



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



February 2014 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 9 No. 2

~ 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 ~

2nd 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

Hello Everyone! Seems like it's been a long time since the last PCARS meeting..... well, these things happen. But, what a great turn out we had at the PCARS club site on Monday January 13th. We had 57 of you who signed in, and I know there were a few more that were there who are not on the sign in sheets. To me, that's an affirmation of what a great group of people PCARS members are. You are the club, and I appreciate each and every one of you. Even though you may not always like everything I come up with, and, I may not always sign on to your ideas, it really doesn't matter. We can all get together and know that not everyone is going to have the same outlook, ideas and beliefs, yet we can still work together and be friends. That's a rare commodity in today's world.

Speaking of the January meeting, I showed up in Streetsboro at about 5:00 PM, as I usually do. I wanted to make sure they were ready for us and had everything in good order. I can't tell you the terror I experienced when the door wouldn't open. I spent the next 20 – 30 minutes dialing every number I had on my cell phone trying to get a hold of someone who

could tell me what was going on. When I finally got the word, not knowing what I needed to do next, I called Jim – KC8PD. Between the two of us, we called every phone number we had, sent out emails and put the word out on the repeater. A special thanks to Jim for not only suggesting that we open the club site, but that we make it a pizza party! It all worked out pretty good and I think everyone had a good time.



Tom, WB8LCD

Jim and I came up with a “short list” of places to check out, knowing that we may be in the market for a new meeting venue. Some were eliminated rather quickly, and a few were eliminated after a quick perusal. As time moved forward, it became obvious that we would not be returning to Stringz & Wingz. Which brings us to the Overlook Restaurant.

This is the former Twin Lakes Country Club. It used to be a private club, but a few years ago it was sold and went public. It's really a very nice facility. Yes, it's a bit different from most of the other places we've met in the past. But, that's a step up in many respects.

(continued on Page 2)

And, the Winner is ... FYAO 2012	26
April is only a few Months Away	30
ARRL 2014 Flier	35
Charlie the Tuner - HF High Lites	14
Contest Calendar	6
Dues are Due	21
EmComm	12
FCC retires old Front Page	30
Field Day 2014	6
FYAO 2014 Flier	34
Get Your Digital Station Running	13
Ham Cram at DX Engineering	5
Ham Cram: Good or No ?	29
Ham License Plates Wanted	18
Hamfest Calendar	7
Happy Birthday	6
Introduction to EMCOMM Class	19
Mark Your Calendars	3
Meetings, PCARS	18
Net Info & NCS Schedule	8
OSPOTA 2013 Certificate Feedback	28

Out with the Old, In with the New	27
Paper Chase	7
Patches & Stickers, PCARS	8
PCARS Dues Form	33
Pictures from the January Meeting	32
Pictures from the January Workshop	31
President, From the	1
Protect Your Gear from ESD	25
Satellite Phone ?	23
Swap-N-Shop	10
Thanks & 73	28
The Magic Band - Revisited	22
Top 100 - Most Wanted DX	24
Trivia Quiz	9
Trivia Quiz Answers	11
VE Notes	26
VE Test Sessions	5
Vice President, From the	4
Where's the CQ ?	20
Yahoo Group	13



From the President (continued from Page 1)

Yes, there will be many more items on the menu that go beyond typical “bar food”, but there will be plenty of items to make it on par to what we're used to, pricewise. The banquet room we will be meeting in normally goes for a minimum of \$300 per night, but we are getting it for \$0. I can promise you that you won't be disappointed with the accommodations!

So come on out for the February meeting. Check it out. Hear the presentation from Steve – K8SRR – that you missed last month. As I said before, we have postponed Bob Heil so that we could iron out a few things with the new meeting place. Stay tuned on that one.

Next on my list is Freeze Your Acorns Off. Saturday the 15th of February. This has always been a fun event. QRP can mean a lot of different things to different people. All the way from the most minimalistic set-up to the most sophisticated station, the thing that makes it QRP is the power output limitation. So, as long as you are within that limitation, bring it on! Lets see what you've got and how you can make it work at QRP power levels. Even if you can't spend the day, if you can bring something out, set it up and make a Q or two, I promise it will be a fun day for you. You don't even really need to do that to enjoy FYAO with PCARS! There will be plenty of food and fellowship in the shelter house, so even if you don't want to operate, we still want to

see you out there. Personally, I want to thank Chuck – W8PT – for volunteering to take over the event for this year. I'll be set up and operating, something I haven't been able to do in the past few years. Good luck to all!

The following weekend is our next project day at the club site. We'll be building a power pole distribution box (similar to the nut-runner). This one will sport a digital volt meter. If you've made the move to power poles, if you work EmComm, or if you just want to make it easy to manage your 12 Vdc power connections, this project is for you!

As you all know, 2014 is the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL. It would be the perfect time to join if you are not already a member. (I'm presuming you've already paid your PCARS dues!) Any of you going to the Celebration in Hartford this July? If so, let me know. Hold off on your banquet tickets (or let me know if you've already ordered them) until I can get a count of who all may be there. I'll see if we can get a table (or more if necessary) so we can all sit together.

As we move through 2014 I would like to see this be the best year for PCARS yet. I can't make it happen without you. I need you to be at our meetings and events. I need you to give us your ideas for meetings, projects, operating events, whatever it is you would like to be doing. I need you to help with the license classes. I need you to check in on the nets. Whatever it is we do as a club, it's better when more of us participate. This is a great hobby, PCARS is a great club, and every PCARS member is good looking and of above average intelligence! Thank you for your participation. **"Big Fun"**!

73,
Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS President



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **Feb 4th - Field Day 2014 Meeting** at the club site 7 pm - James, KD8VT
- **Feb 10th - PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - Computer Networking for Hams, by Steve, K8SRR
- **Feb 15th - Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO)** - Fred Fuller Park in Kent
- **Feb Date To Be Determined - PowerPole Distribution Project**, similar to the "nut runner" - by Zeb, KD8WZS. Watch for more details to follow.
- **Mar 10th - PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - Bob Heil founder & owner of Heil Microphones via Skype
- **Mar 22nd - VOM training** by Rick, K8CAV. Learn how to properly use a Volt/Ohm meter, and all of the testing techniques you can use it for. This is the most basic and most useful test instrument available, everyone will improve their skill level with this training!
- **April 14th - PCARS Meeting** - Tim Duffy, K3LR - the super contest station

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



From the Vice President

Life certainly is full of surprises and PCARS got a harsh reminder of that shortly before 5:00 p.m. on January 13th when Tom, WB8LCD, who was the first to arrive at the former Stringz and Wingz for that evening's club meeting, discovered that the place was closed. And we mean really closed, not just for the night.

Tom and I quickly decided to move the meeting to the club site and began scrambling to get the word out by all means possible: radio, email, text message, you name it. In the end, things worked out pretty well. Only a few people were inconvenienced and we had more than fifty PCARS members make it to world headquarters for an impromptu pizza party. It was like the Net Nite that we had always hoped for. All in all, things worked out okay but we don't want to go through that again.

Thanks to Tom, WB8LCD, for suggesting the new location for our future meetings: the Overlook Restaurant in Twin Lakes just north of Kent. This is a really nice spot with a large and comfortable meeting room. The management seems very willing to accommodate our members, including adding some items to the menu that we may like. Should be a good time there.



The abrupt change in meeting locations necessitated a change in the meeting presentation. Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound, was going to join us via Skype and his presentation had been promoted to hams throughout Northeast Ohio. Bob graciously agreed to reschedule his appearance since we could not confirm that we would be at a permanent location by February 10th and be sure of internet access there.

We are waiting on a confirmation from Bob and if all goes well he will join us at the March 10th meeting. In the meantime, Steve, K8SRR, will give his presentation on internet operations at the February meeting. Steve had been scheduled for the canceled January meeting. The Bulldog Battery presentation originally set for March will likely be rescheduled.

And we have some late-breaking news about our April 14th meeting. Tim Duffy, K3LR, will be our special guest with a presentation on contesting and the **K3LR Super Station** just over the state line in Pennsylvania. Tim has also offered to host a PCARS road trip to visit the station so watch for more news on that!

On Saturday, January 25th, we held the first of the 2014 PCARS Weekend Workshops and it was well attended by a crowd that kept busy either building antennas with Brian, N8ZPS, coax jumpers with Tom, KB8UUZ, or PowerPole cables with Tom, WB8LCD.

The next Weekend Workshop will be later in February (watch for an announcement of the date) with Zeb, KD8WZS, leading the way. This will be a kit construction project, building PowerPole Distribution boxes, a handy, inexpensive way to gain multiple power outlets from your twelve volt power source.

On March 22nd, Rick, K8CAV, will conduct a Weekend Workshop on the use of a volt/ohm meter (VOM) and later in the year Rick will also have training sessions on the use of other test equipment, particularly the gear that PCARS has acquired for the workshop at the club site. With some luck, we will also have Steve, K8SRR, providing some Weekend Workshops on the amateur radio uses of the Raspberry Pi computers.

We have a busy and fun PCARS year coming up and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and activities. And don't forget, Freeze Your Acorns Off will be here before you know it on Saturday, February 15th at Fred Fuller Park in Kent.

Jim, KC8PD
PCARS Vice President

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

February 1st, April 5th, June 7th, August 2nd, October 4th, December 6th

Special General Class VE Test Session (Open to anyone) - **March 4th - 7 pm**

Special Amateur Extra Class VE Test Session (Open to anyone) - **March 19th - 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



Ham Cram at DX Engineering with PCARS Assistance

On Saturday, January 11th, PCARS Instructors & VEs presented a special Technician Ham Cram course at DX Engineering for employees of Summit Racing & DX Engineering. The review class started at 8 am sharp and ran until about 4 pm. This was the first time PCARS did a one day Technician Ham Cram course and all went very smooth. Twenty-Four people were in the class and at the end of the day there were **18** new Amateur Radio Technicians!

