



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

PCARS - the 2018 Hamvention® Club of The Year

February 2024 - Volume 19 Number 02

Winter Portable



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!





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John Andrews - K8NYL - SK

John, K8NYL
PCARS Member 428



John Andrews, K8NYL passed away on December 31st, 2023.

John's good friend of many years, Wes K8NYM, shares this:

John was born 9/22/1933 in Pennsylvania. He was 90 years old. He moved to Ohio in 1952 and retired from Babcock & Wilcox after 37 years. He is survived by his wife Marguerite, and 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls. John was drafted into the Army, and was a member of the Signal Corps. This is where he got his passion for ham radio. I met John at Barberton High School where we were taking Novice classes in 1959. John was my 2nd contact on 40-meter CW. His family would like to keep his call K8NYL, in the family, and are considering getting their license.

The following is from [tributearchive.com](https://www.tributearchive.com):

John William Andrews Sr., gained his angel wings on December 31st, 2023, which coincided with the feast day of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. He was surrounded by his devoted wife and all eight of his children. He is survived by the love of his life, Marguerite Andrews, and his eight children: Kathy (Wendell) Vinson, Mary (Bill) Simmons, John (Maria) Andrews Jr., Lynn (Tim) Shomo, Mike (Karen) Andrews, Joe (Julie) Andrews, David Andrews, and Elizabeth (Tim) Knaus. Also left to cherish his memory are his 23 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and numerous friends.

He often expressed that his purpose in life was to love his wife, Marguerite. They shared over 67 years of marriage, and their unconditional love served as a source of inspiration for all of us. A faithful member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, he raised his eight children with unwavering dedication and lived the life of a devoted husband and father. He was also a proud member of the Knights of Columbus (Barberton). After 37 years of service, he retired from B&W in 1989. Guided by a strong work ethic and unshakable Catholic faith, he instilled these values in his family.



From the President



Mike, KP4VZ
PCARS President



First of all, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to Carole Perry WB2MGP for her incredible presentation during our January meeting. She truly is an outstanding educator! Her dedication to engaging and motivating young individuals in the fascinating world of ham radio is truly commendable. It was an absolute delight to listen to her speak. Thank you so much, Carole!

We are thrilled to share the joyous news of the birth of Gregory Alphonsus Wagner, the seventh child of the Wagner family! Please join us in congratulating them on this wonderful addition to their family. Gregory Wagner was born on January 7th.

We kicked off this year with an amazing start thanks to our "[ParkPedition](#)" at Wing Foot Lake State Park in January. Let's make sure we maintain this positive momentum! I encourage you to participate in our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and get involved in our exciting activities like "ParkPeditions", QSO parties, Field Day, and our Annual Amateur Radio Cruise-In, among others. The rest of the year is already shaping up to be packed with exciting events! We've got our first QSO Party of the year (Minnesota) on February 3rd, followed by Freeze Your Acorns Off on March 2nd. But wait, there is more! Make sure to take a look at the [calendar](#), visit our website, and keep an eye on the newsletter for a whole bunch of other exciting events.



We're still searching for some exciting activities to add to our schedule. Ken and I are always eager to hear your suggestions. If there's a specific amateur radio topic or project you'd like us to include, and if you know someone who could be a valuable resource, please let us know.

Website updates



Over the last six months, we've made several changes to our [website](#). These changes encompass the addition of the Dx Tools, a makeover of the "ParkPeditions" and About Us pages, as well as the main landing page. Additionally, we have made certain enhancements to the visual appeal and provide easy access to the recent PCARS posts. This includes the addition of the last five recent posts in the green-colored sidebar on the right for convenient access. We have also enlarged and made the website calendar more user-friendly. At the bottom of the sidebar, you will find the latest news from ARRL.

I firmly believe that our website plays a crucial role as the first point of contact for potential members, and it is essential for us to continuously adapt to the ever-changing digital landscape. It is imperative that our website doesn't remain stagnant but evolves with the times. I kindly ask our members to explore the website modifications and provide any recommendations to webmaster@portcars.org.

Kudos to the Radiogram's new Editor!

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to acknowledge James C. Wilson (better known as J.C.) for his outstanding work as the newly appointed editor of the PCARS Newsletter, "[The Radiogram](#)". A tremendous effort was put into the January 2024 edition, which marked J.C.'s debut as editor. Well done!



From the Vice President



Ken, WA8LRW
PCARS Vice President



January Activity

Monthly Meeting

Carole Perry gave an excellent talk on Youth in Ham Radio, which stresses the importance of encouraging early exposure to Ham radio. This is the only way our hobby will grow and thrive.

Net Night at the Club Site

Although lightly attended, I know it was a cold rainy night in January, but we had fun and Mike's Popcorn was great. It's a great time to get out of the house and talk with your friends about a hobby you enjoy.

February

Monthly Meeting

Portage County Office of Homeland Security Management and Coms Unit; Communications Support Operations for 8 April Total Eclipse

March and April

Monthly Meeting

We will be trying something new with three short talks per month about each of the SIGs. The SIG leaders will talk about the purpose and activity of each of the SIGs and answer questions. I encourage you to learn about the SIGs and find new areas or our hobby to explore.

March 11 Meeting

Antenna SIG
Portable Operation SIG
Digital Modes SIG

April 8 Meeting

HF SIG
DX/Contest SIG
Could Be Anything SIG



From the Treasurer

Greg, KA8TOA
PCARS Treasurer



Hi Everyone!

The Clubs Finances are in great Shape. We have had 6 more members sign up for this year and we only lost a few members, which is understandable. Meetings are a little light, again understandable due to weather and our older membership.

The nets are doing okay, along with our leadership team doing a great job. What makes this a great club is the activities we participate in and the willingness to spread our knowledge. So come and voice your opinion and help the club survive so we can continue the great things we do. Along with this as we get new members and we get new hams licensed, please help them out and welcome them to this exciting hobby.

From the Club License Trustee

Bob, N8QE
K8BF Trustee



Our K8BF club call sign logged 26,128 contacts in 2023.

I'm the club call sign trustee, and responsible for the proper operation of the PCARS K8BF club station. One of my duties is to designate control operators. I must know who is using our club's call sign, and who is in control of our station. If a club member wants to use the club call for a special event or contest, please contact me ahead of time so I can get you the information you need, and gather the data I need for my records. Remember, when you use the club call, you are the voice of PCARS when on the air. It is an important obligation to operate in the best manner possible, and within the confines of FCC Part 97. Any problem that the FCC would have with K8BF would require me to make station records available for inspection upon request.

We need keep operating logs when our club call is being used, and then report them to me.

Bob Hajdak N8QE
K8BF Trustee
rhajdak@aol.com



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

AG8GM	Ghislaine		KC8LJY	Michael		N4IT	Carl
KD8DFL	Ray		W8HFY	David			



Schedule of Events



- February 3rd - VE Test Session at PCARS Club Site – 10 am
- February 5th - PCARS Board Meeting at PCARS Club Site – 7 pm
- February 8th - PCARS meeting at the Kent American Legion - 7 pm

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

- First Tuesday Odd Months - **Digital Special Interest Group** - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
- First Tuesday Even Months - **HF WAS & DX Nets Special Interest Group** - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
- Second Tuesday - **Portable Ops Special Interest Group** - Moderator: John, WG8X
- Third Tuesday - **Antenna Special Interest Group** - Moderator: Bob, N8QE
- Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest Special Interest Group** - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
- Fifth Tuesday - **Could Be Anything Special Interest Group** - Moderator: Rick, KD8WCK

Fourth Thursday - Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 pm - Moderator: Tom, WB8LCD

PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - Limited Edition - Get One NOW

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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service



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 - Greg, KA8TOA.**

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



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

Contact Greg for all of the details: Treasurer@portcars.org

NAQP CW Contest

Gary, WB2RPW



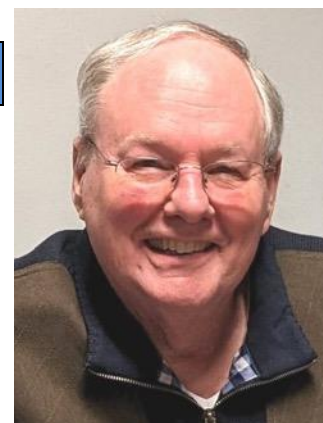
Hello fellow PCARS member. One of the PCARS members remote from New Jersey here.

I operated the NAQP CW contest on Jan. 13th. I was "In the chair" 8.5 out of a possible 10 hours. I operated 20 and 40-meters CW. I had 174Q's and 65 multipliers. I finished with a total of score of 11,310 points I had set a goal of 10,000 points so I exceeded that. My hourly Q rate which is about 15/hr improved to 20/hr so there was an improvement there. I think my overall improvement is due to my ability to use my keyboard function keys. This increases my logging speed while using the N1MM logging software. I think if I put the calls in the software and call them I might be able to improve my score even more so.

For the propagator: Thanks!
Gary/WB2RPW

Tech Tips – True RMS Meter

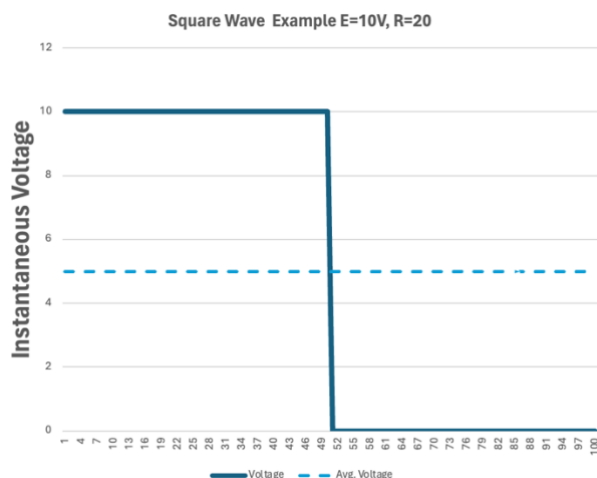
Jim, AC8NT



Why do I need a "True RMS" meter?



