



# The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



May 2011 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 6 No. 5

~ 2011 Officers ~

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~ Meetings & Nets ~

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

PCARS Incorporated  
 Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting  
 Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated  
 April 20, 2006



Special Services  
 Club  
 March 22, 2010

## President's Column

It's that time of year for PCARS members when things start to get really busy. Aside from antenna repairs and installations that have been put off over a long winter and soggy spring, the club's annual Antenna Day will be coming up on May 14th followed the next weekend by the Godzilla of hamfests, the Dayton Hamvention®.

Maybe by then all of our spring rains will have finished and there will be sunny and dry weather for the Hamvention®? But rain or shine you can count on all of the PCARS members meeting up at the ARRL booth at 11:00 on Saturday for our traditional group picture. We will all then migrate down to the DX Engineering booth to get the PCARS DXE contingent into a photo. With luck we may also be able to drag Matt, W8DEC, over from the AES booth on the other side of the arena.



Jim, KC8PD

Of course, June then brings Field Day weekend. Our FD co-chairs, Rick, K8CAV, and Karen, N8HUC, and the entire FD crew (particularly the food unit!) are hard at work planning what will certainly be an outstanding event. This will be the first year that the FD committee has organized itself using the Incident Command System which not only facilitates the operation but is a great learning experience for those interested in the ICS.

Don't forget that our theme for this year's FD is "**Bring a Friend to Field Day!**" If everyone brings a guest or two over the weekend there is a very good chance that PCARS could have the best attended Field Day in the country. Plus it is a great way to introduce others to the wide variety of amateur radio activities and fun offered by PCARS.

Speaking of club fun, the Thursday Net Nites have provided an amateur radio evening out for those who have been willing to brave the crummy weather since the Net Nites started in January. Starting in May the Net Nites will now be held on the fourth Thursday of each month so mark your calendars accordingly. This will schedule them roughly midway between the monthly club meetings and based upon attendance once a month should work out fine. With the good weather arriving you can also plan on some cookouts at the Net Nites!

The Special Interest Groups on Tuesday nights have been drawing steady crowds. The Digital group on the first Tuesday of the month has provided a perfect way for those new to the digital modes to bring in radios and computers and get them up and running on a low power net in the building.

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



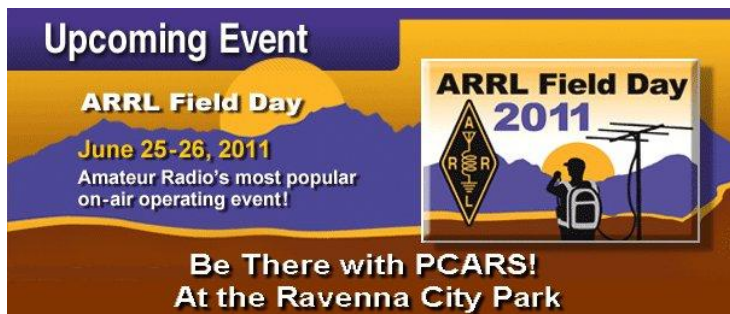
### From the President - Continued from Page 1

CW/QRP on the second Tuesday and DX/Contesting on the fourth are averaging about a dozen participants. The new Antenna group met for the first time on the third Tuesday in April with about twenty participants. If his schedule allows, at the may meeting Rick, K8CAV, will be giving a presentation on using the EZNEC antenna modeling software.

Many thanks also to Rick for all of his efforts in the design and creation of the USB soundcard interface kits. They were a thoroughly professional product and every purchaser successfully assembled his or her kit following his step-by-step instructions. I am sure that they will all enjoy operating digital modes using the interface and will take pride in the fact they built it.

That's it for this month. I look forward to see all of you at upcoming club meetings and activities.

73,  
Jim, KC8PD



## From the Vice President



Tom, WB8LCD

I sure hope all the “April Showers” we've experienced are going to provide us with the “May Flowers”, not to mention a month or two of outstandingly beautiful weather for all the ham radio activities we've got coming up. May 14<sup>th</sup> is our dry run (hopefully dry, that is) for Field Day – commonly referred to as “Antenna Day” in the PCARS mythology. I hope everyone in the club can make it to both Antenna Day and Field Day. Even if you can't make it to either one, please come to the one you can, your help will be greatly appreciated. On the topic of Field Day, I'm sure you'll read more about this further down the newsletter, PLEASE – invite your friends, relatives, neighbors and anyone else you can get to listen to you, to come out, see what we're about, *and sign our guest register!*

The other really big event for May is the Dayton Hamvention®. I'm hoping to see you there, and if you've never been there before, I'm hoping you get the chance this year. Dayton is not like any other hamfest – it's in a class all by itself. You don't want to miss it.

Our May meeting will be on Monday May 9<sup>th</sup> at the On Tap restaurant in Stow. This month we are fortunate to have Matthew Robbins, AA9YH as our featured speaker. Matthew is originally from Indiana (hence the “9” call) and currently resides just outside of Cincinnati. The topic will be “ARDF”.

In 1990, Amateur Radio hidden transmitter hunting in the USA was almost exclusively a vehicular activity. A weekend hunt meant hours of driving in a well-equipped vehicle. There might be an on-foot “sniff” at the end to get to a transmitter a few yards off the road, but that was the extent of radio “foxhunting” on foot. Back then, only a handful of North American hams had experienced the kind of transmitter hunting that was predominant in Europe and the Asian

mainland. In those countries, hams had combined radio direction finding (RDF) with map-and-compass orienteering to create a sport that challenges both the mind and body. In some places, particularly Russia and former Soviet bloc nations, it was being used in physical education classes for youth in schools and by the military for field training.



Matthew, AA9YH

This international on-foot-only sport had acquired several names including **foxtailing, foxteering, radio-orienteering and ARDF**, for **A**mateur **R**adio **D**irection **F**inding. A standard course has five “fox” transmitters in a large wooded area of at least 500 acres, usually much larger. Participants start near one end and proceed to the other, plotting bearings on a special topographical map and punching in at each fox along the way.



AA9YH on the hunt

Radio-orienteers must pay constant attention to all bearings, because each fox is on for 60 seconds, one at a time, in sequence. For instance, when #1 goes off, then #2 comes on and #1 won't be back for four minutes. Usually a continuous transmitter on a separate frequency is near the finish to aid hunters who have lost their place on the map.

The first foxtailing events were on 80 meters with CW transmitters sending “MO” followed by dits indicating the transmitter number (MOE, MOI, MOS, MOH, and MO5). Later, a separate contest on two meters was added to each meet, with CW tones on AM carriers. This was before the popularity

of narrowband FM on two meters, but AM predominates on VHF at international ARDF events to this day.

Matthew has been very active in the ARDF sport in the states since it's inception and has worked with the US teams in international competitions. This should be a good opportunity for us to learn about an aspect of the hobby we may not be all that familiar with, and I hope you'll turn out to welcome Matthew to PCARS – especially since he's making a pretty long trip to be with us.

