



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



January 2012 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 7 No. 1

~ 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

Well, here I am, President of PCARS again! I appreciate your confidence in me to keep this Great Club moving and on course.

As President, the first thing I want to do is Thank Jim, KC8PD, for everything he has done as President these past 3 years, and Vice President the prior 3 years. Jim has done an outstanding job and has certainly set the bar high for anyone who follows. During his tenure PCARS has grown in membership, the club program has been expanded to include all sorts of activities and programs and the club site has certainly been made more useable and accessible, to the benefit of all PCARS members. Well done, Jim!



Tom, WB8LCD

Another "thank you" has to go to club secretary, Mary Jo, KD8GGZ. After a few invitations were given for someone to take over that position, with no responses, Mary Jo said that she would remain until a replacement is secured. Mary Jo is another example of outstanding work done on behalf of the club and I appreciate her sticking with us for the short term.

I'd also like to give a "thank you" to Mike, KD8FLZ. We joke around that Mike is our Official, un-appointed custodian, beverage tender, furnace fixer and door unlocker. Truth is, no-one asked Mike to do most of this stuff, but he shows up and gets it done, just because it needs to be

done. Next time you show up at the club site and see that the floors are clean, the trash is empty, the tables and chairs have been straightened out, you'll know that Mike was there earlier. It's much appreciated.

Now, where do we go from here? As far as I'm concerned, there's only one way to go, and that's forward. And I'm not going alone either. I expect every PCARS member to be right there with me, not just when there's fun to be had, but also when there's work to be done. Up until now, one of the hallmarks of PCARS has been that our members show up and they do whatever it takes. But hey, this is the beginning of our 7th year! All I can say is: Don't bail out on me now. Every time you don't show up makes it that much easier to stay home the next time. Pretty soon you're not having fun and wonder why. Being active in the club will actually make you more active as a ham on your own, and when you're an active ham you'll be having fun instead of sitting around wondering what happened to the fun.

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



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So I want you to participate, and I need you to participate. And that starts with letting me know what's on your mind. What do you like about PCARS, what have you been disappointed in? What would you like to see us doing this year? What have you had enough of? Who do you know that would put on a good, amateur radio related, program for us? If I don't hear from you, you're going to get a whole lot of what I'm interested in. You may want to send me an email: WB8LCD@portcars.org. Another area where I'd like to hear from more of you is in the newsletter – put something on paper (virtual paper) and send it in to Parky: KB8UUZ@portcars.org. Tom does an outstanding job with our newsletter, but he needs content – that's your job – get those shack shots in, and let him know what you're doing.

One of my goals for the next year is to increase the visibility and awareness of amateur radio in general, and more specifically PCARS, to the local community at large. I want everyone in the surrounding areas to know that amateur radio is not only alive and well, but one of the most interesting and technologically advanced hobbies that anyone could be involved in. I also want them to know that if they have any interest at all in becoming involved in the hobby, that PCARS is a group they will want to get involved with. All of this is in sync with what the ARRL has been saying about the importance of amateur radio groups having a PIO and getting the word out. You'll be hearing more about this as we move into the new year.

January has a lot of activity for you to be a part of. Our meeting on January 9th will be a presentation on “Old Radios” given by WB8LCD. Saturday the 7th will be the beginning of the PCARS Morse Code Class, running weekly for 5 weeks, then 5 more weeks of follow up practice.

Special Interest Groups meet on the 1st through the 4th Tuesday nights and don't forget “Net-Night” at the club site on the 4th Thursday of the month. PCARS on air nets are every Thursday night at 8:00 PM on the N8EQJ repeater. The PCARS General Class upgrade class starts on Tuesday the 17th at the club site.

Our refrigerator in the first garage bay has been stocked with pop and water. I want everyone to feel good about hanging out at the club site, so beverages will be provided no matter what your preference is. A can for donations has been set up on top of the refrigerator and a suggested donation of \$1 per bottle/can would be appreciated. By doing it this way, we can keep it a self-supporting service so that it is fair for everyone and completely “off the books” from a club accounting standpoint.

George Bernard Shaw said: “A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.” Get involved and try out some new things, PCARS is the place to be!

73,

Tom, WB8LCD



From the Vice President

Welcome to 2012. It's traditional to make a New Year's resolutions. Here's my challenge to you: do something new with Ham Radio this year. Try something you've never done before. Here are a few suggestions...



Bill, WB9LBI

Try your hand a radio contest

There's a contest just about every weekend, and even casual participation is a pretty good time. In fact, why not round up a friend or two and work the contest together? Be sure to include our own Ohio State Parks on the Air contest September 8th. In fact, go write that on your calendar right now.

Field Day

The biggest Field Day operation in the world is in Atlanta. The second biggest is in Ravenna. Nobody has more fun at Field Day than PCARS. I didn't include this in the contest section, because technically, Field Day isn't a contest, it's an “operating event”. Even so, the scores are posted every year in QST Magazine. June 23-24.

Build Something

Get out your two hands and give kit building a whirl. PCARS has several kit projects brewing, which you will learn about in the near future. In the meantime, try building a pre-made kit, or just solder together something from spare parts and a breadboard. This is another great opportunity to round up another ham and kick some ideas around. Whatever you build, be sure to bring it to the meeting to show it off.

Upgrade Your License

It takes some effort to study, but believe me, it's worth it. Our General Class course is beginning soon, and this will open up the world of HF, DXing and contesting to you. If you're already a tech, go for your Amateur Extra Class ticket. I suggest the practice tests available at <http://qrz.com/ht/>

Work a New Band

When was the last time you were on 160 meters? How about 6? 60? Propagation is jumping and there's no better time to see what's cooking on some new spectrum. Toss your callsign out there and see what happens.

Work a New Mode

Ever worked Slow Scan TV? Do you recognize a JT65 signal when you hear one? Do you know where to find RTTY operators? Armed with only a computer and a radio, there is a plethora of new modes and possibilities out there waiting for you.

Go to Hamvention®

The biggest hamfest in the world is literally right down the road from you. So big, it will take you two days to see it all. If you're lucky, a brand new rig will follow you home. Ask your wife if you can keep it.

Learn Morse Code

You knew I was going to bring this up. The QRP/CW special interest group is starting a CW class on January 7. Terry KB8AMZ will personally teach you all the dits and dahs you need to know. And if you used to know CW but think you've forgotten, it will come right back to you with a little practice.

