



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



September 2013 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 8 No. 9

~ 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

Wow! This has been a crazy summer, especially with all the ham radio activities going on. I hope you've had more opportunity to get on the air than I have. Most of my operating has come in the form of PCARS events, like the weekly nets and the OH QSO party. Most of us are creatures of habit, and unfortunately, most of those habits are bad habits. We end up wasting a lot of time. Wasted time is a significant part of our life, which we can never get back. It's gone for good. The way to get around that is to schedule your time, don't just do what feels good at the moment. Schedule your time with PCARS activities as if they were important, which in fact, they are, compared to the time wasted doing nothing! How about getting up an hour early 2 or 3 mornings a week to work some Q's? What do you do at lunchtime? How about the time between when you get home and have dinner? There's lots of times to use – give it a try.



**Tom, WB8LCD**

Now, being organized is another important consideration. If you have to “clear off the bench” just to turn the radio on to operate, then you don't have a very organized situation. Get your station set up for easy access. Fix all the little things that are broke. Have the logs and the pens at ready. Get it cleaned up, and then keep it that way! Get rid of the clutter – sometimes you need to let go of things you've been hanging onto. But, if you're going to keep it, then keep it organized and out of the way. It makes it a whole lot easier to use those short bits of time to do something useful rather than wasting them. I've been working at it personally. I've still got a long way to go, but, everything I do that puts me a step closer feels good, and gets me excited about doing what I really want to do – get on the air,

and, smell solder!

PCARS has a National Contest coming up on Saturday September 7th, Ohio State Parks on the Air. I hope you've made plans to get on the air from somewhere, even if it's from your home QTH. Give us a Q and see how many parks you can work. (If you just want to spend a short time, or don't want to travel, come visit team WB8LCD at Tinker's Creek State Park in Streetsboro) Monday is the PCARS meeting. Tuesday evenings are the Special Interest Groups (SIG's) and starting on the 17th the fall Tech class. Thursdays are the PCARS nets, you'll read more about them further on in this issue. Thursday the 26th is “Net Night at the Club Site.” We've been trying to make that a fun evening of fellowship, food and operating

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

(both on the nets and HF), so come on out and spend a casual evening with us. Saturday the 21st we'll have a "spud gun" building project at the club-site (more details to follow in a qst-email). So if you want to have your own launcher for portable use or just to move things around in the trees in your own back yard, this will be your chance to get it made! Don't tell me there's nothing to do!

September is pretty much the beginning of "contest season". Contests are fun and a good way to build up you Q totals. If you don't know which ones to try, contact Joe – W8KNO, Chuck – W8PT or Parky – KB8UUZ, any one of them would be happy to help you pick the right venue and get started with contesting. And if you do work a contest or two, be sure to notate that you are participating as a member of PCARS. You'll still have your own score, but you'll help make the club more competitive at the same time. Even if you only make a couple contacts – send them in! It all counts for the club score, it helps the contest promoters check the validity of the other logs they receive, and, some pretty modest scores have been known to win certificates.

Like a lot of things in life, the more you participate, and actually do the activities of the hobby, the better you'll get at it. The better you get at it, the more fun you'll have. The more fun you have, the more you'll want to be engaged, and you will ultimately end up having more fun than you ever thought possible. And when other people see you having fun, it becomes contagious. They'll want to get involved, too.

Having been a ham for over 45 years now, I've had more fun in the last 8 years that I've been involved with PCARS than I ever did on my own, or with any other club. Forty-five years ago I never dreamed that ham radio would have become a life long avocation. Forty-five years ago the thought of sitting in my basement (or garage, spare room) and talking with people all over the world was almost too remarkable to believe. But in ham radio it happens. I can't think of any other hobby where that is true. Now, 45 years later, I'm still blown away at how radio works, and all the neat things we can do with it. Don't let that sense of awe die. Keep the thrill alive. Get on the air, get involved with the club activities. Have Big Fun!

72/73,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS President

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## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- Sept 7<sup>th</sup> - **Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA)** Contest - see the flier for information
- Sept 9<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - Bob Winston W2THU, PRB-1 and Other Legal Stuff
- Sept 17<sup>th</sup> - **Fall Technician Class Starts** - see flier for details
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - Jim Kvochick WB8AZP, Official Observers
- 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*

### *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*





## The **RADIOGRAM** - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Ohio Section - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Great Lakes Division

In last month's **The RADIOGRAM**, the announcement was made that **The RADIOGRAM** had won the ARRL Ohio Section 2013 Newsletter Contest. On August



3<sup>rd</sup>, I went to the ARRL Great Lakes Division Conference and after accepting the First Place Ohio Section Newsletter Award, I was honored again with the ARRL Great Lakes Division Second Place Newsletter Award.



Putting together the club's newsletter every month has been a very enjoyable task. Even though I have been doing this for a number of years, it still takes anywhere from 12-18 hours or so of work to get it all 'just right'. But, as we all have favorite parts of our hobby, doing the newsletter is one of those favorite things for me.

Now, with **YOUR** help - we can keep going, keep getting better, and maybe we can get a first place award from the Great Lakes Division in the future.



I want to thank all of the members that send in material for the newsletter. It keeps growing and getting better. Keep sending in those articles. Also, if there is something you'd

like to see, send in a suggestion, I'll see what I can find.



73 and Take Care,  
**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor



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## *From the Vice President*

### **And The Award Goes To...**

I had occasion attend the ARRL Great Lakes Division Conference early in August, where it is customary at such gatherings to recognize amateurs who have achieved notable things. Two of these honors were handed to somebody you know: Tom, KB8UUZ, for his outstanding efforts as Editor of The Radiogram, which hold in your hot little hand even as you read this. For the second year in a row, The Radiogram is the Best Newsletter in the Ohio Section. This is the first time that the same publication has won in consecutive Best Newsletter awards, which is notable by itself.



**Bill, WB9LBI - Talks about the National Traffic System at the Great Lakes Convention**

Parky went on to collect another award for The Radiogram, as the second best newsletter in the Great Lakes Division (encompassing Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky). This is the first time that our newsletter has been recognized at the Division level.

Next time you see Parky, you really ought to congratulate him heartily. Better yet, lavish him with gifts, such as tasteful jewelry, or cash.

You might also want to pass a kind word to Rick, K8CAV, who won fabulous prizes for Best Installation at the PCARS Cruise-In Night, at the Ravenna A&W in August. Rick's meticulously refurbished Army Jeep, with its manly HF antenna, impressed all who saw it. We are considering renaming this event to the Kruis-In, in Rick's honor.

Speaking of the Kruis-In, we should also mention a few of the Special Honors and Mentions awarded at this event:

This one of the few PCARS events that are completely "dry", so to speak. This year Tom, WB8LCD muscled through this state of affairs with a smile and good cheer. To him we bestow the Sobriety Award.

Didn't Get The Memo Award: Dan, KD8EPA, who showed up in a beautiful cherry red Stingray. Too bad it was a radio cruise-in, not a classic car cruise-in. Nobody tell him.

Perpetual Suspenders Award: Leon, N8GLK. When I asked why we only see him wearing suspenders, he mumbled something about holding up is pants.

Honorable Mention Because He Enjoys Seeing His Name In the Newsletter: to Jim, KC8PD.

Citation for Appearing at the Event in a Car with No Transceiver: (Names of guilty withheld. But you guys know who you are.)

***Bill, WB9LBI***

## PCARS VE Test Sessions

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every even numbered month.  
**October 5<sup>th</sup> and December 7<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 (**drivers 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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## 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

09/07 - **Tailgate Hamfest 2013 - 20/9 Amateur Radio Club** - Location: Austintown Senior Center - 100 Westchester Drive - Austintown, OH - Website: <http://www.20over9.org> - Talk-In: 147.315 (PL 156.7) - Public Contact: Dorothy O'NeilMeleski , KC8SYF - 17520 Denver Drive Lake Milton, OH 44429 - Phone: 330-651-8420 or 330-6513  
Email: [k8tkanews@hotmail.com](mailto:k8tkanews@hotmail.com)

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09/08 - **Findlay Hamfest** - Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky Street - Findlay, OH 45839 - Website: <http://w8ft.org> - Contact: Bill Kelsey , N8ET - 3521 Spring Lake Drive - Findlay, OH 45840 - Phone: 419-423-3402 - Email: [hamfest@kangaus.com](mailto:hamfest@kangaus.com)

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09/08 - **Butler SwapFest** - Location: Unionville Fire Department - 102 Mahood Road - Butler, PA 16001 - Website: <http://www.w3udx.org> - Sponsor: Butler County Amateur Radio Association - Talk-In: 147.36/.96 (PL 131.8) - Public Contact: Rick Melton , N3VKM - 214 Criley Road Butler, PA 16023 - Phone: 724-287- 8134 - Email: [N3VKM@arrl.net](mailto:N3VKM@arrl.net)

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09/22 - **Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show** - Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Road - Berea, OH 44017 - Website: <http://www.hac.org> - Contact: Glenn Williams , AF8C - 513 Kenilworth Road Bay Village, OH 44140 - Phone: 440-835-4897 - Email: [af8c@arrl.net](mailto:af8c@arrl.net)



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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)

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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)



## ***The Digital Special Interest Group***

The Digital Special Interest Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the PCARS Club Site in Ravenna. So what are we and what do we do?

The Digital SIG is all about digital communications in Amateur Radio. The purpose of the group is twofold.

First the group is a source of information and help for those wanting to get involved in digital communications. We can help with both hardware and software and if you are having problems you can bring your equipment in and we'll do our best to help get you up and running. While the focus of the group is primarily on sound card hardware and software, we can also help with folks using Terminal Node Controllers (TNC's) and MultiMode Controllers (MMC's). Whether your interests lie in HF SSB or VHF FM and beyond we'll put our best foot forward in getting you on the air.

Second, we try and have a specific topic and presentation involving digital communications at every one of our meetings. As an example, the topic for the September Digital SIG is "What's Inside of That Sound Card Interface" and will cover the most common types of sound card interfaces used today. In the past we've covered such topics as fldigi, RMSExpress, Easypal, and more. Many of the topics we cover are based on requests from the participants in our group so if you have a particular subject you would like to see covered just let me know and I'll get it on the agenda.



Additionally, the club hosts a Digital Net Night on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM on the club's repeater (146.895 110.9 Hz PL or 118.9 Hz PL). This net allows you to put into practice and test your digital setup. Steve, K8SRR who is the NCS has some great net topics and spreads the wealth across many different digital modes.

So make plans to get to the Digital Special Interest Group and see what all the excitement is about ones and zeros on amateur radio!

***Rick, K8CAV***  
Digital SIG Moderator



## Contest Calendar

September 2013	
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 1 to 0300Z, Sep 2
<b>Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA)</b>	<b>1600Z-2400Z, Sept 7</b>
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 7 to 1800Z, Sep 8
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 8
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 14 to 2359Z, Sep 15
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 16
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 21 to 2400Z, Sep 22
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Sep 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 28 to 2000Z, Sep 29

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

## Congrats

The results have been posted for the 2013 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) and the following PCARS members submitted logs. The Fall contest season is coming up soon, so make those antenna repairs or get that new antenna up before the season starts!



#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Power
1	W8PT	312,390	536	195	Single Op	High
2	K8QF	5,796	48	42	Single Op	High
3	W8RID	4,797	42	39	Single Op	High
1	KB8UHN	254,760	448	193	Single Op	Low
2	KB8UUZ	245,115	427	195	Single Op	Low
3	W8KNO	160,866	346	162	Single Op	Low
4	N8OQQ	16,434	84	66	Single Op	Low
5	KD8MQ	10,920	71	56	Single Op	Low
6	KC8UNR	2,496	33	26	Single Op	Low
7	KD8EPA	540	15	12	Single Op	Low
1	N8IL	262,818	483	186	Single Assisted	Low



Make sure you put Portage County Amateur Radio Service as your club name in any contest. Also, wonder how accurate you were? Check out the LCR (Log Checking Reports) on the ARRL site.

