



~ 2013 Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD  
 Vice President - Bill Fraedrich - WB9LBI  
 Treasurer - George Proudfoot - K3GP  
 3 Year Trustee - Erica Pelz - AE8YL  
 2 Year Trustee - Bob Hajdak - N8QE  
 1 Year Trustee - Sandra Getty - KD8JCY

~ Meetings & Net ~

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
 each month. 7pm  
 Thursday night  
 Club Net 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**

Undoubtedly, one of the most successful marketing pieces ever presented to the public is the slogan presented by Smokey the Bear: "Only you can prevent forest fires". That campaign was created in 1947, and is still in use today. According to the Ad Council, Smokey the Bear and his message are recognized by 95% of adults, and 77% of children in the United States. Those are amazing numbers!

It's also a truly amazing message. A message that to be effective not only needs to be recognized by such a large percentage of the population, but they need to believe in it and act upon it. That's the key – individual and personal responsibility. Way too often we hear about problems and say "they ought to do something about that", which usually means pass another law, start a program, build a bureaucracy, talk about all we're doing, and blah, blah, blah..... but not really taking any personal responsibility for it. Think about it this way, if every time someone says "They ought to do something about that", you respond with "only you can do something about that", what would they think?



Tom, WB8LCD

So, November's PCARS meeting is where we elect our officer's for the coming year. If you've ever thought to yourself about PCARS "they ought to do this or that", then here's your opportunity to be involved! When we have our elections, maybe you should be on the ballot. But, if you run, and especially if you are elected, be prepared to bring it on! It takes a lot of effort to keep an organization like PCARS

moving forward.

Maybe you aren't the type that wants to be in the position of an officer, but you're still thinking "they ought to....." Opportunity abounds to be involved, and the officers need your involvement in lots of areas. "Only you can make PCARS a better club". So, step up and be involved with the programs of the club. Most of the things you can do will not only help others, but help yourself as well! A perfect example of this is that I have been involved with teaching in both the Technician class and General Upgrade class, ever since the beginning. I've gotten to know a lot of you more personally because of that experience. I've also learned some things about the hobby, about electronics, about the FCC and much more because I've been involved. It's all added up to not only make me a better ham (disclaimer: this is my opinion), but have more fun doing all of the things that PCARS does! It's really a win/win. Be a part of what's going on. You really can make a difference!

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**From the President** *(continued from Page 1)*

Don't forget, the November meeting is where the club donates it's portion of the 50/50 sales to the Center of Hope in Ravenna. We will also take your donations of cash, check or non-perishable foods to go along with whatever the raffle generates. This is one place where we can make a difference in our community. Please, be as generous as you are able.

Finally, and this is probably the best reason to attend the November PCARS meeting, our guest speaker is Rod Ehrhart, WN8R, from DX Engineering. Rod visited us 3 or 4 years ago and gave a presentation on vertical antennas that is still talked about today! I know that he will be giving an excellent presentation on antennas, and everyone who attends will leave with a better understanding of this important topic. Don't Miss It!

We are now moving into what's known as the "Contest Season" for Amateur Radio. I hope to hear you on the air, and see you at all the upcoming PCARS events.

73,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS President



## *From the Vice President*

### **Get Rid of Me...Please**

I hear things. Complaints about what's being done in the club. Or things not being done. Or, why did you have to go and THAT when you should have done THIS, any idiot could have told you. (Actually, one just did.)

Rumor has it that certain PCARS members have left us, are planning on leaving us, trying to talk their friends into leaving us, or secretly are Spies From Another Radio Club. Sorry, can't tell you who... the informants didn't want to say.

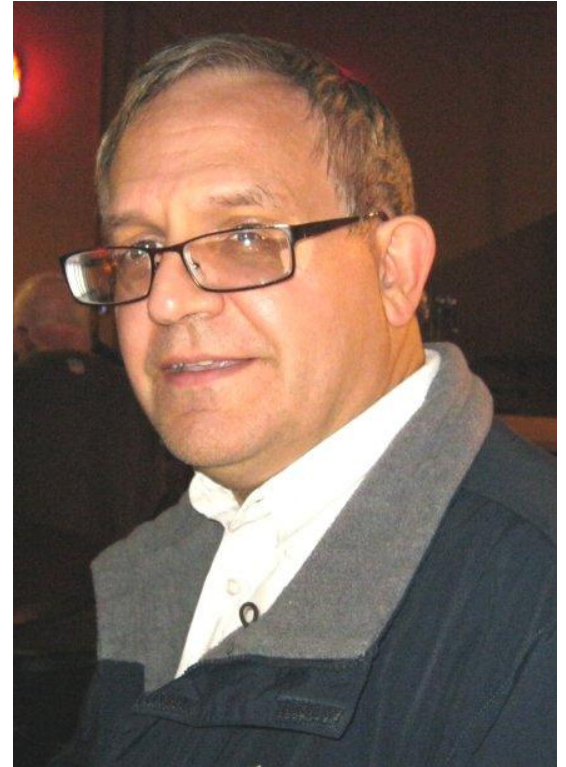
A growing body of opinion holds that our organization is controlled a group of variously aloof, incompetent, insane, shiftless, and arrogant individuals, some of whom are also (shudder) former CBer's.

This is why, in their wisdom, the six hams that founded PCARS wrote term limits into the bylaws. After three years in office, all elected officials are automatically QRT from the Board of Directors. The idea is to keep bringing fresh ideas and new energy into the organization, and to keep the club from getting stale. It's a great idea, one I fully support.

I've been an officer for five years, the last two as Vice President. I ran unopposed both times, which is unsettling. Given the number of people in the club, I would expect to see several folks gunning for this job. So here's a quick tutorial on **How to Get Elected as a PCARS Officer**.

1. Call your friends in the club, tell them to nominate you for any (or all, no point in thinking small) offices at the November club meeting. Tell them that it is imperative that the actually show up for this meeting.
2. Contact every other person in the club, ask them to show up and vote for you. Pro Tip: picking up the beverage tab works wonders.
3. When you hear that certain members that you really DON'T like are running for office, quickly call your own friends and mount a competing campaign of your own, employing Steps 1 and 2 above.
4. Stage an unending series of boring televised debates on major TV networks. Wait... that's the US presidential election. My bad, never mind.

The point is: if you want change, you're going to have to bring about change. You have from now until November 11 to get organized. Don't make me run unopposed again.



***Bill, WB9LBI***



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## Center of Hope – Holiday Donation



PCARS members have become familiar with the Center of Hope, a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. It provides hot meals and distributes food and home products to thousands of our county's less fortunate residents every year. F&CS is also the owner of the building that the houses the PCARS club station.

As the Fall ends and Winter approaches, the staff of the Center of Hope face the enormous task of trying to help brighten the

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for the Center's clients. You can imagine how distressful it could be to not be able to provide a holiday meal for your family.

This is PCARS opportunity to return the favor to the Center. Let's assist the Center of Hope in meeting its goal of helping as many families as possible at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are asking that all PCARS members who attend the November meeting make a donation of food or, even better, a financial contribution to the Center of Hope.

Donations are tax deductible because the Center is part of a 501(c)(3) organization. Checks can be made payable to "The Center of Hope", or cash will be happily accepted.



In addition, the club proceeds from the 50/50 raffle at the November 11th meeting will be donated by PCARS to the Center of Hope.

Let's show how generous the spirit of amateur radio operators can be by offering our support to an organization that helps so many families in our community. Any items or funds donated at a meeting will be delivered to the Center of Hope.

*Tom, WB8LCD*



## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> - **Daylight Savings Time ends** (we go to GMT -5)
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup> - **VE Testing at Club Site** - 7 pm for the current license class - Walk-ins are welcome
- Nov 14<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday !**
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - ELECTIONS - Rod, WN8R -Vertical Antennas
- Dec 9<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Christmas Party** - 7 pm - Rumor has it that Santa Claus will be there
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm -
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> - **General Upgrade Class** - Starts at 7pm - Club Site in Ravenna. See flier
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup> - **At the club site:** "Getting started with homebrewing" a workshop review, and project for Powerpole cabling, installing PL-259's on coax, and building a 2 meter coaxial antenna (tbd - 1/2 wave vertical dipole or a 2 meter coaxial collinear) watch for more details to follow.
- Feb 10<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm -
- Feb 15<sup>th</sup> - **Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO)** from Fred Fuller Park in Kent
- Feb **Date To Be Determined** - **Powerpole Distribution Project**, similar to the "nut runner" - watch for more details to follow
- Mar 10<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm -
- Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> - **VOM training** by Rick, K8CAV. Learn how to properly use a Volt/Ohm meter, and all of the testing techniques you can use it for. This is the most basic and most useful test instrument available, everyone will improve their skill level with this training!

### *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 - **Antenna** Special Interest Group
- Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** Special Interest Group
- Fifth Tuesday - **Linux for Hams** Special Interest Group



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



## PCARS VE Test Sessions

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every even numbered month.

**End of Technician Class VE Test Session - open to all - November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at club site - 7pm**  
**2013: December 7<sup>th</sup> - 2014: February 1<sup>st</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

### What to Bring to the Testing Session

- \$15 is the current test fee. We prefer the exact amount in cash or a check made out to: ARRL-VEC
- A government photo ID (**driver's license or state ID card preferred**).
- Your Social Security Number or FCC Federal Registration Number. We are required to submit either your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) with your application. If you are upgrading, your FRN is on your current Amateur Radio license.
- A pen (black ink) and pencil (we can loan you either or both)
- **If you already have an Amateur Radio license: The original (and one copy) of any current (unexpired) amateur radio operator's license issued to you.**
- If you've already passed a test: The original (**and one copy**) of any document that you will use to prove you've already passed a test element. These documents may include:
  - An unexpired Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) indicating the credit(s) earned indicating the credit(s) earned.
  - Pre March 21, 1987 Technician license (this provides credit for the Element 3 (General) exam).

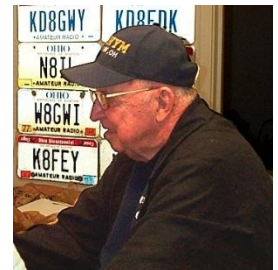


**Robert, N8RLG**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison

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## Net Night at the Club Site

October's net night was another easy evening of ham radio fun for all who attended. The winner of 5 tickets to the November 50/50 was Wes, K8NYM (Nice Young Man). Wes has a pretty impressive collection of QSL cards, including more than just a few related to military operations. In addition, Wes is quite an accomplished DX'er, and has the cards to prove it! Time spent in the chair and on the air really pays off.



Amy, KD8SKL, provided our seasonally appropriate snack of donuts and apple cider.

Bob, N8QE, ran the PCARS net, others got on the air.

Ten meters was open (JA's 7 VK's were coming in strong on 10 meters!) and there were a lot of good DX Q's scored.



November's Net night will be on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't been to one yet, you need to stop by and check it out.

73,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**

## Paper Chase

November is the month you can build your state count during both the phone and CW portions of the ARRL Sweepstakes; countries during the CQ World Wide CW Contest or counties in the Kentucky QSO Party.

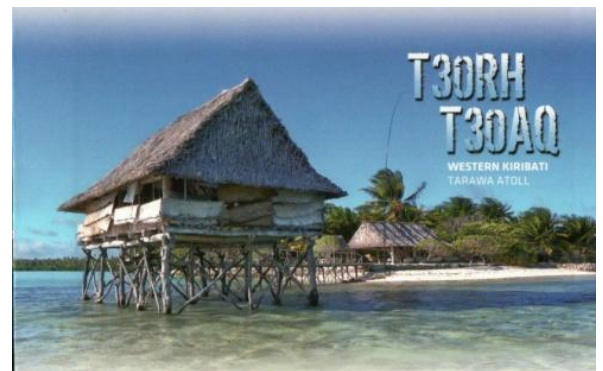


These contests may enable you to get that WAS or DXCC award.