For my own 2012 Ham Radio Challenge, I'm going to try my hand at being Vice President of PCARS. I've never operated this way before, and I expect that there will be some QRM to overcome, but I'm looking forward to some new and challenging fun.

Bill, WB9LBI

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- January 7th – **Morse Code Class** starts – see page 6 for details
- January 9th – **"Old Radios"** - WB8LCD.
- January 17th – **General Class Upgrade class** starts – see page 28 for details
- 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

Congratulations to the 2012 PCARS Officers



President
Tom WB8LCD



Vice President
Bill WB9LBI



Treasurer
George K3GP



3-Year Trustee
Bob N8QE



2-Year Trustee
Sandy KD8JCY



1-Year Trustee
Robert N8RLG

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 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

D-Star Day

If you would like to learn more about D-Star, there an event called D-Star Day, co-sponsored by **DX Engineering** and **Icom America** will be held on Saturday, January 28th, in West Middlesex, PA, about an hour's drive from Ravenna. You can learn more about it at www.dstarday.com including the agenda for the day, which happens to include a field trip to K3LR at the end of the day.



73,
Jim, KC8PD

Mores Code - Why Bother?

Morse code is an important part of wireless history. In the beginning, all wireless communications were accomplished using the code. For a long time after voice modes became available, it was still required to prove your proficiency with Morse code to become a licensed Amateur Radio Operator. It's a recent phenomenon that hams have been licensed with no code requirement. But it's still pretty cool to be a "Know Code" ham.



Radio equipment capable of CW is much more simple and inexpensive than equipment for other modes. If you have an interest in home-brewing equipment, then knowing the Morse code will open up a whole new world of kits and equipment that can be hand made in a home workshop.

As a communications mode, CW is very efficient and can often times be pulled out of the noise level, where voice modes would have been unintelligible. Add to that the fact that Morse code is also pretty universal when it comes to making a valid contact, you might just get that "rare one" from a non-English speaking foreign ham! CW is still used by a very large percentage of hams world-wide; don't self-declare those contacts as off-limits just because you're unwilling to learn a valuable skill.

Sure, it's going to take some effort. You've got to learn the letters, numbers and other characters, one at a time. Then you've got to build your skill to a level where you can QSO with other stations. Those first few QSO's at approximately 5wpm are going to seem painstakingly slow. The more you QSO, the better you'll become and pretty soon it starts to be fun. Before you know it you'll be an awesome CW op and will have added a lot of BIG FUN to your ham radio hobby!

Beginning on Saturday, January 7th, there will be a 5 week "Learn the Code" class every week at 10:00 – 11:00 AM, sponsored by the CW/QRP Special Interest Group, at the PCARS club site, located at 705 Oakwood St. Ravenna, OH 44266. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early so the class can begin on time. Terry, KB8AMZ, will be the lead teacher. During this first 5 week session you will learn letters, numbers and basic punctuation. It is expected that each student will practice at least 30 minutes every day in two 15 minute sessions to reinforce the class session.

At the end of the first 5 week session, there will be a second 5 week session of slow code practice designed to get you to a skill level adequate to have successful "on air" QSO's. There will then be a third 5 week session for anyone who would like to be mentored with live, on air QSO's using the PCARS club stations. Although the cost is FREE, the investment will pay off big in operating skills, fun and the satisfaction of knowing something that sets you apart, even among other hams!

If you would like to participate in this program, please send an email to Tom – WB8LCD at: WB8LCD@portcars.org, so we can anticipate how many to be ready for. You'll be proud to say you're a "Know Code" Ham!



WB8LCD shows off his new Vibroplex key that Santa brought him

— — • • — —
Tom, WB8LCD



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in January:

KD8DQT	Jeffrey	Moore
KD8QEL	Sandra	Simmers
N8RKA	Arthur	Barbetta, Jr.
WA8OKR	Bill	Hunt
KD8LDY	Russell	Williams
N8PXW	Jim	Korenz

K8FS	Michael	Evans
KB8PNE	Mike	Kilbel
KB8SZI	Peggy	Parkinson
NX8G	Rex	Simmons
N8GIE	John	Ziccardi

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



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!



January	
5	WB8LCD
12	WB2DFC
19	KB8UHN
26	N8QE

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

Heavenly Day, It's Gay

I commented on a PCARS net about a recipe and Jim, KC8PD, suggested I submit it for everyone's enjoyment.

Sandy, KD8JCY, brought a wonderful confection to Field Day. She called it "trailer trash" and I found the recipe on the web. I have made it for several parties recently, and find that people fight over the crumbs and beg for the recipe. So I thank Sandy for making me a legend in my own time.

Here's how I make it:

Saltine Toffee Cookies or Homemade Heath Bars, or Saltine Toffee Cookies AKA "Trailer Trash" with apologies to anyone living in a mobile home.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 sleeve of saltine crackers plus a few crackers.
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup chopped nuts

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (205 degrees C).
Line cookie sheet with saltine crackers in single layer.
In a saucepan combine the sugar and the butter. Bring to a boil and boil for 3 minutes. Immediately pour over saltines and spread to cover crackers completely.

Bake at 400 degrees F (205 degrees C) for 5 to 6 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips over the top. Let sit for 5 minutes. Spread melted chocolate and top with chopped nuts. Cool completely and break into pieces.

Notes:

- Use salted crackers
- Salted nuts are best - I use cashews
- You can top this with anything you like... M&M's, coconut, whatever.
- Needs a cold place to cool and set up - I use an unheated breezeway.
- Positively will not keep, except in locked box!



Happy New Year to everyone.
73 & 88,

Gay, WB8VNO

Editor's note: We normally do not have recipes in our newsletter unless they are radio related (FYAO is a good example – all the food there is radio related... We'll also do cakes and cookies if they are shaped like radios (hint). But since it was Past President Jim, KC8PD who requested this, here it is. I also have a hunch that when Jim was commenting on the recipe, he was probably hinting to get some real samples.



Skywarn Recognition Day

These pictures are from the National Weather Service in Little Rock, at the 2011 Skywarn Recognition Day event that was held on December 3rd. I worked the Friday night part of the event on Echolink, due to having to do an amateur radio license exam on Saturday afternoon, and I had to get some sleep.

In the photo with just myself, National Weather Service Little Rock Warnings Coordination Meteorologist John Robinson is seen behind me, updating the latest weather observation at the top of the hour at the time the photo was taken.

