



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



April 2012 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. VII No. IV

~ 2012 Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
 Vice President - Bill Fraedrich - WB9LBI
 Treasurer - George Proudfoot - K3GP
 3 Year Trustee - Bob Hajdak - N8QE
 2 Year Trustee - Sandra Getty - KD8JCY
 1 Year Trustee - Robert Gurney - N8RLG

~ Meetings & Nets ~

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

PCARS Incorporated
 Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
 Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
 April 20, 2006



Special Services
 Club
 March 22, 2010

From the President

I can think of several times in my life where more than a few people thought I was pretty darned hilarious. Unfortunately for me, those weren't necessarily times I was trying to be funny. More often than not, when I try to be funny, most people just think I'm a dork. So, the funny, April Fools type of article will be left to others more capable of that than myself. I'm going to talk about the Boy Scout motto: Always Be Prepared. Pretty good advice, but not something taken too seriously by the masses.

Most people rely on the "experts" to tell them when to get prepared for the impending disaster. That's when there is a rush on the stores and everyone runs out to get the necessities needed to make it through whatever peril we're currently facing. You see them being interviewed on the news standing in line at the big box store with a shopping cart full of bottled water, batteries, and whatever else they think they'll need but didn't have on hand – even though they had been through the same drill the last time there was a scare of disaster.



And there are a lot of scares, many of which really don't turn out to be much of anything. Our pals in the media know that the more scary the situation is, the better for the news cycle it is. Nothing gets your attention like an impending disaster. When the big one does hit, they want to be the ones who can say "we warned you of it", thus validating to themselves how valuable they are to society. It's better to turn every storm into "the big one" knowing that you'll soon forget about the ones that never happen, and you won't miss the big one because they all get reported that way! Its a win – win! Unless you remember that story about Chicken Little and the sky is falling.

People aren't prepared for the big one because they've lived through the predictions too many times to take it seriously. And I'll bet there's five who are content to not take it serious for every one of those stocking up on the bottled water. I'll bet most of the people across the midwest who experienced the tornadoes of late February and early March never expected what happened regardless of the predictions. They didn't even have the time to go out and get stocked up - they were either prepared – or not.

As springtime approaches us in NE Ohio, how prepared are you for a disaster, weather or otherwise? If you're not, don't wait for the storms to approach, get the gear you'll need and get it stored so it will survive.

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



From the President - Continued from Page 1

Many of us in the Amateur Radio community want to think of ourselves as being ready to help out when some disaster strikes close to home. But if you are not prepared for the disaster, you'll be a victim of the disaster. Victims aren't usually the best volunteers to help out. Bad things will happen, if not now, later - so get prepared for now and stay prepared for later.

I'll let you decide for yourself exactly how prepared you need to be, anything is better than nothing. If you're just starting out, get prepared for the short term (3 days to a week) and then build on that to make more long term survival goals and provisions. You'll need to prepare for every member of your family, and don't forget your pets!

Being prepared is a topic that has been covered in both ARES® and RACES. It's a topic that continues to be covered as an important topic in relation to Emergency Communications. In fact, lately there's been a lot of conversation among Emcomm participants about different training programs, such as the ARRL classes, and the ICS courses. These courses will prepare you to work both efficiently and effectively during emergency situations where you might need to work with, or along side, other types of emergency responders. Take the courses, and more importantly, participate in both ARES® and RACES. The activities are important training in preparedness.

There's really only one alternative to being prepared, and that's relying on someone else to take care of you. Our world has enough of those who cannot take care of themselves. Always be prepared. It'll make a huge difference to yourself and your family as to how you survive should catastrophe strike. And it will. Be prepared.

73,

Tom, WB8LCD



From the Vice President

The Club calendar is filling up fast with lots of fascinating speakers for our club meetings. Headlining the April monthly PCARS meeting is our own James Andrews KD8VT with his presentation Build Your Own A-Bomb and Wake Up the Neighborhood. James assures me that this will be much more than a slide show, with hands-on exhibits and working models. Top THAT for excitement!

In May, our honored guest will be E. Mike McCardle, KC8YLD, Ohio's Affiliated Club Coordinator for the ARRL. Mike promises not one, but three topics on his agenda, 1) News of ground-breaking activities taking place in the top clubs around the state, 2) His initiative to attract more young people into amateur radio, 3) How he came to change his first name legally to E. It will be a thrill for PCARS to have an highly placed member of the ARRL Ohio leadership with us. Usually we have to make do with Matt W8DEC, who we've all know since before he was important and whose luster wore off long ago.



Bill, WB9LBI and friend

NOTE: In last month's newsletter I got E. Mike's callsign wrong and identified him as K1MAN. This is entirely my fault and I apologize to E. Mike and the club for the error.

And now, let's dip into the Vice President's EMail bag...

"EmComm training begins the first Saturday in April and continues for the rest of the month. Your attendance at these sessions is mandatory. There will be no makeup dates, and no excuses will be accepted. Clear your calendar now, if you have not done so already. Classes will begin precisely at the scheduled time, and I expect you to be punctual." - KC8PD

"Hey, what gives? At the last meeting they stuffed a wad of paper in my hand and told me I won \$116 in the 50/50 raffle. When I get home, I find out that it's nothing but a bunch of passes to some stupid garden

show in Austintown. You guys have a lot of explaining to do!" - N8WLE

"Just wanted to drop you a line and let you know how much I enjoyed March Movie Madness at the last meeting. What a great time! Thanks for putting all together, and I'm looking forward to next month's meeting. Keep up the good work!" -KD8HGI

"I want to voice my dissatisfaction at your Movie Night at the last meeting. Your film Debbie Does D-Star was completely inappropriate for a mixed audience. The behavior of the membership was likewise a disgrace, with many of the men hollering and jeering at action on screen. Also, I found the scenes with animals to be in bad taste." -WB8VNO

"Bill, I just got off a QSO with my friend Steve N0TU and he said he could come visit us at the June meeting, and bring his goats Rooster and Peanut with him! Live goats! Right there with us in the meeting! Isn't that great? Don't worry about the Health Dept., they owe me one or two. Can you get it on the schedule so I can tell Steve? Thanks, Buddy!" -WB2DFC

"I refreshed my SKYWARN training last week and was surprised to hear the weather forecaster leading the training talking about Ground Hog's Day. Just because a furry rodent wears a little top hat and a monocle, is no basis for meteorological theory. Can't we all just move past this?" -KD8JRK

"I say again: Attendance at EmComm training is mandatory and, and any absence will be dealt with swiftly and severely. Also, homework assignments are to be submitted on time, in writing, and the on approved printed forms. Late or missing work assignments are not acceptable. Do not email or call with questions or comments. Read my previous instructions. Everything has been explained thoroughly, there is nothing to question or comment upon. I am not kidding about this." -KC8PD

Keep those cards and letters coming, folks! See you on the air!

Bill, WB9LBI



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!



April	
5	WB2DFC
12	N8QE
19	KB8UHN
26	KB8UUZ

May	
3	KD8JCY
10	N8RLG
17	WB8LCD
24	KD8FDK
31	N8EQJ

June	
7	N8WLE
14	KC8PD
21	N8QE
28	KB8UUZ



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

Hope to hear you on the net,

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:



- April 1st - **Hey, it's April Fools Day**. Obviously some articles in this newsletter are jokes.
- April 7th - **VE session at the Center of Hope** - 10 am - walk-ins always welcome
- April 9th - **PCARS Meeting** - Transmission Lines - James, KD8VT
- May 14th - **PCARS Meeting** - Activities from clubs around Ohio - Affiliated Club Coordinator E. Mike McCardle, KC8LYD

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



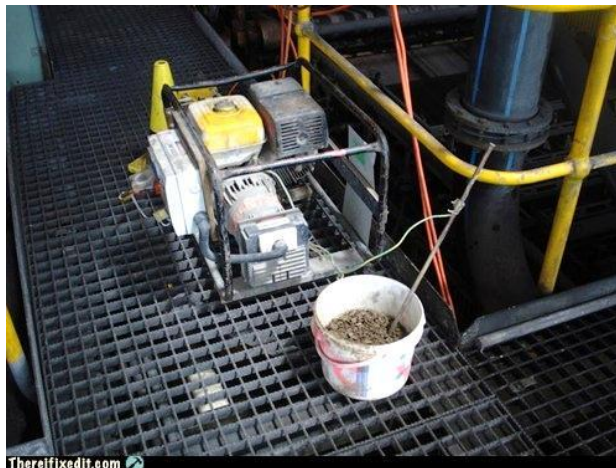
- First Tuesday - **Digital** Special Interest Group
- Second Tuesday - **QRP/CW** Special Interest Group
- Third Tuesday - **MARS** Special Interest Group and the **Antenna** Special Interest Group
- Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** Special Interest Group
- Fifth Tuesday - **Linux for Hams** Special Interest Group



Fourth Thursday - **Net Night** at the club site - 6:30 pm

Note: You don't want to miss the April PCARS meeting – our own Buffalo James, KD8VT will be talking about transmission lines.

He said he may even talk about station generator grounding. This is an important item for all of us. The picture on the right shows one type of grounding scheme.



Additionally, we have heard that Rick, K8CAV is in the process of coming up with a new digital interface project for PCARS members. This one is based on the Olivia Newton John data transfer protocol and will be, in Rick's words: "A rockin' good digital interface". More details on this super project will be sent out to all PCARS members when they become available.

**Rick, K8CAV
working on the
prototype digital interface**



Technical Stuff

The Dracosonic AC001 Audio Catchers. This new product from Dracosonic is designed especially for those of you that like the full sound of a large speaker, but also want to block out those annoying background sounds, like the spouse and kids.

Just slip these over your ears and tune away! The specially designed ear-cups enhance sound from the direction you are facing, so as long as you are looking at your radio, it's going to take some serious shouting for anyone else to get your attention.

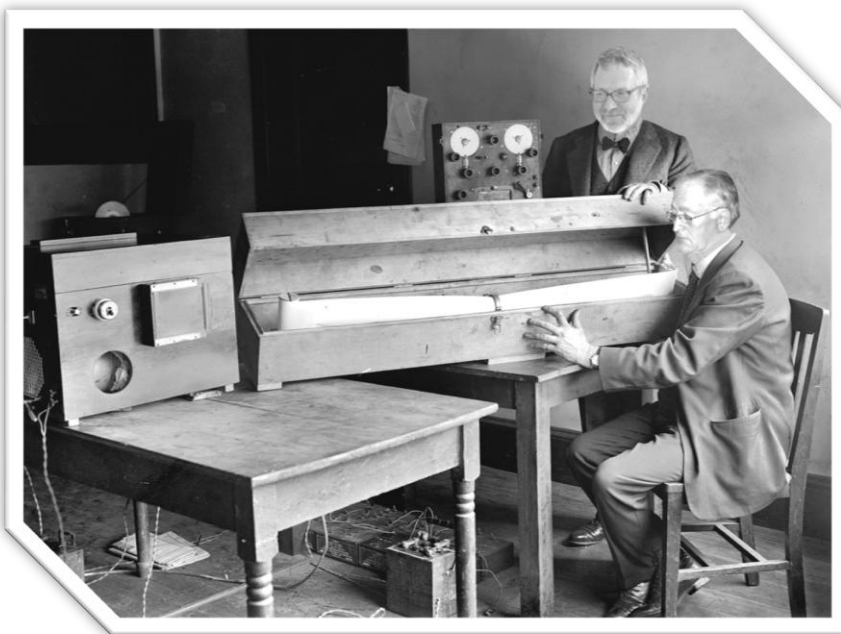
Not recommended for DXers whose wives are prone to violence. List price \$19.95. Order from your favorite DX vendor.



RTTY Historical Find

PCARS members and RTTY aficionados George, K3GP and Rex, NX8G recently came across this historical photograph of the earliest known teletype machine dating back to 1924.

After some extensive research, Rex was able to positively identify the two gentlemen as Mark and Space, the Keinschmidt brothers. George further determined that this Teletype was a RO (Receive Only) model (Note that there is no keyboard) and was only practical for SO2T (Single Operator, Two Table) operation. Printing on this early unit was continuous (this unit was incapable of performing carriage returns or line feeds) on the Papyrus rolls that progressed from right to left inside the large printing chamber.



Brothers Mark and Space later made improvements to their machine, including punched papyrus tape capability. It was estimated that due to the size of these early units, the chamber could accommodate the chad from at least one year's punched papyrus tape processing before it would need to be emptied.

The Kleinschmidt brother's work came to a tragic end in October, 1929 when Mark (standing in the above photo), upon learning of the stock market crash dropped his lit pipe into one of these machines, starting a conflagration that rivaled the one caused years earlier by Mrs. O'leary's cow. The fire rapidly spread once it reached adjacent Papyrus processing and storage area, destroying the entire factory along with eight adjacent city blocks of Niles, Illinois.