This question comes from a seasoned ham. He already owned a meter that had an AC scale marked Volts RMS. Why do I need another meter? First, we need to remember that all analog meters and most digital meters that aren't True RMS meters measure average voltage. Why doesn't average work? What is the difference between RMS and average readings? Let's start with a simple problem. We have a 10 volt peak square wave signal with a 50% duty cycle connected to a 20 ohm resistor, the waveform is shown in the figure below. Let's look at a few values:



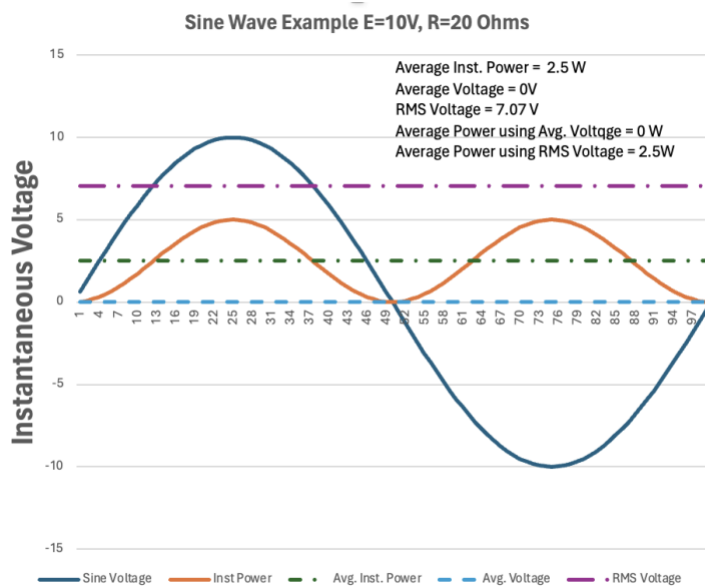
During the first half of the waveform the voltage is 10 volts and during the second half the voltage is zero. If we were to add the voltages at each of the 100 points on the horizontal scale and divide by 100, we would get an average voltage of 5 volts (shown with a dashed line). Now let's look at the power delivered to the resistor. Ohms Law says $P = \frac{E^2}{R}$. During the first half the instantaneous power at each point will be $P = \frac{10^2}{20} = \frac{100}{20} = 5 \text{ watts}$. During the second half P will equal zero because the voltage is zero. Again, if we average all 100 points in the curve, we get an average power of 2.5 watts. That is the power going into the resistor. At this point we have an average voltage of 5 volts and an average power of 2.5 watts. What if we use our average voltage to compute the power than $P = \frac{5^2}{20} = \frac{25}{20} = 1.25 \text{ watts}$. That is not the average power going to the resistor. We need another way for our meter to measure voltage. Enter RMS voltage or Root Mean Square voltage.

RMS voltage is computed by taking the voltage at each point in the waveform and squaring the value. All these squared values are then averaged. Then we take the square root of the average.

We can use the following equation to say the same thing $V_{RMS} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum v_i^2}{n}}$, where v is the voltage at each point and n is the total number of points in the waveform. The Σ symbol indicates we "sum" the values. In the first half of our example $v^2 = 10^2 = 100$. During the second half $v^2 = 0$. The average of all the v^2 is 50. Now we take the square root of 50 and we get 7.07 volts. 7.07 volts is the RMS voltage for our square wave.

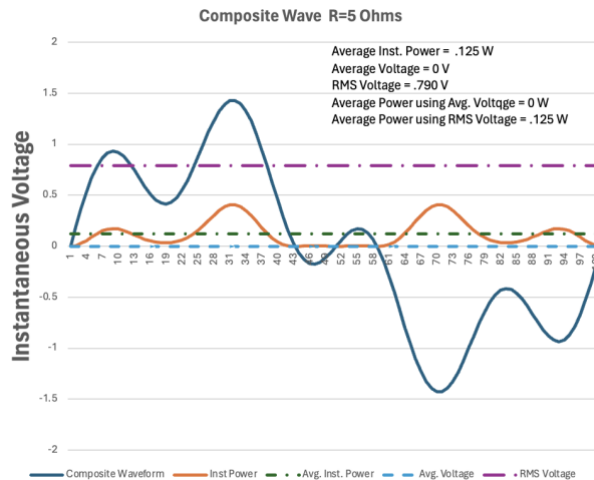
Now we can compute our average power using 7.07 volts $P = \frac{7.07^2}{20} = \frac{50}{20} = 2.5 \text{ watts}$. If we use the RMS value, we get the actual amount of power delivered to the resistor.

Now repeat the experiment using a 10 volt amplitude sine wave as shown below.



As you can see the average voltage of this waveform is zero, the average power consumed by the resistor is 2.5 watts, and the RMS voltage is 7.07 volts. If you computed the power using the average voltage the result would be zero watts. Using RMS voltage, the power would be correct at 2.5 watts.

One last example:



This is a complex small signal waveform. The average voltage is again zero which would result in a calculated power of zero watts. The actual average power is .125 watts into the 5 ohm resistor. The RMS voltage is .790 volts which results in a calculated power of .125 watts, the correct value.

A lot of multimeters that are not true RMS meters have an AC scale labeled RMS, as is the one owned by the questioner. These meters rectify the AC signal, so the average is non-zero and adjust the scale of the meter to read RMS. However, this scale is only correct for near perfect, near line frequency sine waves. In the real-world near perfect sine waves seldom exist. Just put a scope on your power line and look at the noise. Also, you need to remember if you are measuring voltage and current using a meter for power calculations, both voltage and current must be RMS values for the correct power calculations. Some True RMS Multimeters only read “average” current, which can’t be used for accurate power calculations. Check the specifications to make sure both current and voltage are RMS.

True RMS meters are no longer only for rich hams. Good meters can be found for less than \$50. Consider adding one to your instrument kit.

Jim, AC8NT

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!!

Hamfest Calendar



Here are the current listings of local hamfests. Please note that all are **subject to change**. Stay current by checking the sponsoring club's web page before making your travel arrangements.

=====
03/10/2024 - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Hamfest - Location: Lorain County Community College - 1005 N. Abbe Rd. - Elyria, OH 44035 - Website: <http://winterhamfest@noars.net> - Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Talk-In: 146.70 (110.9) - Public Contact: Carl , W8KRF - 3821 West 152nd Street Cleveland, OH 44111 - Phone: 216-256-9624 - Email: w8krf@w8krf.net

=====
03/17/2024 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair - Location: Owens Community College - 30335 Oregon Road - Perrysburg, OH 43551 - Website: <http://www.w8hhf.org> - Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association - Talk-In: 147.27/87 103.5 - Public Contact: Brian Harrington , WD8MXR - 4463 Holly Hill Drive Toledo, OH 43614 - Phone: 419-385-5624 - Email: wd8mxr@gmail.com

=====
04/13/2024 – Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest – Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH – Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. – Details: <http://www.w8vpv.org/hamfest>

=====
04/28/2024 – Athens Hamfest – Location: Athens, OH – Sponsor: Athens Country Amateur Radio Association – Website: <https://www.ac-ara.org/>

=====
05/05/2024 – Lucas County ARES Trunk Sale & Swap Meet – Location: Toledo, OH – Sponsor: Lucas County ARES – Website: <http://lucasares.org>

=====
05/11/2024 – 05/16/2024 – RV Radio Network – Location: Millersburg, OH – Type ARRL Hamfest – Sponsor: RV Radio Network – Website: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/rv-radio-network-2>

=====
05/16/2024 - Four Days In May - Location: Holiday Inn - 2800 Presidential Drive - Fairborn, OH 45324 Website: <http://qrparci.org/fdim> - Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International - Public Contact: David Cripe , NM0S - 118 Hilltop Dr. NE Mount Vernon, IA 52314 - Phone: 319-651-5879 - Email: nm0s@nm0s.com

=====
05-17/18/19-2024 Dayton Hamvention 2024 - Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH - website: <https://hamvention.org/>

=====
08/18/2024 - Warren Hamfest - Location: Trumbull County - Fairgrounds - 899 Everett Hull Rd. - Cortland, OH 44410 - website: <https://www.w8vtd.com/> - Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association - Talk-In: 146.970 - (100hz normally off) - Public Contact: Andrew Juchnowski , AB8MO - PO Box 809 Warren, OH 44482 - Phone: (234) 238-2312 - Email: hamfest@w8vtd.com



On The Road with WG8X



John, WG8X



The Final Rove

By early January, my tally of Ohio POTA activations fell just short of my goal of 273. I needed fifteen more. I was determined to finish my quest. But I needed good weather. You know how January can be. You sometimes cross your fingers and take your chances. The weather usually improves south of I-70, but that isn't a for-sure thing.

The weekend weather for January 11-14 started to look promising, so the road trip was a go. My wife, being the patient sort, had no problem when I told her that I was leaving Thursday, and would be back in 3-4 days.

Despite encountering rain and snow initially, the weather improved as I headed south of Canton towards Lake Veto in Washington County, where the day transformed into a beautiful, sunny one with temperatures in the low 50s.



A bit of trivia here. The Crown City wildlife Area is the southernmost POTA reference in the State of Ohio. If you set up at the rest area along Rte. 7, you can claim a Two-fer, by also handing out the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.

I managed to hit all five parks on my list that day, making it to Shawnee State Park with daylight to spare. The Turkey Creek campground at Shawnee is far away from the light pollution you normally see here in NE Ohio, making it an impressive site for stargazing.

Day two was challenging, with sunshine until about 10AM, followed by wind & rain. My plan was to leave Shawnee, activate three parks in the area, then head to Butler County (just NW of Cincinnati), activate three more, then head east to Springfield for the night. It was great being indoors for the night. The weather wasn't fit for Man, nor beast!

Saturday (Day 3) was an easy day with only four activations. Two of them were close to my hotel, so I got an early start. The roads were turning snow-covered as I left the area, but quickly cleared as I drove west. After a quick activation in Darke County, I headed north towards the final park on my list.

Arriving at Mercer Wildlife Area a bit before lunchtime, this was to be like the others, rack up 10-15 contacts, and move on. But not only was it my final park, but it turned out to be an ATNO (All Time New One) for the WWFF program. I didn't know this till Jess, W6LEN spotted me on their Facebook page. Suddenly, I had another pile-up of stations calling. They were mostly Europeans, but some NA stations as well. And they were all eager to get in my log. In the end, the weather, and my hunger won out. It was done.



After a good dinner, and a good night's sleep, I had one final task. I stopped on the way home for a dozen roses for my wife. She has been extremely patient with my POTA addiction.

So, you might be wondering "How much did all this cost?". Well, I'm not sure I want to know. There were a lot of miles driven, campground fees, meals out, souvenirs, etc. Let's just say that I had fun and leave it at that.

There were a lot of people who helped to keep me on task and motivated me to finish this quest. Too many to mention. But there are a few to whom I need to shout out.