In the photo with several ham radio operators, from left to right, they are:

David Lide, KE5QNT
Marlene Kessler, KE5HQU
Brian Kessler, N1WNC
Steve Tune, KC5FWE
Daryl Stout, AE5WX
Danny Straessle, KE5WLR,
Benjamin Muller, KD5RLQ



Marlene did most of the legwork to get up the event. Other photos and information can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/arkskywarn> -- live audio from the W5DI repeater, along with the Twitter Feed, can be found at <http://www.arkskywarn.org> -- just click on the appropriate links.

Daryl, AE5WX



EmComm

Back in November you may have seen some of the advance notices regarding the first ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS is managed by the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.



We are all familiar with the EAS, having heard or seen one of the tests on local radio or television stations. They always begin with an announcement like "This station will now conduct its weekly test of the Emergency Alert System" followed by the warning tones and then the "This has been a test..." etc.

The tests are only mildly annoying and seem to be scheduled at times when they won't interrupt much, if any, popular programming. Odd, though, that they never seem to be transmitted during commercials.

In any event, there had never been a nationwide test of the entire system. One where simultaneously, across the country, all broadcasters, cable and satellite systems that receive the EAS would react to it by transmitting the test message.

So FEMA and the FCC scheduled such a test for 2:00 p.m.



EST on November 9th. An instructional booklet was distributed to all of these media outlets and their participation was mandatory. The FCC also conducted a sizeable publicity campaign to ensure that the general public recognized that this was a test and not an actual emergency.

In what should have been no surprise to anyone, the system did not perform flawlessly and many stations, cable and broadcast, either did not transmit the test or experienced some other problem with it. Many news media outlets, both online and broadcasters, and other public commentators criticized the FCC for this perceived system failure.



Jim, KC8PD

Unfortunately for them they all failed to recognize that, among other things, no system this large and complex is ever likely to work perfectly. In addition, this was the first top to bottom nationwide test of the EAS and flaws were bound to be found. Last, and most importantly, you never discover where problems may be lurking unless you test on a regular basis.

Although the system may have suffered some failures, the test was a success. Why? Because important lessons were learned at hundreds of locations in the EAS system and steps can be taken to fix the problems that were discovered.

Okay, so what does this have to do with us? Everyone involved in emergency communications needs to recognize the need to train and then through drill and exercises test both our systems and our skills on a regular basis. It is the only way for us to be sure that we will be prepared to serve when our help is requested.

And we should not be worried about “failure” during those drills and exercises. We don’t live in a perfect world and no matter how hard we try both individually and as a group we will never get everything right all of the time.

But we can get a whole lot better at it by training on a regular basis and then testing our knowledge and skills. Let me know if you would like more information on how you can get involved.

73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH

Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EMA Communications Unit/RACES



Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE : Signalink USB with Yaesu cable \$70.00 [01/02/12]
FOR SALE : Ameritron Antenna Tuner ATR15 1500 watt 160-10 meters \$185.00 [01/02/12]
FOR SALE : Goldstar Oscilloscope Model OS-9020A 20mhz \$45.00 [01/02/12]
FOR SALE : Yaesu SP-8 with BHI Noise Eliminating DSP module \$145.00 [01/02/12]
FOR SALE : Hal DXP-38 \$65.00 [02/02/12]

Contact: **Paul** - NC8T@portcars.org

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

Contact: **Rex** - NX8G@portcars.org

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

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

FOR SALE: Ceramic Insulators – set of six (6) 4" long by 3/4" diameter insulators with holes for attaching wire or rope on each end, rated to 1500 Watts \$10.00 per set. [01/02/12]

FOR SALE: Ceramic Insulators – set of three (3) includes one (1) 4" long by 3/4" diameter center insulator and two smaller end insulators, rated to 200 Watts \$5.00 per set [01/02/12]

FOR SALE: Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. Also includes an extra N-male for building a custom length N-male to N-male connector \$20.00 each. [01/02/12]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Icom SP-23 Speaker Brand New in the box! Matches all newer Icom rigs. Four filters, front panel headphone jack. Cost new \$220. Will sell for \$160 [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: [04/02/12] This will help keep the listings current.



Hamfest Schedule

01/29/2012 **Tusco ARC Hamfest** - Location: Strasburg, OH - Tusco ARC - Website: www.tuscoarc.org

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

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

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



PCARS Christmas Banquet - 2011

It was certainly nice to be greeted to the Christmas Banquet this year with near 60 degree temps and a calm, dry evening. After the blizzard last year and the ice storm the year before, it was a nice break. (Watch out, FYAO could be much more descriptive of our QRP event this year) We had between 40 – 50 members and guests in attendance, so it was a nice sized group and everyone was well behaved. Dinner started promptly at 7:00 PM, the food was all good and there was plenty of it.

After dinner we had our gift exchange, and although Santa was not there with us, there were some mighty fine presents received! Before the gifts were opened, President Jim, KC8PD, (soon to be X-president Jim), was given the opportunity to trade his gift for any other gift in the room that he thought might be more appealing to him. But, being the gentleman that he is, he declined to steal a gift from someone else, and was rewarded with a batch of CB QSL cards from the 70's.

Jim then made the annual President's Award. Every year the President's Award is given to a PCARS member who the president feels has been a valuable contributor to the PCARS program in the course of the year. The only stipulation is that it cannot go to an officer of the club. While he had two awards to give, one recipient was not in attendance and will receive the award at the January PCARS meeting. The other award went to Rick Kruis, K8CAV. Rick has been very active in the club, was one of our Field Day chairman, has given meeting presentations, and has been very instrumental in helping many PCARS members get stations set up for digital modes. Rick is a “go-to” guy when you need something, and when Rick says he'll do something, he gets it done. It is a very well deserved award!



Jim, KC8PD presents the President's Award to Rick, K8CAV

Finally, Parky, KB8UUZ, gave his presentation on the “History of PCARS”. Tom started by saying that the history of PCARS is so well documented, that he was only going to cover the first year because there's just too much to put it all into a 20 minute presentation. It was a good show and a good representation of everything PCARS went through in the beginning to get up and running. The fellowship continued and I hope everyone enjoyed the evening as much as I did!