**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!





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## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in September:

KA8OAT	Richard	McPeak
WB8VYW	Mike	Hutsler
WD8CVH	Ted	Wands
WD8BIW	Karen	Warner
KD8TNY	Rick	Porter
KA8CMD	Glenn	Foldessy
KD8FME	Jim	Conlin
KD8HGI	Frank	Sheline III
KD8JRE	Michael	Harris
N8KBX	Bob	Magree

KD8JRK	Tom	Steele
KC8NOW	Ed	McKivigan
N8RLG	Robert	Gurney
NT8K	Bob	Whiddon
KC8UNR	Mike	Cibella
AC8NT	James	Wilson
KD8VT	James	Andrews
KD8UXG	Scott	Gardner
KC8KYW	John	Kametz
W8DAC	Duane	Crawford

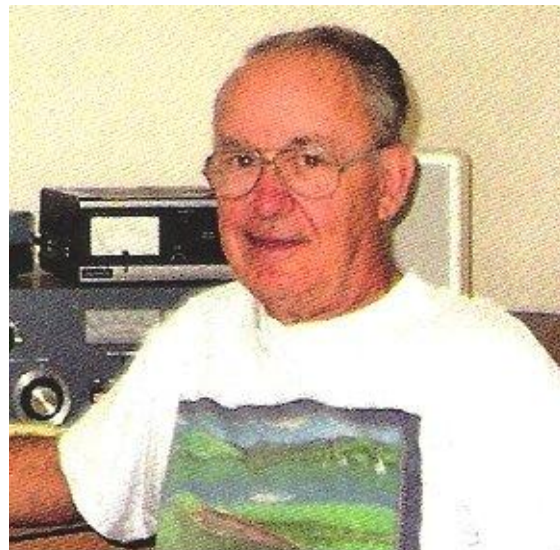
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## Veteran DX QSL Manager W3HNK Marks 50 Years of Service

It's been 50 years this month since now-veteran QSL manager Joe Arcure, W3HNK, began serving as a QSL manager for DX stations, starting with ZE4JS (Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe).

Since then he has handled QSLing chores for more than 400 DX stations, and anyone with DX QSL cards likely has one in the collection that W3HNK handled.

Licensed in 1956, W3HNK was bitten by the DX bug the following year and, as he puts it on his QRZ.com page, "was off in a world of DX chasing." He has operated from several spots in the Caribbean under various call signs. Joe says that after he signed aboard as QSL manager for ZE4JS, he "kept adding call signs through the latter part of the 1960s, all the 70s, 80s and 90s," and the rest is history.



Although he retired in 1998, Joe remains "active with the pasteboards," as he puts it. W3HNK is a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, class of 1979, and of the ARRL. Congratulations, Joe, and thanks for your service to the DX community! — *The Daily DX*, *QRZ.com*

*From the ARRL*

**Editor's Note:** After seeing this on the ARRL website, I knew I've sent cards to W3HNK, I checked my log and W3HNK is listed as the QSL manager for 112 contacts I've made to foreign hams. I've sent Joe a number of QSL card requests and he always sent me the requested QSL cards quickly. Hats off and a big THANKS to Joe, W3HNK for his service to the DX community.

## Paper Chase

When you read this, the Ohio QSO Party will have come and gone and OSPOTA will just be a few days away. Another similar event starting on the same day is the Route 66 Special Event. The Route 66 Special Event started in 2000 when a trial was run to test the event for the 75th anniversary of Route 66. The event was not unique in collecting multi-stations. There had been DXCC, VUCC, IOTA, Museum Ships on the Air, Light



House Society and others that did the same thing but Route 66 established a time frame to make the contacts. Since then, we have seen OSPOTA, Indiana State Parks on the Air and the 13 Original Colony special events.

U.S. Highway 66 was established in 1926, it was the first major improvement to link the west coast with the nation's heartland. It runs from Chicago to Santa Barbara.

Through stories, songs and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the spirit of the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America.

However, the demise of Route 66 began in the 1950's as the U.S. began its interstate highway system, and the highway was officially decommissioned in 1986. Today, small portions of the U.S. Highway 66 still exist in towns and rural areas in several states

The event starts September 7th and ends September 15th.

The contacts you will contact are:

W6B: LOS ANGELES, CA  
W6D: VICTORVILLE, CA  
W6F: KINGMAN, AZ  
W6H: ALBUQUERQUE, NM  
W6J: ELK CITY, OK  
W6L: TULSA, OK  
W6N: JOPLIN, MO  
W6P: ST LOUIS, MO

W6C: SAN BERNARDINO, CA  
W6E: BARSTOW, CA  
W6G: FLAGSTAFF, AZ  
W6I: AMARILLO, TX  
W6K: OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
W6M: RIVERTON, KS  
W6O: LEBANON, MO  
W6Q: CHICAGO, IL



The Route 66 On The Air Special Event participating stations are likely to be found somewhere in the vicinity of the following frequencies.

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

Hear you in the pile-ups!

**Joe, W8KNO**

## ***Higher FCC Vanity Call Sign Fee - Effective August 23rd***

The new FCC regulatory fee of \$16.10 to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign went into effect Friday, August 23rd, when the new regulatory fee schedule appeared in the Federal Register. Earlier this year the FCC had proposed upping the vanity call sign fee from its current \$15 to \$15.20, but in the Report and Order in MD Docket 13-140, released August 12th, the Commission offered no explanation for the higher fee.

In another change, starting in FY 2014, the FCC will require that all regulatory fee payments be made electronically.

The R&O ordered a broad schedule of new fees and waived the usual 30-day waiting period following Federal Register publication, because it feared there would not be time for FY 2013 fees to become effective before the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1st.

The FCC says it expects \$230,230 in revenue to cover the costs of administering the vanity call sign program. It anticipates 14,300 vanity call sign applications.



***From the ARRL***

***Editor's Note:*** Just a week before this increase was official, reports were out that the increase would probably be in September.

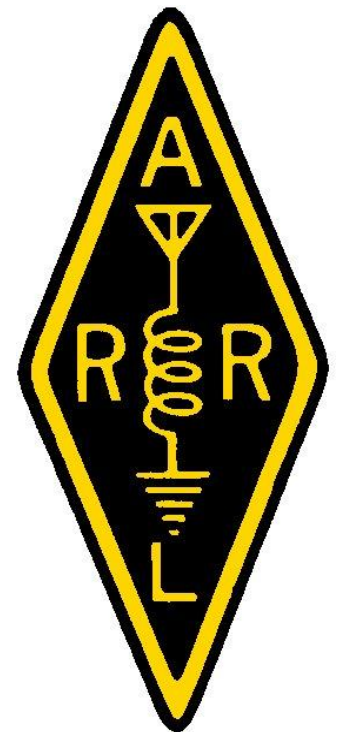


## ***Some Words from Weaver***

As it does each year, summer has come to an end. Ask any student in grade or high school and they will say it ended the first day they returned to school. For radio amateurs, the time has come to plan those last-minute antenna updates. I said, plan, not do. I adhere to the second corollary to Chisholm's first law of human interaction (or some such law) that says the worse the weather is when antenna work is done, the longer the antenna will stay up. I have to admit, though, that the way the weather has been around my part of the US the past several weeks, I am beginning to wonder if there is any such phenomena as truly bad weather any longer.

In my previous message, I stressed that the existence of a fully-functional ARRL is critical to the continued existence of Amateur Radio. I noted that this is true of all phases of hamming, regardless of how one uses the benefits that come with an Amateur Radio license. This is just as true for the amateur who enjoys nothing more than using a VHF/UHF HT as it is for the hot contester or DXer with a huge antenna farm that covers all amateur bands. Without ARRL, there would be no Amateur Radio -- there would be no DXing, no contesting, no rag chewing, no public service communications . . . no using a UHF/VHF mobile or HT to keep in touch with home or someone else.

Every ham operator owes his ability to obtain an Amateur Radio license to the work ARRL does to represent our great avocation before the US FCC, NTIA and Congress, and before the UN's International Telecommunications Union (ITU) agency. The strength of ARRL in representing the best interest of Amateur Radio and radio amateurs relates to the number of amateurs who belong to it and who actively participate in its affairs. Although it is impossible to





know for certain, it is estimated that only 50% of people who hold valid FCC Amateur Radio licenses are active in hamming in one way or another. Of these, approximately 50% belong to ARRL.

The question raised by the latter figure is why don't more active hams support ARRL?

I am certain there are several answers to this question, There are amateurs who have no understanding of the benefit ARRL brings to them and their ability to hold and activate amateur licenses. There are some who are angry with ARRL because of an action it took twenty or more years ago -- e.g. supporting incentive licensing -- and are trying to "show"" the League the error of its ways. There are people who don't like something about the new, digital version of QST -- the way it displays, whether they can save it to a notebook to read it while travelling or something else. There are some who do not like the way listings in the Repeater Directory are laid out (they are laid out precisely in the manner the several repeater councils provide the information). Some think the League devotes too much effort toward DXing or to contesting or to EmComm, or to technical issues or to (please insert your pet peeve here) and refuse to join.



To be fully honest with you, every reason for refusing to join ARRL that I have heard throughout the 10 years during which I've been Director of this Division are pretty darned lame compared with the great benefit the League offers to all amateurs -- the ability to be Amateur Radio operators and get on the air.

To be fully honest, again, the ultimate fact is that not everything ARRL leadership does makes me totally happy. This leadership includes those of us who have served and are currently serving on the Board. This ultimate fact of course is the result that we each are individuals who have our own thoughts, our own likes and our own dislikes. Even so, I think ARRL over the decades has done and continues to do a pretty good job of protecting and growing Amateur Radio.



do the job many years into the future?

If you find an organization that is, indeed, more capable of providing protection and support for Amateur Radio in the US and worldwide than ARRL, join it; support it. Until an organization that runs rings around the League in performing its duties toward Amateur Radio and our fellow hams shows up, wouldn't it be the wise thing to do to support the only organization that is doing the job now and that has the ability to continue to

73, get on the air and enjoy the FCC license that ARRL has made it possible for you to have.

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



## 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)



## PCARS Thursday Net Control

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



September	
5	KB8UHN
12	KD8FDK
19	K8IV
26	WB2DFC

October	
3	NR8W
10	N8QE
17	KC8PD
24	WB8LCD

November	
7	KB8UHN
14	KD8FDK
21	WB8LCD
28	N8QE

December	
5	KC8PD
12	KB8UHZ
19	WB2DFC
26	WB8LCD



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

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## *Seven Misconceptions*

Saw this on the Internet and thought it was interesting. Author unknown:

Despite all the information about amateur radio that is available on the Internet, and the efforts of our public relations folks to set the record straight, there are still quite a few misconceptions about amateur radio floating around out there. Here are the top seven:

- Amateur radio is a dead hobby. This is far from the truth. There are now more than 700,000 licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., and the number keeps growing.
- You need to know Morse Code. This myth persists, even though the Morse Code test was eliminated for the Technician Class license more than 20 years ago, and it has since been eliminated for the other license classes. You don't need to pass a code test to get an amateur radio license!
- Amateur radio uses old technology. Yes, some hams enjoy using vintage equipment that uses vacuum tubes, but modern transceivers, are very sophisticated. They have multiple embedded processors and perform some very advanced digital signal processing.
- You need to be an electronic genius to be a ham. To get the most out of amateur radio you do need to have some knowledge of how radio works, but you don't need to be an electronics engineer to enjoy the hobby.
- The Internet means the death of amateur radio. Far from it. Rather than railing against the Internet, many hams have embraced it. Using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology, for example, amateur radio operators have networked their local repeaters with repeaters all over the world. And, the Internet provides a wealth of information about amateur radio, more than we would have dreamed of in the days before the Internet.
- It's only for "old men." Yes, the median age of amateur radio operators is probably somewhere north of 40, but there are still plenty of women and kids in amateur radio. 30% of the members in our club (SLSRC), for example, are women, and I have had many women and young people in my amateur radio classes.
- All amateur radio operators are nerds. This is a commonly-held misconception. Actually, only 95% of licensed amateur radio operator are nerds. We can't figure out how the other 5% got their licenses.

**I especially like the last misconception on this list!**

***John, KD8MQ***





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## PCARS Nets

If my math is correct, the September 5th PCARS Thursday night net will be the 400th club net. One net was canceled this year and in 2009 there were fifty-three Thursdays.

Back in 2006 when PCARS was first getting started and we only had twenty-five or thirty members the nets would easily get twenty check-ins and in recent years there would be thirty-five to forty on a regular basis.

