



# The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



March 2011 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 6 No. 3

~ 2011 Officers ~

President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD  
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 3 Year Trustee - Sandra Getty - KD8JCY  
 2 Year Trustee - Robert Gurney - N8RLG  
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~ Meetings & Nets ~

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
 each month. 7pm  
 Thursday nights  
 Nets at 8 pm  
 on 146.895

PCARS Incorporated  
 Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting  
 Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated  
 April 20, 2006



Special Services  
 Club  
 March 22, 2010

## President's Column

As this is being written it is snowing. Again. I started last month's column complaining about the weather, hoping that the worst would be over by now. Oh, well. At least we caught a break for Freeze Your Acorns Off when it was cold but sunny. But the snow can't last much longer. Hopefully.

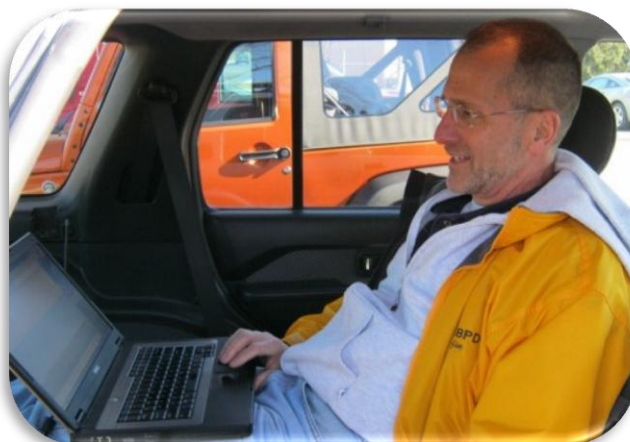
It has been great to see how quickly local interest has grown in the use of soundcard digital modes on VHF. Only a few months ago there was no digital activity on either the 146.895 repeater or on VHF simplex frequencies. Now the PCARS bi-weekly Tuesday evening digital nets have as many as a couple dozen check-ins, there is an informal simplex net that has been operating on Sunday afternoons and you may even hear occasional digital ops on 147.525 at any time of the day.

It has been a lot of fun, not just to participate in the nets, but also to have the chance to be part of a process that introduces hams to a facet of the hobby that they haven't tried before. Hams have checked in to the digital net out of curiosity then downloaded and installed digital software and gotten up and running while the net was going. How cool!

With nothing more than a radio, computer and free software you can give digital ops a try with the help of other PCARS members who will be glad to walk you through the basics and sorting out operational issues that you run into.

Within another month or so PCARS will have added its 200th member. That is an amazing milestone for a club that is barely five years old. But one of the main reasons that PCARS has attracted so many members is its goal of providing them as many ways as possible to have some ham radio fun and then helping them in the process.

No matter whether it is one of the most recent digital modes or traditional CW ops, and everything in between, PCARS will find a way to make it a part of the club's activities. As always, if there is anything that you would like to have as a PCARS program or activity, let us know and we will find a way to make it happen.



KC8PD during FYAO

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



### *From the President - Continued from Page 1*

On the serious side of the ham radio hobby, Tom, WB8LCD, our Ohio Section Liaison, has been keeping us advised about a bill that has been introduced in Congress that could have a serious adverse impact on amateur radio operators. HR 607 would take the 420-440 MHz band from its current users, which also include the military, and allow it to be auctioned off for commercial purposes. Contact Tom for information about how you can make your voice heard in opposition to this legislation.

Thanks again to Tom for all of his efforts to keep PCARS members advised about operations in the Ohio Section and current issues that affect ham radio.

Hope to see you at the March meeting or at one of the upcoming Special Interest Group meetings or Net Nites!

73,  
**Jim, KC8PD**



## *From the Vice President*

As a small business owner, I wear a lot of hats. If I had to pick out the hat that is the most important for the ongoing survival of the business, I would have to say it was “salesman”. There's an old saying: Nothing happens until a sale is made. It's true, unless someone buys the product, there's no need for the designers, engineers, packers, shippers and accountants. (not to mention the many necessary levels of mismanagement) Especially when times are tough, a good salesman can keep an organization viable. Does Amateur Radio need a good salesman?

Amateur Radio is considered a “communications” hobby. For the most part, I believe that it is more about the “technology of communications” rather than actual communications. That's why nets experience so many check-ins as “callsign, no traffic” and they're done. As ARES and RACES units across the country are seeking ways to be relevant in their communities, they have excelled in the ways that they are using the technology of communications to pass traffic. Communicating those skills and technologies to the end users of our services has not been a particularly strong point in the recent past.

I'm very proud to say that as a member of RACES of Portage County, ARES of Portage County and ARES Ohio District Ten, things are changing. Especially here in Portage County, actual *communications* have taken place with county authorities, and they are beginning to see Amateur Radio operators in a different light. As more hams have gotten involved with NIMS training, especially at the higher level courses, it has given them an opportunity to build relationships with others in local Fire and Police departments. Through those relationships they will hopefully come to understand Amateur Radio better, and have a positive attitude towards those hams who do volunteer for public service in that way. Aware of it or not, these hams are “selling” Amateur Radio on our behalf!



