



~ 2012 Officers ~

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 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

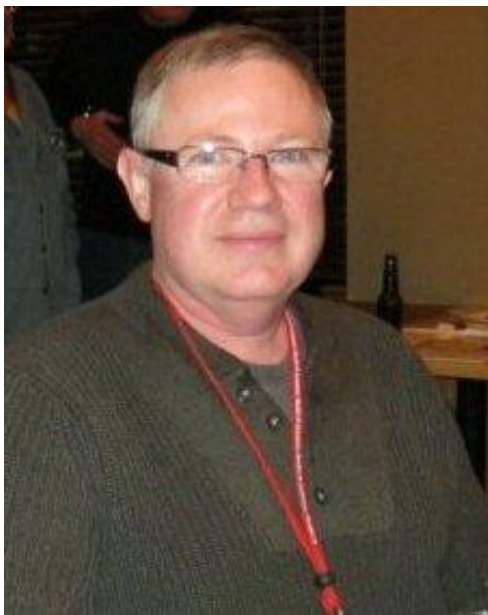


**Special Services
 Club**
 March 22, 2010

From the President

So here I am, writing this from a hotel room in Normal, IL. I only stopped for gas once, and that made it about an 8 hour drive to get here. All the time I had the 2 meter radio scanning a bunch of channels, and the other side of the radio set to 146.52 – the National Simplex Calling Frequency. I don't think I spotted any call letter plates on the whole trip over here. But, I did have two QSO's who responded to my calling out on .52 as I traveled. One was with a guy in Indiana from his home station and the other was to another mobile station in Illinois. That's a long way to travel for only 2 Q's!

That makes me think about things around home. The PCARS local area encompasses the Ohio Turnpike, Interstate Routes 271, 480, 77, 76 and maybe more. I know we've always



been pretty good about responding when someone calls on the N8EQJ repeater while traveling through town. But not everyone knows about it. Especially if just traveling through. How about we try to monitor .52 in addition to N8EQJ? That way if someone is coming through town needing directions, information or just someone to talk with, they'll have a response.

How about when you're out there traveling, put a shout out on .52 a time or two? For a National Simplex Calling Frequency to really work as envisioned, there have to be stations out there listening. It's got to start somewhere, why not with PCARS?

The other thing I was thinking about was the Dayton Hamvention[®] is coming up. I know a lot of you have never been to Dayton. I also know there are a lot of us who never miss it. Think about it, one of the largest gatherings of ham radio operators in the world! A huge flea market and just about every manufacturer of ham radio gear will be there. The fact that we are so close gives us all a huge advantage in being able to get there and participate. Given that, I would hate to see that you don't make it. Find a way to get there. Even if you just make it a day trip on Friday or Saturday, I promise you it is worth the drive and the time. It will give you a perspective on the hobby that you may never have had the chance to see before. Really – get there!

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



From the President - Continued from Page 1

By the way, if you won't be at Dayton on Sunday, contact Jim, KC8PD, and ask him how you can help out at the Cleveland Marathon. This is a huge event and takes a lot of volunteers. It's also a huge way to put a positive face on our hobby to the public at large.

Also coming up are two big activities for PCARS – Antenna Day and Field Day. I know both will be covered elsewhere, but let me add, we need you there! Show up, bring some friends if you can. This is the premier club operating event. Your help is both needed and appreciated. Here's another request: finish. I know we all have stuff going on and stuff we gotta do. But no one is appreciated more by the field committee and PCARS officers than those of you who stick it out to the end and make sure it's finished!

There's more PCARS activities to come – Picnic in July, Cruise-In in August, OSPOTA in September. Stay tuned.

73,

Tom, WB8LCD

From the Vice President - HELP WANTED

A couple of days ago, I thought I was going to have to lead off this column with a classified ad for a Web Team Leader. John, KD8MQ, who had been serving as Head Web Monkey and doing a fine job of it, decided that he needed to throttle back on his web duties to concentrate on pressing matters at home. I want to thank John keeping things humming along at portcars.org for all these many months. We pride ourselves in keeping the website up-to-date, so it takes time and effort to keep up with it all.

John's decision certainly made my life more interesting. A web master needs a range of skills: part reporter, part editor, proofreader, programmer, and artist. And a good unlimited data plan, too. To make sure that our web site stays up to date, I needed to fill his shoes fast. So, I thought that I would have to put up a big HELP WANTED headline at the top of the column and see how, of over 200 hams in PCARS, and the time and talent to get involved.

Fortunately for all of us, Terry, KB8AMZ raised his hand and said that he would give it a go. Terry is no stranger to computers, and may very well be our top Linux guru in the club. He was a little hesitant when it came to WordPress, which is the content engine that derives both portcars.org and our OSPOTA site, parks.portcars.org. But he was willing to get inside of it and start playing with it. That's great - in fact, that's what I had to do when we first adopted it for our site. It's kind of like when you get your hands on a new rig. Who among us hasn't cast the manual aside and just started playing with the controls for hours?

It occurs to me that there's a lot of talent and good ideas inside the PCARS membership. Maybe you have an idea for a new project, class or would just like to learn more about a given topic or technology. There's an incredible amount of expertise within the club and we can all learn something new. But there's no 'Help Wanted' or 'Craig's List' inside PCARS. It's up to you to speak up and ask around for people who are interested in the same things you are.

I say: go for it! Talk to any of our team leaders: OSPOTA, Field Day, the Special Interest Groups or ARES® and RACES and tell them you'd like to get involved but don't quite know how.

By the way, John KD8MQ will still have his hand in for the Web Team. If you need him, he can probably be found at the hardware store.

For May's PCARS meeting, the featured speaker is E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD the ARRL Ohio Affiliated Club Coordinator. E. Mike's job is to stay in touch with as many clubs as possible, and keep them up to date on the best and brightest ideas out there. I've asked E. Mike to spy on the other clubs and bring to us their most outstanding programs and ideas, so we can steal them. He happily agreed, and will reveal all at our next meeting on May 14th. E. Mike's latest project is an initiative to bring more young people into the amateur hobby and he will speak on this as well. He has an impressive biography and I'm going to post it in its entirety at on our club web site.



