183 kHz (after 0500z), Udo will sometimes check into the ANZA Net. It is reported that he might not go island hopping this year as he has done in the past due to poor conditions for QRP. QSL via DL9HCU, by the Bureau or direct to: Udo Moeller, Mienenbuettel 4, 21629 Neu Wulmstorf, GERMANY.

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.

5C/CN, MOROCCO (IOTA/WFF Op). Italian operators Leopoldo/I8LWL (5C2L), Alfredo/IK7JWX (5C2J), Ruggero/IK2PZC (5C2P), Simon/IZ7ATN (5C2SG) and Toufelaz/CN8QY will be active as CN2LWL from Herne Island (AF-068), located in the large bay of Dakhla, between February 1-5th. QSL Manager for CN2LWL is I8LWL. The team "may" also activate the WFF Natural Park of Dakhla (Ref. No. CNFF-007) using the callsign 5C2J, 5C2L and 5C2P. QSL via their home call signs. For updates and an online log search after their DXpedition, visit the Web page at: <http://www.i8lwl.it>

6V7, SENEGAL. Luc, F5RAV, will once again be active from La Somone between February 26th and March 7th. He will be operating from Jean- Francois, 6W7RV, QTH as 6V7T. Activity will be on SSB and PSK31, and on 160-10 meters (including 17 and 12m with a dipole only). He is planning to be in the French REF SSB Contest (February 26-27th) and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 5-6th). QSL via only direct to his home callsign.

7P, LESOTHO. Operators Frosty/K5LBU (7P8CF) and Wayne/W5KDJ (7P8KDJ) will be active from the "Trading Post Lodge" in Roma between March 11-20th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They plan to have 2 full time stations on the air for the entire period using a Tennadyne T6 at about 40 feet, a R7 vertical along with a Tennadyne TD-160 which is a folded Dipole that is 126 feet overall in length. QSL 7P8CF via K5LBU, direct or LoTW. QSL 7P8KDJ via W5KDJ, only direct with SASE, LoTW and eQSL (No Bureau cards please).

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA. David, VO1AU, will be active as 9M6/VO1AU between March 2-15th. His activity will include the Commonwealth [BERU] and the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 5-6th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via VO1MX. ADDED NOTE: David will be active in the southeast Asia area over the next 2 years. The QSL routes will be all the same, so look for activity from China (VO1AU/BY1TTY, VO1AU/BY1RX and VO1AU/ BY1DX), Japan (JG1RSL) and Hong Kong (VR2/VO1AU).

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.

AFRICAN TOUR (Western). Peter, HA3AUI, is once again heading to Western Africa in early 2011. Look for him to be active as 6W2SC from Senegal and J5UAP from Guinea-Bissau between February 1st and March 31st (tentative dates). Peter has used these call signs before. His stays in Cabrousse, Senegal (6W) will be very near to the border of Varela, Guinea-Bissau (J5), and he plans to make regular trips to J5-land for the beautiful beaches there (plans to also operate from there). Using his Elecraft K3 with 500w into a 5-Band Spiderbeam and verticals, Peter's activity will be on 160-10 meters, mainly on CW and the Digital modes, but he will use the other modes on request. QSL direct via HA3AUI.

FG, GUADELOUPE. Jean-Pierre, F6ITD, will be active as FG/F6ITD from Guadeloupe and two islands between March 9-16th (2011). Activity will be on SSB and the Digital modes. He plans to visit the following two islands in the IOTA NA-102 group: La Desirade Island (March 9-16th) and Basse Terre Island (March 16-31st). QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.

H44, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Bernhard, DL2GAC, informs OPDX 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 .

HG200, HUNGARY (Special Event). A group of Hungarian radio amateurs from Jánoshalma will use the special call sign HG200LST between January 1st and December 31st (2011). Activity is to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of genius composer, virtuoso pianist and piano teacher Liszt Ferenc (Franz Liszt) (1811-1886). QSL via HA5GY.

IOTA News

4A, REVILLAGIGEDO. An international team of operators will activate Revillagigedo Archipelago (IOTA NA-030) as 4A4A sometime in March. Operators mentioned are Mark/XE1B (team leader), Javier/EA5KM, Elmo/EA5BYP, Javi/EC4DX, Fernando/EA5FX, Vicente/EA5AFP, Santos/EA4AK and John/N5NTP. QSL via EB7DX.

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

Other DX News

IO7, ITALY (Special Event). Just a reminder that operators Fred/IK7JWX (SSB), Vincenzo/I7PXV (SSB and CW) and Mike/IK7FPX (SSB) will activate the special callsign IO7DAI from the Abbeys of Lecce and Province between now and March 31st. Activity is to provide contacts for the special "Italian Abbeys Award Diploma Abbazie Italiane". For rules, see the Web site at: http://www.aribusto.it/dai_rules.htm Send QSO data to the QSL Manager IK7JWX via: ik7jwx2003@yahoo.it All QSOs will be QSLed via Bureau; if you wish QSL via direct, send 1 USD. The logs will be available on the Web site at: www.enzolog.org/login.php

J3, GRENADA. Roy, KE4TG, will be active as J38RF between February 9th and March 10th. His primary interest is the Digital modes using a K-3 with a G5RV and phased vertical antennas. Please note that he will try to be active on 60 meters on channel 5. QSL via his home callsign.