**WB8LCD**

As the PCARS vice president, it's my responsibility to line up the speaker for our meetings. As my predecessors Jim and Dave can tell you, it's not necessarily an easy task. So what other organizations do you belong to? Men's club, garden club, toastmasters, Lodge, PTA, historical society, boy/girl/cub scouts, ..... do you think that maybe they sometimes have a hard time lining up a good speaker for their meetings? Why not offer to make a presentation on ham radio, and how it relates to their particular interests? Even if you don't feel comfortable doing a presentation yourself, there are many qualified in PCARS to make an interesting presentation for you. Please, help us to get together with them to solve their problem (coming up with an interesting meeting topic) and at the same time do a little “selling” of Amateur Radio.

Except for the occasional outburst over an unsightly antenna support structure, Amateur Radio is pretty much an invisible hobby. Tell most people who don't already know about you that you are a ham, and the most common response is “wow, they still do that?” Nothing happens until a sale is made. We need to be at the forefront of “selling” Amateur Radio in our communities. We have a great opportunity to be real communicators, since no-one else is doing it. Put on your “sales hat” and tell some one about the best hobby on the planet (and in space, too).

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





## *LoTW Seminar and Workshop – March 19th*

This seminar will be held at the PCARS club site starting at 10:00 am and is open to all members – Those who simply want to determine if LoTW is for them, those who had received their initial LoTW password postcard, and those who are already active LoTW users are all welcome.

If you want to have your initial password postcard in time for this session, time is short! The LoTW postcard is the first step in obtaining the LoTW certificate that will allow you to use Logbook of the World.



Step-by-step instructions to have this postcard sent to you can be found at the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/LoTW-Postcard>

If you have already obtained your LoTW certificate and installed it on your computer, you should make a portable back-up copy that you keep on media such as a thumb drive for safekeeping. This will also allow you to install your LoTW certificate on a notebook computer that you can use at the March 19<sup>th</sup> seminar.

Detailed instructions on how to do this may be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/LoTW-Backup> . If you have any questions, contact me at: [K3GP@portcars.org](mailto:K3GP@portcars.org)

*George, K3GP*



## *Mark Your Calendars*



On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> - **Digital SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Net Nite** at the Club Site - 8 pm
- March 8<sup>th</sup> - **QRP/CW SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- March 14<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **QSL'ing** - KB8UUZ and W8HFY
- March 15<sup>th</sup> - **MARS SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- March 17<sup>th</sup> - **Net Nite** at the Club Site - 8 pm
- March 19<sup>th</sup> - **Logbook of the World (LoTW)** - Hands On Seminar at the club site - 10 am
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - **Skywarn® Training** - 6:30 pm - by NWS at the Maplewood Career Center, 7075 State Route 88, Ravenna
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> - **DX/Contesting SIG** at the club site - 7 pm
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> - First Anniversary for PCARS being a Special Services Club (2010)
- March 31<sup>st</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 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
- 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 the DX Column for March. There are quite a few interesting DX events coming in March. I also have a few items listed below that will be happening in later months. But I've tried to keep them to a minimum except where the event is REALLY interesting, like the very first item below.



W8PT

I'm hoping that you have had the time and desire to get on the HF bands and work some DX. The sun spot cycle is cranking up and even 6 meters is showing some life. And just wait – it is only going to get better!

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).

**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 2359z, 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."

**4W6, TIMOR-LESTE.** Operators Stuie/VK8NSB, Franck/VK8FNCY, Steve/9M6DXX, John/9M6XRO and Oliver/MW0JRX will be operating from the coast of Timor-Leste (East Timor) between September 16-26th. The location will be **Atauro Island (OC-232)**, 30km north of the capital Dili. There will be three stations, two using full licensed power linear amplifiers, and a third running 100W. Antennas will mainly be quarter-wave verticals and vertical dipoles, all located within a few meters of the ocean. For 160 m an inverted-L will be used. Activity will be on all bands 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Atauro Island was chosen in order to provide a quiet location well away from the electrical noise of downtown Dili. The beach-front site will allow the group to put up vertical antennas right by the ocean, providing additional low-angle gain. In addition, the island counts as OC-232 and is part of a very rare IOTA group having being confirmed by only 18% of active IOTA participants. A Web site will be available soon, and further details will be published on the Web site. QSL via M0URX, direct (SAE plus 1 IRC/2 USDs), by the Bureau, or LoTW.

**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, Mienenbuetel 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.

**5B, CYPRUS.** Zoli, HA5PP, will once again be active as 5B/HA5PP during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via HA5PP.

**5X, UGANDA** (Update). 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.

**6V7, SENEGAL.** (Reminder) 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.** (Reminder) 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.** (Reminder) 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.

**CY0, SABLE ISLAND** (Update). Randy, N0TG, reports that "the team has set March 7-15th as the target schedule to activate Sable Island. We welcome, Wayne, K8LEE, who has recently joined the team replacing WA4DAN who had to withdraw due to business commitments. We will be traveling to Halifax, Canada, on March 5th to take care of final logistics details in preparation for the charter flight to Sable. The team has maximized their personal schedules to be as flexible as possible to adapt to any potential weather delays. The Web site will be updated periodically as to the status and any potential impact on the planned activation date, including while in Halifax."

