



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



November 2011 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 6 No. 11

~ 2011 Officers ~

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

~ Meetings & Nets ~

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

**PCARS Incorporated**  
 Nov. 1, 2005

**First Meeting**  
 Nov. 14, 2005



**ARRL Affiliated**  
 April 20, 2006



**Special Services  
 Club**  
 March 22, 2010

## From the President

The 2011 Field Day results are in and, drum roll please, PCARS total of 220 participants was ranked number two... in the nation! That is out of a total of 2632 entries submitted. What an accomplishment for the club.



Jim, KC8PD

Congratulations to the number one entry from the North Fulton Amateur Radio League, K4JJ, in Georgia which had a total of 269 participants. They do have the advantage of drawing from the greater Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area. Tied with PCARS at 220 participants was the Santa Ana (CA) Response Team, W6WC.

PCARS was a 4A station and with 10,078 points placed second in that category in the Ohio Section. The Delaware Amateur Radio Association was first with 15,172 points. Like other top finishers, the DARA team was most likely pulling down a lot of CW contacts. Well done, DARA!

In the Great Lakes Division, PCARS was in the number six spot as a 4A and, amazingly, was #8 overall in the country in that category and #56 out of all entries. Thanks to all of you who made it such a success. What a great Field Day for a six year old club!

Yes it has been six years and the time seems to have flown by. Barely an idea at this time in October 2005, it has become one of the largest, and certainly fastest growing, amateur radio clubs in the Ohio Section.

What keeps a club like PCARS growing and moving ahead is the same enthusiasm that made for this year's record breaking Field Day. PCARS members like to come on out and work together on all kinds of activities, and they have a lot of ham radio fun in the process. The ARRL does not have a way to score it but you can bet that PCARS was number one in the nation when it came to the amount of fun had a Field Day site.

Our membership is the future of the club and we are counting on you to keep it going. We look forward to seeing all of you (even if things get a little bit cramped) at the November club meeting for the annual election of officers and a new trustee. The club needs you to be involved in its operation and management.

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



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Also, please be sure to respond to the annual member survey that will be sent out shortly. The club leadership values your responses and uses them to put together the program schedule for the following year.

Don't forget that at the November meeting we will be holding our annual fundraiser for the Center of Hope. The club's share of the 50/50 proceeds will be donated to the Center of Hope along with the additional donations that you make. This is a wonderful gift to the Center for the holiday season so please be generous.

See you at the meeting on the fourteenth!

73,

*Jim, KC8PD*

## *From the Vice President*

I wanted to write something really nice about how thankful I am for all the good things I have experienced in my life. I guess I'm just one of those "sensitive" guys, as it started sounding a bit too gooey, if you know what I mean. So let me just say, I am thankful for PCARS, being a member has helped me to become a better, more knowledgeable ham, and have more fun with my hobby. I'm thankful for every other PCARS member, you guys are my best friends.



Tom, WB8LCD

Now, onto the less gooey stuff.

The November meeting is our annual election of officers. There are several positions (including President) where the incumbent is not eligible to be re-elected. That means there will be a major change in the leadership of the club, and this is a very important election. Your voice needs to be heard as to what direction you want the club to take for the future. Please, even though it might be a bit tight, we should pack the place for this months meeting. Show up and be a part of PCARS history! After the election there will be our annual 50/50 to support The Center of Hope in Ravenna. If you have some good items to donate to the raffle, bring them along. Buy lots of tickets, make a donation of cash (check) or non-perishable food items. Like everything we do at PCARS, lets make it Bigger and Better! After the 50/50, Dennis, AI8P, will have a presentation on the FREE DX-Lab software package. Did you hear me say "FREE"??

December will be our annual Christmas Dinner for members and family members. It will be held at Paradise Lake Golf and Banquet Center. We haven't nailed down all the details yet, but reserve our regular meeting night, Monday December 12th and plan to be there with us. As soon as I have the final details I will send them out.

From the October 2011 issue of Techdecisions, an Insurance Industry trade magazine:

"A startling quantity of electronic data, estimated to be more than 1 zettabyte was generated in 2010 – the equivalent of 1 billion terabytes.

Now, the really alarming part – the amount of electronic data in the world is expected to increase at a 60 percent compound annual growth rate through 2020. This means that the quantity of information stored in the world in 2020 will be 100 times more than the amount stored in 2010. And as mind boggling as these numbers are, the estimates may be conservative. The explosion of social media and the trillions of devices and sensors being connected to the internet will generate increasing amounts of data.

There's no question data sits squarely at the heart of the future of information technology. In a way, it is "back to the future" because in the early days of computing, it was all about data processing.....The bulk of the data is now unstructured – document images, e-mail, digitized voice conversations, PDF's, SMS text messages, pictures, videos, and a variety of social media content....The challenge will be not only to capture the data, but also to cleanse it, store it, and integrate it to work in concert with other internal and external data."

Don't forget to make regular back ups! 73,

*Tom, WB8LCD*

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## Antenna Special Interest Group

The Antenna SIG meets the third Tuesday of every month. All PCARS members and interested guests are invited to stop in and discuss their own antenna projects, or any antenna related topics, with the group. If you want some help designing or constructing an antenna system at your QTH, this is the place to come for all the tech info you can use.

This month's meeting, held on Tuesday October 18, featured the installation of the EZNEC 3.0 antenna modeling software on a computer at the club site by Rick, K8CAV. Rick demonstrated some of the features of the software. Rick also presented several examples illustrating the power of modeling to predict performance of an antenna BEFORE you spent the time and money to build it. Constructing an economical and effective radio antenna is an art, but we now have some great engineering tools that will really help you build an antenna to make those contacts, and make that expensive transceiver perform like a million bucks.

The group will be assembling documentation to help interested members do their own modeling right at the club site. Members of the group are developing skills to use the software effectively and soon should be available to guide other members through the modeling process. The software is available now and we hope to have a good modeling documentation notebook assembled in the next few weeks.

*Tony, WA8AR*

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## Mark Your Calendars



On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- November 14<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting - Elections - FREE DX Lab** software - Dennis, AI8P
- November 14<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday**
- December 12<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Christmas Party**



### 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

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## PCARS Yahoo Site

Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Group dedicated to PCARS information. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list.

Check out the PCARS Yahoo Group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCARS/>.





## ***Center of Hope – Holiday Donation***

PCARS members have become familiar with the Center of Hope as the site for a variety of our club activities including our bimonthly VE sessions. The Center has graciously opened its doors at no cost to PCARS for all of these events.

The Center of Hope was founded over ten years ago by the late Sister Jordan as a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. It provides hot meals and distributes food and home products to thousands of our county's less fortunate residents every year. F&CS is also the owner of the building that the houses the PCARS club station and has made that space available to us at essentially no cost. F&CS also allows PCARS to use the Community Room in its office building on Oakwood Street in Ravenna.



As the Fall ends and Winter approaches, the staff of the Center of Hope face the enormous task of trying to help brighten the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for the Center's clients. You can imagine how distressful it could be to not be able to provide a holiday meal for your family.



This is PCARS opportunity to return the favor to the Center. Let's assist the Center of Hope in meeting its goal of helping as many families as possible at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are asking that all PCARS members who attend the November meeting make a donation of food or, even better, a financial contribution to the Center of Hope. Donations are tax deductible because the Center is part of a 501(c)(3) organization.

In addition, for the sixth year in a row the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle at the November meeting will be donated by PCARS to the Center of Hope.

Let's show how generous the spirit of amateur radio operators can be by offering our support to an organization that helps so many families in our community. Any items or funds donated at a meeting will be delivered the next day to the Center of Hope.

***Jim, KC8PD***



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

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

**February ~ April ~ June ~ August ~ October ~ December**



VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10:00 am at the Center of Hope - 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. Walk-ins are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

***Robert, N8RLG***  
PCARS VE Team Liaison

## Paper Chase

This is November and as it being that, I thought maybe an article on a certificate from Turkey would be interesting. Well, nothing easy to obtain that might wet your appetite. But while I was huffing and puffing and blowing my mind away, in came this letter and banner for having participating in the Dutch PACC Contest. You needed twenty-five Qs to get a certificate but I only had eighteen.