73,

Tom, WB8LCD



Summit County ARES® - January 26th Meeting:

Speaking of **FREE**, we have some great stuff coming up at our January meeting (at Summit Red Cross, 501 W Market, Akron). This is Radio Tuneup night and will feature:

Bring all your 2M and 70cm radios - HTs, mobiles, and Base radios

Firis Communications will be on hand to provide **FREE** checks of:

- 1) Power output (ever wonder if it's really putting out full power)
- 2) Spectral purity
- 3) Deviation (which radio should you shout into, which should you whisper)
- 4) Receiver sensitivity

Power supply with Powerpole connections will be available

But wait..... there's more - **FREE** Powerpole installation on any radios brought to the meeting

But wait..... there's more - bring your radio AND MANUAL - we will help program your rig

But wait..... there's more - antenna analyzer will be available to check your antennas

But wait..... there's more - **FREE** crimp-on PL259s installed on your coax

AND don't forget, attending this meeting earns you a chance to win the **FREE** HT!!!

If you have any questions or just want more information, please feel free to check the website www.SummitARES.org or contact me.

Dennis, AI8P

Emergency Coordinator - Summit County ARES®
SummitARES@neo.rr.com - Cell: 330-283-2247



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

HO! HO! HO! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Boy, did 2011 go fast or what?! I hope that all of you had a really great Christmas and that Santa brought you something for the greatest hobby in the world!!



Chuck, W8PT

And I hope that the new toys will give you a better chance to work all the DX that will be operating in 2012. Already, there are some really interesting DX opportunities being announced for this new year and I am trusting that I will get reports from PCARS members as well as non-members who read this column, of the great DX that has been worked.

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

Again I apologize for all the **Reminders**. It's the only way to keep some of the longer range events on your radar.

3D2, FIJI. 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. 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 on CW only on all bands 80-10 m. There will be no 160, 6 m or EME activity.

3DA, SWAZILAND. 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

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 on all HF bands CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via LoTW or direct to: Chris J de Beer, Box 333, Bethlehem, GA 30620 (w/SASE [USA]). 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 skyloop antenna using the maximum legal power in 9V-land (100 watts). He has the permission to set up a hexbeam antenna in the near future. QSL via LoTW or direct to the address on QRZ.com. There is a possibility to QSL by the Bureau in the future (Information will be given in due time).

AFRICAN TOUR. Luc, F5RAV, who is expected to be active as UT/F5RAV from Kiev (between Dec 27th and Jan 3rd, will once again head south to Africa and be active as 6V7T from 6W7RV's QTH in Somone, Senegal, between Feb 24th and Mar 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 (with Francisco, EA1BT) from Banjul, The Gambia, between Feb 27th and Mar 2, 2012. Activity from both locations should be on SSB and PSK. QSL via his home callsign.

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.

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

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 November 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.

EU-128. Jan-Henrik, DG8HJ, will once again be active as homecall/p from **Fehmarn Island** (EU-128, GIA O-001, WLOTA 0637) between Jan 1-8th, 2012. Activity on the HF bands. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.

FH, MAYOTTE. (Reminder) Phill, F6GNT, active as FH8NX from **Mayotte Is. (AF-027)** until Mar 2013. Activity 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.

FW0/TW0, WALLIS & FUTUNA (Update). 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) next year (2012) 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 Nov 25th through the end of May 2012. First trip will be from the Panama Canal to Huelva, Spain (EA7), and then to Brunsbittel, 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.

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.

J5, GUINEA BISSAU. 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/IK3VZI, 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. 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.

KH3, JOHNSTON ATOLL (Update). "DX-World.net" is reporting that Susan's, W7KFI, QSL Manager, Stan, KH6CG, states that Susan may now push off from Hawaii, a few days after Jan 15th. Additionally, the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) is now sponsoring her KH3 activity and has sent her a banner, which she has already received. Also, Susan has received her permit to access Johnston Atoll for Jan/Feb 2012. Stan states, "Her plan is to leave Honolulu on (approx) Jan 15, arriving KH3 some 5-7 days later, depending on wind. She'll operate for seven days setting up a tent on the pier, where it will be over land, using a 43 ft. vertical set into sand. She has informed the ARRL of this station set up so they are aware for [pending] DXCC approval. Additionally, Susan will take photos and is expecting an Elecraft banner to be sent to her; Susan will use a K3 on CW/SSB mainly." In short, according to Susan, she should be active from about Jan 21st, and if there is a delay for any reason she can operate through Feb."

LAST MINUTE UPDATE: The DX-World.net is reporting that Susan's QSL Manager, Stan, KH6CG, spoke with Susan and confirms rumors that her KH3-Midway planned operation has been postponed for 4-6 weeks. He states, "This is primarily due to USF&W (Fish & Wildlife) requiring that Susan pulls her boat out of the water and has the hull scraped, then repainted. Permission [to land] would then be granted. The shipyard who would do this work cannot get Susan an appointment until approx four weeks from now, so shove off date will be beginning February at earliest. Susan reaffirms she will definitely be going and KH3 will happen, but now no firm date for the moment. Her permission to operate is through February. It's worth noting USF&W would prefer Susan to have the hull scraped and push off date within two weeks from now, however as already mentioned the shipyard cannot do the required work until four weeks time."

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

PACIFIC ISLAND TOUR. Vincent, F4BKV, a member of the upcoming 2012 VP6T Pitcairn team, plans to continue has 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; Ouvea Island (OC-033), New Caledonia.

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

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

Activity on 40-10 m 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>

T32, EASTERN KIRIBATI. (Reminder) Six operators from the U.S. and Canada will be active from Kiritimati Island (OC-024) between January 17th and February 2nd. The group will be active from the same location that the recent T32C group operated from. The group is planning to operate during the CQWW 160m CW Contest (January 27-29th) as a Multi-Op entry and use the call sign T32XX. QSL via KB8TXZ. Outside of the contest, the operators will be active on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK, using the following callsigns:

T32AU - Operator Dave/VO1AU; QSL via VO1MX. T32CO - Operator Brian/KG8CO; QSL via KB8TXZ

T32LJ - Operator Lee/N8LJ; QSL via K8ESQ. T32TR - Operator Ted/K8AQM; QSL via KB8TXZ

T32TX - Operator Jim/KB8TXZ; QSL via KB8TXZ. T32WW - Operator Stan/AC8W; QSL via KB8TXZ

Look for the callsigns T32WW and T32CO to be operating on both RTTY and PSK.