J7, DOMINICA. The "Buddies in the Caribbean" DXpedition (Team #1), which specializes in 100 watts or less radios and the Buddipole portable antenna systems, will be going to Dominica, Feb 1-9th. The team plans to stay at the Calibashie Cove hotel on the north shore of Dominica www.calibishiecov.com. After two very successful mini-DXpeditions to St. Lucia in 2010, the team looks forward to demonstrating their capabilities for an "ultralite" DXpeditioning into magnificent vista locations, operating a field portable, battery-only radio with backpackable, lightweight antennas and most of all having fun on the island of Dominica. The entire mini-DXpedition is limited to equipment that can fit in their airline suitcase. The eight operators are: Budd/W3FF, Chris/W6HFP, Wey/K8EAB, Mike/KC4VG, Steve/WG0AT, Paul/KB9AVO, Dan/WZ1P and Guy/N7UN. The J7 license applications are currently being processed. There will be 3 Villa stations in operation at various times on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. During the day several teams will be battery-only, field portable either from Dominica beaches or scenic mountain tops. 160m and 80m CW operations are planned, conditions permitting. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or mail to the operator's home callsign (SASE required). A Web page is under development for this operation

LU1, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Diego, LU8DIP, is now active as LU1ZS from the Antarctic Base Teniente Camara on **Half Moon Island (AN-010)** until mid-March. Most activity has been on 20 meters SSB and some 40 meters. QSL via only LU4DXU.

T30, WESTERN KIRIBATI. Operators Bill/N7OU and Bob/W7YAQ will once again team up for another operation in the Pacific, but this time from **Tarawa Island (OC-017)** between February 8-22nd. Call signs will be announced at a later date. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, using mostly CW with some SSB and RTTY, and using 100 watts and vertical antennas. They will also be in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 19-20th) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via their home call signs.

There's a lot more listed for February and March but not enough room to list them. So you will simply have to get on the air and see for yourself. Have a great February. I hope to hear more of you on the air working some rare stations. So until next month, 73 es gud DX.

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/>.



PCARS 2010 Photo Disk

The 2010 PCARS photo disk is ready. This year it's a bit different, instead of making 200 copies and having disks left over, I'm only going to make enough copies for those that want the disk.



There are over 1,700 pictures and some short movies clips from the meetings, all the 2010 newsletters, and a couple of the presentations (one is the history of the club site). All those files are too big for a regular CD, so the files will be saved on a DVD.

So, drop me an e-mail at: kb8uuz@portcars.org and let me know you want to reserve one, and I'll bring it to the next PCARS meeting for you.

Tom, KB8UUZ

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in February:

N4IT	Carl Capps	KC8YYS	James Albright
K8JE	Jim Weaver	KD8INR	Tammy Liddle
KC8LJY	Mike Bakes	KD8FLX	Bob Leasure
W8HFY	David Reith	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
W8DEC	Matt Welch	KD8MLH	John Doyle
KD8KCY	James Gurney	KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro
KD8DFL	Ray Larrick		

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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



February 5 ~ 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, 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

ARRL QSL Bureau

With the coming of more sunspots, comes more DX. And when more amateurs are working DX, that means the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department -- especially the DXCC desk and the ARRL Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureaus -- goes into high gear.

"Compared to 2009, 2010 saw a dramatic increase in the number of cards we received from ARRL members that were sent to foreign QSL bureaus, as well as the number of cards we sent out to the bureaus," said DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L. "In addition, the number of DXCC applications -- including those for initial awards and endorsements -- also increased."

Through December 14, 2010, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau received 709,800 cards destined for foreign QSL bureaus from ARRL members in the US. This represents an increase of 16 percent over the 2009 number of about 612,000 cards. In 2009, the ARRL shipped 673,500 cards -- or close to 4500 pounds of cards -- to foreign bureaus. "We have processed nearly 660,000 cards in 2010, and the year isn't even over yet," said MVP Administrative Manager Sharon Taratula. "I would not be surprised if we surpassed 750,000 cards by the end of the year."

As the number of QSL cards has increased, so have the number of DXCC applications. In 2009, the DXCC Desk processed 7134 applications for initial awards and endorsements; these 2009 applications included almost 762,500 QSOs. So far in 2010, the DXCC Desk has processed 6895 applications, containing almost 860,000 QSOs, for an increase of 13 percent over 2009. "With all of the year's applications not yet fully processed, we've seen the number of QSOs increase in 2010 over 2009, even though the number of applications is a tad lower," Moore said. "Come the end of the year, I expect the 2010 application total to surpass the 2009 number."