The best known of these is the ARRL Sweepstakes. It is one of the oldest organized on-the-air amateur radio competitions. First held in the thirties, the early Sweepstakes were two weeks long and were CW only affairs.

Later, as phone operation became more popular after World War II, a Phone Sweepstakes was added.



Joe, W8KNO

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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/>.



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## Hamfest Calendar

11/03 - **Massillon Hamfest and Auction** - Location: Massillon Boy's & Girl's Club - 730 Duncan Street SW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Website: <http://www.w8np.org> - Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Drive NW Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 - Email: [truss@sssnet.com](mailto:truss@sssnet.com)

11/09 - **All Ohio ARES Conference** - Location: Ohio Fire Academy - 8895 East Main Street - Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 Website: <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html> - Sponsor: ARRL Ohio Section - Talk-In: 147.060+ (PL 94.8) - Public Contact: Scott Phillips, N8SX - 4805 Eldo Street Willoughby, OH 44094 - Phone: 440-258-3934 - Email: [n8sx@arrl.net](mailto:n8sx@arrl.net)

## *Off into the wilderness..... or, GO HOME, WE'RE CLOSED !*

Every autumn many of us "mountain man types" head east to the Pennsylvania wilds to commune with nature. Of course, food, wine, and song are naturally part of the event, with each attendee picking a particular day to cook the evening meal. Also this year, we decided to go early to avoid rainy weather. So being the Irish guy I am, Mr. Murphy was invited along and expected to behave. Mr. Murphy never follows the rules.



Thursday's arrival went without a hitch. Rain followed us all the way to camp but stopped long enough for the set up of the 10 x 10 shelter. The shelter has four sides and is a most valuable necessity. With the 10 x 10 up, the fire was started for the first of what SHOULD be many meals cooked over the fire. AHHHH..... campfire chili, the kind that just gets better with age (usually about four days)

I attempted several calls with the FT-817 but band conditions were terrible. Conditions were so bad I couldn't even check into MIDCARS or any of the net services. Radio conditions were generally poor for the whole trip with only a few Q's. We had much better luck on the local repeaters making many contacts and new friends. We also monitored communications for a 100 mile foot race. The local two meter repeater was in use for the communications needs for the event.... very interesting as the race covered a very large geographical area. The communications took place on a linked repeater system called "WAN". Check out ["http://www.wanrepeater.net/"](http://www.wanrepeater.net/)

Friday morning arrived with the expectation of a sunny day and a great big breakfast. While cooking, a small pick up truck stopped at our site. A Parks Management employee greeted us.... well, told us we were being evicted. WHAT !!!... We just got here..... "Sorry, Ya gotta go". But, but, but, we just got here.... "Sorry boys, I take my orders from the man"



We offered that man some the finest of beverages to change his mind....but NO. As it worked out, he was in contact with his local office and learned the Rangers were meeting and a possible delay of closing might happen. So he drove off.... and we stayed.



Saturday night was my night to cook. As you can see, no expense or effort was spared. If you were in camp Saturday night..... you ate really good !!!!! Campfire Dutch Oven Pot Roast, just outstanding!!! A special visitor wandered into camp... well not a visitor, we are the visitors, and made an appearance.... letting us know he didn't really care about the government shutdown. Way to go deer !!!

Monday AM arrived with a steady down pour..... and the Parks Employee. "Sorry boys, Ya gonna haff ta leave" Well thanks for the weekend, and off we went to tear down camp. All soaking wet, what a mess. As we drove west towards Ohio the sky cleared and the day turned out fantastic.... nice enough to get all the gear dry and clean. Looking forward to next year already !! Better weather, no shut down, and certainly would like better propagation.

73,  
**Dave, WB2DFC**



## Contest Calendar

November 2013	
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 16 to 2359Z, Nov 17
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 9 to 0200Z, Nov 10
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18
EPC PSK63 QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 18
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24

Google the Contest Name - Read the Rules & Have Fun. YES - There are MANY More Contests out there - Check the Internet

**80 is Catching** - November marks the 80th running of the ARRL Sweepstakes, too! Watch for announcements of special activities during this oldest of the domestic contests!

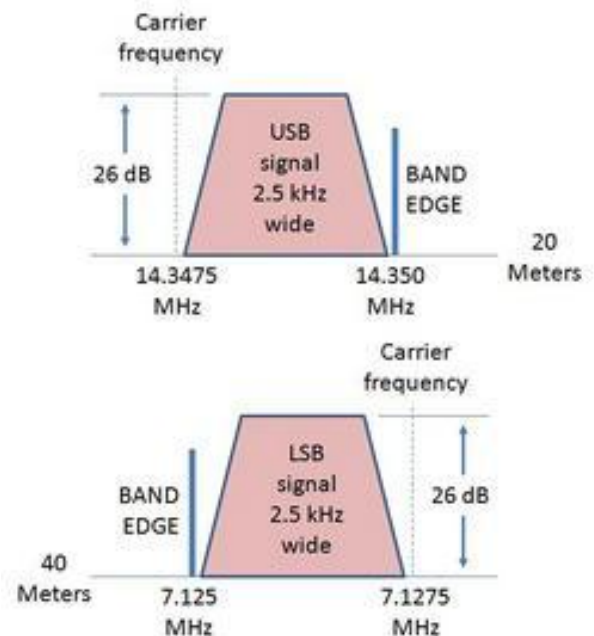


## Word to the Wise

**Band segments** - guess what, the US phone band on 40 meters stops at 7125 kHz but you can't set your radio's displayed frequency there! Why not? On LSB, your sidebands extend *below* the carrier frequency shown by your radio and you have to keep them above the segment's edge, as well.

With a well-adjusted rig, you can probably operate as low as 7127.5 kHz but don't push it! And remember to double-check your transmit frequency when calling a station operating split outside the U.S. phone band. That practice is quite common on the crowded 40 meter band: there may be a QSO in progress on that frequency and some U.S. hams have been known to forget and call DX stations on *their* transmit frequency. Oopsie!

Do you know where your sidebands are? Make sure you keep all of your signal inside the band and inside the band segment for phone!



*From the ARRL Contest Update*

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in November:

N8ATV	Jerry Jarze	W8RID	Bob Davet
KD8SSU	William Smith	KD8UXJ	Eric Shane
KD8ERY	Susan Larrick	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
K3GP	George Proudfoot	KC8SYD	Ted Kost
WA8CCU	Al Nagy	N8WLE	Nick Rothermel
KB3OQV	Kristen Andrews	WD8PME	Robert Posar
KD8GGZ	Mary Jo Loveland	K8STK	Tom Creech
KD8RHW	Edwin Elias	KD8SJB	Richard Kurta
KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson	AF1K	Rich Kuster

**PCARS' 8th Birthday is November 14th**



## PCARS Patches & Stickers



**New** PCARS logo patches (iron on) & stickers (stick on) 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 only \$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! See the club Treasurer: George, K3GP or e-mail him at: [K3GP@portcars.org](mailto:K3GP@portcars.org)



# California QSO Party



## 48th Running Of The CQP!

October 5-6, 2013

1600 UTC Oct 5 to 2200 UTC Oct 6



Score Statistics	
Total PH Contacts ....	275
Total CW Contacts ..	17
QSO Points .....	601
Total Multipliers .....	52
Total Score.....	31,252



Counties Worked - 52
Counties To Go - 6
Humboldt
Merced
Monterey
Plumas
Sierra
Yuba

### K8BF - Multi-Multi - Low Power

#### Operators:

W8PT, N8QE, KD8EPA, KD8SKL, KC8UNR, WB8LCD, KB8TUY, KC8RJR, KB8AMZ



### 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!



November	
7	KB8UHN
14	KD8FDK
21	WB8LCD
28	N8QE

December	
5	KC8PD
12	KB8UUZ
19	WB2DFC
26	WB8LCD

January	
2	WB8LCD
9	
16	
23	
30	

February	
6	
13	
20	
27	

The PCARS net is **BIG 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 try, please contact me at: [WB8LCD@portcars.org](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org) Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

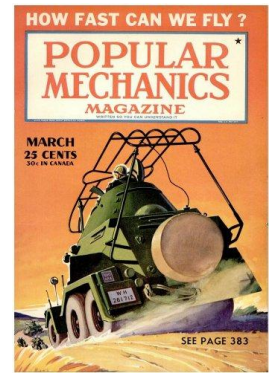


## Radio Hams Practice for War

I found this link to be really interesting:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=5tkDAAAAMBAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

It's a link to old Popular Mechanics magazine and this issue is from March of 1941. Look on page 402 for the article "Radio Hams Practice for War"



*Rick, K8GI*

## Swap-N-Shop

**FOR SALE** – Kenwood TS-430 HF rig with FM Board and CW 500 Hz Filter installed. It comes with the Kenwood Microphone. Rig is 100% functional. Some wear on case. E-mail me if you want pictures. **ALSO includes a Kenwood PS-430 Power Supply** and an extra DC Cable. \$500.00 for all.

Contact John, KD8MQ at [KD8MQ@portcars.org](mailto:KD8MQ@portcars.org) or call: 330-936-5021 [02/02/14]

**FOR SALE** – Icom IC-735 with hand microphone also has manual on CD - \$250.00

**FOR SALE** – Icom IC-PS-55 Power Supply - \$100.00

**FOR SALE** – MFJ-948 - Deluxe Versa Tuner II with manual - \$50.00

**FOR SALE** – Swan – 1500Z Linear Amp with manual - Set up for 220 Vac. Can be changed to 110 Vac - \$500.00

**FOR SALE** – Ceton 572B/T160L Spare Tube for Swan 1500Z amplifier - \$25.00

**FOR SALE** – Kenwood TM-721A FM Dual Band with hand mic & 2 mobile quick release brackets & manual - \$100

Contact Bob, W8JFQ at [W8JFO@portcars.org](mailto:W8JFO@portcars.org) or call : 336-707-7148 [02/02/14]

**FOR SALE:** Three (3) NEW, Never Used Tac-Comm TRC-1 Tactical Radio Carriers including handles, tilt-stands and all hardware plus One (1) NEW, never used TCP-1 steel cover. Paid \$197.75, asking \$70.00. See [www.tac-comm.com](http://www.tac-comm.com) for pictures and details.

Contact Rick, K8CAV at [K8CAV@portcars.org](mailto:K8CAV@portcars.org) [01/02/14]

**FOR SALE:** I have an excess of IRCs, expiring 12/31/13. Mostly of USA origin, but some other countries as well. All are properly validated (postmarked) on the lower left. I'll sell them for \$16 for ten, *including* postage to the buyer. (That's a bit less than \$2.20 each, the last price at which they were sold by the USPS.) "First come -- First served."

Contact Rick, K8GI at [K8GI@portcars.org](mailto:K8GI@portcars.org) [12/02/13]

**FOR SALE:** AMR ATR-20 Ameritron 1.2 KW PEP Antenna Tuner, brand new - purchased for \$429.99 and never used for \$325.00 plus shipping.. A friend of mine returned my Johnson matchbox so I don't need this unit.

Contact Bud, K8MSF at [K8MSF@portcars.org](mailto:K8MSF@portcars.org) or call: (419) 281-1408 [11/02/13]

**FREE TO GOOD HOME:** 16' 4" x 4" post with inverted "L" shaped pipe extension and pulley for hoisting your dipole up to approximately 28 feet. Also includes the carriage bolts for attaching pipe to post. Post was never in ground only bolted to fence post.

