



The **RADIOGRAM**

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 02 -FEBRUARY 2025



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



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The RADIOGRAM

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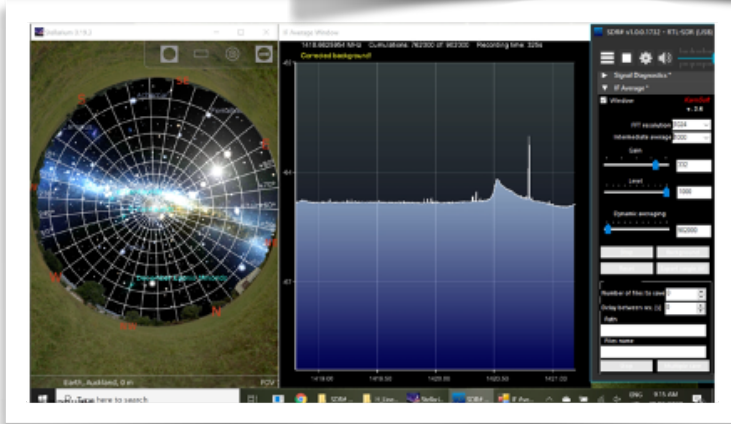
Freeze Your Acorns Off

**Saturday
Feb. 15th
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**

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Wesley Arthur Ferrell, age 91, passed away on January 3, 2025.

Wesley was a 1951 Stow High School graduate and avid fisherman. He was an accomplished HAM Radio Operator with approximately 5000 contacts in 340 countries.

Wesley is survived by his children, David (Becky), Robert (Vicki), Susan, and Jeffrey (Ryan); grandchildren, Dana, Gregory (Kristen), Ryan, Alexandria, Kaitlyn, Parker, and Austin; great-grandchildren, Ian, Tessa, and Brianna; siblings, Karen (the late Chuck) Pope, and Charles (the late Alice) Ferrell, as well as many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the [Wounded Warrior Project](https://www.supportwoundedwarriorproject.org), P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516, or visit [supportwoundedwarriorproject.org](https://www.supportwoundedwarriorproject.org)

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS President



To say it has been cold would be an understatement. With temperatures at or below zero, not much has been done outside. POTA has been a challenge. But it looks like FYAO will have temperatures near 32. That will make it certainly doable and fun. Friends together making lots of contacts and enjoying some great food sounds great to me. I am really looking forward to it.

The cold weather did provide time to work on some inside projects including preparing for a future build. I am building two circuit boards. One is a small SDR receiver known as the “Modern Crystal Radio”. It uses a Tayloe detector and a \$4 PI. The second board is a small SSB transmitter used to demonstrate some of the software used for SDR transmitters. Both have been fun projects with lots of challenges. When the boards are fully tested, they will demonstrate a lot of the features of SDRs. I look forward to showing them to you.

Outreach work continues. We attended the Akron Public Schools Stem Event and Science Fair on January 25th. Lots of kids and a few interesting projects. Met a lot of parents, teachers and students interested in radio. We were setup and on the air with FT8. Before the crowds grew, we made some SSB contacts, but when the noise became loud, switched to FT8. With my “Super Antenna” PSKReporter showed us reaching Europe and South America. This really impressed the visitors. We have an Engineering Expo at Brunswick and a presentation to the Stark College Ham Radio and Astronomy clubs scheduled for February. If you are interested in helping, let me know.

Please plan to attend FYAO on Saturday February 15th. I promise it will be a lot of fun.

Stay warm, make lots of contacts and enjoy our great hobby.



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

20th Annual

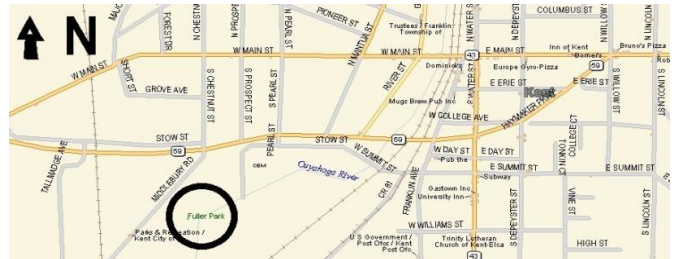
"Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) Special Event Station



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

*When: Saturday - Feb. 15, 2025
Set up: 9 am*

Operating Time: 10 am - 3 pm EST



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



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

AC8KJ	George	AG8GM	Ghislaine	KD8DFL	Ray
KC8LJY	Michael	AB8YK	James	W8HFY	David
N4IT	Carl	KC8YYS	James		



From Around The World...

If you aren't following [Hackaday](https://hackaday.com/) you're in for a treat! There are so many articles there relating to radio. Here are a few recent ones to check out.

Lowering Your Noise Floor, The Easy Way

by: Dan Maloney

<https://hackaday.com/2024/12/31/lowering-your-noise-floor-the-easy-way/#more-751705>

Wire Rope: Never Saddle A Dead Horse

by Adam Fabio

<https://hackaday.com/2024/12/29/wire-rope-never-saddle-a-dead-horse/#more-751494>

Do You Know Vail Code?

by Al Williams

<https://hackaday.com/2024/12/27/do-you-know-vail-code/>

Handheld Satellite Dish Is 3D Printed

by Bryan Cockfield

<https://hackaday.com/2024/12/23/handheld-satellite-dish-is-3d-printed/#more-739811>

Motorized Coil Tunes Your Ham Antenna On A Budget

by: Dan Maloney

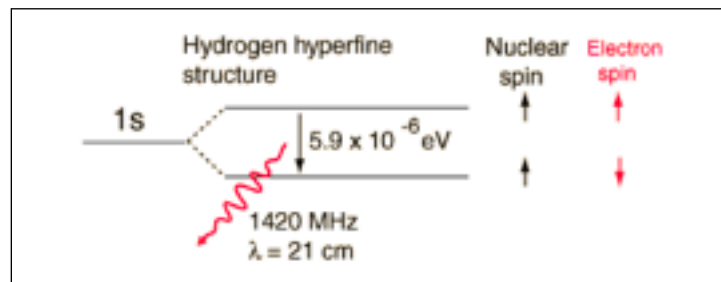
<https://hackaday.com/2025/01/19/motorized-coil-tunes-your-ham-antenna-on-a-budget/>





For the last couple of years, I have been playing with radio astronomy. I joined the “Society of Amateur Radio Astronomy”, group of professional and amateur astronomers who are almost all amateur radio operators. That organization has been incredibly helpful in getting me up and running. No, I have not tested my condo association by building a 3-meter dish in my back yard. I started small using a modified, less than one meter, WIFI dish. I thought I would maybe pique your interest in this arena by taking about one of my projects.

My first project was designed to measure the “Hydrogen Line”. This is a signal at 1420 MHz that is created when the spin in the electron of a hydrogen atom reverses. The reversal creates a very small burst of RF energy. Even by QRP standards, that is a very weak signal. However, in the universe there are a “LOT” of free hydrogen atoms. All sending out these signals at any given time.



Here are a few interesting facts about the generation of this signal. First, it usually happens when two hydrogen atoms collide. Now free space is very large. In free space, on average, one atom of hydrogen can be found in every cubic centimeter. The odds of two colliding are about one every 60 years. Now remember space is very large so there are always an incredibly large number of these atoms “due” for collision. Also, once the spin flips, it won’t reset for 11 million years. Yes, I said 11 MILLION years. Even with those odds the immense number of atoms. allows you can receive this signal all the time. Being able to receive this signal gives one an idea of size of the universe.

Why is this signal important? Observations of the hydrogen line have been used to reveal the spiral shape of the Milky Way and to calculate the mass and dynamics of individual galaxies. Pretty cool stuff.

