



# 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

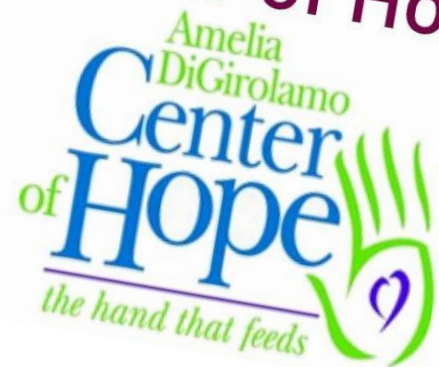
November 2020 - Volume 15 Number 11



## Ohio State Parks On The Air 2020 Contest Results

## Annual Center of Hope Fund Drive at the November Meeting

Center of Hope



## Get Ready for a **BIG FUN** **K8BF Special** **Event**



**PCARS K8BF**

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!





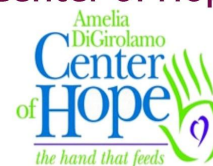
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Center of Hope



Ohio State Parks On The Air



**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.



**Portage County Amateur Radio Service**

**K8BF**

2018 Hamvention Club of the Year



## From the President

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS President



We're entering the "Home Stretch" of 2020. Let's hope that 2021 is more than just a continuation of the "same ole crap".

Even with the world around us in chaos, Ham Radio is the place we can all turn to when we need the comfort of familiar friends, relaxing activities, and opportunities to learn new skills.

Our hobbies are an important part of our lives and help keep us grounded in a world that continuously makes less and less sense. Wherever you are in this great hobby, put some time and effort into learning more and becoming better operator. Help others who want to improve their skills or increase their knowledge. Most importantly, be open to anyone who has an interest in joining us. One of the goals of the Amateur Radio Service is to spread international good-will. How about we use our hobby to do that within our own country? How about even on a local scale?

November is a **BIG** month for us at PCARS! First off, it's the month for our election of officers. We will be accommodating everyone's ability to vote in our elections on Monday November 9th either in person at the American Legion in Kent, or via ZOOM. While I am not running for reelection as president, I know that we will pick the right people to take PCARS from the lethargic year we are just finishing up into the next year which will put us back on the track to "normal".

Also, our meeting will have our annual **50/50 for the benefit of the Center of Hope**. You'll need to purchase your tickets online via the PAYPAL button on the website. Once we get your order, you will be issued an actual ticket. We'll write your name and call on the back of the ticket to help move things along a little quicker. The first ticket drawn for the 50/50 will be for the 50% of the ticket sales. After that, each item for the 50/50 drawing will be presented and a ticket will be drawn for the winner of that prize. I'll get the complete list of prizes out shortly, but I want to personally thank **DX Engineering**, on behalf of PCARS, for their contribution this year which includes: DX Logo t-shirts - 1 in each size from small to XXXL, 12 Nanuk Nano Gear Cases (various sizes), 8 Deoxit connector enhancer kits, 1 DX Engineering \$100 gift card, and 4 DX Engineering \$25 gift cards.

If you have items for the 50/50 - please get the items to me, or at least a listing to me, so I can get them listed! This year - you do not have to be "present" to win. If your ticket is drawn for a prize, we will make arrangements to get your prize to you.

Now all of this is for the benefit of The Center of Hope. We know that this will be a tough year for them, and for the members of our community which they serve. I'm asking you to buy lots of 50/50 tickets, and, if you prefer, make a contribution directly to the Center of Hope. Contributions can also be made via PAYPAL on the PCARS website, you can give it directly to any of the officers, or mail it to me at my home address and I will make sure it is included in the PCARS effort for this year! Thank you all, in advance, for your generosity. At our last board meeting, we discussed and decided that our annual Christmas Dinner would not be appropriate for this year. Rather than trying to put something together to take its place we decided that we would "donate" our club meeting night to everyone to stay in and enjoy their family. Get rested up. 2021 is just about to get started, and it's going to be AWESOME!



## From the Vice President

**Nick, AC8QG**  
PCARS Vice President



In a couple of days, we'll wrap up our Center of Hope fundraiser and 50/50 drive. That means there's still time left to pitch in. No amount is too small. Every dollar is greatly appreciated by the Center of Hope, PCARS, and the members of our community of benefit from your generosity. It's been a tough year for so many people in Northeast Ohio. Please help out if you can and be a blessing for our less fortunate neighbors.

During our November meeting, we will also have our election of officers. If you want to be a big part of PCARS for 2021, please consider running for office or volunteering for an appointed position. Personally, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve as Vice President these past two years. It's been a challenging but rewarding experience, and I encourage everyone to consider if now is the time to give a little of your time and talent to the club.

**Due to the crazy conditions that pretty much define 2020, we have decided that there will be no December meeting or club Christmas dinner. I'm a little bit sad that we're unable to have our normal holiday gathering, but it's pretty difficult to share a festive meal over Zoom. Instead, let me say, have a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas!**

If you have any suggestions for a meeting topic, or if you are interested in giving a presentation, please let me know. We're always looking for new and interesting topics!

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.

Things may seem a bit slow here at the end of 2020 but fear not. We're deep into the planning for a great 2021! Stay tuned!



A banner for PCARS K8BF. On the left is the Portage County Amateur Radio Service logo, which includes a map of Portage County and a squirrel. The text reads "PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE". In the center, "PCARS K8BF" is written in large, bold, gold letters. Below that, the tagline "The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!" is written in a smaller, gold font. On the right is the ARRL Special Service Club logo, which is a circular emblem with a diamond shape in the center containing the letters "A", "R", "R", "L" and a star.

# Schedule of Events



On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:



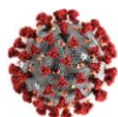
Although we are resuming in-person activities, many regular events are canceled or will be conducted virtually. Even events that are scheduled to be in-person may be canceled or moved to virtual. Please read this newsletter, join our weekly on-air club net, and watch for QST emails so you can stay up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

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Board Meeting at the club site & ZOOM - starts at 7 pm
- November 7<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - **PCARS 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Special Event**
- November 9<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm - **Election of officers and Center of Hope fundraiser**
- December 5<sup>th</sup> - VE Test Session at the club site - 10 am - must be pre-registered
- December 14<sup>th</sup> - **No PCARS Meeting**
- January 11<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm - Axel Fisser K8AXX, Lithium Batteries
- February 8<sup>th</sup> - 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 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



2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

There are a **limited number of extra coffee cups** and they are for sale at \$5.00 each **contact Paul for all of the details**

## 2020 Center of Hope Donations

**Tom, WB8LCD**



Yes! PCARS will once again be presenting a donation to the Center of Hope right after our November meeting this year. No matter what it turns out to be, I know that the folks from both the Center of Hope and Family & Community Services will appreciate what we do for them. I also know that those in the community who receive the meals and food that is provided for will also appreciate our donation. No matter how it turns out – everybody WINS!

Our name, Portage County Amateur Radio *Service*, and our Mission Statement both stress that one of our goals is to be of service to our community. While this club activity does not involve Amateur Radio directly, it does show that our club has a bigger vision as to what our service can be. And it certainly can't be bad for our club to be seen by our community as an organization willing to help in ways that are not as obvious, but still of great benefit to the community in which we live.

## Center of Hope



We have a pretty good story to share and no-one can accuse us of being just a bunch of crusty old guys who stay in the basement! PCARS presented a donation to the Center of Hope in our very first year of existence. The first year's donation was small, about \$300. But, we have given a donation every year since then. And the totals each year have gone up nicely. We want everyone to help for this worthy cause !

I want to ask every member of PCARS to dig as deep as you can to support this. No one's keeping individual score, it's not a competition between us, but please, do what you can. It doesn't matter whether you give your donation directly, or if you use it to buy 50/50 tickets. Everything counts. I learned a long time ago that "all you can do is all you can do, but all you can do is enough." Obviously, we are going to have to extend our reach. Maybe brag about PCARS to some of your non-ham friends, tell them about all the great things we do! Who wouldn't want to be a part of that? Here's a way that regular folks can be a part of something BIG even if they've never even heard of Ham Radio before. And, after hearing about PCARS, participating with us in doing good for our community, they just might be interested in learning more about our hobby!

Are you a member of any other Amateur Radio clubs, or other civic clubs or organizations? Why not ask them to participate with us? Invite them to our November meeting! How about the people you do business with? Where do you buy your cars, where do you bank? Who's your dentist, doctor, insurance agent, broker, realtor, car mechanic, where do you get your hair done – you get the idea. If not cash, maybe they would be more willing to donate something nice to the 50/50. That's OK too.

There is a PAYPAL button live on the PCARS website for donations. That will make it easy for someone to find and make their donation directly. In addition, donations can be made by check payable directly to the Center of Hope. It can either be given to someone who will bring it to the club for processing, or, mailed directly to PCARS for inclusion with our donation. Cash is certainly acceptable, but we would prefer it not be put in the mail. By the way, both the Center of Hope and PCARS are charitable organizations, and donations are 100% deductible (we are not offering tax advice and ask you to check with your accountant or tax preparer if you have any questions as to how the deduction would benefit you).



The Center of Hope provides a very important function in our community. I am proud that PCARS has supported them through the years and hope that we can continue to be a significant part of their mission to our community. I hope you will all join in to make this our biggest year ever!

**Let's make this REAL easy - Just go to the  
PCARS web site at  
<http://www.portcars.org>  
and click on the PayPal button for the  
Center of Hope Donation**



And, you can enter a donation more than one time.



## Spring Forward - FALL BACK

It is that time of year again - Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 am (local time) - Turn your clocks **BACK** one hour (*Fall Back*). We go from Eastern Daylight Saving Time to Eastern Standard Time.



**UTC (GMT or Zulu Time)  
does NOT change.**

So, follow me on this..... At 2:00 am (0200) local on November 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be 0600 UTC or 4 hours behind UTC.

We turn our clocks back one hour and that makes it 1:00 am EST (0100) - our local time. It will **still be 0600 UTC**. We are now **5** hours behind UTC time.

You get to sleep in one more hour on Sunday morning.

But don't worry, they will take that hour back again in Spring when we turn our clock ahead one hour (*Spring Forward*).



## Skywarn Recognition Day 2020 - December 5<sup>th</sup>

### **SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020 Making Adjustments for COVID-19**

Since 1999, the annual SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) celebrates the long relationship between the amateur community and the National Weather Service (NWS) program. The purpose of the event is to recognize amateurs for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service.



Normally each year, radio amateurs participate from home stations and from stations at National Weather Service forecast offices with the goal of making contact with as many offices as possible. However, this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, participation from NWS forecast offices will be minimal at best. The focus will shift to contacting as many SKYWARN trained spotters as possible during the event.

Radio amateurs who wish to participate may sign up for a SKYWARN Recognition Day number by completing the form found on the SRD 2020 website. During the event, operators are encouraged to exchange their name, QTH, SRD number, and current weather conditions with other participating stations. See the event website for the full operating guidelines. [SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020](#) will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC December 5.





## Fifteenth Anniversary Special Event - K8BF

Tom, KB8UUZ



### 2020 is the Portage County Amateur Radio Service's 15<sup>th</sup> year



Our club 'birthday' is November 14, 2005. Way back then, a small group of hams got together and decided to start a club in order to promote ham radio and most of all - to have **FUN** with ham radio.

Over the years many people have joined us in this effort and the club has accomplished a lot. We have exceeded our expectations with the help of all of the members, past and present.

To celebrate this special occasion PCARS is going to have a Special Event Station. However it will be a bit different than the usual special event station considering this COVID-19 situation. Normally, we would meet at the club site on a Saturday and run the club site radios for about 12 hours as we have done with past PCARS special events. Well, we all know that is not going to happen this year. But, have no fear - this may be even **MORE FUN** for the PCARS members that participate.

**Starting at 12:01 am on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and running until 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> - PCARS WILL be on the air - yes - for a whole week !**

This is how the special event is listed on the ARRL site (and it will be in the December issue of QST which comes out in November prior to our special event):

11/07/2020 | Portage County Amateur Radio Service 15th Anniversary  
Nov 7-Nov 15, 0001Z-2359Z, K8BF, Mantua, OH. Portage County (Ohio)  
Amateur Radio Service. 21.315 14.285 7.185 3.815. Certificate. Tom Parkinson,  
9992 State Route 700, Mantua, OH 44255. PCARS Club members will be on  
160/80/40/20/15/10/6/2/70cm/EchoLink(K8SRR) - all modes as K8BF. Color  
certificate (8"x10") or QSL card available with your QSL card and SASE to Tom  
Parkinson - 9992 State Route 700 - Mantua, OH 44255. Join us in our 15th year  
celebration as an Amateur Radio Club ! [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)



**Yes** - we will be making contacts on **160/80/40/20/15/10/6/2/70cm/ and even on Echo-Link**. All modes can be used - **AM/FM/SSB/CW/Digital !!** You will be operating from **YOUR** home QTH using **YOUR** radio and using the **club call sign K8BF**. Even if there is more than one person (for example) on 40 meters SSB at the same time - **that's OKAY!** This is going to be a **FUN** activity for all that participate. Just make those contacts!!

So - if you (as a PCARS member) want to be part of this PCARS Special Event Station - this is what you have to do: Sent me an email ([kb8uuz@gmail.com](mailto:kb8uuz@gmail.com)) and I will put you on the list. I will also send you information on how to log your contacts and how to submit your log information to me. This special event activity to celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club us going to be **BIG FUN** for all !



# Opposing the FCC's Application Fees Proposal



From the ARRL

10/27/2020

ARRL will file comments in firm opposition to an FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees. With the November 16 comment deadline fast approaching, ARRL urges members to add their voices to ARRL's by filing opposition comments of their own. The FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* MD Docket 20-270 appeared in the October 15 edition of *The Federal Register* and sets deadlines of November 16 to comment and November 30 to post reply comments, which are comments on comments already filed. ARRL has prepared a [Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC](#) which includes tips for preparing comments and step-by-step filing instructions. File comments on MD Docket 20-270 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

Under the proposal, amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio application for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. The FCC also has proposed a \$50 fee to obtain a printed copy of a license. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees. Amateur Service licensees have been exempt from application fees for several years.

The FCC proposal is 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**." The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its *NPRM*, 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. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees. The FCC proposal affects all FCC services and does not single out amateur radio.



ARRL is encouraging members to file comments that stress amateur radio's contributions to the country and communities. ARRL's [Guide to Filing Comments](#) includes "talking points" that may be helpful in preparing comments. These stress amateur radio's role in volunteering communication support during disasters and emergencies, and inspiring students to pursue education and careers in engineering, radio technology, and communications.

