



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



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

~ 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 night 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

Field Day is now behind us.... I'm sure there will be plenty of coverage so I'm going to ramble on about "Thinking Outside the Box" - as it relates to Amateur Radio. Take, for example, the NU5DE group (www.nu5de.org). This year, from July 12 - 15, 1800-2300z they'll be on the air (hey, don't worry, it's just radio - not television) to celebrate "nude awareness - nude recreation week". So, how do you combine Ham Radio with your other interests? I'm pretty sure this group appeals to a pretty small segment of our society, but they're actually on to something! If you can combine some of your other interests with your Ham Radio interests, you might find others in your group that would find amateur radio interesting. That's what keeps the hobby growing. Give bicycle mobile a try. Hiking is done too - pedestrian mobile. Like to fly model rockets or weather balloons? Help out with an APRS tracker system. Stamp collector? Specialize in radio related stamps (there's a bunch of them). There are lots of possibilities, and all we really want to do is "expose" as many people as possible to how much fun they can have with our hobby!



OK, so maybe we need to find a different box for most of us to think outside of. Here's something different: awards based on total power for all contacts. Here's how it works: You want to get the basic Worked all States (WAS) at QRP. That's 50 states at 5 watts each, or a total power of 250 watts. If you did 50 states at 1 watt each, that would be a total power of 50 watts. How low can you go? In the Spring 2012 issue of QRP Quarterly is an article by Bill Cunningham - K4KSR - where he talks about the concept and I've included here his results for WAS at 5 total watts! Amazing what you can do if you make a plan and then stick to it till the end. How about activating all of the state parks in OH? You don't have to do it all on OSPOTA weekends, just do it! Who will be the first PCARS member to make 5 Q's from each of the 50 states? Don't like QRP, well how about working 50 states in 24 hours? DXCC in a weekend? Certainly possible.

Not a contester, but you like to rag chew? I've heard lots of conversations on air that all seem to go by the same script - name, location, equipment, oops - gotta go. I'm pretty sure that's because the op ran out of things to say. It doesn't all have to be about the radio. Jenny (KD8LIR) taught me a long time ago that you can have some pretty neat conversation when you get off topic and ask people questions about their lives and other interests.

Continued on Page 2

And the Winner Is.....	23
Antenna Hair Girl at Dayton	25
Charlie the Tuner - HF High Lites	16
Contest Calendar	6
CW Field Day	8
EmComm	13
Field Day 2012	4
Field Day 2012 - KB8AMZ	19
Frank Piper Continues as Ohio SM	10
Great Lakes EmComm Conference	15
Ham License Plates Wanted	12
Hamfest Schedule	12
Happy Birthday	8
Mark Your Calendars	5
Meetings, PCARS	26
N6TL - PCARS Mug	22
Net (Thursday) Info & NCS Schedule	10
New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool	10

New Pager	20
On the Road for Field Day	14
Paper Chase	7
Patches & Stickers, PCARS	9
Pictures from Field Day 2012	28
Pictures from the June Meeting	27
President, From the	1
QRP/CW Special Interest Group	9
Shack Shot - K8NYM	25
Some Words from Weaver	24
Swap-N-Shop	11
Thanks & 73	26
The Cass Award	20
VE Test Sessions	6
Venus - A Sight to See	23
Vice President, From the	3
Yahoo Group	5

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



From the President - Continued from Page 1

Jenny likes to ask about pets, most people have them, and most people are pretty happy with them and love to talk about them, you just gotta let them know it's OK for on air conversation. You could ask people about the history of their location. You might get some pretty interesting stories out of that. Ask questions about the guy (or gal) on the other end, you'll find that most people really like talking about themselves.

The whole point of this hobby is to have fun. But sometimes we get stuck in a rut (ie: Box) and we need to think of ways to get out. Try something new. Bring ham radio into areas of your life where you wouldn't normally and you'll find the reasons for not bringing it there just might not be valid. (Of course, if they are valid, you may have some explaining to do.) Hang out with new hams, their level of enthusiasm for the hobby just might wake you up to some of the things you originally thought were fun but then gave up on because you got bored. If you think you've done it all, or you're just too wore out to try something new, then I feel sorry for you and hope you get over it soon!



73,
Tom, WB8LCD

From the Vice President

Confessions of a Notorious Spammer

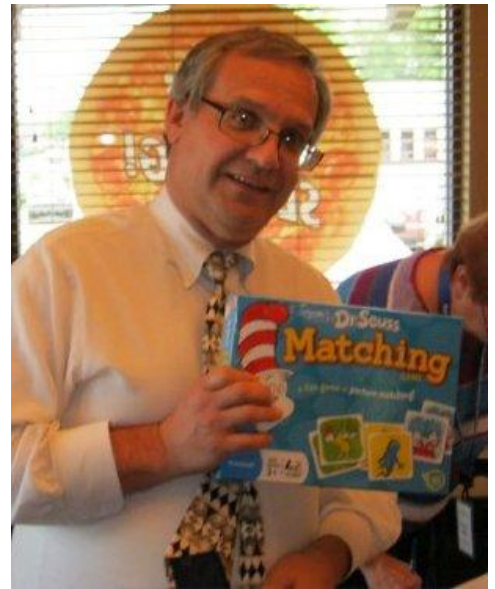
If you haven't gotten email from me lately, consider yourself lucky. A hacker managed to get through the antivirus protection on one of the computers here at Casa Del WB9LBI, and invade my email address book. Thus did many emails go out from my account, each with a link to some sort of advertising site. Some of the emails hit various message groups that I belong to. Hilarity ensued.

The replies that I got back seemed to fall into four categories:

1. Bill, did you really send this?
2. Hey pal, looks like you've been hacked! HA HA HA.
3. You freakin' moron
4. (Unprintable)

I found out about this right about the time that my ISP suspended my email account, and spent the evening claiming my account back, sending out apologies, and coming to the following conclusions.

- Keep your virus software up to date on all of your laptops, desktops, etc. My company, which among other things cleans viruses off of computers (ironic, huh?) thinks highly of malwarbytes.org. It's free.
- Impress upon your family members that if they see a virus warning message or the computer starts behaving oddly, it's time to speak up and take immediate action.
- If you really must call somebody who spammed your Yahoo group an (Unprintable), take care to reply to the offending individual and not just hit Reply. That's how your (Unprintable) comments get sent to the entire (Unprintable) group. Worse, your angry rant is now enshrined forever in the Google cache.
- If you were using Linux, this probably never would have happened.



Did you know that you can run both Linux and Windows on the same computer at the same time? Plus, there's quite a bit of Linux-based software out there, including Ham Radio software, most of it free. At the August PCARS meeting, Terry KB8AMZ will tell you all about it in his presentation "Linux in the Ham Shack". Terry is heading up the new Linux Special Interest group, and invites you to check it out. Email him at kd8amz@portcars.org.

For everybody who got one of those bogus emails with my name on it, I apologize for your trouble, and please take me off your blacklist now.

Bill, WB9LBI

Field Day 2012

The weather was perfect, attendance was great, all stations were operational, and most important everyone had an enjoyable time at the 2012 PCARS Field Day site! The only fly in the ointment so to speak was horrid band conditions. In the week preceding field day the sunspot numbers took a 29% drop which were the lowest numbers since April of 2011 and made making contacts, especially on the higher bands, difficult at best.

Despite poor propagation the club did well, and propagation affects everyone equally so I don't expect our showing relative to other 4A stations to change much, if any.

There were some bright spots:

- The CW station increased its contacts by 89 (13%) over last year
- The digital contacts were up by a whopping 128 (457%) over last year
- The 40 M phone station was up slightly in contacts as well.

The preliminary bottom line for total score right now is 8,360 points, down somewhat from last year but still respectable considering the difficulties poor propagation caused. A final report will be issued when the Field Day summary is submitted to the ARRL.

The support teams provided all that could be wanted on the site. Power was uninterrupted throughout the period, all stations were connected wirelessly to a central server and had logging, and two great meals were served to participants and guests. Safe operations were assured throughout the period and we were well represented to the public through the media and a public information table. Elected public officials and EMA representatives who visited Field Day were impressed with the ability to operate and support an event like Field Day.

Making an event the scope and size of PCARS Field Day work as well as it did is no small undertaking.