Doug, W8EOT – A few years ago, Doug and I were both working towards the “Worked All Ohio State Park” award. I had given up, till Doug got me going again. Thanks Doug!

Nathan (N8NI), who I'm fairly sure was the first to activate all Ohio References. He finished all of them in May of 2023. We've had several conversations and compared notes on activation locations and tactics. Nathan, I wouldn't have finished this if not for your encouragement.

State	Count
Ohio (US-OH)	273 / 273
Pennsylvania (US-PA)	10 / 483
South Carolina (US-SC)	2 / 161
Colorado (US-CO)	2 / 194
West Virginia (US-WV)	1 / 138
North Carolina (US-NC)	1 / 244

Then there's Fred, (KW4FM). What can I say about Fred? He's one of the friendliest guys on the band. His quest was to **WORK** all Ohio references. He came close in August 2021. He was only five away when they added over a hundred more references to the state POTA list. About that time, several Hams around Ohio began helping Fred with his quest by activating the parks on his list. That really helped bump up my numbers. Thanks Fred!

What's next? While it was fun, this has left me a bit burned out. So, it'll be a while before I figure out which direction to head in next. But I think my run & gun days of working ten contacts and moving on to the next park are behind me. Thanks for following along with me over this quest. This might be my last “On The Road” column. But by next month, I'm sure I'll come up with something else to share.

73 de WG8X

A Poetic Interlude

By ChatGPT – Courtesy of Dayton Amateur Radio Association

In the realm of waves that dance unseen, A ham radio operator keen, Whispers signals through the air,
In the language of a spectral affair.

Upon the bands of frequency wide, Propagation's magic, a thrilling ride, Through atmospheres, both near and far,
Connecting souls, like a distant star.

Sunspots waltz in cosmic ballet, Their influence on waves at play, Fading, fluttering, in the ionosphere, A dance that only
hams hold dear.

Through tropospheric ducts they glide, Signals on a celestial tide,
From mountain peaks to valleys low, Ham hearts ride where frequencies go.

On whispered winds, they venture far, Amateur dreams like a guiding star, Through static crackle and atmospheric hum,
Echoes of connection, a rhythmic drum.

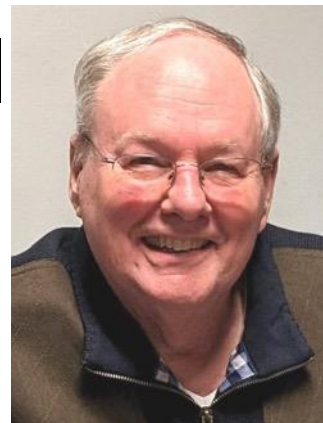
Morse code taps a rhythmic song,
In the quiet space where signals belong, A language shared 'cross miles untold, Ham spirit, resilient, brave, and bold.

In the still of the night, or the light of day, Propagation's gift, in every way,
A tapestry woven in the ether's embrace, Ham radio's magic, connecting space.

So, in the quiet glow of a darkened room, A ham sits, awaiting the bands to bloom, Propagation's dance, a celestial show,
In the ham's heart, the love will grow.

Historic Treasures

Jim, AC8NT



Old Stuff



I met with a group of “senior” engineers a couple of weeks ago and we stumbled on the topic of old stuff we have kept for the sake of keeping. I thought it might be interesting to ask our club members to send in pictures of some of their old stuff. I will start off with my Leeds & Northrup Type S Test Set. According to the serial number it was built in 1918. Production on this started in 1915 and they are still in use. It is a test set with the heart being a very accurate Wheatstone bridge.

When I was 10 years old, my dad on one of our many trips to ATT and Bell sites found a group of ATT technicians outside behind one of the buildings taking fire axes and destroying some great test equipment just so no one would sell it to competitors. He told them to take a short walk and while they were having a “smoke”, we liberated some nice stuff including meters, a 2” oscilloscope, and this outstanding instrument. It still works great.

How about you send us some pictures of your treasures?

Jim, AC8NT

Amateur Radio on the ISS Opportunity

January 8, 2024 --- The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program is seeking formal and informal education institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member onboard the ISS. ARISS anticipates that the contacts would be held between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan.

The deadline to submit a proposal is February 29, 2024. Proposal information and more details such as expectations, proposal guidelines and the proposal form can be found at <http://www.ariss.org>

An ARISS Introductory Webinar session will be held January 17, 2024 at 7 PM ET. The Zoom link to sign up is:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-qsrD0pGNLBvhR_2p5O9uTeRzO0u4Sw

HamCram24 at DX Engineering

Tom, KB8UUZ



On January 13th DX Engineering had a special session for DX Engineering and Summit Racing people at the Tallmadge facility that wanted to get their Amateur Radio Technician License. PCARS was involved the last time (2018) and were asked to help again with this presentation.

In the month prior to this, the people that signed up received an ARRL Technician Licensing book and information about the day's schedule. They were instructed to read and study the Technician License book and were encouraged to take on-line sample tests. The HamCram would be a review of the entire Technician License book.

PCARS Members Jim, AC8NT coordinated the slide show and Tom, KB8UUZ coordinated the VE session.

The *HamCram24* started at 8am at DX Engineering in Tallmadge with 20 people gathered to take the course for their Technician License. The instructors took their turns going through all the information in the slide show.

Following the slide show, the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) had the participants take the exam and then processed all of the paperwork.

When it was all done and over and the VE testing completed there were sixteen new Technicians and one General Class upgrade.

A special "*Thank You*" to the following people involved:



Tim, K3LR – DX Engineering CEO - for promoting this HamCram again and being there for the Introduction.

Teri, K8MNJ – DX Engineering Special Projects and Promotions, Hamfest/DXpedition Coordinator - Promoted the class to the all of the Tallmadge facility Summit Racing and DX Engineering employees, processed all the sign-ups, scheduling, building security notification, coordinated the room set up and lunch. She also assisted in the VE testing.



Instructors:

Jim - AC8NT (PCARS), Ken - WA8LRW (PCARS), Tom - WB8LCD (PCARS), Rick - K8CAV (PCARS), Scott - N3RA (DXE), Cory - W3JL (DXE)

Volunteer Examiners:

Tom - KB8UUZ (PCARS & DXE), Jim - AC8NT (PCARS), Dan - N8FUM (PCARS), Teri - K8MNJ (DXE), Cory - W3JL (DXE).

As of January 26th the following new Technician Call Signs have been issued:

KE8ZYY - Andrew KE8ZZB - Steve KE8ZZJ - Megan KE8ZZK - Alicia
KE8ZZL - Tyler KE8ZZM - Devon KE8ZZN - Andrew KE8ZZZ - Dennis
KF8AAA - Steve KF8AAB - Scott KF8AAC - David KF8AAD - Chris

We are still waiting on the FCC to issue calls to Alex, Jocelyn, Sarah and Thomas.

Additionally, Wayne - KE8JFW upgraded to General Class. You may have seen Wayne's call sign associated with the DX Engineering Blog "*On All Bands*".

All-in-all a very successful day promoting the great hobby of Amateur Radio. Everyone involved sends a special welcome to all of the new Technicians and we hope to hear you on the air soon.

Support Your Parks Weekend ParkPedition



John, WG8X

PCARS Goes To Wingfoot Lake State Park

Well, we survived; a group of wayward adventurers braved the cold on Support Your Parks Weekend. The mission? Activate K-3516; otherwise known as Wingfoot Lake State Park, while and have fun in the process. Both goals appear to have been achieved. The weather was typical for January, temperatures in the low teens, and a mild breeze. This was the coldest weather we've experienced yet for one of our ParkPeditions. The weather that day might have been more suited to FYAO than POTA.



Gene, W8NET arrived at the park around 8:30, and found that the park maintenance workers were hard at work preparing for us. Once they had the parking lot plowed, they broke out a snow blower, and cleared a path to the pavilion, and cleared the snow from the pavilion itself. Way to go ODNR staff!



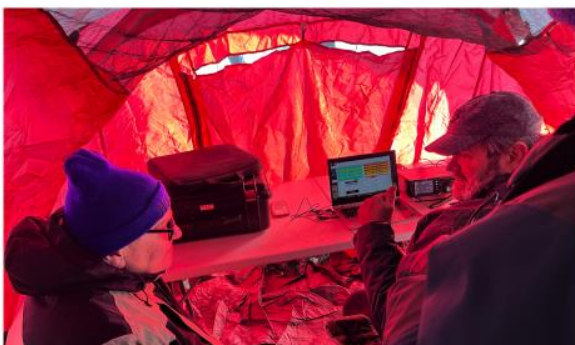
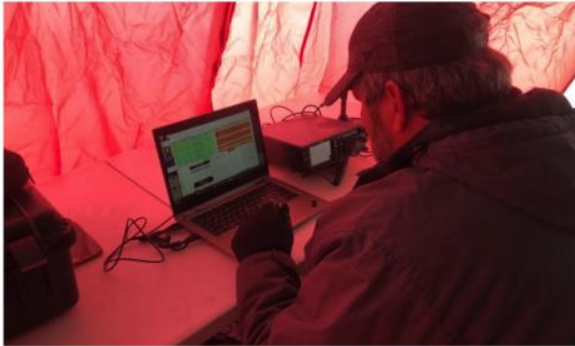
Once they'd finished, John, WG8X, Brandon, KE8ARB, and Ethan, KE8WVV had arrived. Gene then directed the assembly of a large tent where the HF crew operated. With the addition of a small heater, the HF crew stayed not toasty, but at least warm-ish until the 4pm closing time. WG8X, the VHF/UHF station operator operated from the relative comfort of his truck.

Three stations ran throughout the day. President Mike, KP4VZ was there too, but fell victim to antenna trouble. FT8 was running on 40 & 20 Meters. There was also SSB on 20M for the 3905 Century Club net. We even had FM on 2M & 440, ensuring that K8BF was present for the Ohio ARES VHF Simplex contest. We racked up what we believe to be a respectable score. The turnout was great. Thanks to all who came out, had some food, and socialized.



Plans are already being made for next January. First & foremost, we will set up indoors. We'll also plan for a much more diverse selection of bands & modes, especially for the simplex contest station.

The next PCARS ParkPedition will be in April. Watch for more information soon.