As the FCC explained in its *NPRM*, Congress, through the Ray Baum's Act, is compelling regulatory agencies such as the FCC to recover from applicants the costs involved in filing and handling applications. In its *NPRM* the FCC encouraged licensees to update their own information online without charge. Many, if not most, Amateur Service applications may be handled via the largely automated Universal License Service (ULS). The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service, and the FCC stopped assessing fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

See also "[FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees](#)," reported by ARRL in August, and a [summary page](#) of the proceeding.



## OSPOTA 2020 - Contest Results

**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
OSPOTA Chairman



**Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) 2020 is in the history books.** This year the weather was perfect for everyone in the state. Even with the Covid-19 situation, we had 95 logs submitted for Ohio State Parks On The Air 2020 contest.

The all volunteer OSPOTA Contest Committee has gone over the submitted logs and summary sheets from all of the participants.

It looked as if the bands were cooperating and a LOT of contacts were made this year. Ohio State Park activations were up and from what I have seen so far, everyone really had a FUN day playing radio and enjoying the Ohio State Parks.

Many of the stations replied to my request for write ups and pictures showing the set ups and operation during OSPOTA 2020 and are in this report for all to see how much FUN everyone had.

Thanks goes out to the committee for working hard to get through all of the logs. You have to remember - the OSPOTA committee are all volunteers (**there are five PCARS members that do this - KB8UUZ, KD8MQ, W8PT, KB8UHN and W8KNO**) and getting time set aside to spend HOURS going over logs them compiling the results, printing certificates, mailing to the top 3 in each category and the writing it all up for the newsletter is not an easy task that can be done quickly.

This was the first year for all logs to be submitted in Cabrillo format (no paper logs) and a special 'Hats-Off' to John, KD8MQ for running all of the logs through a computer checking program. John had a lot of work to get them all to work properly.

During November the first place framed certificates and the second & third place certificated will be mailed out. So keep an eye on the mail box if you were one of the top three finishers in your category !

## Ohio State Parks On The Air



# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## Greetings to the 2020 OSPOTA (Ohio State Parks On The Air) Participants

From the Portage County Amateur Radio Club's OSPOTA Committee, we would like to extend our appreciation for your participation in the 13th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest. You are now part of OSPOTA history and our hope is that it will be a long and rewarding one.

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

To those of you who placed in the top three spots in each category, congratulations on your efforts. You deserve your awards for your operating skills. The turnout for OSPOTA was fantastic and we are counting on having everyone do even better in OSPOTA 2021.



So until September 11, 2021 - 73!

**Tom - KB8UUZ**, OSPOTA Chairman

**John - KD8MQ**, **Joe - W8KNO**,

**John - KB8UHN**, **Chuck - W8PT**

OSPOTA Committee Members



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

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

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

### OSPOTA 2020 General Information: Top score this year - 21,328

**53** Parks activated   **22** Parks not activated   **6** Parks activated did not submit log   **95** Logs submitted  
**21** Out of state logs submitted   **37** Clubs represented   over **219** Hams took part this year

### 37 Clubs Represented

Ashtabula County Amateur Radio Club	Fayette Amateur Radio Association	Noble County Amateur Radio Club
Athens County Amateur Radio Association	Findlay Radio Club	Ohio Baptist Emergency Amateur Radio Service
Cambridge Amateur Radio Association	Fulton County Amateur Radio Club	Pedestrian Amateur Radio Club
Canton Amateur Radio Club	Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (2)	Portage County Amateur Radio Service (10)
Central Ohio Operators Klub Extra-Novice (3)	Hamilton Amateur Radio Club	Preble Amateur Radio Association
Clinton County Amateur Radio Association	Highland Amateur Radio Association (2)	Society of Midwest Contesters
Contest Group Du Quebec	Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club	St. Marys Amateur Radio Club
Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Service	Huber Height Amateur Radio Club	Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club	Lake County Amateur Radio Association	Tennessee Contest Group
Dayton Amateur Radio Association	Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association	Toledo Mobile Radio Association (2)
Delaware Amateur Radio Association	Medina 2 Meter Group	Warren Amateur Radio Association
Drake Amateur Radio Club	Milford Amateur Radio Club (2)	West Chester Amateur Radio Association
		Woodchuck Amateur Radio Club





### OSPOTA 2020 - Final Scores

Overall High Score

**K8IV - 21,328**

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

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>K8IV</b>	<b>PUNDERSON</b>	<b>21,328</b>
<b>WB8CPG</b>	<b>DELAWARE</b>	<b>18,544</b>
<b>K8UU</b>	<b>CAESAR CREEK</b>	<b>14,036</b>
N8TUW	TAR HOLLOW	6,156
W8VTD	MOSQUITO LAKE	5,680
K8HO	ROCKY FORK	3,990
NO8I	SYCAMORE	2,639
W8P	PAINT CREEK	2,442
W8FT	VAN BUREN	2,006
N8BC	HEADLANDS BEACH	1,518
W8OBC	A.W. MARION	777
K8LGN	LAKE LOGAN	527
K8CY	GENEVA	Check log

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

Call	Park Name	Score
<i>No entries in this category</i>		

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

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>N8XC</b>	<b>SYCAMORE</b>	<b>9,006</b>
<b>W8UKE</b>	<b>STROUDS RUN</b>	<b>6,903</b>
<b>KC8OKJ</b>	<b>PIKE LAKE</b>	<b>4,680</b>
W8VP	BLUE ROCK	2,170
K8PRC	WEST BRANCH	1,960
NC8OH	JESSE OWENS	1,080
WC8VOA	EAST FORK	1,050
AB8DD	KISER LAKE	888
KC8BPE	MOUNT GILEAD	660
W8AJT	HUESTON WOODS	486
KD8OOB	STONELICK	460
W8QLY	LAKE MILTON	319
N8MIQ	NORTH BASS ISLAND	196
WA8Q	NELSON KENNEDY LEDGES	140
W8H	MAUMEE BAY	Check log

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

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>KC8AAV</b>	<b>BURR OAK</b>	<b>16727</b>

#### SH - Single Op-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
<i>No entries in this category</i>		

Framed Certificate

Certificate

#### SL - Single Op-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>KD8BBK</b>	<b>SALT FORK</b>	<b>14,040</b>
<b>KY8U</b>	<b>INDIAN LAKE</b>	<b>10,291</b>
<b>K8RGI</b>	<b>OAK POINT</b>	<b>7,458</b>
KD8MQ	MOUNT GILEAD	7,439
WW8OH	DILLON	5,886
K8FH	FINDLEY	5,358
N8WCP	WEST BRANCH	5,280
KD8ODF	BARKCAMP	2,904
K8FAY	DEER CREEK	2,016
AF1K	TINKERS CREEK	1,725
WA8RR	SOUTH BASS ISLAND	1,664
K8BXQ	HARRISON LAKE	1,428
AA8GP	STONELICK	1,365
K8CAV	WEST BRANCH	1,118
WB8ERJ	MALABAR FARM	861
K8RYU	LAKE HOPE	840
K8RYU	LAKE ALMA	551
K8TSG	ALUM CREEK	540
K8RYU	JACKSON LAKE	406
KZ3L	CAESAR CREEK	392
K8RYU	FORKED RUN	364
W9AMA	COWAN LAKE	360
W8UF	LITTLE MIAMI	Check log
KE8RV	MADISON LAKE	Check log
K8FF	PUNDERSON	Check log

#### In Ohio - Not In Park

Call	Score
<b>W3HKK</b>	<b>1,558</b>
<b>KB8UHN</b>	<b>1,470</b>
<b>WS6K</b>	<b>1,280</b>
KB8UUZ	1,254
NX8Y	1,088
W8EOT	986
KA8TOA	837
KF8O	650
N8QE	504
W8BI	462
KE8NBC	196
K8ZT	144
W4YPW	130
W8GSR	121
KB8TUY	121
W8BVH	90
N8WL	81
W8VE	25
AC8XO	Check log
KD8NZF	Check log

#### Outside Ohio

Call	State	Score
<b>N3CU</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>1,290</b>
<b>NO2C</b>	<b>NY</b>	<b>462</b>
<b>N8CWU</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>437</b>
KA1WPM	CT	440
K2RYD	NY	380
KC9BZL	IN	324
W9AV	WI	270
KG9JP	WI	196
KM4IAJ	VA	182
W1ZFG	CT	156
K4JSK	NC	121
W4SSF	TN	120
VE2GT	DX	64
KN4PLB	GA	49
W7LG	PA	20
K4VBM	GA	16
KE0QKF	IA	16
KG5JEN	NY	9
KC9ACL	IN	4
VE3SDF	DX	Check log
VE3ZIS	DX	Check log



# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## Park Listing showing Activated and Contacted in 2020

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

Ohio State Park	ID	Activated	Contacted
Lake Loramie	LOR		
Lake Milton	LML	X	X
Lake White	LWT		
Little Miami	LMI	X	X
Madison Lake	MLK	X	X
Malabar Farm	MAL	X	X
Marblehead Lighthouse	MHD		X
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT		
Maumee Bay	MBY	X	X
Middle Bass Island	MBI		
Mohican	MOH		
Mosquito Lake	MST	X	X
Mt. Gilead	MTG	X	X
Muskingum River	MUS		
Nelson Kennedy Ledges	NKL	X	X
North Bass Island	NBI	X	X
Oak Point	OPT	X	X
Paint Creek	PTC	X	X
Pike Lake	PLK	X	X
Portage Lakes	POR		X
Punderson	PUN	X	X
Pymatuning	PYM		
Quail Hollow	QHL		
Rocky Fork	RFK	X	X
Salt Fork	SFK	X	X
Scioto Trail	STR		X
Shawnee	SHA		
South Bass Island	SBI	X	X
Stonelick	STO	X	X
Strouds Run	SRN	X	X
Sycamore	SYC	X	X
Tar Hollow	TAR	X	X
Tinkers Creek	TCK	X	X
Van Buren	VAN	X	X
West Branch	WBR	X	X
Wingfoot Lake	WLK		
Wolf Run	WRN		X

**Parks Activated = 47 (Log sent in)**

**Parks Contacted = 53 (Some parks may not have sent in a log)**

*Thanks goes out to the 219 ham radio operators and loggers that submitted logs for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest*

AA8GP
AA8HS
AB8DD
AB8P
AB8YK
AC8RJ
AC8WQ
AC8WW
AC8XO
AF1K
K1RQS
K2RYD
K3GP
K4JSK
K4VBM
K4YJ
K8BCI
K8BL
K8BXQ
K8CAV
K8CVM
K8CY
K8EEE
K8FAY
K8FF
K8FH
K8HO
K8IV
K8IYO
K8LGN
K8MSH
K8PRC
K8QXO
K8RGI
K8RYU
K8SWS
K8TSG

K8UU
K8ZT
KA1WPM
KA4VNK
KA8IIM
KA8TOA
KB8BKE
KB8DOT
KB8LLL
KB8TAD
KB8TUY
KB8UEY
KB8UHN
KB8UUZ
KB8YVI
KB8ZYE
KC3JXN
KC8AAV
KC8BPE
KC8KEB
KC8KSM
KC8LRH
KC8OKJ
KC8QDP
KC8QDQ
KC8RJO
KC8RYM
KC8UFV
KC8YDS
KC9ACL
KC9BZL
KD8AMY
KD8AVT
KD8BBK
KD8DFL
KD8ENV
KD8FKB

KD8JDH
KD8KBU
KD8KZG
KD8LHR
KD8LYX
KD8MQ
KD8NZF
KD8ODF
KD8OOB
KD8ORN
KD8OSI
KD8OSZ
KD8QYV
KD8RLA
KD8SYT
KD8TUR
KD8VRX
KD8VUY
KD8VWF
KD8WBZ
KD8WUS
KD8WVX
KD8ZMG
KE0QKF
KE4UHC
KE8ANU
KE8CIE
KE8CIN
KE8FHG
KE8HZZ
KE8IJU
KE8IJV
KE8IQE
KE8IQF
KE8IUU
KE8LRZ
KE8NBC

KE8OJR
KE8OLG
KE8PAI
KE8PP
KF8LE
KF8O
KG5JEN
KG9JP
KM4IAJ
KN4PLB
KO3C
KV8P
KY8U
KZ3L
N2LC
N3CU
N3JJT
N8AMY
N8BAP
N8BC
N8CJ
N8CUB
N8CWU
N8ET
N8GBU
N8IMW
N8JDY
N8MIQ
N8MWK
N8NYI
N8ORJ
N8OWS
N8QE
N8QNM
N8RLH
N8STN
N8SUZ

N8TUW
N8UVM
N8VAR
N8WCP
N8WL
N8XC
N8XCC
N8XWO
N8YFF
NC8OH
NO2C
NO8I
NX8Y
NZ8A
VA3OPT
VE2GT
VE3SDF
VE3ZIS
W1ILE
W1ZFG
W2TBQ
W3HKK
W4SSF
W4YPW
W7LG
W8AJT
W8BI
W8BVH
W8E
W8EOT
W8FHF
W8FT
W8GSR
W8H
W8IJC
W8LGX
W8LTR

W8MAL
W8MHV
W8MUK
W8OBC
W8P
W8PU
W8QLY
W8UF
W8UKE
W8VE
W8VP
W8VTD
W8ZL
W9AMA
W9AV
WA8Q
WA8RR
WB8CPG
WB8ERJ
WB8LCD
WB8PHI
WB8RG
WB8TCB
WB8YHD
WB8ZGH
WC8VOA
WD8RIF
WD8SDH
WE8N
WE8TOM
WS6K
WT8E
WW8OH
WZ8K



## OSPOTA 2020 Photos and Soapbox Comments

### K8CAV - West Branch State Park

One of the very few good things to come out of the COVID pandemic is that for the first time since 2015 I would be able to operate in the OSPOTA contest. Since taking over planning and implementing communications support for the annual Potato Stomp race which occurs on the same day as OSPOTA I've been unable to participate in OSPOTA so I was really looking forward to it. I had originally planned on locating to one of the more 'exotic' parks but my grandson in Boston recently received his Technician class license and I was out there Monday through Thursday before OSPOTA to help him get an antenna up and present him with his first hand-held. With only one day to get prepared I decided to set up in West Branch State Park which is only a half an hour from me. As it turned out there were two others that were operating from there as well but all of us were able to operate successfully without killing each other's receivers.