**FG, GUADELOUPE.** (Reminder) 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.

**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 .

**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.

**HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** Operators Tino/HI3CC, Franky/HI3FVA, Ezequiel/HI3EPR, Naomi/JM6EBU and Hiro/JA6WFM will be active in the ARRL DX SSB Contest as HI3CC (March 5-6th) from Lomas del Toro in Santiago (Lomadeltoro Contest Team's HI3CCP station) (NA-096, WLOTA LH-2974) as a Multi-Single/Low-Power entry. QSL via ON4IQ.

## **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

**AF-018.** Operator Raffaele, IH9YMC, will be active from **Pantelleria Island (IIA TP-001, MIA MI-124, WW Loc. JM56XT)**, African Italy, during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (March 26-27th) as a Single- Op/low-Power entry. QSL via eQSL.

**EU-125.** Stefan, DL7AOS, will be using the special call sign 5P5K from **Romo Island** between March 20th and April 1st. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using a FT-857 with 500w into a vertical antenna near the beach. Look for 5P5K to also be operating in the CQ WPX Contest (March 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/ High-Power entry. QSL via DL7AOS, direct using the QRZ.com address or by the Bureau.

**J3, GRENADA.** Roy, KE4TG, will be active as J38RF between February 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**OC-239.** 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.

**PJ2, CURACAO** (Correction). Operators Don/W5FKX, Jim/N5HZ, Dave/W5XU and Mike/W5ZPA will be active as PJ2/homecall from the Signal Point Station (PJ2T) on **Curacao (SA-099, WLOTA LH-0942)** between March 10-17th. Activity will be on all bands and modes. All QSL's for this should be sent via the individual operator's home call sign.

### And finally a possible NEW DX Entity.

**SOUTHERN SUDAN TO RETURN TO COUNTRY STATUS.** Over the last few months many have been waiting for the final outcome of the referendum vote for the separation of the Sudan and Southern Sudan, and now the great outcome is here. With the overwhelming majority of 90% of the people voting for another independent state, the Southern Sudan will once again become independent. With the Republic of Sudan agreeing to honor the



referendum, and the United States pledging to recognize the new country status in July, it would seem that the DXCC Entity List would be going up one. Currently, reports indicate that the Southern Sudan will declare its independence on July 9th. There is even talk that this new country may even change its name, possibly without the name Sudan in it. Anyway, with this separation taking place, there were two major announcements this past week (possibly more in the coming weeks) of DXpeditions to take place in the middle of 2011 to activate this one (once the DXCC makes its ruling).



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.

**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/>.





## *Some Words from Weaver*

### +++ *Great Lakes Division Convention September 11* +++

Being an odd-numbered year, 2011 is a year for a bi-annual Great Lakes Division Convention. It will be held concurrent with the Findlay Hamfest in Findlay, OH on Sunday, September 11, 2011. The Convention will be held on the Hamfest grounds as a coordinated activity with the Hamfest. A series of interesting seminar topics and speakers is being developed for this event.

In addition to the seminars and speakers, Great Lakes Division Awards will be presented. An announcement requesting nominations for these awards will be made soon. In the meantime, the awards that are available and the criteria for them may be found by going to the GLD website, <http://arrrl-greatlakes.org/> and clicking on Awards in the column at the left side of the opening page. It is time to begin to think of possible nominees and gathering supporting information for these.

Attendance at the GLD Convention is free with the purchase of a Findlay Hamfest ticket.

### +++ *This Month's Final* +++

I often hear amateurs -- members and non-member alike -- complain about the price of membership in ARRL. I agree that \$39 is not just a bit of change that I could lose and not notice. On the other hand, what is Amateur Radio worth to each of us? What value do we place on our great avocation?

How many of us have other hobbies? What do these cost relative to Amateur Radio? What magazines do you subscribe to? How much do these cost? Incidentally, ARRL members do not subscribe to QST. It is an inherent benefit of membership.

Lets examine a few relative facts.

ARRL dues are \$39/yr. This figures out to just under 11 cents/day for a year. For comparison, a subscription to CQ magazine is \$36/yr. This figures to be just under 10 cents/day. I am a long time subscriber to CQ. I am also a bit of a Civil War buff and subscribe to Civil War Times. It costs \$39.95/yr for only 6 issues. This means it costs essentially the same as ARRL membership. Monitoring Times in paper version is 32.95/yr x 12 issues -- just over 9 cents per day.

In addition, I recently received an invitation from the National Rifle Association (NRA) to extend my membership. The regular cost for a two-year extension is \$60. The special offer was for \$55. These prices aren't bad. The cost to extend membership for two years (just over 7 cents/day) is somewhat less than that for ARRL.

These comparisons are very superficial, however. What members get in return for their dues or subscriptions differs quite a lot.

With CQ, subscribers receive the magazine and can enter into a few CQ-sponsored contests each year. Very nice contests I will add. With my Civil War Times I receive six issues of a thinning, but quite nice, magazine. With Monitoring Times one receives the magazine which is devoted to many aspects of "wireless" communications only one of which is Amateur Radio. It is a nice magazine.

NRA membership brings a monthly magazine and representation on gun-related issues in Congress. The



**K8JE**



NRA does a good job with its legislative action efforts. Of course, it has many more members than ARRL which increases the likelihood of success and also helps hold the cost of membership down.

