



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



April 2014 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 9 No. 4

~ 2014 Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD  
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD  
Treasurer - George Proudfoot - K3GP  
3 Year Trustee - James Andrews - KD8VT  
2 Year Trustee - Erica Pelz - AE8YL  
1 Year Trustee - Bob Hajdak - N8QE

~ 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*

I've always felt that as President, I should attend as many of the PCARS functions as possible. Fortunately I've been allowed to do that, and it gives me a bit of perspective on the club and our members that is very interesting.

First off, when I tell other hams in far off places that our local club meetings have an average attendance somewhere between 65 and 85, most are quite astounded. I would say that the clubs are few and far between that turn out that many members for a regular monthly get together. When I tell them about the kinds of speakers we've had in the past, and planned for the future, they are astounded again. If it's been awhile since you've been to a PCARS meeting, I want to suggest that you make it a priority to be at the April meeting, Monday, April 14. Tim Duffy, K3LR, will be there in person to talk about the K3LR contest station. Usually you would have to be at the Dayton Hamvention, or some other larger venue to hear Tim speak, so here's your opportunity to not only hear him speak but get close enough to say "hello" and shake his hand! It's a great opportunity and I'm pleased that PCARS can bring it to you.



Next we have our Special Interest Groups (SIGS) on Tuesday evenings. There are 5 different groups covering quite a range of interest. It's another chance to participate in a PCARS activity, and, it's a way to participate with a small group and build your skills, interest or knowledge about a narrower slice of the ham radio hobby.

Every Thursday, at 8:00 PM, we have the PCARS weekly 2 meter net on the K8IV repeater. Every week you have an opportunity to check in with both club members and others who are interested. Our net always gives you the opportunity to comment. Don't be afraid to speak your mind! Let us know what you like and what you don't like about what's going on with the club, with the hobby, with the ARRL – whatever. It's an open forum, and the more comments we get, the more interesting it becomes.

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

Every month we try to have at least one other activity, usually on a weekend. Field Day, OSPOTA and other regular activities make up the bulk, but we're also trying to add in some PCARS Weekend Projects. At the Weekend Projects you'll usually have the opportunity to build something, or to learn something - always with the idea of helping you to be a better ham.

We've had a ton of Tech classes for new people to get into the hobby, a bunch of General upgrade classes, and now, we've had one Amateur Extra upgrade class. Our club is way out of proportion to the national average of ops in each category, especially the Extra class!

So here's my interesting perspective: Not everyone comes to everything, but quite a lot of you participate in at least one other activity a month, other than the regular club meeting. (Oops, I forgot Net Night at the Club Site, and probably a couple other things, too) Trying to participate in everything can keep you out quite a few





evenings every week (ask my wife, she'll tell you!) so we really don't expect most of you to be there all the time. But, it's nice to see that most people find at least something that they perceive as worthwhile to participate in each month. If you are looking for some Ham Radio Fun – PCARS has it for you. Come out and participate, you'll be glad you did!

Now, to those who come out and participate in our events and activities, **Thank You**. And I really mean that. There is no club without you being there. I want to extend a **“Special” Thank You** to those of you who are the ones who make it happen. You have given your time, talent and treasure for the benefit of your other fellow members. We all appreciate it. All together, PCARS is a club that stands out as something special. How cool is it to be a part of something like that?

73,  
**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS President

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### ***From the Vice President***

Something that sets PCARS apart from most other amateur radio clubs is the fact that we have our own club facility, an actual physical location that is available exclusively to the group for its own use.

We usually call it the “club site” because we have never really had a better name for it. Sometimes it might be referred to as the “clubhouse” or the “club shack” or even “PCARS World Headquarters.” No matter what we call it, we all know where it is and most PCARS members have actually visited it for one club activity or another.

PCARS is extremely fortunate because the space is leased to the club on a five year term that is then renewable every five years essentially forever. The cost is a whopping one dollar per month, which includes utilities and internet. Our landlord is Family & Community Services and the club and its members do all that they can to provide support and assistance to F&CS in appreciation of that lease.

Some of us have a lot of “sweat equity” in the club site, having put in a lot of time over the years to renovate it and convert it from a nasty and dirty former ODOT test lab into a functional ham radio club station and meeting place. The station includes two HF radios and the radios in the repeater room, as well as the vertical antenna on the roof, the beam on our tower, the OCF wire antenna that runs from the commercial tower to the roof of the main building, and our antennas on the main tower.



As club leaders we have worked hard to create as many activities at the club site as possible in order to maximize its use. Those have included our Tech, General and Extra license classes, the Special Interest Group meetings, Net Nites, Weekend Workshops, and many other programs. We want to encourage PCARS members to come on out to use and enjoy the place.

It is important to remember that the facility is to be used responsibly. That should also mean treating the place with some respect and always leaving it in better condition than you found it in. People need to clean up after themselves, no matter whether building a kit at a workshop, attending a meeting, or hanging around and socializing in Bay One.

We owe a huge amount of thanks to Mike, KD8FLZ, who has spent a tremendous amount of time keeping after the place and making sure that it is clean and secure. He is not the club site custodian. Everyone who uses the place should be taking the time to tidy it up, haul out the trash, shovel the snow, vacuum the rugs, whatever.

Too often, we talk about a resource like the club site as “belonging to all of us”, which tends to stress the ability to use it instead of the responsibility for maintaining it.

So make the facility “your club site” by both participating in activities at it as well as doing your share to maintain and improve it. It will be very much appreciated and will ensure that we keep it for years to come.

73,  
**Jim, KC8PD**  
PCARS Vice President



## Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **April 14<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting** - Tim Duffy, K3LR - the K3LR Super Contest Station
- **May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Antenna Day** at the Ravenna City Park - *Let's get ready for Field Day !*
- **May 16-17-18<sup>th</sup> - Dayton Hamvention<sup>®</sup>**
- **May 17<sup>th</sup> - Annual PCARS Hamvention<sup>®</sup> Photo Shoot** - 11 am in the ARRL area

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

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



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



## PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Special Amateur Extra Class & General Class VE Test Session (Open to anyone) - **March 19<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm**

### What to Bring to the Testing Session

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



**Robert, N8RLG**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison



## VE Test Session - March 19<sup>th</sup>

PCARS held a VE test session following the end of the Amateur Extra class along with people from the General class. We even had a few people come in to take the Technician Test and others that wanted to go for an upgrade. It was an active evening with 14 people taking tests. This kept the VE's pretty busy when it came time for grading. The VE team managed to get it all accomplished and everything went really smooth. Most of the people taking tests and passed, tried going for a higher class by taking the next exam as well. For the evening we had 6 new Amateur Extras, 3 new Generals and 5 new Technicians. **Congratulations** goes out to all the **new hams** and **upgraded hams**!

**KA8TOA** - Greg - Amateur Extra Class  
**KD8FDK** - Rich - Amateur Extra Class  
**KD8LVV** - Llewellyn - Amateur Extra Class  
**KD8SIZ** - John - Amateur Extra Class  
**W8IFM** - William - Amateur Extra Class  
**WA8OHK** - Tom - Amateur Extra Class  
**KC8HOU** - Lee - General  
**KD8VAN** - Robert - General  
**KK4LRM** - Doug - General (he was here from FL and decided to try for the upgrade & made it)



### **New Hams:**

**KD8WYK** - Mike - Technician  
**KD8WYL** - Anthony - Technician  
**KD8WYM** - Brian - Technician  
**KD8WYN** - Theresa - Technician (*K8IV's daughter*)  
**KD8YAX** - Robert - Technician



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## *Happy Birthday PCARS Members*

PCARS members having a birthday in April:

<b>KD8RJV</b>	<b>James Corbett</b>
<b>KD8GHB</b>	<b>Joe Racco</b>
<b>N8OQQ</b>	<b>Bryan Buchwalter</b>
<b>N8QE</b>	<b>Bob Hajdak</b>
<b>WB2DFC</b>	<b>Dave Rarrick</b>
<b>KC8FQV</b>	<b>Mark Studer</b>
<b>KW8KW</b>	<b>Bill O'Neil</b>

<b>KD8PMH</b>	<b>Robert Wilson</b>
<b>AB8SX</b>	<b>Mark Eldridge</b>
<b>KA8BNS</b>	<b>Elizabeth Milford</b>
<b>N8GLK</b>	<b>Leon Loveland</b>
<b>W8JJW</b>	<b>John Wagner</b>
<b>KD8SJF</b>	<b>Paul Sakalas</b>

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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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## *UPDATES - PLEASE*

Over the last month or two it seems that many of the PCARS members have not been getting the important e-mails that are sent out. Also some of the members report never getting an e-mail from another person in the club.

Please - check with Amy, KD8SKL, our Secretary and make sure you have a valid e-mail address on file. There is nothing worse then sending out an email to (your call)@portcars.org and wondering if you get it at all. So, please send your current & working e-mail address to [KD8SKL@portcars.org](mailto:KD8SKL@portcars.org) - and don't forget to tell Amy who the e-mail is from. (I don't know who HAMGUY3206@netscape.com is.....).

AND - while we are on the subject: Check your Amateur Radio License - Is your mailing address up-to-date? If not - you could lose your ham license and not even realize it. If the FCC tries to send you a letter, and it bounces back - they can cancel your license. What a hassle ! - So, check your license now - make sure you have your current address - and make sure it's not expired.... You can re-new 90 days or less than your expiration date. You can re-new online, or if you're an ARRL member - you can get an automatic reminder sent to you with all the paperwork needed to renew for FREE. You worked hard to get your license, don't let it lapse.



## Paper Chase

February was red, March was green, so what color is April. We have a large selection as Easter falls on the 20th and eggs come in all colors.

Speaking of Easter, each year there seems to be a DXpedition to Easter Island and this year it will occur from the 5th to the 17th of April. SURPRISE!! Victor, CE1WFN plans to activate the island as CE0Y/CE1WFN.



Easter Island was discovered by Jacques Cousteau the afternoon of the 15th of April 1912. While steaming in the South Pacific aboard the MV Callipso filming a documentary on the Sperm whale for the future National Geographic Channel, the sea started to roil. Believing it was a pod of porpoise herding a school of sardines to the surface for the porpoise's dinner, Cousteau headed toward the froth. As he neared the activity:

What to his wondering eyes did he see?  
A new island rising from the sea.  
Cousteau put the helm over hard reversing course  
and increased speed to flank.  
In order not to be sank!  
(Poetic license per Ogden Nash)  
Jacques, Philipe and a crew of five  
escaped being marooned on a undiscovered isle.

For the next couple years, oceanographers, seismologists, volcanists and geologists tried to determine what caused the island to appear. They finally came to consensus that the island appeared the same day as the largest liner in the world collided with what was thought to be an iceberg in the North Atlantic but was in reality an island. The ship hit the island with such a Big Bang the island collapsed to the ocean floor causing a seismic shock wave that passed through the globe causing a new island to appear in the South Pacific.

You ask, "What happened to the liner?" It was not as lucky as the Callipso, it sank. Of the 2,223 passengers onboard, only 706 survived. To have caused so much havoc, how big was the ship?

It was gigantic  
It was the Titanic



It also will be remembered this month with Special Event Stations. Two of the stations are being coordinated by David Beckler of Nixa, Missouri.

W0S will be active from Branson, Missouri from 10 a.m. Saturday April 12th until 10 a.m. Sunday 13th. The frequencies to be used are: 21.265 14.265 7.265 3.865. A certificate can be obtained from: David Beckler, N0SAP, 1137 W Crane Dr, Nixa, MO 65714. Any questions can be directed to him at [n0sap@yahoo.com](mailto:n0sap@yahoo.com). His other station, W4S will be active from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee from 8 a.m. till 9 p.m. Saturday April 12th. This station will found near 21.335 14.235 7.265 3.985. If you desire a QSL send your request to Jim Womack, KC4ARD, 617 Black Oak Rd., Clinton, TN 37716. He requests an SASE. His e-mail address is [kc4rd@arrl.org](mailto:kc4rd@arrl.org) if you have any questions.

And now you know the rest of the story!

Bazinga,  
**Joe, W8KNO**



## ***Bob Heil, K9EID***

The March 10th PCARS meeting program was certainly one of the best that we have ever had. We were privileged to have Bob Heil, K9EID, as our very special guest via Skype.