After a recon at West Branch a couple of weeks prior to the event, I decided to set up in an unused portion of the parking lot serving the beach on the south side of the reservoir. The weather was absolutely perfect, sunny, and a bit cool in the morning but rapidly warming to perfect temperatures. Setup went well and by 1400Z I was able to start operating. I started out on 80m to try and catch as many parks as I could. Signals were pretty good and the other two stations operating from West Branch were far enough away so that we could operate. The IC-7300's filtering was awesome and really helped out!

In early afternoon I moved up to 40m and was able to make some contacts though not as many as on 80m. After a bit I moved up to 20m and had virtually no luck there so I went back down to 40m and 80m to finish out. By 1900Z I was packed up and on the way home.

I had 46 total QSO's with 26 parks contacted for a submitted score of 1,196. I was happy with my score but the best part is that it was FUN! Being able to successful set up a station and operate, all in a portable environment is a thrill and well worth the time spent!



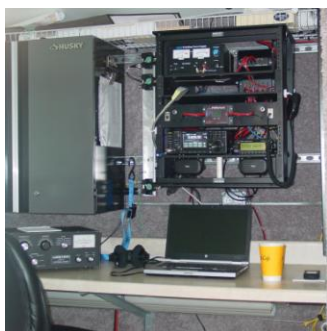
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### K8FH - Findley State Park

I belong to the Medina 2 Meter Group. Back probably 8-10 years ago I was building Go Boxes like everyone else and practicing emergency preparedness. It was about that time I decided to build a Go Trailer, a communications trailer to make "grab and go" operating easier and more efficient. Inside of a 12' enclosed trailer I built two redundant operating positions into hinged wall mounted racks. Each rack included a VHF/UHF radio, an HF radio, power supply, DC power gate, DC



booster/regulator, and misc. accessories such as speakers, DC power strips, and digital sound cards. Hinged racks makes it easy to get at the back of the radios as needed. Four 75ah batteries and charger are located under a bench seat built along one wall of the trailer, and a Honda 2000i generator rides in a tong mounted box. A hinged mast base on one side of the trailer allows for easy erection of a 45' fiberglass mast which supports a VHF/UHF vertical and a pulley to pull up one end of a dipole or the center of an Inverted "V" for HF operation. There are also three NMO mounts on the roof of the trailer. The trailer is always ready to roll at the drop of a hat. Over the years the trailer has been used in a lot of public service activities like bike races and marathons. We have participated in Home Depot Safety Days, farm markets, the Pan Ohio and Cleveland Marathon, Cleveland Sports and Outdoor Show, and an emergency exercise with FEMA, the EMA, police and fire. On the personal side I enjoy portable radio operating from the trailer, as in the OSPOTA and OHQP. For the QSPOTA this year I made a square horizontal loop cut for the 80 meter phone band (roughly 67' on a side) and supported it from four 30' telescoping





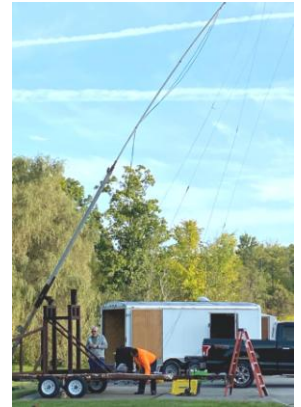
fiberglass poles. Each of the poles are hose clamped to a 6' piece of light angle iron driven 1' into the ground and has an eye bolt at the top to facilitate a string to pull up each corner of the loop. A 25' piece of 300 ohm ladder line feeds the loop at one corner of the loop and the ladder line is fed with coax through a 4:1 balun. This antenna allows for operation on the 40-20-15-10 meter bands as well. All the 8' fiberglass mast pole sections travel on racks inside the trailer. Total set up time for the loop was about 45 minutes.

## K8IV - Punderson State Park

Amy, N8AMY here - This contest gave us a chance to activate a park in nearly the same way we would have in a "normal" year. We added cleaning precautions and masks, but our operation took place in the spirit of normalcy. It was such a great morale boost to get together with the team and focus on one of our favorite contests!



Team K8IV worked OSPOTA from Punderson State Park & included Captain Ed Polack K8IV, Tom Sly WB8LCD, George Proudfoot K3GP, Ray Larrick KD8DFL, & Amy Leggiero N8AMY. We arrived early to set up the park for operation and were fortunate enough to have beautiful weather for the event. Everything went smoothly and we were able to start making contacts right at 1400 UTC.



I was on 20m using Tom Sly WB8LCD's Elecraft K3S transceiver and our contacts were almost completely European. We had some hams from the Texas and Alabama QSO parties that chatted with us as well. Our favorite contact had to be Wolfgang Bunge, DJ1AG. He contacted us and talked for a while about his equipment and antennas. He was a really nice guy and both Tom and I wanted to send him QSL cards to commemorate meeting this super guy! He had some problems copying Tom's first



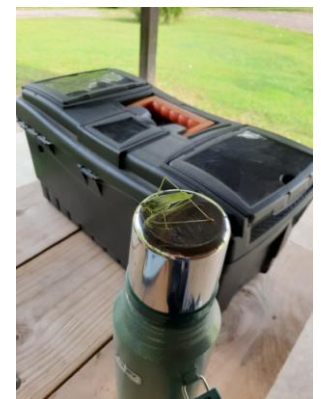
name and after going back and forth several times, he said he had it, and his name was TOR. I nearly spit out my beverage laughing and realized that Tor was a great nickname for our president. Sounded very Viking-like and appropriate for our leader. So next time you see WB8LCD, call him Tor- He WILL answer ☺

Special thanks to John Ziccardi N8GIE, for assisting the team all day! We also had several visitors during the contest. Wayne Smith K8FF was out operating with his homemade Mag Loop which he used on 40m -10m with his Kenwood TS-50 running 10 watts. Charles Walouke KD8VNS brought his son and future ham, Joshua to check out our station! Charles has been a ham for 13 years but has never been active. He contacted Tom who invited him to visit us during OSPOTA.



We operated until 2200 UTC when we began the cleanup in order to leave "nothing but footprints" in the beautiful state park. After the contest and cleanup, team K8IV celebrated at Blazin' Bills BBQ restaurant in Hiram, OH.

## KD8BBK - Salt Fork State Park



## KD8MQ - Mt. Gilead State Park

When I chose Mt. Gilead State Park for OSPOTA 2018, I found it was a great park for Amateur Radio. It was so great that I returned for OSPOTA 2019, and 2020. This is the first time I've ever chosen the same park three years in a row. Actually, I can't really count 2018. I got rained out, and operated from home. I didn't get rained out in 2019, but there were a couple good downpours that weekend.



Now, fast forward to 2020.

Were things different in the face of a pandemic? Sure, but thanks to (or in spite of) COVID-19, there was a lot of activity that weekend. I arrived on Thursday, to do some park activation in advance of OSPOTA. Bands were great, and I had lots of fun being rare DX for a couple days. It was a great weekend for radio!

On Friday, the guys from Union County arrived. They consisted of

KC8BPE, KE8ANU, KE8FHG, & K8BCIT. They were set up a couple sites away from me. It was great to have some other Hams to talk to. No, there was no interference from us being that close. They brought Handouts for the general public about Amateur Radio, and may have planted some seeds with one of the park employees. Wow, were they organized!



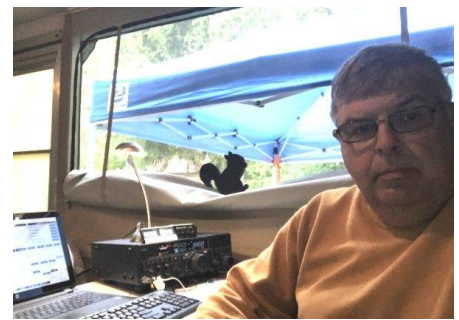
On Saturday, there were a couple visitors, including Scott, N8SY. I met a Husband/wife who were also camping up the way, and were Hams. I wish I'd have made a note of their callsigns. Unfortunately they aren't active at this time, but maybe that will change.

If you've never been to Mt. Gilead SP, I highly recommend Site #41 (#42 is a close second). Both are Ham radio friendly with lots of room for antennas. Using the potato gun, I was able to get the antenna to 51' this year.

Yes, I did find time to operate. Over the weekend, 346 contacts found their way into the log; 173 (exactly half) of them for OSPOTA. From MTG, I managed to put 41 parks in the log.

I used N3FJP for logging. It worked great except there was no field for POTA/WWFF Park numbers. So, I went old school, and kept a paper notebook for those numbers, and consolidated everything after the contest.

It was a great weekend, but unfortunately the final trip of the year for the camper. I can't wait until 2021!



## N8QE - In Ohio - Not in a Park

N1MM is easy to download and use. It uses two screens, one for logging your contact, and one for the log itself. I was up and running in less than an hour. I needed some way to easily create the Cabrillo file new requirement. I don't like it as much as N3FJP, but for OSPOTA it was my only real choice as I didn't want to mess with the N3FJP files.

Lots of activity for OSPOTA. Heard and worked many PCARS members in parks. Everything for me was 80 meters.

Was working the ARRL VHF Contest in between search and pounce OSPOTA with all but one contact via FT8 on 6 meters which is the future of VHF contests. 73, Bob

## K8YU - Indian Lake State Park

2020 Ohio State Parks on the Air was so much fun! This year I decided to activate Indian Lake State Park. The weather could not have not been better. It was a beautiful sunny day with temperatures in the mid 80's and a slight breeze. This year I ran my military poll set with a home brew 80 /40 fan dipole. For my radio I ran an Icom 7300 set inside an Iportable pro 2 box. This setup has been my go to for the past year for field day and other POTA activation's.



My Great Dane helper Hansel is seen taking watch as I operate. He spent most of the day sleeping and didn't lend much help throughout the day but was a great companion! Many of you may have heard him barking in the background during our QSO's HI HI. Thank you everyone for the contact's and the great time. I look forward to this event every year! Looking forward to working everyone down the log! 73, Josh Koehler KY8U

## N8TUW - Tar Hollow State Park



I am Dwight, K4YJ. Steve, N8TUW asked me to join him this year in the OSPOTA. I said yes but later to find out it is SSB only and I am a CW kinda guy. Already saying yes I stayed in on the contest with him. We set up our stations in Tar Hollow.

It was a nice day to be out with perfect weather. Steve ran all 80m and got all the multipliers and I ran all 40m and rarely worked someone else in Ohio.

We only had a few visitors but had a great time in the park. Thanks for hosting this contest - Dwight, K4YJ



## W8H - Maumee Bay State Park

Toledo Mobile Radio Association OSPOTA Story - Preparations for the OSPOTA event took place for over a month beforehand with the committee hard at work: Richard KE8IJV (event coordinator), Jim

KE8IJU (event co-chair), Mike W8MAL (Safety Officer), Mike WA8SYD (Elmer), Brad WB8RG (event co-chair) and Steve KC8TVW (Elmer).



Two Saturdays beforehand, the 40 meter inverted V antenna was erected, tuned, and tested. The 80 meter antenna had been used at Field Day and had already been tuned. Because they were relatively few trees in the area, we had to use an aluminum mast with plastic top section for the 40 meter antenna. Similar masts were used for the 80 meter antenna. Since the 80 meter antenna was relatively horizontal, it may have active more like a NVIS antenna and may have been responsible for the more





numerous contacts on 80 meters within Ohio.

As you can see, orange plastic cones were used for safety.

Late in the afternoon, we stopped transmitting momentarily to rotate the 40 meter dipole 180 degrees and catch more contacts. We had no difficulty setting up either station and we used the N3FJP Ohio QSO software for

logging as well as written logs for confirmation. A great time for held by all.



## W8UKE - Strouds Run State Park

Here's the ACARA/W8UKE story: On Saturday, September 12, 2020,



members of the ACARA participated in the 13th annual PCARS "Ohio State Parks on the Air" (link), activating Strouds Run State Park at the Bulldog Picnic Shelter, and operating under the club's callsign, W8UKE.



Because of the ongoing corona virus crisis, the ODNR is not allowing reservations of group facilities; this means the club was not able to reserve the use of the Bulldog Shelter. Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, and his son Bob arrived at the site extra early and were able to hold the shelter for our use.



The weather turned out to be perfect for doing outdoor radio—not too hot, not too cold, not too windy.



The station this year consisted of the ACARA's Elecraft K3 transceiver, an LDG AT100 Pro II automatic antenna tuner provided by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and an 80m/40m fan-dipole and a 24' military mast provided by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The logging computer and Honda 2kW inverter-generator were also provided by Eric.



Because of the continuing coronavirus crisis, measures were taken to keep participants and visitors safe. The operator and logger positions were separated by six feet and observers were asked to keep six feet away from everyone else.

Also because of the continuing coronavirus crisis, the traditional 5pm potluck was canceled in favor of a bring-your-food gathering. Unfortunately, only a few members were present at the dinner gathering but those who were present were rewarded by the sight of a bald eagle on the other side of the lake.



By the time the eight-hour event was over, the team had made a total of 171 contacts and had worked stations at 37 of the 75 Ohio State Parks. The club's claimed score was 6,726



points, up significantly from 2019's score of 4,909 points and 2018's score of 2,433 points. By band, 92 contacts were made on 75m and 85 contacts were made on 40m.

Contacts were made by KE8LRZ (9), Bob Weber (9), KA4VNK (60), KD8FKB (12), KD8WVX (19), N8SUZ (67), and WD8RIF (1). 73, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF - President, Athens County Amateur Radio Association

## WB8CPG - Delaware State Park

This year Delaware State Park was Activated by a team consisting of WB8CPG, Jim Popovich, KD8LYX, Larry Oliver, and KD8AMY, Amy Oliver.



Jim hammered 40 mtr and 20 mtr for contacts for points while Amy and Larry worked on getting Parks on 80 mtrs.

Antennas consisted of an inverted V on 40 mtr, a Diamond HF20CL vertical for 20 mtr on a tripod with six 1/4 wave radials, and a NVIS



Dipole on 80 mtrs.



All had a great time and very successful activation. Already making plans to return

next year. Thank you everyone for a great event.



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# Start Making Plans for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual

## *Ohio State Parks On The Air*



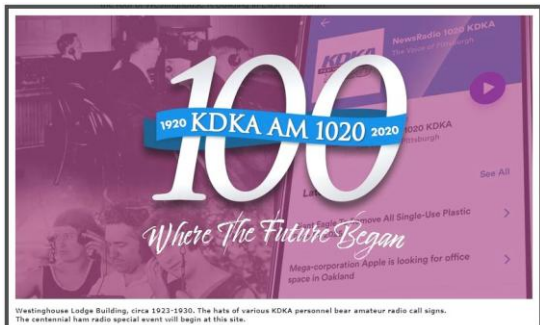
# September 11, 2021.

