



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

January 2021 - Volume 16 Number 1

2021 - HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

PCARS 2021 Officers & Board Members



President
Nick AC8QG



Vice President
Mike N8WCP



Treasurer
Paul KE8EGF



Immediate
Past President
Tom WB8LCD



3 Year Trustee
Amy N8AMY



2 Year Trustee
John KD8MQ



1 Year Trustee
Terry KB8AMZ



Happy New Year



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.



Mark, KC8FQV

Tom, WB8LCD and Amy, N8AMY

Chuck, W8PT



From the President

Nick, AC8QG
PCARS President



Happy New Year, and welcome to 2021!

First of all, thank you for allowing me to serve as the new president of PCARS. Thank you also to our outgoing president, Tom WB8LCD, for his leadership and the support and mentoring that prepared me for this role. I appreciate your confidence in my ability to lead, and I will work hard to ensure that we continue moving forward as a strong and dynamic club.

2020 didn't go as expected. I had plans to attend Hamvention, and I was anticipating another field day at Freedom Township Park. I expected to bring my kids to the club site for contests, and I was looking forward to seeing my friends at the monthly meetings, SIGs, and Net Night at the Club Site. I was excited about the upcoming build days and other special events. Things turned out a bit differently.

But every challenge brings opportunities, and last year was no exception. Instead of contesting at the club site, I managed to fix several shortcomings of my home station, as the kids and I worked contests from our basement. Instead of our typical in-person meetings, I had the opportunity to learn a lot about Zoom as we found new ways to participate together throughout the year. Instead of panicking when my kids presented at the Hamvention Youth Forum, I had the chance to panic when they presented at the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo.

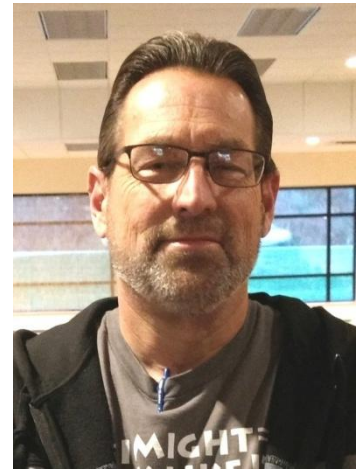
The upcoming year will undoubtedly present new and different problems, but we'll adjust to all the challenges that face us in 2021. We have some outstanding members, and just like last year, I'm confident that we'll adapt and overcome no matter what the new year throws at us. Better still, I know we'll learn new things, discover new ways to have fun and make some new friends along the way. The future looks bright!

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve, and thank you all for making PCARS the best amateur radio club!



From the Vice President

Mike N8WCP
PCARS Vice President



It's a new year with new opportunities for PCARS and our members! I hope Santa was good to you and you're enjoying a new rig or accessory. If you have any questions about that new toy, keep in mind our club has a diverse membership of Elmers who can provide guidance and the PCARS Groups at <https://groups.io/g/pcars> is a great place to post those questions.

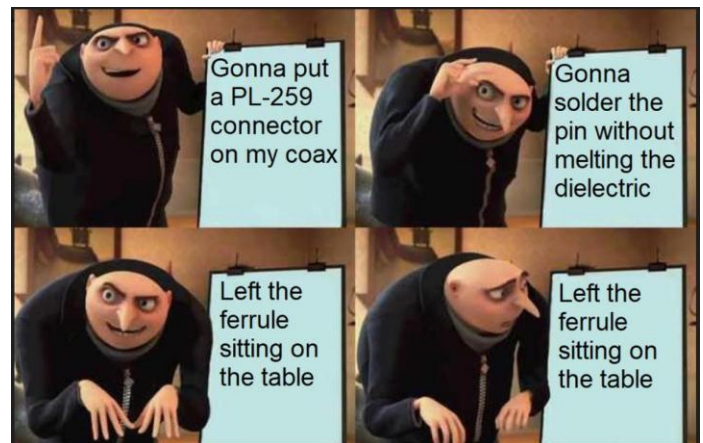
I think we can all agree 2020 was a difficult year but I'm thankful our officers and members were able to adapt and keep the club active. I'm confident this will continue in 2021.

In my new role as Vice President I will be responsible for recommending club activities and scheduling speakers for our club meetings. The many facets of our hobby attract individuals with a wide range of interests and to ensure our club is meeting its member's needs, I would appreciate hearing from our members regarding the activities and interests they would like to pursue as this will help guide me in identifying speakers and scheduling activities. You can send an email with your suggestions to: vicepresident@portcars.org.

In addition to our regular Thursday night 2 meter net we also have our monthly FlexNet where we try different bands and modes. **FlexNet will take a break in January but will return in February** with a new schedule of bands/modes so keep an eye out for a QST with the schedule for 2021.

Our next club meeting is January 11th and our featured speaker will be Axel Fisser, K8AXX who will discuss lithium batteries which may lead to a future build project this year. If you participate in Parks On The Air, Ohio State Parks On The Air, or just need backup power, this will be an interesting topic.

With my new position, the club will need a new Secretary. This is an appointed position and the responsibilities include taking minutes of Officer and Club meetings as well as working with our club Treasurer during membership renewal season. It's a great way to learn about our club operations. If you're interested, send a note to our new President, Nick-AC8QG at: president@portcars.org.



Congratulations to the PCARS 2021 Officers

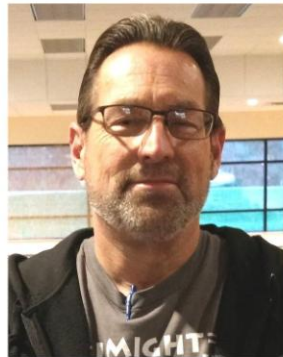
The annual election of officers for PCARS was held at the November PCARS in-person and Zoom meeting. Nick, AC8QG was elected President. Mike, N8WCP was elected as Vice President. Paul, KE8EGF was re-elected as Treasurer. Tom, WB8LCD is now the Immediate Past President. Amy, N8AMY was elected 3-Year Trustee. John, KD8MQ goes to 2-Year Trustee and Terry, KB8AMZ goes to 1 -Year Trustee. These officers are also the Board of Directors for PCARS.

CONGRATULATIONS

PCARS 2021 Officers & Board Members



President
Nick AC8QG



Vice President
Mike N8WCP



Treasurer
Paul KE8EGF



**Immediate
Past President**
Tom WB8LCD



3 Year Trustee
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Schedule of Events



On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:



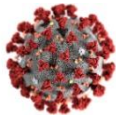
Although we are resuming in-person activities, many regular events are canceled or will be conducted virtually. Even events that are scheduled to be in-person may be canceled or moved to virtual. Please read this newsletter, join our weekly on-air club net, and watch for QST emails so you can stay up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

- January 4th - PCARS Board Meeting at the club site - 7 pm
- January 11th - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm - Axel Fisser K8AXX, Lithium Batteries
- February 1st - PCARS Board Meeting at the club site - 7 pm
- February 8th - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm - Robb Zarges K2MZ, Teaching CW to Kids

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



President's Awards - 2020

Tom, WB8LCD
Immediate Past PCARS President



For 2020 I decided that there were 3 PCARS members who deserved an award for their considerable service to PCARS over the years.



Mark, KC8FQV



Tom, WB8LCD and Amy, N8AMY



Chuck, W8PT

The first went to **Mark Studer – KC8FQV**. From day 1, Mark has been a “billboard” for everything that PCARS is doing or has done! If there is a net in NE Ohio (and sometimes beyond) Mark is on it. But not only does Mark check in, he always promotes what PCARS is doing to the other clubs. Our intent is not to steal members from other clubs, but, other clubs and their members are always welcome to participate with us and Mark let’s them know what PCARS is up to.

Next up is **Amy – N8AMY**. Amy has always been willing to do what PCARS needs done. She has been our Secretary, our Treasurer and soon to be a Trustee. In addition, she is our Club Callsign Trustee, our QSL manager and our Social Media manager. Usually working behind the scenes, Amy gets things done and is a good contest operator too!

Finally, **Chuck – W8PT**. If it has anything to do with contesting or working DX, Chuck probably has an article in the Radiogram about it or is managing it. Chuck has been leading the Contest / DX Special interest group since the very beginning. Chuck well deserves the nickname he was given at the very first PCARS Field Day – The Iron Man of 20 Meters.

All three have served PCARS through the years consistently and reliably. They have set the example for what it really means to be a MEMBER of our club.

Congratulations, and Thank You, to Mark, Amy and Chuck. Well done!



President's Award Winners 2006 - 2020

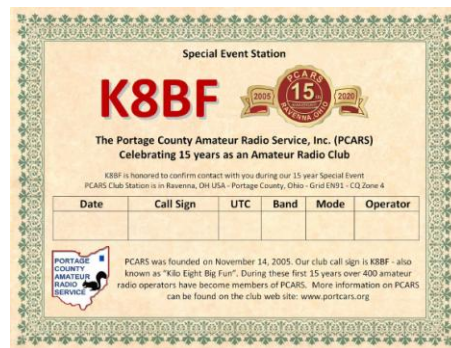
The recipients of the PCARS President's Award 2006 through 2020:

- 2006 - KC8RJR Errol Jordan
- 2007 - KD8EPA Dan Porcase
- 2008 - N8EQJ (K8IV) Ed Polack and WB9LBI Bill Fraedrich
- 2009 - KB8TUY Mike Ryan, KD8LDY (NR8W) Russ Williams and KD8FLZ Mike DiCarro
- 2010 - KD8VT James Andrews and K8SRR Steve Randlett
- 2011 - K8CAV Rick Kruise
- 2012 - K8FEY Bob Hewett and N8QE Bob Hajdak
- 2013 - KB8UUZ Tom "Parky" Parkinson
- 2014 - KB8AMZ Terry Morris, AC8NT Jim Wilson and KD8WZS Zeb Smith
- 2015 - AC8QG Nick Wagner and KB3GXB Jennifer Andrews
- 2016 - KB8JFF Dick Ward and K8MSH Mark Haverstock
- 2017 - KD8ICP Tim Gehri, N8BI Jack Comer and WA8GCF Dave DeSimio
- 2018 - WB8LCD Tom Sly
- 2019 - KE8JUZ (AD8FQ) Ben Wagner
- 2020 - KC8FQV Mark Studer, N8AMY Amy Leggiero and W8PT Chuck Patellis

15th Anniversary Special Event - K8BF



As it was reported in the December issue of The Radiogram - the 15th anniversary Special Event put K8BF on the air from member QTHs. Members made 343 contacts and so far 24 certificates have been sent out to hams making contact with K8BF.