Today the club has well over 160 active members and we are lucky if we get twenty check-ins. What's happened?

The club net is a social net. Sure, it provides practice for the net control stations and familiarizes participants with net operations and provides a forum for club announcements. But its most important function is social – our chance to get to know each other better.

This is a communications hobby; in particular, a radio communications hobby. On the air we learn to associate voices with names, call signs, and personalities. We can interact with other hams that we otherwise rarely get the chance to talk to. From their casual comments we learn more about them, their families and jobs, and their interests in ham radio.

Comments only take a minute or two but they can still tell us a lot. For those who check in and out without comments, that is okay, too. What is important is that we all take the time to listen.

At club meetings and activities there is the tendency to visit or sit with fellow club members that you already know. Too often, new members or guests may feel isolated. On the air during a net we all sharing in the same experience and gain a sense of familiarity with each other.

As you read this there have been 499 Thursday night nets and I have been in every one of them. I always thought it was important for the founders and leaders of the club to show their support for PCARS operations by participating in club activities, especially the nets. If it isn't important enough for us to be there, why should we expect other club members to check in?

Mark your calendar for September 5th! Turn the radio on by 8:00 p.m. and join us in celebrating net #400. Then I hope you make it a habit to check in as often as you can in the future. All of your friends in PCARS will be listening for you.



73,  
*Jim, KC8PD*

## Swap-N-Shop

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

**FOR SALE: 40' Heavy Duty Self-Supporting Tower** – 37 inches wide at the base, 18 inches at the top \$250  
**Used Rohn 25G** - tapered top section w/rotor plate \$40

**Andrew 22' Superflex FSJ4-50B jumpers** with N-male & DIN-male connectors. (9 Remaining) \$20.00 Supplied w/extra N-male for building a custom length N-male to N-male cable \$30.00 ea. (6 Remaining)

**Andrew UHF Male Connectors** for 1/2" LDF4-50A new, \$20.00 each. (2 Remaining)

**N-male to N-male barrel connectors** \$5.00 each. (4 Remaining)

**Hubbell - HBL5366** 20 Amp 125 Volt plugs \$6 (5 available)

**Hubbell – HBL2611** NEMA L5-30P Twist Lock 30 Amp 125 Volt plug \$10

**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 @ 600 V, 24 Volt Coil \$30.00 (2 Available)

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

Bolt on Auxiliary Contact Set for any of the above contactors with 1-N.O. & 1-N.C. Set of contacts \$2.00 each

**1/4" Plate Glass** for desk or table top, Great for radio bench measures 42" x 68" cost \$152.00 - Asking \$50.00

**Ferraz-Shawmut ULTRASAFE® Fuse Holders** DIN Rail Mount, Blown Fuse Indicator \$1.00 each (8 Remaining)

**Station Ground Bars** - military surplus MADE IN U.S.A. by COLE HERSEE of Boston, MA. \$8.00 ea. (Only 8 left)

**Weller 8200 Soldering Gun** – last of the good ones with the tip nuts, with carrying case, spare tips and tools, \$45.00

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

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**Contact James** at [KD8VT@portcars.org](mailto:KD8VT@portcars.org) or call 330-206-4909 [10/02/13]  
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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: [10/02/13] This will help keep the listings current.

# 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**





## Get Ready for OSPOTA

Remember, now that the Ohio QSO Party is over, we still have the **Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA)** Contest to look forward to.

As usual, OSPOTA is held on the first Saturday after Labor Day, despite what you may have read in QST. More information can be found elsewhere in the Radiogram, or at [www.ospota.org](http://www.ospota.org).

So, how can you participate? One way is to get on the air, and give contact to those of us who are “roughing it” by operating portable in one of the 74 Ohio State Parks.

A better way to participate is to pack up the gear (don't forget the family) and enjoy a fun-filled day at one of the OH State parks. The weather is still beautiful at that time of the year. The cool thing about going portable is that everyone counts for point credit; not just other OH state park stations.

If you go to [www.ospota.org](http://www.ospota.org), and click the link marked “Planned Operations – 2013”, you can get an idea what parks are going to be active this year. As of this writing, it looks like we'll have at least 47 State parks on the air. But, we'd love to see full activation (all 74 parks) this year.

So, we will look forward to working you during OSPOTA. It's just about the most Ham Radio fun you can have outdoors.

Also, lest we forget, the Indiana Parks On The Air (INPOTA) will be held the same day. More information can be found at [www.inpota.com](http://www.inpota.com).



**John, KD8MQ in the 2012 OSPOTA**



**You never know who will be there to help you....**

So, get on the air, check out OSPOTA for yourselves. It's just about the most Ham Radio fun you can have outdoors.

**John, KD8MQ**

**September 7, 2013**

**Ohio State Parks On The Air**

A decorative border featuring a row of autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow, with a small blue squirrel at the bottom right.



## EmComm

It's that time of year again for National Preparedness Month. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the month of September is set aside for educational programs nationwide encouraging all of us, not just hams, to be prepared for natural disasters.

Many of us think that we have things covered for personal, family and business emergency preparedness. But there is always more to be learned and there are some handy resources for that.

Start out with FEMA's [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) web site. From brochures to checklists, whether for families or businesses, you will find a ton of helpful data. This includes everything from pandemics to house fires to natural disasters.

There is information about preparing all types of safety plans for individuals, households, communities, or even students on campus. You can also find recommended lists for the items you should include in your preparedness kits.

You can also find a lot of information on how to get involved in community activities and a wealth of information for businesses. For instance, you or your employer may want to take a look at the section on continuity of operations planning.

You can also check FEMA's emergency preparedness publications at <http://www.ready.gov/publications>.

The State of Ohio also has some skin in this game and you will want to review <http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/NPM/index.stm> which is the ReadyOhio web site.

And these days it almost goes without saying that there is an app for that! Find it at



<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fema/id474807486?ls=1&mt=8>

Check those sites out and get to work on making things safer for you and your family by being better prepared. And since it's the beginning of the month, have you charged all of those backup and HT batteries lately?

As always, a reminder of upcoming public service events:

- \* Mantua Potato Stomp, 9/7, contact Jim, KC8PD, [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org)
- \* Ravenna Parks and Recreation – Balloon-A-Fair Chase, 9/21, contact Sandy, KD8JCY, [kd8jcy@portcars.org](mailto:kd8jcy@portcars.org)
- \* Akron Marathon 10/28 – signup at [www.summitares.org/signup\\_training.php?code=0](http://www.summitares.org/signup_training.php?code=0)
- \* Ravenna Parks and Recreation – Got Bike, 10/6, contact Mike, KD8FLZ, [kd8flz@portcars.org](mailto:kd8flz@portcars.org)

73,

**Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI**  
Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EM Communications Unit/RACES  
DEC, ARES® District Five

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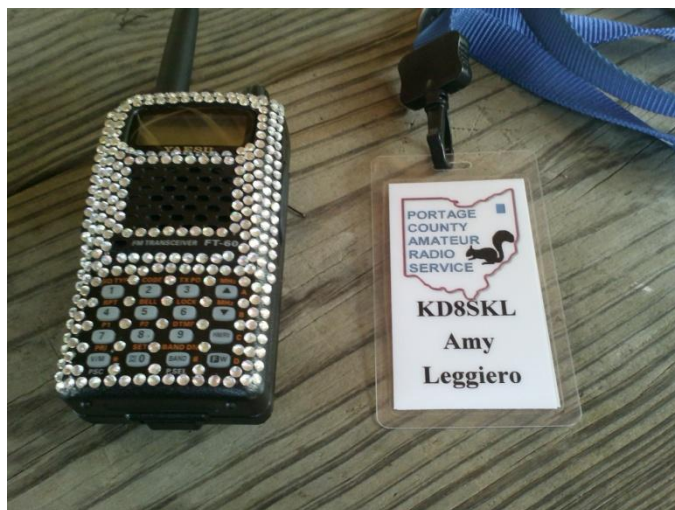
## ***Personalize Your Equipment***

Due to heavy rains I was paired up with my friend Amy, KD8SKL, at the Headwaters Triathlon, because my station was vacated. I was the senior operator at our location, not just the Senior in years, so Amy and I were discussing what our duties would be. I ensured that I would Elmer her if she needed help. We checked our equipment and checked in with Net Control.

As Amy began to call Net Control I noticed something unique about her HT. The front face plate was covered with rhinestones with only the dial and controls accessible. Amy said that she wanted to personalize her HT.

Here is a photo of her handy work. At our next working event I snapped a picture of Amy's handy work. Amy was too shy to pose with her personalized HT.

I hope you enjoy the picture and maybe you will personalize your own equipment.

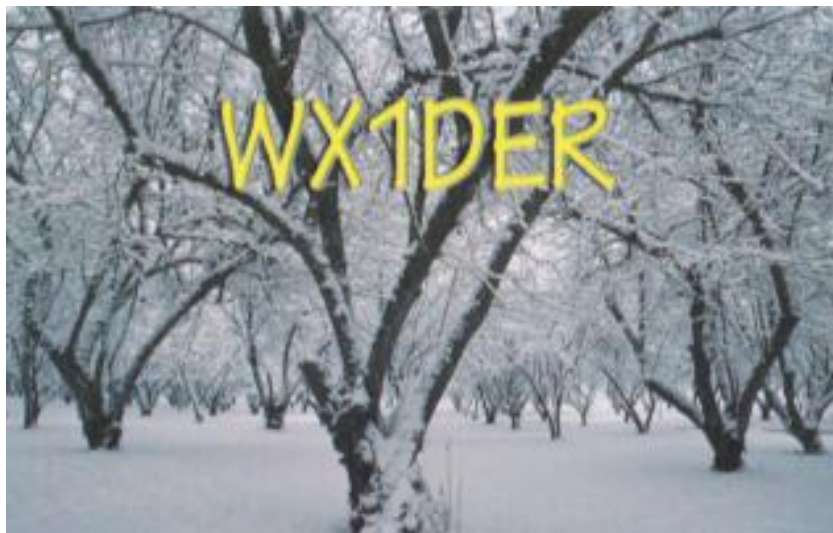


***Terry, KB8AMZ***

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## ***Member QSL Card - WX1DER***

This is Daryl Stout, WX1DER (formerly AE5WX), of Little Rock, Arkansas. I decided to rejoin PCARS... but as a "paying member only". I won't be able to take part in any activities, etc., due to health and other issues. Plus, I'm still in Little Rock, AR, which makes for a long drive to get to a meeting....



Right now, I'm hoping to make the ARRL National Convention in Hartford July 17-20, 2014 (I'll be there July 17-19), but that'll be my last out of state trip.