How the Bureaus Work

Each day, QSL cards are delivered to the Outgoing QSL Bureau where they are placed in dated bins. They are then sorted by country prefix in according to the date they were received in the Bureau. Every other month, volunteers and ARRL staff assist Outgoing QSL Bureau Associate Rose-Anne Lawrence, KB1DMW, pack up the cards for the most active bureaus and prepare them for shipment. The Outgoing QSL Bureau uses two sizes of cartons for sending QSL cards, depending on the size of the shipment -- either 4 or 20 pound cartons. These cartons are sent to the bureaus via private shipper. Cards going to less active entities are forwarded every 90 days via USPS First Class International Mail, either in smaller boxes or in a padded envelope.



ARRL QSL Bureau - Here's where the cards get sorted.

Within the US, the ARRL Incoming QSL Service is made up of numerous call area bureaus, with one bureau serving each call area. These call area bureaus act as central clearing houses for QSL cards arriving from foreign countries. ARRL volunteers sort all incoming cards according to the number in a call sign, 0-9. Then all the cards are sent to the appropriate call area bureau. Volunteers within each bureau then sort the cards according to the first letter in a call sign's suffix. The cards are then sent to those in the call area who

participate in the Incoming QSL Service. While amateurs must be an ARRL member to take advantage of the Outgoing QSL Bureau, membership is not required to receive cards from the Incoming QSL Service.

“There is a definite cycle here in the Bureau,” Lawrence said. “We keep really busy all year long, but it really gears up in the fall right around Thanksgiving weekend. It tapers off a little in the spring after contest season when a lot of hams enjoying activities in the nice weather. Hams really do love their QSL cards, and we get to see so many beautiful ones pass through the Bureau.”

Lawrence receives help from volunteers in the Bureau: Lisa Zeug, K1UQT, and Michael Zeug, W1YM, are Area 1 letter sorters from Massachusetts who also help out ARRL HQ in the QSL Bureau. Richard Lawrence, KB1DMX, and David Kaplan, WA1OUI, both help with all parts of the Bureau operation at HQ. John Meyer, K9QVB, -- the Area 9 Incoming Manager -- comes to Newington all the way from Illinois to spend a week in May every year, slotting cards all day.

From the ARRL

Outgoing ARRL QSL Bureau Rates Up

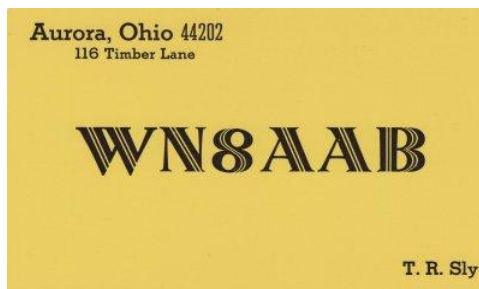
Effective on January 17th, the rates charged by the ARRL for outgoing QSL cards has gone up. The chart below shows the old and new rates:

ARRL Outgoing QSL Rates			
Weight	Approximate # of QSL Cards	Old Price USD	New Rate Jan 17, 2011
1/2 pound or less	75	\$5.00	\$6.00
One pound	150	\$10.00	\$12.00
1-1/2 pounds	225	\$15.00	\$18.00
2 pounds	300	\$20.00	\$24.00
2-1/2 pounds	375	\$25.00	\$30.00
3 pounds	450	\$30.00	\$36.00
Small packages	1 to 10	\$1.50	\$2.00
	11 to 20	\$2.50	\$3.00
	21 to 30	\$3.75	
75 cents per ounce for packages of 21 or more cards Example: 1.5 pounds = 24 ounces, or about 225 cards - \$18.00			



QSL Cards - WB8LCD

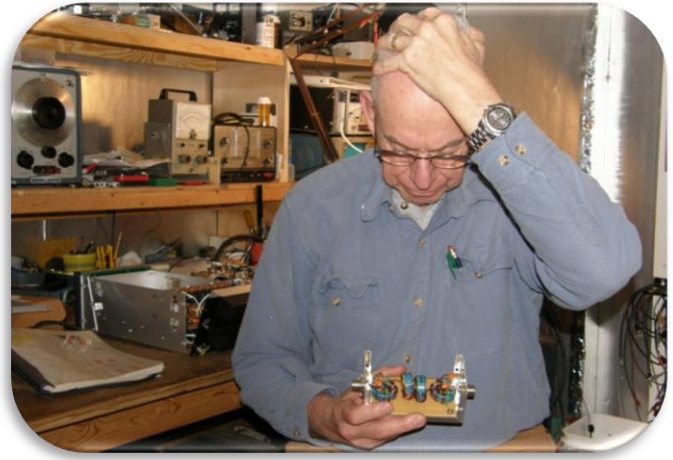
The yellow QSL was 1967 - 1969.



