



# 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*

July 2024 - Volume 19 Number 07



## **PCARS K8BF**

*The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!*





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## From the President



**Mike, KP4VZ**  
PCARS President



### PCARS Calendar Highlights



PCARS Field Day was a blast! It was definitely a memorable event. A big shoutout to Chuck, W8PT for leading the Field Day team. A big thank you to everyone who joined in on the fun and made PCARS Field Day a huge success.

We're now in the second half of 2024, and with all the exciting PCARS activities lined up, time is sure to fly by. So, what's up next? There's a *Multi Club POTA event* at Lake Milton, OH on Saturday, July 27th, the annual *PCARS Cruise-In* at the Ravenna A&W on Thursday, August 8th, the 3rd *antenna build* of the year featuring a HF low power Dipole on August 13th, the *Ohio QSO party* and *BBQSO* on Saturday, August 24th, and the *Ohio State Parks On The*

*Air* contest on September 7th. With so much going on, be sure to make time to join in and have a great time with your fellow PCARS members. Check out our calendar at [https://www.portcars.org/wp/Calendar\\_PCARS.html](https://www.portcars.org/wp/Calendar_PCARS.html).

### Group Build

We are excited to announce our upcoming group build for the 3rd Antenna of the year, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 13th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. During this session, we will be assembling the DX Engineering Single-Band Low Power Dipole Kit. The cost to participate is \$20, with all funds collected going towards the PCARS general funds. We would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsor for this event, **DXEngineering**. For more details, please visit <https://www.portcars.org/wp/group-builds/>.



### Support

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported me during my first 6 months as president of this club. We continue working tirelessly every week to ensure that there are plenty of activities for all of you to participate in. I would like to give a special shoutout to John Myers, WG8X, and Brandon Mercer, KE8ARB, for volunteering their time on the antenna builds and their monthly POTA "ParkPeditions". Make sure to check out our website at [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org).

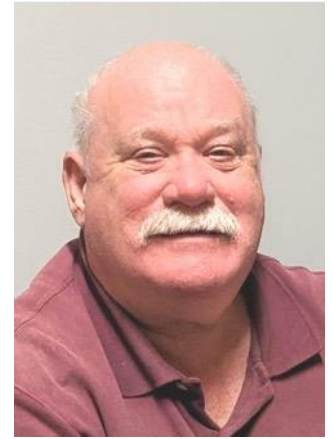
Additionally, we are considering conducting a winter technician license class and are in need of volunteer instructors.

As always, I am open to suggestions, so please feel free to approach me and let me know how we can improve the Club or if there's anything we're doing wrong. Rest assured, my ego will not be bothered. Thank you once again for your support!

## From the Vice President



**Ken, WA8LRW**  
PCARS Vice President



### June

- At the Monthly meeting we heard from Tony WA8AR our field day captain and all the station captains ( K8IV, N8WCP, KB8TUY, K8CAV, K3GP, AC8NT) on the plans for Field Day 2024.
- June 8 was a very well-attended flexible J-Pole build with multiple build stations set up, thanks to Jim Wilson. The stations made the build much better and easier for all the participants.
- June 11 was the portable operations SIG at the West Branch State Park. The SIG was well attended. It was great to get everyone together but with all the radios going we had more interference than contacts. Ken KB8OBA who arrived early was able to get his first successful park activation.
- June 22 was Field Day 2024 which was a great event. We had great participation and beat our score from last year and as I write this K8BF is number one in the 4A category on 3830Scores. We will have to wait until Dec to see our official ARRL standing.