TN, CONGO. It was announced this past week that a DXpedition to the Republic of the Congo by five operators signing TN2T using three stations would take place in 2012. QSL Manager would be M0URX. More details will be forthcoming soon. Watch the following Web page for updates: <http://www.tn2t.be>

TX6, FRENCH POLYNESIA (Update/IOTA Op). Before and after their major VP6T operation, operators Jacques/F6BEE, Nigel/G3TXF, Gilles/VE2TZZ, Michel/FM5CD and Vincent/F4BKV will be active from the following islands (dates are tentative): Tahiti Island (OC-046) - As TX6T; January 14-16th and February 8-10th Mangareva Island (OC-063) - As TX6T/p; February 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, active as V31SG from St. George's Is. (NA-073) between Feb 11-20th. Activity will be on 40-10 m CW only. He also plans to participate in ARRL DX CW Contest (Feb 18-19th). QSL via LoTW or direct.

V5, NAMIBIA. (Reminder) Martin, DL1ZU, will be active as V5/DL1ZU between Dec 21st and Jan 13th. 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). Operators Jacques/F6BEE, Nigel/G3TXF, Gilles/VE2TZZ, Michel/FM5CD and Vincent/F4BKV will be active as VP6T from famous, mythical Pitcairn Island (OC-044, CQ Zone 32) between January 20th and February 4th. From the VP6T Web page: "This DX operation from Pitcairn has a target of more than 30,000 QSOs. With good propagation forecast for early 2012, efforts will be made to give this extremely rare entity to deserving DXers on as many bands as possible, but especially on the low bands. The rarity of VP6 ensures that all operators will be kept fully occupied during our nine full days on the island. We will be travelling there by boat. We are planning to have three stations active round-the-clock." Activity will be on 160-10 meters including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. The VP6T log will be uploaded to LoTW during the operation if possible, if not immediately after the operation. They will try to update their VP6T log on "ClubLog" several times a day during the operation. This will help you track your progress across the bands. QSL Manager is Nigel, G3TXF. In addition to the usual routes (Direct QSLing, QSLing via the Bureau and E-mail requests for Bureau cards to QSL@G3TXF.com), they will also be using the new "Online QSL Request Service (OQRS) provided by ClubLog."

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)." 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.

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 to set up a HF station once his wintering tasks are complete. He is also expected to use a special callsign from the base and stay on the base until Mar 2013. QSL via I1HYW. More details will be forthcoming.

YX6, VENEZUELA. Members of the Radio Club of Venezuela plan to be active as YX6AJ from Angel Falls waterfall (the world's tallest - 979m) between Jan 3-6th. Ops mentioned are Lino/YY5FRD, Jesus/YY5CHJ, Marcel/YY5CAR, Wilmer/YY5CWM, Alfredo/YV5SSF, Edwin/YV5HUI, Jose/YV5JF, William/YV5VE, Angel /YV5NEA. Activity will be on CW, SSB, Digital modes and the Satellites. QSL via YV5AJ, by the Bureau or direct.

It looks like a great start to the 2012 DX year. My hope is that you get on and work some of it and let me know. I'm hoping that come Spring, I can finish my work on my antennas and join you all on a great DX hunt!!

73 and GUD DX!!

Chuck, W8PT
Also known as "Charlie the Tuner"

January Contest Calendar

January 2012	
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 7 to 2400Z, Jan 8
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 14 to 0600Z, Jan 15
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 21 to 0600Z, Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 27 to 2159Z, Jan 29

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

ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge

REVISED December 30, 2011. All 231 entities are now included on the list. Please see the revised entity list.

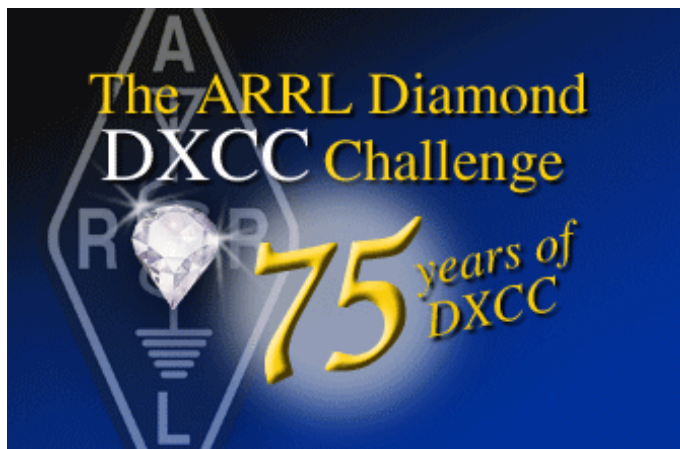
2012 is the 75th anniversary of the ARRL's DXCC Award. The world's preeminent DXing award continues to be DXCC, so reaching the "Diamond milestone" is an event that we all want to celebrate. Going back to the roots of the award, and specifically reading the 1937 DXCC List ([January 1937 QST, pages 52-53](#)) to learn what countries were counted at the onset led us to create the Diamond DXCC Challenge.

The country list we will use for the [Diamond DXCC Challenge](#) is based upon the list of 231 places shown in 1937. We tried to find corresponding entities today that would represent the places listed in 1937, and we were mostly successful. There are a couple of places that were merged, like French and British New Hebrides, and the Papua and New Guinea Territories. In those places, for 2012 if you work a YJ or a P29 (on the main island of New Guinea) you will get credit for working two entities! Many other oddities are sprinkled throughout the list, too. Returning to the air in 2012 will be the Canal Zone (any HP operating within 8

kilometers of the Panama Canal), the Cities of Gdansk, Poland, and Ifni, Morocco and Balochistan. The list is fascinating and leads us to learn more about world history and how geopolitics has changed leading up to today.

As you “check off” these entities during the course of 2012 working DX (which is an achievement even today) using spotting networks, pan-adapters, 200 watt rigs and stacked tribanders, imagine how DXing was different in the early years of radio and DXCC! Working Tibet or Aldabra with 50 watts and crystal-controlled transmitters to simple wire antennas had to be a thrill like no other in that time for ham radio operators.

We anticipate that this award will be very popular thanks to the unique nature of the entities that we will try



to put-into the log in 2012. Not only are there traditional DXCC entities, but there are cities, Islands on the Air (*IOTA by RSGB*) island groups, and various sub-political entities inside DXCC entities, such as the Indian State of Goa, and many States in Malaysia and islands in Indonesia. There are even three individual “countries” that make up today’s Yemen (7O --Yemen, Socotra Islands and the City of Aden)! Yes, we would like to have even one of them on the air. An interesting factoid about this 1937 list came via the late Jim Maxwell, W6CF. Jim said the only entity from the 1937 list to be removed without a single QSO being made was Wrangel Island.

For some entities that today consist of multiple countries, you may work any of today’s entities to qualify for that single 1937 country. For example, French Equatorial Africa will be considered worked if you log a station in TL, TN, TR or TT in 2012. The Diamond DXCC country tables show the current entity names and prefixes that qualify for the 1937 countries.