NetLogger for HF (and more!) Nets

Gene, W8NET

HF WAS & DX Nets SIG Coordinator



A Gathering Place

HF nets are an incredible way to get your Worked All States. Also, many HF nets attract DX stations, many for the same reason: getting THEIR WAS! HF nets are a great GATHERING PLACE for like-minded operators. Also, if you want to get your WAS (or other awards), you need a good logging tool.

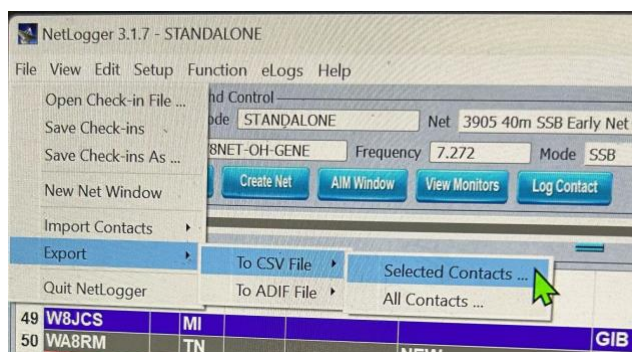
What is NetLogger?

NetLogger is a FREE feature rich logging program that can use the internet to transmit check-in information to other users of NetLogger. Net participants that are ‘monitoring’ the net with NetLogger receive updated information every twenty seconds.

NetLogger also has features designed to make logging check-ins easier. For instance, if you use a callbook program like QRZ!, HamCall, Sam Database, or Radio Amateur Callbook, information like name, city, and state can be filled in for you automatically.

There is also a “Club Profile” feature that enables you to store and automatically display station information not found in a callbook database. Most nets – like OMISS, 3905 Century Club, HHH Net and YLISSB - have discreet info for their nets as well.

Other features of NetLogger include support for importing/exporting data in ADIF and CSV format, a built-in contact database that supports complex searching, automatic entry of UTC, date and time when logging contacts, viewing of upcoming net schedules on-line, ability to post your own net schedule, ability to send a list of check-ins to an email reflector, ability to print QSL labels, mailing labels and contacts, plus many other features.



If you are a LoTW and/or eQSL user, you can upload contacts to them easily!

Who uses Net Logger?

Dozens of nets use NetLogger. It can be used by anyone. Net control operators (NCS) use the program to track all check-ins to the net. With the built-in “almost instant messaging” (AIM) window, they can send messages between other net control operators or other members using the app to monitor the net.

Other operators can use the program to just monitor who has checked-in, as well as communicate using the built-in “Almost Instant Messaging” (AIM) window.

How do I get Net Logger?

You can download Net Logger by going to this page: <http://netlogger.org/download.php>

1. Select your version based on your computer and version of windows or mac.
2. Enter your Callsign and e-mail address
3. Click “Download”

- Once Net Logger has been downloaded, run it to install the program.
- Open Net Logger

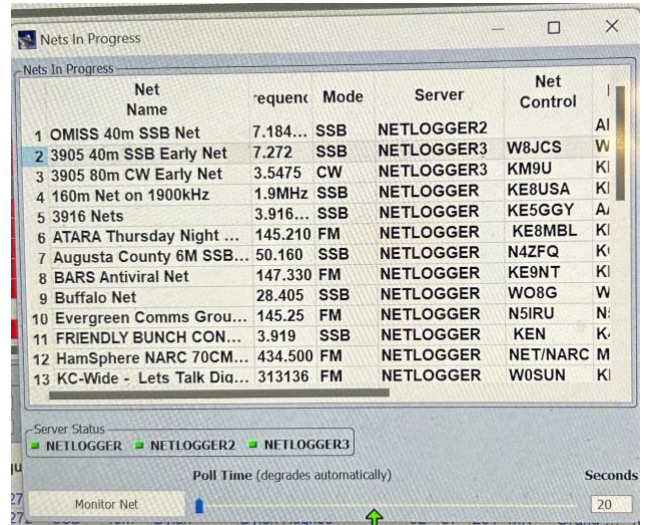
How do I use Net Logger?

All you have to do is start the program, click on the “Select Net” button, and then click on your choice of net:

... and then click on “Monitor Net”. If you want to, you can then click on the button “AIM Window” to open the Almost Instant Messenger window.

At this point, you should be good to go with logging.

To end the net, Click on the “Close Net” button, and when the next screen pop’s up, select “Yes”



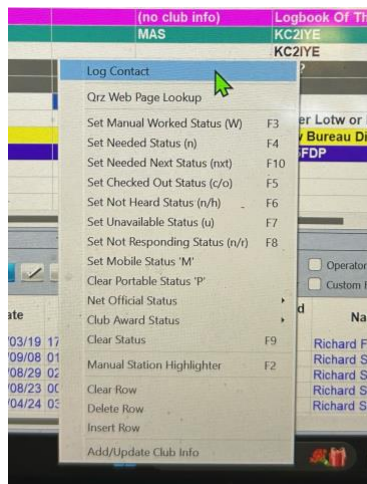
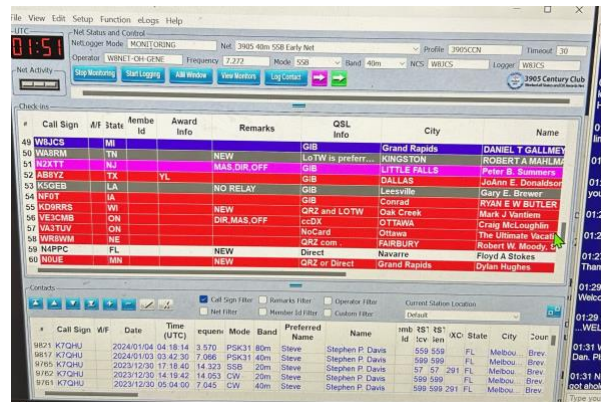
Some notes

- NetLogger is very powerful. When you are set up, it is not hard to use. However, like any good software, you need to learn it.

MANY videos on YouTube describe how to use it – some in detail, some are more introductory. I suggest you find a couple that suit you.

- NetLogger has “in-context help”, and many options for tasks. For example, this a screenshot of my NetLogger (notice the pink line for the op who is talking now, red lines that I have worked before, blue line – NCS, grey line that says this op checked out, and the white line that says I have NOT contacted him):

- When I “right-click” on a check-in, this pops up for options (like LOG CONTACT):



This is a very short explanation of NetLogger. In our first meeting of the HF WAS & DX Nets SIG, I will answer questions about using NetLogger. Also, we will discuss AND CHECK IN to the OMISS 40m SSB Net! If you have any questions about installing NetLogger beforehand, please email me at w8net@me.com

73 W8NET, Gene

Total Solar Eclipse



Rick, K8CAV

Northeast Ohio, including most of Portage County, will be experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime event on Monday, April 8th 2024, with the coming of the Total Solar Eclipse. The duration of totality is expected to be up to 4 minutes and 27 seconds, depending on exactly where an observer is located. Both the rarity and uniqueness of this event is expected to bring large numbers of outside visitors to communities along the path of totality, which includes Portage County. This large influx of visitors is expected to impact traffic and parking in Portage County, and Communications systems, especially cellular telephone and cellular internet service, are also expected to be impacted. Almost all fire departments and emergency medical service departments in Portage County, along with many other police department and other public safety forces, are using the MARCS radio system for communications.

Ryan Shackelford, the Director of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management (PC OHS/EM), is creating an Incident Action Plan to aid Fire and EMS first responder agencies in Portage County that will address anticipated problems. One potential area of concern is failure of part or all of the MARCS radio system.

Ryan has directed Rick Kruis (K8CAV), Communications Unit Leader (COML), to establish a plan to staff all eighteen Fire/EMS departments, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and select county 911 call centers with amateur radio operators who will provide back-up communications in the event of MARCS radio system problems. The Communications Unit (Coms Unit) of PC OHS/EM currently has eight active members who are also licensed amateur radio operators. This is far short of the total number of amateur radio operators needed for this event, so I am looking for amateur radio operators who would like to volunteer to staff this event.

The current plan for radio communicators is to staff each point with a mobile radio capable of operating on both 2 meters and 70 centimeters FM, at a power level of 40 or more watts, in the operator's own vehicle.. Auxiliary antennas on a mast of 15 or more feet are recommended, especially if simplex communications become necessary. Primary communications will take place on the K8IV UHF repeater, secondary communications will be on the K8IV VHF repeater, and tertiary communications on a simplex frequency. Radio communicators should plan for a twelve-hour operational period as traffic may impede the ability to reach the communicator's assigned location. Logistical support is currently being planned.



The COML of the Coms Unit will conduct several training events for radio communicators. In addition, an Operations Order (OPORD) will be published to guide all radio communicators, and temporary credentialing will be provided to each radio communicator. Unless a communications failure occurs, operations will consist periodic radio checks on the net, and radio communicators should have ample opportunity to observe the eclipse event.

I welcome all amateur radio operators who would like to help with this event. Portage County does not have an ARES organization so your volunteering is the only way I can adequately staff this event. If you would like to help, please contact me at k8cav.coms@gmail.com.



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



Akron Science Fair and STEM Event

Jim, AC8NT



PCARS and IEEE Join Up For STEM

Saturday January 27th PCARS and IEEE joined to setup a table at the Akron Science Fair. IEEE was there to award gift cards to projects in Electrical Engineering. PCARS was there to promote ham radio. We had quite a few people stop by and ask questions about our great hobby. I have said this before, but it is amazing how many people have no idea what ham radio is or how they can learn more about it.



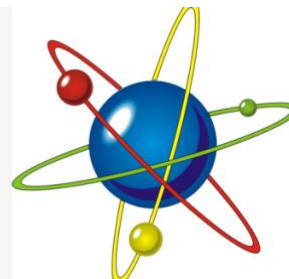
We had my ICOM IC-705 and my Super Antenna hooked up and working FT8. We had PSK Reporter up and running displaying where our signal was heard in the US and Europe. People always find it amazing how far our signals go. We would love to run SSB, but it is too noisy and environment to make that work. FT8 is always a hit with kids and adults.

With help from IEEE, we had some great SWAG to hand out. I thank IEEE HQ for the help. We also had lots of handouts including our club flier and information from the ARRL on ham radio.

One of the projects that won an IEEE prize was a middle school student that built a crystal radio. He was very enthusiastic about his project. Some of his comments were very interesting. He found little of interest to listen to on AM radio. He also found antenna installation difficult. Any ham would have had problems stringing his 100 feet of 12-gauge solid wire as an antenna. We asked if the lights still worked in his house. With the help of his grandfather, he wound his own coil, built an audio amplifier to help listen to his radio, and learned about antenna directionality. He did a great job considering he was a middle school student. He also stopped by our table to get more information on our club and look at our setup. It is great fun to judge at one of these events.