A certificate was sent to the 9 PCARS stations that had participated. Nick, AC8QG reported that when Ben AD8FQ received his certificate he was really excited to have the certificate to hang up as a reminder of the fun he had while on the air for K8BF.

A copy of the certificate will be hung up at the club site for all to see.



WB8LCD Appointed as the New Ohio Section Manager

From the ARRL

Tom Sly, WB8LCD, Appointed as ARRL Ohio Section Manager

12/21/2020



Tom Sly, WB8LCD, of Kent, has been appointed as the Ohio Section Manager, effective January 1, 2021. Sly will assume the seat that incumbent Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY, is vacating to become Great Lakes Division Vice Director, after serving as Ohio Section Manager since 2014.



Sly was appointed by ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, after consulting with Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK. The Section Manager appointment extends through September 30, 2022.

Sly is an ARRL Life Member and has served as Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator since 2017. He is past president of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) and has been a radio amateur since 1968.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM, WB8LCD !!!!



- Ohio ARES
- Ohio Section Newsletter
- Ohio Section Cabinet
- Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)
- Sign-up for Section Newsletter
- Section Information & Links
- Important Forms
- ARRL Ohio Hamfests
- Club Newsletters
- Swap & Shop



Tom Sly, WB8LCD
Section Manager

Latest News

The ARRL RTTY Roundup is on January 2 – 3

Texas' Biggest Ham Radio Show — Ham-Com — is Closing

After 41 years, Ham-Com has decided to close its doors due to the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising costs of putting on a show. The decision was not made lightly, but the safety and wellness of our volunteers, vendors, clubs, presenters, and attendees is our paramount concern. Ham-Com President Bill Nelson, AB5QZ, said in an announcement on the H...

ARRL Staffers to be On the Air from WIAW for Straight Key Night

Members of the ARRL Headquarters staff will put WIAW on the air for Straight Key Night (SKN). Set some time aside on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day to take part in this annual ARRL tradition SKN begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2021 (New Year's Eve in US time zones) and wraps up at 2359 UTC. Not a contest, SKN is dedicated to celebrating amateur radio's Morse code heritage.

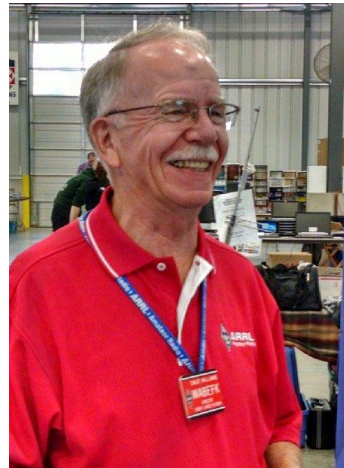
December YOTA Month Participants Hoping to Top Last Years Contact Total

The December Youth Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) Month (#DYM20) activity has already exceeded its goal of making 100,000 contacts, but promoters aren't stopping there. With just a few more days left, DYM is encouraging a last-minute push to break last year's world contact record of nearly 129,000. Now we want to encourage all the YOTA stations and their operators to contact

From the Great Lakes Division Director



Dale, WA8EFK
ARRL Great Lakes Division Director



Greetings, welcome to "Dale's Tales"

HAPPY NEW YEAR and let's all hope it brings us
back to a more normal lifestyle.

SOME CHANGES FOR 2021: With the New Year, we report some changes within the Great Lakes Division. As you know, Tom Delaney W8WTD chose not to run for re-election as our Division Vice Director. Former Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY was elected to the post and officially took office January first. We also bid farewell to "Tom's Tome", W8WTD's monthly news section of this column and introduce "Scott's Stuff", to keep you apprised of Division news from the Vice Director's perspective.

We also welcome the new Section Manager for the Ohio Section as Tom Sly WB8LCD takes the helm to manage the nation's largest Section in terms of ham population. Tom had been recently serving as Ohio's Affiliated Club Coordinator and brings a wealth of experience in team management to his new post.

My special thanks to Tom Delaney W8WTD who has been such a team player and wonderful associate while serving as our Vice Director. Thanks Tom for all of your efforts and successes and best wishes as you continue to enjoy ham radio.

A special note to Scott N8SY as he changes roles: "Scott, you voluntarily retired from the Section Manager slot - remember that - it is now WB8LCD's job - remember that. Tom will do it differently, make changes, bring in new ideas, and toss old ones. Sit back and enjoy, it's Tom's turn." <GRIN>.

UPDATES: The ARRL Board of Directors meets the third weekend of January, again by remote due to COVID restrictions. This seems to work pretty well for the actual meeting process, but is rather limiting when we attempt to discuss new ideas and try to build a coalition in support of a potential motion.

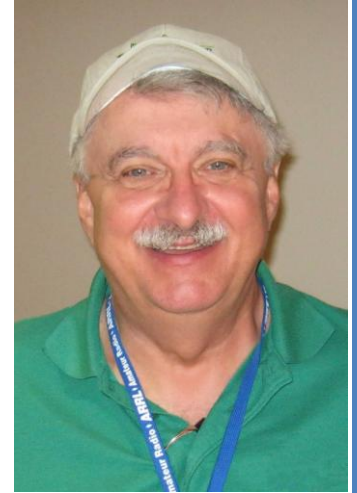
I suspect that it is not too much different from what most of are experiencing when conducting a remote radio club meeting. Still, it is important that we make a full effort to keep close contact with our membership and likewise take the extra action to keep those members involved. We are seeing a lot of live remote presentations and pre-recorded videos put to use. These have offered new technical training materials, reported on some historical and very interesting DXpeditions, provided some new contesting ideas and ham radio product reviews. Actually it is really taking some of the edge off for those of us in lock-down. Club programs are a revitalized initiative for radio clubs - let's keep it on a roll.



From the Great Lakes Division Vice Director



Scott, N8SY
Great Lakes Division
Vice Director



Hi Gang,

Wow, what a year this has been for all of us. This being my first article as the Great Lakes Division Vice Director I want to say that I have some really big shoes to fill as Tom, W8WTD did a really fantastic job over these many years and I have a great example to follow and grow on. I will do my best to carry on as Tom did and work hard to take the Great Lakes Division to the “Next Level.”

As I write this article on Christmas Eve, I am thinking back on all that we got accomplished here in the Ohio Section even though we were locked down for more than 9 months. It was amazing for sure. We had numerous events canceled yet we still were able to rack up over 77,000 hours of volunteering this year and we still have about a week to go yet! We also gained over 11% in those getting their NIMS courses in this year as well and let’s not forget that very unusual way we did Field Day this year. I have to say even though it wasn’t what we wanted it to be, I did get to visit with several groups very carefully doing Field Day. I even setup my own station in the gazebo in my backyard and operated for quite a few hours! I am very proud of all the accomplishments that we have done despite the lockdown conditions that we’ve all endured.

Now, as I leave the post of Section Manager, I want to announce that your very own Tom Sly, WB8LCD will be taking over as Ohio Section Manager on January 1st. I have every bit of confidence that Tom will work hard for all of us and make the Ohio Section proud!

As a Division we have grown a bunch this year as well. As I write this our Kentucky Section has just gotten an important Bill passed by their State Congress to start issuing Amateur Radio license plates for the very first time in the fall of 2021. The Michigan Section has been very busy this year with FEMA Region V activities as well. They have “Operation Frostbit” planning scheduled for this next week for a table-top exercise coming up in the first week of January, and here in the Ohio Section, we have our annual Ohio VHF Simplex Contest happening on January 9th and of course, our annual NVIS Day coming up in April. Ohio’s “Texting Bill” seems to have gone dormant for the time being. With the new Congress coming in next year, this Bill will need to be re-introduced. I’m hopeful that since we were so successful in getting the co-sponsors to agree that Amateur Radio needed to be excluded in this Bill that it will already be a part of the Bill when it gets re-introduced next year.

We are in need of a QSL incoming Card Sorter within the 8th Call District. We are specifically looking for the letter “X” as that we now have a vacancy just open up.

The 8th call area incoming QSL bureau operates as part of the ARRL's volunteer QSL bureau system. The 8th Call Area is comprised of 3 states, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia and serves ALL amateurs, regardless of what state you may live in. Cards having the numeral 8 (such as K8, N8, W8, AA8-AK8, KA8-KZ8, and WA8-WZ8) in the call sign, as well as American Samoa cards (AH8, KH8, WH8) are handled through this Bureau.

The 8th Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau is split between the Great Lakes Division and the Roanoke Division.

Now on the National side of things, the FCC is encouraging all users of the Universal Licensing Service (ULS) to have an email address on file with them. Their reasoning for this is because they will no longer be issuing hard copies of licensing anymore. Email will eventually be the only way that you will be able to get your license. Fortunately, they haven’t decided yet on just when all of this will be fully implemented, so you still have some time left to get this done, if you haven’t done so already.

As you can see, the Great Lakes Division has a lot going on even though we are all still under a lockdown condition. We do need to work harder on getting more folks to join / renew their membership with the ARRL if we want our Division and Amateur Radio to stay strong and be a presence that counts. Whatever your reason for not being a member, you really need to re-think that idea. This is the only organization that represents YOU. Yes, some projects don't get pushed through like we want them to, but I want you to ask yourself just one question... Is there any other organization even trying to help us?

That's going to do it from here. I want to say to everyone.... **Have a Fantastic New Year!!**



From the ARRL Ohio Section Manager



Tom, WB8LCD
ARRL Ohio Section Manger



Hello Ohio!

Thank you all for the words of encouragement and congratulations sent to me. I am both honored and grateful for this opportunity to serve my fellow Amateur Radio Operators. I thank Scott, N8SY and Dale, WA8EFK for recommending me, and Bart, W9JJ for making the appointment.