Looking to the future, our June presentation will be given by our own Dave, WB2DFC. Dave will be giving us a peek into the new communications center at the Ravenna Police Dept. including the process of putting it all together. In July, our speaker will be Frank Tompkins, W8EZT from Cuyahoga Falls. Frank will be discussing the importance of and proper installation of a station grounding system – probably one of the most overlooked and misunderstood topics in all of Ham Radio! It should be a good opportunity to increase your knowledge on the important topic. While I've got some other prospects for meeting presentations in the future, I'm always open to your suggestions for topics you would like to hear about, and more importantly, your referrals to qualified and interesting speakers who can make those presentations! Send me a note with your ideas and suggestions.

Finally, our thoughts of a PCARS golf outing have evaporated, at least for the time being. Interest in the event just didn't seem to show, so we've shelved this project for some other time.

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



## Mark Your Calendars



On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- May 9<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **Radio Orienteering aka ARDF** by Matthew Robbins AA9YH
- May 14<sup>th</sup> - **Antenna Day** - Practice set up for Field Day 2011 at the City Park in Ravenna
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> - **Dayton HAMVENTION®** - *THE* place to be in mid May
- June 4<sup>th</sup> - **VE Test Session** at the Center of Hope - 10:00 am
- June 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> - **ARRL Field Day !** Big Fun for PCARS ! at the City Park in Ravenna



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

- First Tuesday - **Digital** Special Interest Group
- Second Tuesday - **QRP/CW** Special Interest Group
- Third Tuesday - **MARS** Special Interest Group and the **Antenna** Special Interest Group
- Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** Special Interest Group
- Fourth Thursday - **Net Nite** at the club site - 6:30 pm



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

I hope that this issue of the Newsletter finds you all safe and sound. April storms have caused a lot of damage across the country as well as across our area in northeast Ohio. Parkman went without power for 3½ hrs on Wednesday (April 25<sup>th</sup>) and 9 hrs on Thursday (April 26<sup>th</sup>).

The antenna system here took a lot of beating from the wind but came through with flying colors. My concern was that without power, I was unable to get the antennas pointed directly into the wind. Before the first storm hit, the wind was so strong here that the 19 ft boom on my 6m yagi was bowing quite a bit. I was able to get the antennas turned into the wind at that time. But the next day when the power went out, my antennas were stuck pointing at an angle to the wind. The STEppIR bounced around a lot. But seemed to weather the storm with no problem.

It makes you really think about the pounding our antennas, both aluminum based and wire, take day after day month after month, especially in the winter with snow and ice added to the wind. We may have only a few times a year where we have storms that could damage our antenna systems, but think about our brother HAMS that live in climate extremes and what they have to put up with.



Chuck, W8PT

That's why I take a keen interest in what other HAMS around the world are using for antennas and why they choose the antennas they do. Do they choose a design exclusively based on propagation and what they want to work or do they take their climatic conditions into account. In any event, I'm glad that our fellow HAMS put up the antennas they do in order for us to be able to work them and add their country to our list of DX worked.

As always I really want to thank the following for the forecast reports for April and beyond: the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network (especially Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW for the following DX and IOTA information. Please remember that this report could contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or busted call signs. Please do yourself a favor and adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

**5R, MADAGASCAR.** Giorgio, IZ4AKS, will be active as 5R8KS in another Micro-DXpedition, this time from Nosy Be Island (AF-057) between May 31st and June 6th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via IZ8IYX.

**6J5, MEXICO** (Special Event). Members of the Asociación de Radio Experimentadores del Estado de Puebla A.C. (AREEPAC) will be active as 6J5M between 0000z May 1st, through 0459z May 6th. Activity is to celebrate the 149th anniversary of the Cinco de Mayo Battle. QSL via XE1AMF. On May 5th, activity will be mainly from "Guadalupe Fort" (Grid Loc.: EK09vb). See pictures on QRZ.com. A special award will be available. See details at <http://diploma.puebladx.org>

**9J, ZAMBIA.** Chris, ZS6RI (ex-ZD9IR, 5H9IR, EL8RI), will be active as 9J2RI from Zambia for a year or two. However, operations will be on a "6 week on/6 week off" due to his work schedule (6 weeks off he will return home to South Africa). Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via LoTW or direct to: Chris J de Beer, Box 333, Bethlehem, GA 30620 (w/SASE [USA] or SAE w/return postage for other countries). Bureau QSLs are OK, but very slow. LoTW will be uploaded at least once every 6 week rotation, and probably even weekly. Bureau cards will be sent annually.

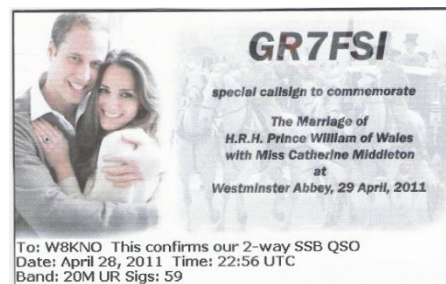
**9Q5, DEM. REPUBLIC OF CONGO** – Reminder: CX2CC, is now active as 9Q5OAR from the City of Goma, near the Rwanda border and is there working for the United Nations for one year. He hopes to be active on CW (slow), SSB and the Digital modes. He is using a TS430 transceiver into a Log Periodic or wire 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.

**CR3/CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS.** Operators Diethelm/DJ2YE, Dieter/DJ8DS, Ulrich/ DJ9IE, Detlef/DK3QZ, Hans/DL1XW, Kai/DL3HAH and Rein/PA0R will be active as CR3L from Santana, Madeira Island (AF-014) during the CQWW WPX CW Contest

(May 28-29th) as a Multi-? entry. QSL via DJ6QT. Operators will probably be active as CT9/homecall before and after the contest between May 24-30th. Activity will be mainly CW with some SSB. Checkout the CR3L station's Web page at: <http://www.cr3l.de>

**FR8, REUNION ISLAND** – Reminder: 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.

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**GR/MR/2R, UNITED KINGDOM** (Special call sign For Royal Wedding). At the request of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), Ofcom has issued special temporary prefixes for British amateurs to use with their call sign between April 29th and May 9th, to commemorate the marriage of HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton. Look for the amateurs in the United Kingdom (if they choose) to apply the following prefixes - GR, MR and 2R, during this royal event.  
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**HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN.** Operators Tony/IZ3ESV, Gabriele/I2VGW and Andrea/IZ2LSC will be active as HB0/homecall between June 2-5th. The trio is planning a micro-light and holiday-style operation using CW, SSB and RTTY. The main focus will be on the 30/17/12 meters and the upper HF bands depending on the propagation. They will also try 6 meters. QSL via their home call signs.

**HG15, HUNGARY** (Special Event). Look for special event station HG15IPA to be active through December 31st. Activity is to celebrate the 15th anniversary jubilee call sign of the International Police Association. The station is expected to be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSOs with this station are valid for the HA-IPARC Award. QSL via HA3JB.