**FOR SALE:** 8877 RF Deck for 144 MHz – This is a commercial build of the W6PO design. It was built for the National Weather Service to be used at 1000 Watts FM on a 24/7/365 duty cycle basis. It is capable of 1500 Watts SSB.

This is a complete RF Deck only, no tube or power supply included. \$500.00

**FOR SALE: 140' Andrew LDF4-50A 1/2" Heliac** – Cable is new unused but has a few minor scuffs from storage and transportation \$125.00

**FOR SALE: 140' Andrew LDF5-50A 7/8" Heliac** – Cable is used in good condition, 1 connector installed \$140.00

**FOR SALE: 40' Heavy Duty Self-Supporting Tower** – 37 inches wide at the base, 18 inches at the top \$150.00

**FOR SALE: Used Mirage Amplifier B-3016** – 30 W. in 160 W out, currently making 146 Watts out - \$100.00

**FOR SALE: New In Box GE Contactors**

GE CL01A400TJ Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600 V, 120 Volt Coil \$25.00 (2 Available)

GE CL01D310TD Contactor 4 poles rated 25 A @ 600V, 24 Volt Coil \$30.00 (2 Available)

GE CL25A300T Contactor 4 poles rated 32 A @ 600 V, 120 Volt Coil \$35.00 (2 Available)

**FOR SALE: 1/4" Plate Glass for desk or table top**, Great for radio bench 42" x 68" cost \$152.00 Asking \$40.00

**FOR SALE: Random lengths of Andrew 1/2" Super-flex** ranging from 10 to 17 feet with either an N-male or DIN-male connector installed \$2.00 each

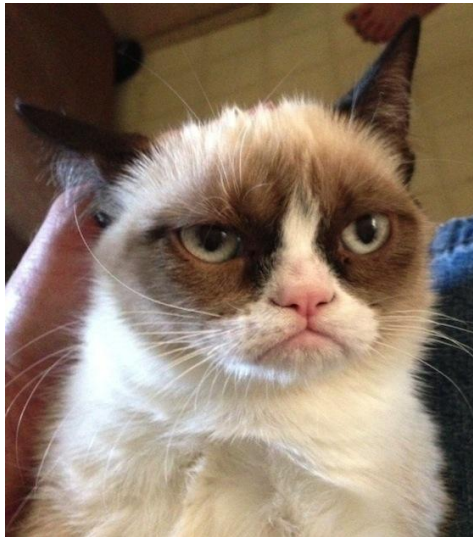
I also have a small supply of connectors for 1/2" Superflex, 1/2" Heliac and 7/8" Heliac . Contact me with your needs.

**Contact James, KD8VT** at [KD8VT@portcars.org](mailto:KD8VT@portcars.org) or call 330-206-4909 [01/02/14]

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*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: [01/02/14]. This will help keep the listings current.



This spot in the newsletter was reserved for the article  
**you** said you would send in.....



## EmComm

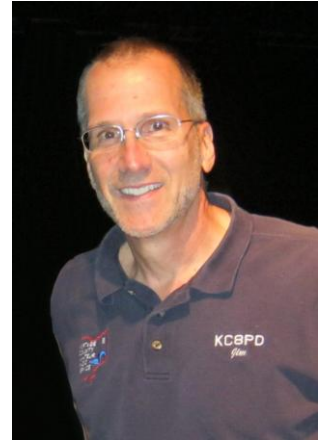
This column differs a bit from the regular EmComm Column. First, it comes to you from both Jim, KC8PD, as Comms Unit Radio Officer and Mike, KD8FLZ, as the ARES<sup>®</sup> EC for Portage County. Second, it is not just an informational column, it is also an invitation.



**Mike, KD8FLZ**

The two of us have been discussing for some time the various ways that we might be able to coordinate operations between the Comms Unit and ARES<sup>®</sup>. We want to offer additional opportunities for ARES<sup>®</sup> members to participate in training and emergency communications as well as encouraging ARES<sup>®</sup> members and other hams to join the EMA's Communications Unit and ARES<sup>®</sup>.

You may recall from past columns that the Comms Unit also includes the EMA's RACES team but because the Comms Unit's operations do not require an actual RACES activation the CU operates without being limited by the Part 97 restrictions on RACES activities. For instance, during on-air operations CU stations can regularly communicate with stations in other services such as ARES<sup>®</sup>.



**Jim, KC8PD**

One way that we intend to develop CU/ARES<sup>®</sup> interoperations this year is to provide an opportunity for ARES<sup>®</sup> of Portage County members to check in to CU training nets. We will also be creating some combined training opportunities in 2014 for both CU and ARES<sup>®</sup> members. Watch for more information on these.

In the meantime, we would like to invite all ARES<sup>®</sup> of Portage County members as well as other area hams that have an interest in joining either ARES<sup>®</sup> or the Communications Unit to attend the CU training scheduled for 1830-2000 hours on Thursday, October 31st, at the EMA's garage (Station 30) located at 2978 State Route 59. It is on the south side of SR 59 about a mile and a half west of the Ravenna city limits.

Stop by and you will have an opportunity for a walk through of the EMA's Mobile Command Post and the chance to check out some of the other resources such as the Urban Search and Rescue truck.

We hope to see you there.



73,

**Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI**

Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EM Communications Unit/RACES  
DEC, ARES District Five

**Mike DiCarro, KD8FLZ**

Emergency Coordinator, ARES<sup>®</sup> of Portage County

## *Heavenly Day, It's Gay*

In my September column I omitted someone very important on the Bellefaire volunteer team: Terry, KB8AMZ. Terry is a very loyal and competent member of my volunteer team and I apologize for the oversight.

Interesting column from the March, 1999 issue of The Chattering Relay, the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Newsletter.

I watched the coverage of King Hussein's funeral and was struck with the impact of this man on world politics. It was astounding that fifty heads of state could come together to pay tribute to him. I also thought about how he used amateur radio to introduce technology in the schools. Jordan has virtually no natural resources except its citizens.

I was able to persuade Jim, WA8RCN, to tell us of his contact with JY1. Thanks for sharing it with us, Jim. ....Gay

Probably one of the most memorable contacts I have ever had in ham radio was with JY1, King Hussein of Jordan. It all happened back in August of 1970. I was licensed at the age of 13 as a novice in 1965, and the following year obtained my general class ticket. The contest bug and DX bug had bitten me hard, and I was off and running. Chasing DX like there was no tomorrow, and entering as many contests as I could. That same year I purchased a used Heathkit HW101, a great improvement over the old Knight Kit T-150A and National NC-188 receiver.

Now I could operate SSB. The air waves in the summer of 1970 were filled with plenty DX. A couple of my friends and I would call each other on the telephone whenever a rare one came up. Rumor that summer was that JY1 was very active on 15 meter SSB. Well, needless to say I spend a lot of time on that band listening for him. I had heard him several times that summer, but never connected. Each time was more exciting than the time before. I hoped sooner or later I would be able to work him, but each time the pile-ups were unbelievable.

Then one day it finally happened. It was a warm August evening around 7:00 local time. I had finished dinner, did a few chores for my parents, then went into the basement to chase DX on the bands. The first thing I would do, like every night, is check out 15 meters for JY1. Bingo, once again he was there. Now the problem was to work him. This time the pile up was not that big. I think he must have just come up on the air. I jumped in with both feet this time and gave my call several times. He worked one station, then another, then another, then all of a sudden I heard "the 8 Radio Canada station". At that point I about fell out of the chair. That was me he was talking to. Again I gave my call WA8RCN, and he came right back. I yelled for my mother to come down stairs and she did, and listened while I worked the King of Jordan. The first thought was ... how do I address him. King? Your majesty? Your highness? I decided on "your majesty". I gave him a 5x5, told him my QTH, and my name was Jim. He came back and said simply call him Hussein, and that I was a 5x5 near Amman, Jordan. We then exchanged rig and antenna info, and QSL information, and I ended the contact, since so many others were waiting. After that I just sat there kinda dazed. I had just talked to the King of Jordan, JY1. Wow what a rush. My heart was pumping like crazy. It was the most exciting contact I ever had in ham radio. Later that week I filled out a QSL and sent it off to Jordan. Within two weeks a reply came back. It was his QSL card signed Hussein and a post card from Jordan. The QSL, post card and envelop are one of my most prized positions hanging on the wall in the shack in a frame.

It was a great loss to amateur radio and to Jordan that we lost the King this year. He will be greatly missed by all. I will remember the contact with JY1 the rest of my life. Thank you Hussein for the memories.

Jim, WA8RCN

73,  
*Gay, WB8VNO*



## The JUNO Project



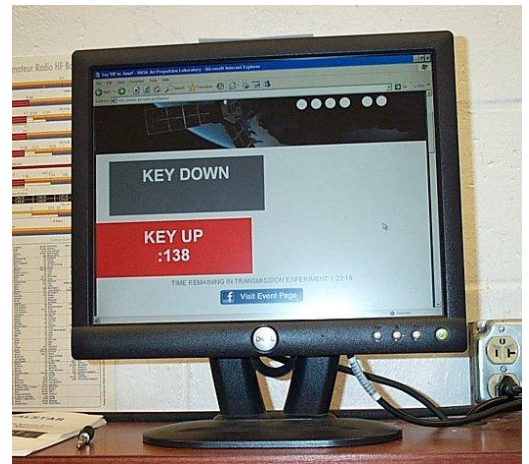
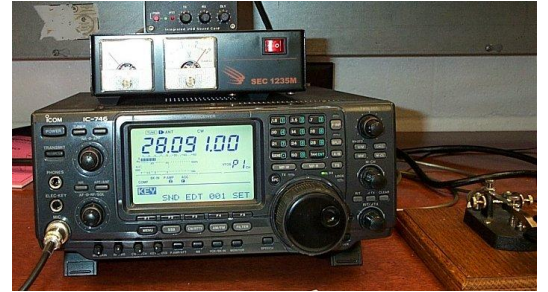
The JUNO Mission to Jupiter launched from Cape Canaveral in August of 2011. I never heard about it until September of 2013. Seems the space craft would be doing an earth fly by to obtain some gravitational acceleration for the trip to Jupiter. The space craft is scheduled to reach Jupiter in August of 2016. The mission will officially end in October of 2017 when the space craft “deorbits”. I take that as NASA lingo for “crashes into the planet”.

One of the experiments carried on the Juno space craft was called the “Waves” experiment, and the object was to see if the onboard, wide-band receiver could pick up the “collective” RF of many stations sending “HI” in CW at 1/25 WPM. The detector has a bandwidth of 1 MHz, so hams spread out across a wide range of 10 meter frequencies.

Both Amy, KD8SKL, and I (Tom, WB8LCD) participated in the experiment from the PCARS club site. We each took a 20 minute segment and operated on the frequency determined by the last letter in our callsign. I also spent 20 minutes on the frequency determined by the club callsign – K8BF. All signals were to be sent in unison, and the website had a graphical illustration to show you when to keydown and then keyup. Each dit was 30 seconds long, each space between dits was 30 seconds long, and the space between letters was 90 seconds long. Using the computer screen as a guide, it was easy to remain in unison with the other stations participating.

A pre-experiment announcement from NASA explained “The natural signals we expect to measure at Jupiter will consist of a large number of discrete tones, so spreading the signals out in this manner is a good approximation to the signals we expect to detect. The very slow speed of CW was necessary because the Waves instrument samples the spectrum just once per second. By spreading the signal out in time, we can average to reduce the noise level. In addition, the space craft spins at 2 RPM, so a 30 second “dit” time gives us a full spin to see if there is any spin modulation.”

