



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



October 2011 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 6 No. 10

~ 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*

Fall is rapidly approaching and this is a good time to finish up all of those outside tasks such as antenna installations and repairs before the nasty weather sets in. Who wants to be staring glumly out of the shack window while the rain or snow flies wishing that you had done that work while the sun was shining.

But when the weather changes and we spend more time inside doing amateur radio activities, don't forget that the club shack will be up and running for a variety of enjoyable events. The second garage bay has been completely renovated and this will add a huge amount of space for meetings, projects and workshops. Many thanks to Mike, KD8FLZ, for all of his work in this substantial cleaning and painting makeover!

Tom, WB8LCD, is leading the Technical Team that is sorting out the ideas and suggestions for the routing and switching for the antenna feedlines into the radio room. Not only will things look a good deal neater but this will improve the functional operation of the radios, too. Let Tom know if you would like to assist.

Steve, K8SRR, and his crew will soon have the server installed in the workshop. Then we can clear up the clutter in there and begin turning it into a work area where PCARS members will be able to find the tools, equipment and space to tackle equipment problems and repairs.

Watch for more radio operations at the club shack. We want to see K8BF on the air more often and if you have suggestions for contests or events that you would like to see PCARS entering drop a line to Chuck, W8PT, or Joe, W8KNO. If you have suggestions for club station operations, send them along to Dave, WB2DFC.

The Special Interest Groups continue to meet on Tuesday nights and they are covering a lot of interesting topics. It is nice to have the SIG participants at the club site at the same time as the students in the Technician class. Don't forget that the General upgrade class will be offered again starting next January. Watch for more information.



**Jim, KC8PD**

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



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

The Sixth Annual PCARS Two Meter Simplex Sprint will be from noon to six p.m. on Saturday, October 15th, and the club station will be on the air to provide contacts for the mobile stations. This is a contest that is a lot of fun and the fun increases exponentially for each mobile station on the air.

If you have not participated in the past contests, give it a try! Whether solo or with a logger (which I highly recommend), you can have a blast. If you are at home, please get on the air, even if for just a couple hours. Those mobile stations will really appreciate the contacts and, who knows, you could end up winning the fixed station category!

In short, this is your club and your club shack. Come on out and join in the fun!

73,

*Jim, KC8PD*

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## *From the Vice President*

Next month, November, will be our annual election of officers. This year Jim, KC8PD, will be ineligible to run for president; Bill, WB9LBI, will be ineligible to run for treasurer; and Ed, N8EQJ, will be ineligible to run for trustee. All three have served three consecutive terms in their respective position, and PCARS by-laws state that the position will need to be filled by someone else. I want to personally thank each them and commend them for the jobs they have done in their respective positions these past three years. I can personally attest that each of them has given more than was ever expected of their time, talent and treasure in supporting the mission of PCARS. The current status and stature of PCARS among the ranks of Amateur Radio clubs is a direct result of their hard work. Thank you for a job well done.

To those of you who would seek their positions, it'll be a hard act to follow. But, the momentum is in your favor, good luck and God Speed as PCARS moves into the future!



**Tom, WB8LCD**

President John F. Kennedy said "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". Good advice, not only for a country, but for an Amateur Radio club like PCARS, too. Even if you cannot commit the time, the energy, or whatever it takes to be one of the officers of PCARS, your participation in running the club is both appreciated and needed. With all the events, programs and activities that PCARS has to offer, we not only need your participation, we need your help. Look for ways that you could assist in the planning and implementation of the PCARS programs. Step up and volunteer when the officers ask for help. With everyone involved in the process, PCARS will continue to be one awesome Amateur Radio club!

We've again made arrangements to hold our annual PCARS Christmas Banquet at the Paradise Lake Golf and Banquet center in Suffield. As I have more details available I will make them known, but for now, please keep Monday December 12th reserved on your calendars. (this would be our regular meeting night, and will be in lieu of our regular meeting) Our Christmas Banquet is open to all PCARS members and their families. We had to cancel last year due to a snow storm, so lets hope the weather will cooperate with us and this years program will go off without incident.

Finally, lots of activities have been happening at the PCARS World Headquarters on Oakwood Street in Ravenna. Your officer's have been trying to make the site a place where all members can come to hang out, get on the air, or participate in Special Interest Groups (SIGs) or operating activities. This will continue throughout the end of the year, and then on into next year. If you haven't done so yet, stop by and see what's going on. I guarantee you'll have some Big Fun!

73 to All,

***Tom, WB8LCD***

## K8BF QSL'ing

I received one QSL card for K8BF this past month and it was for a contact made during our 2011 Field Day event. This makes a total of 8 QSL cards received so far (all were from Field Day) and 8 cards of ours were sent out.



**Al, KB8VJL**  
QSL Manager for K8BF

## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:



- October 10<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - Satellite Operations - John Papay, K8YSE
- October 15<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS 2 Meter Simplex - Portage County Sprint Contest**
- 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

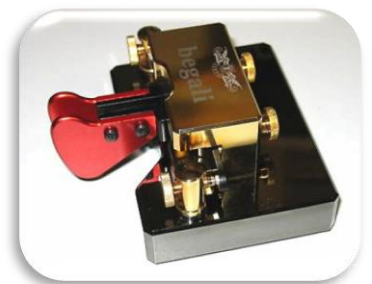
- First Tuesday - **Digital** Special Interest Group
- Second Tuesday - **QRP/CW** Special Interest Group
- Third Tuesday - **MARS** Special Interest Group and the  
- **Antenna** Special Interest Group
- Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** Special Interest Group
- Fourth Thursday - **Net Nite** at the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

## CW / QRP Special Interest Group

The CW / QRP SIG met on Tuesday, September 13th. (This group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month) . We discussed the possibility of starting a slow speed CW net on a “tech friendly” frequency.

To facilitate those who want to participate, but don't yet know the Morse code, we discussed the idea of having a code class in conjunction with the SIG to help bring new hams to the point where they could participate in the net.

A building project was also discussed for the future, possibly a code practice oscillator or a QRP CW transceiver. It was decided to wait until the October meeting to see if we had some additional members interested in participating with us.



So, if you have an interest in becoming a CW op, please join us for the next CW / QRP SIG on Tuesday, October 11th. 7:00 PM at the PCARS World Headquarters on Oakwood St.

**Tom, WB8LCD**



## Digital Contesting

There's nothing like a nice warm transceiver to keep you warm on a cold February weekend. It gives some incentive to keep transmitting, for me especially, since my ham shack is in the garage. Either way, you can tell the XYL that you are saving money on the heating bill while you are sweating over a hot radio.

Thinking back to last February is hard for me at my age but I do remember setting aside the weekend of the CQ worldwide RTTY contest. I have worked a few contests here and there but this one was important to me. I wanted to try out this new digital interface that I built. Not only that, but I have tried a few other digital contests and have found them to be a lot of fun. I am very rusty at CW and phone contesting can get a bit stressful at times, but digital is pretty laid back for me and how I do it.