## We'll be listening for you !!!!!!!



## From the ARRL

### Radio Amateurs in Western PA to Commemorate KDKA Broadcasting Centennial



Pittsburgh radio station KDKA will celebrate 100 years of radio broadcasting in November, and Pennsylvania radio amateurs will honor that milestone in a multi-station special event. KDKA dates its broadcasting history to the airing of the Harding-Cox presidential results on November 2, 1920, and the station has been on the air ever since. The special event, which will involve the operation of four stations, will run through the entire month of November.

“More than 100 years ago, many experimenters started delving into a new technology known as wireless, or radio,” said Bob Bastone, WC3O, Radio Officer for the Skyview Radio Society in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Bastone explained that many of those early pioneers were radio amateurs. “One hundred plus years later, many amateur radio operators are still contributing to wireless technology, while also serving their communities and enhancing international goodwill. Congratulations to KDKA Radio, also known in the early years as amateur radio stations 8XK, 8ZZ, and W8XK.”

**Special event stations K3K, K3D, K3A, and W8XK will set up and operate at several locations in Pennsylvania during November. Stations will determine their own modes and schedules. Visit the [W8XK profile on QRZ.com](#) for information on certificates and QSLs.**

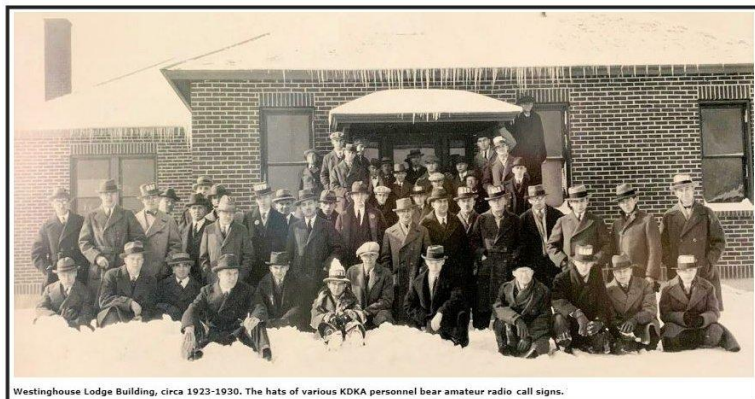
What became KDKA initially began broadcasting in 1916 as amateur radio station 8XK, licensed by the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), the predecessor to the FCC. At the time, amateurs were not prohibited from broadcasting. The small station was operated by Dr. Frank Conrad, who was Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company assistant chief engineer. The transmitter ran 75 W, and the broadcasts gained some popularity in Pittsburgh.

During World War I, amateur radio operation was suspended due to national security concerns. After the war, 8XK was reorganized as a commercial AM radio station, KDKA. The first transmissions of KDKA originated in a makeshift studio on the roof of Westinghouse K Building in East Pittsburgh.

Ham radio clubs participating in the centennial special event include the North Hills Amateur Radio Club in Pittsburgh - which is planning to operate from KDKA's 1930s' transmitter site, where an original tower pier still stands. A 1920s' transmitter site, in Forest Hills, will serve as another operating location. In addition to the North Hills ARC and Skyview Radio Society, other clubs taking part include the Panther Amateur Radio Club, Steel City Amateur Radio Club, the

Wireless Association of South Hills, the Butler County Amateur Radio Public Service Group, and the Washington Amateur Communications Radio Club. Individual radio amateurs will operate from their own stations, and a small group of hams is planning a portable operation from South Park in suburban Pittsburgh.

Stations will invite the public to visit, while observing the required social distancing protocols. “We amateur radio operators look forward to contacting thousands of other hams around the world to celebrate this huge milestone in the commercial broadcasting industry,” said Bastone. **Contact him for more**

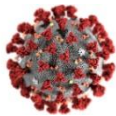


information. - **Thanks to ARRL Public Information Officer and Allegheny County ARES Emergency Coordinator Bob Mente, NU3Q, for providing the information for this story.**

# 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**

Amateur Extra Class question pool changed - July 1, 2020



**There WILL be a VE Test Session at the PCARS Club Site in Ravenna on Saturday - December 5, 2020 - Starts at the club site at 10 am sharp**

- You MUST register in advance - NO WALK-INS will be accepted. Send an email to [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto: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).
  - 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 n 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](mailto: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.

Any Questions? Contact: [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com)

**ARE YOU GOING FOR TECHNICIAN??  
SEE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE**

## **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>

The advertisement features a black background with yellow and white text. On the left, the word "PCARS" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, in white text, is "ARRL Volunteer Examiners: serving the Amateur Radio community". Further down, in yellow text, is "First Saturdays 10:00 am at the club site in Ravenna". At the bottom, in white text, are the months "February, April, June, August, October, December". On the right side, there is a circular logo with a yellow border. The logo contains the text "AMATEUR RADIO" at the top, "ARRL VEC" in the center, and "VOLUNTEER EXAMINER" at the bottom. In the center of the logo is a yellow diamond shape containing a white antenna tower and a white radio tower.

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



# 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!!



# 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](mailto:phyland@neo.rr.com)

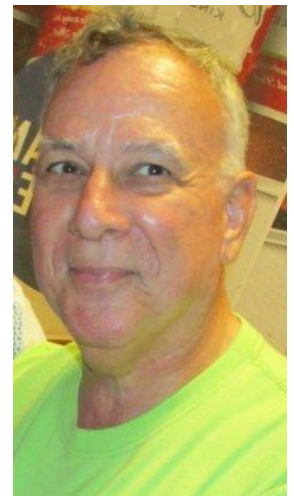


# PCARS A to Z Award Challenge

**Rick, KD8WCK**

I've been sending and receiving QSL cards from PCARS members for HF and simplex FM contacts on the PCARS Flex Net and other random QSOs with PCARS members, and I have 9 of 26 for the PCARS A-to-Z award. I think Tom, WB8LCD commented during the COVID Net back in the spring that the award has been defined for a long time and no one has applied for it.

So maybe it would be a fun thing to promote to the club members. To get the award you need to confirm contact with 26 PCARS members (active membership) using the last letter of their call sign, A to Z.



**It could be fun - how many can qualify by the end of 2020?**

## Swap-N-Shop

**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](mailto:david@5thdoor.com) [01/02/21]

**FOR SALE: Mosley Classic 33M 3-element Tri-Bander** - Brand New, Sealed in original two boxes! Pick up only here in Willoughby, Ohio just northeast of Cleveland. Decided not to put it up and has been in storage - \$800.

**Contact: Jeff, WA8SAJ** by phone at: 440-951-6406 [12/02/20]



**For Sale: Yaesu FTM-400XDR** Dual Band Fusion rig. New Nov 2018. Has both Bluetooth & Voice modules installed. Original box & mount - \$450.00

**Contact: John, KD8MQ** at: [kd8mq1@gmail.com](mailto:kd8mq1@gmail.com) or phone 330-936-5021 [11/02/20]

**For Sale: Hi-Z SIX Direction Triangular Array Receive System** – Including THREE DX Engineering AL24 Vertical Elements. Most components are new/not used. Package consisting DXE p/n HIZ-3-LV2-50 6 Direction Array System and 3 (three) of part number DXE-AL24 Vertical element kits. Hi-Z Antennas Triangular Array Systems offer 6 selectable directions of improved, low-noise receive performance and 30 dB front-to-back directivity for the 160, 80 and 40 meter bands, with useful reception from below the AM broadcast band through 30 MHz. \$650

**Contact: Mark, W8BBQ** at: [W8BBQ@AOL.COM](mailto:W8BBQ@AOL.COM) or text to 330-770-5442 [12/02/20]

**For Sale: Yaesu FT-1000MP** AC Version(No power supply required), great contest or DXing radio - excellent condition with operator manual, has extra crystal filters and Inrad roofing filter installed. \$750.00    **Yaesu FTDX5000MP Limited** - 200 watt 160 thru 6 meter transceiver - AC powered, 300 Hz / 600 Hz / 3 KHz roofing filters, two independent receivers, operator manual, with custom equipment cover and Nifty Accessories reference guide. In like new condition, original boxes, \$2995.00    Can demo these transceivers at my station, local pickup preferred, will deliver up to 50 miles

**Contact: George, K3GP** at: 330-829-9504 evenings or weekends. [12/02/20]

**FOR SALE: ICOM IC-7610** - Brand New, *still in the box.* Decided to upgrade antennas instead of radio. Un-opened box \$2599. **RC-28 - Remote Encoder** for the IC-7610 to easily operate the second VFO - Brand new - \$200. **8 Switch Memory External Keypad for the IC-7610/7850/7851.** Instant access to the 8 stored outgoing messages. Made in Germany by DM2RM. Brand new - \$60. **Cushcraft Ten-3** Three element **10 meter beam.** Cost new \$299.95 - **Sell for \$150.00.** This beam helped me make 7,651 ten meter contacts on a tripod on my roof. Great shape & ready to use. Had the roof replaced and took down the antennas. Will be putting up tower and new HF & VHF antennas - if the ground ever dries out.... well, maybe in Spring or Summer 2021... **Contact: Tom "Parky", KB8UUZ** - [kb8uuz@gmail.com](mailto:kb8uuz@gmail.com) [12/02/20]



## How Well Do You Know Your Radio?

Dan, KB6NU



### Do you know your radio ?

*This is just another question because I'm curious. Your favorite radio(s), I'm curious, do you actually know them backwards and forwards, all the mysterious settings, all the features? Or, is it still unexplored, are there still settings deep in the manuals that you don't understand yet, things that it does that you haven't tried yet? How well do you know your radio, is it like a well worn pair of shoes, or more of a box of mysteries and new surprises?*

**My Flex 6400: a box full of mysteries and untapped potential**



The responses ranged from “I always read the manuals thoroughly and need to know what my gear is capable of” to “I know my radio fairly well, but there are things that I haven't used yet due to other station limitations or needs.”

My take on this is more along the lines of this commenter: I'd say I know my [radio] pretty well at this point, although every once in a while I'll find something new and interesting. I liken this experience to using a complicated piece of software, like Microsoft Word (I actually use Libre Office) or Excel. I usually just jump in and start using it, and only when I want it to do something that I haven't done before, do I dig out the docs and try to figure out how to do it. Recently, for example, I wanted to decode some RTTY during a contest, so I found a few forum posts on how to set up fldigi with the Flex 6400 and learned how to do it.

There was some talk about the usefulness (or uselessness) of manuals. I think that most manuals are pretty good at describing how the various features work. What they're lacking, however, are case studies for when and how to use the features. For example, the Flex 6400 manual describes what feature to use to pipe audio to a third-party application, such as fldigi, but it doesn't really give you the complete picture on how to do it. YouTube videos and blog posts fill in that gap.

Finally, there was this comment:

*There's the old joke:*

*Q-code: QNB? How many buttons does your radio have?*

*QNB 83/16. My radio has 83 buttons and I know what 16 of them do.*

I love it. :)

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

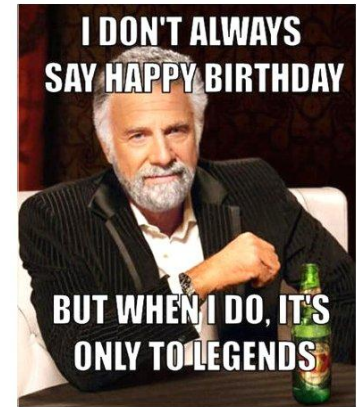


# Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

KE8NWR	Eva Heiks
KC3JXQ	James "JC" Wilson
KD8BXY	Paul Bell
W8RID	Robert Davet
KB8UUZ	Tom 'Parky' Parkinson
N8ATV	Jerry Jarze
KG6DAQ	Thomas Ellis
K3GP	George Proudfoot
K8FEY	Bob Hewett
W8IZC	Wes Boyd

WD8PME	Robert Posar
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
KD8ERY	Susan Larrick
KD8WZS	William Smith
KD8UXJ	Eric Shane
N8BI	Jack Comer
N8SY	Scott Yonally
K3LR	Tim Duffy
	Denise Renfro
K8BF	PCARS



## HAPPY 15<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY PCARS !!!

Back in the Summer of 2005 Tom, KB8UUZ and Al, KB8VJL were talking about starting our own club. We enlisted the help of Tom, WB8LCD and Jim, KC8PD and we all agreed to **go for it**. By November we had pretty much established what we were going to do and after a few preliminary meetings and a **LOT** of work behind the scenes. We had our first 'official' meeting at Mike's Place on **November 14, 2005**. That date established the official beginning of PCARS. We then publicized information on the new club, sent out postcards to all the hams in Portage County and had our first open meeting in January of 2006. From there - it's all history and PCARS has grown even better with each passing year thanks to all the people that do the work to keep it going and improving. From me personally to all of you - **Thank You**. And, please, with your help, keep it going into the future. And most of all - Let's keep having **FUN** with Amateur Radio!



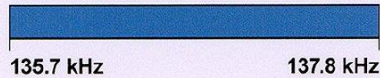
# US Amateur Radio Bands

Operator license classes: **E** = Amateur Extra **A** = Advanced **G** = General **T** = Technician **N** = Novice  
 CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands. Except as noted, all frequencies are in megahertz (MHz).

■ = RTTY, data, phone, image   
 ■ = USB phone, RTTY, data and CW   
 ■ = RTTY and data   
 ■ = phone and image  
■ = SSB phone   
 = CW only

## LF – Low Frequency band

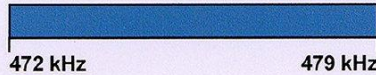
**2200 Meters (135 kHz) E,A,G**  
**1 W EIRP** maximum



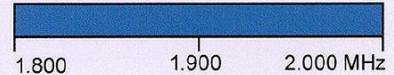
## MF – Medium Frequency bands

**630 Meters (472 kHz) E,A,G**

5 W EIRP max, except in Alaska within 496 miles of Russia where the limit is 1 W EIRP



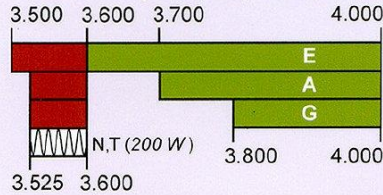
**160 Meters (1.8 MHz) E,A,G**



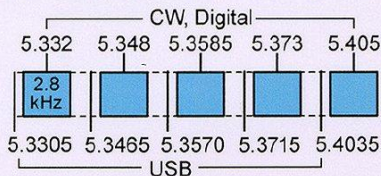
Amateurs wishing to operate on **2200 or 630 meters** must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>. You need only register once for each band.

