



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



February 2012 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 7 No. 2

~ 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

Let me start off by saying "Congratulations" to PCARS member Matt, W8DEC, for being promoted to SEC (Section Emergency Coordinator) of the Ohio Section of the ARRL! I'm sure that Matt was selected for this position because of the enthusiasm and dedication he has for EmComm work and ARES®. As DEC for OH Section District 10, Matt did a fine job of pulling together the resources available, and most importantly pulling together the people who were available, to build an organization that operated as a cohesive unit over a fairly large geographical area. Let's support Matt as he takes on the challenge of doing the same over the largest section (by member count) in the entire ARRL.

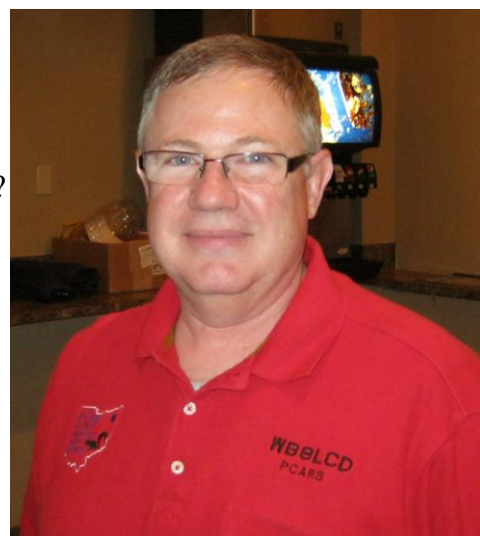
So, are you working towards the new PCARS A-Z Award? All the information is on page 23 of last month's newsletter and on the PCARS Yahoo site. Who's going to get that first certificate in each category?

Maybe you'd like to try something just a little more difficult – How about the ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge? All the information for this one is on page 17 of last month's newsletter and page 84 of the February 2012 *QST*. This award celebrates the 75th anniversary of the DXCC award. I think it would probably get us a write up and a group photo in *QST* if we were the first club to have 75 members qualify! When you get your submission ready, let Parky KB8UUZ or Joe W8KNO know, they can keep us informed of how close we're getting to it. Any bets on who the first PCARS member to qualify will be?

Even closer to home, and happening very soon, who will get their name on the FYAO Plaque for this year? Go after it! Klondike Mike, KC8UNR is getting the idea that no one else out there can take it away from him. Saturday, February 18th, **Freeze Your Acorns Off** - be there.....

Almost every one of us who has become an Amateur Radio Operator got into this hobby because we thought it might be a fun and interesting way to spend our leisure time with other like minded people. We were right, but it only remains fun if you remain engaged and active. Since the very beginning of PCARS, our goal has been to have fun with the hobby by bringing us together to enjoy the activities that are unique to us. Looking over the membership roster, I notice that there are some of you who have slipped away from our activities.

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Tom, WB8LCD

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



From the President - Continued from Page 1

We all go through periods in our lives when family, jobs, other interests, or whatever, keep us from being active. If that's you, we understand, but at the same time we miss you being a part of our activities. Come back for a visit – we've got plenty of activities every month to be a part of.

February, being the shortest month, means we're already that much closer to hearing from Parky that the newsletter deadline is coming up. How about putting something together, and maybe including a photo or two? (Please, keep it ham radio related). We've hit 50 check-ins on the Thursday night nets, but we've never yet hit 50 pages in the newsletter. Parky does a great job on The Radiogram, but your inputs are what make it easier for him to keep it interesting. Send those articles and shack shots in!

Hope to hear you on the air or see you at a PCARS activity soon.

73,

Tom, WB8LCD

From the Vice President

One thing was clear: these people were absolutely out to their minds. They proposed to hike into the middle of Towner's Woods in February 2006, and set up an operating event.

No shelters. No tents. In the open. In late February, for crying out loud, in the Ohio Snow belt. Further, it was to be a QRP operation, mind you. Which was thing that made sense about the whole enterprise; there's no electrical power in Towner's woods. Hard to believe, but there it was, announced on page 8 of the Radiogram. Any number of things could have gone wrong, including blizzards, bitter cold, high winds, poor propagation, and being stalked by ravenous wolves. Whoever hatched this crazy scheme probably should have been put away for a couple of years.



Bill, WB8LBI

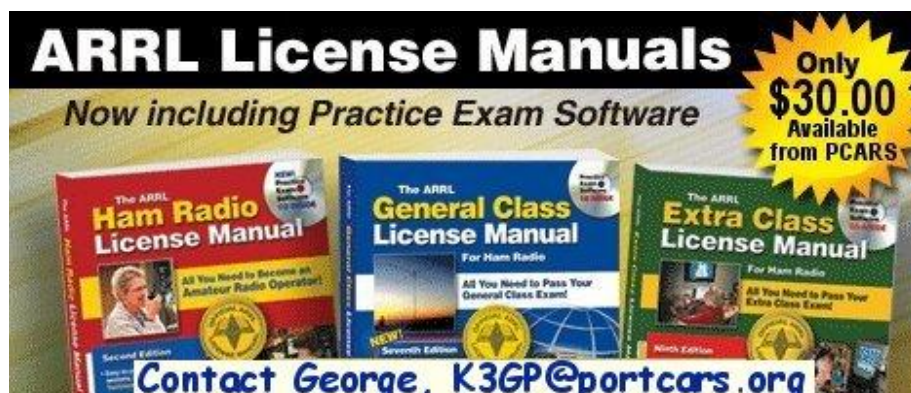
Amazingly, the weather was sunny and 26 degrees on February 25, 2006 with no wind. About a dozen folks turned out for the very first Freeze Your Acorns Off event. Propagation wasn't great, but the guys still managed to make several contacts, notably with the Missouri QSO Party going on at the same time. In fact, we had a pretty good time, and vowed to do it again same time next year...but with more heat this time.

PCARS was not they only group of hams setting up shop in the frozen tundra. In the same issue of the Radiogram, you'll find another announcement from a (possibly even crazier) bunch of hams heading an island in Antarctica for a two week DXpedition. It was a lot colder, harder, and more expensive than anything the poseurs at PCARS had in mind. Operating as 3Y0X, they provided a rare callsign for thousands of hams across the world.

Don DuBon N6JRL was one of those brave souls who ventured down to Antarctica for what became known as the Peter I Expedition, and he's our featured guest at February PCARS monthly meeting, now that he's had five years to thaw out. It was a pretty wild ride just getting there, and Don will have pictures and stories. Come on out and see him.

For the seventh year, a somewhat saner version of FYAO will get underway, at the completely enclosed and heated shelter house at Fred Fuller Park in Kent. There will be stations running QRP from the shelter where it's 72 degrees, with plenty of hot food on hand. If you're brave, you can venture outside in the park where Dave WB2DFC and Klondike Mike KC8UNR will be holding forth outdoors in the woods, just like the first FYAO event. Grab an extra cup of hot coffee, and go out there and see them. Just watch out for ravenous wolves.

Bill, WB9LBI



ARRL License Manuals
Now including Practice Exam Software

Only \$30.00 Available from PCARS

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual
All You Need to Become an Amateur Radio Operator
Second Edition

The ARRL General Class License Manual
For Ham Radio
All You Need to Pass Your General Class Exam
Seventh Edition

The ARRL Extra Class License Manual
For Ham Radio
All You Need to Pass Your Extra Class Exam
Ninth Edition

Contact George, K3GP@portcars.org

Michael J. Kilbel, KB8PNE - SK



PCARS member - Michael J. Kilbel, 50, passed away after a short illness on January 15, 2012. He was born on January 19, 1961. Mike had been a member of the Cuyahoga Falls club (CFARC) and was currently a member of PCARS.

Mike and his wife Holly visited PCARS during Field Day last year and Mike joined PCARS shortly after.

Because he worked out of town, Mike was unable to participate in our events, but did check into the Thursday night net a couple of times via echolink.



Mike had commented that he was looking forward to participating in the upcoming General Upgrade class.

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:



- February 13th - PCARS meeting - Peter I DXpedition - Don, N6JRL
- February 14th - Field Day Meeting at Club Site - 7pm
- February 18th - **Freeze Your Acorns Off** QRP event - see page 29 for details



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

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

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/>.



PCARS Makes the Pages of QST!