Bill, WB9LBI

Bill, WB9LBI



HAMVENTION 2012

April Showers Bring May Flowers, what does May Bring? - HAMVENTION® of course! Well the calendar is showing just a few short days until the largest hamfest in the world begins. Yes, **THE LARGEST HAMFEST IN THE WORLD**. No Joke - 20,000 to 30,000 people will visit the Hamvention®!! To those of you that have been there, you know what fun can be had roaming around the outdoor flea market which is larger than two football fields for all those little (and some big) items you just gotta have for the radio room. Wander around inside the buildings and check out all the new and exciting things dealers have brought - and most of them take credit cards.....



For those of you that have never been there, a word of warning. Well, actually a few words of warning:

1. Make a list of the things you are looking for. It will help you stay focused on what you looking for in particular. It really helps. Also, with everything there, it will help make sure you don't forget to pick up something you wanted.
2. If you spot something in the flea market you want - **BUY IT**. Don't say to yourself, "Well, I'll come back later and get it." Reason: You may not find the place again, and even more important, if you do find the booth again, what you are looking for will most likely be gone - someone else got the bargain item you wanted!
3. Don't get carried away. It can be real easy to spend a whole lot more money than you intended to spend. No sense in going home only to try and explain to the wife (or husband) why there's no money left.....
4. Do have fun! Look around, see all the new radios and goodies. Check the TV monitors inside the buildings - you never know, you may have won one of the hourly prizes! Enjoy Hamvention® 2012.



In years past, I've been known to take off of work Friday so I could leave home around 3 am to arrive at the Hamvention gates about 20 minutes before opening time. Wander around trying to take it all in, then drive home late Friday night. Rest up on Saturday and leave again to be there on Sunday for last minute bargains and the prize drawings! I've found that sharing a room sure beats the two trips in one weekend, and that was fun sharing the fun of Hamvention® with my fellow PCARS members.

The last four years have been a whole new experience working behind the counter with DX Engineering. This year will be the same. The advantage, as I see it, is my Hamvention® experience will be from Wednesday morning through Sunday evening. That will include driving down there with the DX Engineering people, setting up our eight booth area in the main arena. When the Hamvention opens, telling people about all the products, tearing down and packing up on Sunday, then the drive back home (getting home around midnight or so). Lots of work? Yes, but it's really fun being part of the Hamvention® crew even if my legs get sore from standing all day long. Will I get to see everything you do? Nope - but, I'll have fun, too!!

If you have never been there - **you have to go**. No ifs, ands, or buts. Why? Hams from all over the world (yes - world) dream of going to the Dayton Hamvention®. Many of them will never get the opportunity to see all the nifty sights, they can only dream of going. And here we are, in North Eastern Ohio and the Dayton Hamvention® is practically in our back yard. It's only a few short hours drive from home here in Portage County to the Hara Arena.

Some people complain about the rest rooms, the so-so food, and if it rains then the crowds in the main building will be shoulder to shoulder, or if it's cold, or hot, or cloudy, or what-ever. But heck, that's part of what Dayton Hamvention® is all about. **You just gotta go there!!!!!!**

So, with that said - I hope to see plenty of PCARS members at Hamvention® 2012 - stop by and say hi!

Tom, KB8UUZ

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- May 12th - **ANTENNA DAY** – Practice for *Field Day 2012* – See article in newsletter.
- May 14th - **PCARS Meeting** – Activities from clubs around Ohio - Affiliated Club Coordinator E. Mike McCardle, KC8LYD

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

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



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

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/>.



Antenna Day is Comin' Fast! ...

And we need **your** help!!!! Antenna day is the dress rehearsal for Field Day where all Station Captains set up their stations as close as possible to how they'll do it during Field Day to evaluate how they will work and identify any problem areas that might crop up. The Power Team is going to set up the generator and power distribution system and the IT team will be testing at each station for possible RFI/interference issues. Donuts and coffee to get you going and pizza to sustain you will be provided by the Food Team. Needless to say none of these folks can do it by themselves so we need you to show up and help.

Antenna Day is Saturday May 12th and will kick off at 10:00 AM at the Ravenna City Park off Oakwood Street. We should be finished up by 2:00 PM or so in the afternoon, so make plans to be there to help out and have a great time!



Talking about Antenna Day means that **Field Day's** not far behind. In only seven short weeks we'll be having the time of our lives filling the ether with more RF than China has rice. (who ever said I was politically correct? hi-hi) It's important that the Station Captains and Logistic Team Leaders be able to start penciling in names and times for their teams and to do that they need to hear from you, and soon! We need operators ... we need loggers ... we need power, food, and IT helpers we need ... well, you get the idea. The list of Station Captains and Logistics Team Leaders and their e-mail addresses are shown below so let them know as soon as you can where and when you want to operate, log, or help out.

And the menu is ... burgers, brats, and dogs along with savory potato salad, baked beans, and more. The Food team has a great meal planned for Saturday evening so make plans to be there! They will also be serving breakfast on Sunday morning. To make sure we have enough food, anyone that wants to eat Saturday night dinner or Sunday morning breakfast needs to get a ticket. Tickets are free for PCARS members and are \$5.00 for guests. They'll be available at the May and June PCARS meetings.

James, KD8VT will be doing a rather spectacular educational event at Field Day. He'll be demonstrating a technique called CAD welding that is used to bond conductors to ground rods that will withstand the high current and temperatures involved in a lightning strike, details to follow soon.

QST QST QST! Calling all hams who have never operated HF or if it's been a while since you've been on the HF bands. The GOTA station is the **PERFECT** place to learn or brush up on those forgotten HF skills in a low pressure environment. Every twenty contacts you make at the GOTA station gives the club twenty more points to add to our score. But wait there's more! If you have an unlicensed son, daughter, or friend that's under 18 years old and wants to get their feet wet on Ham Radio, the GOTA station will let you and your son, daughter or friend operate, enjoy ham radio, and earn the club points!



Rick, K8CAV

Last but certainly not least, PLEASE plan to come to Field Day! It matters not if you are there to operate and help or just to visit, come one, come all and share a GREAT time with all of us!