## HF – High Frequency bands

**80 Meters (3.5 MHz) E,A,G,T,N**

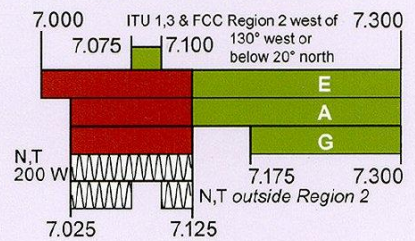


**60 Meters (5.3 MHz) E, A, G (100 W)**

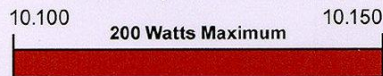


Gen, Adv, and Extra licensees may operate on a secondary basis with a maximum ERP of 100 W maximum.

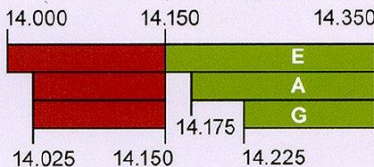
**40 Meters (7 MHz) E,A,G,T,N**



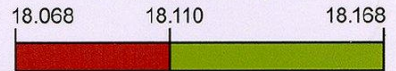
**30 Meters (10.1 MHz) E,A,G**



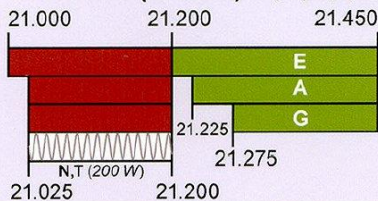
**20 Meters (14 MHz) E,A,G**



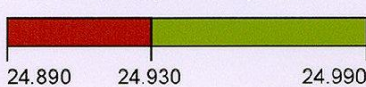
**17 Meters (18 MHz) E,A,G**



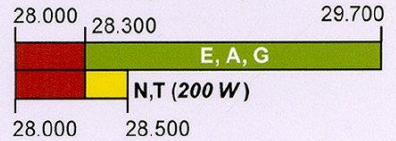
**15 Meters (21 MHz) E,A,G,T,N**



**12 Meters (24 MHz) E,A,G**

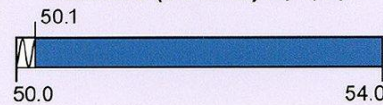


**10 Meters (28 MHz) E,A,G,T,N**

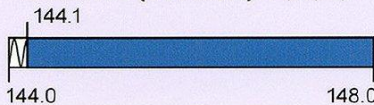


## VHF – Very High Frequency bands

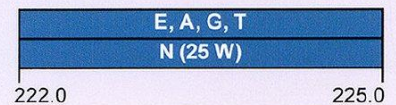
**6 Meters (50 MHz) E,A,G,T**



**2 Meters (144 MHz) E,A,G,T**

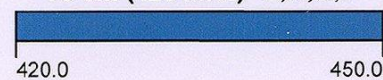


**1.25 Meters (222 MHz) E,A,G,T,N**

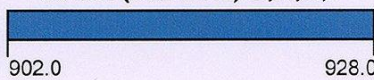


## UHF – Ultra High Frequency bands

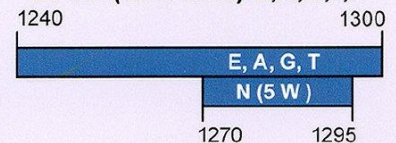
**70 cm (420 MHz) E,A,G,T**



**33 cm (902 MHz) E,A,G,T**



**23 cm (1240 MHz) E,A,G,T,N**



## SHF&EHF – Super and Extremely High Frequency bands

All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

2300-2310 MHz	3300-3500 MHz	10.0-10.5 GHz	47.0-47.2 GHz	122.25-123.0 GHz	241-250 GHz
2390-2450 MHz	5650-5925 MHz	24.0-24.25 GHz	76.0-81.0 GHz	134-141 GHz	All above 275 GHz

See [www.arrl.org/band-plan](http://www.arrl.org/band-plan) for detailed band plans.

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 OTabands rev. 1-22-20

## RCA Youth Activities: QSO Today Ham Expo



### Carole Perry, WB2MGP

RCA Director, Chairperson RCA Youth Activities  
QCWA Director, Chairperson QCWA Youth Activities

In 2008 when I became a Director of RCA (Radio Club of America), I created the Youth Activities program. My committee and I set our goals to encourage, support, and showcase talented young ham radio operators. Up until the canceling of the 2020 Dayton Hamvention due to COVID, I had moderated the Youth Forum there for 32 years. Every year I would showcase 7 to 9 young hams who would give terrific presentations about their interests and passions in ham radio. The young presenters would get many networking opportunities from their exposure there. They would then become RCA Young Achievers, availing themselves of many opportunities we offer to support them. Icom and RCA are the main sponsors of this popular forum.



An RCA Young Achiever badge has been created which is adhered to the bookbags as one of the gifts Icom donates to the presenters, along with an ht radio and a personalized Icom jacket. In addition to featuring young hams at my youth forums around the country, I also visit schools and museums in order to introduce the radio/technology program there. Visiting STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) programs is a particular interest of mine; where I demonstrate the value of incorporating a radio curriculum into their program.

I also choose a creative and talented RCA Young Achiever to give a presentation at the annual RCA Technical Symposium. This is a prestigious event with an audience of notables in science and in the wireless industry. It is another amazing networking opportunity for the young people we support and encourage.

The recent QSOToday Ham Expo provided yet another opportunity to feature our best and brightest, technically creative young hams.

It was an honor to chair and organize the Youth Forum at this historic virtual event. I had 7 of our talented and technically creative young hams who each delivered fabulous presentations and then participated, along with me, in a live ZOOM Q & A session. This session was moderated by **Bill Brown, WB8ELK** with assistance from **Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN** one of my young presenters.

In my introduction to the Youth Forum I gave a brief summary of how I taught “Introduction to Amateur Radio” for almost 30 years at a Staten Island, New York middle school to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. I invited the audience members to contact me for tips and advice on how to recruit and retain young people in ham radio, as well as how to convince an administrator to allow the program in a school. I can be reached at [wb2mgp@gmail.com](mailto:wb2mgp@gmail.com).

I then introduced each of my speakers with a summary of their talks. The first presenter was **Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA**, 12 years old, whose topic was “High Flying Kids with High Altitude Balloons.” He demonstrated how to motivate young people into ham radio through demonstrations with the balloons, and explaining about weather and radio. Jack explained about the math, different types of balloons, and other essentials to learn so that kids can enjoy this awesome part of the hobby.

**Frances Bonte, KE8HPA** spoke about “Citizen Science:HamSci and the Personal Space Weather Station Project.” She described and displayed the Personal Space Weather Station being developed by HamSci. She explained the cooperation that exists between scientists and amateur radio operators. The involvement of young people in technologies like radio will help to continue the work of citizen scientists.

The Wagner family presented next. Participating in their video was **Bernadette, KE8LWO** age 14, **Agnes, KE8LWP** age 10, and **Ben, AD8FQ** age 12. Their topic was “5 Fun Things for Youth to Do with Ham Radio.” They showed that despite being siblings, they each have very different interests, and that ham radio provides a variety of opportunities and activities for everyone. They all really enjoyed being part of the live Q and A session afterward, too.

**Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN** is 16 years old and her topic was “Getting Girls Involved in STEM: Specifically, Amateur Radio.” Audrey believes, as I do, that as we move forward in this hi-tech world; that young people, and females especially, will be playing a huge role with their contributions in science and math. The ultimate goal is for a woman to be independent; and ham radio and STEM creates a great pathway for this.

**Connor Black, W4IPC** is the 2020 winner of a contest I run, which is sponsored by RCA and QCWA, called “The Young Ham Lends a Hand” contest. He won due to his extraordinary efforts in volunteerism. His topic, as my last presenter was “How to Be A Great Contester.” He spoke about how young hams can get involved with contesting, improve their skills, and then how to get into doing remote contesting.

All of my young presenters enjoyed being part of this virtual experience, and were excited to participate in the ZOOM Q & A after the Youth Forum.

I was particularly impressed and pleased with the number of inquiries I personally received about recruitment and retention ideas for youth in ham radio. I was contacted by hams around the world with requests for suggestions on how to incorporate a radio program in a school setting. Almost all my young presenters received follow up, complimentary comments as well.

### Youth Forum Speakers



Frances Bonte, KE8HPA

Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA,  
Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN,  
Carole Perry, WB2MGP



The Wagner Family:  
Ben Wagner, AD8FQ,  
Bernadette Wagner, KE8LWO,  
Agnes Wagner, KE8LWP



## From the ARRL Ohio Section Manager



**Scott, N8SY**  
ARRL Ohio Section Manger



Hi Gang,

Wow... The beauty of this time of year is really indescribable for sure. I love this time of year for all the rich colors and wonderful things that it brings. Even though we are in the middle of a pandemic where you can really do much, getting out into the woods and just taking in all the beauty that is there is really refreshing and definitely re-generating for sure.

Recently I attended several in-person club meetings and a bunch of on-line ones, so it's been another busy week, but I love the fact that all of us are starting to socialize much more than we did just 2 months ago. We still have to keep our distance (2-meters) and wash our hands very frequently, but with this added precaution we are able to get back to a somewhat normal routine.

I want to give a "shout-out" to the Highland Amateur Radio Association for becoming a Special Service Club this past week as well. Congrats to them and all the hard work that they do for their community. It's well deserved for sure!

I hope that you've seen the changes to ARES<sup>®</sup> Connect email system. If you have questions please feel free to contact me about them. I was again in contact this past week with VolunteerHub on a few other items that we need changed to make this system even better. They have agreed that those suggestions need to be sent to the top of the list for changes to be made and hopefully they will be forth coming. I did get to do a little more training and instruction with some folks in the southern part of the country this past week as well. I'm looking forward to seeing their reports being generated from this system very soon.

Whelp, that's going to do it for this time my friends! I need to get out and mulch up some of the millions of leaves from all my maple trees. I'm still looking forward to visiting with all of you live or via Zoom, WebEX or whatever.

I really can't wait for that time when we can all get together in person once again. Those are the times I cherish the most!!! Stay safe! We will get through this and when we do, we'll have so much to talk about. Most of all... have FUN and get on the airwaves!!





## New Antenna Installation

Mike, N8WCP



**It's Fall and Time for Another Antenna Install:** I've been using an EFHW for HF with good results, but it was time to add another antenna to the farm. After consulting with fellow club members, I settled on the Hustler 6-BTV. The 6-BTV is a trapped, omni-directional vertical covering 10M, 15M, 20M, 30M, 40M, and 80M. The antenna is resonant across the listed bands (limited bandwidth on 80M) which eliminates the need for a tuner and verticals offer a low take-off angle which is great for DX.



**Assembling The 6BTV:** The Hustler manual provides the information needed to assembly, install, and tune the antenna but I recommend downloading the version DX Engineering produced ([https://static.dxengineering.com/global/images/instructions/dxe-btv-inst-ins\\_jw.pdf](https://static.dxengineering.com/global/images/instructions/dxe-btv-inst-ins_jw.pdf)). Their manual adds valuable information not contained in the factory version. The antenna can be assembled in about 30 minutes using a 5/16" nutdriver, tape measure, and SS-30 copper anti-seize for all joints and hardware. I added an accessory item from DXE which provides an SO-239 connection to the antenna vs the standard solder lug connection.

**Ground Mount:** Hustler recommends a 1.25" pipe driven 4' into the ground as the mount, for ease of tuning I recommend a tilt mount. There are commercially available tilt mounts, but I chose to build my own using 1 3/8" galvanized fence top rail. I used a post hole digger to dig a 3' deep hole, added a few inches of gravel for drainage, plumbed the mount, and poured about 100 pounds of concrete to complete the install of the mount.

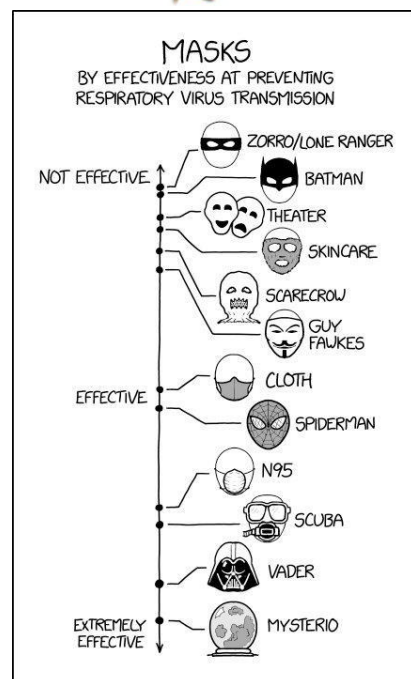
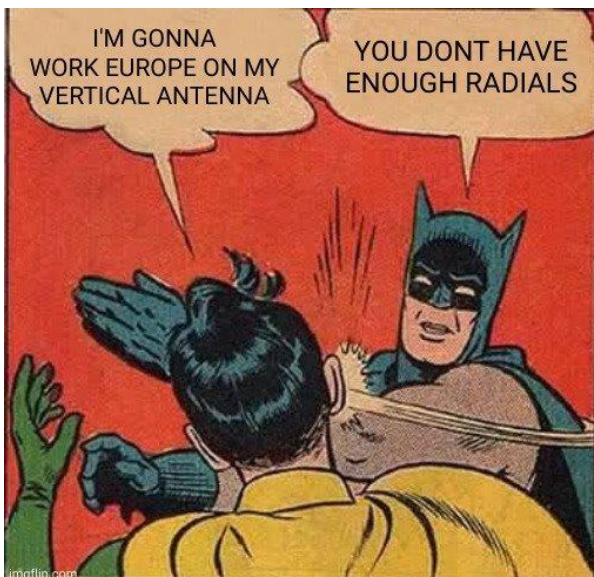
**Feedline:** The antenna is about 120' from the shack so line loss was a concern. Fortunately, I had an adequate length of 3/8" hardline available. The corrugated shield and PE jacket make it ideal for direct burial and the line loss specs exceed RG8 or LMR400. With a minor modification, a solder on PL-259 for RG8/LMR400 can be used instead of expensive hardline connectors. The feedline was laid into a 6" deep trench. A deeper trench is preferable, but the antenna is in a leach field and I needed to avoid pipes and other obstacles.

