



~ 2012 Officers ~

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~ Meetings & Nets ~

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

Let me start right off with the "Big News". The September PCARS meeting will NOT be at the On Tap in Stow. WE ARE MOVING to Stringz & Wingz in the Streetsboro Plaza for our September, and ongoing meetings (December will be at Paradise Lake GC for the Christmas Party). I can't tell you how hard it is to find a meeting place big enough to hold us, and meets all of our requirements, but I think this should do it. You will not be packed in here. You will not have to arrive early to get a good seat. The owners and managers have offered to do whatever necessary to make us happy and comfortable. Our challenge will be to fill the space! If you have not been to a PCARS meeting in awhile, I'm asking you to join us on Monday September 10th to see for yourself how much space we actually have here! I'm promising a couple better than average 50/50 raffle prizes to help lure you in. I know that change is almost always resisted, but this change is good. I know it will be better for some, further for others, but I really think it is in a much more convenient location for most. This will open a lot of possibilities for our future, and, as always, I'm open to your suggestions as to what type of events we can offer to the ham radio community of NE OHIO.



Before I go any further, do you realize you are reading this in the "Award Winning" Radiogram? At last months Ohio Section Convention, The Radiogram was selected as the #1 newsletter in the Ohio Section! Be sure to let Parky know how much you appreciate all his hard work. After all, it's not easy to get all of those photos of Chuck, W8PT, asleep..... In talking with EMIKE and Frank at the Section Convention, one of the things they told me was that "original content" was the most important part of putting out an award winning newsletter. Anyone can cut and paste, but then you just end up with a re-hash of everything you've already seen someplace else. Help Parky keep The Radiogram one of the best in the Section (if not the country!) by sending him your photos and articles. Look at me! I'm a published author in an award winning newsletter. That's something.



This past month has been a pretty busy one with PCARS activities. I hope you've made it to a few of them. September is no different. Special Interest Groups (SIGS) every Tuesday evening, nets every Thursday evening, with the 4th Thursday of each month being Net Night at the club site. OSPOTA on Saturday the 8th, the meeting on the 10th, and a new Technician class starting on the 18th. There's probably something else that will pop up, and we need you there too! I know not everyone wants to organize the event, or even make the presentation. That's OK. What we need you to do is show up. Everything we do is more fun if more of you attend. Don't make excuses – make PCARS activities a priority! You'll be glad you did.

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

## From the President (continued from Page 1)

Speaking of the Technician Class – I've emailed the flier to everyone. Stick the flier up somewhere. Give it to a friend. Ham Radio is a growing, High-Tech, fascinating hobby. Be sure to invite others to join in on the fun with us.

A while ago I received a note from a PCARS member who is not able to attend too many of our activities. That's OK, he comes when he can. What impressed me most was that he said even though he's not a regular, when he does show up, he feels like he's the most important PCARS member in attendance. That's because you welcome him and make him feel good about being with us. That's really the best compliment that we as a club can get. Thank you for being that way. Keep up the good work. PCARS has a bright future not because of any one of us, but because of all of us!



73,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS President



## From the Vice President

It's been called "The Boro", "Streetstucky" and a host of less flattering names. It's home to 9 PCARS members and on September 10, PCARS moves it's meeting to the largest venue yet: Stringz & Wingz in Streetsboro Plaza. They have a wide ranging menu, 17 different beers on tap, and more bottled varieties than they can remember. And I can personally guarantee you that you'll never have to worry about getting seated, even if you bring a hundred of your closest friends with you. Try the chili, it's got a kick to it!

There's a certain mindset in Streetsboro that you need to adjust to, and I'm here to guide you. Consider these examples:

Before you step foot into Stringz & Wings to get your fill of alcohol, stop immediately next door at the Discount Smoke shop. This business was located here by the City Fathers so you could satisfy all your vices at one convenient location.



A mere 200 ft away lies the Flea Market, by far largest store in the Plaza. It's only open four days a week. Clearly, somebody overestimated the demand for fleas in Portage County.



Flying High, according to the sign, offers "Flags and More". Nobody quite understands what this store does. If you figure it out, please contact me. Likewise,

Overstock Oasis proffers a wide array of products completely unrelated to each other. Most of the PCARS raffle prizes originate from here.



The new meeting venue is located adjacent to Streetsboro Green Apartments. Not one of the apartments is actually green.

Here is an actual sign from another business. You may have read about this in the book "Alice in Wonderland". Plus, there's the Buckeye

Internet Café. This establishment doesn't offer internet service, and they don't sell beverages of any kind. They're always open, the better to not serve you 24 hours a day.



Here in Streetsboro, this all makes perfect sense to us. It's that kind of town. Welcome, and enjoy!

**Bill, WB9LBI**

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## 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/>.





## Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) - September 8th

2012 will be the fifth year for OSPOTA and this fun contest could not succeed without your continued participation. We want to extend our gratitude to those HAMs that have been so loyal to our once unique contest.



I say “once unique” because several groups in other states have picked up the ball and are forming their own Parks On The Air events. Indiana already has one year under its belt for their contest and it is rumored that Arizona and Georgia are on the horizon.

This is very encouraging to the OSPOTA committee and those of us in PCARS who brainstormed this event into being.

As we have posted in the previous years, the OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind:

- To promote public awareness of ham radio and Ohio’s beautiful state parks system
- To contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology
- And to promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio’s Amateur Radio operators.

Your participation has allowed these goals to be achieved and now they are spreading to other groups of amateurs who believe that this is a fun event not only to take part in but to sponsor.

The Rules and other documents for OSPOTA 2012 have already been posted on the website (<http://parks.portcars.org>) and we are counting on everyone doing even better in 2012.

So until September 8, 2012 and on behalf of the OSPOTA Committee, 73!

**Chuck W8PT,**  
Chairman, Ohio State Parks On The Air

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## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- September 8<sup>th</sup> - **Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest - sponsored by PCARS
- September 10<sup>th</sup> - **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



## ARRL Ohio State Conference Report

I really didn't plan on attending the ARRL Ohio State Conference this year – it's been a busy summer and I'm behind the eight-ball on just about everything. But then I got a phone call from SM Frank Piper, KI8GW, a few days before the event. The PCARS Radiogram was one of the top 3 in the newsletter contest. He couldn't tell me where it placed, for security reasons, but wanted to know if either Tom, KB8UUZ or myself could be there to accept whatever our award would be. I told him we would both be there. Then I called UUZ. He asked what place we were and I couldn't (honestly) tell him. He told me he didn't have anything on the calendar, but he really wanted to change his socks and then he would probably be putting up his two meter antenna that Saturday. I told him he needed to be there. I told him I would drive. I told him he would have to smile and be nice no matter what. He said he would go, but I knew I only had a 1 in 3 chance of a happy ride home. (Personal Disclaimer: I know The Radiogram should be number 1, but I also know that I have greater wisdom and insight in these matters, and since I wasn't the judge, anything could happen) Later I heard from Chuck, W8PT that he wanted to go too.



It was 0:darkthirty when Parky and Chuck showed up at my house on Sat, August 11th, and we headed for Columbus. Just one stop along the way for some grub and we made it down there in plenty of time for the ARRL Forum.

The first order of business was a quick trip through the Columbus Hamfest. A small fest by most standards, but there was a lot of neat stuff there! If you were looking for an older HF rig it would have been a good place to find it.



Into the Arrl Forum. First order of business was the announcement of the newsletter contest winners. Third Place: “Zero Beat” of the Alliance ARC. (PCARS member John Myers – KD8MQ – Editor. Congratulations John!) Second Place: “Feedback” of the Massillon ARC. Parky, the man of no emotion, is starting to crack a smile.... **First Place: “The Radiogram” of PCARS. Tom Parkinson –**

**KB8UUZ – Editor.** I had dreaded the ride home if there had been a less than #1 finish. Now I knew it would be a pleasant afternoon.

The Keynote speaker was Kay Craigie, N3KN – ARRL President. President Craigie spoke on the important function the ARRL plays in protecting our frequency allocations from both governmental agencies and commercial enterprises that would love to have the segments we occupy. She stressed that membership in the ARRL is more than a magazine subscription. She is 110% correct, and I would like to urge each and every PCARS member to become an ARRL member if you can possibly afford it. The Amateur Radio Community in the US has no other advocate operating on our behalf. They have saved us in the past, and we will need to be saved again in the future – count on it. The only question is will there be a viable organization there to represent our interests? The ARRL is that organization. Support them when you can.



Another quick tour around the fest and we were ready to head back north. First we needed more fuel, so we had a nice lunch at the Cap City Diner, a Columbus institution. The trip home went quick, the mood was good and so was the company. It was a great day to be a ham, and an even better day to be a PCARS member!