Band Pass Filter Project - The Continuing Saga

Having completed building the 20 Meter Band Pass Filter (BPF), I started to tune it up. At first it looked really good. But as I went further into the tuning the worse it got. So with this in mind I contacted the Ham, Ed, W3NQN that designed and built the original set of filters in 1998. He is in his late 80's and is involved with Array Solutions BPF's. He sent me to another Ham, Paul, W7EKG that has built a lot of them and was willing to help me with the project.

Now the fun begins. The first thing I found out was that the design has changed a lot. Paul sent me a CD with lots of information on all the design changes and what steps to take to tune them up. Now that I have that information it is time to start from scratch again with the 20 Meter BPF. I also found out that as you go up the bands from 20 to 15 to 10 Meters the BPF's get harder to build and tune. So here I go pulling out what little hair I have left to get the project going.



More from here next month, if I still have my sanity

73,
Allan, AB8AA

EmComm

A couple months ago this column discussed the increasing use of soundcard digital modes for emergency communications. Since then, local digital activity has picked up substantially both on the 146.895 MHz repeater and on simplex frequencies. I am sure there are some local hams who wondered just what the heck they were hearing if they tuned across those signals.

Portage County RACES has incorporated digital operations for traffic handling in each of its training nets. The first PCARS Digital Operations Special Interest Group met on January 4th and will be meeting again on February 1st at the club site. The meeting was very well attended and participants had the chance to share information about digital ops and get help in sorting out any operational problems that they had run into. A number of them brought their radios, computers and interfaces and put them on the air to try out new software installations.



Also, PCARS held its first Digital Net on Tuesday, January 25th at 8:00 p.m. Nineteen stations participated. The net will be held every other Tuesday (additional digital information below) at the same time and it is a terrific opportunity for everyone to learn more about the fun they can have using the digital modes. The skills they learn on VHF can be readily transferred to HF operations.

In addition, an Introduction to Digital Communications program held in January was sponsored by Ohio ARES® District Ten and hosted by our DEC, Matt, W8DEC. Rick, K8CAV, and I assisted with the presentation. Despite

the sub-zero weather over sixty hams attended.

District Ten will be holding training on NBEMS/fldigi on Saturday, March 26th, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Tri-Point Medical Center, Concord, Ohio on Auburn Rd close to Interstate 90 and State Route 44. Visit www.facebook.com/aresdistrict10 for more registration information. Last day to register is Wednesday, March 23rd.

Skywarn® training by the National Weather Service is underway in Northeast Ohio. This year the training is being sponsored by the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and its RACES unit. It will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 21st in the cafeteria at the Maplewood Career Center, 7075 St. Rt. 88, in Ravenna.

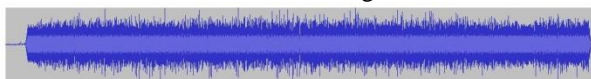
The training is open to the general public, you do not have to be an amateur radio operator to attend. The information is useful for everyone. Spring weather will, hopefully, soon be here bringing with it the risk of rain and snow melt that can lead to flooding. Get trained and be prepared.

73,

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

Editor's Note:

Here's the information on the Digital Net:



With a repeat of the date and time:



Fractal Antennas: Hype or Hope?

QRZ.Com currently has a very interesting item on fractal antennas <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=277623>. While the idea of applying fractals to the design and construction of antennas has been around for quite some time, very few hams have actually built them, and there are currently no companies building commercial fractal antennas for the ham radio market. The question, of course, is why?

Those that are hyping fractal antennas—most notably W1YW, CEO of Fractal Antenna Systems—claim several advantages. These advantages purportedly include wider bandwidth and smaller size when compared to traditional antennas, such as verticals and dipoles. Those that are trying to debunk these claims contend that this is all just hogwash, and that there's no real scientific basis for these claims.

One thing that's confounding this debate is that there have been very few articles published on the topic. For commercial reasons, W1YW has made his articles unavailable. He says that he will be publishing something real soon now, but there is nothing definite at this point.

There is at least one article on the Internet that describes the construction of a fractal antenna for amateur radio use. "FYI:FYQ: Another look at the Fractal Quad Yagi" <http://www.scribd.com/doc/18788401/FYIFQY> was published in the October 1999 issue of 73 magazine. It describes the construction of a two-element, 10m antenna. Like most 73 articles, it's not incredibly technical, though, and doesn't really contribute to the technical debate, except to demonstrate that physically small antennas can be made using fractal design.