The Diamond DXCC Challenge is an “Honor Award” and will not require acquisition or inspection of QSLs or proof of confirmation, although it still will be fun and useful to seek out cards or LoTW confirmations. We will provide forms online to use at your operating position to track what you have worked and forms for applying for awards and endorsements. As the year goes on, we will also provide hints and tips about what is happening with the Diamond DXCC Award and, for instance, who might be on the air from Goa or Gdansk!

The Diamond DXCC certificate will be available for working 100 of the 226 entities, and will be endorsable at 5 levels: 125, 150, 175, 200, and 225. If anyone works all 226, there will be a special award for that remarkable achievement! There will also be awards for the top finishers. We hope to publish award recipients’ call signs online during the year, and identify high numbers.

There will be a Diamond DXCC Challenge Honor Roll. The Honor Roll level will be determined by the leader in worked entities submitted to HQ, and the bottom of the Honor Roll will be 9 entities less than that of the leader. Example: If W1AW has worked 165 entities, the bottom of the Honor Roll will be 156 entities. In February 2013, HQ will issue a final Honor Roll tally with overall leaders.

The entity list is not frozen, so if we discover something significantly in need of change, we will do so and make an announcement.

ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge Rules

1. The Diamond DXCC Challenge Awards are available to all amateurs worldwide who contact a minimum of 100 countries from the Diamond DXCC List. US amateurs must be members of the ARRL.

Generally, the rules for the Diamond DXCC Challenge are the same as the rules for the DXCC Program, except as listed here.

2. Contacts must be made from within the same DXCC entity by the same operator.
3. Contacts must be made during 2012 -- from 0000Z on January 1, 2012, through 2359Z on December 31, 2012. All amateur bands may be used except for 60 meters.
4. There are no mode endorsements or band endorsements. The Diamond DXCC Challenge is considered to be a Mixed-Mode/Mixed-Band award. There are no power categories or restrictions for the award.
5. Confirmations are not required to obtain this award, but HQ will review submitted entries for accuracy and validity.
6. The Diamond DXCC Challenge certificate will be available for working 100 entities and will be endorsable with stickers at the following levels: 125, 150, 175, 200 and 225.
7. Applications should use ARRL-supplied forms available online or obtained by writing DXCC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.
8. The Diamond DXCC Award certificate fee is \$12 including shipping within the USA, and \$13 including shipping outside the USA.
9. Endorsement stickers are \$1, including shipping in the US, and \$2 outside the US.

Thanks to W3LPL, IK2NVR, YO3JW and K9JF for their assistance with this project.

From the ARRL

PCARS Meetings

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

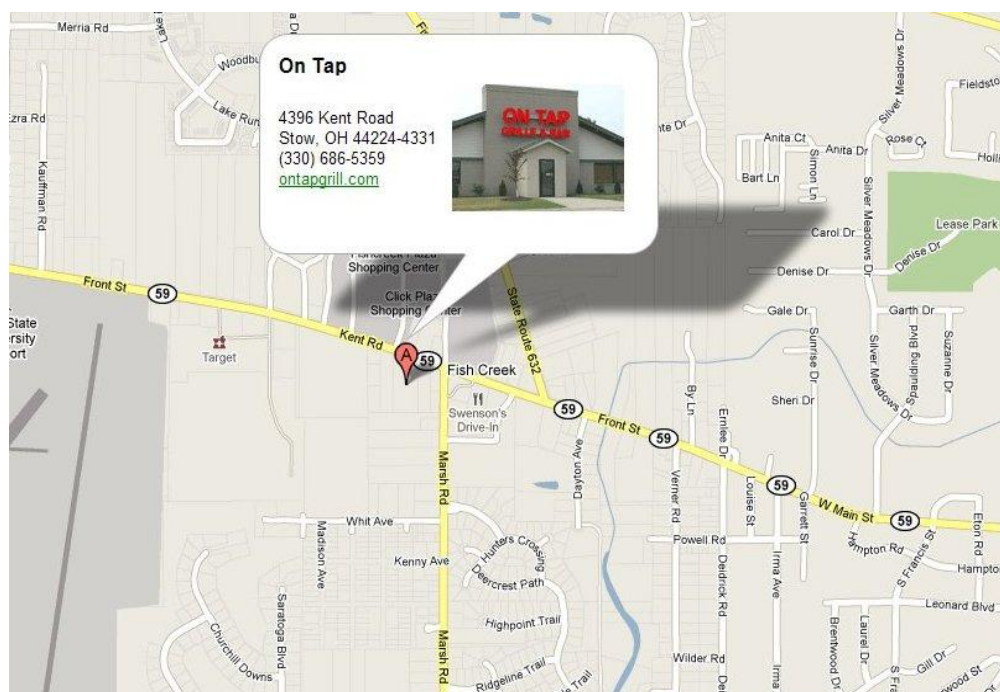
On Tap Grille, - 4396 Kent Rd.
(State Route 59), in Stow.

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.



Robin Fraedrich Receives Awards



Robin Fraedrich receives a flag flown over Iraq on September 11, 2009, from Major Nathan Alvarez, commander of Company C, 638th Aviation Support Battalion, in North Canton.

Robin Fraedrich has been awarded the Governor's Commendation Medal by Ohio Governor John Kasich. Robin, who is mother of PCARS member Ryan, KD8FPP and married to Bill, WB9LBI, was awarded the honor for her work in supporting over 200 Ohio National Guard troops and their families. She is the leader of the Family Readiness Group which is tasked with providing assistance to one of the Company C, 638th Aviation Support Battalion, one of the largest units in Ohio.



Governor's Commendation Medal, awarded December 4, 2011 to Robin Fraedrich

At the December ceremony at the North Canton Armory, Robin also received a second award from Major Nathan Alvarez, commander of the Company, for her tireless work in supporting military personnel. The award came with an American Flag that was flown over Balad Airbase in Iraq on September 11, 2009. At the time, Robin also worked to support the 137th Aviation Assault Battalion. Both Ryan, KD8FPP and Ray, KD8DFL were serving in Iraq with the unit at the time.

Robin is sometimes seen at PCARS meetings and functions. The act of awarding a military medal to a civilian is a rare event. Please congratulate Robin next time you see her.

Bill, WB9LBI

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.