*Tom, WB8LCD*



## Contest Calendar

September 2012	
Colorado QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 1 to 0400Z, Sep 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 2
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 2 to 0300Z, Sep 3
<b>Ohio State Parks On The Air</b>	<b>1600Z - 2400Z, Sept 8</b>
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 8 to 0300Z, Sep 10
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 15 to 2400 local, Sep 16
SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital	1000Z, Sep 15 to 1000Z, Sep 16
South Carolina QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 15 to 0300Z, Sep 16
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Sep 15
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 15 to 1800Z, Sep 16
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 15 to 0700Z, Sep 16 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 16
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 20
BARTG Sprint 75	1700Z-2100Z, Sep 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 29 to 2400Z, Sep 30
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 29 to 2400Z, Sep 30
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 29 to 0200Z, Sep 30 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 30

## Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites



Fall will be here before you know it and the Labor Day weekend will be busy, busy, busy. Picnics, last of the summer trips, and don't forget OSPOTA the Saturday after Labor Day weekend. And even though there is so much to do, there is still a lot of DX to work.

The bands have been hopping. I hope that everyone got to work Comoros – D64K; Saba – PJ5/K3TRM; and 9M4SLL from Spratly Islands. Sometimes the pileup was fierce but if you stuck to it, you could work them. The middle east and northern Africa have been booming in. I made several Q's with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. And I finally worked Afghanistan and Vietnam but did it on CW. Also on CW TM1NOI – the DXpedition to Noirmoutier Island. Most of my contacts this go around have been with 100w to see if anyone working barefoot could work these stations. So there is no excuse or saying that can do this since I'm running high power. Remember, CW seems to get through even at lower power than most of you are running.

OK – enough of the soapbox. We have some very good DX coming up in the next few months and I hope that every DX'er out there gets his or her share of the contacts.



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).

**5R, MADAGASCAR (IOTA Op!).** Moise, F4EZG, will once again be active as 5R8VE, but this time from Nosy Alanana (AF-090) in the Tamatave region September 1-3rd. Activity will only be on 20 and 15 meters. QSL via F4EZG.

**5T0, MAURITANIA (Update).** A group of Polish radio amateurs will be active as 5T0SP between November 24th and December 10th, from Mauritania. They've already got their license which was possible thanks to the great kindness of the l'Autorité de Régulation of Mauretania and with a great help from Jean, 5T0JL. Activity will be on all HF bands, 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Their license does not allow for 6 meters operations - perhaps it will change but it is not sure now.

**5Z, KENYA.** Eric, SM1TDE, will be active as 5Z4/SM1TDE from Diani Beach, Mombasa, between November 5-22nd. This will be a family vacation and activity will be limited to how much his XYL and kids allow. Activity will be on 40-10 meters on CW. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW. He thanks Ted, 5Z4NU, for getting his license application through the system.

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Juergen, OE4JHW, active as 8Q7OE from the Maldives - September 3-14th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using SSB and BPSK (mode at night). He will focus on stations from DL, HB0, HB9 and OE, as well as on North and South America. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. Also, LoTW and eQSL.

#### **9/11 SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS.....**

\* Members of the Symbol Technologies Amateur Radio Club (STARC), will be operational as N1Y, September 8th and 9th. Activity is commemorating the September 11th, 2001, terrorist attacks. They will be operating on 40/20/15 meters using CW and SSB, in the "General" portions of the bands. A special QSL may be had by sending a SASE to the QRZ.com address of W2SBL.

\* Look for special event station N3U/Flt93 (N3U/United Flight 93) to be activated once again between September 8-13th, to remind "Amateur Radio Operators World-Wide" of the tragic events that happened near "Shanksville (Pa), New York City and Washington DC, on September 11, 2001." Operators mentioned are Bob/W3BTX and Roy/W3TEF. QSL N3U/Flt 93 via W3PN, by the Bureau or direct (Please include SASE and enough return postage. If additional postage is needed...your QSL will be returned via the BUREAU). For more details, QRZ.com.

\* Look for Bob/W3BTX and Roy/W3TEF to be active as P49T (P49Towers) from Aruba between September 14-21st. QSL via W3BTX, by the W3 Bureau or direct. Don't QSL via the P4 Bureau or eQSL.

**CR3/CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS.** German operators from the RRDXA will be active once again as CR3L during the CQWW DX RTTY Contest (September 29-30th) as a Multi-? entry. This team has won the 2009, 2010 and 2011 competition from their QTH in Santana (Northern part of the island). The crew is still looking for one or more good contest operators on this mode. The length of stay on Madeira is one week. Communication: English and German languages. If interested please contact Hans, DL1YFF at: [dl1yff@gmx.de](mailto:dl1yff@gmx.de) More information is available on Han's Web page at: <http://www.dl1yff.de> Also info on the Crew's Web site at: <http://www.CR3L.de> QSL via DJ6QT. Operators will probably be active as CT9/homecall before and after the contest.

**D2, ANGOLA.** Craig, MM0SSG, 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.

**FT5W & FT5X, CROZET AND KERGUELEN.** Gildas, TU5KG, will once again be active a TU5KG/MM in the vicinity of Crozet (FT5W?) and Kerguelen (FT5X?) during November and December. QSL via F4DXW.

## ***IOTA NEWS***

**EU-008. (Update)** Members of the Black Country DX & Contest Group active as MS00XE from the **Isle of Tiree** (IOSA NH04, SCOTIA DI10, IO66ML, WAB NL94), in the Inner Hebrides Is. - September 13-21st. Operators mentioned are Simon/M0VKY, James/ M0YOM, Drew/G7DMO, Brian/G0JKY and Terry/G4MKP. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via M0URX OQRS. Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog, LoTW and eQSL.

**KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA.** Bill, N6MW, and possibly 1-2 other operators (TBA) will be active as KH8/N6MW from a hotel in Tutuila, south of the Pago Pago harbor area (to avoid mountain low angle cut off) between November 8-19th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using mainly CW, but some SSB and RTTY when things slow down. They will have 2 stations with one on the air 24/7. Focus is to work as many stations as possible, 160 meters and looking for EU. 15 meters is the anticipated prime band. QSL via LoTW. For direct and bureau QSL

**NH8, SWAINS ISLAND.** The following press release was sent out on July 16th [edited]: "Swains press release # 2 -- Craig/K9CT and Joe/W8GEX are happy to report that preparations for the NH8S Swains Is. DXpedition are on schedule. The 20 man international team should be on the island from September 4th, thru September 17th. Swains is # 31 most wanted worldwide. Will operate all bands - SSB, CW & RTTY. A big thanks goes to John/N7CQQ and Paul/W8AEF for their time in building and testing the SVDA's that will be used. Thanks also to Paul/W6XA and Tom/N4XP for testing the radios, amps and laptops. All of the equipment has been shipped to Arnie/N6HC in California for the upcoming departure via cargo ship later this week. The QSLing will be handled by Joe/AA4NN with help from his XYL Margaret. Plans are to upload logs daily by satellite phone from the island to Clublog.

**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>

**ON85, BELGIUM** (Special Event). Eric, ON4LN, President RCL, informs that the members of the Radio Club Leuven (RCL) will celebrate their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They will be active using the special callsign ON85RCL from their RCL club shack and proudly. Activity begun on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will last until December 31st. Operations will be on all bands (6m if condx) and on various modes. For more info, see QRZ.com under ON85RCL or ON4CP.

**T6, AFGHANISTAN.** Stefan, DL4ST, active as T6SS from Mazare-Sharif until end of Sept. Activity will be on the HF bands, but so far it has been mainly on 20 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via his home callsign.

**T6, AFGHANISTAN.** Ilian, LZ1CNN (ex-YI9LZ), active as T6LG from Kandahar between September and February 2013. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL Manager is LZ1ZF. Postal address since Sept 1st, 2012, for LZ1ZF is: G. Vodenicharov, P.O. Box 25, 3600 Lom, BULGARIA. All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW.

**T8, PALAU.** Ulf, DL5AXX, will once again go to Palau as a combined dive- radio-holiday. Operation will take place from the Palau rental shack <<http://palau.rental-shack.com/english>> between Sept 14-28th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using the callsign T8XX (CW) and T88UE (RTTY).

**V6, MICRONESIA.** Haru, JA1XGI will be active as V63XG from Yap Island (OC-012) between Dec 5-12th. Activity be on 20-6 meters (especially 30/17/12m) using CW, with some SSB & Digital modes. QSL via JA1XGI, direct or by the Bureau. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW. Look for updates and details at: <http://ja1xgidxvacation.blogspot.com>

**V8, BRUNEI** (Ops Needed). Gabriele Villa, I2VGW, team leader of the next DXpedition to Brunei, announced that they are looking for some CW operators for the upcoming V84SMD DXpedition, November 11-23rd. If interested, please contact by E-mail to Gabriele at: [gabrielei2vgw@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielei2vgw@gmail.com)



**XP, GREENLAND.** Henning, OZ1BII/OU2I, will be active as XP2I from club station XP1AB in Kangerlussuaq between September 13-17th. Activity will be CW only. QSL via his home callsign.

**ZA, ALBANIA.** Operators Petr/OK1FCJ, Pavel/OK1DX and David/OK6DJ will be active as ZA/homecall between September 27th and October 3rd. Activity will be on all HF bands, 160-10 meters, including 30/17/12 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. The team will also be active in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest (September 29-30th) as ZA/OL8R. The equipment will be an Elecraft K3 and Kenwood TS850 into a SpiderBeam (20/15/10m), 40-10m vertical, 80m dipole and 160 meter LW. QSL ZA/OL8R and ZA/OK1FCJ via OK1DRQ, ZA/OK1DX via OK1DX, and ZA/OK6DJ to LoTW, eQSL, by the Bureau or direct to home callsign.