20m Station Captain	Chuck, W8PT	w8pt@portcars.org
40m Station Captain	Ed, N8EQJ	n8eqj@portcars.org
CW Station Captain	Dave, WB2DFC	wb2dfc@portcars.org
Flex Station Captain	Jim, KC8PD	kc8pd@portcars.org
VHF Station Captain	Bob, N8QE	n8qe@portcars.org
GOTA Station Captain	Chris, KD8QDZ	kd8qdz@portcars.org
Power Team Leader	James, KD8VT	kd8vt@portcars.org
Food Team Leader	John, KD8QEJ	kd8qej@portcars.org
IT Team Leader	Steve, K8SRR	k8srr@portcars.org

Looking forward to seeing you at Antenna Day and Field Day!

73,
Rick, K8CAV
PCARS Field Day 2012 Chairman

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

June 2 ~ August 4 ~ October 6 ~ December 1

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

ON EXAM DAY BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. A legal photo ID (driver's license, passport).
2. When no photo ID is available, two forms of identification must be presented:
 - a. non-photo ID/driver's license (some states still have them)
 - b. birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal)
 - c. social security card
 - d. library card
 - e. utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; or a postmarked envelope addressed to the person at his or her current mailing address as it appears on the Form 605.
3. Students may bring any of the above items and/or a school ID, minor's work permit, report card, or a legal guardian may present a photo ID.
4. Bring your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC issued Federal Registration Number (FRN). VEC's are required by the FCC to submit either your SSN or your FRN number with your license application form. If you prefer not to give your SSN at the exam session, then you may register your SSN with the FCC before



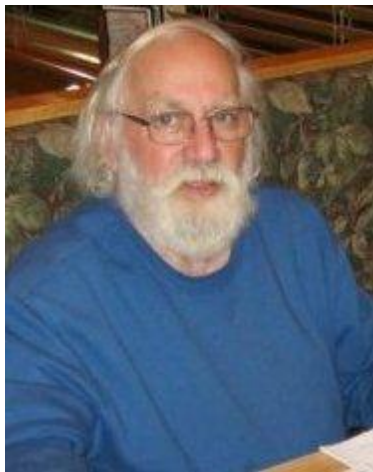
exam day. Once you have a FCC issued FRN, you may no longer use your SSN on the application. For instructions on how to register your SSN with the FCC and receive a FRN, visit the FCC's FAQ page and the FCC's registration instructions page.

5. If applicable, bring the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may hold from previous exam sessions. The photocopy(s) will not be returned.
6. Two number two pencils with erasers and a pen.
7. A calculator with the memory erased and formulas cleared is allowed. You may not bring any written notes or calculations into the exam session. Slide rules and logarithmic tables are acceptable, as long as they're free of notes and formulas. Cell phone must be silenced or turned off during the exam session and the phones' calculator function may not be used. In addition, iPhones, iPads, Androids, smartphones, Blackberry devices and all similar electronic devices with a calculator capability, may NOT be used.
8. Bring a check, a money order or cash to cover the exam session fee of \$15.00. If using a check or money order, the payee is "ARRL-VEC".

Rex, NX8G
PCARS Summer VE Team Liaison

Paper Chase

April is over and I hope you all enjoyed all of the special events remembering the Titanic. The number of special event stations kept growing from the time I wrote my article.



Joe, W8KNO

For May, the big event is not a special event station but the Dayton Hamvention®. At the Hamvention® through the ARRL, you will be able to get your QSL cards checked and/or turn in your in your QSL cards going to the Outgoing QSL Bureau. The rates for the Outgoing Bureau are \$6 for the first 1/2 pound of cards or portion thereof. Keep in mind that approximately 75 cards weigh 1/2 pound.

The IARU will be also be present and if you have worked either 4U1ITU (ITU HQ) or 4U1UN (UN HQ) you will be able to get a QSL card confirming the contact.

Also present will be the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL), who will be accepting applications for the IARU Region 3 Operating Award. JARL will forward these applications to the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART), which administers the award. NZART will then send applicants their award certificate with any endorsements after the Hamvention®.

To be eligible for the IARU Region 3 Operating Award, hams must present the completed application, listing at least seven contacts from entities in IARU Region 3 whose amateur societies are Member-Societies of the IARU. These countries include: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, China (PRC), Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Fiji, French Polynesia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Caledonia, New Zealand,

Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Applicants must also have at least one QSO with one of the following: the US Territories in the Pacific from Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Wake Island, Baker Howland Group, as represented by ARRL, or the Chago Archipelago (VQ9), as represented by RSGB.

No QSL cards are necessary, but only contacts made after April 5, 1982 are eligible. There are 34 available entities for the IARU Region 3 Award. Hams who present seven QSOs will be awarded the Basic Award. Hams who present 15 QSOs will be achieve the Silver Endorsement, while those who present 20 QSOs will receive the Gold Endorsement. The award fee is US \$4 or four IRCs. If you are not going to Dayton, you can still submit your own request directly. Go to the ARRL website (www.arrl.org) to get the application form.



If you are still unsure if you want to go to Dayton, the Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship still has seats on their bus for \$50 each. You can contact Joy, KA8TDF, 330-745-5115 or Rreindeer@aol.com for additional information.

Hope to hear you in the pile-up,

Joe, W8KNO



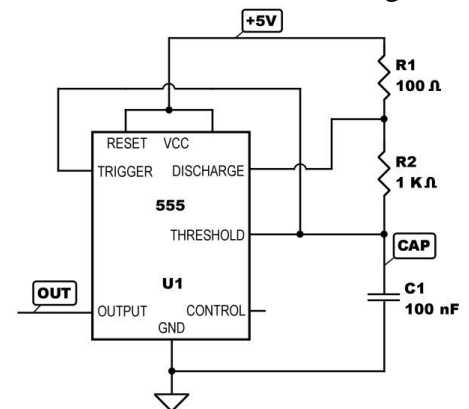
Free Circuit Design Tools for Ham Radio

About a week ago, I started looking for a schematic capture program so that I could easily generate some simple schematics for my upcoming Extra Class study guide. Since I use a Mac as my main computer, I first asked on the Ham-Mac mailing list if anyone knew of a good one. I got several recommendations, including:

- Diptrace (<http://www.diptrace.com/>),
 - Eagle (<http://www.cadsoftusa.com/downloads/freeware/?language=en>),
- and
- McCad (<http://mccad.com/>)

Eagle looked like a good choice, although several people mentioned that the user interface “left much to be desired.”