What has this have to do about anything? Nothing! It just demonstrates that if you get on the air and enjoy yourself, **GOOD THINGS WILL COME TO YOU!** Enjoy November, there are plenty of Special Event stations to keep you busy.



**Joe, W8KNO**

## QRP-CW SIG Update

We had a great time at the QRP/CW SIG in October. If you couldn't make it, you missed a lot! We reviewed the Yaesu FT-817 radio and software for this very popular QRP radio. The group looked at the radio and it's features... a lot of radio for the \$\$\$\$ and you can take it anywhere.

Terry and Art had their FT-817's at the SIG. Terry's radio underwent the "software surgery" making even more useful. We found the "can't send" CW problem and fixed it.... Terry is now on his way to many enjoyable CW/QRP QSOs. Art was able to download the software and will make use of it at his QTH.

If you are interested in the QRP and/or the CW part of our hobby, I would encourage you to attend future SIG meetings.... we are having much fun !!!

72/73 for now,  
**Dave , WB2DFC**

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in November:

N8ATV	Jerry Jarze
KD8GZ	Tim Davisson
KD8JRJ	Phil McCoy
KD8ERY	Susan Larrick
K3GP	George Proudfoot
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
KB3OQV	Kristen Andrews
KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland

KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
W8RID	Bob Davet
K8FEY	Bob Hewett
KC8SYD	Ted Kost
N8WLE	Nick Rothermel
K8STK	Tom Creech
AF1K	Rich Kuster
K8BF	PCARS

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

Hello again! For those of you who worked South Sudan to get a new DX entity, you might want to know that QSL cards are starting to be sent out. There will be a ton of them so it may be awhile before you get your card confirmation. Take a look at a couple of notes in my column regarding getting the QSL for this DXpedition.



Chuck, W8PT

I know that some of our members worked ST0R and are looking forward to getting the card. Parky – KB8UUZ, Joe – W8KNO, and Wes – K8NYM all reported that they were able to work T32C, Christmas Island DXpedition. Wes mentioned that in addition to T32C, he also was able to work 3D2R on Rotuma.

I want to extend a thank you to the following for the forecast reports for this month 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).

**6V, SENEGAL.** Just a reminder that Seb, F8IJV, will once again be active as 6V7Q from Le Calao resort in Senegal between October 22nd and November 11th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, operating mainly on SSB, possibly some Digital and CW too. He plans to take an Acom 1011 amplifier with him this time. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. Log will be uploaded to LoTW.

**6O, SOMALIA.** Darko, J28AA/E70A, will be active as 6O0DX from Somalia between November 21-30th. He usually operates on CW, SSB and RTTY, and on 80-10 meters. QSL via K2PF or E77E.

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Members of the Russian "Ural Contest Group" (UCG) will be active as 8Q7DV during both the CQWW DX Contests (CW and SSB) as follows: \* Operators Vadim/R9DX, Igor/UA9CDC, Vitaly/RN4WA, Igor/RA9CMO and Sergei/UA9CGA will operate during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Multi-Op entry. Activity will be mainly on 160/80 meters. However, they also plan to be active on 30/17/12/6 meters bands. QSL via R9DX (ex-UA9CLB).

**9J, ZAMBIA. (Reminder)** 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.

**9V, SINGAPORE.** Martin, F8UKP, a F6KOP member, will be working in Singapore (AS-019) for the next three years and will be active as 9V1RM. Activity will be limited to his spare time only. Operations will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and PSK. Currently he is using a skyloop antenna using the maximum legal power in 9V-land (100 watts). He has the permission to set up a hexbeam antenna in the near future. QSL via LoTW or direct to the address on QRZ.com. There is a possibility to QSL by the Bureau in the future (Information will be given in due time).

**AH0, MARIANA ISLANDS.** Ops Kuniyoshi/7L1FPU (W1FPU), Moto/W1NDE, Danilo/AH0BM, Hajime/AH0BR, Naoyuki/NA8O, Makoto/W3FO & Hiroyuki/KW2X active as AH0BT - 160/17/12 m (Nov 1-2). QSL via 7L1FPU, by the Bureau or direct (w/SAE and 2 USDs) to: Kuniyoshi NAKADA, PMR9292, 3-23-3, Minami-Oi, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 140-0013, JAPAN.

**C5, THE GAMBIA.** By the time you read this, the Czech-Slovak team (with 12 operators) should be active as C50C until November 1st, and again between November 20-28th. Their main aim is to participate in both parts of the CQWW DX Contests (SSB and CW) under the callsign C5A. QSL via Brani, OM2FY. The complete details can be found at: <http://www.om0c.com>

**C6, BAHAMAS.** Members of "Team Vertical" will be active as C6AAW from **North Palmetto Point, Eleuthera, Bahamas**, during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Multi-Multi entry. QSL via WA4WTG. Operators mentioned are Gene/KB7Q, Fredrick/KE7X, Walter/N6XG, Jeffrey/N6XR, Mike/WA6O and Ken/K2KW. Operators will be there between November 18-28th. They will use their personal C6A callsigns outside of the contest. QSL via the operator's instructions.

**DXCC NEWS** (Special "paper application offer" procedure for ST0R QSLs -- please read carefully). Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports: "The cards for the 2011 ST0R operation from the new DXCC entity of South Sudan are now being received by DXers around the world. With next year's publishing deadline for 2011 results fast approaching on 31 December, 2011, we will offer a special, reduced-price option for those DXCC participants who have already made at least one application during 2011.

- You MUST have already made a submission in the 2011 calendar year via either LoTW or via a traditional, paper application. If you have made an application already in 2011, then you may submit a paper ST0R QSL (no other cards, just the ST0R South Sudan card) following these rules:
- Enclose 5.00 USDs (check, money order, CC#, or cash at your risk) for USA amateurs;
- Enclose 6.00 USDs (check, money order, CC#, or cash at your risk) for non-USA amateurs;
- Enclose an SASE for the return of the ST0R card;
- This special submission is ONLY for the ST0R card;
- If ANY other card(s) are included this will be considered a full submission subject to full fees, even if you already submitted in 2011;
- These submission conditions apply ONLY if you have already made a submission in 2011; and
- This offer DOES NOT apply if you have not yet made your 2011 submission. All DXCC fees are in effect as you can include this card with your regular submission;
- This special offer expires on December 31, 2011, and is NOT extended into 2012."

**CE9, ANTARCTICA.** Tomas, CE9VPM, will be active from Chilean Air Base Presidente Gabriel González Videla in the Antarctica beginning Nov 2011 through Mar 2012. Activity on 20 meters and possibly other bands. QSL via PO Box 13630, Santiago, Chile.

**EY, TAJIKISTAN** (Update). Nodir, EY8MM, from Dushanbe, will be active during the CQWW DX CW Contest (Nov 26-27), & CQWW DX SSB Contest (Oct 29-30), as a Single-Op/Single-Band (TBD) entry. QSL K1BV via direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

**FH, MAYOTTE.** Phill, F6GNT, will be active as FH8NX from **Mayotte Island (AF-027)** until March 2013. Activity will be on 20-10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to: Phillip Ward, 36 Totorosa 2, Labattoir 97610, Mayotte. Also, QSL via eQSL.

**FJ/TO3, ST. BARTHELEMY** (Update). Operators Nikola/VE3EY and John/VE3TA will be active as FJ/homecall from St. Barthelemy (NA-146) between November 22-29th. Activity will include the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Multi-Single entry. They will use the callsign TO3A. QSL via their home callsigns. QSL TO3A via VE3EY.

**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.



**HG15, HUNGARY (Special Event).** Look for special event station HG15IPA to be active through December 31st. Activity is to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**J2, DJIBOUTI.** Freddy, F5IRO, active as J28RO since Jul 2010, is expected to stay here until Jul 2012. His activity on the HF bands using CW, SSB & Digital modes. His QSL Manager is F8DFP. QSL direct (w/SAE+ valid IRC - PLEASE NO MONEY AT ALL), or by the French REF-Union Bureau. The direct cards without the above mentioned will be answered by the Bureau.