Participation certificates have been requested, including one for K8BF. This was a truly unique way to participate in ham radio, and the NASA space program. I will from now on, proudly proclaim, that I am a Rocket Scientist!



*Tom, WB8LCD*



## ***The ARRL Centennial QSO Party Starts January 1, 2014!***

In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the ARRL, the ARRL Centennial QSO Party (<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>) is set to kick off January 1 for a year-long operating event in which participants can accumulate points and win awards, as well as working new stations and making new friends. During 2014 W1AW will be on the air from every state (at least twice) and most US territories, and it will be easy to work all states solely by contacting W1AW portable operations. This marks the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point. The event is open to all, although only ARRL members and appointees, elected officials, HQ staff and W1AW are worth points (<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#Table>). Working ARRL's president, for example, earns 300 points!

To qualify for points all contacts must be two-way (no cross-band or cross-mode contacts), using CW, phone (FM, SSB, AM, digital voice), digital (any digital mode, such as PSK31, RTTY) on 160, 80, 40, 30, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6, 2 and 1.25 meters, plus 70 centimeters and satellite.

Stations exchange ([http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSO Information Exchange](http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSO_Information_Exchange)) signal report and ARRL abbreviation. Contacts do not have to be contest-style and it isn't necessary to give the ARRL organizational information. A centennial database will assign point values to all logs submitted electronically. Those not submitting electronically, however, will need to obtain the QSO information during the contact. This event is not a contest, so participants may make contacts in any fashion they prefer.

The Centennial QSO Party is scored by totaling the values of all eligible contacts. There are no multipliers or bonus points. Logs submitted via Logbook of the World (LoTW) will be scored automatically.

### **Awards**

Work W1AW operating portable from all 50 states. Working W1AW or W1ØØAW in Connecticut does not count for Connecticut, however. Participants can earn W1AW Connecticut credit only for working W1AW/1 in Connecticut. A W1AW WAS certificate and plaque will be available (pricing not yet announced). For an extra challenge, work all 100 W1AW portable operations - essentially a double WAS with W1AW!

Endorse the W1AW WAS Certificate with the Territorial Stickers for working W1AW/KH2, W1AW/KP4, W1AW/KP2, and any others that may be active, and also endorse with W1AW/3 from the District of Columbia (stickers are \$1 each)

### **Centennial Points Challenge**

To compete in the Centennial Points Challenge, submit logs via Logbook of the World (LoTW). The system will automatically look for points-qualifying contacts from submitted logs and apply them to each participant's Centennial QSO Points table. QSOs do not have to be matched in LoTW for points to be achieved — this is an honor-based event. No paper forms or information will be accepted for the Centennial Points Challenge, however. Some points worth noting:

Club call signs do not count for points.



Repeater contacts are not valid for credit.

Mobile and portable operations are okay but do not count for points in addition to home operation - ie, a contact with KØGW counts for KØGW, whether it is made with KØGW/4, KØGW/m, or PJ4/KØGW.

Stations outside of the US may also count for points. More than 10,000 ARRL members live outside the US, and some of these are also volunteer examiners or DXCC card checkers.

ARRL appointees, staffers, and officers should choose for their contact exchange the appointment or office held that offers the highest point value (this is how the database will work also). For example, KI9XX is an ARRL Life Member (a LM is worth 2 points), a Volunteer Examiner (VE is worth 5 points) and a State Government Liaison (SGL is worth 30 points), so KI9XX should use "SGL," since that offers the highest point value. In any event, the database will give credit for the proper point value.

The top-scoring operator from each ARRL Section, Canadian Province and DXCC entity will receive a First Place certificate. The Top Five overall point scorers will receive awards. There is a charge for award certificates. For complete information, visit the ARRL Centennial QSO Party web page ([http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSO Information Exchange](http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#QSO_Information_Exchange)). Contact us ([100QSOParty@arrl.org](mailto:100QSOParty@arrl.org)) if you have questions.

### Centennial QSO Party Points Table

**Note:** These appointments are for current appointees, unless otherwise noted. Eg: Assistant Director (AD) is only for the current Assistant Directors. Past office-holders and appointees are only eligible if the title listed includes the word "Past" such as "Past Section Manager (PSM)."

	Full Position/Title Name	Point value		Full Position/Title Name	Point value
PRES	ARRL President	300	TC	Technical Coordinator	30
PE	President Emeritus	275	LAB	W1INF Lab Museum Operations	25
PP	Past President	275	CM	Contest Managers/Log Checkers	20
HVP	Honorary Vice President	250	QSM	Incoming QSL Bureau Manager	20
VP	ARRL Vice President	250	LC	W1HQ HQ Ops	15
DE	Director Emeritus	225	VC	Volunteer Counsel	15
DIR	Director	225	VCE	Volunteer Consulting Engineer	15
PVP	Past Vice President	225	ADEC	Assistant District Emergency Coordinator	12
VD	Vice Director	200	ANM	Area Net Manager	12
SM	Section Manager	175	ASEC	Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator	12
OFF	Staff Officer, Treasurer, Counsel	150	EC	Emergency Coordinator	12
PD	Past Director	150	LGL	Local Government Liaison	12
PV	Past Vice Director	125	OBS	Official Bulletin Station	12
ARRL	W100AW ARRL HQ Station	100	OES	Official Emergency Station	12
CLM	ARRL Charter Life Member	100	OO	Official Observer	12
PSM	Past Section Manager	100	ORS	Official Relay Station	12
DM	ARRL HQ Department Manager	75	PIO	Public Information Officer	12
HQ	ARRL HQ Staff Member/Volunteer	50	RNM	Region Net Manager	12
AC	CAC/DXAC/ECAC Advisory Members	40	TS	Technical Specialist	12
AD	Assistant Director	40	TA	Technical Advisor	10
ASM	Assistant Section Manager	35	AM	Awards Manager	5
ACC	Affiliated Club Coordinator	30	CC	Card Checker	5
DEC	District Emergency Coordinator	30	RI	Registered Instructor	5
NCJ	NCJ Editor	30	State Abbrev	W1AW/x around the USA	5

OOC	Official Observer Coordinator	30	VE	Volunteer Examiner	5
PIC	Public Information Coordinator	30	MS	Monitoring System Volunteer	3
QEX	QEX Editor	30	QSL	Incoming QSL Bureau Sorters	3
SEC	Section Emergency Coordinator	30	LM	ARRL Life Member	2
SGL	State Government Liaison	30	AFF	ARRL Affiliated Club Call Sign	1
STM	Section Traffic Manager	30	MEM	ARRL Member	1

*From the ARRL*



## ***Antenna Auction***

Up for auction, will be sold to the highest bidder, 3 different antenna lots. These were items donated to PCARS, so in order to bid, you must be a current, paid, PCARS member. All bids must be received by 5:00 PM Monday November 4th. Payment can be made, and antennas picked up at the PCARS meeting on Monday November 11th. Bids must be emailed to: [wb8lcd@portcars.com](mailto:wb8lcd@portcars.com). The latest bid received will be considered your final bid. If no bid exceeds the required minimum (set very low) then the antennas will be not be sold, unless a higher bid is offered at the PCARS meeting on November 11th. All bids will be confidential until the winning bid is announced. Please indicate your lot# with your bid.

**Lot #1:** Isotron antennas for 10, 15 and 20 meters. These are used and show their wear, but are in good condition. They can be used individually, or fed with a common feedline. Instructions are included.



**Lot #2:** Solarcon 10/11 meter vertical with ground plane. This antenna appears to be “hardly used”, if at all. Includes instructions and mounting hardware. This is an excellent antenna for 10 meter DX!



**Lot #3:** High Sierra HS-1800 Mobile screwdriver antenna. Looks as if hardly used. Includes control lines and switch, instruction manual.



All units are believed to be complete and in good working order, but have not been tested. Therefore, sold “as is”, all sales final.

If you would like an opportunity to inspect, Tom, WB8LCD will be at the clubsite from 6-7 PM on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>..





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

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

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



## PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of each month. Meetings are at:

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



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



## ***FCC Readjusts Dates, Deadlines As Shutdown Ends***



The FCC has extended or adjusted filing dates and deadlines in the wake of the partial government shutdown, during which Commission systems went dark. For radio amateurs, the biggest impact is for those with vanity call sign applications in the hopper. The Commission said in a October 17 [Public Notice](#) that because the Universal Licensing System (ULS) was unavailable for Amateur Service licensees to file vanity call sign applications, the Commission established October 22 as the receipt date for all vanity applications filed between October 1 and October 22.

"Ordinarily, vanity call sign applications are processed on a day-by-day basis, with a random selection procedure used to determine the processing order for applications filed on the same day," the FCC said. "In order to accommodate the orderly resumption of business, however, vanity call sign applications filed *via ULS* between October 17 and October 22 will all be processed as if they were filed on October 22, 2013. In addition, any vanity call sign applications that were filed *by mail* between October 1 and October 22 also will be treated as if they were filed on October 22, 2013."

The FCC went on to say, "All ULS applications and notifications filed in accordance with the Commission's rules...that were originally due on October 1, 2013, through and including November 4, 2013, are now due on November 4, 2013." With the ULS again available, the FCC was encouraging applicants and licensees to file any applications and notifications "as soon as practicable." Filings due between October 1 and October 6 were due on October 22, 2013, the FCC said. Filings due between October 7 and October 16 will be due 16 days after the original filing date, an extension equivalent to the period of the FCC closure.

This means, for example, that if a filing was due October 8, it now will be due October 24 -- an extension of 16 days. "To the extent the revised due dates for filings under this *Public Notice* fall on a weekend or other Commission holiday," the FCC continued, "they will be due on the next business day. [A]ny regulatory and enforcement filings that would otherwise be required to be filed between October 17 and November 4...will be due for filing on November 4, 2013 (the first business day following a 16-day period after the Commission's October 17 reopening)." The FCC said it would not consider the Commission open for the filing of documents with statutory deadlines until Tuesday, October 22, 2013.



Because Amateur Radio testing was able to continue during the shutdown, exam session paperwork continued to flow into the ARRL VEC. Once the FCC was up and running again, it was not long before application processing resumed, and grants started showing up again, much to the delight of those who had been waiting for new licenses, upgrades, and vanity call sign grants.

"We had approximately 250 sessions and over 1500 forms in the queue," ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said as the FCC reopened. By the end of the day, the VEC staff had dispatched its entire backlog to the FCC for processing.

**ARRL: VEC staffers Amanda Grimaldi, KB1VUV (left), and China Chaney work through the stacks of exam session paperwork that had piled up during the shutdown. [Maria Somma, AB1FM, photo]**

***From the ARRL***

## Uno, Dos, Tres...

If you have done any amount of listening to shortwave radio outside of the ham bands, you have undoubtedly run across "numbers stations." The broadcasts from these stations consist of number streams or letters, often in a computer-generated female voice speaking in Spanish. Every now and then, a numbers station pops up on 30m, sending five-character groups in Morse code.

According to the Conet Project (<http://www.irdial.com/conet.htm>), "Shortwave Numbers Stations are a perfect method of anonymous, one way communication. Spies located anywhere in the world can be communicated to by their masters via small, locally available, and unmodified Shortwave receivers. The encryption system used by Numbers Stations, known as a 'one time pad' is unbreakable. Combine this with the fact that it is almost impossible to track down the message recipients once they are inserted into the enemy country, it becomes clear just how powerful the Numbers Station system is."