Check out page 13 of the February edition of **QST** for the picture of Tom, WB8LCD, and Dave, WB2DFC, delivering this year's donation to the Center of Hope.

Nice publicity for ham radio and PCARS!

73,

Jim, KC8PD

Helping Feed Those in Need

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS), its members and friends, recently donated \$2500, along with a carload of food, to the Center of Hope in Ravenna, Ohio, for its holiday food distributions. It was the sixth year that PCARS has donated food and cash to the Center. — Jim Aylward, KC8PD, president, PCARS



Tom Sly, WB8LCD, left, incoming PCARS president, and Dave Rarrick, WB2DFC, former PCARS vice president, present the donation to Sister Denise Stiles. The donations were collected at the November PCARS meeting. It was the sixth year that PCARS has made a donation at Thanksgiving.

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

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



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

Robert, N8RLG
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Summit County AREAS®

The next Summit County ARES® Meeting will be on Thursday Feb 23, at 7 PM, at Summit Red Cross, 501 W Market St, Akron. The topic for the evening will be: FLDIGI/NBEMS Workshop. Narrow Bandwidth Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) uses the FREE FLDIGI digital software and is a great digital messaging system.

Using nothing more than an HT and a laptop, messages can be sent on 2M or 70cm FM. Acoustic coupling consists of holding the HT up to your laptop speaker or microphone with no hardware interfaces. If your laptop doesn't have a microphone, external mics are very cheap.

During this workshop we will help you install the FREE software and get it set up and working on your system. This meeting qualifies you for another ticket for the FREE HT giveaway.

73,

Dennis, AI8P



February's Featured Presentation: Expedition to Antarctica

At the February 13th PCARS meeting, all about one of the most difficult and risky DXpeditions ever: Antarctica.

Don DuBon N6JRL was a member of the 3Y0X DXpedition team on the uninhabited Antarctic island Peter I in 2006. It's said that more people have been to outer space than to this island. Getting to Peter I took a flight from Atlanta to Chile, a charter plane to the South Shetlands, then a week-long boat trip to finally reach the Island. The team built a city and for the next two weeks brought 3Y0X to the world.

The Peter I team consisted of 21 members from eight different countries. Don will explain how the team trained and prepared for this fantastic voyage and DX-Pedition.



Don – N6JRL

Don DuBon has been a ham since 1963. He holds callsigns VP2EM, J68DD, TI5/N6JRL and participated in the PJ7E New Country DXpedition on Sint Maarten in 2010 when new entities were given to the world in the Caribbean. Along with Dave Kalter KB8OCP, Don was a founder of the Youth DX Adventures, taking young operators to Costa Rica (TI5N) every summer. Born in Youngstown, Don is a retired Marine now residing in Dayton. He was the President of SWODXA last year and this year is President of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association that puts on the Dayton Hamvention every May.

ARES® District 10 Conference

Next staff meeting for the Second Annual Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference will be held at 7:30PM on Monday, February 20th at Gilmour Academy Lower School. You do not have to be a member of any particular organization to join us for the staff meetings. All are welcome to attend. Go to www.glecc.org for details.



Matt, W8DEC
ARES® Ohio District 10 DEC
Ohio ARES® SEC

Hamfest Schedule

02/05/2012 **Winter Hamfest** - Lorain, OH - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Website: www.noars.net

02/12/2012 **Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show** - Mansfield - Richland County Fairgrounds - Website: <http://hamfest.w8we.org>

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

QRP / CW Special Interest Group

Interested in low power operating and / or CW operating? The QRP / CW Special Interest Group is for you! This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at the PCARS Club Site - 7:00 PM. Our club has some very fine operators who can help you learn the ins and outs of these two operating styles.

January's meeting was a display of the different keys, keyer paddles and keyers that PCARS members use.

Our February meeting will be a discussion of all the different clubs and online groups available to those of you who are interested in either QRP, CW or both. We'll also be discussing a group QRP building project which is composed of 3 separate kits from the 4-State QRP group.

The three kits consist of a receiver, a transmitter and a T/R switch - all 3 add up to a complete QRP / CW 40 meter station.



All types of keys – even some car keys.....

Everyone in PCARS is invited to participate in this building project, which will be done as a "group build" to help ensure your success with the project. The total cost for all 3 kits will be about \$110. We will need your kit order in no later than February 20th. The web information for all three kits is listed below.

<http://www.wa0itp.com/ss40.html> <http://www.wa0itp.com/mbmagicbox.html>

<http://www.wa0itp.com/ns40.html>

If you just don't have an interest in QRP or CW (and all the fun you can have), then check out the other PCARS Special Interest Groups on Tuesday nights.

— — ... — —

Tom, WB8LCD



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in February:

N4IT	Carl Capps	KD8DFL	Ray Larrick
K8JE	Jim Weaver	KC8YYS	James Albright
KC8LJY	Mike Bakes	KD8INR	Tammy Liddle
W8HFY	David Reith	KD8ONJ	Daniel Harrison
W8DEC	Matthew Welch	KD8FLX	Bob Leasure
KD8KCY	James Gurney	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
KD8PER	Gary Hengstenberger	KD8MLH	John Doyle
KD8QEM	Terry Simmers	KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro



Some Words from Weaver

As I start this item, I am sitting in Bradley Airport that serves the Hartford (Newington) area in Connecticut. The Annual meeting (of the year) of the ARRL Board of Directors (BoD) ended yesterday (Saturday) afternoon. I am awaiting the flight back to Cincinnati. Included in the pleasant duties I performed was officially welcoming former Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK as the new Vice Director for the ARRL Great Lakes Division. Dale's seating in this position became official at noon on January 1; however, I was honored to present him with the certificate of office at the meeting.

Welcome aboard, Dale. I look forward to working with you as a member of the GLD team.

The just-completed meeting covered topics ranging from naming the recipients of awards for exemplary services through protecting large segments of frequencies currently available to ham use from being diverted to use for commercial broadband operation. In essence, the Board, as usual, addressed topics that ranged from those associated with the fun or hobby aspects of ham radio to protecting the very existence of our Amateur Radio Service. The information reviewed in our discussions ranged from that which is available to any individual to information of a highly confidential nature obtained through sources that are accessible only on occasionally.

ONE TOPIC MANY members will appreciate is a free, digital version of QST via the Internet. This version offers the ability to read our membership journal online in a manner quite similar to that in which we read the hard-copy version. It also offers the ability to include full schematics and other information that sometimes can merely be referenced in the print edition, as well as direct links to items contained in the ads.

Becoming accustomed to the online version may require a little familiarization, but I believe it will become a welcome enhancement to membership.

It is inevitable that two questions regarding digi-QST will arise. The first is if a member can opt-out of receiving the hard-copy version.

The answer: yes. The second question is: Is there a reduction in dues for members who opt-out of the print version. The answer to this is no. The hard-copy version is financed largely by advertisement, not by membership dues.

Digi-QST should be unveiled yet this winter or early spring.

A SECOND TOPIC many members will want to utilize is a direct, field entry system for DXCC. This system will accomplish two goals. It will greatly speed the processing of QSL submission to the DX Desk and it will do this in a manner that will by-pass the need to mail QSLs to HQ for processing. Watch for this new system to be rolled out later this year.

It is Great to be Back On-the-Air

My tower went down during a storm in late February this past year. Strong wind coupled with a failure in a tower bracket caused the crash. A series of succeeding events that included moving my office-shack kept me off the air until a few days ago. Today I finally became truly re-immersed in hamming.

Some work remains to tie the ribbons on the package (hooking up my amp as well as getting a wire antenna up for 160 through 30, but I have had a ball today. For the first time since my 6M rig was a Lafayette HE-45a in the days of 6M AM, and later during the days when 6M FM was all the rage, I am back on 6 -- SSB and CW. In

spite of the current, generally-iffy usefulness of propagation, my 6M DX count jumped from just one entity to five in only an hour or two. During the same period I was able to add totally "new ones" on 20M-10M.



Jim, K8JE

All this is good, and it is great to be active on the bands one again; however, operating is just one of the refreshing breezes that struck me this weekend. Logbook of the World (LoTW) was another of these.