I know already that following Scott is going to be a tough act to pull off, but I'm up for the challenge. This past year has certainly changed the landscape, I'm hoping that 2021 returns us to a more "normal" existence. There have been some important lessons learned in the past year, most importantly is that using tools such as ZOOM we can expand our reach. I'll be exploring ways to use that expanded reach not only for the benefit of our clubs and their members, but also in getting the word out to the general public that Amateur Radio IS the most fantastic hobby on the planet (and in space)!

In the past 15 years that I have been affiliated with PCARS I've learned the importance of having FUN with the hobby. Amateur Radio has more diverse methods of having FUN than I think any other hobby can offer you. Sharing the FUN enhances the experience for everyone and makes it attractive to those who are not yet members of the hobby. Another important lesson I've learned in my time as a PCARS member is the value of relationships. Sharing the experience of being a ham is much better when it's done with your friends. I appreciate all my PCARS friends, and the opportunities I've had to make friends throughout the Amateur Radio community.

I'm looking forward to making a contribution to the hobby and I hope I'm successful in making the hobby just a little bit better for everyone involved. I'll appreciate your support and guidance along the way!

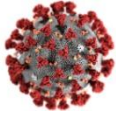


PCARS VE Test Information & News

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" 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 in 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. The left side has a black background with "PCARS" in large yellow letters. Below it, in white text, it says "ARRL Volunteer Examiners: serving the Amateur Radio community". Further down, in yellow text, it says "First Saturdays 10:00 am at the club site in Ravenna". At the bottom, in white text, it lists the dates: "February, April, June, August, October, December". On the right side of the banner is the ARRL VEC logo, which is a circular emblem with a yellow border and a diamond-shaped center containing "ARRL VEC".

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 in mid-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 on September 16. The new rules will go into effect 6 months after publication in the *Federal Register*, which hasn't happened yet, but the FCC is already strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address. 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 Stifflemire, 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 Derenge 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. Derenge 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>



FCC Reduces Proposed Application Fee



From the ARRL

FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$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>

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

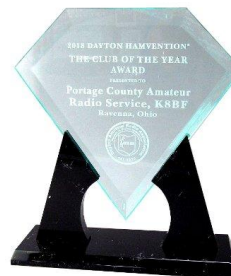
PCARS members having their birthday in **January**:

KB8ZWT	Jeff Phillips
N8GIE	John Ziccardi
N8IL	Neil Gerren
KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
N1CJW	Christopher Woolverton
KE8KBJ	Mara DeMattia
KE8NNC	Brian Shinheartl
K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
WA8OHK	Thomas Gregory

NR8W	Russell Williams
KD8SOP	Eddie Renfroe
KE8BFA	Janice Miller
K8JJM	Jeffrey Moore
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
NX8G	Rex Simmons
N8NB	David Fairbanks
K8FS	Michael Evans
W8BBQ	Mark Ludwick



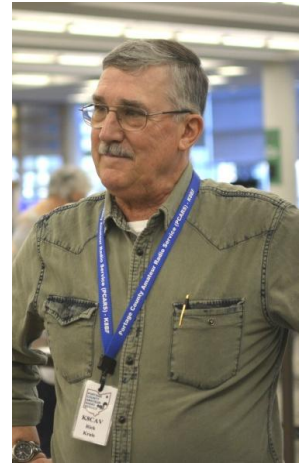
Portage County Amateur Radio Service



K8BF

2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

Portage County Coms Unit Update



Rick, K8CAV
Portage County Office of
Homeland Security/Emergency Management
Communications Unit Commander

Like every other organization the year 2020 has been a challenge for the Communications Unit. Training for members of the Communications Unit consists of biweekly training nets, monthly in-person training meetings, field training exercises, and support for community events. The biweekly training meetings were largely unaffected by the pandemic but after March all in-person training meetings and field training exercises were canceled to mitigate the spread of the virus. Community events that we could have supported with communications due to the individual nature of communicators and no personal contact required, were cancelled by their organizers. Further, plans had to be established that outlined specifically and in detail, procedures and protocols Communications Unit members would follow in the event the Communications Unit would need to be activated in an actual event.

The Communications Unit was able to continue training on-the-air during its biweekly training nets but suffered somewhat by not having in-person training and field training exercises. We hope to overcome many of these limitations in several ways. This year, some training that was conducted with great difficulty on nets will shift to Zoom meetings. The advantage of using Zoom is that the person conducting training can present things such as graphics, Power points, Excel tables and more, visually, to members during the training session. We also plan on trying to take advantage of existing events that do not require an in-person presence to enhance training. For example, Communications Unit members will participate in the Ohio Simplex Contest to gain proficiency and evaluate performance on VHF and above frequencies. Further, if community events we've supported in the past do become active in 2021, we will modify our operations to provide communications support while at the same time insuring social isolation of members providing that support.



Communications Unit

They key to the success the Communications Unit enjoys has always been the dedication and professionalism of its members. This was especially true in 2020 where the limitations placed on the Unit were extreme. Members continued to train effectively to insure we were ready to provide support for our EMA and our community. EMA Director Ryan Shackelford has stated unequivocally the Communications Unit is one of the most dependable and reliable volunteer units of the EMA, and our members are to be congratulated for their efforts.

The Communications Unit is always looking for amateur radio operators to expand our capabilities. Your time and effort as a member of the Communications Unit will be rewarded by the satisfaction of knowing you can make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors in Portage County should we ever face an event requiring our service. Contact me at k8cav.coms@gmail.com if you would like more information.



Swap-N-Shop

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 - Items from Dave DeSimio WA8GCF (SK) estate.

Yaesu FC20 Auto Tuner \$125. **MFJ-941D** Versa Tuner \$75. **MFJ-993B** IntelliTuner \$130. **Yaesu FT470** Handheld, desk charger 2m/440 \$150. **Yaesu FT23R** Handheld, desk charger 2m \$75. **Yaesu FT73R** Handheld, desk charger 440 \$75. **Yaesu FT10R** Handheld, desk charger 2m/440 \$200. **Dentron MT-3000A** Antenna Tuner \$225. **Yaesu FT2000** HF and Yaesu Power Supply \$1,500. **Yaesu FT757GX** HF and power supply \$500. **Yaesu FT757AT** Auto Tuner \$200. **Astron VS-2M** Power Supply \$50. **MFJ-969** Versa Tuner \$250. **MFJ-993B** IntelliTuner \$250. **Kenwood TS-2000** HF \$1,500. **Metex MS-9150** Universal SystemFreq Counter \$300. **Yaesu FT-2700RH** \$100. **Azden PCS2000** \$75. **Pyramid PS-35** Power Supply \$50. **Yaesu FT8800.** **Yaesu FT-2800M** \$150. **AOI AR146** \$100. **Yaesu FT-7800** \$200. **Yaesu FT-7800** \$200. **Yaesu FT-2500M** \$125. **Yaesu FT-5100** \$150. **Yaesu FT-840** New in the box \$350. **Yaesu FT60** Handheld \$125. *All prices are 'Or Best Offer'*

Contact: David E. DeSimio at 330-592-1107 or david@5thdoor.com [01/02/21]

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: [03/02/21] indicates the ad will run until March 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!!



The screenshot shows the PCARS IO Group page on groups.io. The page header includes the group name "PCARS K8BF" and the tagline "The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!". Below the header, there is a "Group Description" section stating "This is the discussion group of The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. This site is for the members, by the members of PCARS." and a "Group Information" section showing "59 Members", "1 Topic, Last Post: Feb 21", and "Started on Feb 21". There are buttons for "Join This Group" and "Log In If You Are Already A Member". On the right side, there is a "Group Settings" section with various options like "All subscribers can post to the group", "Posts to this group 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", and "Members can set their subscriptions to no email".



Special Event Station - W8A

Tom, WB8LCD



I've never run a Special Event Station before, so this was a first for me. Chuck, W8PT and I have been talking about a Ham Radio activity called "Breweries on the Air" for a couple of years now. We intend to have it up and running in 2021. Chuck told me that he missed our Bloody Mary morning in the parking lot at Hamvention this year, so we decided to meet at my house to make up for it.

Several of us got together for breakfast during the summer and decided that a "Special Event" would be a good way to see if there might be some interest in Breweries on the Air. A quick check and we were able to decide to do it on December 5th, which is the anniversary of the passage of the 21st Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th amendment, effectively ending Prohibition on December 5th, 1933. This was the first time in our nation's history that amendment to the Constitution had been repealed. It was also the first time in our nation's history that an amendment to the Constitution was made not by Legislative action, but by the Convention of States! Upon passage by the Convention of States the 21st Amendment became effective immediately. Passage of the amendment required ratification by 3/4 of the States. On December 5th only 3 more states were needed for passage. Ohio and Pennsylvania both ratified it early in the day. Now only one more state was needed and it became a race between Utah and Maine to see who could get it done first and secure the passage. Utah became the 36th State to ratify the amendment at 5:32PM (EST), the 21st Amendment became law immediately and I can only imagine that that was the beginning of one big party!



The call-sign W8A (Whisky eight Alcohol) was approved for December 5, 2020. Our operation was planned from 12:01 AM to 11:59 PM (local). My station, along with a second temporary station set up in my basement were used to work on both 20 and 40 meters. Part of the goal was to each QSO a "rag chew" style contact. We had a lot of fun talking to other hams, many who didn't know anything about the 21st Amendment, many who wanted to share what their favorite beverage was, and more than a few who were abstainers but appreciated the "rag chew" opportunity. Most everyone was interested in Breweries on the Air so Chuck and I will be ramping that up as quickly as possible.

Operators included Tom - WB8LCD, Dave - WB2DFC, Rick - K8CAV, Ed - K8IV and Amy - N8AMY. I can speak for all when I say we had a really good time! Band conditions weren't all that great (there was a HUGE coronal mass ejection just a day prior). Midnight till about 7:00 AM 20 meters was dead, 40 meters yielded about 5 Q's. Noise levels were S6-S9 for the duration. We did have some interference between stations so most of the time we only ran one band at a time. All total we managed 140 Q's and a lot of fun. I can promise we'll be doing it again in 2021.