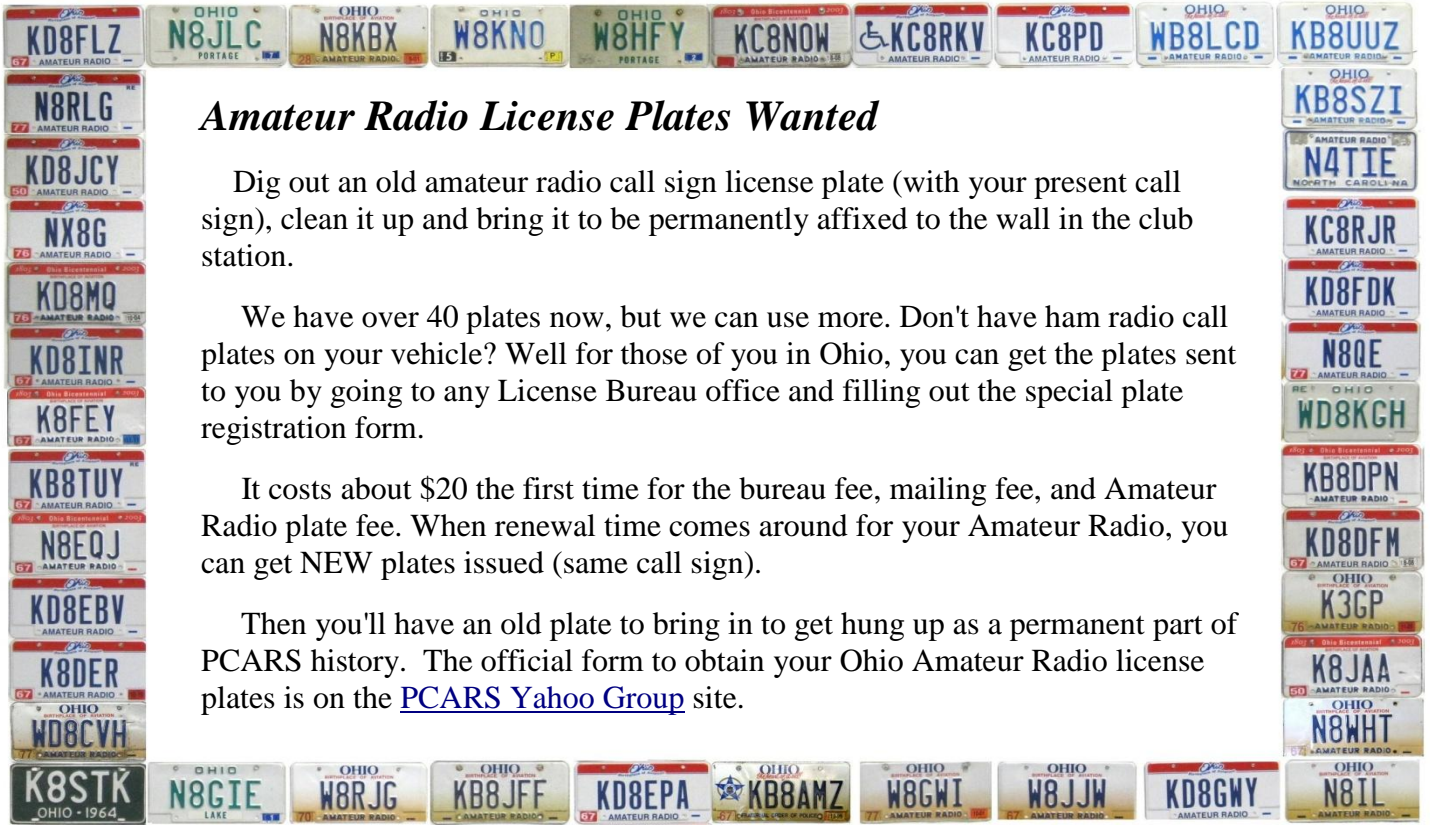
Here's my new QSL card. Yes it does snow here - I bet you thought all we got was tornados! Ha !

I'll check into the PCARS Nets through EchoLink, when schedule and internet permits.

73,

***Daryl, WX1DER***





## 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**





## *Taking a Dose of My Own Medicine*

Last week, I wrote a blog post on preventive maintenance for one of my writing clients.

Afterwards, I decided to take a dose of my own medicine and do a little preventive maintenance around the shack. I started with the Astron RS-35M, which provides the DC power that runs HF transceiver and my VHF/UHF transceiver in my shack. I had started noticing a few little things, such as the voltage adjustment being a little fussy, that I wanted to correct before the supply failed on me.



After removing the cover, I vacuumed all the dust out of the supply. The RS-35M wasn't very dirty, but even so, getting the dirt out of a piece of equipment is probably the first thing you'll want to do when performing preventive maintenance. Dirt impedes air flow. That can lead to higher operating temperatures, and as the lab manager that I interviewed for my blog post said, "Heat kills."

Not only should you vacuum any dust out of a cabinet, you should also clean the fan filters, if your gear has them. Dusty filters prevent air from flowing smoothly through equipment, and that means the fans don't cool as well as they should.

Once that was done, I did a visual inspection. One thing that you want to look for are components that look like they're getting too hot. Another thing to look for is evidence of arcing. Whatever is causing the overheating or arcing will eventually cause a unit to fail. Fortunately, I found neither.

Next, I checked to see that the components mounted to the enclosure were securely screwed down. In the RS-35M, the transformer, the bridge rectifier, and an electrolytic are mounted to the enclosure. Oddly enough, the bridge rectifier was quite loose, so I tightened it down. Also loose were the output terminals. I tightened these down as well.



Finally, I squirted a little cleaner and lube into the voltage adjustment pot and worked it back and forth. That seemed to do the job. That pot now works smoothly and cleanly.

I put the cover back on, reconnected the power cable, and got back to making QSOs. It should be good for another couple of years.

***Dan, KB6NU***

When he's not keeping the gear in his shack in tip-top shape, 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](http://KB6NU.Com) or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Shack Shots - K8MSH

This is the classic corner of my shack, including restored Collins KWM-2 and Heathkit HW-101, with power supplies and classic Turner mics. A Knight Kit Star Roamer occupies the top shelf.

Antennas? Mosley TA-63N, sloping 160m inverted-L, MA4080/ DXE-MBVE-1 verticals (I change these out periodically), 80-6m OCF dipole, 6m log periodic, Cushcraft 2m/440 combo yagi, Diamond X-30 2m vertical.



Got most bands covered, 160m-70cm



What part of Ham Radio do I like? Antenna experimentation (how could you tell?) DXing, restorations.

*Mark, K8MSH*

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## OHIO QSO BBQ Party

The Ohio QSO Party was run from the PCARS Club-Site on Saturday August 24th. Three stations were up and running on 20 meters, 40 meters and 80 meters. Unfortunately, just a day prior to the QSO party a large solar flare pretty much decimated the bands at our location. Still, close to 200 contacts were made between noon, and 11:00 PM when I turned out the lights. 40 meters was the big winner with about 100 of those Q's.



The BBQ portion of the party was probably the biggest success of the day. Amy, KD8SKL and I cooked about 30 burgers and about 40 hot dogs. A big can of beans was put on, and with the help of Mary Jo Ryan's "baked bean helper" they turned out pretty good! There were also plenty of chips and a couple plates of desserts. At the end of the afternoon there were about 2 hamburgers and a couple hot dogs left. Terry, KB8AMZ showed up later with a big box of chicken and fries which carried most of the ops through the evening.

It was a nice day, many members showed up and quite a few actually operated and made some Q's for us!

73 de,  
*Tom, WB8LCD*

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## Linux for Hams Special Interest Group

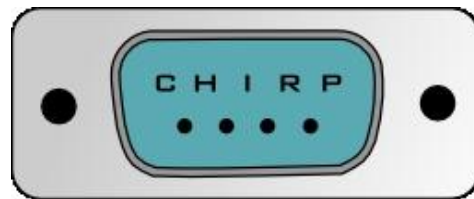


October 29, 2013 is the next scheduled Linux for Hams SIG. KB8AMZ will demonstrate programming software chirp. Chirp is a free programming tool, to edit channel information stored in VHF/UHF radios, developed and distributed by Dan Smith, KK7DS, for Windows, Linux, and MacOS operating systems. The website, [chirp.danplanet.com/](http://chirp.danplanet.com/), has a "growing list" of radio models that Chirp supports. The first released software version

0.1.12 worked with radios produced by eight different companies. Dan used a Wouxun KG-UV D1P radio to test both version 0.1.11 and the beta version of Chirp released 4/26/2011. Dan first wrote this programming software for blind and vision-impaired hams, but once released under GPL (free software) the user base became widespread.

### What Chirp Does

Chirp is a programming tool designed to edit most of the settings stored in the channel memory of UHF/VHF radios. Chirp can also create new channels on the Wouxun radio, but that capability might depend on the radio. Use Chirp to make programming changes, editing an existing channel with Chirp is often more convenient than deleting and reprogramming a channel using internal radio menus.



### What Chirp Will Not Do

Chirp does not support all functions and features of every radio. It is not designed to replace the internal menus for configuring functions such as the squelch level and VOX. It does not display or edit DTCS codes for squelch control of received signals. It can display and edit receiving CTCSS tones (TSQL mode) for some radios.

### Linux LiveCD created for Chirp program

Dan Smith, KK7DS, created a liveCD with the Linux operating system for implementation of the Chirp program. The unique feature of the liveCD is, no matter what OS you run on your PC, booting to the liveCD enables the user to program his/her programmable transceiver, save the programmed file to your PC, and exit the liveCD without affecting your PC OS. All that is required is the proper programming cable for your programmable transceiver.

The last Linux for Hams SIG is December 29, 2013. At our last SIG the presenter of his **Raspberry Pi** was a no-show so we discussed ham related programs for linux and played around with Puppy Linux, and discussed the last two SIG's for 2013.

73,

**Terry, KB8AMZ**  
Linux SIG Moderator



## Vanity HQ Website Pulls the Plug



After serving the US Amateur Radio community for 14 years Mike Carroll, N4MC, has shut down his Vanity HQ website (<http://www.vanityhq.com/>).

“Vanity HQ is closed,” now greets visitors to the site. “It’s been a good 14 years. Thank you everyone for participating, sending bug reports and comments, and I especially thank all the Elmer volunteers who have helped me over the years. It is time for me to move on. Regards to all.”

The site has had its ups and downs over its lifetime. Carroll made a similar announcement in 2004, citing “a shift in my priorities,” but the site eventually remained open. Over the years Vanity HQ often was the first stop for radio amateurs seeking a vanity call sign. Among other information, it provided a list of recently issued vanity call signs as well as available call signs and active vanity call sign applications.

In 2008, the ARRL Board okayed a partnership with the Vanity HQ site to have QST Silent Key listings included in the Vanity HQ history project in an electronically searchable format.

After Carroll announced he was shutting down in 2004, Eldon Lewis, K7LS, inaugurated his RadioQTH website (<http://www.radioqth.net/>), which offers essentially the same information Vanity HQ did.

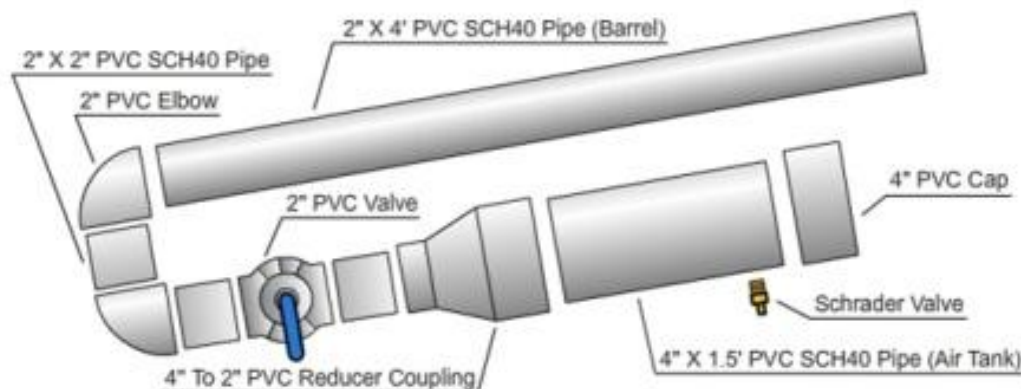


*From the ARRL*

## Build the Spud Gun and Wake Up the Neighborhood

I know what you need: a bigger signal. More firepower. You need the **Spud Gun**.

This air powered cannon will easily launch a projectile over a 150 foot-high obstacle. That would be about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the height of the PCARS tower in Ravenna. By attach a fishing line to the projectile, you can haul a wire antenna up as high as you need, and support it with the local trees. Through the trees, on top of them, any way you want to do it. Nobody is going to argue with a man holding a Spud Gun.



The **Spud Gun** is our September project at PCARS. In about an hour, you can put together this nifty kit made primarily from PVC plumbing pipe and a couple of valves. The project is headed up by beefy ex-Marine

commando Russ, NW8R, who describes his spud gun design in vivid prose not suitable for a family publication like The Radiogram. Allow me to paraphrase: “**KA-POW!**”

On September 21, Russ will conduct a building session at the club site so you can build an inexpensive but robust spud gun, for under \$50. To this you will need to add a fishing reel and a bicycle pump to pressurize the air chamber. These last two items are not included with the kit; you’ll need to obtain them separately.

Please contact Russ at [nr8w@portcars.org](mailto:nr8w@portcars.org) to arrange for your Spud Gun supplies. Then put September 21 on your calendar.

Those of you coming back from the Ohio State Parks On The Air contest will wish you had one of these two weeks previously. You’ll remember from your General Class studies that a HF antenna performs best when it is at least a quarter wavelength above ground, which helps prevent signal absorption into the ground. For those not familiar with this technical concept, allow me to paraphrase: “**KA-POW!**”

**Bill, WB9LBI**



## ***Heavenly Day, It's Gay***

Autumn is nigh and I have some catching up to do!