Then, I remembered that I had OmniGraffle, which is a general-purpose diagramming tool. Googling around, I found several sets of electronic symbol libraries that could be used with OmniGraffle. I installed them, and generated a couple of figures for the study guide section that discusses T-network and pi-network filters. It was a reasonably good solution to my problem.



A Web solution: A couple of days ago, though, someone on the local Maker mailing list, pointed me towards

CircuitLab (<https://www.circuitlab.com/>), an online schematic capture tool and circuit simulator. I haven't tried the circuit simulation yet, but the schematic capture tool is really easy to use. It's much easier to use for drawing circuit diagrams than OmniGraffle.

Another benefit is that it doesn't matter what computer you're using. Because it runs in a Web browser, it doesn't matter whether that browser is running on a Mac or a PC or even a Linux box.

If you set up an account, you can save circuits to your "workbench." To get you started, there are some sample circuits, such as the 555 timer circuit shown in Figure 1. There's also some decent documentation and a forum where you can discuss circuits and get some help.

Finally, the price is right, too. It looks like using CircuitLab is completely free. I couldn't find any pages that required payment.

Dan, KB6NU

When not searching the Web for circuit design tools, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW and twittering away about his contacts. His Twitter id is @kb6nu. He would love for you to follow him there. If you don't tweet, you can still read his blog at www.kb6nu.com.



Hamfest Schedule

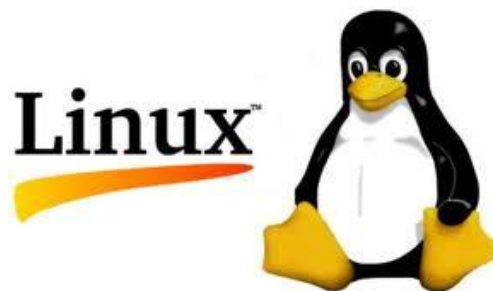
05/18-19-20/2012 **Dayton Hamvention®** - Trotwood, OH - Dayton ARA - website: www.hamvention.org



Linux for Hams SIG

The 5th Tuesday of May, the 29th, will be the first Linux for Hams SIG at the clubhouse beginning at 1900 EDT.

Anyone interested should bring a laptop if they like to try a live-CD version of the Linux Operating System. The live-CD media does not install the operating system on the PC hard drive. In case I don't have enough CD's to pass around members should bring a flash memory stick with at least 1 Gib of free space.



This first SIG will be conducted by yours truly, and other Linux for Hams SIG's will be conducted by Mike, KB8TUY and I.

I will demonstrate the Linux OS, inform what Linux software is available, and have a show and tell at each meeting of those software applications.

*73,
Terry, KB8AMZ*



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in May:

W8EZT	Frank	Tompkins
W8BGE	Robert	Berry
K8NYM	Wesley	Ferrell
KC8ZZG	Al	Godfrey
WB8FEW	Bobby	Pruett

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!



May	
3	KD8JCY
10	N8RLG
17	WB8LCD
24	KD8FDK
31	N8EQJ

June	
7	N8WLE
14	KC8PD
21	N8QE
28	KB8UUZ



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

Hope to hear you on the net,

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Control Coordinator

ON THE AIR.... Finally !!

...or...

When you have the chance to do it right... GO FOR IT !

I can't remember when I had the space or the resources to really go first class when it comes to an antenna installation. I had only read about the many ways other hams had accomplished this. Oh, there are plenty of articles and YOU-TUBES showing a compromised installation, with the disclaimer "but if you really want the best performance, go out there in the middle of your back yard, dig a hole, and add radials, *a lot of radials*".

We (me and the boss-lady) recently moved to the wide open spaces and the back yard is HUGE !! Well, huge to me. What a great place to install a vertical antenna, and with all of this space, it had the potential to be a "First Class" install. Many thoughts passed through my "thinker" and all I needed was a plan. Of course the "Building and Engineering Department" (translate - Boss Lady) needed to review and approve the plans. I advised the Boss-Lady a small area, roughly 70 feet in diameter would go un-mowed for weeks after the installation.... but the "family radio operator" (me) would be exceptionally happy. This is where the new patio furniture and dishwasher negotiation began. (you guessed it, but no pictures included for the patio furniture and dishwasher).



So over the next many days, research, measurements, and digging was undertaken. As this project included building materials, and the last thing I built was in High School (my shop projects always turned into an ashtray or a potholder) I decided to follow all directions. My very first contact was with **DX Engineering** (advertisement). Parky, KB8UUZ was, to say the least, very helpful. PCARS has an excellent resource in Parky.... and the many others that work at DXE. Through out the project Parky would ask, ..."so where's the feedline?", or who's dog is that?". All great questions. But the best advice was from Parky... "radials, radials, radials" and he is right!

If you plan well, have a resource to get the best and latest info from, a Boss-Lady who said "go for it", and the time to get it done... well, then you have a perfect combo for a great signal. The install was pretty straight forward. Dig a hole, bury a 6 foot steel pipe, put concrete in the hole, make sure it's straight, and then..... wait, wait,wait. That concrete stuff sure is slow! Once the concrete had done its thing, I started the install. The DXE radial plate and tilt plate mount made the job much easier. I recommend both !! (make sure you use the new math, then you will have the right number of clamps and other stuff).

After the radial plate had been installed, the tedious work of laying out the radial field began. I **HIGHLY** recommend purchasing the radials pre-made. The radial kit, 2 packs of them, 40 all together, certainly saved a lot of time. Yes, more expensive, but ready to go... a time saver for me. Also, get



the sod clips, those are the "U" shaped thingys that keep the radials on the ground, but won't stop a klutz like me from tripping over them. Once the radial plate and radials were installed, I used a generous amount of "Never Seize" on all hardware. Never Seize, or a product like it, will protect the hardware and maintain the electrical connections for many years. As a side note, wear protective gloves as this stuff gets into everything... and is very difficult to clean off of your hands, shoes, tools, etc. (Boss-lady got some new towels (antenna fund) after my clean up).