Editor's Note. Since Tom, WB8LCD has been known to brew his own beer in the basement - this then qualifies his QTH to be a "Brewery On The Air"...

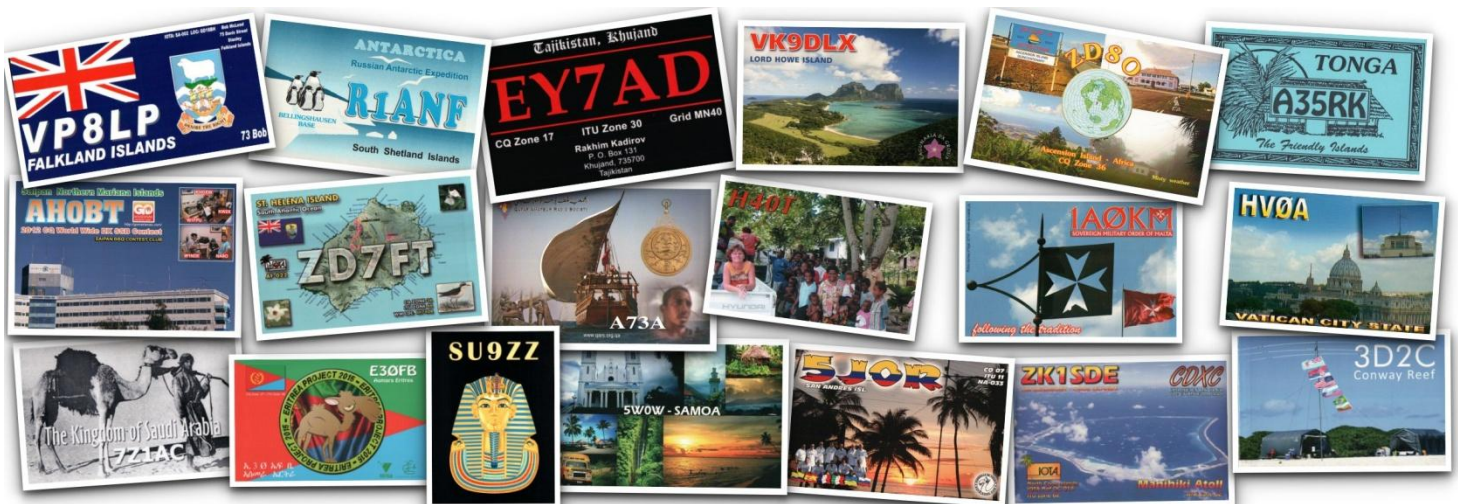
Top 100 Most Wanted DX from North America

Here's the latest Top 100 Most Wanted DX from North America. Some of those rare stations **WILL** be on the air in 2021. This may be your chance to snag a rare one in your quest for DXCC!

#	Prefix	Entity
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	FT5/W	CROZET ISLAND
3.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
4.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
5.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
6.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
7.	FT5/X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
8.	ZS8	P EDWARD & MARION IS
9.	SV/A	MOUNT ATHOS
10.	YK	SYRIA
11.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
12.	EZ	TURKMENISTAN
13.	VKOM	MACQUARIE ISLAND
14.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
15.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
16.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
17.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
18.	JD/M	MINAMI TORISHIMA
19.	PY0T	TRINDADE & MARTIM
20.	XZ	MYANMAR
21.	AP	PAKISTAN
22.	S2	BANGLADESH
23.	FT/T	TROMELIN ISLAND
24.	VK0H	HEARD ISLAND
25.	VU4	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR
26.	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS
27.	PY0S	SAINT PETER AND PAUL
28.	9N	NEPAL
29.	VP8S	SOUTH SANDWICH IS.
30.	1S	SPRATLY ISLANDS
31.	KH4	MIDWAY ISLAND
32.	A5	BHUTAN
33.	FT/J	JUAN DE NOVA, EUROPA
34.	FK/C	CHESTERFIELD IS.

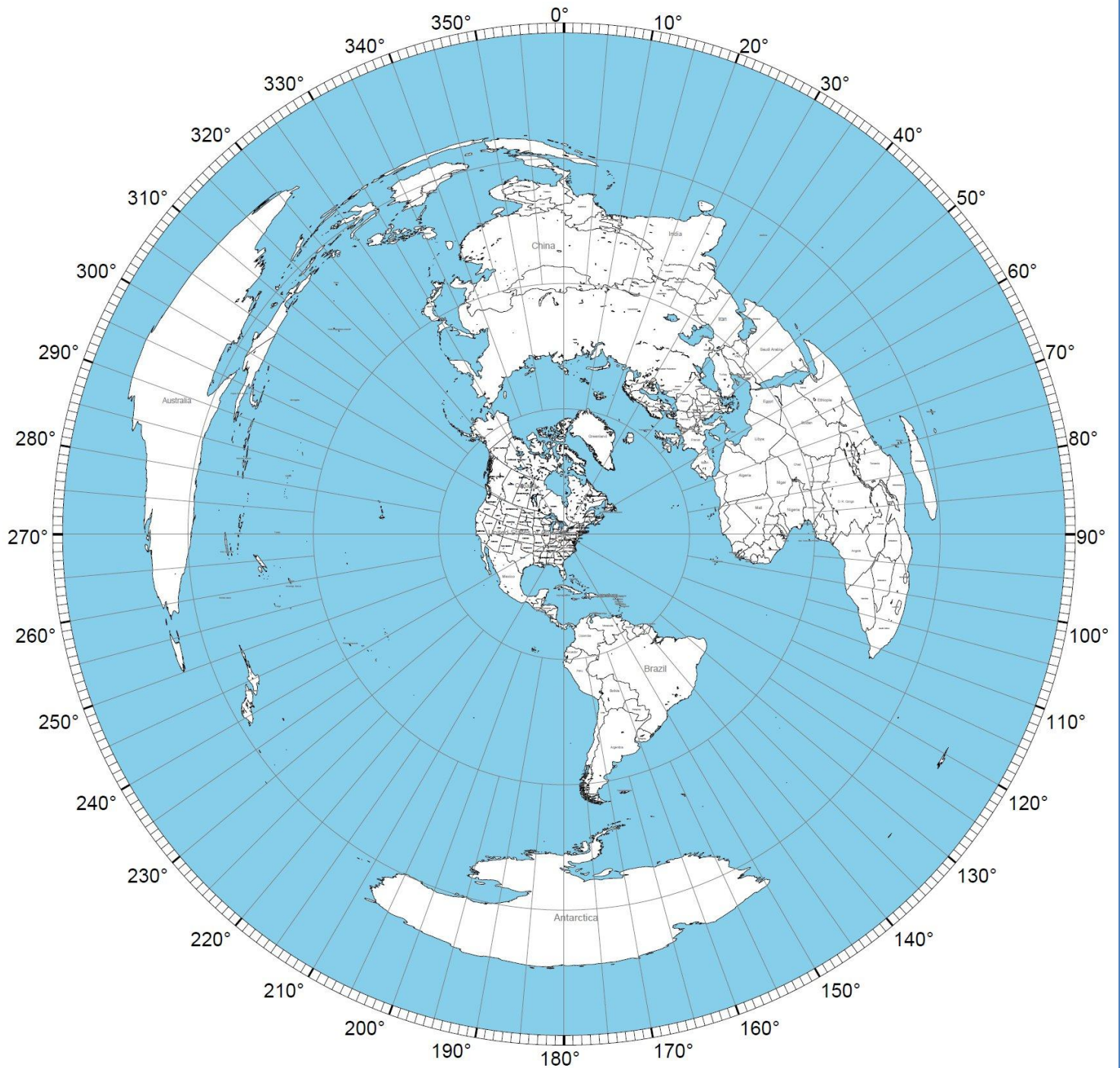
#	Prefix	Entity
35.	ZL9	SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS
36.	VK9C	COCOS (KEELING) IS
37.	XX9	MACAO
38.	XU	CAMBODIA
39.	VK9X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND
40.	T5	SOMALIA
41.	3A	MONACO
42.	5A	LIBYA
43.	7O	YEMEN
44.	3B7	AGALEGA & ST BRANDON IS
45.	EP	IRAN
46.	ZD9	TRISTAN DA CUNHA & GOUGH
47.	4W	TIMOR-LESTE
48.	YA	AFGHANISTAN
49.	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND
50.	YI	IRAQ
51.	VK9M	MELLISH REEF
52.	ET	ETHIOPIA
53.	8Q	MALDIVES
54.	VK9W	WILLIS ISLAND
55.	KP5	DESECHEO ISLAND
56.	VP8G	SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND
57.	V8	BRUNEI
58.	KH8/S	SWAINS ISLAND
59.	Z6	REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
60.	KH1	BAKER HOWLAND ISLANDS
61.	XW	LAOS
62.	ZC4	UK BASES ON CYPRUS
63.	R1F	FRANZ JOSEF LAND
64.	JX	JAN MAYEN
65.	TT	CHAD
66.	FT5Z	AMSTERDAM & ST PAUL IS
67.	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA
68.	4S	SRI LANKA

#	Prefix	Entity
69.	J2	DJIBOUTI
70.	H40	TEMOTU PROVINCE
71.	3W	VIET NAM
72.	KH9	WAKE ISLAND
73.	T33	BANABA ISLAND
74.	3C0	ANNOBON
75.	KH5	PALMYRA & JARVIS ISLANDS
76.	9U	BURUNDI
77.	3D2/C	CONWAY REEF
78.	VQ9	CHAGOS ISLANDS
79.	E3	ERITREA
80.	FH	MAYOTTE
81.	VP80	SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS
82.	E4	PALESTINE
83.	EY	TAJIKISTAN
84.	UJ	UZBEKISTAN
85.	1A0	SOV MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA
86.	HK0/M	MALPELO ISLAND
87.	9V	SINGAPORE
88.	ST	SUDAN
89.	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI
90.	Z8	REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
91.	D6	COMOROS
92.	EX	KYRGYZSTAN
93.	TL	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
94.	9M2	WEST MALAYSIA
95.	HV	VATICAN CITY
96.	TI9	COCOS ISLAND
97.	5U	NIGER
98.	3D2/R	ROTUMA
99.	JD/O	OGASAWARA
100	TN	REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



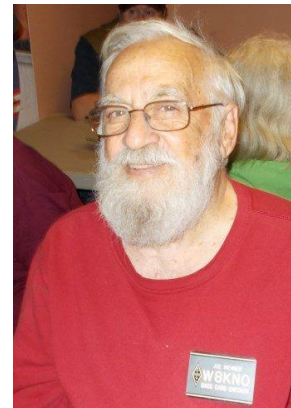
Azimuth Map Centered on Ravenna, Ohio

Which way do I point or align my antenna to maximize my chances of getting that DX entity I need? Well, here ya go! The map below is centered on Ravenna, Ohio and it shows you the bearing from your home QTH to that DX entity you are trying to make contact with. We are so used to looking at flat projection maps that just do not show the correct directions from our location. A good example: The city of Perth in Western Australia sure looks as if it would be south west of us on a flat map - but, if you look at this azimuth map - you see that that Perth is actually North West - about 320 degrees on the compass from us! Okay - armed with this information - get that DX !!