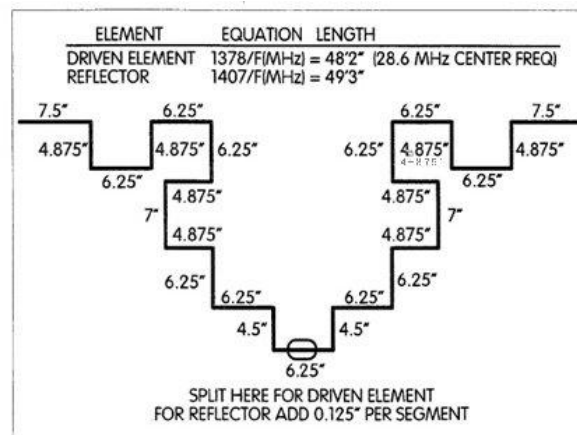


Fig. 1. Segment chart, one side (with feed).

The PDF contains several photos of the antenna. It's a crazy contraption that looks relatively difficult to build. So difficult, in fact, that it makes me wonder if it's even worth it to try building one. After all, 10m antennas are not really all that big or all that difficult to build to begin with.

Even more interesting than the antennas are the personalities on both sides of the debate. The QRZ.Com discussion quickly devolved into a flame war, with neither side scoring a knockout.

Personally, I think the brouhaha is much ado about nothing. It seems to me that it's been demonstrated that you can build antennas using fractal design techniques. They are physically smaller than traditional antenna designs, but you really don't get something for nothing. Overall, they don't have as much gain as yagis or quads, and they're more complex to build.

My opinion on this is that if W1YW can build antennas that radiate a signal and can sell those antennas to someone, then more power to him. In the end, his company will live and die by how well, his antennas work and how much they cost when compared to antennas from other companies.

As for me, I think I'll stick with the more traditional HF antennas. If I need to make my antennas smaller, I'll use loading coils or designs such as the Moxon. I may not be on the bleeding edge of technology, but I'll certainly avoid a lot of headache trying to figure out who's right.

Dan, KB6NU



Fox Hunts Coming Up

Fox Hunt season is rapidly approaching! Come out and see what the fun is all about. You can catch a ride with an experienced hunter if you don't have direction finding equipment. After the hunt we will gather at a restaurant to debrief and complain about where the fox hid!



We will be starting on Wednesday, March 16th. Since there are 5 Wednesdays in March there will be a bonus hunt on the 30th. Hunts are the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month and the 5th Wednesday, if there is one.

Fox Hunts start at 7 PM from The Church in Silver Lake on Route 59 (Kent Road). The church is on the South side of the road at the traffic light. If you have any questions, please contact me at: WB8VNO@portcars.org.

Gay, WB8VNO



PCARS Thursday Net Control



February	
3	KD8JCY
10	N8QE
17	N8EQJ
24	WB2DFC

March	
3	KD8FDK
10	WB8LCD
17	N8RLG
24	KC8PD
31	KB8UUZ

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

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

Public Service Events for 2011

Hi folks, the 2011 Public Service events aren't far away. Jim, KC8PD, is training you for emergency communications and these events are good practice. Not to mention they are fun to work and often yield at least a new T-shirt! We have a full schedule with two additions this year.

I will be working closely with Jim for these events. In fact, Jim will be heading up the communications for the Cleveland Marathon.

Events:

5/15/2011 - Rite Aid Marathon - Half Marathon & 10 K run -Downtown Cleveland - 7 AM Info: http://www.clevelandmarathon.com/
6/18/2011 - Marlene Watt Memorial Race Festival - 5 K / 10 K / Dog Run - Somewhere in Portage
7/9/2011 - Headwaters Adventure Race - Mantua
8/6/2011 - Black Squirrel Adventure Triathlon - Kent
8/28/2011 - Bellefaire JCB Biathlon - 3 Mile run/ 13 Mile bike - Shaker Hts. - 8:00 AM Info: http://www.bellefairejcb.org/
9/17/2011 - Ravenna Balloon A-Fair - 10 Mile / 5 K run - Ravenna - 8:00 AM

If you are interested or need any information, please contact me at: WB8VNO@portcars.org

Gay, WB8VNO

Shack Shots - KD8MQ Portable during OSPOTA



Allen, WI8T, and I operated OSPOTA 2010 from the campground at Beaver Creek State Park.

The equipment used was as follows: Rig was a Kenwood TS-430 running 100 Watts through my MFJ tuner. The antenna was a

G5RV. For CW, I use a Heath HD-1410 Keyer, and my bench paddles. For logging, & dupe checking, we ran a modified version of N3FJP State QSO Party software.



When the other campers saw the antenna going up in the trees, they mistook us for a group of bigfoot hunters who had been there a year, or so previous.

It was a beautiful day, until 5 minutes after the contest ended. Then, the heavens opened up, and it poured down rain.