All of the attendees had been given the ARRL Technician book and course outline about 4 weeks prior to the class. They were told they must read the book, read the outline and take some on-line practice tests since the Ham Cram is an intense review rather than a normal teach & learn type of class.



PCARS members that helped out with training and VE testing included: KB8UUZ, WB8LCD, KC8PD, K8IV, N8OQQ, N8QE and N8XTH. Also helping to review was DX Engineering's Chief Marketing Officer - Tim Duffy, K3LR. It was the largest VE test session any of the PCARS VEs had been involved in. Comments from the attendees, PCARS instructors and volunteer examiners were all positive and everyone really enjoyed the experience.

73,
Tom, KB8UUZ



Field Day 2014

Here's some news I didn't get to announce at our January meeting:

James Andrews, KD8VT - will be our Field Day Chairman for 2014. He is planning the first Field Day 2014 organizational meeting for Tuesday, February 4th at the club site at 7:00 PM. The first meeting is specifically for anyone wanting to serve as:

Assistant Field Day Chairman
Logistics Officer
Field Day Chef
Safety Officer
Public Information Officer
Station Captains

I know that everyone will pitch in and make this another successful PCARS Field Day!

73,

Tom, WB8LCD



Contest Calendar

February 2014	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 1 to 2400Z, Feb 2
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 1
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 1 to 0100Z, Feb 3
British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 1 to 0400Z, Feb 2
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 9
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 8 to 2200Z, Feb 9
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 15 to 2400Z, Feb 16
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 21 to 2159Z, Feb 23
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 22 to 0600Z, Feb 23
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 23 to 0059Z, Feb 24

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



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in February:

N4IT	Carl Capps	KD8DFL	Ray Larrick
K8JE	Jim Weaver	KC8YYS	James Albright
KC8LJY	Mike Bakes	KD8MLF	Eileen Mohr
KD8KCY	James Gurney	KB8CLH	Vivian DeSimio
KD8RHV	Kathleen Smeiles	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
KD8UXI	Mendy Palumbo	KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro

Hamfest Calendar

02/02/2014 - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Winter Ham Fest - Location: VFW Post 1079 - 500 South Abbe Road - Elyria, OH 44035 - Website: <http://NOARS.net> - Talk-In: 146.70- (PL 110.9) - Public Contact: Darlene Ohman , KA8VTS - 4122 Bush Avenue Cleveland, OH 44109 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: dohman@roadrunner.com

02/16/2014 - Intercity Amateur Radio Club - Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show - Location: Richland County Fairgrounds - Mansfield, OH - Website: <http://w8we.org> - Contact: Danny Bailey KB8STK - 70 Euclid St. - Shiloh, OH 44878 - 419-896-3603 after 3pm.

04/12/2014 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club (CFARC) - 60th 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

Paper Chase


February is known as the month of Lovers. You only need to look in the stores and see the Valentines. Amateur radio also has its Valentine's Day special Event. The North Central Arkansas Amateur Radio Service (AB5ER) will sponsor the event on February 8th from 1500Z-2100Z. The event will originate from Romance ,Arkansas. Look for the event +/- QRM near 14.250,21.350 and 28.400 MHZ.

If you desire a Certificate, send to: North Central Arkansas Amateur Radio Service - PO Box 911 - Judsonia, AR 72081

Either a 9x12 SASE with QSL card or if you prefer send a QSL and \$2.00 and they will provide postage and envelope with Love Stamps postmarked at the Romance Arkansas Post Office.


You want get your request for a Certificate in promptly because the offer for the Romance cancellation is good only till April 30th. If you do not want a Certificate, all contacts will be uploaded to LOTW.

Hear you in the pile-up,
Joe, W8KNO



www.ncaars.org

Valentine's Day
Special Event Station
AB5ER




Romance is located in EM35xf White County

Crew:
N5QS Roger Gray
N5QT Dawn Gray
AC5AV Larry Sicks
KC5FSV Carol Sicks
KK5WA Darin Dykes
NSKG Jack Hampton
KD5HRT Heath Taylor
KF5IPK Ken Waller
KJ5ORD John Ord
W5HXX Kenneth Leo
N5QZ Ryan McAfee


Station	UTC	Day	Month	Year	Frequency	Mode	RST
W8KNO	1816	09	Feb	2013	20 Meters	SSB	5-9


U.S. Post Office
Romance, Arkansas 72136



Romance, AR
9 February 2013

Facilities provided by
FLOYD - ROMANCE
VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT





PCARS Patches & Stickers



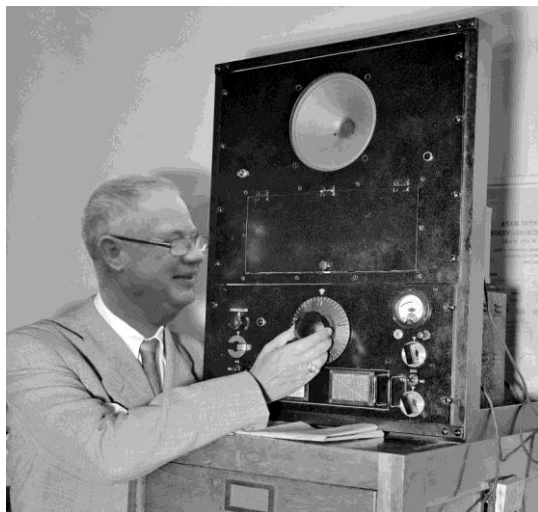
New PCARS logo patches (iron on) & stickers (stick on) are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo!!

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



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!



February	
6	KC8PD
13	WB8LCD
20	KB8UUZ
27	KB8UHN

March	
6	KD8FDK
13	NR8W
20	KB8UUZ
27	N8QE

April	
3	NR8W
10	KB8UUZ
17	N8RLG
24	WB8LCD

May	
1	
8	
15	
22	
29	

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 Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

Trivia Quiz from the PCARS Net Night - January 23, 2014

1. Who was referred to in early QST articles as “The Old Man”?
Clarence Tuska, 1WD Hiram Maxim, 1AW Wayne Green, W2NSD Thomas Parkinson, KB8UUZ
2. What *other* organization uses the initials PCARS to identify them?
Pennsylvania Catskills Amateur Radio Service Plenum Circuits Advanced Radio Systems
Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society Polar Cap Amateur Radio Society
3. What is the Most Wanted DX Entity for DX'ers?
P5 - North Korea AP - Pakistan PY0/S - St Peter & St Paul EP, EQ - Iran
4. What was former Senator Barry Goldwater's Call Sign?
WB7QNQ AA7AU N7UPG K7UGA
5. Who is the current ARRL Ohio Section Manager?
Matt Welch, W8DEC Frank Piper, KI8GW Scott Yonally, N8SY Jim Weaver, K8JE
6. Which PCARS member lives the furthest from Portage County?
Randy Wilson Daryl Stout Dick Pascoe Christopher Schroeder
7. What was the distress signal sent by the Titanic? (April 14, 1912)
Help! CQD SOS Titanic Sinking, send help. Over.
8. The Radio Act of 1912? (August 13, 1912)
Established SOS as the standard signal for distress Called for Licensure of all Radio Stations
Amateurs were banished to 200 meters and higher frequencies
9. Who was the first to transmit voice over Radio?
Reginald Fessenden Hiram Percy Maxim Clarence Tuska Errol Jordan
10. What is the approx length of a ½ wave dipole cut for 28.5 Mhz?
8 feet 11 feet 16 feet 21 feet
11. What is the approx maximum theoretical gain of a 3 element, single band yagi?
9.7dBd 9.7dBi 5.4 times the gain of a dipole Not enough info to compute
12. Who determines “Good Engineering” practice according to Part 97 Rules?
The ITU The IEEE The FCC The Control Operator
13. When is an Amateur station allowed to use any means at its disposal to assist another station in distress?
Only when transmitting in RACES Only on authorize HF frequencies
During an organized net At any time in an actual emergency
14. Who was the very first editor of the PCARS Radiogram?
Ed - K8IV (N8EQJ) Mike – KC8UNR Tom – KB8UUZ Jim – KC8PD
15. What year was the first Dayton Hamvention held?
1953 1952 1946 1972

16. What year was the ARRL founded?
1912 1914 1918 1924
17. What was the first satellite in space?
Japan's Ogama satellite France's LaBouche Russia's Sputnik 1 USA's Vanguard
18. When "incentive licensing" was first started, what speed did you need to be able to send and receive morse code for a General class license?
5 wpm 10 wpm 13 wpm 20 wpm
19. What was the postage rate on the 1964 ham radio commemorative stamp?
4 cents 5 cents 6 cents 8 cents
20. Why did Amateur Radio "take off" in the late 1940's and 1950's?
Government initiative High School & College programs Military Surplus Civil Defense initiative

Tom, WB8LCD



Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Icom 756 Pro III includes unused hand mic, pwr cable, original boxes, dust cover, operator manual & service manual on CD \$1650

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: RigBlaster Pro Includes cable for Icom. \$90

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 [05/02/14]

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

Contact John, KC8KYW at 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 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: 1/4" 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" Helix and 7/8" Helix . Contact me with your needs.