**ST0R QSL AND LOTW STATUS.** Antonio, EA5RM, informs OPDX: "As you may know, the distribution of ST0R QSL cards has begun. The Republic of South Sudan was recently added to the DXCC entities list, so each QSO confirmed by our manager will be the confirmation of a new one. Because of this, the DXCC Desk has expressed the concern that they may be overwhelmed by thousands of applications to credit the new entity. Consequently, we have decided to make an exception, and upload to the LOTW all the individual donor QSOs and OQRS ones, by 1st November. ST0R TEAM"

**SU, EGYPT.** After his 9H3IP operation (see above) Gab, HA3JB, will once again be active as SU/HA3JB - his renewed license is valid until November 30th. Activity will be on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. He will also be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (??) entry. QSOs are valid for the HA-IPARC Award. QSL via HA3JB, direct (w/SAE) to: Gabor Kutasi / H-8601 Siófok, P.O.Box 243, Hungary. If you are IPA member please write/add your E-mail address.

**T6, AFGHANISTAN (Update).** Les, WB8LES, who is active as T6LB from FOB (Forward Operation Base) Shank, Loghar Province, states that he monitors 14315 kHz every day from 1230-1430z. Les will be posting updates on QRZ.com. He is expected to be there until November 7th. QSL via WB8LES.

**T6, AFGHANISTAN.** Francesco, IZ8NWA, an Italian soldier stationed in southern Afghanistan until Nov 2011, is expected to be active as T6FR. On 20/17/15/10 m using SSB & PSK31. QSL via IZ8OJG only. Visit his Web page at: <http://iz8nwa.jimdo.com>

**TU, IVORY COAST.** Just a reminder that an Italian team consisting of Alfeo/I1HJT, Silvano/I2YSB, Vinicio/IK2CIO, Angelo/IK2CKR, Marcello/IK2DIA, Stefano/IK2HKT & Angelo/IK2RZP active as TU2T from the Ivory Coast this week between Oct 27th and Nov 11th. Activity on 160-6 m using CW, SSB & RTTY. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1823, 3505, 7005, 10106, 14025, 18075, 21025, 24895 & 28025 kHz SSB - 3780, 7056/7180, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945 & 28495 kHz RTTY- 10140, 14080, 18104, 21080, 24902 & 2808 kHz 6m - 50105 kHz - CW, SSB & Beacon Pilot station will be Art, IK7JWY. QSL via I2YSB, direct (3 USDs and SAE [NO IRCs and stamps] or via the OQRS. QSL via the Bureau to IK2CIO.

**V5, NAMIBIA.** Martin, DL1ZU, will be active as V5/DL1ZU between Dec 21 and Jan 13 (2012). During his trip through the Caprivi strip, Martun will use an IC-706 with a vertical antenna & dipoles. In Windhoek, he will use a 3 ele beam. QSL is "OK" via his home callsign by the Bureau.

**XV, VIETNAM.** Retu, OH4MDY (OX3RZ/XU7MDY/XV2MDY), will once again be active as XV2RZ from Southeast Vietnam between November 1st and December 12th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using the "normal modes" (CW and SSB). QSL only direct via OH4MDY with a SASE and 2 USDs.

**ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND.** Steve, G3ZVW/AF6SU, active as ZD8N from Ascension Island (AF-003) between Nov 21 and Dec 2. He has been off the island for almost 3 years. Activity on 80-10 m using CW, SSB & Digital modes. He is also expected to participate in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th). QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

**ZK2, NIUE (Update to OPDX.1002 & OPDX.1007).** By the time you read this, operators Chris/GM3WOJ and Keith/GM4YXI will have arrived in Niue (as of midday Friday (U.S. time). Chris will be active as ZK2V, and Keith has obtained the callsign ZK2X. The operation will continue for 2 months through to December 20th. They plan to participate in (CQWW) contests as well. Activity on 160 meters will occur the first several weeks of the operation. They will also focus on 12/10 meters to EU, both paths. New for this trip will be an effort to provide "real time" logging on the Internet (Last minute update: However, latest reports indicate that poor WiFi signals are very weak in the shack, so they may not be able to use their new 'real-time' logging system). More details are available at <<http://www.zk2v.com>>. LoTW will be updated frequently, and card requests are via N3SL.

## **IOTA News**

**AF-019.** Emilio, IZ1GAR, will be active as IH9/IZ1GAR from **Pantelleria Island** (IIA TP-001, WLOTA 0041) between November 23-28th. In the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th), Emilio will be active as IH9R and as a Single-ZOp/Single Band (40m) entry. Pantelleria counts a Multiplier Zone 33 Africa Italy for the CQWW DX rule (islands are located over the African continent platform). QSL via IZ1GAR, direct or by the Bureau.

Also **AF-019**. Tony, IK1QBT, will be active as IH9/IK1QBT from Pantelleria Island (IIA TP-001, WLOTA 0041) between November 23-28th. In the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th), Tony will be active as IH9X (Operating class TBD). QSL via IK1QBT, direct or by the Bureau.

**AS-191**. Operators Abdul/7Z1CQ, Al/7Z1AQ, Suli/7Z1SJ, Ali/HZ1BT, Abdul/HZ1BW, Abdul/HZ1DG, Daher/HZ1DS, Hani/HZ1HN, Mohamad/HZ1MD, Ali/HZ1TT, Nhaw/HZ1TL and HZ2TT active as **7Z7AA** from **Jabal Al Lith, Saudi Arabia**, between Nov 17-25. Details of activity were not provided, but watch the IOTA frequencies. **This is a rare IOTA**. QSL via 7Z1CQ.

**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

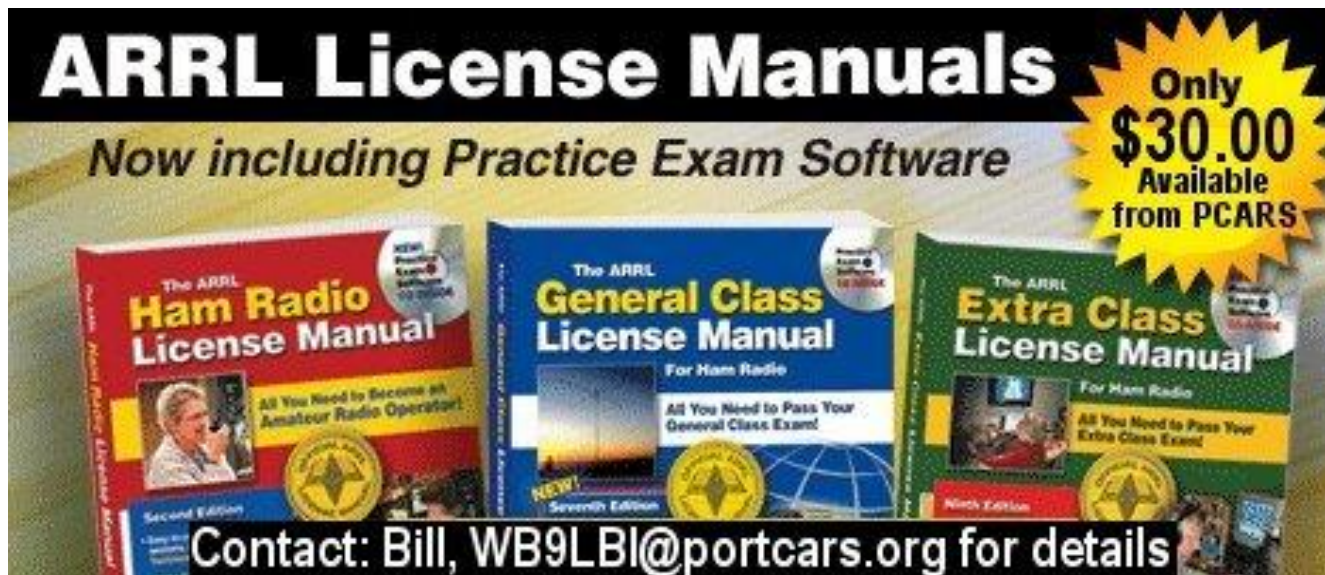
**SA-040**. Paco, EA7ATX, active as HK1/EA7ATX from **Tierrabomba Is.** (WLOTA 0296, ARLHS COL-052), Colombia, Nov 17-20. On 80-10 m SSB only. Paco has a survey available (for band needs) on the following Web page at: <http://sa040.blogspot.com> QSL via his home callsign. An online log will be available via his Web page or from <http://www.clublog.org/>

**T2, TUVALU**. With the "Pacific DXers" postponing their DXpedition to Nauru (see C2 above), the group has reorganized their first DXpedition to Tuvalu (OC-015) to take place between November 11th and December 8th. Callsign will be T2T. Operators mentioned are Eddie/VK4AN, Bill/VK4FW, Eric/VK4NEF, Tim/NL8F, Jay/K4ZLE and Julian/W5SL. Activity will be on all HF bands, 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. They expect to have at least 3 stations on the air with a dedicated station set up on 6 meters running in an interrupted beacon mode. QSL Manager is the Pacific DXers, or by the Bureau via VK4FW.