## IOTA News

For those of you who want more information on IOTA (Islands On The Air), please read the following:

**IOTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY MARATHON** (January 1st, 2012, through DECEMBER 31st, 2013). A press release by Roger Balister, G3KMA, RSGB IOTA Manager, states: "The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of the Islands On The Air (IOTA) Programme by British SWL Geoff Watts, BRS-3129. As a build-up to our celebrations on this occasion, the RSGB IOTA Manager and Committee announce an exciting activity period in which all licensed amateurs world-wide are invited to participate. For a two-year period during 2012 and 2013, IOTA chasers are encouraged to contact as many different IOTA groups as possible, and IOTA activators to play their part by operating from as many groups as possible, with special emphasis on the less-frequently activated ones. The points system adopted rewards 'Activators' with higher scores for activating the rarer IOTA groups. Certificates and awards will be available to both 'Chasers' and 'Activators' to reflect attainment of graduated bands of performance together with attractive prizes for top scorers. The challenge provides a level playing field for everyone, whether they are complete newcomers to IOTA or are holders of the prestigious IOTA 1000 Islands Trophy, because everyone starts with a clean slate on 1st January 2012. We hope that all our readers will consider ways in which they can support this event. We would like to see work starting now to schedule activity from as many IOTA groups as possible throughout the 24 months. Let us target 500 groups initially in the hope and expectation of being able to raise this higher as the Marathon progresses." The complete rules of the IOTA 50th Anniversary Marathon will appear in the forthcoming 'RSGB IOTA Directory' to be released at Dayton. They can also be seen on G3KMA's website at: <http://www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com> They will also be uploaded to the RSGB IOTA Web site shortly when key personnel return from Visalia at: <http://www.rsgbiota.org>

**AF-019.** Members of the Valle Brembana DX and Contest Team (VBDXC) will be active as IG9E from Lampedusa Island (IA AG001) between May 18-23rd. Operators mentioned are Enzo/IZ2GLU, Fabio/IZ2GMT, Andrea/IZ2AJE, Diego/IW2MZX and Ezio/IK2AHB. They plan to have three stations active simultaneously "on air" on various band and modes. Special attention will be given to the 30/17/12 meter bands and the Digital modes. QSL via IK2AHB, by the Bureau or direct.

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

**EU-123.** Members of the Camb-Hams will be activating the Isle of Arran between May 1-8th. They will be operating as GS3PYE/P and GS6PYE/P. Activity will be on all bands 160-2 meters, and 70cm via satellites. For VHF, the island lies in IO75. More information is available at: <http://dx.camb-hams.com/dx-peditions/arran-dxpedition-11/>

**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

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

**MJ & MU, JERSEY AND GUERNSEY** (Channel Island DXpedition). Operators Silvia/EA1AP (YL) and Alberto/EA1SA planned to activate Jersey (EU-013) between June 12-17th, and Guernsey (EU-114) between June 17-21st. The call signs to be used are MJ/EA1AP, MJ/EA1SA, MU/EA1AP and MU/EA1SA. Look for activity to be on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to participate in the IARU 50 MHz Contest from Guernsey. QSL via their home call sign. For more details, updates and log search, visit the DXpedition Web page at: [http://www.gdgdxc.net/channel\\_islands/index.php](http://www.gdgdxc.net/channel_islands/index.php)

**PP0T, TRINDADE ISLAND** (Update). Members of the Cantareira DX Group have announced that they will activate Trindade Island (SA-010) as PP0T this month. The group earlier in the week announced that they were going to leave for Trindade on April 18th. However, a few days later their plans were changed. The Brazilian Navy rescheduled their trip to Trindade on the April 25th. They expect to arrive on the island on April 29th. Currently, Junior, PY2ZA, is the only operator listed on the new Trindade Web page at: <http://trindade2011.com> David, EB7DX, is listed as the QSL Manager and Webmaster. Sebastian, EA7HEG, is also listed as a Webmaster.

**PIRATE ALERT.** Phillip, ZL2TZE, informs OPDX that a station signing ZK5A has been operating and is reportedly a PIRATE. Station states that his name is Bill and claims to be on Atafu Island (Tokelau), using 70w and GP. He was heard on 40 meters. This call sign is not listed with RSM. Any reports on this station are appreciated and should be sent to John, ZL1GWE, at: [ms@nzart.org.nz](mailto:ms@nzart.org.nz)

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

**VK9C, COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS.** Wally, VK6YS, member of the South Pacific Contest Club, will be active as VK9CI from Cocos (Keeling) Island (OC-003) for one week in June. He plans to concentrate on the Digital modes. QSL via VK6YS.

**XV2/XV4, VIETNAM.** Mal, VK6LC, will once again be returning to Vietnam between April 10-25th. This will be a dedicated culture tour of northern Vietnam, but he plans to be active from two different locations using two call sign: XV2LC - April 10-15th; from Ho Chi Min City. XV4LC - April 20-25th; from Mekong Delta. Activity will be on 20 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via VK6LC only direct. He does NOT use the QSL Bureau.

Please have a great May and we will see you at Antenna Day and also will see those who are going to Hamvention 2011.

**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/>.



## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in May:

K8NYM	Wesley Ferrell
KC8ZZG	Al Godfrey

WB8FEW	Bobby Pruett
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## PCARS VE Test Sessions

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



**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



## The K8CAV Sound Card Interface Kit

Please give a salute to Rick, K8CAV, for another outstanding Sound Card Interface Kit. This time it was a USB version, and it's a very nice piece of gear, and everyone who has one will be proud to say "I built it myself". Many of you have the earlier version of the kit, but this kit has a built in USB interface so that it's a direct plug in to most modern computers. Rick put a lot of time and effort not only into the design of the unit, but into the "kitting" of the unit to make it an easy project to complete.

I was worried that I might be the only builder at the club site on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. I had heard a lot of comments about completed kits and how easy they went together and worked right off the bench. I had even heard that it was similar to using a glue gun to make some 'artsie-fartsy' decorator type accessory! Man, that was really going to put the pressure on me if I was the only one building – especially if I had a problem getting it to work. I was relieved when several other kit builders showed up.



**Kit builders at work**

It took every bit of the 2-3 hours allocated to the build to do a complete kit. The instructions were easy to follow and well thought out, although there were two different versions of the kit, and after accounting for individualization of construction technique, no two looked exactly alike (with the covers off anyhow) but they all functioned as advertised. Everyone who worked on their kit left with either a working unit, or one which was only going to require minimal adjustments. Rick had everything available to put the kit on the air and verify that it was functioning as it should, or if not, resolve the problem so that it could be corrected.

If you've listened to the local ARES or RACES nets recently, you know that digital messaging is being incorporated into both programs. While not meant to replace any existing mode or method of Emergency Communications, the sound card digital modes add a lot of flexibility and capability into passing the traffic that might be pertinent to the agencies we serve. It also



**WB8LCD - "Some of these parts are SMALL!"**



**K8CAV and W8CCU testing**

expands on the ways that the traffic can be originated, and dispersed once it leaves the Amateur Service station. This can provide a significant increase in the accuracy of the message passed, particularly when medical or other technical information is being sent.

So, Thank You, Rick, I have a working unit. Now all I need to do is come up with the patch cord to hook it up to my handi-talkie..... should be a piece of cake!

73,  
*Tom, WB8LCD*

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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 our 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*

## ***EmComm***

Mixed mode nets are those that operate using both voice and digital (data) modes. Typically the net opens using voice and then switches to a digital mode for traffic or detailed messages. Mixed mode nets have long been a staple of the Military Auxiliary Radio System since MARS was one of the early adopters of digital modes for traffic.