What about ARRL? What do members receive through membership in it? First, there is QST. It is a top-notch journal -- i.e., much more than merely a magazine. There also are the several contests that take place on nearly every amateur band. And, the awards -- DX, WAS, VHF/UHF -- and many more. ARRL sponsors the Education & Technical Project (ETP), otherwise is known as the Big School project. We've discussed this Project earlier in this issue. Along the lines of education, ARRL also manages numerous grants and scholarships for amateur radio causes and operators.



What about ARES™. This program is the true gold for radio amateurs in presenting us as providing critical support to our fellow citizens. Add to this the Official Observer program that helps keep many amateurs on the right side of FCC rules and regulations. There is the VE Program. The ARRL VEC is the largest Volunteer Examiner Coordinator in the country and is responsible in many respects for there being a VE Program..

How many of you have contacted the ARRL Technical Department for assistance with a sticky problem? Maybe you have contacted the ARRL Regulatory Information Department to ask questions about FCC regulations and International communications laws? How many other organizations provide these services?

Even though there are numerous additional services provided by ARRL, I will stop the litany of member services with the above. My point is that \$39/year is truly inexpensive when compared with everything ARRL makes available to us members. Finally, ARRL is the most major developer and publisher of ham radio technical, instructional materials and Amateur Radio promotional materials in the world.

I have no doubt that any amount of dues may be too much for some people. For the vast majority of us, though, the total value ARRL membership offer for \$39 in dues is a true bargain! Think about it.

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

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## ***Happy Birthday PCARS Members***

PCARS members having a birthday in March:

W8KNO	Joe	Wehner	K8QF	Russ	Conklin
K8SRR	Steve	Randlett	AB8YN	Ray	Czech
KD8FLU	Linda	Godfrey	KD8BHX	Lorraine	Davison
KJ4MPN	Herschell	Taylor, Jr.	NOJIW	Ralph	Wagnitz
AE5WX	Daryl	Stout	KD8FDK	Rich	Taushanoff
KD8JRF	Rod	Stickle	WB8LCD	Tom	Sly
KB3GXB	Jennifer	Andrews	KD8CGF	Art	Dembinski

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

**Jim, KC8PD**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison

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## Bring a Friend to Field Day

In 2010 some 140 members and guests visited the PCARS Field Day operation. This was far and away the largest turnout at any Field Day event in the Ohio Section. More importantly, out of the 2617 total Field Day entries PCARS ranked at number five for attendance.

This was an exceptional accomplishment. The top spot was taken by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League which was the Dayton Hamvention Amateur Radio Club of the Year. The NFARL is a 250+ member club that serves the heavily populated greater Atlanta area, particularly north Fulton County.



It says a lot about PCARS that we have nearly 200 members but are based in a county whose population is less than 160,000. It would say a whole lot more about PCARS if we could top the turnout at the NFARL Field Day site!

So the PCARS Field Day theme for 2011 is **"Bring a Friend to Field Day."** Remember that two of the primary goals of Field Day are to provide a public demonstration of amateur radio activities and to encourage interest in the hobby. What better way to accomplish that than for each of us to recruit friends, neighbors, co-workers, you name it, to visit our FD operation?

I am asking every PCARS member who attends Field Day this year to bring at least one guest to the event. Let's share the fun of the ham radio hobby with as many folks as possible!

