



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

PCARS - the 2018 Hamvention® Club of The Year

February 2021 - Volume 16 Number 2

Build a 2 Meter Ground Plane Antenna



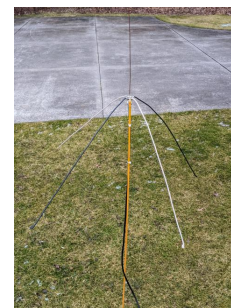
It's AM Rally Time



PCARS K8BF
The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



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From the Editor: You will see some humor based cartoons about the COVID-19. Yes, I agree that this pandemic is VERY serious to all - but in tough times, you just have to have a bit of humor to get you through - I hope you agree. Hang in there, please. We'll all get through this together.



Larry Krempasky, KD8FLV - SK



Larry Krempasky, KD8FLV became a Silent Key on January 7, 2021.

Larry was PCARS member #69 and was a member from 2007 through 2011. He was a member of the county RACES team.. Larry died from Covid-19 at Marymount Hospital Thursday 7 Jan 2021.

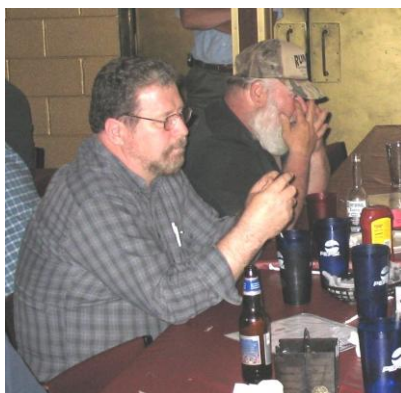


From the obituary at Blessing Cremation Center:

Lawrence Krempasky passed away on January 7, 2021, and had resided at Maplewood Assisted Living in Twinsburg. He worked for the Chrysler Stamping Plant in Twinsburg for many years right after high school. He loved boating near Catawba Island in Sandusky, hunting, and enjoyed story telling. Private Family Services were held.



PCARS member Bob Magree, N8KBX said Larry was a Tool and Die Maker at Chrysler. He had Parkinson's the last few years. Bob and Larry went on trips going for hot air Ballooning records. He had a fishing boat and a 32 foot pleasure boat that he enjoyed using.



From the President

Nick, AC8QG
PCARS President



It was great to see everybody at the January meeting, whether that was in-person or virtually. I think we really kicked off the year right with a great presentation by Axel, K8AXX. He was a good speaker, and he was fascinating to talk to before and after the meeting. He's an enthusiastic Ham, and he really loves all aspects of the hobby. His level of energy was like someone who just got their ticket and can't wait to get on the air for the first time. I'm glad he was able to join us, and I hope we see him again soon.

We've been trying some new stuff with the presentation equipment at our club meetings, so feel free to provide any good ideas about how we can make it better. We'll keep trying to make the experience as good as possible for everyone. Hopefully, we'll get to see more people face-to-face as the COVID-19 situation improves this year, but Zoom isn't going anywhere, so join us in whatever way works best for you.

Many thanks to Jim Wilson AC8NT, and all who helped him set up, configure, and test the new K8BF-L EchoLink node. This new system is a significant upgrade, and the ongoing work will help with overall reliability and stability. I'm also grateful to Steve K8SRR for all of his work with the previous node. It served PCARS well. I know I'm not the only member that has come to rely on EchoLink when I'm out of town, out of range, or dealing with antenna issues. Again, many thanks to everyone who has helped recently and over the years.

PCARS continues to be one of the best clubs anywhere because of the active participation of so many members, and the hard work of our volunteers. Let's keep that up. Keep checking into the nets. Join us for our meetings. Keep writing articles for the newsletter. Everything is better when more people participate. There's also a lot to do this year, so let me know if you're interested in helping out. We can always use some extra hands. Let's make this the best year for PCARS yet!

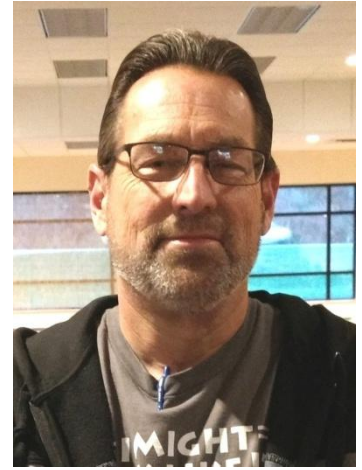


"On FT8, no one knows you're a dog."



From the Vice President

Mike N8WCP
PCARS Vice President



Is it just me or did January fly by? I'm OK with that, cabin fever has set in and I'm looking forward to spring which is less just forty eight days away. Soon it will be time to clean up after winter and address other outside chores but more importantly, work on our antennas!

January was a busy month at our club, Jim, AC8NT and his son James, KC3JXO set up a new Echolink node at the club site using the club call sign K8BF-L. We appreciate their time and effort to place this new node into service. If you access the 146.895 repeater via Echolink, use this new node as the K8SRR node has been decommissioned.

I'd also like to thank our webmaster John, KD8MQ. John has maintained the club website for many years and has taken on the task of moving the website to a new hosting platform and updating the site. He'll have help from other club members but he'll be doing a lot of the heavy lifting. When you see John give him a pat on the back for the hard work.

If you missed the January meeting you missed a great presentation on lithium batteries by Axel Fisser, K8AXX. Axel discussed the pros and cons of the various lithium chemistries, provided a source to purchase cells at a low cost, and reviewed charging and battery management systems. As someone who uses lead acid batteries for emergency and field work, the idea of building a smaller, lighter, but equally powerful battery inexpensively was intriguing. There may be club battery build in the future so stay tuned!

Also at our January meeting we approved four new members, David Waugh KE8QEP, Dennis Hunt W8DMH, Donald Wedding KE8HTS and David Gatie KC8LSX. Welcome to PCARS!

At our February meeting our presenter will be Rob Zarges, K2MZ who will discuss the Long Island CW Club's youth CW program. If you know of a future youth ham, this could be a program of interest to you. If you can't join in person keep an eye out for a QST with the Zoom link, and don't forget to purchase your 50/50 tickets on our club website!

Just a reminder, the club is in need of a new Secretary so if you're interested send Nick, AC8QG an email at president@portcars.org. Also, in last month's column I asked for suggestions for presentation topics and activities our members would be interested in. Don't be shy, if you have an interest that hasn't been covered or you think we need to cover one again, shoot me an email at vicepresident@portcars.org.

Stay radioactive!



Schedule of Events



On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:



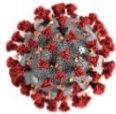
Although we are resuming in-person activities, many regular events are canceled or will be conducted virtually. Even events that are scheduled to be in-person may be canceled or moved to virtual. Please read this newsletter, join our weekly on-air club net, and watch for QST emails so you can stay up to date.

- February 1st - PCARS Board Meeting via Zoom - 7 pm**
- February 8th - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm - Robb Zarges K2MZ, Teaching CW to Kids**
- March 1st - PCARS Board Meeting via Zoom - 7 pm**
- March 8th - PCARS Meeting**

NOTE: All In-Person Activities & Meetings

Subject To Cancellation

Check Web Site for Updates



- First Tuesday - **Digital** - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
- Third Tuesday - **Antenna** - Moderator: Tony, WA8AR
- Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
- Fourth Thursday - Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 pm** - Moderator: Tom, WB8LCD

PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - Limited Edition-Going Fast

PCARS has obtained a limited number of special, custom made coffee cups that are available only to members.

Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE !!** The only catch is you have to claim it from the **Treasurer - Paul, KE8EGF.**

Paul has a list of current members and will check off your name when you get your **FREE PCARS** coffee cup.



Portage County Amateur Radio Service



K8BF

2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

There are a **very limited number of extra coffee cups** and they are for sale at \$5.00 each.



Contact Paul for all of the details



Ohio ARES® Simplex Contest Results

Stan, N8BHL

Ohio ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator



Another activity to test our ability to communicate under “dark sky” conditions (no Internet, etc.) was our recent “ARES Simplex Contest”. This year operation was fun - with a wide-open band and great weather.

As I write this, we have over 75 entries - almost twice last year’s submitted scores! And I know from my own operating that the number of counties contacted was way up from the last couple years. This year, we actually had a band!! Our overall average per station was 8.5 counties!

We had stations from 34 counties in the log - Summit was the most active, followed by Athens.

We had some good suggestions for next year- including the potential of digital voice simplex.

Some comments:

- THIS WAS MY FIRST CONTEST. IT WAS ENJOYABLE AND LEARNED A LOT. I HOPE I CAN DO BETTER NEXT YEAR.
- GREAT FUN, EDUCATIONAL FOR MY AREA OF COVERAGE. MIGHT GO ROVER OR PORTABLE NEXT YEAR. WASN'T AWARE OF IT IN TIME FOR THIS YEAR, I NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION.
- FIRST TIME I'VE EVER WORKED A VHF CONTEST
- BANDS WERE REALLY OPEN! IT WAS GREAT TO HEAR SOME DX COUNTIES THIS YEAR.
- FIRST TIME EVER WORKING 6 METERS. WORKED 6M, 2M, 1.23M & 70CM FOR THIS EVENT
- I WAS SURPRISED HOW MANY CONTACTS I MADE THAT WERE MORE THAN 1 COUNTY AWAY WITH MY SETUP. N8BHL WAS THE MOST DISTANT CONTACT AT 62 MILES. I WISH THERE WAS MORE PARTICIPATION.
- THIS WAS A SOLO, 7 COUNTY ROVER EXERCISE. I STARTED WITH HOLMES AND TUSCARAWAS COUNTIES TO PUT THEM ON THE AIR AND STILL MAKE SEVERAL CONTACTS. SELECTED SITES THAT WOULD ALLOW DECENT ACCESS INTO STARK AND WAYNE COUNTIES. WENT THROUGH STARK, WAYNE, MEDINA AND SUMMIT COUNTIES ON THE WAY TO PORTAGE COUNTY. OPERATED WITH A YAESU 8900 GOING INTO A YAESU 2000 TRIBAND ANTENNA AT ABOUT 25' ABOVE GROUND LEVEL. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY WEATHER WISE AND HAM OPERATION WISE.
- Excellent way to test your equipment without repeaters. I'll do better next year! "73"

And THAT’S what it’s all about! Oh, yeah, the top score? Michael Brugger, N8CEY posted 10,973 as a rover. Bill Storr, N8LTR posted the top home score at 7,735 from Summit County, with 17 counties worked. Aside from Michael’s rover counties (28), the station with the most counties was KB8BKA operation out of Morrow County. Ralph Carder managed to work 44 counties (!!) and while this was his first ever contest, he was running them like a pro when I reached him! N8XWO, John McCutcheon in Athens County was second in counties with 30 - all made within three hours operating time. Nice! There were 22 stations who worked double-digit counties. That’s an amazing shift from years past.

The primary purpose is (1) to have fun and (2) to see where your simplex signal can reach. That information will be critical for you during any kind of power-outage where we’re reduced to non-repeater, simplex communications. I hope you all had fun, and I thank you for being there! We’ll refine some stuff and be back next year for even more fun!!



From the ARRL Ohio Section Manager



Tom, WB8LCD
ARRL Ohio Section Manger



Hello Ohio!