With the radial field in place, the next course of action was the vertical antenna install. I have a Hustler 5-BTV, purchased from DXE about 5 or 6 years ago. I never really took the time to tune the antenna using the DXE instructions. All I can say on that topic is "Follow the directions, exactly". DXE protects your antenna warranty when you change dimensions on the antenna traps. Hustler warns you not to make any of these changes.... but you will not -repeat- will not get the best performance without making the changes in the trap dimensions. Kinda scary at first, moving the traps around like that... but, it worked out perfectly! I took my trusty MFJ antenna analyzer right out the antenna, tipped that baby over, and measured away. Another side note, "the tilt base plate mount is the only way to go". It sure beats pulling that 24 foot stick off of the pipe, re-tuning, and then putting back on the pipe. All I had to do was loosen bolts, tilt it over, make my changes, then back up and tighten the bolts. The tuning process is lengthy, so the tilt base saved me a bunch of time.

Once the antenna was tuned I ran the feed line from there to the station. I should mention here, there might be other stuff underground (wires, cables, rocks, etc.) at the antenna install location. I was lucky enough to find 2 such items, both cable TV, buried about 6 inches down. The "lucky" part was, I didn't cut them. So now being gun shy, I didn't want to dig a trench to the house for the feed line until the cable company located their runs. Well, the words "cable TV company and rapid" should never appear in the same sentence. So, as of today, a few weeks after the install, the feed line is still topside.

Now for the payoff..... I fired up the TenTec Omni VI+..... looked for a signal or two..... re-tested the SWR.... and it's "OFF TO THE RACES". Several QSOs on 40, 20, 17, and 10 meters resulted in excellent signal reports. I know, I know, if the bands aren't open, no one will hear you. So I guess the bands were in good shape and the antenna and radio working well.... but I have repeated the QSO test many times and the signal reports are always great ! I am having a great time with this new installation !!

A few special "Thank yous"... Parky and DXE for their technical assistance, to my dog, Abby for being the site foreman, and to my wife (Boss-Lady) for putting up with my hobby. So for my next project Hmmmm, maybe a radio tower with a three car garage attached to it !!! Oh, well, back to the Building and Engineering Department !!



Swap-N-Shop

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. \$500.00 [07/02/12]

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 ½" XRP Hammer Drill Kit model DC988 w/2 batteries & charger in carrying case \$75

[8/2/2012]

FOR SALE: DeWalt 18 Volt Cordless ½" 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: ¼" 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 : GW Instek Function Gen, Model GFG-8219A with power cord, no probes \$75 Accepting reasonable offers. [05/02/12]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Icom SP-23 Speaker - Brand New in the box! Matches all newer Icom rigs. Four filters, front panel headphone jack. Cost new \$220. Will sell for \$160 [07/2/12]

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!). 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.



London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games - Special Event Stations

Some special event call signs will be activated to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: 2O12L from London, England and 2O12W from Barry, Wales. The London 2012 Inspire program has granted the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) -- Great Britain's IARU Member-Society -- use of the "Inspire mark" for these stations. Both stations will be on-the-air for the duration of the Games, July 27-August 12. Organizers hope to make at least 80,000 contacts during the seven weeks that 2O12L and 2O12W are on the air.



- The London station – 2O12L -- will be active on 160-2 meters on all modes. The station is located at the historic Eltham Palace in Southeast London, in the London borough of Greenwich, one of the six “host boroughs” for the Games.
- The Welsh station -- 2O12W -- will be active on 160 meters-23 cm on all modes, including SSTV and satellite, will be based on the seafront esplanade at Whitmore Beach, Barry Island, Vale of Glamorgan. The site is located just a few miles south west of Cardiff and the Millennium Stadium, home to the first football match that will open the Games in Wales.

“Amateur Radio operators everywhere will be able to share in the Olympic experience by making contact with the station and exchanging greetings messages with visitors and Games participants who visit the station,” said Project Echo Publicity Officer John Warburton, G4IRN. “The team aims to make contact with as many of the Games participating countries as possible. Special QSL cards will be available to stations contacted. The project aims to leave a lasting legacy by encouraging visitors to learn more about radio communications and the social, career and recreational benefits that it brings. Of course, visiting hams will be made very welcome at the stations.”

From the ARRL

DX/Contesting SIG Report

The DX/contesting SIG meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the PCARS Club site. It has been decided that we will participate in the California QSO Party. The QSO party this year will be the 6th and 7th of October.

California QSO Party



46th Running Of The CQP!

October 6-7, 2012

1600 UTC Oct 6 to 2200 UTC Oct 7



It is hoped to operate on at least five bands, hopefully three at one time with the club tri-plexer and the Mosley beam. Logistics are still being worked out. All club members are invited to come and observe and participate.

Other items discussed were the reasons for working split and when you would use it verses using the RIT and Delta TX functions.

Recently received QSL cards were passed around and the DX of the day HV50VR was discussed as was LoTW.

If your interested in either DXing or Contesting, come out and meet with us.

Joe, W8KNO

ARRL License Manuals
Now including Practice Exam Software

Only \$30.00 Available from PCARS

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

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

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

Contact George, K3GP@portcars.org

The advertisement features three book covers: the Ham Radio License Manual (red), the General Class License Manual (blue), and the Extra Class License Manual (green). A yellow starburst graphic in the top right corner highlights the price of \$30.00 available from PCARS. The text "Now including Practice Exam Software" is written in a script font below the main title.

EmComm

On April 28th, the Introduction to Emergency Communications course sponsored by the Portage County EMA's Communications Unit/RACES concluded. We had fifteen students in the class which was probably the first time this program had been offered in the Ohio Section.



Radio Club.

The Intro to EmComm course is a program of the ARRL and is most often taken online. It replaced the former Level I course that you may be familiar with, and offers a fairly balanced and in depth overview of the amateur radio community's involvement in EmComm. In order to obtain the certificate for the class, students also need to complete FEMA's Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS-100) and the Introduction to the National Incident Management System (ICS-700) courses.



FEMA

The course is a great opportunity to ensure that EmComm volunteers have obtained useful basic training for participation in ARES® and RACES programs.