You can receive these signals using a computer, antenna tuned to 1420 MHz, a RTL-SDR USB dongle, low noise amplifier, filter and some free software. Out of pocket for the project, less the computer, is about \$150 if you make your own antenna. The picture shows my first setup showing with the bottom of a modified WIFI antenna and the RF chain.



The WIFI antenna cost me \$110 and I modified the feed point to work with 1420 MHz. Lots of Dremel tool work to take it apart and super glue to put it back together. The RF chain, less the filter, is the same I use for a lot of other SDR projects.

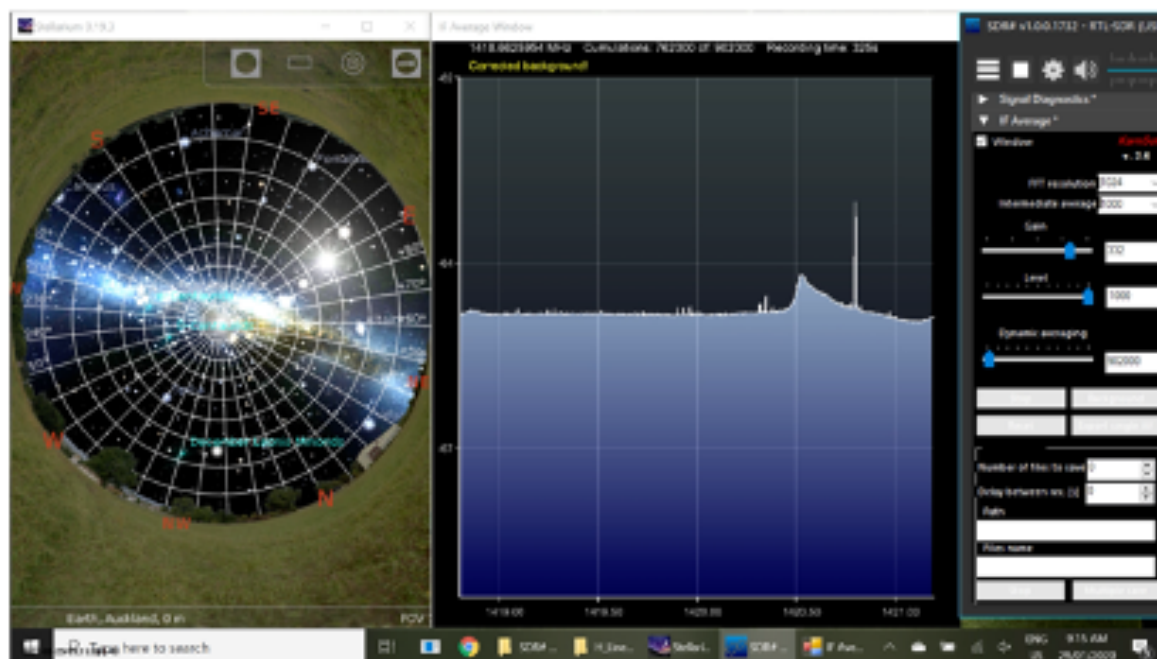
The signal received is very small, so you need to sum the signal over a few seconds to adequately use the data. The software used to accomplish this is SDR# and an IF Average plug-in for SDR#.

Using a combination of SDR#, Stellarium and Chronolapse, running on a laptop for a day outside can produce some very interesting information. Stellarium is a program to display what is in outer space relative to your location. Point your antenna straight up. Setup Stellarium to show what is straight up and you get a view like what is shown below. On the left is a picture of what space looks like overhead and on the right is the spectrum plot with the hydrogen line's magnitude.

With Chronolapse running you get some great animations of reception over time. It is a lot of fun playing with this project.

As I mentioned I paid over \$100 for the WIFI antenna that I modified. I have since used a couple of entirely homebrew antennas with great results. One is a helix design, and the other is a multielement, but simple to build, Yagi. Both have produced results better than the expensive dish and both were less than \$50 to build. More on those antennas in the future. I plan to bring the Yagi to the next Antenna SIG for those interested in seeing the design.

I hope this gives you an idea of some of the fun you can have in other areas of our radio hobby.



PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS

EST. 2005



John, WG8X



Hi everyone, It was a cool month for sure; in more ways than one! The big news of the month for me is that the Lake Park SWA in Alliance has been added to the WWFF's (<https://wwff.co/>) list of US References. That's right, US-9473 is now a dual park. The WWFF park number is KFF-6897.

That happened on January 10th, and I headed out there the same day to get a first day activation.

The following weekend, I headed south. I did not get to activate as many parks as I'd hoped, but it was still fun. It was the weekend of the Hocking Hills Winter Hike, along with a Hamfest in Shade Ohio.

Friday began with a drive to Lancaster for an activation at Christmas Rocks State Nature Preserve (US-9397). Last time there, I found the cell signal to be non-existent, but I did get to meet up with Nathan, W8NI. We took some time to socialize and compare license plates (see picture).



But this time was different. About 30 minutes before arriving at the nature preserve, I stopped and scheduled my activation using the Parks On The Air website. Before heading down the last couple miles to the Nature Preserve, I entered my upcoming activation to the POTA website.

Not everyone seems to know that this is a thing. But thanks to a tie-in between the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN), and the Parks On The Air website, I was able to be spotted automatically once I started calling CQ. The POTA site noticed that RBN had picked me up and added me to the spotting page. That turned out to be unnecessary, though, since we now have cell signal at that location. Base for the weekend at Lake Hope SP.

My plan for Saturday had been to participate in the Winter Hike at Hocking Hills SP. Unfortunately, the weather, and my knees had other ideas, so I settled for a short walk, and a couple of activations at Hocking Hills, and Lake Hope. The afternoon was spent catching up on my reading.

After a late lunch at the Lake Hope Dining Lodge, I was approached by a new activator. Jim, KF8BWD. Jim is a Tech (studying for his General). As of today, he's made the trip from Reynoldsburg to Lake Hope seven times to activate using 10 Meters. I think this is significant because of the folks I hear of who are waiting to pass their General before getting out to the parks. Way to go Jim!

Sunday, I had planned to work at the league table at the Hamfest, followed by stops at a couple wildlife areas on the way home. Unfortunately, Mother Nature stepped in once again. By the time I left the Hamfest there was a couple of inches of snow on the ground, and it was still coming down!

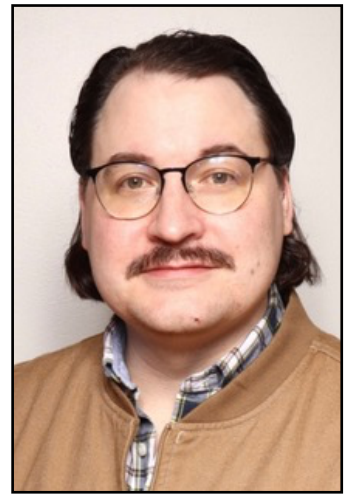
So, I headed North to get out of the way of the snow and abandoned any plans to do any more activating that day.

The following weekend, I hung closer to home, operating Winter Field Day with my Home Club. We set up and operated class 4I Ohio. This means that we had 4 stations that were set up and ready to go. The "I" means that we were indoors (definitely the way to go after the weather so far this month!). We had a lot of fun playing radio and socializing for the weekend. We even managed to hunt a couple POTA parks to boot.

After we tore down, and things were put away, I spent the rest of the evening hunting POTA, and writing this article.



Stephen KD9ZDY



As a rookie member of the amateur radio community, and recent technician licensee, I've been looking to move forward in the hobby. Having contested with the PCARS/K8BF crew, I knew there was more fun ahead by investing in an HF transceiver and equipment.