Assuming band conditions are adequate (not typically an issue for local VHF nets), voice operations are best for net management. Exchanges can be brief and to the point, allowing for quick exchanges back and forth between stations. When accuracy and speed are critical for message traffic, stations can quickly switch to digital to move the traffic and then return to voice ops.

When traffic is being sent, consideration has to be given to the format to be used. MARS, of course, has its own standard message formats depending on what is being sent, but they are only of concern for MARS operators.

What about the amateur radio community?

Historically, hams have used the Radiogram, an ARRL template, for traffic in the National Traffic System (NTS). It contains a header with routing and tracking information, addressee information, and a message body that is limited to only twenty-five words. That may make sense in order to move it more quickly and with reduced risk of error, more so in a CW net, but the limited amount of information may not meet the needs of the served agency or party.

The Radiogram was modeled on the telegram format. Not only has the telegram disappeared but most served agencies wonder why a document that mimics it is still in use.

For hams participating in operations that use the Incident Command System, the standard message format is the ICS-213. Its header includes the To, From, Subject, Date and Time fields, and although the body of the message is not specifically limited to any number of words, fifty is recognized as about the maximum that should be used, again for speed and accuracy.

Of course the ICS-213 was not designed for use as traffic in radio nets. It was a message that was to be written and hand delivered, providing a true paper trail of exactly what was sent. Many ham radio groups have tinkered with the form to meet local needs and allow some tracking when they use it.

What is important is that you are familiar with both formats and understand when and how to use them. Practice at sending and receiving them is invaluable, especially in voice nets.

Having said all that, what may be more important to remember is that in today's emcomm environment "what" is being sent (i.e., the content of the document) is more important than the format. Our ability to assist served agencies should not be limited by excuses such as "but that is the form that ham radio operators use." If we are going to be useful to them we need to move information in both the form and quantity that will meet their needs.

Digital modes give us this flexibility so documents can be sent as text or images. Traffic can also be converted into e-mail and moved via Winlink. But we can only do this if we outfit ourselves with the equipment and technology necessary and then implement and practice their use. Not only do we improve the versatility of ham radio, but we make ourselves more valuable to those we hope to serve.

73,

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

## *April Showers Bring May Flowers - May Brings HAMVENTION®*



Okay - Here I go again on my yearly article about going to the Dayton Hamvention®. Yes, gas prices are up, yes, it takes more than a few hours to get there, yes I know you're busy.... *BUT* .... Just think of it, hams from around the world can only *dream* about going to Dayton, and for us, it's practically in our back yard.

Even if you only go for one day - GO!!!! Even if you don't spend any money - GO!!!! Visit all the dealers, see what's new and what's coming out soon. Check out the great ARRL display area and meet some of the ARRL HQ personnel. There are plenty of *free* forums. Just to be there and walk around seeing all the ham gear and hams from around the world is worth the trip.

Who knows, you just may bump into a foreign ham that you made a DX contact with. The outdoor flea market is really something to see - jammed packed with just about everything you can imagine. This is one heck of a flea market. Chances are you will never see a larger one! Many bargains to be had, and don't hesitate to haggle the price a bit lower.

Take a camera and take pictures of everything and everybody!

So, check it out - Friday the 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> or Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> in May - the **ONLY** place to be is at the Dayton Hamvention®.

*Tom, KB8UUZ*



### *Counting Down to Dayton -- Where Global Friendship Takes Center Stage*



The ARRL is making all the final plans and preparations to bring its "show and tell" exposition -- known as ARRL EXPO -- to the Dayton Hamvention® next month. Hamvention, sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) since 1952, will be held May 20-22 at the Hara Arena Conference and Exhibition Center in Trotwood, Ohio.

"ARRL EXPO has been the centerpiece of the ARRL's participation at Hamvention since 2005," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. Inderbitzen is also the ARRL EXPO coordinator. "This large exhibit area, located in the Ballarena Hall, will be filled with ARRL program representatives, exhibits and activities. Our goal is to provide opportunities that inspire a high level of peer-to-peer interaction among ARRL members and prospective members -- so that

following Hamvention, attendees will return home with new ideas to get involved and get on the air!"

Inderbitzen said that the League has an extraordinary team of participants lined up this year's ARRL EXPO. Visitors to the ARRL EXPO will find representatives from several IARU Member-Societies, including the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (Germany), the Japan Amateur Radio League, the Qatar Amateur Radio Society, the Radio Association of China and Chinese Radio Amateur Club, as well as the Radio Society of Great Britain. "The impetus for hosting the international exhibits was the 2011 Hamvention theme of Global Friendship," Inderbitzen explained. "Representatives from the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) will also be on hand to greet visitors. The IARU works with its Member-Societies throughout the world -- important work that further underscores international goodwill as a fundamental principle of the Amateur Radio Service."

A new feature to ARRL EXPO this year -- a large QSL Card Wall -- will be located near the international exhibits. "We're encouraging all attendees to bring a QSL card to affix to the wall," Inderbitzen said. "If you don't have QSL cards, please bring a postcard from your hometown. Together, we'll have fun eye-balling QSLs from around the country -- and around the world!"

The popular kit-building booth returns to ARRL EXPO this year. The booth will be supported by a team of instructors and ARRL Lab personnel who will mentor participants through the activity. Those who sign up to participate in the kit building event can choose to build one of the two affordable kits: the Ten-Tec 1054 4-band regenerative shortwave receiver -- considered a classic "first receiver" project -- or a Morse code oscillator produced exclusively for ARRL by MFJ Enterprises. "The oscillator is a great kit for newcomers, clubs, instructors and teachers seeking a classroom kit-building experience," Inderbitzen said. "The kit-building fun is sure to beckon do-it-yourselfers of all skill levels."

Drop by the Emergency Communications exhibit area to learn about opportunities to volunteer and explore resources and training. Meet with program representatives for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) and the National Traffic System (NTS) and network with other public service volunteers.

At the ARRL Radiosport exhibit, you can immerse yourself in the world of on-air competitions and award-hunting. Representatives will share information about ARRL award programs including DXCC, ARRL-sponsored contests and Logbook of The World (LoTW). Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Desk will also be on hand to check applications for all ARRL Award Programs. All cards will be eligible for checking, including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160 meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards (more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available).

Other ARRL program representatives and volunteers will staff exhibits for the ARRL Development Office and the ARRL Foundation, the ARRL Legislative Action and Regulatory Information, TravelPlus for Repeaters™ software demonstration, the ARRL VEC, ARRL Education Services and the ARRL Media and Public Relations Office, as well as Amateur Radio and Scouting. And don't forget to visit the huge ARRL store to browse and purchase popular ARRL publications, join or renew your ARRL membership (and get a free gift) and to pick up official ARRL merchandise -- including 2011 ARRL Field Day shirts and other gear. This is also the place to get your free, commemorative ARRL Dayton 2011 button.