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

FOR SALE: Icom IC-735 with hand microphone also has manual on CD - \$250.00
FOR SALE: Icom IC-PS-55 Power Supply - \$100.00
FOR SALE: MFJ-948 - Deluxe Versa Tuner II with manual - \$50.00
FOR SALE: Swan - 1500Z Linear Amp with manual - Set up for 220 Vac. Can be changed to 110 Vac - \$500.00
FOR SALE: Ceton 572B/T160L Spare Tube for Swan 1500Z amplifier - \$25.00
FOR SALE - Kenwood TM-721A FM Dual Band with hand mic & 2 mobile quick release brackets & manual - \$100
 Contact Bob, W8JFQ at W8JFO@portcars.org or call : 336-707-7148 [02/02/14]

FOR SALE: Heathkit Model IM-11 VTVM - \$40
FOR SALE: ASTATIC Model D-104 Mic w/ TUG8 Stands (Lollypop) 4 of them - 1 Excellent-\$70, 3 good \$40
FOR SALE: YAESU Model FT-11R 2Mtr FM HT w/Spkr Mic and Charger - \$60
FOR SALE: YAESU Model NC-50 Charger - \$35
FOR SALE: ICOM Model IC-V80 2Mtr FM HT w/ Extra Battery and Charger - \$90
FOR SALE: Nye Viking Model B V A, Antenna Tuner - \$425
FOR SALE: Johnson Viking Kilowatt Matchbox Model 250-30 - \$85
FOR SALE: TRIPLET Model 630 VOM - \$45
FOR SALE: MF-J-250 50 ohm oil dummy load - \$40
FOR SALE: MFJ407B Electronic Keyer - \$40
FOR SALE: Heil Model HM10 4-5 Microphone with Stand - \$50
FOR SALE: Standard C1208DA 2 mtr FM Mobile - \$150
FOR SALE: MFJ-1702C, 2 Pos Coax Switch - have 2 of them - \$20 ea
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 - \$75
FOR SALE: ASTATIC Model 10-D w/G Stand - \$50
FOR SALE: Electro Voice Model 664 - \$50
FOR SALE: Electro Voice Model 638 - have 2 of them - \$50 ea
FOR SALE: Shure Microphone and stand - \$20
FOR SALE: HUBBELL Outdoor Light Model PUL-0100S-118 - \$25 -120/208/240/277 volt, uses S54 Bulb
FOR SALE: W1FFL Ladder-LOC - \$10
FOR SALE: Kenwood TL-922 Linear Amplifier - \$1500

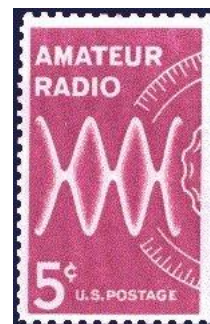
All equipment is in top shape.

Contact Al, AB8AA at ab8aa@portcars.org or call 330-207-3296 [04/02/14]

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.

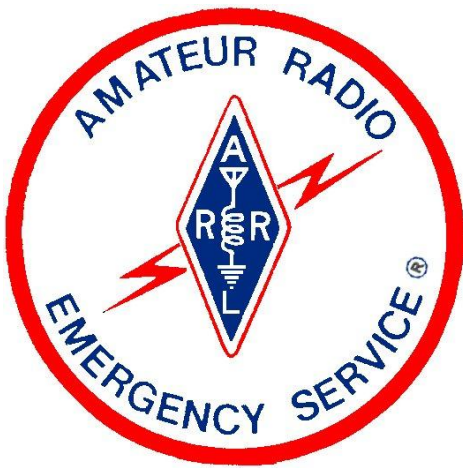
Answers to the Net Night Trivia Quiz

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Hiram Maxim 1AW | 11. 9.7 dBi |
| 2. Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society | 12. The FCC |
| 3. P5 - N Korea | 13. At any time in an actual emergency |
| 4. K7UGA | 14. Tom KB8UZZ |
| 5. Scott Yonally N8SY | 15. 1952 |
| 6. Dick Pascoe G0BPS | 16. 1914 |
| 7. CQD | 17. Russia's Sputnik 1 |
| 8. All 3 answers are correct | 18. 13 WPM |
| 9. Reginald Fessenden | 19. 5 cents |
| 10. 8 Feet | 20. Military Surplus |



EmComm

The 2014 edition of the **Introduction to Emergency Communications class (ARRL EC-001)** will be offered on four Saturdays starting on March 1st at the Center of Hope. As in the past the class will be free although there is a \$15.00 fee to the ARRL in order to take the exam.



The class will meet from 0900 hours until around 1400 hours each day with a half hour break for lunch. There will be no class on March 15th because there is an Ohio Section ARES® leadership meeting in Columbus that day. The class will conclude on April 5th with the exam being administered around 1400 hours.

This course covers a lot of very interesting and useful information. Even if you have participated in the class before, you are welcome to attend again either as a refresher class or to share your experiences with those taking the course.

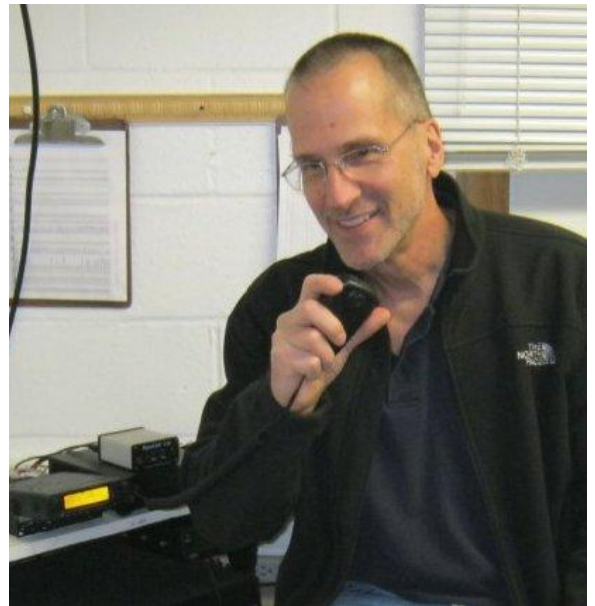
In addition, at 1900 hours on Wednesday, March 5th, ARES® of Portage County will be offering its **Basic Skills for Public Service Communications** class, also at the Center of Hope. It is free and is available to all area hams and serves as a great introduction to special event communications.

The special event communications season will be upon us in no time and regular announcements will be sent out recruiting volunteers. **The RiteAid Cleveland Marathon** will be on May 18th, and over the summer locally there will be the **Headwaters Adventure Race**, the **Kent Black Squirrel Festival**, along with the ARES® of Portage County supported events which include three events sponsored by Ravenna Parks and Recreation and the **Mantua Potato Stomp**.

Every one of these events offers opportunities for everyone from brand new communications volunteers to those with plenty of experience. And we can use all of you! You do not have to be an ARES® of Portage County member to volunteer for these events. You can gain invaluable training and experience by helping with these public service communication efforts.

If you do have an interest in joining ARES® of Portage County, contact EC Mike DiCarro, KD8FLZ, or send a note to aresportage@aol.com for more information. Remember that ARES® members are now able to participate in the Communications Unit biweekly training nets. The ARES® nets on alternate weeks remain open to everyone.

So far we have made it through some pretty rugged winter weather but we are not out of the woods yet. Make sure your family and home are prepared for any winter weather calamities, both at home and on the road. Be safe!



73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI

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

Get Your Digital Station Up and Running

The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting on Tuesday February 4th at 7:00 PM at the club site will be dedicated to getting your hardware and software configured and operating so you can get up and running digitally. We will have a short presentation and handouts, but most of the meeting will be hands on with as much of your digital station as you can bring to the meeting. I will have a 13.8 VDC power supply with both Powerpole and Banana plug connectors, and an antenna auto tuner connected to the club's antenna available. I will also have copies of the latest versions of Fldigi, EasyPal, and RMS Express/Winmor for those who need it for their computers.



A typical digital station consists of the following:

- An amateur radio transceiver or handi-talkie
- A computer capable of running your choice of software and with I/O connections (USB ports, COM ports, sound card audio In/Out, etc.) needed to connect your computer to your choice of sound card interface.
- Cable or cables needed to connect your computer to your choice of sound card interface
- Cable or cables needed to connect your choice of sound card interface to your transceiver.

If you have any questions about your setup, let me know at K8CAV@portcars.org and I'll get you an answer as quickly as possible.

73,
Rick. K8CAV

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/>



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



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

"Baby, it's cold outside!" I've been listening to James Taylor's version of the song and man does it fit. But let's face it – it is winter in NE Ohio. What else should we expect?! I had to laugh at the national news when they were going on and on about Reagan International Airport in DC getting – wait for it – 2" of snow!! Cleveland Hopkins doesn't even move the plows for 2" of snow.



Have any of you experienced the frost quakes or whatever they are called? We have here. Sometimes it sounds as if someone is banging on the house but it's only the ground snapping because of the cold.

Since it is so cold outside, the best thing I can think of is to get in front of your transceivers and heat up the airways and work some DX. And for those of you looking for a new and very rare one, Amsterdam Island will be on the air very, very soon. And Tromelin Island will also be on towards the end of this year. It's only one-square kilometer in size and classified as a natural reserve. Population, as far as I can tell, is 3! That's three permanent technicians belonging to the TAAF (Antarctic and Australs territories authority). I will have more on Tromelin as it gets closer to the time for the DXpedition.

In the meantime, take a look at what will be happening in the next few months.

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).

2014 UPCOMING DXPEDITION. Bob, N7XR, announced this past week that he plans to activate the following islands in 2014 (specific dates are still in the works):

VQ9XR - Diego Garcia, Chagos Islands. Bob states, "Twice during 2014, we'll operate from Diego Garcia as VQ9XR on all bands – 160 through 6m. Operation will include Phone, CW and RTTY. During the second trip, Mike Mraz/N6MZ will be coming along to help on all bands. We're might get lucky and have one of the resident shipboard operators there as well. The dates are currently unknown because of scheduling; however, each trip will average approximately 3 weeks in duration.

NH9/N7XR - Wake Island (Also, WH9/W1AW - ARRL Centennial). Bob states, "Sometime during 2014, I'll operate from Wake Island on all bands - 160 through 6m. Operation will include Phone, CW and RTTY. The dates are currently unknown because of scheduling; however, the trip will average approximately 3 weeks in duration. During the trip, the call WH9/W1AW will be used to commemorate the 100th year of the ARRL. WH9/W1AW will be used for only 1 week on the trip. Information will be posted here <see URL below> as well as the ARRL website." A Web page has been set up by Bob for more details and updates at: <http://www.n7xr.net> Dave Patton/NN1N will be the QSL Manager. Logs will be posted to LoTW within 6-12 months of the trip. NO BUREAU QSLs. Donations are always welcomed via PayPal (see Web page). All antennas and small items will be left on the island with the MWR folks to assist future Amateur Operations. All donations will be used for both VQ9 and WH9.