It had been over two years since I had used LoTW last. It was a tremendous service back then, but between the improvements made in its operation and the updating of the logging program I have, Logbook is a great pleasure to use. It was easy to load and activate thanks to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ at ARRL HQ. It was equally simple to scan my log, translate the information into the ADIF format and upload the file to Logbook. Once the file had been uploaded, it took only about a minute for Logbook to review the 1,200+ QSOs in the file and ready the new credits for addition to my DXCC file. (Thanks to long-time friend Kirk Swallow, W8QID for helping me over a glitch in activating a new version of the logging program.)

I look forward, once again, to seeing you on the bands.

Jim, K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division

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



Dot-Dash-Diss: The Gentleman Hacker's 1903 Lulz

A century ago, one of the world's first hackers used Morse code insults to disrupt a public demo of Marconi's wireless telegraph

LATE one June afternoon in 1903 a hush fell across an expectant audience in the Royal Institution's celebrated lecture theatre in London. Before the crowd, the physicist John Ambrose Fleming was adjusting arcane apparatus as he prepared to demonstrate an emerging technological wonder: a long-range wireless communication system developed by his boss, the Italian radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. The aim was to

showcase publicly for the first time that Morse code messages could be sent wirelessly over long distances. Around 300 miles away, Marconi was preparing to send a signal to London from a cliff top station in Poldhu, Cornwall, UK.

Yet before the demonstration could begin, the apparatus in the lecture theatre began to tap out a message. At first, it spelled out just one word repeated over and over. Then it changed into a facetious poem accusing Marconi of "diddling the public". Their demonstration had been hacked - and this was more than 100 years before the mischief playing out on the internet today. Who was the Royal Institution hacker? How did the cheeky messages get there? And why?

It had all started in 1887 when Heinrich Hertz proved the existence of the electromagnetic waves predicted by James Clerk Maxwell in 1865. Discharging a capacitor into two separated electrodes, Hertz ionized the air in the gap between them, creating a spark. Miraculously, another spark zipped between two electrodes a few meters away: an electromagnetic wave from the first spark had induced a current between the second electrode pair. It meant long and short bursts of energy - "Hertzian waves" - could be broadcast to represent the dots and dashes of Morse code. Wireless telegraphy was born, and Marconi and his company were at the vanguard. Marconi claimed that his wireless messages could be sent privately over great distances. "I can tune my instruments so that no other instrument that is not similarly tuned can tap my messages," Marconi boasted to London's St James Gazette in February 1903.



That things would not go smoothly for Marconi and Fleming at the Royal Institution that day in June was soon apparent. Minutes before Fleming was due to receive Marconi's Morse messages from Cornwall, the hush was broken by a rhythmic ticking noise sputtering from the theatre's brass projection lantern, used to display the lecturer's slides. To the untrained ear, it sounded like a projector on the blink. But Arthur Blok, Fleming's assistant, quickly recognized the tippity-tap of a human hand keying a message in Morse. Someone, Blok reasoned, was beaming powerful wireless pulses into the theatre and they were strong enough to interfere with the projector's electric arc discharge lamp.

Mentally decoding the missive, Blok realized it was spelling one facetious word, over and over: "Rats". A glance at the output of the nearby Morse printer confirmed this. The incoming Morse then got more personal, mocking Marconi: "There was a young fellow of Italy, who diddled the public quite prettily," it trilled. Further rude epithets - apposite lines from Shakespeare - followed.

The stream of invective ceased moments before Marconi's signals from Poldhu arrived. The demo continued, but the damage was done: if somebody could intrude on the wireless frequency in such a way, it was clearly nowhere near as secure as Marconi claimed. And it was likely that they could eavesdrop on supposedly private messages too.

Marconi would have been peeved, to say the least, but he did not respond directly to the insults in public. He had no truck with skeptics and naysayers: "I will not demonstrate to any man who throws doubt upon the system," he said at the time. Fleming, however, fired off a fuming letter to The Times of London. He dubbed the hack "scientific hooliganism", and "an outrage against the traditions of the Royal Institution". He asked the newspaper's readers to help him find the culprit.

He didn't have to wait long. Four days later a gleeful letter confessing to the hack was printed by The Times.

The writer justified his actions on the grounds of the security holes it revealed for the public good. Its author was Nevil Maskelyne, a mustachioed 39-year-old British music hall magician. Maskelyne came from an inventive family - his father came up with the coin-activated "spend-a-penny" locks in pay toilets. Maskelyne, however, was more interested in wireless technology, so taught himself the principles. He would use Morse code in "mind-reading" magic tricks to secretly communicate with a stooge. He worked out how to use a spark-gap transmitter to remotely ignite gunpowder. And in 1900, Maskelyne sent wireless messages between a ground station and a balloon 10 miles away. But, as author Sungook Hong relates in the book *Wireless*, his ambitions were frustrated by Marconi's broad patents, leaving him embittered towards the Italian. Maskelyne would soon find a way to vent his spleen.

One of the big losers from Marconi's technology looked likely to be the wired telegraphy industry. Telegraphy companies owned expensive land and sea cable networks, and operated flotillas of ships with expert crews to lay and service their submarine cables. Marconi presented a wireless threat to their wired hegemony, and they were in no mood to roll over.

The Eastern Telegraph Company ran the communications hub of the British Empire from the seaside hamlet of Porthcurno, west Cornwall, where its submarine cables led to Indonesia, India, Africa, South America and Australia. Following Marconi's feat of transatlantic wireless messaging on 12 December 1901, ETC hired Maskelyne to undertake extended spying operations.

Maskelyne built a 50-metre radio mast (the remnants of which still exist) on the cliffs west of Porthcurno to see if he could eavesdrop on messages the Marconi Company was beaming to vessels as part of its highly successful ship-to-shore messaging business. Writing in the journal *The Electrician* on 7 November 1902, Maskelyne gleefully revealed the lack of security. "I received Marconi messages with a 25-foot collecting circuit [aerial] raised on a scaffold pole. When eventually the mast was erected the problem was not interception but how to deal with the enormous excess of energy."

It wasn't supposed to be this easy. Marconi had patented a technology for tuning a wireless transmitter to broadcast on a precise wavelength. This tuning, Marconi claimed, meant confidential channels could be set up. Anyone who tunes in to a radio station will know that's not true, but it wasn't nearly so obvious back then. Maskelyne showed that by using an untuned broadband receiver he could listen in.

Having established interception was possible, Maskelyne wanted to draw more attention to the technology's flaws, as well as showing interference could happen. So he staged his Royal Institution hack by setting up a simple transmitter and Morse key at his father's nearby West End music hall.

The facetious messages he sent could easily have been jumbled with those Marconi himself sent from Cornwall, ruining both had they arrived simultaneously. Instead, they drew attention to a legitimate flaw in the technology - and the only damage done was to the egos of Marconi and Fleming.

Fleming continued to bluster for weeks in the newspapers about Maskelyne's assault being an insult to science. Maskelyne countered that Fleming should focus on the facts. "I would remind Professor Fleming that abuse is no argument," he replied.

In the present day, many hackers end up highlighting flawed technologies and security lapses just like Maskelyne. A little mischief has always had its virtues.



Paul Marks
New Scientist magazine

Paul Marks is senior technology correspondent for **New Scientist** magazine.

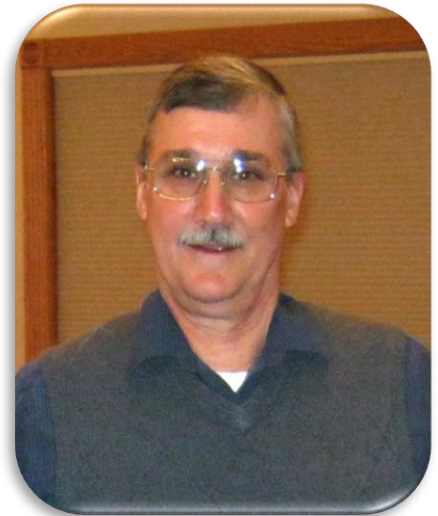
<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21228440.700-dotdashdiss-the-gentleman-hackers-1903-lulz.html?full=true>

Field Day is Coming!

And sooner than we think! It won't be long before the cold winds, snow and ice are a distant memory and Field Day will be upon us. PCARS did a great job at Field Day 2011, breaking our own records and moving up in many of the standings here in Ohio and nationwide. With the sunspot numbers climbing we have an opportunity to do even better this year.