For well over an hour, Bob provided us with an entertaining and informative presentation that ranged from his early days as an organist and as a budding entrepreneur selling Hammond organs to the latest Heil Sound products. His willingness to tinker with and repair an amplifier used by a rock group in the 1960's led to his career as an expert sound man for bands on the road and ultimately to the creation of Heil Sound. The rest, as they say, is history.



Bob has had a huge impact on the amateur radio hobby. Not just by producing the highest quality microphones, headsets and other equipment, but also being one of the best advocates for ham radio that we could ask for. Bob is not just preaching to the choir when he speaks to ham operators about how our stations operate. He is trying to remind us that the hobby of amateur radio has led to some incredible technological advances and that we have an obligation to ourselves and the hobby to be the best practitioners of the radio arts.

He is certainly a well informed and opinionated guy. But as he will tell you, those “opinions” are really statements of fact, not merely what he thinks about the topic. What says so much about Bob himself is the fact that he is so willing to take time out of his busy schedule to make a presentation like the one that he did for us.

Even though it was a special event for PCARS to have Bob speaking directly to us, you can catch him on a regular basis on Ham Nation's broadcasts. You can learn more about Ham Nation at <http://twit.tv/people/bob-heil>.

Our thanks again to Bob! A great guy and a terrific ham. Make sure you look for Bob and say hello to him at Dayton.

***Jim, KC8PD***





## *When a Special Event Is More Than Just Lots of Q's*

PCARS held its annual Freeze Your Acorns Off special event on Saturday February 15th and like most years the weather certainly cooperated in validating the name of this event! Like several other members I dutifully tramped through snow to get an antenna hung but unlike those other members I did not brave the cold to operate but instead set my station up inside the lodge to operate. I wanted to operate a digital station but for some reason known only to the electron gods I had a pretty severe problem with RF getting into the audio and simply could not resolve it so I switched to SSB instead. Throughout the rest of the day I would periodically scan through several bands calling CQ with no luck. At one point I heard a station calling CQ on 40 and answered his call, the result being a very pleasant thirty minute QSO and a new ham radio friend. At the end of the day I had a total of two QSO's so would this make the day a failure? In a word, NO!

PCARS has always tried to have events that appeal in one way or another to as many of its members as possible and FYAO was no exception. The primary reason was, of course to get folks out to operate in a QRP environment away from home, and it was a total success in that regard. I was very impressed in looking at the logs that were turned in and the different ways stations were set up, and especially with the way that they braved a cold day out of doors to operate!

Another measure of FYAO's success was the number of club members that were there throughout the day that did not set up or operate a station. So why were they there? Well to start with GREAT food, always a draw for us ham radio operators! There were donuts, chili, sloppy joes, soups, hot dogs, and lots of deserts that made for good eating along with a never empty coffee pot. Then there were the stations themselves and some other equipment displays. It's always interesting to see how others equip and set up a station, and Chuck W8PT's QRP equipment and literature display and an awesome go-kit display by James, KD8VT fuels the imagination. But in the end the really big draw for both those operating and those visiting was the chance to enjoy the company of members and guests who attended, and there were a lot! For me there's no better way to spend a day than in the company of fellow PCARS members, and that's what I meant when I said earlier that only two QSO's did not make the day a failure. Thanks to all of you who came out to share your time with me and everyone else at FYAO. I would be terribly remiss in not thanking Chuck W8PT for his time and effort at organizing FYAO, Thanks Chuck!



73,  
***Rick, K8CAV***

## Contest Calendar

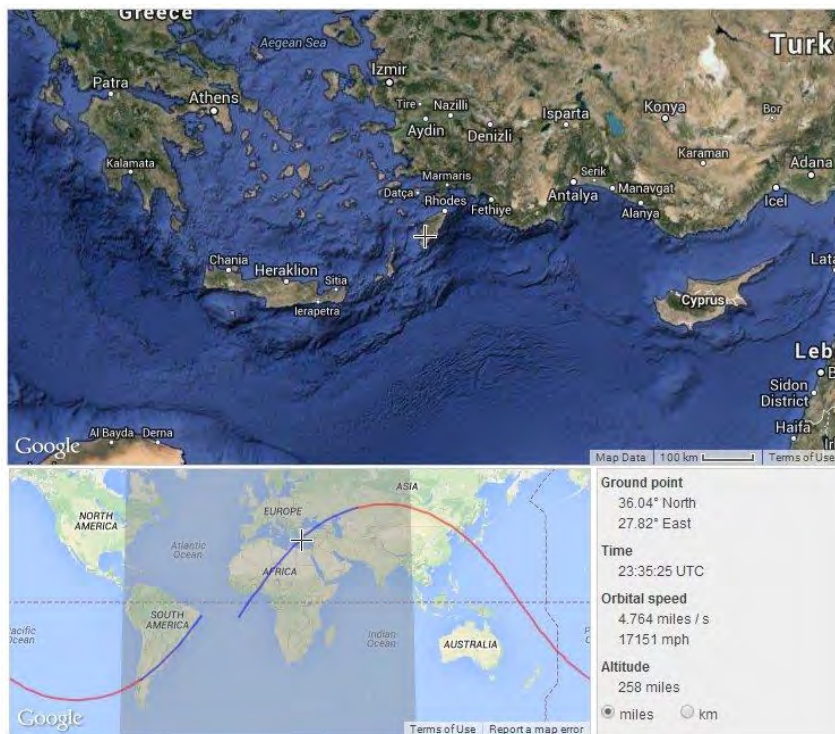
April 2014	
Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 2359Z, Apr 13
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 1800Z, Apr 20
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 26 to 2359Z, Apr 27
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 2159Z, Apr 27

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

## I.S.S. Astroviewer

Check out this website -  
<http://iss.astroviewer.net/>

It not only shows you where the current orbit of the International Space Station in real time, it also shows you (using Google Maps) the area that it is flying over. Really interesting!



## Your Choice

The latest technology. I remember these - I even had an 8 track recorder!!!

Tom, KB8UUZ



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## *Looking for a Fox?*

It's that time again. The 2014 fox hunt season is upon us. The first **Alliance ARC** Fox hunt is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30 PM. The hunt will be on 147.525 MHz. The starting line is at the old Buds plaza on Union ave, at Hartshorn St. about 3/4 mile South of the Castle.

The address is 1900 S. Union Ave (Rt 183), Alliance, OH 44601 - GPS coordinates are: 40.902709, -81.105327. The hunt frequency will be **147.525 MHz**. We will be monitoring 145.37 (No PL).



The Alliance Fox hunts are always on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month during Daylight Saving time.

Good luck & 73,  
*John, KD8MQ*

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## *Duga-3, Ukraine*

Number 9 on the Top 10 Most Impressive Abandoned Military Bases in the World.  
(<http://jalopnik.com/the-ten-most-impressive-abandoned-military-bases-in-the-1527822770>)

Nicknamed **The Russian Woodpecker**, this massive antenna was part of the Soviet's extremely powerful over-the-horizon RADAR (OTH) system.

It also happened to generate a sound that could be heard on the shortwave radio bands worldwide between July 1976 and December 1989.

The repetitive tapping noise at 10 Hz gave it the Woodpecker name, but NATO referred to it as the "Steel Yard".

Since it's located next to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, it's also radioactive since 1986.



*Jason, KD8WGR*



## Battery Power for Portable Ops - Part 2 *(Part 1 was in the March issue of The RADIOGRAM)*

My recent choice for portable power is the Lithium Iron Phosphate battery, or LiFePo4. Last month I described many of the advantages of this type of battery: Constant voltage, light weight and environmentally friendly. These are some of the reasons they are used in electric vehicles and they are very well suited for amateur radio portable operations.

They are a little expensive at around ten dollars per amp hour, but are worth the extra cost. I decided to build my own battery banks using individual cells for about five dollars per amp hour. To do this, I had to do some research on how these batteries work.

Care must be taken to be sure LiFePo4 batteries are not over charged or over discharged. They are susceptible to becoming out of balance when put in series banks. This means that a cell or two may not charge all the way, and within a few cycles, your battery bank may lose capacity. A Battery Management System should be used when connecting in series. The BMS contains a Protective Circuit Module. The PCM circuitry protects the cells from over charging, over discharging, and provides balancing.

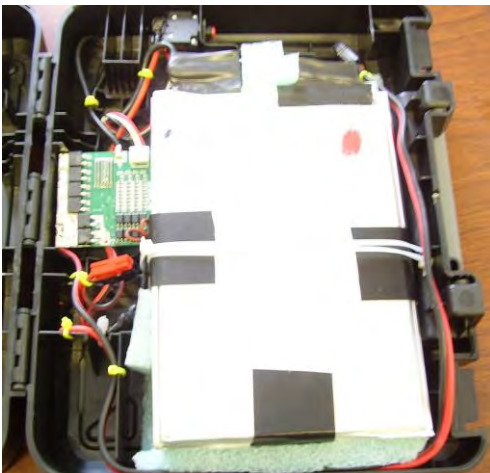


There are several different types of PCM circuits. Some allow the battery to be discharged to a specific level, called Bottom Balancing. The type I use is a Top Balancing one. If a cell or two reaches full charge before the others do, it will drain a little out of the fully charged cells until all of the



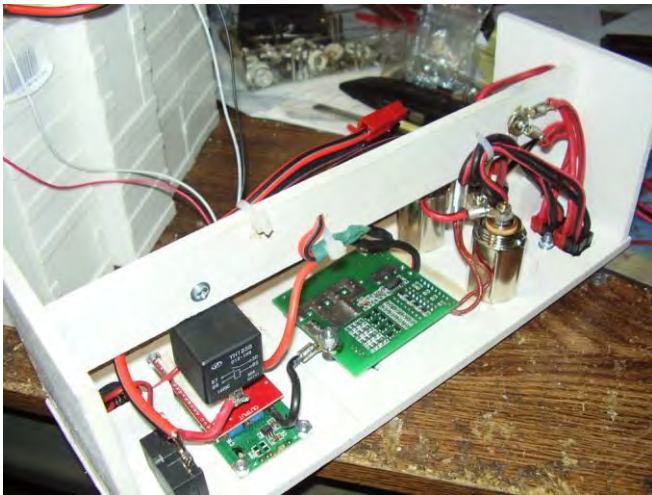
cells are caught up. Be aware that there may be no warning when the PCM decides the battery is discharged. It will cut the power. This is why I use a cumulative amp hour meter to monitor how much of the battery I have used.

The first battery I built uses what are called Prismatic Pouch cells. These cells are 6 inches by 9 inches by 1/4 inch thick and are 20 amp hours. Four of them in series provides 12.8 to 13.2 volts. I built them into an old cordless drill case. I bought these cells direct from China from a wholesale supply. They cost a total of \$90.00 with shipping. I thought this was a good price but I wanted to check them out and make sure they were good. Sure enough, they put out 20 amp hours as advertised. There is enough room in the cordless drill case to fit eight of these cells. 4 series 2 parallel, or 4S2P, which would give me 40 amp hours. But when I went back to the wholesaler, the price had doubled. No longer a good deal, so I left it as 4S1P. The PCM circuit board was \$30.00 and a 30 amp circuit breaker \$4.00. Total cost \$124.00 which is less than the commercially made 15AH battery I bought.



The second battery is built with electric vehicle cells. I found these at [www.electriccarpartscompany.com](http://www.electriccarpartscompany.com). I bought 12 of them for \$31.00 each. These are 30AH so arranged in 4S3P they provide 12.8 volts at 90AH. These cells are housed in a plastic casing with nice large bolts as terminals. I built this battery into an aluminum tool carry case. Perfect fit

with some room in the middle for a console. The console holds the 30 amp breaker, amp hour meter, PCM circuit board, 12 volt power outlets, and power poles for power out. There is also an on/off switch connected to a 40 amp automotive relay and a power pole for charging. Total cost for this one was about \$440.00. That's under five bucks per amp hour.



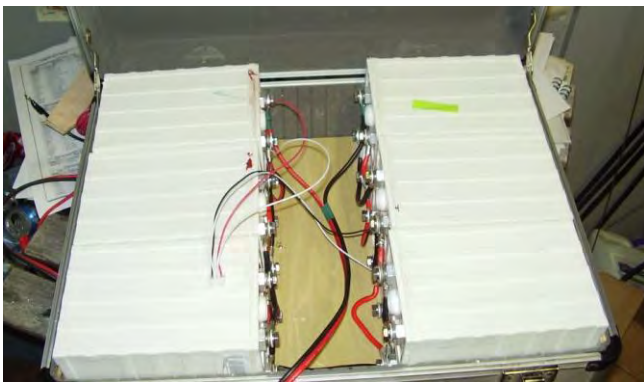
This battery keeps my 100 watt transceiver happy. There is very little voltage drop under the load the radio draws. I plan on giving it the "acid test" this June at Field Day. My calculations show that it should last the entire duration. It was also handy to power my furnace this winter when we had a power failure.