Before all else, please join me in saying “Thank You” to Scott for his years of service as the OH Section Manager. Scott has spent a serious portion of his life serving the Amateur Radio community in this position and has left the OH Section in wonderful shape and with a good reputation. And if that’s not enough, Scott is now serving as the Vice Director of the Great Lakes Division, continuing to work on *your* behalf, for the betterment of the hobby. It’s our job to be worthy of Scott’s efforts, and I don’t doubt you all for a second in that effort.

So here I am, in one day, stepping into what Scott has spent years creating. It’s a little bit like being hit by a bus! I hope to be up to speed soon, and Scott is certainly giving me a hand as I get acclimated.

The past year (2020) has been strange. I’ve never lived through a Pandemic before, and I’m sure that’s true for the rest of you, too. I’ve never lived through a period of political unrest like we’ve seen. Sometimes it feels like the earth is just spinning of control! But the earth has been here long before me, and probably will remain long after me. And you. Looking back on this past year I think many of us felt just a bit paralyzed by the circumstances, hoping that if we just waited long enough, they would pass by. I can see now that that’s a “non-starter”. It’s our move. We can sit and wait, or we can make things happen.

Lots of Ham Radio activities have been cancelled over the past year and into the new year. Things come up, and sometimes events need to be cancelled. But now as we’re moving into our second year of cancellations, we need to find alternatives. If we just keep cancelling without replacing, we’re dead. So, we need to get creative. Lots of you have found new alternatives in technologies such as ZOOM. Probably the number 1 alternative for many of our activities over this past year. As I continue to make visits with clubs around the sections, I’m going to be looking at how all of you exploit the different mediums we have to work with. If your club is doing something new and innovative, let me know so I can share that with the rest of us.

One of the things that has been a constant drumbeat for the past 5 – 10 maybe even 20 years is that we have to get a younger base in the hobby. That’s truer now than ever, and although there are some things happening it seems to be slow, and it’s not “intentional”. If we want to attract a younger demographic into the hobby, we need to look attractive to that younger demographic. We need to change our image. If you ask the proverbial “Man on the Street” about Ham Radio, for the most part, he doesn’t recognize that it still exists, or he visualizes a bunch of “old guys” sitting in their basement talking to each other about the “Good old Days”.

We’ve got two things we need to accomplish to change that image so that we *will* be an attractive option for a younger group to get involved with. Number one: **WE** have to be having fun with our hobby! That really shouldn’t be a tough objective, but, as we’re all getting older, it’s real easy to sit on that couch and be entertained.

Ham Radio is a hobby that requires a personal involvement and participation to get the most out of it and have the most fun with it. (I’m going to let someone else nag you about maintaining your health so that you are able to be an active participant in the hobby!) The huge advantage we have with Ham Radio is that we have so many different ways to have fun! I’ve always said that Ham Radio is many different hobbies within a hobby.

First and foremost, get on the air and make some Q’s! Keep your two-meter rig on. Most new hams have a Technician class license, get a handi-talkie, plink the repeaters and find no one there to talk to! Instantly they have to wonder what they’ve gotten themselves into. Be someone’s first contact on the repeater! Welcome them into the hobby and let them know they made a good move by getting involved. Then lead them into all the other ways that you’re having fun: DXing, contesting, working digital modes, making satellite contacts, QRP operating, working with circuits and

building equipment, experimenting with antennas, ATV, EmComm operations, fox-hunting, restoring vintage gear.... Ham Radio is much more exciting than just checking into the 2-meter net once a week! Get out there and have some FUN!

Number two: we have to be more self-promoting about our hobby. All you PIO's (official and unofficial) need to be getting the word out. Advertise your meetings, Advertise you activities. Then, send in a write up about how your meeting went, take pictures and write up (sort of like an "after action" report) and send that to your local newspaper, radio station, TV station. Put it on your personal Facebook page. The point is – get the information out there! And don't expect that just because you send something it will be publicized. But every time you do send something, showing that we are an actual, viable organization with regular activities, they'll start to take notice and our chances improve.

How about the other local organizations? With our ham radio clubs we're usually pretty specific about the types of topics we want our meeting speakers to talk about. Other organizations are more general in their nature. They want to know what's going on in their communities. You – we – could fill a need they have for a program! Think in terms of the Lions Club, Church organizations. Everyone wants to get in front of the kids, how about starting with the Parent-Teacher organizations and showing them the educational benefits that ham radio can have for their kids? We need to use our creativity to get in front of the public so that WE can create the image of Ham Radio that we want them to have.

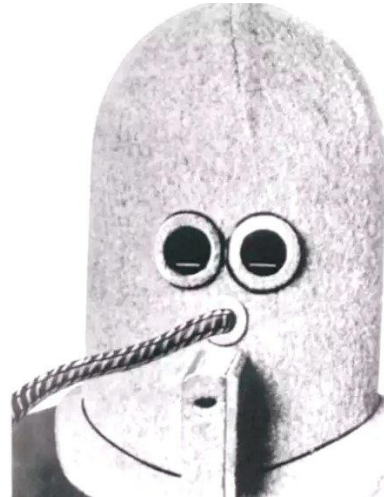
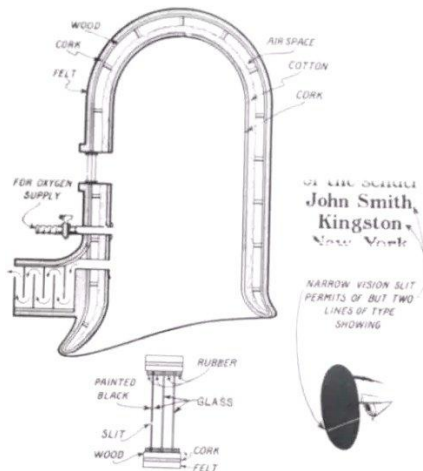
So, it's actually pretty simple. Get out there and have fun with your hobby! Let others know how much fun you're having! It's simple, but it requires *action*. Don't be a couch potato.



PCARS
www.portcars.org



Wear A Mask.....

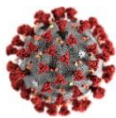


PCARS VE Test Information & News

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison



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



NOTE: All Dates Subject To Cancellation
Check Web Site for Updates

- You **MUST** register in advance - **NO WALK-INS** will be accepted. Send an email to KB8UUZ@gmail.com to register.
- You will be required to have, in advance, a Form 605 - properly filled in and signed. Once you register a form 605 will be sent to you via email. You can print it out and fill it in.
- **You must have your FRN prior to taking an exam** - no SSNs will be used on the Form 605 anymore.
- If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or someone that has been infected - please, do not come to the club site.
- You will wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times.
- No food or snacks allowed.
- Only people that are testing will be allowed in the building.
- \$15.00 Fee Payment will only be by check or exact change. We cannot make change
- If paying by check, make check out to: "ARRL-VEC" The VE Fee is \$15.00
- Ensure you have the following:
 - A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
 - If you are under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must be able to vouch for you and you need a copy of your birth certificate (you do not have to give us a copy, we just have to see and verify).
 - FCC is requiring you have your e-mail address on the Form 605.
 - If you are taking a Technician test you will need your FRN number (you can apply for an FRN on the FCC website). For hams having a license, your FRN is printed on your license.
 - If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You **MUST** bring your original valid amateur radio license and a copy of your valid amateur radio license to turn in with your Form 605.
 - Bring your own pencils and pens.



Any questions? Contact KB8UUZ@gmail.com

Additional Information - What to Bring to the Testing Session

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

Dates subject to change - Check the PCARS web site for the latest information

A banner for PCARS ARRL Volunteer Examiners. It features the PCARS logo in a yellow box on the left. To the right, text reads: "ARRL Volunteer Examiners: serving the Amateur Radio community". Below this, it says "First Saturdays 10:00 am at the club site in Ravenna" and lists the months "February, April, June, August, October, December". On the far right is the ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner logo.

FCC to Require Email Addresses on Applications

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective June 29, 2021. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective. The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail. A *Report and Order (R&O)* on "Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services" in WT Docket 19-212 was adopted. When an email address is provided, licensees will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses when the application is granted.

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license will have to show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. "The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence," the amended rule will state. "Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address."

ARE YOU GOING FOR YOUR TECHNICIAN LICENSE? READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FRNs Required at Exam Sessions

The FCC has indicated VECs/VE teams will discontinue the practice of accepting social security numbers at exam sessions. Examinees should register in the FCC CORES registration system and receive an FRN **before exam day**.

The FCC also advised VE teams to make it clear to candidates that some information about them will be made publicly available on the FCC's website, including their name, mailing address, and felony conviction status.

“Dorothy Stiffemire, the Associate Division Chief of the WTB Technologies Systems and Innovation Division told VECs that new license applicants should create an FCC user account and register their social security number in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) before attending exam sessions. Registrants will be assigned a Federal Registration Number (FRN) which will be used in all license transactions with the FCC.”

She explained that auto-registration in CORES for examinees using a social security number will be going away. In addition, since no mail is being sent because of the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants will not receive their auto-created password and FCC FRN and will not be able to access their personal license record in the FCC License Manager database or their FRN record in CORES. Going forward, she said, VECs should make sure all applicants are registered and have an FRN before exam day.

“Additionally, FCC Mobility Division (MD) Deputy Chief Tom Deringe recommended that VECs make it clear to applicants that their address will be public information when the new license is issued. He suggested advising that an alternative address, such as a PO Box or work address, would be acceptable. Deringe pointed out that once an address is in the FCC database, it’s nearly impossible to be permanently removed.”

Examinees can be directed to this information on our the ARRL website or directly to the FCC website.

FRN registration information (see item #4): <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

FCC Privacy information: <http://www.arrl.org/fcc-licensee-privacy>

FCC CORES User Account and Registration: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>





From the ARRL

FCC Amateur Radio Application Fee \$35

12/30/2020

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was “too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.” In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, “ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.” The fee proposal was contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act.”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the R&O. “We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated.”

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.”

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

“[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public,” the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act” requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. “Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules,” the FCC noted. “As we have noted previously, “[w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.”

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

“While the Ray Baum’s Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act,” the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, “once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated.”

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf>

FCC Requires E-Mail Addresses on Applications



From the ARRL

ARLB002 FCC to Require Email Address on Applications Starting on June 29, 2021

Effective on June 29, 2021, amateur radio licensees and candidates must provide the FCC with an email address on all applications. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as "defective."

On September 16, the FCC adopted a Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 19-212 on "Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the Wireless Radio Services." The R&O was published on December 29 in the Federal Register. The FCC has already begun strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. Once an email address is provided, the FCC will email a link to an official electronic copy of the license grant. An official copy will also be available at any time by accessing the licensee's password-protected Universal Licensing System (ULS) account.

The R&O is available online in PDF format at,
<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-electronic-licensing-report-and-order>

Licensees can log into the ULS License Manager System with their FRN and password at any time and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address. For questions or password issues, call the CORES/FRN Help Line, (877) 480-3201 (Monday - Friday, 1300 - 2300 UTC) or reset the password on the FCC website.

The only way to refrain from providing an email address on an application would be to submit a request to waive the new rule, providing justification for the request. (The FCC would not be obliged to grant such a request.)

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur radio station license "must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name." For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license must show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. "The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence," the amended rule will state. "Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address."