Our first planning meeting of the year will be on Tuesday evening February 14th at 7:00 PM at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. I would like to talk about setting goals and objectives for Field Day 2012 and also staffing the different positions for Field Day 2012 at this meeting. As we did last year, we will be using the Incident Command System, or ICS as a tool for planning, staffing and executing our Field Day plan.

This meeting will be an open meeting for anyone interested in PCARS Field Day. Please mark your calendars and come with any thoughts or suggestions you have about making this the best Field Day yet for PCARS!



Rick, K8CAV

73,
Rick K8CAV
Field Day Chairman

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!



February	
2	N8EQJ
9	KD8JCY
16	KD8FDK
23	KB8UUZ

March	
1	N8WLE
8	N8RLG
15	KC8PD
22	KB8UUZ
29	WB8LCD

April	
5	WB2DFC
12	N8QE
19	KB8UHN
26	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

Net Night at the Club Site – January 2012

Thursday, January 26th, was "Net Night" at the club site. Net Night is always the 4th Thursday of each month, the whole idea being just one more opportunity to hang out with PCARS at our club site.

There is never a planned program, just check into the net and do what you want. There are two complete HF stations looking for someone to run a few Q's on them.



How about a slow speed CW QSO on 40

meters? Need some help with a project? Bring it along, several members are *pretty good at troubleshooting circuits*. Just looking for a place to hang out with friends? This is it.

Check us out next month, you just might have a pretty good time!



73,

Tom, WB8LCD

WRARC Benefit Drive



The Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club is doing a benefit drive for Michael Austin, KC8WUX. Mike is blind and has a very limited income. He is active on a lot of 2 meter nets and is willing to act as net control if asked. We are going to purchase an ICOM radio and an antenna for Mike so he can get on the air. The radio has a voice chip built in so he can know where he is tuned. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so at any Farmers National Bank. You will have to tell them it is for the "Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club, The Michael Austin, KC8WUXsavings account". Any and all donations are appreciated.

Any questions please call me at Home 330-549-3051 or Cell 330-207-3296.

Thank You & 73,
Allan, AB8AA



Swap-N-Shop

FREE: HARDLINE - Approximately 45 - 50 feet of 1/2" hardline. Free to a good home. [04/02/12]

Contact: **Tom** at WB8LCD@portcars.org

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 : 1ea GW Instek Lab DC Pwr Supply Dual 0-30 Volt@2A Model GPC-3020 \$75 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1ea BK Oscilloscope, Model 2120 20 Mhz with power cord, no probes \$75 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1ea Micronta Power Supply 13.8 volt – 2.5 A \$10 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1 YAESU FT950 Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$900.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1 ICOM IC7000 Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$850.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1 MFJ 989C Tuner Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$200.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1 RS PRO 76 Scanner Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$25.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1 Comet 2Mtr/440 Vertical Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$100.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1 Uniden BC 350A Scanner Equipment from a SK. About 4-5 years old \$35.00 [05/02/12]

FOR SALE : 1 RS 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 : MFJ-929 Auto Tuner with original manual and factory packaging. Also included is a factory Icom interface cable (MFJ-5114I) and an additional homebrew Icom interface cable. The tuner is in excellent condition, has been used very little and has always been in a nonsmoking environment. \$175.00 [03/02/12]

Contact: **Rex** - NX8G@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 [02/2/12]

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. \$150 [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: [05/02/12] This will help keep the listings current.



CARS Bus Trip to the Dayton Hamvention®

CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention, the 2012 bus trip will take place on Saturday May 19, 2012. The Bus trip will cost \$45.00 dollars per person. The bus will be stopping for breakfast on the way down, with a brief stop on the way home for a quick bite. You are responsible for your food and Hamvention ticket costs.

Stop 1: The bus will leave promptly at 3:30 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security.



Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Dayton at approximately 4:00 am.

When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at. Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance. The bus was sold out in 2010 so reserve your seats as early as possible.

If you have any questions please call Dwaine at 440-582-3462. Checks can be mailed to: CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264. Better yet, go to www.2cars.org to reserve and pay for your 2012 Dayton bus ticket (you can use Pay Pal).

Dwaine, K8ME



Amateur Radio Finally Jumps on the Maker Bandwagon

Over three years ago, I wrote that amateur radio should do more to associate itself with the Maker, or "do it yourself" (DIY) movement (www.kb6nu.com/lets-get-on-the-maker-bandwagon/). Well, it finally looks like it is going to do just that.

Just before the first of the year, the ARRL unveiled its DIY campaign (www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launches-new-diy-campaign). The most visible part of the campaign is a video (www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ), but there are also some other bits, including:

- a flier to be handed out to interested persons,
- buttons that say "Ask Why I DIY with Ham Radio," and
- a PowerPoint presentation and speaker's notes that you can use to give a presentation to an amateur radio club or other non-ham group.

These items are available from the ARRL website, www.arrl.org/DIY.

CQ also on board

CQ magazine is also jumping on the bandwagon. They recently announced that they will run a quarterly "Maker" column, written by Matt Stultz, KB3TAN. Stultz is the founder of HackPittsburgh, a "hackerspace" or community workshop for makers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has been a ham since 2009 and has integrated amateur radio into many of HackPittsburgh's activities.

Stultz's first column, titled "We Are Makers," will appear in the March issue of CQ. It provides a general introduction to the maker/hacker community for hams, as well as a description of a high-altitude balloon project that brought the two groups together in Pittsburgh.

Hams at the Maker Faire

In 2006, Make: magazine hosted the first Maker Faire (www.makerfaire.com) in San Mateo, CA. Since then, Maker Faires have also been held in Austin, TX, New York, NY; and Detroit, MI. Maker Faires are showcases for all kinds of crazy projects that people are working on.

Hams usually have a presence at these events. This year, the theme for one of the amateur radio groups participating in the California Maker Faire, which is the flagship event, is Arduino (www.arduino.cc) applications in amateur radio. Michael, NE6RD, who is organizing this group has lined up several very cool projects. One of them is an Arduino-controlled satellite antenna system.

A project I proposed is an Arduino-controlled keyer. On the face of it, this is not a real exciting project, but my twist on this is that instead of directly keying a transmitter, I plan to have the Arduino actuate a solenoid that

will press a straight key. That should make the project a little more visual.

Hams sometimes like to claim that we were the original makers and hackers. We certainly have a long tradition of DIYing. Let's show these upstarts exactly what ham radio is capable of. Perhaps, in the process, we'll even entice a few of them to join us.

Dan, KB6NU

EmComm

Congratulations to PCARS member Matt Welch, W8DEC, on his recent appointment as Section Emergency Coordinator for the Ohio Section of the ARRL. Matt has been serving for the past few years as the District Emergency Coordinator for ARES® District 10 which includes Portage County. In fact, he has been the only DEC of District 10 which was created just prior to his appointment.

Whether you have gotten to know Matt through PCARS activities, ARES® operations, public service events, or as a customer of his at Amateur Electronic Supply, you know that he brings a lot of knowledge and enthusiasm for the hobby. His energy and dedication will be real assets for him as SEC.



Matt, W8DEC

He has hit the ground running, having already scheduled a Section wide Leadership Conference in Mansfield on March 3rd. That meeting is for all ARES® section ARRL appointees, which includes, among others, all DEC's and ADEC's as well as local EC's and AEC's.

Matt advises that he has *"also focused my attention on recruiting DEC's for Districts 2, 5, and 10. Next on the priority list is to focus on training. In doing so, I plan on recruiting volunteers to assist in proctoring a Section Wide Simulated Emergency Test. Not only will the SET aid in my quest for training but will be one of many assessment tools to measure our strengths and weaknesses."*

You can still count on Matt being around for club activities. He is a dedicated PCARS member, or as he says *"I am very proud to be a member of PCARS. The club often reminds me of what amateur radio is all about ... FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, and most of all ... FUN! I have never been afraid to say I have fun in the most active, not to mention, largest amateur radio club in Northern Ohio. PCARS is a one of a kind but there's no harm in wishing there were more clubs like ours."*

There are a lot of challenges for Matt as SEC and we know that he will be up to the task. Show your support for Matt and ARES® by getting involved in your local ARES® operation. You can do that by participating in its nets, training, public service events, and emcomm operations.