**Jim, KC8PD**

## Top 100 DX - the Most Wanted List

2010 #	PREFIX	COUNTRY	2009 #	2010 #	PREFIX	COUNTRY	2009 #
1	P5	NORTH KOREA	1	51	T33	BANABA	48
2	KP1	NAVASSA	2	52	YVØ	AVES ISLAND	52
3	3Y/B	BOUVET	4	53	PYØT	TRINDADE	42
4	7O	YEMEN	5	54	VP6	PITCAIRN	69
5	VKØ/H	HEARD ISLAND	6	55	R1MV	MALYJ VYSOTSKIJ	63
6	FT5Z	AMSTERDAM	9	56	3D2C	CONWAY REEF	24
7	ZS8	MARION ISLAND	3	57	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	57
8	VP8/S	SOUTH SANDWICH	10	58	FO/M	MARQUESAS	53
9	FT5W	CROZET	7	59	H4Ø	TEMOTU	62
10	BS7	SCARBOROUGH	11	60	T5	SOMALIA	56
11	VP8/O	SOUTH ORKNEY	12	61	1AØ	SOV.MIL. ORDER-MALTA	73
12	HKØ/M	MALPELO	14	62	FO/C	CLIPPERTON	90
13	VKØ/M	MACQUARIE	15	63	YA	AFGHANISTAN	47
14	SV/A	MT ATHOS	13	64	9N	NEPAL	72
15	FR/T	TROMELIN	16	65	FK/C	CHESTERFIELD	31
16	ZL9	AUCKLAND & CAMPBELL	17	66	E5/N	NORTH COOK	57
17	KH5K	KINGMAN REEF	18	67	TI9	COCOS ISLAND	100
18	PYØS	ST PETER & ST PAUL	19	68	A5	BHUTAN	71
19	KH5	PALMYRA	20	69	D6	COMOROS	80
20	FR/J/E	JUAN DE NOVA	21	70	FJ	ST BARTHELEMY	78
21	VP8/G	SOUTH GEORGIA	26	71	XX9	MACAU	70
22	KH9	WAKE	23	72	EZ	TURKMENISTAN	74
23	BV9P	PRATAS	25	73	JX	JAN MAYEN	85
24	KH3	JOHNSTON	30	74	T3Ø	WESTERN KIRIBATI	61
25	E3	ERITREA	27	75	T2	TUVALU	87
26	KH1	BAKER & HOWLAND	33	76	VK9/C	COCOS KEELING	75
27	CEØ/X	SAN FELIX	32	77	ZK3	TOKELAU	58
28	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	29	78	T32	EASTERN KIRIBATI	91
29	VU4	ANDAMAN	34	79	TJ	CAMEROON	96
30	KH7K	KURE	37	80	YK	SYRIA	84
31	ZD9	TRISTAN DE CUNHA	36	81	CEØ/Z	JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND	64
32	1S	SPRATLY	41	82	TT	CHAD	89
33	FT5X	KERGUELEN	38	83	VK9/X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	68
34	KH8/S	SWAINS ISLAND	50	84	VP8/SS	SOUTH SHETLAND	86
35	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND	28	85	KH8	AMERICAN SAMOA	--
36	XZ	MYANMAR	39	86	TN	CONGO	79
37	JD1/M	MINAMI TORISHIMA	40	87	FO/A	AUSTRAL	59
38	S2	BANGLADESH	44	88	KH4	MIDWAY	22
39	3Y/P	PETER I	43	89	ZK2	NIUE	--
40	EP	IRAN	46	90	FW	WALLIS & FUTUNA	82
41	3CØ	ANNOBON	35	91	SØ	WESTERN SAHARA	--
42	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP	55	92	5V	TOGO	92
43	FR/G	GLORIOSO	8	93	AP	PAKISTAN	76
44	XF4	REVILLA GIGEDO	66	94	HV	VATICAN	95
45	C2	NAURU	49	95	VK9/L	LORD HOWE	--
46	4W	TIMOR LESTE	60	96	XW	LAOS	99
47	3D2R	ROTUMA	45	97	3W/XV	VIETNAM	83
48	CY9	ST PAUL ISLAND	77	98	9U	BURUNDI	98
49	VK9/M	MELLISH REEF	54	99	3A	MONACO	--
50	CYØ	SABLE ISLAND	65	100	KP5	DESECHEO	--

*How are YOU doing?*



## ***Band Pass Filter Project - The Continuing Saga***

The next to the last chapter of the Band Pass Filters project.

After the problems of last month and everything I found out, I started to rebuild the Band Pass Filters. I found out very quickly that the new design was a lot more robust than the older one. I completed the 20-meter Band Pass Filters, since it was the easier one to build. Using the procedures from the ham that is helping me, I first tuned the input and output circuits. With the new tuning procedure they came right in to spec. Then I installed the connecting circuit and tuned it. What a surprise, the Band Pass Filter was 1:1 across the band. The only way I can tune them is with an MFJ antenna analyzer.

With that in mind I rebuilt the 15-meter and the 10-meter Band Pass Filters. I had the same results with them both. They took about 4 hours each to build and tune up. Since I do not have the special test equipment to do all the final tuning, I have sent them off to the ham that has been helping me with the project. He has received them and at this time I do not know how they are. I will know more by next month and hope to have them back soon.



**AB8AA**

More from here next month, looks like I still have my sanity.

73,  
**Allan, AB8AA**



## ***EmComm***

The Portage County RACES unit welcomes new member, Al Zielinski, KD8LEB. Rick Kruis, K8CAV, and Steve Randlett, K8SRR, had joined the RACES team last Fall, so we now have a total of twenty-one members, nineteen active plus two on inactive status.

This has been a busy period for RACES members. A half dozen of them have recently completed the ICS-300 two-day class, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents. They included Bill, WB9LBI, Mike, KB8TUY, Sandy, KD8JCY, Robert, N8RLG, Mike, KD8FLZ, and myself.

This is a fairly intensive course that requires all students to participate in a number of challenging problem solving scenarios using the Incident Command System. The ICS-300 course is for mid and upper incident command managers and is required for those who will be members of the Portage County Incident Management Team.

One of the benefits of RACES membership is the opportunity to take courses such as this. There will be another ICS-300 course offered in May and an ICS-400, Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff, class will be held in June.

The first quarter RACES drill will be held on March 12th and will include operations at the county Emergency Operations Center, the Red Cross and Robinson Memorial Hospital. The purpose of the drill is to test the developing skills of RACES members in using digital communications. Those will include both text and data messages as well as photo images and PDF files.





Portage County RACES offers a great opportunity for hams who would like to be involved in assisting area public and private agencies that provide disaster relief and other crucial services. Anyone who would like more information about RACES should contact me, [kc8pd@aol.com](mailto:kc8pd@aol.com).

The annual National Weather Service Skywarn training will be held in Portage County on Monday, March 21st starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Career Center on State Route 88 just north of St. Rt. 14. This year the training is being sponsored by the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The program is open to the general public, you do not have to be a ham to participate.