PCARS Patches & Stickers



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: **Paul, KE8EGF** or e-mail him at: phyland@neo.rr.com



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having their birthday in **February**:

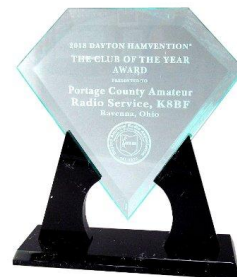
KC8QPC	Lester Cutlip
KC2WLT	Ghislaine Martin
KD8DFL	Ray Larrick
KC8LJY	Michael Bakes
AB8YK	James Storms
N4IT	Carl Capps
KC8YYS	James Albright
WV8P	David Germ



Portage County Amateur Radio Service



K8BF



2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year



Build a Simple & Cheap 2 meter Antenna



Mike N8WCP

Build a Simple & Cheap 2M 1/4λ Ground Plane Antenna

For a recent antenna performance test, I built this simple and cheap 1/4λ ground plane. The performance over the OEM portable antenna was a surprising 10.9dB.

The antenna is constructed from a chassis mount SO-239 connector which can be sourced locally at DX Engineering and many online sources. The radiator and radials were made from 12 GA solid copper wire from a scrap piece of Romex. I used the black and white wire for the radials and the ground wire for the radiator.

You can solder the radials to the connector or use machine screws and nuts to mount them. You will need to solder the radiator to the center pin of the connector. Bend the radials down at a 45° angle to raise the impedance of the antenna to 50 ohms.



The drawing shows the correct length for the radiator and radials for a center frequency of 146.000 MHz and include a loop at the ends to prevent injury.

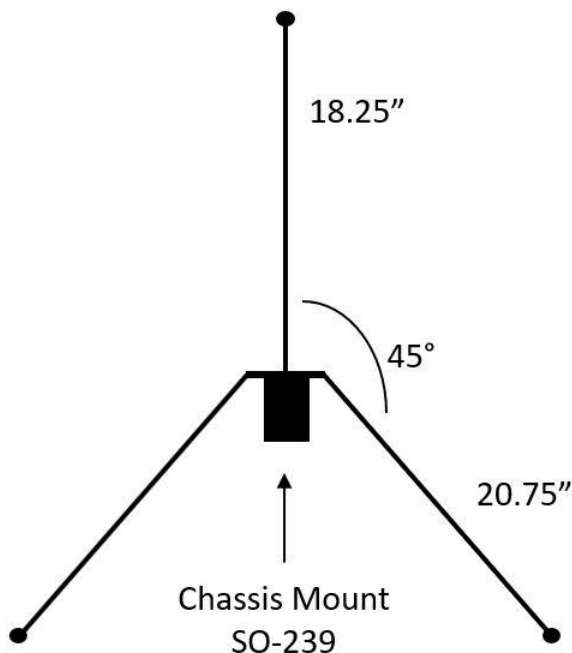
The VSWR at 146 was 1.1:1 and at the band edges 1.5:1.

For testing I attached the antenna to a

fiberglass driveway marker with a tie wrap and used 17' RG-8X terminated with PL-259 connectors. An SO-239 to SMA-Female adapter was used to connect the antenna to my HT. You may need a different adapter based on your radio's antenna connector. It's not the prettiest antenna but it will improve the performance of your portable.



2M 1/4λ GROUND PLANE



Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE - Bridge Com Systems BCH-270 2M/70CM HT, BGM-270-Cable, & BGM-BCH-270 Spare Battery and Belt Clip new, never used. \$100.00. **MFJ-9340K 40M Cub QRP Kit** new, never used. \$100.00. **TIDRADIO UV-5R** Dual Band 2M/70CM HT new, never used. \$50.00. **DX Engineering DXE-SWP8** Memory Keypad for Kenwood, and ICOM new, never used. \$50.00. **Reconditioned Heath Kit SB-200 Amplifier** \$500.00 with new tubes.
Contact: Bob, N8QE at rhajdak@aol.com [05/02/21]

WANTED - Kenwood AT-130, Tuner.

Contact: Richard, KA8OAT at 330-506-7068 [03/02/21]

FOR SALE - ICOM 703, speaker and power cord, 250 Hz. filter. 300.00 **Heathkit SWR meter, HM 2140** 45.00
CNW419 500w antenna tuner, 55.00 **Heathkit RF oscillator , G-5280.** 10.00 **Olson SWR & field strength meter.**
10.00 **Heathkit code oscillator, HD1416A.** 12.00

Contact: Dave, WV8P by phone at: 440-799-3202 [02/02/21]

FOR SALE - Yaesu FT-dx1200 Transceiver-TX 160 to 6M, RX 30 kHz to 56 MHz, Spectrum Scope, Roofing Filters 3/6/15 kHz, 4.3" color TFT display, Autotuner., Bought in 2017, used as backup rig. Low air time, Like New.Has original boxes, power cord, manual, mic, etc - \$800.00 **FT-7800R Dual Band Mobile**, TX 50W on 2M, 40W on 70CM, Receive from 108 to 520 MHz (cell blocked), 1055 Memory channels, Used as base radio, never mobile. Includes RT Systems programming software and cable. All original boxes, power cord, mic, etc. Like new, \$250 **Comet DS-150S Discone Base Wideband scanner/receive/TX antenna.** Receive 25-1300 MHz, TX 6M/2M/440/900/1200 MHz. Gain-Unity/2/4dB, UHF connector. All Stainless, excellent condition \$60.00

Contact: John, W8JJW by phone at: 330-842-3619 [04/02/21]

For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder: This is a PCARS *members only benefit*. Please don't ask to list items for a friend, relative or SK estate unless they are/were a member of PCARS. Requests come in from all over the USA (and beyond) to list items for sale or wanted items and we just cannot dedicate that much space to non-members. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier. The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [05/02/21] indicates the ad will run until May 2, 2021.

PCARS IO Group

Members are reminded that PCARS has a IO Group site dedicated to PCARS. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list for important PCARS information.

Check out the PCARS IO Group at:
<https://groups.io/g/PCARS>

Two things every member should do.

1. Check the PCARS web site every day, maybe a couple of times a day, to see new info that's posted.
2. Join the PCARS IO Group. That's a great place to post message when you are looking for information or have a question about something. Try it - you just may like it!!



Groups Find or Create a Group <https://groups.io/g/PCARS> Help Log In

Home Messages Hashtags

PCARS K8BF
The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!

PCARS@groups.io
Group Description
This is the discussion group of The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. This site is for the members, by the members of PCARS.

Group Information
59 Members
1 Topic, Last Post: Feb 21
Started on Feb 21
Feed

Join This Group or Log In if You Are Already A Member

Group Settings
All subscribers can post to the group.
Posts to this group require approval from the moderators.
Posts from new users require approval from the moderators.
Messages are set to reply to group.
Subscriptions to this group do not require approval from the moderators.
Archives are visible to anyone.
Wiki is visible to subscribers only.
Members can edit their posts.
Members can set their subscriptions to no email.



Have More Fun in State QSO Parties

Dan, KB6NU



Have more fun in state QSO parties with the State QSO Party Challenge

I have always been a fan of QSO parties. There are several reasons for this:

1. They are a lot more laid back than most contests. Operators will often take an extra ten seconds or so to wish you good luck or joke with you a bit, especially on phone.
2. You can be a “big fish in a small pond.” Since there are fewer contestants in a state QSO party than say in the CQ World Wide DX contest, you have a better chance of being up towards the top than down towards the bottom.
3. You get to learn a lot of cool county names such as Snohomish (WA) and Rio Arriba (NM).

In 2020, operating state QSO parties got even more fun with the advent of the [State QSO Party Challenge](#). According to the website, *The annual State QSO Party Challenge recognizes all radio amateurs’ participation in the U.S. State and Canadian Province QSO parties. It is open to any radio amateur who participates in any of the approved State QSO Parties (SQPs). Participants must simply submit their scores to [3830Scores.com](#) to be included in the Challenge.*



There are 45 QSO parties included in the Challenge:

7th Call Area QSO Party
Alabama QSO Party
Arizona QSO Party
Arkansas QSO Party
British Columbia QSO Party
California QSO Party
Colorado QSO Party
Delaware QSO Party
Florida QSO Party
Georgia QSO Party
Hawaii QSO Party
Idaho QSO Party
Illinois QSO Party
Indiana QSO Party
Iowa QSO Party
Kansas QSO Party

Kentucky QSO Party
Louisiana QSO Party
Maryland/DC QSO Party
Michigan QSO Party
Minnesota QSO Party
Mississippi QSO Party
Missouri QSO Party
Nebraska QSO Party
Nevada QSO Party
New England QSO Party
New Hampshire QSO Party
New Jersey QSO Party
New Mexico QSO Party
New York QSO Party
North Carolina QSO Party
North Dakota QSO Party

Ohio QSO Party
Oklahoma QSO Party
Ontario QSO Party
Pennsylvania QSO Party
South Carolina QSO Party
South Dakota QSO Party
Tennessee QSO Party
Texas QSO Party
Vermont QSO Party
Virginia QSO Party
Washington State Salmon Run
West Virginia QSO Party
Wisconsin QSO Party

Participants are recognized for reaching five levels of achievement—Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond—and this year, you must participate in at least 50% of the SQP Challenge approved contests and submit a log with at least two valid contacts to the contest manager in addition to the 3830scores.com scores submission. [Visit their website](#) for the complete rules. There’s also a video explaining the Challenge.

According to [ContestCalendar.Com](#), it looks like the first state QSO party of 2021 is the [Minnesota QSO Party](#) on February 6, 2021. The [Vermont QSO Party](#) follows right behind on February 7, 2021. February, March, and April are big months for state QSO parties. I count 14 total during these three months. This year, I’m going to make a more concerted effort to participate in these contests. So, if you’re going to be operating the state QSO party in your state, be listening for me.

When he's not teaching ham radio classes, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides](#)), and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Heathkit Special Event Station - Feb 7th

Dave, KD2FSI



I am very pleased to announce that on February 7, 2021 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm local time, that I'll be operating a special event station using a variety of vintage Heathkits to commemorating the life and legacy of Howard E. Anthony; the person responsible for starting the Heathkit brand. There is some additional information in QST and on the ARRL website under special event stations. I will also post the actual operating frequencies and modes in real time the day off. I hope all amateur radio operators with any type of equipment (new or old) will join me as we commemorate Mr. Anthony two days before what would be his 108th birthday.

Background:

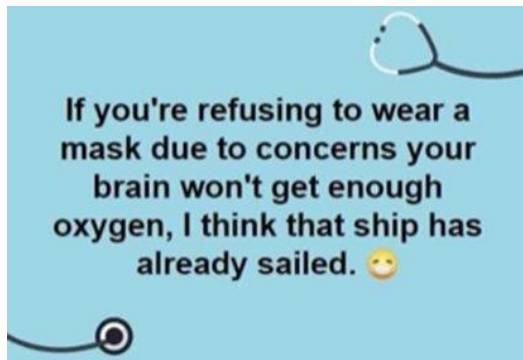
The Heath Company was founded in 1911 by Edward Bayard Heath as an aircraft company and sold a kit airplane. Sadly, Heath would die in 1931 during a test flight. The company would change hands, but, fell into bankruptcy. It was in 1935, that Howard E. Anthony purchased what was left with the intentions of selling accessories for small aircraft. However, after WWII he bought a large stock of surplus wartime electronic parts and in 1947 introduced a kit built oscilloscope under the brand name Heathkit. The OL-1 oscilloscope was a huge success and Heathkit would grow to be the premier supplier of electronics in kit form. Tragically, fate would repeat itself and Anthony would also die in an airplane crash in 1954. But, Mr. Anthony's legacy continues today with the millions who learned electronics from his kits and the Heathkit amateur radio stations that are still on the air.