73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH

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

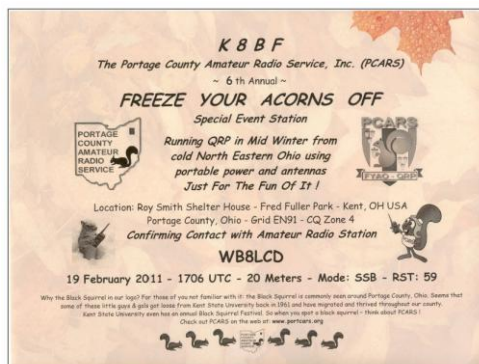
FYAO 2012 – Get Ready to Have FUN!

PCARS FYAO 2012 Operating Contest

Again this year, the operating format for FYAO will be a “contest” for all participants that set up a station and operate from FYAO. The winner will receive a certificate and his/her name and call will be added to the FYAO plaque displayed in the club station. So far, the only call-sign on the plaque belongs to “Klondike” Mike, KC8UNR.

Contest rules are as follows:

- 1) Maximum power 5 watts CW / Digital 10 watts pep SSB
- 2) Each operating station is an entry into the PCARS contest and will use the club callsign & log sheet as part of the FYAO Special Event operation.
- 3) Each operating station will operate within the privileges of the control operator at that station.
- 4) Each CW / Digital QSO = 2 points Each SSB QSO = 3 points
- 5) Each station set up outside of the main shelter house will receive 100 Bonus Points. (you are allowed to bring/erect your own shelter as long as all park rules are obeyed)
- 6) 100 Bonus points will be awarded for bringing a hot dish to the event to share, and, 50 Bonus points will be awarded for bringing a cold dish to the event to share (cookies, pies, snacks, etc....)
- 7) Each station will have a guest register – each registered guest adds 2 points to the score before multipliers.
- 8) Each state or country contacted will be a multiplier – add up all multipliers, times the number of QSO points + Bonus points to compute final score. You must verify the state or country the other station is operating from.
- 9) All logs will be turned in before leaving the event. The contest will run from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM EST. (Yes, that's two hours shorter this year)
- 10) The winner's plaque will be awarded at the March meeting following the event.

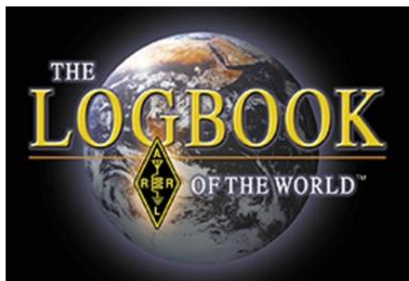


So there you have it! Set up a station, bring lots of food, invite your ham friends from all over NE Ohio to come visit us. It's going to be a great day, and as tradition dictates, there will be a debriefing to follow the event, location to be determined on the day of the event. Hope to see you there and on the air! Good Luck in the contest,

73,
Tom, WB8LCD,
2012 FYAO coordinator

Logbook of The World to now support CQ Awards

The ARRL and CQ Communications, Inc have signed an agreement to begin providing support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) electronic confirmation system. The agreement was announced jointly today by ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, and CQ Communications President Richard Ross, K2MGA.



CQ's awards will be the first non-ARRL awards supported by LoTW and will be phased in beginning with the CQ WPX award, with additional CQ awards to follow. The ARRL's LoTW system -- an interactive database recording contacts between radio amateurs -- was created in 2003 and has been adopted by 47,500 radio amateurs worldwide. It already has records of 400 million contacts and is growing weekly. The target date for beginning LoTW support for WPX is April 1, 2012. Amateurs will be able to use LoTW logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WPX credit. Standard LoTW credit fees and CQ award fees will apply.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that this step gives radio amateurs throughout the world an inexpensive and convenient means of gaining credits toward CQ's popular operating awards: "LoTW has significantly increased interest and participation in the ARRL's DXCC, Worked All States and VUCC awards programs. We anticipate a similarly positive response to the addition of the CQ WPX award. Amateurs will be able to spend more time operating and less time chasing QSL cards."

CQ President Richard Ross, K2MGA, said he is very pleased to be able to move forward with LoTW support for CQ awards. "We have had excellent results with electronic confirmations for several years," he explained. "I am glad that we are now able to begin expanding that convenience to those participants in our award programs who use Logbook of The World. We look forward to a smooth launch for WPX and to the expansion of LoTW support to include the rest of our award programs, as well."

From the ARRL

February Contest Calendar

February 2012	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 4 to 2400Z, Feb 5
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 4
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 4 to 0100Z, Feb 6
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 4 to 1759Z, Feb 5
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 5
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 11 to 2400Z, Feb 12
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 11 to 2200Z, Feb 12
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 12
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 18 to 2400Z, Feb 19
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 24 to 2159Z, Feb 26
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 25 to 0600Z, Feb 26

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

PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Contest 2011



We had 5 logs submitted. The results are as follows:

1st place: WB8VNO (Gay Wands) with 85,560 total points. 94 QSOs - 15 Entities worked and all 31 entities activated. **MOBILE**

2nd place: KA8BNS (Liz Milford) with 84,630 total points. 93 QSOs - 15 entities worked and all 31 entities activated. **MOBILE**

3rd place: KA8TOA (Greg Ash) with 42,840 total points. 51 QSOs - 21 entities worked and 20 entities activated. **MOBILE**

1st place: KC8LKB (Dana Evans) with 1932 total points. 42 QSOs - 23 entities worked. **FIXED HIGH**

2nd place: KB8VJL (Al Atkins) with 256 total points. 16 QSOs - 8 entities worked. **FIXED HIGH**

Overall High Score: WB8VNO

Congratulations to all that took part in the contest. Certificate will be handed out at the February PCARS meeting.

73,
Chuck, W8PT

PCARS Saturday CW Class

The basic CW class is just about finished. Terry, KB8AMZ, has done an outstanding job with the instruction and we'll soon be moving to the next phase of the course: Slow CW practice.

Maybe you've been a CW op in the past, didn't feel it was necessary to come out to learn the code, but would sure like an opportunity to get your speed back up. This

will be your

chance. Even if you weren't in the basic learning class, please, join us for the next 5 weeks of slow code practice (except for Feb 18 - FYAO).

Terry will be taking you from 0 to 5-10 WPM to help you get up to a speed where you could feel comfortable getting on the air. Opportunities like this are few and far between, so I hope to see you Saturdays at 10:00AM - at the PCARS World Headquarters on Oakwood St!

73,
Tom, WB8LCD



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Well, January 2012 is now history. I hope that you had a great time on the HAM bands and that some of you got to work some rare DX or rare for you. I received another batch of cards from the bureau this week. This time, all were for me. Sometimes, I get cards for the previous owner of W8PT and I forward them on to Richard Kennedy, who now holds the call K3VAT.

I did receive one SWL card and the fellow wrote, "Hi Richard". But it was my QSO he was listening to so he will get a card from me. I still do not have an HF antenna up but Spring is on the way, considering how fast the year is going already. And not only do I need to get the big antenna back up, but I need to assemble and put up a DX Engineering full sized Vertical for 80 meters. At 68 ft, it will have at least one set of guys.



There are many opportunities for some good DX coming up this month as well as March, so I do hope that you take advantage of the increased solar activity and get on the air.

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.

3D2, FIJI. (Reminder) Yoshida, JA1NLX, will be active as 3D2YA from Yageta Island, Yasawa IOTA Group (OC-156) between March 15-21st, 2012. Activity will be on 80-10 meters, mainly CW, possibly RTTY and SSB. QSL via his home call sign. He will QSL all QSOs via Bureau. The log will be uploaded to LoTW when he returns home. Direct QSL will be welcomed with SASE (1 IRC or 2 USDs).

3DA, SWAZILAND. (Reminder) Operators Phil/G3SWH and John/G3OLU (aka EA5ARC) will be active from the Hawane Resort in western Swaziland between February 21-29th, 2012. The Hawane Resort has a well-equipped station with Elecraft K3 transceivers, ICOM IC2KL amplifiers, an A4S at 24m and an A3WS at 20m, a wire 4 square for 40m and a vertical for 80m complete with 30 x 20m long radials. Phil informs OPDX that they will use a single callsign for the DXpedition, which is yet to be allocated. Activity will be on CW only on all bands 80-10 meters. There will be no 160, 6 meters or EME activity.