333-3333,
George, K3GP

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in April:

KD8MWE	Jeff Burke
KD8RJV	James Corbett
AI8P	Dennis Conklin
KD8GHB	Joe Rocco
N8OQQ	Bryan Buchwalter
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
WB2DFC	Dave Rarrick
KC8FQV	Mark Studer

N1EZZ	George Riedel
KW8KW	Bill O'Neil
KD8PMH	Robert Wilson
AB8SX	Mark Eldridge
KA8BNS	Elizabeth Milford
N8GLK	Leon Loveland
W8JJW	John Wagner

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

April 7 ~ June 2 ~ August 4 ~ October 6 ~ December 1

VE sessions for Technician, General & Amateur Extra start at 10:00 am at the PCARS Club Site – 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna. Walk-ins are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

ON EXAM DAY BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport).
2. When no photo ID is available, two forms of identification must be presented:
 - a. non-photo ID/driver's license (some states still have them)
 - b. birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal)
 - c. social security card
 - d. library card
 - e. utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; or a postmarked envelope addressed to the person at his or her current mailing address as it appears on the Form 605.
3. Students may bring any of the above items and/or a school ID, minor's work permit, report card, or a legal guardian may present a photo ID.
4. Bring your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC issued Federal Registration Number (FRN). VEC's are required by the FCC to submit either your SSN or your FRN number with your license application form. If you prefer not to give your SSN at the exam session, then you may register your SSN with the FCC before exam day. Once you have a FCC issued FRN, you may no longer use your SSN on the application. For instructions on how to register your SSN with the FCC and receive a FRN, visit the FCC's FAQ page and the FCC's registration instructions page.
5. If applicable, bring the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may hold from previous exam sessions. The photocopy(s) will not be returned.
6. Two number two pencils with erasers and a pen.



7. A calculator with the memory erased and formulas cleared is allowed. You may not bring any written notes or calculations into the exam session. Slide rules and logarithmic tables are acceptable, as long as they're free of notes and formulas. Cell phone must be silenced or turned off during the exam session and the phones' calculator function may not be used. In addition, iPhones, iPads, Androids, smartphones, Blackberry devices and all similar electronic devices with a calculator capability, may NOT be used.
8. Bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam session fee of \$15.00. If using a check or money order, the payee is "ARRL-VEC".

Robert, N8RLG
PCARS VE Team Liaison



DXCC Rate Changes

The DX Century Club (**DXCC**) is the premier Amateur Radio operating award. Available to hams around the world, tens of thousands of awards have been issued since 1945 under the modern award program. In 2012, the DXCC program is not only still thriving, but it is growing, both in participation and in numbers of award options. The addition of Logbook of the World (**LoTW**) and soon, the addition of an Online DXCC Application utility, will continue to help the program grow. Effective Monday, April 2, the way DXCC fees are assessed will change. These changes will include both rate increases and rate decreases.

The ARRL continues to add new and exciting twists to the DXCC platform, including a special 75th anniversary **Diamond DXCC Challenge** award for 2012. The DXCC Challenge -- which counts total entities confirmed on 160-6 meters -- has proven to be extremely popular as a competitive supplement for everyone, complementing the lifetime achievement of the DXCC Honor Roll. The ARRL website continues to add to the fun with many pages of award statistics and information, including DXCC standings for each award that are updated daily. Inside Logbook of The World, each user can see which records are stored in the DXCC system for all of his or her entities on each band and mode. In 2011, the DXCC Desk processed more than 11,450 DXCC applications and endorsements.

As a direct result of the terrific popularity of the DXCC program, our customer service has lagged a bit. DXCC participants know that when the end-of-year deadline is reached, the load on the staff is quite heavy and the turnaround time increases to more than 10 weeks. Our staff want to provide better service and will continue to try to do so. The old fee structure is one of the culprits that increased the workload. Most participants submitted one or two applications each year, with each of those applications loaded with at least 120 QSOs and included a Logbook application component, as well.

One of the reasons these applications have been so large is that for many years, DXCC charged extra fees for second and subsequent applications each year. Additionally, application fees were waived for LoTW applications if they were tied to a paper application, adding a large amount of work for the staff as they matched applications. Frequently, there were hundreds of applications on both the paper application side and on the LoTW side, waiting for their "hybrid match" to arrive, delaying processing and setting the whole operation back.

For applications received on April 2, 2012 and after, we are changing the fee structure for several reasons:

- Promoting more frequent applications
- Removing the "hybrid application" problem
- Simplifying the price structure for DXCC
- Raising the rates slightly to help offset ARRL's increased costs
- Improving customer service

The rates for DXCC have not changed since 2003. While the rates are going up for some single applications, for those who continue to submit multiple applications each year, the costs will be less. Accompanying the end of the “hybrid application” is a lower per-QSO fee for using credits in LoTW and the addition of a small application fee. “We want participants to use LoTW as often as they can and like” explained said Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. “LoTW applications are easier for everyone to process and remain the ‘way of the future’ to participate in awards programs. The costs of using LoTW are far less than traditional QSLing, when one considers the costs of obtaining QSLs which then need to be stored, recorded and carried to a card checker or sent to HQ.” As in the past, US participants must be ARRL members to receive a DXCC award. See the link below for an explanation of the new fees.



As indicated earlier, ARRL HQ will very soon launch an Online DXCC Application. This new tool will allow the client to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form, so that DXCC staff will not have to perform the data entry.

The way the Online Application works is that the participant can select the cards that he or she would like to have checked by a card checker and, at his or her convenience, type that data into a form (which can be saved and retrieved at any time until submitted) and make an application for DXCC. When the application is finished, the participant will be able to print the list of cards and take the list and the cards (in the same order that they are entered into the form) to a card checker who will check the cards, note any changes and send the form to ARRL HQ. The card checker’s job is exactly the same as before, except he or she does not need to collect a payment (unless the participant has worked that out with the card checker), as the client can pay online. At ARRL HQ, DXCC staff will be able to access the file submitted by the client, quickly make any changes noted by the card checker and process the application. The Online DXCC Application will have rates that are half those of a traditional paper QSL application that is sent to ARRL HQ.

On and after April 2, 2012, here is how the DXCC fee system will change:

- No more hybrid applications. Each DXCC application -- be it paper QSLs, LoTW or Online DXCC -- will be considered separate applications with separate application fees.
- There are no limits on the number of applications that can be submitted. There will be no more surcharges added to the second or subsequent applications.
- A traditional, paper QSL application will have an application fee of \$15 for ARRL members, and \$25 for non-members. These applications will be allowed to include up to 101 QSOs. Additional QSOs in this sort of application will continue to cost 15 cents each.
- A DXCC application submitted using LoTW will have an application fee of \$5 for ARRL members and \$10 for non-members. There are no limits on the number of QSOs that can be included as part of a LoTW application. Each QSO used in LoTW for an award will cost 12 cents, down from a minimum of 15 cents in 2011. We will no longer sell LoTW “credits” in bulk. If you have credits stored, you will still be able to use them.
- DXCC staff will not mail any paperwork for LoTW applications (credit matrix or application summary), as all application information will be available online in the LoTW User account.
- An Online DXCC Application will have an application fee of \$7.50 for ARRL members and \$12.50 for non-members and will be allowed to include up to 101 QSOs. Additional QSOs will cost 8 cents. This application is primarily intended to be used in conjunction with field checkers, but can be used by applicants who do not have access to a card checker and are willing to ship cards to ARRL HQ.
- Certificates will still cost \$14 delivered in the USA, and \$16.50 delivered outside the USA. Pins will continue to cost \$7 delivered anywhere.

- The fee for an initial DXCC award will now be the same as for any DXCC application.
- The free *DXCC Yearbook* that was sent to ARRL members will now be made available electronically, and it will appear in an edition of *Digital QST*. For those who want a League-printed *Yearbook*, it will still be available at a modest cost.

Questions? Please send an e-mail to dxccadmin@arrrl.org.

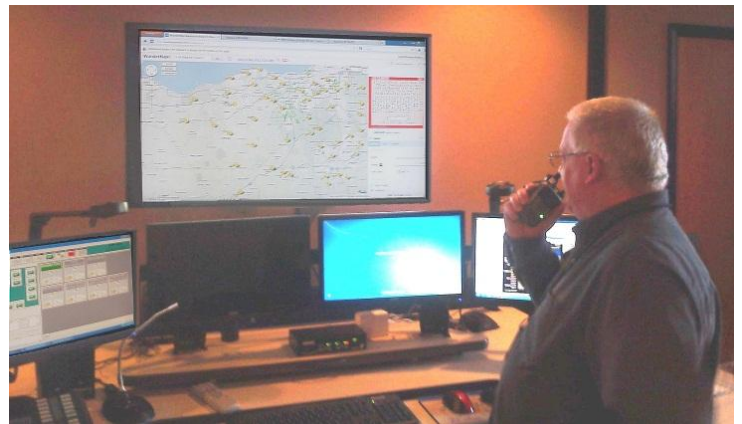
From the ARRL



Statewide Tornado Siren Test

As you know, March begins our severe weather season.... and as such March 28th was designated as the official test date for warning sirens. It gives all agencies in Ohio the opportunity to test and evaluate the siren system. I am fortunate to work for an agency with a "state of art" dispatch center where all warning siren activations are simply a mouse click away. I am very proud of our center in The City of Ravenna and the professionals who staff it. On March 28th 2012 at exactly 09:50 AM, the siren system was tested... and it performed perfectly.

As is always part of our testing routine, a member of a local county emergency services organization participates in this annual test by being present in the dispatch center. This year Mike DiCarro, KD8FLZ (AEC, ARES® of Portage County), attended. Mike monitored the net on 2 meters and the activities in the dispatch center. I especially appreciate the effort on Mike's part and others who have been in the center during these tests, it shows a "community" commitment to awareness and planning for disasters. Thank you Mike.



73,
Dave, WB2DFC

Below is Mike's input on the test.....

=====

Wednesday, March 28 I had the privilege of being the "Official Observer" at the Ravenna Police Department for ARES® of Portage County during the Statewide Tornado siren test which took place at 0950. As a guest of Capt. Dave Rarrick, WB2DFC, I arrived at 0930 and was given a nice tour and explanation of the Police Department. My tour ended in the very well situated and functional Dispatch Center where 2 Ravenna Police Dispatchers were on duty. No, I did not end up in the holding cell!

At 0930 Mike, KB8TUY brought up an ARES® net to let Amateur Operators check in as they heard the sirens in their areas, Mike then closed the net with 16 total check-ins. Thank you to everyone that participated. I'd like to thank Dave for inviting me into the Dispatch Center and also to the Ravenna Police Department for doing a great job year round.

73,
Mike, KD8FLZ
AEC, ARES® of Portage County



Wrong Information

A group of Sales and Marketing experts for an antenna company were given the assignment of measuring the height of a flagpole for a possible vertical antenna. Wearing suits and ties, they marched out to the flagpole with their ladders and tape measures, falling all over themselves to get an accurate reading.

A ham radio operator comes along and sees what they're trying to do. He walks over, pulls the flagpole out of the ground, lays it flat on the ground, measures it from end to end, gives the measurement to one of the so-called experts, puts the pole back vertically into its slot in the ground and walks away.



After the ham radio operator has gone, the sales guy turns to a marketing guy and laughs. "Isn't that just like an ham?" he says. "We're looking for the height, and he gives us the length!"

From the World Wide Web

Hamfest Schedule

04/14/2012 **Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 58th Annual Hamfest** - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Website: www.cfarc.org/hamfest2012.html

05/18-19-20/2012 **Dayton Hamvention®** - Trotwood, OH - Dayton ARA - website: www.hamvention.org

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: George, K3GP at: K3GP@portcars.org

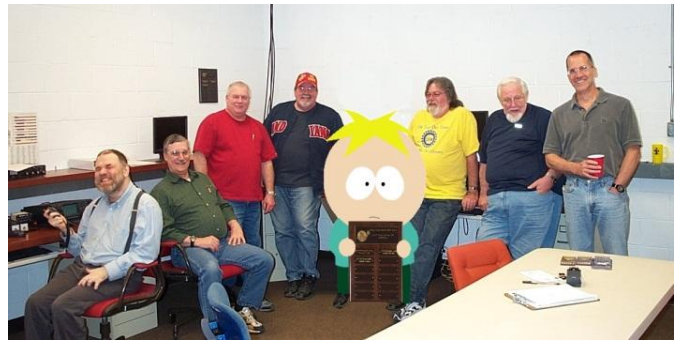


FYAO Wrap up at Net Night

As I presented KC8UNR - "Klondike Mike" with the Freeze Your Acorns Off plaque at the last meeting, I told you there would be a ceremonial hanging of the plaque in the radio room at the club site. That indeed take



place on Thursday March 22nd after the PCARS net closed out. While we had pretty good attendance, KC8UNR was absent. My only guess was it had something to do with the grumbellies. Anyhow, we couldn't



disappoint all those who did turn out, so the plaque was hung on the wall, and a photo was taken to commemorate the event. In Mike's absence, we grabbed the nearest copy of him we could find to pose in his place for the photo. Honestly, he's never looked so good!

