



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. ~

December 2017 - Volume 12 Number 12

.000097343 ₪

**Center of
Hope
Donation
- WOW -**



**2017 Ohio State Parks On The
Air Contest
Results**



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



In This Issue of *The* RADIOGRAM

Volume 12 December 2017 Number 12



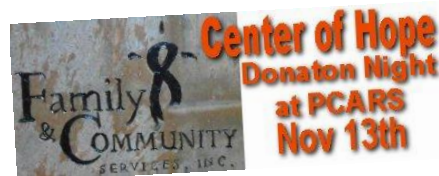
Feature Articles	
From the PCARS President	3
From the PCARS Vice President	4
Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officers	7
PCARS Meeting & Center of Hope	8
PCARS Christmas Party Dinner Meeting	12
Weather Forecasting	14
International Grid Chase 2018	17
PCARS Membership Renewals	18
Dipole Antennas	19
Field Day 2017 Results are Published	24
Trailer Hitch Antenna	25
OSPOTA 2017 Results	29
Merry Christmas from All of Us to All of You	47

Mark Your Calendars	
Schedule of Events	6
Extra Class/General Radio Electronics Class	6
PCARS Christmas Party - Meeting	11
Skywarn Recognition Day	13
VE Test Sessions	15
Net Info & NCS Schedule	27
Contest Calendar	28
Meetings, PCARS	42

Regular Departments	
Paper Chase	16
Happy Birthday	18
DX/Contest SIG	20
Digital SIG	23
Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites	21
PCARS Patches & Stickers	28
PCARS on YouTube	28
Swap-N-Shop	26
Member Ham License Plates Wanted	41
PCARS Yahoo Group	41
Pictures from the Last PCARS Meeting	43

Finals	
Thanks & 73	48
Membership New/Renew Form	49
Fine Print	50

Next Month in The RADIOGRAM: - *More Fun With Ham Radio*

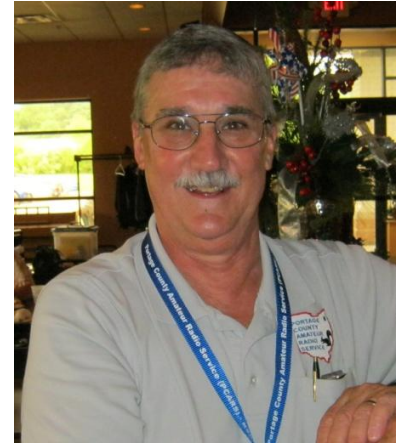


Ohio State Parks On The Air



From the President

Rick, K8CAV
PCARS President



Thanksgiving gives us time to pause and reflect on the many things in our lives we have to be thankful for, from family and friends to our jobs and avocations. I'm especially thankful this year to be amongst a group of people who have opened their hearts to help those of us in our communities who are less fortunate than ourselves.

During our November meeting, the members of PCARS raised, through raffle ticket purchases and donations an astounding six thousand four hundred forty five dollars for the Center of Hope and its mission to help feed those in need. This gift from you is going to make the upcoming holidays just a bit more pleasant than it might have been for many here in Portage County. The gratitude that I feel in being associated with a group of people such as yourselves knows no bounds and I thank you all for the community spirit and compassion you have shown.

We have another event coming up that will allow us to share some wonderful fellowship with each other. The PCARS holiday dinner will be held on Monday December 11th at the American Legion Post 496. No business meeting or program, just a great dinner and opportunity to share some time with your fellow PCARS members. Tom, WB8LCD has details about the event elsewhere in the newsletter, and I hope you'll be able to attend this event.



As this is my last column as the president for PCARS, I want to take a moment to tell you how much I have enjoyed this last three years as president. Lots of good things have happened, and I'm sure will continue to happen because PCARS is just that kind of Amateur Radio club. None of this would have ever happened but for you, the members of PCARS who give freely and willing of their time, their talents, and their heart to the club and its members. You have made PCARS into an organization that is fun to belong to, and challenges us each to become better in our avocation. I would ask you all to continue to give the support you've given me and all of the past leadership of PCARS to the new president and officers of PCARS so that we can continue to grow as a club and have a great organization to share with fellow members. Thanks to all of you who have given so much to PCARS.

I want to wish all of you and your families a very happy, enjoyable, and fulfilling holiday season, and I'm looking forward to another great year of PCARS K8BF **BIG FUN**.



Merry  *Christmas*



From the Vice President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS Vice President



A GREAT November Meeting

What a great meeting we had in November. A great turnout, the biggest 50/50 ever and a tremendous donation to the Center of Hope. It couldn't have been better. We all had a great time. It made me very proud to be a member of such a great club.

What to Give a Ham

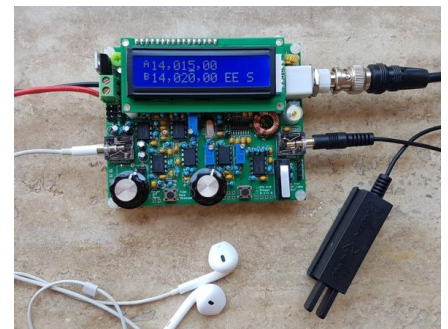
I am sure you are all looking forward to Christmas and thinking of all those things you are planning to give and receive. I have a couple of great inexpensive items that will make any current and future ham happy. These should be given as "hints" to our families.



For the future ham I am recommending the QRPGuys KD1JV Code Trainer. It is a kit that is very easy to solder and not only does it do the usual code tone it also generates practice code to help learn receiving. For \$15 it is a great deal. I have built two and it has been great fun! I plan to give a couple to budding hams. QRPGuys.com

The second is the QRPLabs 5W CW transceiver kit for \$49. Hans designed

this for the YOTA (Youngsters On The Air) program that helps get more young people into the hobby. The kit is relatively easy to build (meaning you will need to wind a couple of toroids). The board also includes all the circuitry to test and align the unit. Features include an electronic keyer and code decoder for those that need a little help. Over 2000 of these kits have been built as part of YOTA. I had a lot of fun with this build and really appreciate all the careful design put into this project. Another great build for a beginner or experienced ham. QRPLabs.com



If you are interested in these items, get you order in soon. Both will take a couple of weeks minimum to arrive.

Fun with Family



I have introduced a lot of people to ham radio, and am looking forward to introducing more. But it was great fun introducing my son to the hobby. My son JC (KC3JXQ) took his Tech last month and passed his General this month. During a recent visit we enjoyed a geek day with JC and my grandson Jax. We started with a pilgrimage to DX Engineering. Here he planned the purchase of his first mobile and base stations. We also had an opportunity to introduce him to George, K3GP and Tim, K3LR. They were great. Next we visited TinyCircuits to meet with Ken Burns (CEO) and his

crew. Ken and JC went to school at the same time. We ended up at the PCARS Club site to enjoy the full tour. By the end of the day he wished he lived closer to these great places. Please feel free to do the same with those in your family. The more that enter the hobby the better.

The Extra/Electronics Class

The assembly of all the materials is nearly complete. We are on schedule for the start of the class January 10th at 7 PM.

Below is a partial list of the experiments and kits that will be used.

Experiments and Activities

1. Basic electronic measurements (Scope, DVM, Counter) Measuring amplitude, Frequency and Phase
2. Signal sources (Audio and RF signal generation)
3. Designing and building of Emitter Follower Amplifier
4. Designing and building audio oscillator
5. Designing and building RF oscillator
6. Using operational amplifiers
7. AM modulation experiment
8. SSB modulation experiment
9. AM and CW detection
10. SSB detection
11. RF Measurements
12. Measuring and controlling SWR
13. Use and setup of Arduino and Raspberry Pi computers

Kits (Not a full list)

1. Code Practice Circuit (\$17) Basic circuit construction
2. Arduino Based Antenna Analyzer (\$75)
3. 20 or 40 Meter Dipole with Balun
4. VHF J-Pole Antenna
5. SSB Transceiver for 40 meters (\$72)
6. Raspberry Pi digital computer system (WSJT-X, FLDIGI, EchoLink, WSPR Transmitter) (\$75)
7. Bread boarding kit (\$15)

At the first meeting we will need to schedule a couple of Saturday Build Days to complete the major kits and experiments. All students working on passing their Extra Class must purchase the ARRL Extra Class License book.

EchoLink Project

We have two new computers to support our EchoLink system. A new PC system is in current operation. We also have a Raspberry Pi version that has been tested and will be used as a backup. It has required a lot of work to get these two systems running, but the system is now in place.

I have taken part in a few European nets using EchoLink. I have invited members of these clubs to join us on our Thursday nets. I hope they will attend and enjoy our company.

Website and Calendar

Until we get all the bugs worked out of the email system, members are urged to visit our PCARS website (portcars.org) frequently. It will be updated frequently and will be used as our main communications system. Also please check our calendar at the website for upcoming activities. I have posted our current list of contests and events. It will be updated as items are scheduled.

Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- December 2nd - VE Test Session at the PCARS club site - 10 am - Walk-ins welcome
- **December 2nd - Deadline to reserve your PCARS meeting dinner**
- December 9th - Get On The Air Day - PCARS club site - 9-noon
- December 11th - PCARS Christmas Dinner Meeting - 7 pm at the Kent American Legion
- December 25th - Christmas Day - Hope Santa brings you some Ham Radio Gear !
- January 8th - PCARS Meeting at the Kent American Legion - 7 pm
- January 10th - Extra Class Electronics Class starts at the club site at 7 pm



Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - Every Month at
the Club Site in Ravenna - 7 pm



- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| First Tuesday | - Digital - Moderator: K8CAV |
| Second Tuesday | - QRP/CW - Moderator: KB8AMZ |
| Third Tuesday | - Antenna - Moderator: WA8AR |
| Fourth Tuesday | - DX & Contest - Moderator: W8PT |
| Fifth Tuesday | - Linux for Hams - Moderator: KB8AMZ |
| Fourth Thursday | - Net Night at the club site - 6:30 pm |



ATTENTION: Net Night at the Club Site will be CANCELLED for December 28th due to the Christmas / New Year holidays. Please enjoy the time with your families and we will re-start Net Night at the Club Site in January of 2018.