I would like to thank Rick K8CAV who manned the table; Bob KD8CGH who brought some of his home brew equipment; and J.C. KC8JC for running the rig. We appreciate all the help. As I have said before, these events allow us to promote ham radio to a wide range of people. It takes a little work, but it is great for ham radio. We also had some fun.

Jim, AC8NT



Orlando HamCation Awards Announced



Orlando HamCation is proud to announce the 2024 HamCation Award Winners. The competition was tough this year. We had many candidates to choose from, who all had excellent qualifications. Each candidate should be very proud of their accomplishments and their dedication to promoting amateur radio.

Lewis A. Malchick is named Recipient of HamCation's 2024 Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award

The HamCation Awards committee is excited to announce Lewis Malchick N2RQ as the HamCation 2024 recipient of the Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award. This award is bestowed upon individuals who have made an outstanding contribution educating and advancing youth in Amateur Radio. It was first awarded at HamCation 2019 to its namesake, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in honor of her work as an educator teaching students about ham radio.



Lew is extra class licensed and is the cofounder of the School Club Roundup. Participants range from elementary schools to universities and the Roundup continues to gain popularity. He has been active in each School Club Roundup for over twenty-five years. Lew is an advisor to the radio club W2CXN at Brooklyn Tech High School where he formerly taught chemistry. He is also the trustee for the Stuyvesant High School radio club W2CLS. Lew is the Chairman of Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC) Education Committee. The club has sponsored 5 ARISS contacts of which Lew activity participated in. Lew has spent his lifetime educating children and adults about amateur radio.

Fred and Anita Kemmerer named Recipients of HamCation's 2024 Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award Announced



The HamCation Awards committee is excited to announce Fred Kemmerer AB2OC and Anita Kemmerer AB2QB, as the HamCation 2024 recipients of the Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award. This award is bestowed upon individuals who represent and inspire others and embody the amateur radio spirit making outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio community. It was first awarded at HamCation 2023, in honor of Gordon's contributions and inspiration to the Amateur Radio community.

Fred and Anita both hold extra class licenses. Both are active in the Nashua Area Radio Society promoting amateur radio instruction, youth outreach and STEM education. They created and have grown the Ham Bootcamp program encouraging over 900 hams to learn new skills. Both are active in the club's training and licensing events along with Tech Night which complements club meetings. Fred's and Anita's STEM activities include participation in High Altitude Balloon Launches, fox hunts and ARISS contacts for many schools. In support of the AARL, Fred serves as the ARRL Director New England Division. In addition, he chairs and contributes to several sub-committees. Anita serves as an assistant division director for mentoring and new ham development.

FOR SALE: YAESU FT-818ND . Never used. Complete with MH-31A8J hand microphone, battery(SBR-32 9.6V 1900 mAh Ni-MH), battery case (FBA-28)(REQUIRES 8 AA BATTERIES), rubber duck antenna for 50/144/450 MHz; DC cable (E-DC-6), shoulder strap, battery charger and operating manual. Comes in original box.

Also including the following: LDG – antenna tuner; Portable Zero Escort (side rails/tilt stand); Portable Zero Spide Net (Holds LDG tuner onto radio), SOTA Beam Power Pole adapter, SOTA Beam speech compressor, SOTA Beam SSB/CW filter and speaker. TOTAL RETAIL VALUE IS OVER \$1000.00. ASKING \$700 FOR EVERYTHING.

Email for Pictures: W8HFZ, TIM - timmc52@ameritech.net [04/24]

WANTED: Yaesu FT-900 or FT-890AT. Any condition.

FOR SALE: Very good condition **Hustler 4BTV**. Includes mount, SO238, NEW spider assembly (will include the old one for spare). Also, includes the spider for changing it to a 5BTV - you supply the 75m or 80m resonator! \$100 firm. Will assist expert installation (have installed many!) within 30mi.

Contact Gene, W8NET at 330-619-9194 or w8net@me.com [03/24]

FOR SALE: Palstar: LA-1K solid-state H.F. amplifier (\$3000); **Elecraft K-3 SDR Transceiver, P-3 Panadapter, SP-3 External Speaker, D-104 Microphone** (\$3000); **National HRO-500 C Receiver** 0 to 30 MHz & speaker (\$1500); **Kenwood SM-220 Scopes** one with BS-8 panadapter (\$200) and one without (\$150) 2 spare CRT's; **Bird 4362 (Ham-mate) wattmeter** 140-180 MHz (\$100); **Various RG-8X** coax cables with silver PL-259's (\$5 to \$25); **ELAD ASA15** antenna splitter/amp (100); **Palstar MW-550P** Active Pre-selector / Tuner(\$200; **Heil Sound PRAS-EQ** with Behringer MX-400 Mixer, Lepai LP2020TI 20 watt amp and Dayton Audio B-652 speakers as a set (\$200); **Home Patrol-1** Scanner with a snap stand and belt clip case to carry around (\$200); **Alpha-Delta** Model Delta-4C console type antenna switch (black) (rare) (\$200); Current "gray" desk switch (\$100); Standard flat gray 4 position antenna switch (\$100) **Sony XDR-F1HD** F.M. & A.M. with HD high performance tuners (\$200)

Contact Jeff, W8SAJ - call home phone (440) 951-6406 for more info [02/24]

For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder: This is a PCARS *members only benefit*. Please don't ask to list items for a friend, relative or SK estate unless they are/were a member of PCARS. Requests come in from all over the USA (and beyond) to list items for sale or wanted items and we just cannot dedicate that much space to non-members. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier.

The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [01/24] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2024.

Ohio Section Youth Net

When: The second Sunday of every month at 7:30 PM EST

Where: The K8IV repeater located in Kent, Ohio (EchoLink node K8BF-L) RF: 146.895 Mhz with PL 118.8

Who: Any licensed amateur radio operator who wishes to participate. Priority will be given to youth stations and those located in Ohio.

The purpose of this net is to encourage youth activity in amateur radio and to help new hams get more comfortable on the air.

Sunday February 11, 2024

If you are a young ham, in the Ohio Section or elsewhere, please check in and say "Hello"! Even if you're far away from OHIO you can check in via Echo-Link. Echo-Link is a good tool to have, and it can be accessed from your laptop, tablet or cellphone. But there is a process to get validated to the Echo-link system. It's simple to do, but you need to get it done before the day of the net!

Go to [Introducing EchoLink](#) for more information on getting started. If you're an "Old Guy" (a gender neutral term meaning not a youthful operator) and you have some kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews or even some neighborhood kids who you would like to give a chance to talk to other kids about Ham Radio, this might be an excellent opportunity to give them that small nudge that could be the start of something positive they will carry with them through life!

New Amateur Extra Class VE Question Pool

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison



The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028.

The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, and member of the NCVEC QPC, said, "The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version. We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevancy to today's amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, 82 new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction [of] the number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced."

Somma advised that "the newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June."

Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of The ARRL Extra Class License Manual or the 5th edition of ARRL's Extra Q & A are encouraged to test on or before June 30, 2024.

New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024.

Portable Ops Special Interest Group

John, WG8X
Portable Ops SIG Coordinator



Next SIG meeting will be Tuesday February 13th at 7:00 PM

There's a lot to talk about. In the last month, there's been a VHF-Simplex contest, a PCARS ParkPedition, Winter Field Day, and of course, Clipperton Island was on the air. Though it's not the first thing that comes to mind for most folks, Clipperton, and most (all?) DXPeditions are ultra-portable operations.

We may have some new stuff to talk about too. For sure, let's talk about the "Support Your Parks" weekend in April. We're looking at West Branch SP for this one, but no decision has been made.

We'll be meeting at PCARS World Headquarters (705 Oakwood St, Ravenna). If you'd prefer, feel free to join us on Zoom. Here's the info:

<https://zoom.us/j/92154491950?pwd=cmZNSIFhZVRmcVg3L3pnazdrK1ZuUT09>

Meeting ID: 921 5449 1950

Passcode: 878917

Hope you can make it! 73, DE WG8X

Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV
Digital SIG Coordinator



Next SIG meeting will be Tuesday March 5th at 7:00 PM

A reminder that there is no Digital Special Interest Group meeting for February. The next meeting will take place in March, details to follow in the March newsletter and by QST email.

HF WAS & DX Nets Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET
HF WAS & DX Nets SIG Coordinator



Next SIG meeting will be Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 PM

I'm pleased to announce the creation of the **HF WAS & DX Nets SIG** for PCARS! This SIG will be held every other month – every **EVEN** month – on the first Tuesday. The ODD first Tuesday will be the Digital SIG, hosted by Rick, K8CAV. This is the schedule for 2024 HF WAS & DX Nets SIG (with tentative topics):

February 6	Introduction/Logging QSO's/OMISS
April 2	3905 Century Club/Focus on MOBILE!
June 4	HHH/Focus on DX!
August 6	YLISSB/Remote operation (and YOU can do that!)
October 1	SPECIAL event (more details later)!
December 3	TBD

Each SIG meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at PCARS club site in Ravenna. For the first 45 minutes we will discuss a net, how to confirm contacts, what “tools” you can use, what kind of awards the net has, and many other topics. After discussion, on most meetings we will check in to a net – in person or at home on Zoom!

HF nets are a great way to meet fantastic people all over the world on the air, work to achieve your “Worked All States” certificate, and contact many DX entities. Some examples the nets are: 3905 Century Club, OMISS, YLISSB, NATA Traffic Net, HHH Net, and others. Most have websites that explain their schedules, procedures, etc. I will send more information before each meeting. Hope you will join us for BIG FUN!

Antenna Special Interest Group

Bob, N8QE
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Next Antenna SIG meeting will be on February 20th - 7 pm

We will be in-person at the PCARS club site, and on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99273855876?pwd=VWhuemc0T3JRdWVUd2NTZGJZWnBUQT09>

Meeting ID: 992 7385 5876

Passcode: 047804

At the January Antenna SIG Meeting we talked about how to build a NOAA Weather Satellite Egg Beater Antenna, and the possibility of having a K6ARC 49:1 End Fed Antenna balun build at the club site in the near future.