The Incident Command System staff for Field Day did a great job individually and most importantly, in the way that they worked as a team. Kudos to the folks on our team, Tom WB8LCD Deputy Field Day Chairman, Mike KD8FLZ Safety Officer, Tom KB8UUZ Public Information Table, Jim KC8PD PIO and FLEX Station Captain, Chuck W8PT 20 M Phone Station Captain, Ed N8EQJ 40 M Phone Station Captain, Dave WB2DFC CW Station Captain, Bob N8QE VHF Station Captain, Chris KD8QDZ GOTA Station Captain, John KD8QEJ Food Team Leader, James KD8VT Power Team Leader and Educational Event Presenter, Steve K8SRR IT Team Leader, and George K3GP Finance Team Leader.

A special thank you goes out to all of you who operated or logged at the stations, or helped the support teams. And thanks to everyone who visited and shared a really great time at the PCARS 2012 Field Day Event!

Rick, K8CAV
Field Day Chairman

Score Statistics			Operator	
			Initials	Contacts
Total CW Contacts.....	767		N8OQQ	292
Total Digital Contacts...	156		K3GP	219
Total Phone Contacts...	1559		KB8AMZ	218
Total QSO Points.....	3405		W8PT	203
			K8GI	194
			KC8PD	162
			N8EQJ	146
			N8XTH	142
			WB9LBI	140
			WB2DFC	110
			NX8G	109
			N1EZZ	87
			N8WLE	74
			WA8CCU	47
			KD8FME	42
			KC8KYW	41
			KB8TUY	41
			KD8DFL	40
			WA8AR	32
			WA8OKR	30
			KD8LDY	26
			W8KNO	25
			N8QE	24
			KA8TOA	16
			WB8LCD	10
			N8HUC	7
			KD8EPA	4
			KD8ICP	1
	Total Contacts	%		
80	177	7		
40	1471	59		
20	772	31		
15	34	1		
V/Uhf	28	1		
Total	2482			
Station				
Station	Contacts			
CW	759			
40M	734			
20M	615			
FLEX	346			
VHF	28			

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/>.



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- July 9th - **PCARS Meeting** - Arduino Processor by Jim Kvochick, WB8AZP
(Raffle for Free Aduino Boards!)
- July 21st - **PCARS Family Picnic** - at the Ravenna VFW
- August - **Cruise-In** at the A&W in Ravenna - Date to be determined
- August 13th - **PCARS Meeting** - Linux for the Ham Shack by Terry, KB8AMZ
- September 10th - **PCARS Meeting** - How Amateur Television Works, by Glenn, KA8CMD

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



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



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



An advertisement for ARRL License Manuals. At the top, the text "ARRL License Manuals" is in large white letters on a black background. Below it, "Now including Practice Exam Software" is written in a smaller font. A yellow starburst graphic on the right says "Only \$30.00 Available from PCARS". Below the text are three book covers: "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" (red cover), "The ARRL General Class License Manual" (blue cover), and "The ARRL Extra Class License Manual" (green cover). At the bottom, the text "Contact George, K3GP@portcars.org" is displayed in blue.

July Contest Calendar

July 2012	
RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 14 to 1200Z, Jul 15
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 21 to 0600Z, Jul 22
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 21 to 2100Z, Jul 22
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 28 to 1200Z, Jul 29

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

August 4 ~ October 6 ~ December 1

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

ON EXAM DAY BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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

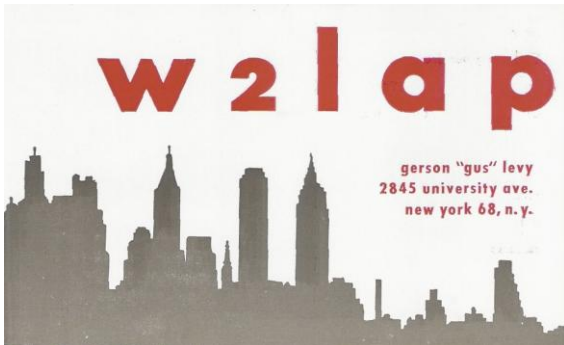


calculator function may not be used. In addition, iPhones, iPads, Androids, smartphones, Blackberry devices and all similar electronic devices with a calculator capability, may NOT be used.

7. Bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam session fee of \$15.00. If using a check or money order, the payee is "ARRL-VEC".

Rex, NX8G
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Paper Chase



We all know people who collect QSL cards for continents, countries, states, counties and even ZIP codes. Now look at this QSL card and what do you notice?

Did you notice that there was no ZIP code but had "new york 68 n.y." The card was printed in 1939. Gus wrote me a letter and in it he mentions that most of New York was W8 and most of New Jersey was W3. He then mentioned he knew where I lived. A WW II buddy

had been a professor at KSU and therefore I must live close to Brady's Leap.

I have lived in Portage County for 34 years but had never heard of Brady's Leap, though I had heard of Brady Lake and Captain Brady Days. My interest was piqued and here is the rest of the story.



Captain Samuel Brady gained his lasting notoriety for his leap over the

Cuyahoga River around 1780 in what is now Kent, Ohio. After following a band of Indians into the Ohio country, a failed ambush attempt resulted in the band chasing Brady near the Cuyahoga River. To avoid capture, Brady leaped across a 22-foot wide gorge of the river (which was widened considerably in the 1830s for construction of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal) and fled to a nearby lake where he hid in the water under a fallen tree using a

reed for air. The lake, originally known as "Brady's Lake", is now known as Brady Lake and is the location of a village of the same name, Brady Lake, Ohio, which has celebrated "Captain Brady Day" each summer since 1972. This year the the festival is July 8th through July 14th. The site of Brady's leap is today a park known as "Brady's Leap Park" just north of downtown Kent.



Hope to hear you in the pile-up,

Joe, W8KNO

CW Field Day

A fun time was had by all..... and the CW Station was really crankin'. Even with the poor band conditions, the scores for the CW Station are well ahead of last year! I attribute the increased score to more skill, more enthusiasm, and more technology. The seat was never empty and loggers/observers almost always in the 2nd chair..... an excellent benefit, especially when you can't quite get that call sign.... more ears are better.



And with George, K3GP's help, we added more automation to the CW Station. Equipment and software drivers provided by George allowed operators to log and operate from the same computer keyboard, driving efficiency way up. Thank you to George for this great upgrade ! (I am no longer a CW Purist, yes I used the keyboard)

Scheduling the on-air ops at the CW Station seemed effortless. There were always two or three members ready to take a turn at the radio. Most operators were in the seat for two hours or less, getting a much needed break to refill the coffee or water bottle. Meals were served to the station also, thank you to the commissary staff... XLNT job!

As for the antenna, the same G5RV as years past, only this time, up about 15 more feet. Large trees at the edges of the area were used to support the antenna. The antenna Bazooka worked great...!!!!.... 2 shots, 2 hits ! Now that's what I call marksmanship !!!! Fortunately I had 300 feet of extra rope to support the antenna.... all went well.

In the picture you will see Terry, KB8AMZ, operator extraordinaire, on the air for the first 2012 Field Day CW QSO... we shall award him the "Grand CW Marshal" award for the first CW Station contact!!! Thanks to all who participated in the ARRL 2012 PCARS Field Day at Ravenna City Park, and especially to those who added Q's to the CW Station log.