Extra Class/General Radio Electronics class - January

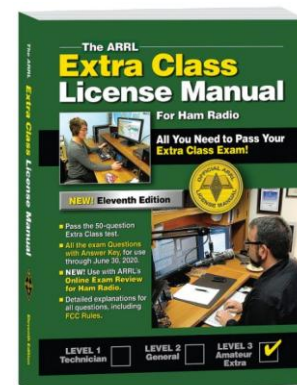
We will be starting an Extra Class/General Radio Electronics class in January. This will be different from our normal format. In the past we have focused on our students learning the theory and passing the test. This class will include laboratories where students will put their knowledge to work by building test circuits and actual equipment. Labs will include learning about test instruments, designing amplifiers, using integrated circuits, building antenna systems and even a using microcontrollers in ham radio.

It should be a lot of fun and a great learning experience. We will of course cover all the material required for the Extra Class, but anyone interested in electronics can attend.

This class will last about 11 weeks. **Because this course uses kits, it is very important we get a good idea how many will be attending.** We also need some lead time to make sure all the kits are ready.

So, if you are interested please send an email to AC8NT@portcars.org as soon as possible. Watch the club web site and your e-mail box (QST messages)

EDITOR'S NOTE. At this point the class may be full. Jim had to get parts on order for those of you that signed up. If you missed signing up, you can still e-mail Jim, AC8NT and he can keep you on a stand-by list.



Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officers

Congratulations goes out to the 2018 Elected Officers for PCARS.

During our November meeting, elections for the 2018 President, Vice President, Treasurer and Three Year Trustee were held. The new crew coming in for 2018 promises to be active and generate even more excitement and fun with ham radio for PCARS.



Jim, AC8NT
President



Tony, WA8AR
Vice President



Amy, KD8SKL
Treasurer



Ed, K8IV
3 Year Trustee

Make sure you congratulate these fellow PCARS members for stepping up, running and winning an officer position in PCARS. Their term of duty begins in January 1, 2018.

2018 Board of Directors

With the November elections, the Three year Trustee moves to the Two year Trustee position and the Two year Trustee moves to the one year Trustee position.



Jim, AC8NT
President



Tony, WA8AR
Vice President



Amy, KD8SKL
Treasurer



Ed, K8IV
3 Year Trustee



Robert, N8RLG
2 Year Trustee



Erica, AE8YL
1 Year Trustee

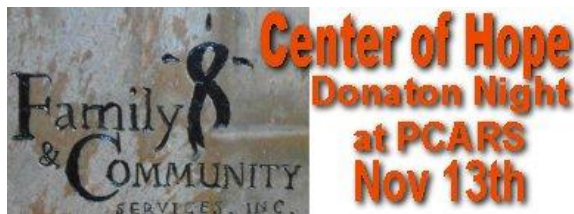


Rick, K8CAV
Immediate Past President

Here are the PCARS 2018 Board of Directors



PCARS Meeting & Center of Hope



Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Secretary



Last month in the Radiogram I talked about the close relationship that PCARS has had with the Center of Hope, and how that relationship came to pass. That relationship has been a good one, both for PCARS, and for the Center of Hope.

I was at the very first regular PCARS meeting on Monday, January 9th, 2006 (the founders had a few meetings to get things organized during November and December of 2005). That was an exciting night. I'd go so far as to say it was the most exciting PCARS meeting we've ever had! (Since that first meeting I think I've been at every PCARS meeting since, except 2, maybe 3). The PCARS meeting last month, November 13, 2017 is right up there with it! I hope you were there. It was by happenstance that we met in the Underwood Hall at the American Legion. We had a fantastic turnout – 76 PCARS members and friends were in attendance. We had a huge display of items for our 50/50 Raffle (thanks to everyone who contributed items, including DX Engineering).

The meeting opened, and our regular monthly business was dispatched quickly. We then moved to our election of officers. Results are, and Congratulations to:

President	Jim – AC8NT
Vice President	Tony – WA8AR
Treasurer	Amy – KD8SKL
Trustee 3 year	Ed – K8IV
Trustee 2 year	Robert – N8RLG (moved from 3 year to 2 year)
Trustee 1 year	Erica – AE8YL (moved from 2 year to 1 year)

I can promise you, based on this slate, 2018 is going to be a fantastic year for PCARS! It will be for you too – if you participate. Please, make it your goal to be more active with PCARS this coming year. Make your participation intentional – not just something that happens as an after thought. If you do that, PCARS will be a better club, you will become a better ham, and all of Amateur Radio will benefit from your participation.

After the election we started selling 50/50 tickets. It didn't take too long to realize, we were probably going to run out of tickets. President Rick, risking his clean driving record, life, limb and maybe even a dented fender, made the dash to Staples to get another roll of tickets. Yes, we ran out of tickets shortly after he left.

With a promise that sales would resume, Jim – AC8NT gave a short presentation on a program to get kids involved in Amateur Radio. It's a very interesting program and PCARS has an opportunity to be involved in something that could turn out to be a very big deal! I'm sure more details will follow shortly after the beginning of 2018. Back to the story: Rick did return with a new roll of 50/50 tickets and sales resumed.

For the November 2017 PCARS 50/50 raffle, a total of 1,700 tickets were sold for \$1,700! The winner was drawn and the winner was Dave Fairbanks, N8NB. Lucky Dave went home with \$850. The clubs share (\$850) was added to the donation for the Center of Hope. It's hard to do a drum roll, but, after all of the donations by PCARS members and friends, our total contribution to the Center of Hope for 2017 was: \$6445.00!



community we all live and play in. Thank you all.

Before the formal presentation was made, the envelope, with the amount printed on the back of it was handed to Mark Frisone of F&CS. As you can see by the look on his face, he was astounded. He confided to us that the day of our meeting, the Center of Hope had experienced a small fire that resulted in substantial damage that needed to be repaired immediately so that they could continue to serve over the Thanksgiving holiday. Our contribution should have more than paid for the repairs and still contributed to the food that would be necessary over the holidays! On behalf of the PCARS officers, I want to thank you all for your contributions. The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, has certainly lived up to its name. And in the US Federal Code, we are referred to as the Amateur Radio Service. We have certainly provided a service to the

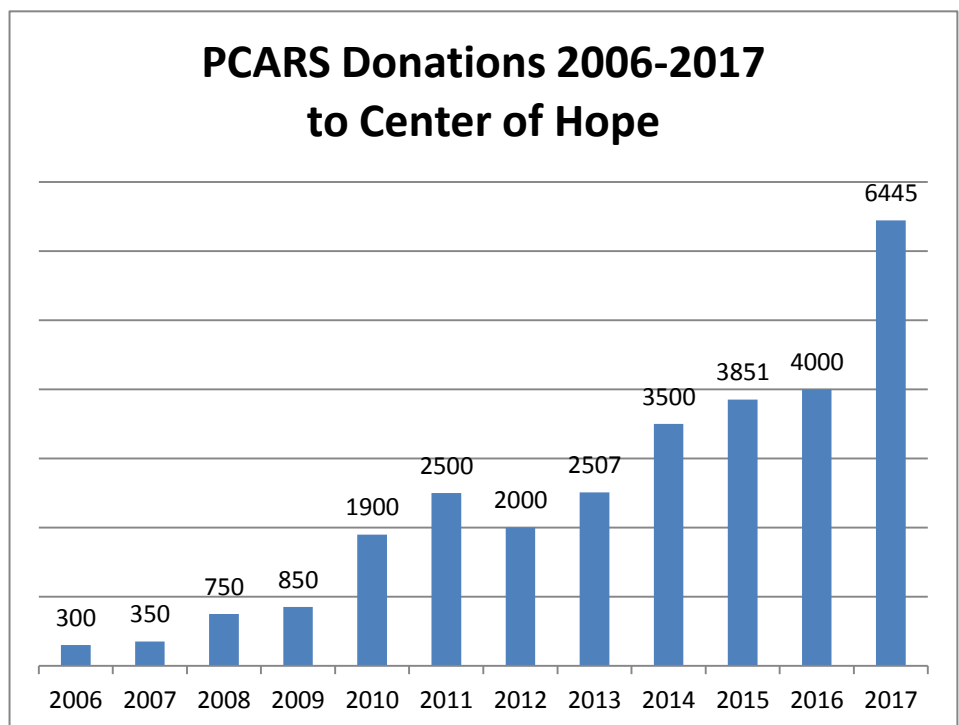
Now, I told you that PCARS has contributed to the Center of Hope since it's very first year. Going through the back issues of the Award Winning PCARS Radiogram, I found the following information regarding our past contributions:

Over the past 12 years PCARS members and friends have donated over **\$28,953** to the Center of Hope! **

** (some years, this year included, some contributions have been received after the presentation to the Center of Hope. Those extra amounts are not included in the totals, but are immediately forwarded to the Center of Hope).

Every PCARS member should be both proud, and humbled by the generosity of our members.

Thank you all.



The *Special Charitable Trivia Question from the November newsletter:*

**“If you can’t afford a quarter, then you ought to give a dime.
If everybody gave, then we could save the Blue Water Line.” (a railroad)**

From the Song “Blue Water Line by the Brothers Four (1962)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieNBfSTKUgg>



Amateur Radio Service helps fight hunger



From left, are Rick Kruis, K8CAV, outgoing PCARS president; Mark Frisone, executive director of Family & Community Services, parent organization of the Center of Hope; and Jim Wilson, AC8NT, incoming PCARS president. - Submitted photo

Posted at 8:57 AM

Updated at 1:26 PM

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, a local Ham Radio Club, is giving back to the community with a donation of \$6,445 to the Center of Hope in Ravenna.

The Amelia DiGirolamo Center of Hope is dedicated to enhancing the nutrition of low-income people in Portage County, where local food pantries are not present. Hot meals are offered at no cost five days a week and are typically served to between 75 and 100 individuals each day. Groceries are available monthly through the Christian Cupboard. Opportunities for socialization, cooking classes and referral services are also offered.

Outgoing PCARS President Rick Kruis, K8CAV, said he's "honored to be a part of an organization as giving as the members of PCARS are." Incoming PCARS President Jim Wilson, AC8NT, said that "continuing to serve our community will be an important function of PCARS as we move into 2018."

Mark Frisone, executive director of Family & Community Services, of which the Center of Hope is a part, said "this couldn't have come at a better time" as the Center of Hope is getting ready to serve the community over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. These are always the busiest times for the Center of Hope and the highest numbers of residents are served each day.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service is a club for Ham Radio Operators, and anyone interested in becoming a ham radio operator. The club provides monthly meetings and activities related to improving its members skills and knowledge as related to the science of radio. Amateur Radio is recognized as a valuable national asset, especially in times of emergency. For more information about Amateur Radio and about PCARS, visit the PCARS website at www.portcars.org.