### July

- July 8 Monthly Meeting will have a presentation by Ned Sterns AA7A on remote stations.
- July 20 PCARS will participate in the North American QSO party RTTY from the Club Station. See the DX/Contest SIG for more details.
- July 27 PCARS will participate in a Multi-club POTA at Lake Milton. See the Portable Operation SIG for more details.
- 



# PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



## Field Day 2024

**Tony, WA8AR**  
Field Day Chairman

Field Day 2024 went very well, especially considering the scorching heater had to deal with on Saturday. Fortunately, band conditions were good to very good, with the exception of 20 meters, where propagation was poor for most of Field day. I have not seen our official score yet, but from the preliminary numbers I believe we did very well. All of our stations performed very well, with only minor initial problems. As usual, we will not know our final standing until the official results are, published in QST, probably in the December issue. Regardless Field Day was a success for PCARS. However, the main thing is that everyone who participated had fun!

I would like to thank everyone who attended field Day, A HUGE special thanks goes out to the Station Captains and the entire FD Staff who worked throughout the year, planning and executing a long list of tasks that made Field Day a success. Also, A big thanks goes to the Volunteers who were essential for getting all the stations set up and, later, torn back down - Quickly - Efficiently - and Safely.

Congratulations to the entire Field Day Team!

Thank You Again!  
Tony Romito, WA8AR  
Field Day Chairman



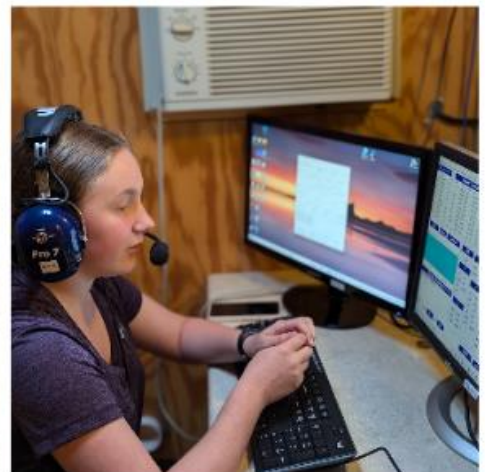
# Field Day 2024 in Pictures



Photos by Mike, KP4VZ

Getting the site ready, raising our antennas and setting up our equipment.

## Field Day 2024 in Pictures



Photos by Mike, KP4VZ

Hands on! Working stations at the 2024 ARRL Field Day.  
*CQ CQ Field Day this is K8BF Calling CQ.*

## Field Day 2024 in Pictures



Photos by Mike, KP4VZ

After a long day of setting up the antennas and equipment and preparing for the night shift, it was delightful to partake in a pleasant Field Day dinner.



# Field Day 2024 in Pictures



Photos by Mike, KP4VZ

Tearing down and packing away during a rainy day.



## 20M Field Day Station

**Mike, N8WCP**  
20-Meter Station Captain



Field Day 2024 is in the books and I'm looking forward to the final numbers to see how our club fared. Saturday started off hot and humid, but the team did a great job setting up antennas and stations. Band conditions on 20M were decent until the late afternoon when they began to deteriorate and the number of new stations to work dimensioned. The late shift switched to 80M and made numerous contacts which provided a big boost to the team's overall numbers.

The cooler temperatures were a welcome relief on Sunday and 20M opened allowing for additional contacts. The rain held off to exactly 2:00PM when it was time to tear down the stations, we all got a little wet, Hi Hi!

I would like to thank our station Ops who hammered away to make contacts: Bob-N8QE, Chuck-W8PT, Joe-KF8ADQ, Agnes-AD8IR, Ben-AD8FQ, Greg-KA8TOA, Ed-K8IV, Joe-W8KNO, Paul-KE8EGF, and Tim-W8GPN.

Special thanks to Tony-WA8AR our Field Day Chairman who coordinated the event, Rick-K8CAV for his work with Freedom Township to secure the facility, and Ken Hall-WA8LRW for setting up the Wi-Fi network and logging system. Truly a team effort by all who participated. Hope to see everyone at Field Day 2025!

73  
Mike-N8WCP



# PCARS 2024 Field Day at the Flex Station



**Rick, K8CAV**  
Flex Station Captain

2024 Field Day is now a wrap and we had a very successful operation at the Flex Station. This year Flex broke all previous records for number of digital QSO's made, with 594 total recorded. While almost all digital, Flex did conduct a two-hour period of phone operations on 10m and 15m as well.