Licensed or not, all young people are welcome to come by and join the fun at the ARRL Youth Lounge and meet and socialize with other young hams. Come to chat with other hams, grab a snack or participate in one of the many activities, such as fox-hunts, scavenger hunts, Morse code fun, a QSL card designing contest, crafts, prizes and more. The fun continues into Saturday evening with the ARRL Youth Dinner gathering at a local restaurant. Click here to find the youth calling frequencies. Stop by the ARRL Youth Lounge for all the details.

Members may also visit exhibits sponsored by ARRL benefit partners. These include US Bank where you can apply for the ARRL Visa® Card, and Hays Affinity Group to get more information about the new ARRL-sponsored insurance programs.

As part of the Hamvention's full slate of forums, the ARRL will sponsor presentations covering a variety of topics, including talks by ARRL Lab Manager and EMI/RFI expert Ed Hare, W1RFI, a Public Relations Forum highlighting resources for radio clubs and public information officers, an update on ARRL's efforts to promote Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill and ARRL Field Day advice and tips, as well as suggestions for radio amateurs who are interested in developing meaningful partnerships with schools and educators.

A special presentation by NASA Astronaut Douglas H. Wheelock, KF5BOC, is planned for Saturday. Wheelock, a Colonel in the US Army, will narrate a video presentation from his recent tour of duty aboard the International Space Station (ISS). While living and working in space, he operated the station's Amateur Radio equipment, making radio contact with schools and the general ham radio community. Attendees will also have an opportunity to meet and greet Wheelock in the ARRL and AMSAT exhibit areas on Friday and Saturday (times and locations will be posted). Wheelock's participation is jointly sponsored by ARRL and AMSAT.

Besides the full ARRL program, Hamvention attendees will enjoy the sprawling exhibit areas that cover the Hara Complex, including hundreds of manufacturer exhibits, radio club booths and flea market spaces. Dayton draws dozens of affiliated events -- some beginning even before Hamvention's three days -- including interest groups with operating specialties such as contesting, low-power operating and amateur satellites. Visit [www.arrl.org/2011-dayton-hamvention](http://www.arrl.org/2011-dayton-hamvention) for links to official Hamvention program details, a guide to ARRL activities and for more information including lodging options and travel information.

*From the ARRL*



### ***Tell Your Ham Radio Stories on HamRadioStoryProject.Com***

For a long time, I've had the idea to set up a website to capture ham radio stories. Well, I've finally done it. The Ham Radio Story Project (<http://www.hamradiostoryproject.com>) is now online!

This website was inspired by the Story Corps (<http://storycorps.org/>), which was itself inspired by NPR's National Story Project (<http://www.npr.org/programs/watc/features/1999/991002.storyproject.html>). The tagline for the site is "capturing the human spirit of amateur radio," and my motivation for setting up the sit is to capture personal stories of how amateur radio has touched lives, either the lives of amateur radio operators themselves, or of the people that we serve.

The site has only been online a month, and I already have several good stories. I reposted my story about checking the QSLs of a county hunter, and there are also stories about an international friendship that survived WW II and a story about how an Elmer touched the life of his student. These are exactly the type of stories I want to collect.

If you have a great story about ham radio, I want to hear about it and to publish it on Ham Radio Story Project dot Com. If you want to tell the story yourself, let me know, and I'll set up an account for you on the site. If you would like some help, let me know, and I'll contact you and either write the story myself, or find someone else to help you.

I don't want to lose another great story because there isn't a place to tell it. HamRadioStoryProject.Com is the place to tell it.

*Dan, KB6NU*



## 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)

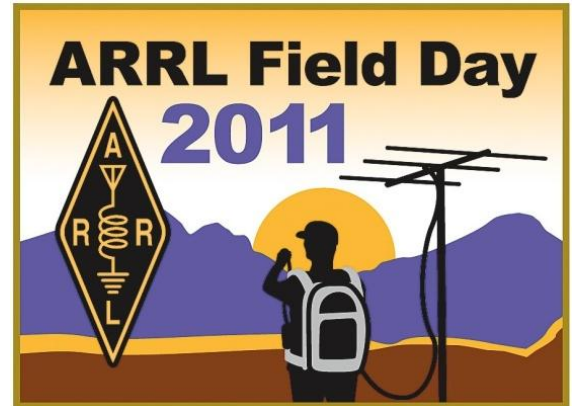
**40 Meter Station** - contact [N8EQJ@portcars.org](mailto:N8EQJ@portcars.org)

**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



May	
5	WB2DFC
12	N8QE
19	WB8LCD*
26	KD8LEB

June	
2	KC8PD
9	KB8UUZ
16	KD8FDK
23	WB8LCD
30	N8XTH



\* WB8LCD will be running the net via Echo Link live, from the Dayton on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

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)



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## Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference

The next committee/staff meeting for the Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, May 16 at Gilmour Academy Lower School.

All are invited to attend. Talk in will be on 146.790(-) PL 88.5. Send an email to [info@glecc.org](mailto:info@glecc.org) for more information.

73,  
**Matt, W8DEC**  
District Emergency Coordinator  
ARES® Tenth District - ARRL OH Section

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## Hamfest Calendar

**05/20-21-22/2011 - Dayton Hamvention** - Location: Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd. - Dayton, OH 45401 - Website: <http://www.hamvention.org/> - Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association. [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

**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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## Swap-N-Shop

**FOR SALE: ALS-600, 600 watt solid state, no tune amplifier.** With 10 meter kit and linear power supply - \$800 [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: QSK 5, PIN diode QSK switch.** Handles 2500 watts PEP and 2000 watts CW - \$200 [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: MFJ-994B, 600 watt auto tuner** Perfect match for the ALS-600 - \$200 [7/2/11]

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

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**FOR SALE: Samlex 23 Amp Switching Power Supply** - \$80.00 [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE - Books:**

*ARRL Operating Manual* - 8th edition - \$10.00 [7/2/11]

*Now You're Talking* - 2nd edition - \$5.00 [7/2/11]

*Now You're Talking* - 5th edition - \$7.00 [7/2/11]

*ARRL General Class License Manual* - 5th edition - \$5.00 [7/2/11]

*Radio Shack Listening to Shortwave* - \$2.00 [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Audio CD - ARRL "Your Introduction to Morse Code"** - this is a two audio cd set with pouch and instruction booklet. - \$10.00 [7/2/11]

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

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**FOR SALE: MFJ-434B Voice Keyer** - \$130.00 or best offer. [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Alinco DJ-175** - 2 meter HT with spare battery - \$100.00. [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Icom IC-718 HF Transceiver** with DSP and INRAD #322 1800 Hz SSB filter (same as Icom FL-222), original mic, power cord, manual and packaging. Has the MARS modification installed. Also included is a padded carrying case from Universal Radio. Radio is in excellent condition and has always been in a non smoking environment. \$500.00. [8/2/11]

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

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**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. . [7/2/11]

**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). [7/2/11]

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

**FOR SALE: 7" Screen GPS/Monitor** - 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!). A large screen talking GPS. Brand new, with everything, including a window suction mount. \$150 [4/2/11]

**FOR SALE: MFJ-5124K - Auto tuner cable** for Kenwood - Original box & manual. - \$20.00 [7/2/11]

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

**FOR SALE: GAP Titan DX Vertical** 80m through 10m - Good condition with manual \$150.00 [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Hamstick Antennas** - Two, 75 meter Hamstick style antennas, \$20.00 each. [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Hamstick Antennas** - Two, 40 meter Hamstick style antennas, \$20.00 each. [7/2/11]