C U Next Year, 73,
Dave, WB2DFC, dit dit

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in July:

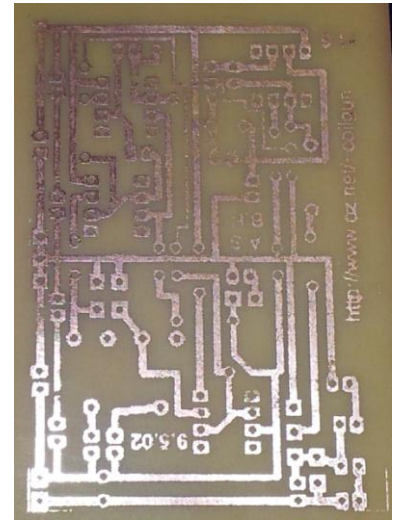
KD8QEI	Valeri Karl	KD8QEJ	John Adams
W8PT	Chuck Patellis	AK8U	Wayne Schaefer
N8FTP	Larry Cole	GOBPS	Dick Pascoe
KB8JFF	Richard Ward	AB8IE	Ken Westover
N4PKW	Rod Thompson	N8XEP	Maribeth Vince
WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich	N8WHT	John Beck
N8HUC	Karen Andrews	KD8EPA	Dan Porcase
N8JLC	Raymond Hyer		

QRP/CW Special Interest Group

Last month, the QRP/CW special interest group experimented with PC board etching. Using the “iron on” technique, we etched a board using an etchant solution of muratic acid and hydrogen peroxide. It took awhile to complete, but we ended up with what would have been a usable board if it were laid out for a real project. (this was just a board I copied off line to work with the process of making a board)

At our next meeting, Tuesday July 10th, 7:00 PM at the club site, we'll be working on-line with some of the board manufacturers to learn how to take a schematic to a board layout online, and from there produce our own board. Once everyone gets the hang of that, we'll be taking a circuit for a code practice oscillator, doing a board design, making the board, then completing the project by populating the board to make a working CPO. (this will happen over a couple sessions so we can make sure everyone ends up with a working project)

It's not too late if you would like to participate in this. Show up on the 10th and you'll learn what you need to know to be on track. QRP'ers are Builders!



73,

Tom, WB8LCD

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
Join Now
Discover the FUN



PCARS Thursday Net Control

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



July	
5	WB8LCD
12	KB8UHN
19	- OPEN -
26	KD8FDK

August	
2	KD8ICR
9	KD8JCY
16	N8QE
23	KB8UUZ

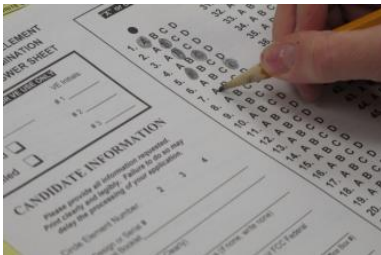


The PCARS net is **Fun** - tell your friends to check in via RF or EchoLink! If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a shot, please contact me at: WB8LCD@portcars.org. Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

Hope to hear you on the net,
Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool - Effective July 1

The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool -- released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in January 2012 -- becomes effective on Sunday, July 1.



The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams - will remain valid until June 30, 2016.

The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions -- E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10 -- have been removed from the new pool.

The current Technician class question pool that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current General class pool that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015.

From the ARRL

Frank Piper, KI8GW Continues as Ohio Section Manager

Section Manager Frank Piper, KI8GW received this communication from ARRL Headquarters:

"Dear Frank:

This is just a friendly note to let you know no other SM nominating petition was received in this office on Friday, June 8, 2012, therefore you are hereby re-elected as Section Manager of the Ohio section. Your official nomination letter will follow via postal mail shortly. Your new term of office will be on October 1, 2012. Thank you very much. Congratulations!!

73,
Leona G. Adams, W1LGA
Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant"

From the Ohio Section Website

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: 6' steel cabinets with 19" rails and 2 doors – deep type, \$50 (I have two) [09/02/12]

FOR SALE: Telewave PS-4502 power splitter, 400-512MHz, new, Tescos #65228, \$65 [09/02/12]

FOR SALE: Diamond D-130J discone antenna, 25-1300MHz, never used outside, \$75 [09/02/12]

FOR SALE: Decibel Products DB8802BA-100 remote metering power meter and alarm, 406-1000MHz, \$70 [09/02/12]

FOR SALE: 1-1/4" transmission line, 250' or more, used in good condition, with two "N" connectors, \$250 [09/02/12]

Contact Rick - K8GI@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Drake TR-4CW, with power supply, and other accessories. Includes a low pass filter, electronic keyer, IC active filter, and a RIT/XIT. Does not have a mic or cw key. Equipment is from a SK estate, his family asked if I could sell it for them. Radio and power supply work fine and has the complete owner's manual! Make offer!- thanks [07/02/12]

Contact Mike - KC8UNR phone: 330-219-3395 and leave a message

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-990 with auto tuner – Like New - MARS modified at the dealer. I am selling this for my father (WN8N), the original owner, who is in his 80s. It has been used very little and has had a cover on it the whole time he owned it.

I am looking for \$700 for it. Original manual included. [07/02/12]

Contact Doug - KG8NX – e-mail: mypades2004@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Kenwood TM-D700A 2m/70cm transceiver with internal packet modem for packet and APRS. Includes transceiver, control head, 9 ft control head to transceiver cable, 6 ft power cable with power pole connector, microphone, transceiver bracket, control head brackets, manuals, and original box. \$275.00 [07/02/12]

FOR SALE: Icom ID-880H 2m/70cm transceiver, D-Star ready. Includes transceiver, microphone, transceiver mounting bracket, manual, RT Systems USB-29 programming cable, RT Systems WCS880 programming/Cloning software, Icom D-Star data cable, and original box. \$450.00 [09/02/12]

Contact Rick - K8CAV@portcars.org

FOR SALE: Used Leviton 430C12W 125/250V 30A watertight pin & sleeve connector-excellent condition \$80 [8/2/2012]

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 cable \$30 ea. (10 Available) [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B jumpers with N-male & DIN-male connectors. \$20 each. . (10 Available) [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: Astron RS-70M – 13.8 Volt Regulated Power Supply w/Voltmeter & Ammeter. Rated 57.0A Continuous Duty, 70A ICAS 50% Duty Cycle \$240 [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: Astron RS-50M – 13.8 Volt Regulated Power Supply w/Voltmeter & Ammeter. Rated 37.0A Continuous Duty, 50A ICAS 50% Duty Cycle \$175 [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: DeWalt 18 Volt Cordless 1/2" XRP Hammer Drill Kit model DC988 w/2 batteries & charger in carrying case \$75 [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: DeWalt 18 Volt Cordless 1/2" XRP Hammer Drill/Recip Saw Kit model DW987 drill and model DW938 Recip Saw w/2 batteries & charger NO CASE \$100 [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: New In Box GE Contactors [8/2/2012]

GE CL01A400TJ Contactor 4 poles rated 25A @ 600V, 120V Coil \$25 (2 Available)

GE CL01D310TD Contactor 4 poles rated 25A @ 600V, 24V Coil \$30 (2 Available)

GE CL25A300T Contactor 4 poles rated 32A @ 600V, 120V Coil \$35 (2 Available)

FOR SALE: Bolt on Aux Contact Set for any of the above contactors with 1-NO & 1-NC Set of contacts \$2 ea [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: 1/4" Plate Glass for desk or table top, Great for radio bench. 42" x 68" cost over \$100 Asking \$80 [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: Converter Concepts Power Supply 90-250VAC Input. Output #1 +12VDC, @2.5A. Output #2 -12VDC, @ 1.5A. Output #3 +5VDC, @ 12A. \$20 (2 Available) [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: Ferraz-Shawmut ULTRASAFE® Fuse Holders DIN Rail Mount, Blown Fuse Indicator \$3 ea (25 Available) [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: LINKSYS by Cisco EtherFast @ 10/100 5 port work group switch \$10 [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: Station Ground Bars military surplus MADE IN U.S.A. by COLE HERSEE of Boston, MA. \$8 ea. (Less than 40 out of the original 60 remaining) [8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: Small supply of Heliac connectors for sale. Contact me with your needs. [8/2/2012]

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

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!). USA Maps loaded, Touch Screen, Aux Input, Brand new, original box, manual with everything including suction mount. \$89.00 [07/02/12]

Contact Tom - KB8UUZ@portcars.org

FOR SALE : Aluminum mast pipe, 2 inch OD, 8 feet long, excellent condition. Original cost: \$69.00. If you need it make me an offer. [07/02/12]

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. Make a reasonable offer. [07/02/12]

Contact Rex - NX8G@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: [09/02/12] This will help keep the listings current.



Hamfest Schedule

06/03/2012 - Breeze Shooters Hamfest & Computer Show. Location: Butler, PA. Sponsor: Breeze Shooters Amateur Radio Club. Website: <http://www.breezeshooters.net>

07/14/2012 - 2012 NW PA Hamfest. Erie, PA. Sponsor: Wattsburg Wireless & Union City Wireless Associations. Website: <http://nw-pa-hamfest.com>

07/21/2012 - NOARSFEST. Elyria, OH. Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society. Website: <http://www.noars.net>



Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted



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

renewal time comes around for your Amateur Radio, you can get NEW plates issued (same call sign).