Paper Chase - Discovery of Gold in California

Joe, W8KNO



On January 24, 1848, while overseeing the construction of a sawmill on Sutter's Creek; near Colona, California, **James W. Marshal** saw something shiny. It turned out to be gold: Element 79 (AU). Thus began the California Gold Rush. News of the discovery of gold unleashed the largest migration in United States history and drew people from a dozen countries, 3000,000 in total, to form a multi-ethnic society on America's fringe. The promise of wealth forever altered the life expectations of the hundreds of thousands of people who flooded California in 1849, known as the "Forty-Niners" and the decade that followed. The gold also fired up the U.S. economy and fueled wild dreams like the construction of a cross-country railroad line.



To commemorate this event in history, the **El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club** will operate a Special Event Station (**AG6AU**) from noon until 7 p.m. our time on January 23rd, 24th and 25th on or near 7.248, 14, 248 and 21,348.

To obtain a QSL send yours with a SASE to:

El Dorado County ARC - PO Box 451- Placerville, CA 95667

More information about the club can be found at edcarc.net.

Hope to hear you in the pile-up!

PCARS Membership Information

Mike, N8WCP
Outgoing Secretary



Christmas is past and I hope Santa brought you the new toys you've been dreaming of! As we closed out 2020 - I'd like to thank members who have renewed their membership.

I'd also like to recognize our **Life Members** and their commitment to PCARS:

AB8YK, AC8NT, G0BPS, K1ZZ, K3LR, K8AAB, K8CAV, K8NYM, KB8VJL, KD8EPA, KD8FME, KD8SOP, N4IT, N6JRL, N8FTP, N8KBX, N8XTH, NT8K, W8CI, W8KNO, W8PT, WA8CCU, WB2MGP, WB8LCD, WX4QZ and Denise Renfro.

The holidays are a time to be with family and friends, it's also a time to remember those who are no longer with us. These members keys have gone silent (**SK**) and are no longer with us to the enjoy our wonderful hobby and club:

K8JE, K8STK, KB8JHS, KB8PNE, KB8SK, KC8PD, KC8PHY, KC8RJR, KD8ETS, KD8FDK, KD8JRI, KD8MLH, N8GLK, N8HU, N8RLG, N8WHT, W8JFQ, WA8GCF, WA8TSI, WB8FEW, WB8VNO, WD8CVH, KB8JFF and Vee Ward.



Amateur Radio Ops Answer the COVID-19 Call

John Blyer, KG7ONX
Design News



Since the coronavirus pandemic hit the U.S., a record number of ham radio candidates have prepared for tests and achieved their FCC license.

Although often seen as a volunteer support group aiding communications during natural disasters, most amateur ham radio enthusiasts simply enjoy the do-it-yourself (DIY) nature of putting together and improving their radio stations while communicating with the world-wide community.

According to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio in the US, defines Amateur Radio as a valuable volunteer emergency communications service and public resource. Since 1914, amateur radio – also known as ham radio – have been working in basements, attics and outside RF shacks, tinkering with their and communicating around the globe with other ham operators. People from all walks of life use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones.

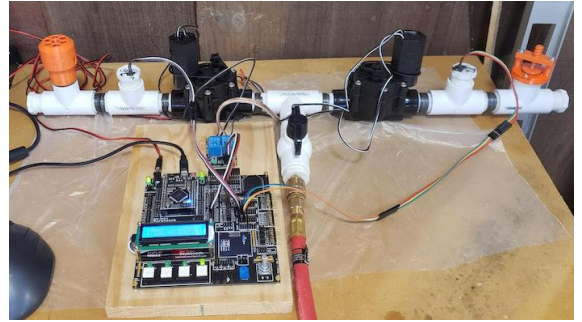
But unlike Citizen-Band (CB) radios, all amateur radio operators must pass a test from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Interest in the use of amateur radios and especially in preparing and taking the FCC tests have soared with the exponential rise of the coronavirus outbreak.

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According to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio in the US, defines Amateur Radio as a valuable volunteer emergency communications service and public resource. Since 1914, amateur radio – also known as ham radio – have been working in basements, attics and outside RF shacks, tinkering with their and communicating around the globe with other ham operators. People from all walks of life use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones.

The FCC reports that there are more than 765,000 amateur radio license holders in the U.S., while noting a recent increase in the number of new ham licenses since the COVID-19 pandemic. Various sites that provide online courses in preparations for a ham radio test also acknowledge the increase in interest. For example, HamRadioPrep.com claims to have experienced a huge surge in new students in the last few weeks of March 2020, stating that the number of persons signing up for the amateur radio license courses, “has soared more than 706% since news of the coronavirus outbreak dominated headlines. At the same time, the FCC shows a 7.1% uptick in new amateur licensees in the first week of March in 2020 vs the same week in 2019.”

Image Source: Facebook Post by George Zafiropoulos, DIY Amateur Ham Radio Operators Answer The COVID-19 Call



In addition to emergency communication support, ham radio operators have been helping build DIY medical equipment during the COVID-19 crisis. For example, George Zafiropoulos (KJ6VU), a ham operator in the San Francisco Bay area and well-know ham podcaster, has designed a development board to do ham radio projects with microcontrollers (Arduino, PIC, Raspberry Pi, Feather). A few fellow hams picked up the design and are now using BenchDuino to test valves in home brew ventilators with the University of Florida. Check out their Facebook page to learn more.

George’s regular Ham Radio Workbench Podcast is geared to the hands on DIY type technical ham. Details about the BenchDuino design that was adopted by the U of F ventilator project can be found on this link. <https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/benchduino.html> DIY engineers and techs can see details of the ventilator project on groups.io by searching for message topic is "High Cycle Rainbird and Passive Valve Testing". Many amateur radio operators were involved with this project including Jack Purdum, W8TEE, Gordon Gibby, KX4Z, Farhan in India and many others, working in conjunction with the University of Florida.



Image Source: Adobe Stock

first responders.

A more traditional way that ham operators help during national crisis is found in the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC was created as an extension of the Freedom Corps, which was created after the September 11th attacks in 2001 as a coordinating council with the goal of, “working to strengthen our culture of service and help find opportunities for every American to start volunteering.” The MRC has close ties with agencies within the Department of Health, which is why the primary goal of the MRC is to function as an auxiliary to medical

Amateur ham radio operators help the MRC in many ways. For example, operators support non-critical HIPAA compliant communication across “points of dispersing” (PODS) stations, such as those that offer vaccines for influenza or possible COVID-19 to elderly patients or first responders. Servicing such patients are often best done at isolated temporary healthcare locations that avoid the general public. Also, this support helps alleviate tying up key medical professional and supplies desperately needed in regular hospitals.

General wellness is another area where amateur radio operators contributed during emergencies. In a public crisis, the MRC typically staffs call centers and COVID-19 hotlines for local communities. To help ease the overburdening of cellular networks, amateur radio operators can provide another mechanism of communications between volunteers are providing food or delivering supplies.

Another wellness activity provided by hams is the hosting of daily wellness discussions via their local repeater antennas. Admittedly, this usually only helps older ham’s feel connected and not alone. Still, it does provide an outlet for them to reduce outreach to primary channels.

The coronavirus outbreak has proven to be a very different type of crisis from natural disasters like hurricanes, fires and earthquakes. During those catastrophes, ham operators typically support communications for auxiliary functions with the Red Cross.

“In practice the Red Cross is better deployed for larger scale situations that have more of an international humanitarian aid focus, such as major storm or property damage like 9/11, Katrina, Sandy, Tornado, etc.,” explains Steve Bossert (K2GOG), a ham operator active in the MRC chapter in Dutchess County NY. “Chapters of MRC are designed to operate on a county by county basis to directly serve the areas for which they are responsible. The MRC is also better at thinking about leveraging VHF/UHF resources this way compared to HF resources from an amateur radio perspective.”

The Overlook Mountain Amateur Radio Club (OMARC) in New York is just one of hundreds of area amateur radio clubs across the nation that are doing wellness nets. The OMARC offers such nets on a wide area 2m repeater every evening at 6PM.



The popularity of amateur ham radio among DIYs cannot be denied. The hobby and service have even found its way into Hollywood. In one example from few years back, the storyline from the ABC television series Last Man Standing, starring Tim Allen, featured an amateur radio shack.

If you currently hold a ham license or hope to have one soon, be sure to connect with those ham operators mentioned in my story. You might even catch me evenings or weekends at KG7ONX.

Image Source: ARRL, John Amodeo

John Blyler is a Design News senior editor, covering the electronics and advanced manufacturing spaces. With a BS in Engineering Physics and an MS in Electrical Engineering, he has years of hardware-software-network systems experience as an engineer and editor within the advanced manufacturing, IoT and semiconductor industries. John has co-authored books related to RF design, system engineering and electronics for IEEE, Wiley, and Elsevier. John currently serves as a standard’s editor for Accellera-IEEE. He has been an affiliate professor at Portland State Univ and a lecturer at UC-Irvine.