I mastered two meters well before I even moved to Ohio and joined PCARS, so I know the real fun is in HF. I've had the opportunity to contest on SSB for many bands outside of my license permissions with PCARS, and I'm hooked! Not only that, but I've received a lot of good advice from the club members. So, the question was what HF radio to get?

I love the ICOM IC-7300 radios available at our club site, and I got plenty of suggestions online and from club members. However, I couldn't find too many decent trustworthy used options with the capabilities of the ICOM IC-7300. Not only that, but the bulky frame of what I consider to be a base station transceiver takes up too much space for me. I'd like an HF radio that I can use at home, then throw in a backpack for a POTA activation on short notice. Additionally, I'd like something I can take easily with me to a new home or apartment if I decide to move.

My solution was the Yaesu FT-891. It's compact, well regarded and it retails new for about \$800. I couldn't find a decent used ICOM or Yaesu for less than \$600, so I figured I'd buy it new direct from the manufacturer. I follow numerous DX'ers and POTA adventurers on social media, and the FT-891 was a popular choice for portable operating, especially in the UK and Europe, so I was confident in the decision.

I was not disappointed. When I opened the package and set up the little rig, the settings and capabilities of the Yaesu seem to rival a larger, more-expensive, base station. It offers SSB, digital modes with CAT control, RTTY and CW, an easy menu for selecting power output and various settings -which can be saved specifically for each mode- internal tuning, noise control options, and a variety of other features. Its only drawbacks, in my mind, are that it doesn't offer a very good scope for waterfall visuals -which can make viewing band activity difficult on a slow day-, and it does not offer UHF and VHF -which is fine for me because I have my ICOM IC-2730, which handles UHF and VHF very well for me already.

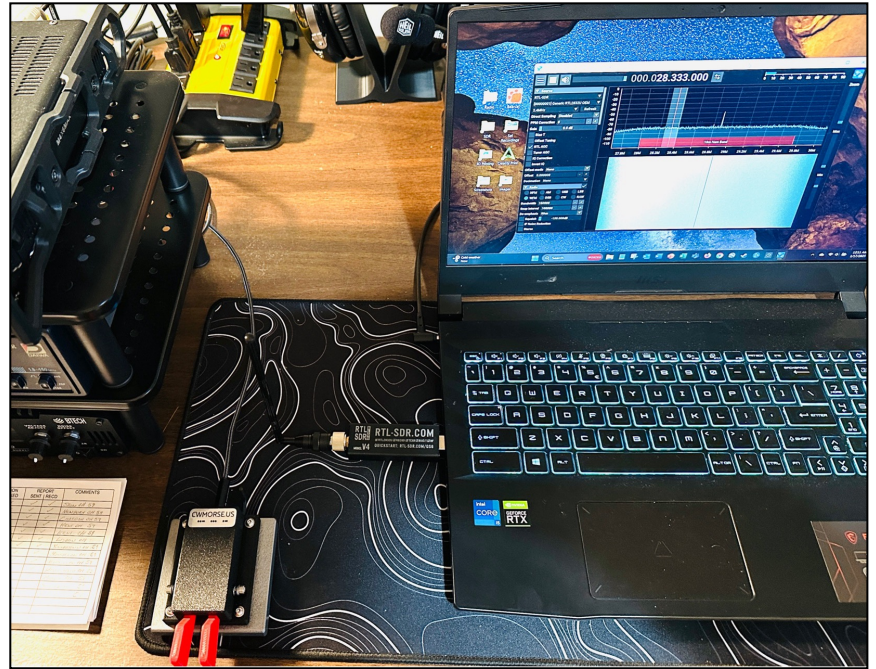
In about a day, I had strung up an end-fed half-wave 10 meter antenna with a 9:1 balun, and made my first SSB contact on my own rig in the UK with only 40 watts! I could hear my counterpart great, and he reported hearing me at about 57 out 59 (pretty good) in southern England. So, the FT-891 works like a charm for my needs.

The Modular Setup

Earlier, I mentioned I wanted a somewhat compact rig set-up -a hybrid base station that can easily be used for portable operations when needed and wouldn't be too much of a hassle to take with me if I move soon. So, I came up with a modular design. I bought these little metal desk-sized shelving risers from Amazon and created a four-slot "cubbyhole" shelf for the rig. On the left side, I have my VHF/UHF unit with the ICOM IC-2730 as well as my Uniden digital scanner. On the right I have my HF unit with the Yaesu FT-891, an LDG antenna tuner, Signalink box, and SWR/power meter. Each side has its own DC power supply, so even if I pull out the FT-891 and use it elsewhere, my tried-and-true UHF/VHF set-up is still operational.

In the back, I've cut and crimped all the wiring to exactly the lengths I need, and also saved some pre-cut jumpers for when I need to change locations or re-organize. Each rig has its own antenna system, with grounds for both lightning-arresting and electronic noise reduction. So, again, the idea is that each "unit", the Scanner unit, the UHF/VHF unit and the HF unit can all be pulled, taken away, and plugged back in when needed.

To the right of my rig, I've got my laptop which is obviously portable in-itself; but, it fills one important gap in my existing set-up: I use an RTL-SDR.COM V4 USB dongle along with SDR ++ to get a visual waterfall of the HF bands while using the transceiver. This makes up for the small display on the Yaesu FT-891 as well as the built-in scope, which leave a lot to be desired. So, the SDR dongle and laptop really add-in the features of a more robust base-station. I also use the laptop for digital modes on the F-891 such as FT8, and for stand-alone SDR projects, like connecting to NOAA satellites and home-made air-traffic control.



Lastly, a *small* feature, that I'm proud of none-the-less, are the three 3D-printed drawers I built to fit right into the gaps remaining in the shelving. They fit all the adapters, USB cables, and little pieces of hardware all HAM's need to have around. Having lived in city apartments for almost 15 years, I've learned to really appreciate space and storage management, and if I keep going to Hamfests, I'm going to need it!



The sBITX that Ashhar Farhan (VU2ESE) introduced in 2021 is the successor to the uBITX. It is a hybrid SDR with a superhet front end followed by SDR for signal processing. This open source rig covers 10 to 80 meters and supports SSB, CW, AM and digital modes with 10 to 25 watts RF power. The superhet front end solves the problem SDRs have with front end overloading and is a design used by high end rigs like the Elecraft K4HD. It also features fast, quiet diode T/R and band switching, a real time clock and a TCXO.

It is an all in one device with a radio, computer and display in its 10x6x2 4 lb. box. The computer is a Raspberry Pi 4 that drives a 7" touch screen display. The Pi runs the usual Rasperian OS and the sBITX app, which does the SDR processing and provides CW decoding, macros, logging and FT8 support. The Pi's wifi allows spotting and remote operation. It also runs standard Linux apps, including ham apps like WSJT-X, JTDX, JS8call, fldigi, gridtracker, FreeDV, and DroidStar.