Flex began Saturday at 0800 by starting set-up operations. We had a newly designed 5-band, 4-wire fan Inverted V to put up. As with all new antenna systems there were a few kinks to work out but things went smoothly. Very hot, humid, and sunny weather necessitated frequent shade and hydration breaks to ensure the safety of everyone. Once the antenna system was up, the generator was placed and power cables connected. Next, equipment was installed in the station trailer. Concurrently, the IT Team had setup and tested the wireless networking at the station. Station testing took place to make sure the station operated on all bands and in all modes planned. By 1130 Flex was ready to operate.

Flex Station operations started at 1400 on Saturday and continued uninterrupted through 1400 on Sunday, except for three generator refueling periods, which took less than five minutes each. Our plan was to start each period on FT4 and make QSO's until they tapped out, then move to FT8 to continue making QSO's. Operations started on 10m and 15m during daylight hours, then shifted to 20m as evening approached. From 2000 on Saturday to 0400 on Sunday, Flex and CW alternated two-hour periods on 40m and 80m. At 0400 Flex stayed on 80m, and started moving up to 20m and later 15m and 10m as daylight advanced and went into afternoon. At 1200 on Sunday, Flex shifted to phone on 15m and 10m to finish Field Day.

Tear-down started at 1400 and took less than an hour and a half to tear down, pack up, and get on the road. Rain started almost immediately at the start of tear-down but there was no lightning and it did not impact tear-down operations.

As the table shows, Flex did very well. We had our highest-ever digital QSO total and improved significantly from last year. One item of note was the success this year using FT4. In the previous two Field Day events, FT4 activity was very low, making it difficult to take advantage of its faster exchange rate. This year FT4 comprised a bit over 47% of digital QSO's, which undoubtedly helped in our improved contact numbers.

The achievement at Flex can be laid directly at the feet of the operators who volunteered to staff the Flex Station. All our operators worked diligently to grab every QSO available. I want to thank the following members who participated at Flex, I sincerely appreciate your efforts.

2023		2024		2023 to 2024 Difference	
Contacts	Hours	Contacts/ Hour	Contacts	Hours	Contacts/ Hour
498	22.0	22.6	549	22.0	25.0
					10.24% 10.24%

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Jim AC8NT     | J.C. KC8JC  |
| Bon N8QE      | Ken WA8LRW  |
| Agnus AD8IR   | Ben AD8FQ   |
| Rick KD8WCK   | Mara KE8KBJ |
| Mike KP4VZ    | Gene W8NET  |
| Andrew KE8BWA |             |

## Field Day Special Thanks



**Rick, K8CAV**  
Flex Station Captain

I wanted to give a very special THANK YOU to all of you who volunteered to help with setup and tear down during Field Day this year. You are the often unnoticed but oh-so-crucial folks that make sure our stations are put up and taken down quickly and effectively, regardless of what the weather is doing. GREAT JOB and thank you again for your efforts!

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

KE8MXR	John
N8XAD	Bob
W2THU	Robert
G0BPS	Dick

AC8QG	Nick
KD8LDG	Don
W8PT	Chuck
W3JL	Cory

KE8TFJ	Eric
N8QZ	Mark
WB9LBI	Bill

## Schedule of Events



- July 1<sup>st</sup> - PCARS Board Meeting at PCARS Club Site – 7 pm
- July 8<sup>th</sup> - PCARS meeting at the Kent American Legion - 7 pm
- July 25<sup>th</sup> - Net Night at the Club Site – 6:30 pm – 10 pm
- July 27<sup>th</sup> - Lake Milton POTA Activation – 9 am – 3 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.