**CLUB STATION:** our low band radio was out of commission during the National Boy Scout Jamboree. Ted wanted to work K2BSA and we talked to Tom, WB8LCD, about using the club station. He made arrangements to let us in and Mike, KD8FLZ, showed up to lock up. This was a great chance to make use of the very well equipped club station. Ted was able to make contact with the Jambo on several bands. We appreciated the use of the facility, and encourage those of who haven’t operated from the club to give the station a try. The officers are very accommodating.

**TRUSTEES’ MEETING:** Ted & I were able to attend the August meeting and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. All the officers were welcoming. It is interesting to see the workings of the club and yet not have to “clutter up” the membership meetings, leaving them for fellowship and programs. We even received thank you e mails from the officers for our attendance. We felt very welcome.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE:**

**Headwaters Adventure Triathlon:** Well, the Tri changed to Bi this year. The Cuyahoga River was high and fast and CampHi shut down the river portion of the event. Mike, KB8TUY, and Mike, KC8FLZ, normally are in the sweep canoe. They were disappointed that they remained land-lubbers this year. There was a last minute course change, which presented no problems. We finished up really early this year. All went well for communications and the Portage Parks District appreciated our participation. Thanks to: KC8YYS JIM, AD8D DAVE, WD8CVH TED, N8SGS FRANK, N8RKA ART, NX8G REX, WB2DFC DAVE, W8Ezt FRANK, KD8FLZ MIKE, KD8SKL AMY, AB8AMZ TERRY, K8DPF DAVE, and KD8UJG DAN. And to add to the excitement, Rex brought me a spare radio that he isn’t using and I now have a Yaesu 1802 for public service use. Ted modified a case, installed some gell cells, and with the magic of Powerpole plugs, I can use the radio with those cells or with the auxiliary battery in the back of our Honda Element. I have used it for public service and hidden transmitter hunts. Working from the tailgate has been handy, and it is nice to not have to run the vehicle for the duration. Many thanks to Rex.

**Black Squirrel Adventure Triathlon:** The big excitement here was that Ed, K8IV, brought his super-duper comm trailer and the 118.8 input repeater radio and set up in Fred Fuller park. It allowed all of us to work the repeater with HT's. I even managed to put him to work manning one of the park positions. Thanks, Ed, that was a great help. More thanks to KD8JCY SANDY, KC8HOU LEE, N8WWG KEN, WB8YYS GREGG, KC8YYS JIM, KC8PD JIM, K8DPF DAVE, KB8AMZ TERRY, KD8SKL AMY, W8EZT FRANK, KX8G REX, N8RKA ART, WD8CVH TED, and of course, K8IV ED. All went well for communications and the Boy Scout troops of Kent benefited from the event. After the event we had the usual picnic in the park. Another highlight of this event were the red, moisture-wicking T-shirts we were given.

**Bellefaire:** My last event of the season also went well. We had a record 550+ entrants, and \$115,000 was raised for Bellefaire School. Thank you to WB8ROK ED, KC8NZJ MATT, KD8FTS EDDIE, AC8CO BILL, N8SGS FRANK, KB8TOA GREG, KB8TUY MIKE, KC8FLV LARRY, N8KBX BOB, KA8BNS LIZ, KD8JCY SANDY, KC8YYS JIM, KC8PD JIM, NX8G REX, N8RKA ART, and WD8CVH TED.

**HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNTS:** the hunts continue on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, with bonus hunts if there is a 5th Wednesday. We are now starting at 6:30 from the Scout House behind The Church in Silver Lake. Come out and give it a try.

WE ARE BLESSED!!! PCARS is so lucky to have such a premier publication thanks to Parky. If you haven't already done so, consider contributing something to the newsletter. He needs fodder for the cause and any newsletter editor appreciates articles coming in.



73 for now,  
**Gay, WB8VNO**



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

Welcome to September and the unofficial start of Autumn, Labor Day. There are several DX events happening in the next few months and with propagation holding and no additional solar flares, we all might get to work some great DX.

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

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).





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**3B8, MAURITIUS.** A few sources report that Darren, G0TSM, will be active as 3B8/G0TSM from between Sept 18-28th. Darren will be there on holiday, so activity will be limited to 2-3 hours per day on 40-6m using CW, SSB & RTTY. Equipment is an IC-7000 with wire antennas for 40-10m and a 2 element Quad on 6m. Participation in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest (Sept 28-29th) will be very limited due to his return flight time. Darren states [edited], "Please do not send me any paper QSL cards, either direct or via the Bureau. Please use the OQRS feature on ClubLog to request Bureau or direct cards. Also, requests for Bureau QSL cards can be made via E-mail. The log will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog during the holiday."

**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.

**5X, AFRICAN TOUR.** Nick, G3RWF, has announced that he will once again be active as 5X1NH from the University of the Mountains of the Moon (MMU) in Fort Portal, Western Uganda and (occasionally) the capital, Kampala, between September 24th and November 16th. He is expected to join/meet with Alan, G3XAQ/5X1XA, later and both operators will travel to Rwanda to be active as 9X0NH between November 19-29th. The duo plan to participate in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) from Rwanda. QSL 5X1NH and 9X0NH via G3RWF. QSL 5X1XA via G3SWH.

**9G, GHANA.** Jeff, W7JVN/9G5AC, reports on QRZ.com [edited]: "My wife Beverly (WB7NLY) and I have been called to a church mission in Ghana, Africa. I thought it would be nice to be on a DXpedition here so I brought my Yaesu FT 857 radio with me and have set up a humble little station at my house. I have a 20 meter inverted V dipole mounted on a 30 foot bamboo pole. The natives here use these poles to mount a small UHF TV antenna on. Every house has a bamboo pole antenna. Some are longer than the one I found, but I thought I was very lucky to find that one. I use a 12 v battery off my generator for the radio. Who needs power in the house as long as the radio will work? I will get on 20 and 15m SSB whenever I get a chance and when the bands are open here. With the antenna I have and only 100 watts, I don't think I will have a big signal out of Ghana but I have made several contacts so far with good reports. I will be in Asamankese, Ghana (which is in the bush), for about 16 months. Date of this post is July, 2013. I am looking forward to working as many stations as possible, and I hope you are one of them.... 73 Jeff 9G5AC"

**BY, CHINA.** The "425 DX NEWS" reports that CAMSAT (AMSAT China) will hold "a big DX party" from the outskirts of the city of Dunhuang in NW China (Zone 23, WW Loc. NM79aw) between Oct 19-28th. Alan, BA1DU, and a very large group of ops coming from all over the country will be active with four well equipped stations: one for 2 and 6m, one for 70cm and two for 160-10m. Meteor Scatter and EME activity will be emphasized (this will include participation in the ARRL EME Contest), as well activity on the low bands. Special callsign BJ9TA will be used for operating above 50 MHz and on the low bands, while BY9GA/9 will be used for the other bands & for use in the CQ WW SSB Contest. QSL via BA1DU.

**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 are QRV we have filled the remaining operating positions & 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 ops remain the primary objective and we have secured both Titanex and Battle Creek Special verticals. We have 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'll operate all HF bands including 6 m. Our website has been expanded by our webmaster, K6MM. If you haven't been there lately, please visit, <<http://www.c82dx.com>>, where you can learn more about our plans. Tom, N4XP and Don, N1DG -- DXpedition Co-leaders"

**D4, CAPE VERDE.** Barry, M0DGQ, will once again be active as D44TXP from Sal Island (AF-086) between August 27th and September 11th. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters CW only. QSL via M0URX, direct, by the Bureau or via the OQRS <see: <http://www.m0urx.com/oqrs>>.

**E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS.** Fabio, IZ0YIV, will be active as E51YIV from the following islands between October 9-17th. His tentative schedule is:

October 9-13th - Rarotonga Island (OC-013)    October 13-17th - Aitutaki Island (OC-083)

Activity is holiday style, possibly on 20/17/15m (he has not yet decided), using SSB & Digital modes (RTTY, PSK, JT65 and JT9 mainly). QSL via his home call, direct, by Bureau or via eQSL or LoTW.

**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.

**HC8, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.** Geoff, G8OFQ, is now active as HC8/G8OFQ from Isabella Is (SA-004) until the end of September. Activity is on 40-10 meters using SSB only. QSL via the info on QRZ.com.

**JY, JORDAN.** Jovica, E78A (ex-6W1SJ, 9K2/T94FC, ST0RM, ST2A, T94FC, T98A, TT8JT) is active as JY9FC from Amman. Jovica has been working in Amman for the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) for almost 2 years but just received his license. Most likely he will stay there for another 3 years. As during his previous activities, activity during 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.

**OJ0, MARKET REEF.** Pasi, OH3WS, will be on Market Reef (EU-053) as a voluntary worker between September 21-27th, and will be active as OJ0W during his spare time. Activity will be on 40-10 meters mostly CW. He states that he may be in the SAC Contest (September 21-22nd). QSL via OH3WS, by the Bureau or direct to: Pasi Bergman, Tuulipolku 4, 13500 Finland. ADDED NOTE. A YL Mirja (not Pasi's YL) will be there on the Reef with him and was very interested in HAM radio in Sept. 2012. When they were there last time, she made some QSOs. Pasi states, "I will give her a possibility to make QSOs as a second operator on SSB. It has been a long time since OJ0 was QRV by any YL-operator."

**OO, BELGIUM (Special Prefixes).** On July 21st, His Royal Highness Prince Philippe will become the new king of Belgium and His Royal Highness King Albert II has reigned for 20 years. For both occasions, all radio amateurs with a Belgian license will be allowed to use the prefix "OO" instead of "ON" from July 21st until and including September 20th, 2013. Belgian vanity callsigns (with only one letter in the suffix) may not change their prefix. Some vanity callsigns already have an "OO" prefix. A commemorative award will be available for working a number of these "OO" stations. Details will be forthcoming soon.

**OQ4, BELGIUM (Special Event).** Members of the ONZ Oost Kust Radio Club (ON4CLM) and other radio amateurs belonging to UBA clubs and groups will activate the special station OQ4CLM from Knokke between October 16th and November 15th. This is the club's 32nd anniversary activating the special event station. The suffix "CLM" stands for "Canadian Liberation March". Activity is to remind everyone of the 33km march that the Canadian troops did coming from the town Hoofdplaat in Holland to liberate the town Knokke in 1944. Each year, the ONZ uses a different prefix, and this year they were granted the use of the special prefix OQ instead of ON. QSL via ON3AIM. For more information and details about the special event station, visit their Web sites at: <http://www.qrz.com/db/oq4clm> <http://www.oq4clm.be>

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

**PA, THE NETHERLANDS (Special Event).** Look for special event stations PA6SAIL to be active between August 19th and September 10th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, PSK and RTTY. Also 6m and 2m. A special QSL card will be issued for working this callsign. Operations are in supporting the maritime event "SAIL De Ruyter" at Vlissingen. QSL via PA3GEO (by the Bureau or direct).

**P29, PAPUA NEW GUINEA** (Update). 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 September 7-14th. 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>

**S2, BANGLADESH.** Rana, S21R, is once again operating from Dhaka, but this time for one month. Activity so far has been on 20 meters SSB, but his QSL Manager will be encouraging him to operate on other bands as well. Rana will operate with 100 watts and an Inverted V. QSL via his manager Larry, N4VA.