Because LiFePo4 batteries require very little maintenance, they are a perfect addition to my go-kit. I can have faith that the batteries will be fully charged any time I need them. As I mentioned last month, manufacturers recommend the batteries be checked only every six months if stored for long periods.

If you are building a go-kit, you certainly do not have to build your own batteries like I did. There are many small LiFePo4 batteries on the market. Some as small as 3AH, which may be perfect for 2 meter HT portable emergency operations. Just be sure you get the special charger to go with your battery, and make sure there is some kind of balancing circuitry either inside the battery, or in the charger.

LiFePo4 batteries are perfect for ham radio. When treated properly, they will last at least ten years and 2,000 charge/discharge cycles. They have no memory like other types of battery, and have very little self-discharge.



Hook them up to a certain bunny and watch them go and go and go....



**John, KB8UHN**

**Editor's Note:** Both of these battery set ups look and operate really well. However, I don't think that I would attempt to take them on an airline trip. Can you imagine what would happen if a TSA agent opened either one of these???

Thanks goes out to John for a really good, two part article on battery power. If you have any questions, see John at the next PCARS meeting, or e-mail him at [KB8UHN@portcars.org](mailto:KB8UHN@portcars.org).





## *Hamfest Calendar*

**04/12/2014 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club (CFARC) - 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest, Electronics & Computer Show** - Location: Emido and Sons Party Center - 48 E. Bath Rd. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Website: <http://www.cfarc.org> - Contact: Ted Sarah W8TTS - Phone: 234-206-0270 - Email: [hamfest2014@cfarc.org](mailto:hamfest2014@cfarc.org)

**05/16/2014 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest** - Owens Community College - 30335 Oregon Rd. - Perrysburg, OH 43551 - see the web site for contact information: [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org)

**May 16-18<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Dayton Hamvention® 2014** - Location: Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Road - Dayton, OH 45415 - Website: <http://www.hamvention.org> - Sponsor: Dayton ARA

### **SPECIAL EVENT STATION IN OHIO..**

04/19/2014 - **2nd annual Earth Day event**. Powered only by the sun. 1500Z-2000Z - W8PRC, Cleveland, OH. Parma Radio Club. 21.285 14.235 7.185. QSL. Parma Radio Club - 7811 Dogwood Ln, Cleveland, OH 44130. Beautiful QSL photo of the earth. Help us celebrate our marvelous planet [parmaradioclub.webs.com](http://parmaradioclub.webs.com)



## ***FYAO Wrap Up - KD8MQ***

This was my second year participating in the PCARS Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event. Allen, WI8T volunteered to come along this year.



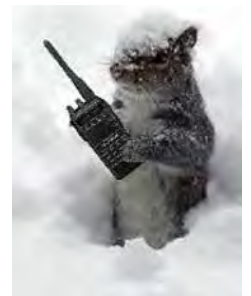
During the day, Allen showed another one of his many talents. He's a shape-shifter. We aren't sure if the yeti is his primary identity, or not. But we at the Alliance club are going to be very nice to him from here on out!



Our scores were down a bit this year, maybe owing to the fact that the ARRL put their international DX Contest (CW) on the same weekend (**You'd think that after this many years, the league would bounce dates off of PCARS before scheduling a contest**).

Or, the lack of QSOs may be due to this critter that we spotted wandering around with an HT. We thought we had solved the problem by catching the little rodent, and dropping him off over by KD8BBK's station. But, as the scores show, Tony still skunked. . .er. Squirreled us!

I'll fix him though! As of this writing, we still have his crock pot. The word around town is that since his XYL is missing her crock pot, he's been forced to eat out every night since FYAO.



We'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who worked to put on FYAO. I'm already thinking about coming up with warmer accommodations for next year. Oh yes, I will not be forgetting my squirrel rifle!

***John, KD8MQ***



## *VOM Day at the PCARS Club Site*

Did you know that using an old-school analog VOM with 2,000 ohms per volt specs may not give you readings you might expect in some cases, and why that is? And did you know that the el-cheapo, hmm sorry inexpensive five dollar DVM sold at Harbor Freight has an accuracy of 1.2%? Well if you didn't then you could have learned that if you attended the PCARS VOM Day at the club site on Saturday March 22nd.

The turnout was absolutely great with sixteen folks showing up to learn about the capabilities and limitations of the ubiquitous VOM (volt ohm meter) and DVM (digital volt ohm meter). After a forty-five minute presentation it was on to hands-on fun where five stations gave each participant a chance to use various instruments to measure voltage, current and resistance and to use information gleaned to make conclusions about the parameters they were measuring.

There was even a demonstration station with an oscilloscope and function generator to show how AC waveforms of the same peak voltage and frequency but having different wave forms such as sine vs pulse, etc. would cause a VOM/DVM to read differently, and why. This station was also used to show how an analog VOM was the better instrument to use than a DVM when observing voltages that change with time, in this case a 3 Hz AC sine wave. And of course besides having Big Fun, one of the most important things covered was how to use these instruments to make measurements safely and minimize the possibility of injury to yourself or others.

All in all it was yet another fun PCARS activity which resulted in everyone leaving with a bit more knowledge about their trusty VOM/DVM.

73,  
*Rick, K8CAV*



## Special Event: HI-SEAS Mission Team Set for Mars "Landing" on March 28



Ron Williams, N9UIK, and his fellow "astronauts" are set to "land on Mars" on March 28. Williams is part of Mission 2 (of four) in the Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation - HI-SEAS -- project. The team is taking ham radio along to their simulated Martian outpost, a self-contained domed shelter, where they'll be cut off from civilization until mid-summer. They will begin their ham radio special event from their quarters on "the Red Planet" -- actually in Hawaii -- starting on April 12 at 1900 UTC.

"We will continue to do this weekly for the duration of the mission or until interest wanes," Williams said. Their plan calls

for simulating the communication delay that would occur over the distance from Mars to Earth, as required by the project's NASA sponsors. This will mean integrating a 20 minute signal delay into all communications, whether via Amateur Radio or the Internet.

"To the best of our knowledge, this will be unique to any Amateur Radio special event ever conducted," Williams told ARRL in February. "Learning how to deal with signal delay is something that NASA is very interested in. The team was able to obtain the special event call sign K6B for the project for nearly the entire length of the mission, instead of the typical 15 days.

Every Saturday morning at 1900 UTC (0900 Hawaii Time), K6B will call out on an EchoLink repeater and on 10 meters, to offer information regarding the project and to invite calls. "We will stop transmitting and will turn off our receiver," he said. "During the following 20 minute 'signal delay,' an outside coordinator will line up individual hams wishing to make contact with us. At the end of 20 minutes we will turn our radio back on and begin receiving transmissions." These will be called in order by students at Hawaii Preparatory Academy, KH6HPA.

After logging the call signs, the "Martian" team will wait another 20 minutes before transmitting acknowledgements. A special QSL card will be available. Williams said operational details will be announced as they become available.

The HI-SEAS participants will simulate living and working within a Martian outpost -- a solar-powered dome at a remote site some 8000 feet up on the slopes of Mauna Loa. The experiment is being conducted by the University of Hawaii and Cornell University.

At 60, Williams, a clinical neuropsychologist from Indiana, is the oldest member of the team and one of two hams on this crew increment. The other is Ross Lockwood, VA6RLW, of Alberta.



Stations working K6B will receive a commemorative QSL card.

*From the ARRL*

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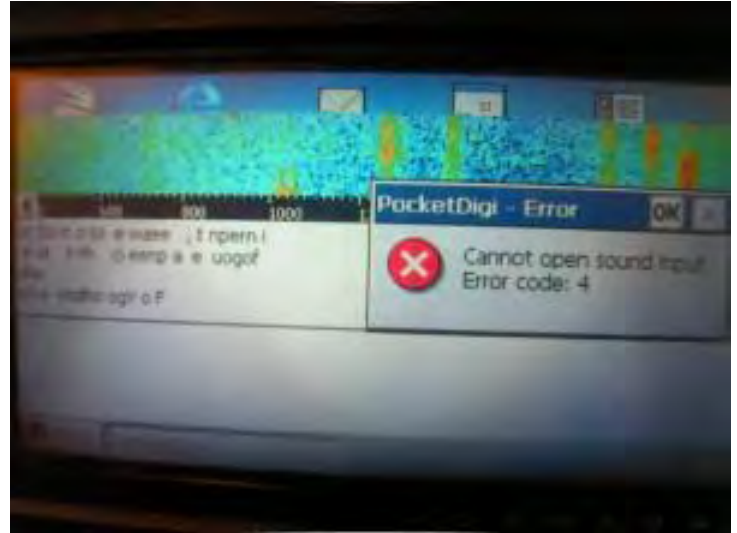
## *Ham Looks For New Hobbies*

Portage County ham radio operator Steve, K8SRR says he's working exclusively "digital" modes from this day forward.

"I really like the way that you can set up the macros, allow the software to automatically log QSOs, and the ability to work stations with low signal to noise ratios," says Steve.

Steve says he's been a ham for at least a dozen years, but it was only after four years of "fiddling around" that he actually got his digital mode configurations set the correct way for making contacts.

After you get those digital mode settings correct, don't touch that dial!  
"Yeah, it took awhile," says the retired computer technician. "I just didn't seem to be able to get all the software, knobs, switches, co-ax connections and options set the correct way at the right time."



Now, he says, he's afraid to change to another mode – or it might take another 4 years to get it all put back for digital again.

By the way, Steve says he's considering taking up additional hobbies to fill the time while his PSK31 macros transmit: hobbies like "long-exposure photography" and "tracking the constellations across the sky."

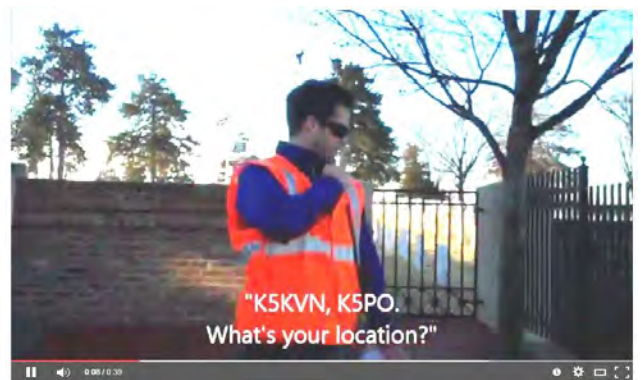
You can work Steve on the PSK31 digital mode, Monday – Friday on 14.070 MHz on the "Don't Touch This Dial or Knob Net."

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## *Fun Videos*

Two hams contacting each other on 2 meters.

A great 30 second video.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tvvboopmg1M&list=PL1E8DDDF3A933D87C>



## Field Day 2014 – Good or Great?

Field Day 2014 is fast approaching. The one thing that marks the difference between the good Field Day stations and the truly great Field Day stations is the level of involvement of the club members. The only way we can reach the level of a truly great Field Day station is for the majority of our club members to participate in Field Day. I know that not everyone has the same skill set or the same level of operating expertise. However, every club member has some special skill which makes them unique and therein lies the ingredients of a truly great Field Day. It does not matter what your special skill is or what level of participation you are able to give. It only matters that you participate. Your participation is key to making things work. The only way we can have a great performance at Field Day is for everyone to participate. So please come out for **Antenna Day on May 3, 2014** at the Ravenna City Park. This our dry run for the Field Day set-up and it will give everyone a chance to see where additional resources, either manpower or material are needed. Pizza & drinks will be available between 1130-1200 hours for all who turn out for this event. Hope to see you there.

Also we still need to fill one critical position. The Flex Station Captain position is still vacant. Please consider volunteering for this position. I have a radio, power supply, antenna tuner & antenna available for use in this station.

Our Field Day Chef will be needing help in preparing food in advance of the Field Day meal. Anyone with skills in food preparation should contact Chef Robert N8RLD and see how your special skills can help turn a Good Field Day into a Great Field Day.