**OH0, ALAND ISLAND**. Operator Tomi, OH6EI, will once again be active as OH0Z during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via W0MM.

That's it for November from Charlie. CU dn the log. Gud DX and 73,

**Chuck, W8PT**  
Also known as "Charlie the Tuner"



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**Contact: Bill, WB9LBI@portcars.org for details**

*The new year is just around the corner.  
So, why not make an early New Year's Resolution to upgrade your license?  
The sunspots are coming in good and the HF bands are really getting busy.  
You'll want to be in there making those 50 state contacts for your Worked All States award  
and those DX contacts to get your DXCC award. So, get busy now, start studying and pass  
that upgrade test so you can join in on all the fun!*

---

## PCARS Thursday Net Control

Thank you all for helping with this! Anytime you are unable to take the net, please give me as much advance warning as possible!



November	
11/03	KD8FDK
11/10	WB2DFC
11/17	KD8JCY
11/24	WB8LCD

December	
12/01	N8WLE
12/08	KD8DFL
12/15	KC8PD
12/22	KB8UUZ
12/29	WB8LCD



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

Hope to hear you on the net,

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

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## Heavenly Day, It's Gay

The 2 Meter Simplex contest is history. I had a great time but am wondering where everyone else was??? Liz, KA8BNS, and I zigzagged our way through Portage County, beating our last year's time by two hours. I thank Jim, KC8PD, for manning the PCARS club station to assure that a contact could be made by anyone from anywhere in the county. There were only a handful of us running around out there. A few other stations were stationary and on the air most of the time. I hope the officers didn't get too discouraged to hold it again next year.

With November and Thanksgiving just around the corner I am thankful for the dedication of PCARS officers to ensure—and guarantee—that whatever your interest in ham radio there are activities to keep you enthused, and for this world-class newsletter that Parky provides us with. And I am thankful for the friendship of the membership.

I am also thankful for the men and women in the armed services, and public services who protect us and assure our liberty.



**Gay, WB8VNO**

See you at the next meeting,

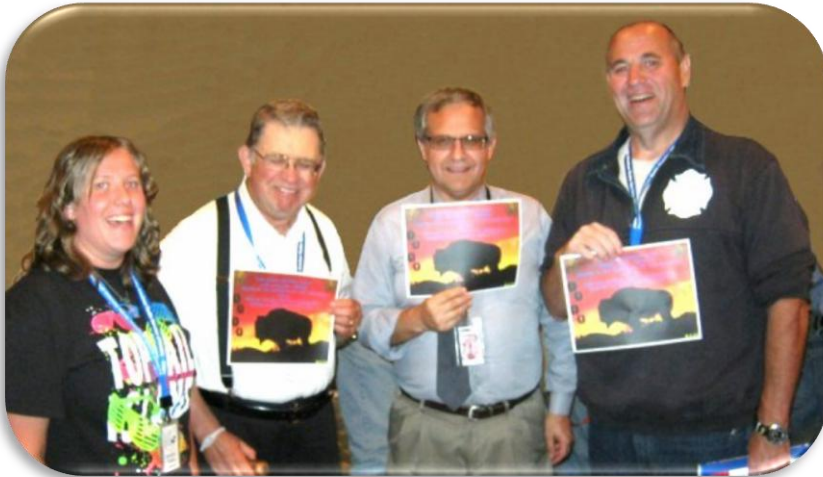
**Gay, WB8VNO**



## *Oh, Give Me a Home, Where the Buffalo Roam .....*

I never thought the worst would happen... and then it did. I had left a gate open which let 23 buffalo loose in Atwater. Then I never thought that Ham Radio and our buffalo would ever come together, but then it did. The night that this happened our neighbors came to action and helped us round up 17 of 23.

The following morning we heard Bill (WB9LBI) on the radio and had him help us driving around looking for them. After he was unsuccessful, he continued on his journey to work. Next came Leon (N8GLK) He drove around and went (four wheeling) driving around as well to see if he could find them.



Kristen presented the Buffalo Hunters certificates to Leon, Bill and Mark

Once he left I heard Mark on the radio and at this point like everyone knew we were still missing some of the animals. He decided after he was done studying, he was coming out. Well when he was about 3 minutes out I decided to head out and see if any had showed up near the fence, and 3 had. I went back to the radio and told Mark that I saw three and he went into the woods. Then came more trouble he chased them my way but then they went too far and started walking down the driveway towards the road. Just in the nick of time dad had come up and chased 2 more back in. It was

a group effort and finally the next day we got the last few ones.

A very big thanks to Mark, Bill, and Leon!! We couldn't have done it without your help and the use of Ham Radio! We were so happy to get help from fellow hams to get the buffalo all home, so I made up certificates for the "Buffalo Hunters" and gave it to them at the September PCARS meeting.

*Kristen, KB3OQV*



## *EmComm*

In the October ARRL ARES® E-Letter, the editor, Rick Palm, K1CE, included an excerpt from the ARES® of Portage County Public Service Communications – Basic Skills materials, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/?issue=2011-10-20>. The article was about After Action Reports (AAR) which are documents drafted following an After Action Review of a particular incident or event.

AAR's are a great device to review a wide variety of planned activities. Note that the operative term is planned. Incidents are things that happen spontaneously as opposed to events that are scheduled. A tornado would be an example of an incident, while a 10K run would be an event. Either way, some type of planning should have gone into your expected response. The occurrence is a test of how well the plan was formulated and then executed.





Our local RACES/CU prepares an AAR for every drill that we conduct and, similarly, ARES® of Portage County prepares one for each of the events that it has provided communications support for. They both follow the same basic template by asking these questions:

- \* What did we expect to happen?
- \* What actually happened?
- \* What went well and why?
- \* What can be improved?

With those four questions you can outline your plan, summarize the event, and then compare your plans to the actual outcome, identifying the pluses and minuses. All of this is done with the goal of improving both your plan and the response for subsequent incidents and events.



This works well for our EmComm and public service activities but it can also meet your needs in a wide variety of work-related as well as day-to-day and ham radio activities.

Going to put up a tower? Make a plan, follow it as best you can during the actual construction, then step back afterwards and assess what could be changed for the better. Even if you don't plan on putting up another tower you could write a newsletter article that will help someone else.

Have a special project at work? Put together your plan and after the project has wrapped up solicit input from all who were involved, using the four questions listed above, and then critique the project. Input from all participants should be welcomed and encouraged. Each will have a different take on how things went.

Remember, the AAR is not a personnel performance evaluation. That should be done separately if necessary. The AAR is the tool to use to evaluate the adequacy and appropriateness of the plan as well as the overall effort of the team without generating personal criticisms.

So give the AAR a try and see how it can help you and your co-workers or fellow volunteers achieve their goals and enhance team performance.

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

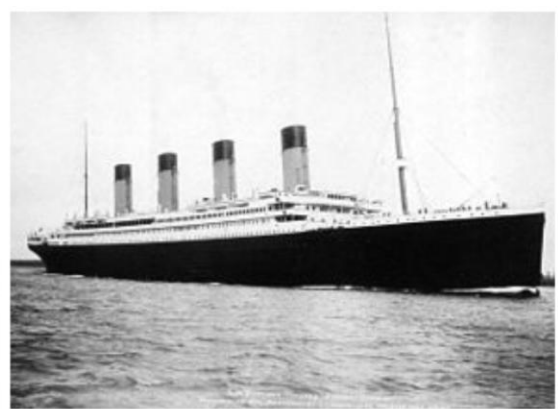


## ***CQD - SOS***

One trait of human nature is that we tend to embellish notable achievements by associating them with important people and momentous events. If a memorable quote comes out of the mouth of an obscure person, we inevitably attribute his words to someone more famous (hence historical and literary figures such as Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain have been given credit over the years for originating hundreds of witty and pithy sayings they never uttered). If we can't pin down exactly when a new invention was first used, we often tie that usage to an event of some historical significance (such as a war or the aftermath of a disaster).