**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.

**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.

**TN2, REPUBLIC OF CONGO** (Update - Date Change). Once again in close cooperation between the DAGOE Foundation, Mercy Ships and 4 Dutch radio amateurs, planning is being done for a DXpedition to Republic of Congo. The Team will stay in Pointe Noire between Oct 12-24th (not Sept 28th-Oct 11th as announced earlier). The team will use the callsign TN2MS (not TN5MS as first announced) for this coming activity. For more details and updates, visit their Web page at: <http://www.tn2ms.nl>

**TO2, MAYOTTE.** Members of the "Italian Dxpediton Team" have announced the callsign, TO2TT, for their upcoming DXpedition to the Island of Mayotte Island between October 3-17th. Operators mentioned are Silvano/I2YSB, Vinicio/IK2CIO, Angelo/IK2CKR, Marcello/IK2DIA, Stefano/IK2HKT, Alberto/IZ2AXF and Mac/JA3USA. HF Pilot station: Fred, IK7JWY. The 6m pilot station: Sergi, IK0FTA. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will have with them four Elecraft K3 w/amps, one Spiderbeam (20-10m), two yagis (20-10m), three vertical antennas (80/40/30m), longwire for 160m and 3 element Cubical Quad for 6m. Online survey for band/mode needs is available on their Web page. For more details and updates, see the following related Web pages: Official website: <http://www.i2ysb.com> Official forum: <http://www.hamradioweb.org>

**TO4, MARTINIQUE.** Thierry, F4BDG, will be active as TO4FM from Martinique (NA-107) between Oct 5-20th. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via EA5GL or on eQSL and LoTW.

**TX5, AUSTRAL ISLANDS** (Update). Ops Grant/KZ1W & Rob/N7QT will be operating as TX5D from Raivavae Is (OC-114) on an Elecraft/SteppIR/WWDXC sponsored DXpedition between Oct 2-14th. They will be using the new CrankIR portable antenna system from SteppIR, as well as Elecraft K3 transceivers and KPA500 amplifiers. Their operational base will be 2 bungalows located on the north side of Raivavae Is, and less than 20 feet from the Pacific Ocean. Activity on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. Log will be updated daily to Clublog <<http://www.clublog.org>> with QSOs data/history; internet bandwidth permitting. QSL available via LoTW, eQSL, by the Bureau, or direct (SASE + IRC).

**V6, MICRONESIA.** Operators Hiroo/JA2VWG and Seihachi/JA7LU active as V63DDD and V63LU, respectively, from Pohnpei Island (OC-010) between Sept 4-16th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters using SSB and RTTY. QSL direct only to their home callsigns (see QRZ.com for details). No Bureau QSLs.

**XW, LAOS.** Ops Steve/9M6DXX and James/9V1YC will operate as XW8XZ and XW1YC, respectively, from Laos between Sept 5-10th. They plan to have 2 stations on the air. XW8XZ activity on SSB and XW1YC mainly CW with some SSB. QSL XW8XZ via M0URX and XW1YC via W5UE.



**XZ, MYANMAR.** It was reported by a few sources that Zorro, JH1AJT, who was active as XZ1X from Nay Pyi Taw last week and was expected to return in Sept, has now postponed his return until Oct/Nov.

**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 Nov 1-11th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JA2ZS. No other details were provided.

**ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND.** Marko, N5ZO, active as ZD8O from Ascension Island (AF-003) during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via OH0XX.

**ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND.** Jorma, OH2KI, 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.....**

**AS-037.** Makoto, JI5RPT, will be active as JI5RPT/6 from (Kami & Shimo) **Kamikoshiki Islands** between September 7-8th. Activity will be on the HF bands (usually 40-6 meters) using CW and the Digital modes. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

**EU-049.** Fred, PA1FJ, active as SV8/PA1FJ/p, from the **Chios Island** (GIOTA NAS-002, MIA MG-025, WLOTA 4103) between August 29th and September 9th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters using CW and SSB and CW. Fred will operate QRP using a FT-817 with a Buddi-Stick/HighEndfed antenna. QSL is preferred via the Dutch QSL Bureau (Box 330, NL-6800 AH Arnhem, The Netherlands).

**EU-052.** Operators Hansi/DL1AOB, Dieter/DL1AWD, Ralf/DL3JJ, Dan/DL5SE, Felix/DL6JF, Lu/DL8ALU, Eddy/DM5JBN and Rich/DK8YY active as SW8YY (during the contest or possibly as SV8/homecall) from **Zakynthos Island** (GIOTA INS-015, MIA MG-138, WLOTA 0209) - Oct 17-29th. Their activity will include the Worked All Germany Contest [WAG] (Oct 19-20th) and the CQWW DX SSB Contest (Oct 26-27th). Their operations will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL SW8YY via DH7WW, direct, by the DARC Bureau or LoTW and direct. ClubLog and its OQRS will also be used. Dates can be seen at: <http://dl6jf.weebly.com/dxpeditons---where-do-we-go-next.html>

**EU-106.** Operators Derek/G3KHZ and Steve/G4EDG will once again activate **St. Tudwal's West Island** (EU-106) sometime in September around the 6th, for 3-4 days. It was last activated in May of 2006. This is a privately own island, and the owner has not allowed anyone to visit. The expected callsign will be GW3KHZ/p, and this will be a CW operation only. QSL via G3KHZ.

**OC-108.** It has now be confirmed that a DXpedition to **Anambas Island** will take place between September 15-20th, after the YE5S/YE5T activity. No other details have been provided.

**OC-275.** (New IOTA) Operators Budi/YF1AR, Fan/YB0AI, Bimbo/YB3MM and Joppy/YB8XM will be active as homecall/9, while operators YC9XOZ, Joni/YB9WZJ and Lucky/YD9RQX will be signing homecall/p from **Kimaan Island** (ARLHS IDO-148) in the South Papua Coastal IOTA group between September 10-16th. This island has never been activated before. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using mainly SSB, but with some CW and the Digital modes. A special QSL card will be designed. QSL YF1AR/9 via N2OO. QSL all others via their home callsign. For more details and updates, see: <http://www.yf1ar.com/2013/08/oc-275-south-papua-coastal-new-iota.html>

**IOTA PACIFIC TOUR CONTINUES** (Update). Ralph, H44RK, continues to be active as H40IOTA from Temotu Province on **Swallow Islands** (OC-065). Activity has been on 40/20/15 meters SSB. Reports indicate that he hopes to be active from the "Vanikolo and Utupua Islands Group" (OC-163) during or within the next week once a suitable QTH is found. His length of stay is not known, but after his OC-163 operation, Ralph will head to **Vanuatu** (YJ) and operate as YJ0RK as well as activate a few more IOTAs. The "DX-World.net" reports that he will activate **Torres** (OC-110) and

**Banks** (OC-104). No set dates on the YJ-IOTA activations, but the "SV Hafskip" will be sailing Vanuatu waters for the next 2 months, then heading to New Caledonia. QSL H40IOTA and YJ0RK via NR6M.

**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.

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That's the DX story for the next few months. And don't forget, there is always that DX station that somebody needs that does not advertise their operation. They just seem to show up unexpectedly. So get on the air!!

73 and GUD DX!!

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

## CW/QRP Special Interest Group

September's CW/QRP SIG will feature the world famous HB1A.... and more !!!

So, you get out to that favorite QRP spot, you have your rig, a tuner, a battery or two, and some wire. Well, what do you do if you get hungry..... you cook !!!!

September's CW/QRP SIG will look at the very small 5 watt HB1A.... and my very small, portable survival kitchen..... yes ..... soup and a Q.



See you there,  
**Dave, WB2DFC**  
CW/QRP SIG Moderator



## National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. It's a reminder that emergencies and disasters do not respect county or state boundaries. They do not respect our schedules or our daily lives.

### Think about this scenario...

An earthquake of significant magnitude hits Ravenna and surrounding cities and towns. Homes and businesses will be destroyed. More than likely, there will be power outages. Therefore, no power for refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and oxygen machines. Not to mention no power for fuel pumps. It's kind of hard to run gasoline generators without gasoline. Water main breaks will also be likely. Therefore water will be contaminated to non-existent.

Therefore it's up to each and every one of us to be prepared. One of the best things you can do to prepare is have a disaster kit. Running around the house to gather supplies during an emergency is the wrong time. Driving to Home Depot or Lowes to buy supplies might be difficult with impaired roads or debris in the roadway. And even if you could get there, it might be destroyed. Even if it's not, you won't be able to buy anything because they won't have power. Same with Giant Eagle to Save-A-Lot to buy food and water. This is why having the prepared disaster kit will not only save time but make life that much easier not only for you but also your family.

So what's in a disaster kit? Generally speaking, you should have food, water, and supplies. FEMA's website <http://www.ready.gov> has a complete listing but I am going to touch on a few of the highlights in this article.

### Food

There should be a three supply of non-perishable food items for your family. It's important to choose foods your family will eat. Avoid foods that will make you thirsty (for obvious reasons). Don't forget a manual can opener.

### Water

There should be one gallon of water, per person, per day for drinking and sanitation. In addition, you should have a three day supply of water. This will help accommodate hot days and medical emergencies. What if you run out of drinking water? Where is a place in your home you can get safe drinking water? Hot water tank.

### Supplies

Battery or hand-crank powered radio and a NOAA Weather radio are essential items in your kit. You need to know what's going on around you. The Emergency Broadcast System will be on the air and you need to listen for instructions. Might be to shelter in place. Might be to evacuate to a shelter. You need this info and the AM/FM Broadcast radio is an important means to get it. There must be at least one flashlight with extra batteries in the kit. Personally, I recommend more than one flashlight. Be sure you have a sufficient supply of batteries. First aid kit is another essential item. If you've never learned first aid, I highly recommend you take a class from the American Red Cross or American Heart Association. Knowing how to treat minor injuries will make a difference in an emergency.





Alright. Congratulations! You've visited <http://www.ready.gov>. You found the complete list and established a disaster kit. But wait, there's more. It's important for everyone in your family to know where it's located. If something happens to you or you're not home, they need to know where it's at. Let's hope you never have to use this kit. What this means though is you'll need to periodically inventory your kit. The purpose of the inventory is to ensure all the items are still in the kit. You never know when one of the kids hijacked the duck tape out of the disaster kit.

It's also the time to replace expired food and water.

September is National Preparedness Month. Help spread the word and share this story with others. My name is Matt Welch and I approve this message. ;-)

73 de,  
**Matt, W8DEC**  
Ohio ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator



## ***Growth of VHF-FM in Northeast Ohio and the formation of The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association (LEARA)***

### ***PART 2 of 2 (continued from the August issue of The RADIOGRAM)***

Sometime, in about 1970, there was a fire in the upper dormitory floors of Highland View Hospital under the clock tower and, although there was relatively little structural damage to the building, the power (damaged in the fire) which ran the transmitter was turned off. This necessitated running a 250 ft extension cord all the way from CD headquarters in the basement to the transmitter which was located behind the clock face. After the fire, there was no heat or lighting in the upper part of the building so it was brrrrr in the winter and always a flashlight to get through the hallways and up the long metal stairs to the top floors in the day or night. After the fire, rain leaked in and eventually damaged the upper portion of the building to the point that it was decided to tear it (and our transmitter site) down. The clock itself was salvaged and repaired and moved to Lakeland Community College (Route 306 @ I-90), where it can still be seen.

First attempts at identifiers were archaic by today's standards. The first voice IDer used on WB8CQR (.76) was a magnetic recorder/player that used a round plastic disc with a piece of 1/4" magnetic tape glued to the edge of it. It revolved one revolution per ID (maybe 5 seconds). It accomplished the required task but inconsistencies in revolution speed, tape-to-head contact changes and temperature variations made it sound lousy. Finally, in Feb 1970, it was replaced with a solid state CW identifier designed by K8EIW and was connected to an all-discrete-transistor control card designed by K8SGX, which started an ID and provided hang timer and repeater timeout functions. This new identifier used RTL logic and a 150-germanium-diode matrix (not easy to program or repair).

Through our previous contacts with the hospital during the days of Civil Defense we were given permission to move our equipment into an unused ventilator penthouse on the roof of the Sunny Acres Hospital building. On the minus side, the 400 pounds of transmitter had to be moved from the now-closed clock tower to its new site - - all by "armstrong". It was neither small nor light and had to be lowered out of the tower by block and tackle. It was moved on 27 May 69 and taken to the two-way radio repair shop of Allan Communications on Miles Rd, where it was rebuilt by K8SGX. During the modification to exchange the obsolete, inefficient and hard-to-find 4-125 finals for 4CX250s, it was determined that the power supply had been hit by lightning. It

destroyed the plate transformer which we replaced with a "pole pig" (almost indestructible). In 1970, the tube type (Motorola Sensicon® 'A') receiver was finally replaced with a Motorola Motrac® (solid state) receiver that was purchased from K3SVO. This new receiver had a factory PL® decoder in it so we could start guarding the system when necessary. Continuously tone-coded squelch system (CTCSS) became a reality. Now used as a generic term, 'PL'® (Private-Line), a registered trademark of Motorola, Inc., is the name given to equipment originally designed by Motorola incorporating a sub-audible (considered below 300 Hz) tone-coded squelch system. GE calls it Channel-Guard and RCA called it Quiet-Channel.)