### Your Field Day 2014 Staff

Chairman	James, KD8VT
Vice Chairman	Chuck, W8PT
20 Meter Station Capt.	Erica, AE8YL
40 Meter Station Capt.	Ed, K8IV
CW Station Capt.	Dave, WB2DFC
Flex Station	?????????
GOTA Station Capt.	Tom, WB8LCD
6 Meter Station Capt.	Errol, KC8RJR
Power Team Capt.	Karen, N8HUC
Safety Officer	Russ, NR8W
IT Team Capt.	Zeb, KD8WZS
Finance Officer	George, K3GP
Public Information Officer	Tony, WA8AR
PIO Table	Parky, KB8UUZ
Field Day Chef	Chef Robert, N8RLG



73,  
*James, KD8VT*



## Long Reach Antenna System

The Wet Noodle Antenna Company, a division of [Peanut Whistle Transmitters](#), is unveiling a new, ground-breaking antenna product just in time for the upcoming hamfest season.

The new and innovative long wire antenna, dubbed the “LONG REACH”<sup>\*</sup>, will come in a variety of lengths and wire gauges sure to please even the most discerning amateur radio operator.

“We felt now was a superb time to introduce this unique product to the marketplace,” says company president Macy Blixton, daughter of Wet Noodle founder John Blixton. “And I must say initial feedback from the ham radio community has been overwhelming.”

Building on the quality engineering which made Wet Noodle a world-renowned name, the “LONG REACH”<sup>\*</sup> random wire antenna will be offered in a variety of lengths and configurations.

“Suitable for every ham radio operator’s unique set of environmental circumstances” adds corporate spokesman Rafael Algonquin.

Each “LONG REACH”<sup>\*</sup> antenna is a true random wire antenna: no two are alike! Customer A may receive a 32 foot piece of 10 gauge solid copper wire; while Customer B may receive 47 feet of 16 gauge copper weave; Customer C may receive 16 feet of 14 gauge aluminum braid.

Strategically, the Wet Noodle engineers will NOT include connectors, feed points, insulators, installation or instruction diagrams with the “LONG REACH”<sup>\*</sup>, a tip of the hat to amateur radio operators ability to “customize each random length and type of wire to best suit their needs.”

Due to the random lengths and/or gauges of the finely crafted antennas– which ship in a hand-packed container – no operating specifications (i.e., resonant frequencies, etc.) are available.

“When the “LONG REACH”<sup>\*</sup> is paired with one of our Peanut Whistle Transmitters, such as the [Peanut Whistle Model 250 or Model 500](#), it’s a really a display of an unbelievable quality of workmanship, says Blixton.

“We are excited and look forward to serving the amateur radio community for many years to come!”

The “LONG REACH”<sup>\*</sup> random wire antenna will be formally introduced next month at the Chili Dog Hamfest in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Suggested retail: \$149.95.

Here’s the SPECTACULAR  
“L--O--N--G R--E--A--C--H”  
RANDOM LENGTH OF WIRE ANTENNA

PRICED AT ONLY

**\$149<sup>.95</sup>**

THE “BEST” STRAIGHT WIRE AVAILABLE  
PERFECT FOR STRINGING BETWEEN TREES  
ACCURATE  
EASY TO INSTALL  
PREMIUM SELECTIVITY  
“OPTIMIZED” FOR HAM RADIO BY OUR UNIQUE PROCESS

“You are 599, OM!”



<sup>\*</sup>actual product may vary

ANOTHER FINE PRODUCT FROM  
**WET NOODLE ANTENNAS**

***hamhijinks.com***

**\* Legal disclaimer: The term “LONG REACH” is not intended to imply any specific level of performance, wire length, resonance, conductivity, impedance, capacitive inductance nor DX operating ability.**

## 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!



April	
3	NR8W
10	KB8UUZ
17	N8RLG
24	WB8LCD

May	
1	KC8PD
8	KB8UHN
15	WB8LCD
22	NR8W
29	N8QE

June	
5	KD8FDK
12	KB8UUZ
19	WB8LCD
26	K8IV

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



## Swap-N-Shop

**FOR SALE: Palstar antenna tuner Model AT1KP** - Excellent condition: \$160 pick up only

**Contact Paul, NC8T** at [NC8T@hotmail.com](mailto:NC8T@hotmail.com) or call 330-704-9106 [07/02/14]

**FOR SALE: Icom 756 Pro II** includes hand mic, original manual, manuals on CD. \$1300

**FOR SALE: RigBlaster Plug-n-Play** includes 8 pin adapter cable for Icom. \$75

**FOR SALE: Heil Goldline GM5** mic w/windscreen, **Heil SM-1** shock mount, **Heil HB-1** articulating boom; mic cable for Icom, AD-1-I. \$150

**FOR SALE: Heil headset adapter cable**, Heil PN AD-1iC, for Proset to Icom. \$12

**FOR SALE: TenTec RF speech processor**, model 715. \$150

**FOR SALE: MFJ-1251 Universal Microphone Adapter** changes pin-outs to allow different mics to be used with radio. \$14

**Contact Rick, K8GI** at [K8GI@portcars.org](mailto:K8GI@portcars.org) [07/02/14]

**FOR SALE: Icom ID-880H** D-Star transceiver (UHF/VHF), \$300.

**Contact John, KC8KYW** at [KC8KYW@portcars.org](mailto:KC8KYW@portcars.org) or call 330 734-7888 [05/02/14]

**FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-430** HF rig with FM Board and CW 500 Hz Filter installed. It comes with the Kenwood Microphone. Rig is 100% functional. Some wear on case. E-mail me if you want pictures. \$325.00

**Contact John, KD8MQ** at [KD8MQ@portcars.org](mailto:KD8MQ@portcars.org) or call: 330-936-5021 [05/02/14]

**FOR SALE: Heathkit SB-1000** 160-10 Meter amp, one 3-500Z, 120/240 VAC, 750W CW, 1KW PEP. \$800.00 Amp & tube listed below \$1000

**FOR SALE: EIMAC 3-500Z** military specification tube still in original packaging. \$300

**FOR SALE: 8877 RF Deck for 144 MHz** – Commercial build - W6PO design. Built for the NWS to be used at 1000 Watts FM on a 24/7/365 duty cycle basis. It is capable of 1500 Watts SSB. This is a complete RF Deck only, no tube or power supply included. \$500.00

**FOR SALE: ICOM IC-718** HF Transceiver 160-10 Meters 100 Watts – w/ UT-106 Digital Signal Processing unit, IC-FL52A 500 Hz CW Filter, IC-CR338 High Stability Crystal, Voice Synthesizer, HM-36 hand microphone, power cord, operator's manual, Nifty Mini-Manual and sales brochure. Has the MARS mod (Full TX & RX 1.8-30 MHz) and therefore will only be sold to a General Class or higher licensee. \$550.00

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

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

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

**FOR SALE: ¼" Plate Glass** for desk or table top, Great for radio bench measures 42" x 68" cost \$152.00 Asking \$40.00

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

**Contact James, KD8VT** at [KD8VT@portcars.org](mailto:KD8VT@portcars.org) or call: 330-206-4909 [05/02/14]

**FOR SALE: DAIWA Model PS-120MIIa PS** \$40

**FOR SALE: Heathkit Model IM-11 VTVM** \$40

**FOR SALE: ASTATIC Model D-104 Microphone w/ TUG8 Stands (Lollypop)** 1ea Excellent \$70, 3ea good \$40

**FOR SALE: ICOM Model IC-V80 2Mtr FM HH w/ Extra Battery and Charger** \$90

**FOR SALE: Nye Viking Model B V A, Antenna Tuner** \$425

**FOR SALE: TRIPLET Model 630 VOM** \$45

**FOR SALE: MFJ Model MF-J-250 50 ohm oil dummy load** \$40

**FOR SALE: MFJ Model MFJ407B Electronic Keyer** \$40

**FOR SALE: Heil Model HM10 4-5 Microphone with Stand** \$100

**FOR SALE: Standard C1208DA 2 mtr FM Mobile** \$200

**FOR SALE: MFJ-1702C, 2 Pos Coax Switch** \$20

**FOR SALE: Radio Shack Model 22-223 VOM** \$10

**FOR SALE: Astron Model RS-12 12 Amp Power Supply** \$45

**FOR SALE: Bencher BY-2 Paddle, Chrome NEW** \$75

**FOR SALE: Straight Key Brass** \$25

**FOR SALE: ASTATIC Model 10-D w/G Stand** \$50

**FOR SALE: Electro Voice Model 664** \$50

**FOR SALE: 2ea- Electro Voice Model 638** \$50

**FOR SALE: Shure Microphone and stand** \$20

**FOR SALE: W1FFL Ladder-LOC** \$10

**FOR SALE: Radio Works Carolina Window 10-80 meters** \$50

**FOR SALE: Radio Works 1/2 Square** \$45

**FOR SALE: Alpha-Delta Sloper 40-80-160** \$50

**FOR SALE: Kenwood TL-922 Linear** \$1200

**FOR SALE: MFJ-989C Antenna Tuner** \$150

**FOR SALE: MFJ-281 ClearTone Speaker** \$10

**FOR SALE: Soldering Iron 25 Watt Variable** \$20

**FOR SALE: 2 Large soldering irons 1-150W and 1 UNK** \$20 EA

If anyone owns one of these please contact me, I have spare parts for them.

Yaesu FT-2200, FT-1000D, FT-1000-MP, Icom IC-756 PRO II, Alpha 89 and 9500 Amps

All equipment is in top shape.

**Contact Al, AB8AA** at [ab8aa@portcars.org](mailto:ab8aa@portcars.org) or call 330-207-3296 [06/02/14]

**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: [05/02/14]. This will help keep the listings current.

## Radio Magazine Calls New Contest a Dramatic Failure

The staff at a national magazine devoted to amateur radio is calling its most recent radio contest a “dramatic failure.”

Darius Von Sparringburg, Chief Editor of “73s and 88s” magazine, says logs submitted for the recently completed “North American QSO Championships” contain an unusually high number of errors. So many in fact, that the contest may be declared invalid.



“At this early stage of NAQC log checking, we’re finding 99.3% of all logs contain errors. Most logs are so riddled with mistakes they are not even worthy of inclusion in the contest results. Our log checking software is overwhelmed. We’ve had to hire additional interns to manually inspect the entries.”

Von Sparringburg attributes the multitude of disqualifying operator errors to an overly complicated contest exchange, which is he adds “sounded good when we were talking about it in the planning meeting.”

“The exchange included a contest serial number, followed by a signal report. The operator then sends a driver’s license number, operator’s mother’s maiden name, the serial number of the radio being used on the air and a ZIP+4 postal code. DX stations were also required to include the AT&T international calling code for their respective country. Apparently, this turned into an unwieldy exchange for many.”

A typical DX exchange (example is station located in Liechtenstein):

**009 599 965427047 SMITHFIELD 094362 72703 3297 011 423**

Alarmingly difficult to communicate on SSB, almost impossible on CW and time consuming to the extreme on PSK31, editors at the magazine say operators sounded off in the “Soap Box” section:

- “Who the hell came up with this exchange? FOOLS!”
- “My mother’s maiden name is Rickenhausingfield. I had 50 characters in my contest exchange!”
- “It took 8 minutes to send my information to the other station.”
- “I was killing it with a QSO rate of 5 QSOs per hour.”
- “It took me 15 minutes just to program my CW keyer.”
- “I went to town and did some grocery shopping while my macros sent the contest exchange.”

Von Sparringburg says the magazine may consider running the contest again next month. “But we’d use a new contest exchange – something simple like year of license, ITU Zone, CQ Zone, Maidenhead grid square locator data, and maybe the type of antenna being used,” he says.

***Kevin, K5KVN***

**Note:** “73s and 88s” magazine is published bi-monthly. It features interviews and articles about ham radio. Each issue includes a “centerfold” pull out section, featuring a ham radio operator “suggestively” displaying a piece of HF gear from his shack.





## ***Club Flagged For Multiple HIPAA Violations***

A local amateur radio club is facing legal action after it was discovered that its members routinely discuss intimate health and welfare details of other individuals.

Federal officials were first alerted to the problem by an update on the club's website, which read "Hershal will not be at the meeting tonight due to another recurrence of diarrhea from eating unwashed lettuce from his garden."