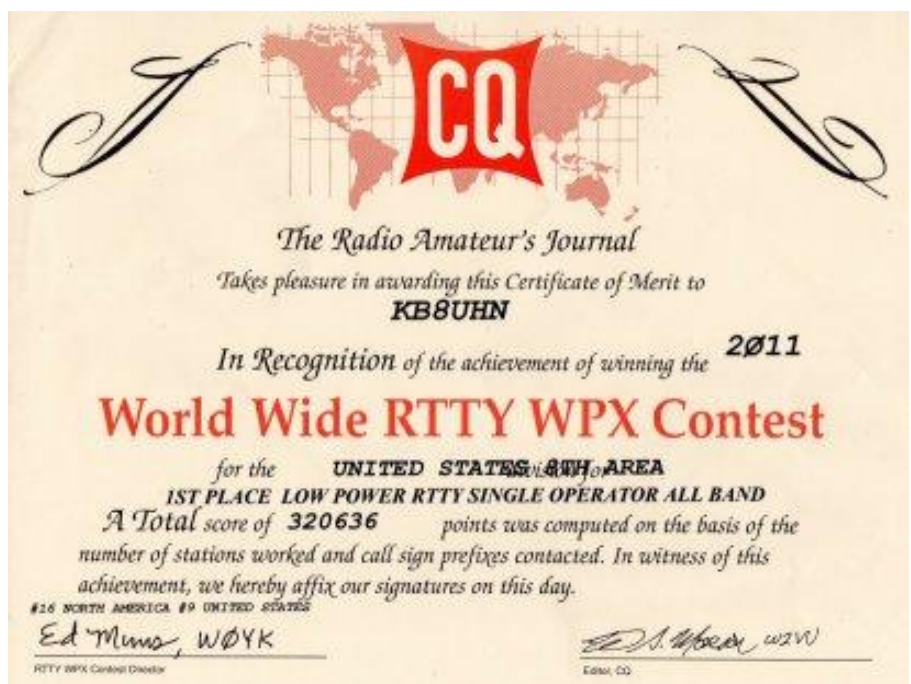
Coletta and the boys were absolutely fantastic throughout the weekend. They knew I was pretty worn out from working long hours at my job for many months. I had warned them that this contest was coming up and I wanted to "play" it. They supported my mission of "getting away from it all".

I got away from it all alright. Far away. I think my family may have thought somehow all that RF burned up all of my brain cells when I went upstairs whooping and hollering after R1ANC called me. Antarctica!!! How many hams got THAT lucky? I also got a few more new countries during that hot weekend in February.

So the big surprise was sitting in the mailbox today. **A certificate from CQ magazine with my callsign on it.** I never expected that! Nor did I "work" very hard for it. All I wanted was a break from work and to play radio for a while.

I just thought I'd mention that I'm not one of those "big guns". My station is very modest. My 100 watt transceiver is about thirty years old. The dipole is homebuilt and faces the wrong way. The digital interface is made from junk box parts. And the heat in the ham shack comes from RF and the desire to have fun. Try it. If you are intimidated by the contesting that may be happening on any particular weekend, don't be. Jump in there. It's a great way to rack up some countries and get some DXing experience. Most testers are out there to get contacts, and not to criticize you. They want your contact and won't spend the time complaining about small problems that you will learn to correct anyway.

The "contest season" is coming soon. November Sweepstakes is a great way to get your worked all states award and is my personal favorite. As the legendary Mr. Parky once said, "Send in your log!" You too just might get a surprise in your mailbox.



**John, KB8UHN**



## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in October:

KD8JRI	Curtis	Kesling
K8JAA	Jane	Avnet
K8AAB	Bob	Evans
N8ONI	Pat	Karl
WB8VNO	Gay	Wands
KD8EPG	Ken	George
KD8IUA	Mike	Battershell
K8DER	Donald	Robinson
W8ZL	John	Davison

KD8FDN	Greg	Long
KC8DBX	Angela	Ziccardi
K8CAV	Rick	Kruis
WA8AR	Tony	Romito
K8MSF	"Bud"	Green
W8NET	Gene	Marsh
KD8PBN	Lloyd	Park
KD8MQ	John	Myers

**WD8CVH Ted Wands**

Editor's Note: Sorry Ted - You should have been on the September List!

## 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)



## PCARS VE Test Sessions



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

**October 1 ~ December 3**

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

## 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/>.



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



Chuck, W8PT

On Tuesday, September 27th, we had a meeting of the DX/Contest Group. A good group of PCARS members were present and we had a very good discussion regarding propagation, including working the greyline, how to interpret A and K indices and the solar flux. Some of those present discussed their latest DX worked and Wes, W8NYM, told us that he is waiting for confirmation from 17 new DXCC entities he worked this past month – if I heard correctly. And I trust that he will correct me if I have it wrong. Wes, worked the following in September: Liechtenstein, Indonesia, Franz Josef Land, Marshall Is., New Caledonia, East Kiribati, Pakistan, West Malasia, Albania, Djibouti, Kyrgystan, Cambodia, Tongo, Timor-Leste, Dodecanese, Afghanistan, Market Reef and Malawi. Come join us the fourth Tuesday of October for the next DX/Contest SIG.

October and November are setting up to be really interesting DX months.

A big 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).

### **DX**

**2M, SCOTLAND** (Satellite Op). By the time you read this, Paul, 2E1EUB, will once again be active as 2M1EUB for 14 days until about October 8th, weather permitting. The first week will be from the Island of Skye (western Scotland, IOTA EU-008, IOSA NH07, SCOTIA CN14, WLOTA 1626). The second week will be from the eastern side of Scotland in the Cairn-gorms National Park (WFF GMFF-001). Activity will be on 160m, 80m, and the satellites, as well as 2m SSB. Checkout QRZ.com under 2M1EUB for more info.

**3D2R, ROTUMA** (Update). By the time you read this, a large multi-national team should be operating on a DXpedition from Rotuma from Lami Bay, Suva. They will complete their DXpedition on October 7th. Their main goal of this DXpedition is to work every amateur radio operator who needs Rotuma for a new DXCC country. They will be active as 3D2R on all bands from 160-2 meters, including the 60m and 6m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will also be active on PSK, SSTV and EME. Special attention will be made to work stations from Europe and Africa during those periods when propagation permits. The propagation window for EU and Africa is very brief at times and signals may be weak, so they ask everyone in the honor of HAM SPIRIT to stand by when asked so that they may fulfill this need. They plan to upload their logs on a daily basis to their online log. They will upload to LoTW approximately six months following the DXpedition. The team is still currently seeking additional Club and Individual Sponsors to help them defray the costs of carrying out this DXpedition. QSL via YT1AD, direct or by the Bureau.

**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.



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

**FH, MAYOTTE.** Phill, F6GNT, active as FH8NX from Mayotte Is. (AF-027) until March 2013. Activity 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). Ops Nikola/VE3EY & John/VE3TA will be active as FJ/homecall from St. Barthelemy (NA-146) 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.