Watch for an announcement from Al Avnet, AB8AA, about the Intro to EmComm class that he will be teaching later this year. It will be sponsored by the Western Reserve Amateur

By the way, I won't stop reminding all of you at every chance I get that we need your help with our public service events. 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:

- **Cleveland Marathon** – May 20, 2012, Jim, KC8PD
- **Marlene Watt Memorial Event** – June 16, 2012, Mike, KD8FLZ
- **Headwaters Adventure Race** – July, date TBA, Gay, WB8VNO
- **Kent Kids Triathlon** – July 14, 2012, Sandy, KD8JCY
- **Black Squirrel Triathlon** – August, date TBA, Gay, WB8VNO
- **Bellefaire Biathlon** – August 26, 2012, Gay, WB8VNO
- **Balloon-a-Fair Chase** – September 15, 2012, Sandy, KD8JCY
- **Got Bike?** – October 7, 2012, Jim, KC8PD or Mike, KD8FLZ

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. And I will be really appreciative, too!

73,

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

Mailing Lists, Blogs and Podcasts are Good Sources of Ham Info

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

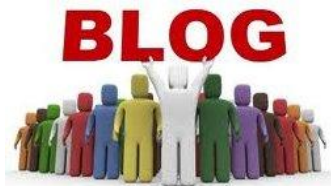
One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.



In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos



In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KD0BIK, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!



Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

Dan, KB6NU



May Contest Calendar

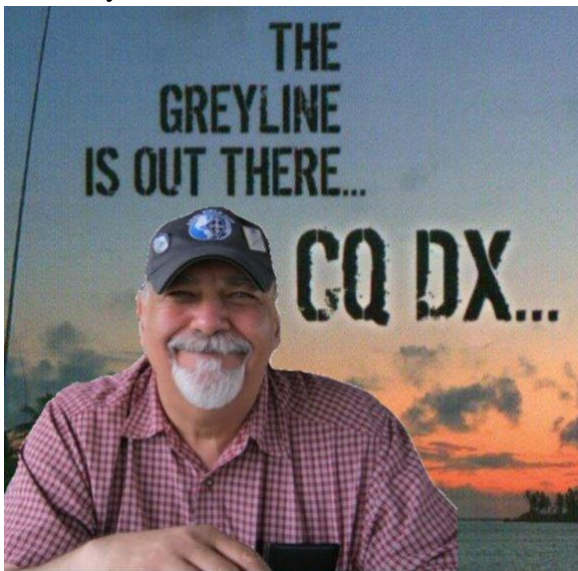
May 2012	
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 5 to 2359Z, May 6
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 5 to 0700Z, May 6
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 5 to 0400Z, May 6
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 5 to 2400Z, May 6
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 26 to 2400Z, May 27
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 27 to 0300Z, May 28

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



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Can you believe the WX?? Wait a minute – didn't I start last month's column with those words? March was very warm and mild and April was cool and somewhat rainy. So what will May bring us?? I'll tell you – DX DX DX!!



I want to thank the following for the forecast reports for this month and beyond: the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network (especially **Tedd Mirgliotta – KB8NW**) for the following DX and IOTA information.

This report could contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or busted call signs. Please do yourself a favor and adhere to the old adage of "Work First Worry Later" (WFWL).

I've decided that I would list only May thru July events. It has been mentioned that DX events, let's say in November or December, are simply too far out to keep in mind and my continuous "Reminders" are tedious. So unless you take these long lead time DX events and put them on a calendar to remind yourself of when they are going to take place, it would be better if I simply wait until a couple of months before the event, to list them in this column. My hope is that they will be mentioned more than once in the information that I receive that makes up this column.

Enough of this! Let's look at what is going to be happening in May and up through July.

2012 DX TRAVELS/OPERATING TOUR. Jeff, N6GQ, plans to travel to several different locations this year and operate using his Elecraft K3/100. His expected schedule for the year is:

- May 23-28th - Dodecanese (EU-001, GIOTA DKS-006, MIA MGD-028, WLOTA 0045); callsign SV5/N6GQ; plans to be in the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 26-27th) as a SOAB QRP entry. QSL via LoTW or N6GQ.
- May 28th-June 17th - Greece; callsign SV8/N6GQ; plans to be active from various IOTAs (EU-049 and EU-052) in SV8. QSL via LoTW or N6GQ.
- June 17-29th - Malta (EU-023, MIA MM-001, WLOTA 1113); callsign 9H3ZZ. QSL via LoTW or N6GQ.

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

4J, AZERBAIJAN (Special Event). The Ministry of Communications of Azerbaijan has approved the uses of the following special call signs dedicated to and during the "Eurovision Song Contest" between April 15th and June 15th. Look for the special call signs using the suffixes SONG or SONG:

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

5X, UGANDA. Freddy, F5IRO, is expected to be here on a work assignment starting early May through June (exact days are not yet known). With the help of David, 5X1D (KH9AE), and some others, he is hoping to get a license during the first week of his arrival. On his arrival Freddy plans on setting up his Elecraft K3 and DIY antennas, probably verticals or dipoles, space permitting at the location. Activity will be on CW on the upper HF bands, especially on 10 MHz in the evening (5X = GMT + 3) and possibly some PSK operations. Watch the DXClusters for spots. QSL is via Michel, F8DFP, by the French Bureau or direct (w/SAE and IRC). For more updates and info, watch Freddy's Blog page at: <http://j28ro.blogspot.com>

6O, SOMALIA. Andy, RN3AKK, reports that Darko, J28AA/E70A, will once again be active as 6O3A from Hargeisa between May 25-31st. Activity will be on SSB, RTTY and 50 MHz. QSL via K2PF. For possible updates (under news), online log, and pictures, check out the Bosnia and Herzegovina Contest Club's Web page [BHCC] at: <http://bhcc.ba>

C9, MOZAMBIQUE. Daniel, ZS6JR, will once again be active as C91JR from the coastal resort of Bilene between April 22nd and May 10th. Activity will be holiday style and operating mostly RTTY or PSK with 100 watts into a vertical antenna. QSL via GI4FUM. Look for more details and updates on: <http://www.3da0ss.net>

CY0, SABLE ISLAND. Al, VE1AWW, is once again active as CY0/VE1AWW as of April 17th, and will be there for the next three months. He is an assigned worker on the island and his schedule is 3 months ON and 3 Months OFF. His activity will be limited to his spare time. Al mentions on QRZ.com, "I need to replace the feedline for the the 40/80m antenna, but up and running on 20/17/15/12/10 and 6m." He was heard this past week on 15 meters SSB - 21336 kHz between 2230-0000z. QSL via his home call sign, 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.