Health and Human Services Special Agent Wilson McGovern led the investigation. "The unauthorized sharing of certain private health information is something we take very seriously," said McGovern. "But some of what we heard this radio club doing was just plain gross. Nobody wants to hear about that kind of stuff."

Ham Hijinks obtained documents related to the investigation, which listed additional alleged violations:

- An on-air net where one man told of his wife's recent bout with an oozing ulcer on her left foot.
- A club meeting where it was decided the club's "tower monkey" could no longer hold that office because he is recovering from hernia surgery and currently cannot bend over to tie his shoes.
- A lunch meeting at Golden Corral where the group talked at length about "Michael's" colon surgery and post-operation side effects.



The club could face sanctions up to and including revocation of their 501(c)3 status and confiscation of radio gear. All club members will also be required to attend an etiquette class on what is appropriate to talk about in a public setting.

***Ham Hijinks***

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## ***Bus Trip to Hamvention® 2014***



I'll say it again - The best deal at the Dayton Hamvention® is in Akron, Ohio! On Saturday, May 17th, the **Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship (PARF)** is again offering a day trip to the Dayton Hamvention®. Just \$65 gets you a trip down, and back, and your Hamvention® ticket as well! Bus leaves at 5:30 AM, from the Akron Baptist Temple, and will pull up to the Hara around 9:00 AM. After a fun-filled day at the Hamvention®, we stop at the Golden Corral in Columbus for dinner, then arrive back in Akron shortly after dark. For more information, contact Joy Spencer KA8TDF at [KA8TDF@arrl.net](mailto:KA8TDF@arrl.net) or call 330-745-5115.

73,  
***John, KD8MQ***

Editor's Note: Also, see the flier from PARF toward the end of this newsletter

## *EmComm*

A lot of hams involved in emergency communications complain about the suggestion that they could benefit from additional training, whether about emcomm or public service, but especially when the training is from FEMA or other sources. And they really complain when there is a discussion about having mandatory training requirements.

They wonder why they should be more familiar with FEMA or the National Incident Management System (NIMS) or the Incident Command System (ICS). Oftentimes, their attitude is that FEMA should be coming to us, not the other way around.

Well here is something for all of them to consider. The current administrator of FEMA is Craig Fugate. He is also known as KK4INZ. That's right. He is an amateur radio operator.

He did not come into the job as a ham. He obtained his license after becoming the FEMA administrator. Why? Because he recognized the value of the amateur radio operators whom he had seen and heard lending their support to disaster relief efforts and he believed that one of the best ways to demonstrate his support for the hams was by becoming one of them.

You owe it to yourself to watch this brief video of excerpts from a recent speech by Mr. Fugate, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUbmXOooEYI>. The video should dispel any doubts that you may have about the level of respect that FEMA has for amateur radio operators.

So keep this in mind: FEMA has our backs covered and we should have its. The best way to do that is to be educated in how FEMA works and how it expects ham radio operators to fit into field operations. Take a little bit of your time and take those online courses for ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800. You can learn a lot in a very short time. You can find all of the online FEMA courses at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>.

Also, take advantage of FEMA's Auxiliary Communications class, whether at Dayton or any other time or place it is offered. FEMA is making a determined effort to be sure that ham radio has its place in disaster relief operations.

Don't forget that you can gain useful experience that will be needed for emergency and disaster communications by volunteering for local special event and public service activities.

The RiteAid Marathon will be on May 18th and I am actively recruiting volunteers for it. Watch for announcements from Mike, KD8FLZ, EC for ARES of Portage County, as he recruits volunteers for upcoming special events. We have a busy year ahead of us and we can use help from everyone.



73,

***Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI***

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



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## ***Ultimate Transceiver to be Unveiled at the Dayton Hamfest***

Little-known HF radio manufacturer Spurlock Technologies will unveil what the company calls "the ultimate HF transceiver" at the Dayton Hamfest in May.

The "Ultimate" transceiver? "The device is customizable in every way," says corporate VP of Marketing Reginald Van Stank Hoeven. "And we do mean in EVERY WAY."

Spurlock Technologies – which is known in the northwest U.S. for innovative developments in potato thrashing farm implements – is venturing into the ham radio market with the XK-1001 transceiver.

The modular units (sold separately) can be assembled in any number of configurations – vertical, horizontal, diagonal or "daisy-chained" with patch cables (sold separately) – depending on operator pleasure and practices. Transmit power varies from .05 watts to 2000 watts with the twist of a knob (sold separately) on the power amplifier module (sold separately). The radio will operate on frequencies from 1.8 MHz through 550 GHz depending on the activated operating modules (sold separately).

Van Stank Hoeven says even cosmetic features are customizable.

"The unit comes with the lower half of a very nice wooden case (top half of case sold separately) made of finely-oiled burlwood. In it, you may place a rainbow of spray paints (sold separately) for customizing the radio chassis. There are also 15 sets of decals (sold separately) in varying fonts and sizes and 6 sets of interchangeable knobs (sold separately). All are designed to provide the amateur with the most enjoyable operating experience available."



Additionally available from Spurlock Technologies is a wide-range of LEDs which will illuminate the multiple radio readouts (sold separately) and provide backlighting for the front panels (sold separately).

Ham radio operators looking for an entry level rig may want to start with the base unit, which sells for \$499 and consists of a large knob.

"The more seasoned 'expert' hams will enjoy purchasing our upgrades and actually being able to get on the air," says Van Stank Hoeven.

Mark your convention calendar now and plan on attending the XK-1001 debut at the Dayton Hamfest.

It is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., May 18 at Hara Arena, Pavilion 1B. Finger sandwiches and drinks (sold separately) will be available.

***Gary, WB0RUR***

## ***Akron University Balloon Launch***

The University of Akron Amateur Radio Club, W8UPD plans to launch a high altitude 600g balloon filled with hydrogen (UA-HABP2), with repeater on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at around 11am EDT. Payload includes a cross band repeater, slow scan television, and telemetry.

The repeater will have a coverage area exceeding 200 miles for a majority of the two to four hour flight, reaching a maximum altitude projected to be 80,000 feet.



Everyone is encouraged to join in! A hand held is all that is needed to receive the balloon, dual band capability allows repeater use if desired. Launch location subject to change closer to launch date. Please check our Twitter feed and <http://habp.w8upd.org> website for updated launch info as well as real time tracking when launched.

We will be live-streaming video of our launch as well as updating Twitter with status information. We will also be sending our telemetry data to a website we have created called MapView, which allows you to track the path of the balloon from anywhere you have an internet connection.

### **Contact for questions:**

Email: [w8upd@googlegroups.com](mailto:w8upd@googlegroups.com)

Phone: 330-879-8873

Website: <http://habp.w8upd.org> (launch updates and ways to provide feedback via this site)

Twitter: w8upd\_habp

Ustream: w8upd

Website for club info and project details: <https://wiki.w8upd.org>

***Jason, KC8LIN***



## ***New Awards Spark More Interest in Ham Radio***

**WAN** -- Worked All Neighbors

**RAGD** -- Raised All Garage Doors

**BERC** -- Bought Expensive Radio Cheap (TS-950SDX at \$300.00???)

**QRP** -- ESP QSO With A W6

**TOR** -- Timed Out Repeater

**BAL** -- Bored All listeners

**WANA** -- Worked All Neighbors Again

**TACD** -- Tested all Commercial Devices (Dirty Linear): Worked the Phone, TV, All Audio Devices, Door Bells, Burglar Alarms, Paper Shredder, Garage Doors, Cell Phones et al.

**TAC** -- Terrorized All Critters (Same Dirty Linear) On Key up: Dogs Howl, Birds Go Goofy, Cat scurries under Couch, and all rodents leave the premises!!!!

**WAS** -- Worked All Streets (and you thought it was States)

**WAOO** -- Worked All Official Observers

**5WAN** -- Five Band Worked All Neighbors (easy one)

**TOP** -- Timed Out Propagation

**TORA** -- Timed Out Repeater Again

**WACO** -- Worked All Club Officers

***Daryl, WX1DER***





## ***Rules of Radio***

- 1) There shall be no talking by the family during a QSO.
- 2) The XYL shall assist with antenna construction when and only when required.
- 3) The shack budget will take precedence over all other incidental items such as mortgages, food, echoes, etc.
- 4) Christmas stocking stuffers for the OM must include at least two items for the shack (total value of not less than \$300).
- 5) Flea markets, hamfests, and field days over-rule family holidays.
- 6) Furry pets are not allowed near the rig (except for testing purposes).
- 7) TVI never occurs within the home, or if it does, is negligible and does not count.
- 8) All trees around QTH shall be considered antenna supports, and not "greenery", "landscaping", or other such nonsense. Corollary: Any tree may be cut down, pruned, poisoned, dug up, or otherwise removed should it be in the way of wire.
- 9) The last postage stamp and envelope in the home shall be reserved for direct QSL mailings, and not for personal letters, bills, or mail orders (unless orders are for shack).
- 10) Any number of holes may be drilled in the family car to accommodate mobile whips. Corollary: Coax may droop across the steering column occasionally.
- 11) Never herewith shall insurance coverage of shack items be less than triple the replacement value, notwithstanding acts of God.
- 12) Burger King must never allow the holy whopper oven to cool.
- 13) Newly licensed hams must honor, praise, look up to, ask easy questions of, and purchase coffee for, old guys.
- 14) The XYL shall anticipate good band propagation conditions at all times, and whenever rare DX flows in, she shall without fail;
  - a) keep log when requested;
  - b) hold all phone calls - except those from other hams;
  - c) call the OM's work QTH the next morning and cover his absence with a good excuse;
  - d) appear very excited;
  - e) change all her plans to suit;
  - f) provide steaming coffee at 45 minute intervals;
  - g) cancel all household chores, and in particular, cancel vacuuming.
- 15) All materials owned by the work QTH can and will be used for ham projects.
- 16) These rules may be modified at any time, without notice, to continuously be in the OM's best interest.
- 17) The most recent licensee must beareth the brunt of our collective teasing until the next new licensee fills his humiliated shoes.
- 18) All members of all radio clubs must support, in unsurpassed vigor and cooperation, whatever the resident "contest man" suggests-ith.

- 19) Whence OM bears unrelentless fright of tower height, others must climbeth said structure unfailingly upon request.
- 20) Refer longstanding rule #15. Verily, if you cannot convince work QTH to donateth items for thine shack, thou shalt quit said despicable workplace without notice. Simply QRT-eth hastily-eth.
- 21) New rule added by Rich, WB2MBM, August 11/97 via pactor: I'd like to add a rule to the list... "Coax cables may be routed to achieve the lowest loss, regardless of whether they cause doors, windows, etc., to be blocked or otherwise not to function. And if the house appears to be trapped in a sort of rubber "spider's web," that's a plus rather than a minus."

**Daryl, WX1DER**

(Found on the internet: VE9DAN, Oyster River, NB. Rev 1. June 1/97)



## New FCC Program Promises a Great Certificate

Federal officials concerned with increased demand on radio spectrum are cracking down on amateur radio license holders that don't use their transmitting privileges.

The announcement was made yesterday by the Federal Communications Commission. "If you're a ham radio operator and you don't actually operate a ham radio, we will ask you to return your license," said FCC special agent Augusto V. Landingham.

The surprise move by the commission is in response to growing demand for radio waves. "The 'Load It Up, Or Give It Up' program will ensure that only those who are truly interested in generating radio signals get to do so. Plus, we have to make room for the growing number of people obtaining amateur licenses, which is skyrocketing because it's so easy to memorize the answers to the exam questions," said Landingham.

Federal officials are still determining how they will enforce the program. Amateur radio operators are encouraged to email the FCC with suggestions.

Gene Tingleman, a ham radio operator from Petaluma, Calif., agreed with the principle behind the new regulation. "If you don't know code or you're shy around the mic or don't even know where the push-to-talk button is on the radio, then maybe it's time you let someone else do the transmitting."

There is one additional option, according to officials. Radio operators who don't actually transmit with a radio for more than six months may opt to exchange their license for a "listening certificate." This type of license will allow the user to listen to transmissions made by others. They boast that the certificate is available by sending an SASE and will be "printed on premium paper; suitable for framing."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION			
<b>AMATEUR RADIO LISTENING LICENSE</b>			
<del>KC6TZZ</del> Actually the call sign is not needed.			
Joseph A. Smith 1234 Main Street Yourtown, OK 80523			
FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0003000030			
<b>Special Conditions / Endorsements</b>			
Due to lack of transmitting with the previously issued Amateur Radio License this license has been downgraded to Listening Status Only.			
<b>Grant Date</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Print Date</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
02-02-2014	02-02-2014		02-02-2024
<b>File Number</b>	<b>Operator Privileges</b>		<b>Station Privileges</b>
0000000001			PRIMARY
THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE			
_____ (Licensee's Signature)			
<b>FCC-000 - April 2014</b>			

**Kevin, K5KVN**

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## ***FCC to Reinstate Morse Code Test***

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official. The Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.