**FR, REUNION ISLAND.** Willi, DJ7RJ, will once again be active as FR/DJ7RJ from Reunion Island (AF-016) between October 4-26th. Activity will be focused on the lower bands using a Elecraft K2 with a 500 watt amp into an inverted L antenna. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct (see details on QRZ.com)

**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.

**HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN.** Mek, SP7VC, active as HB0/SP7VC - October 25-31st. Activity will be on 160-10 meters including 17/12m using SSB. He will also be on 6m, if open. Mek will also be active in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 29-30th). Equipment will consist of an IC-746, HEX Beam, R-7 vertical, INV-L for 160/80m, 3 element yagi for 6m, an ALPHA 76A and a PA for 6m. QSL via LoTW or his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

## 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.

**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

**JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA.** (Reminder) Take, JG8NQJ, is now active as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island in the Minami Torishima (OC-073) group until mid-October 2011, but will return again in December. Present activity has been only 30 and 17 meters. However, when Take returns to the island at the end of the year, he will be active on all bands. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct to JA8CJY: Susumu 'Sin' Sanada, 5-17, 5-4, Shin-Ei, Toyohira, Sapporo 004, Japan. Online log is available at: <http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?jd1-jg8nqj>

**MU, GUERNSEY** (Update). Members of the Dutch Contest and Expedition team (PA6Z) will be active as MU/PA9M from Guernsey (EU-114) between October 23-30th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW and SSB. Operators mentioned are Marcel/PA9M, Frank/PA4N, Jelmer/PA5R, Dervin/PD9DX, Arbo/PH0AS, Arend/PA2AWU and Dick PA4VHF. QSL via PA9M, direct or by the Bureau. For more details and updates, go to: <http://www.pa6z.nl/guernsey2011>

**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.



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

**T32, CHRISTMAS ISLAND** (Reminder). Just a reminder that members of the Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) will activate T32C from Kiritimati (Christmas Island) between September 27th and October 25th. The T32C team will have no less than 41 operators, some of whom will be there for the whole period, others will be there for the first or second half. At any one time there will be around 30 operators on the island permitting them to operate round the clock on all bands with propagation and other factors permitting, two stations active on each of 80-10 meter bands. Internet access to and from Christmas Island is limited. However, logs will be uploaded to ClubLog ([www.clublog.org](http://www.clublog.org)) on a daily basis and any news posted with be on the T32C website.

**PJ5, SABA AND ST. EUSTATIUS.** Operators Wlodek/SP6EQZ and Janusz/SP6IXF will once again be active as PJ5/SP6EQZ and PJ5/SP6IXF from St. Eustatius (NA-145) between October 20th and November 3rd. Activity will be on all HF bands, 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.

**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 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.

There you have it for October. And unless your antenna is not operational, like yours truly, get on the air and work some DX.

CU dn the log. Gud DX and 73,

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



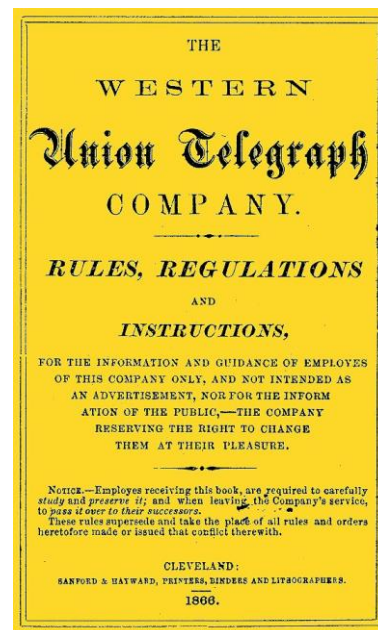
## 73 (not 73s)

The traditional expression "73" goes right back to the beginning of the landline telegraph days. It is found in some of the earliest editions of the numerical codes, each with a different definition, but each with the same idea in mind--it indicated that the end, or signature, was coming up. But there are no data to prove that any of these were used.

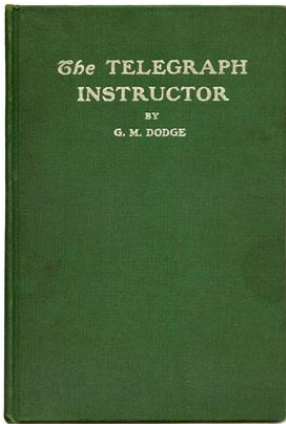
The first authentic use of 73 is in the publication *The National Telegraph Review and Operators' Guide*, first published in April 1857. At that time, 73 meant "My love to you!" Succeeding issues of this publication continued to use this definition of the term. Curiously enough, some of the other numerals then used have the same definition now that they had then, but within a short time, the use of 73 began to change.

In the National Telegraph Convention, the numeral was changed from the Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism. Here, 73 was a greeting, a friendly "word" between operators and it was so used on all wires.

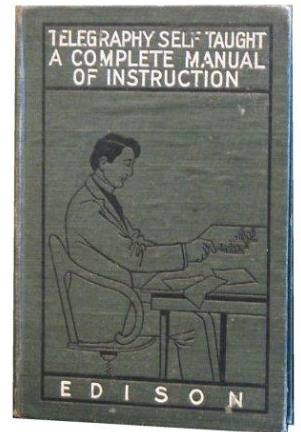
In 1859, the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 Code". A list of numerals from one to 92 was compiled to indicate a series of prepared phrases for use by the operators on the wires. Here, in the 92 Code, 73 changes from a fraternal sign to a very flowery "accept my compliments," which was in keeping



with the florid language of that era.



Over the years from 1859 to 1900, the many manuals of telegraphy show variations of this meaning. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* shows it merely as "compliments." *The Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy* defines it two ways, one listing as "my compliments to you;" but in the glossary of abbreviations it is merely "compliments." Theodore A. Edison's *Telegraphy Self-Taught* shows a return to "accept my compliments." By 1908, however, a later edition of the Dodge Manual gives us today's definition of "best regards" with a backward look at the older meaning in another part of the work where it also lists it as "compliments."



"Best regards" has remained ever since as the "put-it-down-in-black-and-white" meaning of 73 but it has acquired overtones of much warmer meaning.

Today, amateurs use it more in the manner that it was intended to be used -- a "friendly word between operators."

*From the ARRL*



## *Morse Code Language*

The great code operators didn't separate the letters but actually heard the words or, in some cases entire sentences. When you are familiar with a language (in our case English), your mind knows how to fill in the blanks automatically.

Morse Code is also a language and when you are proficient in the code, your mind will also be able to anticipate and recognize whole words or sentences without you even realizing it. But like any language, it takes practice, practice, practice.

An example of how your brain will make sense of something using English this is shown below. This will put your dyslexia into a catatonic fit!



Dan, KD8EPA

Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can. fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too.

i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuam mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oedr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae.

The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

*Dan, KD8EPA*



## 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!

October	
10/06	WB8LCD
10/13	N8QE
10/20	KB8UUZ
10/27	KC8PD

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



### *Things to remember when running a net (any net).*

Listed in no particular order.

1. When people check in, if they drop the first part of what they say, remind them to press the push to talk button, WAIT a second or two, then speak. That gives the repeater time to react. By having them repeat their call, that may help them get in a better habit. Don't just guess, or fill in what you think (or know) should be there.
2. As you check in someone - acknowledge their check in by saying their call sign, not just their name. We have multiple Toms, Jims, Bobs (and others) in our club.
3. ID with the club call, K8BF, every ten minutes (FCC regulation). AND, once every hour, make sure you say YOUR call as well (FCC Regulation).
4. If someone is having a rough time (breaking up, etc.) let them know and tell them you will come back to them in a while to give them a chance to fix whatever, or move to a better location, or up their power.
5. Have **FUN** - don't sweat it if you miss a call sign or name, get lost in your train of thought, or go blank for a second or two. It does get easier the more you do it! And, the more you do it, the better YOU get and at some point you realize 'Hey, this **IS** fun'.