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PCARS Christmas Party - Meeting 2017



PCARS will hold our annual Christmas Dinner Meeting on Monday, December 11, 2017. (Our regular meeting night). The meeting will take place at the American Legion Hall (our usual meeting place) and the dinner will be catered by the **Little City Grill of Kent**. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM promptly, so please try to arrive on time, or maybe even a little early.



The cost of the dinner is \$18 per plate and will include a dinner salad, roll and butter, potato and your choice of chicken or prime rib. Beverages will be ala carte from the canteen, and I'll ask everyone to bring a small plate of Christmas cookies to share for dessert.



IMPORTANT: I'll need your reservation and payment no later than Saturday, December 2nd to make our final order with Little City Grill.

You can either send me a check in the mail to:
Tom Sly - WB8LCD
1480 Lake Martin Dr., Kent, OH 44240
or you can use the Paypal button on the website.

I'll need to know the entree choice for each dinner reservation made. Prime Rib or Chicken.

Please bring a ten dollar gift and mark it for a Ham or Non-ham. (non-ham gifts should be gender neutral) If you are bringing children and want to make sure they get a special gift – please mark your child's name on the gift so it's sure to get to him/her.

I truly hope that you will attend along with your significant other or spouse. This is designed to be a “family friendly” meeting and give us all a chance to share the fellowship of the Christmas Season.



PCARS Christmas Dinner Meeting

As it was mentioned in the information about the December 11th Christmas Dinner meeting.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ASAP !!!!

The PCARS web site has a Paypal button and that makes it really easy to select your dinner choice and make the payments - just a couple of clicks and you're all set!!

If you can't use Paypal - Send your reservation information to WB8LCD as soon as possible - the deadline to get the count of dinners to the Little City Grill is coming up soon - December 2nd.

To use Paypal - Go to the PCARS web site at:

http://www.portcars.org/wp/?page_id=8292

PCARS Christmas Party 2017

Pay With Paypal

Entree Choice

Select One ▼

Your Callsign, and/or
Name

Add to Cart

[Click here for a
full-size flyer](#)

[Click here for a full size flyer](#)

PCARS Christmas Party - Meeting 2017

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Merry
Christmas

SKYWARN® Recognition Day

SKYWARN® (<https://www.skywarn.org/>) Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 2 from 0000 until 2400 UTC (starts on the evening of Friday, December 1, in US time zones). During the SKYWARN® Special Event, hams will set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other radio amateurs around the world.

Participating Amateur Radio stations will exchange a brief description of their current weather with as many NWS-based stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

SRD was developed jointly in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL to celebrate the contributions SKYWARN® volunteers make to the NWS mission -- the protection of life and property. Amateur Radio operators, which comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN® volunteers, also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency managers, if normal communications become inoperative. [The National Weather Service and ARRL have been formal partners since 1986].

<https://www.skywarn.org/events/skywarn-recognition-day/>

SKYWARN® Recognition Day Operating Instructions

1. Object For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many NWS Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN® Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.
2. Date NWS stations will operate December 2, 2017, from 0000 – 2400 UTC.
3. Exchange: Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site (“sunny”, “partly cloudy”, “windy”, etc.).
4. Modes: NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append “NWS” to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS).
5. Station Control Operator: It is suggested that during SRD operations a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.
6. Event and QSL Information: The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates will once again be electronic and printable from the main website after the conclusion of SRD.
7. Log Submission: To submit your log summary for SRD use the online submission form.



Weather Forecasting



It's late fall and the Indians on a remote reservation in South Dakota asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.



But, being a practical leader, after several days, he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a *very* cold winter."

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later, the chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen."

"How can you be so sure?" the chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

Remember this story whenever you get advice from a government official.



PCARS VE Test Sessions

Robert, N8RLG
PCARS VE Team Liaison



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

2017 December 2nd

**2018: February 3rd, April 7th, June 2nd, June 23rd at Field Day,
August 4th, October 6th, December 1st**

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: One copy of any current (*unexpired*) amateur radio operator 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.
 - Original and copy of a pre-March 21, 1987 Technician license (this provides credit for the Element 3 [General] exam) - you must be currently licensed to get this credit.



Expired License? Original and copy of your expired Amateur Radio License - you must take and pass Element number 2 to re-instate your license.

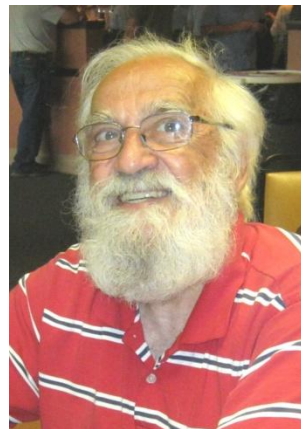
“🎵 All of the other reindeers 🎵 Used to laugh and call him names 🎵 so he killed them”

Caption of the day:



Paper Chase

Joe, W8KNO



You probably remember from your history classes about the Revolutionary War, that George Washington and his troops wintered over at Valley Forge. On December 25, 1776, Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware. The crossing is commemorated in an 1851 oil-on-canvas painting by the German American artist Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze.



After General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River north of Trenton, Washington led the main body of the Continental Army against Hessian soldiers garrisoned at Trenton, New Jersey. After a brief battle, nearly the entire Hessian force was captured, with negligible losses to the Americans.

The Battle of Trenton was a small but pivotal battle which took place on the morning of December 26, 1776.

The Delaware Valley Radio Association will commemorate this battle from 9:00 am to 5 pm December 26th. Listen for W2T around 7.250 and 14.250 MHz.

For Certificate & QSL send a QSL card and SASE to:
DVRA - W2T
PO Box 7024
Trenton, NJ 08628.

If you also work the W2P Special Event Station for the Battle of Princeton on January 3, you can get a certificate of Commission in the Continental Army Signal Corps. Watch the DVRA web site www.w2zq.com for details.

I'll be listening for you.



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



International Grid Chase 2018

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on *any* band (*except* 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). [Registration](#) in LoTW is free, and it costs nothing to participate. Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, VHF, and UHF also use them as a scoring factor.

The Maidenhead grid square system divvies up the entire globe into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude \times 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water or are in areas that are uninhabited or difficult to access.

If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an [online calculator](#). Just enter a postal address, ZIP code, or even a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter "W1AW" and the site will return "FN31pr." For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you'll need to know.

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your [monthly total](#). Getting started is simple. Turn on the radio and just call CQ or "CQ Grid Chase" or listen for others doing the same. Make a contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase leader board will reset to zero, although the system retains these to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact you make in 2018 can count toward your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators also participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts also count, as will contacts with special event stations or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

Some radio amateurs live in sparsely populated grid squares, and if you're one of those, you could find yourself handling a pileup! Expeditions to hard-to-reach or rare grid squares undoubtedly will evolve. You also can travel to one of those grid squares yourself. Some vehicle or handheld GPS units can be set to display when you are in a particular grid square. Apps are available for smartphones or tablets, such as *Ham Square* for iOS devices or *HamGPS* for Android devices.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to all radio amateurs.

Full details of the ARRL International Grid Chase srrer in the December 2017 issue of *QST*. For more information, [contact](#) the ARRL Contest Branch. Read [more](#).



A map segment showing part of the EN field of grid squares. Note that some grid squares are very nearly surrounded by water. [Photo courtesy of Icom America]

PCARS Membership Renewals

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Secretary



It's that time of year that most of you start taking care of your PCARS membership dues for the coming year. I want to ask you: **Please!** Do not just toss cash at any of the officers with the comment "Here it is!" Now don't get me wrong, I love cash. But loose cash is hard to keep track of, especially when receiving a lot from many different people all at the same time.

If you intend to pay your dues, in person, at one of the upcoming meetings, please go to the website (www.portcars.org), download an application form and complete it to include with your dues payment (there is also a copy of this form at the end of the newsletter). It would help if you could either staple, paper clip, or better yet, put it in an envelope with your payment before handing it to us! This is necessary regardless of whether you pay your dues with either cash or a check. **By the way, you can also pay your dues on the web site using PAYPAL.**

We would especially like to ask you to complete your contact information on the application form: address, home phone number, cell phone number and email address. As many of you have replaced home phone numbers with cell phones, our contact information has become out dated. This is especially true with email addresses. Without correct, current information, you will not receive the monthly newsletter nor the QST email updates that are sent out frequently. If you want to "Opt Out" of receiving our emails just let me know and I will have you removed from the list, but then you will need to download the newsletter from the club site, and check the site regularly to keep up with the current events that are normally distributed via the QST mailings.

Most importantly, I hope that you will renew your membership in PCARS and make a point of being an active member of the club. It just wouldn't be the same without you!



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in **December**:

KB8AMZ	Terry
	Arlene
KA8TOA	Greg
KC8TZU	Richard
KB8UHN	John
N8XTH	Deron
K8IV	Ed

KC8RJR	Errol
WA8GCF	David
KD8SKL	Amy
KD8GYI	Pete
KC8PD	Jim
KD8RUQ	Mike
KD8ICP	Tim



Dipole Antennas

Dan, KB6NU



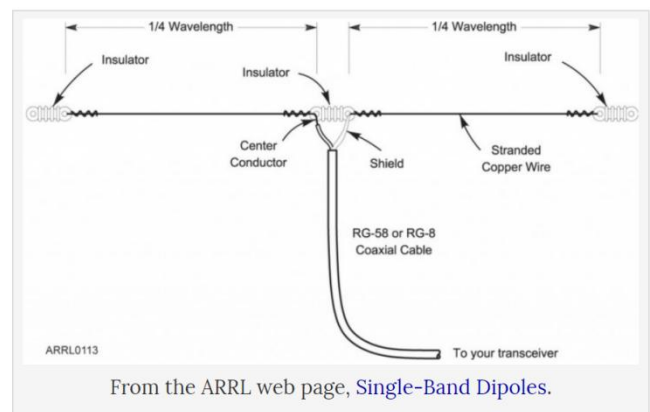
Why are dipoles shorter than a half wavelength?

A reader emailed me: I love your study guide. Reading the ARRL technician guide has proven to be difficult for me but your study guide has helped tremendously! I would like your help to clarify something. When trying to figure out the length of a dipole antenna, you say to divide the wavelength in meters by two, change from meters to inches, and then multiply by .95. I'm curious where the .95 number comes from.