3B9, RODRIGUES ISLAND. Eric, OE4AAC, active as 3B9/OE4AAC from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) between February 10-18th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters CW. QSL via OE4AAC.

7P, LESOTHO. Ewald, DK3ID/OE8IDK, will be active as 7P8ID from Lesotho between February 11-16th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters SSB using 100 watts. QSL via DK3ID or OE8IDK direct.

8Q, MALDIVES. Kasimir, DL2SBY, will be active as 8Q7KB from two of Maldives' islands in 2014. Activity will be on 20-10 meters including 17/12 meters and possibly 30 meters using CW and SSB. His schedule is as follows: Feb 12-18th - Ziyaaraifushi Island (AS-013), Feb 18-24th - Fihahohi Island (AS-013). His equipment will be a FT900AT and ACOM 1010 amp (600w) into a triple-leg antenna for 20-10m. He will upload the log onto ClubLog. The QSL cards will be printed as soon as possible. QSL via DL2SBY, by the Bureau, direct and as well as through PayPal requests.

AUSTRALIAN TOUR. Dave, K3LP, has announced that he will be on an Australian Get-Away Trip after his Dubia, UAE, trip between January 30th and February 16th. Look of him to sign VK/K3LP (VK2/VK3/VK7) from the following location:

January 30th - Sydney, Australia	February 1-4th - Cairns, Australia - Great Barrier Reef trip
February 4th - Voyager of the Sea; Royal Caribbean	February 6th - Melbourne, Australia
February 9th - Adelaide, Australia	February 10-11th - Hobard, Tasmania
February 13-15th - Sydney, Australia	

QSL via K3LP. For more details and updates, visit Dave's Web page at: <http://k3lp.com>

AF-032. (Latest Info) A group of Italian operators will be active as 5I0DX from an Italian village at the Kiwengwa Beach Resort on **Zanzibar Island** (WWF 5HFF-003) between February 2-13th. Activity will be on all HF bands 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using CW, SSB, PSK (31/63/125) and RTTY. Also, look for special SSB and Digital activity using the call signs during this operation: 5I0AM (op. IS0AGY), 5I0WL (op. I8LWL) and 5H3AN (ops IK7JWX and IV3FSG). Italy QSL Manager is via IK7JWX. World QSL Manager is via IS0AGY, direct (3USD or 3 IRCs) or by the Bureau. All logs will be uploaded to LoTW and NetLog.

CQ3/CT9, MADEIRA ISLANDS. Helmut, DF7ZS, will be active as CQ3L during the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via DJ6QT. Look for Helmut to be active before the contest as CT9/DF7ZS, especially on the 17/12 meters. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW. Visit the CR3L Santana, Madeira Island (AF-014), Web page at: <http://www.cq3l.de>

DAYTON HAMVENTION NEWS (Dayton RTTY Contest Dinner). Fred, WW4LL, reports [edited]: "Ladies and Gentlemen -- I am pleased to announce the 2014 Dayton RTTY Contest Dinner on Thursday, May 15, 2014, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton, Ohio. Please use the link to the RTTY Contest Dinner Web site and order your dinner tickets online here: <http://www.rttycontestdinner.com>

PROGRAM: Special Guest Speaker: Larry Gauthier, K8UT

TIME: 6:15 pm Social Hour (Cash Bar) with Dinner beginning at 7:15 pm

LOCATION: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Presidential Ballroom (2nd floor)

DINNER MENU: Choice of: Pork Chop, Chicken Breast, Grilled Salmon and Beef Tips. All dinners come with ice tea or coffee, dinner salad, rolls and butter, potato, vegetable and desert.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: Ticket Price is \$36.00 each and includes gratuity.

"I thank Tim Duffy, K3LR for doing all of the heavy lifting in making this dinner available to us at the Crowne Plaza. Tim made all of the arrangements for us with the Crowne, already owned the URL, and guided me thru the entire process. 73, Fred, WW4LL"

EU-008. Members of the Black Country DX and Contest Group will be active as MS00XE from **Isle Of Tiree** March 25-31st. Activity on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Operations will include the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 29-30th). QSL via M0URX's OQRS <http://m0urx.com/oqrs/> Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW upon their return home. For more details and updates, visit the following Web pages and Media feed: <http://www.ms00xe.net>

FK, NEW CALEDONIA. Yoshi, JE2EHP, will be active as FK/K1HP from New Caledonia Feb 18-26th. All the HF bands and 6m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign. Both OQRS (via ClubLog) and LoTW will be available for this operation. Web page at: <http://www.geocities.jp/k1hnp>

FT5Z, AMSTERDAM ISLAND. For those not aware, you can track and work track and work the FT5ZM team on the Braveheart on their journey to Amsterdam Island. You can track them at: <http://www.amsterdamdxdx.org/follow-the-ft5zm-team-journey-live> . The FT5ZM team left Perth, Australia, aboard the Braveheart on Wednesday, Jan. 15 for their 9 day trip to Amsterdam Island. The team is active on the air from the Braveheart using the callsign VK6FZM/mm. QSL via ClubLog or via N2OO via regular mail or Bureau. Before the FT5ZM Team departed from Perth, Onno, VK6FLAB, did a series of interviews with the team members. Interviews were conducted on the 11th and 12th, and can be heard at: <http://www.amsterdamdxdx.org/ft5zm-the-interview>

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

N4, UNITED STATES (Light House Op!). Members of the Sun Country Amateur Radio Society will activate Mount Dora Lighthouse (USA-1407) as N4N to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the 1st Settlers to Mount Dora, Florida, between 1500z, February 15th (2014) and 0200z, February 16th (2014). Operations will be on CW, SSB and PSK31, and on 40/20/15/10 meters. They believe this to be the first activation of this actual working lighthouse. Built in 1988, only 35 ft. tall, the lighthouse is a fully functional navigating light for the Port of Mount Dora, on Lake Dora. It is the only inland freshwater lighthouse in Florida. QSL via N4N or KA4WJR (see QRZ.com for instructions). QSL via eQSL or direct ONLY (w/SASE and a BUSINESS SIZE #10 envelope). For more details, see: <http://146970.com/lighthouse>

OC-033. Freddy, F5IRO, will be active as FK/F5IRO/p from **Mare Island** sometime during the second week in February. Activity will be on 40-10 meters CW only. QSL via F5IRO, by the REF Bureau or direct. For updates, visit Freddy's Blog page at: <http://j28ro.blogspot.com>

OC-219. Operators YL Teti/YB2TET, Adhi/YB3MM and Budi/YF1AR are expected to activate **Wangiwangi Island** sometime in March. No other details were provided. More info soon.

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

S9, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. Operators Giovanni/IK5BCM, Giuseppe/IK5CBE and Giovanni/IK5CRH will be active as S9TF from Principe Island (AF-044) between February 1-13th (2014). Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via IK5CRH.

SA-055. Carlos, LU8DCH, will be active as LU8DCH/D from **Martin Garcia Island** between February 21-23rd. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via his home callsign direct.

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.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Bill, N6MW, will be active as V73MW from the Long Island Hotel on Majuro Atoll (OC-029), Marshall Islands, between February 4-14th. Bill states: "Focus on ClubLog's most needed bands/modes – 160/80/30 CW and 20 for RTTY (not in contest), maybe some SSB and 17, while accepting the unfortunate 24 hours/day limitation. Equipment – K3/KPA500/KAT500/ Laptop. Antennas – Inv L/T/Vert for 160/80 with elevated radials using a Spiderbeam 18m fiberglass pole plus a 20m VDA and 30 m VD on a second fiberglass pole. Nightly efforts on 160/80. Freq 1820.5 for 160, UP. Always UP! 20m RTTY for some low brain needed time, with a focus on EU. On-line log at ClubLog updated as internet connection (and \$) allows. Would consider a second operator (see Web page below for E-mail address). QSL via LotW. QSL manager to be announced." Operations will be from the (north facing) beach on the lagoon at the Long Island Hotel. For more details and updates, see: <http://n6mw.jimdo.com/v7-dxpedition>

VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND. Operators Jon/K7CO and Christian/K7CXN will be active as VK9X/K7CO from Christmas Island (OC-002) between March 1-11th. They are looking for another CW operator to join them. We'd prefer ham that has pileup experience and also antenna installation experience. If interested, contact Jon at k7co@vk9x.com. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. Christian will be the primary operator on PSK31 and will also do some SSB. QSL via K7CO, direct or via the OQRS on ClubLog. NO Bureau. For more details and updates, see: <http://www.nielsen.net/vk9x>

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

XT, BURKINA FASO. Harald, DF2WO, will be active as XT2AW from Ouagadougou between the last week of Jan and the end Feb 2014. Activity will be holiday style on CW and SSB. QSL via M0OXO.

YJ, VANUATA. Operators Bill/N7OU and Rocky/NE7D will be active from Port Vila, Vanuatu, between February 11-25th (2014). Callsigns to be announced. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW. They will be using verticals on a north-facing shore and 500w amps. They will also be a Multi-Single entry in the ARRL International DX CW Contest (February 15-16th). QSL via their home callsigns. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW as soon as they return to the USA.

ZL7, CHATHAM ISLAND. Franz, OE2SNL, will be active as ZL7/OE2SNL from Chatham Island (OC-038) between March 13-26th (2014). Activity will be on 80-10 meters, using CW and with a focus on RTTY. QSL via OE2SNL. For more QSL details, see www.zl7.oe2snl.at and/or www.oe2snl.at.

IOTA NEWS.....

AF-019. Gerhard, OE3GEA, will be active as IG9/OE3GEA from **Lampedusa Island** between February 8-13th. Activity will be on CW only. QSL via his home callsign.