**ZD9, GOUGH ISLAND.** Look for Paul, ZD9KN, to be active from Gough Island (AF-030) until September 31st. He is there working as a radio/electronics technician. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using only SSB. His equipment is a Yaesu FT-2000 into a directive Multiband and Inverted V dipole. For now the QSL is only via LoTW. All information to receive a QSL card will be published very soon on QRZ.com. The log is also uploaded to ClubLog. LAST MINUTE UPDATE (Per QRZ.com): Paul states, "ZD9KN log will be uploaded in its entirety to LoTW within 1 year from the end of the DXpedition. The information for the QSL will be published after the end of the DXpedition. The QSL card is via my QSL Manager IZ0UIM or LoTW. The internet connection is not very good unfortunately, so there may be delays in response." Paul recommends that you check his log before sending a QSL card because there are PIRATES using his callsign. There was a report of a PIRATE on Sunday morning, August 19th, at 0955z.

Well – there you have it. There is a real good mix of in country and IOTA DX listed for the next few months. Get on the air and get your call sign out there in the ether. Until next month, Charlie the Tuner wishes you gud DX and 73.

**Chuck, W8PT**  
aka Charlie the Tuner

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## PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

**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.



**Robert, N8RLG**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison

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## Hamfest Calendar

**09/09/2012 - FINDLAY HAMFEST** - Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky Street - Findlay, OH 45839 - Website: <http://w8ft.org> - Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club - Talk-In: 147.15/75 - Public Contact: Bill Kelsey, N8ET - 3521 Spring Lake Drive Findlay, OH 45840 - Phone: 419-423-3402 - Email: [hamfest@kangaus.com](mailto:hamfest@kangaus.com)

**09/23/2012 - CLEVELAND HAMFEST AND COMPUTER SHOW** - Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Road - Berea, OH 44017 - Website: <http://www.hac.org> - Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland - Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9) - Public Contact: Glenn Williams, AF8C - Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc. PO Box 81252 Cleveland, OH - 44135 - Phone: 800-CLE-FEST - Email: [info-list@hac.org](mailto:info-list@hac.org)

## Paper Chase

What have I written about every year in September? You would be correct if you said the, "**Route 66 On The Air**" Special Event and I will not disappoint you this year.



Amateur Radio Clubs using 1 X 1 call signs will operate from 17 cities, also 1 rover and 1 mobile station will operate from along the highway during the special event period, the 10th of September (0000 utc) through the 18th of September (2400 utc). The objective is to contact as many of the seventeen stations as possible; however, you need only contact one to obtain a certificate.

Special event stations are likely to be found somewhere in the vicinity of the following frequencies. (Look for digital modes in the standard band segments for such mode) All frequencies +/- QRM.

	80M	40M	30M	20M	17M	15M	12M	10M	6M
CW	3.533	7.033	10.110	14.033	18.080	21.033	24.900	28.033	50.033
SSB	3.866	7.266		14.266	18.164	21.366	24.966	28.466	50.166
DIGITAL	3.580	7.070	10.140	14.070	18.100	21.070	24.920	28.120	

For those of you not familiar with Route 66, US Highway 66 was established in 1926 and was the first major improved highway to link the west coast with the nations heartland. It started or ended in Chicago, depending in which direction you were traveling. Through stories, songs, and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the spirit of the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America. However, the demise of Route 66 began in the 1950's as the US began building the interstate highway system. The highway was officially decommissioned in 1986. Never the less, small portions of US Highway 66 still exist in towns and rural areas in several states.



To obtain your certificate, complete the application form that you can find a link to at: <http://www.w6jbt.org/route66ota.html> Send it along with 4 dollars to: Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club - PO Box 3788 - San Bernardino, CA 92413

Hope to hear you in the pile-up,  
**Joe, W8KNO**

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in September:

WB8VYW	Mike Hutsler
WD8CVH	Ted Wands
WD8BIW	Karen Warner
KA8CMD	Glenn Foldessy
KD8FME	Jim Conlin
KD8HGI	Frank Sheline III
KD8JRE	Michael Harris
N8KBX	Bob Magree

KD8JRK	Tom Steele
KC8NOW	Ed McKivigan
N8RLG	Robert Gurney
NT8K	Bob Whiddon
KC8UNR	Mike Cibella
KD8VT	James Andrews
KC8KYW	John Kametz
W8DAC	Duane Crawford

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## Heavenly Day, It's Gay

Bellefaire Biathlon is history. Thank you to those who helped make it a success. The organizers and staff appreciated the job you do and many entrants commented on how good it is to know you are out there looking out for them. We are told that the race generated about \$125,000 and much of the money goes to the Autism school at the agency. Thanks for being part of that success.

New PCARS member Amanda Kephart, KD8SDF, who successfully passed her exam at a recent PCARS VE session, sent these pictures:



She joined her husband and a friend for a backpacking trek in Yosemite. Pretty spectacular operating site, eh?

Fox hunts continue until the end of Daylight Savings Time, this year Sunday, November 4. That means the last hunt of this season is Wednesday, October 31. Witchy, witchy, screamie, screamie, happy, happy, Halloweenie.

73 & 8873,  
**Gay, WB8VNO**

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## Cruise-In 2012

Once again, the PCARS Cruise-In was a fun event with fabulous weather! The A&W Drive-In in Ravenna is the perfect place for this, and the side lot was full of cars sporting amateur antennas. Actually, the night was too nice, the fellowship too good.

No one wanted to sit in their car and operate, resulting in only one entry for the “worked most states from the parking lot” contest. Jim, KC8PD, won with one QSO on 40 meters to log – OHIO. Way to go Jim! For his efforts Jim won a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart. Just to make it interesting, Jim's one QSO was with PCARS member Rich, KD8FDK in Solon, OH.



We had 45 people signed in, but I expect there were probably 10 - 20 wandering around who never did sign the login sheet. As it turns out, every car there was entered into the “Best / Worst” mobile installation contest, and everyone was given the opportunity to participate in the judging. Gail, KC8LRH from Warren is always going to win something when he shows up with his 2-meter mobile toilet. He could have won the prize for “most creative”, “lowest HP engine” (hey, gotta be thinking





about those MPG's), and maybe even the mobile with "the most convenience features". PCARS awarded him the "worst" mobile award. With that kind of entry, we had to give him a prize, it just couldn't have been the "best" mobile. Gail walked away with a \$25 gift card, too.

Some of the comments received from the independent panel of everybody present: "Nice and neat installation & easy to pull for emergency – very nice; Multiple radios, all actually installed like professional; Motorized mobile antenna, simple installation". Everyone's installation was a work of personal craftsmanship, and was done to meet the needs of the individual operator. The nicest thing was that everyone there got a chance to see how others solved the problems of mobile radio

installation and hopefully got some ideas for their own. The "nicest mobile installation", as voted by all present, was Jim, KC8PD! Jim received a second \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart – definitely the big winner for the 2012 Cruise In. A&W also gave us 4 root beer mugs that were given away by drawing.

Thank you to all who came out to participate, and for those of you who helped out. A special thanks to the A&W in Ravenna. Next time you're thinking about a "cold one" - stop in for a root beer float!



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 about 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](mailto:K3GP@portcars.org)



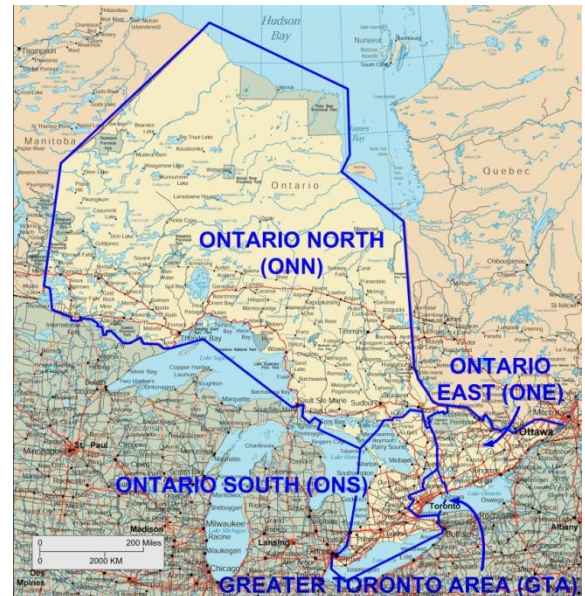
## RAC Announces New Ontario Section Boundaries, Abbreviations



In March 2012, the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced that it would split its Ontario Section into four new Sections "to create a management model that better communicates with, and represents the interests of, the overall Ontario amateur population." The new Section boundaries go into effect as of September 1, 2012.

On August 8, RAC Chief Field Services Officer Doug Mercer, VO1DTM/VO1DM, announced the new Section boundaries, names and abbreviations:

- **Ontario North (ONN):** All of Northwest Ontario, including Manitoulin Island, Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, Killarney, the cities of Greater Sudbury & North Bay & Nipissing District.
- **Ontario East (ONE):** Algonquin Park, Renfrew, Hastings, Prince Edward, Haliburton, Peterborough and Northumberland Counties, and the cities and counties to the east.
- **Greater Toronto Area (GTA):** The City of Toronto and the Regions of Halton (including the City of Burlington), Peel, York and Durham.
- **Ontario South (ONS):** Parry Sound District, the counties of Simcoe, Grey, Bruce, Dufferin, Wellington, the City of Hamilton, the Region of Niagara and the remainder of Southwestern Ontario.