John, KD8MQ

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



Hamfest Calendar

02/06/2011 - Winter Hamfest - Location: Gargus Hall - 1965 North Ridge Rd. - Lorain, OH 44052 - Website: <http://www.noars.net> - Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Contact: Thomas Porter, W8KYZ - 161 Herrmann Dr. - Avon Lake, OH 44012 - Phone: 440-930-9115 - Email: tporter161@oh.rr.com

02/13/2011 - Mid-Winter Hamfest - Location: Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 Home Rd. North - Mansfield, OH 44901 - Website: <http://www.w8we.org> - Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club - Contact: Danny Bailey, KB8STK - 70 Euclid St. - Shiloh, OH 44878 - Phone: 419-896-3603 - Email: kb8stk1@hotmail.com

03/20/2011 - TMRA Hamfest/Computer Fair - Location: Owens Community College - Student Health & Activity Center - 30335 Oregon Rd. - Perrysburg, OH 43551 - Website: <http://www.tmrhamradio.org> - Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) - Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR - 4463 Holly Hill Dr. Toledo, OH 43614 - Phone: 419-385-5624 - Email: wd8mxr@gmail.com

February Contest Calendar

February 2011	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 5 to 2400Z, Feb 6
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 5 to 2359Z, Feb 6
EPC WW DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 5 to 1200Z, Feb 6
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 5
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 5 to 0100Z, Feb 7
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 6
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 12 to 2400Z, Feb 13
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 13
Freeze Your Acorns Off - PCARS	1500Z-2300Z, Feb 19
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 19
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 25 to 2159Z, Feb 27
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27

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

Swap-N-Shop

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. [04/01/11]

Contact: **Chuck** - 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). [04/01/11]

Contact **Randy** - 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 [04/01/11]

Contact **Tom** - KB8UUZ@portcars.org

FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX Vertical 80m through 10m - Good condition with manual \$150.00 [04/1/11]

FOR SALE: Hamstick Antennas - Two, 75 meter Hamstick style antennas, \$20.00 each. [04/1/11]

FOR SALE: Hamstick Antennas - Two, 40 meter Hamstick style antennas, \$20.00 each. [04/1/11]

Contact **Rick**: K8CAV@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Coleman Cable 65 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 Leviton L14-30R 125/250 V 30A. The new cost for this cable and connectors was \$230.00. Price \$180.00 [05/1/11]

FOR SALE: Coleman Cable 100 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 \$326.00. Price \$275.00 [05/1/11]

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 Heliax. \$1000.00 [05/1/11]

Contact **James** - 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 34 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.



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

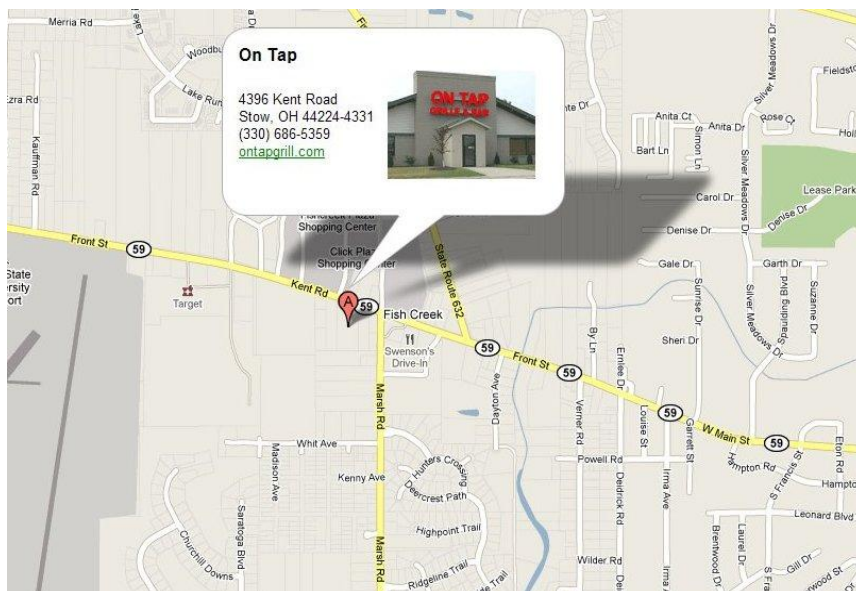
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month.

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

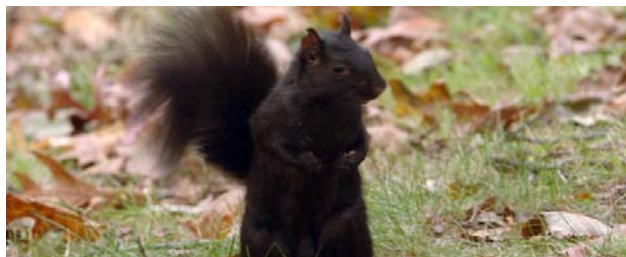
(Meetings are held January through November. December is the Christmas Party)



Unofficial Mascot Celebrates 50 Years on Kent State University Campus

Take a stroll on campus, and it's hard to go far without spotting a black squirrel darting among passersby, hopping from tree to tree or nibbling on a nut.