The Antenna SIG meetings are open to all PCARS members and guests. All ham radio operators or anyone interested in Amateur Radio are also welcome to attend. We will be discussing all aspects of antenna design, construction, test equipment, and experimentation. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion, and talk about their antenna related projects with the group.

DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG Coordinator



Attention PCARS DXers & Contesters

We held our first meeting of the year on Jan. 23 at the PCARS Clubsite. We had 11 members attending. I gave a brief rundown of the upcoming DXpeditions and other DX highlights. The main discussion focused on which contests K8BF will be participating in this year.

After a good discussion, the following contests were chosen.

- Feb. 3-4** Minnesota QSO Party
British Columbia QSO Party
- Mar. 9-11** Wisconsin QSO Party
Idaho QSO Party
- Apr. 27-28** Florida QSO Party
- May 4-5** 7th Call Area QSO Party
- July 20-21** NA QSO Party (RTTY mode)
- Aug. 24-25** Ohio QSO Party (Open House & BBQ)
- Sept. 21-22** Texas QSO Party
- Oct. 5-6** California QSO Party

Details of each contest will be given closer to the dates of the events.

Flex Net

Rick, K8CAV
Flex Net Coordinator



Next Flex Net: February 14th at 8:00 PM

The next PCARS monthly Flex Net will be held on Wednesday February 14th at 8:00 PM. The net will be held on 80 meters, LSB Phone. I am searching for a suitable frequency on 80 meters in the General portion of the band that will not interfere with any existing nets or get-togethers, and will announce the chosen frequency by QST email to our members several days ahead of the net. Make sure you check out your antenna and station for operation on 80 meters before the start of the net. Horizontally polarized antennas will work better on this band given the close distances between stations.

The Flex Net is a great place to contact other PCARS members and QSL for the PCARS A to Z Award. Information about this award can be found on the PCARS web site under the "Awards" tab. The net is a lot of fun and gives valuable feedback on how well your station is operating. I hope to hear you then!

Please join us if you can!

From Around The World...

Links from Here, There, and Everywhere

GNURadio is an open-source software toolkit for implementing software defined radios (SDR) on your own computer. Get to know it here:

<https://ve7sar.blogspot.com/2024/01/getting-to-know-gnuradio.html>



[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](https://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-responds-to-fcc-proposals) responded to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) request for comments on removing the symbol (baud) rate restrictions that apply to data communications on the LF bands and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. The FCC also requested comments on the bandwidth limits applicable to those bands.

<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-responds-to-fcc-proposals>

If you've ever wondered about the history and use of Zulu time, here's the article for you from our friends at DX Engineering:

<https://www.onallbands.com/almost-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-zulu-time/>

From David W8HFY here is a link to a poster for current wireless communications standards. Definitely an interesting read for those who like to dive deep:

https://www.rohde-schwarz.com/us/campaigns/rsa/all/wireless-communication-standards_253028.html



Freeze Your Acorns Off

Saturday
March 2nd
Fred Fuller
Park in Kent



Set up 9 am
on-air until
3 pm

BE THERE

**Let's show Mother Nature we're tough....
Wear your Hawaiian shirt**

PCARS Members and Friends of PCARS:

As almost all of you know, at the beginning of the past 18 years, we have held a Special Event that we call, **Freeze Your Acorns Off**. Normally it is held the second weekend in February to assure that we have snow and cold temps. That hasn't always been the case but we do have fun.

This year there was a conflict in the scheduling of the shelter house at Fred Fuller Park in Kent. So the event, our 19th Annual, will be held on March 2. We will try to get back on schedule for 2025.

We have had a lot of fun in the past with various members, either alone or with a team, participating by setting up stations in tents, travel trailers, their vehicles or even in the shelter itself. It has turned into a contest of sorts, but it has always been an event with the object of making QRP contacts with as many stations as possible. And the individual who chooses to use our club call, K8BF, makes it possible for whoever contacts them to get a QSL from the club to commemorate the contact.

Since we meet in the shelter house, we started to bring food so that we could have something to munch on. The food that was being brought got progressively more like dinner meals and that is when we decided to have a Best Recipe Contest in conjunction with the event. We have done that now for several years and I have to say that we have all benefited from the various great food offerings that have been brought. This year will not be different.

So if you are available on March 2, 2024, please attend PCARS Signature Special Event and consider setting up a station so you can, **FREEZE YOUR ACORNS OFF**. One more thing – as an added piece of fun, many of wear a Hawaiian or Aloha shirt simply to thumb our noses at Ohio's Winter. If you have such a shirt, be sure to wear it.

PCARS Thursday 2 Meter Nets

Greg, KA8TOA
Net Control Coordinator



Net report: I have a few items of interest, please keep an eye out for emails regarding the schedule. I am still hoping to find two more operators to help us out. Anyone who thinks they have 10 consecutive check-ins please let the operator know and he will mark the log. Everyone have fun, safe holiday weeks.

February	
1	KD8WCK
8	KE8WVV
15	WB8LCD
22	N8QE
29	K8CAV

March	
7	KD8WCK
14	N8QE
21	KE8ARB
28	N8WCP



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

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: **Greg, KA8TOA** or e-mail him at: Treasurer@portcars.org

PCARS T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Jackets, Hats, etc. can be obtained from:

Villager Business Solutions - attention Michelle Zivoder
8088 Main Street
Garrettsville, OH 44231
michelle@villagerbusiness.com 330-472-7304



Hamvention® 2024 Announcements



Jim, AB8YK
Hamvention® General Chairman 2024



The 2024 Hamvention® General Chairman Jim Storms, AB8YK and the Hamvention team are pleased to announce the ARRL will be holding its National Convention at Hamvention in May 2024!

Hamvention Organizers and ARRL leadership have been busy working out joint activities. There will be more information about this joint venture soon.

We are pleased to unveil our 2024 logo and theme. The theme is ‘**Expanding our Community**’. This is in support of the growth of Amateur Radio worldwide.

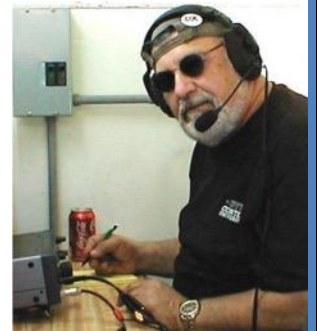
It is time to submit award nominations, Amateur of the Year, Technical Achievement, Special Achievement, and Club of the Year. See the website for details.

We want to remind everyone to purchase their tickets and make their room reservations early to avoid the rush.

Please reference the Hamvention website for more information. www.hamvention.org.

Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Chuck, W8PT
a.k.a. “Charlie the Tuner”



Greetings DXers

Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites for February 2024!

Greetings to all DXers:

The WX has been up and down with some days in the 40s and others in the 20s. As I am writing this, we have had only two snows to speak of and they have quickly disappeared. But this has also curtailed any of my outdoor projects. I've been on 10 and 15m with my 14el Log yagi only about 30ft up Tower 2. It's pointed north and cannot be turned yet until I can get it to clear the tower. But I have been able to make some nice QSO's and some really good sig reports. Can't wait to see how it will perform when it's at 65 ft.

Let's see what DX is on tap for the next couple of months.

Thanks to W1AW, W3UR & The Daily DX, DL5ON & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News for the following DX information.

I'm using the same disclaimer as last year. 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.

February...

5X, UGANDA. Paul, 5X4E has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 1500z. QSL direct to IZ3ZLG.

5Z, KENYA. Martin, 5Z4PA has been active on 20 meters using CW around 0200z. QSL via M0URX.

7O2, YEMEN. Vladimir, OK2WX will be active as 7O2WX from Socotra Island, IOTA AF - 028, Yemen until February 12, 2024. He will operate on HF Bands with focus on 160, 80 and 40m, including activity in CQ WW 160m Contest. Working condx - ELECRAFT K4X ICOM 7300, PA Expert 1K3, Monoband Verticals 160, 80, 40, Spiderbeam 5 Band. QSL via IZ8CCW.

7Q, MALAWI. REMINDER - Don, K6ZO is QRV as 7Q6M from Embangweni and is here for six months while on work assignment in a hospital. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and EME. QSL via LoTW.

8Q, MALDIVES. Keith, G3WRO will be QRV as 8Q7WR until February 6. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly on 80 meters, using SSB. QSL to home call.

CN, MOROCCO. Michel, F5LRL will be QRV as CN2DX near Kenitra until February 10. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW and SSB, with FT8 on 6 meters, from 0500 to 1000z, and then 1800 to 2200z. QSL via EA5GL.

DP1, ANTARCTICA. Felix, DL5XL will be QRV as DP1POL from German research station Neumayer III, IOTA AN-016, until early March. Activity will be on the HF bands using mostly CW, with some SSB and digital modes. QSL direct to DL1ZBO.

EX, ARMENIA. Dima, RX3DPK is QRV as EX/RX3DPK for all of 2024. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

H40, TEMOTU PROVINCE. H40WA Team will be active from Temotu Province, IOTA OC - 065, Solomon Islands, 22 February - 7 March 2024. Team - N7QT, N6PSE, VE7NY, OE1JUN/JH4RHF, DJ9RR, HA0NAR, W7XU, N6XG. They will operate on 160 - 10m, CW, SSB, FT8. QSL via M0URX, LOTW, OQRS.

OE, AUSTRIA. Special event station OE100RADIO is QRV during all of 2024 to celebrate the centennial of radio broadcasting in Austria. QSL via operators' instructions.

ON, BELGIUM. Members of the Radio Club de Luettich will be QRV with special event station OR100LGE during 2024 to celebrate the club's 100th anniversary. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via ON6YH.

P4, ARUBA. P4/PE1ITR, Rob, will be on Aruba February 10-16, 2024, apparently operating on VHF. <http://pe1itr.com/expeditie/2024-p4-dxpedition/>

PJ5, SABA, SINT EUSTATIUS. Janusz, SP9FIH plans to be QRV as PJ5/SP9FIH from January 11 to March 3. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 60 meters, using SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

PJ7, SINT MAARTEN. KC9EE, Gary, and XYL will be back there AS PJ7EE February 21 to March 5, in the same villa as on previous trips, in the Oyster Pond area. Gary plans to be on the air vacation style, mostly

CW and FT8 and possibly "some operating" in the weekend ARRL DX SSB. He says "I'm not really a phone contester." When on FT8 he will "again focus on JA, BY, DU, YB and other difficult path entities, on 10-20 meters."