**Radials, Radials, Radials:** The 6-BTV requires ground radials and more you can install the better the antenna will perform. I considered renting a machine to bury the radials but decided to staple them to ground with landscape staples. In time the grass will grow around the radials never to be seen again. I used 18GA wire and installed fifty, 50' radials which required 500 landscape staples. The radials are silver soldered to a 1/4" copper tube ring with two jumpers connecting the ring to the base of the antenna. By far this was the most time consuming and painful process in the install, my knees and back ached for a few days!



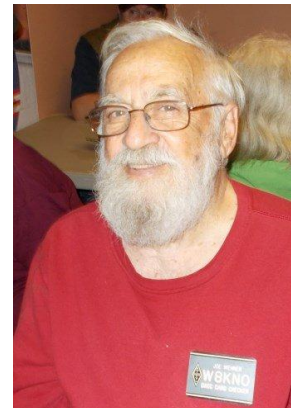
**Tuning and Testing:** Before tuning the antenna it's best to test the feedline. I terminated the antenna end with a dummy load and verified the SWR was 1:1 or lower and recorded loss figures for all bands. It's best to use an antenna analyzer to tune the antenna since you can sweep the entire band but an SWR meter will get it done. Tuning the 6BTV requires adjusting the traps which is a simple a process, adjusting the tube lengths has minimal effect. You tune the antenna starting at the bottom with the 10M trap and work your way up through 15M, 20M, 30M, 40M and finishing with 80M. The process takes a few hours and requires lowering the antenna each time to make an adjustment. A tilt mount makes the process easier and I can't stress enough that patience is key to success. The last step was guying the antenna.

**Results:** I finished tuning in time to participate in the CQ WW DX SSB contest as SOABLP (Single Operator, All Bands, Low Power) which provided an excellent opportunity to test the antenna. First two contacts out of the gate were stations in Japan! I had leaf duty and other chores, so I was limited in operating time but made sixty-nine contacts between Japan, Europe, Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, South America, and New Zealand. I'm happy with the results and looking forward to more DX!



## Veterans Day & USMC Birthday Special Event

Joe, W8KNO

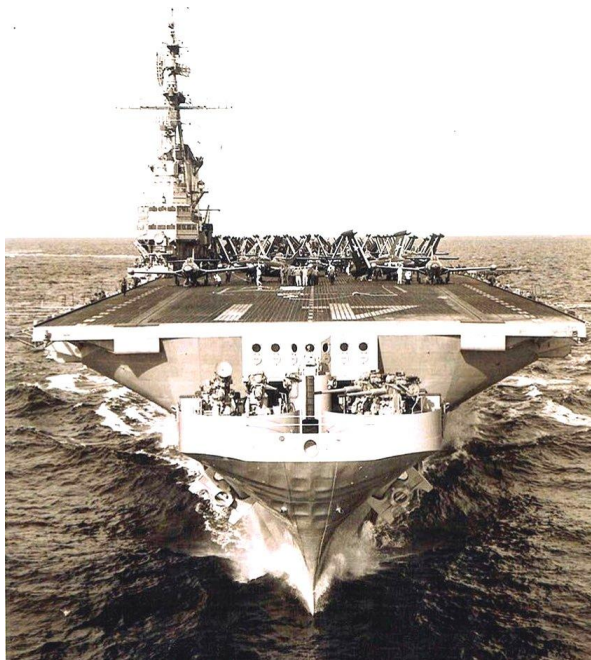


Joe Taylor of WSJT fame was recently heard saying, "In my 80th year, I can no longer call on my past stamina for contesting." I too can attest to that; therefore, here is a special event instead of a contest where you may earn an acknowledgment. The

**Veterans Day and the Marine Corps Birthday Special Event** will be held from the Museum Ship, USS Midway, CV-41 on November 14<sup>th</sup> from noon until 7 p.m.

You will find them around 7.250 and 14.320 for sideband, 14.070 for PSK31 and on various reflectors for D-STAR using call sign **NI6IW**. If propagation is anything like the last week of October, 20 meters should be open the entire period and 40 meters gets better after 6:30 p.m. For a QSL send your QSL card and SASE to:

USS Midway Museum Ship (COMEDTRA)  
910 N Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101



On November 10, 1775 the Continental Marines were established and Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11<sup>th</sup>, for honoring military Veterans and are combined for this event. Armistice Day marks the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th

day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to include veterans of all Wars.

There are two other days that honor veterans: Memorial Day which honors those who died while in military service and, Armed Forces Day which honors those currently serving in the U.S. military.



## Portage County Amateur Radio Service



# K8BF



## 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

## Flex Net

**Mike, N8WCP**



The PCARS Flex Net is open to all hams and will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM. Each month we'll use a different band or mode. This net does not replace the weekly Thursday night 2 meter net so keep checking into that net!

The Flex Net will begin with a typical check-in process. Once check-ins are complete, each station will have the opportunity to work the other stations similar to a DX net. Since we're working simplex, it would be helpful to have alternate net control ops. If you're interested in being an alternate net control op, please email me at: [n8wcp.us@gmail.com](mailto:n8wcp.us@gmail.com).

The September PCARS Flex Net was held on 40M with ten stations checking in. We appreciate K8TOA, N8GIE, K8NYM, KB8TUY, WA8AHC, K8IV, N8WCP, K4LWE (SC), WD9RSM (IL), and W2EGL (CT) joining in the fun!

November's Flex Net will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM EST on 3.910 MHz.



DATE	TIME	BAND	FREQUENCY	MODE
11-11-20	8:00 P	80 M	3.910	LSB
12-09-20	8:00 P	6 M	50.400	AM

## From the ARRL

From the ARRL



### Announcements



The CW weekend of the **ARRL November Sweepstakes (SS)** takes place November 7 - 9. The hallmark of this very popular operating event is its challenging and lengthy exchange, which has its origins in the National Traffic System (**NTS**) message format. The ARRL November Sweepstakes SSB weekend is November 21 - 23.

### CQ Amateur Radio

*CQ Magazine* has announced that Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, has been named as the magazine's Emergency Communications Editor. Licensed for more than 40 years, Broadway first was attracted to ham radio by listening to a VHF severe weather net in Ohio and to the Hurricane Watch Net, for which he currently serves as a board member and net control operator.



# 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 - 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

November	
5	WB8LCD
12	K8YLK
19	KE8BWA
26	Thanksgiving**

December	
3	WB8LCD
10	K8IV
17	KD8WCK
24	Christmas Eve**
31	New Year's Eve*

January	
7	KA8TOA
14	N8AMY
21	KD8WCK
28	K8YLK

\* and \*\* = *Holiday - No Net*

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

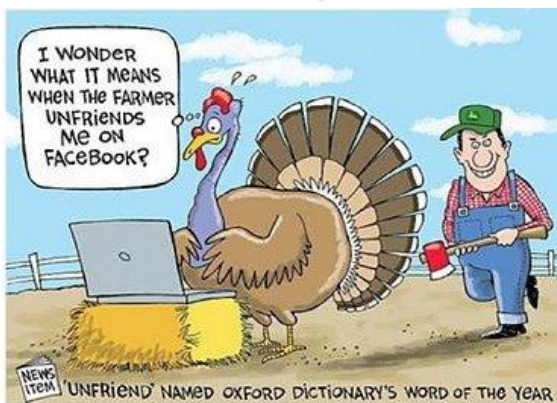
If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a try, please contact me at: [grgory999@roadrunner.com](mailto:grgory999@roadrunner.com) everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn - and have fun being the PCARS Thursday Night Net Control !

Here are the stats for the 3 rd Quarter of 2020 for the Thursday night nets;  
July 115 total for 5 weeks    August 105 total for 4 weeks    September 86 total for 4 weeks

1st Qtr 264 total 13 weeks; 23 total avg per week    2nd Qtr 466 total 13 weeks 35 total avg per week  
3 rd Qtr 306 total 13 weeks ; 24 total avg per week

If you are interested in helping out the PCARS club, sign up for net control operator it is fun, easy and simple to do from home. A friendly reminder: please send me your log. As you see we have great turn outs.

**For now 73 and have fun.**



"It seems like this always happens around this time of year."

# Contest Calendar

November Contest Calendar	
Contest Name	Dates and Times
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z, Nov 29

*YES - There are MANY More Contests out there - Check the internet*

## CONTESTING - '10 Steps to FUN and Success' from N1GNV

1. Read the contest rules. Understand what bands you can use, what your entry category will be, and what the "exchange" is. Simply, that's the information you will give to the other station and he/she will give to you. In the CQWW, for example, you send them a signal report and your CQ "Zone". Since I live in the Eastern US, I'm in Zone 5, so I would send "59 05". Note that by tradition, in a contest everyone has a 59 or 599 signal
2. Get with the program. Specifically, a logging program. There are quite a few options out there. My personal choice is the [N1MM Logger](#). It's free and has an amazing array of features. It's updated regularly, and has an extremely active online support community. It also interfaces with just about any modern HF radio you might own.  

There is a bit of a learning curve involved, so you don't want to wait until the last minute to install it and familiarize yourself with it. Get it now, connect your rig, and spend a little time with it. You might want to start a "fake contest" -- select CQWW, for instance, and enter some calls. Get to understand the entry window, and what other windows you might or might not want open during the contest. After you enter a few dozen fictitious contacts, make sure that the program will produce a Cabrillo file with an accurate score and summary. Hint: If it doesn't, the problem is in your setup, not the program itself. And finally -- don't get into the habit of hearing a station, writing his call and info down on paper, and then entering it in the computer. This only wastes time and leads to more mistakes. Enter it straight into the program. And if you already have logging software installed, make sure you have the latest upgrades and support files installed and working.
3. More Butt-in-Chair-Operating-Time = more contacts. Turn off distractions like texting, Facebook, e-mail, TV, broadcast radio, etc. Concentrate. But don't forget to take breaks. For 5 minutes every hour, get up, stretch, get some fresh air and a glass of water or a cup of coffee.
4. Set an achievable goal. Face it. If you're not an experienced contester with a "Big Gun" station (yet!) you're not going to win. But you can certainly try to beat your score in last year's contest. Or work DXCC in a weekend. Or outscore your buddy across town.
5. Study propagation forecasts, and get a sense of what bands are likely to be open to areas you want to work, and at what times. This will help you come up with a basic plan. But remember that band openings can occur at any time, so if you're operating in a category that allows it, keep an eye on the DX cluster because those openings can often be brief but intense.
6. Don't waste time in pileups early in the contest, especially if you have a Little Pistol station like mine. Sure, give those rare ones a call or two, you may get lucky. But you're competing with guys running plenty of power into big antennas. Go back to them later in the contest, after they've worked all the Big Guns. Often enough they'll be begging for contacts and you'll work them easily.
7. Work those mults! Most contests include "multipliers" in their scoring system. Basically, your score is calculated like this: You get a set number of points for each contact. Then, depending on the contest, you get one mult for each country, or each state, or each something that you work. Multiply your points by the number of mults, and that's your total score. You can see that each mult makes a much bigger difference in your score than another contact in the same country or state. Again, read the rules for the contest you're operating in.
8. Know those Knobs! Try to familiarize yourself with the controls on your radio. Just about every rig has an attenuator, a pre-amp, an RF Gain control, and a noise blanker. Most also include an IF shift or pass-band tuning

adjustment. An old trick that QRP (very low power) operators use is to turn OFF the pre-amp, and turn ON some attenuation. That may seem counter-intuitive. But now if a station is loud to you, the chances are much better that you're also loud to him. Let his big antennas and high power do the "heavy lifting". Similarly, turning down your RF gain can knock down a nearby (in frequency) Big Gun so you can work a weaker station.

9. Use standard phonetics. My call is N1GNV. Years ago, I enjoyed having a small vegetable garden. It was kinda fun to announce my call as No One Grows Nicer Vegetables on the local repeater or among Ham Radio friends. But in a contest, that only causes confusion and mistakes -- and is considered poor practice. November One Golf November Victor is what the other guy is expecting to hear. In noisy or otherwise difficult conditions I might say "Golf November Victor, Germany Norway Victoria" but that's about it. Standard Phonetics in contests, always.
10. Listen before you call. Make sure you've got the other station's call and exchange. You can even pre-enter it in your logging software. Listen to his pattern. Does he say "QRZ?" after each contact? You want to make sure you're transmitting when he's listening. Work him (making sure he's got YOUR call correct!), hit enter, and he's in your log. Move on to the next one.

**Bonus Tip:** Many Hams travel to rare locations and assemble stations just for the major contests, particularly CQWW. In the days leading up to the event, they'll be testing their equipment on the air. That can be a great opportunity to test your own setup and snag a few more countries at the same time.

Finally -- this is a hobby. It's supposed to be FUN!! Enjoy the contest, and I hope to work you on all the bands.

## Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



### Greetings DXers:

There has been a lot of activity on the bands during the last month. For those of you who have neglected HF because of the lack of sunspots, you have been missing a lot of 15 m and 10m openings. SSB, CW and digital contacts have been happening very frequently. So you might take a listen on the bands and I think you will be surprised. I'm not saying that these openings are like openings when there are a lot of sunspots, but I am saying that there are contacts being made, even from here in the Midwest to various DX stations. So get on the air!!

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, W1CU, NG3K & ADXO, W3OA, W3UR & The Daily DX, W5AJ, WB6RSE, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, W9ILY, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, EA5RM, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, JH8KYU/1, ON4ZD/OS0S, RN3RQ, 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.

**I believe that there is still a list of countries that have postponed their mail service for the time being and will not accept mail from outside their borders.**

**U.S. POSTAL STOPPAGE** (Updated as October 16<sup>th</sup>). The U.S. Postal Service is temporarily suspending international mail acceptance for certain destinations due to service impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Suspension Due to Foreign Postal Operator Service Suspension:** Honduras, Madagascar, Turkmenistan, Libya, Panama

**Suspension Due to Unavailability of Transportation:** Angola, Lebanon, Republic of Congo, Tajikistan, Brunei, Liberia, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Turks & Caicos, Cameroon, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Vanuatu, Chad, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, Yemen, Cuba, Niger, South Sudan, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Syria  
Customers: Please refrain from mailing items addressed to the countries listed above, until further notice. For more details, see: <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm>

## November...

**3B8, MAURITIUS** (Canceled/Postponed). Olof, G0CKV, who was expected to lead a team of operators to activate 3B8M from Mauritius (AF-049) in the next CQWW DX CW Contest (November 28-29th) as a Multi-? entry, has postponed their activity due to the COVID-19 situation. They have the bookings and plans for the 2021 year.