Once nonexistent in this area, the now ubiquitous black squirrel is affectionately considered Kent State University's unofficial mascot, and 2011 celebrates the bushy-tailed creatures' 50th anniversary in Kent.



The availability of stuffed toy versions of the black rodent in campus bookstores, the black squirrel statue-decorating contest at Homecoming, Black Squirrel Radio and the Annual Black Squirrel Festival are clear indications that the black squirrels are a staple both on and off campus and engender fond memories of Kent State.

Even more interesting than their prominence is how they ended up in Kent.

The creatures were imported to campus as the mission of "Operation Black Squirrel" in 1961, in which Larry Wooddell, then the campus ground superintendent, and "Biff" Staples, a retired Davey Tree employee, personally delivered the furry critters from Canada.



Wooddell had first seen the black squirrels when traveling in the late 1950's through Chardon, Ohio, a small rural town 30 miles northeast of Kent. In a September 1982 article in the Daily Kent Stater, Wooddell was described as being confused by the squirrels' unique color and startled by their struggle to escape hunters.

Scarce in number and greatly outnumbered by predators in mid-20th-century Chardon, the black squirrels eventually were killed off in the area. Taken by the rare-colored creatures, Wooddell began to search elsewhere for them. He enlisted the help of his friend, Staples, who discovered an abundance of them in Ontario, Canada on a business trip.

“Operation Black Squirrel” was born.

Based on Staples’ discovery, the pair handled the complicated task of transporting the squirrels from Ontario to Kent, which involved correspondence with the United States and Canadian governments over six months.

The plan proved successful. In early 1961, the pair drove to Ontario in a station wagon to pick up 10 squirrels that had been trapped by Canadian wildlife authorities. Then, they returned to campus hauling the furry cargo in individual cages. Once back in Kent, the black squirrels were released, and the rest, as they say, is history.

If it were not for Wooddell and Staples’ diligence in cutting through all the red tape, Kent State may not be paying homage today to the black squirrel.



Annual Celebration

Every September, the uncommon creatures are honored at the annual Black Squirrel Festival, which is organized by the Kent Student Center Programming.

Tessa Saylor, student co-manager at the student center programming, said the spirit of how Kent State has adopted the black squirrel inspires the festival, which celebrated its 29th year this past fall.

“The mission of the festival has been to welcome both new students and returning students to Kent State University and the local community, kind of like how we’ve welcomed the squirrel itself,” Saylor said. “The festival includes local entertainment and vendors. Many of the student organizations also come to the festival.”

In the first few decades of the squirrels’ existence on campus, grounds maintenance helped ensure their comfort and well-being by installing food baskets and nesting boxes high up in the trees. It was learned that the squirrels preferred to feast on corn.

Nowadays, the critters fend for themselves.

Successful Colony

“It’s survival of the fittest,” said Heather White, manager of campus environment and operations at Kent State. “The food baskets were removed, and we don’t feed wildlife anymore. They have to fend for themselves.”



In numerous articles written about the squirrels in the past, they are often described as “the unofficial mascots, famous campus residents, and peculiar, annoying, amazing and even troublesome.”

Unlike the staff in years past, who complained of the squirrels being pests by getting caught in heating unit grills or in buildings where holes lure them in for warmth, White said her staff hasn’t had any first-hand experience or issues with the squirrels.

The furry residents’ reputation as being unfriendly or mean as described in some old news or academic articles is also something White said she hasn’t encountered.

It seems after their five-decade occupation of Kent, the black squirrels are finally doing what Wooddell hoped they would.

A 1960 article that appeared in the Record-Courier said, “Wooddell, pleased that campus now has a colony of rare squirrels, believes they will take kindly to KSU surroundings.”

And, so it appears they have.

Erin C. Perkins

Editor's note: PCARS Historian - Peggy, KB8SZI spotted this article on the Kent State University website



Pictures from the January PCARS Meeting



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, K3GP, W8PT, KB8UUZ, AB8AA, WB8VNO, KB8SZI, Erin Perkins, KD8MQ, ARRL and the World Wide Web.

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



Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application

[] New

[] Renewal

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: _____ Year: _____
Birthday: Month: _____ Day: _____ (don't need year)

A \$5.00 initiation fee will be assessed in the first year of membership for all new members.

Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31st the following year.

Dues are as follows: Example - Regular Member Pays on Jan 1st \$20 for entire year. If paid on June 1st, \$15 for entire year, etc.

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

☐

Regular Full Member

Pay January 1 through May 31 = \$20.00 (full year)

Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months)

☐

Associate Member

Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months)

Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month)

☐

Regular Senior Full Member (65+)

Pay January 1 through May 31 = \$16.00 (full year)

Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months)

☐

Associate Senior Member (65+)

Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months)

Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month)

☐

Family* Member

Pay January 1 through May 31 = \$10.00 (full year)

Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months)

Call Sign of Regular Member: _____

Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months)

Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month)

(*Family = wife, husband, brother, sister, son, daughter, father, mother that is a licensed amateur radio operator who's FCC license has the same address as the paid regular member's FCC license)

Checks can be made out to either "PCARS" - or - "Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc."