"I am also thrilled to advise that all four Section Manager positions have been filled," Mercer said. "I will circulate a formal introduction in the weeks to come."

This new change will affect ARRL contests and Field Day. Details may be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/rac-announces-new-ontario-section-boundaries-abbreviations>.

According to Mercer, several vendors of logging and contest software have also announced changes, but some will not be effective until January 2013. He advises to verify with the vendor well in advance of the upcoming contests.

*From the ARRL*

**ARRL License Manuals**  
Now including Practice Exam Software

Only **\$30.00**  
Available from PCARS

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

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

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

Contact George, K3GP@portcars.org



## 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!



September	
6	WB2DFC
13	KB8UHN
20	N8RLG
27	K8IV

October	
4	KD8ICR
11	WB8LCD
18	open
25	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](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org). Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

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### August 23, 2012 – Net Night

A couple years ago, it was decided that the 4th Thursday of each month would be declared “Net Night” at the PCARS club site. Since we've got such a nice facility with operating stations, it was thought that we wanted it to be open to the membership as often as possible, and this was one more reason to have it available to you. Net Night will continue as the 4th Thursday each month and you are invited to come out to the club site, check into the PCARS net and/or the preceding EmComm net, and make use of the HF equipment. It's also been a time to hang out and catch up with other PCARS members. Typically open at about 6:30 PM until 10:00 PM – I'll hope to see you there!

On August 23, it just so happened to work out that it was the 350th consecutive PCARS net. Of that, 347 were regular Thursday night nets, and the other 3 were official PCARS nets that were run during the Technician Class the first three times it was conducted at Maplewood. In typical PCARS style, that called for a more festive gathering. Many PCARS members stopped out and checked in with NCS operator Parky, KB8UUZ. In addition to the normal pretzels, chips and beverages, pizza was added to the mix for all present. It was a fun night, and if you weren't there, we missed you!

The PCARS net is run every Thursday night at 8:00 PM (local). If you aren't a regular on the net, please consider making it a priority to check in. It's one of the best ways we have to keep up with each other as club members and let each other know what's going on. It'll also keep you up to date on other club and ham activities going on in the area. Once you make 10 consecutive check-ins, send me the dates, and if you're in the official net log you'll receive a PCARS Net Certificate, as always, suitable for framing.

Have you ever been a net control operator? You really should give it a try. Not only is it a lot of fun, but you'll be learning a valuable skill that could be called into play should amateur radio become a major communications player during an emergency when other modes are not working. You'll also get a better idea of who your other club members are, getting their names, call signs and locations all committed to memory. So, get those antennas up (Dave, Parky, Amy), check in a few weeks in a row so you'll get a general feeling for how the net flows, then sign up to be a net control operator!

Don't forget, the PCARS net also takes check-ins via Echolink. As you're out and about across the country, or around the world, check in to the PCARS net via Echolink. And remember, every 4th Thursday of the month – stop in for the net at the club site. Hope to hear you on the net,

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS Net Control Coordinator





## Ohio-Bar-B-QSO Party

The Ohio QSO Party, or better known in these parts as "The Ohio-Bar-B-Qso Party" was a great success !!!! Many showed up, many operated and many ate very well. A very special "PCARS Thank you" to Jim, KC8PD, for culinary expertise - we sure ate good ! A lot of prep and personal time investment by Jim made for a delightful afternoon !



Also a big thanks to those operating and making Qs. Our score was over 14,000 and will be detailed in a future publication. And, thanks to those who just came to visit. The social aspect of this event was amazing. All three rooms always had several people hangin' out chewin' the fat.

What we learn from these activities can ultimately lead to improvements for the club site and PCARS members. Should PCARS be needed for emergency and critical communications services, I am confident our club site would be the place to start. All stations worked well, covering all HF bands, with different antennas.

One area needing review and improvement is the ability to communicate "close in", 50 to 300 miles. The OQP is an event demonstrating the need to improve this part of the club site antenna compliment. Over the next several months an NVIS project should be undertaken. I, for one, am prepared to be part of that project. NVIS antennas are inexpensive to make and easy to install. Planning will take the most time.



Thank you again, one and all, for making this year's Ohio Bar-B-Qso Party a big success.

73,  
**Dave, WB2DFC**



## Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?

On the Ham Radio Help Group, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose. The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

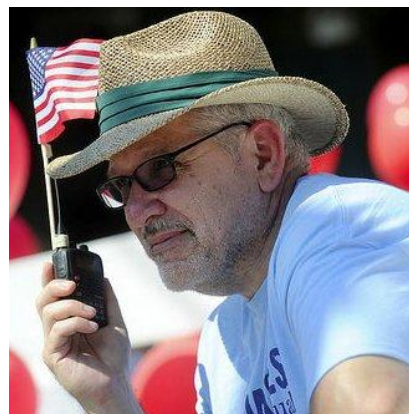
- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on EmComm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. EmComm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

What do you think?



*Dan, KB6NU*

When he's not pondering the place of emergency communications in amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



## ***Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted***

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

We have 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.

## Swap-N-Shop

**FOR SALE: Ten-Tec 715 RF speech processor**, like new with manual, **\$165** [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Byonics TinyTrak3Plus GPS tracker**, \$25 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Byonics HT2P cable** (connects tracker to Icom portable radio), with powerpoles, \$10 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Diamond D-130J** discone antenna, 25-1300MHz, never used outside, \$70 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: 28VDC, 14 A**, Glenayre rack-mount switching power supply, \$80 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: 28VDC, 27A PowerOne** switching power supply, \$45 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: West Mountain Radio PG40 PowerGate** (back-up battery switch & charger), \$45 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: West Mountain Radio RigBlaster Data Jack** Plug-n-Play, in original box, \$80 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: West Mountain Radio NOMIC** radio to soundcard interface, RB/NO/USB/C, new, \$45 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Hamstick antenna, 20m**, \$15 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Hamstick antenna, 40m**, \$15 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: LDG Z-11 ProII tuner**, 125W capacity, 6-160M, new in box, \$135 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: 6' steel cabinets** with 19" rails and 2 doors – deep type, \$50 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: 6' steel cabinets** with 19" rails and 2 doors – regular depth type, \$50 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Telewave PS-4502** power splitter, 400-512MHz, new, Tessco #65228, \$65 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Diamond D-130J** discone antenna, 25-1300MHz, never used outside, \$75 [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Decibel Products DB8802BA-100** remote metering power meter and alarm, with factory seals, 406-1000MHz, \$70  
**FOR SALE: 1-1/4" transmission line**, 250' or more, used in good condition, with two "N" connectors, \$225 [12/02/12]

Contact Rick - [K8GI@portcars.org](mailto:K8GI@portcars.org)

**FOR SALE: Used Leviton 430C12W** 125/250 Volt 30 Ampere watertight pin and sleeve connector in excellent condition \$80.00  
**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 \$30.00 ea. (12 Available) [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B jumpers** with N-male & DIN-male connectors \$20.00 each. . (12 Available) [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: New In Box GE Contactors** [12/02/12]  
**GE CL01A400TJ** Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600 V, 120 Volt Coil \$25.00 (2 Available) [12/02/12]  
**GE CL01D310TD** Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600V, 24 Volt Coil \$30.00 (2 Available) [12/02/12]  
**GE CL25A300T** Contactor 4 poles rated 32 A @ 600 V, 120 Volt Coil \$35.00 (2 Available) [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: Bolt on Auxiliary Contact Set** for any of the above contactors with 1-N.O. & 1-N.C. Set of contacts \$2.00 each [12/02/12]  
**FOR SALE: 1/4" Plate Glass** for desk or table top, Great for radio bench measures 42" x 68" cost \$152.00 Asking \$80.00  
**FOR SALE: Ferraz-Shawmut ULTRASAFE® Fuse Holders** DIN Rail Mount, Blown Fuse Indicator \$1.00 each (10 Available)  
**FOR SALE: LINKSYS by Cisco EtherFast®** 10/100 5 port work group switch \$10.00  
**FOR SALE: Station Ground Bars** military surplus MADE IN U.S.A. by COLE HERSEE of Boston, MA. \$8.00 ea. (Less than 30 out of the original 60 remaining)  
**FOR SALE: Heliex connectors.** Contact me with your needs.

Contact James - [KD8VT@portcars.org](mailto:KD8VT@portcars.org) or call 330-206-4909

**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](mailto:K8CAV@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 [10/02/12]

Contact Tom - [KB8UUZ@portcars.org](mailto:KB8UUZ@portcars.org)

**Editor's Note:** Ads for PCARS members run for 3 months then are dropped from the listing UNLESS you send it in again. Each ad will have an expiration date that looks like: [10/02/12] This will help keep the listings current.



**PCARS**  
**Join Now**  
Discover the FUN





## EmComm

This issue of the newsletter comes out on the first of the month, and not just the first of any month, but the first of September which happens to be National Preparedness Month. More on that in a moment.