**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](mailto:Treasurer@portcars.org)**

## 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>

## 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.



=====  
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](mailto:hamfest@w8vtd.com)

=====  
09/08/2024 – Findlay Hamfest – Location: Findlay, OH – Type: ARRL Hamfest – Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club – Website: <https://w8ft.org>

=====  
09/22/2024 – Cleveland Hamfest – Location: Berea, OH – Type: ARRL Hamfest – Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland – Website: <https://www.hac.org>

FOR SALE Tigertronics Signalink with cable SL-CAB6PM. This cable allows use with several different makes & models of radio. The jumper is installed for the FT-891 & FT-950. By changing the jumpers, this can be used with other radios More information at https://tigertronics.com/. If interested, contact John, WG8X at 330-936-5021, or wg8x.radio@gmail.com. [09/24]

FOR SALE FROM K8IG (non-smoking shack). All equipment working unless noted otherwise. Local pickup in Mayfield Village. Manuals for most equipment. Pictures available on email request. Offers invited.

Ameco PT-3 preamplifier (\$90.00); Collins 312b-4 winged emblem station console Serial # 314 (\$350); Drake MN-2000 Serial 1758 (\$300); LDG 600 Watt Autotuner AT600PROII with accompanying illuminated meter (rare- meter no longer manufactured) \$475; LDG Autotuner LDG AT-1000 (\$350); LDG AT-1000PROII (original Owner) with accompanying illuminated 1K meter (rare – meters no longer manufactured) (\$550); MFJ – 616 Speech Intelligibility Enhancer (\$125); Nye Viking Antenna Tuner MB-V-A 3KW, Serial # 10066 (\$450); Palstar mobile wattmeter PM2000am Serial # 26015 (\$150); Swan Cygnet 300 B Serial # 18547 Transceiver (\$400); West Mountain Rig Blaster PRO (\$25); YAESU YO-301 Monitor Scope (\$250); Hallicrafters SX-28 (2 available) for parts (\$50) each. (DXE) 12 meter add-on kit for 4-6 BTV (never used – bought Hexbeam and never installed this kit) (\$60); Heathkit SB-614 Station Monitor Serial # 504 (\$200).

Contact Fred, K8IG at K8IG@arrl.net; call 440-446-8000 or text 440-668-2400. [08/24]

ICOM 703 for sale. Never used. Pristine condition. Asking \$495. KA8RXW, Lee. ldk42@protomail.com [08/24]

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 - **Sunday March 10, 2024**

**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.

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!



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## Club POTA Activation

**John, WG8X**



Coming up on July 27th, there's another Club POTA activation. This one however may be different from what you've seen in the past. This one is being planned jointly by PCARS, and the Silvercreek ARA.

On the PCARS side of things, we'll be on the East side of at Lake Milton State Park in the Harry Meshel picnic area (590 Milton Ave). We've rented out both pavilions for the day. We'll be there from 9am – 3pm.

We'll be cooking hot dogs, and sloppy joes. Feel free to bring snacks, but all we really need you to bring is yourself.

There are three goals for this event:

- 1) Stoke up a lot of local POTA activity. We can do this by getting lots of local clubs on the air at the same time.
- 2) Give visitors the opportunity to see how different clubs set up for POTA. If many different clubs activate nearby parks, then visitors can travel around to see all the different setups.
- 3) Give operators the chance to operate portable. Bring your batteries & solar power if you have them.

Since this is still in the planning stages, we invite you to read the latest at <https://www.portcars.org/wp/club-info/club-activities/pota-field-trips/>.