The sinking of the Titanic was certainly one of the more momentous events of the twentieth century, and one of the enduring images of Titanic mythology is that of the senior wireless operator, Jack Phillips, hunched over

his telegraph key, desperately tapping out distress signals until the very last moment. Even after released from duty by his captain, Phillips remained at his post and continued to transmit without regard for his personal safety, stopping only when the Titanic's power finally failed and he could send no more. By then it was too late: All the lifeboats were long gone, and the Titanic was only minutes away from her final plunge into the sea. Phillips did not survive.



**Titanic**

Naturally, then, we want to imbue the death of Jack Phillips and the loss of Titanic with some extra significance, and one of the manifestations of that desire is the origination of the claim that the Titanic was the first ship to use SOS as a distress call. That claim is an erroneous one, however — a chimera passed along by writer after writer who accepted it as true.

In 1912, one might have said that if marine wireless communication was no longer in its infancy, it certainly wasn't very far into adolescence. Rival wireless companies from different countries often refused to relay each other's messages (except for emergency situations), and international standards for such important matters as ship identification and distress signals had not been enacted. A 1906 International Conference on Wireless Communication at Sea held in Berlin attempted to sort out some of these issues, including the standardization of the call letters to be used by ships in distress. At the time, British wireless operators generally used the call letters CQD as a distress signal: CQ representing the general call for other ships in the area (i.e., "seek you"), with a D added at the end to signify "danger" (followed by the latitude and longitude of the ship in distress). The Germans disliked this method and countered by proposing SOE, but this offering was rejected because the final E (represented by a single dot in Morse code) could too easily be lost in transmission.

The solution the conference finally settled upon was the signal SOS, its dot-dot-dot-dash-dash-dash-dot-dot-dot forming a distinctive pattern that even novice wireless operators could easily recognize and transmit. Contrary to persistent belief, the letters SOS were chosen simply due their ease of transmission, not because they represented "save our ship," "save our souls," or any other phrase. As an account of the time noted, "The combination of letters have no especial significance except that they are easy to sound and click out strong and easily read." (In any case, an international conference held in Berlin and featuring representatives of several different European nations was unlikely to have opted for a distress call that abbreviated a phrase significant only to English-speaking mariners.)

Great Britain and several other nations had voted to adopt the Berlin conference's proposals by 1908, but wireless operators on British ships largely ignored them. Thus when the Titanic struck an iceberg and started to sink in April 1912, Jack Phillips began transmitting the older CQD distress signal to other ships in the area. According to Harold Bride, the Titanic's junior wireless operator, it was not until he jokingly suggested "Send



**Titanic's radio room. Upper image is an original photo**

SOS; it's the new call, and this may be your last chance to send it!" that Phillips began to intersperse SOS with the traditional CQD call. Although SOS may have been a "new call" to British wireless operators in 1912 because they had not previously been using it, SOS was far from "new" in an overall sense — it had been proposed, adopted, and used by other ships years before the Titanic sank.

An article published in the New York Times in February 1910 — more than two years prior to the Titanic disaster — detailed the origins and uses of SOS as a distress call, and in the pages of that newspaper one can find several examples of ships' employing the SOS call that antedate the 14 April 1912 sinking of the Titanic:

- On 11 August 1909, the steamship *Arapahoe*, plying a route between New York and Jacksonville, Florida (by way of Charleston), broke a shaft and began drifting off the North Carolina coast. Help was summoned via an SOS call:

The first news that the vessel had met with an accident came to the United Wireless station at Hatteras when P. B. Haubner, the wireless operator on board, began sending out "S.O.S.," the United Wireless Company's signal of distress. The shore station soon got into communication with the disabled vessel, and in response came a message stating that the *Arapahoe* had broken her tail shaft.

The United Wireless Company explained last night that "S.O.S." was really the signal for help, and that it was the one adopted by the International Wireless Congress held in Berlin in 1906. The company disowned the now famous sea call "C.Q.D."

- On 4 February 1910, the steamer *Kentucky*, set to sail around Cape Horn from New York to Tacoma, Washington, ran into heavy weather outside the Virginia Capes and began to leak badly, faster than the pumps could control. An SOS call summoned the *Alamo*, which proceeded at top speed to the *Kentucky*'s location and managed to take off all that ship's passengers and crew members before the leaking vessel sank:

The coming of the *Alamo* to the rescue was in response to the wireless signal of distress "S.O.S." which is used on these ships instead of "C.Q.D." This signal was flashed in all directions this morning by W. D. Maginnis, the operator on the *Kentucky* and was received by E. D. Seaman, the *Alamo*'s operator, about 11:30 A.M. It was followed by this brief message:

"We are sinking. Our latitude is 32 degrees 10 minutes; longitude 76 degrees 30 minutes. Kentucky."

Seaman ran with the message to the *Alamo*'s skipper, and a moment later the bells in the engine room were ringing the signals that changed the *Alamo*'s course and turned her nose in the direction of the sinking *Kentucky*.

- On 13 May 1911, the liner *Merida* collided with the steamship *Admiral Farragut* in fog off Cape Charles, Virginia, and sank. Passengers and crew took to lifeboats and were picked up by the *Hamilton*, which arrived in response to the *Merida*'s SOS transmission:

Here is the story told by Herbert O. Benson, the wireless operator on the *Merida*:

"I had just gone on deck," he said, "when I saw the bow of the *Farragut* not twenty feet away. I jumped for a door to brace myself for the shock, but did not reach it in time and was sent sprawling half way across the deck. As the other vessel pulled away, the *Merida* began to list. I got my wireless working and began to sound 'S.O.S.' I got [Cape] Hatteras and then told briefly what had happened. That station notified me that the naval stations would be notified. It was about twenty minutes later, I think, when the lights went out and

my instrument lost power. I ran to the bridge and told the Captain that I could not send any longer. He told me to get into a boat and to go to the Farragut, where my help might be needed.

"When I got to the Farragut, I found her aerials had been brought down by the crash and her wireless was out of commission. I went to one mast and A. C. Leech, the Farragut's operator went to the other and we managed to lash the aerials and get the wireless working.

"I had hard work getting messages through because of the interference of the naval station at Charleston. He was calling N.A.R., which is, I think, the naval station at Portsmouth. I begged him to give me a clear field, as we were in danger and a vessel was sinking. He either misunderstood my call or disregarded it, for the interference kept up. Within five minutes I got a call from the Hamilton. Then came a message from the battleship Iowa that she was coming to us at 20 knots an hour. Then I picked up the Hamilton again and, getting her position, I told the Iowa that she was the nearest to us and to stay out so that I could talk to the Hamilton. The Hamilton overran us in the fog and I had to direct her by wireless."

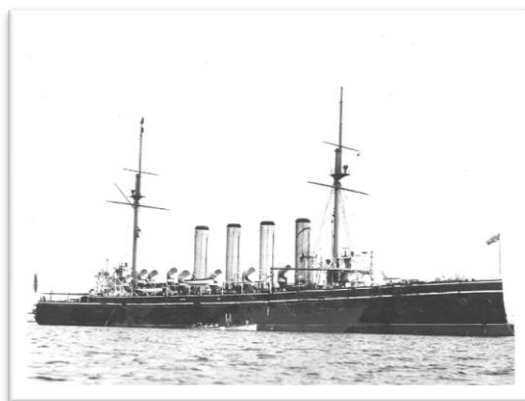


Herbert Benson and passenger

- On 30 July 1911, the Canadian Navy cruiser *Niobe* ran ashore in heavy fog and gale while rounding Nova Scotia's Cape Sable on her way back to Halifax and began wiring an SOS distress call:

In response to Commander MacDonald's inquiry the engineer reported after a hurried examination that the sea was rushing into the vessel at a rapid rate through a hole under the starboard engine room. Pumps were at once manned and set at work, and it was found that they could dispose of the water.