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



EmComm

Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to participate as a communications volunteer for a number of events. I have had a variety of assignments, some of which have had me located at busy intersections where traffic is detoured for the event and others where I have had to drive race officials on the event route.

It became clear to me that the four-way flashers on my car weren't adequate for my safety let alone that of the event participants. So I decided to explore my options for additional vehicle safety lights.

I finally ended up with a small amber and white LED dash light that mounts to the windshield behind the rearview mirror as well as an amber LED that mounts on the inside at the top of the rear window on my SUV. On top of the car is an eleven inch wide amber mag mount LED mini-light bar.

All in all they provide ample warning lights while maintaining a low profile.

But the reason for this article is not to highlight the installation that I chose. Instead, I want to make sure that anyone else who considers the use of safety lights is aware of a few very important restrictions on them under Ohio law.

First and foremost: unless you are operating a public safety vehicle (i.e., police, fire, EMS) or a school bus you are prohibited from using red or blue lights, or red/white, blue/white combos. That means, generally speaking, that we are to use amber lights (ORC 4513.17) <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4513>.

Second, that statute provides a list of vehicles that are authorized to use the amber flashing lights and, not surprisingly, it does not include ham radio operators' personal vehicles. However, the statute does permit the use of such lights "in the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing." That will generally cover our use.

Third, the restrictions on the use of amber flashing lights apply when the vehicle is on the road and not necessarily, for example, if it is parked at the side of the road.

Last, only use the lights as necessary, don't abuse them. Otherwise you might find yourself receiving a traffic citation.

As a regular feature, here is a list of some of the upcoming events in our area along with the name of the contact person if you would like to volunteer:

- **Headwaters Adventure Race** - July 14th, Gay, WB8VNO
- **Kent Kids Triathlon** - July 14th, Sandy, KD8JCY
- **Black Squirrel Triathlon** - August, August 4th, Gay, WB8VNO
- **Bellefaire Biathlon** - August 26th, Gay, WB8VNO
- **Balloon-a-Fair Chase** - September 15th, Sandy, KD8JCY
- **Got Bike?** - October 7th, Jim, KC8PD or Mike, KD8FLZ

Other events in Northeast Ohio include the Stow July 4th Parade; info at www.summitares.org/home.php.

Please contact me for more information. Your efforts are valued by the event organizers and you will find these volunteer opportunities to be personally rewarding. All of us who have responsibility for coordinating the amateur radio communications efforts really appreciate your assistance.

73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH

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

On the Road for Field Day

I had a chance to go "up north" on the weekend of Field Day - my first chance to go out of state in 2 years. I was in Traverse City on Field Day & got on a local 2 M repeater to ask about local clubs. A local ham gave me some info on the Cherryland ARC site, which was way out in the country, on a hill overlooking Grand Traverse Bay, and of course located in a cherry orchard.



I then found their last online newsletter <http://www.cherrylandarc.com/2.html> and luckily enough, the newsletter had a Google Earth image of where their site was to be. I used the marks on the map to program my GPS to find the spot, and a GPS was necessary - some of the information signs they had posted were missing when I showed up on Saturday afternoon. A cherry orchard is like a maze with multiple paths through it. The site was a cleared spot on the edge of a ridge with a great view. There were at least 3 towers they had erected using a bucket truck. This club works closely with the Salvation Army, which provided the meals for Field Day at this site. The club & the Army worked together earlier this spring when the entire Grand Traverse area suffered a week-long power outage due to a late winter snow storm.



The local hams were, needless to say, quite surprised to have a visitor from 500 miles away locate them. We had a great time. One new thing I saw in use was digital CQ keyer <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-434B> -- I submit a video of how that works, 30 seconds of a complete Field QSO, on the web page I mentioned. This was on their 20 M station. A real voice-saver.

I pitched my tent on the highest peak of land and was able to get several hours of sleep even with the generators going most of the night. They were shut off about 0300. The silence woke me up. Power went on again at 0600.

Pictures from the Cherryland ARC Field day can be seen at: <http://sdrv.ms/MAIWvK>

73,
Art, *KD8CGF*





Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference

July 21, 2012 marks the Second Annual Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference! Many thanks to the leadership and administrators of Gilmour Academy for allowing us to use their great facility!

The Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference has been designed with volunteers in mind. A veritable pantheon of instructors have volunteered to educate and train volunteers who have a desire to assist during times of emergency, disaster, and/or public service. This conference is open to all who wish to participate regardless of national, state, county, or local affiliation.

Our free training will help your new volunteers and season veterans alike become efficient and effective communicators during times of emergency, disaster, or public service.

Lunch will be catered at Noon for a cash or check donation of \$6.00. Donations will be collected during check-in Saturday morning. If paying by check, make it out to Gilmour Academy. Sorry, no credit or debit cards will be accepted. There are no ATM's on site. Off-site restaurants are available if you so choose.

Go Boxes have been a staple at training sessions in ARES Tenth District. Go Boxes will be on display throughout the conference in the Dominican Dining Hall. We would love to see yours. Indicate on the registration form if you will be bringing your Go Box to show-off.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Subject to Change

0800 - 1000 - Talk-In on 146.790(-) PL 88.5
0900 - 0930 - Check-In / Registration
0930 - 1000 - Welcome / Introductions / Safety Briefing
1000 - 1010 - Rapid Response Team (RRT) Briefing
1010 - 1100 - Public Service Communications 101
1100 - 1130 - Public Service Communications 102
1130 - 1230 - LUNCH / Displays / Demos
1230 - 1400 - Field Training Exercise (FTX) "Gilmour Quest"
1400 - 1500 - Field Training Exercise (FTX) "Gilmour Restock"
1500 - 1600 - Emergency Repeater / Crossbanding
1600 - 1600 - Event Termination

Volunteers Training Volunteers Since 2011

Saturday, July 21st @ 10AM

Gilmour Academy Lower School
Gates Mills, Ohio

Check out www.glecc.org for registration and details.

Matt, W8DEC

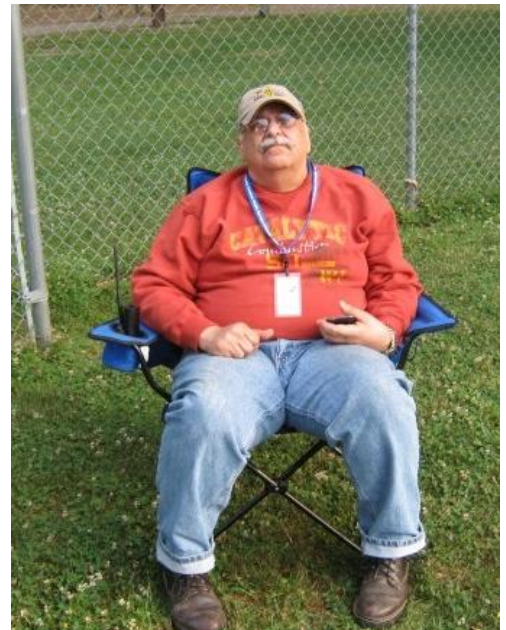
Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Field Day is history and I hope that you all had fun during one of the biggest operating events in HAM radio. Some of us even snuck in some DX during Field Day. Check the logs to see who we worked.

With the hot WX here, many of us can keep cool by staying inside next to our non-vacuum tubed radios and work the world. Let's see what's coming up.

As always, 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).