I want to use this column to suggest that you pick the first of every month as the day that you use to take care of the simple and basic task of making sure that all of your radios and battery packs are fully charged. It will take a few months for it to become a habit, but before you know it you will be doing it without giving it a thought.

Consider how easy this chore can be, yet how many benefits can result from it, including having fully charged batteries. Depending on the type of battery or your personal practice, you may want to leave the radio on for a day or so to discharge the battery. Then dig out the charger, plug or drop the radio in, and charge it following the manufacturer's recommendations. If you have spare battery packs, swap each one in and out of the radio for charging.

Spend some time fiddling with the radio and practice changing settings and programming it. Attach external mics and headsets and check their operation. When the battery pack is fully charged, verify its voltage. Check batteries for damage or malfunction when they are charging. They don't last forever.

If you have any other rechargeable batteries, from AA's to deep cycle twelve volt, charge all of them. If you do this on the first of each month you will never stand there scratching your head wondering when was the last time you charged them. It will always have been the first day of the past month.

More importantly, if you set aside the time to take of this basic yet important task it is likely that while you are doing it the thought will occur to you "Hey, what about the other emergency preparedness stuff I should be checking on and maintaining on a regular basis?"



If you need some help figuring out what those things might be, take a look at FEMA's <http://www.ready.gov> web site.

From brochures to checklists,

whether for families or businesses, you will find a ton of helpful

information. You can also find more information at <http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/NPM/index.stm> which is the ReadyOhio web site.



Check those sites out and get to work on making things safer for you and your family by being better prepared. And now that you are finished reading this column, it's the first of the month, start charging those batteries!

73,

**Jim, KC8PD/AAM5EOH**

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

**EC, ARES® of Portage County**

**Emergency Operations Officer, Ohio Army MARS**

## *Some Words from Weaver*

### **K4ZLE Retires as QSL Bureau Manager - N8DX Appointed**

As some members are aware, Jay Slough, K4ZLE, has retired as Manager of the 8th Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau after nine years of dedicated service. John (Jack) Shirley, N8DX of West Chester, OH has accepted appointment as Manager. With the excellent support of a fine crew of QSL Letter Sorters, Jay has guided the 8th Area bureau to an unsurpassed level of efficiency and service to DXers.

Thanks, Jay for your long service to 8-call DXers. Thanks, too, to Jack for being willing to take on the responsibility of managership.

The best thing anyone who works DX can do to assist the operations of the incoming DX Bureau is to put him/herself on file with the Bureau. The next best thing to do is to become informed on its operations. A discussion of the operation of the 8th Call Area Bureau and a listing of QSL Letter Sorters is at [http://arrrl-greatlakes.org/8th\\_bureau.htm](http://arrrl-greatlakes.org/8th_bureau.htm). Discussion of the Incoming QSL Bureau is available at <http://www.arrrl.org/incoming-qsl-service>.

### **CQ's WPX Award now Available through LoTW**

CQ Magazine's Worked All Prefixes Award (WPX) is now available through ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW). Integration of WPX with Logbook was completed July 2. This is the first of several CQ-sponsored awards that will become available through LoTW during coming months. ARRL announced that more than 51,000 amateurs worldwide use Logbook of The World. There are nearly 432 million QSOs in LoTW at this time. For more information on WPX and LoTW go to <http://www.arrrl.org/news/arrrl-launches-logbook-of-the-world-wpx-award-integration>.

### **Ohio State Parks On The Air**

The Ohio QSO Party is over and its time to think about another fund, operating activity that is centered in the Great Lakes Division (GLD). This is the Ohio State Parks On the Air (OSPOTA) contest. This contest will be held on Saturday, September 8 during the 8-hour period of 1600z-2400z. It is open to all amateurs. Worth Repeating Regarding Antenna Structures.

This will be the fifth year for OSPOTA. It is sponsored by the Portage County (Ohio) ARS (PCARS). Although PCARS developed the state parks contest, they have been copied by other clubs in the US. The fun in working state parks in this contest has truly been recognized. Full information on OSPOTA can be found at <http://parks.portcars.org>.

### **Spurs**

The amount of the grant awarded the Mogadore schools was \$1,400, not \$14,000 as was stated in last month's newsletter. I apparently had an itchy "zero" finger.

### **My Nickels Worth**

The past few months have seen me encouraging hamfest/swap committees and DXCC Field Checkers to get together and offer QSL card checking at local hamfests. Several hamfest already do this, but coverage of the three Sections in this Division should be better than it is.

I've stated that field checking using the new online DXCC submission system will provide clear benefits to all ARRL members -- even those who do not chase DX. It is no secret that one of the most labor-intensive tasks

performed at HQ is the manual entry of QSL cards into the HQ file system. It is this file system that is the basis for determining if an amateur has completed the requirements for DXCC and other on-air awards. It is because of the need to enter each QSL into the system by hand that we have long experienced rather substantial backlogs and delays in processing QSL submissions during the months before and after the end of each year. In an effort to clear this backlog, substantial numbers of hours of overtime are devoted each year. In other words, under the QSL entry system as it existed, many members became quite displeased over the significant waits to have their QSL submissions processed. HQ's effort to increase the processing speed of the backlog has involved substantial extra cost.

By using the new online DXCC application system, manual entry of QSL information by HQ staff is avoided -- thereby, reducing the amount of time required by HQ staff to process a DXCC application. Entering QSL data is done directly by the DXer who takes his QSLs and a print-out of his entry to a Field Checker instead of mailing them to HQ. The Field Checker ensures that data on the printout is consistent with the information on the QSLs the DXer presents to him. The approved printout is then sent to HQ where a comparison of the printout with the online file submitted by the DXer is performed and the Q's entered are eligible for credit. Provided the file and the data on the printout agree, the requested award is issued -- all with greatly less time and effort than is required of HQ staff to type in QSL info.

As footnote to this discussion, be aware that to become a Card Checker, one agrees to check cards at a minimum of one hamfest/convention each year. Of course, it would be illogical to expect a Checker to be available to go to any hamfest regardless of its location and the date on which it will be held. Nonetheless, we have enough Card Checkers strategically located throughout the Division to make it practical to have Card Checkers visit suitably-sized hamfests/swaps in every region of Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.

Appearing at a hamfest; however, is not all that is needed to make the online DXCC QSL entry program the huge success it can be. The hamfest committee needs to schedule the checker early enough so that his appearance can be promoted along with promotion of the hamfest. And . . . be sure to indicate "Q" on the application to have your hamfest sanctioned by ARRL, or send me an e-mail letting me know you will have a Card Checker present. I'll indicate QSL CHECKING when I list your hamfest in my Words.

A list of Card Checkers is available at [www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search](http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search).

The Board and HQ have made it possible for hamfest/swap committees and Card Checkers to work together in a much more effective manner to save effort, time and cost while improving service to members. Several hamfests are already taking advantage of this new manner of operation. Will other committees step up to extend the savings?

### **New Information on DXCC Card Checkers**

I am pleased to say that rules for appointing DX Card Checkers were modified at the July meeting of the Program & Services Committee (PSC) of the ARRL Board of Directors. The modification increased the number of Checkers a director can appoint. This means that I am able to appoint two additional Checkers in the Great Lakes Division. The purpose of the rule change is to increase the convenience to members of having QSL cards checked for ARRL awards. It also can ensure adequate coverage of divisions in meeting the objectives of the new, online DXCC QSL entry program. This program benefits members by making it easier to have cards checked and by decreasing the effort (i.e. the amount of person-time) required of staff to process DXCC applications.





To date, I have appointed one new Checker to cover the northeast part of Ohio. The appointment is being processed at HQ and should become effective soon. The second of my new appointments is under discussion.

The prime objective in increasing the number of Card Checkers is to make it more practical for hamfest committees to schedule (and promote) the attendance of a Checker. Publicized attendance of a Card Checker at a hamfest makes it easier for people to submit QSLs for operating awards. Using the online entry program reduces the effort required by HQ staff to process awards applications. When fully utilized, online entry can reduce the expense of overtime required to manage the annual, frustrating, end-of-year backlog of submissions.

***Jim Weaver, K8JE***  
Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division



### ***ITU Assigns New Prefix for Niue: E6A-E6Z***



On August 3, the ITU updated its Table of International Call Sign Series to reflect a call sign change for Niue. The island will now have the entire E6 prefix block. Niue -- an island approximately 1500 miles northeast of



New Zealand -- is a self-governing island nation that has been in free association with New Zealand since 1974. Prior to the change, the island used

ZK2. According to the CIA World Factbook, Niue is about 1.5 times the size of Washington, DC, and has a population of almost 1300 people.

***From the ARRL***



### ***Vanity Call Sign Fee to Increase September 4***

On August 3, the FCC announced via a Final Rule in the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 80 cents, from \$14.20 to \$15. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 4, 2012, the first day the new fee is in effect. Earlier this year, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM), seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal six years ago.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. According to the FCC, the fees that are collected from vanity call signs are used to offset the cost of monitoring and researching new call sign requests to prevent the issuance of duplicate call signs. When asked why the fee is payable upon renewal, the FCC stated in 2011 that "[m]ore than likely, fees that are collected only on new issues and at the time of changes in call signs will not generate sufficient revenues to offset the cost of managing and monitoring this work at the Commission, the FCC stated

in 2011. Therefore, we conclude that the basis upon which the Commission collects fees on Amateur Radio Vanity call signs will not change."