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

4W, TIMOR-LESTE. (Reminder) Vlad, UA4WHX, is once again on the move and is currently active as 4W0VB from Timor-Leste (OC-148). His length of stay is not known as of press time. Activity has been mainly CW on 40/30/20/17/12 meters. QSL via UA4WHX.

8Q, MALDIVES (False Info Being Sent Out!). Bert, CX3AN, informs OPDX that someone is sending false info out

about Mario/CX4CR and him, and their activity as 8Q7HU from Maafushi Island, Kaafu Atoll (AS-013). Their operation will still take place between January 25th and February 5th, and not February 6-15th, as the fake E-mail states. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. There will be a special emphasis on South America.

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

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

AFRICAN TOUR. Luc, F5RAV, who is expected to be active as UT/F5RAV from Kiev (between December 27th and January 3rd, will once again head south to Africa and be active as 6V7T from 6W7RV's QTH in Somone, Senegal, between February 24th and March 7th, 2012. During his stay, Luc plans to be in the REF and ARRL contests. After his operation in Senegal, look for him to be active as C56/F5RAV (along with Francisco, EA1BT) from Banjul, The Gambia, between February 27th and March 2, 2012. Activity from both locations should be on SSB and PSK. QSL via his home callsign.

DAYTON HAMVENTION EVENT (160m Dinner). Tim, K3LR, reports: "We are carrying on the great Top Band dinner tradition that George/K8GG and George/W8UVZ put together for so many years at Dayton. Dinner reservations and tickets are now available for the 23rd Annual Dayton Top Band dinner on Friday evening, May 18th, at the Crowne Plaza - downtown Dayton, Ohio. Frank Donovan, W3LPL, will be the main speaker. Reservations are available online with credit cards and PayPal. Also, use the online to contact us for information if you need to make other arrangements. All of the updated details are here: <http://topbanddinner.com>

A5, BHUTAN. Iain, G4SGX, will be active as A52JF from Bhutan between February 11-15th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB, PSK and JT65. He will use K3 radio. QSL via his home callsign.

C5, GAMBIA. Alan, G3X AQ, will be active as C56XA from The Gambia between February 27th and March 15th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW. Also, look for Alan to participation in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (March 10-11th). QSL via G3SWH.

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

CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS. Julius, OM7JG, will once again be active from Madeira Island (AF-014) as CT9/OM7JG during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via OM7JG.

CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS. Tibor, OM3RM, active as CR3A for the ARRL DX CW Contest (Feb 18-19th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power. QSL via CT3EE. Look for him before the contest as CT9/OM3RM.

EA/P, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. (Reminder) Between now and March 2012, look for Adrian, EA1CYK, to be active as EA1CYK/P during his spare time from Antarctic base "Gabriel de Castilla" (WAP ESP-02) on Deception Island, South Shetland (AN-010). If it is possible, he will visit the base "Juan Carlos I" (WAP ESP-01) on Livingstone Island (also in the South Shetland).

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

EU-017. Staff members of "DxCoffee" will be active as ID9DXC from the Aeolian group activating some rare or semi-rare rocks and islands valid for the I.I.A. (Italian Island Award). The activity will be spread out starting from the end of 2011 throughout the entire year of 2012. It began Nov 18th, from the Island of Panarea, Italian Island Award ME-006, World Lighthouse on the Air WLOTA LH-2210 (if weather conditions permit). A special card will be printed for each reference the team activates. QSL via Antonello Scauso, IT9YVO, direct or by the Bureau.

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

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.

FS, SAINT MARTIN (Also PJ7). Benoit, F8PDR, will be active as FS/F8PDR from Saint Martin (NA-105, WLOTA 383, DIFO FS-001) between February 5-16th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using mainly CW and RTTY, with 100 watts into a dipole and vertical antennas. He is also planning a side trip to Sint Maarten (PJ7). QSL via F8DPR, direct or by the Bureau and also LoTW.

FW0/TW0, WALLIS & FUTUNA (Reminder) Laci, HA0NAR, and two other operators will be active as FW0R from Uvea Island (aka Wallis, OC-054, DIFO FW-001, WLOTA 0389, WW Loc. AH16VS) between January 25th and February 23rd. Laci, HA0NAR, reported this past week: "Exactly one month from now, the FW0R team will start its journey to Wallis and Futuna Islands, with the first stop in Los Angeles for 2 days before taking an airplane to Nadi (Fiji), the closest international airport to Wallis. From there, we will fly to Wallis and expect to start TX around 25th of January 2012. We would like to remind you that the entire trip and stay on the island is paid in full by each of the operators and that any contribution/support will help us to reduce the high logistical costs. We would like to thank all individuals and especially the Foundations and Clubs as well as equipment suppliers that already support us. Our PayPal account is: ha0nar@hotmail.com

Additionally, we plan to be active from Futuna Island (IOTA OC-118) with the call sign TW0F. QSL for both FW0R and TW0F are via Laci HA0NAR." For more info, visit: <http://www.ha0nar.hu>

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 callsign, direct (see QRZ.com), by the Bureau or to his QSL Manager UX0FY.

HK0NA DXPEDITION (Update). By the time you read this, the whole HK0NA team should be on the island and operating immediately for 17 days. The team left on January 18th for Malpelo island and is not expected to return until February 10th. For more details and updates, visit: <http://hk0na.com>

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.

J3, GRENADA. Members of the "Buddies in the Caribbean" are at it again. (Team #1) will mount a mini-DXpedition to Grenada (NA-024) between February 1-9th. The Buddipole team, which specializes in 100 watts or less low power radios and the Buddipole portable antenna systems, will have fixed operations from a cliff-top villa and portable operations from various points on the island using CW, SSB, and the Digital modes, on 160-10 meters. The team consists of the following operators: Budd/W3FF, Mike KC4VG, Chris/W6HFP, Guy/N7UN, Bill/W7ZT, Weymouth/K8EAB,

Paul/KB9AVO and Steve/ WG0AT. Licensing is not yet complete but each operator is expected to receive their J3/callsign. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or mail to operator's home callsign (SASE required).

J5, GUINEA BISSAU. (Reminder) The Verona Section of A.R.I. (Italian Radioamateurs Association) is organizing a group of its members called the Verona DX Team, a DXpedition, with humanitarian and ham-radio purposes, to Guinea-Bissau (J5), one of the poorest countries in the world. The callsign J52 is a "most wanted", especially on RTTY, CW and the Digital modes and has never been activated in EME. The expedition will be on the air between March 24th and April 6th, 2012. The team will operate from Cumura. Operators mentioned are Lucio/I3LDP (Team Leader), Walter/I3VJW, Tony/ IK3ESB, Silverio/IK3IUL, Libero/IK3RBE, Enzo/IK3VVD, Milena/IK3VZJ, Livio/IZ3BUR and Llarío/IZ3STA. QSL Manager is I3LDP. For more info, visit the J52 Web site at: <http://www.ari.verona.it/veronadxteam/en/index.htm>

JD1, OGASAWARA. Hiroyuki "Harry", JG7PSJ, will once again be active as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island (AS-031) between December 30th and January 7th (2012). Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via the Bureau to JD1BMH or direct to JG7PSJ.

JW, SVALBARD. Torkel, LA6VJA, will once again be active as JW6VJA from the JW5E club station in Longyearbyen on Spitsbergen Island (EU-026) for only 24 hours on February 11th. Activity will probably be on the low bands as it will be in the dark hours around the clock. QSL via LA6VJA, direct or by the Bureau. Also, he will upload his log to LoTW. For more details, visit: <http://www.bitwrap.no/web/index.php?id=6>

JW, SVALBARD. Operators Magne/LA2XNA and Jon/LA8HGA will be active as JW2XNA and JW8HGA, respectively, from Spitsbergen Island (EU-026, WLOTA 0125) March 16-20th, 2012. Activity will be on 160-10 meters with an emphasis on the higher bands. Look for JW2XNA to be on SSB, PSK31 and PSK63, while JW8HGA will be on CW. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW.

KH9, WAKE ISLAND – (Reminder) WA2YUN, will once again be active as KH9/WA2YUN from Wake Island (OC-053, USI OI-012S, WLOTA LH-2293) for about one year while on work assignment. Activity will be limited to his spare time. QSL via K2PF

PACIFIC ISLAND TOUR. (Reminder) Vincent, F4BKV, a member of the upcoming 2012 VP6T Pitcairn team, plans to continue his activity after this operation on Pitcairn by activating the following islands and locations. His tentative schedule and callsigns are as follows:

E51BKV - February 9th; Rarotonga Island (OC-013), South Cook Islands.