1A, S.M.O.M. (Press Release #1): "Thirty years have passed since 1A made its way onto the DXCC list. And an activation by an International team looks to celebrate the uniqueness of this event. So, from the 1st to the 4th July, we will listen for them on the air as 1A0C from Santa Maria del Priorato, home of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. The call sign that will be used belongs to the "The Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps (CISOM)", an organization specialized in bringing assistance and relief during emergencies. This underscores the dual value of this activation. On the one hand, there's the fun side ham radio, giving a not so easy 'new one' to as many stations as possible (especially from the U.S. and Japan). On the other hand, however, there's the noble goal, as often seen in ham radio, where a spirit of cooperation and mutual aid are shared by operators all over the world. The team's aim, in fact, is to raise funds – thanks to donations and contributions from QSL requests – in order to buy radio equipment which The Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps volunteers will be able to use in case of emergencies. They will be active on HF+6m and the QSLs for contacts with 1A0C can be requested via Francesco Cozzi, 1A0Z. A website will be online soon, stay tuned! 73 de 1A0C"

2O, ENGLAND & WALES (Special Event 2012 London Olympic & Paralympic Games). Look for the following special event call signs to be activated to celebrate the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games:

2O12L - Members of Cray Valley Radio Society (CVRS) will activate the London, England, station through the duration of the Games, and will be located at the historic Eltham Palace, southeast London. Activity will be on 160-2 meters using all modes. More information is available on the Web at: <http://www.2O12L.com> QSL via G4WNF. Contact the Press Officer, John Warburton, G4IRN at: press@2o12l.com

2O12W - Members of Barry Amateur Radio Society (BARS) will activate the Welsh station from Whitmore Bay, Barry Island, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, and will also be active on all bands (160m-23cms) and on all modes, including SSTV and satellite. More information is available on Web at: <http://www.2O12W.com> Contact station manager Glyn Jones, GW0ANA, at: glyndxis@talktalk.net

D2, ANGOLA. Craig, MM0SSG, is now active as D2SG from Luanda and will be there until around October 31st. Activity will be limited because he is there on a work assignment on an off-shore oil platform. Operations will only take place when he is on land. Reported QSNs show activity has been on 10 meters CW. QSL via GM4FDM, direct or by the Bureau.

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

IOTA DXPEDITIONS TOUR. Operators Peter OT9Z/ON8ZZ, Dominiek/ON3JA and Frederik/ON3NT will be active as MU/OT9Z from **Guernsey** (EU-114, WLOTA 0013) between July 16-20th. During their stay on Guernsey, they plan to activate the following islands (all EU-114): July 17th - **Herm Island**; July 18th - **Sark Island** (WLOTA 0944) and July 19th - **Alderney Island** (WLOTA 0198). The group will then head south to France and be active as F/OT9Z from **Chausey Island** (EU-039, DIFM MA004, WLOTA 0424) between July 27-29th. They plan to be an entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th) using the special callsign TM7T. QSL all operations via OT9Z.

EU-032. Tim, ON5HC, will be active as F/OO5C/P from Ile d'Oleron during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th) as a Single-Op/ Low-Power/SSB entry. QSL via ON5HC.

EU-038. Ray, PE1GUR, will be active as PA6FUN from Ameland Island (WLOTA 1059, WW Loc. JO23VK) between July 30th and August 15th. Activity will be on 6 meters only (Watch Es, Ms and Tropo). QSL via PE1GUR, by the Bureau or direct.

EU-045. Operators will be active as IB0F from Ponza Island (IIA LT-001, MIA MI-076, WLOTA 1395) in the Tyrrhenian Sea between July 23-31st. They will also participate in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th). QSL information TBA. Watch QRZ.com.

EU-047. Operators Friedrich/DL4BBH and Ric/DL2VFR will activate the special callsign DM50IOTA from Borkum Island (GIA N-001, WLOTA 1022) between July 27-29th. Activity will include an entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th). Operations will be on all HF bands and modes, propagation permitting. QSL direct or by the Bureau to DM50IOTA.

EU-073. Operators Vin/IK7IMO, Piero/IK7VJX and Roby/IK7XIV will be active as IJ7A from Isola San Pietro (IIA TA-002, MIA MI-094) between July 27-31th. Activity will include the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th) as a Multi-? entry. Operations will be all HF bands and modes. QSL via IK7IMO.

EU-079. Operators Glenn/LA8XRA and Trond/LA9VDA will be active as LA6Q from Jønsholmen Island between August 10-13th. Activity will be on the 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. If they have time, he will make side trips to Dimna Island (EU-079, WLOTA 2438) and Nerlandsøy Island (EU-079, WLOTA 2193). QSL via LA9VDA, direct or by the Bureau (E-mail requests for Bureau cards can be sent to: la9vda [at] gmail dot com). Trond states, "Thanks to W5BXX Dave for sponsoring us."

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

NA-067. Nathan, N4YDU, active as W4O from Ocracoke Is between 2300z July 26, and 1200z July 29. He plans to be in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29) as a Single-Op/ All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via N4YDU - Direct Only.

NA-092. Dave, AC0QG, will once again be active as AC0QG/5 from South Padre Island (USI TX007S, Cameron County, TX) between June 18th and July 13th. Activity will be on the HF bands, on or near the usual island and IOTA frequencies. QSL via his home callsign, direct, LoTW or eQSL.

NA-128. Members of the "NA-128 Contest Group" will activate the special callsign VX2I from Ile Verte (CISA QC-015, Grid FN58, ARLHS CAN-244, WLOTA 1404) between July 26-29th. The group will be a Multi-Single entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th), and will have many stations on from the lighthouse keeper' quarters. Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK63 before and after the contest. A station will be dedicated on 6m. The group will operate ONLY on SSB and CW, and on 80/40/20/15/10 meters DURING the contest. QSL via VE2CQ. For more details, see: <http://www.qsl.net/na128cg>

NA-144. Operators Jeff/W6UX, Rich/AE6RS, Steven/K6SGH, Kenan/KR6J, John/KQ6ES and Tim/N6GP will be active as W6UX/p from Anacapa Island during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th). QSL via W6UX.

SA-029. Operators Marcelo/PY1MT, Moreira/PU1MMZ, Mauricio/PU1SET, Jose/PY1MX and Jair/PY1HS will be active as ZV1M during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 28-29th) from Itacuruca Island (DIB RJ-08), Rio de Janeiro State,

Brazil. QSL via PY1MT, direct only with SASE/SAE + 2 USDs (no IRC). Their Web site is available at:
<http://www.casadoradioamador.blogspot.com>

SA-037. To celebrate Venezuelan Navy Day, members of the Grupo DX Caracas will be active as YW5B from La Blanquilla Island between July 11-16th. Activity will be on 160-2 meters using CW, SSB, Satellites, FM and the Digital modes. QSL manager TBA.

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

FR8, REUNION ISLAND – 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.

RUSSIAN IOTA, ARCTIC STATION, RRA and RFF OP. Operators Victor, RW0BG (RRC #869), and Igor Petlin, plan to travel along the Yenisei River to the North on the Yenisei River from Dudinka. They will start from Talnah in early July. Scheduled stops on the islands of the Yenisei River for the "Russian Robinson" program are: Kazan Island (RR-06-32), Mininskie Island (RR-06-33), Nikandrovskie Island (RR-06-34), Deryabinskie Island (RR-06-35) and the Island of Golchikha (RR-06-36). It is also planned to stop at the existing Sopochnaya hag Polar Station. Interest in the polar stations on the air is always great. The second phase of the expedition is the Kara Sea. They are planning to stop at Deer Islands (RR-06-06) and Shokalski (RR-06-05, IOTA AS-083, Gydansky Reserve RFF-030). If they have time, they will also work in the RSGB IOTA Contest. The third stage of their expedition is Ob Bay, and possibly stopping on the islands in the IOTA group AS-109; which they have not yet decided. Further possible stop in the Ob Bay are Chulym to Achinsk, moving to the city of Krasnoyarsk on a vehicle (~ 160 km). The final stage on the river Yenisey is a possible stop for a short activity at the Biosphere Reserve Tsentralnosibirsky (RFF-096) to Dudinka, then return in Talnakh.

MJ, JERSEY. Operators Peter/ON8ZZ, Dominiek/ON3JA and Frederik/ON3NT will be active as MJ/OT9Z from La Moye, Jersey (EU-013, WLOTA 0818), between July 20-27th. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via OT9Z, by the UBA QSL Bureau.

OD, LEBANON. Luigi, IV3XNF, will be on a United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) mission in Lebanon between May and October. He will be staying on a military base but plans to be active during his free time and operate as a QRP station using the callsign OD5/IV3XNF/QRP. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using a Yaesu FT-817ND into a Carolina Windom 80 antenna or an End-Fed Half-Wavelength Antenna (EFHWA - fishing pole). Preferred modes are CW and Digital. QSL via direct to his home callsign. For more update and info, see: <http://iv3xnf.jimdo.com>

ZA, ALBANIA. Tevfik, TA1HZ, will once again be active as ZA1TC from Durres between August 1-7th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using a Kenwood TS570D, FD-4 Multi-Band Windom antenna and 80m dipole. Operations also include an entry in the European HF Championship. During his spare time from the contest, he will may try to work some PSK31, especially on 30 meters. More details and QSL info are available on QRZ.com and the TCSWAT Web page.