Remember that one of the greatest weather risks in our area is flooding and with the Spring thaw coming (hopefully) along with seasonal rain make sure that you pay special attention to high water conditions. Never try to navigate a flooded road, either by driving or walking through it, because flowing water can whisk you off your feet or start floating a vehicle before you have a chance to get out safely.

Please take the opportunity to participate in the ARES of Portage County Training Nets on alternating Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. local time on the 146.895 repeater. The nets are open to all hams in the area and your participation is appreciated. Also, check out the PCARS Digital Net every other Tuesday (next net March 8th) at 7:30 p.m.

Watch for reminders of upcoming public service events that will be open to area hams including the CVS Marathon which will be on May 22nd this year.

73,

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



## ***ARRL Asks Members to Write in Opposition to HR 607***

The ARRL is asking its members to contact their US representatives in opposition to the sections of HR 607 that could affect the Amateur Radio Service allocation at 420-440 MHz. HR 607 -- The Broadband for First

Responders Act of 2011 -- would address certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network. It was introduced into the US House of Representatives February 10.



ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, clarified that the League opposes HR 607 in its present form. "We do not oppose the concept of dedicated spectrum for the development of a Public Safety infrastructure and wireless network. We object to the bill because of the inclusion of 420-440 MHz as part of the spectrum to be swapped and auctioned to commercial users." You can find a sample letter, "How to Find your Representative" and the contact information for ARRL's legislative consultant, Chwat & Co, here:

<http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>.

***From the ARRL***



## Field Day 2011 - Need Ops & Loggers

We're 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)

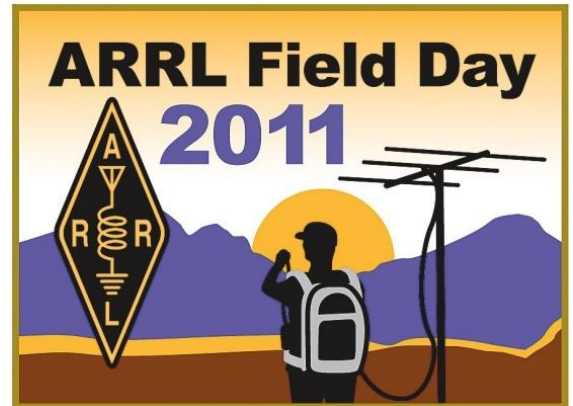
40 Meter Station - contact [N8EQJ@portcars.org](mailto:N8EQJ@portcars.org)

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)



## PCARS Thursday Net Control



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](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org). Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

## PCARS Patches & Stickers

PCARS logo patches & stickers are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo!! The patch is approximately 3". The embroidery on the white patch is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker.



Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! If you would like to order by mail contact the club Treasurer: Bill, WB9LBI at: [WB9LBI@portcars.org](mailto:WB9LBI@portcars.org)



## Ohio ARES® Tenth District Training Announcement

Saturday, March 26th at 9:00 AM - Fldigi/Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System. The training is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. You do not have to be a member of any particular club, program, or organization to participate.

The training will be held at the TriPoint Medical Center which is located at 7590 Auburn Rd, Concord, OH 44077 near Interstate 90 and State Route 44. The training will be held in the Lubrizol Conference room in the Physician Pavilion on the North end of the campus.



9:00AM to 9:30AM will be check-in and meet & greet. Fresh hot coffee will be available. 9:30 AM to Noon will be classroom instruction, Noon to 1:00 PM will be a fantastic free lunch, and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM will be hands on activities. There will also be a review on hardware and software options. Those who have attended a tenth district training know we take care of our volunteers at lunch time!

The training is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. However, participants are asked to send an email to [w8dec@ohioares10.org](mailto:w8dec@ohioares10.org) to register. Be sure to include the following when registering:

your name - call sign - email address - city you live in - your zip code -  
how many people will be attending - any dietary restrictions - and/or food allergies.

Participants are instructed not to register by any other means to ensure accountability. Participants must be registered no later than Wednesday, March 23rd so food can be purchased in an adequate amount of time. Walk-in's are authorized but they will not get to enjoy the awesome free lunch. Cafeteria is available as well as pop machines.

Contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

73,

**Matt, W8DEC**  
District Emergency Coordinator  
ARES Tenth District - ARRL OH Section

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## Hamfest Calendar

**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](mailto:wd8mxr@gmail.com)

**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

**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](mailto:n3lwp@verizon.net)

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## ***WB8LCD Shack Construction Project***

Since our newsletter editor is always barking at us to send in “shack shots” I decided that I really ought to have a shack to send a shot in of. I've been set up on an old computer table in the basement, out in the open for the past 20+ years now. Seems like anytime something (anything) has to be stashed somewhere in our household, it ends up on my operating desk. The shack and the workbench area have no separation.



Back in January I took the material I had on hand, got started and just kept on going.

Photos show my progression from start to finish of the construction. Next month, when I have everything back in and organized, I'll send in a proper “shack shot”.

The shack fridge is in and operational.

***Tom, WB8LCD***



## ***Technician Class Starts March 22nd***

The Spring 2011 PCARS Technician Class will begin on Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the club site, 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

As in the past, there is a \$25 fee for the course which also gives the student a one-year membership in PCARS. Technician manuals will be available for purchase and they are also \$25.