E51BKV - February 10-15th; Mangaia Island (OC-159), South Cook Islands.

E51BKV - February 16th; Rarotonga Island (OC-013), South Cook Islands.

FK/F4BKV - February 18-25th; Ouvéa Island (OC-033), New Caledonia.

FK/F4BKV - February 26th; Nouméa (OC-032), New Caledonia.

HL2/F4BKV - February 27th; A brief stay in Seoul, South Korea, as Vincent heads home.

Activity from all locations will be on 40-10 meters using SSB and the Digital modes (RTTY/PSK31). His equipment will include an Elecraft K3 with 500w amp, monoband VDA (vertical dipoles array) for 17/15/12/10m and monoband verticals for 40/30/20m. QSL via his home callsign and LoTW. For more details, updates and an online log search, visit:

<http://www.f4bkv.net>

SA-071. A team consisting of Italian and Brazilian operators will activate the Brazilian Islands - Comprida (SA-024) and Peruhibe (SA-071) between January 30th and February 9th. The callsign to be used will be PR2I. Operators mentioned are Leopoldo/I8LWL, Paki/IZ8GDO, Vespe/IW8EZV, Angelo/PY2VA and Toni/PY2YW. QSL via IK7JWX.

T6, AFGHANISTAN. Look for Kurt, KE7KUS, active as T6KK from Bagram until mid-Feb. He states that after much waiting (over 5 months!), Kurt received his Afghanistan Amateur Radio License which was issued by the Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (ATRA). Kurt primarily spends his time on the HF working CW & Digital modes. QSL via LoTW (preferred), eQSL or direct to his home callsign.

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 is expected to be mainly on 20 meters using SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via CT1FKN, direct or by the Bureau.

TX6, FRENCH POLYNESIA (Update/IOTA Op). Before and after their major VP6T operation, ops Jacques/F6BEE, Nigel/G3TXF, Gilles/VE2TZZ, Michel/FM5CD and Vincent/F4BKV active from the following islands (dates are tentative): Tahiti Island (OC-046) - As TX6T; February 8-10th Mangreva Island (OC-063) - As TX6T/p; Feb 6-7th. However, this short operation from Mangareva will depend on the early arrival of the return boat from Pitcairn. Activity will be active on all HF bands. QSL via G3TXF.

V3, BELIZE. Jeff, K0UU, will be active as V31SG from St. George's Island (NA-073) between February 11-20th, 2012. Activity will be on 40-10 meters CW only. He also plans to participate in ARRL DX CW Contest (February 18-19th). QSL via LoTW or direct.

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

VP6, PITCAIRN ISLAND (Update). After a three day sail, the team of five operators are active as VP6T from Pitcairn Island (IOTA OC-044, WFF GFF-053) until Feb 4th. They arrived on the island on Friday, around 1700z, Jan 20th. Their activity will be on 160-10 meters CW, SSB & RTTY, and giving this extremely rare entity to deserving DXers on as many bands as possible, especially on the lower bands. QSL via G3XF, direct or by the Bureau, LoTW & OQRS. More details are available on their Web site at: <http://www.vp6t.org> LAST MINUTE UPDATE: They have begun uploading QSOs to LoTW.

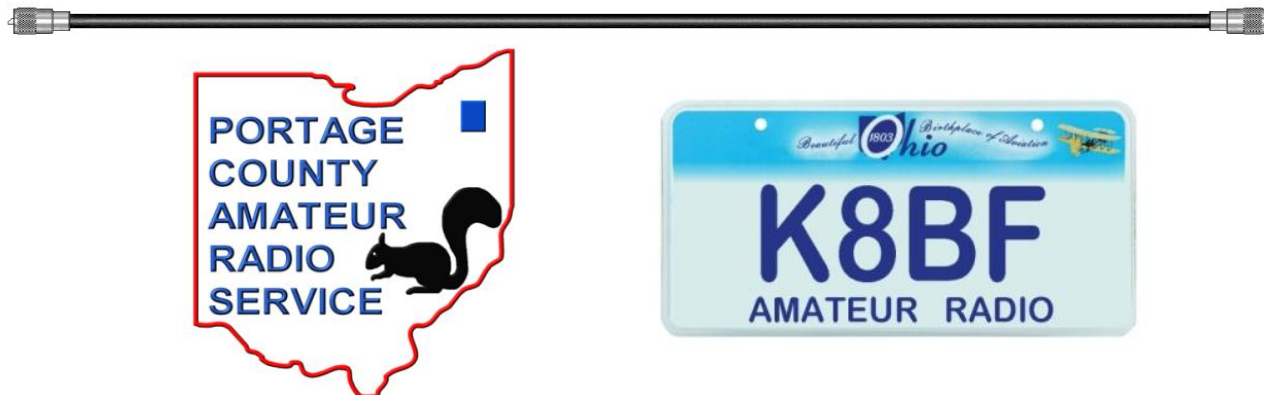
VK0, MACQUARIE ISLAND. Trevor, VK0TH, continues to be very active on various bands (40/20/17/15/12/10m) using SSB, HELL, PSK31 and RTTY, during various times. He informs OPDX: "Working very hard down here to give operators the chance to get VK0/MM in their logs. We are working on a 6m antenna and are 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).

VQ9, CHAGOS ISLANDS. Jim, ND9M/VQ9JC, informs OPDX that he is back on Diego Garcia (AF-006) after 10 months off the island and is expected to be active at least until March 1st, 2012.

VU, ANTARCTICA. By the time you read this, Bhagwati, VU3BPZ (ex-AT10BP), should be on board the "M/V Ivan Papanin" and leaving Cape Town for about an 11 day voyage to the new Antarctic research station called Bharati, located at Larsemann Hills. Bhagwati is expected to set up a HF station once his wintering tasks are completed. He is also expected to use a special callsign from the base and stay on the base until March 2013. QSL via I1HYW. More details will be forthcoming.

Looks like some very interesting DX coming up, especially in Afghanistan. Hope you get a chance to work some great DX.73 and GUD DX!!

Chuck, W8PT
Also known as "Charlie the Tuner"



Paper Chase

If you read a recent Record Courier newspaper article, you might have seen that February 20th is designated as "John Glenn



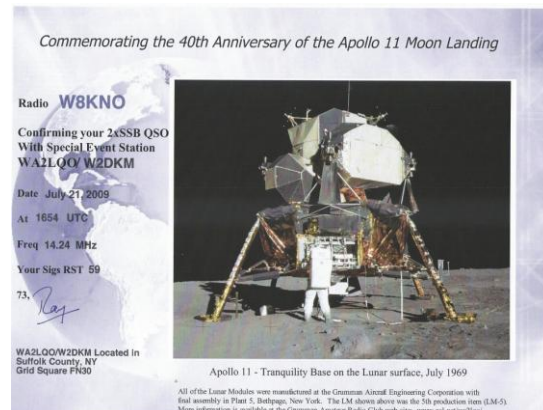
Friendship 7 Day." If you are unaware of Friendship 7, it was the third Mercury manned mission. The first mission was "Freedom 7" piloted by Alan Shepard on May 5, 1961. The suborbital flight lasted 15 minutes 28 seconds. The second Mercury manned mission was "Liberty Bell 7" piloted by Virgil Grissom on July 21, 1961. It also was a suborbital flight lasting 15 minutes 37 seconds. The third manned mission "Friendship 7" was piloted by John Glenn on February 20, 1962. It was the first orbital flight completing three orbits in 4 hours 55 minutes 23 seconds.

Over the last 15 years there have been more than a few special event stations honoring John Glenn and his wife. Because of the lateness of this event being established, no special event has yet been set up. Keep checking the ARRL website for any announcement. Go to www.arrl.org and click on Category and choose Special Events.



If there is no special event, you can still make a collage of space QSL cards and certificates.

Good hunting,
Joe, W8KNO



Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted

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

It costs about \$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. When renewal time comes around for your Amateur Radio, you can get NEW plates issued (same call sign).