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

**FOR SALE: Used Leviton 430C12W** 125/250 Volt 30 Ampere watertight pin and sleeve connector in excellent condition \$90.00 s. 553 Feet of NEW 1-1/4" RFS Heliac. \$1000.00 [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Ceramic Insulators** – set of six (6) 4" long by 3/4" diameter insulators with holes for attaching wire or rope on each end, rated to 1500 Watts \$10.00 per set. [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Ceramic Insulators** – set of three (3) includes one (1) 4" long by 3/4" diameter center insulator and two smaller end insulators, rated to 200 Watts \$5.00 per set [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B** jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. Also includes an extra N-male for building a custom length N-male to N-male connector - \$20.00 each. [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B** jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. - \$15.00 each. [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: N-female to N-female** New adapters \$5.00 each [7/2/11]

**FOR SALE: N-male to N-male** New adapters \$5.00 each [7/2/11]

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: [0715/11] when they will be removed. This will help keep the listings current.



## May Contest Calendar

May 2011	
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 7 to 2359Z, May 8
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 7 to 0700Z, May 8
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 7 to 0400Z, May 8
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 7 to 2400Z, May 8
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 28 to 2400Z, May 29

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



## 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)

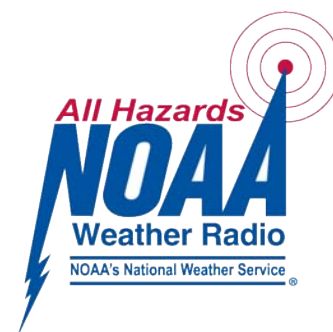
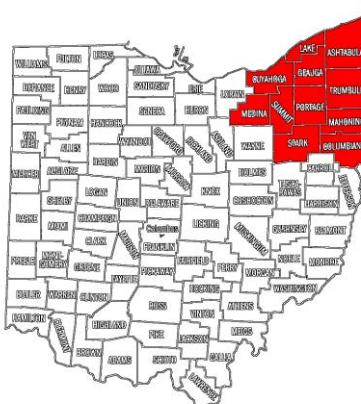
## Local Ohio Counties - S.A.M.E. County Codes

With the Spring time comes the possibility of foul weather. Make sure your weather radio (you do have one, right?!) has the proper S.A.M.E. codes entered so you will get the warnings when they are issued.

Local Ohio County Coverage (Listing date: 20 April 2011)

COUNTY	SAME #	TRANSMITTER	FREQ.	CALL SIGN	WATTS	REMARKS
Ashtabula	039007	Cleveland	162.550	KHB59	750	OUT OF SERVICE
		Erie, PA	162.400	KEC58	750	
		Meadville, PA	162.475	KZZ32	300	
Columbiana	039029	Akron	162.400	KDO94	1000	
		Bridgeport	162.525	WWF35	1000	
		Pittsburgh, PA	162.550	KIH35	1000	
		Youngstown	162.500	WWG56	300	
Cuyahoga	039035	Cleveland	162.550	KHB59	750	OUT OF SERVICE
Geauga	039055	Cleveland	162.550	KHB59	750	OUT OF SERVICE
Lake	039085	Cleveland	162.550	KHB59	750	OUT OF SERVICE
Mahoning	039099	Akron	162.400	KDO94	1000	
		Youngstown	162.500	WWG56	300	
Medina	039103	Akron	162.400	KDO94	1000	
		Cleveland	162.550	KHB59	750	OUT OF SERVICE
		Grafton	162.500	WNG698	300	
Portage	039133	Akron	162.400	KDO94	1000	
		Cleveland	162.550	KHB59	750	OUT OF SERVICE
		Youngstown	162.500	WWG56	300	
Stark	039151	Akron	162.400	KDO94	1000	
		New Philadelphia	162.425	WNG735	300	
		Youngstown	162.500	WWG56	300	
Summit	039153	Akron	162.400	KDO94	1000	
		Cleveland	162.550	KHB59	750	OUT OF SERVICE
Trumbull	039155	Akron	162.400	KDO94	1000	
		Meadville, PA	162.475	KZZ32	300	
		Youngstown	162.500	WWG56	300	

**OUT OF SERVICE** - Indicates transmitter is temporarily out of service (as of 20 April 2011).



## *Some Words from Weaver*

### **+++ Volunteers Needed for Hamvention Booth +++**

The Great Lakes Division has been requested to manage a Legislative Action booth at the Hamvention(tm) again this year. A few assignments remain open. If you are interested in helping at this booth, please get in touch with me at [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org) for further information. Please let me know the day(s) and time you are available. Assignments will be for three hours, each throughout the two and one-half day event.

The objective of the booth is expected to be to obtain letters in opposition to the 440+ MHz clause in HR 607.

Volunteers who assist at the booth will receive an ARRL polo shirt.

Because of this, it is important for me to know who has volunteered by April 3. I will also need to know your shirt size.



### **+++ Your Help Urgently Needed +++**

To the many of you who have already written letters to your US Representative on HR 607, thank you. To you who have not gotten "a round tuit" and have not yet written, please do. The fate of the amateur secondary allocation 440 MHz band is at stake. This is a battle I truly believe we can win. We are not the only group that would suffer from having HR 607 pass in its present form. Combined with the other groups, I feel confident we can prevail in having the offending part of the Bill removed. For example, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) has stated its support of the ARRL position (<http://www.arrl.org/news/npstc-says-hr-607-needs-to-be-amended>). If you wish additional information go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-members-respond-to-hr-607>.

To let your US Representative know you oppose the present bill, go to <http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm> and follow the simple instructions.

All that is needed is to insert your call sign where indicated and to click twice more to generate a letter addressed to your US Representative. The letter will be ready to print and for you to sign.

- Be sure to sign your letter. Letters without a handwritten signature are not effective.
- Send signed letters to John Chwat our legislative spokesman in Washington. His addresses are:

US postal mail: John Chwat, Chwat & Co., Suite 103, 625 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314

E-mail: [john.chwat@chwatco.com](mailto:john.chwat@chwatco.com). Scan and send signed letter as an attachment.

Fax: Number (703) 684-7594.

Do not send this letter or any letter about HR 607 to your US Senators at this time. The bill is only in the US House of Representatives.

Why send your signed letter to John Chwat? First, all postal mail to members of the US House (and other government bodies) is delayed 6 to 8 weeks in being searched for hazardous materials. Second, Mr. Chwat will increase the value of your individual letter by combining it with others and delivering a stack of letters directly to your Representative's office. This manner of delivery makes a particular impact on Congressmen.

If you feel it necessary to mail your letter directly to your Representative, do it. However, please also send a signed copy of it to Mr. Chwat for the reasons outlined above.

Thanks for your help and support in this important effort. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

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

As previously reported, the 2011 Great Lakes Division Convention will be held concurrent with the Findlay Hamfest in Findlay, OH on Sunday, September 11, 2011. The Convention will be on the Hamfest grounds as a coordinated activity with the Hamfest. Allan Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media & Public Relations Manager will be the principal speaker. Allan is very knowledgeable in emergency communications and, of course, in media relations. Allan's keynote presentation will include "*How Amateur Radio has Changed since 9/11*". This September is the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Trade Center and the Pentagon.