For more information, please check with Brandon, KE8ARB (<mailto:bmercerc@eutonian.com>)

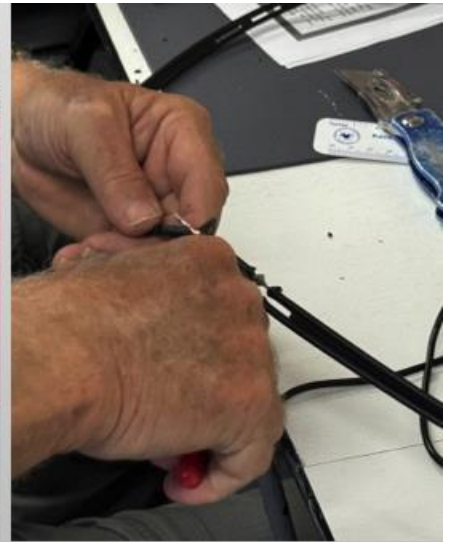
## Group Antenna Build

**John, WG8X**



On June 8th, 2024, at our club site in Ravenna, Ohio, we hosted a workshop on building a roll-up J-pole antenna for 2 Meter & 440 MHz. The construction process lasted around 2-3 hours. Attendees got to try out different tools and methods, such as crimpers, heat guns, VNA, and even got to install a BNC connector. It was a great experience for everyone!

The primary objective of this construction was to enhance the comfort level of individuals in the workshop. By doing so, they were able to create something practical that would be useful for most Hams. Instead of purchasing one, a roll-up J-pole can be easily constructed.



The upcoming group construction session is scheduled for August 13th (subject to change) from 7 – 9pm, at the club site. The project for that evening will be the builder's choice of either a 10 or 20 Meter dipole using the DX Engineering (DXE-DWK) single band Low Power Dipole Kits. To participate, please sign up on the website. If you have any inquiries, feel free to contact either myself, John, WG8X at [wg8x.radio@gmail.com](mailto:wg8x.radio@gmail.com), or Mike, KP4VZ at [kp4vz@yahoo.com](mailto:kp4vz@yahoo.com). 73 DE WG8X.





## PCARS Member Spotlight: N8QE

*Note From The Editor: This is a new series in The Radiogram where we will take a look at how different members came into the hobby and how they like to spend their time. The plan is to showcase the broad range of interests we have within PCARS and provide members with resources within the club for experimentation and some inspiration to try new things. It's also a great way to get to know our club members.*

I was first licensed as WN3FNT in Greenville, PA in 1966 at the age of 15 when a freshman in high school. My mentor was my Uncle Joe Novotny - K8QAT (SK) whose ham radio station, and his ability to communicate with other hams around the world so impressed me that I wanted to get my license. I really enjoyed going to hamfests with him.

I have also held the following other calls over the years as I moved around: WA3JDT, WB8FAR, WD8BRF, N8CMZ, and now N8QE. I have been Extra Class since August 2007.



I joined PCARS in 2007 after reading about them in a QST article, and attending one of their very welcoming monthly meetings at Mike's Place. I have been PCARS Treasurer, PCARS Trustee, and I am the currently K8BF Callsign Trustee, K8BF QSL Manager, plus Moderator for the PCARS Antenna Special Interest Group. Joining PCARS got my ham radio activity level high once again. I love contesting from the really nice PCARS World Headquarters contest station, and participating in the PCARS POTA events.

I belong to the following Ham Radio Clubs in addition to PCARS: QRP-ARCI #3014, 10-10 International #55415, SMIRK #6760, QCWA #33362 Chapter #1, Flying Pigs QRP #1795, SWODXA, and EPC #3048 plus the ARRL. I am a Volunteer Examiner. I am currently serving a 3 year term as National Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Director.

My current little pistol station consists of Icom IC-7300 & Yaesu FT-817 Radios with an 131.5 end fed antenna for HF bands, 6M & 2M horizontal loops, and 2M / 70CM J-Pole antennas. I am currently using FT-8 to chase DX on HF with 201 countries worked, and WAS on six meters with 44 states worked from my Tallmadge, Ohio location. I have qualified for Worked All States, Worked All Zones, & DX Century Club over the years.

My ham radio electronics interest led me to an Electrical Engineering Degree from Youngstown State University though my mother wanted me to be a doctor. I retired after a 33 year Engineering career with General Electric in March 2007 from their Lighting Business Group where I finished my career as Manager - Manufacturing Engineering & Product Quality HID. I retired from my second career at DX Engineering after 10 plus years in a Technical / Sales Support on October 2019. Now fully retired, I have more time to get on the air and operate my station to enjoy ham radio.