Article spotted by Gene, W8NET <https://www.designnews.com/covid-19/diy-amateur-ham-radio-operators-answer-covid-19-call>

The 2021 Propagation Summit - Webinar

Contest University

Contest University Presents: “The 2021 Propagation Summit” Sponsored by DX Engineering and Icom America.

January 23, 2021 (Saturday) from 11 AM – 3 PM (all times are EST) via Zoom Webinar.

Presentations:

11 AM – “Update on the Personal Space Weather Station Project & HamSCI activities for 2021” –

Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF

Noon – “Solar Cycle 25 Predictions & Progress” – Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

1 PM – “Maximizing Performance of HF Antennas with Irregular Terrain” – Dr. James Breakall, WA3FET

2 PM – “HF Ionospheric Propagation” – Frank Donovan, W3LPL

Drawing for an Icom IC-705 donated by Icom America and DX Engineering – both CTU sponsors.
Winner **must** be present on Zoom to win.

To register for this free CTU Propagation Summit Webinar [CLICK HERE](#)

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.**

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.

January	
7	KA8TOA
14	K8CAV
21	KD8WCK
28	K8YLK

February	
4	WB8LCD
11	KE8BWA
18	N8QE
25	K8CAV

March	
4	WB8LCD
11	KD8WCK
18	N8QE
25	KA8TOA

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: rgory999@roadrunner.com everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn - and have fun being the PCARS Thursday Night Net Control !

PCARS Net Stats for October, November and December. 2020

October 5 weeks 126 total check-ins (26 average)
November 3 weeks 76 total check-ins (26 average)
December 3 weeks 84 total check-ins (28 average)

3rd Quarter 306 total check-ins for 13 weeks average of 24
4th Quarter 286 total check-ins for 11 weeks average of 26



Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest - January 9th



Ohio ARES® VHF Simplex Contest - 2021 January 9th 10AM - 4PM EST

Again this year, Ohio ARES® is running the VHF Simplex Contest. The purpose of this contest is to give operators an opportunity to improve their station and antenna capabilities, and test their coverage areas on simplex frequencies.

These may be very important in times of emergency, when repeaters have failed, and simplex is the only method of emergency communication. Since this contest is aimed at testing antennas, and determining coverage areas, no consideration is being given for backup power.

Here's the Rules:

- Bands - All bands from 50 MHz up
- Modes - ALL MODES are acceptable- it's your choice
- Digital - using any mode generally accepted by NBEMS/ARES® in fldigi. (Default = Mt63 2K)

QSO Points:

- Each contact not on 6 meters scores 1 point.
- Each contact on 6 meters scores as 10 points.
- Each contact with an EOC station is an additional 5 points per QSO. QSO would score as 6 points (11 points for 6m).
- Each contact with an AEC or above is +5 points. QSO would score as 6 points (11 points for 6m).
- An AEC working in an EOC scores both +5 bonus points – i.e. 11 points (16 points for 6m).

General VHF+ Simplex Operating Tips

Here are some general operating tips for working simplex stations on VHF, UHF, and up:

Simplex operations are not like repeater operations. Leave the squelch wide open or only very very slightly closed so weak-signal stations can be heard.

Ensure that PL/CTCSS and DCS are disabled and the radio is not doing an automatic repeater offset (i.e. shifting on transmit)

Height is king. VHF, UHF, etc. are line-of-sight modes. If one doesn't have a fixed station with a good antenna, consider erecting a temporary mast with a dual-band or tri-band vertical at the top. Since this is a short contest, consider going mobile or portable to high ground in your area.

Consider building a cheap J-Pole antenna and get it up in the air on a temporary mast or even hanging it from a tree. This will be better than any HT and almost any mobile mount. You can use it even with your HT with the right feedline and 5W will go surprisingly far when properly elevated.

Operation will go in spurts when a new station appears or when a rover station gets to their destination. Don't get discouraged by long periods of static.

Don't be afraid to call CQ. Technician Class holders may not be familiar with this classic HF concept. Calling out "CQ CQ this is WW8TF in Summit County for the Ohio Simplex Contest" is all you need to do. As always, listen first before transmitting to ensure the frequency is not in use. With VHF+ simplex contesting, various hams will "take turns" on the



common 2m and 70cm frequencies. Don't be afraid to ask another ham who has been calling CQ without response if you can take a turn on the frequency. Most hams are glad to be accommodating.

Unlike repeater operations or casual rag chew, you will need to keep a log. If this is an unfamiliar operation, do the log on paper. With the Ohio Simplex contest, you do not need to submit in the contesting-standard Cabrillo log format so a software package is unnecessary. A simple sheet of paper with the headings of Time, Frequency, Callsign, County, and Bonuses will be all you need. The bonuses field is where one records the "extra" points such as communicating with an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or a ARES® official.

For more details of this fun event go to: <https://ohsimplex.org/>



Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV
Digital SIG Coordinator



Hey we made it through 2020, a year we thought would never end!

So to start out 2021 on a great note, make plans to attend the PCARS Digital Special Interest Group virtual meeting on Tuesday January 5th at 7:00 PM on the K8IV 146.895 repeater.

Yes it's still a virtual meeting and will be for a while yet BUT all of you digital aficionados can kick off 2021 and participate in an open forum meeting and discuss whatever digital communications topics you are interested in. For those who want to get their keyboards clacking, we can do on-the-air digital communications in almost any digital mode that fldigi covers.

If there is interest we can also transition the net to HF on 80m and communicate digitally there. As always we will make time to address any questions or problems you may be having regarding digital communications. I hope to hear you on this net!

WSJT-X 2.4.0 Introduces Q65



WSJT-X 2.4.0 Introduces New Digital Protocol Q65

12/31/2020

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 has introduced a new digital protocol called Q65, which is designed for “minimal two-way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths,” the Quick Start Guide says.

https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Q65_Quick_Start.pdf

“On paths with Doppler spread more than a few hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes. Q65 is particularly effective for tropospheric scatter, ionospheric scatter, and EME on VHF and higher bands, as well as other types of fast-fading signals.”

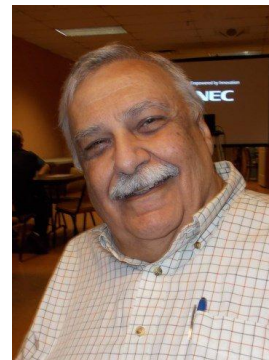
The new protocol uses 65-tone frequency-shift keying and builds on the demonstrated weak-signal strengths of QRA64, introduced in 2016. User messages and sequencing are identical to those in FT4, FT8, FST4, and MSK144. Q65 employs a “unique tone” to sync time and frequency. “As with JT65, this ‘sync tone’ is readily visible on the waterfall spectral display,” the Guide said. “Unlike JT65, synchronization and decoding are effective even when meteor pings or other short signal enhancements are present.

Transmit/receive sequence lengths of 15, 30, 60, 120, and 300 seconds are available. According to the Guide, “Q65 will enable stations with a modest Yagi and 100 W or more and to work one another on 6 meters at distances up to ~1600 kilometers at most times, in dead band conditions.”



Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
Contest & DX SIG Coordinator



Well, I'm back with something new. Starting this month, not only will you be able to read about DX happenings elsewhere in this Radiogram, but I will be giving you a preview of a few of the more interesting contests that will be held for the month. You will probably still see Parky's Contest Calendar listed in the Radiogram, but I am going to try and get you interested in participating in some contests by giving you some information regarding a few contests that seem more appropriate for our membership. I have to keep in mind that not all Ops are contesters. But if I can entice a few who have not contested before, into playing in a contest, I will have met my personal goal.

So, let's get started for January 2021 by looking at a couple of offerings put up by the National Contest Journal folks.

North American QSO Party, CW & SSB

The North American QSO Party has three parts to it...CW, SSB, and RTTY. It is said that the NA QSO Parties are favorites of beginners and seasoned Ops alike. Maybe this is because all three modes of this contest are LOW POWER ONLY! Yup...you guys with the Alphas and ACOMS need to keep them silent for these contests. I'll have to do the same. But what this does is level the playing field for all those who only have the 100w that their rigs give them. So it's more about your antenna system and really about your ability to operate your station wisely.

The CW portion takes place 1800Z, Jan 9 to 0600Z, Jan 10. That's only 12 hours of Fun for you CW enthusiasts. It also may give everyone some extra elbow room on the bands. Mults count once per band so you can rack up a good score if you have the ability to operate on more than 1 or 2 bands. And with only a 12 hour format, even us old timers who can't sit in the chair for 24 hour contests can play in this one. They even have a team category that allows up to a 5 member team to pool their scores. You do have to get your team together and register it with the Party officials but that can't happen until 7 days before the start of the contest.

The SSB portion takes place 1800Z, Jan 16 to 0600Z, Jan 17 and the RTTY portion takes place in Feb. We'll talk about that one in February.

Go online and google North American QSO Party to get the full rules. If you have any problems getting the rules, let me know.

ARRL January VHF Contest

This one begins 1900Z, Jan 16 to 0359Z, Jan 18 and is for amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Yes it happens that same weekend as the NA QSO Party. But so do many more contests. Many of you have 2 meter rigs and this would be perfect for you. All legal modes are permitted (while CW and SSB/Phone are most common, MSK144, FT8 and FM-Only are gaining popularity - other popular modes include PSK31, FSK441 and JT65). Who knows, someone working FT8 might just end up on top this year. So take a chance on this one. Just go to the ARRL website and look up this contest to get all the rules.

BARTG RTTY Sprint

For those of you who play in RTTY Contests, this one is a lot of fun. PCARS has used this contest to practice for some of the other RTTY contests held during the year. It is sponsored by the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group (aka BARTG).