Of those who turned in logs from FYAO, the ranking was as follows: KC8UNR, N8EQJ, N3JJT, WB2DFC, K8CAV. Next year, Klondike Mike is going to have to work some magic as N8EQJ was only off by a few points. While team Klondike had some boffo keen T-shirts, Ed's gypsy wagon portable operating shack and spa definitely has the creature comforts that will be needed on February 16, 2013. I promise, it's going to be cold and snowy then! And of course, that's just what's needed to motivate WB2DFC to rally.



and snacks that kept us going all day.

Special thanks to K8TUY who set up his "go-kit" two meter station and took all the local check ins. I also need to thank everyone who came out, hung out, and provided all the good food

72,
Tom, WB8LCD



EmComm

Spring is here and the Summer months are soon to follow. And with the improving weather come all of the outdoor events that benefit from the support provided by amateur radio communications.

Public service/special event communications provide the perfect opportunity for us to achieve two very important goals: practice both the planning and operational skills that we will use for emergency communications and provide the community a service that is a demonstration of the value of amateur radio.

On behalf of all of us who coordinate these efforts let me say this: we really need your help! Whether you are new to special events or an old hand at them, we will have a way to put you to work with an assignment that best matches your level of experience. We are almost always short-staffed, so we need more hams to step up and get involved.

Here is a short list of some of the upcoming events in our area along with the name of the contact person if you would like to volunteer:

- Cleveland Marathon – May 20, 2012, Jim, KC8PD
- Marlene Watt Memorial Event – June 16, 2012, Mike, KD8FLZ
- Headwaters Adventure Race – July, date TBA, Gay, WB8VNO
- Kent Kids Triathlon – July, date TBA, Sandy, KD8JCY
- Black Squirrel Triathlon – August, date TBA, Gay, WB8VNO
- Bellefaire Biathlon – August 26, 2012, Gay, WB8VNO
- Balloon-a-Fair Chase – September 15, 2012, Sandy, KD8JCY
- Got Bike? – October 7, 2012, Jim, KC8PD or Mike, KD8FLZ

There are certainly more events in the northeast Ohio area that will be looking for communications volunteers. Watch for information and updates from: Dennis, AI8P, EC for Summit County ARES® and check their web site, <http://www.sumco-ares.com/>, for a calendar of events; Gay, WB8VNO, who manages a number of area events; Al, AB8AA, for events in Mahoning County and beyond; and John, KD8MQ, for activities in Stark County.

You can also check with other clubs or ARES® groups in surrounding counties who may need assistance with other events. Both ARES® District Five and Ten are looking for better ways to circulate information about events in their areas, too.

Please contact me for more information. Your efforts are valued by the event organizers and you will find these volunteer opportunities to be personally rewarding.

73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH

**Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EMA Communications Unit/RACES
EC, ARES® of Portage County
Emergency Operations Officer, Ohio Army MARS**



Digital QST Coming Soon: New ARRL Membership Benefits

The ARRL is excited to announce two new membership benefits that will be introduced in June 2012.

In addition to the print copy of QST, all members will have access to an online digital edition of QST -- at no extra cost. You will be able to access QST from anywhere -- on nearly any computer, laptop, mobile device, smartphone and tablet (including Apple iPad, iPhone, iTouch and devices using the Android operating system).

Members will also gain access to archived issues of QST from December 1915 to the present; previously, only issues through 2007 have been available to members. If you are familiar with the current periodicals archive, that platform will be expanded to include all of QST from December 1915 through December 2011. A second, new archive will be introduced for issues beginning January 2012, featuring enhanced functionality including full-text search.



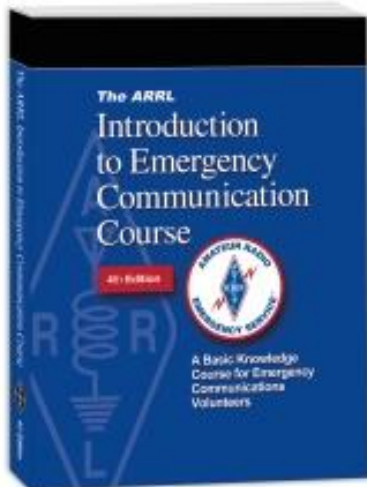
Members must have a valid ARRL website login to access the current digital edition of QST and the archived editions. More details are available on the ARRL website.

From the ARRL



Introduction to Emergency Communications Class

The Communications Unit/RACES of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) is sponsoring a local, classroom based version of the ARRL's Introduction to Emergency Communications course. This was previously known as the Level I course and it has traditionally only been available on-line through the ARRL.



This local course will be taught by Jim Aylward, KC8PD, who is a registered Field Instructor and Field Examiner for the ARRL. That means that this class will qualify you to take the written exam at the end of the course in order to obtain your ARRL certificate of completion.

The class will meet on four consecutive Saturdays beginning on April 7th. The class will be held at the Center of Hope, 1034 West Main Street, Ravenna, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run to 3:00 p.m., with a break for lunch, on each day. Attendance at the classes is mandatory. Excuses from a class session will only be granted for extraordinary reasons and anyone who misses more than one class will not be permitted to take the exam.

Anyone wishing to take the class must register prior to the class so that we can ensure that sufficient seating is available. The number of students may be limited. If you wish to attend you must pre-register by sending a note to KC8PD at aylwardjim@aol.com. Contact him if you have any questions about the class.

There is great deal of material to cover for this class and all students should purchase the course manual from the ARRL, <http://www.arrl.org/shop/The-ARRL-Introduction-to-Emergency-Communication-Course/>. The book is item #7303 and costs \$24.95.

There will be no charge for the class and you do not have to be an ARRL or ARES® member to participate. There is a \$15.00 fee, payable to the ARRL, to take the final exam.

This is a great opportunity to be able to obtain the certification without the expense of the tuition for the on-line course. However, everyone must be prepared to be involved and to participate in order to obtain the maximum benefit from the material.

Jim, KC8PD

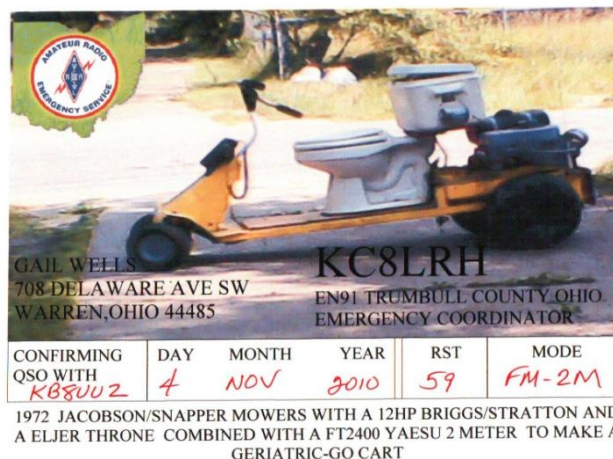
**Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EMA Communications Unit/RACES
EC, ARES® of Portage County
ARRL Registered Instructor**

Member QSL Card – KC8LRH

Not a member of PCARS, but a frequent visitor from the Warren ARA – Gail Wells, KC8LRH.

Those of you that were at the PCARS Cruise-In might remember his unique motorized cart.

Well, he shows off that cart on his QSL card.

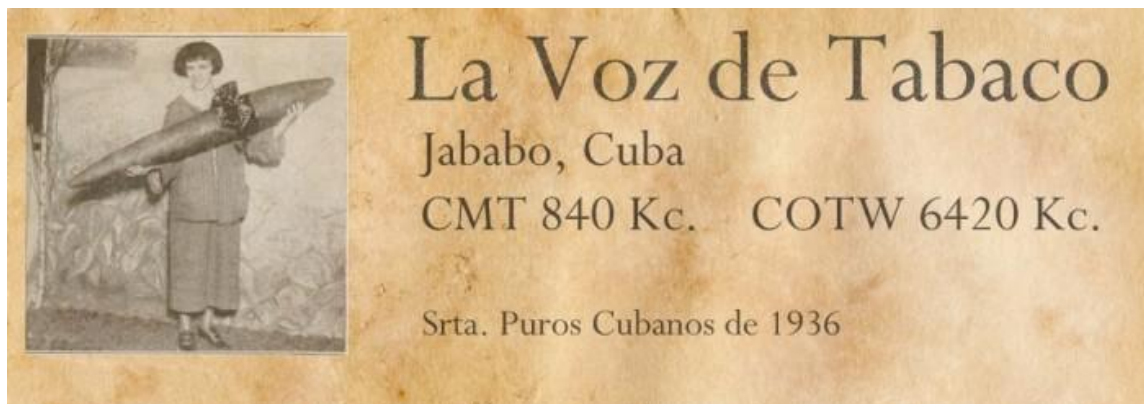


QSL from La Voz de Tabaco

La Voz de Tabaco was one of several well-heard Cuban broadcasters of the 1930s, on both MW and SW. The station was operated by the Federation of Tobacco Growers of Eastern Cuba. Between 1935 until 1939, they produced a new QSL each year picturing the new Miss Cuban Cigars. In 1939, one of the primary members of the Federation decided that the warm transmitter building would be a good place to dry his tobacco crop. The bales were stacked too close to the transmitter and caught fire, destroying the entire building, and bankrupting the Federation. The station never recovered.

One of the more unusual features of this QSL is that it was actually printed on a fine grade of tobacco leaf used as the outside wrapping of some of the finest

Cuban cigars. That is one of the reasons so few copies of this QSL still exist - few cigar aficionados could resist wrapping the QSL around one of their favorite stoogies for a first-class smoke.



Dead DXers' Stuff

a subsidiary of The BLANDX Corporation
<http://www.blandx.com/ddx/deaddxers.html>

Global Warming – The Real Cause

Reuters - A study released yesterday by the Institute of Petroleum Corporation Funded Scientists surprisingly admits that global warming is a reality, but refutes claims that the core cause is hydrocarbon emissions. According to their data, the real cause of global warming is “the tens of thousands of tube radios being used by so-called DXers and their fellow-travelers.” According to Dr. Marlin Jukes, a single tube can produce enough heat to cause first degree burns on a careless finger and one hollow-state receiver might contain two dozen or more of these hazardous devices.



Dr. Jukes goes on to point out that the good news is that we've had the technology available to replace these outmoded devices for several decades - the simple transistor radios that those of us who love our planet already use. However, there is a sub-culture of Hollow-State DXers who specialize in using this type of radio equipment. Commentator Anne Coulter notes that “Some of these evil demented environmental terrorists actually brag about their boat anchors, without regard to the gentle woodland creatures passing out from heat stress in their soft fur coats.”

In a recent speech about the dangers of climate change, former Vice President Dick Cheney remarked, "It's clear that the real enemy of our global environment are people who insist on using these oversized tube receivers even though the technology exists to produce much smaller cooler radio receivers." former Vice-President Cheney will be spear-heading an effort by the Republican administration to ban these oversized heat-producing monstrosities. They intend to designate anyone who owns or operates such a device as a Global Warming Combatant. As the president himself recently stated, "We've got to stop these evil people from overheating."



Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE : Ameritron ALS-600S solid state amplifier, **ARI-500 auto-band switch**, cables for Icom & strong shipping boxes, \$1075.00 [06/02/12]

FOR SALE : Decibel Products DB8802BA-100, 406-1000MHz power/SWR meter, with alarm terminals, N connectors, with factory seals, \$75.00 [06/02/12]

FOR SALE : Kantronics KPC3+ TNC, including power supply and 9 pin serial cable, \$60.00 [06/02/12]

Contact: **Rick** at K8GI@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Leviton 430C12W 125/250 Volt 30 Ampere watertight pin and sleeve connector in excellent condition \$80.00 [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: Andrew Superflex FSJ4-50B 22 ft jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. Also includes an extra N-male for building a custom length N-male to N-male connector \$30.00 each. (10 Available) [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: Andrew Superflex FSJ4-50B 22 ft jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. \$20.00 ea. (10 Available) [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: New In Box GE Contactors:

GE CL01A400TJ Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600 V 120 Volt Coil \$25.00 (2 Available) [06/02/12]

GE CL01D310TD Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600V 24 Volt Coil \$30.00 (2 Available) [06/02/12]

GE CL25A300T Contactor 4 poles rated 32 A @ 600 V 120 Volt Coil \$35.00 (2 Available) [06/02/12]

Bolt on Auxiliary Contact Set for any of the above contactors with 1-N.O. & 1-N.C.Set of contacts \$2.00 ea. [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: Motorola HPN1007B – 13.8 Volt Regulated Power Supply 5.0 Amperes Continuous Duty 10.0 Amperes Surge 20 Minutes Max. 20% Duty Cycle \$25.00 [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: Trip-Lite 1 RU Outlet Strip 20 Amperes w/12 outlets & 8' cord, new in box \$30.00 [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: Converter Concepts Power Supply 90-250 Volts A.C. Inpu. Output #1 +12 Volts D.C. @ 2.5 Amperes. Output #2 -12 Volts D.C. @ 1.5 Amperes. Output #3 +5 Volts D.C. @ 12.0 Amperes. \$20.00 (2 Available) [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: Ferraz-Shawmut ULTRASAFE® Fuse Holders DIN Rail Mnt, Blown Fuse Indicator \$3.00 ea (25 Available) [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: LINKSYS EtherFast® (by Cisco) 10/100 - 5 port work group switch \$10.00 [06/02/12]

FOR SALE: Heliex connectors for sale. Contact me with your needs. [06/02/12]

Contact **James** - KD8VT@portcars.org or call 330-206-4909

FOR SALE : GW Instek Function Gen, Model GFG-8219A with power cord, no probes \$75 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 2ea BK precision DMM, Model 2831A with power cord, no probes \$20 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : GW Instek Lab DC Pwr Supply Dual 0-30 Volt@2A Model GPC-3020 \$75 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : BK Oscilloscope, Model 2120 20 MHz with power cord, no probes \$75 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : Micronta Power Supply 13.8 volt – 2.5 A \$10 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : YAESU FT950 Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$900.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : ICOM IC7000 Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$850.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : MFJ 989C Tuner Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$200.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : Radio Shack PRO 76 Scanner Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$25.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : Comet 2Mtr/440 Vertical Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$100.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : Uniden BC 350A Scanner Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$35.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : Radio Shack PRO 2021 Scanner Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$20.00 [05/02/12]

Contact: **Al** - phone: 330-549-3051 or e-mail AB8AA@portcars.org

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 [06/02/12]

Contact: **Ed** – 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. \$99.00 [04/02/12]

Contact **Tom** - 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: [06/02/12] This will help keep the listings current.

No Explanation for Pennsylvania's Purple Squirrel

Connie and Percy Emert took all the photos of the squirrel, and posted on them Facebook.

A Pennsylvania couple trapped, of all things, a purple squirrel on Sunday. Percy and Connie Emert, of Jersey Shore, Pa. caught the unusual animal when trying to keep birds safe from the rodents.

"We have bird feeders out in our yard, and the squirrels are constantly into them," said Jersey Shore resident Connie Emert. "My husband traps them and then sets them free elsewhere so they don't get into your bird feeders."



Emert said she had spotted a purple squirrel on her property but no one believed her. "I kept telling my husband I saw a purple one out in the yard. 'Oh sure you did' he kept telling me," said Emert. "Well, he checked the trap around noon on Sunday and sure enough, there it was." No one knows why the squirrel is purple.

"The squirrel's been eating peanuts. That's what we used in the trap," she continued. The Emerts do not know why the squirrel is purple.

"We have no idea whatsoever. It's really purple. People think we dyed it, but honestly, we just found it and it was purple."

Move over Phil, there's a new rodent in town.

"We put him in an extra big cage so he has room to run around, and we'll release him soon. In the meantime, all the neighbors have been by to see him. No one can believe we have a purple squirrel!"

The Emerts released the squirrel back into the wild on Tuesday. Right now, no one knows where the animal is.

"We're not going to do a manhunt to look for the purple squirrel," Harold Cole, wildlife conservation officer for the Pa. Game Commission said.

Some AccuWeather.com employees have their own theories. Expert Senior Meteorologist Henry Margusity said, "The squirrel could have been looking for somewhere warm and fallen into a port-a-potty or something similar."

AccuWeather.com Expert Senior Meteorologist Dan Kottlowski has a different idea. "Squirrels get into all kinds of stuff. He could have gotten into some purple ink or purple paint at some point."

Purple ink was the theory when people saw a purple squirrel called Pete in the U.K. in 2008. There were no theories when another purple squirrel was spotted in 1997.



A different purple squirrel was sighted in Minnesota in 1997. Photo submitted by Facebook fan Maren Nelsen Beckman.

John Griffin, Director of Humane Wildlife Services for the Humane Society, said "It might be possible that there was some introduction of a product into the nesting material that imparted this color to the fur, or accidental immersion/contact with a dying or coloring compound during (its) lifetime." He also said "The color (of the squirrel) does not appear to be even which would make me think that it is likely to be the natural color of the fur."

Krish Pillai, a professor at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, commented that "This is not good at all. That color looks very much like Tyrian purple. It is a natural organobromide compound seen in molluscs and rarely found in land animals. The squirrel (possibly) has too much bromide in its system."

Jeff Moore, another Facebook commenter, suggested that "Someone from PETA threw paint on it."

Ruth Dixon, said that she had a rabbit with purple fur. "I think it's a genetic foul-up. The rabbit had other problems worse than his color."

Local squirrel enthusiast Erik Stewart said, "If it has white hair on it at all, it's probably not dyed. I've had multiple squirrels as pets, though, and I've certainly never seen a purple one. I've seen dark red, light red, gray and brown, but never purple. Also, I've tried to dye my dog before, and trust me it didn't look like this. Though, I've only seen a picture, so your guess is as good as mine."

John Marsh

AccuWeather.com Staff Writer
Bill, WB9LBI found this on the web



ARRL License Manuals
Now including Practice Exam Software

Only \$30.00
Available from PCARS

Three books are displayed: "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" (red cover), "The ARRL General Class License Manual" (blue cover), and "The ARRL Extra Class License Manual" (green cover). Each book features a photo of a person and the ARRL logo.

Contact George, K3GP@portcars.org

Updated Extra Class VVE Exam

The FCC passed this along to the ARRRRL and other VVEC organizations to update the recent changes being incorporated in the Amateur Extra examinations. These new and updated equivalents will be used in some of the new VVE Exam questions slated for Amateur Extra.

You would be advised to obtain the latest Amateur Extra book and study it prior to taking your upgrade test and pay particular attention to the new formulas and formula definitions. Once you have read the new material, this list will be very familiar to you.

10 ¹² microphones = 1 megaphone	10 millipedes = 1 centipede
10 ⁶ bicycles = 2 megacycles	3 1/3 tridents = 1 decadent
500 millinaries = 1 seminary	10 monologs = 5 dialogues
2,000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds	5 dialogues = 1 decalogue
10 cards = 1 decacards	2 monograms = 1 diagram
1/2 lavatory = 1 demijohn	8 nickels = 2 paradigms
10 ⁻⁶ fish = 1 microfiche	2 snake eyes = 1 paradise
454 graham crackers = 1 pound cake	2 wharves = 1 paradox
10 ¹² pins = 1 terrapin	10 ⁻⁶ phones = 1 microphone
10 ²¹ picolos = 109 los = 1 gigolo	10 ⁶ phones = 1 megaphone
10 rations = 1 decoration	10 ⁻² mental = 1 centimental
100 rations = 1 C-ration	10 ⁻¹ mate = 1 decimate
10 ¹² bulls = 1 terabull	10 ⁻¹⁵ bismol = 1 femtobismol
10 ⁻¹² boos = 1 picoboo	

From the ARRRRL



Some Amateur Radio Definitions

For those new to ham radio, here are some useful definitions, pertaining to antennas and DX-ing.

- **S.W.R.** -- A term, applied to any part of the antenna system, which means: "Savings-to-Watt Ratio". Based on the inverse relationship of dollars in the bank and effective radiated power.
- **Characteristic Impedance** -- The usual reaction of your spouse when told about the proposed antenna system.
- **Traps** -- Devices installed in antennas to collect rain-water, to keep it from running further down the antenna.
- **Wind Loading** -- The measure of how much more awkward it gets to handle a big beam as you ascend the tower.
- **Balun** -- (Pronounced: "balloon" by many, "balum" by some). An anti-surveillance device, installed in coaxial lines at the antenna, to prevent nosy neighbors from eavesdropping on you through their TV sets.
- **Transmatch** -- A device mistakenly believed to decrease S.W.R.. The premise is that this device allows you to load up into a mis-matched antenna. Unfortunately, it the cost of one that lowers your S.W.R.
- **House Bracket** -- A device which secures the house and the tower together. It lets the tower do double-duty by holding up the house during severe windstorms.
- **Rotator Control Box** -- A device which is designed to let you monitor antenna "windmilling".
- **Windmilling** -- A technique whereby prevailing winds are allowed to rotate the antenna, enabling the operator to "scan" the radio horizon.
- **Dummy Load** -- A measure of the stress exerted on a tower by a ham who climbs the tower without a safety belt.
- **Coax** -- (Usually mis-pronounced as two syllables). A term applied to the maneuvering of a piece of transmission line through the attic or walls of a house.

- **Db's Gain** -- A bunch of yellow-jacketed wasps found a great place to build their nest, at the bottom of the rotator housing on my tower.
- **Db's Loss** -- Fortunately, lightning struck the tower and the wasps were totally destroyed.
- **Vertical** -- A much-maligned antenna, said by some critics to "radiate equally poorly in all directions". This is not true, as many who have built one know. In fact, the vertical can have directional characteristics, and not radiate at all in some directions. I hope this clears up that myth once and for all!
- **Sloper** -- A variation of the vertical, where high winds have affected thin-walled aluminum tubing used in the construction.
- **Inverted Vee** -- A clever, but inferior, reverse adaptation of the true, "upright Vee", which allows the use of a single support instead of the usual two.
- **Dipole** -- Another modification of the true "Vee", and used where it is not possible to get the center feed point close to the ground.
- **Ground Plane** -- Usually, an array of 1/4-wavelength arms extending from the base of some verticals (or "slopers"). These arms are not recommended unless a rotator is also used, to take advantage of their directional features.
- **Directional Coupler** -- A device inserted into the transmission line which monitors the environment outside the shack, by utilizing the antenna as a remote sensor. For example, when the antenna responds to weather conditions such as severe icing or heavy winds, the coupler will produce indications of these responses. A special directional coupler has even been designed, presumably, to tell you when BIRDS are sitting on your antenna!
- **Smith Chart** -- An alias, to be used when you don't want people to know what chart you really used to design your antenna.
- **Long Path** -- The direction you are told to aim your antenna, to work a rare DX station, as suggested by the other fellows in the pileup.
- **Element Spacing** -- A critical antenna design factor which is optimized to place the tunable traps on a beam as far out of reach as possible, from the tower.
- **Diversity Effect** -- A property in which the quad-type antenna far excels over the yagi-type antenna. It relates to the number of directions an antenna can collapse into, under heavy winds.
- **Selective Fading** -- A quirk of propagation, whereby a signal arrives at a distant point by multipath, and where the different signal components arrive with varying phase relationships. This causes the signal to be "cancelled out" at some points. This wonderful effect helps eliminate some of the QRM from distant DX stations when you are trying to copy the pileup.
- **"Off the back of the Antenna"** -- A technique used by more experienced DX-ers, where the antenna is pointed away from the station being contacted. This creates a challenge similar to running QRP.
- **QRP** -- Restricting final output power to the antenna to anything less than 500 watts, on 20 meters.
- **Speech Processor** -- A "state of the art" device which permits one to communicate with as many others at the same time as possible. However, beginner operators need to learn how to use one properly, to expand the signal beyond a narrow, 3 KHz bandwidth.
- **"IMOKINCALLBK"** -- An expression used in a CW QSO, to say: "you send me your QSL card first, turkey, and then I'll send you mine".
- **IRC** -- An economic instrument, administered by the Postal Service, to control the balance-of-trade deficit.
- **Parasitic Element** -- A person who takes lists for DX-stations.
- **LISTS** -- A method of making DX contacts, where some self-appointed person takes a list "on the air" (aka: his buddies on 2-meters) of people who wish to "work" a person in some DX location. This makes it easy for hams who do not have the patience or time to learn real DX skills to get a quick, easy contact. In fact, if you can't hear the actual report from the foreign station, the list-controller will often help ("...OK, there, WB6xxx, did you hear Jose give you a '59' signal report?").
- **QSL Manager** -- The station you worked in Juan De Nova tells you to send a "Green Stamp" to a ham in Germany who is called a "QSL Manager". It is his duty to send your card to a ham in California, who then (after holding it for 8 months) sends you a QSL card.