Pre-registration is not necessary but it is helpful for our planning. Students can also register on the first night of the class. Anyone wanting more information can contact me at [aylwardjim@aol.com](mailto:aylwardjim@aol.com) or 330-297-7979. The flier for the class is attached and we would appreciate it if you would make copies and post them on bulletin boards at your church, school, store, post office, etc.

73,

***Jim, KC8PD***





## March Contest Calendar

March 2011	
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 5 to 2400Z, Mar 6
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 12 to 1600Z, Mar 13
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 13
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 13 to 0100Z, Mar 14
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 19
Feld Hell Sprint	1200-1400 local, Mar 13
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 26 to 2400Z, Mar 27

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



## Swap-N-Shop

**WANTED: Two Position Antenna Switch for 100 watt HF use.** Anyone having a working antenna switch just laying around? Happy 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. [04/01/11]

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). [04/01/11]

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 [04/01/11]

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

**FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX Vertical** 80m through 10m - Good condition with manual \$150.00 [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](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 34 plates now (Plus one from K8DER that I have to get up on the wall), but we can use more! Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form.

It costs about \$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and

Amateur Radio plate fee. When renewal time comes around for your Amateur Radio, you can get NEW plates issued (same call sign).



We have room for YOUR Ham Radio plate

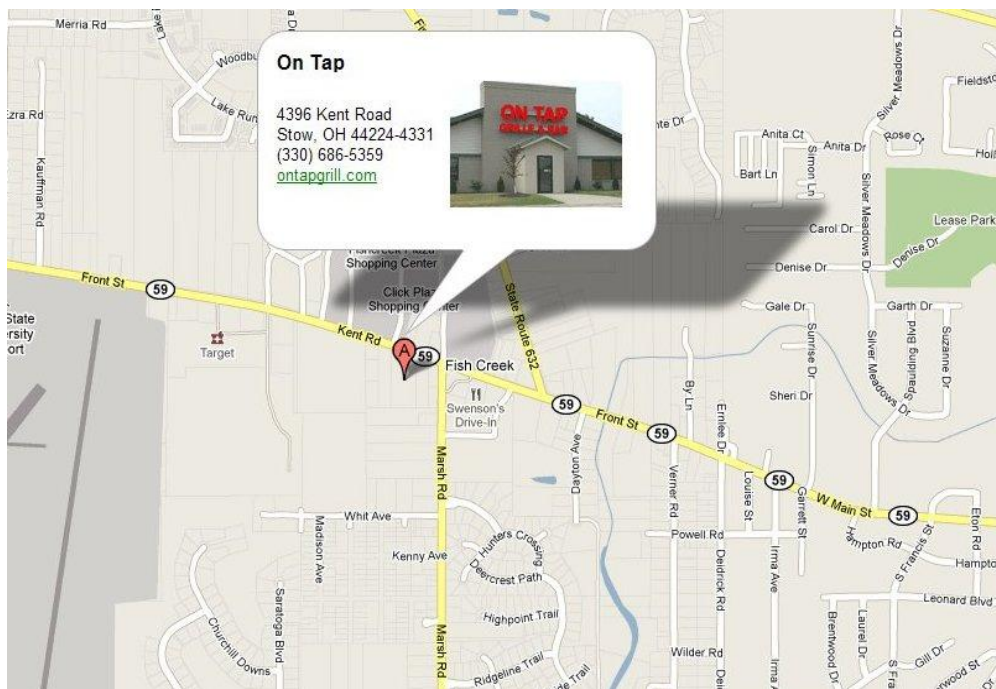
Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history!!** The official form for obtaining your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS Yahoo Group site.

## 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)



## FYAO 2011 Results

This year's "Freeze Your Acorns Off" QRP field event was another day of PCARS Big Fun! Approximately 45 members and guests participated, and everyone had a good time. I can tell you with certainty, if anyone went home hungry, it was their own fault, as there were plenty of nutritious and healthful snacks on hand. Thank you to all who brought along something to share with the group. The weather cooperated with us, it was a nice day, the snow had subsided, but, it was pretty darn cold – especially in the morning.

The first FYAO in 2006 was another really chilly day, and we garnered a total of about 5 contacts between all of us. This year there were 67 contacts made on HF and 30 contacts via 2 meters and Echolink. Special thanks to Mike Ryan, KB8TUUY and Sandy Getty, KD8JCY. Mike brought along and set up the 2 meter station, and between Mike and Sandy they made sure that 146.895 was monitored all day for both RF and Echolink check ins.

The 65 contacts were made by 5 stations that set up and operated: KC8PD, K8CAV, KC8UNR, WB2DFC, and KD8CGH. Two stations were competitive: KC8UNR and WB2DFC. Mike and Dave were both way ahead of the rest of the pack. Unfortunately, WB2DFC will have to give it a go again next year to try to get his callsign listed on the FYAO Plaque. The 2011 FYAO winner is, once again, **"Klondike Mike" - KC8UNR**. Congratulations Mike! And also your support team: KD8OKK, N8GLK, WB9LBI, N0AH, and the donut that would not be dropped. Mike will have the plaque presented to him, again, at the March PCARS meeting. There will be a "hanging" ceremony scheduled soon after to take place at the club site making sure that KC8UNR is properly recognized as the **"KING of FYAO"** for the coming year.