*From the World Wide Web*

**Editor's note:** I made a few editorial changes including putting our club call sign in #3.





## Q-Codes for CW use

The Q Code came into being internationally in 1912 to overcome the language problems involved in communications by radio among ships and shore stations of all countries. The original list of 50 adopted by international agreement in London contain many which are still familiar to amateur operators - QRN, QRM, QSO, the traffic operator's QRK, QSY and QRV - are now nearing the century mark of continuous usage. QSL still has the official 1912 definition despite the changed informal usages it is subjected to in amateur parlance.

The QN signals for amateur net operation were introduced in the late 1930s by E. L. Battey W1UE (W4IA-SK) to lighten the burdens of net control operators.

Presented in the table below are some common Q-Codes used by radio amateurs when using CW (not on phone or SSB). These CW codes were found on the inside cover of an ARRL Amateur Radio Station Log Book.

Q Codes marked with an "\*" are the most commonly used today. A question is indicated by the use of the interrogation sign, "?", after the Q signal.

Signal	Question	Answer, Advice or Order
QRG	Will you indicate my exact frequency in kilohertz?	Your frequency is ... kHz.
QRH	Does my frequency vary?	Your frequency varies.
QRI	How is the tone of my transmission?	The tone of your transmission is ... 1. Good. 2. Variable. 3. Bad.
QRJ	Are you receiving me badly? Are my signals weak?	I cannot receive you. Your signals are too weak.
QRK	What is the legibility of my signals (1 to 5)?	The legibility of your signals is ... (1 to 5).
QRL *	Are you busy?	I am busy (or busy with....). Please do not interfere.
QRM *	Are you being interfered with?	I am being interfered with.
QRN *	Are you troubled by static?	I am troubled by static.
QRO *	Must I increase power?	Increase power.
QRP *	Must I decrease power?	Decrease power.
QRQ *	Must I send faster?	Send faster ... (words per min.).
QRS *	Must I send more slowly?	Transmit more slowly ... (words per min.).
QRT *	Must I stop transmission?	Stop transmission.
QRU *	Have you anything for me?	I have nothing for you.
QRV *	Are you ready?	I am ready.
QRW	Must I advise ... that you are calling him on ... kHz?	Please advise ... that I am calling him on ... kHz.
QRX *	When will you call again?	I will call you again at ... hours (on ... kHz.).
QRZ *	By whom am I being called?	You are being called by ...
QSA	What is the strength of my signals (1 to 5)?	The strength of your signals is ... (1 to 5).
QSB *	Does the strength of my signals vary?	The strength of your signals varies.
QSD	Is my keying correct? Are my signals distinct?	Your keying is incorrect; your signals are bad.
QSG	Must I transmit ... telegrams (or one telegram) at a time?	Transmit ... telegrams (or one telegram) at a time.
QSK *	Shall I continue the transmission of all my traffic?	I can hear you between my signals. Continue: I shall interrupt you if necessary.
QSL *	Can you acknowledge receipt?	I am acknowledging receipt.
QSM	Shall I repeat the last telegram I sent you?	Repeat the last telegram you sent me.
QSO *	Can you communicate with ... directly (or through...)?	I can communicate with ... direct (or through...).
QSP	Will you relay to ...?	I will relay to ... free of charge.
QSV	Shall I send a series of V V V....?	Send a series of V V V.
QSX	Will you listen for ... (call sign) on ... kHz?	I am listening for ... on ... kHz.
QSY *	Shall I change to ... kHz without changing the type of wave?	Change to ... kHz. without changing type of wave.
QSZ	Shall I send each word or group twice?	Send each word or group twice.
QTA	Shall I cancel number ... as if it had not been sent?	Cancel number ... as if it had not been sent.
QTB	Do you agree with my word count?	I do not agree with your word count; I shall repeat the first letter of each word and the first figure of each number.
QTC	How many telegrams have you to send?	I have ... telegrams for you or for ....
QTH *	What is your position (location)?	My position (location) is ....
QTR	What is the exact time?	The exact time is ...
QST *		General call preceding a message address to all amateurs and A.R.R.L. Members. This is in effect "CQ ARRL".
QRRR		Official A.R.R.L. "land SOS." A distress call for emergency use only.

*from the ARRL*



## Heavenly Day, It's Gay

Fox Hunts are continuing, but we have changed the time to 6:30 due to shorter daylight hours. I tend to hide closer to the starting location of the Scout House behind the Church in Silver Lake. There is still time to see what all the excitement is about. We will continue until the time change, which makes this the first time we hold a hunt in November! The remaining hunt schedule is: October 5, October 19 and November 2.



Gay, WB8VNO

I have gotten out my trusty Portage County map to plot my route for the PCARS 2 Meter simplex contest. Ted, WD8CVH is going on a Seneca District BSA trip to Valley Forge/Philadelphia for the weekend but Liz, KA8BNS & I plan to participate and hopefully we can find a few others to join us. It was really fun last year and I hope to work more of you this year. This is a really well designed contest and low pressure. Well, I guess no contest is low pressure if you are competitive. But it is still fun!

Hopefully by the time this newsletter comes out we will be happily ensconced in a new vehicle - yet another black Honda Element. This is the last year it is being offered, in fact production has stopped and finding one to buy was a challenge. It seems to be radio-friendly. The accessory power jacks are not powered when the key is off, however a relay can be changed to allow the rear jack to stay on, which is useful for the radio. You just have to remember not to let it run the battery down. There were a few humorous moments watching Rick, K8CAV, who also drives a black Element, approach MY Element looking puzzled when my car didn't respond to his keyless entry fob key clicks. And to be truthful, I have absentmindedly approached his Element on occasion.

See you at the next meeting,  
**Gay, WB8VNO**



## EmComm

Training. Mention the word and some people are immediately put off by it. Their first thought is that it will be some type of boring drudgery. Maybe even a review of things that they are already pretty sure that they know. Even worse, it might be something that you actually have to pay attention to and learn something new and that sounds too much like work.

Those reactions are unfortunate because they are completely off the mark for the kind of training that is available both locally and from on-line resources. Plus, they overlook the fact that training comes in lots of different shapes and sizes. It can be anything from ten to fifteen minutes of information on a training net to on-line courses or to a formal program in a classroom setting. Training can also include drills and exercises as well as workshops and practice sessions on specific skills.

Training is how we learn and develop new skills and much of that training can be had at absolutely no cost. How can you do better than free?

Another way that we train is by regularly performing the same tasks so that they become routine and a matter of habit for us. Why? Well, if you are participating in an emergency communications response during a real-time incident the pressure can be great and the setting intense. Those well practiced skills will kick in and you will be able to perform at your peak capability because those skills have become so ingrained.

You don't have to look far for those training opportunities. Every other week, ARES® of Portage County holds its biweekly training net on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. on the 146.895 repeater. The nets are open to everyone and each of those nets will have a training component that you will likely find to be informative. Check in and participate!

At that same time and frequency on the alternate Thursdays, RACES, which is part of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Communications Unit, holds its training nets. The nets are only open to RACES members but you are invited to monitor them and following along with the training portion of the net.

Check out the wide variety of on-line classes offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>. Not only can you pick up the basic courses that involve an introduction to the National Response Plan and the Incident Command System, but you are free to take any of the other advanced courses that they offer.