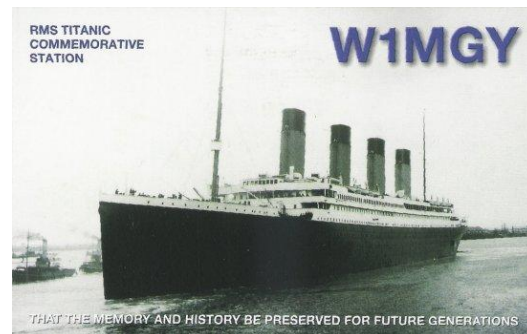
Brett Coningham, AB5P
From the Portland Amateur Radio Club website



Paper Chase

At 2:20a.m. on April 15, 1912. the "unsinkable" R.M.S.Titanic disappeared beneath the waves taking 1,500 souls.**

One hundred years ago and it is talked about as if it occurred yesterday. It will be remembered in print as you just read, WVIZ will be presenting specials about the Titanic all month and other TV stations will no doubt be showing the movie "Titanic". In addition to these events, there are numerous amateur radio stations also remembering the event. Why would amateur radio stations remember the event? Maybe it is the lore. You probably know the story that the ship's orchestra was playing "God save the Queen" as the ship slipped beneath the waves. Another piece of lore is that Deputy Radio Officer Harold Bride was the first person to transmit "SOS" (save our souls) as an emergency signal replacing CQD. This is not true but part of it is. One of the first standard radio distress calls was Marconi's newly created "CQD". "CQ" was the signal to stop transmission and pay attention; adding the "D" meant distress. In 1906 the International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin created the signal "SOS" as an alternative means of summoning assistance. In 1908 "SOS" officially superseded "CQD" as the regulation distress call, but Marconi operators rarely used the new signal. Only after Deputy Radio Officer Harold Bride radioed his now famous "SOS" from the sinking Titanic did the new signal become standard.



Below is the information I have been able to gather to summarize the station information to help you make contact one of the stations. You can only do this on the one hundredth anniversary once!

Call Sign	QTH	When	EDT	Sponsor
W1MGY	MA	9-15	0930 - 2127	Titanic Historical Society
KM1CC	MA	12-15	0800 - 1600	National Park Service
K1T	MA	13-15	1200 - 1800	Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club
GB100GGM	GW	13-15	1624 - 2022	Blackwood & DARS
W3R	MD	14-15	1600 - 1500	National Capitol Radio & TV Museum
W4S	TN	14-15	0900 - 1600	470 Amateur Radio Group
W9WRL	IL	15	1100 - 1600	James Mayfield

Callsign	Frequency					
W1MGY	7.033	7.260	14.033	14.260	21.260	
KM1CC	7.030	7.160	14.030	14.260	21.030	28.030
K1T	7.040	14.040	21.040	28.040		
GB100GGM	14.270	21.270				
W3R	3.955	7.255	14.255	21.450		
W4S	3.950	7.220	14.265	21.350	28.350	
W9WRL	7.240					

In addition on the 14th & 15th, EI100T will be operated as a special event station in Cobh town, the port from which the Titanic sailed from for New York. Also, Titanic special event calls: GI100MGY (Belfast), GB1HMGY (Southampton), GB0TI (Lichfield, UK), VO1MCE (Cape Race, Canada) and VE0MGY/MM (Titanic wreck site) will be active. The times and frequencies, I do not know but probably the times will probably be between 06:00 and 14:00 EDT for the European stations and later for the Maritime Mobile.

I hope this will be helpful and allow you to make contact with one of the station and I'll be listening for you. If you would like to see Harold Bride in the radio room on the Titanic or more information on the equipment go to:
www.qsl.net/g3yrc/Titanic.htm.

Joe, W8KNO

** National Geographic, April 2012, p78

National Geographic shows on the Titanic:

<http://newsletters.nationalgeographic.com/PS!nee4Q7XA5MgFBgIAAAAGCgFICgkxMTQ1MzUxNjAKCjM4MDEyNzg0NzcJAG6jJQoJNzA2NDY3NDAXBQ==>



New Editorial Standards

Many members of PCARS are older people, usually grandparents, who are very impressionable. Several of their grandchildren have written to express concern about the frequent mentions on the local repeater of flatulence at PCARS activities. A lot of young people believe that this sort of language is not suitable for their grandparents to hear at their advanced age. You never know what they might pick up and repeat. (I'm 63, and I'm a perfect example of that. You wouldn't believe the kind of filth that comes out of my mouth). For that reason, beginning with the next issue of *The RADIOGRAM*, all references to PCARS Flatulence should use one of following phrases ...



Euphemisms for PCARS Flatulence

Bumper music

Lower side band transmission

Nasal jamming

Cutting the Chad

Clearing the channels

Breaking radio silence

Launching a sky wave

Cutting the Chile

Adjusting the BFO

Breaking the code of silence

Spurious emission

Beer fumes

April Contest Calendar

April 2012	
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 7 to 2400Z, Apr 8
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 2359Z, Apr 15
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 21 to 1800Z, Apr 22
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 28 to 2359Z, Apr 29
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 28 to 2159Z, Apr 29

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

Radio Runamuckistan

Radio Runamuckistan is one of the more unusual cases of a radio station reflecting the culture of its country. Now an integral part of Kazakhstan, Runamuckistan was an "autonomous oblast" within Kazakhstan in the old Soviet Union from 1927 until begin absorbed into Kazakhstan in 1974. For at least a thousand years, the Runamuckistanis were the most nomadic of Central Asia's many ethnic groups. In the 1920s, the Soviet government forced the Runamuckistanis to settle in a small area north of the Aral Sea, which became the Runamuckistan Autonomous Oblast.



As the Runamuckistanis had an oral culture, the Stalinist government saw radio as the key to indoctrinating these people to the new system and Radio Runamuckistan was founded in 1932. Rather than embracing the radio station, as expected, the Runamuckistanis treated it with total disdain. One of the Communist Party officials working in Runamuckistan was a young Ukrainian with a background in anthropology. By observing the local culture he soon deduced that in the traditional nomadic Runamuckistanian culture *anything that is stationary is not to be respected or trusted*. As long as Radio Runamuckistan broadcast from a fixed location, it could never be an integral part of the local culture. The station would have to go mobile.

After several failures in attempting to broadcast from the back of a horse, it was decided to broadcast from a motorcycle. Having never seen a motorcycle before, the Runamuckistanis were in total awe when the station began broadcasting while roaming between the collective farms on the steppes. Radio Runamuckistan connected with the local culture and brought legitimacy to the new Communist government. Additional motorcycles were added and Radio Runamuckistan continued to broadcast from its fleet of motorcycles until about 1950, when the first automobile-based stations were introduced. By the late 1960s, young Runamuckistanis were two generations removed from their nomadic past and the mobile radio stations were seen as a symbol of national embarrassment. The last mobile station went off the air in early 1973, about one year before Runamuckistan ceased to exist as a political entity.



As a mobile broadcaster, Radio Runamuckistan was always low-power and there were no known loggings of it in North America and very few in Europe or Australia. The QSLs in our collection belonged to Liam Gamble, a British tea merchant and DXer who frequently traveled to the Darjeeling area of northern India. The first QSL is from 1938, and the second from 1962.

Dead DXers' Stuff

a subsidiary of The BLANDX Corporation
<http://www.blandx.com/ddx/deaddxers.html>

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/>.



You Might Be a Redneck DX'er

Remember to say the following phrase before each statement.

"You might be a Redneck DX'er" if. . .

- You call your ex-wives "deletions."
- You have used a piece of rope thru your belt loops as a climbing belt.
- You pack for the Dayton trip in Wal-Mart sacks.
- Your DX Club holds meetings down at the Waffle House.
- You have ever operated 20 Meters from your Bass boat.
- You kill a Copperhead every time you cut grass/weeds around the tower.
- You have taken down a broken antenna with a shotgun.
- You didn't operate Field Day because you were building a fireworks stand.
- You have ever shot at a deer out of the window in your radio shack.
- Your DX club has Carp fishing, noodling or coon hunting on the agenda for Field Day activities.
- You can tune your 80 Meter vertical by spraying Round Up around its base!
- Your radio club has "club overalls" instead of club shirts.
- You have 3 HF transceivers duct-taped on top of each other, and only the top one works.
- Your radio club had an article in its newsletter on "Grounding Double Wides."
- You have ever sent your XYL out in the dark to check an antenna for you.
- You can chew tobacco and work Phone Sweepstakes at the same time.
- Your DX club motto is "Git'R Done!"
- You tell people that the empty 807 cans in the back of your pick up help the ground plane on your 2 Meter antenna.
- You have never been too drunk to climb a tower.
- You solicited donations from Budweiser and Skoal for a club DXpedition.
- Your DX club Treasurer has accepted bullets instead of money for dues.
- Your DX/Contest club has 3 contest teams: The Fords, Chevys and Dodges.
- Your DX club President was late for the last meeting, because he had to stop and pull some guy out of the ditch on the way.
- Your DX Club petitioned the ARRL DX Advisory Committee for separate country status for the Ozarks.
- You can fish, drink beer and talk on the club repeater all at the same time.
- You have bird dogs named Tromelin and Glorioso.

Rex, NX8G

Rex got this from The Kansas City DX Bulletin



The Spiral Signal Snatcher

If you're looking for a way to squeeze a long antenna in a short yard, the new Spiral Signal Snatcher from J&J Welding is for you. Made of 100% stainless steel pipe, the Spiral Signal Snatcher is available in 6 meter lengths (over 24 meters of signal-catching pipe!). Multiple lengths can be connected together to get the size that's right for you.

I never thought I could fit a full wavelength 120 meter antenna in my backyard, before I got the Spiral Signal Snatcher. While the antenna works best mounted at heights of at least 15 meters, it can perform adequately at much lower heights. \$199.99 per 6 meter length. As this product can not legally be shipped, please pick up in person from J&J Welding.



Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted



We have room for **YOUR** Ham Radio license plate

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.

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

We have **42** 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

PCARS Meetings

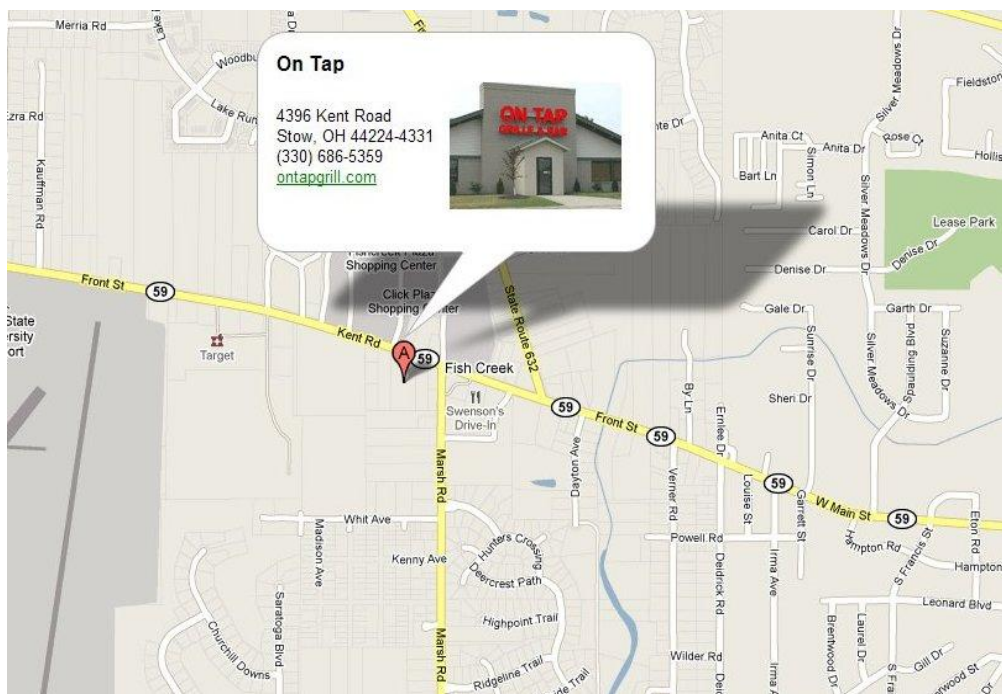
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Meetings are at the

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.



Early Radio History - From Right Here in Northeast Ohio



DID YOU KNOW? Some of the most desirable early radio receivers were made right here in Northeast Ohio?