**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.

**P4, ARUBA.** John, W2GD, will once again be active as P40W from Aruba (SA-036) between November 19-25th (Travel restrictions dependent). Activity will include CQWW DX CW Contest (November 28-29th) as a Single-Op/ All-Band entries. Operations outside of the contest are usually on 160/80m and 30/17/12 meters as time permits and with an emphasis on CW. Watch 160m on the hour and 80m on the half hour. QSL via LoTW or direct to N2MM, Bureau cards are no longer accepted. Logs will be loaded on LoTW upon his return to the USA.

**7Q, MALAWI.** Don, K6ZO, is currently and once again active as 7Q6M (as time and power allows) from Embangweni Mission Hospital at the Loudon Station in Malawi as a Mission worker until **mid-December**. At the main station, activity will be on CW and SSB at various times, usually on 20, 40 and 80 meters (possibly 160m). At his residence, he has a modest station and wire antennas for FT-8. He plans to be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 28-29th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL 7Q6M via K6ZO.

**7Q, MALAWI.** Operators from the Russian Robinson Club (RRC) will be active as 7Q7RU near Embangweni, Malawi, between November 6-18th. Operators state, "We had planned to visit three exotic African countries in October-November, 2020, but just only Malawi borders are open for foreigners. The mentioned operators are Vasily/R7AL, Vasily/RA1ZZ, Al/RZ3K and possibly others (On-site support from Don/K6ZO/7Q6M and Junior/7Q7JN). Activity will be on 160/80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 meters (with a focus on 160/80m) using CW, SSB and FT8 (F/H mode). QSL via R7AL, LoTW 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.

**CJ3/XL3, CANADA** (Special Events). Ron, VA3RVK, active as XL3T until Nov 24th. Activity is to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War II and the Canadian Liberation. Also, look for him to sign CJ3T on Nov 28th for commemorating the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War II. QSL both callsigns via VE3AT.

**FG, GUADELOUPE.** Philippe, F1DUZ, active as FG4KH from Guadeloupe until November 5th. Activity will be on 80/40/20/17/15/12/10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau, eQSL or LoTW.

**T8, PALAU.** Gary, KE1AT, is active as T88SS from Koror Island (OC-009). His length of stay is unknown. Activity will be on the HF bands. He was heard this past week on 80/30/17/15 meters FT8. QSL via his QSL Manager EA5GL.

**TC35, TURKEY** (Special Event). Look for special event station TC35FSF from Istanbul (KN41ma) between November 9-11th. Activity is to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the "Free Software Foundation". Operations will be on: SSB - 21235 and 14255 kHz Olivia 8/250 - 21072,90 and 14072,60 kHz PSK31 - 21080 and 14070 kHz

**V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS.** Since July 2019, Randy, KX4QD, has been living on Kwajalein Island, (OC-028), Marshall Islands, and is active sometimes as V7/KX4QD or V73AX. He states his operating habits are usually on 40/20 meters FT8, using a dipole and a 100 watt limit. Randy mentions that he doesn't do too well from there on SSB. He works



FT8 usually on Thursday evenings (starting around 0600z). QSL via KX4QD.

**XR3, CHILE** (Special Event). Members of the Radio Club de Copiapo are now active as XR33M between now and November 13th. Activity is to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the successful rescue of the 33 miners in the "San José" mine in Chile. Look for operations to be on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB, SSTV, FT4/FT8, PSK and RTTY. Stations that make contact with XR33M will receive their special commemorative QSL via the Bureau once the activity is completed. If you prefer to receive your QSL directly, you can do so through QSL Manager LZ1JZ.

## December...

**4U75, ITALY** (Special Event). Ivo, 9A3A, will be active with the special callsign 4U75B from United Nations Global Service Center [UNGSC] (4U1GSC), Brindisi, Italy, until December 31st, 2020. Activity is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. QSL via 9A2AA, direct or by the Bureau.

**J8, ST. VINCENT**. By the time you read this, Mac, 8P5AB, will be active as J88/8P5AB until December 3rd. Activity will be on various HF bands using FT8 and VHF bands on the Digital modes. QSL via 8P5AB, direct or eQSL.

**OE65, AUSTRIA** (Special Event). Jo, OE6VIE, will be active as OE65VIE from Styria until December 31st. Activity is to celebrate 65th anniversary of the Austrian State Treaty. QSL via DE1QSL, direct, the DARC Bureau or LoTW.

**OE65, AUSTRIA** (Special Event). Hannes, OE1SGU, active as OE65SGU from Vienna until Dec 31st. Activity is to celebrate 65th anniversary of the Austrian State Treaty. QSL via LoTW or eQSL only - no paper cards please! ADDED NOTE: Hannes is active as OE1990SGU until Oct 31st, to celebrate his 30th anniversary being an amateur radio operator. QSL via OE1SGU, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW or eQSL. Read QRZ.com for more details.

**OR39, BELGIUM** (Special Event). Members of the Oostkust Radioclub [ONZ] (ON6HC) will be active as OR39CLM until November 13th. Activity is to commemorate the liberation of the city Knokke-Heist by Canadian forces on November 1st, 1944. Activity will be on various HF bands and modes. The award is also available to for SWLs. The award will be send to you by E-mail in .JPG format. QSL via the Bureau only via ON6HC.

**OZ100, DENMARK** (Special Event). Experimental Danish Radio Amateurs Association (EDR) will activate the special callsign OZ100MILL until December 23rd. Activity is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the unification of Southern Jutland with Denmark in 1920. Operations will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and Digital modes. QSL via OZ1ACB OQRS. QSL cards can be requested via ClubLog's OQRS to be sent via the Bureau or direct. All logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. Please send no QSL cards to them via the Bureau. A special OZ100MILL award is available. There are three categories of awards: Gold, Silver and Bronze. See QRZ.com for more details.

## IOTA News...

**AN-015**. Member and operators of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition team (JARE) continue to be active as 8J1RL from Showa Research Station, Queen Maud Land, until January 2021. Operators mentioned are Take/JA1AGS and Hiro/JH7JCX. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW and the Digital modes. Most of the activity has been on 40/30/17 meters using mainly FT8 with some CW. QSL via JG2MLI or by the JARL Bureau.

**NA-123**. Jim, W2JHP, is once again active as V31TA from Turneffe Atoll (WW Loc. EK67ck), Belize, until November 8th. Activity will be limited but will be on various HF bands using SSB and maybe some Digital modes. He is using 100 watts and a wire in a palm tree. QSL via EA5GL, direct, LoTW or eQSL.

Well there you have a number of good DX prospects for November and some in December. **Get on the air and have some fun hunting down some DX.**



## QRP/CW & Linux Special Interest Groups

**Terry, KB8AMZ**  
CW SIG Coordinator



### Movin On from the QRP/CW and Linux for Hams SIG...

I have decided to hold off until the November Radiogram to make the announcement that I will no longer be hosting the QRP - CW SIG or the Linux for Hams.

I have had several conversations with Tom Sly about stepping down from these positions. Attendance has been poor with the COVID-19 and there were signs that the attendance was not great prior to COVID-19. Those that know me know that I will show up for one or two persons that have an interest in the hobby and require instruction or direction, but this is not fair to the club resources when the space, equipment, and time of another instructor might be better put to use for a project.

I am happy to have been part of the team that was selected to be awarded as the best Ohio Amateur Radio Club in Ohio. We have a lot of smart, interesting, and dedicated hams in our club. If you're new and need help you should ask. It's been a good trip, but it's time to move on.



## From the ARRL Letter

*From the ARRL*



### FCC Headquarters Relocates

FCC Headquarters has moved. The new address is 45 L St. NE, Washington, DC 20554. The change is effective immediately. The FCC announced plans to move last spring, but the transition was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCC, like many federal agencies, has its own ZIP code, so there will be no disruption in mail delivery sent by USPS to the former address. The FCC still prohibits the delivery of hand-carried documents, and all COVID-19 restrictions or instructions regarding access to FCC facilities remain in place at the new location.

"The FCC continues to balance its efforts to be accessible to the public with the need for heightened security and health and safety measures and encourages the use of the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to facilitate the filing of applications and other documents when possible," the FCC said in an October 15 [Public Notice](#).

Due to the pandemic, the move was accomplished by professional movers without the presence of any employees, all of whom had been working from home. An attempt was made during the summer to let employees back into headquarters for a day to pack up their offices and remove personal belongings, but that plan had to be scrapped after several employees tested positive for COVID-19.

Most FCC staff continue to work from home and are not expected to be physically present in their new offices before next June.

In anticipation of the planned move, the FCC last spring also announced the adoption of a new FCC seal. The redesign is the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors.



## WSJT-X Developer Expresses Puzzlement over FT8 Contest Use

WSJT-X co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, recently expressed puzzlement over the use of FT8 in contests -- rather than FT4, which was designed for contesting.

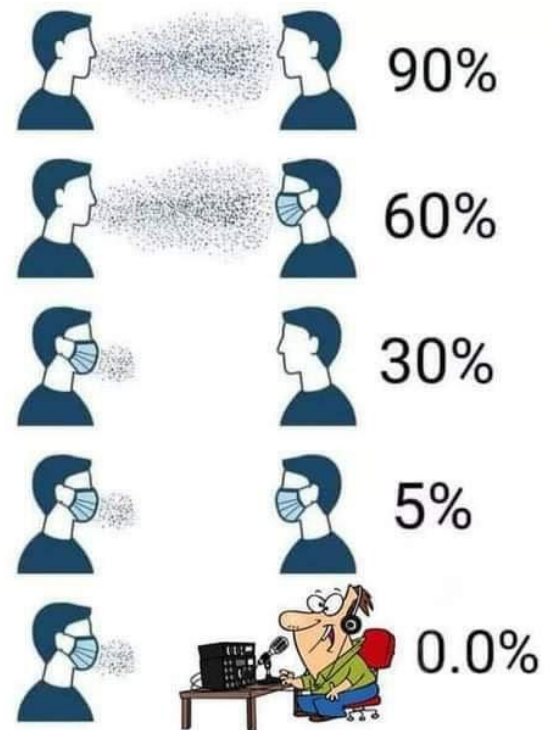
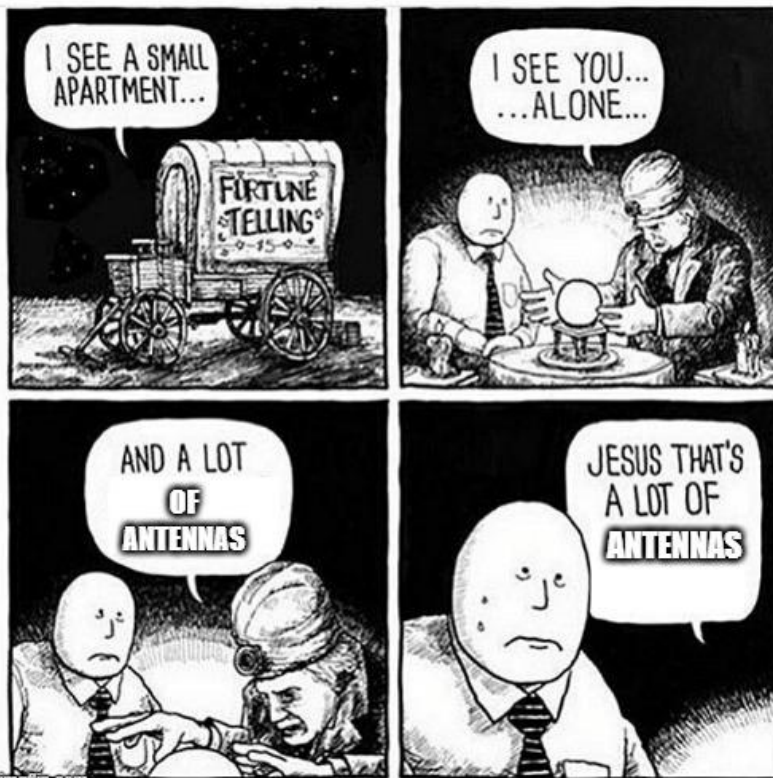
"I fail to understand why anyone who uses FT8 in a contest would fail to use FT4 for much of the time," Taylor said. "FT4 is about 3 dB less sensitive than FT8, but it's twice as fast."

Taylor offered the comment in the Mt. Airy VHF Society's [October 2020 Cheese Bits](#), regarding the September ARRL VHF Contest. Taylor said a large fraction of stations that are worked with FT8 are much more than 3 dB above the FT4 decoding threshold.

"With FT4, you can still work anyone that can be worked with CW, and near the CW threshold, you'll do it faster using FT4," he said. "And with FT4, you can work stations that are far weaker (by ~20 dB) than what's necessary for SSB. When I did work other stations with FT4, I did it by transmitting the FT8 message 'K1JT FT4 318.'" Taylor said he'd then move to 50.318 MHz FT4, and several contesters followed him there. "Many more would have made it much more fruitful," he said.

"For speed, flexibility, and ease of running the bands, yes, you should use SSB and CW when there are stations to work," Taylor said in summary. "When you run out of those, use FT8 and *especially* FT4."

Taylor also remarked, "In my 80th year, I can no longer call on my past stamina for contesting."