KD2FSI
SPECIAL EVENT STATION
COMMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
HOWARD E. ANTHONY
FEB. 9, 1912 - JUL. 23, 1954
THE FATHER OF ELECTRONIC HEATHKITS

David R. Hackett
3 High Ridge Road
Randolph, NJ 07869
Morris County, NJ, USA - FN20ru

Confirming QSO with	YYYY-MM-DD	UTC	MHz	RST	Mode
	2021-02-07				

QSL to KD2FSI to his address in QRZ.COM



SuitSat Returns in Short Horror Film

From the ARRL

SuitSat loses its innocence in a new **video short** sci-fi thriller *Decommissioned*. “Inspired by true events,” the video short resurrects the 2006 spacesuit/satellite that transmitted messages on 2 meters as it circled Earth. The original SuitSat-1 project, conceived by an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team, repurposed a decommissioned Russian Orlan spacesuit to function as a free-floating amateur radio transmit-only satellite. (Link to movie: <https://vimeo.com/502018179>)



“ARISS designed and built an antenna and radio gear that got approved for installation into the suit, and cosmonaut Valeri Tokarev and Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, put SuitSat-1 into orbit at the start of a spacewalk,” ARISS-US Delegate for ARRL Rosalie White, K1STO, recounted. SuitSat-1 transmitted a voice message, “This is SuitSat-1 RSORS!” in several languages, plus telemetry and a slow-scan TV image on an 8-minute cycle as it orbited Earth.



In the 6-minute film, a SuitSat returns in the future to haunt International Space Station commander “Diaz,” played by Joey Vieira. Diaz is seen taking photos from inside an observation dome on the ISS when he spies some distant space debris and radios Houston to express concern.

“If there was any cause for alarm, you know we’d see it too,” Houston assures.

As the object closes in, an increasingly anxious Diaz recognizes the “debris” as SuitSat. “This is SuitSat,” comes a voice on the ham radio.

“Houston, you’re not gonna believe this. We’re picking up transmissions on the ham radio that sound identical to the SuitSat experiment,” he tells a skeptical mission control. “It’s SuitSat! I’m seeing SuitSat!”

“SuitSat re-entered the atmosphere and burned up years ago,” mission control responds. “It’s impossible.”

Decommissioned was produced by Perception Pictures and directed by Australian filmmaker Josh Tanner. He **told** Gizmodo that he produced the video “using the *Unreal Engine* technology that *The Mandalorian* used, albeit old-school rear projection, as opposed to the fancy LED wall tech they used.”



SuitSat-1 — called *Radioskaf* or Radio Sputnik in Russian — was so successful that another unneeded Orlan spacesuit was subsequently refitted as SuitSat-2.



As an interesting sidebar with respect to the real SuitSat, White explained, “After the ARISS engineers calculated SuitSat-1’s orbit and spin characteristics, they knew the legs and arms would have to be filled with something, so they asked the crew to stuff dirty laundry inside.”

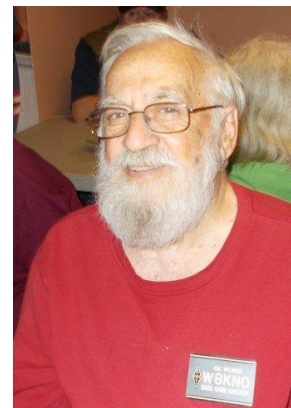
White said *Decommissioned* was a hit at a recent ARISS meeting. The original SuitSats were deorbited to burn up in Earth’s atmosphere after their useful lives ended.

ARRL is a partner in the ARISS program, which has kept amateur radio on the air from the International Space Station for 20 years. A hallmark of the ARISS program is the scheduled ham radio contacts made by astronaut crew members with schools and student groups around the world.



Paper Chase - Pluto Anniversary Countdown

Joe, W8KNO



The Northern Arizona DX Association is conducting a 10-year special event countdown to the 100th anniversary of the discovery of Pluto by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona. This will be an annual 9 day event held each February through the 2030 anniversary with the inaugural event February 13-21, 2021 (UTC). Subsequently, the event will start on the last Saturday before February 18th of each year.

Club members will be operating from Lowell Observatory and their home QTH using the special event callsign W7P. Each year of the countdown will feature a new QSL card with subjects centered around either Clyde Tombaugh, his discovery, the moons of Pluto, some of his early telescopes, lenses used, etc, with lots of great information. A beautiful 8"x10" color certificate suitable for framing, with endorsement stickers for each year worked during the event, is also available.

Each year Doug Tombaugh (N3PDT), Clyde Tombaugh's nephew, will be operating during the event as W7P/0 and a contact with him counts as an additional endorsement on the certificate. Each year a contact with Doug or his small team can be used as an annual contact but also can be used as a wild card to fill in any missing annual endorsement that may be needed. This will allow a clean-sweep in the 10-year event even with a missed year!

Club members will be operating on as many bands and modes as time and conditions permit. Watch for W7P and W7P/0 every February, join in the fun, and learn a lot about Pluto.

The schedule is planned to be:

DATE	Countdown
13-21 February, 2021	91st Anniversary
12-20 February, 2022	92nd Anniversary
11-19 February, 2023	93rd Anniversary
10-18 February, 2024	94th Anniversary
15-23 February, 2025	95th Anniversary
14-22 February, 2026	96th Anniversary
13-21 February, 2027	97th Anniversary
12-20 February, 2028	98th Anniversary
10-18 February, 2029	99th Anniversary
16-24 February, 2030	100th Anniversary

An 8"x10" color glossy Ten-Year W7P Pluto Certificate, suitable for framing, is available. A QSL card for contacts with W7P/0 with a 'Wild Card' sticker for the event certificate is available. Also available each year will be a different interesting W7P QSL card and an annual endorsement sticker for the event certificate. Send your QSL, S.A.S.E., and \$1.00 for our annual QSL & endorsement sticker and for glossy, frameable, endorsable certificate add \$5.00.

Send QSL & Certificate Requests To:

Pluto Anniversary Countdown Special Event - W7P or W7P/0 (please specify)
c/o NADXA-NF7E
6315 Townsend Winona Rd
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-1493

For more information, contact our Pluto Anniversary Countdown event coordinator at w7p@nadxa.com

You can do it, I did on their 85th anniversary, Joe, W8KNO.

Clyde W. Tombaugh, a farm boy from Kansas, discovered Pluto in 1930. Using Lowell Observatory's 16-inch telescope, he discovered a new planet in the sky several days apart. He then used the Zoni-Brown telescope at Lowell Observatory to photograph (or astrophotograph) the new planet against the more distant "fixed" stars. On February 18, 1930, he found the distant planet (originally referred to as Planet X) on the plates taken on February 18, 1930. In 2006, NASA launched the New Horizons spacecraft on a flyby mission to Pluto. On July 14, 2015, the spacecraft, traveling 4.67 billion miles, it arrived at Pluto in 2015. Lowell Observatory, the City of Flagstaff and the Northern Arizona DX Association are celebrating this great accomplishment with the W7P Pluto Anniversary Countdown Special Event. It will begin here in Flagstaff, back in 1930.

Improving Transmit Performance



Mike, N8WCP

For new Technician class hams a 2 meter portable is usually their first radio due to the low cost and limitations of their license. Unfortunately, some learn due to their location accessing a repeater can be challenging. Regardless if you purchased a name brand or not so name brand radio, all portables suffer from two major issues; low power and an inefficient antenna system. This inefficiency is the result of shortening a normally 19" long antenna by winding it into a coil to achieve an antenna about $\frac{1}{3}$ its normal size, and the lack of counterpoise or ground plane. Coupled with use inside a car or building which attenuates the signal further, accessing a repeater can be difficult.

Short of purchasing a mobile or base unit, you can increase the transmitting performance of a portable by improving the antenna system. For portable use, longer flexible antennas are available, for use in a car, a mag mount or permanently installed antenna is ideal, and at home we can install an outdoor antenna.

I recently tested four antennas to quantify their transmitting performance. The process involved connecting a communications service monitor to my base antenna and setting up a test point 190' from the antenna. Three transmissions per antenna were performed and the signal strength measured by the service monitor was averaged. The antennas tested were the OEM antenna, Jetstream JTH4 15" portable antenna, MFJ-1402B mag mount w/17' of RG-58, and a homebrew $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$ ground plane with 17' of RG8X. The table below shows the results.

ANTENNA	RX SIGNAL LEVEL (dBm)	IMPROVEMENT OVER OEM ANTENNA (dB)	INCREASE IN EFFECTIVE RADIATED POWER (ERP)
OEM	-28.5	-	-
JETSTREAM JTH4	-25.3	3.2	2.09X
MFJ-1402B MAG*	-24.7	3.8	2.40X
HOME BREW $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$	-17.6	10.9	12.30X

* For the mag mount test I used a baking sheet for the ground plan. It wasn't large enough to provide an adequate ground plane so this attributed to the low increase in gain. With a proper ground plan the transmit performance would be closer to the homebrew $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$ ground plane. Transmit performance of the mag mount and $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$ ground plane included feedline loss.

While this wasn't a laboratory grade test, it does show we can increase the transmit performance of our portables by improving the antenna system. The increased transmit performance of the antenna system also improves our ability to hear the repeater. If you have any questions or suggestions on this subject, post them on the club's Group.io page at: <https://groups.io/g/pcars> so all members can view and respond.



QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo - March 13-14



The [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) will return March 13 – 14 for a full 48 hours, *QSO Today* host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. [ARRL](#) is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful.

The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities. Guth pointed out that attendees can log in from anywhere. While he anticipates a good turnout by those who typically attend such ham radio events, the virtual Expo also offers an opportunity for those concerned about pandemic travel restrictions as well as for those who don't typically attend in-person events.

“At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences, and 40% don't attend state or local events,” Guth said, noting that distance and the high cost of travel and lodging were the most oft-cited reasons.

Registration is required, and to help cover the costs of staging this event, there will be a charge to attend. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 at the “door”) and include entry for the live, 2-day show as well to the 30-day on-demand period.

At the Expo, visitors can:

- Learn from a line-up of such well-known ham radio personalities as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on “My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted;” Michael Foerster, W0IH, on “Using the Arduino in Your Shack,” and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on “3D Printer Basics.”
- Take part in live virtual kit-building workshops. (Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to attendees in time for the Expo.)
- Walk through the virtual exhibit hall to visit an array of amateur radio vendors and see live demonstrations of the latest equipment. This show will leverage newer video technology to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.

Those planning to attend the Expo may take advantage of new speaker calendar technology to create their own calendar of presentations in their time zones, which can be saved to a Google or Outlook calendar. Registrants may return over the 30 days following the live event to catch speakers and presentations missed during the live period, as well as to explore and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

“The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn,” ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said.

“Expect to bump into friends and well-known experts and personalities from throughout our worldwide ham radio community!” He explained that attendees visiting an exhibit or virtual lounge will be able to interact with other attendees in those settings.