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 16 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In Fiscal Year 2012, the FCC expects to grant 14,300 vanity call signs, bringing in \$214,500 from the vanity call sign program, and looks to recover a total of \$339,844,000 in fees from all the Services that it regulates.

*From the ARRL*

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## Public Service Events

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:

- \* **Mantua Potato Stomp** – September 8th, Jim, KC8PD
- \* **Balloon-a-Fair Chase**, 10 Mile Run – September 15th, Sandy, KD8JCY
- \* **Akron Roadrunner Marathon** – September 29th, Dennis, AI8P
- \* **Got Bike?**, Ravenna Parks and Recreation – October 7th, Jim, KC8PD or Mike, KD8FLZ

Please contact me if you need any 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.

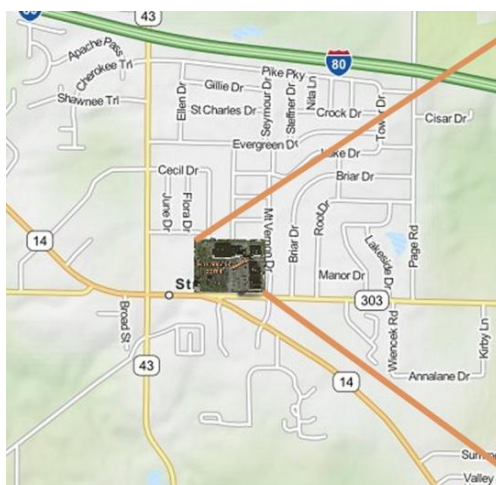
*Jim, KC8PD*

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## PCARS Meetings

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

**Stringz & Wingz, -**  
**1543 SR 303**  
**Streetsboro, OH 44241**  
[www.stringzwingz.com](http://www.stringzwingz.com)



**PCARS meeting - 7:00 pm Second Monday of Every Month**

Meetings are held at Stringz & Wingz January through November. The December meeting is the PCARS Christmas Party and is usually at another location.



## Nick Pittner, K8NAP Receives the Allan Severson Memorial Award

His quiet work in the Ohio Statehouse the past several years gave the Amateur Radio operators in the Ohio Section a new set of legislative tools focused on antennas. For that work, ARRL State Government Liaison Nick Pittner, K8NAP of Plain City was made the Nineteenth recipient of the Allan Severson Memorial Award. The award was presented to Nick at the ARRL Ohio State Convention, held at the Columbus Hamfest on August 11th.



The Allan Severson Memorial Award is bestowed on an amateur radio operator in the Ohio Section who has demonstrated a continuing dedication to the advancement of amateur radio and to the Ohio Section. Usually one Ohio Section member is awarded per year and usually at the Ohio Section Conference in September.

The award had been established in 1992 and was named "Ohio Ham of the Year" until 1999. That year it was renamed after Allen, of Lakewood, Ohio, who had become a silent key in 1997. The award winners listed here are all hams who, like Allan Severson, have dedicated themselves to the advancement of the American Radio Relay League in Ohio. Although Allan had served the Section as Section Manager and went on to a distinguished career as Great Lakes Division Director on the ARRL National Board of Directors, the annual award announcement only mentions one sentence about him which is part of every memorial award certificate. That sentence quickly demonstrates the reason for the renaming of this award. "Allan's devotion to serve amateur radio inspired a whole generation of Ohio Section leadership."

73!

**Frank Piper, KI8GW**  
ARRL Ohio Section Manager



## Ohio ARES® Notes

The ARRL Ohio State Convention is in the history books. Section Manager Frank Piper, KI8GW just sent out a nice recap of convention. From my perspective, if you did not make it to the ARRL Ohio State Convention last Saturday, you missed out. It was a pleasure to listen to the ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN in the ARRL Forum. Truth be told, I was thinking, "Great, another speech". But it ended up being interesting and she got a few laughs out of us. A hearty congrats to Nick Pittner, K8NAP for winning this year's Allan Severson Memorial Award, for his 5-year mission to make PRB-1 for Ohio a reality! Being from Painesville (Lake County), it sure was nice to hear Northeast Ohio swept the Ohio Section Newsletter Contest! Congratulations to the Portage County Amateur Radio Service for winning 1st place in the newsletter contest. Congrats to the Massillon ARC for 2nd place & the Alliance ARC for 3rd place. The Fldigi/NBEMS forum was packed! I counted over 50 people. Many thanks to Harry, W3YJ for making the trek from Pittsburgh to educate us on the wonderful world of Fldigi/NBEMS. If you missed Harry's presentation, it's available for download from [www.wpaares.org](http://www.wpaares.org).



The ARES® logo, "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" and "ARES" are registered service marks of the American Radio Relay League, and are used with permission.



It's no secret we've been talking about a Statewide Digital HF Net since the ARES® Leadership Conference back in March. So I am sure some of you are thinking why does it take six months to get a net operational? Most of you know me by now, but my philosophy is we either do it right or we



don't do it all. I am not interested in just slapping something together and hoping for the best. From here on out, we'll always be training and exercising with Fldigi/NBEMS but I can say we're getting ready to exit the training phase of the plan and move into the operational phase. The major piece of this puzzle was to recruit a net manager. It is my pleasure to announce Official Emergency Station and Preble County AEC Gary Hollenbaugh, NJ8BB as the Net Manager for the Statewide Digital HF Net. Gary has been given the "green light" to develop and implement this project as he deems fit. Some of you may recognize Gary's name, as he was the Dayton Hamvention® Ecomm Display Coordinator. Many thanks to Gary for accepting this awesome opportunity to make a difference in the Ohio Section.

We're getting there, ladies and gentlemen. We now have a net manager who will be recruiting volunteers, working on the net script, net schedule, and net control rotation. But as I have said many times before, this is all meaningless without you. This net will truly be for all volunteers to practice their skills and put their equipment on the air. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Ohio ARES® District 5 is sponsoring an Introduction to Emergency Communication (EC-001) class every Saturday beginning October 20th, 2012 through November 10th. The class will be held at ITT Technical Institute - 1030 N. Meridian Rd. in Youngstown. For more details, visit <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/EC-001Flyer-n.pdf> to download the EC-001 Class announcement. This class is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Be advised, FEMA courses IS-100 and IS-700 are prerequisites to take the class. Be sure to bring copies of the completion certificates and/or transcript with you.

It is with distinct pleasure that I announce the appointment of Lynn Lovell, W8MLL, of Marion, Oh, to the position of District Emergency Coordinator for Dist 6. Lynn is taking over for long time DEC Jay Bookwalter, KC8GNL. I thank Jay very much for all his years of service. Lynn was first licensed in 1962 while attending OSU. He has been the Emergency Coordinator for Marion County for four years. Lynn is an active member of the Marion AARC. He currently holds a General Class license. He really enjoys QRP/CW and building amateur radio equipment. Please join me in welcoming him to the DEC position.

73,

**Matt Welch, W8DEC**  
Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator



### ***Words from the Ohio Section Public Information Coordinator***

I wish could have attended the Ohio State Convention last week in Columbus. From what I have heard and read it was something.

Congratulations to the winners of the Newsletter Competition. First Place went to The Radiogram (PCARS), second place went to Feedback (Massillon) and third place went to Zero Beat (Alliance).

I have been watching the newsletters this year and have been impressed by the quality of the layout and articles. For your information, I recruited this year's judges from where I work, The Vindicator, in Youngstown. Each in their own way contributed to the judging by their own expertise in what they did here at The Vindy. The judges were very impressed with the entries. One judge said at first she was a little intimidated by the technical content, but as she read on "it was quite interesting". Another judge said how impressed he was with the layout and the use of pictures graphs and colors. The third judge commented on how most of the newsletters have embraced the electronic modes rather than print.



All in all of the entrants should be proud of your newsletters. You are all doing your readers and amateur radio a service. We all should remember that many more people than members of our clubs read these publications.

In conclusion, please thank the people in your clubs that contribute articles and put these publications together, as they do a lot in helping the image of Amateur Radio to our own members and the public.

Finally, thanks to Section Manager, Frank Piper, KI8GW, and Assistant Section Manager, Scott Yonally, N8SY for your help, and thank you to all the entrants for your professionalism.

73,

**Jack Sovik, KB8WPZ**

**Ohio Section Public Information Coordinator**

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## ***The Rag Chewers' Club***

The Rag Chewers' Club award is now being offered through the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) organization.

For those new to amateur radio, this award is a welcome to the world of amateur radio and is very easy to obtain. The rules are simple. All you need to do is to have a conversation (QSO) on the air in any mode (ie SSB, FM, Digital, CW) with another amateur radio operator for thirty (30) minutes or more.