AF-032. (Update) A group of Italian operators active as 5I0DX and 5H3AN from an Italian village on the beach of Kiwengwea on **Zanzibar Island** (WWF 5HFF-003) February 1-10th (2014). Activity will be on all HF bands, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using SSB, PSK and RTTY. Operators mentioned are Fred/ IK7JWX, Leopoldo/I8LWL, Stefano/IK6JRI, Ciclane/IZ6JOD (YL), Ampelio/IS0AGY, Vincenzo/IZ8LFI and Elvira/IV3FSG (YL). More details and a Web page will be announced. It was announced earlier that this DXpedition will also be a humanitarian operation with donations of medicines to the "Italy Day Hospital". QSL via IK7JWX, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

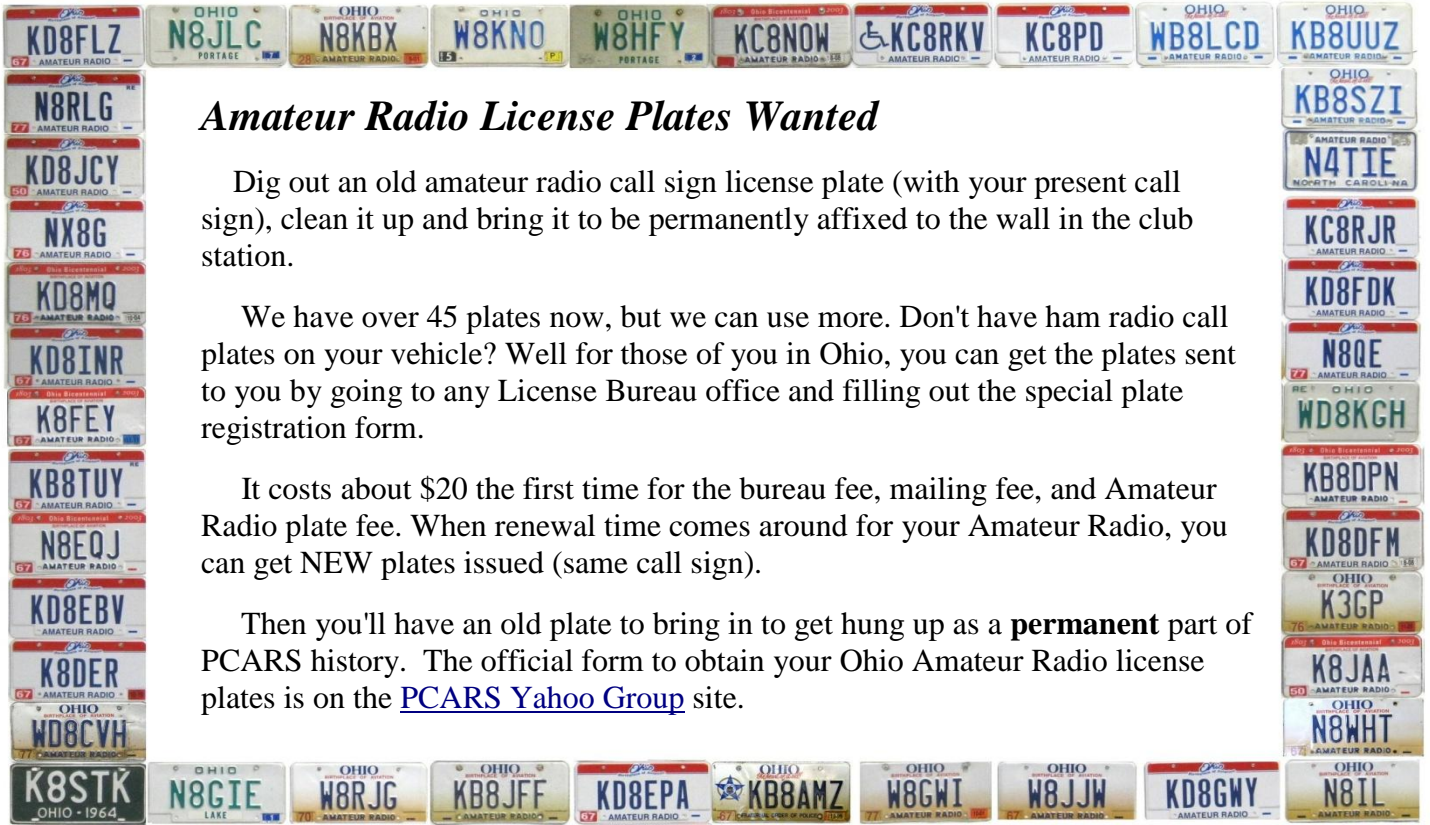
OC-219. Operators Budi/YF1AR and Adhi/YB3MM active from **Tukang Besi Islands** (aka Wakatobi Is, ARLHS IDO-259 Wangiwangi LightHouse) as YF1AR/8 (between Mar 28th-Apr 2nd) and YB3MM/8 (Mar 26th-Apr 2nd). Activity on 40-10 m mainly SSB, also CW & Digital modes. QSL YF1AR/8 via N2OO. QSL via YB3MM/8 (see QRZ.com). For more info and updates, see: http://www.yf1ar.com/2014/01/oc-219-tukang-besi-islands-aka-wakatobi_15.html

SA-057. Members of the Radio Club Uruguayo and the Uruguay DX Group will activate **Timoteo Dominguez Island**, in the Colonia Department IOTA Group, Uruguay, as CW5F between February 21-26th. Operators mentioned are Jorge/CX1SI, Gustavo/CX2AM, Oscar/CX2FR, Wilson/CX2RU, Beto/CX3AN, Julio/CX4AAE, Luis/CX4AAJ, Mario/CX4CR, Rainer/CX8FB and Ghis/CX5DNT/ON5NT. QSL via ON5NT, direct or by the Bureau.

Well, that's it for the next few months. There are some great opportunities to work some rare DX. So until next month 73 and GUD DX!!

Chuck, W8PT
aka 'Charlie the Tuner'





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

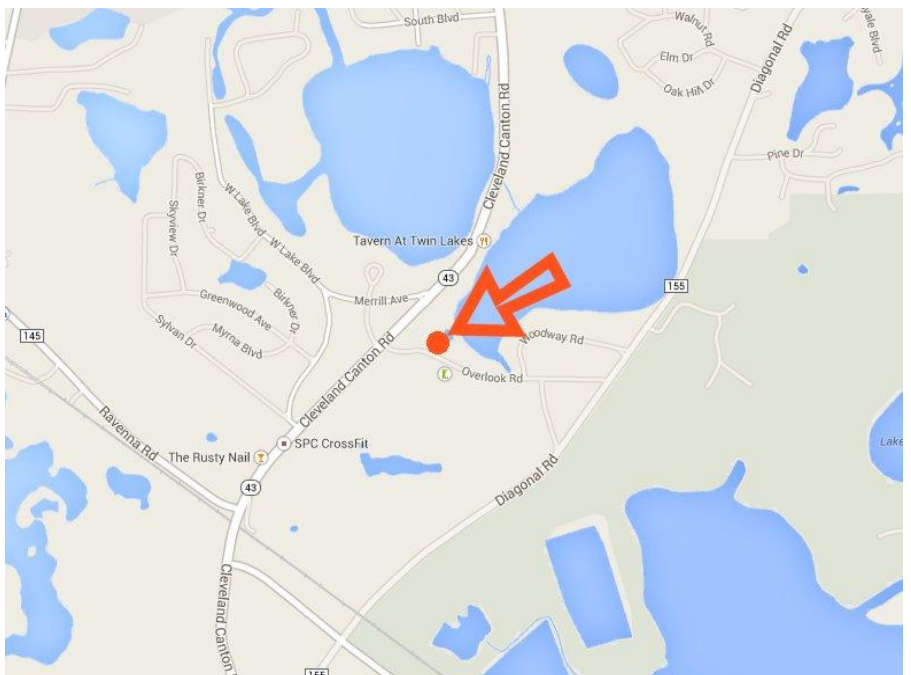
The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of each month.



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**



Introduction to Emergency Communications Class – 2014

The Communications Unit/RACES of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) is sponsoring a local, classroom based version of the ARRL's Introduction to Emergency Communications course. This was previously known as the Level I course and it has traditionally only been available on-line through the ARRL.

This local course will be taught by Jim Aylward, KC8PD, who is a registered Field Instructor and Field Examiner for the ARRL. That means that this class will qualify you to take the written exam at the end of the course in order to obtain your ARRL certificate of completion.



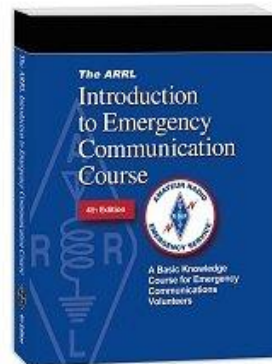
The class will meet on four Saturdays in March and April starting on March 8th. There will be no class on March 15th, both to provide a break for the students and to enable class participants to attend the Ohio Section ARES® Leadership meeting. The class will then resume on March 22nd, March 29th, with the last class on April 4th. The class will be held at the Center of Hope, 1034 West Main Street, Ravenna, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run to around 3:00 p.m., with a break for lunch, on each day. Attendance at the classes is mandatory. Excuses from a class session will only be granted for extraordinary reasons and anyone who misses more than one class will not be permitted to take the exam.

Anyone wishing to take the class must register prior to the class so that we can ensure that sufficient seating is available. The number of students may be limited. If you wish to attend you must pre-register by sending a note to KC8PD at aylwardjim@aol.com. Contact him if you have any questions about the class.

There is great deal of material to cover for this class and all students should purchase the course manual from the ARRL, <http://www.arrl.org/shop/The-ARRL-Introduction-to-Emergency-Communication-Course/>. The book is item #7303 and costs \$24.95.

There will be no charge for the class and you do not have to be an ARRL or ARES® member to participate. There is a \$15.00 fee, payable to the ARRL, to take the final exam.