PCARS
www.portcars.org





Orlando HamCation has announced it will sponsor the **HamCation QSO Party** over the February 13 – 14 weekend (UTC), “to create a fun way for amateurs to celebrate the Orlando HamCation experience over the air.” The HamCation QSO Party will be a 12-hour event on HamCation weekend. HamCation 2021 was to host the ARRL National Convention, which now will take place in 2022.

“The QSO party will replicate the camaraderie and social experience of attending HamCation and provide a way to have fun on the radio, since HamCation 2021 will not be held due to COVID-19,” the HamCation QSO Party Committee said. The HamCation QSO Party will run from 1500 UTC on February 13 until 0300 UTC on February 14. It will be a CW and SSB operating event on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Any station may work any other station.

Categories will be High Power (more than 100 W output), Low Power (100 W output or less, but greater than 5 W), and QRP (5 W output or less). All participants will be single operators; there is no multi-operator category. The exchange will be your name and state/province/country, and the outside temperature at your location. “We are including temperature at your QTH as a way of highlighting Orlando’s mild February weather,” the committee said.

Nine HamCation special event stations with 1 × 1 call signs will be on the air with combined suffixes spelling out HamCation (e.g., K4H, W4A, K4M, etc). Each contact will count as one point, and stations may be worked once on each band and mode. Entrants will report their scores on www.3830Scores.com ; no logs are required. Final results will be based on the information submitted to the website.

Station guest operators must use their own call signs and submit their scores individually. Plaques and certificates will be awarded.

Virtual HamCation Set

The [Orlando HamCation](#) Special Edition online event over the February 13 - 14 weekend will take the place of what would have been the HamCation 2021 in-person show.

The online event will include youth, technology, contesting, and vendor [webinar tracks](#). ARRL will also present two webinars on Saturday, February 13.

- ARRL Member Forum at 1 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES[®]) presentation at 3 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Director of Emergency Management Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW. The ARES presentation will include panelists from ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators in Florida.

Live, online prize drawings also are scheduled during the HamCation Special Edition online event.

PCARS Thursday 2 Meter Nets

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. We also use EchoLink node K8BF**

Don't forget - 4th Thursday is NET NIGHT at the club site - sometimes yes, sometimes no - watch for a QST in your email box for details

The net control dates will be posted on the Club website. An email will be sent out after the posting. As usual if there are issues please contact me via the roadrunner email address. Thanks to all of you for helping out.

February	
4	WB8LCD
11	KE8BWA
18	N8QE
25	K8CAV

March	
4	WB8LCD
11	KD8WCK
18	N8QE
25	KA8TOA

April	
1	
8	
15	
22	
29	

The PCARS net is **BIG Fun** - tell your friends to check in via RF or EchoLink!

If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a try, please contact me at: grgory999@roadrunner.com everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn - and have fun being the PCARS Thursday Night Net Control !

Neil Rapp, WB9VPG - 2021 Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award Recipient



Orlando **HamCation**[®] has announced that ARRL Life Member Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, of Bloomington, Indiana, is the 2021 recipient of the Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award. The award recognizes an outstanding individual contribution in educating and advancing youth in amateur radio. It was first awarded in 2018 to its namesake, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in honor of her work as an educator teaching students about ham radio. Rapp was ARRL 2004 Professional Educator of the Year. He's an Assistant Central Division Director and an ARRL VEC certified examiner.

An educational professional for more than 28 years, Rapp currently teaches chemistry at Bloomington High School South. He's also the school's amateur radio club sponsor and has introduced 3,600 students and parents to amateur radio through his involvement in the organization. Among his educational achievements, he was able to send an experiment involving protein crystallization to the International Space Station (ISS). He also mentored 2013 *Amateur Radio Newsline* Young Ham of the Year and ARRL William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship recipient Padraig Lysandrou, KC9UUS.

Rapp got his license when he was 5 years old, and, at the time, was touted as the world's youngest ham. Now 50, he's the host and founder of the amateur radio podcast *Ham Talk Live!* He's also a member of AMSAT and was the youngest person to both join and be eligible for membership in the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). He contributes to the "Next-Gen Contesters" column for *NCJ*. Orlando HamCation has been sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club since 1946.

Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV
Digital SIG Coordinator



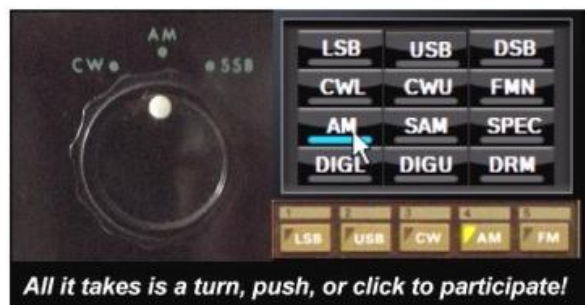
The PCARS Digital Special Interest Group will be meeting virtually on Tuesday February 2nd on the K8IV 146.895 repeater. This is an open forum meeting which means will talk about what ever digital topics you want. We can also do digital coms on the repeater or if you'd like, we can switch to HF and communicate digitally there. 40 meters seems to be a decent band in the evening for ground wave coms locally. As always if you are having any problems or issues with setup or anything else, we'll do our best to help work them out.

And that brings up my next point. Trying to troubleshoot software/program issues strictly by voice on a net can be difficult to do. The pandemic has made face to face meetings impractical so that's not an option right now, either. For the last year I've been attending Zoom meetings for PCARS and other organizations but until very recently, I'd never hosted one. The ability to share active screens on Zoom, for example a digital software program you're having issues with, is invaluable and saves a lot of time and aggravation. From this point on it's my intention to schedule a Zoom meeting at the start of each one of our Digital Special Interest Group Meetings. I will post the link via a PCARS QST prior to the meeting, and will open the Zoom meeting link for situations where Zoom would be more appropriate for the problem we're looking at. I have the 'free' version of Zoom which limits the time to forty minutes. There will be two Zoom links, one to cover the first 40 minutes and the second to cover any remaining time up to 40 additional minutes. My intention is not to use Zoom to take the place of our voice nets, but rather to supplement our ability to help with software/program issues.



AM Rally Set for February 6th through 8th

The 2021 running of the **AM Rally** will take place from 0000 UTC on Saturday, February 6 to 0700 UTC on Monday, February 8. The annual AM Rally operating event encourages all operators to explore amateur radio's original voice mode by showcasing the various types of amplitude modulation equipment in use today, ranging from early vacuum-tube radios to the latest SDR-based transceivers.



"Participation in the AM Rally has continued to grow over the past 5 years, as more operators explore the mode," said Clark Burgard, N1BCG. "The AM Rally is a great way to beat the winter and COVID-19 blues."

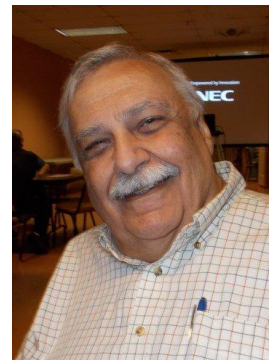
The AM Rally is open to all radio amateurs capable of operating on AM using any type of radio equipment from vintage to modern, vacuum tube to solid state. The AM Rally will use the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, 10-, and 6-meter bands.

"Those who have never tried AM mode will find plenty of help, if needed," Burgard assured. An AM Rally 2021 **promotional video** is available. **Contact** Burgard for more information.

Editors Note: Check out the web site at: www.AMRALLY.COM There is a TON of good info on this activity and operating on AM. Be sure to watch the video - it is VERY well done!

Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
Contest & DX SIG Coordinator



This month's briefing finds a few State QSO Parties and some RTTY contests for those of you who enjoy this digital mode. In fact, there is something for just about everyone. Please make sure that in every case, you have the most up to date logging software loaded on your computer. (And if you are using paper, keep you pencils sharp.)

Vermont QSO Party

The 2021 Vermont QSO Party will start at 0000 UTC on February 6, 2021 and end 2400 UTC on February 7, 2021. This corresponds to 7:00 PM EST on Friday, February 5 and an end time of 7:00 PM EST on Sunday, February 7, 2021. This is a 48 hour period and stations may choose to operate any number of hours within this period. There are two categories – Single Op and Multi-Op. Power categories are QRP (5w or less); Low Power (up to 150w); High Power (Over 150w). Please carefully read the Rules. One thing I will mention, although all modes are allowed, let's say you work a station on FT8. You cannot count the same station if you work him on RTTY. Once you work it on digital, you are not permitted to use that same station on any other digital mode as a multiplier. It still counts as a contact. They seem to have had some confusion about this in previous years.

Minnesota QSO Party

Contest runs on the first Saturday of February from 1400 through 2359 UTC (9 AM through 6:59 PM EST. HF classes: 160m - 10m. Phone (SSB, AM all count as Phone) CW (CW, RTTY, PSK, JT6M, Olivia, Feld-Hell, JT65 all count as CW) – **NO FT4/FT8 contacts allowed**. Operating categories are too numerous to mention so read the rules.

North Carolina QSO Party

The contest goes from 1500 UTC February 28, 2021 to 0100 UTC March 1, 2021. (10 am to 8 pm EST on February 28, 2021). The bands are 80/75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters. No 160 or WARC. The power categories are QRP, Low and High with modes CW, SSB, Digital and Mixed. FT4/8 is not allowed.

South Carolina QSO Party

This contest begins at 1500Z on February 29th and ends at 0159Z on March 1st (11 hours total) and the bands are 160-6m. Operating modes are Pho, CW, Digital and mixed. This is called the Carolina Weekend since they are now coordinating the North and South Carolina Parties.

British Columbia QSO Party

This is one of the split contests that allow older ops to get some sleep. The contest comprises two segments. The first segment starts Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021 at 1600z, and runs for 12 hours until 0359z Sunday Feb. 7, 2021. The second segment starts Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 at 1600z, and runs for eight hours until 2359z Sunday Feb. 7, 2021. Participants may operate during both segments or just one segment but not during the gap between the two segments. Participants may operate all 20 hours of the contest. Contest bands are 160 to 10m, no WARC bands and only CW and Pho are allowed.

North American QSO Party, RTTY

This contest takes place from 1800 UTC February 27 to 0600 UTC February 28, 2021 (starts on last Saturday in February). Max power is 100w and the bands of operation are 160-10m. This is a National Contest Journal contest so please read the rules since they are too lengthy to place here.

ARRL International DX Contest, CW

This contest is for you CW lovers. It takes place the third full weekend in February (February 20-21, 2021) and begins 0000UTC on Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. The rules are lengthy so go to the ARRL Contest website to read them.

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

This contest takes place February 13-14, 2021, and runs from 0000 UTC Saturday until 2359 UTC Sunday. PERIOD OF OPERATION: 48 hours. Single Operator stations may operate 30 of the 48 hours – off times must be a minimum of 60 minutes during which no QSO is logged. Multi-operator stations may operate the full 48 hours. The bands are 80-10m. No WARC obviously. This is one of the big contests so please go to the site to get the full rules.

CQ 160-Meter Contest – SSB

This contest takes place from 2200 UTC February 26 to 2200 UTC February 28. There are specific operating instructions for the 160 meter contest so I urge you, if you want to participate in this contest, to go to the contest site and read the rules carefully.