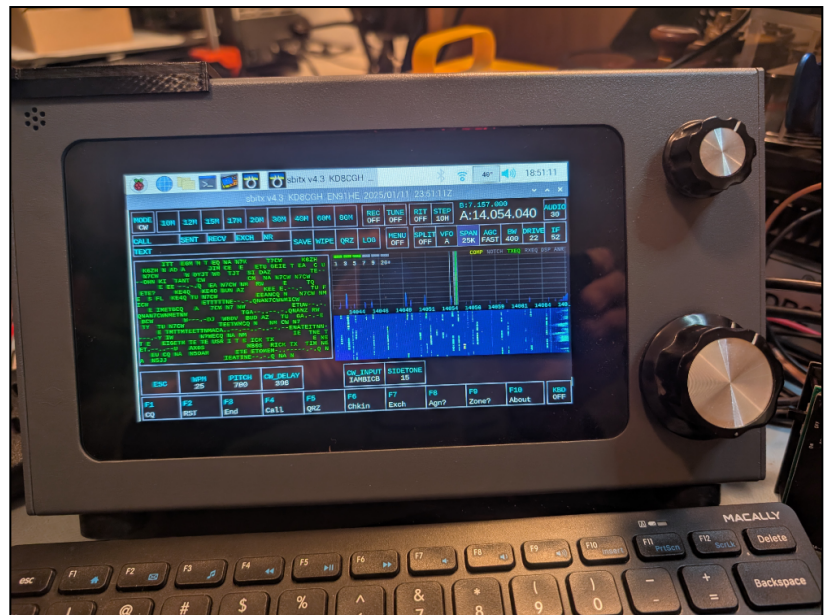
As with usual HF Signals, a rough base product was introduced, the DE edition, that was then further developed by Farhan and a community of enthusiasts. The latest hardware is V3 which solved several issues that plagued earlier versions. A group of software developers led by JJ (W9JES) have vastly improved the sBITX app and added two DSP noise reducers, TX and RX equalizers and other features you might expect from a modern SDR. They also provide a toolbox of handy apps.

One of the toolbox apps implements a larger virtual screen that the 7" screen is a rolling window into. This allows running apps that demand a larger display, like WSJT-X, to work. This works surprisingly well as you really only use a part of the app widow at a time and your view smoothly slides with the cursor to focus on what you need at that moment. While the sBITX app has native FT8 support, I much prefer to use WSJT-X.

Although you can run the sBITX by touch screen, I find it easier to use a USB dongle with compact keyboard and mouse. I also run my Pi from a tiny USB thumb drive plugged into one of the Pi USB 3 ports instead of from the usual SD card, which provides much better performance. For desktop use the Pi's mini HDMI ports are exposed, so you can plug in a big monitor. Using the Pi's wifi you can also remotely run from a browser on a smart phone, tablet or computer.

I designed and 3D printed a tilt back stand and a mic with paddle dock for mine. There are a large number of mods and accessories developed by users.

In addition to its size and weight, due to the Pi and display screen the sBITX is relatively power hungry. I think this makes it a good portable rig, but I wouldn't want to haul it and its battery up a SOTA summit.



The sBITX can be bought as a board and heatsink for \$180 and with case, display and Pi for \$399. Be aware that this is a capable rig, but meant for tinkerers. It is not a commercial appliance rig. You should be prepared to pull and compile new software from GitHub (doc walks you through it). Part of the fun is adding your own mods. There is a large, active community at groups.io/g/BITX20 for support and development.



zBITX

At the end of Farhan's 2024 QRP ARCI Four Days in May (FDIM) talk on the zBITX he handed out small SDR PCBs that were a scaled down sBITX that plug into a Pi Zero 2 W for experimentation. That development has led to a tiny QRP version of the sBITX that has the footprint of a Raspberry Pi Zero 2 W, 6.5" x 3" x 1.25". This little wonder weighs 9 ounces without the two 18650 LiPo batteries and 15 ounces with. It runs the same sBITX software, the same bands and modes, and supports the same ham apps. It has a 480 x 320 touch screen display managed by a Raspberry Pi Pico and a built in mic.

FDIM 2024 - zBitx - Bringing CW into the 21st Century by Asher Farhan VU2ESE

This product release was announced in December 2024 with shipping to begin the end of February 2025. The cost is \$149 batteries not included and the first batch is sold out.

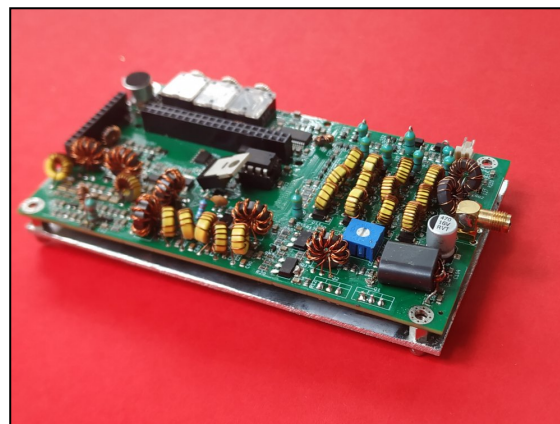
Links

<https://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/sbitx-v3/>

<https://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/zbitx/>

Announcement

<https://groups.io/g/BITX20/message/114779>



PCARS Club Call Sign Use Policy for K8BF

Bob N8QE
Callsign Trustee



The Federal Communications Commission grants the K8BF amateur radio club station license to allow members of the amateur radio club to operate a station under a club call sign. The trustee of the club is the license grantee. It conveys no operating privileges.

When operating the K8BF club station (either physical or virtual), operators will use the club call sign, or when operating away during club sponsored activities like Field Day.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) currently holds the club station license: Call Sign K8BF

It is the duty of the trustee to act in the best interests of the club; after all, the station license belongs to the club, not to the trustee individually. The club station license trustee must designate control operators to ensure that the station is operated as the club wants it to be. The club license trustee will designate a club station control operator who must be someone trusted, and who will follow the FCC rules at all times.



Members in good standing wishing to utilize the club call sign may request permission to use the club call sign by contacting the trustee directly and providing the following information:

- Name of the PCARS member requesting use of the club call sign (club station control operator)
- Time period (dates and times) that the club call sign will be used
- Description of the event where the club call sign will be used

Upon approval by the club station trustee, the club call sign can be used for the specified purpose and time period. It is the responsibility of the club station control operator (the person requesting the use of the call sign) to ensure that all on-air activities follow the FCC rules and regulations.

A copy of the log in adif format must then be provided to the K8BF Callsign QSL Manager / Trustee to be added to the K8BF Master Log File, and be used to confirm QSL requests.

If you have contacted K8BF, and would like a K8BF QSL card please send or provide me with your QSL card confirming

the contact. All incoming QSL cards received are now being displayed at the PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

Greg KA8TOA

Net Control Coordinator



As we celebrate the new year, the nets are picking up and everyone is staying warm. Please continue to check in on Thursday night nets . It's a great place to hear what is going on with PCARS and other ham news. Plus you get to hear what everyone is doing at home involving radio. We have some new net controllers so please be patient, by the way it is great training for emergencies if we are needed . Remember to tell others after Ten consecutive check ins you will receive a great certificate to hang on your wall. I am very proud of the volunteers that have stepped up to help out. The logs for 2024 are completed and are saved at the club site. This is a great time of the year to get on the radio and have fun. Lots of contests and of course the club activities going on, and it will make the winter doldrums move quicker. For now 73's and i will catch you on the air or at a meeting .

PCARS Field Day 2025 Flex Station

Rick, K8CAV

FD Flex Station Captain



PCARS Field Day 2025 is right around the corner! “But wait” you say, “that’s five months down the road, what gives?” With the kind of planning and effort that goes into Field Day five months is but a fleeting instant, so it’s time for the Flex Station Captain, yours truly, to get things rolling!

For those of you who have not been involved with PCARS Field Day, some explanation is due. PCARS operates in ARRL Field Day in Class 4A. What this means is that, excluding VHF and GOTA, we are allowed to have no more than four transmitters active at any given time. Further, only one transmitter is allowed in any given band/mode segment at the same time. For PCARS, those stations are 40-meter Phone, 20-meter Phone, CW, and Flex. 40-meter Phone operates strictly on the 40 meter band using Phone (LSB). 20-meter Phone operates mostly on 20 meters Phone (USB) but during the evening can move to 80-meter Phone (LSB). CW operates on all HF bands but is limited in mode to CW only. The Flex Station operates on all HF bands and in all modes, so long as it does not operate on the same band/mode segment any of the other three stations are operating on.