The picture from 1928 shows a factory worker assembling the high-tech receiver of the day, the Atwater Kent model 47, at the factory that was located on Tallmadge Road between Atwater and Kent, Ohio. Unfortunately, this model was later rated **UNACCEPTABLE** by Consumer Reports when it was found to run uncomfortably hot in top right corner when used for extended periods of time.

333-3333,
George, K3GP



[Advertisement]

MOCK-O-TRONICS

WANT AN IMPRESSIVE RADIO SHACK? DON'T HAVE MONEY FOR SHELVES FULL OF EXPENSIVE RIGS? YOU NEED MOCK-O-TRONICS.

We sell cardboard mock-ups that resemble many popular tube and solid state receivers, transceivers, and transmitters. At just five to ten dollars per cardboard rig, you can have the shack of your dreams for just fifty bucks!

Al, KB8VJL has quite a shack, but only one of his radios isn't cardboard. Can you spot which one? Check us out on the web at: <http://www.mock-o-tronics.com>



[Advertisement]



More from the President

In recent Ham Radio history, there has been a lot of emphasis on Emergency Communications operations. Recent events have proven the value of Amateur Radio as a resource to be used when other communications systems have failed. EmComm is also one of the reasons that Amateur Radio has been granted the use of millions (probably billions) of dollars worth of the radio spectrum. Governments around the world recognize the value that Amateur Radio provides for it's citizens and maintains the service despite the commercial pressure they must feel to re-allocate those frequencies we are provided. We are expected to, and must perform the EmComm function if we are to retain our slice of the spectrum.

Fortunately, many hams take the EmComm function very seriously, some do not. And that's OK – nowhere does it say that every ham must be involved in EmComm operations. For those that do, the required knowledge

and training can be quite intense and time consuming. Not everyone can devote that time and energy to perform all the functions that might be required.

But we don't know when or where disaster might strike. You might be caught up in the middle of it and you and your station might be pressed into service at a moments notice. "Always being prepared" does not mean that you are the do-all, know-all expert that can run the show. It does mean that you should be capable of getting on the air, communicating, and at least be aware of the protocol followed in an emergency net as opposed to a social net.

Here's the short list:

1. Unless you are facing immediate loss of life or property, listen in for a few minutes to get a sense of how the net is being run before you check in.
2. When you check into an EmComm net, stay in the net and on the air. If you must leave the net, inform the net control station so that he knows you are no longer available. You can inform him when you check in that you will need to close your station at a particular time, or, if you must leave make sure net control is aware of it before closing. Net control is responsible for maintaining a roster of stations who are available, he/she needs to know that he/she can depend on you being there when needed. If net control calls for you and you don't respond, time and assets could be wasted making sure that you are alright. There are no points for check-ins. If you can't stay in the net, don't check-in just to get your callsign on the roster.
3. EmComm nets are not for chit-chat. Only give information requested by net control. Just the facts.
4. Know the difference between the pro-words "over" and "out", "roger" and "affirmative", and use them appropriately.
5. All communications will go through net control. When called or asked for information, if you want to send something to another station, ask permission of net control to call that station direct, or ask net control if he can pass the information for you. Never call another station or start traffic/information for another station without the consent of the net control station.



Tom, WB8LCD

Just these few simple items will help you look as if you know what you are doing, and will help the net control station keep the net moving in an efficient manner. No one's perfect. When you hear other stations making procedural errors, remember, during an EmComm net this is not the time to point them out. In fact, you probably don't ever need to point them out. Most of us volunteer our time and assets and do the best job we possibly can. If someone you hear is not normally involved in EmComm shows up on an EmComm net, after the event Thank them for their participation. In an emergency everyone is needed.

Like I said, EmComm is not for everyone, but when something happens, you may be needed. Have some basic skills and be prepared to participate. Listen in on the ARES® and RACES nets, participate in the public service events. The worst thing that could happen is for your station to be needed, but you feel too intimidated to participate. Remember, our spring tornado season is just about to get started. Be prepared to participate in the Skywarn net with ARES® of Portage County.

Tom, WB8LCD

Practical Jokes for DX'ers

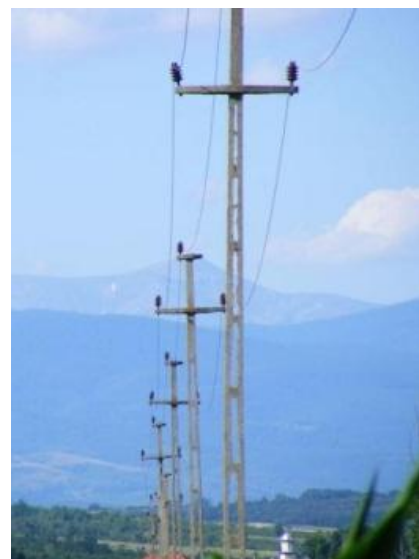
If you can get access to another DXer's shack for about an hour when he's not at home, you can do one of the best DX pranks around. Just open up his primary receiver and disconnect the wires that lead to the headphone and speaker jacks. Now run new wires to those jacks from a different receiver that you have hidden behind a drawer or under the desk. Now tune the hidden receiver to one of Rush Limbaugh's frequencies. If you put in a hidden web cam, it can be a lot of fun to watch what happens!

(By the way, if you are a DX widow who wants to get her husband to spend less time DXing, contact me about my fees for performing this modification.)

Cheap Beverage Antenna

Keith Thayer of Turtle Creek, New Brunswick has found the perfect way to get a beverage antenna for minimal effort. Keith bought a cabin at the end of a straight half-mile lane. The power line to the cabin ran beside the road. Keith cut down first pole on his power line after it branched off from the main line, breaking his power line in the process. Now he has a 1/2 mile long beverage neatly mounted 30 feet above ground on strong wooden poles. He has to power his receivers by generator, but what an antenna!

By the way, Keith is quite a artist - he makes fashion jewelry out of mylar capacitors. Thank you for the broche and earrings, Keith. I'll bring them to the next PCARS meeting as one of the 50/50 raffle items....



Stark County VHF Contest

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

Stark County contacts are worth 2 Pts, all others are worth 1 Pt! 36
Multipliers! Bonus Station Will Be On The Air!

Sponsored by:
The Alliance Amateur Radio Club

Contact: 2mcontest@w8lky.org
Check out the web site: www.w8lky.org

Download Entry forms, Rules, and Information at: <http://www.2mcontest.w8lky.org/2012packet.pdf>,



Reader Questions

Hugh Kingsley of Painted Post, New York has an Icom IC-7600. He points out that the manual says "Do not insert foreign objects into the receiver". Hugh asks, I'm in the USA, so is it OK to insert USA-made objects into the transceiver? Or, since the transceiver is made in Japan, does that mean I can only insert Japanese-made objects?

You got me on that one, Hugh. To get an answer, I had to contact the manufacturer. It turns out that the guy who wrote the instruction manual is from Belgium, so you can only insert objects made in Belgium without voiding the warranty. They do promise to point this out in future printings of the manual.



Craig Sitero of Birdnest, Virginia asks What do you do if your BFO stops beating?

Well, Craig, first, remain calm. Reach behind your radio and gently massage the antenna lead-in cable for several minutes. If you find this erotic, please don't tell me about it. If the BFO does not begin beating again within five minutes, just give up and go have a beer.



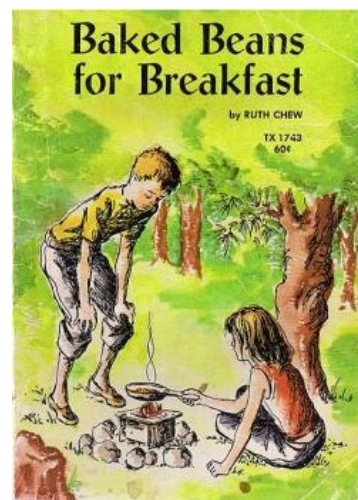
Uncle Harold's DX Beanie-Weenies

The perfect book to teach children the importance of quality food at a DXpedition! - Martha Stewart

... with proof-of-purchase from six large cans of Uncle Harold's Beanie-Weenies, any flavor, and just \$7.95 for shipping and handling.

Be Sure To Try Our New Flavors! Uncle Harold's Teriyaki Beanie-Weenies. Just like mother used to make! - Japanese DXer Hiroyuki Sugimoto

Uncle Harold's - Vegetarian Beanie-Weenies - Only contain meat from vegetarian animals, like cows!



Uncle Harolds's Beanie-Weenies - What an aroma going in... - What an aroma coming out.....

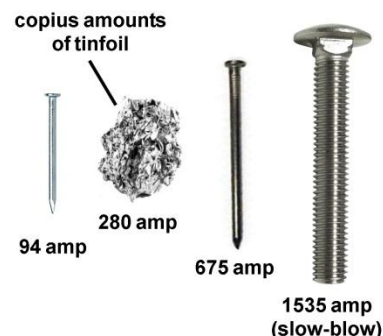


Using Fuses

Using the proper size fuse for the circuit available and the equipment needs is a very important consideration in any ham shack. Having fuses that are rated lower than the equipment needs will cause undue concern when in the middle of a contest - ZAP goes the fuse and the radio goes silent just when you were about to make that all important contact for that rare multiplier.

In order to ensure you don't have that concern, the picture here shows various items used to fuse circuitry in order to maximize you current carrying capability and to ensure you have adequate power available at all times.

Guide to Fuse Replacement



Reply About Fuses

Dear Editor -

I saw an early review concerning your fuse replacement guide. I was amazed at how this worked here in my humble radio shack. I was on the CQ-WW-WPX contest last weekend and was trying to make some JA contacts when the fuse blew. I immediately referenced your guide and replaced my main fuse supplying power to my radio shack. Power was restored and I was able to continue the contest without the worry or bother of loosing power at critical points. I made those JA contacts and many more and am happy to have followed your advice.

However, I did notice one slight drawback. Having unlimited power did two things. The first was my electric bill was way higher during this contest period. I'm sure it was due to the unlimited power I had available. and the second thing is the antenna system got a bit warm at times. My XYL shot this picture when I was making a run on 15 meters. In any case, I really enjoyed the contest as a result of taking your advice.



Portable Zip Codes – Hey You can take Your Callsign with you!

National Public Radio's All Things Considered announced that the post office had begun a new 'portable zip codes' program. This program, inspired by an FCC ruling that allowed phone users to take their phone number with them when they moved, would allow people to also take their zip code with them when they moved, no matter where they moved to. It was hoped that with this new program zip codes would come to symbolize "a citizen's place in the demographic, rather than geographic, landscape."



Assistant Postmaster General Lester Crandall was quoted as saying, "Every year millions of Americans are on the go: People who must relocate for work or other reasons. Those people may have been quite attached to their original homes or an adopted town or city of residence. For them this innovative measure will serve as an umbilical cord to the place they love best."

Copper Wire Discovered

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year outside of New York City, New York scientists found traces of copper cable dating back 100 years. They came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a Los Angeles, California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet somewhere just outside Oceanside. Shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: "California archaeologists report a finding of 200 year old copper cable, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."



One week later, a local newspaper in Jackson, MS reported the following: "After digging down about 30 feet deep in his pasture near the community of Flowood, Bubba, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Bubba has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Mississippi had already gone wireless".

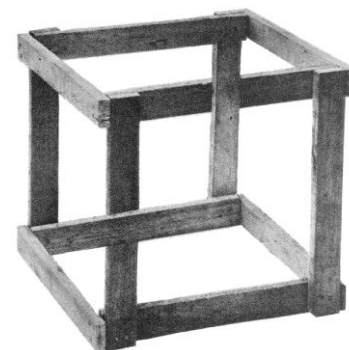
Just makes a person proud to be from Mississippi

Rex NX8G



Concrete Tower Base Forms For Sale

If your are interested, I have a number of these specially engineered concrete forms especially manufactured for amateur radio tower bases. These limited run forms are made in the USA from top quality materials to exacting standards and will provide you with the proper sized foundation hole for supporting an amateur radio tower. Once in place and the concrete is poured these forms will ensure a safe reliable base foundation for that dream antenna system.



Ham Car with Accessories For Sale

I have known for a long time that some Ham Radio Operators sometimes go overboard in acquiring equipment, but this is really off the wall. For most, ham radio is a hobby... but if this isn't an obsession, I don't know what is...bizarre doesn't begin to describe it!! And, I thought my shack was cluttered!!

FOR SALE - DODGE COLT - \$500.00, HAM RADIO ACCESSORIES \$25,000.00.



Now, if one got this for Christmas, it'd really be a present!! But, several questions come to mind.

1) What is the assessed/appraised value of all of this?? I'm sure it's more than what is noted above.



2) What kind of electrical system (battery/power supply, alternator, etc.) does he have??