Well that’s it for February. Of course there are a LOT more contests this month but I ‘ve picked out a few that I figured might interest our members. Get on and have some fun and please stay safe so that when we can gather again at the club site, we can have some on air fun.

See you next month. 73

PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS											
2021											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2 1800Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	3 2400Z NA Sprint CW	7 0400Z ARRL DX SSB	3 2400Z SP Polish DX	1 1500Z 7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	5 1200Z SEANET Contest	3 1400Z Marconi Memorial HF	4 1400Z NAQP CW	8 0600Z CWops CW Open	2 2359Z California QSO Party	6 2159Z ARRL SS CW	3 2100Z ARRL 160
9 1800Z NAQP CW	10 0600Z WPX RTTY	14 2400Z NA Sprint RTTY	10 0700Z JIDX CW	11 1300Z CQ-M DX	8 1200Z ARRL June VHF	10 1200Z IARU HF	11 1200Z WAE CW	14 0000Z WAE SSB	15 2359Z Oceania CW	11 0000Z WAE RTTY	12 2359Z ARRL 10
16 1800Z NAQP SSB	17 0600Z ARRL DX CW	20 2400Z Russian DX	21 1200Z CQMM DX	17 0900Z King of Spain	18 2359Z All Asian CW	15 1200Z CQ VHF	16 1200Z NAQP SSB	17 0600Z WA/NJ/NH QSO Parties	18 1600Z Worked All Germany	19 varies ARRL SS SSB	20 1500Z RAC Winter
16 1900Z ARRL January VHF	18 0359Z CQ 160 SSB	26 2200Z WPX SSB	27 0000Z Florida QSO Party	28 2400Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	24 1900Z ARRL Field Day	25 2100Z RSGB IOTA	26 1800Z WW Digi	27 1200Z CQWW RTTY	28 1200Z CQWW CW	29 0000Z HAPPY HOLIDAYS	30 2400Z HAPPY HOLIDAYS
29 2200Z CQ 160 CW	31 2159Z			29 0000Z WPX CW	30 2400Z			30 0000Z CQWW SSB	31 2400Z		



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



Greetings DXers:

January is now behind us and Spring is just a couple of months away. It's not too early to start planning your outside activities in regards to new antennas or repairs to your present antenna system. Maybe you want to add 80 meters or even 160 to your band options.

With Cycle 25 on the rise (yes I might be a little early, but I really am looking forward to it) those who are using FT4 and FT8 right now, might find that at some point, it may be more enjoyable to carry on a nice ragchew with someone on the other side of the globe and not limit yourself to a few seconds of your computer making the contact for you. Just saying. Don't get me wrong, because I know that there is a valid reason for the use of those digital modes. But when the bands are open, let's use them to their full extent.

OK...let's see what's on tap for February.

As always thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, the AB5K's AR Cluster Networks, NJ1Q & W1AW, NG3K & ADXO, W3OA, W3UR & The Daily DX, W5JON, WW6RG, K8CX, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, W9ILY, CT1FJZ, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, RW6HS, Sixitalia Weekly, and VA3RJ & ICPO for the following DX information.

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

PLEASE NOTE: The fact that donation requests, from various DXpeditions, are at times included in this column does not mean that PCARS or this HAM approves or disapproves of donating to the DXpeditions listed. I am only providing information for you to make up your own minds as to whether or not to donate.

2021 QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO RETURNING. The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will be returning between March 13-14th, for a full 48 hours. The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities. For more details and how to register, see the ARRL web site.

VQ9, CHAGOS ISLAND (Update to OPDX.1498). Randy, WW6RG, informs OPDX that his Diego Garcia operation has been canceled. He states, "They have just changed their Covid-19 restrictions and we cannot leave our Base Housing, which will make setting up my equipment impossible. Hope- fully will be back out to another International location by mid March."

February...

1ST EUDX CONTEST 2021. Francesco, IK6QON, announced that that the European DX Contest Club has the honor to present the first European Union DX Contest ("EUDX CONTEST"). The objective is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs around the world and radio amateurs in European Union countries and regions. The EUDX Contest is from 1200 UTC on February 6th, until 1200 UTC on February 7th, 2021.

3A, MONACO. Operators Mireille/F4FRL and Patrice/F5RBB will be active as 3A/homecall from Monaco between February 24th and March 2nd. Activity will be on 40-20 meters using SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via eQSL or LoTW.

3G, CHILE (LH OPs). A joint bi-national expedition by Radio Club Talcahuano (CE5TH) and Expeditionary Grupo Eco Radio plan to activate six lighthouses on the air on the South American Lighthouse Weekend in February 2021. The lighthouses to be activate are: 3G5C -- Cocholgue, 3G5P -- Puchoco, 3G5H -- Punta Hualpen, 3G5S -- Lutrin, 3G5I -- Quiriquina Island, 3G5T -- Punta Tumbes, Look for more details of this "February in the lighthouses of Chile" expedition to be forthcoming. QSLs will be "ONLY DIGITAL QSL CONFIRMATION."

5V, TOGO. Daniel, HB9EHD, active as 5VDE from Togo between Feb 11-20th. He plans to be on the QO-100 SSB satellite below

the middle beacon and on FT8 on 40/20 meters. Look for QSOs to be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. QSL via HB9EHD direct.

7S60, SWEDEN (Special Event). Members of the Kristianstads Radioamatörer (KRA)[SK7BQ], in the southernmost Swedish Province of Scania, will be activating the special event callsign 7S60BQ during the entire 2021 year celebrating the 60th anniversary of the club. As far as we know, this is the first time the prefix 7S60 is activated. Activity on 160m-70cm. QSL via LoTW, direct with 3 USDs or 3 Euros (no IRCs as they cannot redeem them), to their QSL Manager SM7BHM: Ewe Håkansson, Pilspetsvägen 4, SE-291 66 Kristianstad, Sweden. You can QSL via ClubLog's OQRS, also only direct, 3 USDs or 3 Euros. Do not worry if you see a mailing address to AA7G on PayPal. Gert, AA7G, handles PayPal payments in coordination with SM7BHM.

8J1, ANTARCTICA. Takumi, JG3PLH, active as 8J1RL from Showa Research Station, Queen Maud Land (AN-015), Feb 2021 and Jan 2022. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW and the Digital modes. QSL via JG2MLI or by the JARL Bureau.

9J, ZAMBIA. Brian, 9J2BO is usually active on 40 meters using CW from 0330 to 0500z. QSL via EA5GL.

AT2, INDIA (Special Event). To celebrate 100 years of amateur radio in India, look for special event callsign AT2YAR to be on through Mar 1st. Activity on various HF bands and modes. QSL via VU3ZHA. More expected special event callsigns are expected.

AAW 2021. The 18th Antarctic Activity Week will take place between Feb 20-28th. All Radio Amateurs (OMs & SWLs) around the world, Clubs and Organizations as well as other important groups and individual operators WW, to join and share with them, this initiative. Apply your special AAW's callsign, get a WAP reference and jump into the competition.

C3, ANDORRA. Joan, C31US is usually QRV on 40 meters using CW between 0700 and 0800z. QSL to home call.

CQ750, PORTUGAL (Special Event). Valdemar, CT7AQD, will activate the special event callsign CQ750RSI from Coimbra, Portugal, between now and December 31st. Activity is to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the birth of Queen Saint Isabel ("Santa Isabel"). See QRZ.com for more details. QSL via CT7AQD.

CT9, MADERIRA. Operators Georg/DD8ZX and Klaus/DJ9KM will once again be active as CT9/DD8ZX and CT9/DJ9KM from Madeira Island (AF-014) between February 27th and March 6th (depending on the Covid-19 situation). Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using mostly the Digital modes (FT8 and RTTY). QSL via their home callsigns, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW.

D2, ANGOLA (Update). Paulo, CT1FJZ, is now active D2FJZ from Province of Cuando-Cubango until September 2021. He informs OPDX that "he is there for professional reasons as responsible for Safety, Quality and Environment." Activity will be on 80-10 meters using SSB with a TS 480SAT into a DX Patrol EZ-wire antenna. He states to OPDX, "I hope to improve the antenna system with a new directional antenna soon." QSL via CT1FJZ direct. Look for more details to be posted on QRZ.com.

KH9, WAKE ISLAND. Tom, NL7RR, is expected to return to Wake Island and be active as NL7RR/KH9 starting in mid-February. He plans to stay for 90 days this trip. Last activity he was on 40/20 meters SSB. QSL via AL7J.

KL7, 2021 ALASKA RST QSO PARTY (Special Event). Members of the North Country DX Association (NCDXA club K7ICE) will be on the air during their 2021 Alaska "RST" QSO Party which started January 15th, and will end Feb 15th. Look for KL7RST, KL7RST/KL7, VY1RST/KL7, VE8RST/KL7 and VY0RST/KL7 to be on all bands and modes from several Alaska locations. Free certificates are available with your QSL. QSL Manager is K7ICE. See K7ICE bio on QRZ.com for more details.

OE100, AUSTRIA (Special Event). Members of the Burgenlaendischer Amateur Radio Club will activate the special event callsign OE100BL to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Burgenland [OE4] (Austria's easternmost Province) between now and December 31st. QSL via OE4JHW. Also, look for Tom, OE4EIE, who will activate the special callsigns OE100EIE and OE100VNA to celebrate the anniversary. QSL via LoTW, by the Bureau, eQSL and ClubLog. A special award is available. See QRZ.com for details.

P4, ARUBA. John, W2GD, will once again be active as P40W in February. Activity will be (when time permits) on the various HF bands, with some focus on the 30/17/12 meters and 160 meters mostly on CW (before and after the contest). His activity will also include an entry in the upcoming ARRL International DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) signing as P44W and as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via LoTW or N2MM. No bureau cards.

PC19, THE NETHERLANDS (Special Event). Hans, PA7HPH, will activate the special event station PC19HOPE from Vaassen until March 10th, 2021. Activity is to commemorate (not forget) the economic, social problems, and the many people who have died (lost of their loved ones or were left in solitude) as of the result of the pandemic. QSL via PA7HPH, by the Bureau or eQSL.

RI0, ANTARCTICA (AN-016, WFF RFF-168). Alexey, RX6A, active as RI0IANT from either Russian Antarctic Progress (WAP RUS-11) or Vostok (WAP RUS-13) Base Stations until May 30. Activity on 40-15 m using CW and FT8. QSL via his home callsign.

SQ0, POLAND (Special Event/Correction). Members of the SEDINA Contest Club will activate the special event station SQ0MORSE from Szczecin, Poland, between now and April 30th. Activity is to celebrate the 230th anniversary of the birth of Samuel F.B. Morse. Operations will be on various HF bands. Operators mentioned are Waldemar/SP1DPA, Wies/SP1EG, Krzysztof

/SP1MGM, Janek/SQ1PSA and Waldemar/SQ3PMX. QSL via SP1EG, direct or by the Bureau.

SV, GREECE. Nine multi operator special event stations, SX1A, SX2A, SX3A, SX4A, SX5A from Dodecanese, SX6A, SX7A, SX8A, and SX9A from Crete, are QRV in the countdown towards celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the Hellenic War of Independence in 1821. This effort actually goes on until March 24. QSL via operators' instructions.