EM350, UKRAINE (Special Event). Look for special event station EM350S to be active between May 1st and June 30th. Activity is to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Ivano-Frankivsk City [1662-2012]. Operations will be on all HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via UW8SM, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW and eQSL.

AS-138. Dale, BA4TB, will lead a team of operators and be active as BY1WXD/5 from **Gulangyu Island** between May 4-7th. QSL via BA4TB.

EU-008. Members of the Kilmarnock and Loudoun Amateur Radio Club will once again be active as MS0KLR from the **Isle of Muck** (IOSA NH06, SCOTIA DI18), Inner Hebrides, between April 24-28th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes. QSL by the Bureau to MM0KL or direct to MM0GHM. More details at: <http://qrz.com/db/MS0KLR>

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

EU-043. Operators Ric/DL2VFR and Norbert/DL2RNS will be active as SD7V/6 and SD7N/6, respectively, from **Orust Island** between May 11-14th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB, with high power. QSL via their home call signs, by the Bureau or direct.

EU-047. Operators Friedrich/DL4BBH and Ric/DL2VFR will activate the special call sign 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-061. Operators Ric/DL2VFR and Norbert/DL2RNS will be active as LA/homecall from the **Hvaler Islands** between May 16-21st. Activity will be on the HF bands, using CW and SSB, with high power. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.

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

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

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

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.casadorradioamador.blogspot.com>

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA (IOTA Op). Pat, F4EBT, will be active as FO/F4EBT between June 1-24th, and plans to activate the following French Polynesia IOTA Islands: **Tahiti (OC-046), Moorea (OC-046), Raiatea (OC-067), Huaine (OC-067), Bora-Bora (OC-067) and Maupiti (OC-067)**. Activity will be holiday style, usually SSB only on 80/40/20/17/15/12/10 meters using a TS-50 w/100 watts into a FD4 Multiband antenna. QSL via his home call sign, direct (1 IRC or 2 USDs) or by the Bureau.

FP, ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON. Eric, KV1J, will once again be operating from the **Island of Miquelon** (NA-032, DIFO FP-002 WLOTA 1417, Grid GN17) as FP/KV1J between July 10-17th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 (but primarily CW, SSB and RTTY). He will generally be on the highest frequency band that is open, and he may try 6 meters if there is an 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.

GM, SCOTLAND (IOTA/SCOTIA Op!). Andre, GM3VLB, will once again try to activate some of the SCOTIA islands (SCOTish Island Award) he missed last year in the Orkney IOTA Group (EU-009, SCOTIA OI14). He states, "In the hope of completing what I now call the 'SCOTIA Challenge', which in my own case means activating the last five of the program's 200 islands which I haven't yet activated, I am returning to the Orkney (EU-009) group, arriving there May 21st. I have a return booking on June 7th, but I am prepared to remain in EU-009 longer, if necessary. Having been dogged by high winds in late summer/early autumn on previous expeditions to the Northern Isles, I am trying the earlier part of 'activating season' this time. The 5 remaining islands are Muckle Green Holm (OI20), Linga Holm (OI21), Eynhallow (OI24), Faray (OI28) and Calf of Eday (OI29). Some are quite difficult to approach and to land on (steep rocky shores) as well as being subject to very strong tidal current (the waters off Eday are in fact the chosen location for testing the latest tidal generators, so near-perfect weather conditions will be required. I believe most may be first-time activations. This will be a 'solo' operation (XYL Veronica having decided discretion was the better part of valour!). If successful, I hope to continue activating islands, this season, in a more relaxed way, hopefully teaming up with regular 'island buddy' Alex, G(M)0DHz, to re-activate some less remote islands, which even some of the high-scoring SCOTIA chasers may have missed - I will be doing an analysis of the records to determine the 'most wanted'."

HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN. Operators Nicola/IN3ADW and Luca/IN3HUU will be active as HB0/homecall from Liechtenstein between May 8-12th. Activity will be mainly on 40/20/17/12 meters, as well as 15/10 meters propagation permitting, using SSB and some RTTY. Suggested frequencies are: 7110-7130, 18125-18135, 14215-14225 and 24945-24955 kHz. QSL via their home call signs.

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

KH3, JOHNSTON ATOLL (Op Cancelled!). It was reported this past week that Susan, W7KFI, has officially given up on KH3. This will be a big disappointment to many who have been waiting for her to be on the air.

J2, DJIBOUTI - 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.

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 call sign 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 call sign. For more update and info, see: <http://iv3xnf.jimdo.com>

SE, SWEDEN (Update/Special Event/Callsign Change). Richard, SM2TOS, and some other operators will be active as SE2EE (not SG2SNF as first announced) from Porjus between June 16-17th. Activity will be from the **Lancaster bomber "Easy Elsie"**, which crashed at Porjus in Sweden on October 29th, 1944. They will be on the shortwave bands around the clock! They mention that they do not have to worry about daylight, as there will be sunlight 24/7!! The sun never goes down during the summer up here in the north part of Sweden. (High above the Arctic circle). For more details, pictures and QSL info, see QRZ.com. They also have a Web site at: <http://www.sm2tos.se/easyelsie/eng>

ST, SUDAN. Robert, S53R, will be active as ST2AR from Khartoum during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band (TB) entry. QSL via S53R or LoTW.

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

V2, ANTIGUA. Darrell, AB2E, will once again be active as V26E from Antigua (NA-100) between May 23-30th. Activity will include the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 26-27th) as Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power (A) entry -- same as last year which resulted in #2 World and #1 North America for the category. All operations before and after the contests will be either on the 30/17/12 meter bands or the lower bands. Also, for the first time he will attempt RTTY on all bands. QSL direct via AB2E for any and all operations from 1993 to present. Be sure to include an SASE, green stamp, or new IRC, or you won't get a card. Sorry, no Bureau cards at this time, and no eQSL. As of February 28, 2011, all logs from all V26E operations (including 2010) have been uploaded to LoTW as well.