"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or [jim.shorts@fcc.gov](mailto:jim.shorts@fcc.gov). For more news and information about the FCC, please visit [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

73,  
***Dan, KB6NU***

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). You can contact Dan by e-mail at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com), or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.



## ***Workshop Definitions***

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your drink across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh nuts!'

**SKILL SAW:** A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

**BELT SANDER:** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle; it transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

**TABLE SAW:** A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

**BAND SAW:** A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet metal into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

**PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:** Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

**STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:** A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

**HAMMER:** Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent to the object you are trying to hit.

**UTILITY KNIFE:** Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

***Mark, K8MSH***

(The list originally appeared on Larry's List. Thanks to Larry Staples, W0AIB)

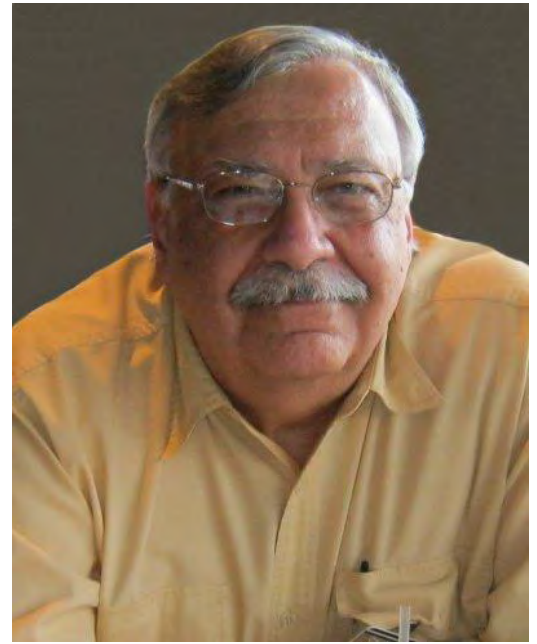
## *Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites*

Greetings again from my QTH in Parkman. I hope that you have been taking advantage of the great openings on 10 meters this past month. I have worked a number of new DX entities by looking out for the DXpeditions that were announced in the March column. And there are a few that will be coming up this month and also in May. I try to keep the listings current for the present month and one or two months beyond because beyond that, the listings become iffy. As you can imagine, things change where DXpeditions are concerned.

One thing I have noticed while working 10 meters this past month are the loud radar signals that are appearing on the band. Sounds like someone simply sending out various tones. However, they cover the band. If someone has a different theory, let me know. But most ops I talk with confirm that they are radar signals. But you can work around them so do yourself a favor and get on and work some DX.

I want to thank the following for the forecast reports for this month and beyond. Without them and their timely information, it would be much harder to know what is happening on the bands. So a BIG thank-you to 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).



**3D2, FIJI.** Wes, ZL3TE, will be active as 3D2SE from **Viti Levu (OC-016)** between April 11-14th. His main activity will be in the Japan International DX CW Contest (April 12-13th). Operations outside the contest will mainly be on CW, with some Digital modes. QSL via LoTW or ZL3TE.

**5J0, SAN ANDRES.** Operators Robert/N7QT, Melanie/AB1UH, Hugh/W4VAB and Guy/N7UN will be active as 5J0X from San Andres Island (NA-033) between April 2-14th. Activity will be holiday style (suitcase expedition) on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via N7QT, direct (NO IRCs) or by the Bureau. Log will be uploaded to LoTW.

**A22, BOTSWANA.** Schalk, ZS1LL (ex-ZS3O), from Sandbaai, South Africa, will once again be active as A22LL from Lobatse between April 5-30th. He once informed OPDX that he has a farm in Lobatse and will be there "every 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend". While there, Schalk mentioned that he will be on the 20m band operating CW and SSB. Watch 14020 kHz for CW and between 14180-14240 kHz for SSB (mostly on 14200 kHz calling CQ. Please QSL via his home call sign, direct and by the Bureau. NO LoTW.

**A3, TONGA** (Update/Correction). Both Keith/GM4YXI and Chris/GM3WOJ/ZL1CT (GM2V, ZK2V, VK9CZ) will be active as A35X and A35V, respectively, from Tongatapu Island (OC-049) between April 4-18th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB, with some RTTY. Please QSL both A35V and A35X via N3SL. Look for more details and updates in the coming weeks at: <http://a35va35x.com>

**CN, MOROCCO** (Mobile Op!). Operators Leo/PD0HFP and Frans/PA5CA will be traveling through the Morocco Desert and the Atlas mountain range in a 4x4 Jeep Wrangler (Unlimited stretched version) vehicle between April 5-20th. They plan to be active as CN2CA (TNX to Abdou, CN8VO) using an Icom 7100 with Harris Solid-State PA into HiQ-5 HF mobile antenna. Operations will be on 80-6 meters. QSL via PA9M, direct (2 GS) or by the Bureau. NO IRCs are accepted. For more details and updates, watch QRZ.com or visit: [http://pa5ca.com/wp/?page\\_id=170](http://pa5ca.com/wp/?page_id=170)

**JD1, OGASAWARA.** Minekazu, JA2NQG, will be active as JD1AAI from Chichijima (AS-031) Apr 9-17th. Mainly CW with some activity in the JIDX CW Contest (April 12-13th). Prefecture number is 48. He also mentions that there is

no internet connection at the QTH he is staying. QSL via JA2NQG or JD1AAI, by the Bureau or direct.

**OD, LEBANON.** Sylvain, F5TLN, who has been active as OD5/F5TLN since Sept, will be there until Apr 2014. Mainly on 15 meters SSB. QSL via his home callsign direct only. Visit his Web page at: <http://f5tln.voila.net>

**SA-086.** A Chilean team will be active as XR2T from **Damas Island** between April 16-20th. Operators mentioned are:  
CW - Nicolas/XQ1KZ, Carlos/XQ1CR, Dercel/CE3KHZ, Alfredo/XQ3WD and Danilo/XQ4CW  
SSB/RTTY - Domingo/CE1DY, Claudio/XQ1FM, Mauricio/CE2WUI, Julio/CE3OP, Sergio/CE3WDH,  
Chris/CE3TAM, Juan/CE3RBJ and Rodrigo/CE4KCA  
Activity will probably be on the IOTA frequencies. QSL via XQ4CW.

**V650, MICRONESIA** (Update). Haru, JA1XGI, plans to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in amateur radio by using the special call sign V650XG from Pohnpei (OC-010) between May 9-15th. Haru informs OPDX that his activity will be on 40-10 meters, including the 30/17/12m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. He will also look for DX on 6 meters. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 7025, 10105, 14015, 18080, 21015, 24895 and 28015 kHz SSB - 7145, 14175, 18135, 21260, 24940 and 28450 kHz RTTY - 7030, 10140, 14088, 18102, 21088, 24920 and 28088 kHz QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. An OQRS will be available on ClubLog. For more details and updates, visit his Web page or Blog at: <http://island.geocities.jp/v63xg/index.html> <http://kcv-net.easymyweb.jp/member/dxvacation>  
ADDED NOTE: Haru is also expected to return December 1st to Chuuk Island (OC-011). Details will be forthcoming.

**VK9M, MELLISH REEF** (Update #2). On March 20th, the following was posted from Mackay Australia [edited]: VK9MT Update #2 -- Please use as you require:

1. The Advance Team arrived in Mackay on March 18th - 19th. After many connections and over 30 hours of plane / layover time from EU and US we finally arrived at hotel.
2. Next morning we met the owner of the receiving firm and began the task of inventorying the shipments and opening the crates and barrels.
3. We spent the better part of two days at shops around Mackay buying items we thought too expensive to ship round trip from the US and EU.
4. The boat arrived from Dunedin, New Zealand, on the 17th and we visited with the skipper and crew. We have a parking pass and access key for the marina so we're loading the the boat in small loads rather than hiring a trucking firm to bring everything at once. The crew has been very helpful with the loading process.
5. Other team members will be arriving over the next few days.
6. Today, in between rain showers, we will test the generators, assemble antennas that we received directly from SteppIR and make final tuning adjustments to the folding hex beams that we were unable to do in the US because of the cold and snow.

The people we've met in Mackay at the various firms we visited have all be very helpful. Just a reminder that the VK9MT Mellish Reef DXpedition is scheduled to arrive on March 28th and be active between March 29th and April 9th. The VK9MT Web page is: <http://www.vk9mt.com>

**VQ9, CHAGOS.** Jim, ND9M, is once again active as VQ9JC from Diego Garcia. The length of his stay is not known. Activity has been on 30/20/17m using CW, with some SSB and RTTY. QSL via ND9M.

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

**AS-067.** Taka, JA8COE, active as JA8COE/6 from **Uji Island** Apr 11-15th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via his home call sign direct only. For updates, see: <http://takaja8coe.de-blog.jp/blog>

**AS-101.** French operator, David, has been operating as HS0ZLU from **Koh Phangan Island, in Thailand**. Active until May 2014. Mainly on the 10 & 20 m, but he will also be on 80/40/17/12m, and use SSB and PSK. He uses an Icom IC-706 MKIIG into a long wire of 10 meters in length (Diamond W8010 20-10m) and a long wire of 20 meters in length (for 80-40m). QSL via the address on QRZ.com. NO Bureau QSLs. For more details, see: <http://hs0zlu.wordpress.com>

**EU-010.** Camb-Hams will be active as GS3PYE/P from the **Isle of Lewis** between April 26th and May 3rd. The Camb-Hams have been activating the Scottish Isles each year since 2008 and will be traveling to the Isle of Lewis in the Scottish Outer Hebrides in 2014. Thirteen operators will be active on all bands and many modes from 4m to 80m, 2m and 70cm for Satellites, and 2m and 23cm for EME. The HF bands will be covered by five simultaneous stations, while the 6m and



4m stations will have a great take-off towards the UK and Europe from the island's northern tip in IO68 square. 2m and 23cm EME will be available with a portable low-ERP Yagi system, mainly focused on JT modes. 2m and 70cm will be available for portable satellite operations. Contest operations will take place in the RSGB 70MHz UKAC on April 29th. The group will be active on the major social networks before, during and after the trip. You can check on progress or interact with the operators via their blog at [dx.camb-hams.com](http://dx.camb-hams.com) or through Twitter, Facebook and YouTube [links below]. Previous trips have generated some great audio and video recordings of the GS3PYE/P signal from around the world. Please E-mail [skeds-2014@camb-hams.com](mailto:skeds-2014@camb-hams.com) to arrange skeds on the more challenging bands and modes. VHF and EME skeds will also be made via ON4KST and N0UK's EME Chat. All links are available via [dx.camb-hams.com](http://dx.camb-hams.com), [twitter.com/g3pye](https://twitter.com/g3pye), [facebook.com/CambHams](https://facebook.com/CambHams) and [youtube.com/CambHams](https://youtube.com/CambHams).

**EU-038.** Ops Marc/PD7YY and Jan/PE1GNP will be active as PH38EU from **Terschelling Island** Between Apr 11-14th. Activity will be on 40/20/17/15/12/10/2 meters using SSB. QSL via PD7YY or PE1GNP, direct or by the Bureau.

**EU-038.** Ops Randy/PH4X, Ron/PA4RVS, Lucas/PD0LVS, Friso/PD1JFB and Marcel/PD3MVB active as PA6TX from **Texel Island** (WLOTA 0043) during the RSGB IOTA Contest (Jul 26-27). The previous year, they signed PG13IOTA. QSL via PD0LVS, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to both LoTW and to eQSL at the end of the contest.

**EU-120.** Operators Peter/G0DRX, Matt/G0ECM, Mike/G0MEM, Steve/G0UQT, Henryk/M0HTB and SWL Julja will be active as GB2BLE from the Government House on **Lundy Island** between June 15-20th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters, possibly 6m, using SSB, FM and PSK31. QSL via the Bureau. Look for updates on Twitter @GB2BLE. For more details, see: <http://www.sbarc.co.uk/club-activities/lundy/lundy-2014>

**EU-127.** A large group of operators will be active as DA0HEL from **Helgoland Island** between April 3-12th. They plan to have 3-4 stations on the air. QSL via DF6QC, by the Bureau is preferred.