What are YOUR Ham Radio interests:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Member #: _____

Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
c/o: Mary Jo Loveland KD8GGZ
4838 Campbellsport Road
Ravenna OH 44266-8895

Date Received:
New Renewal
Date Voted:
Database Updated

Initiation Fee \$
Dues \$
○ Cash ○ Check Total Amount: \$
Results:

Rev 2009 0501

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

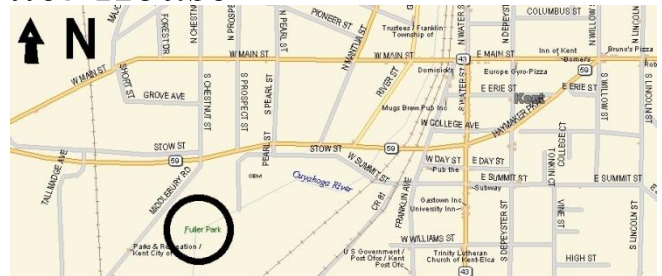
Sixth Annual

"Freeze Your Acorns Off"
(FYAO) QRP mini-field day
Special Event Station



Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh
at the Roy Smith Shelter House

When: Saturday - Feb. 19, 2011
Set up: 9am



Operating Time: 10am - 6pm EST

We will be active on CW & SSB in the General areas of the 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Echolink on the KC8RKV echo link node) and anything else we can get working. Club Call Sign **K8BF** for a certificate. Other participating stations will be using their own callsign/FYAO, or calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator).

Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you contact K8BF and send your QSL with a large SASE to the club call trustee: Al Atkins, KB8VJL - 12433 Chamberlain Rd. - Aurora, OH 44202

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org



USB Sound Card Interface Kit Project

Looking for a sound card interface using the computer's USB port that will provide full isolation between the computer and transceiver for both audio lines and the USB line?

YOU FOUND IT!

Get into the world of DIGITAL communications!



Some of the features of this kit are:

- Computer control of transceiver transmit – receive status via the computer's USB port created by a virtual COM port. The USB to COM port adapter is fully RS-232C compatible for all lines
- Isolation of the computer's USB port to transceiver by using an opto-isolator
- Complete DC isolation of the sound card line-out and line-in from computer to transceiver by using isolation transformers to eliminate ground loop problems and distortion
- Potentiometers with knobs on the front panel to quickly and easily change display and transmit drive levels. (No control for display drive is available for the Optional audio switching version.)
- Metal enclosure and shielded cables to minimize or eliminate RFI problems
- Complete kit of parts including hardware and enclosure to build a USB sound card interface. **The only item not included with the kit is the 5 pin DIN cable that goes from the interface to your particular transceiver.**
- Optional audio switching version may require additional components or cabling depending on the make and model of your transceiver and are not included in the kit.

A printed circuit board is provided with the kit for mounting all conventional, through-hole components (no surface-mount devices) and wiring. Detailed, step by step directions are included. Required soldering skills are modest, consisting of the ability to solder conventional through-hole IC's and components to a PC board without damaging the component or PC board.



The metal enclosure requires that a number of holes be drilled for mounting components

and passing through cables, PCB mounting holes, USB connector hole and also for the holes for the DIN connector. Chassis can be ordered pre-drilled for an additional charge. The enclosure as received from the supplier is completely painted and finished and consists of a beige aluminum chassis and black steel cover. Decals with markings for chassis are included with the kit.



The price at this point is based on less than ten quantities. The more that get ordered, the more the price goes down! I will mail a money order back to you for any difference. Parts will be ordered February 28th and should be received and shipped to you by

March 31st. Pre-drilled chassis may take up to two weeks more. **PCARS will be doing a kit assembly day on Saturday April 23, 2011 at the club station on Oakwood Street in Ravenna.**

Complete this form, tear off and mail along with your check to:

Qty	Description	Cost Each	Total Cost
	USB Sound Card Interface Kit	\$ 54.68	\$
	Optional Pre-drilled chassis	\$ 15.00	\$
	Optional Audio Switch version	\$ 2.85	\$
	Optional shipping to your home	\$ 12.00	\$
TOTAL (enclose check for this amount)			\$

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE A COMPLETE STREET ADDRESS WITH YOUR ORDER!!!!

An e-mail address or telephone number would be helpful as well

Make checks or money orders out and mail to: Rick Kruis K8CAV- 6007 State Route 82 - Hiram, OH 44234

Order form and check must be received no later than February 28, 2011

You can contact me at K8CAV@portcars.org for more information



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

Meetings: 2nd 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	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Club Callsign Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO W8PT	Joe Wehner Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2011	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
F.Y.A.O.	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
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PCARS
VE Team



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NLC



2011
50th Anniversary of the
Black Squirrels loose in Portage County