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

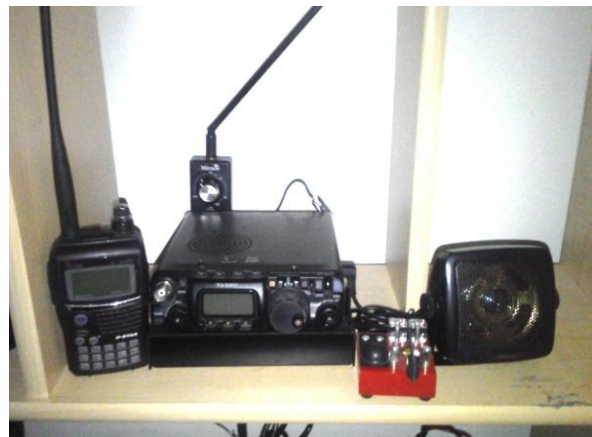
It costs about \$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. When renewal time comes around for your Amateur Radio, you can get NEW plates issued (same call sign).

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

Shack Shot - WB2DFC

We just moved from Akron (never, never, never, again)(wait, did I say never???YES, I DID) to the new place in the burbs. I decided to postpone any antenna and station installs until spring. It was going to be a lot of work and without much time, waiting seemed to be the best choice.

Well, that lasted about one day..... I needed a radio fix! So the picture is of my "Mini-shack". The 'Mini-shack' is my FT817, battery pack, a Miracle Antenna, a CW compact key/paddle, and an ICOM HT. The station is set up in the office and I have a great view of the "back 40". I haven't made any contacts yet except through the local UHF repeater with the ICOM HT. I also have Echo-Link running, so I hope to hear you on a the Thursday Night Net.



All for now, but I have BIG PLANS. With almost an acre out back, I have the makings for the perfect vertical antenna installation!


C U on the air,
72/73,
Dave, WB2DFC



Member QSL Card – K8GI

In mid-November Bill, K9RR and I activated another IOTA island -- Cedar Key FL, IOTA NA-076 [<http://www.rsgbiota.org/info/search.php?q=na-076>]. Bill made about 700 QSOs and I made 807; we operated 10-40m on SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and PSK63 (no CW this time). The pile-ups were quite deep, particularly on RTTY and SSB. One evening when I was operating 10m I worked a long series of JAs and an HL. No one else called for about thirty minutes. It was well after dark, the noise floor was S0-S1 and the band seemed to be closed to everywhere else but that part of Asia. Nice! This island group is semi-rare in that part of the world.

We used two two-band dipoles (10/15 and 17/20) in the tall pine trees (Bill has one of those slingshot line-shooter gizmos and is a master with it) and a screwdriver antenna temporarily installed on a dock over salt water. Bill used an IC-7000; I had my IC-7200. We fired up our portable amplifiers and ran from 350 to about 650W PEP, depending on band and mode. We took a generator but did not need it. The "money bands" were 10, 15 and 17m (not too surprising given a SFI of 165-180).

K8GI/4				
specimen				
a "mini-IOTA-expedition" to:				
CEDAR KEY, FLORIDA				
Levy County - Grid EL89 - IOTA NA-076				
				
Rick Patterson				
PO Box 911				
Kent, OH 44240				
USA				
CONFIRMING QSO WITH		DAY	MONTH	YEAR
UTC	MHz	MODE	RS(Q)	
PSE QSL <input type="checkbox"/> TNX QSL <input type="checkbox"/>				
<small>www.cheapqsl.com</small>				

It was very gratifying for both of us to hear – repeatedly – “thanks for a new one!”

73!

Rick, K8GI

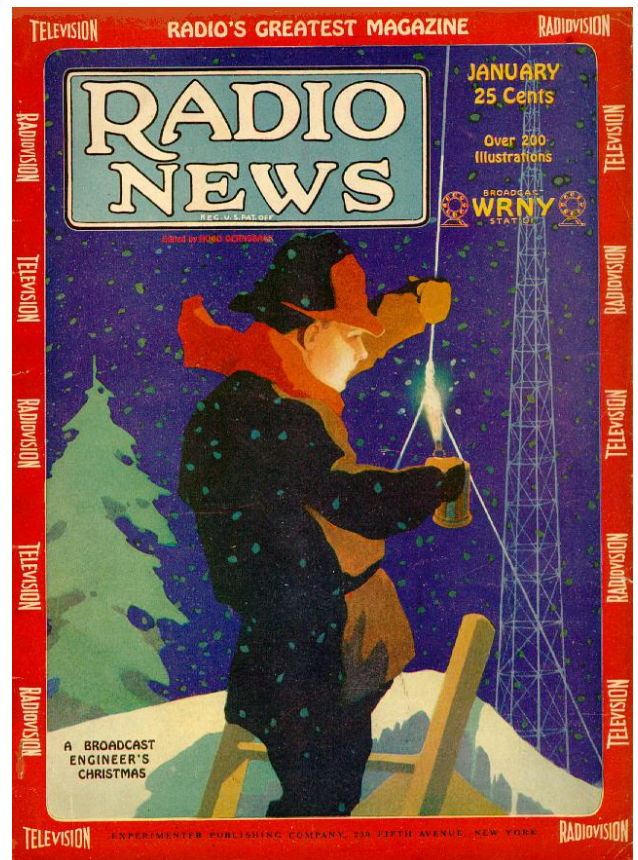


January – 1929 – Radio News

Entitled *A Broadcast Engineer's Christmas*, this painterly, poetic cover casts a powerful mood. It shows a lone, youthful Ham Operator perched on a snowy rooftop, repairing some wires. The torch in his hand provides the sole illumination, suggesting parallels with the Christmas Star. As snow falls quietly and the tower looms in the background, the engineer seems to gaze into the distance, perhaps thinking of family and friends.

This issue's contents include the following articles:

- Mysteries of Radio, by Hugo Gernsback
- Human Radio Reflectors, or Everyone His Own Antenna
- Automatic Receiver "Listens" for SOS Signals
- Radio Does Not Change the Weather
- Television—The Latest Developments in the Field
- High Frequencies for Color Television
- New Television Systems (pictorial)
- For the Beginner—the "Bloopless" One-Dial, Two-Tube Receiver (construction)
- The "Lamp-Socket Five"—A Simple A.C. Set
- New List of Broadcast Station Calls



During these days, readers could obtain complete blueprints and schematics for any construction project, free of charge, simply by mailing a request to the publisher.