TM18, FRANCE (Special Event). Look for special event station TM18AAW to be on the air between February 14-28th. Activity is to celebrate the 18th Antarctic Activity Week (AAW). Operator will be François, F8DVD, from his QTH of Mâcon in the east part of France, 60 km North of Lyon (JN26JH). The new reference number for the WAP program is 310. Activity will be on various HF bands between 40-40 meters. QSL via F8DVD, direct (SAE + 2 USDs) or via Bureau.

ZP, PARAGUAY. Manu, ZP9MCE, will be active from Hohenau-Itapúa during the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (80m) entry. QSL via LoTW or EA5ZD.

ZY7, BRAZIL. Operators Orlando/PT2OP, Ronaldo/PS8RV and Jim/PY7XC will be active as ZY7T from the Tamandaré Lighthouse (ARLHS BRA-102; DFB PE-02) between February 19-23rd. Activity will also be in the 13th American Light-house Weekend. QSL via PT2OP, direct, eQSL or LoTW.

March...

3W, VIETNAM. Brian, AA5H, active as 3W9OK from Da Nang (WW Loc. OK46), Vietnam, between March-April 2021. Activity will be on various HF bands. No other details were provided. QSL via his home callsign, direct, LoTW or ClubLog's OQRS.

JX, JAN MAYEN. Erik, LA2US is QRV as JX2US until the end of March, 2021. Activity is on 160 to 12 meters using CW and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL to home call.

ZC4, UK SOV. BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS. Garry, 2M1DHG, is now active as ZC4GR from the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) [WW Loc. KM65WC] of Cyprus for the next 2.5 years. Activity is limited as time permits. Operations are mainly on SSB and the Digital modes (new to FT8) using a FT-450 into a Buddipole (40-10m). He does state that he also uses SSTV, PSK31 and WSPR, and suggests to look for him between 1700-1900z a few nights during the week. QSL via EB7DX.

IOTA News...

AS-152. (Update) Members of the Arctic Legends Team (RT9K), plan to be active as RI0Q from **Bolshoj Begichev Island** sometime in March. To achieve their goal to operate from Bolshoj Begichev Island, the team will have to travel 3624 km (by snowmobil 1812 km*2). The latest info indicates: "A snowmobile expedition to Bolshoy Begichev Island will start on March 4, 2021, from the village of Tazovsky. This is the fifth expedition from the cycle "Legends of the Arctic".

Well there you have it. There is a lot of DX events scheduled and I'm going to be looking for Wake Is since I need it for DXCC. Some of you might say, "Good luck with that with no sun spots." But I have to tell you that without sunspots, I've worked Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa with good signal reports both ways. And Australia was long path. So it can be done **IF YOU HAVE YOUR RIGS ON**. So let's get on the air and not waste what we have and what we have all studied so hard to earn. Get on the air and work some DX!

73 for now.



PCARS K8BF
The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!





Vandalism to Towers in North Texas

The Montague County Amateur Radio Club reports that a 500-foot communication tower in Wichita Falls, Texas, collapsed in mid-December after its guy wires were cut. The tower hosted antennas for an amateur radio repeater as well as the National Weather Service and various commercial operations, including a secondary transmitter for KERA-TV in Dallas.

The club also reported that one set of guys on a second TV tower in the area were attacked, but that the vandals failed to bring down that tower. KERA reported that both the Texas Department of Public Safety and the FBI were investigating the attacks.



FCC Goes After Landlords of Pirate Broadcasters

In a new tactic in its ongoing battle against pirate broadcasters, the FCC has started citing owners and managers of properties on which suspected unlicensed transmitters are located. According to a report in *Radio World*, the authority to go after landowners was included in the recently passed PIRATE Act, which gave the FCC additional tools to chase down unlicensed broadcasters.

In announcing the issuance of "Notices of Illegal Pirate Radio Broadcasting" to owners of three properties in New York City, the FCC said parties that "knowingly facilitate illegal broadcasting on their property are liable for fines up to \$2 million."



73 to ARES Connect

CQ Emergency Communications Editor Stan Broadway, N8BHL, reports that the ARRL's new Director of Emergency Management, Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW, announced via email that the League's "ARES Connect" activity database was being discontinued as of June, 2021.

The use of the volunteer management database was adopted in 2018 by the League, but its introduction was ambivalent. Some states adopted the program, others panned it. The League would not commit to mandating its use, which led many states to ignore it.

In the email, Gilbert indicated that "recent discussions between ARRL and the ARES Connect software vendor have made it clear that the League's evolving needs for an EmComm / Public Service reporting package are not aligned with the vendor's future plans for the product."

ARRL sections that have been using Connect should plan to transition to the ARES Form 4 (a paper-based monthly report) until a replacement system is identified. There is no indication the League has any prospects currently underway for such a system.

FCC Issues Warning about Un-Licensed Use of Transmitters

Dale Lamm, NX8J
President - Canton ARC

IMPORTANT News!

I know you have all received notice from the ARRL regarding the “Purpose of Amateur Radio” and I want to give you some context so that you’ll all understand where this came from. All of this is in the wake of the events that occurred at the US Capital last Wednesday - January 6th.

Following is an excerpt from a CNN News Story: “New York (CNN Business)The US Government is warning that groups could rely on radio equipment as an alternative to social media to plan future criminal activities. In a stark warning Sunday, the Federal Communications Commission's enforcement bureau said people coordinating or conducting criminal activity over radio waves are breaking the law. The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities,” the FCC said in its warning Sunday. “Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution.” The FCC licenses certain signals for people to broadcast over radio waves. Those messages are generally protected by the US Constitution's First Amendment. But the FCC reminded radio licensees and operators that it is prohibited to transmit “communications intended to facilitate a criminal act.” People are also not allowed to encode their messages to obscure their meaning from law enforcement. The laws governing airwaves apply to amateurs broadcasting with personal ham radios, which can reach long distances. But they also apply to people using Citizens Band (CB) radios commonly used for communication between truckers -- or even walkie-talkies.”

Below is from the ARRL web site giving you the verbiage in the release from the FCC:

The FCC has released an Enforcement Advisory for licensees and operators across radio services.
[Complete text of FCC Enforcement Advisory follows.]

FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY DA 21-73

Released: January 17, 2021

WARNING: AMATEUR AND PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES LICENSEES AND OPERATORS MAY NOT USE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMMIT OR FACILITATE CRIMINAL ACTS

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts.

The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.

Specifically, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting “communications

intended to facilitate a criminal act” or “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.” 47 CFR § 97.113(a)(4).

Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios “in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law.” 47 CFR § 95.333(a).

Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution. 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510.

Media inquiries should be directed to 202-418-0500 or MediaRelations@fcc.gov. To file a complaint with the FCC, visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or call 1-888-CALL-FCC. To report a crime, contact your local law enforcement office or the FBI. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).”

Finally, the ARRL has issued the following statement:

01/17/2021

For over 100 years amateur radio and ARRL — the National Association for Amateur Radio® - have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio’s long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that “Amateur Radio saves lives.”

Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource “when all else fails.”

Amateur Radio is about development of communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.

From Dale Lamm, NX8J - “By reading between the lines of these two ARRL statements, it seems to me there is concern that amateur radio may be used in the days ahead to help coordinate actions that may be deemed illegal.

Some of you may follow amateur radio on social media. I do, and can say that the number of posts requesting basic information about amateur radio usage, antennas, frequencies, power, etc have increased recently. Some of the posts appear to come from people with no obvious interest in the art of radio. A typical post might appear as “I need to contact people 800 miles away. What type of handheld radio should I buy?”.

If illegal amateur radio usage comes to pass, I can assure you that amateur radio will receive unwelcome publicity in the media. I speculate that if illegal usage comes to pass, we will find ourselves in a changed regulatory environment.

My advice to area radio clubs which operate repeaters is to monitor those repeaters closely and be prepared to take action if illegal usage is detected. It might be wise to increase monitoring immediately, in order to detect radio users who may be trying to configure their equipment.

I think Dale is correct in his analysis that we need to be “self-policing” and on the lookout for any questionable activities on our bands. I also believe that we need to be pro-active in our public relations, and social-media presence so that our public perception is based on our long history of public service and responsible operations. If we don’t do this our public perception will be based on whatever news stories are circulated about us – most probably negative. I welcome your comments on these events.

73,

Tom Sly, WB8LCD
ARRL Ohio Section Manager

Hamvention® 2021 - Cancelled

2021 DAYTON HAMVENTION CANCELLED

By now you have probably heard the 2021 HAMVENTION® has been cancelled.

In case you have any questions about tickets... here is the official announcement:



Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021.

Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention.

Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors.

Those who had their tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces deferred last year will be deferred again. Those who purchased 2021 tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces will also be deferred. If you desire a refund instead please email tickets@hamvention.org and we will contact you.

Stay tuned for information about a QSO party for the 2021 Hamvention weekend. We are looking forward to the 2022 Hamvention!!!

Executive Committee, Dayton Hamvention 2021

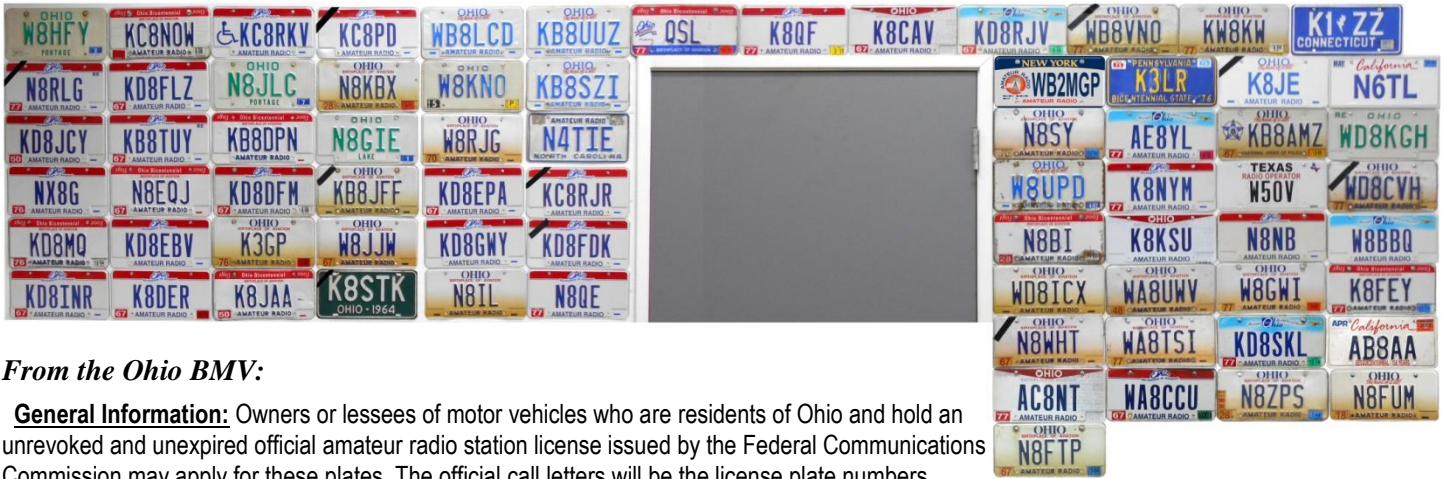
Tough decision but the right call. I think we are looking forward to a return to normal which may not happen until 2022. Everyone really misses the HAMVENTION® and the local ones as well.



PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted !!! PLEASE !!

Dig out that 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 72 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 IO 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 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.