**EU-141.** (Special Prefix) Hans, LA2MOA, will be active as LI2MOA from **Vardo Island** during the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via LA2MOA, direct or by the Bureau. Also LoTW. This special prefix/callsign is being used to celebrate the 200 year anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution. The prefix will be active until December 31st.

**OC-084.** Tov, T32TV, who was previously on Christmas Island, is now active from the rare IOTA **Washington Island**. His length of stay was not mentioned. Tov is 100% on solar power at this time. Not enough power to run his linear amp. If anyone has any ideas how he can get more power out of the solar setup, please let Stan, KH6CG, know. Stan is Tov QSL Manager. He states, "I am hoping we can possibly get some necessary solar equipment donated to him to increase his storage capacity and total power. Tov is running a Yaesu FT-450D - Hygain AV-640 vert. 6-40m. Running only 100 w, but does have an amp & can run 600w if he can get the power to run it." Activity so far has been on 20 and 10 m SSB.

**OC-210.** The "DX-World.net" reports that Din, YB8RW, will be on a "Northern Indonesia IOTA DXpedition" and plans to activate **Miargas Island (OC-209)** and **Marore Island (OC-210)** as YB8RW/p until March 10th. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via YB9BU.

Well, that's it for the next few months. Let me know what you are working and we'll post it here in the Newsletter. So until next month 73 and GUD DX!!

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



**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



**ARRL Field Day**  
**June 28-29, 2014**  
Amateur Radio's most popular  
on-air operating event!  
**PCARS**  
**Ravenna City Park**

**ARRLFD14**  
**HAM RADIO**  
On the Air from Anywhere!

## ***FYAO 2014 - Winner - KB8UHN***

At the March meeting FYAO Chairman Chuck, W8PT presented the annual award plaque to the 2014 Freeze Your Acrons Off Winner - John, KB8UHN.

John was surprised and very happy to win the FYAO 2014 and is looking forward to defending his crown in 2015.

The complete story and scores for FYAO 2014 was in the March issue of The RADIOGRAM.



**John, KB8UHN    Chuck, W8PT**

## ***Special Event Stations to Mark International Marconi Day***

A few dozen special event stations will take to the air April 26, 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, to commemorate International Marconi Day. Among them will be GB4IMD, in Cornwall, England, OE14M, in Vienna, Austria, IY0IMD in Italy, VO1AA, on Signal Hill in St Johns, Newfoundland, VK2IMD in Australia, and WA1WCC on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. All stations planning to participate are urged to register. A list of registered participants is on the International Marconi Day 2014 website.



International Marconi Day is a 24 hour Amateur Radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on April 15, 1874. International Marconi Day is held each year on a Saturday close to Marconi's birthday, with Amateur Radio stations on the air from around the world, including some Award Stations operating from historically significant sites.

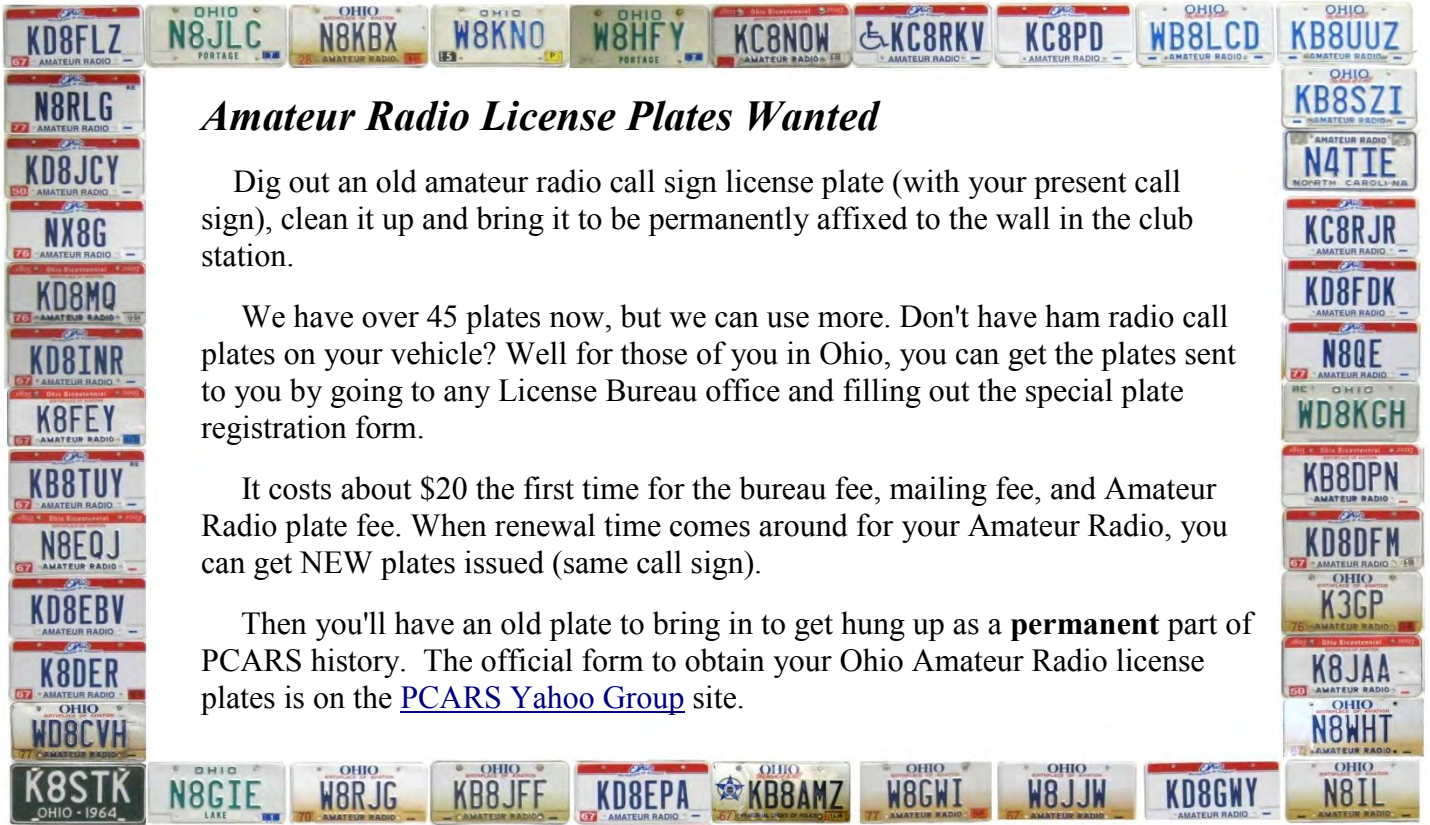


The event is not a contest; it is an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communications techniques similar to those used by Marconi, and to earn an award certificate for working or hearing a requisite number of Marconi stations. — Thanks to The Daily DX; International Marconi Day

For more information, visit: <http://g4usb.net/IMD/the-award/award-classes/>

***From the ARRL***





## 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 45 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

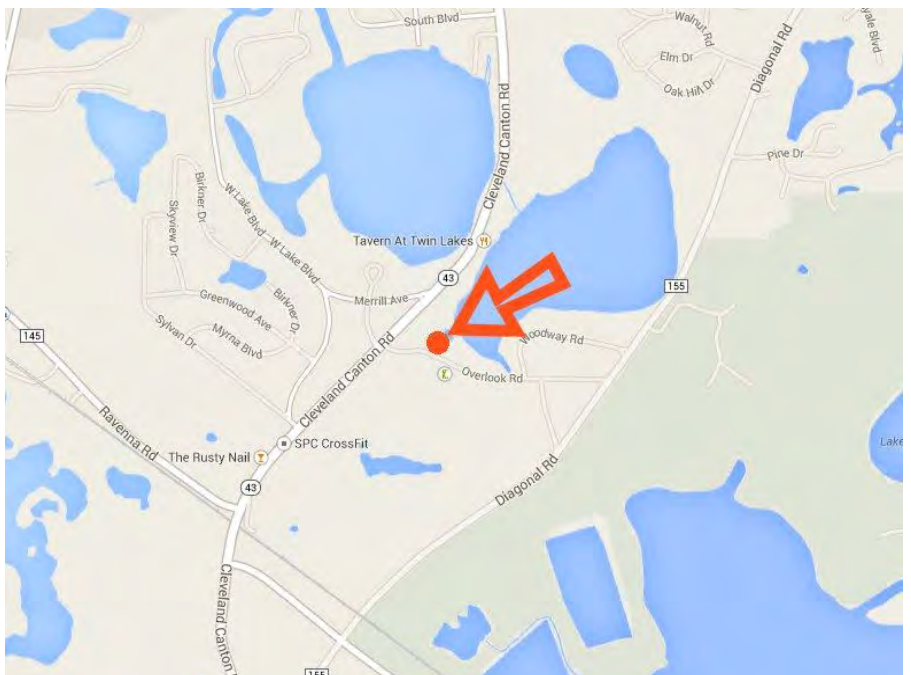
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of each month.



PCARS meets at the **Overlook Restaurant in Twin Lakes** (formerly known as the *Twin Lakes Country Club*). Address is 1519 Overlook Road in Twin Lakes.

We will be in the club house on the north side of Overlook Road.

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





# HERE IT IS

THE AMAZING NEW

Man-from-Mars

## RADIO HAT



### COMPLETE 2-TUBE RADIO BUILT INTO A HAT

Here's the famous two-tube topper you've read about in LIFE, TIME, POPULAR SCIENCE, BUSINESS WEEK, and many other magazines and newspapers, coast-to-coast. Now, you too can own this wonderful "dream-come-true" radio hat. A perfect gift idea! Study these amazing features . . . .



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P.S. 10-49



## *The Ham Radio Wedding*

With "pun" in mind, we are privileged to welcome you to the marriage ceremony of "ham" and "radio". Concerning "Radio", ham could not resistor... wanting to inductor into being a part of his family. So, after a short engagement, they have decided to do more than just "shack up".

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today for this special net to join ham and radio in holy telephony. Ham has just passed his amateur radio license exam, so he will be third party traffic, as he waits on his callsign.

The general format of this RF, or Real Fine, ceremony, will be participatory in nature...and for the bride and groom, it is a big deal... and the atmosphere is rather electric, to say the least.

If anyone here feels that ham and radio should not be united in marriage, let them key up now, or never pound their brass. However, you may be subjected to the Wouff Hong and rettysnitch by both families if you object (grin!)

Does the father of the bride, Ken Wood, give his consent for this special occasion?? (Sound of "Yes, I do" in Morse Code at 20 wpm)

Do you Ham, take Radio, to be your lawfully wedded spouse?? To love, honor, and cherish?? In DXCC and WAS?? In QRM and QRN?? With Rohn 25 and G5RV?? With coaxial cable and various connectors?? With logbooks and manuals?? With Solder and Test Equipment?? Respecting The Wouff Hong and Rettysnitch, Your License, and Privileges. Forsaking all others, as long as you both shall transmit and receive, during your relationship, until Silent Key, do you part?? (Sound of male voice saying "QSL. I Certainly Do.")

Do you Radio, take Ham, to be your lawfully wedded spouse?? To love, honor, and cherish?? In DXCC and WAS?? In QRM and QRN?? With Rohn 25 and G5RV?? With coaxial cable and various connectors?? With logbooks and manuals?? With Solder and Test Equipment?? Respecting The Wouff Hong and Rettysnitch, Your License, and Privileges. Forsaking all others, as long as you both shall transmit and receive, during your relationship, until Silent Key, do you part?? (Sound of PSK31)

In lieu of a prayer and Bible reading, I feel that The Amateur's Code, written in 1928, by the late Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, is appropriate for this ceremony.

As such, I would expect that both of you, "ham" and "radio" would follow these traits as you both transmit and receive throughout your relationship. You are to be:

**CONSIDERATE:** Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL:** Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE:** With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.