V3, BELIZE. Mike, VE2XB, will once again be active as V31XB from Caye Caulker Island (NA-073) between May 11-31st. Activity will be on all HF bands, as well as 6m, using CW and SSB. He will be using his K3 into a Hexbeam. Mike states that he will be looking especially for JA stations to work this IOTA (as well as everyone else). QSL via VE2XB (see QRZ.com).

VP2M, MONTSERRAT. John, KB4CRT, will once again be active as VP2MRT from Gingerbread Hill, St. Peters Parish, Montserrat (NA-103, WLOTA 1475, WW Loc. FK86VS) between June 6-12th. Activity will be on 80-2 meters using SSB, some CW, possibly PSK, and be in the June VHF Contest. He will be looking for AS and OC stations. QSL via KB4CRT, direct (w/SASE or DX 2GS). NO Bureau QSL. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW within a week of his returning home.

VY0, CANADA (IOTA Op). Operators Dick/AH6EZ and Harry/K9DXA plan to be active as YV0/homecall from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut Province[Canada's largest and newest federal territory], between June 21st and July 2nd. Activity will be on 80-6 meters, with a focus on 30/17/12 meter bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. The duo plans to make a side trip to Marble Island (NA-185) for a few hours sometime between June 25-29th. On July 1st, during Radio Canada Day Contest, both Dick and Harry will be active as VY0RAC. Listen for QSL instructions. For more details and updates, go to: <http://ah6ez.yolasite.com>

XX9, MACAU. Nine members of the "A DX Group" (ADXG) will be active from Coloane Island (AS-075, WW Grid OL62SC) between May 17-23rd. Operators mentioned are Ruben/EA5BZ (Team leader), Jose/EA1ACP, Jose/EB5BBM, Pasqua/EA5CEE, Fernando/EA5FX, Biel/EA6DD, Francois/EA7FTR, David/EB7DX and Adrian/F5VLY. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY, with at least 3 stations on the air at the same time on different bands and modes. Suggested frequencies are:

- CW - 1823, 3523, 7023, 10103, 14023, 18073, 21023, 24893 and 28023 kHz
- SSB - 1825, 3780, 7065/7160, 14145, 18145, 21295, 24945 and 28495 kHz
- RTTY - 7035, 10140, 14080, 18100, 21080, 24921 and 28080 kHz
- 6M - 50103/CW and 50115/SSB kHz

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

ZL9, CAMPBELL ISLAND (Update). The Hellenic Amateur Radio of Association of Australia (HARAOA) is organizing a DXpedition to Campbell Island (OC-037) and will be active between November 17-30th. Campbell Island is Number 15 on the current DXCC most wanted list. The HARAOA team was finally issued the callsign ZL9HR on April 13th. The DXpedition team will consist of nine (9) operators: Tommy/VK2IR (Team Leader), John/VK3YP (Team Co-Leader), Les/W2LK, Gene/K5GS, Dave/K3EL, Glenn/KE4KY, Jacques/ ZL3CW, Pista/HA5AO and Don/VE7DS.

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

So that's what the DX outlook is for May and also some reports for June and July. I hope you have time to work some of it. Let me know. Until next month, gud DX and CU DN the Log.

73 and GUD DX!!

Chuck, W8PT
Also known as "Charlie the Tuner"



Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted



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

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

We have **42** plates now, but we can use more. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form.

It costs about \$20 the first time for the bureau fee, mailing fee, and Amateur Radio plate fee. When

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.



PCARS Meetings

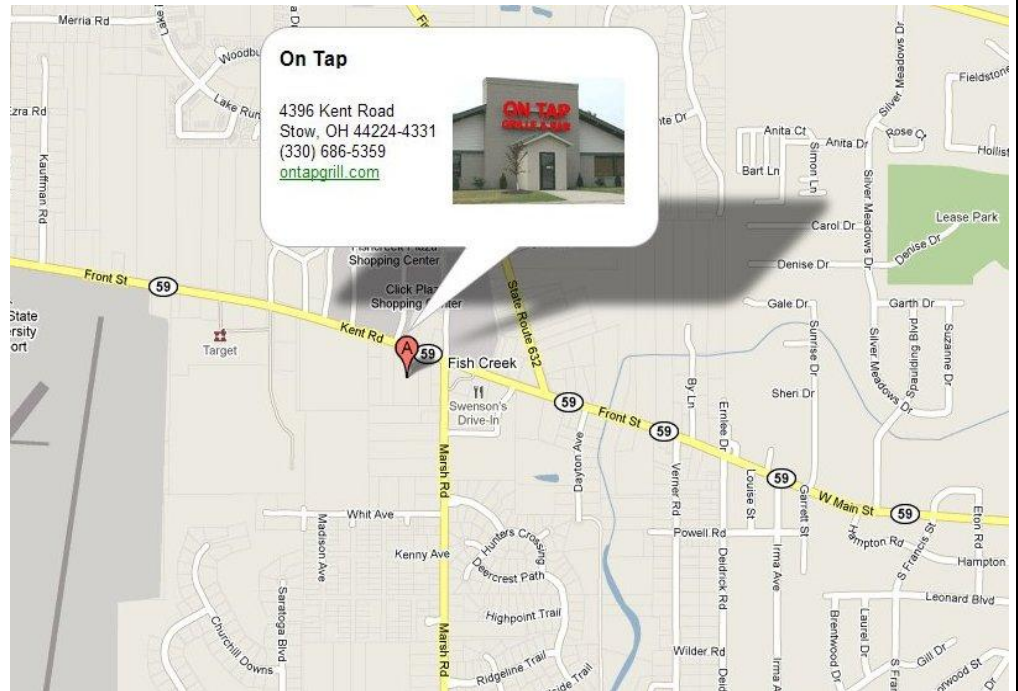
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Meetings are at the

**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, KB8UUZ, K8CAV, NX8G, W8KNO, KB8NU, KB8AMZ, WB2DFC, KC8PD, W8PT, 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 April PCARS Meeting



9 April 2012



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	KD8MQ	John Myers

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)
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NLC