Another persistent problem was the transmitter interfering with the receiver. The overall result of this was desensitizing the receiver - - worst with a weak signal. When a weak signal keyed the repeater and the transmitter would come up on the air and desense the receiver to the point where the signal would disappear, the repeater would time out and shut off, but then the signal would reappear - - a cycle known as "pumping". In the fall of 1970, a couple of 220 MHz military surplus cavity resonators were modified to two-meters and installed between the receiver and its antenna to "suck out" the transmitter signal. It solved the problem. This now sounds like relatively a simple problem to fix and it was; but at the time, each one of these difficulties was another obstacle to be overcome that we were not familiar with the proper cure. It all took time, ingenuity and, in some cases, a monetary outlay. Frequently, this type of fix required borrowing equipment that wasn't readily available then.

Probably the most significant thing that happened to VHF-FM, at least in the early 1970s, was a large-scale introduction of two-meter equipment, manufactured specifically for amateur use. Prior to about 1971, the only affordable equipment available was used converted commercial equipment. That was all there was. The Inoue Varitronix IC-2F with one transmit power level of ten watts and maximum of six crystal-controlled channel capability, was among the first radios soon to be followed by the IC-20, Regency HR2 and the Standard 826 (crystal controlled). Dycomm power amplifiers were frequently used since radios typically put out only 10 watts. The RP synthesizer was about the first of that type of equipment on the market. It was not a radio just an additional synthesizer which could be connected to an existing radio. There were no amateur handhelds available at the time and Icom, Kenwood or Yaesu were far from being on the market. There were only limited amounts of not-very-portable battery operated 'portables' and they were not really within the price range of the average amateur. Some of these 1970s-vintage portables had tube or hybrid (part tube and part solid state) transmitters to go along with the solid state receiver. This either meant high voltage batteries or 'T'power to get the high voltage - - more heavy batteries.

The first approach to guard on repeaters was frequently by audible tone-burst rather than sub-audible tone-guard or PL®. Again, the sub-audible encoders and decoders needed that would stay on frequency and keep working were surplus Motorola equipment. Many operators without tone encoders tried whistling up the repeater. This turned out to be only fair, at best. These early radios did not meet the carrier frequency stability of commercial equipment either and were often off-frequency. This might not have been a problem if your repeater receiver was of like wide bandwidth but .76 always incorporated a commercial receiver of one type or another. The problem also changed as the ambient temperature of the vehicle's trunk changed. Early commercial two-way radio equipment was trunk-mount. The radios were close enough to frequency to key the repeater when at one temperature, but somewhat off-frequency at another so the audio was distorted at times. On the .76 repeater, a meter was installed to monitor the frequency of the incoming signal and if it was off more than a preset amount (about 1.75 kHz), the transmitter would not key up.

Since the repeater transmitting equipment in use had come from the Lorain area, an alternate input was installed on the old Infirmary Rd (Lorain County) water tower to give better receiver coverage in that area. While great in theory, it did not work out very well. Keep in mind that all the equipment was tube-type and required constant attention even when working the best. With little test equipment available, it was not only difficult to set the frequencies so the UHF link receiver and transmitter would agree but the transmitter also

would not stay up to power with its less than new expensive 6907 tubes in both driver and final. It was finally turned down in 1972.

In the summer of 1970, hams from the Ashtabula area purchased used GE Progress Line radios at the Rochester Hamfest to build a repeater of their own in the Ashtabula area. After questioning hams in the Cleveland area, the frequency choice they made was 146.34 input and 148.88 output. This was OK but remember that 146.88 was the input of the .88/.40 repeater and when .88/40, .34/.88 and .34/.76 were all on the air at the same time, the sound obtained on all three repeaters sounded like the complaint you get when you accidentally step on your cat's tail. Still not sure, to this day, what was causing what but it surely did not function properly. The cure was to move Ashtabula to .34/.76. With directional antennas and pattern shaping, the Cleveland and Ashtabula repeaters were made to not interfere with each other. The transmitter overlap area was about from Routes 44 to 528 along I-90. This was perfect for both user groups.

In the winter of 1970, there was a huge nationally-represented meeting in Westchester PA (near Philadelphia) at which the current 600 kHz split plan was explained and adopted. The meeting was chaired by Gordon Pugh, W1JTB and assisted by Gary Hendrickson, W3DTN. Implementation of this concept solved many problems and made channelized operation possible; .88/.40 was moved to .28/.88; .34/.76 was moved to .16/.76 and the early Red Cross repeater on 146.46 input and 146.82 output was moved to .22/.82. There was much discussion among those of us who attended the meeting whether everyone at the local level in the area clubs would go along with the concept and purchase at least one new crystal; but it seemed to work and was universally accepted and implemented.

Practically immediately to follow in the Cleveland area, an area repeater coordination meeting was held at the Hospitality Inn @ Bagley Rd and I-71. Repeaters represented were WB8CQR 146.34/76 Cleveland, W8IOO 146.34/76 Youngstown which was first operational in 1968, WB8CRV 146.28/88 Cleveland, K8EUR 146.34/76 Ashtabula, and WA8TTO 146.46/82 Cleveland. At this meeting, different PL® tones were first agreed upon for Youngstown, Cleveland and Ashtabula. There was discussion of UHF repeater pair assignments. Two MHz splits were originally agreed upon with the understanding that 5 MHz might be the final choice. The decision was also made to continue to keep 146.94 open as the simplex channel. The best records available indicate the Ohio Area Repeater Council (OARC) was not yet formed at this time but meetings of various repeater groups with George Cryder W8LGL who was the trustee of the Central Ohio Radio Club occurred in 1970. The first OARC meetings were held at the audio-visual facility of Ohio Wesleyan University where George worked. Among documents substantiating this are questionnaires about the statistics of NE Ohio repeaters.

At this point, there was another Ohio user of 146.76 - - Newcomerstown. To keep base stations from accessing the wrong repeater, base station inputs were agreed upon and installed on repeaters; in Cleveland (146.37 which was later changed to 146.355), Newcomerstown (146.325) and Ashtabula (146.235). Nice idea but not spectrum-efficient and when frequencies became scarce (!!!) and 146.34/94 was put on the air, the channels were too close and stations interfered. It was a good idea in theory; but in practice, it did not work. Because of off-frequency transmitters accessing the wrong system, the idea was abandoned.

With the purchase of a new Motrac® receiver and good propagation paths between Detroit and Cleveland, particularly when the band gets 'up', the first necessity of having a PL receiver became necessary. To most of us who were repeater technicians who were not involved with commercial two-way radio, the task of getting PL® to work correctly and not be heard was a real learning experience. Soon the still in use 110.9 Hz PL® for Cleveland and 100.0 for Detroit was implemented. To further try to keep Detroit's and Cleveland's hams out of each other's repeaters, an anti-100 circuit was connected to the .16 receiver in Cleveland. If a signal from Detroit was heard and it had 100Hz PL®, it would purposely not be transmitted.



The next feature to be added to the repeater was a Touch-Tone® access and control circuit designed and installed by Pat Shreve, W8GRG. By mid-1976, the circuitry was fully operational. This allowed turning on or off any of the repeater's features from a remote site and access to an autopatch (which was not received with 100% approval in the beginning) and finally the feature of 9-1-1. At the time however, 9-1-1 was not available in the Cleveland area. The original 9-1-1 dialed the Beachwood Police dispatcher. This arrangement was made because, at the time, Beachwood Police dispatched for Warrensville Township (W8AZO was the Township's police chief) and that was where the equipment was (and still is) located. At first, the autopatch was enabled only at night for emergencies. This was the very beginning of a 'controller' and although the circuitry was all gate-level logic and had to be rewired to alter the program, it gave us the remote control abilities we desperately needed.

With the advent of more and better equipment, interest increased in UHF and a repeater was constructed in 1971 on 449.95/447.95. It was one of the first in the Cleveland Area and in spite of a lot of controversy was moved to a standard 5 MHz split in Jan 1981 to comply with the standard band plan. Around this time, the amateurs involved with Lake County CD erected a repeater with input on 53.70 and output on 53.46. A later difference of opinion about moving it to a better location and raising the power led to the start of the 'Backbone' privately owned (closed) repeater on 52.92 and 52.68.

In 1972, for the best interest of the club and the members of its board, the club was incorporated under Ohio laws. In that year, FCC Docket 18803, which governed amateur repeaters and remote base stations came to pass. All repeaters had to be re-licensed with special regulations and a repeater callsign. Repeaters like .16-.76 had to reduce power to 400 watts ERP (it had been about 4000). Topographical surveys were required to justify the amount of ERP and antenna patterns and gains had to be provided for each system. The days of covering as much area with a given repeater as you could get with a lot of power were at an end. In the summer of 1973, LEARA completed re-filing and the new callsign of WR8ABC was received. Many potential repeater operators instead of going through the aggravation of filing either did not ever construct their repeater or those with little following went off the air. These repeater callsigns were revoked in 1980.

In 1973, after many ideas and proposals, Bill Lightfoot K8ZMF (now silent key) started the first official LEARA publication and it was called the "Repeater ABC'S". After the merger of .76 and .88 in 1974/5, the name was changed to "Spirit of .76 and .88". In 1976, an Addressograph offset duplicating machine was purchased and moved to WB8APD's basement, where the newsletter was printed. Another press was procured in 1980 and was in use until about 1991 when the schedules of the printer and publisher could not be coordinated. Most of the time, the newsletter is printed by Marv, W8AZO through the courtesy of Allen Telecom with an occasional trip to a commercial duplicating agency when Marv or Allen can't accommodate it.

To further promote the interest in amateur radio and the concept of hamfests, the Cleveland Hamfest had its first swap/sell meet in 1975.

At this point in the development of two-meters FM, examination of an old listing of repeaters in the northeast Ohio area showed all repeaters listed in two columns on one side of one page - - about 55 total. There was no activity on tertiary channels and there were no assignments in the 144-145 MHz section of the band. Dues for LEARA were \$12 per year. Top sirloin dinners at the Brown Derby meeting place were \$3.65 and an invoice showed a 12AX7 (tube used in the GE exciter) was \$1.37.

Continuing problems seemed to plague the .76 transmitter. With the power output of the 400 watt amplifier turned down to 100 watts and the Motorola Motran exciter able to supply 35 watts (which was about twice too much) to drive the final and no easy way to turn it down, many output transistors were blown at a cost of about \$15 each. (By the way, they didn't replace themselves either.) This failure mode invariably occurred on the night of the club meeting. In the winter of 1973, the transmitter was replaced with a Motorola B53MPB IMTS

(mobile-telephone) continuous duty base station. Because of its minimum down-time, it was the main transmitter until the summer of 1995.

In the winter of '74/75, access to the site of .88 became almost impossible. In order to keep a system on the channel, a repeater was temporarily set up at the .76 sites. Representatives of both .76 and .88 had been discussing a merger of the groups and it became a natural thing to do as members common to both groups worked more and more on the same problems. When the concept was placed before the membership of both groups, it was adopted overwhelmingly at the December 1974 joint meeting. At about the same time a new high-rise office building was being constructed in Lakewood. It was a logical place to install .88 so there would be a repeater on the East Side and one on the West. A new (at least to us) GE Mastr® commercial two-way base station was procured and assembled in the configuration of a repeater for the new site. Access to the location of the repeater at the new site was 24 hours.

Interest in 220 MHz became increased and in April 1979, the club decided to purchase and install a repeater on that band also at Lakewood Center North. Getting operational on the band for the individual ham also became easier with the advent of radio availability. At the beginning, a bulk purchase of ten Clegg radios was made and later another purchase was made of forty Midland radios. In 1982, the experimental 223.34/224.94 owned by W8GRG was purchased by the club and moved to the .76 transmitter site.

In the fall of 1977, the .76 repeater 9-1-1 circuit was connected to call C-MED (Cuyahoga County's Emergency Medical Dispatch facility) directly. .88 was arranged similarly by 1982. This would provide a no-delays direct connection to law-enforcement or medical agencies when needed.