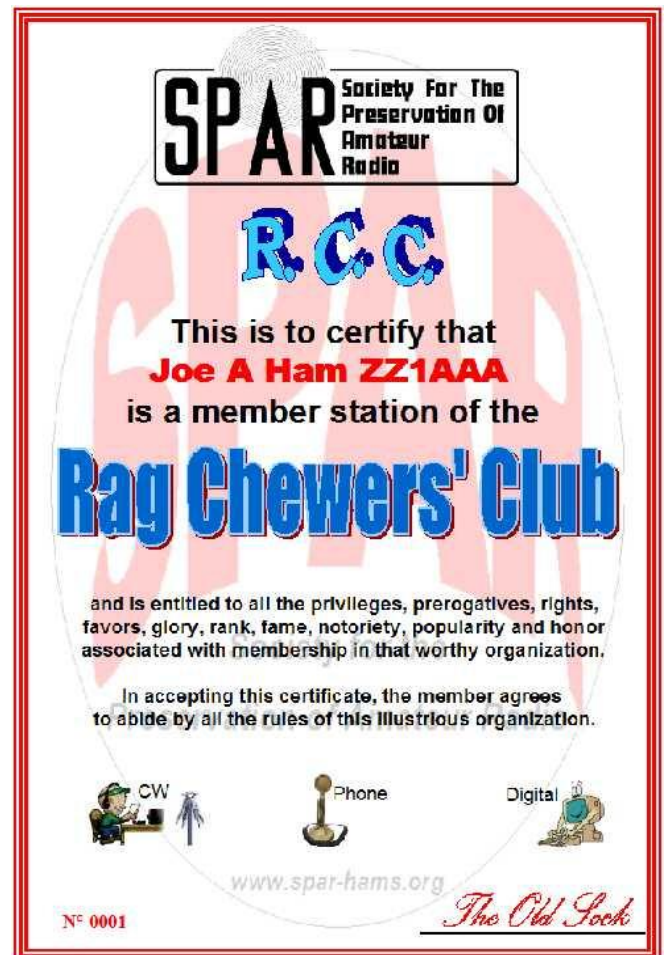
The next step would be to go to the SPAR website and submit your information (<http://www.spar-hams.org/index.php?pg=11>).

On the website you will find a link that will take you to where you will submit the specific information about your conversation (<http://www.spar-hams.org/awards/spar-rcc-app.html>).

After submitting your information you will receive, via email, your certificate suitable for printing and framing. This process may take a few days depending on how many people have applied at the time.

That's it! Pretty easy isn't it? The link to the SPAR site can be found at the bottom of this page. Along with a link to the SPAR RCC rules.

Welcome to amateur radio, and I hope to 'chew the rag' with you one day.



## What If ????????

It was a dark and stormy night, no wait, it was a hurricane, no wait, it was a tornado, no wait.....

I'm on a trip to some remote camping area and of course, no power, no running water, and outhouses for yur-all comfort. There are areas where marginal cell phone signals are available and your cell phone, and you, would benefit from a fully charged battery. So when needed, you hike up to "cell phone hill" and call home to let the boss, er, XYL, know ur OK.... and her special recipe muffins were great! (all the guys really did like them)(probably the only "home-cooked-like" food we would eat for days).

So my thinking began that way... what would I need to really be able to maintain my cell phone battery for several days. A little research resulted in the latest USB style cell phone battery charger technology.... only the charge capability comes from a Hi-Cap L'ion battery. Wow, a hi capacity battery, with USB connections, for my cell phone, and maybe my MP3 player, and maybe one of those new LED USB rechargeable flashlights and my new TYT vhf/uhf portable (has a USB charging connector)" ..... awww, this is really cool! And.... I can recharge the recharger..... genius, I tell you!



So for about \$50 bucks and free shipping from the other side of the pond..... and I have the neatest cell phone battery charger accessory ever.... Let's see, 7200 mah, all styles of USB to "what ever kind of connector you need" adapters, maybe a small case to keep it all together, and off we go ! And as a bonus, a built in LED light!

So I played with the thing over the next several weeks and found the device would charge my cell phone about four times, charge my MP3 player 4 or 5 times and my wife's cell phone few times, then it would be ready for a recharge. The device, a CarBose, model CBS-702, comes with a USB cable, several

styles of mini, micro, and other adapters, an A/C wall wart type charger, and instructions. The main unit has a blue and red LED status indicator showing a relative amount of capacity remaining, a nice gauge to determine just how much "juice" is left inside.

So the XYL and I are packing for our big motorcycle trip..... let's see, underwear, socks, motorcycle t-shirts, blood pressure medicine, toothbrush, biker fuel (flask) and all of the stuff you normally need on a motorcycle vacation. Before leaving I grab the **CarBose** USB charger thinking "we could get stranded in the Rocky Mountains, I would have to build a shelter, provide food using my multi tool, build a signal fire, etc", then reality sets in, the XYL won't be able to send and receive text messages because her cell phone is dead.... so I got this charger, and I say "Honey, plug in ur phone and eat some of this here porcupine I cooked fer ya". Ah, the hero once again....

Really.... we had started home and some where around Hays, Kansas we decided we had enough of the 102 F temps and found a nice little motel with a gas station/beer store right there. I went to the gas station and returned with a selection of cold beverages..... put them in an improvised cooler (plastic hotel garbage can with ice) and proceeded to open and enjoy the first cocktail hour





toast of the day. No sooner had the bottles clinked in the toast and the power went out !!!! and miserable hot to boot !

Using my smart phone I checked the area power company's power status web page (Kansas Power and Light). I was happy I had this modern telecommunications device to be able to really see what was happening in the outside world, then the battery died. Well, I guess you can imagine the rest of the story.... yes the CarBose charger came to the rescue... and worked great, charging the cell phone battery and letting me use the phone at the same time.

So the moral of the story is.....a lot of cool toys can really be a great asset in the time of need. You must plan to have the items with you, you must know how to use them... and know their limitations, and you must share. All that stuff I wrote above is just to tell you.... there are some really great ways to be prepared to react to a situation.... especially with something as vital as your cell phone ! I have included a couple of links below should you want to learn more about the **CarBose CBS-702** I have. There are many other brands and styles available, though ebay and other outlets. You will need to choose what size is best and what options you like and need.

73,

*Dave, WB2DFC*



## On-Line DXCC



- Online DXCC provides an alternative to filling out and submitting the paper [DXCC Application Form and Record Sheet](#) by hand. You can use this system to apply for a new [DXCC award](#) or endorsement. Submitting your DXCC application using Online DXCC is easier than making a paper application. It will also save you time and money.
- Advantages of submitting your DXCC application using Online DXCC include:
  - You'll pay *significantly lower* [award fees](#) when you submit your DXCC application through Online DXCC. In particular, the Application fee and the Extra QSO fee for Online DXCC are half those of a traditional paper application.
  - Making your DXCC submission with Online DXCC is more accurate than a paper application that you fill out by hand because typographical errors are eliminated (except for the callsign). There will be no data entry errors at ARRL HQ because the contents of your Online DXCC application are being transmitted directly to the DXCC system at HQ.
  - Making your DXCC submission using Online DXCC speeds up the processing of your application because the information on the *DXCC Award Application* and *DXCC Record Sheet* do not have to be manually entered into the DXCC system by ARRL HQ staff. And the more applicants who use this system, the smaller the backlog of applications and the faster the turnaround will be for all DXCC program participants.
- The system saves the QSL card and application information that you enter for future access. You may enter information from your QSLs as you receive them, and then submit your cards for

- checking when you are ready to apply for a [DXCC award](#) or endorsement.
- Your QSL cards still need to be checked, either by a [DXCC Card Checker](#) or sent to [ARRL HQ](#) for checking.
  - Any radio amateur in the world, ARRL member or non-member, may use this system. If you are applying for a [DXCC award](#):
    - with a U.S. call sign — you must be an ARRL member. If you are not yet a member, you can [create an Online DXCC account](#), begin entering your QSL card information right now and then [join the ARRL](#) when you are ready to submit your application.
    - with an overseas portable U.S. call sign (like TF/NN1N) — you must be an ARRL member.
    - with a non-U.S. call sign — you do not need to be a member of ARRL.

## Online DXCC FAQ

Read the answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) about Online DXCC

## About the ARRL

Founded in 1914, the ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. Today, with more than 158,000 members, the ARRL is the largest organization of radio amateurs in the world. Our mission statement is to promote and advance the art, science and enjoyment of Amateur Radio. Learn more about Amateur Radio and the ARRL [here](#).

Not an ARRL member? [Join or Renew](#) your Membership

## About the DX Century Club (DXCC) Award

DXCC is Amateur Radio's premier operating award that hams can achieve by confirming on the air contacts with 100 countries (entities). You can begin with the basic DXCC award and work your way up to the DXCC Honor Roll. To learn more about the DXCC Award:

- [DXCC Award Program](#)
- [DXCC Rules](#)
- [DXCC Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Field Checking Information](#)
- [ARRL Operating Awards](#)

## About Logbook of the World (LoTW)

Logbook of The World (LoTW), is an exciting way for Radio Amateurs to confirm two-way contacts they have made and use the confirmations as credit toward various awards including DXCC, WAS and VUCC.

Because Logbook of The World uses double blind comparison, users cannot see what other users have uploaded unless there is a matched QSO. All files uploaded to LoTW are electronically signed by verified users. Logbook of The World maintains the integrity of the QSO verification process that has long been the hallmark of ARRL awards. [Learn more about Logbook of the World and DXCC](#).