It's a 24 hour contest with the emphasis on speed. No RST to be sent which shortens the QSO. And it's actually the first round of a four contest series. This one runs from 1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24. So for 24 hours you are hunting other RTTY stations and pushing buttons. But if you have played in this contest at the PCARS site, you know it's a lot of fun trying to rack up as many RTTY contacts as possible. The bands covered are 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. And it's another low power contest with max output of only 100w. This one also has a band change restriction. Those in a Single Radio class may only change bands once in any 5 minute period. I know...it's a wrinkle that many of us do not see in most of the contests, but they are really strict on this one. Go to the BARTG site and read the rules. You RTTY fans will have fun working this one.

Winter Field Day

The site says that the purpose of this contest is to foster Ham camaraderie, field operation and emergency preparedness. I say they made this one to torture us HAMS. As with PCARS' Freeze Your Acorns Off, this one is for those who can handle inclement WX and have a pair of those red underwear onesies. The contest takes place from 1900Z (2pm EST) Jan 30 to 1900Z (2pm EST) Jan 31. The modes that are permissible are any modes that can FAITHFULLY transmit the exchange INTACT without a conversion table. They do not allow FT8 or FT4. The bands are 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6/VHF/UHF. The rules to this contest are somewhat involved but I know that there are a few members that take part in this one. So go to the site and carefully read the rules.

Well, there you have the first of my Contest Briefings. I hope this gets a few of you interested in trying one of these contests and see if you get a liking to play in more.

See you next month. 73

PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS																							
Start Day (UTC) → 1		→ 3 End Day (UTC)																					
Start Time (UTC)		2300Z		End Time (UTC)																			
Contest Name		Major Contest of weekend																					
2021						Multimode	CW	Digital															
						off-the-air	SSB	VHF/UHF															
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec												
2 1800Z	3 2400Z	7 0400Z	6 2400Z	3 1500Z	4 1500Z	1 varies	2 varies	5 1200Z	6 1200Z	3 1600Z	4 1400Z	7 1800Z	8 0600Z	4 0000Z	2 2359Z	3 1600Z	6 2100Z	8 0300Z	3 2200Z	5 1600Z			
ARRL RTTY Roundup	NA Sprint CW	ARRL DX SSB	SP Polish DX	7CP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	SEANET Contest	Marconi Memorial HF	NAQP CW	CWOps CW Open	California QSO Party	ARRL SS CW	ARRL 160												
9 1800Z	10 0600Z	13 2400Z	14 0000Z	14 0400Z	10 0700Z	11 1300Z	8 1200Z	9 1159Z	12 1800Z	14 0300Z	10 1200Z	11 1200Z	14 0000Z	15 2359Z	11 0000Z	12 2359Z	9 0800Z	10 0800Z	13 2359Z	14 0000Z	12 2359Z		
NAQP CW	WPX RTTY	NA Sprint RTTY	JIDX CW	CQ-M DX	ARRL June VHF	IARU HF	WAE CW	WAE SSB	Oceania CW	WAE RTTY	ARRL 10												
16 1800Z	17 0600Z	20 0000Z	21 2400Z	21 1200Z	17 0900Z	18 2359Z	15 1200Z	16 1200Z	19 0000Z	20 2400Z	17 1800Z	18 2100Z	21 1800Z	22 0600Z	18 1600Z	19 varies	16 1500Z	17 1459Z	20 2100Z	22 0300Z	18 0000Z	18 2359Z	
NAQP SSB	ARRL DX CW	Russian DX	CQMM DX	King of Spain	All Asian CW	CQ VHF	NAQP SSB	WA/NJ/NH QSO Parties	Worked All Germany	ARRL SS SSB	RAC Winter												
16 1900Z	18 0359Z	26 2200Z	28 2200Z	27 0000Z	28 2400Z	24 1900Z	25 2159Z	20 1130Z	23 1700Z	26 1800Z	27 2100Z	24 1200Z	25 1200Z	28 1200Z	29 1200Z	25 0000Z	26 2400Z	23	24	27 0000Z	28 2400Z	24	25
ARRL January VHF	CQ 160 SSB	WPX SSB	Florida QSO Party	Contest University Dayton Hamvention	ARRL Field Day	RSGB IOTA	WW Digi	CQWW RTTY		CQWW CW	HAPPY HOLIDAYS												
29 2200Z	31 2159Z				29 0000Z	30 2400Z												30 0000Z	31 2400Z				
CQ 160 CW					WPX CW													CQWW SSB					

Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



Greetings DXers:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Let's all hope that 2021 allows us to start with a clean slate in more ways than one. Let's also hope that 2021 sees a lot more sun spot activity as Cycle 25 gets going. If it gets a good start, then this summer should be interesting. And with January here that can only mean that Spring is just a couple of months away and we can think about putting our heavy coats away and begin planning any outdoor station work that needs to be done.

Yes I know I might be jumping the gun but let's face it. Being house bound because of the virus and not being able to work outside because of the WX, can really make Winter seem longer than it actually is. So let's keep good thoughts and get to planning whatever improvements we would like to see in our shacks and our antenna systems. Yup, it's never too early to plan for better propagation and good DX opportunities. Let's see what the next few months might have in store.

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, W3UR & The Daily DX, W5JON, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, 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.

January...

3D2, ROTUMA. Tony, 3D2AG is QRV as 3D2AG/p until mid-January. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

5X, UGANDA. DX-World.net reports that John, 5X1JT, is a new operator from Nansana, Uganda. He's on assignment there for 2 years and is still trying to get up and running properly. It's likely he will use wire antennas. QSL Manager is currently to be arranged.

7S60, SWEDEN (Special Event). Members of the Kristianstad Radioamateur Club (SK7BQ) will activate special event station 7S60BW throughout 2021. Activity is to celebrate 60th anniversary of their radio club. QSL via SM7BHM.

8Q, MALDIVES (Update). Nobby, G0VJG, will once again be active as 8Q7CQ (now confirmed) between January 14-29th. Operations this time will be from Reethi Faru, Filaidhoo Island (AS-013). Activity will be on 80-10 meters (possibly 60m) using SSB and the Digital modes. His equipment will be a FT-450D with a 400 watt amp into a small 6m beam, Butternut vertical for the HF bands and possibly a 3 element tri-bander. QSL via M0OXO OQRS, direct or ClubLog's OQRS.

9G, GHANA. Thomas, DL2RMC, is now active as 9G5FI from Accra, Ghana, possibly through the next year. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, FT8 and the QO-100 satellite. Operations on 160/80 meters may not be possible while using a vertical. QSL via DL1RTL, direct, by the Bureau, eQSL, ClubLog and soon LoTW.

CQ750, PORTUGAL (Special Event). Valdemar, CT7AQD, will be active with the special callsign CQ750RSI to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the birth of Queen Saint Isabel from Coimbra between January 1st, and December 31st. QSL via CT7AQD. For more details, see QRZ.com.

DR165, GERMANY (Special Event). Members of the DARC OV Mainz K07 club will activate the special event station DR165TESLA throughout 2021 to celebrate the 165th birthday of Nikola Tesla. QSL via DK8ZZ.

EN50, UKRAINE (Special Event). Members of the "7-DX-Club" [UT7WZA (ex- UK5WBG 1971-1984) and ex-UB4WZA 1984-1994)] will activate the special event special EN50WZA between January 1-31st. Activity is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding (January 19, 1971) of their club. QSL via UT7WZA.

GB100, ENGLAND (Special Event). Members of Hull and District Amateur Radio Society (HADARS) will be active as GB100H (GOLF BRAVO ONE OSCAR OSCAR HOTEL) from Hull starting January 1st throughout 2021. The special callsign will be activated from multiple QTHs, and be on all HF bands plus VHF and UHF. Activity is to celebrate 100th anniversary of the HADARS. QSL via M0GPN.

HS, THAILAND. Chris, GM8NMM, is now active as HS0ZJB from Bang Saray, Bang Sare, Thailand. His length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on various HF bands, but was heard on 20 meters SSB December 20th. QSL via LoTW or eQSL.

JD1, OGASAWARA. Harry, JG7PSJ will be QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island, IOTA AS-031, until January 9. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

PC19, THE NETHERLANDS (Special Event). Hans, PA7HPH, will activate the special event station PC19HOPE from Vaassen between Jan 15th and Mar 10th. 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.

S5, SLOVENIA. Special event station S521PMC is QRV until January 3 to promote the PMC Contest. QSL via bureau.

S5, SLOVENIA. Members of the Radio Club Elektron Brezice are QRV with special event station S520SAFE until January 31, 2021 to support the STAY SAFE campaign and to express their gratitude to medical staff and care workers. QSL direct to S56IPS.

SP, POLAND. Members of team SP2PBM are QRV with special event callsign HF2021HNY until Jan 10. QSL via SP2PBM.

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.

T5, SOMALIA, Ali, EP3CQ is QRV as 6O100 until January 15 while working for the UN Department of Safety and Security in Mogadishu. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL direct.

YI, IRAQ. Giorgio, IU5HWS is QRV as YI9WS and remains active until January 20th in his spare time. QLS direct to home call

February...

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. The lighthouses to be activated are: 3G5C -- Cocholgue 3G5P -- Puchoco 3G5H -- Punta Hualpen 3G5S -- Lutrín 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."

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.

IOTA News...

AS-152. (Update) Members of the Arctic Legends Team (RT9K), who plan to be active as RI0Q from Bolshoj Begichev Island sometime in early 2021, are looking for funds (15,000 USDs was mentioned) to conduct this operation. To achieve their goal to operate from Bolshoj Begichev Island, the team will have to travel 3624 km (by snowmobiles 1812 km*2). The latest info indicates that the team will start their snowmobile trip on March 10th, from Norway, and will start their RI0Q operation possibly on March 17th (depending on the weather).

There are some interesting DX possibilities coming up in the next couple of months. Get on the air and see what you can work. And be sure to listen on 15 and 10 meters. You might be surprised.

A Contest

Bob, I2WIJ



A contest is, literal translation, a contest, contest, competition. For us it is therefore a competition between radio amateurs who participate in it, operating their own station in general, according to the rules that are established and made public by the Organizing Committees, of each contest, through the most diverse methods, from specialized magazines, to the Internet in its many facets: WEB sites, e-mails, Bulletins, Forums, Social networks. In principle, the contests are all the same and all different from each other. This, which may seem a contradiction, is, after all, precisely the characteristic that makes the contest topic interesting to a diverse population of radio amateurs who undoubtedly have different interests and expectations. Just the rules, which we talked about before, characterize the various types of contest and differentiate them from each other. We will see it in more detail.