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

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

PCARS Meetings

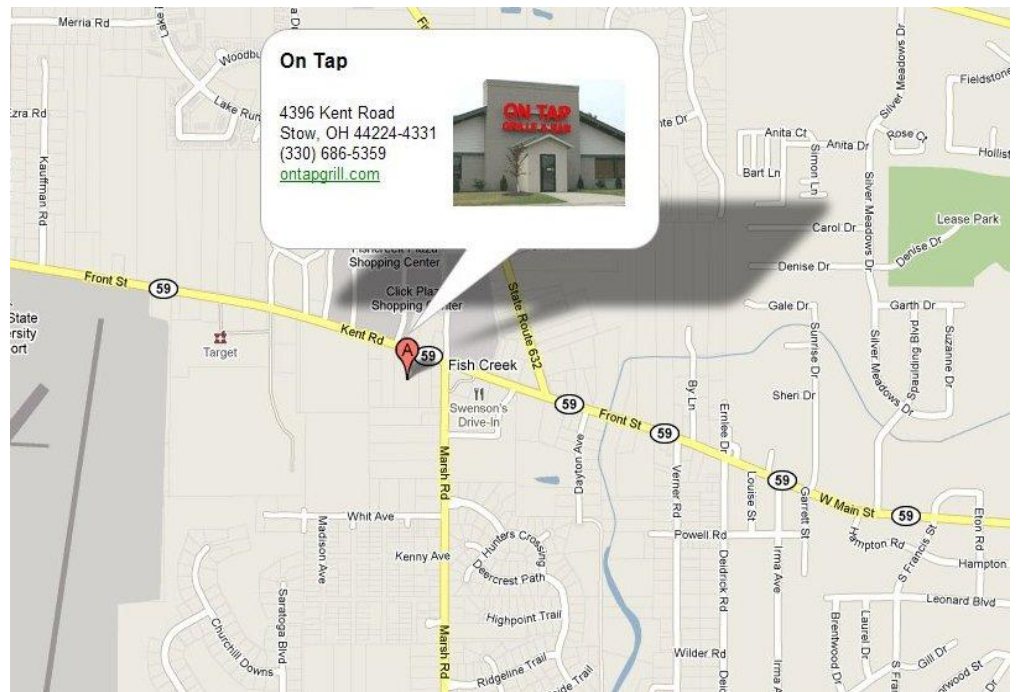
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Meetings are at the

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

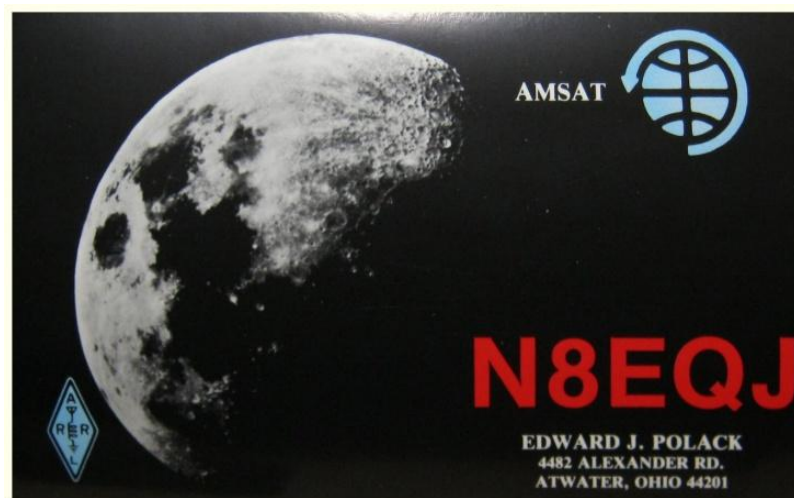
The On Tap Grille is on the south side of Route 59, about a mile west of the Kent city limits.

**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.



Member QSL Card – N8EQJ



73!

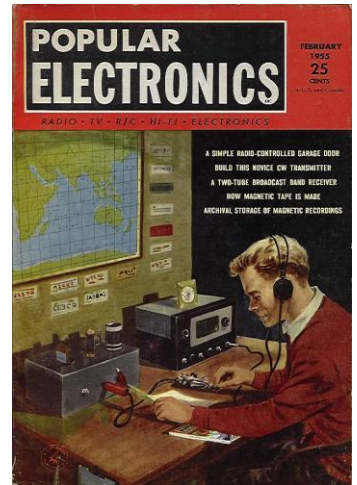
Ed, N8EQJ



February 1955 - Popular Electronics

The February, 1955 issue of Popular Electronics magazine shows an earnest young man sending Morse code using his home-built transmitter. Plans for this transmitter, which employs a single 6AQ5 tube, are included in this issue.

The cover gives a charming view of a modest 1950s "ham" shack. On the wall is a world map and several QSL cards collected by the operator. The receiver looks like a Hallicrafters S-53A, a medium-priced general coverage receiver sold from 1950-1958. Atop the radio is a little clock. Some unidentified paper is in the young man's hand, and under his elbow is—what else?—a copy of Popular Electronics!



Dues are Due



With the new year, dues for membership in PCARS are due. You can either bring your dues to the next meeting, or mail them in. You don't want to miss out on any of the fun, so send in your renewal now!

There's a PCARS membership form at the end of this newsletter so you can see what amount is due. If you have any changes in your information (address, e-mail, phone, license class), please fill out the information. You can send in a check payable to "PCARS" for your 2012 dues.

Mary Jo, KD8GGZ

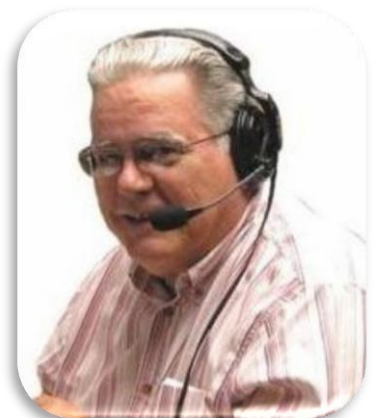
Thanks & 73

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

Thanks go out to this month's contributors:

WB8LCD, WB9LBI, KB8UUZ, KC8PD, N8RLG, AI8P, W8DEC, K8JE, K3GP, K8CAV, AB8AA, K8ME, KB8NU, W8PT, W8KNO, N8EQJ, KD8GGZ, PAUL MARKS, The ARRL and the World Wide Web.

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



Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

Pictures from the January PCARS Meeting





Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [] New [] Renewal

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

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

Birthday: Month: _____ Day: _____ (don't need year)

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

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

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

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Full Member	Pay January 1 through May 31= \$20.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Member	Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Senior Full Member (65+)	Pay January 1 through May 31= \$16.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Senior Member (65+)	Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family* Member Call Sign of Regular Member: _____	Pay January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months) Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months) Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month)

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

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

What are **YOUR** Ham Radio interests:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Member #:

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

Date Received:
New Renewal
Date Voted:
Database Updated

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

Rev 2009 0501

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Seventh Annual

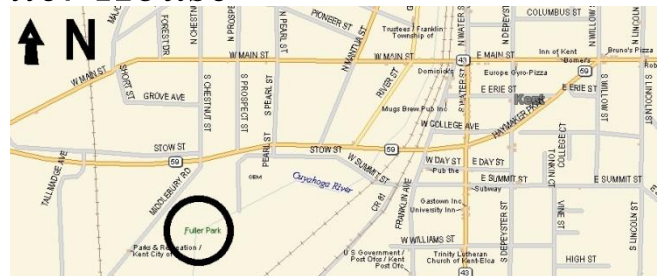
"Freeze Your Acorns Off"
(FYAO) QRP mini-field day
Special Event Station



Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh
at the Roy Smith Shelter House

When: Saturday - Feb. 18, 2012
Set up: 9am

Operating Time: 10am - 5pm EST



We will be active on CW & SSB in the General areas of the 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Echo Link on the K8SRR echo link node) and anything else we can get working. Participating stations will be using their own call sign/FYAO, or calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator). A certificate is available for any contact with the club station, K8BF, or any other station at the event using the /FYAO designator. Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



To get your beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate for contacting K8BF or other /FYAO participant, send your QSL with a large SASE to the club call trustee:
Al Atkins, KB8VJL - 12433 Chamberlain Rd. - Aurora, OH 44202

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org





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 K8WD 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	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	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



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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
9992 State Route 700
Mantua, OH 44255



NLC