3) Can you imagine the reaction of prospective hams when the Technician License Class Instructor says "let's get into electronic theory", and then they show these pictures??

4) Can you say RF overexposure??

5) Talk about a moving lightning rod...or a porcupine on wheels!!

6) If there was such a thing as "ham radio rig polygamy", this guy would win hands down!! Talk about "do you ham, take radio, to be your lawfully wedded spouse??".

7) When a fuse blows, how does he know which one??

8) When he gets a call on a radio, how does he know which one??

9) When he keys up, does the vehicle glow, or does it send nearby streetlights, traffic lights, emergency vehicle lights, etc. into a frenzy??

Inquiring minds want to know.

Daryl, AE5WX

What do You Think?

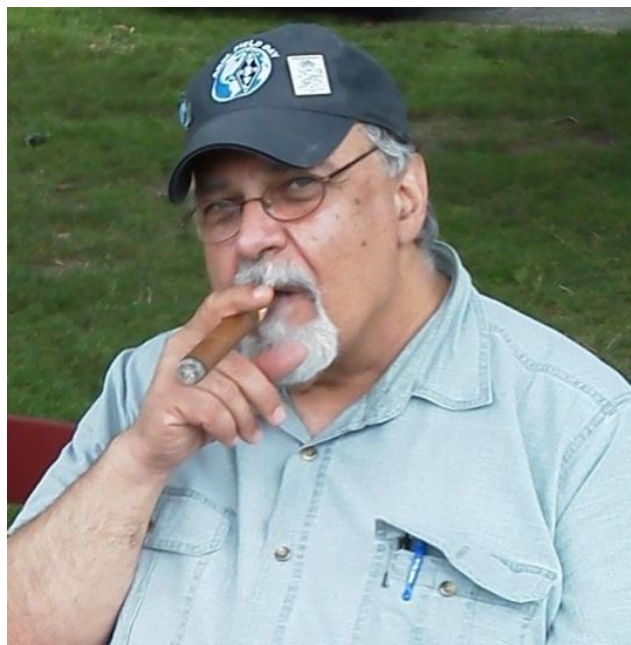


Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Can you believe the WX?? We have had a very mild Winter as a majority of you will agree. I hope that we do not pay for it with a wet Summer. I'm counting on doing a lot of antenna work as well as keeping the yard looking good.

I hope that many of you had a chance to work some of the great DX that we reported on for March. April seems a little light in comparison but there are some things worth mentioning.

I want to thank 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. 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).



And I do apologize for all the **Reminders** but it's the only way to keep some of the longer-range events on your radar.

20, ENGLAND & WALES (Special Event 2012 London Olympic & Paralympic Games). Look for the following special event callsigns to be activated to celebrate the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games:

2012L - Members of Cray Valley Radio Society (CVRS) will activate the London, England, station through the duration of the Games, and will be located at the historic Eltham Palace, southeast London. Activity will be on 160-2 meters using

all modes. More information is available on the Web at: <http://www.2012L.com> QSL via G4WNF. Contact the Press Officer, John Warburton, G4IRN at: press@2012l.com

2012W - Members of Barry Amateur Radio Society (BARS) will activate the Welsh station from Whitmore Bay, Barry Island, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, and will also be active on all bands (160m-23cms) and on all modes, including SSTV and satellite. More information is available on Web at: <http://www.2012W.com> Contact station manager Glyn Jones, GW0ANA, at: glyndxis@talktalk.net

3DA, SWAZILAND. (Reminder) Members of the "Fox Charlie DXpedition Team" will be active as 3DA0FC between April 4-11th, 2012. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK. Suggested frequencies are:

SSB - 3780, 7063, 14185, 18136, 21290, 24930 and 28490 kHz

RTTY - 3590, 7040, 10149, 14084, 18104, 21084, 24924 and 28084 kHz

PSK - 7038, 14072, 18102, 21072, 24922 and 28122 kHz.

5H, TANZANIA. (Reminder) Chas, NK8O/VE3ISD, has traveled to Mwanza on Lake Victoria for several years working there but has never operated any amateur radio from Tanzania. Look for him for the first time to operate as 5H9CP between June 11-22nd. Chas states, "I am primarily a CW operator. QRP and straight key operators, please be ready! After fighting through pile-ups with my QRP station at home, I understand the challenges. The rig on this trip will be an Elecraft KX3 and antenna arrays will depend on the trees, how high I can get the ropes to go, and whether a dipole, loop, or vertical will be the best for the site from which I choose to operate. Times and frequencies will be published [QRZ.com] before my departure for Tanzania, but they definitely will not be written in stone. Operating times will depend entirely on my responsibilities and schedule at the Nyakato Health Center." QSL via NK8O.

6W, SENEGAL. Tony, F8ATS, will be active as F8ATS/6W from Le-Calao, La Somone, between March 30th and April 7th. Activity will be holiday style probably on all HF bands. QSL via the Bureau is preferred.

A3, TONGA (Reminder). Haru, JA1XGI, will be active as A35XG from Tonga between April 2-9th, 2012. Activity will be on 20-6 meters (especially 30/17/12m) using mainly CW, with some SSB and the Digital modes. Suggestions are:

CW - 10115, 14015, 18080, 21015, 24895 and 28015 kHz

SSB - 14175, 18135, 21260, 24940 and 28450 kHz

DATA - 10140, 14088, 18102, 21088, 24920 and 28088 kHz

He is expected to use a IC 7000 into a 2 element beam and a fishing rod antenna system on the HF bands. QSL via JA1XGI, direct or by the Bureau. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW. Haru informs OPDX that he now has a Web page up for his A35XG operation at: <http://www.geocities.jp/a35xgtonga>

CN, MOROCCO. Richard, F8FGU, will be active as CN2RN from High Atlas, Morocco (IM72ER), between April 3-30th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct.

E51, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS (Reminder). By the time you read this, the E51M DXpedition team, which is going to North Cook Is, should be active as E51EWP from Rarotonga, South Cook Is, again between April 11-14th. Activity will be on all bands, including 60m, using CW, SSB, but with an emphasis on RTTY because there is a high demand for RTTY. QSL via DJ8NK, direct or by the Bureau. Online QSL Requests Service (OQRS) for the Bureau and direct cards can be made after April 20th. For more details, see the E51M Web page at: <http://www.manihiki2012.de>

E51, NORTH COOK ISLANDS (Reminder). Operators (and members of the 3D20CR) Jan/DJ8NK, Uwe/DJ9HX, Werner/DJ9KH, Hawa/DK9KX, Hans/DL6JGN, Ron/PA3EWP and Leszek/SP3DOI will be active as E51M from Manihiki (OC-014) between March 28th and April 10th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. All equipment, except the transceivers, are already on Manihiki. In all, they have eleven vertical antennas and a small 4 element beam for 6m. They plan to set up 5 stations using K3's with 500W amps. QSL via DJ8NK, direct or by the Bureau. Online QSL Requests Service (OQRS) for the Bureau and direct cards can be made after April 20th. The E51M Web page is available at: <http://www.manihiki2012.de/index.html>

EI80, IRELAND (Special Event). Members of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) will be active as EI80IRTS throughout 2012. Activity is to celebrate the IRTS's 80th anniversary. QSL via EI4GXB or LoTW.

EU-039. Keith, G3TTC, will be active as F/G3TTC from Chausey Island (DIFM MA-004, DDFM 50, DPF 04, WLOTA 0424) between June 16-22nd. Activity will be holiday style probably on 80/40/20/15 meters SSB. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the RSGB Bureau.

EU-127. Operators Max/DJ4EL, Alex/IZ4AMS, Enrico/IK2FIL, Joerg/DJ1JB, Ben/DO1BEN and Enrique/XE2AA will be active as DD4T from Helgoland Island (GID/DID N-014, WLOTA 0518) between June 3-10th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using all modes. QSL via IZ4AMS, by the Bureau or direct.

EU-137. Lars, SM6CUK, will once again be active as SA6G/7 from Ven Island (WLOTA 0780) between July 25-30th. Activity in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th). QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-146. Marcel, PD5MVH, will be active as homecall/p from Goerre Overflakkee Island (WLOTA 3501) between May 19th and June 2nd. Activity will be mainly on 14245 and 28555 kHz, and as well as 144.300 MHz. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the DARC Bureau.

FP, ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON. Eric, KV1J, will once again be operating from the Island of Miquelon (NA-032, DIFO FP-002 WLOTA 1417, Grid GN17) as FP/KV1J between July 10-17th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 (but primarily CW, SSB and RTTY). He will generally be on the highest frequency band that is open, and he may try 6 meters if there is an indication of openings. Also, look for him on the satellites, weather permitting. Eric will also be in the IARU HF Contest (July 14-15th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Mixed-Mode/High-Power entry. QSL via KV1J, direct or by the Bureau and also LoTW. For more details and updates, check out his Web page at: <http://www.kv1j.com/fp/July12.html>

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.

GRID ACTIVITY (Wet). (Reminder) Yuri, UT1FG, will once again be traveling across the Atlantic Ocean and will be active from some "Wet grids" as UT1FG/MM between November 25th, through the end of May 2012. First trip will be from the Panama Canal to Huelva, Spain (EA7), and then to Brunsbuttel, Germany (From there, he will inform us later). Yuri is reportedly a crew member on the ship, so activity will be during his free time. Operations are expected on all amateur radio bands, 160-2 meters, 70 cm, and also including the satellite. His activities will be mainly through the satellite, but also look for him on the HF bands. He will also be active on 6 meters, conditions permitting. QSL via his home call sign, direct (see QRZ.com), by the Bureau or to his QSL Manager UX0FY.

J2, DJIBOUTI. (Reminder) Freddy, F5IRO, who has been active as J28RO since July 2010, is expected to stay here until July 2012. His normal activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and the 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.

KH0, MARIANA ISLANDS. Masashi, JL1FUQ, will be active as W2GJ/KH0 from Saipan (OC-086, USI NI002S, WLOTA 1333, WW Loc. QK25UF) between April 29th and May 3rd. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using all modes. There is a possibility of some 6 meters operations. QSL via his home call sign.

T6, AFGHANISTAN. Jose, CT1FKN, is now active as T6JM from Kaul until June 13th. He tells OPDX that he has been there since January 14th and is a member of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) based inside a military compound where there are restrictions to what size antenna can be installed, so he will only use a small horizontal loop wire. Activity expected to be mainly on 20 m SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via CT1FKN, direct or by the Bureau.

VK0, MACQUARIE ISLAND. Trevor, VK0TH, continues to be very active on various bands (40/20/17/15/12/10m) using SSB, HELL, PSK31 and RTTY, during various times. He informs OPDX: "Working very hard down here to give operators the chance to get VK0/MM in their logs. We are working on a 6m antenna and are hopeful that we can make a few contacts with this too before it is time to go home next year (End of April 2012)." QSL via JE1LET (direct only).

XX9, MACAU. Nine members of the "A DX Group" (ADXG) will be active from Coloane Island (AS-075, WW Grid OL62SC) between May 17-23rd. Operators mentioned are Ruben/EA5BZ (Team leader), Jose/EA1ACP, Jose/EB5BBM,

Pasqua/EA5CEE, Fernando/EA5FX, Biel/EA6DD, Francois/EA7FTR, David/EB7DX and Adrian/F5VLY. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY, with at least 3 stations on the air at the same time on different bands and modes. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1823, 3523, 7023, 10103, 14023, 18073, 21023, 24893 and 28023 kHz

SSB - 1825, 3780, 7065/7160, 14145, 18145, 21295, 24945 and 28495 kHz

RTTY - 7035, 10140, 14080, 18100, 21080, 24921 and 28080 kHz

6M - 50103/CW and 50115/SSB kHz

A survey is available on their Web page for most wanted bands/modes. The group's callsign will not be announced until the beginning of their DXpedition. QSL via EB7DX, direct or by the Spanish Bureau. All QSOs will be confirmed via LoTW. For more details and updates, visit the ADXG Web page at: <http://www.adxg.org/xx9>

ZQ3, GIBRALTAR. Operators/brothers Mike/ZB3M and Ed/ZB2ER will activate the special callsigns ZQ3M and ZQ2ER, respectively, from Gibraltar between May 5th and June 10th. Activity is to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. QSL via ZB3M direct only. NO BUREAU or NO ELECTRONIC QSLs.

We still have some great DX coming up and I encourage you to get on the air and work some of it. And please let me know of your success.