To take part in a contest, no registration is required and no fee is required. Anyone can freely participate in the category they prefer, without any preliminary formalities. You can decide to participate even suddenly, turn on the radio and start making QSOs. The contests are usually held on weekends, have a start time and an end time and last from a minimum of a few hours up to 48 hours. Don't be scared! The participation time, however, is decided by the participant who has to deal with his own free time and nothing prevents him from participating even for only two or three hours in a 48-hour contest.

Being a race, it is obvious that at the end there will be a ranking, which will be determined by the score achieved by each participant in that particular category. As a consequence of this, it is equally obvious that every QSO made will have a score that may vary depending on whether the QSO has been made with a station in our own country, our same Continent or with a DX station, or belonging to a different Continent. Let's say that, the more the number of QSOs made increases, the more the score grows, but the final score can also be influenced by other factors and we will see this when we talk about multipliers.

However, for newcomers, we simplify things and keep in mind that the principle of making lots of QSOs is always valid. Among other things, the high number of QSOs amuses those who make them, it allows in the post contest to discover in the log maybe some new Country, or some new prefix or some new IOTA reference and, in any case, it allows you to send and receive several QSL cards, all things that are generally very welcome to new OM / YL that whoever approaches the world of contests as a beginner is also a freshly licensed radio amateur.

Since there is no need to register, it is practically impossible to know exactly how many and which participants had a particular contest. To allow the Organizing Committee (usually called Contest Committee) to be able to draw up a ranking and assign the various prizes, it is necessary that the participants send a list of the QSOs made by them during the contest (the famous LOG). It is not mandatory to send your LOG, but, remember, which is certainly a sign of great seriousness, to send your log after the contest, whatever the result achieved in terms of points. Therefore, at the end of a contest, or when you decide to end your participation, you have to choose whether to remain a "passive participant" or become an "active participant". The active participant is the one who, regardless of the number of QSOs made and the score achieved, decides to send his / her log within the terms provided by the regulation. As you can already understand, sending the LOG is a very minimal extra effort, even for a participant, let's say, random. The active participant is however the main architect of the success of a contest.

The contests are generally organized by Associations and Amateur Radio Clubs and there are never economic purposes, so the only "returns" that can be had from a contest, which enjoys a high participation, are in terms of prestige for the Association or Club that organized it. Sending your LOG helps to strengthen the image of a contest and a contest, with sustained participation, almost always manages to attract many participants and this translates into more opportunities to make QSO more easily and therefore in greater fun for the participants themselves. Hence the famous "virtuous" circle is generated. Of course, when we talk about participants, we always refer to active participants, i.e. those who send their results to the Organizing Committee.

Roberto (Bob), I2WIJ from the website www.ari.it

John Devoldere, ON4UN Memorial Plaque



From the ARRL



A new contest plaque has been announced for the [ARRL 160-Meter Contest](#). The ARRL Programs and Services Committee -- on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors -- will award a new "John Devoldere, ON4UN, Memorial Plaque" each year to the Single-Operator, High-Power (SOHP) winner.

A giant in the field of low-band DXing and contesting, Devoldere [died](#) on November 9. An ARRL Life member, Devoldere may be best known outside of his 160-meter activity as the author of the popular *ON4UN's Low-Band DXing*, published by ARRL, as well as other books, including *Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur* (co-authored with Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW). The initial award will be made for the 2020 edition of the ARRL 160-Meter Contest. This is a CW-only event.

Ham-Com 2021 - Closed

Bill, AB5QZ
President - Ham-Com, Inc.



It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter about the future of Ham-Com. After 41 years, Ham-Com (Texas) has decided to close its doors in lieu of the restrictions in place for COVID-19 and the rising costs of putting on a show. The decision was not made lightly, but the safety and wellness of our volunteers, vendors, clubs, presenters, and attendees is our paramount concern.



We sincerely thank each and every person for their support over the past years. This starts with clubs who have participated in offering forums, transmitter sessions, VE sessions, talk-ins, and many more things through the years. Next, to the commercial and flea market vendors who have helped new hams get their first radio to established hams who are building the ultimate ham shack, we thank you for returning year over year. To the volunteer staff, functional directors, and access control, your dedication and hard work have contributed to the continued success of the show for 41 years. Finally, to our attendees. Without you, there is no show. Over 41 years, we have met a variety of people with one common passion, amateur radio. Ham-Com is proud to contribute to bringing people together to enjoy this passion. We will definitely miss this gathering of the broader community.

Our thoughts and best wishes to you and your families and "see you on-the-air".

<https://sites.google.com/hamcom.org/ham-com>



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.



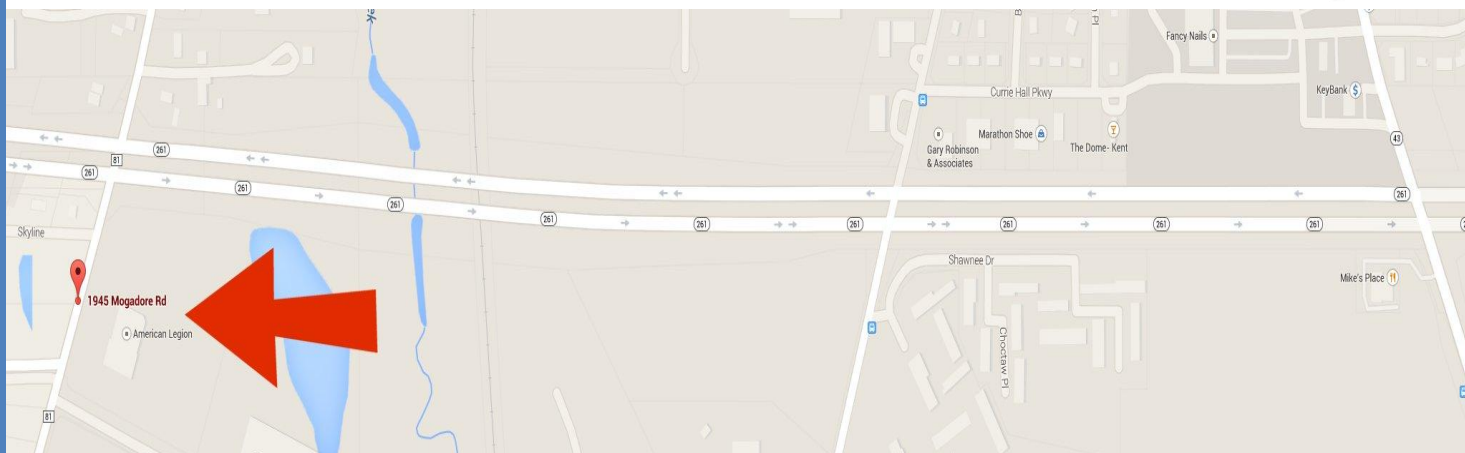
PCARS Meetings

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 Un-Official December Zoom Meeting



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!





Contact Information

I am a brand new member or my membership has been lapsed for 2 or more years. My club will keep \$15 of my dues.

I am renewing (includes lapsed members of less than 2 years). My club will keep \$2.00 of my dues.

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Get an annual birthday coupon (US only)

My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (\$10 per member)

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Your Annual Membership Dues – Circle Your Choice/s.

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	
US	\$49	\$95	\$140	Monthly QST via standard mail for US members
Youth	\$25			Must be 21 years old or younger AND the oldest licensed Radio Amateur in the household
Canada	\$62	\$120	\$177	Monthly QST via standard mail for Canadian members
International	\$76	\$147	\$217	Monthly QST via standard mail for International members
International/Canada – no print QST	\$49	\$95	\$140	Digital QST only
Family	\$10	\$20	\$30	Must reside with primary member and have corresponding membership dates; no extra copies of QST
Blind	\$10	\$20	\$30	No QST delivery; all other member benefits apply. Requires a one time signed and dated statement of Legal Blindness

Additional membership options available online at www.arrl.org/join. US Memberships include \$21 per year for subscription to QST. Dues are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable. Only one free book and one monthly issue of QST per family. Memberships may not be combined with any other promotion or special offer.

I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings.

Payment Information

Please charge my ARRL dues less my club's commission. I have paid the commission directly to my club.

\$ _____ Total Charge to: Visa MasterCard Amex Discover Check Enclosed

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Signature _____

Now That I'm Older

My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go.

Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce, and cheese. FINE, it was a pizza.... OK, I ate a pizza! Are you happy now?

How to prepare Tofu: a. Throw it in the trash b. Grill some meat, chicken or fish

I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.

I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

Senility has been a smooth transition for me.

Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside they closed school? Yeah, Me neither.

I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this.

I love approaching 80, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I got up and searched with him.

I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

Marriage Counselor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true? Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember...Don't sing!

I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up. Oh, and remember that heavier people who are lost survive longer than thin ones.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Thanks & 73



Parky, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



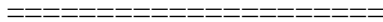
I really appreciate the help in gathering material to keep this newsletter number one. Without your help we would not have received the newsletter awards in past years. All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure PCARS is 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, KE8EGF, WB8LCD, WA8EFK, N8SY, K8CAV, W8KNO, KG7ONX, W8NET, K3LR, KA8TOA, K8CAV, W8PT, I2WIJ, AB5QZ, The ARRL, Club Log, Design News and the world wide web.

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



Be good to your spouse, Remember, right now they could poison you and it would be counted as a covid death.



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

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

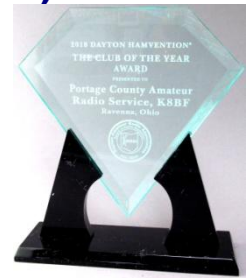


PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the **Kent American Legion Post 496**,
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - Enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.

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: **K8SRR**

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 is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Hamvention® 2018 Club Of The Year – copyright ©2021. 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 may be 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.



Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)
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NLC