I replied: Good question! Here's how the book, *The Fundamentals of Single Sideband*, published by Collins Radio in the late 1950s, explains this:

Resonance occurs when [a dipole antenna's] length is a half wave length or multiples thereof. A practical rectilinear conductor will resonate when it is slightly less than a half-wave in length due to the end effect. End effect is due to a decrease in inductance and an increase in capacitance near the end of the conductor, which effectively lengthens the antenna. End effect increases with frequency and varies with different installations. In the high-frequency region, experience shows that the length of a half-wave radiator is in the order of 5% less than the length of a half-wave in free space. The greater the diameter of the conductor, the greater the difference between its electrical and physical length.

In actual practice, the presence of supporting insulators, feed systems, and surrounding objects, such as the earth and other antenna elements have an aggregate effect upon the electrical length which may even exceed the variation in length caused by practical variations in conductor diameter. This makes the unknown length difficult if not impossible to predict under practical conditions. Therefore, the usual procedure is to cut or adjust the radiator to a length equal to or slightly less than the correct free-space physical length, check the characteristics of the antenna experimentally, and then alter the physical length as necessary.



This explanation is found in Chapter 9. There's also an explanation of radiation resistance and other basic antenna topics. Those will be the subjects of future blog posts. Here in the U.S, you'll often see the formula: $l = 468/f \text{ (MHz)}$ for the length of a resonant, half-wavelength dipole.

Here's how they get this: $\lambda(m) = 300/f(\text{MHz})$ where λ is the wavelength.

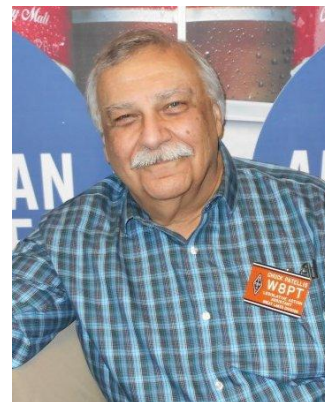
Since there are 3.28 ft/m, $\lambda \text{ (ft)} = 984/f(\text{MHz})$ and $\lambda \text{ (ft)}/2 = 492/f(\text{MHz})$.

Multiply that by 0.95, and you get $l = 0.95 \times 492/f(\text{MHz}) = 468/f(\text{MHz})$.

Of course, no matter how you calculate it, that's only the starting point. Many different things can affect the length of a resonant dipole antenna, and some of these are installation-specific. To achieve the lowest SWR, you'll need to adjust the length, once you have installed the antenna.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not working on dipoles, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Chuck, W8PT



To PCARS DXers and Contesters:

Greetings from my HAM shack to yours. Some of the year's biggest contests have recently been held and if you had a chance to participate in them from your on QTH, I hope you did well.

I read some of the reports from various contesters and once again it depended on where you were located as to whether you did well or poorly. It seems the Black Hole of Propagation smiles on the just and the unjust alike. I learned long ago that if you simply keep on plugging away you can end up surprising yourself with very decent score. Keep in mind that one of the ways to get really good at contesting is to not necessarily start out looking to beat all the rest of the stations. Simply beat your previous year's score each time you participate. Soon you will be posting some amazing scores.

I will keep you informed as to what contests are coming up where K8BF will be on the air. As mentioned previously, we will be participating in some new contests for PCARS including some RTTY contests that should be a lot of fun.

We are making plans to install some VHF antennas in the Spring so that we can join in the fun of doing VHF contesting.

We also will be setting up a fifth operating position to accommodate members that would rather use the search & pounce (S&P) method of operating in a contest.

George, K3GP will be conducting some RTTY training in January during the BARTG RTTY contest. More info will be provided as we get closer to that contest.

In regards to DX, I hope that you have been listening to the bands because if you have you would have come across some 10 meter openings. It seems that 10 has been playing possum. It has been open but no one has been actively been calling CQ. I had the rig on a day or so ago and it was quiet and then all of a sudden a station from Brazil starting calling CQ. We had a nice chat and then I saw on the scope two more signals and it was off to the races. Made a handful of contacts and these stations kept on making contacts for a few hours. It shows you that you need to at least keep your rig on because you never know what you might hear. Granted, these were not rare DX, but they were still DX. And who doesn't want to have nice DX QSOs on 10 meters during this time of year at the low end of the sunspot cycle!

So for now, keep watching the PCARS web site and reading the Radiogram every time it comes out so that you can keep abreast of what K8BF is up to and what has been heard on the bands. Come on out to the DX/Contest Special Interest Group meetings that are held the fourth Tuesday of the month. Let us know what you've been up to regarding DX and or contesting.

Until next month, Gud DX and CQ CQ Test!



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Chuck, W8PT
a.k.a. "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings from Parkman, OH. As I write this column, the WX is cold and some snow but so far nothing too awful. I've been looking for items to report to you regarding what might be coming up in the next month or two and so far all I am finding are the listings of those DX entities that will be participating in the CQWW DX CW contest at the end of this month, being that I am writing this in November. This is what happens when the last Friday of the month (Parky's Newsletter deadline) comes with almost a whole week still remaining in the month. I normally get more information during the last week of the month which contains DX for the following month.

So what does that mean for this column? Well, I will have to go against my normal habit of trying to report on items in the next month or two, and give you events that will be taking place several months out. As you know, I don't like to do this simply because events reported so far out have a habit of changing a few times before they are set in stone, as it were. So bear with me on this one and I will try do better next time.

Here's an added bonus. For those of you who have given up listening to the bands due to low sunspots, I have to tell you that you're missing openings. Yesterday (Nov. 21st) I found 10 m open to South America. I worked stations in Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. I also heard stations from the Caribbean. Most were 55 to 59 and I received the same kind of reports running 100 w barefoot. So don't give up! There is DX out there to be worked. You just have to turn the rig on and give a listen.

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, NJ1Q & W1AW, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, W6NV, W6SZN, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, WD8IOU, DL1SBF, DL7BC, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, ON5SWA, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, Radio Club Argentino (LU4AA), RSGB IOTA Web Site, Sixitalia Weekly, VA3RJ & ICPO, VHF-DX-Portal (MMMonVHF) and YO3JW for the following DX information.

And as always, this report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know, so..... - **"Work First Worry Later"**.

3D2/R, ROTUMA ISLAND (Update). Ops Tony/3D2AG, Heye/DJ9RR, Erno/ DK2AMM, Hans/DL6JGN and Ronald/PA3EWP will be active as 3D2EU from Rotuma Island (OC-060) between February 23rd and March 16th, 2018. They will have two radio locations on the western peninsula of Rotuma. One in Fapufa in the south. This is the annual QTH of Tony. The second QTH is in Maftoa on the north coast. This is a joint operation using the resources of Tony and the European group. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. The team will use two stations (2x K3, 1x Expert 1, 3k-FA and 1x Tokyo Hy-Power HL-1.1KFX), a Spiderbeam and vertical antennas. Subject to a reliable Internet connection, they will upload the log to ClubLog on a daily basis. Otherwise the complete log will be uploaded upon their return. QSL via DK2AMM (OQRS, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW). They now have a Web page online at: <http://www.rotuma2018.de>

4S, SRI LANKA. Takayuki, J11SHQ, has moved to Sri Lanka (AS-003) at the end of June, and will be active as 4S7TNG for the next several years. He is preparing his antenna and will soon be able to be on the air. Activity will be mainly on 30 and 20 meters using mainly CW. His station is an Icom IC-706MK2G transceiver (50w) into a V type Dipole, using two mobile whips; its height is approx. 60m. QSL via J11SHQ by the Bureau.

5T, MAURITANIA (Also IOTA Op). Operators Obaid/A61M (5T1R) and Fawaz/A92AA (5T1A) will be active from the capital city Nouakchott between November 20th and December 20th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL both call signs via A92AA. The duo will be joined by Ahmad/9K2AI (5T2AI), who is there for the next two years, for an IOTA activation to Tidra Island (AF-050) as 5T5TI between December 1-7th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB and the Digital modes (FT8 was mentioned). QSL via NI5DX, LoTW or ClubLog. For more details and updates, see: <http://5t5ti.blogspot.com>

5V, TOGO. John, N9MDH, will be active as 5V1JE from Lomé until end of May 2018, more or less. Activity will be on 80-10 meters (he likes the 30m band) using SSB and the Digital modes. He will use an Icom IC-7300 transceiver into a Gap Titan antenna. QSL via eQSL or LoTW.

6W, SENEGAL. Willy, ON4AVT, will be active as 6W/ON4AVT from Mbour sometime in February 2018. Activity will be on 20 meters using CW, SSB, PSK31 and PSK63. Equipment is a Yaesu FT891 transceiver into a Buddipole antenna. QSL via his home callsign.

AU2, INDIA (Special Event). Look for special event station AU2JCB to be active now until December 11th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB. Suggested frequencies are (depending on the propagation): 3710, 7040, 7150, 14210, 14250, 14310, 21235, 21310, 21350, 28490, 28510 and 28545 kHz. On FM Mode: 6m - 50800 and 51500; 10m 29700 kHz If higher bands are open, operations will be on those bands. The operator will be Surabhi, VU2DSI. QSL direct (with 2 IRCs) to VU2DSI. Operations are to celebrate the 159th anniversary of the birth (November 30th) of Sir Jagadeesh Chandra Bose, India's great scientist and inventor who they consider the "Father of Wireless Communication". For more details, see the following Web page at: <http://www.qsl.net/vu2msy/JCBOSE.htm>

C9, MOZAMBIQUE. (Reminder) Johannes, PA5X, is now active as C93PA from Beira as of mid-October for the next coming months. Activity so far has been on 40 meters FT8, but will probably be on various HF bands using SSB and the Digital modes (FT8/JT65/WSPR). He is the first ever operator to operate FT8 in Mozambique. His setup consists of: Yaesu FT DX 5000MP Ltd, SM 5000, Acom 1010 HF Linear Amp (800W), Kio Hexbeam antenna and Endfed antenna. QSL via LoTW, ClubLog and QRZ.com. For paper QSL cards, QSL via PA5X, by the Bureau or direct.