I know that the other Station Captains would love to have you volunteer to help with their station, and you should definitely contact them if you are interested. However, being the Station Captain for the Flex Station, this plug is for you to volunteer to operate at Flex!

So what do we do at Flex? As I mentioned, Flex is both band and mode agile as long as we do not operate in the same band/mode segment as another station is already operating in. This automatically excludes operating on 40 meter Phone and 20 meter Phone and at certain times 80 meter Phone. Flex cannot operate CW on any HF band that the CW Station is operating on. Outside of those restrictions we can operate on any other HF band/mode segment. With the advent of WSJT-X configuring a Field Day contest protocol for FT8 and FT4, the majority of operations at the Flex Station for the last three years have been using FT8 or FT4. We also do some Phone on 15 meter and 10 meter. In next month’s newsletter I will outline my plan for how Flex Station will operate to maximize our contacts, and how to provide training opportunities for you as an operator. The bottom line is that I am looking for operators for the Flex Station for Field Day 2025. If you are interested, please drop me a note at k8cav.coms@gmail.com

A Great Time At Wingfoot Lake State Park

Gene, W8NET
Portable Ops SIG Coordinator

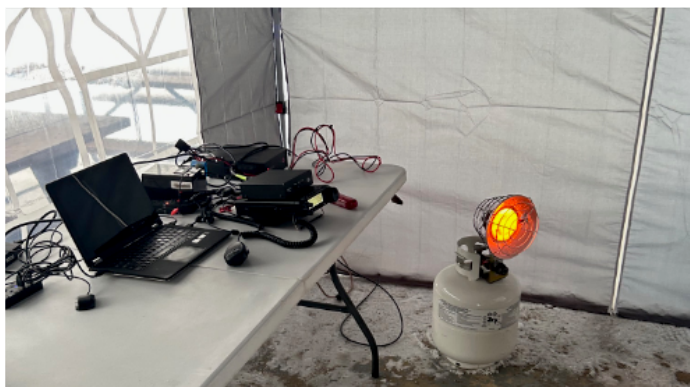


What a day for a Winter Parkpedition! After the bitter cold and biting wind from last year, January 18, 2025 was a “delightful” weather day – 28F, 12 MPH wind and 4 inches of wet snow: A normal northeast Ohio January day!

The day started with very slick road conditions, with only a few of us to set up. Then, the roads cleared up some, and many more arrived.

This was also the “Official Winter POTA event weekend as well. We had 3 stations set up in the big tent, and a few mobile and/or portable stations in the Oak Tree Shelter parking lot. Mike, KP4VZ, made his 10 POTA contacts early with his mobile rig. Brandon, KE8ARB, was using his AWESOME new van setup as portable.

All told, we had 28 attendees, ate ALL of my smoky oyster stew, ate ALL of Kenny’s (= his wife’s) yummy potato salad, drank a few pots of Mike’s Puerto Rican coffee, drank a huge amount of hot chocolate, and had a blast.



FOR SALE: BRAND NEW custom built desktop PC for sale. Specs are as follows: Ryzen 5 5600G 3.9 GHz; 32 gb RAM; 1GB Ethernet LAN; 500gb m.2 SSD; DVI/HDMI video out; 500w power supply; Tempered glass case w/RGB RAM and fans; Linux Mint O/S. Can be upgraded to Windows 11. \$650.00 Contact Kyle: (307) 213-9837 [04/25]

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-2000 160 - 6 Meter Transceiver with FH-2 Remote Control Keypad and CT-119 Programming Cable \$800.00 for everything. Original boxes are available. Geocron GEO-4K-COMP2 new in the box \$175. ARRL 10 - 40 Meter End Fed Antenna Kit new in the box \$50. Contact Bob Hajdak N8QE at (330) 807-5903 or rhajdak@aol.com. [03/25]

FOR SALE: LDG Antenna Tuner 600 Pro Like new \$300; Yaesu FT-840 Excellent condition and great for a new ham beginning HF. Still on air almost daily. \$450. Call Carl, N4IT at 330-221-9725 [02/25]

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: [01/25] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2025.

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.

Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE!!** The only catch is that you have to claim it from the **Treasurer**. There is a list of current members and the treasurer 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 the Treasurer for details: treasurer@portcars.org**

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.

<https://youtube.com/@portagecountyamateurradios1933?si=09-NxUpDOoqdqTzc>



POTA Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator



Hello POTA fans!

Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday February 11, 2025 at 7:00-8:00pm.

We will discuss our awesome POTA event last month, and talk about our next / spring event.

Cya there!

73 de W8NET, Gene

Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV
Digital SIG Coordinator



There is no Digital Special Interest Group meeting scheduled for February. The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting will take place on Tuesday March 4th. Details for this meeting will be announced in the March Radiogram, and by QST email.

HF WAS & DX Nets Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET
HF WAS & DX Nets SIG Coordinator



Greetings!

The next meeting of the HF WAS & DX Nets SIG will be Tuesday FEBRUARY 4, 2025 at 7:00pm.

We will check in to the NATA Net or the 3905 Century Club Net on 40m. I will be there early to set everything up. CYA THERE!

Antenna Special Interest Group

Jim, AC8NT
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Our next Antenna SIG will be held on February 18th at 7PM. Unlike January we hope to have you come to PCARS World Headquarters for the meeting. As usual we will work to answer any questions you have.

I will be bringing my new radio astronomy antenna for collection of data on the hydrogen line. Forget the fancy science, the antenna is just plain interesting to build and see. We call it the “Ray Gun” antenna. You will understand the name when you see it.

We will also be talking about an antenna idea for the Field Day GOTA station. It is light, easy to setup and directional. I hope to have a lot of discussion on this project.

If you can't make the trip to the club, you are welcome to attend via Zoom. The Zoom information is as follows:

Topic: SIG Zoom

Time: Feb 18, 2025, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

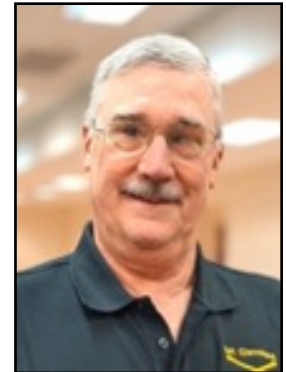
<https://zoom.us/j/96686108444?pwd=hN5hDgTGWwdLbLXkLSeAfVOoS4nGq.1>

Meeting ID: 966 8610 8444

Passcode: 915088

PCARS Flex Net

Rick, K8CAV
Flex Net Coordinator



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. The net frequency is tentatively 3.8975 MHz +/- QRM in the General portion of the band. As most of you are aware, the 80 meter phone band at this time of day is active with nets so I am searching evenings to make sure we will minimize our interference to existing nets. **Please make sure you check your PCARS QST email the day of the net for any changes in frequency.** 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!

DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT

DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



Hello from the QTH of W8PT:

We held our first of the year, DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting on Jan. 28, at 7PM at our world famous club site. We had 10 in attendance either in person or by ZOOM. This was a good group with very good discussions.

Our discussion centered on the upcoming Minnesota QSOP. We will be running two rigs since that happens to be the rule for Multi-Op entries. The contest begins at 9AM on Feb 1 and lasts until 7PM the same night. We will do our best to accommodate everyone who comes out to operate, but we ask for your patience if there happens to be a queue. We will be running both CW and SSB. Sorry, no digital in this one.

Since the British Columbia QSOP is happening on the same day, we decided to load that logging software also, just in case.

We also briefly discussed our signature QRP event that will be happening on Feb. 17...namely Freeze Your Acorns Off. There will be a few more qst reminders coming in the days ahead.

I brought a Show & Tell which was prompted by an excellent presentation by Axel Fisser K8AXX, on Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries. Because of this presentation, I purchased a new battery, a neat battery box and a charger for this type of battery. I brought these to show the group. This type of battery is perfect for POTA and SOTA operations. If anyone is interested in viewing the presentation, please give me a shout at: chuckw8pt@gmail.com, and I will forward the link.