Meanwhile the wireless apparatus was brought into play, the operators flashing the "S.O.S." signals in all directions and giving the vessel's position. These calls were heard at Eastport, and as far south as Boston, and were picked up also at Sable Island, Cape Race, N.F., and at Father Point, Quebec.



*Niobe*

It was just 12:30 A.M. when the call was sent broadcast, and it was soon picked up and answered. At 12:50 C. H. Harvey, agent for the Marine and Fisheries Department, received a wireless from the light keeper at Cape Sable advising him of the fact that the *Niobe* was ashore, in grave danger, and in need of immediate assistance.

- On 28 August 1911, the steamer *Lexington* was caught in a hurricane off the Carolina coast, its wireless wrecked by the storm, but the ship's 16-year-old radio operator bravely climbed the ship's rigging to send an SOS and summon help:



*Lexington*

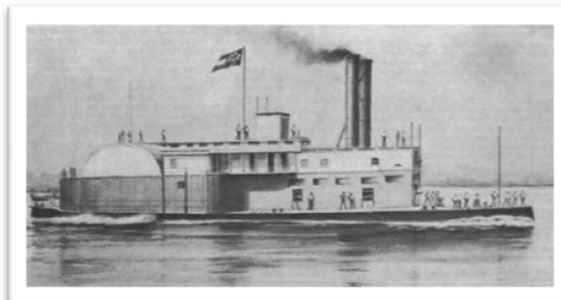
To the pluck of a sixteen-year-old boy the passengers and crew of the steamer *Lexington* of the Merchants & Miners' Line owe their lives. Driven ashore on Edisto Island, at the mouth of the Edisto River, in the hurricane that swept the Carolina Coast on Sunday and Monday, the ship was in danger of being sent to the bottom at any moment when Jack Sheetz, the wireless operator, sent out the "S.O.S." call that brought the revenue cutter *Yamacraw* to the liner's aid.



The wind had already wrecked the boat's wireless station, but young Sheetz bravely climbed into the rigging, adjusted his instruments, and kept up his call until an answer came. And all the time he was in constant danger of losing his life, for the wind was so strong that it almost tore him loose. When the rescuers came he climbed down again and fell exhausted onto the deck.

- On 3 December 1911, the U.S. naval collier *Sterling* collided with the coal steamer *Dorothy* off the coast of Virginia. The *Sterling*'s captain ordered the summoning of aid with an SOS call but managed to safely run his ship ashore just west of Cape Henry:

A majority of the men on the *Sterling* were asleep when the accident occurred. They were hurled with great force from their bunks or hammocks. Consternation reigned for a second, but Capt. Edward V. Keene was quick to grasp the situation. Recognizing that the ship would sink, despite the efforts of the pumps, he had the "S.O.S." signal flashed out by the wireless operator, and ordered the vessel headed for the beach, nearly two miles away. It was the only chance of saving the vessel and the men aboard. It was a race for a few minutes, as the vessel was rapidly settling.



*Sterling*

The revenue cutter *Onondaga*, the battleships in the Roads, and the naval tugs *Mohawk*, *Hercules*, *Wahneta*, and other steamers in the vicinity promptly answered the calls for aid and stood by the stranded ship until daylight. The life-saving crews from the Cape Henry and Virginia Beach stations were also rushed to the scene, but their services were not needed.

- On 9 April 1912, a fire broke out in the hold of the coastwise liner *Ontario* while the ship was en route from Baltimore to Boston in heavy seas, but the crew stuck to their posts and battled the flames until the ship was safely beached on the Long Island coast near Montauk. The *Ontario*'s passengers were never in any real danger, though, because numerous tugs and cutters summoned by the ship's SOS call were standing by to ferry them off the burning vessel:

Hubert Ingalls, a wireless operator, still in his teens, whose home is in Lynn, Mass., stood by his key flashing the signal "S.O.S.," the wireless call for help, until the flames reached the wireless house, with the result that the intense heat to which the apparatus was subjected rendered it useless. The wireless room was black with smoke for fully fifteen minutes before Ingalls left it, but he stuck to his post as long as the instrument worked and even then protested against leaving, hoping against hope that something would happen to put his key in commission again.

The crew chopped great holes through the deck, and into these tons of water were pumped on the flames, but, fight as they would, the fire gained headway, and Capt. Bond soon realized that he would have to beach his ship.

In the meantime, Ingalls, the wireless lad, was sending out the "S.O.S." signals for help. His little wireless hut on the deck was almost directly over the burning part of the ship, and life within it was almost unbearable. But that had no effect on Ingalls. At intervals of a few seconds the signal for assistance was repeated. The first station to hear the call was Point Judith, the message the Point Judith man received being, "Ontario, big fire below," and then followed the vessel's position.

Within an hour after the "S.O.S." was received relief was on the way to the *Ontario*. Tugs went out from New London, while every revenue cutter that could be reached immediately on receipt of the news steamed for

Montauk Point. The derelict destroyer Seneca from New York also got word, and she, too, headed for Montauk . . .

The Titanic's sinking may have marked the turning point after which everyone (including the British) finally adopted SOS as the primary distress call of the seas, but it was by no means the occasion of "the first SOS in history": Ships had been using the SOS distress signal for at least three years prior to the Titanic's fateful voyage in April 1912.

*Jim, N8PWX*  
From the World Wide Web



## OSPOTA - KD8MQ

2011 was my 2<sup>nd</sup> OSPOTA operation; the first being in 2010, when I was set up near East Liverpool, at Beaver Creek State Park. This year, I chose to activate Lake Hope State Park. It looked like Lake Hope hadn't been activated in any previous OSPOTA. Besides, it is close to some great hiking locations. After all, there IS more to life than Amateur Radio.



**KD8MQ at the controls**

A couple memorable points of the weekend come to mind. First was when I found out that my boom mic was injecting a whine into my signal. Steve, W4YHD pointed it out. He was running one of the flex radios, and was able to play back some of my audio to me, so I could hear it for myself. He stayed on frequency with me for quite a while, helping me to figure it out. It's gestures like this that remind me why I got into Ham Radio in the first place.

Also, Dennis, AI8P ALMOST made it to my campsite to say hi. After driving a few miles into the park, he had to turn around and leave. As it turned out, he was less than a quarter mile from my site when he turned around.

Tony, KD8BBK, who is a fellow Alliance club member, activated Salt Fork State Park. I believe this is also Tony's 2<sup>nd</sup> year participation in OSPOTA. After the smoke cleared, and the logs were scored, we were both amazed to find that we had taken 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

I remember the night that the scores were released. I immediately called Tony to congratulate him on his 2<sup>nd</sup> place win. He picked up the phone, and immediately asked "did you get my text?". He had texted me to congratulate me on my first place win.

The OSPOTA contest is really a great chance to get out and enjoy our State Parks. I can't wait till next September. That gives me plenty of time to fix my boom mic.



**KD8BBK at Salt Fork State Park**

*John, KD8MQ*

## Trick or Treat?

A few PCARS members got into the spirit of Halloween and came to work on October 28<sup>th</sup> at DX Engineering in costume. Mary Jo was at the club site the evening before to preview her costume. Here they are:



Mary Jo, KD8GGZ

Ed, N8EQJ

George K3GP

## QSL'ers - Time to buy those "Forever" stamps!

Postal Service says stamp prices are going up. Nothing lasts forever. Stamp prices will climb 1 cent starting January 22, 2012, the U.S. Postal Service said Tuesday.

The cost of a first-class stamp - also known as a forever stamp - will rise to 45 cents on Jan. 22, the first price increase in more than 2-1/2 years, the USPS said. The cost of sending magazines, standard mail and some package services also will rise, but prices for Express Mail and Priority Mail will stay the same.

The 1-cent increase is expected to generate an additional \$888 million in revenue, postal officials said Tuesday.

The jump "is small and is needed to help address our current financial crisis," Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe said in a statement, adding that although the USPS continues to "aggressively cut costs," it needs Congress to pass postal reform legislation that he said would make it easier to save money.