C8, MOZAMBIQUE (Update). Members of the Lion DX Team (OT8T) will be active as C8T from Mozambique between May 2-15th, 2018. Operators mentioned are Kurt/ON8KW (Team Leader), Roger/ON7TQ (Co-Leader), Bruno/CS7ABG (Co-Leader), Paulo/CU2CO, Emil/DL8JJ, Ron/ON1DX, Philippe/ON4ACP, Marc/ON4AMX, Erik/ ON4CCV, Olivier/ON4EI, Hermann/ON4QX, Ivo/ON5CD, Cis/ON6LY and Franky/ ON7RU. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, and possibly other Digital modes (PSK, FT8). They have permission to do 60m and will also do 2m-EME. The setup will consist of 4 stations on the air for 24 hours and a fifth station for 2m EME + 60m and extra digimodes on all bands. QSL Manager has not been named, but it looks like they will be using ClubLog. Look for more details to be forthcoming. Visit their Web page at: <https://mozambique2018.wordpress.com>

HC8, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. (Reminder) An Argentinian group will be active as HC8LUT from San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos Islands until December 8th. Operators mentioned are Alejandro/LU8YD, Alejandro/LU9VEA, Mario/LU7VB and Patricio/LU3YK. Pilot stations are Sergio/LU7YS and Javier/ LU5FF. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using mainly SSB and Digital modes (WSPR, JT65, FT8, PSK31). Also

operations on the satellites (LEO, FM and SSB). QSL via IK2DUW. Visit their Blog page for updates, at: <https://hc8lu.blogspot.com.ar>

JW, SVALBARD. Erik, LA2US, will once again be active as JW2US from Bear Island (IOTA EU-027) for the next 6 months starting in early December. Activity will be limited to his spare time and he will operate on various HF Bands mostly CW at the lower band edges and IOTA frequencies. Also, on this trip he will be on BPSK, FT8 and RTTY. Equipment is a FT-450D, Signalink USB, Expert 1K-FA and a OCFD antenna. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS, LoTW or eQSL.

ST, SUDAN. DXNews.com reports that Sergey, R4PBW, is currently active as ST/R4PBW from Khartoum, Sudan. Length of stay is unknown. He is using a Yaesu FT-847 transceiver and GP Antenna. QSL via eQSL.

V3, BELIZE. Michael, K5MDK, will be active as V31MK from Maya Hill Lodge near central Belize between March 1-5th. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. He also plans to operate with V31VP during the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 4-5th). Watch QRZ.com for more details.

V8, BRUNEI. Tom, KC0W, has announced that after his VR2 and 3W9 operations he will be active as V85/KC0W from Brunei between December 3-18th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW and FT8. There will be an emphasis on North America on FT8. QSL direct via KC0W. ADDED NOTE: Tom states, "More DXpeditions after Brunei".

VQ9, CHAGOS ISLAND. Kazeno, JO1GWT/KJ6ZHM, is active as VQ9KA near Diego Garcia. The length of his stay is unknown. If like last time, he will be on 40-10 m using CW and SSB. He states that if it rains there will be no ops. Kazeno uses a Yaesu FT-857D into a Buddipole. QSL via JO1GWT, direct or by the Bureau.

XU, CAMBODIA. Tom, KC0W, cut his operation from Vietnam and is active as XU7XXX. His length of stay is not known. Activity will be on 80-6 meters CW only. QSL via KC0W direct. No LoTW – No Bureau.

That's it for this month. As mentioned above, if you don't turn on your rigs, you can't work DX. So warm up those boxes you paid money for and **GET ON THE AIR!** And as I mentioned last month, if you don't have an HF rig, then take advantage of our club's Get On The Air Open House days and work some DX from the club site. Until next month, vry 73.

Digital SIG

Rick, K8CAV

The PCARS Digital Special Interest Group will be meeting on Tuesday December 5th at 7:00 PM at the club site in Ravenna.

We plan on talking about upcoming digital activities in 2018 to include digital contests at the club site, digital operations during Field Day, and the possibility of doing an FT-8 operating event at the club site. We'll also be available to help with any questions or problems you may be having with digital operations.



Field Day 2017 Results are Published

Field Day 2017 results have been posted on the ARRL web site. K8BF did a pretty good job this year. Even though it is not a 'contest' (ya, tell that to K8IV....) there is a competition between PCARS and other clubs. We did an outstanding job this past year and the numbers are up even through the band conditions left much to be desired.



First off, we were in **Category 4A** again. 4 stations (VHF Station is a freebee) - 40/20/CW/Flex. K8BF ended up with 13,186 points - that includes 4,320 QSOs and our bonus points. We had 72 participants sign in.

The following is how we did compared to other Field Day participants:

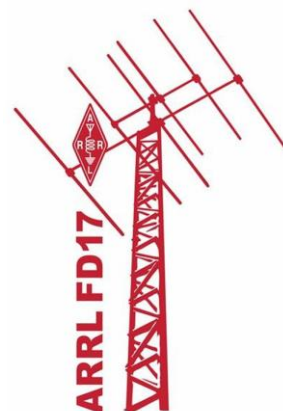
In **ALL** of Canada and the USA - there were 133 entries in **4A**. K8BF came in **THIRD PLACE** !!! Less than 3,000 points behind number one. #1 was in Huntsville, AL - #2 was in Palo Alto, CA.

In the **Great Lakes Division** looking - **ALL CATEGORIES** with 272 entries, K8BF came in **FIRST PLACE** with a bit over 1,000 points ahead of #2.

In **Ohio** - **ALL CATEGORIES** with 142 entries - K8BF came in **FIRST PLACE**, followed by the Lake County ARA that was operating a 6A (6 stations) set up and we ended up almost 2,000 points ahead of #2.

Looking at **ALL of the Field Day entries in ALL CATEGORIES** - there were 2,964 entries. K8BF came in **#22**. Not bad at all considering the first place team was running 16A (**Yes - 16 stations**) and had 39,430 points with 12,434 QSOs.

Looking at all of the entries in Field Day 2017, ss far as the number **participants** go - we had 72 sign in - that put is in **44th**. The top club had 204 participants



Congratulations to all of the members that helped with Field Day 2017.

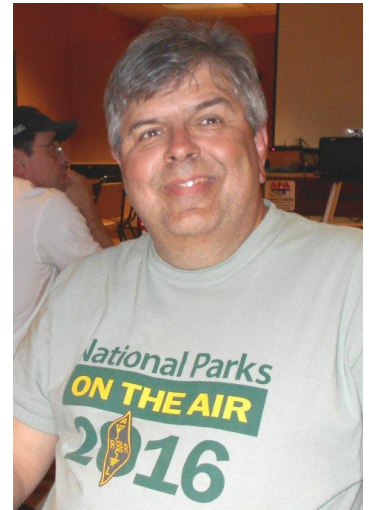
Without your help, we would not have done as good as we did.

Now, let's see how much better we can do in Field Day 2018.



Trailer Hitch Antenna

John, KD8MQ



I had promised an article this month detailing the repair of my tri-band HF beam. But with all the wet weather we've had lately, the repaired antenna elements are sitting outside waiting for suitable weather so I can test my work. So, that story will have to wait for another month.

Since I promised a story, I dug into my bag of Ham Radio doodads, and found an antenna mount I made last summer which attaches to my trailer hitch.

Last year, when I got interested in NPOTA (National Parks On The Air), There were some transmitting situations where I knew that I'd want to run a Hamstick-style antenna.

So, Tony, KD8BBK loaned me his hitch mount. It slides nicely into the hitch receiver on my Jeep, and gave some altitude to my mobile antenna.

This summer, I decided to make my own mount based on Tony's design. It really couldn't be simpler. I bought a piece of aluminum angle of the right size to fit into my hitch (I did have to file it a bit to fit properly). Then mounted a piece of aluminum conduit as an upright, and attached a 45° brace to add some stability. Also this can be released to allow the antenna to swing down for adjustments.



At the top of the upright, I attached the antenna mount. I used a Hamstick dipole mount because A) it was what I had, and B) If I ever decide to make a Hamstick dipole, it will be super easy to add the connector for the 2nd antenna.



Even though the mount is already grounded through the hitch, Tony's mount is grounded in two additional places, so I did the same.

First, a ground wire runs from the antenna connector at the top of the upright, down the center of the conduit, and plugs into the ground pin on the vehicle trailer harness. Double check your vehicle wiring pin outs before plugging in!

Second, I attached some grounding braid from the body of the vehicle to the top of the mount. I found that the latch for the rear cargo door was a good place to attach it. I removed the bolts which held the latch, slid the braid underneath (making sure to include a hole in the braid for one of the bolts to pass through), and re-



installed the bolts. The other end of the braid attaches to top of the antenna mount.

And that's it. I've used the mount quite a bit, not only for NPOTA, but for POTA (Parks On The Air) as well.

I don't know exactly how much I have invested in this mount, but it is less than some of the mounts I found for sale on the web, plus, I have the satisfaction of having done it myself.

Next month, I'll be posting pictures and info about repairing the traps on a Mosley TA-33jr. 73 all!



Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Little Tarheel II, LT 32" whip, SDL Programmable Controller, HD 5 3/8 Trunk/ Hatchback mount. Wires for Antenna. \$355.00. **Ten Tec 1320**, 20 meter QRP kit. Kit is unassembled, complete. \$90.00 **Vibroplex Racer** on a wooden base, serial number 101215 . \$90.00

Contact Dave, WV8P at wv8p@roadrunner.com [01/2/18]

FOR SALE: Ten Tec Centurian Modle 422 Linear Amplifier wired for 220 VAC. 160-10 meters Clean full power output, Pair of 3-500Z amp is clean NON smokers house have factory box just don't need it any more downsizing new tube and all gone over by Tech that does work for DX Eng. Price \$1300.00.

Contact Richard, KA8OAT at 330-506-7068 [01/02/18]

FOR SALE: 30' Aluminum Free standing Tilt-Over Tower with Base Section. Ready to put up. Full specs can be found at http://www.universaltowers.com/pdf/standard_models/01-model-04-30.pdf \$300.00

Contact John, KD8MQ at 330-936-5021, or kd8mq@portcars.org [01/02/18]

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-991 (not the "A" model) 160m through 70 cm, with MARS modification. Includes mic, power cable with Anderson power pole connector, manual, and original box. \$900.00 I can meet at the club site to demonstrated if desired.

Contact Rick, K8CAV at K8CAV@portcars.org [12/2/17]

PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!

PCARS Thursday Net Control

Greg, KA8TOA
Net Control Coordinator



Thank you all for helping with this! Anytime you are unable to take the net, please give me as much advance warning as possible! **Check-in using the receiver located in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ 146.895 with a PL tone of 118.8.**

Don't forget - 4th Thursday is NET NIGHT at the Club Site !!

ATTENTION: Net Night at the Club Site will be CANCELLED for December due to the Christmas / New Years holidays. Please enjoy the time with your families and we will re-start Net Night at the Club Site January 25th 2018.