Well, that's it for now. See you next month and I hope that more members can attend this SIG.

Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites

Greetings DXers

Chuck, W8PT

aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Well, how was your first month in 2025? Has the year come in like a lion or lamb? Or is that saying only for the month of March?! Anyway, here at Casa PT it has been snowing and I still can't take care of the walkways and drive because of a lingering head cold. The strong winds that we have been having have also been a concern. I keep checking to see if my antennas and towers are all in one piece. I still have visions of Feb. 2019 when I lost my antennas and towers. I certainly don't want to go through that ever again.

Wake Is. was on in January and I was having a real problem hearing this guy. This would be an ATNO for me. Bernie at The Daily DX sent out an email announcing when Allen would be on. So trying again, I turned on the rig and he was on working a pileup split. But I could not hear him, only the stations working him. So, I decided to be patient and wait. Sure enough, I started to hear his audio even though he was not moving my meter. I waited some more and when he was coming in about 95% of the time, I gave him a couple of calls and broke the pileup. He came back giving me a 58 rpt.

I turned the rig off, happy, having worked an ATNO. But I hadn't turned off my logging program and to my surprise, a station from Minami Torishima was on 10m CW calling CQ. Another ATNO for me. So, on came the rig and tuned to 10m. He was nice and strong and I gave him a call and he came back with my report. In the end, Bernie's email allowed me to work two ATNO's in less than 15 min. It pays to me connected with other DXers.

Let me know if you have worked any ATNOs on CW or SSB during this uptick on 10 or 15 meters. My email address is chuckw8pt@gmail.com. I'll report it in my column. It has been very lively the last several weeks and promises to stay that way for awhile according to the propagation forecasting gurus. Frankly, some of the DX HAMS I work regularly, have been so strong that they sound like they are sitting in my drive running full legal limit. It's really awesome!

And the pileups on some of the rarer DX entities have been huge. It's too bad that there are still some bad characters out there who try to disrupt the DXer's efforts to make contacts. But it's what we have to put up with. (Sorry about the dangling participle)

So, let's see what February and the near future has in store for the many of us who enjoy chasing DX.

As always, big thanks to: The Daily DX, DL5ON & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, 425 DX News, Next Generation DX, DXNL for the following DX information.

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

Here's ClubLog's Top 10 Most wanted DXCC entities:

1. P5 DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2. BS7H SCARBOROUGH REEF
3. CE0X SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4. BV9P PRATAS ISLAND
5. KH7K KURE ISLAND
6. KH3 JOHNSTON ISLAND
7. 3Y/P PETER 1 ISLAND
8. FT5/X KERGUELEN ISLAND
9. YV0 AVES ISLAND
10. 3Y/B BOUVET ISLAND

February...

3X, GUINEA. Jean-Philippe, F1TMY is QRV as 3X1A from Conakry until mid-2026. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via ClubLog.

5Z, KENYA. Scott, WA5A is QRV as 5Z4/WA5A from Ruaka. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mostly SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via home call.

7P, LESOTHO. Mark, KW4XJ and Arina, KO4PZT are QRV as 7P8AB and 7P8NB, respectively, until mid-2025. QSL via KW4XJ.

8R1, GUYANA. (Reminder) Aldir, PY1SAD will again be active from Georgetown, Guyana as **8R1TM** until February 8, 2025. QRV on all bands; CW, SSB + digital & SAT. QSL via eQSL, LoTW or Direct. Grid: GJ06vs.

9V, SINGAPORE. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of Singapore's independence, all members of the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society may substitute the prefix S60 for their usual 9V1 prefix until August 9, 2025.

9X, RWANDA. Harald, DF2WO will be QRV as 9X2AW until February 15. QSL via M0OXO.

C5, THE GAMBIA. Przemo, SP3PS is QRV as C5SP until mid-March. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

D44, CAPE VERDE. Claudio, HB9OAU will be active from Sal island (AF-086), Cape Verde as **D44OA** during February 5-18, 2025. QRV holiday-style on 40-10m; SSB, CW and FT8 using EndFed 10-40m; Vert. Ribakov home made. QSL via LoTW, eQSL & QRZ.com.

DP1, ANTARCTICA. Felix, DL5XL will be QRV as DP1POL from the German research station Neumayer III, IOTA AN-016, until February 25. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB and various digital modes. QSL via DL1ZBO.

H44MS, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Bernard, DL2GAC will again be active from Manakwai village, nearby Malu'u (northern Malaita island) as **H44MS** starting February 9, 2025 lasting through until May 7th. Expected to QRV daily on 80-6m; SSB & FT8. QSL via home call, LoTW

J5, GUINEA BISSAU. Livio, IZ3BUR will be QRV as J52EC until March 1. Activity will be on 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to IZ3BUR.

JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA. (Reminder) Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, until the beginning of March 2025. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

KH9, WAKE ISLAND. (Reminder) Allen, KH7AL is QRV as KH7AL/KH9 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using primarily SSB and CW. His length of stay is still unknown. QSL direct to home call.

P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Xu, BG5DON is QRV as P29XZ near Port Moresby while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time, mostly during the weekends, on 20, 17, 15, 10, and 6 meters using FT8 with low power. QSL to home call.

PJ2, CURACAO. Andre, PD1DRE will be active from Curacao, SA-099 as **PJ2/PD1DRE** until February 4, 2025. QRV on 40-20-10m, SSB. QSL via eQSL.

PJ2, CURACAO. Thaire, W2APF will be QRV as PJ2/W2APF from January 12 to April 8. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to home call.

PJ2, CURACAO. Rudy, NF9V will be active as PJ2/NF9V from Curacao Island, IOTA SA-099, 11 - 18 February 2025. He will operate on 160 - 10m. QSL via home call, LoTW.

SV1, MOUNT ATHOS. SV1GA/A Team currently active from Mount Athos, Greece. Team - SV1GA, OH2BH, KO8SCA, YO8WW, OH2GEK. They will operate on HF Bands. QSL via EB7DX, ClubLog, LoTW.

TI, CANO IS. RRC Central American Tour 2025: Members of the Russian Robinson Club (celebrating 30 years) will be on a "Central American Tour", as well as activating some Parks On The Air (POTA)[<https://parksontheair.com/>] and a IOTA, between February 11th and March 7th, 2025. Operators mentioned are Alex/RW3RN, Hal/W8HC, Mike/K5MSK, Slava/OK8AU, Raisa/R1BIG, Tim/NL8F, Vlad/R9LR and Yuri/N3QQ. QSL via LoTW and direct cards are via M0OXO. Currently, all callsigns are pending at this time. These are the requested callsigns:

- * 3F3RRC -- Chirique, **Panama**; PA-0033 [Fortuna Forest Reserve]
- * H7RRC -- Isla Del Cardon, **Nicaragua**
- * TI1RRC -- Isla Cano, **Costa Rica**; CR-0018 [National Park]; IOTA NA-117; dates February 19-25th, 2025
- * YN6RRC -- San Cristóbal Volcano (Tepemesquián), **Nicaragua**; NI-0055 [Nature Reserve]

TJ, CAMEROON. Thierry, TK1CX is QRV as TJ/TK1CX until the end of February 2025. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 and low power. QSL via EA5ZD.