That's it for this month's column. Get on the air and work some DX. Until next month, CU DN the Log.

73 and GUD DX!!

Chuck, W8PT
Also known as "Charlie the Tuner"



Field Day 2012 - KB8AMZ

For the past couple years I have not been able to help much in preparation and tear due to back problems. I wish I could change that to offer my fair share of the work load. I do operate though. I enjoy operating. This year's CW team seemed to have about the right number of operators for the solo station. I was able to work CW well within my comfort range more this year than last. The team decided, about 2 hours before start time, that we would use the keyboard/winkey as the primary input and key for secondary input, but a software driver for the winkey was missing. So George, K3GP, left and returned later with software driver and began configuring our work station. Our station was setup and ready to roll at 1350 EDT.

CW Team: Captain, Dave, WB2DFC, George - K3GP, Jim - KD8FME, Bill -WB9LBI, Rich - KD8FDK, and I – KB8AMZ. Dave asked if I was ready to go? So I got the first two hour shift and waited with anticipation for the go ahead from Rick, K8CAV, FD Chairman. At 1400 EDT I began. I admit that I hadn't copied fast CW since FD 2011, so getting my ear and brain in sync took about a half hour. I wasn't up to the 25 wpm send speed that our system defaulted to until my next shift. Only 33 contacts in 2 hours. The contacts were there and I was holding one frequency, but I couldn't copy fast enough. Dave, George, and Bill are my CW mentors (also Dave Reith but he was in WI). So before my next shift I sat with them trying to pickup pointers.



All went well for the CW team over the weekend. We bettered the number of contacts from the previous year by a couple. We all seemed to work cohesively together. My skill was improved working with this team.

Many of my ham friends know I don't work HF phone very often, but I was sort of pressed into elmering for Valerie on the GOTA station. She tried for about 20 minutes to make contact with a Puerto Rico station but the station must've only been hearing everything around us. It was fun trying and being an elmer for a short while.

Food: I don't want to compare this year's food to any previous year because IMHO every year including 2012 the food has been perfect, except the year that I didn't get dinner. Hi hi. There was plenty of it and plenty left over that the club will be eating at our annual picnic.

Power Team: Not one glitch in power. Outstanding!

Mother Nature: the weather was great; not too hot and not too cool during the night. Even the mosquitoes only bothered me briefly this year.

Overall, I think PCARS-FD 2012 was a success. I didn't see as many club members this year as last, but it appeared to me that more visitors were around, especially on Saturday. I am looking forward to my next event, Ohio State Parks On the Air.

73 all,
Terry, KB8AMZ



New Pager

For those who aren't on Facebook...and for those who are...here's an idea whose product development is long overdue!!



Daryl, AE5WX

The Cass Award

Presented annually, the Cass Award encourages DXpeditions to maximize the number of DXers worked with a \$1000 prize for the single-operator DXpedition that works the most unique callsigns within a 4-week interval. This award honors the wisdom and spirit of Cass WA6AUD (SK), whose stories in the West Coast DX Bulletin taught a generation of DXers that DX IS! The timely story below is written in WA6AUD's style.

Too Many Awards

*Well, I dreamed I saw the lights on the cluster flashing,
Saying something about a spot.
There were call signs listed and
Callers calling
And alarms were going off.
There was a pileup building
On the band
That was growing like a fire.
Hear the DX station pound the key
On fourteen oh two three.
Hear the DX station pound the key
On fourteen oh two three.*

One of the Local QRPers came by the other day with purpose in his stride and a glare in his eye. It was a warm, spring day, and we were sitting on the verandah with the window open. There was mostly hissing as the rig scanned a rather dead band. It was one of those lulls in the afternoon when the bands take a rest before the early evening flurry of activity. As we watched the QRPer beat his way up the hill we had the usual twinge of anxiety. We never really understood it, but we suspected it was a bit of the residual fight or flight primordial protection. For while these Local QRPers sometimes bring amusement and even a bit of newfound DX information, they often cause enough aggravation to make it wise to exit before the show begins.

We waited a bit too long, as the QRPer made eye contact, and our escape was blocked. This one was a bit overweight, sleek of head, and wearing a baseball cap. He made his way up the steps and flopped into the chair beside us, needing a few seconds to catch his breath before he began. This one seemed to be carrying the weight of a heavy load on his shoulders. "Tell me", he said, staring at us with his beady little eyes, "Why do the pileups never die down? Why is it after 10, 12, even 15 days the hordes are still calling?" We looked at him with the usual poker face and said, "How so? Things always are crazy the first few days, but after a week no matter how rare, the din subsides and the spread narrows.

It was like we threw gasoline on a fire! "Not always true!" he shouted at us, leaning closer and waving his finger in the air. "When I first started there were more DXers and more Hams than today. And now it seems that every time there is a new one on, the pileups are bigger and they last days longer! I hear the same calls on every

band and every mode working the DXpedition over and over! It isn't fair. I have a tribander and a 500 watt amp, and still I have to fight for hours to try to get a contact. Sometimes for days! And I know most of the calls in the pileup have worked the DX before! Some of them are #1 Honor Roll, and still they are in there calling and calling! Why is that?

We thought about it for a bit and then said, "You missed that rare one that was activated a few weeks ago, right?" NO!!" was the quick retort, "Not at all!!" I got them on the third day on 20 CW and then a backup on 17 phone, but I spent endless hours calling and calling. He was S9 most of the time, but I heard stations calling him who I know had it confirmed from 15-20 years ago, and others who I heard work them an hour earlier on 20 phone! I checked the Internet log and some of them had them worked 6-7 times the first day! 40 phone, 40 CW, 30 RTTY, 17 CW, 15 phone, 10 CW! Why do they need to keep calling and calling and making it harder for me? They have monobanders and stacks and big amplifiers, and all that sophisticated software that sets off alarms when the DX shows on any band or mode they haven't logged them on. At the end of one of the operations last year, I saw a few calls that had 26-27 QSOs with the same DXpedition!! Why do they do this? Are they duping them on the same band and mode?, we asked. No, but you only need one CW QSO and one phone QSO and one digital QSO to satisfy the DXCC. So what is the point of working them on 160 through 10 on CW? And on 160 through 10 on phone? And 160 through 10 on RTTY or PSK or whatever other mode they show up on? And 160 is really tough, so if you happen to get lucky enough to log them on 160M CW, why are there DX Cluster comments begging for 160 SSB? It makes no sense!

We were starting to see the point the QRPer was making and, although we were pretty sure of the answer, we decided to get a second opinion. So we hauled the Local QRPer up the hill a bit further to consult with the Old Timer. The Old Timer had his amp apart on the bench and was replacing the plate choke. Resonates on 25 MHz and I nearly burnt it out trying to tune this thing for 12, he explained, so I'm moving it up to 26-27 MHz. I need full power for all the bands and this thing was designed before we had 30/17/12.

The QRPer didn't seem interested in the amp redesign, and launched right into his story, with pacing back and forth and wiping the sweat off of his upper lip. Occasionally he stopped to stare at the Old Timer to make sure he was listening. The Old Timer was winding his plate choke and checking it with his grid dip meter.

He looked at the choke with a slight smile of satisfaction. Then he turned to the QRPer and said, "How many have you got worked and confirmed?" The QRPer stopped for a second, and then replied, "It is number 281 worked and I have 277 confirmed. Why?" The Old Timer added half a turn of wire, made a final measurement and put the choke down on the bench. "I've got all 340 confirmed, and with deletions, I think I'm somewhere around 366. Know why I'm working on this amp?" The QRPer stopped pacing and answered, "So you can work DX on 12 meters." "Right", the Old Timer replied.

The QRPer scratched his head and said, "But if you have all of them worked, why do you need them on 12? You have them on other bands . . . wait! I get it! You are after 12 meter DXCC, right?" "Nope, got that with 100 watts 5 years ago." "Then why work them on 12 if you already have 12 meter DXCC?" The Old Timer looked back and stated the obvious, "The DXCC Challenge. Only have 168 on 12."