# 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.

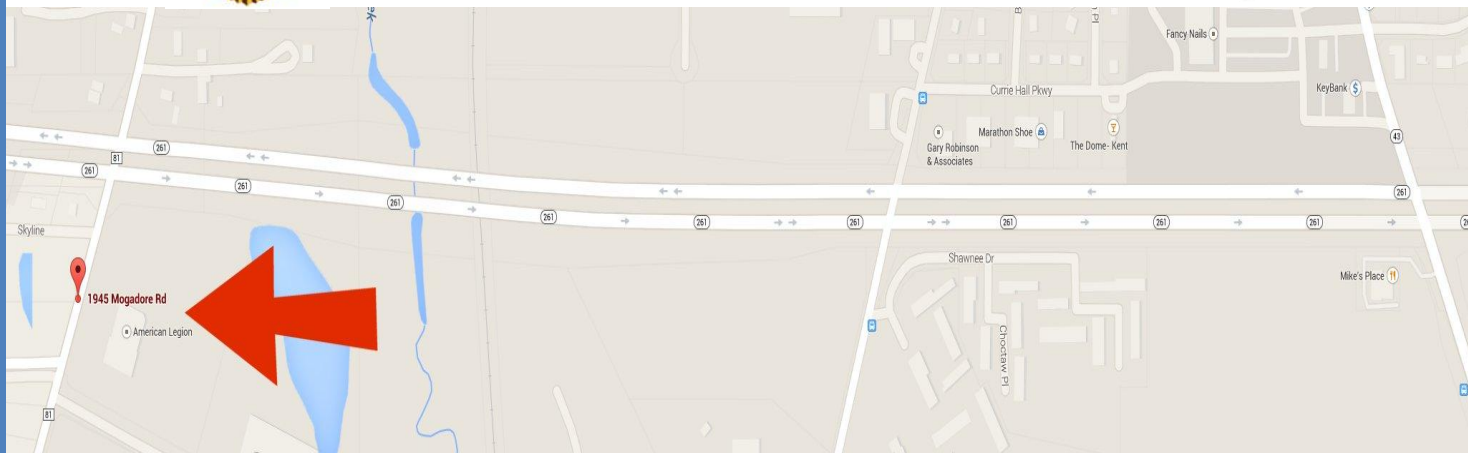


# PCARS Meetings

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



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



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

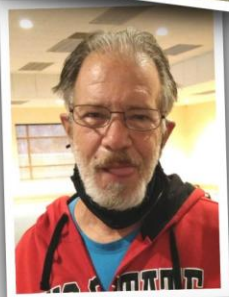


*The picture on the left shows  
The American Legion Post 496  
as viewed from Mogadore Road.  
(looking East)*

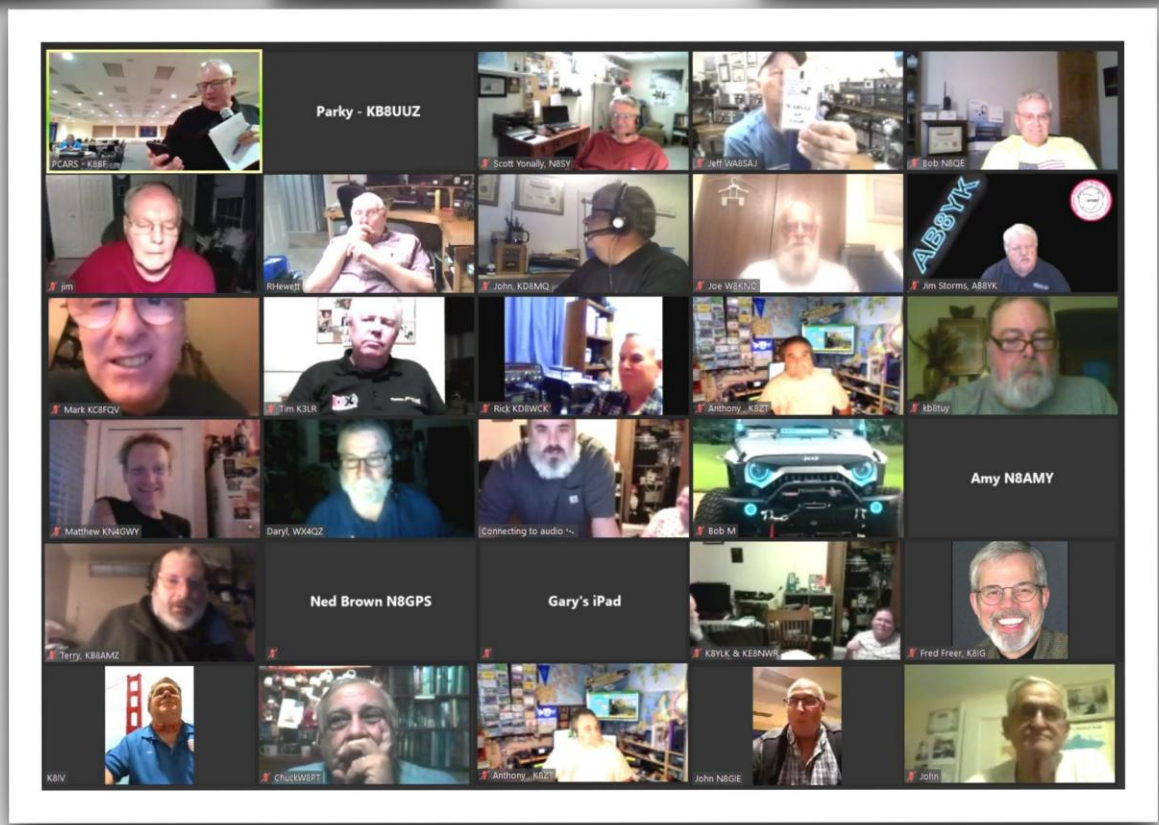
The menu consists of your basic burger / dog / chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, onion rings, and salads. There is also an appetizer selection as well. Adult beverages are available and costs are in line with what you would expect at most bar-restaurant facilities.

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

# Photos from the October PCARS Meeting



PCARS  
Oct. 12  
2020





# Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [ ] New [ ] Renewal

This form **MUST** be filled out for **any** membership transaction

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name Example: You can enter Bob instead of Robert if you want too. Also if you have a nick name you want listed, enter that, too)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? [ ] Yes [ ] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Use 2099 if ARRL Life Member

(We need month for the Birthday List and we need year to keep on file for the senior member advantages)

Birthday:    Month:                      Year:
--

A \$5.00 initiation fee will be assessed in the first year of membership for all new members.  
 Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Dec 31st. If you don't pay by 12/31 - you are no longer a member and you will have to pay the \$5.00 fee again plus dues per the schedule below and you will be issued a new member number.

Check One	Membership	Renewal & New Membership Rate **	New Membership Rate **
	<b>Life Member ***</b>	\$75-Founder    \$175-Charter	\$250-Regular    \$125-Senior
	<b>Regular Member</b>	\$20.00 Jan-Dec	\$15.00 July-Dec
	<b>Associate Member</b>	\$20.00 Jan-Dec	\$15.00 July-Dec
	<b>Senior Member (65+)</b>	\$16.00 Jan-Dec	\$11.00 July-Dec
	<b>Family Member *</b>	\$10.00 Jan-Dec	\$5.00 July-Dec

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

\*\*The rate plus a \$5.00 initiation fee will be assessed for all new members.  
 \*\*\* Must have been a member in good standing for previous 5 consecutive years.

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

What are YOUR Ham Radio interests:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a member in PCARS you agree to PCARS sending club related information to your e-mail address and allowing use of your photographs submitted or taken during PCARS events to be used for PCARS publications and ham radio related articles.

Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.  
705 Oakwood Street - Box 12  
Ravenna, OH 44266

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

Rev. .9 September 2020



## 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_





The Original Repeater

**The Livonia Amateur  
Radio Repeater Group  
W8WW/r 443.650+  
Presents**

**W8WW/r  
Repeater  
443.650+**



# **Outdoor Swap N Shop**

**Buy Sell Trade**

**Electronics, Radio, Computers and more!**

**Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**8 Am - 12 PM**

**(Rain Date November 15<sup>th</sup>)**

**Admission \$3**

**Trunk Sales \$10**

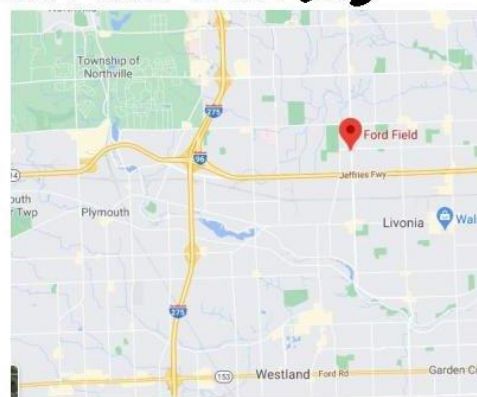
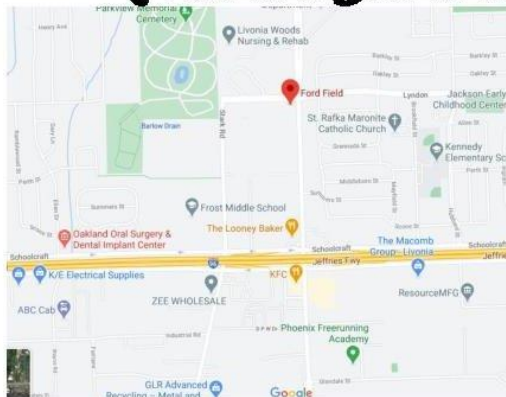
**(include 1 admission)**

**WE NEED VENDORS - PRE-Register for \$3 Discount**

**Ford Field Parking Lot**

**Farmington and Stark Roads, Livonia Michigan**

**(Farmington Road Exit on I-96)**



**Questions: James Keller (734) 674-2866**

**Masks and Social Distancing  
Requested**

**TalkIn on 146.52 Simplex**

## Court Reporters

### HOW DO COURT RECORDERS KEEP STRAIGHT FACES????

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning? WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you? WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact? WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active? WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth? WITNESS: July 18th. ATTORNEY: What year? WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you? WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which. ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you? WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all? WITNESS: Yes. ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory? WITNESS: I forget.. ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning? WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

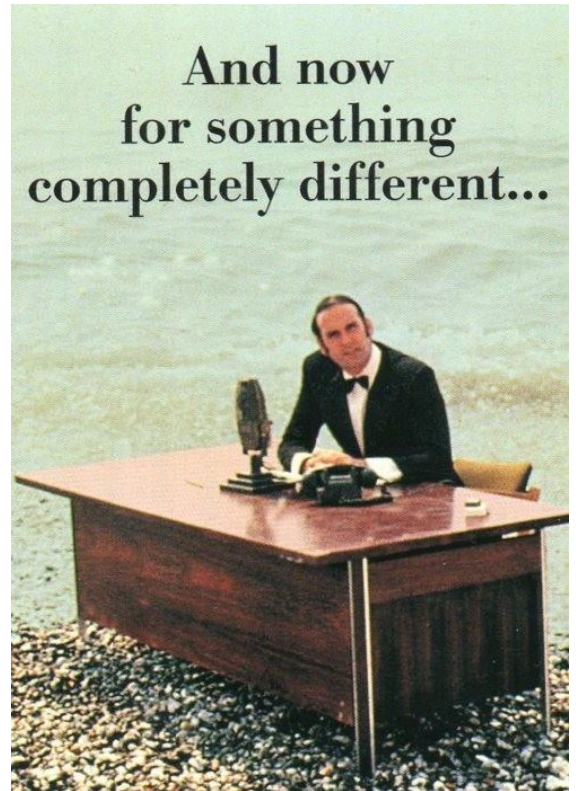
ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he? WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken? WITNESS: Are you shitting me?

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th? WITNESS: Yes. ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time? WITNESS: Getting laid

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right? WITNESS: Yes. ATTORNEY: How many were boys? WITNESS: None. ATTORNEY: Were there any girls? WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated? WITNESS: By death.. ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated? WITNESS: Take a guess.



ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual? WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard  
ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female? WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people? WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to? WITNESS: Oral...

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body? WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time? WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample? WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?

And last:

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No..

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.



# 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 that we do get. 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 report in to keep this newsletter great for 2020 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.

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

**WB8LCD, AC8QG, KE8EGF, KB8UUZ, K8CAV, K8FH, K8IV, N8AMY, KD8BBK, KD8MQ, N8QE, K8YU, N8TUW, W8H, W8UKE, W8CPG, KD8WCK, KB6NU, WB2MGP, N8SY, N8WCP, W8KNO, KA8TOA, W8PT, K3LR, N1GNV, KB8AMZ, NF8R, NO8D, The ARRL, SKYWARN, and the world wide web.** With *your* continued help – we can keep making this a *great* newsletter.



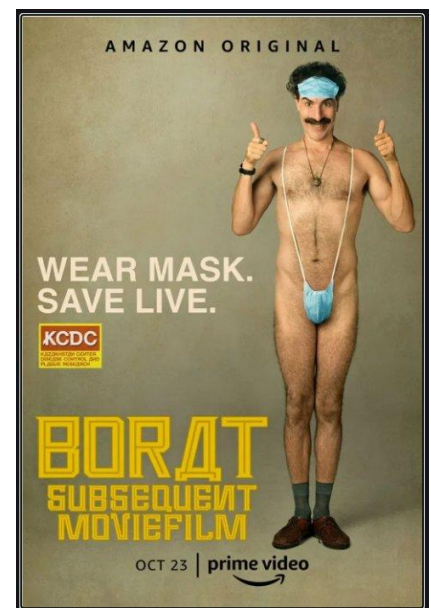
Well, here's a very good example of why you should never borrow a mask from someone else.....

Yes, for those of you that may not know, there is a new Borat movie coming out soon (funny stuff).

I thought it was pretty clever that they are advertising this the way you see it here. You have to admit - it got your attention!

I've even seen photos from New York City where they have full size posters of this and right next to it is a dispenser for face masks.....

Anyway - *Please Be Safe Out There*



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

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

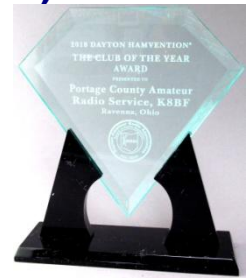


PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the **Kent American Legion Post 496**,  
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - Enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.

**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](http://www.PORTCARS.ORG) -or- [www.K8BF.ORG](http://www.K8BF.ORG)



~ 2020 Officers ~	2020 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD Vice President - Nick Wagner - AC8QG Treasurer - Paul Hyland - KE8EGF 3 Year Trustee - John Myers - KD8MQ 2 Year Trustee - Terry Morris - KB8AMZ 1 Year Trustee - Ed Polack - K8IV Past President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT	ARRL Awards - DXCC	<b>W8KNO</b> Joe Wehner
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	<b>K8CAV</b> Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	<b>W8PT</b> Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink & Web Guru	<b>K8SRR</b> Steve Randlett
	Field Day Chairman, 2020	<b>WA8AR</b> Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	<b>W8PT</b> Chuck Patellis
	Historian	<b>KB8SZI</b> Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	<b>N8AMY</b> Amy Leggiero
	K8BF QSL Manager	<b>N8AMY</b> Amy Leggiero
	Membership Chairman	<b>AC8NT</b> Jim Wilson
	Net Control Manager	<b>KA8TOA</b> Greg Ash
	Net Night - Club Manager	<b>WB8LCD</b> Tom Sly
	Newsletter Editor	<b>KB8UUZ</b> Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA Chairman	<b>KB8UUZ</b> Tom Parkinson	
~ Meetings & Net ~	Public Information Officer	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. 7pm  Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	Secretary	<b>N8WCP</b> Mike Szabo
	Social Media	<b>N8AMY</b> Amy Leggiero
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	<b>AC8NT</b> Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	<b>KB8UUZ</b> Tom Parkinson
	Webmasters	<b>KD8MQ</b> John Myers <b>K8SRR</b> Steve Randlett

**PCARS**  
**Active**  
**Volunteer**  
**Examiner**  
**Team**  
**Members**

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

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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.



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