Starting Jan. 22, the USPS said rates will be:

- First-class letters (1 ounce): 1-cent increase to 45 cents.
- Letters weighing additional ounces: unchanged at 20 cents.
- Postcards: 3-cent increase to 32 cents.
- Letters to Canada and Mexico (1 ounce): 5-cent increase to 85 cents.
- Letters to other international destinations: 7-cent increase to \$1.05.



The Postal Service says it has lost about \$10 billion in the fiscal year that ended last month. It is pushing Congress to enact a series of reforms that would permit it to end Saturday mail deliveries, close post offices and mail processing facilities, and raise postage rates beyond the rate of inflation.

The price increases announced Tuesday, and formally filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission, are capped by law at 2.1 percent, the rate of inflation based on the consumer price index.

**USPS**



## November Contest Calendar

November 2011	
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 5 to 0300Z, Nov 7
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 12 to 0200Z, Nov 13
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 19 to 0300Z, Nov 21
EPC PSK63 QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 20
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 26 to 2400Z, Nov 27

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

**2011 ARRL November Sweepstakes**  
**When:** CW—Nov 5-7, Phone—Nov 19-21  
You can claim a **Clean Sweep** when  
you log radio contacts with all  
the ARRL Sections  
Don't Forget - Enter Your Club Name  
Portage County Amateur Radio Service

A photograph of a man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a grey t-shirt, sitting at a desk in a radio shack. He is holding a microphone and looking towards the camera. A large broom is leaning against the desk in front of him. The background shows various electronic equipment and shelves.

## Swap-N-Shop

**FOR SALE :** Two (2) LG OS-5060A 60MHz scopes. All work, no power cords and no leads - \$75ea, OBO. [02/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE :** Two (2) BK PRECISION 2831A Digital Multimeters. All work, no power cords and no leads - \$25ea OBO [02/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE :** One (1) GW instek GFG-8219A Function Generator. Works, no power cord and no leads - \$75 OBO [02/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE :** One (1) GW instek GPC-3020 DC power supply, 30V/2A. Works, no power cord and no leads - \$50 OBO [02/0/2/12]

Contact: **Al** - phone: 330-549-3051 or e-mail [AB8AA@portcars.org](mailto:AB8AA@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE :** Signalink USB with Yaesu cable \$70.00 [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE :** Amertron Antenna Tuner ATR15 1500 watt 160-10 meters \$185.00 [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE :** Goldstar Oscilloscope Model OS-9020A 20mhz \$45.00 [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE :** Yaesu SP-8 with BHI Noise Eliminating DSP module \$145.00 [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE :** Hal DXP-38 \$65.00 [01/0/2/12]

Contact: **Paul** - [NC8T@portcars.org](mailto:NC8T@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE :** MFJ-929 Auto Tuner with original manual and factory packaging. Also included is a factory Icom interface cable (MFJ-5114I) and an additional homebrew Icom interface cable. The tuner is in excellent condition, has been used very little and has always been in a nonsmoking environment. \$175.00 [12/2/11]

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



**FOR SALE:** Used Leviton 430C12W 125/250 Volt 30 Amp watertight pin & sleeve connector excellent condition \$90.00 [01/02/12]

**FOR SALE:** 553 Feet of NEW 1-1/4" RFS Heliac with two (2) new uninstalled connectors . \$1000.00 [01/02/12]

**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. [01/02/12]

**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 [01/02/12]

**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. [01/02/12]

**FOR SALE:** Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. \$15.00 each. [01/02/12]

**FOR SALE:** New N-female to N-female Mil-Spec adapters \$4.00 each four (4) available [01/02/12]

**FOR SALE:** New N-male to N-male Mil-Spec adapters \$4.00 each four (4) available [01/02/12]

**FOR SALE:** GE CL01A400TJ Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600 V 120 Volt Coil \$50.00 [01/02/12]

**FOR SALE:** GE CL01D310TD Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600V 24 Volt Coil \$50.00 [01/02/12]

**FOR SALE:** GE CL25A300T Contactor 4 poles rated 32 A @ 600 V 120 Volt Coil \$75.00 [01/02/12]

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

**FOR SALE: Icom SP-23 Speaker** Brand New in the box! Matches all newer Icom rigs. Four filters, front panel headphone jack. Cost new \$220. Will sell for \$160 [11/2/11]

Contact: **Ed** - [N8EQJ@portcars.org](mailto:N8EQJ@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: 7" Screen GPS** - Great for all you APRS & EMCOMM 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, original box, manual with everything including suction mount. \$150 [01/02/12]

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

**Editor's Note:** Ads for PCARS members 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: [12/02/11] This will help keep the listings current.

## PCARS Meetings

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

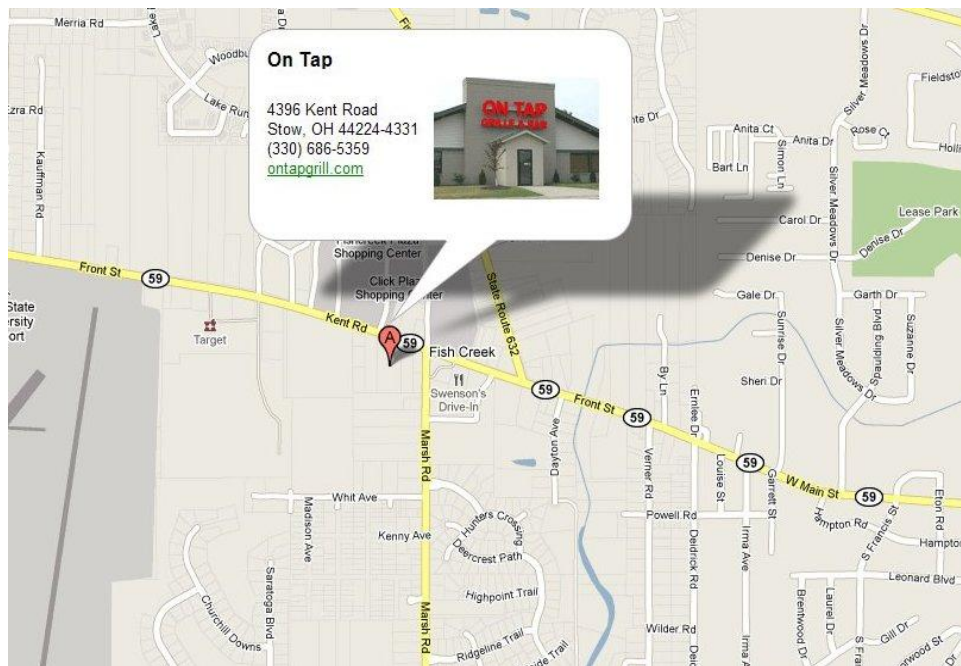
**On Tap Grille**, - 4396 Kent Rd.  
(State Route 59), in Stow.

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 at the On Tap Grille  
January through November.

The December meeting is the PCARS Christmas Party and is usually at another location.



## HF Shoes

Its KlondikeMike here, I just wanted to let everyone know if your having a problem with HF check your shoes. Yes I said your shoes. One day when the wife and I went out to eat there was the answer -on a TRAIN NO LESS!!! It was on the side of the covered hopper, and it says "2-inch HF Comp Shoes" I never knew the railroads were into HF, I guess I will call them and see if I can order a pair in my size. I wonder what they will tell me when I call! Probably can not type their response. Anyway check your shoes!



**Mike, KC8UNR**  
aka Klondike Mike

**Editor's Note:** For those of you confused:

<http://trn.trains.com/en/Railroad%20Reference/ABCs%20of%20Railroading/2006/05/Freight%20car%20markings.aspx>  
2 IN HF COMP SHOES means the car has 2-inch thick, high-friction, composition (as opposed to cast-iron) brake shoes.

## 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 **40** 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).

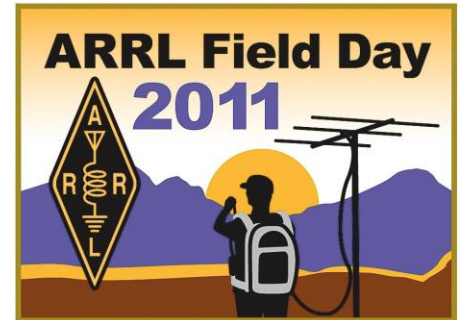
Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history!!** The official form for obtaining your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS Yahoo Group site.