Shack Shot - W8JJW

Here's a picture of my new tower and antenna. The tower is a 40ft Aluminum crank-up and has an eleven element log periodic antenna that covers 20 Meters through -6 Meters. I'm also using a DX Engineering coax switch.

73,
John, W8JJW

P.S. I have some work to do inside the shack. After that, I'll send in some more pictures.



Announcing the:



Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)

A-Z Award



Open to all current Portage County Amateur Radio Service members.

Contact 26 current PCARS members (current members on the date of award submission) with the **last** letter in their suffix to complete the English alphabet - letters A through Z.

Example KD8EPA counts as the letter “A”, through KB8UUZ counts as letter “Z”

PCARS members can see the current listing for PCARS members on the PCARS website: www.portcars.org.

QSL card verified contacts made with current PCARS members since PCARS started (November 14, 2005) count toward the award.

Three Awards:

Bronze: Voice contacts made through 2 meter FM repeaters. EchoLink contacts are also allowed.

Silver: Voice contacts made on 2 meters FM or SSB - not through repeaters - no EchoLink.

Gold: Contacts made on 160/80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 or 6 Meters - AM/SSB/CW/Digital (any combination) (not through a repeater).

QSL Cards ARE required. No e-QSL, no LoTW. QSL cards must have call signs of both stations, contact date, time (UTC), band (frequency if FM) and mode. Contacts made starting January 1, 2012.

Don't have a QSL card? Hand made QSL cards are allowed.

Award Verification:

Complete the entry form and have the sorted QSL cards verified by PCARS ARRL Card Checkers (W8KNO or KB8UUZ).

PCARS members located outside of the local area: Send completed award entry form and original QSL cards showing appropriate information (photo copies accepted - *and preferred* - we don't want you losing original QSL cards in the postal system) with fee and sufficient return postage for original QSL cards if sent, (photo copies will not be returned) to QRZ.com address for either W8KNO or KB8UUZ.

Award Fee:

\$2.00 for the award certificate if the award is to be picked up at a PCARS meeting. See the meeting information on the PCARS website at: www.portcars.org

If the award is to be mailed in the USA, fee is \$4.00 (covers cost of award, large envelope and US postage - add extra \$2.00 for return of original QSL cards if sent).

Fee for foreign delivery is 3 current IRCs. Plus 3 current IRCs for return of original QSL cards, if submitted.

Certificate is 8-1/2" x 11". No endorsements. Separate awards for Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The sponsoring organization, the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS), reserves the right to modify any part of this program or to discontinue it at any time. All decisions of the sponsoring organization are final.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) - A-Z Award Entry Form

Name (as you want it on the Certificate):		Call Sign:	Date:
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Country:

Award being applied for:

- ☐ Bronze: Voice contacts made through 2 meter FM repeaters. EchoLink contacts are okay.
- ☐ Silver: Voice contacts made on 2 meters FM or SSB - not through repeaters.
- ☐ Gold: Contacts made on 160/80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10/6 Meters - AM/SSB/CW/Digital (any combination) (not through a repeater).



I certify the enclosed QSL cards (or photo copies) reflect the true information. I have read and complied with the rules. Included is the proper award fee. I understand that the final decision of granting the award shall be determined by the PCARS A-Z award checker(s).

Signed

Date

----- Do not write below this line -----
Information for award checker

Date Received:

Date Verified:

Verified By:

Date Certificate Printed;

Date Certificate presented/mailed:

(Rules and entry form will be posted and available as PDF files on the PCARS Yahoo Site.)

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. If there are no changes, you can just send in a check payable to "PCARS" for your 2012 dues.

Mary Jo, KD8GGZ



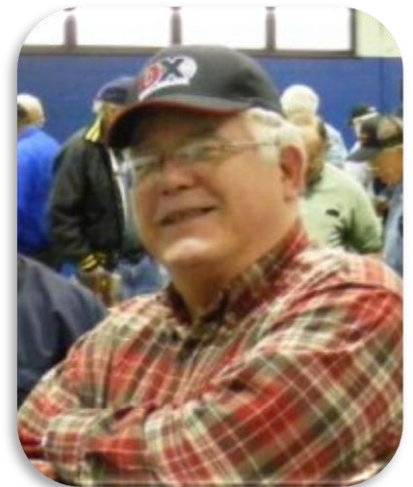
Thanks & 73

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, N8RLG, KC8PD, WB8VNO, AE5WX, AI8P, W8PT, WB2DFC, K8GI, W8JJW, KB8UUZ, KD8GGZ, N8XTH, The ARRL and the World Wide Web.

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



Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



To All PCARS Members

May you have a Joyous and Prosperous New Year



Pictures from the December PCARS Christmas Party





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

Amateur Radio GENERAL Class Upgrade Class



The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)** is offering a General Class Upgrade course

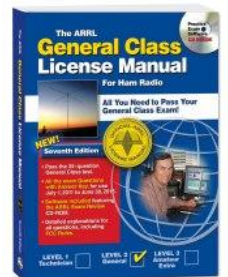
When: Tuesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.
Starting January 17, 2012
License testing will be held on the last day of class

Where: At the PCARS Club Site in the Radio Room located in the Dietrich Building - 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

Cost: \$25.00 registration fee for non-PCARS members
Your \$25 fee includes a One Year Membership in PCARS
There is **no** fee for current PCARS members

Text – ARRL “General Class License Manual”
Books may be purchased from PCARS for \$30.00

Information & Registration: Contact: **Deron Boring, N8XTH**
by e-mail: N8XTH@portcars.org
or phone: **330-715-8552**



Please register with N8XTH by January 10th
You can pay the registration fee the first night of class

As a **General Class Amateur Radio Operator** you will be able to Contact other ham radio operators in the area around the world on the HF Bands.
It will open up a whole new area of fun for you in Amateur Radio.



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Seventh Annual

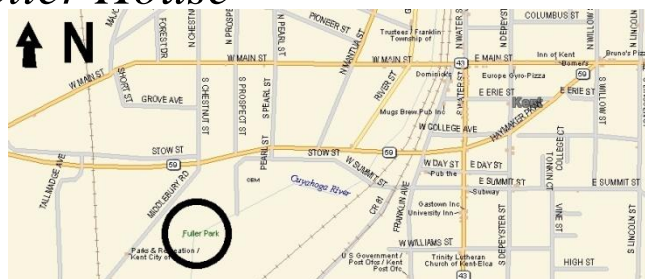
*"Freeze Your Acorns Off"
(FYAO) QRP mini-field day
Special Event Station*



*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 K8WD 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