December	
7	AC8NT
14	NR8W
21	N8QE
28	KA8TOA

January	
4	WB8LCD
11	KB8UHN
18	K8IV
25	KB8UUZ

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: KA8TOA@portcars.org

February	
1	KA8TOA
8	N8QE
15	AC8NT
22	NR8W

PCARS Wants to
hear from YOU



Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn - and have fun being Net Control !

Please remember to e-mail me a copy of the log for the club records and certificates. If you have some issues and can't make it as net control see if you can trade with someone.



Contest Calendar

DECEMBER 2017		
Contest Name	Click for more info	Times - Date
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	->+<-	2200Z, Dec 1 to 1600Z, Dec 3
Ten-Meter RTTY Contest	->+<-	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 3
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	->+<-	0000Z, Dec 9 to 2359Z, Dec 10
RAC Winter Contest	->+<-	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 30
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	->+<-	1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31

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



PCARS is on YouTube

That's right - PCARS is now on YouTube. So, what does that mean? Hey, we have a new place to put all kinds of videos that are about PCARS for the world to see.



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: Amy, **KD8SKL** or e-mail her at: KD8SKL@portcars.org



OSPOTA 2017 Results

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest - September 9, 2017

The 2017 Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest is in the history books. The logs have been received and reviewed and the results are out.

2017 was the TENTH annual OSPOTA !!



**First - On behalf of the OSPOTA contest committee:
CONGRATULATIONS to the WINNERS !!**



Second - CONGRATULATIONS to ALL that participated !!

This year the weather cooperated and the OSPOTA contest was fun for all. Many stations were on the air and activity was fantastic. Being the 10th year of this contest we had hoped for lots of activity and all of the participants made it happen. Your efforts in setting up, getting on the air and making contacts are applauded.

Each year OSPOTA is growing and more amateur radio operators both in and out of Ohio State Parks are becoming involved. Let's keep that going in future years.

This particular contest is not only a fun event for most amateur radio operators, it helps to promote the adaptability of hams and to showcase their expertise in being able to set up a portable communications center to make contacts. OSPOTA is not just a fun contest, it's also a practical exercise to keep our gear ready when called upon to assist local services for communications during an emergency.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) - located in Ravenna, Ohio is proud to sponsor this contest, and we thank you for your participation

**We'll be looking for you again on September 8, 2018 for OSPOTA 2018 !!
Until then - Take care & 73**



Greetings to the OSPOTA 2017 (Ohio State Parks On The Air) Participants

From the Portage County Amateur Radio Club's OSPOTA Committee, we would like to extend our appreciation for your participation in the TENTH annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest. You are now part of OSPOTA history and our hope is that it will be a long and rewarding one.

The OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind: **1.** Promoting public awareness of ham radio and Ohio's beautiful State Park system; **2.** Contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology; and **3.** Promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators. It has been with your participation that we believe those goals were achieved again this year.

To those of you who placed in the top three spots in each category, congratulations on your efforts. You deserve your awards for your operating skills. The turn out for the tenth annual OSPOTA was great and we are counting on having everyone do even better in OSPOTA 2018.



So until September 8, 2018 - 73!

Tom - KB8UUZ, OSPOTA Chairman
Chuck - W8PT, **Joe - W8KNO**,
John - KD8MQ, **John - KB8UHN**
 OSPOTA Committee Members



OSPOTA Web Site: <http://www.ospota.org>

OSPOTA is sponsored by the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**

PCARS Web Site: <http://www.portcars.org>

OSPOTA September 9, 2017 General Information:

58 parks activated	12 parks activated did not submit log	79 logs submitted
14 out of state logs submitted	32 clubs represented	top score this year - 14,360
1064 contacts on 80M	1486 contacts on 40M	126 contacts on 20M
	3 contacts on 15M	3 contacts on 10M

(contact info from cabrillo files only)

32 Clubs Represented in 2017

Arrow Communications Association	Hamilton Amateur Radio Club	Portage County Amateur Radio Service (7)
Ashtabula County Amateur Radio Club	Hamilton County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Athens County Amateur Radio Association (2)	Highland Amateur Radio Association (3)	Reservoir Amateur Radio Association
Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club	Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club	Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
Butler County VHF Association	Lake County Amateur Radio Association	Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Cambridge Amateur Radio Association	Lancaster and Fairfield Amateur Radio Club	Triangle Amateur Radio Club
DeForest Amateur Radio Club	Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association	Union County Amateur Radio Club
Drake Amateur Radio Club	Medina 2 Meter Group (3)	Warren Amateur Radio Association
DX Engineering Employees Radio Club	Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club	Warren County Amateur Radio Association
Fayette Amateur Radio Club	Ohio Valley Experimenter's Club	West Chester Amateur Radio Association
Fulton County Amateur Radio Club	Pedestrian Amateur Radio Club	

OSPOTA 2017 - Scores

Multi Op-Multi-Radio-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
-	No entries in this category	-

Multi Op-Multi Radio-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
AB8DD	Kiser Lake KLK	14360
K8IV	Punderson PUN	12060
W8DGN	John Bryan JOB	11465
W8VTD	Mosquito Lake MST	9758
K8UU	Caesar Creek CAE	6722
K8HO	Rocky Fork RFK	4995
K8BLP	Guilford Lake GLK	4794
W8H	Maumee Bay MBY	3629
W8VP	Blue Rock BLU	2772
W8UCO	Alum Creek ALU	2649
K8BXQ	Harrison Lake HLK	2632
N8TUW	Great Seal GSL	1995
K8EEN	Mohican MOH	1804
WC8EMA	Caesar Creek CAE	1633
K8CY	Geneva GEN	1214
K8QIK	A.W.Marion AWM	1156
K8QYL	Grand Lake St. Marys GLM	784
K8LGN	Lake Logan LOG	597
W8AJT	Hueston Woods HUE	382
N8BC	Headlands Beach HEA	70
KB8EMD	Cowan Lake COW	32
K8YOJ	Little Miami LMI	check log

Multi Op-Single Radio-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
KC8AAV	Burr Oak BUR	3900

Multi Op-Single Radio-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
W8UKE	Strouds Run SRN	7725
K8IYO	Pike Lake PLK	4029
W8RP	Independence Dam IDM	3977
WB8YHD	Lake Milton LML	2200
K8PRC	West Branch WBR	2089
WC8VOA	Caesar Creek CAE	2069
K8FEY	Pymatuning PYM	665
K8GE	Adams Lake ADA	414
KD8LBS	Buckeye Lake BKL	295
KD8VRX	Lake Loramie LOR	215
W8CCI	Hueston Woods HUE	22
KS8OCG	Buck Creek BCK	check log

Single Op-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
-	No entries in this category	-

Single Op-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
KD8BBK	Salt Fork SFK	8481
K8FH	Findley FIN	5585
NF8O	Malabar Farm MAL	4524
KD8MQ	Jefferson Lake JEF	3697
K8MD	Middle Bass Island MBI	3457
KB8UHN	Wolf Run WRN	3182
K8RGI	Oak Point OPT	2100
N8SUZ	Jackson Lake JAC	1243
KL8X	Little Miami LMI	836
K8FAY	Deer Creek DEE	817
W8KIW	Paint Creek PTC	505
NF8U	Muskingum River MUS	297
AA8GP	Stonelick STO	165
WA3JDQ	Wolf Run WRN	90
N8OZB	Indian Lake ILK	74
N8OZB	Kiser Lake KLK	61
KM8AM	John Bryan JOB	33
W8JFQ	Tinker's Creek TCK	10
K8TKA	Lake Milton LML	check log
K8VON	Independence Dam IDM	check log
K8ZT	Nelson Kennedy Ledges NKL	check log

In Ohio - Not In Park

Call	Score
W8FA	1702
KB8UUZ	916
W8DPK	893
W8GTS	835
W8TM	575
W8EOT	135
AC8TM	125
W8BVH	49
N8DXE	1



Framed Certificate

Certificate

Overall High Score

AB8DD - 14360

Outside of Ohio

Call	Transmitting From	Score
N3CU	Pennsylvania	2914
N4NY	South Carolina	2320
W4BBT	North Carolina	1048
K2DSW	Iowa	1011
K2RYD	New York	985
W4JL	North Carolina	697
KM4IAJ	Virginia	649
WB3AFS	Pennsylvania	210
VE3PYJ	Ontario, Canada	181
N8DKA	Michigan	156
KC0HPM	Missouri	132
W2MWH	New Jersey	106
VE2GT	Quebec, Canada	34
KF5ZPL	Arkansas	30



Ohio State Parks On The Air





Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks Activated during the OSPOTA Contests: 2008-2017

Page 1 of 2

Ohio State Park	ID	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Adams Lake	ADA					X	X	X		X	X
Alum Creek	ALU			X	X			X	X		X
A.W.Marion	AWM	X	X	X				X		X	X
Barkcamp	BAR		X			X	X	X	X	X	
Beaver Creek	BEA			X			X	X	X	X	
Blue Rock	BLU	X		X		X	X		X	X	X
Buck Creek	BCK			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Buckeye Lake	BKL	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Burr Oak	BUR	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Caesar Creek	CAE	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Catawba Island	CAT					X	X	X	X		X
Cleveland Lakefront	CLE	X		X	X	X	N2	-	-	-	-
Cowan Lake	COW	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Deer Creek	DEE		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Delaware	DEL	X		X	X		X				X
Dillon	DIL						X	X			X
East Fork	EFK				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
East Harbor	EHB			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Findley	FIN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Forked Run	FOR		X	X	X			X			
Geneva	GEN			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grand Lake St. Marys	GLM	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Seal	GSL		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Guilford Lake	GLK	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Harrison Lake	HLK					X	X	X	X	X	X
Headlands Beach	HEA			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Hocking Hills	HOC	X		X	X	X					
Hueston Woods	HUE		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Independence Dam	IDM				X	X	X		X		X
Indian Lake	ILK	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Jackson Lake	JAC	X						X	X	X	X
Jefferson Lake	JEF					X	X	X	X		X
John Bryan	JOB	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kelleys Island	KEL	X				X	X		X		
Kiser Lake	KLK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lake Alma	LAL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Lake Hope	LHO	X		X	X	X	X	X			X