This is a great opportunity to be able to obtain the certification without the expense of the tuition for the on-line course. However, everyone must be prepared to be involved and to participate in order to obtain the maximum benefit from the material.



Where's the CQ?

Most of you probably remember Clara Peller, the 81-year-old retired manicurist turned TV pitchwoman, who demanded to know, "Where's the beef?" Right now, hams are wondering, **"Where's the CQ?"**



It's no secret. The print version of CQ Magazine has been periodically late (pun intended) or MIA over the last year or so. Online versions are later than normal. I go to club meetings, and invariably someone is asking if anyone got their CQ Magazine. Typically the answer is "Not yet."

It does no good to email them with queries. Many hams have reported no answer from the circulation staff or customer service. Phone calls sometimes get through at 516-681-2922 – I just speak calmly, breathe deeply, and try to keep my blood pressure under control. In my personal experience, the customer service staff has always come through—although there may be a wait of several weeks before the missing issue(s) finally arrive.

If you want to read about others experiences with CQ and their magazine group, a number of discussion threads have popped up. Perhaps you may want to blow off some steam as well. Some of the larger ones appear at eHam.net and QRZ.com. A sampling includes:

<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,92203.0.html>

<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,91692.30.html>

<http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?417279-CQ-Magazine-December-issue/page11&highlight=missing+cq+magazine>

As for the status of the other magazines in the CQ group, World Radio Online (found on Zinio.com) has been fairly consistent, with monthly issues more or less on time. The last issue published was January 2014. Popular Communications managed to crank out late web versions for November and December 2013 which can be downloaded from their website in PDF format, <http://www.popular-communications.com/> CQ VHF posted a PDF of their fall quarterly issue for 2013, which can also be downloaded in PDF format from <http://www.cq-vhf.com/> However, there's no winter issue to be found.

These three mags have ceased publication at this point, and will be rolled into the digital version (only) of CQ. Their official statement on the website says: "Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, said President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, content from the magazine's three sister publications, Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online, will be incorporated into CQ's digital edition as a supplement to be called "CQ Plus." With this change, hobby radio enthusiasts of all types will be able to go to a single source - CQ - for articles on the broader aspects of hobby radio, from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as amateur radio. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, currently Editor of both Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online, will be Editor of CQ Plus."

According to Ross, there still will be a print version of CQ, without the plus section. Those with remaining subscriptions to magazines will see the following compensation. "Subscribers to WorldRadio Online and the digital editions of Pop'Comm and CQ VHF will receive the digital edition of CQ (including CQ Plus) for the remaining number of issues in their subscription terms. Print subscribers to Pop'Comm and CQ VHF will receive both the print and digital editions of CQ (including CQ Plus) for the remaining number of issues in their subscription terms."

So what's happening? No one from the front office will make any public comment about the health of the magazine or its future—other than the carefully worded statements provided in their press releases. There have been rumors of financial troubles, advertisers subsidizing the magazine to help keep it afloat, etc.

Missed issues seem to be a symptom of these unspoken problems. Other symptoms include an unwillingness to pay authors for their work--the very people who provide the magazines' content. Though their author guidelines and website say they pay for articles, in practice they've failed to on many occasions – which I've experienced firsthand. I'm still waiting for a "promised" payment since June 2012 – and got quite the runaround from editor Richard Fisher, KI6SN. If you're an author, you may want to think twice about writing for the CQ magazine group.

Despite CQ's shenanigans, it's sad to see magazines for radio hobbies disappear before our very eyes. Last year, it was Monitoring Times. However, issues always appeared on schedule during their long and modestly successful run and they exited as a class act, refunding the balance of remaining subscriptions.

There are still some radio and electronics publications out there that deserve your consideration—some print, some electronic. Give them a look—and your support if you find them useful or entertaining. If I missed any, be sure to let me know so I can add them to the list.

The Spectrum Monitor (new as of 1/2014) <http://www.thespectrummonitor.com/>
Electric Radio <http://www.ermag.com/>
Nuts and Volts <http://www.nutsvolts.com/>
National Communications <http://www.nat-com.org/>
KY9A Telegraph http://www.k9ya.org/k9ya_telegraph1.htm
QST/QEX/National Contest Journal <http://www.arrl.org>

Mark, K8MSH



Dues are Due

Time is running out - PCARS dues are due by January 31st ! If you have already paid your PCARS renewal dues - ***Thank You***. If you have not, please get them into the PCARS Secretary Amy - KD8SKL as soon as possible. You can mail them to:

Amy Leggiero - KD8SKL
115 Steels Corners Rd. W.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223



Or, you can take advantage of the new **PAYPAL** option, which is located on the PCARS website www.portcars.org under the "Club Info" tab.

I would like to update our information and club statistics to the ARRL in early February. Since I can only show paid members in our membership count I'm hoping that you will take care of that as soon as possible. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact me directly.

Thanks, and 73,
Tom, WB8LCD



The Magic Band - Revisited

Back in January 2009, The PCARS Radiogram published an article I penned concerning the 6m "Magic Band" and the Kenwood TK-630H commercial radio. The radios were starting to show up on the used market at hamfest's and on eBay. I discussed what to models to look for, and offered some programming suggestions



for those willing to scout around and acquire the needed parts. (Link: <http://www.portcars.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/pcars-jan2009.pdf>)

And here it is January 2014, and I'm still writing about a 1993 model commercial radio. What's the fascination? Why am I revisiting a 5 year old article about obsolete technology? Read on...

My employer for the past 30 years has been the State of Ohio. Specifically, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) . I'm the radio technician for District 4 here in

Northeast Ohio.

ODOT was one of the first agencies to utilize mobile 2-way radios, with the Portage/Summit/Ashtabula/Trumbull /Mahoning/Stark county areas being the first ODOT "pilot" program starting about 1956. It was "modern" technology back in the day. (Before cell phones, pagers, text messaging... or even solid state!) The frequencies to use in the late 1950's were VHF. (Very High Frequency, which by todays standard isn't very high at all!) While over the years most agencies and commercial entities left Low band VHF decades ago, ODOT has remained on Low Band VHF FM, very close in frequency to our beloved amateur 6 meter FM band.

ODOT owns and uses several hundred TK-630H (and other brands of) radios in service in it's snow plows and other vehicles. That is all about to change.

This past July 2013, ODOT announced that we will begin transitioning to the statewide Multi Agency Radio Communications system, also known as MARCS. It is ODOT's goal to totally abandon it's LOW BAND infrastructure before the end of 2014. While most other state agencies have already transitioned to the MARCS system, ODOT has been the largest holdout because of the HUGE amount of vehicles and radios involved. ALL of these radio units will become functionally obsolete and will be retired this year.

While I myself don't have any official capacity to distribute any of these surplus units, (I have to adhere to rules, protocol and ethics) there WILL be SEVERAL HUNDRED of these radios to be uninstalled and disposed of by ODOT in the VERY near future. I wouldn't be surprised if you don't start seeing these units making their way into the Amateur Radio community. All of this will make for a very BUSY time for me as an ODOT radio technician, but a very EXCITING time for seeing Amateurs snatch these radios up and get on 6m!

I guess now would be a GREAT time to remind folks that Northeast Ohio has many wonderful 6m repeater systems in place. I easily filled my basic 32 channels of my surplus TK-630H with frequencies.

One area repeater based in Akron is VERY high profile with multiple inputs in Akron, Massillon, Richfield and Stone Creek blanketing Portage, Summit, Wayne, Holmes and Medina counties as well as the surrounding areas. (The N8XPK Repeater system on 53.170(RX) / 52.170(TX) with PL tones selecting the different inputs: 107.2 (Massillon), 110.9 (Loudonville), 123.0 (Stone Creek) and 136.5 (Richfield). It's a comfortable family

type repeater. They even have been holding a net there on Sunday nights at 7 PM yielding 30+ check- ins from all over Ohio.

A nice surplus 100 Watt 6m radio would REALLY be a nice addition...

With all of that being said, there has always been a hurdle of gathering equipment AND information. While there appears that there will be no longer be a shortage of surplus equipment to be had, there is an informational hurdle to those unfamiliar with commercial radios. Since I've spent the last 20 years installing, repairing, adjusting, programming and learning about the Kenwood TK-630 radio, I thought it might be helpful to contain this information and make it available to those wanting to experiment with these surplus units.

Now is the time to explore 6 meter FM and the 50-54 MHz band!

I'm putting together a group of individuals interested in exploring these surplus radios, and have published an Internet webpage dealing with all facets of the TK-630H radio. You will have available information on how to assemble, modify, install, program, repair, retune and get the radio converted for Amateur Radio use, particularly here in Northeast Ohio. I'd like to invite folks to check out: The TK-630 Project at <http://630.zzruss.com>. There are a number of rare manuals and loads of information I'm adding daily. There is a question and answer discussion area, and hams can also contact me there. As the months continue, I hope to include how to guides, videos, pictures, channel programming templates, software and more.

With Northeast Ohio having a FANTASTIC (but little known) 6m repeater infrastructure already in place, I can see great things ahead for those wishing to learn and experiment with 6m FM without breaking the bank.



Russ, KB8DPN

Satellite Phone?

Watch this video. A Yaesu FT-60 2 meter hand-held makes an appearance as a Satellite phone.....

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyiAKrjUtpE&feature=youtube_gdata_player



73,
Kristen, KB3OQV



North Korea Still Tops The DX Magazine's Most Wanted Survey

The DX Magazine has published the results of its most-wanted DXCC entities, and, once again, North Korea (P5) is number 1.

Here are the Top 100 overall worldwide results, as they appeared in *The DX Magazine's* January/February 2014 issue.

“It is interesting to note that the same 10 places are there for both 2012 and 2013,” *QRZ DX/The DX Magazine* Editor Carl, Smith N4AA, said. “There are a few slight changes in ranking, but it is the same 10. That should change somewhat for 2014 with Tromelin and Amsterdam, both scheduled for major DXpeditions.”