Enlightenment! The QRPer jumped up and exclaimed, "I get it! The reason for the big pileups on every band is because everyone is chasing the DXCC Challenge! OK, it still makes my life difficult, but I see the reason." Then his face took on a puzzled look and he said, "But wait a minute! Red-Eyed Louie has well over 300 on 12, and I hear him in there chasing every DXpedition. Chasing stuff I know he has verified by the DXCC Desk on 12 meters. Why is he doing that?" We had the answer for that, and before the Old Timer could speak, we simply said, "CQ DX Marathon.". The QRPer stepped back and looked at us. He wasn't happy. "That's the one that starts over every year at zero! Another award to contend with. OK, so that adds to the pileups too. But why are there DXers in there calling on every mode on every band?" We spoke in unison with The Old Timer "Leader boards."

Son of a Gun! The QRPer threw his baseball cap on the floor, clenched his fists and screamed, "So I have to

compete with the regular DXers, the DX Challenge guys, the CQ DX Marathon and now this Leader board thing!! That's not fair! There are too many awards.

We thought for a moment and said, "There is no award for the Leader board. It's just a competition to see who can get their call into the on-line logs the most, and who can do it the fastest.

"This is ridiculous!", the sleek-headed QRPer yelled. "All you bored old fellows are tying up the DX to get awards that are less important than the basic DXCC! And in some cases, there is no award at all! No wonder I can't get through for a week." He glared at us and let out a growl of exasperation and frustration. "How can we fix this?" The Old Timer shrugged and said, "It isn't broken. There is nothing to fix. DX IS! Who told you that the basic, mixed DXCC was the most important award? Just remember, son, that DX IS!

"What do you mean? You two have been saying that forever and it makes no sense! DX IS! DX IS! What does that mean? I want to work everything on the DXCC list, and that's what is important. He threw up his arms in frustration, stomped, out and ran down the hill. The Old Timer looked at the crumpled baseball cap on the floor, "Hope he doesn't sunburn his head.

We turned to the Old Timer and said, "Good thing we didn't mention WPX. Lot of those DXpeditions get new prefixes. Some of the fellows are looking for new zones too." The Old Timer picked up his plate choke and looked at it carefully. Then he said, "Lot of the DXers who have thousands of QSLs never send in for any awards, either." We nodded in agreement, "For many of the QRPers, this is the hardest of the Eternal Enigmas to understand, and one of the biggest Mysteries of the Ages. It isn't the chase to work them all, or to fill in bands and modes. Or to get an award to put on the wall. It's to understand that DX IS!

And with that we left the Old Timer to work on his amp. We walked back down to the house and into the shack to wait for the polar path to open to Asia. Some times things can't be put into words, and this was one of them. DX IS! Follow the advice of Lord Baden Powell, the Hero of Mafeking, and Be Prepared. Be prepared for big pileups. Huge pileups with a lot of familiar calls!

Paul, VE1DX

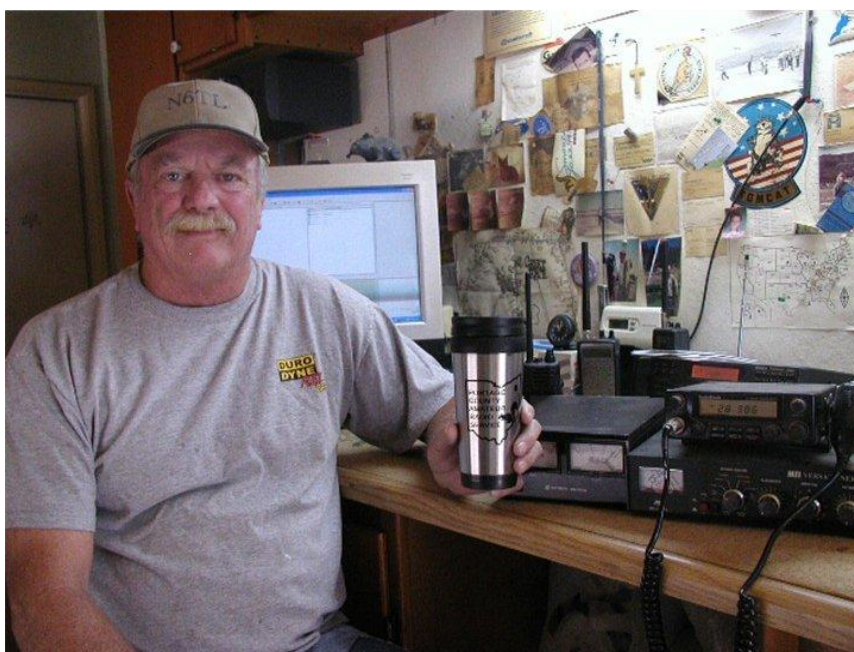
Rick, K8GI found this on the world-wide web.

N6TL - PCARS Mug

Hello fellow PCARS members! N6TL here from sunny and warm Antelope, California (suburb of Sacramento). President Tom Sly sent me the official club travel mug recently and told me I better get a picture.

Well here I am in my 'shack' out in the garage. Hope all of you are having a great Summer and it sounds like you did a great job during Field Day.

73,
Randy, N6TL



And the Winner Is.....

Congratulations go out to Jim, KC8PD; the winner of the Alliance ARC's HT raffle. The raffle was a fundraiser for the Alliance ARC. The main prize was a Wouxun KG-UVD1P Dual-bander (pronounced O-shing). The number of tickets sold were limited to only 520 (some of which were donated as prizes at the May PCARS meeting).

The winner was drawn shortly after 5 PM, Saturday, May 23rd, at the Alliance ARC Field Day site in Sebring.

When the winning ticket was drawn, the winner was none other than our own Jim, KC8PD. It was quickly decided that there was no better time to find Jim standing in one place than at the PCARS Field Day site. So, their president, John, KD8MQ (also a PCARS member), and Ben, KD8KMQ (no relation) drove to Ravenna, and presented the surprised KC8PD with his prize.

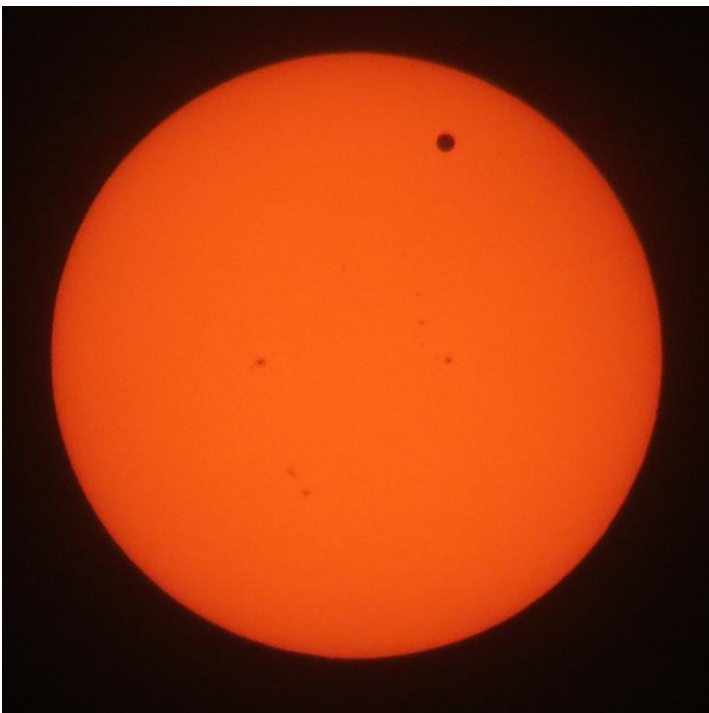
Jim quickly locked the radio in his Vehicle. Word has it that Gay, WB8VNO had been eying the prize for several weeks; attempting at one point to trade in Ted, WD8CVH, for another dozen tickets.



The AARC's next raffle is tentatively planned for this winter. Keep a close eye on their newsletter, the Zero Beat, for more information. It can be downloaded from their website at www.w8lky.org.

John, KD8MQ

Venus - A Sight to See



On June 5th Venus transited across the sun. Although most places in Northeast Ohio were covered in clouds we managed to go far enough north to outrun them..... Well actually the wind was pushing them to the south, and had we not gone north we wouldn't have seen anything but clouds. I was fortunate enough to get some pictures of this epic event.