Ohio State Parks Activated during the OSPOTA Contests: 2008-2017

Page 2 of 2

Ohio State Park	ID	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Lake Logan	LOG			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lake Loramie	LOR			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lake Milton	LML	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lake White	LWT		X	X	X	X	X	N3	N3	N3	N3
Little Miami	LMI			X	X	X	X	X			X
Madison Lake	MLK	X		X		X		X	X		
Malabar Farm	MAL			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marblehead Lighthouse	MHD					X	X	X			X
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT	X		X	X		X	X	X		X
Maumee Bay	MBY			X			X	X			X
Middle Bass Island	MBI						X	X		X	X
Mohican	MOH			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mosquito Lake	MST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mt. Gilead	MTG	X			X		X	X	X		
Muskingum River	MUS			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Nelson Kennedy Ledges	NKL			X	X		X	X			X
North Bass Island	NBI						X				
Oak Point	OPT							X			X
Paint Creek	PTC			X	X	X		X	X		X
Pike Lake	PLK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Portage Lakes	POR	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Punderson	PUN	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Pymatuning	PYM	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Quail Hollow	QHL	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Rocky Fork	RFK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Salt Fork	SFK	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Scioto Trail	STR		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Shawnee	SHA				X	X	X		X	X	X
South Bass Island	SBI	X					X	X	X	X	
Stonelick	STO	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Strouds Run	SRN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sycamore	SYC	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	
Tar Hollow	TAR			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Tinker's Creek	TCK	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Van Buren	VAN				X	X	X	X	X	X	
West Branch	WBR	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wingfoot Lake	WLK	N1	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Wolf Run	WRN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
		36	20	57	50	60	63	64	55	50	58

N1-Wingfoot Lake became a State Park in 2010

N2-Cleveland Lakefront was dropped as a State Park in mid-2013

N3-Lake White State Park was closed by ODNR to work on leaking earthen dam-3 Sept 2014

Not all activated parks sent a log in for scoring.

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Activated Parks 2008-2017



Ohio State Parks On The Air - 2017

The 10th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest is now part of history. The weather this year cooperated and no one got rained out or had to stop for thunderstorms like they did in 2016. Feedback has been good and it appears that everyone had a lot of fun.

There were over 80 logs submitted this year and the submitted scores are impressive. 58 Ohio State parks were activated and there were 33 clubs represented. Logs came in from 10 States and 2 Canadian provinces.



The OSPOTA contest committee will be going over the logs in early November and the full results will be published in the December issue of this newsletter.

Meanwhile, following this are some pictures and comments that I have received so far from this year's OSPOTA participants.

From the October 2017 issue of 'The RADIOGRAM' - The PCARS newsletter:

Team K8IV from Punderson - PUN

September 9, I volunteered for the Potato Stomp race in Mantua with the Comm.'s Unit and drove (relatively close to the speed limit) to Punderson State Park to participate in OSPOTA immediately afterward.

I had the pleasure of being part of Team K8IV. (See picture: Captain Ed Polack, Ray Larrick, Tom Sly, and Amy Leggiero.) We set up



three stations at Punderson State Park. 80M, 40M & 20M. The day was a little chilly. (Even the squirrels were wearing sweaters...)

We kicked off the contest right on time at 14:00 UTC and I was fortunate enough to work the 80m station on Ed Polack's awesome K3 radio. The contacts started out warm and just got hotter! I hit a majority of my contacts in other Ohio State parks right from the start. (The best part was talking to all the other PCARS members!) I know I can speak for the rest of Team K8IV in saying we all had a great time, and worked hard to compete for as many contacts as possible. We stayed on the air until the final second of the contest. Some of these guys have been contesting for years, but I am still a rookie. I can share that I felt a real sense of satisfaction that day. This was the first contest I ever worked from start to finish! I hope we have even more PCARS members activate parks next year!

73 - Amy, KD8SKL

My Weekend with OSPOTA 2017 - JEF

I tried posting one picture to the OSPOTA Facebook page, and it literally took over an hour to upload. So that gives you an idea of the cell coverage at JEF (Otherwise known as Jefferson Lake State Park).

I arrived on Friday afternoon, and hung the G5RV. Unfortunately, I hung it with one leg crossing a neighboring unused campsite. About 9 PM, I got a knock on my door. My new "neighbors" wanted that campsite, and requested that I remove the antenna wire.

With not much of anything else to do at the time, I re-hung the antenna, in the dark, being careful to stay on my side of the line. I got it tuned and operational around 0300Z. Not being satisfied yet, I was up at dawn, and shot a line about 20' higher in the same tree. It worked great for the contest.

I got on the air about 1330Z, got a frequency, and began handing out "Parks On The Air" contacts until 1400Z when I changed my CQ to "CQ OSPOTA".

I kept track of all my SSB logging using a "modified" version of N3FJP'S Ohio QSO Party software. I did have to switch logging programs to log the CW side of things. As you might guess, sorting out my logs afterwards was somewhat involved, but it was worth it.

I had barely enough cell coverage for texting, and for watching the spotting network. I had a ball working 40 & 80. Unfortunately, since self-spotting is not allowed, I never was able to get anything going on 20 Meters. My apologies for those who were too far away for 40 Meters.



Coming home on Sunday morning, I took a "shortcut" recommended by another camper, and got hopelessly lost in Jefferson County. It doesn't fill me with confidence when the GPS recommends a turn onto a dirt road that looks like it hasn't been maintained for years.

But, I made it home, and the final count for me was 109 QSOs with 39 State Parks. I'm already looking forward to OSPOTA 2018, when I may try something a bit closer to home.

John, KD8MQ



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 9th



Ohio State Parks On The Air



Pictures from OSPOTA 2017



K8FH - Findley State Park- FIN



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 9th



*KD8LBS
Buckeye Lake
State Park
BKL*



K8QE

Adams Lake State Park - ADA



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 9th



K8TKA



**Lake Milton
State Park - LML**



W8KIW - Paint Creek State Park - PTC



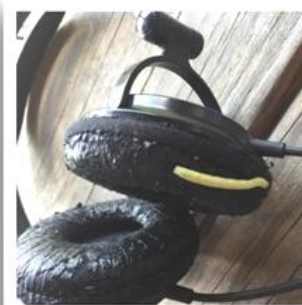
Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 9th



W8DGN John Bryan State Park JOB



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 9th



*WC8VOA
Caesar
Creek
State
Park
CAE*



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 9th



Ohio State Parks On The Air



Thanks goes out to all the operators and loggers that submitted logs this year

AA8GP	KA4VNB	KD8HSA	KE8GPL	N8OZB	W8KIW
AA8OY	KE8HRJ	KD8JDH	KE8GVQ	N8PEG	W8KWH
AB8DD	KA8IIM	KD8JQE	KE8GVS	N8PPF	W8LGX
AB8FE	KA8OCG	KD8KBU	KE8GVT	N8QE	W8LXJ
AB8P	KA8STM	KD8KNC	KE8GZX	N8RDL	W8MIJ
AB8RG	KA8YTS	KD8KXD	KE8HDE	N8RLH	W8PEN
AC8JT	KB8BKE	KD8LBS	KE8HEZ	N8STN	W8RP
AC8RJ	KB8EMD	KD8LYX	KE8HGE	N8SUZ	W8TAM
AC8TM	KB8FMN	KD8MQ	KE8HJL	N8THU	W8TER
AC8XP	KB8GAB	KD8NZF	KE8HMX	N8TUW	W8TM
AG8Z	KB8HTU	KD8OPN	KE8HNF	N8WTJ	W8UCO
K1RQS	KB8OMG	KD8ORN	KE8HRK	N8YFF	W8UKE
K2DSW	KB8QIW	KD8PSB	KE8PP	N8YGM	W8VP
K2RYD	KB8UHN	KD8QNY	KE8RIN	N8YWX	W8VTD
K7DN	KB8USO	KD8RLA	KE8UE	N8ZAK	W8XWO
K8BLP	KB8UUZ	KD8RTT	KF5ZPL	N9ACC	W8ZL
K8BXQ	KB8ZYE	KD8SKL	KG4VHV	NA1RB	WA2DHG
K8CLI	KC0HPM	KD8SRC	KL8X	NF8O	WA3JDQ
K8CUH	KC8AAV	KD8TUR	KM4IAJ	NF8U	WA8SYD
K8CY	KC8BMK	KD8UCA	KM8AM	NX8Y	WB0NPN
K8DZU	KC8EVS	KD8UFE	KM8Q	NY8C	WB3AFS
K8EEN	KC8FNJ	KD8VGD	KV8P	NZ8A	WB5WAH
K8ELG	KC8KEB	KD8VUY	N3CU	VE2GT	WB8CPG
K8FAY	KC8KSM	KD8VWF	N3JJT	VE3PYJ	WB8LCD
K8FEY	KC8OKJ	KD8WBZ	N4NY	W1TFG	WB8PHI
K8FH	KC8QCH	KD8WCD	N7LNE	W2MWH	WB8RG
K8GE	KC8QDQ	KD8WRN	N8BC	W2TBQ	WB8TCB
K8HO	KC8QHI	KD8YVJ	N8BD	W4BBT	WB8YHD
K8IV	KC8RDJ	KD8ZCH	N8BUS	W4JL	WB8ZGH
K8IYO	KC8RYM	KD8ZKE	N8DKA	W6LDS	WB9PXH
K8JM	KC8UVM	KD8ZMG	N8DRG	W8AHT	WC8EMA
K8LGN	KC8VDT	KD8ZUT	N8DXE	W8AJT	WC8VOA
K8MD	KC8YDS	KE8AME	N8FB	W8ASA	WD8DER
K8MSH	KC9CHC	KE8ANS	N8GFK	W8BVH	WD8IOL
K8PRC	KD8AAK	KE8ANU	N8HMK	W8CCI	WD8MXR
K8QIK	KD8APN	KE8BCA	N8IG	W8DGN	WD8RIF
K8QXO	KD8AVH	KE8BWQ	N8IMW	W8DHG	WD8RNG
K8QYL	KD8BBK	KE8CQC	N8JKO	W8DPK	WD8TVP
K8RGI	KD8BNR	KE8CRT	N8JMK	W8EN	WE8F
K8UU	KD8DFL	KE8CZO	N8KXH	W8EOT	WE8R
K8UUU	KD8EIR	KE8DLC	N8LMJ	W8FA	WN8ATM
K8VON	KD8ENV	KE8DVM	N8MIQ	W8FHF	WU8E
K8VOX	KD8EVN	KE8EAS	N8MWK	W8GTS	WZ8K
K8WEH	KD8FRQ	KE8EBO	N8NYJ	W8GZ	
K8XG	KD8FYT	KE8EZT	N8OHU	W8H	
K8YOJ	KD8GMA	KE8GFK	N8OI	W8JFQ	



PCARS Ham 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 PCARS club station.