The next step was a natural, too - - being asked to provide communications for the largest public service event in the history of Ohio - - the Swine Flu program in October 1976. Thousands of people were inoculated against the flu. Stations were set up at all points involved and communications was provided for the Cleveland Academy of Medicine that administered the program.

Communications was provided for the first Heart-a-Thon by LEARA in the summer of 1977. It was to provide a link between the Cleveland Police, US Marines, C-MED and the Cleveland Area Hospital Association.

On December 2, 1978, a couple dozen hams were used to assist the Ohio National Guard, as well as various law-enforcement and ambulance personnel to relocate all of the patients from Highland View Hospital to its new location at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital. The hospital on "the hill" was then closed permanently; but our repeater equipment remained.

Growth of the organization increased from less than 100 members in 1974 to about 525 in 1979. In the summer of 1978, the first club-owned PO box was opened to not only facilitate receipt of mail but to provide a place to send/receive mail that was not associated with any particular individual.

A continued increase in weather spotting assistance by hams which began as early as 1976, produced a continuously-increasing necessity of providing some form of communication path between a directed SkyWarn net and the National Weather Service (NWS) in Cleveland. The concept of what is now known as the "blue box" was developed and installed by Pat Shreve, W8GRG in Feb 1979. This box enabled the weather service personnel to push one of two buttons on the box when weather was being reported and a ham was not at NWS yet. It would send either \_\_ - - \_\_ (?) for I do not understand/please repeat or \_ - \_ (R) for roger or I copied your transmission. For his various contributions to weather-related communications, in that same year, Pat was given the NWS award for 'civilian of the year'.

The continuing desire to both modify existing repeater control commands and add new ones was the main driving factor that led to the 1981 purchase of the ACC RC-850 controller to control the 147.76 repeater. In 1987, the power at the old Highland View Hospital building was disconnected and the location for the .16 receiver lost. The repeater equipment was all moved to the transmitter site and connected to the antenna through a new duplexer.

The move of Cleveland Hamnet to the basement of WB8APD occurred during 1987. This was the beginning the continual expansion of the hardware and software of this now well-known BBS (bulletin board system).

The National Weather Service announced in 1987, that NEXRAD was coming and, finally in March 1990, additional communications for severe weather spotting would become necessary. Implementation of the new NEXRAD doppler radar allowed subsequent closing of various NWS locations. The decision to perform the link function on six-meters to get reports from and to Erie PA, Mansfield, Akron/Canton and Toledo to NWS Cleveland on six-meters was made. Although all original multi-county-wide nets would continue to function as before, they now needed to report their findings to Cleveland. This distance in some cases is over one-hundred miles and needs a very wide-coverage repeater. Although some coverage problems exist between Cleveland and Toledo when there is a storm front between them, the six-meter backbone system works quite well and a simulcast transmitter system is in the works which will hopefully solve the lack of coverage in Toledo.

After several outages and a rebuild of the .88 repeater transmitter by K8SGX still failed to make it reliable, the repeater was upgraded from a GE Mastr to an all-solid-state GE Mastr-II base station in the spring of 1994. Also, in that year, a solid-state (Motorola Mocom 70®) transmitter was obtained for .76. A GE EF-5 amplifier with more power can be switched on for better coverage during SKYWARN nets was installed as part of the same transmitter upgrade project.

In the summer of 1996, it was decided to regain use of the WR8ABC callsign for the LEARA repeaters. The license was applied for and received as part of the FCC program that allowed reissuing old callsigns. During 1997 the most outstanding changes to LEARA and its repeater equipment were a) the voter on .76 was changed from a Hall to a Motorola Spectratrac® and the UHF receivers which feed the voter were changed from GE Mastr-pro to Motorola Micor® and b) the west 220 MHz repeater was replaced after the original unit was declared no longer serviceable. As part of slimming-down the repeater features that were most 'pranked', some of the emergency autodial numbers were turned off. Direct dialing of the numbers is still possible. All the problems associated with the introduction of area codes '330' & '440' required considerable repeater controller program changes.

Probably, the number-one new and hard-to-solve difficulty facing all land-mobile two-way radio in today's busy overcrowded radio communications world, is interference. It is not economically-advantageous to outfit transmitters with combiners and other equipment that would minimize interference. Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable increase of transmitters bothering receivers in totally unrelated services and bands. Much of this interference comes from the new higher-powered 900 MHz paging transmitters, now much more in use. The relative lack of support by the FCC, resulting from their continually-shrinking staff as well as FCC deregulation further reduces the chances of finding and curing interference.

*Bill Hess, K8SGX*

**Editor's Notes:** I was talking with Al, K8EUR about the 'early days' in the Cleveland area with 6 and 2 meters. He gave me this link that details that history and I thought it would be an interesting article for the newsletter - A big thanks goes out to Al, K8EUR. The original is located at: <http://www.leara.org/club-information/history>





## OSPOTA 2013

Now that the Ohio QSO Party is over and August is behind us, we have 7 days until OSPOTA 2013. Excitement is building and I have received several messages from ops that are REALLY looking forward to our Fall event.

Time is running out to test your NVIS antennas and rigs to make sure that all is working 100%. Also make sure that whatever power source you will be using is ready to go – batteries charged – small generators gassed up. So use this week to get everything packed and ready to go for Saturday. It might be a good idea to set up in your back yard and test everything out. That's what I'll be doing.



And contrary to what the ARRL has posted in their monthly Contest Newsletter Update, OSPOTA is still only 8 hours long. Remember to download and take the letter explaining what you are doing in your chosen state park so that if asked, you can simply show them the letter.

We have 47 state parks that are scheduled to be activated by 49 stations. Yes, there will be three parks that have two stations operating from them. However, as I have found in the past, those stations may not even hear each other.

My first OSPOTA, in Hocking Hills State Park, was shared with two other stations and I never knew they were in the park. One station was only a quarter mile away.

So get out and take part in OSPOTA. For those of you that will be working from your home stations, join in the Big Fun and work as many state park stations as you can.

See you on the air. 73,  
**Chuck, W8PT**  
OSPOTA Chairman



## 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, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI, N8RLG, K8CAV, W8KNO, K8JE, KD8MQ, KC8PD, KB8AMZ, WX1DER, KB6NU, K8MSH, WB8VNO, W8PT, WB2DFC, W8DEC, K8SGX, K8EUR, the ARRL and the World-Wide Web**

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

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



## ***Sometimes You Just Have to Have Some Fun***

When the pictures came in for the PCARS Cruise in, Rick, K8CAV had brought his Jeep to show. As most of you know, Rick is a retired Major from the U.S. Army National Guard. But when I saw he was wearing a blue shirt and blue jeans, I just could not resist to modify the picture of him and his jeep. Being an old Navy person, I of course thought of Navy Jeeps, so take a look at the before & after pictures below. I sent this to Rick and he got a pretty good laugh out of it, so I thought I'd share it with all of you as well.



**Before**



**After**

---

## ***PCARS Annual Picnic***

The PCARS Picnic was held Saturday July 27th at the Ravenna VFW. Once again, it was a beautiful day and a time of good fellowship for PCARS members and their families.

Bill, WB9LBI, and wife Robyn, along with the dishes brought in by everyone else, put together a good spread.

Hamburgs and sausages were grilled by Bill and Russ, NR8W. Side dishes and desserts were plentiful, along with beverages.

There was no PCARS business covered at the picnic, it's truly a time for PCARS members to include their families and get to know each other better. To those who weren't there – we missed you!

73,

***Tom, WB8LCD***



## *Pictures from the PCARS Annual Picnic*





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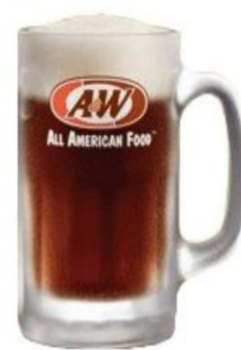




## Pictures from the PCARS Cruise-In



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21 Aug 2013

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## Ohio QSO BBQ Party

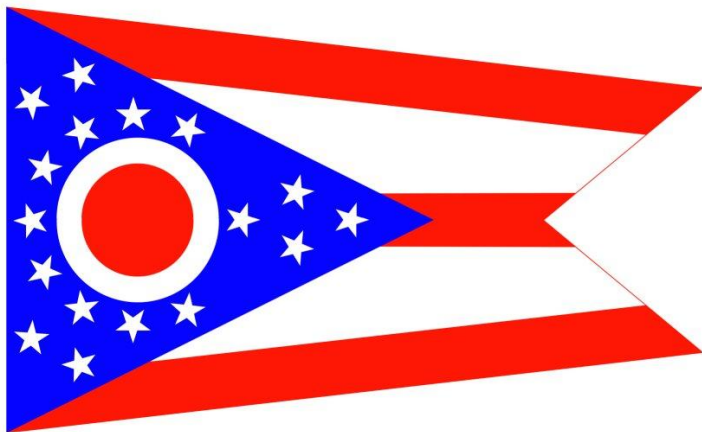
On Aug. 24, I opened the club site just before 9 AM to get ready for the Ohio QSO Party. We would have three operating positions available for whoever stopped in and wanted to operate using our club call K8BF. We would be operating on 20, 40 and 80 meters on both SSB and CW. The more modern digital modes are not a part of OQP.



The contest started at noon and would run to Midnight. PCARS coupled this event with a BBQ and Tom Sly, WB8LCD, outdid himself on the grill by making some great burgers and dogs. We also had baked beans, chips and various beverages.

While those who came for the event were chowing down, all three rigs were busy trying to make contacts in spite of the apparent poor propagation. 20 meters was not fairing well and 80 meters would not be active until later in the day. 10 and 15 meter activity was totally absent. However, 40 meters seem to start slow but build as the day progressed. Bill, WB9LBI and Terry, KB8AMZ, favored CW on 40 and were somewhat successful in getting several contacts.

Operators were: W8PT, N8QE, WB9LBI, KB8UUZ, KD8SKL,  
KA8TOA, WB8LCD, AE8YL, KB8AMZ, KB8TUY



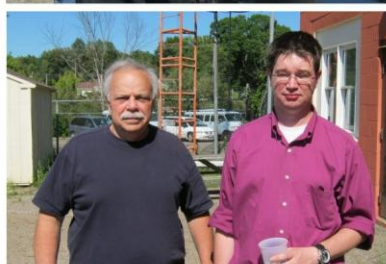
In the end, the club site was open until 11PM when those last diehards decided that enough was enough and pulled the switch. We had 23 members sign in and probably more than that show up but never made it onto the sign up sheet. However, everyone present seemed to enjoy themselves and we can chalk up another successful event for PCARS. Remember, it's not how many contacts we make or whether the bands are cooperating. It's the idea of getting together to have Big Fun playing radio in the greatest hobby in the world.

We will have a report on how we did next month after we download the logs and tally the results.

**Chuck, W8PT**



# Pictures from the OQP BBQ



OQP



24 Aug 2013





# - Amateur Radio Instruction Class -

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

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

that will enable *you* to obtain  
*your* **FCC Technician** license as an

**AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR**



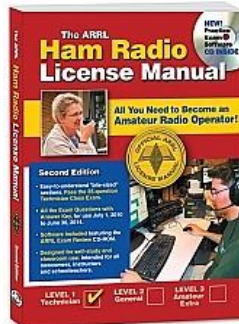
**When:** Tuesday evening 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
September 17, 2013 through November 5, 2013  
Official Amateur Radio License testing will be held  
at the end of the course

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

**Registration:** First night of class

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

**Information:** Contact Tom Sly, WB8LCD  
e-mail at: **WB8LCD@portcars.org**  
phone at: **330-554-4650**



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

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

For more information about PCARS, go to **www.portcars.org** , or contact

**Tom Sly - WB8LCD**, at **WB8LCD@portcars.org**, or by phone at **330-554-4650**

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 6<sup>th</sup> annual

# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 7, 2013, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **74** Ohio State Parks  
Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

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



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

Check out **all** the details at: [www.OSPOTA.org](http://www.OSPOTA.org)

*Always the first Saturday after the U.S. holiday of Labor Day*



# 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 Callsign Trustee		
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 QSL Manager		
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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This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, The RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail.

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

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



NLC