2013	PREFIX	COUNTRY	2012	2013	PREFIX	COUNTRY	2012
1	P5	NORTH KOREA	1	51	VP6/D	DUCIE ISLAND	67
2	KP1	NAVASSA	2	52	PY0/S	ST PETER & ST PAUL	11
3	3Y/B	BOUVET	3	53	3B6, 7	AGALEGA / ST BRANDON	77
4	FT/W	CROZET	6	54	YA, T6	AFGHANISTAN	48
5	FT/Z	AMSTERDAM	4	55	FW	WALLIS & FUTUNA	88
6	VK0/H	HEARD ISLAND	5	56	XX9	MACAU	70
7	BS7	SCARBOROUGH	7	57	1S	SPRATLY	60
8	ZS8M	MARION ISLAND	9	58	AP	PAKISTAN	73
9	VP8/S	SOUTH SANDWICH	8	59	4W	TIMOR LESTE	71
10	FT/T, TO	TROMELIN	10	60	C2	NAURU	98
11	KH5	PALMYRA	14	61	KP5	DESECHEO	59
12	KH5K	KINGMAN REEF	12	62	5A	LIBYA	58
13	FT/J, E, TO	JUAN DE NOVA	18	63	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	64
14	BV9P	PRATAS	17	64	XA4 - X14	REVILLAGIGEDO	91
15	E3	ERITREA	16	65	KH8	AMERICAN SAMOA	93
16	KH9	WAKE	21	66	9N	NEPAL	84
17	VP8/G	SOUTH GEORGIA	19	67	A5	BHUTAN	78
18	KH3	JOHNSTON	20	68	XW	LAOS	74
19	CE0/X	SAN FELIX	22	69	S0	WESTERN SAHARA	54
20	KH7K	KURE	23	70	VK9C	COCOS KEELING	68
21	FT/X	KERGUELEN	25	71	3A	MONACO	87
22	VK0/M	MACQUARIE	27	72	4U/UN	UN NEW YORK	69
23	XY, XZ	MYANMAR	26	73	YJ	VANUATU	*
24	SV/A	MT ATHOS	15	74	T5, 60	SOMALIA	99
25	KH1	BAKER & HOWLAND	24	75	ZL9	AUCKLAND & CAMPBELL	13
26	3Y/P	PETER 1	29	76	XU	CAMBODIA	*
27	FT/G, TO	GLORIOSO	30	77	V6	MICRONESIA	*
28	T33	BANABA	33	78	4S	SRI LANKA	92
29	VK9M	MELLISH REEF	32	79	E4	PALESTINE	81
30	EP, EQ	IRAN	28	80	HV	VATICAN	66
31	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP	34	81	Z8	SOUTH SUDAN	49
32	JD1/M	MINAMI TORISHIMA	42	82	FH, TO	MAYOTTE	*
33	VU4	ANDAMAN	40	83	3W, XV	VIETNAM	*
34	FK, TK-CH	CHESTERFIELD	38	84	FO, TX-M	MARQUESAS	96
35	YK	SYRIA	36	85	JD1/O	OGASAWARA	*
36	EZ	TURKMENISTAN	37	86	3D2C	CONWAY REEF	51
37	S2	BANGLADESH	52	87	YI	IRAQ	*
38	VK9X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	45	88	KH8/S	SWAINS ISLAND	41
39	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI	57	89	VK9L	LORD HOWE	*
40	VK9W	WILLIS ISLAND	62	90	T30	WESTERN KIRIBATI	*
41	KH4	MIDWAY	55	91	VP8/SS	SOUTH SHETLAND	95
42	YV0	AVES ISLAND	35	92	TL	CENTRAL AFRICA	*
43	PY0/T	TRINDADE	39	93	T2	TUVALU	82
44	3C0	ANNOBON	50	94	V7	MARSHALL ISLANDS	*
45	CE0/Z	JUAN FERNANDEZ	43	95	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND	72
46	Ti9	COCOS ISLAND	56	96	UJ, UM	UZBEKISTAN	*
47	VP8/O	SOUTH ORKNEY	61	97	1A0	SOV.MIL. ORDER MALTA	76
48	FO, TO-A	AUSTRAL	47	98	S7	SEYCHELLES	*
49	H40	TEMOTU	46	99	T8	PALAU	*
50	ZD9	TRISTAN DE CUNHA	53	100	V8	BRUNEI	*

Protect Your Gear from ESD

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test&Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD

(part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>,

part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST.

His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.



I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.



It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

Dan, KB6NU

When he's not worrying about ESD, Dan, KB6NU enjoys teaching amateur radio classes and working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

VE Notes

I know the club is doing VE Testing in February, April, and June... just as I do in central Arkansas.

But, you may want to note that the Technician Class License Question Pool is changing on July 1st, so anyone wanting to get their Technician Class license might want to test before it changes. That basically means only 3 more test sessions before the change with the PCARS VE Team.

From what I could tell, the new pool has 3 few schematics, but I'm not sure about the question content. There is a little bit of difference between the 2... but that difference could mean the difference between passing and failing the exam. So, examinees need to be sure they are studying the right material. I did have that situation at a test session... the examinee had an out of date study guide, and he failed the exam as a result.

Also, the General Pool is changing in 2015, and the Amateur Extra is changing in 2016.... but they won't be released until December, 2014, and December, 2015, respectively.

Daryl, WX1DER
UALR Ham Radio VE Team Liason

And, the Winner Is... FYAO 2012 !

If you remember, I submitted the *PCARS Freeze Your Acorns Off 2012* video into the **Ham Nation** monthly contest. The video was aired on the **Ham Nation** show number **128**. At the end of each month they take a vote from the viewers on the video they liked the best. I had posted the information in the club web site when the voting started and many of you said you stopped by and voted. Your votes were very much appreciated and the FYAO 2012 video was announced as the **WINNER** !

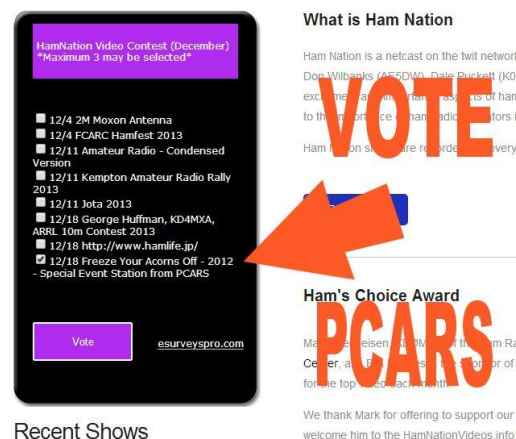
Thanks to all that took time to vote for the PCARS FYAO 2012 video which got 34 % of the votes. The second place video got 22%.



As a prize for being the top video in December, I'll be receiving a really nifty Helping Hands - it's a magnifier on a base with two adjustable alligator clips - perfect for working on small PCBs. Once the prize arrives, I'll be bringing it to the club site where it will stay in the club work shop for all the members to use when they need a bit of magnification and a helping hand.

Thank You Ham Nation & Thank You PCARS members that voted.

Tom, KB8UUZ



Out with the Old, In with the New

I am sure there are quite a few PCARS members who, having finally gotten their ham shack outfitted just the way they wanted, found themselves having to move to a new QTH and start all over. Well, that was the case for me in January, although it did not involve my QTH. Instead, it was my car.



Yep, that loyal 2004 Nissan Pathfinder that had been a real workhorse for many a PCARS activity was finally put out to pasture. Which is the nice way of saying that it got traded in and was replaced by a new Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk.

Despite all the times that I swore that I would never get rid of that car, particularly because of all the time that it took to install the radios, wiring, antennas, and lighting, the time had finally come. The miles were adding up as well as the estimate for some necessary maintenance and repairs. After all, who of us wants to spend over \$600 on an evaporative emissions canister just so we can get the damn “check engine” light to go out? How many more times could I fool E-Check?

So with the help of Mike, KD8FLZ, it took over an hour and a half to uninstall and box up everything. You can imagine the reaction of XYL Laura after I had dragged all of the radios, cables, etc., into the house: “All of that came out of the car?”

Each step of the process brought back a memory about each step of the installation. The routing of the power cable from the battery and the installation of the 12V distribution system and isolator under the back seat. Mounting the ICOM 706 and the Yaesu FT-8800 in the cavities under the rear seats, plus the Kenwood TM-D710 under the front passenger seat. Fabricating mounting brackets for the control heads and speakers for each rig. Hiding all of the wiring and coax behind panels and under carpeting. Mounts for all of the antennas plus grounding straps for doors, deck lid and hood. Not to mention wiring and mounting the various safety lights.



There had to be at least a hundred hours invested in all of the installation work and seeing it all undone in such a short time was kind of sad.

But, hey!, the new ride is a treat and bit by bit some of that stuff will find its way back into this car. It won't be the same as the old ham shack on wheels but I am sure that, in its own way, it will be just fine.

Jim, KC8PD

OSPOTA 2013 Certificates - Feedback

Chuck, W8PT sent out the certificates for the 2013 OSPOTA Contest and a few people sent e-mails. Here they are to share with you.

We received the framed certificate this afternoon! On behalf of the Kiser Lake Contest Group I want to say Thank You to PCARS for all of the behind the scenes hard work that it takes to sponsor such a nice event and we are once again looking forward to 2014!

We want to also say thanks to all of the participants that worked us and recognize all of the new calls and parks! We hope to work all of the 2014 participants!

*Wayne Brunotte AB8DD, Greg Parker NM8B, Ron Hunt N8KXH, Tom Brinnon NZ8A,
Matt Yellen K7DN, Sarah Yellen W8SJY, Jim Parker K8JEP*

I received my framed certificate and just wanted to say thanks to Chuck and all who make OSPOTA the fun event that is. You guys do a great job each year. I just want to let you know how much I appreciate your hard work. I am looking forward to next year, hope to work the last 5 or 6 parks I need for the Worked All State Parks Award.