A series of interesting seminar topics and speakers is being developed for this event. These will include National Traffic System (organized by the Ohio Single Side Band Net), EmComm (organized by Michigan SM WA8EFK who also chairs the ARRL's Emergency Communications Advisory Committee), DX (organized by the South East Michigan DX Association), ATV-Digital TV (Art Tosely, WA8RMC).

In addition to the seminars and speakers, Great Lakes Division Awards will be presented. See below for the call for nominations for these awards.

The final event of the Convention will be a buffet brunchquet at a nearby restaurant for those who are able to remain. The brunchquet will begin at 2 PM. Convention sessions will be from 9 AM-1 PM.

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

It is said that Amateur Radio operators are often similar to members of a large family. For me, this is true. We sometimes tolerate each other and we sometimes bicker with each other, essentially as happens in a large family. Mostly, though, we enjoy and love each other -- again, just as happens in a large family.

One piece of evidence that we mostly love each other is the outpouring of good wishes and prayers sent to me the last few weeks regarding my wife. For these and for the friends in this Division who sent them I am eternally grateful.



Jim, K8JE

As most of you probably do not know, my wife, Janice, died on March 7.

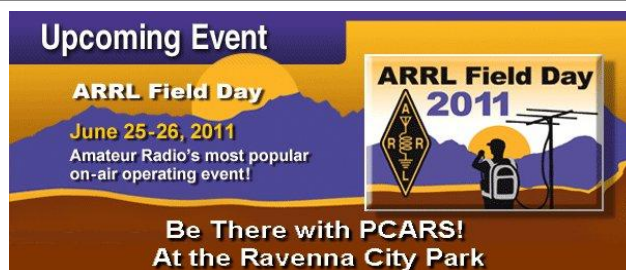
She had been fighting health issues for several years. I have not made her passing known widely until now.

Even so, the word of her death spread and I received cards, telephone calls and messages from many members. Please know that these expressions of friendship and love have helped me work through the difficult days since her death.

Thank you very much,

**Jim Weaver, K8JE**

Director - ARRL Great Lakes Division



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## Ham License Plates Wanted

Dig out an old amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it in to be permanently affixed to the wall in the club station.

We have 38 plates now, but we can use more! Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form.

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.



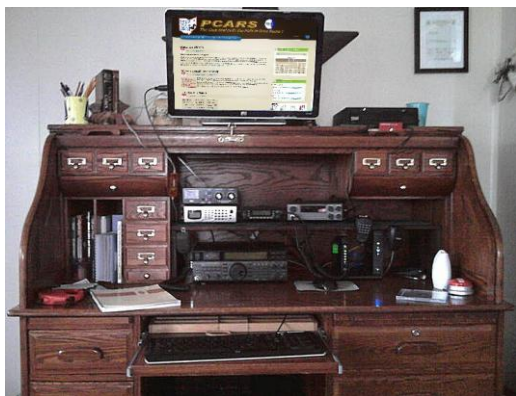
We have room for YOUR Ham Radio plate

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## Shack Shot - KD8LEB

Greetings to all. As old Man Winter makes his exit from NE Ohio as I write this blurb, I think that We can honestly say good riddance. Not saying that NE Ohio winters are fun, and easy, but this last snow season seems to have been the most worst of the last several. We had colder temperatures, and some extra storms that not only came as lake effect from the northwest, but from the southwest that dumped allot of snow as well, including up and down temperatures that brought ice storms which even complicated things even more. Chalk another one up from Old Man Winter. Slowly we are moderating back towards Spring, but as You all have seen, Old Man Winter does not seem to be giving up without a fight. If You are reading this, YOU SURVIVED another NE Ohio Winter. Now we just need for the yards to dry out. And yes... get the yard stuff ready, You will be cutting grass very shortly.

Now that plow season is exiting for Moi, and I have been able to apply my attention towards something that I have been working out for over a year now.



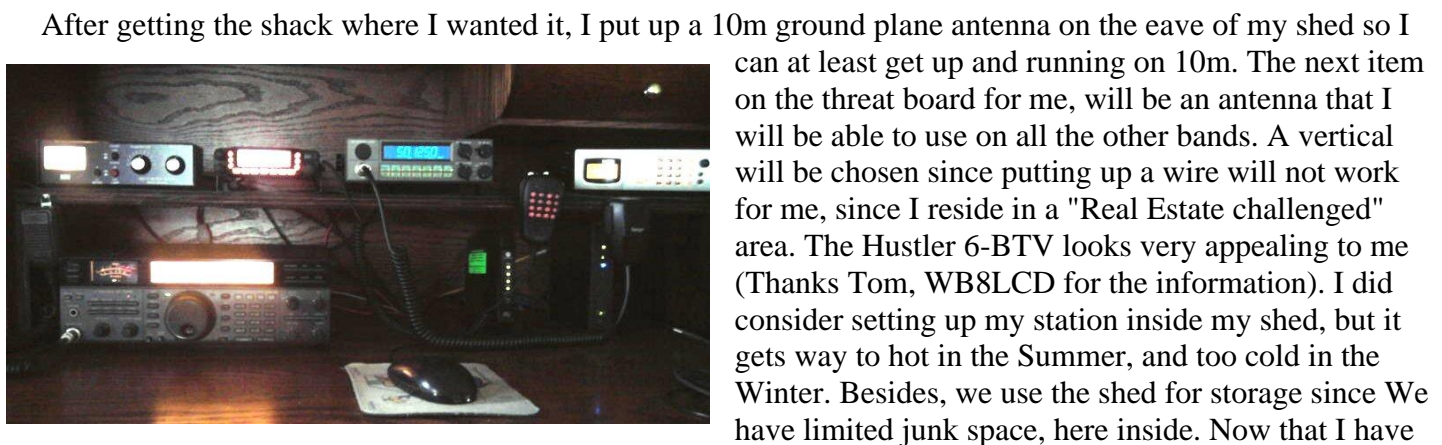
My HF Rig addition in my shack is an Icom IC-737A which I purchased from a friend I work with, whose father, Stan is a SK. Along with the Icom, came an Astron RS-35M power supply. OK, it's an older rig, but serves my purposes sufficiently. Funny thing is I also already have an Astron RS-35A which I use to power my Yaesu FT-7800 dual band 2m/70cm, Ranger RCI-5054-100 - 6 M and my MFJ-906 - 6m tuner. Together, these power supplies weigh enough to add an addition to the subfloor. Having the extra power supply makes it nice so if I want to add an amplifier to my 6m rig, I can now do this.

Adding the Icom did not make the entrance without incident, however. Working out the spending issues with the financial department, here at home was a piece of cake. What was going to be the problem was the fact that I needed space on the desk. I already took up space on my wife's nice computer desk. Before I added the Icom, I already took up about half of it. Having a 21" wide LCD computer monitor was not adding to the fun, so if I was going to keep all my rigs all in the same area in a typical ham shack fashion, I would need to use the "R" word. REARRANGE!!