**FRIENDLY:** With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED:** Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC:** With station and skill always ready for service to country and community. Please stand by while I get the special marriage connectors.  
[brief pause]

With these specially prepared BNC, SMA, and PL-259 connectors, each of you are to present them to each other, and say or transmit "With This Connector, I thee, LED". These special combination connectors and light emitting diodes will show that you will light up with excitement each time you transmit throughout your relationship. (Sound of male voice saying "With This Connector, I Thee, LED"). (Sound Of RTTY)

In as much as you have promised your devotion to each other...before Net Control, and all these witnesses; by the power that has been invested in me, by the Cabot Nightflyers Net, as Guest Net Control and Webmaster, I now pronounce you "Ham" and "Radio".

You may now kiss the mic. (Sound of packet) (Male Voice announcing "My bride just told me to packet. The honeymoon will be at Dayton Hamvention in May... and we will have music of The Ham Band at the reception").

***Daryl, WX1DER***



***So True.....***



Been there, done that....

***Tom, KB8UUZ***



## Ham Attends 11 Storm Spotter Classes In A Row

The words on his hat proclaim him a “weather nerd.” But after attending 11 storm spotter forums back-to-back at the Dayton Hamvention, his friends call him “a hero” and “an example for us all.” Dan Barlinghouse says he arrived at Hara Arena at 6:45 a.m., just in time to get a good seat in the first storm spotter class of the day. “I like to sit in the front row because the tornado in the video looks like it’s coming right at you!” he said.

“After the first class ended, I guess I was so mesmerized that I didn’t get out of my seat. A few minutes later, the room filled up again and the second class started,” said Barlinghouse.



His friends began to worry when he didn’t show up for the famous “Gravy Boat Anchor” breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in room 104. “Derrick never misses this thing. The sausage links are his favorite!” said Robert Rangleton. “After we finished our hash brown casserole, we went to the forum room to look for him.”

As the next class shuffled in, Rangleton said they found him in his front row seat, fixated on the “What To Report” section of the official spotter’s manual. “He said he was learning a whole lot and he’d catch up with us later at the Icom table.”

But, Barlinghouse didn’t meet them at the Icom table. He says he didn’t leave the room at all that day, skipping meals and bathroom breaks.

As the 11th and final spotter class of the day was getting underway at 6:00 p.m., Barlinghouse was noticeably shaking and weak. At one point, it looked as though he was headed for the door. Despite pleas from onlookers that he leave the room, he slowly turned back toward his seat, waving off offers of food, drink and a chamber pot.

Medical personnel confirm he was carried out of the room at 7:00 p.m., dehydrated and incoherently muttering the words “wall cloud,” “nickle-sized hail,” and “rear flank downdraft.”

“To me, what he did was a commitment that should be an inspiration for all of us here,” says Rangleton. “I mean, those classes are always the same. So to have the endurance do it 11 times in one day... that’s a big deal.”

Crowds outside the arena apparently agreed, cheering as Barlinghouse was loaded into an ambulance. When asked why he did it, Barlinghouse says, “What can I say? When I’m out there and all hail breaks loose, I need to know that stuff!” he said.

**Kevin, K5KVN**

## California QSO Party 2013 Certificates

During the March meeting, for those present, certificates were passed out to the PCARS team of operators from the 2013 California QSO Party.

Congratulations to all and let's do even better in 2014.



**Chuck, W8PT**  
PCARS Contest  
Coordinator

## Stark County VHF QSO Party

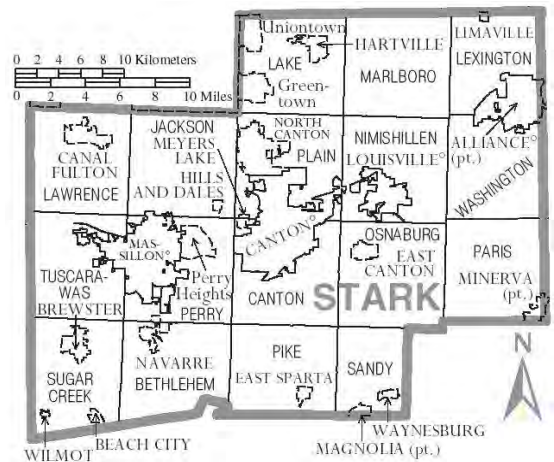
The Stark County VHF QSO Party sponsored by: The Alliance Amateur Radio Club will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Mode: 2 Meter FM Simplex.

This is the Alliance ARC's 5<sup>th</sup> running of this event. Our previous years have resulted in a lot of 2 Meter activity, and a lot of fun.

- The purpose of this contest is to:
- Provide an opportunity for local Amateurs to enhance their station and operating skills.
- Simulate emergency conditions (with NO repeaters).
- To enhance utilization of the 2 meter band and simplex operation
- To have fun.

We've tried to keep the rules as simple as possible, without sacrificing clarity. If you see anything that leaves you scratching your head, please let me know. You can email me at [2mcontest@w8lky.org](mailto:2mcontest@w8lky.org), or call me at 330-936-5021.

Let's do our best to stay safe out there. I'm talking especially to the mobile operators. Obey the rules, of the road, and let's make this a good day for everyone. Thanks again for your interest. We look forward to working you in the 2014 Stark County VHF QSO Party.



73,  
**John, KD8MQ**

---

## Thanks & 73

All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure PCARS will again be known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club with plenty of activities to report on in this newsletter all throughout the year.

Thanks go out to the contributors for this month's newsletter:

**WB8LCD, KC8PD, N8RLG, KB8UUZ, W8KNO, K8CAV, KD8MQ, KD8WGR, KD8VT, K5KVN, WB0RUR, KC8LIN, WX1DER, KB6NU, K8MSH, W8PT, KA8TDF, Ham HiJinks, 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

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## Disclaimer

Yes folks, it's April. And with that month, I try to throw in a bunch of material that has a bit of humor to celebrate April Fool Day. If you found something offensive - I am sorry, really. If you found something that made you laugh - That's Great ! I must say, finding the material for the April issue is getting harder and harder each year, even with the internet. So when you run across something that you think would be good of the next April issue, please send it to me. I'll throw it in my April Folder.

Now, just to be clear about a disclaimer:

This newsletter is meant for educational purposes only. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead is purely coincidental. Void where prohibited. Some assembly required. List each check separately by bank number. Batteries not included. Contents may settle during shipment. Use only as directed. No other warranty expressed or implied. Do not use while operating a motor vehicle or heavy equipment. Postage will be paid by addressee. Subject to approval. This is not an offer to sell securities. Apply only to affected area. May be too intense for some viewers. Do not stamp. Use other side for additional listings. For recreational use only. Do not disturb. All models over 18 years of age. If condition persists, consult your physician. No user-serviceable parts inside. Freshest if eaten before date on carton. Subject to change without notice. Times approximate. Simulated picture. No postage necessary if mailed in the United States. Breaking seal constitutes acceptance of agreement. For off-road use only. As seen on TV. One size fits all. Many suitcases look alike. Contains a substantial amount of non-tobacco ingredients. Colors may, in time, fade. We have sent the forms which seem to be right for you. Slippery when wet. For office use only. Not affiliated with the American Red Cross. Drop in any mailbox. Edited for television. Keep cool; process promptly. Post office will not deliver without postage. List was current at time of printing. Return to sender, no forwarding order on file, unable to forward. Not responsible for direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect, error or failure to perform. At participating locations only. Not the Beatles. Penalty for private use. See label for sequence. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Do not write below this line. Falling rock. Lost ticket pays maximum rate. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Add toner. Place stamp here. Avoid contact with skin. Sanitized for your protection. Be sure each item is properly endorsed. Sign here without admitting guilt. Slightly higher west of the Mississippi. Employees and their families are not eligible. Beware of dog. Contestants have been briefed on some questions before the show. Limited time offer, call now to insure prompt delivery. You must be present to win. No passes accepted for this engagement. No purchase necessary. Processed at location stamped in code at top of carton. Shading within a garment may occur. Use only in well-ventilated area. Keep away from fire or flame. Replace with same type. Approved for veterans. Booths for two or more. Check here if tax deductible. Some equipment shown is optional. Price does not include taxes. No Canadian coins. Not recommended for children. Prerecorded for this time zone. Reproduction strictly prohibited. No solicitors. No alcohol, dogs, or horses. No anchovies unless otherwise specified. Restaurant package, not for resale. List at least two alternate dates. First pull up, then pull down. Call toll free before digging. Driver does not carry cash. Some of the trademarks mentioned in this product appear for identification purposes only. Record additional transactions on back of previous stub. Decision of judges is final. This supersedes all previous notices.



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**PCARS**

**March 10, 2014**



# Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

Dayton Hamvention 2014

Saturday, May 17, 2014 - 5:30 AM

Don't miss out on this year's PARF Bus Trip to the world's largest topical conference and product exhibition. Save on gas, parking, and walking by riding with us! Leave the driving to us and you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.



**You can save \$10\* if you book before April 15th.**

The cost of the **Bus & Entrance ticket** to the Hamvention:  
**\$65\* before April 15, 2014**



The cost of the **Bus Only** to the Hamvention:  
**\$50\* after April 15, 2014**

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25, or order by phone & have held at Will Call--possibly getting Advanced \$20 price.)

We will take riders right up to departure that morning (if there are seats available) on a first come, first served basis.

Departure time is 5:30 AM **SHARP**, so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!

Parking will be in the back of the church.

There will be a stop for breakfast @ McDonald's and a dinner stop @ Golden Corral Buffet (out of pocket expense).

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company. This bus is a smoke free bus, so there will be no smoking permitted.

**To Order - Complete application & send with check/money order (*payable to "PARF"*) to:**

Joy Spencer KA8TDF

2101 Bigelow St

Akron, OH 44314

**Or call 330-745-5115**

E-mail: KA8TDF@arrrl.net

**Please supply a return e-mail address for your receipt confirmation.**

**Location of Departure is:**

Akron Baptist Temple

2324 Manchester Road

Akron, Ohio 44314

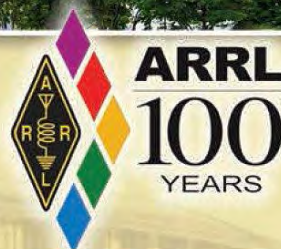
Located on Rt. 93 just north of Rt. 224

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610





## Centennial Events & Programs



### ■ ARRL National Centennial Convention—July 2014



### ARRL National Centennial Convention at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, July 17-19, 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
- ◆ License Exams
- ◆ Friday Night Banquet

**July 17-20, 2014  
(Thurs-Sun)**  
Tours of ARRL headquarters and W1AW

**Hotel and  
Travel details  
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**ARRL2014.org**

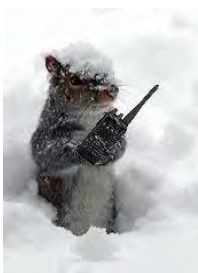
- **Regional Centennial Events**
- **Donate Now to the Second Century Campaign for the ARRL Endowment**  
[www.arrl.org/scc](http://www.arrl.org/scc)
- **Yearlong On-Air Operating Event and Awards**
- **Plus commemorative publications, regional events, special QST features, and more! Additional details 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

PCARS meets at the **Overlook Restaurant** in Twin Lakes (formerly known as the *Twin Lakes Country Club*). Address is 1519 Overlook Road in Twin Lakes.

We will be in the club house on the north side of Overlook Road.

*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.**

### 2014 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards - DXCC WAS, VUCC, WAC	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
Club Site	<b>KC8PD</b>	Jim Aylward
Contest	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	<b>K8SRR</b>	Steve Randlett
Field Day Chairman	<b>KD8VT</b>	James Andrews
Field Day Co-Chairman	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
F.Y.A.O.	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
Historian	<b>KB8SZI</b>	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF Callsign Trustee	<b>K8FEY</b>	Bob Hewett
K8BF QSL Manager	<b>K8FEY</b>	Bob Hewett
Net Coordinator	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
Newsletter	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
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

<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>WD8CVH</b>	Ted Wands
<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
<b>AB8AA</b>	Allan Avnet
<b>K8JAA</b>	Jane Avnet
<b>KD8FLZ</b>	Mike DiCarro
<b>W8RID</b>	Bob Davet
<b>WA8CCU</b>	Al Nagy
<b>N8RW</b>	Russ Williams
<b>KD8RJV</b>	Jim Corbett
<b>W8EZT</b>	Frank Tompkins
<b>N8OQQ</b>	Bryan Buchwalter
<b>AC8NT</b>	Jim Wilson



**PCARS  
Volunteer  
Examiner  
Team**



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This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, The RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR e-mail box!** 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

# THE RADIOGRAM