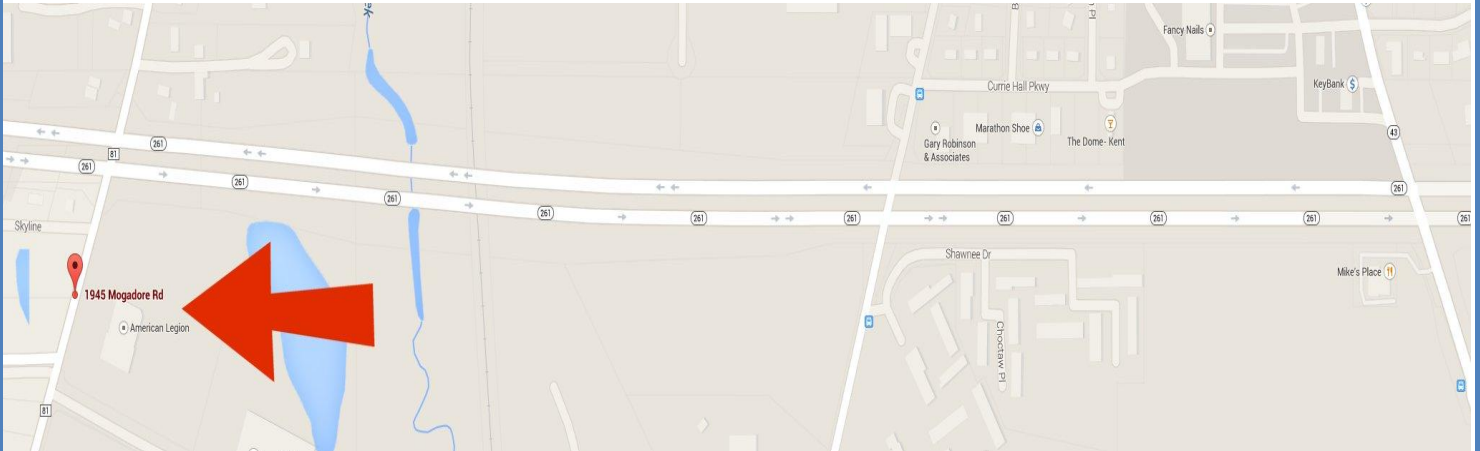
PCARS Meetings

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



CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ABOUT IN-PERSON MEETINGS

*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 January Zoom Meeting

Slide 1 of 34

Ink Ink Tools Blank Screen End Show

LITHIUM BATTERIES

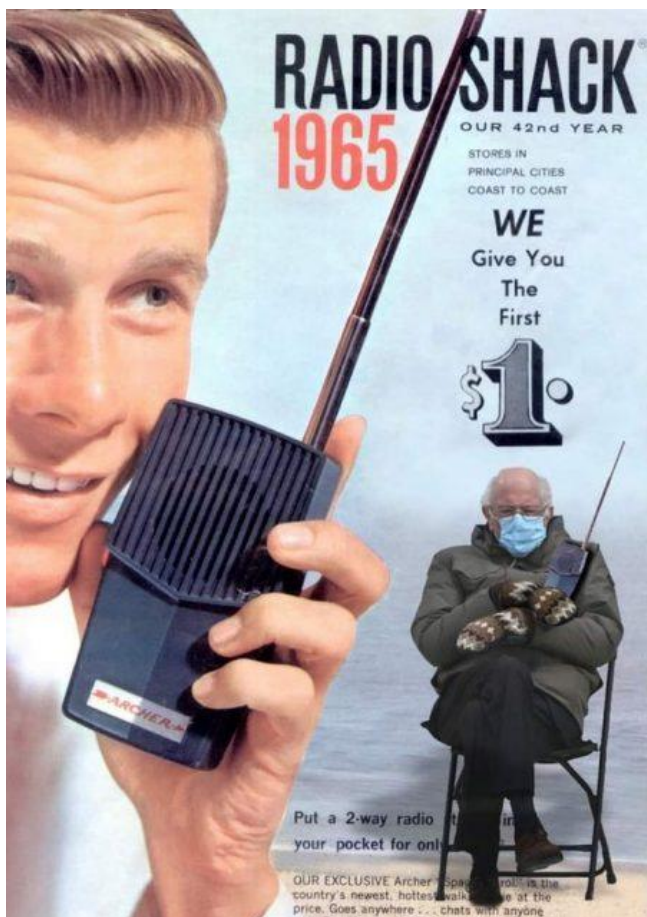
Unlimited Power

Axel Fisser K8AXX
August 2020

Participants visible in the grid:

- Mark KC8FQV
- Don Ritchie K8ZGW
- K8BF
- ChuckW8PT
- Matthew KN4GWY
- K8YLK & KE8NWR
- Rick K8CAV
- Fred Freer, K8IG
- pjmitchell
- Ken Hall
- John
- mike ryan
- Scott Yonally, N8SY
- Bob Hajdak N8QE
- Jim AC8NT
- wb8ovq/wd8biw...
- Bob W2THU
- Owner
- Paul - KD8BX
- Bob Davet W8RID
- Amy N8AMY
- Jeff W8SSAJ
- Paul (W8PJW)
- Bob N8K8X
- Brian - KE8NNC
- Don Ritchie K8ZGW
- Vern KE8VS
- Brian Shirehart
- David Waugh
- Terry - KB8AMZ
- David Waugh
- kb8uhn
- Nick KE8JUU
- Joe W8KNO

Just for Fun



Why Teachers Drink

The following questions were in last year's GED examination. These are genuine answers.

Q. Name the four seasons

A.. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q. How is dew formed

A.. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on

A.. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections

A.. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election

Q. What are steroids

A.. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs

Q. What happens to your body as you age

A.. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty

A.. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes

A.. Premature death

Q. What is artificial insemination

A.. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour

A.. Keep it in the cow

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorized (e.g. The abdomen)

A.. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A,E,I,O,U

Q. What is the fibula?

A.. A small lie

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A.. Nearby

Q. What is the most common form of birth control

A.. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium .

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'

A.. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure?

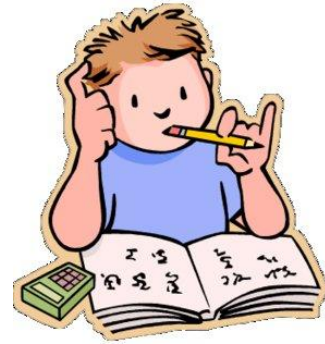
A.. A Roman Emperor.

Q. What is a terminal illness

A.. When you are sick at the airport.

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A.. Benign is what you will be after you be eight



Our society is doomed!

Thanks & 73



Parky, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



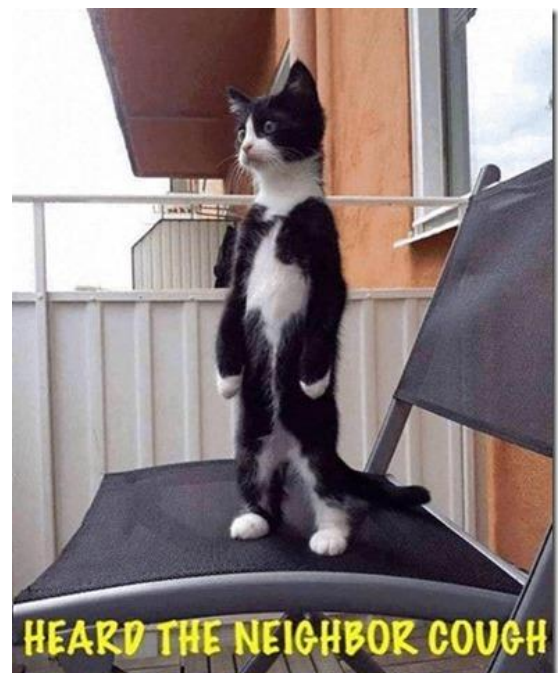
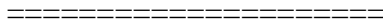
I really appreciate the help in gathering material to keep this newsletter number one. Without your help we would not have received the newsletter awards in past years. All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure PCARS is known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club. So chip-in and send your article in to keep this newsletter great for 2021 and beyond. You will see some humor based cartoons and articles about the COVID-19 - Yes, I agree this pandemic is VERY serious to all - but in tough times, you just have to have a bit of humor to get you through - I hope you agree. Hang in there, please.

Please - Be careful out there, wear a mask and practice social distancing. We will get through this if we all work together. **Have a wonderful New Year. I'm looking forward to seeing ALL of you in person - sometime later in 2021.**

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

AC8QG, N8WCP, KB8UUZ, N8KBX, NF8R, KE8EGF, N8BHL, WB8LCD, KB6NU, KD2FSI, W8KNO, KA8TOA, K8CAV, W8PT, NX8J, NO8D, The ARRL, CQ Magazine Blog, and Hamvention.org

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



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

~ The Hamvention® 2018 "Club of the Year" ~

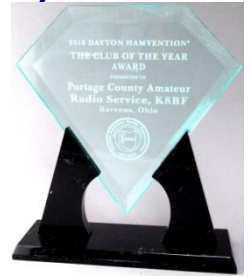


PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the **Kent American Legion Post 496**,
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - Enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.


Meeting starts at 7:00 pm - 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 ~ EchoLink Node: **K8BF-L**

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



~ 2021 Officers ~	2021 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Nick Wagner - AC8QG Vice President - Mike Szabo - N8WCP Treasurer - Paul Hyland - KE8EGF 3 Year Trustee - Amy Leggiero - N8AMY 2 Year Trustee - John Myers - KD8MQ 1 Year Trustee - Terry Morris - KB8AMZ Past President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD	ARRL Awards - DXCC	W8KNO Joe Wehner
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	K8CAV Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	W8PT Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink & Web Guru	K8SRR Steve Randlett
	Field Day Chairman, 2021	WA8AR Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	W8PT Chuck Patellis
	Historian	KB8SZI Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8AMY Amy Leggiero
	K8BF QSL Manager	N8AMY Amy Leggiero
	Membership Chairman	AC8NT Jim Wilson
	Net Control Manager	KA8TOA Greg Ash
	Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD Tom Sly
	Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ Tom Parkinson	
~ Meetings & Net ~	Public Information Officer	
2 nd Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	Secretary	
	Social Media	N8AMY Amy Leggiero
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ Tom Parkinson
	Webmasters	KD8MQ John Myers K8SRR Steve Randlett



**PCARS
Active
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members**

KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
WB8LCD	Tom Sly
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
K8IV	Ed Polack
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
KA8TOA	Greg Ash
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
AC8QG	Nick Wagner
N8FUM	Dan Torchia
W8GWI	Dave Seckel
N8AMY	Amy Leggiero



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 copyright ©2021, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Hamvention® 2018 Club Of The Year. The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Third Place 2015 - Second Place 2014, 2016, 2020 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019. ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter - Second Place 2013 - First Place in the 2017 & 2020. 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@gmail.com. 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 for 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!**

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. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: KB8UUZ@gmail.com

By attending PCARS in-person activities, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending PCARS in-person activities, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and covenant not to sue and agree not to hold the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) or any of their directors, officers, contractors, vendors or volunteers liable for any illness or injury. While PCARS implements preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with Federal, State and Local guidelines, we cannot guarantee that attendees will not become infected with COVID-19 as a result of attendance.



NLC



Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)
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Ravenna, OH 44266 USA