I figured I needed to build a shelf. The shelf would hold my tuner, 6m Rig, 2m\70cm Rig, and PRO-2096 scanner. That way, I could put the Icom below the shelf and let it sit directly on the desktop. So, I ran this idea passed my wife, and she says to me, "Where would the monitor go??" I said that I would just sit it on the very top of the desk. She said that it would be very difficult to look upwards at an angle to view the monitor. Valid point there, ergonomically it's unsound, hard on the neck.

So, I measured the width, and height of how big the shelf should be, since it would need to clear the Cable Modem and Router. I appropriated some wood, and cut everything to size. Drilled pilot holes in the top of the shelf where the side supports would go and countersunk them. Ran the screws into the shelf, then dry fit the shelf into the desk. Voila! Perfect fit.... like a glove. Next, filled the holes in with filler, then stained the shelf. It came out a bit darker than the desk, but still came out better than I thought, since I am no carpenter. I took my time, and it came out nice. Next step, placing all the rigs in their respected places, and running all the power wires and cables. Luckily, everything worked out like I planned and I had enough wire lengths without having to cut, add, or splice or even replace. Basically, I made it by the skin of my teeth. Oh, my wife DID NOT want me to make any holes in the desk. Oh, what you can do with a hole saw in places you can not see!!!



After getting the shack where I wanted it, I put up a 10m ground plane antenna on the eave of my shed so I can at least get up and running on 10m. The next item on the threat board for me, will be an antenna that I will be able to use on all the other bands. A vertical will be chosen since putting up a wire will not work for me, since I reside in a "Real Estate challenged" area. The Hustler 6-BTV looks very appealing to me (Thanks Tom, WB8LCD for the information). I did consider setting up my station inside my shed, but it gets way to hot in the Summer, and too cold in the Winter. Besides, we use the shed for storage since We have limited junk space, here inside. Now that I have

totally consumed this desk, I am totally surprised that I have not been asked yet to move myself into it. Heck, it can not be that bad, I have not received any "papers" (as of yet).

I know that Spring is here, since baseball has started and the NHL playoffs are in full swing. Now, about that Extra Class upgrade.....

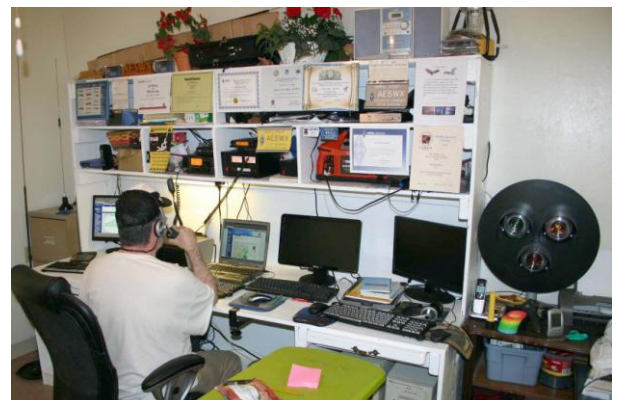
73's  
**Al, KD8LEB**



## ***Shack Shot - AE5WX***

I've been busy here in Tornado Country and have completely re-done the radio shack. The "equipment roster" includes: Rigs: An Icom IC-718 HF rig, a Yaesu FT-8800R 2 m/70 cm rig (Skywarn, and local traffic), an Icom T7H 2 meter/70 centimeter HT (for packet), and a Yaesu VX-150 2 meter HT (monitoring local traffic, and taking on Amtrak trips to monitor traffic between the conductors, dispatchers, engineers, hot box detectors, etc.).

Power Supplies: Astron RS20-M for the IC-718 and the FT-8800R, plus an Astron R5-L power supply with a cigarette



lighter adapter for the T7H 2 and the VX-150. I also have a Black and Decker Electromate 400 portable power supply that powers the FT-8800R rig during Skywarn operations when thunderstorms are in the area.

Computers: 1 desktop computer with Windows XP, 1 more desktop computer and 1 laptop computer which are used during Skywarn operations. Printers: A Lexmark X2870 scanner/printer/copier combination, along with a Lexmark Z615 printer.



Also in the shack are the following: Wooden carvings of my 2 call signs. N5VLZ, my first callsign which I held from August, 1991 to June, 2009 and AE5WX which I currently hold. Lucite replicas of memorial bricks in the Diamond Terrace at ARRL Headquarters in memory of Bootsie Gordon, KC5FAQ (she got me into square dancing, so I got her into ham radio), and my late XYL, Janice Stout.

ARRL Frequency Chart. Copy of my amateur radio license, as well as 3 QSL cards, 2 with my former callsign, and 1 with the current callsign.

My membership certificates to ARRL (Life Member), the ARRL Diamond Club, Courage Handi-Hams (Life Member), the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, my Skywarn Spotter Training certificate from the National Weather Service, Little Rock, Arkansas, a certificate from ARRL for being an Amateur Extra Class licensee, the Cabot Nightflyers Net... a mid-evening ham radio net in central Arkansas, and a certificate of appreciation from the Central Arkansas Radio Emergency Net.

Also, to help with Skywarn, I have printed out a map of Arkansas' counties, as well as a guide to hail size criteria, from the Storm Prediction Center.

Lastly, a "warning" sign, that "tampering with my ham radio may result in a \*\*\* whoopin' you'll never forget" (hi hi).

*Daryl, AE5WX*

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## Thanks & 73

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

Thanks goes out to this month's contributors: **KC8PD, WB8LCD, W8PT, KB8UUZ, K8JE, W8KNO, KB6NU, W8DEC, KD8LEB, AE5WX, The ARRL and the World Wide Web.**

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



*Tom, KB8UUZ*  
PCARS Newsletter Editor

## *Pictures from the April PCARS Meeting*



April 11



# 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	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
Field Day 2011	<b>K8CAV</b>	Rick Kruis
F.Y.A.O.	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
Historian	<b>KB8SZI</b>	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Mgr.	<b>KB8VJL</b>	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
Newsletter	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA 2011	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
P.I.O.	<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
Secretary	<b>KD8GGZ</b>	Mary Jo Loveland
Web Master	<b>K8SRR</b>	Steve Randlett



**PCARS  
VE Team**

<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
<b>KB8DPN</b>	Russ Anderson, Sr.
<b>N4IT</b>	Carl Capps
<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
<b>N8XTH</b>	Deron Boring
<b>N8PXW</b>	Jim Korenz
<b>N8QE</b>	Bob Hajdak
<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
<b>N8EQJ</b>	Ed Polack
<b>K8QF</b>	Russ Conklin
<b>K8GI</b>	Rick Patterson
<b>WB8VNO</b>	Gay Wands
<b>WD8CVH</b>	Ted Wands
<b>NX8G</b>	Rex Simmons
<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
<b>AB8AA</b>	Allan Avnet
<b>K8JAA</b>	Jane Avnet
<b>KD8FLZ</b>	Mike DiCarro
<b>KE8G</b>	Jim Blanca
<b>W8RID</b>	Bob Davet
<b>K8MSF</b>	Bud Green
<b>KD8LEB</b>	Al Zielinski
<b>WA8CCU</b>	Al Nagy



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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)  
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