The Conet Project sells a CD with a number of recordings for \$55, but you can find a bunch of mp3 files at <http://www.archive.org/details/ird059> for free.

Recently there was a thread on the Glowbugs Google Group about numbers stations. One fellow mentioned "The Numbers Station," a movie released earlier this year starring John Cusack. IMDB (<http://www.imdb.com>) says that The Numbers Station is about "a disgraced black ops agent dispatched to a remote CIA broadcast station to protect a code operator. Soon, they find themselves in a life-or-death struggle to stop a deadly plot before it's too late." It's currently available for streaming on Netflix, and I watched it recently. It's kind of violent (lots of people get shot), but it's a decent thriller.

Jim, K6FWT mentioned ENIGMA 2000 (<http://www.apul64.dsl.pipex.com/enigma2000/>). The group's website describes ENIGMA 2000 as "a UK based online group, whose aims are to bring together listeners and enthusiasts who monitor and gather information on 'Number Stations' and other related radio transmissions. Through our Yahoo Group monitors can share their logs, discuss frequencies, thoughts and opinions on this most emotive subject." Jim says, "These folks are SERIOUS enthusiasts. I have heard that they surpass many intelligence services with their thoroughness. You can get in up to your eyeballs if you don't watch it."

These stations have been around since World War II. I remember as a kid in the 1960s and 1970s, reading articles about numbers stations in Popular Electronics and Electronics Illustrated. They're as much of a mystery today as they were back then.

**Dan, KB6NU**

When he's not listening to numbers stations, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

**Editor's Note:** Great Numbers Newsletter - Check out: <http://www.numbersoddities.nl/N&O-192.pdf>

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## *Tech 10M Expansion Turned Down*



The FCC has dismissed a Petition for Rule Making that sought to expand Technician privileges in the 10 meter band. The Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) had asked the Commission last June to expand the spectrum available to Technician licensees on 10 meters to include operating privileges in the FM portion of the band, from 29.520 to 29.700 MHz. Novice and Technician licensees now may operate on 10 meters from 28.000 to 28.500 MHz.

"We conclude that TMRA has not presented grounds for the Commission to revisit the question of operating privileges for Technician class licensees," the FCC said October 17 in denying the petition. The FCC said that Technicians may transmit through repeaters licensed to a General class or higher licensee that have an output channel in the 29.5 to 29.7 MHz segment, as long as the repeater has a 2 meter or 70 centimeter input.

Further, the FCC pointed out that the current licensing structure was developed "with the expressed desire of the amateur community to provide an incentive, ie: additional frequency privileges, to motivate Amateur Radio operators to advance their communication and technical skills." The FCC noted that it increased Technician privileges in 2006 to include Novice and Technician Plus privileges. "A Technician class licensee can upgrade to a General class operator license and receive significantly more frequency privileges (including those at issue here) by answering correctly a minimum of twenty-six questions on a thirty-five question written examination," the FCC said. TMRA, the Commission concluded, had submitted no evidence that the FCC should depart from its "long-standing policy of providing additional frequency privileges as an incentive" for license advancement.

TMRA had asserted that amending §97.301(e) of Part 97 would extend Technician voice privileges on 10 meters to "coincide with today's technical advancement of the Amateur Radio Service."

*From the ARRL*

**Editors Note:** You will hear this multiple times from multiple PCARS members - UPGRADE - UPGRADE - UPGRADE. Get that General and Extra Class upgrades and open the world to your Amateur Radio experience !

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**PCARS**

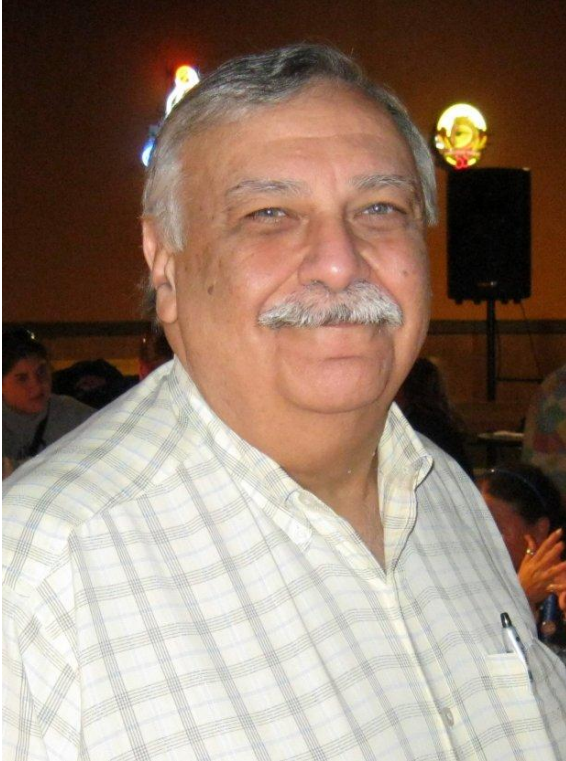
**ARRL Volunteer Examiners:  
serving the Amateur Radio  
community**

**First Saturdays 10:00 am  
at the club site in Ravenna**

**February, April, June, August,  
October, December**

The logo for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Council (VEC). It is a circular emblem with a yellow border. Inside the circle, the words "AMATEUR RADIO" are at the top and "VOLUNTEER EXAMINER" are at the bottom. In the center, there is a diamond-shaped symbol containing a stylized antenna and the letters "ARRL". To the right of the diamond, the words "ARRL" and "VEC" are stacked vertically.

## *Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites*



Last month, if you read this column, you would have read that I was concerned that it had gotten chilly. Well I just came in from the bitter cold after shoveling snow and knocking it off a tree so that the branches would not break. I recall mowing the grass on Nov. 22 some years. So I sure hope that this does not stick around or I won't be able to dig the trench for the coax run to my 80 meter vertical. By the way, it's up and looks great. I am looking forward to working some 80 meter DX.

Which of course leads me to the DX for the next few months. There may be some great DX to work since one of the major contests takes part during the last weekend of October and some DXpeditions hang around for a while just to make their efforts worthwhile. So get on the air and work the DX to get your initial DXCC Award or that QSL from a place far, far Away.

I continue 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.

And as always, 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).

### **Special Report:**

**PJ2, CURACAO (Ops Needed).** Geoff, W0CG/7 (PJ2DX), the Rental Coordinator for the Caribbean Contesting Consortium's (CCC) Signal Point PJ2T Station on Curacao (SA-099, WLOTA LH-0942), reports: "None of the members of the CCC group are able to be at the QTH for the December ARRL 10 meter contest except for me. If you would like to come as a single op, or would like to put together a team to operate the contest during that time, let me know. I could operate with you if you wish, or turn it all over to you if that's your preference. (We will be signing PJ2T, and that letter of permission has already been issued.) The station is very capable on 10, with seven yagis available on 10 in various configurations and aimed in various directions. You would have two bedrooms available, each with a private bathroom and two beds. Questions? Drop me an E-mail for details." Geoff's E-mail address is: ghoward@kent.edu

**3DA0, SWAZILAND.** Roger, ZS6RJ reports that there will be a 3DA0ET DXpedition to Swaziland taking place between November 18-27th. He mentions that the team will be finalized sometime next month after everyone over on the EU side is back from their holidays. This will include their roles etc... along with the Web site and QSL information. Roger did provide the aims of the DXpedition, which are:

- \* To participate in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Multi-2 category contestant.
- \* To give as many folk as possible a new entity or band/mode slot, providing CW, RTTY and SSB.
- \* To address the often-neglected need for digital modes via a full time dedicated RTTY/PSK station running from the start for the entire duration of the DXpedition.
- \* To operate 160 meters through 6 meters.

**5R, MADAGASCAR.** Eric, F6ICX, will once again be active as 5R8IC from Saint Marie Island (AF-090) between November 16th and December 15th. Activity will be holiday style operating CW, RTTY, and PSK63, and using a FT450



with 100 watts into various GPs or Inverted-Ls and a Hexbeam for 20-10 meters. There will be no online log during his activity. QSL via his home call sign (QRZ.com).

**5V, TOGO.** Wim, ON4CIT, will once again be active as 5V7TH from Togo (Grid Square JJ06rf) sometime in November and December. Activity will be on 40-6 meters, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. He plans to be on in the evening on 40 and 30 meters. Wim mentions that he will travel during the day to Benin to collect his TY1 call sign papers which is supposed to be ready. During that same day, he will try to search for a nice QTH in Grand Popo (Benin) for his TY1 DXpedition and move from Togo to Grand Popo, Benin, when everything is sorted out. QSL via his home call sign, direct (2 USDs/EU and 3 USDs/US), by the Bureau, LoTW (uploaded year later) or by the ClubLog's OQRS. For more details, visit: <http://www.dxpedition.be/5V7TH.html>

**6W, SENEGAL.** Mark, AA1AC, will once again be active as 6W/AA1AC from La Somone, between December 8-14th. QSL direct or by the Bureau to his home call sign.

**9Y, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.** Jim, N6TJ, will be active as 9Y4W from Scarborough, Tobago Island (SA-009, WLOTA 0412), during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (20m) entry. QSL via DFL4MDO, direct or by the Bureau.

**C82, MOZAMBIQUE** (Press Release #3). The following was sent out on July 16th [edited]: "This has been a busy month for the C82DX team. With only 90 days before we're QRV we have filled the remaining operating positions and added several individuals to our off site support team. Joining us are such well-known DXers as Bill/K1MM, Bruce/W6OSP, Charlie/NF4A and Wild Bill/N2WB. Our South African contingent now includes Pierre/ZS6PJH Chairman of the Pretoria ARC. Low Band operations remain the primary objective and we have secured both Titanex and Battle Creek Special verticals. Also obtained the sponsorship of Array Solutions with one of their new shared apex loop array RX systems and W3YY FSK/CW interfaces. They join ICOM (our main equipment supplier with IC7600s) and SteppIR (CrankIRs) as our major donors to our DXpedition. During the day we will operate all HF bands including 6m. Our website has been expanded by our webmaster, K6MM. If you haven't been there lately, please visit, <[www.c82dx.com](http://www.c82dx.com)>, you can learn more about our plans. Tom, N4XP & Don, N1DG - DXpedition Co-leaders"

**CE0Y, EASTER ISLAND** (Update). Operators Jose/CE0HYO, Gustavo/CX2AM, Humberto/CX3AN, Gustavo/CX3CE, Mario/CX4CR, Gen/EA5HPX, Francisco/EA7FTR and Carlos/LU2NI will be active as XR0YY from Hanga Roa, Easter Island, between November 1-7th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They will have 3 stations operating simultaneously. QSL via EB7DX. They have a Web site available at: <http://easterisland2013.com>

**D2, ANGOLA.** João, CT2HPM, is once again active as D2CT from Luanda until November 15th. Activity is on 20/17/15/12/10 meters using mostly PSK31 and RTTY. His equipment is a Kenwood TS-480SAT into a EzWire antenna. QSL via CT2HPM.

**E6, NIUE.** Operators Sasi/JA1KJW (E6AK), Mat/JA1JQY (E6AY) and Kuni/JA8VE (E6AA) will be active from Niue Islands (OC-040) between November 3-9th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Suggested SSB frequencies are: 3798, 7080/7155, 14170, 18130, 21270, 24940 and 28470 kHz. Radios are an Elecraft K2/100w and K3/100w, and an Icom IC-726, with an Ameritron ALS-500M into a Spider Beam and Hex Beam. QSL via their home call signs.