Also, watch for information about an upcoming ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications class that will be sponsored locally by the RACES unit. It will be offered sometime in early 2012 and be open to all area hams.

Take advantage of those training opportunities. You and your community will benefit.

73,

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

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## Shack Shot - K8SRR

Steve, K8SRR was recently talking to his XYL about obtaining some new amateur radio gear. He laid out the various catalogs and discussed with her in detail the costs associated with them. He reminded her that he was doing all of this for her and the kid's protection.

He explained that in an emergency he would be able to communicate with other hams thus saving property damage or helping get public service people to where ever they needed to go.

I guess is wife didn't buy all that and SHE set up a new radio shack, just for Steve.

She was kind enough to shoot a picture of Steve standing next to his brand new ham radio shack. Last word is she is making him stay out there at night so he won't bother her or the kids while he is playing on the radio. I also heard Steve's dog got upset with all this and the dog refuses to stay outside anymore. So, Steve has the new radio shack all to himself.



Steve, K8SRR showing off his new ham shack



## ***Hamfest Report - Lincoln, California***

I left out at "really dark 30" to go to a local hamfest (north east of my QTH in Antelope, about 20 miles away). The annual hamfest was put on by three clubs: Western Placer ARC, Yuba Sutter ARC and River City ARC.

It was posted as starting at 6:00 AM. I got there a little after 6:00 and it was just starting to get light by then. I didn't see any PCARS members there though. I wonder why? The closest I came to seeing a PCARS member was meeting up with my friend Ken, N6MPH, who checked in to a PCARS net one time a few years ago.



**Ken, N6MPH**

The Fest was held at a park in a town called Lincoln. It was in the parking lot so it was a long and skinny set up.

Ken and I wandered down one side and back up the other. There were quite a few sellers and the general parking area was full so there was a lot of buyers. Must have been 25-30 sellers and maybe 150 buyers. Lots of older radios, some newer radios, a few antennas, one booth with a jillion small parts and fittings and batteries of all sizes.

I saw a lot of interesting items, some with good prices and others that could really hurt the wallet. I wasn't in the market for anything and nothing really jumped out and said I needed it. We wandered up and down a couple of more times, met a few friends, and wrapped up around 7:45. So that's it in a nutshell

***Randy, N6TL***



## ***Things Not to do on a 2 Meter (or 70 cm) Repeater***

Unless you really want to sound like a Lid (in no particular order). In the following the call sign KE8ZZZ is used in examples. KE8ZZZ has not been issued yet. Just substitute YOUR call sign in place of KE8ZZZ.

1. Don't say 'We', unless you actually have more than one person with you. Example: don't say "We used to have a CB radio" ... you're a ham radio operator now, so I would suggest you say: "I used to have an 11 meter radio".....
2. And, PLEASE - NEVER use "10-4" on the amateur bands..... That really makes you sound like a Lid. Same goes for other CB lingo like "keep the shiny side up", "What's your 20?", or worse yet "Good Buddy", "Roger-Dodger", etc.
3. You really don't have to repeat everyone's call sign when there is a group on the air. The FCC only requires you to say your own call sign every 10 minutes, and at the end of your last transmission.
4. Press the push to talk button and wait a second or two before you speak. That gives the repeater time to come up to power. If you speak too soon, I guarantee the first letter or two of your first word will not be transmitted to the world over the repeater.



5. You don't have to say "over" when using a repeater (unless your net [like RACES] requires it - they are practicing for when they have to be simplex), that's what the courtesy tone is for. It sends out the tone when you let go of your push to talk button. That tone (or beep) is the 2 meter repeater equivalent of "over" or "your turn now".
6. "73" means "Best Regards". If you say "Best 73", you are saying "Best Best Regards". Or, if you say "73s", you're saying "Best Regardses".....
7. Use common phonetics when needed. I actually heard someone say "J, as in Hay-sous"...
8. What you do on 2 meters will carry over to what you do on HF. And on HF, you really don't want to sound like a Lid. So take the time to listen. And, listen some more. Sometimes what you say is just an old habit, but habits can be broken. Just like when you find it annoying when people keep using the term "You know", and they don't even realize they are saying it. Or they say "ahh" after every other word. Those are habits that can be broken if you put your mind to it.
9. Don't say "This is KE8ZZZ for ID". All you have to say is "This is KE8ZZZ" or just plain "KE8ZZZ". Adding the words "for ID" is redundant. Your ID **IS** your call sign.
10. There should be slight pauses in between people talking just in case someone needs to break in for an emergency, or maybe to break in to join the conversation.

If you want to jump into a conversation, or jump in to ask something, when there is a pause, just say your call sign. Don't say "Breaker-Breaker" or "Breaker", that's just more CB lingo. If it is a true emergency you can say: "KE8ZZZ, Emergency".

[**Editor's note:** Chances are if it is a real emergency, you're going to be a bit hyper, or nervous about the emergency, so I would bet you are going to forget item number 4. But, if you say "KE8ZZZ Emergency" and the repeater only sends out "8ZZZ Emergency", don't sweat it, the really important word "Emergency" will be transmitted.

To avoid losing important information at the start, you could say "This is KE8ZZZ, Emergency". That way if you forget Item #4, the only thing that is usually lost is the word "This" and the important stuff is sent out on the repeater: "KE8ZZZ, Emergency".]

11. "Hi-Hi" is a term used in CW which means to laugh. Kinda like LOL (laugh at loud) is to texting. Hi-Hi really should not be used in voice communications. Same goes for QSL, QTH, QSY and other "Q" signals.

[**Editor's note:** For those of you NOT familiar with "Q" signals, please see the article called "Q-Signals" in another part of this newsletter.]

12. "What's your NAME?" Not "What's your HANDLE?" Coffee cups have handles, people have names. Same goes for "My name is Joe", not "My handle is Joe".....
13. "What's your personal?" **groan**.... see #12
14. "I'm destined." My goodness, that sounds like you just **died**..... Please, just say "I've arrived at the place I was headed for", or just "I have arrived".
15. If your conversation is going longer than 10 minutes, ID every 10 minutes (FCC rule). You don't have to get carried away and ID every minute or so.

16. When you're done talking - sign off with your call sign (FCC rule), don't just stop talking all together.
17. When you check into a net, don't say: "K8BF This is KE8ZZZ". Net control (K8BF) already knows their call sign. They are usually poised with pencil in hand to copy YOUR call sign. If you say K8BF, they probably are writing that down and will miss part of YOUR call sign.... So just say YOUR call sign, or something like "This is KE8ZZZ".

You worked hard to get an Amateur Radio License. No one handed it to you. So, take some pride in how you use those privileges on the air. When you're talking, other people are listening, (non-hams on scanners as well as regular hams) so leave them a good impression of who you are, and what you and we do when we're on the air.