73 es gud DX

Chuck, W8PT

Also known as "Charlie the Tuner"



Heavenly Day, It's Gay

It's Spring! Fox Hunting has started! We held our first hunt on Wednesday the 21st. N8RKA, Artie, with K8RJM, Bob at the wheel won the first hunt of the season. The next hunt will be Wednesday, April 4th. Show up at the Scout House behind the Church in Silver Lake on route 59. No direction finding equipment? No experience? Come out and ride with one of seasoned hunters and give it a try. We start at 6:30 again on the 4th to take advantage of daylight.

I attended the Summit County ARES® meeting last week and built a J-Pole antenna using window-type ladder-line. I took the option of terminating it with a BNC connector so I can use it with three of our HT's which have a reverse SMA antenna jack. I already had the appropriate SMA to BNC adaptor. I tuned it for 147.525, which makes it handy for public service work. It came out 1.1:1 there, and is very respectable on 146.895 also. Admittedly, I don't do much building but this was fun. AL7OP, Dave, supplied the materials and there were antenna analyzers to use to tune with. I did have some help from Dave and also Gregg, WB8YYS.



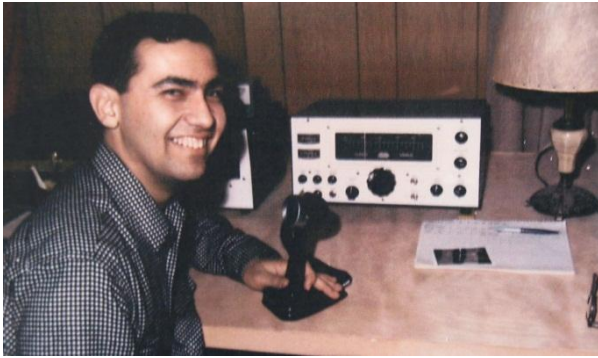
We did have one mishap though; Dennis, AI8P, did a presentation of the project, emphasizing safety while gouging out the little spaces and notches in the ladder-line. He promptly became the causality, by slicing very deeply into his finger. It took some doing to stem the blood flow. A bit of superglue and electrical tape helped. We all sympathized with his injury, but he was in store for some kidding.

73,

Gay, WB8VNO



Charlie the Tuner's April DX High Lites- Special Edition



W8PT - a L-o-n-g Time Ago

Spring has sprung – the grass has riz – I wonder where all the DX is? As many of you know, our April issue of the Radiogram is a Special Issue and I thought that I would do something different for this month's DX column.

I get several interesting questions regarding DX and topics involving DX and contesting and I thought that I would list a few here instead of the normal listing of DX.

So let's start:

Q1. I call "CQ" for hours looking for DX, but no one will respond. What can I do to get some DX hams to QSO with me?

A1. Oh - did I mention I don't take questions from dimwits? Next question?

Q2. When planning a DXpedition, what are some of the critical elements that have to be considered?

A2. Good question. When planning a DXpedition you need to divide the hams into two operating types and naturally there needs to be someone to coordinate them: possibly a part-time volunteer planner and an evaluator; maybe an expeditor or two and a coordination team. A quality assurance group is an absolute must.

There also must be a procurement division to oversee the critical outsourcing of the delicate liaison coordination advisory consulting group, along with an augmented full service corporate jet executive travel and entertainment bureau. We'll need an expanded personnel department to locate a highly placed unnamed source for leak management and spin doctoring. An extensive search will be necessary to acquire a clueless CEO of the DXpedition to front for us and a hyper-energetic sales staff before our initial public offering.....errrrr,, what was that question again?

Q3. I want to be a good DXer and tester. I own twelve VHF/UHF and eight HF transceivers. I sometimes feel, however, like they own me. What is the ideal number of rigs for a DXer like me?

A3. Somewhere between one and all of them. Keep in mind however, our suppliers can probably import them faster than you can buy them.

If you check the latest ARRL Handbook, 143 Edition, you will find that the maximum number of belt-clip transceivers, obviously depends on your belt size. The formula is: $N_t = B/4$. Where N_t is the number of transceivers and B is your belt length in inches. If you have too many transceivers for your current belt size, simply take all of your meals at Eat-N-Park in Streetsboro like I do. I am proud to say that I can handle 12 transceivers. You can of course use an auxiliary trouser support system (suspenders) while you are "building" the permanent support system.

The ideal number of transceivers at your QTH is the maximum tolerated by your spouse. You can help yourself with this issue by conditioning him or her to accept the fact that the purchase price of ANY transceiver is only \$39.95, if you act right now. But wait, there's more. If you act in the next 10 minutes, they will throw in a 20 meter yagi at no additional cost. All you pay is \$39.95 plus shipping and handling at \$2,345.00.

For your vehicle, the exact number of transceivers depends upon the space available for your rooftop/trunk lid antenna farm. A full-size van is the ideal vehicle for maximizing this capability. Remember to install all remote-head transceivers otherwise any passengers will have to sit in the back seat. If you want a practical demonstration of this, just check out KC8PD's vehicle.

Which brings us to the next question.

Q4. I'm going to putting up a huge antenna system and I might need some help with the zoning. Do you know of any good attorneys in the area that might be able to help in this matter?

A4. The phrase “good attorney” is a huge contradiction in terms. Next?

Q5. I am going to the Dayton Hamfest this year and it’s always hard to tell the Techs from the Extras. Do you have a solution?

A5. Funny you should ask. I’m thinking of color-coded apparel. I feel that colors should be assigned in bands such as our resistor code does. My method would be very noticeable at hamfests.

Cap indicates your class of license held, since it is the most obvious piece of apparel, standing or sitting:

Red: Extra; Orange: Advanced; Yellow: General; Green: Tech Plus; Blue: Tech; Violet: Novice; White: Reciprocal Alien. Shirt/blouse color indicates where your last test was taken: Brown: VE; Red: FCC. Pants/Skirt color indicates your code speed: Red: >20wpm; Black: 13 wpm; Brown: 5 wpm; No pants: No code.

Q6. I hold a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Education. Yet, I found the Technician Operator Class exam to be one of the hardest things that I have ever had to do. Now I want to do some HF DXing and so I have to move up to General. How am I ever going to do that?

A6 Just memorize some of the key answers to the key questions and you should have no trouble. Here, let me help you.

1. What is the correct spelling of the word “amateur?”

- a. amature
- b. amateur
- c. amateur
- d. amuater

Draw a line under choice C. It looks something like an “O” with a gap on the right side. Remember that amateur has a “mate” in the middle.

2. What is the mathematical expression for Ohm’s Law?

- a. $A+B=C$
- b. $E=I \text{ times } R$
- c. X marks the spot
- d. $O=H/M$

Don’t waste your time memorizing such drivel. When in doubt, choose B. Stick with the important issue: Write a 100 word essay about E’s feelings about its totally unfair binding relationship with I and R.

3. How much electrical power is dissipated in a 10 ohm resistor carrying 1 ampere of current?

- a. 1 watt
- b. 100 watts
- c. none
- d. 10 watts

Have your personal trainer crunch the numbers while you write an environmental impact statement about the effect of the resistor’s dissipated power upon global warming.

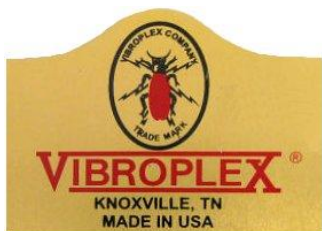
(Hint: The answer is 10 watts. That’s choice D – the last one on the list, the one following C, the first one from the bottom up. Oh, I give up.)

Well, there you have it. I hope that this month’s column helped you out in your quest for that elusive DX. I want to thank John Johnston, W3BE, whose QCWA Journal article helped greatly in formulating the above column. Until next month, 73, Gud DX TU and keep those finals warm.

Chuck, W8PT



Visit to Vibroplex



On my recent trip to Knoxville, Tennessee, I had the opportunity to visit Scott Robbins, W4PA, at the Vibroplex office and factory located in Knoxville. Vibroplex, in business since 1890 is the oldest name in Amateur Radio! Scott purchased the company in December of 2009 from Felton Mitchell, W4OA, who had owned the company for the previous 15 years.

"Vibroplex represents the great tradition of CW operation in Amateur Radio going back many, many years," said Robbins. I'm tickled to be able to continue the more than 100 years of history that has gone into this company."

Robbins - who was employed at Ten-Tec, Inc. from 1995 until resigning in December 2009 to take over full-time management and ownership of Vibroplex, said "It's a great opportunity to continue the many years of tradition that the Vibroplex name represents. He said "I've known Mitch for quite a few years and it was an important consideration for both of us that Vibroplex continue operation, building quality products for Amateur Radio long into the future.

Robbins moved Vibroplex from its former location in Mobile, Alabama to Knoxville, Tennessee and opened at the new location on January 5, 2010. "My first Vibroplex paddle was given to me in 1980 by my father, W2DR. When I left home to attend the University of North Carolina in 1988, a rig, some wire and the key went with me. Close to 30 years later, it's still on the table - along with two Vibroplex products I've purchased. I used a Vibroplex Chrome Iambic to win the 2006 ARRL DX CW contest from Barbados as 8P9PA. Vibroplex is the oldest continuously operating business in the Amateur Radio industry and has been in continuous service to the hobby since founder Horace Martin invented the "bug" semi-automatic Morse code key in 1904".

My biggest surprise is that Vibroplex is basically a one man operation (with a part-time helper). Much of the actual machining that goes into the manufacture is done by subcontractors, with the final assembly and quality control being done at the Knoxville location. Scott said that his biggest challenge is keeping track of all the inventory which consists of over 6000 individual parts for all the different models. Scott says the current best sellers are the Code Warrior Junior and the new Vibrocube. If you've ever had a keyer slide around on your operating desk, the Vibrocube is for you! It weighs in at over 6 pounds and will not be easily pushed around!



Scott W4PA



In addition to the Vibroplex line, Scott is also the US/Canadian distributor for Spyder Beam line of masts and antennas from Germany. Vibroplex's toll-free sales line (800) 840-8873. The FAX number is (865) 247-6795 and for calls other than placing orders, the phone number is (865) 247-6792. The website - <http://www.vibroplex.com> - has a wealth of information regarding all the current products, as well as historical information on both the company and the products. Later this summer (August or September maybe) Scott will be providing a program at the PCARS meeting via video conferencing. You'll be able to learn a lot more about Vibroplex and its history then.

Tom, WB8LCD

Disclaimer

Obviously this is the APRIL issue of The RADIOGRAM. As in years past, we've had fun putting in jokes and articles that are clearly meant to amuse you. Hopefully you found some funny stuff in here to enjoy. Have no fear, next month we get back to regular amateur related information. but, some humor may still find it's way in once in a while.

However; there are some articles in this issue that are NOT jokes. News comes in all the time and we try to keep up on things amateur related so we can pass it on to you.

If your were offended by any particular article or picture in this April Fool issue, I'll apologize now (see picture at right).

If you are wondering which articles are April Fool related look in the Table of Contents, better known as "In this issue of The RADIOGRAM" on page 2. The articles that ARE April Fool related are listed in *Italics*, the NON-April fool articles are in regular font. But some of the non-April Fool articles do have a line or two that may be April Fool related..... and some that may not be, or some that could be, so, I hope that clears everything up.....



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! This April issue is keeping up the fun tradition since we started the newsletter - April Fool stuff abounds. I hope you enjoyed this as much as I did putting it together.

The picture at the right shows the RADIOGRAM staff hard at work getting this issue out in time for your reading enjoyment.



Thanks go out to this month's contributors:

WB8LCD, WB9LBI, K3GP, N8RLG, KB8UUZ, AB0DX, WB2DFC, KD8FLZ, KC8PD, KC8LRH, AB5P, W8KNO, NX8G, AE5WX, The BLANDX Corporation, The ARRL and the World Wide Web.

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

Pictures from the March PCARS Meeting





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

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM
at the **On Tap Grille**, 4396 Kent Road (SR 59) in Stow

All are welcome to attend ~ Drop in and say hello!



"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

PCARS uses the N8EQJ Repeater: **146.895 MHz** PL 110.9 ~ Rootstown, 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	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Club Callsign Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
Field Day	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
F.Y.A.O.	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
P.I.O.	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland
VE Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
Web Master	KD8MQ	John Myers



PCARS
VE Team

KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
KB8DPN	Russ Anderson
N4IT	Carl Capps
WB8LCD	Tom Sly
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
N8EQJ	Ed Polack
K8QF	Russ Conklin
WB8VNO	Gay Wands
WD8CVH	Ted Wands
NX8G	Rex Simmons
N8RLG	Robert Gurney
AB8AA	Allan Avnet
K8JAA	Jane Avnet
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro
KE8G	Jim Blanca
W8RID	Bob Davet
K8MSF	Bud Green
KD8LEB	Al Zielinski
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
KD8LDY	Russ Williams



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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 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
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Mantua, OH 44255



NLC