**FJ, ST. BARTHELEMY** (Also PJ7). Pete, VE3IKV/VA3RA, will be active as FJ/VA3RA from St. Barts during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (10m) entry. Outside of the contest (before and after) look for him to be active on CW, SSB and 6 meters, as well as 10m and 6m mobile around the island. The Grid Square on St. Barts is FK87. He will be on the island between November 21-25th. QSL via VE3IKV. He also mentions that he will travel to Sint Maarten and be active as PJ7/VA3RA between November 25-28th. Activity will also be on 10 and 6 meters. Also QSL via VE3IKV.

**FK/TX5, NEW CALEDONIA.** Freddy, F5IRO, will once again be active as FK/F5IRO from Plum, New Caledonia (OC-032, DIFO FK-001, WLOTA 1280, DDFM 988), starting sometime at the end of October until February 2014. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using mostly CW and some PSK, with a Elecraft K3 and dipoles and long wire antennas. Freddy will team up with Michel, FK8IK, in Noumea using the special call sign TX5W for the CQWW DX CW Contest

(November 23-24th). Sometime after the contest, Freddy and Michel are looking into possibly activating some FK IOTAs. Look for details to be posted on QRZ.com and Freddy's Blog page at: <http://j28ro.blogspot.com> QSL both FK/F5IRO and TX5W via F5IRO, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW sometime in March 2014.

**FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA.** Heinz, DF1YP, is now active as FO/DL1YP from Moorea Island (OC-046) until Nov 6th. Activity has been mainly 20 meters on SSB. QSL via his home call sign.

**FR/TO2, REUNION ISLANDS.** Stephane, F5UOW, will once again be active from Reunion Island (AF-016). He will sign as FR/F5UOW between October 31st and November 21st, but between November 3-17th, he will sign TO2R. His activity will be mostly CW between 40-10 meters. QSL via F5UOW, direct or by the Bureau.

**FW, WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS.** Jean-Jacques, TK5JJ, will leave Corsica for 2 years and travel to Wallis Island where he will be active as FW5JJ. He hopes to be active very soon after his arrival with an Icom 756PRO and G5RV antenna. The rest of his equipment will arrive later. He will be active on SSB, CW and the Digital modes on all HF bands, 6m and 2m EME. QSL via F5RXL.

**H40, TEMOTU PROVINCE** (Update). Sigi, DK9FN, will once again return to the Temotu Province for a fifth time and be active as H40FN, but this time from Lata, Nendo Island (OC-100) between December 21st and January 10th (2014). QSL via DK9FN (not HA8DD) effective from July 1st, direct or by the Bureau. More details will be forthcoming.

**HK0/S, SAN ANDRES ISLAND** (Update). Members of the "DX Friends" will activate San Andres Island (NA-033) between November 1-10th. The current list of operators mentioned are Alberto/EA1SA, Toni/EA5RM (Team Leader), Roberto/EA2RY, Manolo/EA7AJR, Jose/EA7KW, Fabrizio/IN3ZNR, Alain/F6ENO, Tony/F8ATS, Faber/HK6F, Bernard/F9IE, Roberto/HK3CW and Valery/RG8K. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1824, 3524, 7004, 10104, 14024, 18074, 21024, 24894 and 28024 kHz

SSB - 1845, 3780, 7065/7160, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945 and 28494 kHz

RTTY - 7035, 10140, 14080, 18100, 21080, 24921 and 28080 kHz

6m - 50105/CW and 50115/SSB

They will have at least 4 stations at the same time on different bands and modes. Equipment is an Elecraft K3 and 3 Icom IC-7000. Antennas are Hexbeams, SpiderBeam, Verticals (160/80/40/30m) and Yagi for 6 meters. QSL via EA5RM direct (see Web page). You can use the OQRS (see Web page) for direct and Bureau cards. More details should be forthcoming, especially their call sign. Visit their Web page at: <http://www.dxfriends.com/SanAndres2013>

**J7, DOMINICA.** Operators Charlie/K1XX, George/K5KG, Jim/WI9WI and Gus/VO1MP will be active as J79XX, J75KG, J79WI and J79MP, respectively, from Dominica (NA-101) between November 16-25th. The group plans to also be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) signing J7A as a Multi-2 entry. QSL J75KG via K5KG, J79XX via K1XX, J79WI via WI9WI, J79MP via VO1MP and J7A via NX4N.

**JY, JORDAN.** Jovica, E78A (ex-6W1SJ, 9K2/T94FC, ST0RM, ST2A, T94FC, T98A, TT8JT) is now active as JY9FC from Amman. Jovica has been working in Amman for the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) for almost two years but just received his license. Most likely he will stay there for another three years. As during his previous activities, activity will be during his free time mostly on CW with some SSB and Digital operations. QSL via E73Y: Boris Knezovic, P.O. Box 59, 71000 - Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, or via E7 bureau. Clublog OQRS will be activated after first logs are received from Jovica.

**OX, GREENLAND.** Operators Mia/OZ5MD & Bjorn OZ5BD active as OX5M and OX5T, respectively, from Sisimiut, Greenland (NA-018), for at least the next 2 years. Activity will be on 40-6 m using CW and SSB. QSL via OZ0J.

**P4, ARUBA** (Correction/Update). Valery, R5GA, active as P4/R5GA from Aruba (SA-036, WLOTA 0033) between Nov 16-26th. Activity will be on CW mainly on 160-10 m, especially on the 30/17/12 m. His activity will also include the CQWW DX CW Contest (Nov 23-24th) [not the CQWW DX SSB Contest] as a Single-Op/All-Band entry using the contest call sign P40F. QSL via UA3DX. QSL P4/R5GA via R5GA, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

**P29, PAPUA NEW GUINEA** (Update/Rescheduled). Akira, JA1NLX, reports on his Web page that he will be active as P29VNX from Lissenung Island (New Britain Island), in the Bismarck Archipelago IOTA Group (OC-008) between December 1-6th. Activity will be mostly on the IOTA frequencies on 30-10 meters using CW, RTTY and PSK31. His transceiver is a Elecraft KX3 with a small 100w amp into a 1/4 wave vertical with elevated radials. QSL via JA1NLX, direct (w/SASE & 2 USDs) or OQRS (direct (3 USDs) or Bureau). Do not send your QSL via Bureau. He is no longer a member of JARL. All logs will be uploaded on LoTW and the Online Log search available on ClubLog. Akira states, "I will send you QSL via Bureau from GlobalQSL if you request OQRS\_Buro." For more details and updates, watch Akira's Web and Blog pages at: <http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~yy7a-ysd/P29VNX-2013.htm> <http://ja1nlx-aki.blogspot.jp>

**PJ4, BONAIRE**. Operators Paul/K1XM, John/K4BAI, Jeff/KU8E, Martin/W1MD and Dennis/W1UE will be active as PJ4A from the "PJ4G Radio House" on Bonaire (SA-006, WLOTA LH-1279) during CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Multi-2 entry. The team will be on the island between November 18-26th. Outside the contest, operators will be active as PJ4/homecall. QSL PJ4A, PJ4/K4BAI and PJ4/KU8E via K4BAI. QSL PJ4/K1XM, PJ4/W1MD and PJ4/W1UE via their home call signs. Check out the "PJ4G Radio House" at: <http://www.pj4g.com>

**S2, BANGLADESH** (Project 2013 by MDXC - Press Release). The MediterraneoDX Club (MDXC) announced on Wednesday, Oct 16th, that they will be [edited] "organizing some skeds from the HQ of Bangladesh Scouts, where they'll operate, with others Scouts groups in the World. This is a good opportunity for Bangladesh Scouts to listen and contact others Scouts on the air. The team's idea is to offer these special skeds on 20 meters on Nov 20th and 21st around 1300 UTC. Scout Groups interested can write an E-mail to their Pilot station IK7JTF. More updates soon." Just a reminder that this DXpedition will take place between Nov 16-26th, using two call signs - S21ZBC from the start of the DXpedition (November 16-22nd), and then they'll shift to the other call sign S21ZBB, starting from Nov 23rd for the CQWW CW Contest weekend and the remaining days until they leave the country. For any further news and updates, please visit the official Web site of Bangladesh 2013 adventure at: <http://www.mdx.org/bangladesh2013>

**S7, SEYCHELLES**. Cesare, I0WDX, will be active as S79WDX from Digue Island (AF-024), in the Seychelles Island group between November 12-23rd. Activity will be 160-6 meters, propagation permitting, using an Icom IC-7000 into a vertical by I1UJX and dipoles for 80 and 160m. QSL via I0WDX direct or LoTW. No QSLs via the Bureau.

**T6, AFGHANISTAN**. Jean-Marc, ON4JM, just received his official T6 license from the ISAF HQ. Look for him to be active as T6JR from Camp Marmal, near Mazar e Sharif, in the northern part of Afghanistan, until the end of December. Activity will be on CW and SSB. QSL via ON4JM, direct or by the Bureau.

**T32, EAST KIRIBATI**. Tim, NL8F, will be active as T32TM from East Kiribati between November 27th and December 11th. However, during his second week there he may possibly join up with the T32RRC team. More details on this is forthcoming. QSL via K8NA.

**T33, BANABA ISLAND** (Update). The T33A DXpedition to Banaba Island (OC-018), which will be active between November 5-18th, announced on their Web page: "The drums of gasoline needed for our generating capacity have arrived on Banaba. KOIL, the Kiribati Oil Company Limited, has a rep on the island and our provision is under his watch to make sure our dpedition has the fuel we need for sustained operation." Also, the DXpedition now has a Blog page: <http://banaba2013.wordpress.com>

**TX5, AUSTRAL ISLAND**. Operators Dave/K3EL and Don/VE7DS will be active as TX5RV Raivavae Island (OC-114) between October 30th and November 6th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using mostly CW, maybe some SSB and RTTY. The Austral Islands are currently 44th on the ClubLog "most wanted" list, very high for a fly-in destination, with a particularly low percentage of ClubLog users having contacts on 10 or 12 meters. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 3531, 7031, 10119, 14031, 18081, 21031, 24914 and 28031 kHz

SSB - 7065/7165, 14220, 18115, 21315, 24970 and 28475 kHz

RTTY - 7037, 10144, 14082, 18102, 21090, 24927 and 28090 kHz

**TU, COTE D'IVOIRE**. Operators Chris/F4WBN (ex-TL0A), Paul/F6EXV and Jan/DJ8NK active as TU5AX, TU5XV and TU5NK, respectively, for a solidarity radio operation which will take place between Nov 17-30th. Activity will be on SSB, CW and RTTY, with ops on 160-6 m (including 60m). QSL via their home call signs, by the Bureau, direct or the OQRS on Clublog. Jan informs OPDX, "The 3 operators will support the club station TU2CI and will leave equipment

behind (radios and antennas), install it and train the local operators to use it, in order to revive the Abidjan radio club, and assist some local hams who have strongly suffered from the civil war that hit the country sometime ago."

**V2, ANTIGUA.** Bud, AA3B, will once again be active as V26K from Antigua (NA-100) between Nov 21-25th. Activity will include the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. Outside of the contest, activity will be all CW on the HF bands only. QSL via AA3B.

**V2, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA.** Kei, KG2A/JJ1RJR will once again be active as V25A from Antigua (NA-100) between November 21st and December 1st. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, and using CW and SSB. He will also be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL direct only with SASE to KG2A. PLEASE NOTE: Kei informs OPDX that his call sign V25A is a reissued call sign. QSL ONLY TO KG2A and not to W9NJB listed on QRZ.com.

**YJ, VANUATU.** Tug, JA2ZS, will lead a team of four JA operators and will be active as YJ0ZS from the Iririki Island Resort, Port Villa, between November 1-11th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JA2ZS. No other details were provided.