Look at the list again. I bet you can add other things to it as well. In any case, no one is perfect and the FCC says you can talk about just about anything you want to on the radio (as long as you don't swear). So, get on the air, talk to other hams, leave a good impression of yourself and have **fun!**

**Tom, KB8UUZ**



## October Contest Calendar

October 2011	
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 1 to 2159Z, Oct 2
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 8 to 2200Z, Oct 9
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 9
10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 15 to 2359Z, Oct 16
<b>PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Sprint</b>	<b>Noon-6pm Local Time, Oct 15</b>
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 16 to 0100Z, Oct 17
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 17 to 2400Z, Oct 22
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 29 to 2400Z, Oct 30

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



## Swap-N-Shop

**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)



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**FOR SALE:** Used Leviton 430C12W 125/250 Volt 30 Amp watertight pin & sleeve connector excellent condition \$90.00 [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE:** 553 Feet of NEW 1-1/4" RFS Heliac with two (2) new uninstalled connectors . \$1000.00 [01/0/2/12]

**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. [01/0/2/12]

**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 [01/0/2/12]

**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. [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE:** Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. \$15.00 each. [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE:** New N-female to N-female Mil-Spec adapters \$4.00 each four (4) available [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE:** New N-male to N-male Mil-Spec adapters \$4.00 each four (4) available [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE:** GE CL01A400TJ Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600 V 120 Volt Coil \$50.00 [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE:** GE CL01D310TD Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600V 24 Volt Coil \$50.00 [01/0/2/12]

**FOR SALE:** GE CL25A300T Contactor 4 poles rated 32 A @ 600 V 120 Volt Coil \$75.00 [01/0/2/12]

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

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**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)

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**FOR SALE:** **7" Screen GPS** - Great for all you APRS & EMMCOMM 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)

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**FOR SALE:** **Yaesu FT-1900** single band 2m Mobile Radio (manual, power cables and mounting Bracket) Mic also, **ADMS 1900** Programming Software w/ USB Cable. **Diamond NR770HA** Dual Band 2m/430 Antenna (UHF mount) ...<NOTE> DOES NOT INCLUDE MOUNT - \$175.00 for all 3 as a bundle. [10/2/11]

Contact: **Al** - [KD8LEB@portcars.org](mailto:KD8LEB@portcars.org) or call 330-842-7640

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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 it with my 4 element SteppIR. [10/2/11]

Contact: **Chuck** - [W8PT@portcars.org](mailto:W8PT@portcars.org)

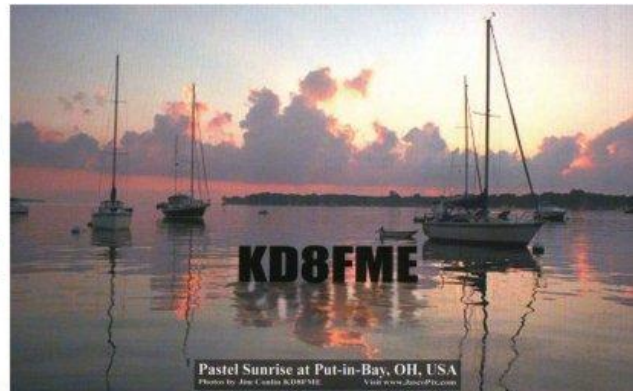
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*Editor's Note:* Ads for PCARS members run for 3 months then are dropped from the listing **UNLESS** you send it in again. Each ad will have an expiration date that looks like: [12/02/11] This will help keep the listings current.

## Hamfest Calendar

10/30/2011 - **Massillon Hamfest.** Location: Massillon, OH. Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club. Website: <http://www.w8np.org>

## QSL Card from PCARS Member - Jim, KD8FME

Jim Conlin	1531 Winslow Drive	Hudson, OH 44236 U.S.A.
Confirming QSO with.....	at.....	UTC.....20.....
Ur Sigs were RST.....	SSB CW on.....	MHz.....
<b>KD8FME</b>		
Transceiver.....	Antenna.....	<b>SKY/CC</b> Straight Key Century Club #4905
Remarks.....		
PSE QSL TNX	The QSL MAN® - W4MPY	Summit County • EN91gf



## PCARS Meetings

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

Meetings are at the

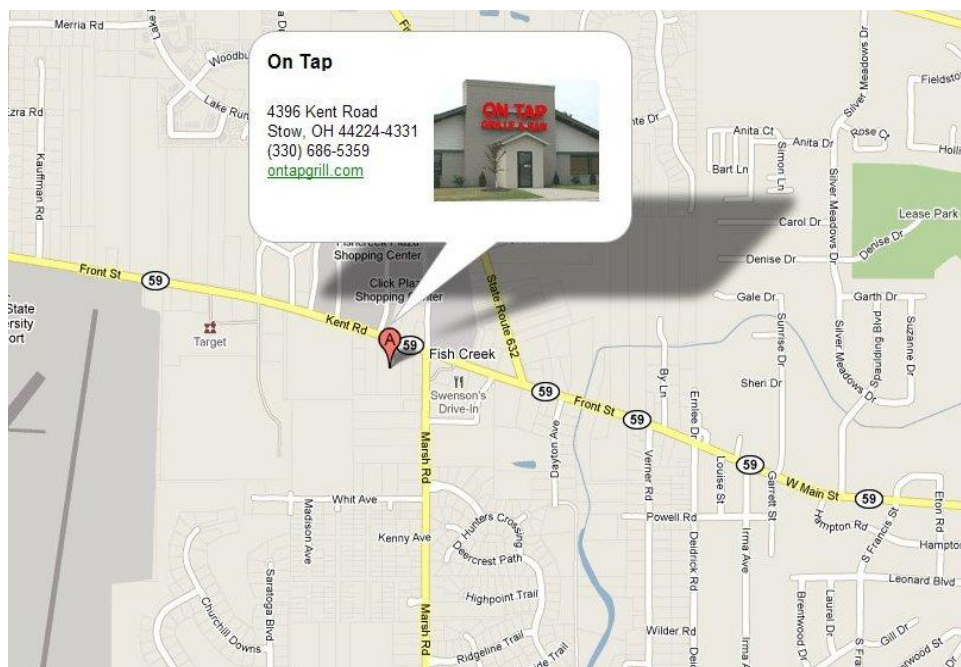
**On Tap Grille, - 4396 Kent Rd.  
(State Route 59), in Stow.**

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 - November.

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



## Ohio QSO Party Mobile

I had the opportunity to fulfill one of my dreams as a contester. I was able to participate as a mobile and I drove Jim Stahl, K8MR, during the Ohio QSO Party. You all remember him from his presentation "Contesting and the Ohio QSO Party" at the August PCARS club meeting.

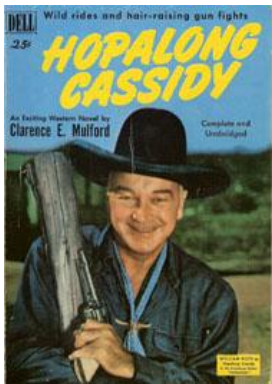


We departed the Eastwood Mall in Niles at 11:30 a.m. and returned at 23:59 p.m. We left before the contest began in order to be well south so we could visit the most counties in the twelve hour contest period. We visited twenty-seven counties and some of them we visited more than once. The counties visited were: Columbiana, Jefferson, Carroll, Harrison, Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Belmont, Monroe, Noble, Muskingum, Morgan, Perry, Athens, Hocking, Fairfield, Licking, Delaware, Knox, Morrow, Richland, Ashland, Wayne, Medina, Summit, Portage, Mahoning and Trumbull, in that order. It was supposed to be a 424 mile trip, but because of me getting lost and detours, I would guess it actually was about 435 miles total.