KC8UNR in action.  
What it looks like to be an FYAO winner!



### WB2DFC - KC8PD - KC8UNR - Three of the outdoors FYAO entrants

To those of you who didn't make it out, too bad! Make sure to get it on your agenda for next year. Otherwise I ought to just get all the plates engraved at once for the next 8 years of KC8UNR walking away with it..... we're not going to let that happen.

73,  
**Tom WB8LCD**

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## *What if Dr. Seuss Wrote Technical Manuals?*

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,  
And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,  
And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,  
Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report!

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,  
And the double-clicking icons put your window in the trash,  
And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,  
Then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on your cable on the gable at your house,  
Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,  
But your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,  
That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.!

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,  
So your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,  
Then your may as well reboot and go out with a bang,  
'Cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk,  
And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary RISC,  
Then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM,  
Quickly turn off your computer and be sure to tell your mom!

*Gay, WB8VNO*

Editor's Note: I wonder how many people even remember some of the terms mentioned in this parody? I overheard some younger people asking what a cassette tape was. Some kids have no idea what a typewriter or rotary phone is!

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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, K3GP, W8PT, KB8UUZ, K8JE, AB8AA, WB8VNO, WB8VNO, W8DEC, The ARRL** and the **World Wide Web**.

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



***Tom, KB8UUZ***  
**PCARS Newsletter Editor**



## Pictures from the February PCARS Meeting





# *Pictures from FYAO 2011*





## More Pictures from FYAO - 2011



## Stark County VHF Contest

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

Stark County contacts are worth **2 Pts**, all others are worth **1 Pt**!

**36 Multipliers!**

**3 Bonus Stations Will Be On The Air!**

Sponsored by:

**The Alliance Amateur Radio Club**

Contact: [2mcontest@w8lky.org](mailto:2mcontest@w8lky.org)

Check out the web site: [www.w8lky.org](http://www.w8lky.org)

Download Entry forms, Rules, and Information at:

<http://www.w8lky.org/2mcontest/aarc2mtrtest.pdf> or e-mail: [2mcontest@w8lky.org](mailto:2mcontest@w8lky.org) for more information

**April 2 , 2011  
12 Noon - 6 PM**

# - Amateur Radio Instruction Class -

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

will be offering an Amateur Radio Technician course

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

## AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR



When:

Tuesday evening 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Starting March 22, 2011 for eight weeks  
Official Amateur Radio License testing will be held  
at the end of the course

Where:

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

Registration:

First night of class

Cost:

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

Information:

Contact Jim Aylward, KC8PD:  
by e-mail at: [KC8PD@portcars.org](mailto:KC8PD@portcars.org)  
or phone at: 330-297-7979



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

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

For more information about PCARS, go to [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org), or contact  
Jim Aylward, KC8PD, at [KC8PD@portcars.org](mailto:KC8PD@portcars.org), or by phone at **330-297-7979**





# Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

## Dayton Hamvention 2011

Saturday May 21, 2011 5:30 AM



Are the gas pumps keeping you from the Hamvention? Is the thought of driving down to Dayton and then parking your car in some shopping center to be then bused to the Hamvention keeping you from going? Why not take our bus to the Dayton Hamvention where you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.

You can save **\$10\*** if you book before April 24th

The cost of the Bus & Entrance ticket to the Hamvention:

**\$65\*** before April 23, 2011

The cost of the Bus Only to the Hamvention:

**\$50\*** after April 23, 2011

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25)

We will take riders right up to departure that morning (if there are seats available) on a first come, first served basis.

Departure time is 5:30 AM SHARP, so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!

Parking will be in the back of the church.

There will be a stop for breakfast @ McDonald's and a dinner stop @ the Hometown Buffet (out of pocket expense).

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company.

This bus is a smoke free bus, so there will be no smoking permitted.

**To Order - Complete application & send with check/money order (payable to "PARF") to:**

Joy Spencer [KA8TDF](mailto:KA8TDF@arrl.net)

2101 Bigelow St

Akron, OH 44314

Or call 330-745-5115

E-mail: [KA8TDF@arrl.net](mailto:KA8TDF@arrl.net)

Please supply a return e-mail for your receipt confirmation.

### Location of Departure is:

Akron Baptist Temple

2324 Manchester Road

Akron, Ohio 44314

Located on Rt 93 just north of Rt 224

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

***PARF needs at least 23 riders by April 15<sup>th</sup> for this bus to be a guaranteed trip.***

***So don't delay, and please pass the word out to all of your ham friends & computer geeks.***

The above pricing does not include any tips.



# 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

<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



**PCARS  
VE Team**



The **RADIOGRAM** is the official newsletter of the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.** - copyright©2011. Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify it. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inputs submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month - newsletter contact: [KB8UUZ@portcars.org](mailto:KB8UUZ@portcars.org). ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio™. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: the Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys & gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and have migrated and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. So when you spot a black squirrel – **think PCARS!**

This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, the RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail. **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)  
Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor  
9992 State Route 700  
Mantua, OH 44255



NLC



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