TY, BENIN. Gerard, F5NVF is QRV as TY5C from Godomey until April 2. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

TZ, MALI. Ulmar, DK1CE will be QRV as TZ1CE from Bamako until February 20. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using mainly SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

V7, MARSHALL IS. Philipp, DK6SP, with a group of amateurs, will be on a DXpedition to the Marshall Is. Philipp: We are glad to announce that our upcoming DXpedition to the Marshall Islands has been assigned the callsign **V73WW**. Our team will begin operations **on 12th February 2025** for approximately 12 days, though times may vary based on local conditions. QSL cards will be managed by **DJ4MX**, and we will use **ClubLog OQRS**. We plan to provide daily LoTW uploads. Their operations will span multiple bands and modes.

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS. Tony, WD8RTT, got in touch to say he will be travelling to Providenciales, Turks and Caicos at the end of January and will be doing some HF and Satellite radio operations while there as **VP5/KD8RTT**. Grid: FL31. Tony mentions you can find full details on his VP5 trip [here](#). QSL via LoTW. He will be there until Feb. 2.

YB9, BALI IS. Emmanuel, F5LIT will be active again from Bali Island, IOTA OC-022, until 18 February 2025, as YB9/F5LIT. He will operate on HF Bands. QSL via home call direct, LOTW.

YB, INDONESIA. Jozef, ON6HX is QRV as YB9/ON6HX from Lombok Island, IOTA OC-150, until February 6. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to home call.

YS1, EL SALVADOR. Dave, WJ2O will be active from La Libertad, El Salvador as **YS1/WJ2O** during February 12-19, 2025. QRV on HF bands; CW. Participation in the ARRL DX CW Contest as an all band, single op, low power entrant. QSL via N2ZN.

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Special event stations ZS100SARL, ZS6SRL, and ZS9HQ are QRV during all of 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the South African Relay League. QSL via LoTW.

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

3X, GUINEA. Jean-Philippe, F1TMY is QRV as 3X1A from Conakry until mid-2026. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via ClubLog.

5H, TANZANIA. Chas, NK8O will be active again as 5H3DX from Tanzania, during April 2025. He will operate on 30 - 10m Bands, CW, PSK31, FT8 and possibly SSB. QSL via home call, LOTW, ClubLog.

E6, NIUE ISLAND. ZL1RS will be active as E6RS from Niue Island, IOTA OC - 040, in May 2025. He will focus on 6m activity if no propagation on 10m. QSL via ZL1RS, LOTW.

FP, MIQUELON IS. Eric, FP/KV1J will be again active from Miquelon Island, IOTA NA-032, 28 June - 14 July 2025. He will operate on 80 - 6m SSB, RTTY, CW, FT8 and FM Satellites. He will be active in Canada Day, Marconi Memorial and IARU Contests. QSL via home call, LOTW.

V6, KOSRAE, F.S.M. Rikk WE9G will be active from Kosrae, F.S.M (OC-059) as **V6WG** during March 18 to April 1, 2025. QRV (SO2R) on 80-6m, possibly 160m; mainly FT8/FT4 (MSHV & SuperFox) with some SSB & CW. QSL via H/c, Club Log OQRS. Grid: RJ15mi.

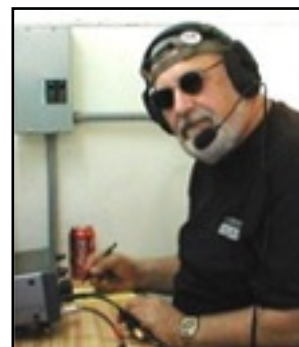
VK9, COCOS KEELING IS. VK9CU Team will be active from Cocos fKeeling Islands, IOTA OC - 003, Australia, 4 - 11 March 2025. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, RTTY, FT4, FT8. QSL via DL2AWG, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

Disclaimer: As you know by now, these DX events can change due to various reasons that sometimes are out of the control of those who are doing the planning. Be patient. I'm hoping that you use this info to hunt down your ATNO or simply to work some DX before your rigs become boat anchors or you become a boat anchor!

Get on the air and work some DX!! That's right...wobble the ethers. 73 for now....*Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner*

Charlie the Tuner's February 2025 Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to My Fellow PCARS Contesters and anyone else interested in Contesting:

I thought I would start something new in 2025 and I apologize for not having it ready for January. But what my thought is, is to give us contesters a heads up on what might be happening from month to month. I hope to be able to highlight some of the more favored contests for each month, and also mention some of the lesser but still interesting contests, in order to give you some choices when looking for something to do on the weekends. (Like we are busy enough!)

So...How to start??

Well, let me list some of the contests that PCARS will be involved in for 2025, and then go from there.
K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2025

Freeze Your Acorns Off	Feb 15
Idaho and Wisconsin QSOPs	Mar 8-9
Florida QSOP	Apr 26-27
7th Call Area QSOP	May 3-4
Indiana QSOP	May 3-4
Delaware QSOP	May 3-4
New England QSOP	May 3-4
Field Day	June 28-29
NA QSOP RTTY	July 19-20
Ohio QSOP & BBQ	Aug 23-24
OSPOTA	Sep 6
Washington Salmon Run	Sep 20-21
California QSOP	Oct 4-5

Other contests decided upon by the contest committee, might be run from Members' QTHs using the club call with the License Trustee's prior permission. Of course, they will also have to adhere to their specific station license requirements. So for February we have the following:

There are several State QSO Parties scheduled for this month.

Vermont QSOP	Feb 1-2
Minnesota QSOP	Feb 1
British Columbia QSOP	Feb 1-2
South Carolina QSOP	Feb 22-23
North Carolina QSOP	Feb 23-24

The North American QSOP - RTTY Mode held Feb 22-23 is a larger contest.

Other larger contests include:	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Feb 8-9
	ARRL International DX Contest – CW Mode	Feb 15-16

Last year, PCARS put K8BF on the air for the first time in the Minnesota QSOP. The ops for this contest were: WB9LBI; W8KNO; N8QE; W8PT; KA8TOA; WA8LRW; KB8TUY; and KP4VZ. We finished with 17 CW Qs; 56 SSB Qs and 42 mults which gave us a point score of 6132. This was good enough for First place in the US & World, since there were entries from several European clubs, in the Multi-OP category. We even finished ahead of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club entry. I want to thank and congratulate those who came out to play in this contest.

So that's it for this month's issue. I'll be working on March's Contest Up Date very soon.

73 for now,
Charlie the Contest Tuner.



Young Ham Lends a Hand Contest - 2025

Carole Perry, WB2MGP



It's the time of year to send in your nominations for a worthy candidate for this contest that encourages one of the basic tenets of amateur radio; volunteerism. I am now accepting nominations to recognize a young licensed person, 19 years of age or younger who has gone above and beyond to help others.

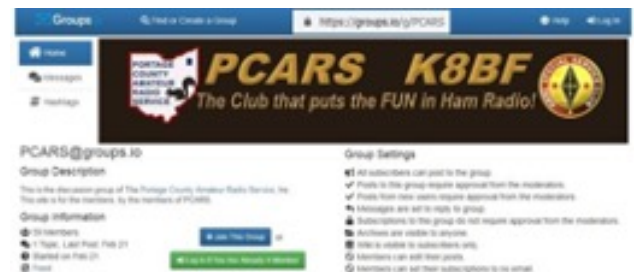
Their works could be introducing other youth to radio, helping with an antenna installation, assisting with neighborhood projects, or helping with emergency communications. The winners will receive a \$100 stipend sponsored by RCA Youth Activities, QCWA, and others.