We have 59 PCARS member's ham 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. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the [PCARS Yahoo Group](#) site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history.**



From the Ohio BMV:

General Information: Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of Ohio and hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission may apply for these plates. The official call letters will be the license plate numbers.

Registrant Eligibility: Owner must submit a copy of the un-revoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (FCC).

Title Requirements: Ohio Certificate of Title issued in the same name as the FCC license, either singly or jointly, or the name on the FCC license is the same name on the lease agreement.

Vehicle Information: These plates may be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

Type of Plates: Plates will be manufactured with the FCC license.

Issuance Information: Amateur Radio plates cannot be issued with system assigned, reserved, or personalized plate formats.

Renewal of plates can be done at your local Deputy Registrar or by mail using their renewal notice. **Amateur Radio License Holders must provide a copy of their current unexpired and unrevoked official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the time of any type renewal transaction.**

All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card unless customer requests otherwise. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at all Deputy Registrar license agency locations. These plates cost an additional \$10.00 annually plus the normal registration fees. The fee is determined by Ohio Revised Code section 4503.14.

PCARS Yahoo Group

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/>

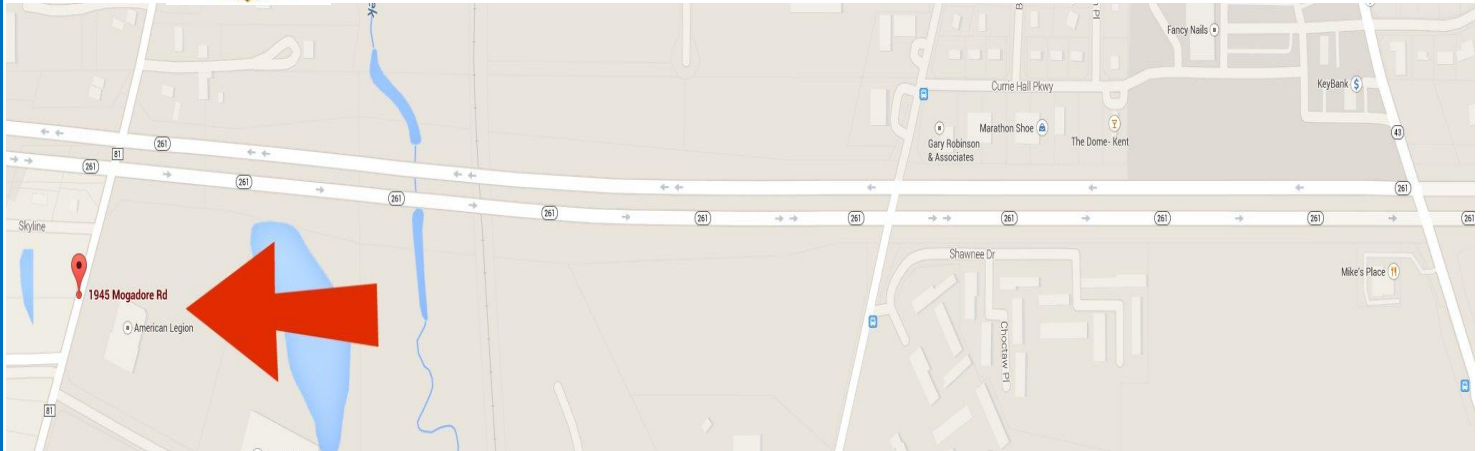


PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the **2nd Monday** of each month and start at 7:00 pm.



*The meetings are held at The American Legion, Post 496
1945 Mogadore Road - in Kent. (Just South of Route 261)*



The American Legion Post 496 is located on the southeast corner of State Route 261 and Mogadore Rd. The driveway is on the south side of the building and as you enter you will pass through a parking lot on the south side of the building. Please do not park in this lot but instead continue on to the parking lot on the east side of the building which is the near the rear entrance into the Post 'Canteen'. As you enter the post from this entrance you'll see a bar to the left and a dining area to the right. The meeting area we'll be in is on the right, to the rear of the dining area.



*The picture on the left shows
The American Legion Post 496
as viewed from Mogadore Road.
(looking East)*



The menu consists of your basic burger / dog / chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, onion rings, and salads. There is also an appetizer selection as well. Adult beverages are available and costs are in line with what you would expect at most bar-restaurant facilities.

If you are a member of the The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion, bring your ID card as you get a substantial discount on adult beverage pricing.

Photos from the PCARS Meeting in November



PCARS November 13, 2017



PCARS - November 13, 2017



PCARS - November 13, 2017



PCARS November 13, 2017

Merry Christmas 2017



WB8LCD
KB8UUZ
KB8VJL
W8KNO
KB8SZI
KD8EPF
N8KBX
WB8VYW
W8PT
N6TL
KC8RJR
N4PKW
KB8TUY
N4IT
WB9LBI
KC8FQV
WB8OVQ
WD8BIW
N8FTP
AB8IE
N8WLE
N8PXW
K8IV
KC8LJY
KD8EPA

K8FEY
WB2DFC
KD8FLZ
N8XTH
N8ATV
N8GIE
KB8AMZ
KD8FME
WX1DER
N8QE
K8CAV
K8SRR
WA8AR
NX8G
N8RLG
KD8ICP
KD8DFL
K8JE
NT8K
K8AAB
W8JJW
K3GP
KD8JRE
WA8CCU
W8SV

K8FS
KC8YYS
KD8VT
N8HUC
KB3OQV
KB3GXB
NR8W
K8DER
AB8AA
K8JAA
G0BPS
KD8LIR
KB8UHN
W8CDL
KD8MQ
K8NYM
KD8MLE
KD8NLQ
KW8KW
N8ONI
KD8CGH
WA8GCF
KA8TOA
WA8OKR
N8IL

KD8OBA
WD8RAY
W8RID
K8STK
W8BGE
KD8PBL
KD8ERY
KD8QEI
KD8DQT
KD8QEJ
WA4WGA
WD8PME
KD8RHW
W8Ezt
KD8SKL
KC8BTN
KD8SIZ
WA8OHK
KD8SJB
W8CYN
KD8SOP
Arline
AE8YL
KD8WZS
K8MSH

KC8TZU
KB8CLH
KA8OAT
KD8UXJ
AC8NT
KD8UXG
KB8VJO
W8JFQ
KD8WCK
KD8BBT
AC8PR
K8BBE
AC8QG
W6VM
KD8ZDZ
WV8P
N8BI
N8QZ
N8SY
KD8ZXD
KD8ZXB
KD8ZSH
AC8RH
N6JRL
K8EUR

KC8RKD
KE8BFA
K8KSU
WA8TSI
W5OV
K3LR
K1ZZ
WA8SAJ
N1CJW
KE8BWA
Denise
K8SWJ
KD8WBC
W8BBQ
W8GWI
KE8EGG
KE8EFG
KD8GYI
KE8ELR
KB8SK
KE8EFW
AC8XO
WA8US
AB8YK
K1LTZ

K8VOX
N8NB
KE8HDJ
WA8UWV
N8SQL
KD8RUQ
WA2MNA

*From
all
of
Us
to
All
of
You*

Thanks & 73



Parky, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



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

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

K8CAV, AC8NT, KB8UUZ, WB8LCD, N8RLG, W8KNO, KB6NU, W8PT, KD8MQ, KA8TOA, KD8SKL, the ARRL and the World-Wide Web.

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





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. **If you don't pay by 1/31 - you are no longer a member.**

Dues are as follows: Example - Renewals are \$20 for Regular/Associate members, \$16 Senior \$10 Family per year.

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount for NEW members:

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

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

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

What are **YOUR** Ham Radio interests:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
c/o: Tom Sly, WB8LCD
1480 Lake Martin Dr.
Kent, OH 44240

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:
<input type="radio"/> Database Updated	Member Number:

Rev. 26 Jan 2017

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

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM

PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the Kent American Legion Post 496.
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.


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

PCARS uses the **K8IV** repeater: **146.895 MHz** PL 118.8 in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ PL 110.9 in Ravenna ~ EchoLink Node: K8SRR

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

Check PCARS out on the web: www.PORTCARS.ORG -or- www.K8BF.ORG

~ 2017 Officers ~		2017 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Rick Kruis - K8CAV Vice President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT Treasurer - Amy Leggiero - KD8SKL 3 Year Trustee - Robert Gurney - N8RLG 2 Year Trustee - Erica Pelz - AE8YL 1 Year Trustee - Ed Polack - K8IV Past President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD	ARRL Awards - DXCC WAS, VUCC, WAC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	ARRL Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
	Field Day Chairman, 2018	WA8AR	Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
	K8BF QSL Manager	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
	Membership Chairman	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Net Control Manager	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
~ Meetings & Net ~	Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
2 nd Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Public Information Officer	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Secretary	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
	Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers

 <p>PCARS Active Volunteer Examiner Team Members</p>	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8IV	Ed Polack
	W8RID	Robert Davet
	WA8CCU	Al Nagy
	NR8W	Russ Williams
	KD8RJV	Jim Corbett
	W8EZE	Frank Tompkins
	N8OQQ	Bryan Buchwalter
	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	KB3GXB	Jennifer Andrews

THE RADIOGRAM

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

The **RADIOGRAM** is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) – copyright © 2017. The **RADIOGRAM** is an **Award Winning** newsletter: **ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter First Place Winner for 2012 AND 2013. Second Place in the Great Lakes Division for 2013. Second Place ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter for 2014. Third Place Winner in the Ohio Section 2015. Second Place Winner in the Ohio Section for 2016. First Place Winner in the Ohio Section for 2017 and First Place Winner in the Great Lakes Division 2017.** 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 what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article.** Caution - some of the articles in this newsletter maybe covered by copyright - please do not copy and use the ones that have by-line information unless you obtain permission from the original author. If you're not sure, drop an e-mail to KB8UUZ@portcars.org. The **RADIOGRAM** always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. 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 of Amateur Radio™. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961. They 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 an **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, The RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, active links, **NO** postage needed and the newsletter is delivered right to YOUR e-mail box! The **RADIOGRAM** is published every month and only sent 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, we can take you off the e-mail list. Yes I know the cover says there is a cost, don't worry you won't get sent a bill or be hounded by bill collectors. Since this now looks like a magazine, I thought - what the heck, let's put a price on it. Every month it's listed in a different currency just for fun. Send your newsletter inputs (in **.TXT** format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: kb8uuz@portcars.org