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN is QRV as TR8CR until February 28, 2024. Activity is on 30 to 10 meters using CW. QSL via F6AJA.

VK0, DAVIS STATION ANTARCTICA. Dave, VK2DS is active as VK0DS from Davis Station, Antarctica, until November 2024. He will operate on HF Bands, plus 6m and EME 2m and 23cm. QSL via home call.

VP9, BERMUDA IS. Darrell, AB2E will be active as VP9/AB2E from Bermuda Islands, IOTA NA - 005, 14 - 19 February 2024. He will operate on 160 - 10m Bands, including activity in ARRL DX CW Contest.

Z3, REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA. DJ0LZ, Al, says his next Z36T expedition is February 25-March 25, 2024, "active in his free time." He will confirm QSL requests when he is back home in Germany.

ZD, SAINT HELENA IS. Oliver, W6NV will be active as ZD7W from Saint Helena Island, IOTA AF-022, in ARRL DX CW Contest, 17 - 18 February 2024. He will operate in SOAB Category. QSL via W6NV.

ZD, SAINT HELENA IS. Elvira Simoncini, IV3FSG will be active as ZD7Z from Jamestown, Saint Helena Island, IOTA AF - 022, until 4 February 2024. She will operate on 160 - 6m, SSB, CW, RTTY, FT8, FT4. QSL via IK2DUW direct, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS. ZF9CW is K5GO's, Stan's, call there, during his stay until February 20, 2024.

Look Ahead & Reminders...

4S7, SRI LANKA. Peter, DC0KK will be active again as 4S7KKG from Sri Lanka, IOTA AS - 003, until 30 March 2024. He will operate on 20 - 6m, CW, Digital modes. QSL via home call, LOTW, OQRS ClubLog.

7P8, LESOTHO. 7P8EI Team will be active from Lesotho, 19 - 30 March 2024. They will operate on 160 - 10m, CW, SSB, Digital modes. QSL via M0OXO.

CN, MOROCCO. Yannick, F6FYD is QRV as CN2YD until March 15, 2024. He will also be active as CN2YD/p from Agadir Island, IOTA AF-065 during this time. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

DA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. Special event call signs DB100FK, DC100FK, DD100FK, DF100FK, DL100FK, DM100FK, DQ100FK, DR100FK, DM100MW, and DR100PE will be active until May 31, 2024 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Deutsche Funk-Kartell, a federation of clubs of radio enthusiasts during the early days of amateur radio in Germany. QSL via LoTW.

FH, MAYOTTE. Marek, FH4VVK is here until June 2024 and QRV on the HF bands and 6 meters using SSB and FT8. He may soon be active using RTTY. QSL to home call.

FP, MIQUELON IS. Eric, FP/KV1J will be again active from Miquelon Island, IOTA NA-032, starting 2 July 2024. He will operate on 80 - 6m SSB, RTTY, CW, FT8 and FM Satellites. He will operate also in some contests. QSL via home call, LOTW.

HR5, HONDURAS. Gerard, F2JD will be again active as HR5/F2JD from Honduras, until 21 March 2024. He will operate on HF Bands plus 6m, CW, SSB, Digital modes. QSL via F6AJA.

J38, GRENADA. J38W Team will be active from Grenada Island, IOTA NA - 024, 4 - 16 March 2024. They will operate on 160 - 10m, CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8, FT4. More information will be available later.

PJ5, SABA, SINT EUSTATIUS. Janusz, SP9FIH is QRV as PJ5/SP9FIH until March 3. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 60 meters, using SSB, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

PJ7, SINT MAARTEN IS. Tom, AA9A will be active again as PJ7AA from Sint Maarten, IOTA NA - 105, 2 - 30 March 2024. He will be active on 40 - 6m CW, FT8, FT4. QSL via home call direct, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN is QRV as TR8CR until February 28. Activity is on 30 to 10 meters using CW. QSL via F6AJA.

TX5, AUSTRAL IS. Haru, JA1XGI will be active as TX5XG from Austral Islands, IOTA OC - 050, 25 March - 3 April 2024. He will operate on 160 - 10m, CW, Digital modes. QSL via home call, LOTW.

TY, BENIN. TY5C Team will be active from Benin, 1 - 30 March 2024. Team - F5RAV, F5NVF, 7X2TT. They will be active on HF Bands, CW, SSB, FT8 and also via satellites. QSL via F5RAV direct.

V5, NAMIBIA. Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as V51WH from Omaruru until the end of April 2024. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters. QSL to home call.

VP2, MONTSERRAT IS. Tjaore. W2APF will be active as VP2MDX from Montserrat Island, IOTA NA - 103, until 11 April 2024. He will operate on 80 - 10m, CW, SSB. QSL via W2APF, LOTW.

Here's my other usual disclaimer: Keep in mind that these DX events can change due to various reasons that sometimes are out of the hands of those who are doing the planning. Keep the either wobbling and work some DX.

Get on the air and work some DX!!

73 for now....

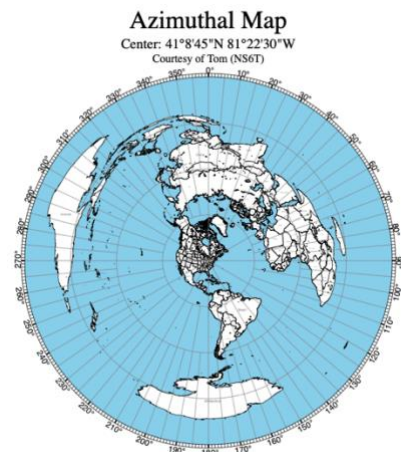
**Chuck W8PT
aka Charlie the Tuner**

A Useful Tool: Azimuthal Map Generator

Sometimes it's best to look at the world with your QTH as its center. Lucky for us, there is a fantastic tool for generating such maps from your Maidenhead Grid location. Tom NS6T has created a freely available web application located at: <https://ns6t.net/azimuth/>

With about 30 to 60 seconds of your time, you can pull together a PNG or PDF that looks like the image presented here for use in your shack. It really does help to look at the world from a slightly different perspective when thinking about propagation and where our contacts come from.

If you find useful tools like this on the web, why not share them with the rest of us? Send them in for the next Radiogram!



Young Ham Lends a Hand Contest - 2024



Carole Perry, WB2MGP
Director RCA, Youth Activities



We want to reward a young ham who has volunteered to help an elderly person, a military person, his or her community somehow, or a young ham actively involved with recruiting other young people into ham radio. There's no red tape; it's just me and my RCA Youth Activities evaluating the application forms. You will smile to know that we have had high caliber and terrific young hams who get nominated every year.

I am accepting nominees for this contest to encourage volunteerism in our young hams. Forms may be submitted up until April 1, 2024. The winner is usually announced at the Hamvention® Youth Forum. A \$100 stipend is awarded to the winner.

This is sponsored by Radio Club of America. Please contact me with any questions. All forms should be submitted to: wb2mgp@gmail.com by April 1, 2024.

=====
Young Ham Lends a Hand Contest
Carole Perry WB2MGP wb2mgp@gmail.com

Please submit the following requests for information about your nominee for this year's contest.

Information about your nominee: Name and call sign - Age - Address - Home Number and Cell number

Please fill in YOUR name, relationship to the candidate and contact info.

Please describe reasons why this nominee is deserving of the award that looks for a young ham who gives back to the community by participating and helping in local events, assisting the elderly, assisting military personnel, or is instrumental in recruitment and/or training of more young hams.

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Youth Activities Program

The Youth Activities program is chaired by RCA Director Carole Perry WB2MGP and has Richard Somers, Ernie Blair, Stan Reubenstein, Gordon West and Charles Kirmuss as committee members.

A major event for the committee is to moderate and to sponsor the annual Dayton Youth Forum where RCA Young Achievers, age 18 and below, give presentations highlighting their technical abilities and enjoyment of radio.

The RCA Young Achiever is a youngster 18 and below who has demonstrated technical excellence and creativity in wireless communications. We are always interested in receiving nominations for these talented young people. Please contact Carole at wb2mgp@gmail.com to nominate someone as a Dayton Hamvention® presenter or as a student deserving the RCA Young Achiever award.

We are also always interested in supporting schools, scout groups, and museums that incorporate radio/technology in their programs. Support can be in the form of books, equipment, or curriculum. Please contact Carole at wb2mgp@gmail.com for further information.

The Youth Activities members travel across the country to speak at radio conventions, to moderate Youth Forums, and to vet large organizations enlisting our help in motivating and supporting young hams and in introducing wireless technology to school curriculum.

Tax deductible donations specifically to RCA Youth Activities can be made through the Richard G. Somers Youth Scholarship Fund. Please contact Carole at wb2mgp@gmail.com for further information.

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 80 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 on YouTube. So, what does that mean? Hey, we have a place to put all kinds of videos that are about PCARS for the world to see.

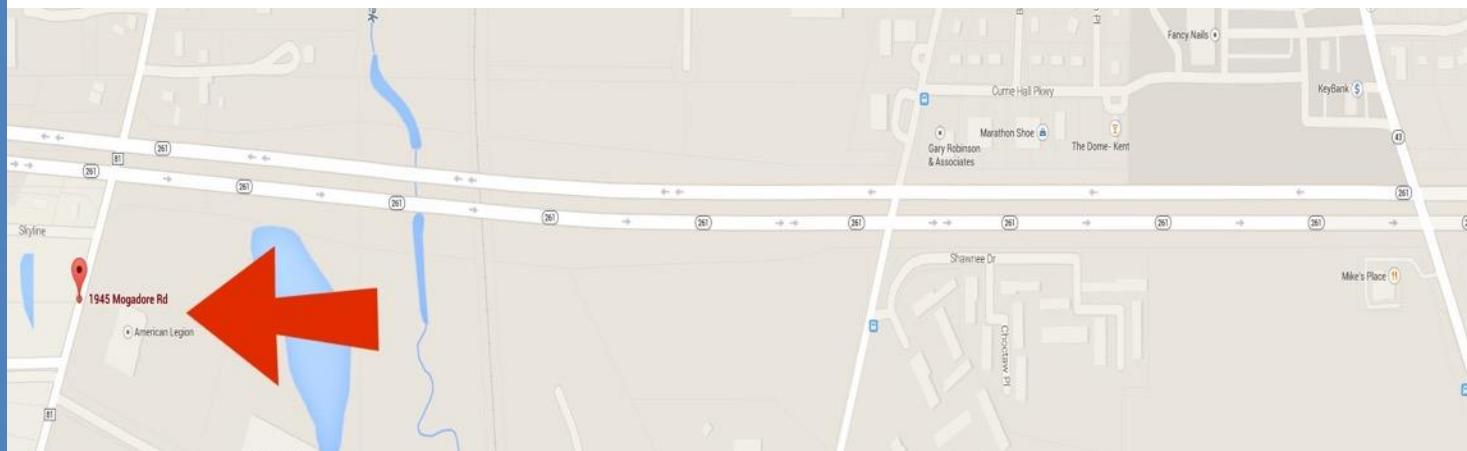


PCARS Meetings

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



*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 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.