Thanks & best 73 - W8EOT Doug

Boy, I got a really nice surprise via ups today.... Actually, it is my wife's birthday, and I just assumed such a large package was a gift for her from my son. I failed to notice the W8PT callsign on the package. When my son got home, he noticed the W8PT callsign and said, "Daddy, it's for you".

I really appreciate the very nice plaque and certificate. Also the sheet showing the 2013 scores. I believe it is the best award I have ever received. Would you please tell the Portage County Amateur Radio Service club people responsible that I really appreciate it so much !!!! It will occupy a nice spot in my ham shack !

Also, I believe the operators that I worked during the Ohio State Parks On The Air are the best operators I have experienced. Everyone was so friendly and helpful. I hope to work OSPOTA again next year. Once again, tnx so much, and once again, please tell the club I appreciate everything so much !! It sounds like a great club....

*Best 73,
Marvin Beach, N4NY, of Inman, SC*



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 2014. Thanks go out to the contributors for this month's newsletter:

**WB8LCD, KC8PD, N8RLG, KB8UUZ, W8KNO, K8CAV, W8PT, K8MSH,
KB8DPN, KB3OQV, KB6NU, WX1DER, DX Magazine, 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

Ham Cram: Good for Amateur Radio or No?

I've been teaching one-day Tech classes, often referred to as "ham cram" classes for several years now. As a result, a couple hundred people now have amateur radio licenses. I'm proud of that, but sometimes a doubt or two creeps in. The doubts come from whether or not I'm teaching the students enough.

I also sometimes think about whether or not, my No-Nonsense study guides (www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual) should have more technical content. Recently on my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I've been posting sections of the next edition of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide. One comment reads,

"Oh my, now I see why my beloved USA is falling behind in math/technology/university on the world stage. Lack of rigor brings down real world knowledge and this sad trend plagues our country at every level. Your book helps students pass the exam but not learn proper physics."

The commenter is right about my study guides not trying to teach students about math or physics. There are many other books out there that do that. I disagree, though, that my study guides and my one-day classes are part of a "sad trend."

For one thing, an amateur radio license is not a degree in electrical engineering. Not only that, the Technician Class license is the very first rung on the amateur radio ladder. So, the question is how much knowledge should we require of someone just starting out in our hobby/service?

Secondly, I always stress that an amateur radio license is really a license to learn, and getting a Tech license is only the first step in a lifelong learning journey. I've been a ham a long time, and I'm constantly learning new things. And, I'm learning them because I have an amateur radio license. Without the privileges that my license gives me, I wouldn't be able to do the things I'm doing to learn them.

I sometimes regret that I can't teach people more during my one-day classes, but when you get right down to it, there's only so much you can expect. I know that a lot of my students have gone on to get General Class and Extra Class licenses and have turned in to great amateur radio operators. Presumably, they've learned a lot in the process.

Having said all that, I'm curious as to what you think about this? Are ham cram classes good for amateur radio? If not, what else should we be doing to help people get involved and enjoy amateur radio?



Dan, KB6NU

When he's not teaching class, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

FCC Retiring the TRANSITION.FCC.GOV Front Page

The FCC has announced that it is transitioning away from its so-called “transition website” front page, which has been in place for the last 3 years. The Commission said the move, starting Feb. 3, is in line with its plans to gradually wean users from the transition website.

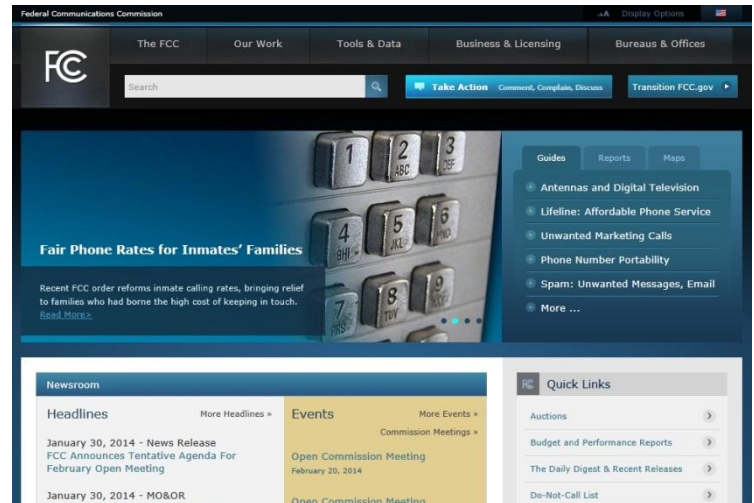


“All content formerly on the old transition front page - including links to our most popular tools and resources — is available on the FCC.gov home page, and personal bookmarks to items once featured on the old page will continue to work,” the FCC has said. “Starting February 3, the transition front page will redirect automatically to the FCC.gov home page. For those who continue to use transition.fcc.gov, please note that this

old <http://transition.fcc.gov/> action affects only one page of the transition site - the front page.”

The FCC introduced its new website design in 2011, running it in parallel with the old design that users had become familiar with over the many years it’s been in place. The FCC said its decision now to phase out the transition front page was based on a steady decline in usage, since the initial FCC website redesign.

Also starting February 3, the FCC will replace the transition link in the top right corner with a link to the FCC Phonebook, making that resource available on virtually every FCC.gov page. The FCC invites feedback on its website. - Howard Parnell, Chief, FCC Web and Print Publishing Division.



new <http://www.fcc.gov/>

From the ARRL

April is only a few Months Away



Yes I know it’s February - but I wanted to get the word out early so everyone can keep their eyes open for some fun articles for our annual April Fool issue of **The RADIOGRAM**. Traditionally I’ve been adding some fun stuff in the April issue in hope to make you chuckle a bit and enjoy the newsletter even more. So, if you spot something that we can use, let me know. Unfortunately, if the item has a copyright and we can’t get permission to re-print, we’ll have to skip it. Your newsletter editor does not want to get dragged into court over copyright issues...

73,
Tom, KB8UUZ

Pictures from the January 18th Workshop at the PCARS Club Site



*P
i
c
t
u
r
e
s

f
r
o
m

P
C
A
R
S

J
a
n
u
a
r
y

M
e
e
t
i
n
g*



PCARS

January 13, 2014



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [] New [] Renewal

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: _____ Year: _____

Birthday: Month: _____ Day: _____ (don't need year)

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

Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31st. Dues are as follows:

Example - Regular Member Pays on Jan 1st \$20 for entire year. If paid on June 1st, \$15 for entire year, etc.

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Full Membership | Pay January 1 through May 31= \$20.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate Membership | Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Senior Full Membership (65+) | Pay January 1 through May 31= \$16.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate Senior Membership (65+) | Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family* Member
Call Sign of Regular Member: _____ | Pay January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months)
Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month) |

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

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

What are *YOUR* Ham Radio interests:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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

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

Rev. 25 Dec 2012

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Ninth Annual

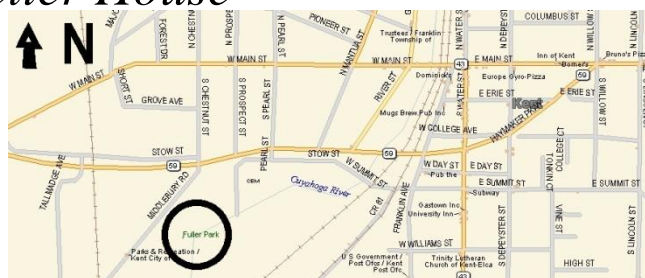
"Freeze Your Acorns Off"
(FYAO) QRP mini-field day
Special Event Station



Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh
at the Roy Smith Shelter House

When: Saturday - Feb. 15, 2014
Set up: 9am

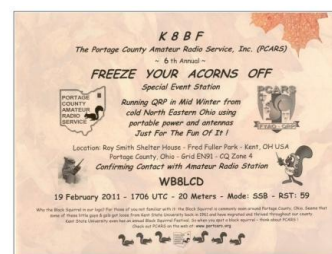
Operating Time: 10am - 4pm EST



We will be active on CW & Phone in the General areas of the 6, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Repeater & Echolink on the K8SRR echo link node for a certificate) and anything else we can get working. Club Call Sign **K8BF** for a certificate. Other participating stations will be using their own callsign/FYAO and calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator).

Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.

A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you contact K8BF and send your QSL with a large SASE to the club call trustee:
Bob Hewett, K8FEY - 3670 Sea Ray Cove - Reminderville, OH 44202



So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org



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

ARRL2014

Centennial Events & Programs



ARRL
100
YEARS

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



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

Thursday, July 17, 2014

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

Friday & Saturday, July 18-19, 2014

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

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

Registration opens late summer 2013 (including hotel details)

■ **Second Century Campaign for the ARRL Endowment**
www.arrl.org/scc

■ **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: 2nd 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	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Club Site	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Coordinators	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
Field Day 2014	KD8VT	James Andrews
F.Y.A.O. 2014	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF Callsign Trustee	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
K8BF QSL Manager	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
Net Coordinator	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA 2014	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
P.I.O.	WA8AR	Tony Romito
Secretary	KD8SKL	Amy Leggiero
VE Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers



**PCARS
Volunteer
Examiner
Team**

KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
KB8DPN	Russ Anderson
N4IT	Carl Capps
WB8LCD	Tom Sly
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8IV	Ed Polack
K8QF	Russ Conklin
WD8CVH	Ted Wands
N8RLG	Robert Gurney
AB8AA	Allan Avnet
K8JAA	Jane Avnet
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro
W8RID	Bob Davet
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
NR8W	Russ Williams
KD8RJV	Jim Corbett
W8EZT	Frank Tompkins
N8OQQ	Bryan Buchwalter



The **RADIOGRAM** is the official Award Winning (ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter First Place Winner - 2012 AND 2013 - plus Second Place in the Great Lakes Division for 2013!) newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) – copyright © 2014. Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify it. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. The **RADIOGRAM** comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inputs submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month. ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio™. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: the Black Squirrel is now commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961, have migrated, and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. So when you spot a black squirrel – **think PCARS!**

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