The trip did not go without Murphy dropping in. The Heil mike boom broke and we had to fix it with electrical tape, believe it or not, we had no duct tape.







Driving also has some benefits as you get to see new scenery. Sometimes you get so involved in what you are seeing you get lost. I only did this three times. My excuse is that the roads were not sufficiently marked. What did I see of interest? The first thing was that as you get near the Ohio River the trees were covered with tent caterpillars. Next, we drove through the hometown of Hopalong Cassidy but the most interesting thing, and we stopped to see it, was the Miners' Memorial Park in McConnelsville. The center piece of the park is the Big Muskie

Bucket. Big Muskie was the World's Largest Dragline and one of the seven engineering wonders of the world! The machine has even been featured on the History Channel! The Bucket weighs 460,000 pounds empty and when loaded carried an additional 640,000 pounds. Its volume is equal to that of a 12 car garage. Can you imagine what Big Muskie must have been like to even move such an object, let alone maneuver it effectively?



After dark, we drove back without a stop. We had a scheduled a stop but we would not have made all the counties if we had.

We ended with 789 CW QSOs, 79 CW Mults, 125 SSB QSOs, 58 SSB Mults, Score 233,311. That should be a new record for the mobile class. WHAT A DAY!

*Joe, W8KNO*



## ***PCARS Participates in OQP (Ohio QSO Party)***

.... or better stated "we had fun, food, and fellowship"

The date is August 27, 2011, the time, approaching 12 noon.... all awaited for the bands to come alive.. and we were ready !

With two stations on the air at all times, we had a constant stream of RF leaving the PCARS Club Site! What a great event, and to see and hear the HF activity from the radio room was just outstanding.

The room was divided into two operating positions, one for 80/40 meter phone and the other for 20/15/10 meter CW. The activity was fast and furious initially, but as more and more stations were worked, the activity slowed, which is expected. Also keep in mind the OQP for PCARS is promoted as an enjoyable event not generally aimed at getting the most "Qs", but having the most fun.

You may recall the OQP event took place during an active hurricane, and as such, many frequencies were "off limits". Those frequencies were written and posted on a white board mounted between the two operating positions. As operators of radio equipment at the PCARS Club Site, or anywhere for that matter, we should always be aware of any special/emergency type activity on the ham bands. Our charter is to help and avoid causing any interference.

Two significant problems arose during the OQP:

- First, a noise problem on HF still makes operations on most bands difficult. The noise is steady, S5 to S9, and can really make listening to signals hard. A search of the area with portable receivers may help locating the offending device. We can then work towards a "Fix"
- Second, the logging software used during OQP did not permit networking. Networking would allow the



collection, numbering, and tracking of QSOs regardless of the radio position or mode. Other logging programs are out there, and we have access to a few, but the learning curves could be prohibitive. Hopefully we can eliminate these before next year's OQP.

As for the results.... do you want the "good news", or the "not so good news". Well the not so good news is the N3FJP logging software would not permit the acceptance of the logs. Every time the logs were submitted, the contest robot (what I call it) rejected the files. I even tried to reproduce the Qs as an archived log, no go, on several different computers, all running the N3FJP OQP logging program. So, I sent the files to Chuck (W8PT) hoping his infinite experience and skill could resolve the problem.

A word to the wise, when finishing your logs and writing the Cabrillo file, re-run the logs as a continuing contest and see if they re-appear. If they reappear as normal, the Cabrillo file is most likely OK, if not, back to the drawing board. As of today, no logs were accepted by OQP.

Now for the good news. OQP contacts numbered 95.... with Bob, N8QE having the most phone contacts and Jim, KD8FME having the most CW contacts!! Bob and Jim were really hangin' in there and did an outstanding job of grabbing Qs.

Many other PCARS members participated by making a few contacts while others watched and visited. Chef Aylward make excellent burgers and all enjoyed the lunch. I am looking forward to next year's OQP. On my wish list, a new logging program and a noise eliminator.... (can I buy one of those???). Thanks to all who made OQP a very enjoyable event... See ya next year....

72 & 73,  
**Dave, WB2DFC**



## 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.

## Scouts to Take to the Airwaves

Each year, more than 500,000 Scouts in more than 100 countries take to the airwaves on the third full weekend in October -- and this year will be no different. The Jamboree On The Air ([JOTA](#)) is an annual Scouting and Amateur Radio event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement ([WOSM](#)). JOTA is an annual event where Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from all over the world speak to each other via Amateur Radio. Since 1958 -- when the first Jamboree on the Air was held -- millions of Scouts have met through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. The radio stations are operated by radio amateurs; many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations. The majority of JOTA Scouts participate through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual hams.



Scouts of any age can participate, from [Brownies](#) to [Ambassadors](#), from [Cub Scouts](#) to [Boy Scouts](#) and [Venturers](#). Once



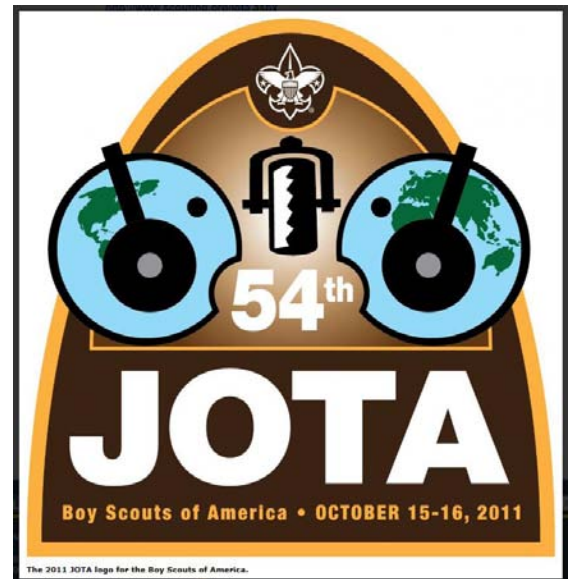
at the ham radio station, the communication typically requires speaking into a microphone and listening on the station speakers. But many forms of specialized communication can also take place, such as video communication, digital communication using typed words on the computer screen transmitted by radio, communication through a satellite relay or an earth-based relay (called a repeater). The exchanges include such information as name, location, Scout rank, age and hobbies. The stations you'll be communicating with can be other Scouts across town, across the country -- even around the world! The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2010 JOTA had more than 700,000 Scout participants from nearly 6000 Amateur Radio stations!

The 54th Jamboree on the Air is October 15–16, 2011. The official hours are 0000 (local time) Saturday, October 15 (right at midnight Friday) through midnight (local time) Sunday, October 16 (midnight Sunday evening).

Stations that participate in JOTA should call "CQ Jamboree" or answer stations doing so. Any authorized frequency may be used. The World Scout Bureau recommends that stations use the agreed World Scout Frequencies:

- 80 meters -- 3.690 and 3.940 MHz (SSB), 3.570 MHz (CW)
- 40 meters -- 7.090, 7.190 and 7.270 MHz (SSB), 7.030 MHz (CW)
- 20 meters -- 14.290 MHz (SSB), 14.060 MHz (CW)
- 17 meters -- 18.140 MHz (SSB), 18.080 MHz (CW)
- 15 meters -- 21.360 MHz (SSB), 21.140 MHz (CW)
- 12 meters -- 24.960 MHz (SSB), 24.910 MHz (CW)
- 10 meters -- 28.390 MHz (SSB), 28.180 MHz (CW)
- 6 meters -- 50.160 MHz (SSB), 50.160 MHz (CW)

These are "calling frequencies." After contact has been made, you should move off that frequency (either above or below) to continue your contact and allow others to use the calling frequency. Please keep in mind that this is not a contest to contact the most stations during JOTA. You do not need to submit your logs.



visit a local radio operator's ham shack at a scheduled time to participate in JOTA.