**XT, BURKINA FASO.** Harald, DF2WO, will be active as XT2AW from Ouagadougou between the last week of January and the end February 2014. Activity will be holiday style on CW and SSB. QSL via M00XO.

**XT2/XT26, BURKINA FASO.** Operators David/OK6DJ and Petr/OK1FCJ will be active as XT26DJ and XT2FCJ between November 17-26th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters including the 30/17/12 meters using CW and SSB. They also will be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as XT2FCJ. Their set up will be Elecraft K3 and Kenwood TS-480 into a Spiderbeam antenna (20/15/10m - including the WARC), a vertical (40-10m), 80m dipole and LW for 160m. QSL via OK6DJ for both call sign. QSL methods are: the ClubLog OQRS (for LoTW - confirmed every day), direct (minimum 2 USDs or new IRC (accepted IRC that expire in 2017; QSO confirmed to LoTW every day), OQRS by the Bureau, LoTW and eQSL (confirmed 6 months) and paper QSL via the Bureau (confirmed 12 months).

**XV, VIETNAM.** Take, JA6CNH, will be active as XV2CNH from Ho Chi Minh City between November 1-9th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via JA6CNH direct only.

**XV2, VIETNAM.** Toshitaka, JA3NHL, will once again be active as XV2NHL from Ho Chi Minh City between Nov 2-8th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JA3NHL.

**ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND.** Jorma, OH2KI, will be active as ZD8X in November. Activity will be before, during and after the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 19-21st). Activity during the contest will be Single-Op/Single-Band (10m) entry. Look for him on the bands outside of the contest. QSL via OH2KI.

## **IOTA NEWS.....**

**EU-125.** Ric, DL2VFR, will be active as OU1RAEM from Romo Island (DIA NS-001), Wadden Sea National Park (WWFF OZFF-004) between December 28-31st. Activity will be on the HF bands, mainly CW and include an entry in the RAEM Contest (December 29th). QSL via DF5LW, direct or by the Bureau. Also, QSLs will be sent automatically by the Bureau. PLEASE NOTE: Ric will also continue to be active between January 1-3rd, but as OZ/DL2VFR. This activity will be a CW only operation. For more details, see: <http://www.iota-expedition.com>

**JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA** (Update). If you missed Take, JG8NQJ, as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Is in the Minami Torishima (OC-073, JCG 10007) group, you will have another chance sometime in the middle of Dec. He is usually there to work on the island's weather station. Activity will be limited to his spare time. He will be mainly on 17 m but also on 15/12/10 m CW. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct to JA8CJY: Susumu 'Sin' Sanada, 5-17, 5-4, Shin-Ei, Toyohira, Sapporo 004, Japan. Online log is available at: <http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?jd1-jg8nqj>

**JD1, OGASAWARA.** Take, JA1UII, will be active as JD1BON from Chichijima Island (AS-031) between November 1-4th. Activity will be on HF bands. QSL via his home call sign.

**NA-124.** (Update) Operators Manuel/XE2HUQ, Saul/XE2HQL, Craig/XE2HWJ and Felix/XE2I will be active as XF1P from Partida Is between Nov 9-16th. Activity will be on 80-10 m using CW and SSB. QSL via XE2HUQ.

**OC-244.** James, KJ6YAP, will be active as DV1/KJ6YAP from Masbate Island (WLOTA 0900), Philippines, between October 28th and November 24th. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using mainly SSB and with some CW. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.

**SA-035.** A group of YL operators will be active as YW5RYL from Los Roques between November 7-10th. Operators mentioned are Carolina/YV4AW, Maika/YY5ALO, Geraldine/YY2GAL, Laura/YY5OLA, Ramirez/YY5ANG, Mary/YY5MCO and Yumayra/YY5YVR. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. More details are forthcoming and a Web page is under construction.

**VP8, FALKLAND ISLANDS.** Andy, M0HLT, is expected to be active as VP8DOH possibly for 2 years. He is now based on the Falklands as an electrician. Activity will be limited between his work commitments. Operations will be SSB only and mainly on the higher HF bands, preferring 10 meters when conditions allow but will try 20 meters and above. QSL via eQSL only or LoTW.

Well that's the DX story for the next few months. Get on the air. Work some DX and let me know who you worked and even how you snagged that rare one. You really don't know what you are missing.

73 and GUD DX!!

**Chuck, W8PT**  
aka: "Charlie the Tuner"



## *An Enticement for Contest Newbies*

The first and third weekends of November are great opportunities for US and Canadian hams to jump in and give it a try. The ARRL November Sweepstakes is the oldest domestic contest and it has two weekends - the first for Morse (CW) and two weeks later for Phone (SSB). Since it's a domestic contest, even modest stations with low antennas can do very well indeed.



What's the object of the contest? Make as many contacts as you can on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters (not on the WARC bands or 60 meters) with the 83 ARRL and RAC Sections. You can contact each station once during the contest. If you work all 83 sections (called a "Clean Sweep") you can get a really nice coffee mug. If you make 100 QSOs, you can get a pin and start a collection! Work on your WAS or WAVE awards. Try to spell your name from the last letters of the calls you work. Work your home state. Work your brother's state. Nobody can stop at just one QSO...

## When is it?

The 2013 ARRL CW Sweepstakes is **Nov 2 - Nov 3** local time. The 2013 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes is **Nov 16 - Nov 17** local time. That's Saturday afternoon through Sunday evening. You can operate for 24 out of the 30-hour contest period.

## How Do You Play?

Since CW is the first weekend, let's see how it works using CW jargon. (It works just the same on Phone.)

1. You hear somebody calling "CQ SS CQ SS de N0AX"
2. Send your call ONCE - "W7VMI" - don't send their call and don't send yours twice or three times. If they don't copy your call on the first try, they'll send "AGN" or "?" or just CQ again. So call 'em again. If they're going too fast, send "QRS W7VMI" and they'll slow down.
3. If they hear you, they'll send something like this - "W7VMI 107 A N0AX 53 CO" What the heck does that mean?
  - W7VMI is your call to let you know they're talking to you
  - 107 is the number of the contact in the contest for them (their next contact will be 108, etc.)
  - A is their entry category (Low Power) - the categories are A, B, M, Q, S, and U
  - Then they send their call
  - 53 is the last two digits of the first year they were licensed - it's called a "check"
  - CO means Colorado, their ARRL/RAC Section (There are 83 - some are states, others aren't, all are two or three letters - be SURE to use the right abbreviation! And pay close attention to tricky ones, like LA vs. LAX and OR vs. ORG.)
4. If you don't get it all, it's perfectly OK to send "QRS PSE, AGN" - which means "Slow down, send it again, please"
5. If you do get it - way to go! Here's what you send...
  - Their call
  - The number this contact is in the contest for you - if it's your first send "1" and pat yourself on the back
  - Your class (QRP is Q, <150W is A, >150W is B, M is multioperator, S is a school club, and U is unlimited...we'll get to that later)
  - Your call
  - The last two digits of the first year you were licensed - if you got your license in 2001, it's "01", for example
  - Your section, "WWA" for Western Washington, maybe, or "IL" for Illinois, or "QC" for Quebec
6. If they don't get it, they may say...with a question mark, maybe...
  - "AGN" - send everything all over again
  - "NR" - repeat just the number a couple of times
  - "PREC" or just "PR" - repeat your category letter, it's called "precedence" for a number of reasons you don't need to know right now
  - "CALL" - repeat your call (this is rare)
  - "CK" - repeat the two digits of the year, your check
  - "SEC" or "QTH" - repeat your section

7. They may ask YOU to QRS, you speed demon, so do it with a smile!
8. If they copy everything, they'll say a short "TU" (for thanks) or "R" (for Roger) or "QSL" (for received OK) and then just send their CQ or maybe just their call and away you both may go.
9. Sometimes, it just doesn't work out - QRM (interference) or QRN (static) or QSB (fading) or the cat could cough up a hairball on the rug requiring immediate action. Don't take it personally; just go find somebody else to call. It's a no-fault deal.
10. If you get tired of "Searching and Pouncing", then tighten your belt, mop your brow, cock your hat at a jaunty angle and call CQ! It's easy - don't have a cow, man, just call "CQ SS CQ SS de W7VMI W7VMI" and listen, repeat if necessary. Soon you'll get an answer. Just play back the above steps with you as the station being called.

Although you might recoil in horror at the high code speeds, tune wayyyyyyy up in the bands and there will be some folks going nice and slow. The old Novice bands on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters (above 100 kHz from the bottom of the band) are often the home of a number of slow-speed stations hanging out. Don't be afraid to jump in and give 'em a call. I \*guarantee\* your code speed will double with just a few hours at the key.

What about the Phone weekend? Many of us might say, "Gee, Phone SS must be easier to operate than CW." Well, yes and no. Certainly it's more natural to use one's voice than the paddle and the rules are the same so Phone should be a snap, right? All other things being equal...but they are not...phone operation has characteristics all its own.

The phone bands are considerably more crowded than CW. First there's the bandwidth issue - a phone QSO takes up more frequencies than a CW QSO. Also, there tends to be more casual (non-contest) phone operating (nets, rag chews, etc.) of which you need to be aware and coexist. Please be courteous to other band occupants - whether testers or not.

Unlike CW, some folks seem to be enamored with using "the last two" to call. Please use your entire call sign. Nine times out of ten, the other station will copy it right the first time. And use phonetics - NORMAL phonetics. (Willie Billie Five Willie Billie Willie might seem funny to your friends, but not in the middle of a crowded contest band!)



### **What Is Unlimited?**

Single-operator stations can enter Sweepstakes in the A, B, or U categories. What is the U category? It stands for "Unlimited" and it means that you may use information from the spotting networks such as DX Summit or a local VHF channel to help you find stations to work. There are Unlimited categories for both low-power and high-power operation. If you use ANY kind of information from outside your station to find call signs, obtain exchange information, or learn the frequencies of stations to contact, you must enter your log in the Unlimited category. If you tune in and copy every signal on your own, you may enter as Q, A, or B depending on your power level. If you have questions about what category to use for your entry, send email to [contests@arrl.org](mailto:contests@arrl.org) and the Contest Branch Manager will answer them.

## Driving in Traffic

Contesting isn't like day-to-day operating. The bands are full of strong signals packed close together. It's like playing a real football game instead of a game of catch. You'll find that you need to use some of those receiver controls and narrower filters. In fact, cranking in some attenuation or turning down the RF Gain control will improve receiver performance dramatically under the strong-signal conditions in a contest. By effectively using the capabilities of a modern receiver, you will surely find that the band is quieter and nearby signals less disruptive. In fact, you will find yourself making better use of your receiver's controls every day!

## Preamplifier - OFF

Because there are so many strong signals present during a contest, having the preamp turned on is not at all necessary and will likely lead to severe intermodulation and overload problems in your receiver. Turn it off - this will also help a non-contester operating on the bands.

## Noise Blanker - OFF

Noise blankers work by sensing strong pulses of RF anywhere on a band and then turning off the receiver during the pulse. In a contest with lots of strong signals, the noise blanker gets confused and starts turning off the receiver in sync with the strong signals. This makes your receiver audio sound like the strong signal is splattering all across the band! The first thing you should do when operating on a busy contest- filled band is turn off the noise blanker.

## The Attenuator - ON

The attenuator seldom gets a workout, but it can be your biggest friend when dealing with strong nearby signals. It's surprisingly easy for a strong signal to drive a receiver's RF amplifier or mixers into non-linearity known as overload. This creates spurious intermodulation products, known as "crud," up and down the band. 10 dB of attenuation cures a surprising number of ailments at the cost of just a couple of S- units of signal strength.