If you are not a LoTW user, [start here to learn about enrolling in the program](#).



**ARRL** The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO®

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Phone: 860.594.0234  
Fax: 860.594.0346  
Web site: [arrl.org/diamond-dxcc](http://arrl.org/diamond-dxcc)



## *Hams to Put Nine Azorean Islands On the Air in One Weekend*

Stretching over a distance of 305 miles from east to west, the nine populated islands of the Azores count for a single DXCC entity and three IOTA groupings. A group of radio amateurs from eight countries and the Azores will be putting these islands on the air September 28-30 for the [Azores 9 Islands Hunt](#), offering an opportunity for the world to contact these nine islands during one single weekend.



Throughout the world Amateur Radio has played an important role in providing communications during disasters and emergencies for more than 100 years. The team gathering in the Azores for the Azores 9 Islands Hunt will also be promoting the role of Amateur Radio disaster communications. While the Azores enjoy year-round nice weather, the islands are not immune to natural disasters. The Azores are situated on three of the largest tectonic plates, making the islands susceptible to powerful earthquakes. In recent years, heavy rains have created mudslides severely impacting the infrastructure and resulting in evacuations.

This 24-hour operating event is scheduled for Saturday, September 29 at 1200 UTC to September 30 at 1200 UTC. According to organizers, the stations will be active starting Friday, September 28 as soon as they become operational. The stations plan to be operating 40, 20 and 17 meters on CW and SSB as follows:

- CW: 7.000-7.015 MHz; 18.080-18.090 MHz; 14.050-14.065 MHz
- SSB: 7.175-7.195 MHz; 18.120-18.135 MHz; 14.250-14.275 MHz

The following islands and stations will be on the air:

- Santa Maria: CU1ARM    San Miguel: CU2ARA    Terceira: CU3URA    Graciosa: CU4ARG
- Sao Jorge: CU5AM    Pico: CU6GRP    Faial: CU7CRA    Flores: CU8ARF    Corvo: CU9AC

All QSOs will be confirmed with special full-color cards through via the bureau network. Direct QSL requests should be made via Jose Melo, CU2CE. Prizes will also be awarded. Please visit the Azores 9 Island Hunt [website](#) for more details.

### **The Azores Islands Hunt Lottery**

Those making a QSO with at least 5 different islands will have a corresponding number of tickets placed into a lottery for a free trip to the Azores. For example, if you have QSOs with 7 islands you will get 7 lottery tickets. Additionally, the first 25 operators that make QSOs with all 9 islands will be eligible for a second lottery draw. QSOs qualifying for the the Azores Islands Hunt must take place between these times:

- **Start:** 29-September-2012 1200Z    **Finish:** 30-September-2012 1200Z

Each island counts only once.

The two winning tickets will be drawn on October 15, 2012 and the winners will be announced both on <http://azores-islands-hunt.com> and <http://www.visitazores.com>. The free trips are from the closest airport served by SATA; the package includes the flights, accommodation and transfers within the Azores.

A special log search tool powered by Club Log will be available either during or immediately after the weekend via our web site.

The project is organized by the Azores-Finland Friendship Consortium in partnership with the Amateur Radio Associations of the Azores Islands and supported by the Azores Promotion Agency (ATA) and Azorean Airlines (SATA). For more information see [www.visitazores.com](http://www.visitazores.com)



*In association with VisitAzores.com*



## *N8XTH on Vacation - Always a Ham*

The girlfriend and I spent part of the weekend in Monterey, CA getting some much needed R&R. I was having fun playing photographer getting shots of the coast, waves, etc. Got a few nice photos of the coastline when something else caught my eye... Zoomed in a bit... A bit more....



What is that I see? A SteppIR placed perfectly for some good saltwater enhanced DX. Well, and a mildly annoyed/bored YL to my right considering people go whale watching near where we were standing and I was more

worried about a well placed antenna farm....



Of course, I had to take a walk up the street to check out this QTH. She humored me there, at least and tagged along with me. She even said it's ok if I have an antenna that big and a tower so long as I never paint a house that horrid color... hihi.

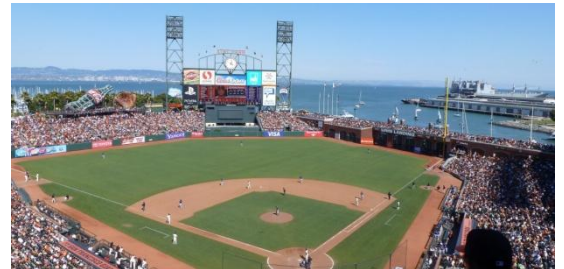
Here, come to find out it belongs to CQ Hall of Famer, K6MD. <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/bio-show?call=k6md>



What a location for some nice DXing.

Honestly, this is terrible to admit, I don't have any pictures of me and Sarah from there.....we realized it as we were getting to the airport. Sort of crazy how many houses you see out there with antenna farms.....I

stopped counting after 20... As far as other things to see: Lets see, beach in Monterrey, SF Giants game, a foggy attempt at the Golden Gate Bridge...



*Deron, N8XTH*



## Antenna Cabling at Club Site

You may have noticed an upgrade in process at the club site radio room. There has been an ongoing project to upgrade the antenna lines to the HF stations, and make it easier to change which antenna each station is operating on.

This is accomplished by the antenna lines all coming down to the gray break-out box mounted on the wall at the far end of the radio room near the electrical panel. Inside the box, are three lines with connectors for each of the three antennas. Ultimately, each station will have a coded coax line entering the breakout box at the bottom. Each of those lines can be manually switched via the coax connectors to connect any radio with any antenna. We still need to cut and route the coax under the upper shelf to each station, but that should be accomplished soon.

In the process, each antenna line was cut where it enters the building, Ed, K8IV installed Polyphaser coaxial lightning protectors via the same grounding plate that the commercial equipment is grounded to. In the future, we'll be checking those grounds to make sure that they are all still active after having been there the past 20/30/50 years....



A short jumper will be provided so that the tri-plexer can be connected to the beam antenna and then multiple radios run off it at the same time on 10, 15 and 20 meters. This should get it's first serious workout during the October CA QSO party operation.

**Tom, WB8LCD**



## Thanks & 73

As you read earlier in the newsletter, PCARS won **FIRST** place in the ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. This award goes to all of you that have contributed material for our newsletter. As was always said by the officers (past and present) "We want to have FUN with Amateur Radio" and that has paid off. This newsletter reflects all that fun. 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, W8PT, N8RLG, W8KNO, WB8VNO, WB2DFC, KB6NU, KC8PD, K8JE, KI8GW, W8DEC, KB8WPZ, N8XTH, the ARRL and the World-Wide Web.**

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

**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor



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## Pictures from the Ohio B-B-Qso Party





The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**  
announces the 5th annual

## Ohio State Parks On The Air



### Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 8, 2012, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **75** Ohio State Parks  
Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park  
and have some  
Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!



**Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?**

Check out **all** the details at: <http://parks.portcars.org>

While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)

12 April 2012



# - Amateur Radio Instruction Class -

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

will be offering an Amateur Radio **Technician** course

that will enable *you* to obtain

your FCC **Technician** license as an

## **AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR**



**When:** Tuesday evening 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Starting **September 18, 2012** for eight weeks  
Official Amateur Radio License testing will be held  
at the end of the course

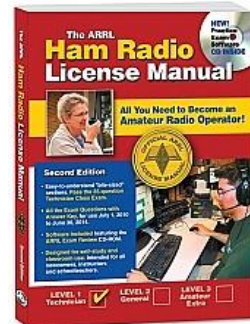
**Where:** At the **PCARS Club Site**  
Radio Room located in the  
Dietrich Building  
705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

**Registration:** First night of class

**Cost:** \$25.00 Registration fee - which also provides  
the attendee a One-Year Membership in PCARS  
\$30 Text – “Ham Radio License Manual”  
(text may be purchased first night of class)



**Information:** Contact Tom Sly, WB8LCD:  
by e-mail at: [WB8LCD@portcars.org](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org)  
or phone at: 330-626-1901



As a licensed **Amateur Radio Operator** you will be able to

- **Contact other ham radio operators in the area and around the world**
- **Serve your community – ham radio operators are the critical communication link during disasters and emergencies**
- **Participate in a fascinating and rewarding hobby**

For more information about PCARS, go to [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org) , or contact

Tom Sly - WB8LCD, at [WB8LCD@portcars.org](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org), or by phone at **330-626-1901**



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

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM  
at Stringz & Wingz, - 1543 SR 303 Streetsboro, OH 44241

[www.stringzwingz.com](http://www.stringzwingz.com)

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



## "When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

PCARS uses the K8IV Repeater: 146.895 MHz PL 110.9 ~ Rootstown, Oh or PL 114.8 ~ Kent, Oh ~ EchoLink Node: K8SRR

PCARS thanks K8IV 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	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
Field Day	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
F.Y.A.O.	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL 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



PCARS  
VE Team

KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
KB8DPN	Russ Anderson
N4IT	Carl Capps
WB8LCD	Tom Sly
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8IV	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
NR8W	Russ Williams
KD8RJV	Jim Corbett
W8EZT	Frank Thomas



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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](mailto: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  
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NLC