### **How Can I Participate as an Amateur Radio Operator?**

Contact your local BSA Council and see what may already be planned in your area and how you can help. You can find your council [here](#). If nothing is currently planned, or if current plans aren't reaching your area, you can work with the Council or a local unit (Pack, Troop or Crew) to set up a JOTA station or arrange for visits to your ham shack. You can also participate just by making QSOs with the many JOTA stations that will be on the air.

Here are some links where you can find more information on the 54th Jamboree On The Air:

- The ARRL's JOTA web page: <http://www.arrrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>
- The World Organization of the Scout Movement's JOTA web page: [http://www.scout.org/en/information\\_events/events/jota/the\\_54th\\_jota\\_2011](http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/the_54th_jota_2011)
- The Boy Scouts of America's JOTA web page: <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>

*From the ARRL*



## **ARES® 10th District Training Day**

Training Topics to include:

TRAFFIC HANDLING, GEOCACHING, TRANSMITTER HUNTING,  
GO KIT SUPPLIES, ARES® DEPLOYMENT BASICS

When: **Saturday, December 10, 2011**

Where: TriPoint Medical Center - 7590 Auburn Rd. - Concord, OH 44077  
Physician Pavilion - Lubrizol Conference Room



If you are not registered with ARES® - No problem! Not from District 10? Again, no problem! District training is open to all volunteers regardless of location or affiliation and it is FREE. Lunch is provided free at all district trainings.

Free training. Free lunch. Many volunteers spend hundreds of hours a year helping with public service events and drills & exercises. The least we can do is provide an opportunity for training, friendship, fellowship, camaraderie, and most of all, having fun. The free lunch is our way of saying thank you for all that you do.

If you have a Go Box and want to show it off, please bring it with you. Go Boxes are a staple at all district trainings.

All participants must register online. Online registration opens Saturday, Sept. 17th. Last day to register is Wednesday, Dec. 7th. Register at [www.ohioares10.org](http://www.ohioares10.org).

Have any questions? Need more information? Check out [www.facebook.com/aresdistrict10](http://www.facebook.com/aresdistrict10). Contact the District 10 Training Officer at [training@ohioares10.org](mailto:training@ohioares10.org).

**Matt, W8DEC**  
Ohio ARES® 10th District  
Emergency Coordinator



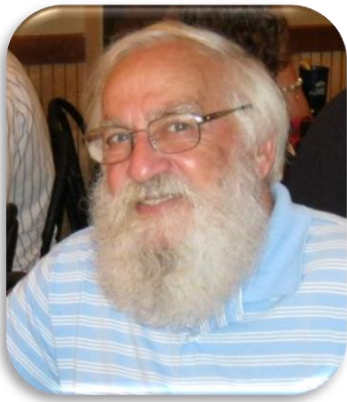
## **Paper Chase**

### **Worked Atlantic Provinces Award**

The Worked Atlantic Provinces Award is sponsored by the Moncton Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



The award is given for confirmation of on-air contacts with Radio Amateurs



**Joe, W8KNO**

located in a prescribed number of Counties in each of the four Atlantic Provinces – New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island & Newfoundland and Labrador.

To qualify, radio amateurs stations in the US are required to confirm contacts with 4 NS, 4 NB, 1 PEI county plus 3 VO1 or VO2 stations.

If you would like a certificate, send a GCR list and \$2 to: Moncton Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc. - WAPA Contest Manager Wayne Gillcash, VE1RR - P. O. Box 73 - Moncton NB E1C 8R9 - Canada

So get out your QSL Cards and start searching!

I'll be listening for you in the pile-up,  
**Joe, W8KNO**



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## Things are Brewing in the Shack

OK, it's just another typical night down in the shack, checking into the PCARS net and scanning across the HF Bands.

Does anyone really have all the antennas they need to work all the DX and other good stuff that's out there? Wish I had one of those fancy DX Engineering verticals to round out my antenna farm. But then again, you gotta be a Rockefeller to have one of those jobs with all the options....hey, wait a minute.

I've got an idea..... In fact, the perfect idea for a ham like me! Hang on, Stay Tuned, I'll get back to you later.



73,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**

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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, KB8VJL, KB8UHN, W8PT, KD8EPA, WB8VNO, K8SRR, N6TL, KB8UUZ, KD8FME, W8KNO, WB2DFC, W8DEC, The ARRL** and the **World Wide Web**.

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



**Have a Safe & Happy Halloween**

**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor

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# ARRL License Manuals

Now including Practice Exam Software

**Only \$30.00 Available from PCARS**

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



## Pictures from the September PCARS Meeting



**PCARS**  
12 Sept 2011



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



presents the

## 6th Annual PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest



**Saturday - October 15, 2011  
12:00 pm until 6:00 pm**

*See if you can Work All of Portage County, Ohio*



This 2 Meter FM Simplex contest is sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.(PCARS). The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

Contest is open to all - you don't have to be a member of PCARS, you don't even have to be inside Portage You can operate from home, mobile, or portable. Even if your passing through (or near) Portage County.

Heck, you don't even have be a 'contester' to have fun during this contest - just have some FUN!

Special Participation Certificate for all that send in a log! Hams belonging to clubs out side Portage County can also submit scores for themselves and your club scores, too!

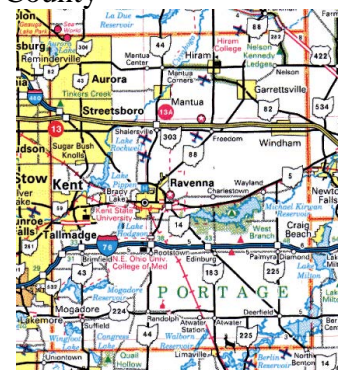
See how many Cites, Villages, and Townships throughout Portage County  
you can make contact with on 2 Meter FM Simplex.

In Portage County, there are:

5 Cities: Aurora, Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Tallmadge,

7 Villages: Brady Lake, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Mogodore,  
Sugar Bush Knolls, Windham

18 Townships: Atwater, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Franklin,  
Freedom, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna,  
Rootstown, Shalersville, Suffield, Windham



## Complete Rules, Summary Sheets & Log Sheets

are available for download on the

PCARS web site:

**[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)**

We'll be listening for you!

*Join us in the fun and see just how far your rig will go on simplex.*

*Best of all - let's have a FUN day on the radio!!*

*Need more information? E-mail [2Meters@portcars.org](mailto:2Meters@portcars.org)*





# 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 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
EchoLink	<b>K8SRR</b>	Steve Randlett
Field Day 2011	<b>K8CAV</b> <b>N8HUC</b>	Rick Krus Karen Andrews
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
VE Liaison	<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
Web Master	<b>KD8MQ</b>	John Myers

<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



PCARS  
VE Team



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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