Before you ask no I didn't use a telescope, I just have a good camera. I didn't have filter on the camera either I just held up eclipse glasses in front of the lens to take pictures, which worked just fine.

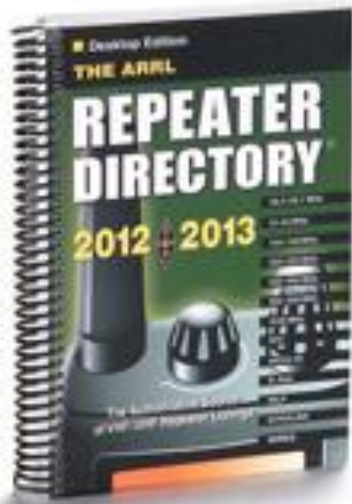
I found that all in all we were very successful and I was even able to capture some sunspots. Hope you got to see it or at least take a look at some pictures because no one that's alive today will ever see this again. It won't happen for another 105 years.

73,
Kristen, KB3OQV

Some Words from Weaver

How the ARRL Repeater Directory is Developed

There is quite a bit of confusion and misunderstanding among amateurs about how ARRL Repeater Director listings of repeaters are developed and who develops these. To begin this brief discussion, I will say that ARRL has nothing to do with developing repeater listings that appear in The Directory. So how is it developed?



To sum the process, it is repeater frequency coordinator groups that provide the information to ARRL. For example, in Ohio, it is the Ohio Repeater Council that provides the information. So what does ARRL do to the information in publishing it in the Directory?

For all intents and purposes, ARRL does nothing to the information. It is published, in essence, as it is received from the coordinator. This includes using the format in which the information is presented to ARRL. This is the reason that information for some states is published by regions of the state and others by the city. ARRL does not tamper with the information that is presented to it. This also means that states that have an active repeater council are typically as up-to-date as practical; whereas, the information for other states may often be somewhat out-of-date.

What ARRL does add; however, is useful information including the names and contact information of frequency coordinators, discussion of good operating practices and amateur radio band plans that relate to repeaters.

The message is that any inquiries or comments about which repeater is coordinated for which frequency, how to coordinate a repeater and obtaining correction of outdated information should be directed to the relevant repeater coordinator. This person can be found at www.arrl.org/frequency-coordinators -- provided the repeater council has kept ARRL up-to-date on the identity and contact information for the repeater coordinator.



Jim Weaver, K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division



Dayton Hamvention® 2012 - Antenna Hair Girl

My favorite time of year, the time when I get to see those I don't often get to. So we started off early morning Friday, the first day of the Hamvention® hair gel, cup and antenna in hand. We started at 7 am knowing we'd only have an hour to make this work. As we were starting this process here comes the people to ask what we were doing and start the picture taking. Who knows how many times I had my picture taken but I just came there to have fun.

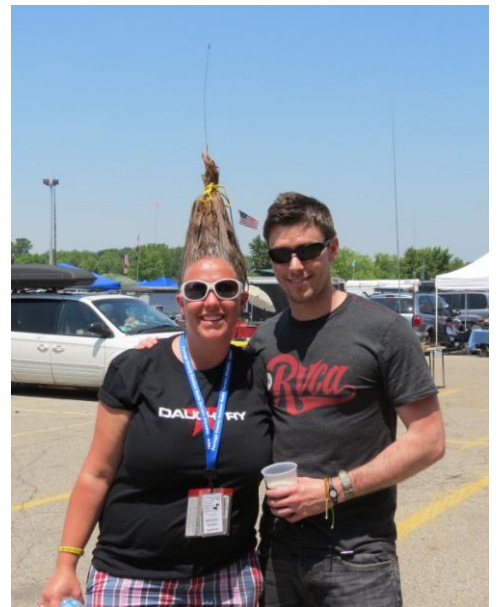


I do need to come up with more ideas as to what to do for next year. I wanna do something different than I have in the past just not sure what yet.

I have to say with all the people that took my picture, took their picture with me and just commented about it just lets me know that ham radio is a fun hobby to be in. I'm really happy this year I didn't receive any rude comments as I have in the past, that made it much more

enjoyable for me. Also glad for having my friends and family to hang out with at the Hamvention® that's really what makes it fun!

Hope everyone had a great time at Dayton, I know I sure did! Antenna hair girl will see everyone next year! I'm now accepting ideas, if you have any ideas as to what I could do with my hair email me at KB3OQV@portcars.org Thanks!!



73,
Kristen KB3OQV

Shack Shot - K8NYM

Here is a picture of my shack.

From left to right: Yaesu VL-1000 linear, Collins KWM-2 transceiver, 312b-5 station control, 301-1 linear & power supply. Above KWM-2 is Palstar AT2K antenna tuner & Yaesu D-1000-DXA antenna rotator.

Wes, K8NYM



PCARS Meetings

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

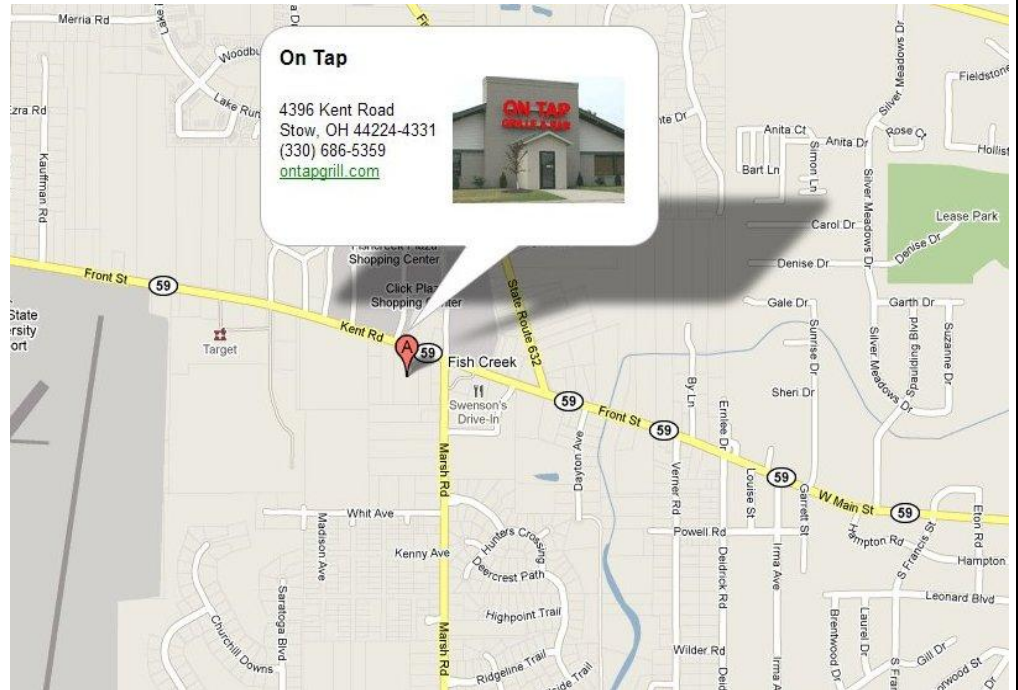
**On Tap Grille, - 4396 Kent Rd.
(State Route 59), in Stow.**

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.



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, K8CAV, NX8G, W8KNO, WB2DFC, KB8UUZ, KC8PD,
KD8CGF, W8DEC, W8PT, KB8AMZ, AE5WX, VE1DX, K8GI, N6TL, KD8MQ,
KB3OQV, K8JE, K8NYM, 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 June PCARS Meeting



Pictures from Field Day



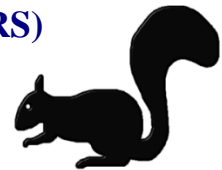




The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

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

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



"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

PCARS uses the N8EQJ Repeater: **146.895 MHz** PL 110.9 ~ Rootstown, Oh or PL 114.8 ~ Kent, Oh ~ EchoLink Node: K8SRR

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

2012 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards - VUCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Club Callsign Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinators	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
Field Day	K8CAV	Rick Krus
F.Y.A.O.	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Manager	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	NX8G	Rex Simmons
Web Master	KB8AMZ	Terry Morris

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



PCARS
VE Team



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This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, The RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail. Are you interested in getting news emailed directly to you? Send an email to news-subscribe@portcars.org 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