PCARS VE Testing Information & News

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison



Future Dates in 2024:
February 3rd, April 6th, June 1st, August 3rd, October 5th, December 7th
***** Check the website for the latest information *****

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at KB8UUZ@gmail.com On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to seeing you at the PCARS club site in Ravenna so you can take your license test. Face masks are not State/County mandated at this time, but you are always welcome to wear one.

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

QUICK FACTS

- **Yes**, PCARS VE test Sessions are held at the club site in Ravenna starting at 10 am - see schedule.
- **Walk-Ins are accepted.** Would appreciate an email to KB8UUZ@GMAIL.COM if you plan on attending.
- You **MUST** have an **FRN Number** (SSNs no longer accepted)
- You **MUST** have a **valid e-mail address** for the FCC to be able to contact you.
- **Picture ID required**
- **Original and Copy of your valid FCC license** and originals of any applicable CSCE
- **Taking Technician Test?** - You **MUST** apply for your **FRN** and get it prior to testing
- **VE fee is \$15** - Cash or Check payable to "ARRL-VEC"
- **FCC License Fee \$35** - payable after FCC sends you a link. **DOES NOT APPLY to upgrades**
- **17 years old or younger? VE Fee is \$5** per the ARRL reduced CE fee Youth Program
- **17 years old or younger? ARRL will reimburse you the \$35 FCC Fee**

Okay - now all the Details:

- 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. *Use of masks is optional.*
- No food or snacks allowed.
- 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 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.
 - Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
 - NO cell Phones allowed

Any questions? Contact KB8UUZ@gmail.com



Additional Information - What to Bring to the Testing Session

- If you've already passed a test: The original (and one copy) of any document that you will use to prove you've already passed a test element.
These documents may include:
 - An unexpired Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) indicating the credit(s) earned.
 - Original and copy of a pre-March 21, 1987 Technician license (this provides credit for the Element 3 [General] exam) - you **must** be currently licensed to get this credit.

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

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

First-Time Exam Applicants **MUST Obtain FCC Registration Number BEFORE Taking Exam**

As of **May 20, 2021**, all amateur examination applicants are **required** to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) **BEFORE** taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system. Applicants will create an FCC username and account, respond to the verification email from FCC, and then register for the FRN. Register on the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES): <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/>

Email Addresses **REQUIRED**

As of **June 29, 2021** all applications will be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents.



FCC - \$35 Amateur Application Fee

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will **not apply** to most license modifications, including those to **upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees**. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees took effect on April 19, 2022.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. New applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual and pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system.

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate. The candidate will have **10 calendar days**, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days.

Additionally, the FCC stated that applications processed and dismissed will not be entitled to a refund. This includes vanity requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign. However, returned applications that are missing information will not require an additional fee, if the missing information is given to the FCC within the proper amount of time.

Youth Licensing Grant Program

The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for **new** amateur radio license candidates **17 years old or younger** for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program.

The \$35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates 17 years old or younger would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates 17 years old or younger, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required.

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program.

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The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) retired the [Legacy version](#) of its **COMmission REgistration System (CORES)** on July 15, 2022. CORES is the FCC's public-facing database that enables and tracks certain types of FCC and FCC applicant actions, including amateur radio applications and licenses. Its implementation has enabled routine amateur applications and licenses to be issued overnight instead of over weeks, as was the case with earlier methods. The [updated version of CORES](#) is now available.

(<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>)

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE FCC APPLICATION FEE AND VEC FILED APPLICATIONS

The FCC application fee was implemented on April 19, 2022. Here's what we know so far...

1. MAKE SURE EXAMINEES UNDERSTAND THEY MUST PAY WITHIN 10 DAYS.

Examinees do NOT have to wait for the email from the FCC to pay the fee. As soon as an the application file number is issued by the FCC, they can pay by logging into the CORES Payer FRN System (easier to use but only temporarily available) or the CORES FRN Registration system (CORES - Login).

Application File Number search using an FRN: FCC Application File Number Search

CORES payment system background information and instructions: Information.

CORES step-by-step payment instructions: FCC Application Fee Instructions

2. The FCC help center stated there is a known issue with individuals paying the \$35 application fee via a smart phone or tablet. This is not a new issue and they haven't been able to help troubleshoot the issue at the support center. Encourage candidates to login and pay the FCC application fee from a computer.

3. Examinees should NOT amend any applications that a VEC submits on their behalf, especially NEW license applications.

Amending VEC filed applications will cause the application to be dismissed without action in the FCC system and potentially require the applicant to pay another \$35 fee. If there is a minor mistake on the application, either call us and we can correct and resubmit the application, or the individual can pay the fee, be issued the call sign, and then log back in and make corrections.

4. Individuals should review their application BEFORE paying the fee. If there is a major error on the application, such as the licensee's name or license class earned is incorrect, or the answer to the felony question is wrong, DO NOT PAY the fee. Call the VEC (ARRL) immediately.

5. When in doubt, call the VEC! (ARRL) Even if you think you shouldn't bother us with your question, call us anyway.

PCARS
ARRL Volunteer Examiners:
serving the Amateur Radio community
First Saturdays 10:00 am
at the club site in Ravenna
February, April, June, August,
October, December

Printing Your FCC License

Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

As of February 17, 2015, the FCC **no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager.

I've created a set of instructions on how you can request an “official” printed copy of your license* [Click here to download the instructions](#)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE

KEJGK

John Q. Amateur
123 Maple Avenue
Amateur, State #1000

FCC Registration Number (FRN): 100000000

Special Conditions / Endorsements

NONE

Class Date	Effective Date	Print Date	Expiration Date
01/01/2011	01/01/2015	01/01/2015	01/01/2017

File Number	Operator Privilege	Status Privilege
00000000	Advanced	FRMNET

THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

John Q. Amateur
(Licensee's Signature) FCC 001 - May 2017



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

19th Annual

"Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) Special Event Station



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

*When: Saturday - March 2, 2024
Set up: 9 am*



Operating Time: 10 am - 3 pm ET

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

QRP stations using portable power and antennas.

Uniform of the day: Aloha or Hawaiian Shirts

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



QSL for Card and Certificate via QRZ.com address for K8BF



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



Questions? Contact Chuck, W8PT at chuckw8pt@gmail.com



Thanks & 73

J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor



As you can see in this month's issue, PCARS members are spending a lot of time outside despite the weather we get here in Portage County in the winter. I know I've been out to the parks in the rain and snow – sometimes in the same weekend!

This is a great group and having stopped by the ParkPediton I can say K8BF is all about Big Fun! Take a look at the club calendar, see what grabs you, and get involved. Then tell us all about it here in The Radiogram!

Again, if you take on an interesting project or try something new related to ham radio, send it in! Everyone loves hearing club members share their areas of interest and expertise. We have a wide range of experiences in this club – from old to new – and sharing it is what makes this hobby great.

Send your inputs my way at KC8JC@portcars.org and you will find yourself in the great company of our many and varied newsletter contributors.

I'd like to thank all those who sent inputs for this month's issue:

AB8YK, AC8NT, K8CAV, K8NYM, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, KC8JC, KE8ARB, KP4VZ, N8QE, W8NET, W8PT, WA8LRW, WB2MGP, WB2RPW, WG8X, The ARRL, and the World Wide Web.

Remember: With *YOUR* continued help, *WE* can keep making this a *GREAT* newsletter!



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

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



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


Meeting starts at 7:00 pm - All are welcome to attend ~ Stop in and say hello!

PCARS uses the **K8IV** repeater: **146.895 MHz PL 118.8** in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ EchoLink Node: **K8BF-L**

Check PCARS out on the web: www.PORTCARS.ORG



~ 2024 Officers ~	2023 PCARS Appointments & Committees		
President - Mike Gonzales - KP4VZ Vice President - Ken Hall - WA8LRW Treasurer - Greg Ash - KA8TOA 1 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT 2 Year Trustee Mike Ryan - KB8TUY 3 Year Trustee - Gene Marsh - W8NET Past President - Nick Wagner - AC8QG	ARRL Awards - DXCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	K8CAV	Rick Krus
	Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Field Day Chairman, 2023	WA8AR	Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8BF QSL Manager	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	Membership Chairman		
	Net Control Coordinator	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	PCARS Photographer		
	Public Information Officer		
	~ Meetings & Net ~	Secretary	KE8EGF
2nd Monday of each month, 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Webmaster	KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez
	POTA Coordinator	KE8ARB	Brandon Mercer

 Active PCARS Volunteer Examiner Team Members	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	AC8QG	Nick Wagner
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	WA8CCU	Al Nagy
	N8FUM	Dan Torchia
	KC8JC	James "J.C." Wilson
	W8EC	Mark Haas
	K8IG	Fred Freer
	W8HFZ	Tim McLeod
	K8PJW	Phil Weiss
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	K8IV	Ed Polack
	N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
W8PT	Chuck Patellis	
KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez	

THE RADIOGRAM

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

The RADIOGRAM copyright ©2024, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Hamvention® 2018 Club Of The Year. The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Third Place 2015, 2022 - Second Place 2014, 2016, 2020 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023. ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter - Second Place 2013 - First Place in the 2017, 2020 and 2021.

Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. Caution - some of the articles in this newsletter maybe covered by copyright - please do not copy and use the ones that have by-line information unless you obtain permission from the original author. If you're not sure, drop an e-mail to KC8JC@portcars.org. The RADIOGRAM always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inp uts submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month. ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. Why the Black Squirrel in our logo? For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Legend has it that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and they migrated and thrived throughout our county. Look into the black squirrel legends and see what you find! When you spot a black squirrel - think PCARS!

The RADIOGRAM is published every month and only sent to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: KC8JC@portcars.org

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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)
705 Oakwood Street - Box 12
Ravenna, OH 44266 USA



NLC