## ***K8BF - PCARS - Field Day Results***

The wait is over and the results are in! The ARRL published the 2011 Field Day results on its web site, and will also publish them in the December 2011 issue of QST magazine. All I can say is WOW, you all did a GREAT job showcasing PCARS to the national Amateur Radio community. Below are some highlights of the results.

- With a total score of 10,078, PCARS was 58th out of a total of 2,632 entries, regardless of entry class meaning we did better than 97.8% of all other entries!
- In all Class 4A entries, PCARS ranked 8th out of a total of 125 entries, better than 93.6 % of all Class 4A entries.
- In the Ohio section, PCARS ranked 4th out of a total of 134 entries, better than 97% of all Ohio section entries.
- In Ohio section Class 4A entries, PCARS was ranked 2nd out of 7 entries, better than 71.5% of all Ohio section Class 4A entries.
- With a total number of participants of 220 people, PCARS was tied for 2nd with W6WC (ORG, California). Only K4JJ (GA) had more participants.



From start to finish Field Day at PCARS was a total team effort and the results above show just how strong the team was and how well we worked together. No team can function without effective leadership and the folks that volunteered as station captains and logistic section leaders did a superb job organizing their sections and motivating their volunteers to excel. Our volunteers really pounded the ground and made it all happen. To everyone that participated in the PCARS Field Day, my most sincere THANK YOU and congratulations for a job well done!

***Rick, K8CAV***  
PCARS Field Day Incident Commander

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## ***Daylight Savings Time Ends - Sunday - Nov 6th***

Remember that old saying: 'Spring forward, Fall back'. That means we turn our clocks BACK.

However, UTC time does not change, WE change from EDT to EST (Eastern Daylight Time & Eastern Standard Time).

So what does that mean to us as hams? The difference between EST and UTC will be 5 hours. So, at 2 pm EST (or 1400 EST), it will be 7 pm UTC (or 1900 UTC).

Make sure your clocks are fixed and most important, make sure your computer is properly updated. If you get into a contest or make a contact and log it an hour off, you will most likely not get credit for it in the contest, and that DX guy will ignore your request for a QSL if you are that far off, too.



## Six Years and Growing

Turn back the clock six years - Fall 2005 - Ground work and preliminary meetings were held and paperwork had been filed with the state to incorporate the club.

November 14<sup>th</sup> - the first official PCARS meeting was held at Mike's Place in Kent. There, the founding members paid their dues, nominated and elected the first officers and approved the club constitution, logo, and other items to get the club underway. Following the meeting, our first roster was written up - we started out with just 9 members.



Today - Look at the PCARS roster now. Member number **207** was just recently issued and we're still growing! Look back at the newsletters, the annual DVD/CDs and you'll see we have come a long way. And you know what? The best has yet to come.

We have a great cadre of members dedicated to having FUN with amateur radio. Look at the club site - wow! Look at all the activities - busy!

We keep outgrowing places to have our monthly meetings - between 60 and 90 people show up for a meeting!! Amateur Radio is alive and well in Portage County thanks to all of **YOU**! Stay involved, support PCARS and most of all - Have Fun in this great hobby of ours!

---

## 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, W8AR, W8PT, WB8VNO, KB8UUZ, W8KNO, WB2DFC, N8RLG, KB3OQV, N8PXW, KD8MQ, KC8UNR, K8CAV, The USPS, 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 October PCARS Meeting







# Ohio State Parks On The Air - 2011

## Contest Results



### Club Station or Multi-op operating from one Ohio State Park - High Power

	Call	Club Name	Operating From	QSO's	Parks	Score
1	AB8DD	-	Kiser Lake	420	41	17,220
2	WW8OH	-	Buckeye Lake	295	47	13,865
3	K8BLP	Triangle ARC	Guilford Lake	210	38	7,980
4	W8MRC	-	Stonelick	190	38	7,220
5	KC8ZXU	-	Lake Loramie	156	41	6,396

### Club Station or Multi-op operating from one Ohio State Park - Low Power

	Call	Club Name	Operating From	QSO's	Parks	Score
1	K8UU	R. L. Drake ARC	Hueston Woods	185	34	6,290
2	WB8LCD	-	Tinkers Creek	172	33	5,676
3	WA8PGE	-	Great Seal	93	34	3,162
4	W8UKE	Athens Co. ARA	Strouds Run	70	29	2,030
5	N8IHI	Ashland Area ARC	Mohican	44	21	924

### Single Operator operating from one Ohio State Park - High Power

	Call	Operating From	QSO's	Parks	Score
1	KD8MQ	Lake Hope	237	40	9,480
2	KD8BBK	Salt Fork	174	39	6,786
3	NX8G	Wolf Run	146	31	4,526
4	N8XSF	Mary Jane Thurston	104	30	3,120
5	KD8JRH	Malabar Farm	62	29	1,798

### Single Operator operating from one Ohio State Park - Low Power

	Call	Operating From	QSO's	Parks	Score
1	K8FH	Findley	105	40	4,200
2	K8ZT	Nelson Kennedy Ledges	36	21	756
3	K8FEY	Pymatuning	25	16	400

### Single Operator or Multi-op operating inside Ohio not at an Ohio State Park

	Call	Operating From	QSO's	Parks	Score
1	K8DV	Goshen	57	37	2,109
2	W8EOT	Greenville	55	36	1,980
3	K8NYM	Kent	51	36	1,836
4	AA8M	Castalia	40	31	1,240
5	WT8E	Athens	40	28	1,120

### Single Operator or Multi-op operating from outside Ohio

	Call	City	State	QSO's	Parks	Score
1	K9LZJ	Greenfield	Indiana	60	31	1,860
2	KJ4KVC	Lyles	Tennessee	44	34	1,496
3	K8GVK	Williamston	Michigan	37	30	1,110
4	W3GEG	Worthington	West Virginia	36	29	1,044
5	KA5VZG	Puryear	Tennessee	36	25	900

Expanded results and a list of parks activated (2008-2011) are located on the OSPOTA YAHOO site and OSPOTA web site.



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

Membership Application [ ] New [ ] Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? [ ] Yes [ ] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ (don't need year)

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

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

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

## Check One

## Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

☐

Regular Full Member

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

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

☐

Associate Member

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

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

☐

Regular Senior Full Member (65+)

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

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

☐

Associate Senior Member (65+)

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

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

☐

Family\* Member

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

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

Call Sign of Regular Member: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

What are *YOUR* Ham Radio interests:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date Received:  
New Renewal  
Date Voted:  
Database Updated

Initiation Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
O Cash O Check Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Results:

Rev 2009 0501



# 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, Oh or PL 114.8 ~ Kent, Oh ~ Echolink Node: K8SRR

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

### PCARS Appointments & Committees

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
EchoLink	<b>K8SRR</b>	Steve Randlett
Field Day	<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	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
P.I.O.	<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
Secretary	<b>KD8GGZ</b>	Mary Jo Loveland
VE Liaison	<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
Web Master	<b>KD8MQ</b>	John Myers



**PCARS  
VE Team**

<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward	1
<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson	2
<b>KB8DPN</b>	Russ Anderson	3
<b>N4IT</b>	Carl Capps	4
<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly	5
<b>N8XTH</b>	Deron Boring	6
<b>N8PXW</b>	Jim Korenz	7
<b>N8QE</b>	Bob Hajdak	8
<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis	9
<b>N8EQJ</b>	Ed Polack	10
<b>K8QF</b>	Russ Conklin	11
<b>K8GI</b>	Rick Patterson	12
<b>WB8VNO</b>	Gay Wands	13
<b>WD8CVH</b>	Ted Wands	14
<b>NX8G</b>	Rex Simmons	15
<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney	16
<b>AB8AA</b>	Allan Avnet	17
<b>K8JAA</b>	Jane Avnet	18
<b>KD8FLZ</b>	Mike DiCarro	19
<b>KE8G</b>	Jim Blanca	20
<b>W8RID</b>	Bob Davet	21
<b>K8MSF</b>	Bud Green	22
<b>KD8LEB</b>	Al Zielinski	23
<b>WA8CCU</b>	Al Nagy	24



### The **RADIOGRAM**

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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