Try cranking in some attenuation and you may find that interference drops dramatically when your receiver is no longer being overloaded. Remember that the goal is to maximize signal-to-noise ratio, not necessarily absolute signal strength. Try out your attenuator and you may be surprised at how much it cleans up a band even on a weekday!



## RF Gain - TURN IT DOWN

Late breaking news - RF Gain controls are not welded in the full-on position! This makes your receiver very sensitive, but also leaves your IF (and sometimes the RF) amplifiers susceptible to overload. Experiment with backing off the RF Gain to see if it doesn't improve your receiver's performance in a strong signal environment. Even during casual operating, backing off the RF Gain can dramatically reduce background noise. Experiment with changing the AGC settings or even (gasp!) turn it OFF and use the RF Gain control instead. It doesn't take much to change a QRM-clobbered QSO into a fairly manageable channel.



## Special Receiver Features - USE THEM

Does your receiver have Passband Tuning, IF Shift, Variable Bandwidth or similar controls? All those new DSP features you paid for can also clean up noise and attenuate low-frequency or high-frequency interference. There's no time like the present to find the receiver's manual and learn what these controls do. You'll find they make day-to-day operating easier and more successful, too.

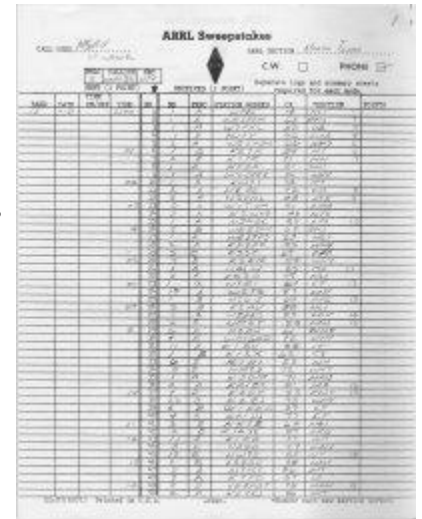
## Sharing the Road

When operating in a contest, you need to be sensitive to the effect of undesired spurious transmitter byproducts. It's one thing to set up your voice keyer and speech processor on a calm, weekday after work and quite another thing to then hammer it during the contest when you're excited.

Do an on-air audio check with a friend to learn where to set mic gain and processing level. Learn what your ALC and Compression meters show with audio levels set properly. Turn on the amplifier fan and every other noisemaker in the shack to see if they make an unwanted contribution to your signal. Be sure you don't have RF feedback on any frequency. Listen to a playback of your voice with every noisemaker in the shack turned on. It's important that all that RF energy is carrying your message and not fan noise. Use a windscreen on your boom mike to limit the high-frequency pops and snaps. You need the crisp high end of speech, but not the transients that overdrive a compressor. Windscreens also reduce fan and background noise.

Check to be sure that running an amplifier doesn't cause RF feedback or distortion to your mic or voice keyer. Better to find that out now instead of during the contest. CW operators should check for key clicks, too.

A small digression. I often hear that contest stations have low-quality audio and I believe that some of these complaints are a result of confusion. Contests are not about audio fidelity, they are about intelligibility. The two do not always go hand in hand as the military well knows. The important thing is to convey the information, not to sound like Bing Crosby. During a contest, I want to have a punchy, crisp signal that is easy to understand on a crowded band. During a regular ragchew, I'll switch to a signal with more dynamic range and more low-frequency response. The two types of operating have very different audio requirements.



## Ready to Give It A Try?

It's a lot of fun - the hours will fly by. Keep a simple paper log the first time out to make it easy - you can worry about entering it on a computer later. There are complete rules and instructions for operating and scoring and sending in the log on the ARRL website for [Sweepstakes](#). Check out the [2013 Sweepstakes Operating Guide](#).

Come next spring, you can click on over to the contest results on the [ARRL's Contest Branch Web site](#), such as these PDF versions for 2012 [CW Sweepstakes](#) or [Phone Sweepstakes](#), and wonder-of-wonders, there your call will be with the mighty titans in the very same font size just a few lines away. Woo-hoo!!

*From e-Ham*

*This is an updated version of previous eham articles [1] [2] [3] [4] by N0AX and N2MG that ran on e-Ham in past years a bit before the [ARRL Sweepstakes](#).*

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**PCARS**



**14 Oct 2013**

## Ham Op 3rd Most Popular Costume this Halloween Season

According to Venture Costumes, a Halloween costume retailer, Sexy Nurses and Teen Zombies had better watch out. "If you follow our market data, there is a significant, wide-spread interest in dressing up like a Ham Radio Operator for Halloween, and we want to meet that demand," said CEO Matt Larr.

The company has rolled out its much-researched "Ham Kit" in time for trick-or-treating and wild office parties. "I spent a lot of time with a scanner listening to local repeaters. I even snuck into a few club meetings to really get into the belly of the beast. I was horrified and bewildered," noted Evie Christian, lead costume designer for Venture. "In my opinion, I think I've come up with a great, terrifying product."



Venture's "Ham Kit" comes bundled with clothing, hair/beard dye, and accessories. The clothing portion includes a pair of off-orange Crocs, a pair of "broken-in" sweatpants, "LET'S FREQ!" novelty shirt, and a pair of rose-tinted glasses. Accessories include a Beofunger plastic HT with open squelch effect, blood glucose monitoring kit, LED call sign badge and embroidered call sign hat. A bonus "Ham Musk" spray which promises to "Bring Terror to the Senses!" is available for \$5.99.

At press time, there were talks of a possible "Sexy Ham" novelty costume for women, however Venture's creative team was having issues bridging the gap between the two concepts. The Ham Kit will be available at department stores soon with a MSRP of \$31.00 USD.

**K5KAC**  
on the scene and in costume

*Editor's Note:* John KD8MQ got this from our friends at hamhijinks.com



## Thanks & 73

All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! Thanks go out to the contributors for this month's newsletter:

**WB8LCD, WB9LBI, KB8UUZ, N8RLG, W8KNO, WB2DFC, K8GI, KC8PD, KD8FLZ, WB8VNO, WA8RCN, KB6NU, W8PT, N0AX, N2MG, KD8MQ, Ham Hijinks, e-Ham, , the World-Wide Web and the ARRL.**

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



**Tom "Parky", KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor





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

Membership Application [ ] New [ ] Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? [ ] Yes [ ] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ (don't need year)

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

Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31st. Dues are as follows:  
Example - Regular Member Pays on Jan 1st \$20 for entire year. If paid on June 1st, \$15 for entire year, etc.

### Check One

### Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

- Regular Full Membership Pay January 1 through May 31= \$20.00 (full year)  
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months)
- Associate Membership Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months)  
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month)

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- Regular Senior Full Membership (65+) Pay January 1 through May 31= \$16.00 (full year)  
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months)
- Associate Senior Membership (65+) Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months)  
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month)

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- Family\* Member Pay January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 (full year)  
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months)  
Call Sign of Regular Member: Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months)  
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month)

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

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

What are YOUR Ham Radio interests:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.  
c/o: Amy Leggiero - KD8SKL  
115 Steels Corners Rd. W.  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Date Received:	<input type="radio"/> New	<input type="radio"/> Renew
Initiation Fee: \$	+	Dues: \$ = Total \$
Paid: <input type="radio"/> Cash	-or-	<input type="radio"/> Check Check #
Date Voted:	Results:	Member Number:
<input type="radio"/> Database Updated		

Rev. 25 Dec 2012

# Amateur Radio GENERAL Class Upgrade Class



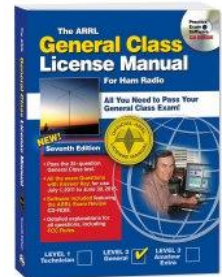
The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)** is offering a General Class Upgrade course

When: Tuesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.  
Starting January 14, 2014  
License testing will be held on the last day of class March 4th

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

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

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



Information & Contact: **Tom Sly, WB8LCD**  
Registration: by e-mail: **WB8LCD@portcars.org**  
or phone: **330-554-4650**

Please register with Tom, WB8LCD by January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
You can pay the registration fee the first night of class

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



Website : <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=1248082>

# ARRL2014

Centennial Events & Programs



**ARRL**  
**100**  
YEARS

- **ARRL National Centennial Convention — July 2014**



**ARRL National Centennial Convention at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, July 17-20, 2014**

**Thursday, July 17, 2014**

All Day Training Tracks: public service, technology, radiosport, and more!

**Friday & Saturday, July 18-19, 2014**

- ◆ Exhibit Hall featuring ARRL exhibits, Amateur Radio manufacturers, equipment sellers, and an indoor flea market
- ◆ Dozens of forums & presentations
- ◆ Friday Night Banquet

**July 17-20, 2014 — Tours of ARRL headquarters and WIAW**

Registration opens late summer 2013 (including hotel details)

- **Second Century Campaign for the ARRL Endowment**  
[www.arrl.org/scc](http://www.arrl.org/scc)

- **Yearlong On-Air Operating Event and Awards**

Plus commemorative publications, regional events, special QST features, and more! Additional details coming soon...

**Advancing the Art and Science of Radio—Since 1914**

**ARRL2014.org**



# 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 118.8 ~ Kent, Oh ~ EchoLink Node: K8SRR

PCARS thanks K8IV for making the repeater available to area hams and for PCARS activities.

### 2013-14 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards - DXCC WAS, VUCC, WAC	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
Club Site	<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
Contest	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	<b>K8SRR</b>	Steve Randlett
Field Day 2014		
F.Y.A.O. 2014	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
Historian	<b>KB8SZI</b>	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF Callsign Trustee	<b>K8FEY</b>	Bob Hewett
K8BF QSL Manager	<b>K8FEY</b>	Bob Hewett
Net Coordinator	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
Newsletter	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA 2013	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
P.I.O.	<b>WA8AR</b>	Tony Romito
Secretary	<b>KD8SKL</b>	Amy Leggiero
VE Liaison	<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
Webmaster	<b>KD8MQ</b>	John Myers



PCARS  
Volunteer  
Examiner  
Team

<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
<b>KB8DPN</b>	Russ Anderson
<b>N4IT</b>	Carl Capps
<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
<b>N8XTH</b>	Deron Boring
<b>N8PXW</b>	Jim Korenz
<b>N8QE</b>	Bob Hajdak
<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
<b>K8IV</b>	Ed Polack
<b>K8QF</b>	Russ Conklin
<b>WB8VNO</b>	Gay Wands
<b>WD8CVH</b>	Ted Wands
<b>NX8G</b>	Rex Simmons
<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
<b>AB8AA</b>	Allan Avnet
<b>K8JAA</b>	Jane Avnet
<b>KD8FLZ</b>	Mike DiCarro
<b>KE8G</b>	Jim Blanca
<b>W8RID</b>	Bob Davet
<b>K8MSF</b>	Bud Green
<b>KD8LEB</b>	Al Zielinski
<b>WA8CCU</b>	Al Nagy
<b>KB8IHG</b>	Christopher Vince
<b>NR8W</b>	Russ Williams
<b>KD8RJV</b>	Jim Corbett
<b>W8EZT</b>	Frank Tompkins



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### PCARS Award Winning Newsletter - The RADIOGRAM



1st Place Ohio 2013



1st Place Ohio 2014



2nd Place 2014 Great Lakes Division

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! **The RADIOGRAM** is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)  
Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor  
9992 State Route 700  
Mantua, OH 44255

# THE RADIOGRAM

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