If you know a young ham who is deserving of such an award, send your nomination, along with your reasons for the nomination directly to Carole Perry by April 1st. WB2MGP@gmail.com

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>



PCARS January Meeting



Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS February 2025 Schedule of Events

February 1st	VE Test Session at PCARS Club Site - 10 AM
February 3rd	PCARS Board Meeting at PCARS Club Site - 7 PM
February 10th	PCARS Monthly Meeting - 7 PM
February 15th	Freeze Your Acorns Off 2025
February 27th	Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

1st Tuesday Odd Months	Digital Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
1st Tuesday Even Months	HF WAS & DX Nets Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
2nd Tuesday	Portable Ops Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
3rd Tuesday	Antenna Special Interest Group - Moderator: Jim, AC8NT
4th Tuesday	DX & Contest Special Interest Group - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
5th Tuesday	Could Be Anything Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, KD8WCK

Hamfest Calendar

04/05/2025 – Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 69th Hamfest – Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH – [Learn More](#)

07/20/2025 – Van Wert Hamfest – Location: Van Wert, OH – [Learn More](#)



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 Red, Black, and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$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. Reach out to the club treasurer for details.



PCARS T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Jackets, Hats, etc. can be obtained from:
Villager Business Solutions - attn. Michelle Zivoder - michelle@villagerbusiness.com - 330-472-7304.

PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted!

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 over 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**



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.

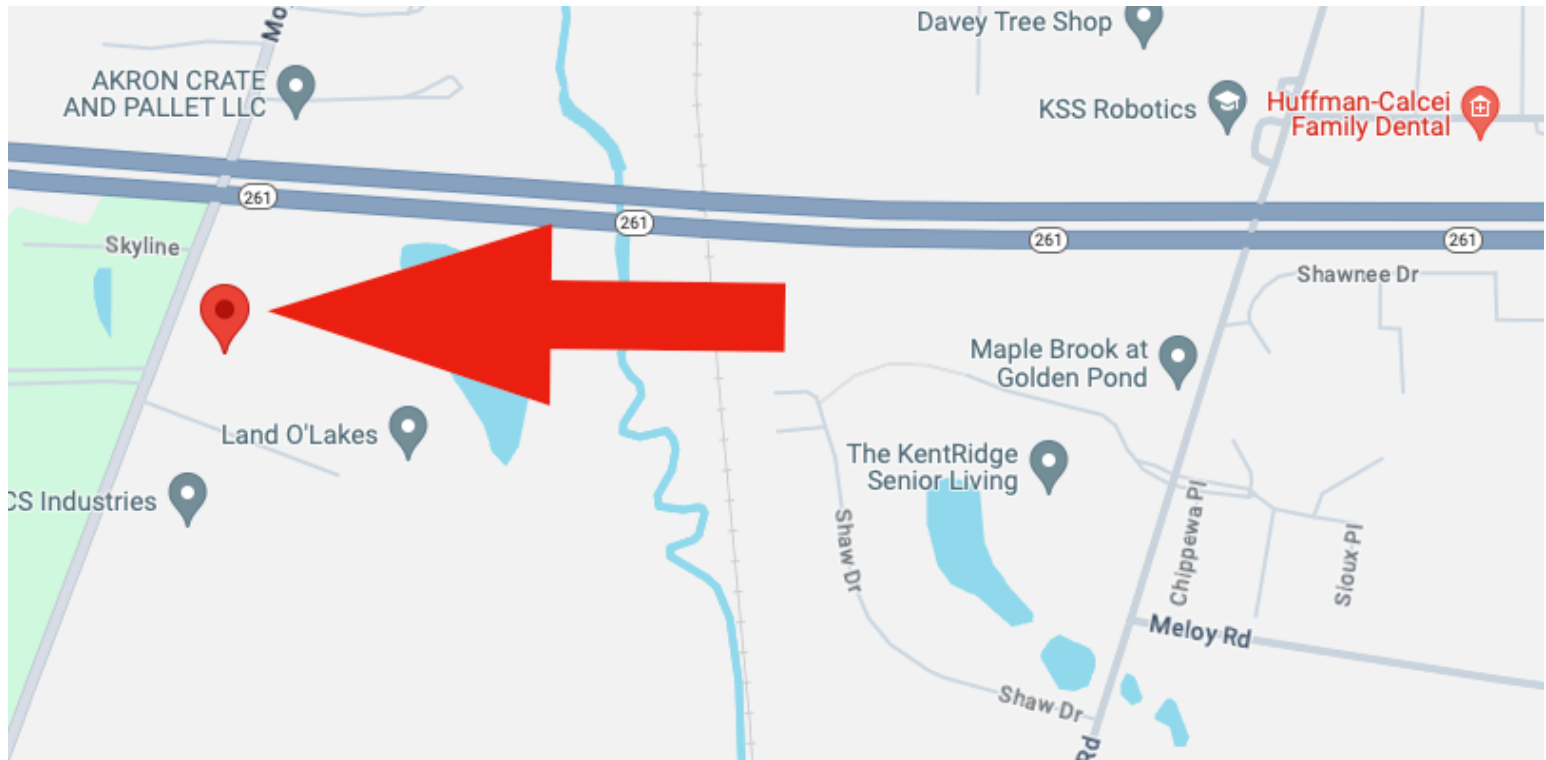
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at 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 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 the near the rear entrance into the Post 'Canteen'. As you enter the post from this entrance you'll see a bar to the left and a dining area to the right. The meeting area we'll be in is on the right, to the rear of the dining area.



The 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 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



Future Dates:

- February 4th
- April 4th
- June 5th
- August 8th

Check the website for the latest information

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison



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 or an upgrade to your existing license. Face masks are not State/County mandated at this time, but you are always welcome to wear one.

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for **9:45 am** Registration, **10:00 am** Testing starts, on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

Any questions? Contact KB8UUZ@gmail.com

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) **Taking Technician Test?** - You **MUST** apply for your **FRN** and get it prior to testing
- 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
- **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 other communicable germs, 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.
- Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
- NO cell Phones allowed.

First-Time Exam Applicants MUST Obtain FCC Registration Number BEFORE Taking Exam - 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/core/>

Email Addresses REQUIRED - All applications are 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 via regular mail.

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 upgrade to an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees**. The new fees will apply only to applications for a **new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign**.

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.

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.

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 VE 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.

Printing Your FCC 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](#)



J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor

It's been cold. Really cold. Keep the kids home from school cold. It gave me a chance to do a little work around the shack instead of heading out into the wilds of winter, I suppose. Not that I haven't gotten outside, but being in has certainly improved my POTA Hunting and gotten me on the air on CW more than I have been. All in all, January has been a good month for chipping away at ham radio goals.

Seeing everyone out and about in spite of the weather is heartening. It's great when the club can get together for something like the POTA Weekend event or any of the Parkspeditions that the club puts on. There really is something for everyone in PCARS and our SIGs really show it. If you haven't been to one in a while, maybe head out. It's nice to get to the club site once in a while.

I want to thank all of the members who put together stories for this month's issue. It's great to see the kit rigs that are out there and all of the work people are doing with their stations. I know I got more than a couple of ideas while reading through the stories for this issue. In fact, I bet there are more than a couple of you out there with whom these stories resonate. Why not take a minute and share them with the group?

Send all of your inputs to me at KC8JC@portcars.org in the form of plain text and full-size photos. We really want to hear all about it.

Thank you to all of those who sent inputs for this month's issue:

**AC8NT, K8CAV, K8ZT, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, KD8CGH, KD9ZDY,
N8QE. W8NET, W8PT, WG8X, WB2MGP, 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 PL 118.8 in Sugar Bush Knolls. - EchoLink Node: K8BF-L

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

2025 PCARS Officers

President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT
 Vice President - Russ Williams - NR8W
 Treasurer - Paul Hyland - KE8EGF
 1 Year Trustee - Mike Ryan - KB8TUY
 2 Year Trustee - Gene Marsh - W8NET
 3 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
 Past President - Mike Gonzalez - KP4VZ

2025 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards DXCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Site Management	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Field Day Chairman	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	-	-
Secretary	-	-
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	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

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

THE RADIOGRAM

The RADIOGRAM copyright ©2025, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Fourth Place 2024 - 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). 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

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