## Portable Ops Special Interest Group

**John, WG8X**  
Portable Ops SIG Coordinator



**Next Portable Operating SIG Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

Hi everyone, our next Portable Operations SIG will be on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. This month we'll be returning to PCARS World Headquarters at 705 Oakwood St, in Ravenna.

No doubt we'll be comparing notes on our Field Day weekends. But the main event will likely be the Multi-Club POTA event that is coming up in a few weeks. Look for more information elsewhere in the newsletter, and at portcars.org.

Feel free to join us on Zoom. Here's the info:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92154491950?pwd=cmZNSlFhZVRmcVg3L3pnazdrK1ZuUT09>

Meeting ID: 921 5449 1950

Passcode: 878917

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One tap mobile

+13092053325,,92154491950#,,,,\*878917# US

+13126266799,,92154491950#,,,,\*878917# US (Chicago)

## Digital Special Interest Group

**Rick, K8CAV**  
Digital SIG Coordinator



**Next SIG meeting will be Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM**

The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting will be held on Tuesday July 2nd at 7:00 PM at the PCARS Club Site. It will also take place on Zoom with link information below. We will be discussing digital operations at Flex and VHF during Field day, and will also be an open forum for all things digital.

As always, we'll be available to answer questions or provide help for any digital communications issue you may be having. I hope to see you there.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96814463409?pwd=bW51VFl2TllsZlNkajJ3NTRhaXVTUT09>

Meeting ID: 968 1446 3409

Passcode: 594134

## Antenna Special Interest Group

**Bob, N8QE**  
Antenna SIG Coordinator



**Next Antenna SIG meeting will be on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

The next meeting of the PCARS Antenna Special Interest Group will be July 16, 2024 at 7:00 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

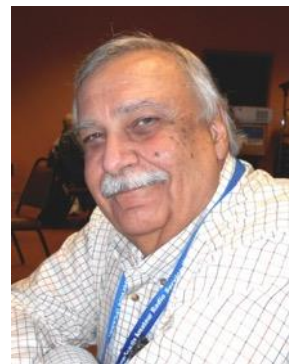
Passcode: 047804

At the June Antenna SIG we discussed various 6 meter antenna options for those with limited space constraints. We spent time helping two different members who were experiencing issues with their radios, and need help to get them resolved which we did.

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**

Hello from Parkman, OH where it's 73 F at 8AM. I guess I don't have to tell you how hot it's been. Well, some of us got together Tuesday, June 25 at 7PM at the club site to hold our monthly DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting. (the AC was on.)

Eight of us discussed a number of topics. However, I was surprised that no one checked in on ZOOM. Maybe several are still recovering from Field Day.

The first order of business was going over some of the interesting DX that will be coming up for July and a few months beyond. There were four of interest: St. Paul Is. (Aug 26-Sept 5); American Samoa (now until July 10); Rotuma (Nov) and Faroe Is. which is a ways off yet.

Some other interesting DX coming up or on the air now are: South Cook Is; Paxos Is; Kenya; French Polynesia and Cambodia.

We then turned our attention to the North American QSO Party - RTTY mode that takes place July 20-21. We will be putting K8BF on the air for this event and Ken, WA8LRW and Mike, N8WCP will be handling the setup of the rigs and computers and will also be doing a tutorial on a date (TBD) prior to the contest. Since the

only category open to us as a club is Multi-two, we will have only two operating positions on, at any one time. We will also be looking to set up a schedule for ops.

I will be sending out a QST mailing asking for ops to sign in when they want to operate. We will try to accommodate all requests if possible. The contest starts at 1800UTC (2PM local). The contest runs for 24 hrs, and we are still debating if we want to go until contest end at 0559UTC (2AM Local) on Sunday morning. More on this in the near future.

Till then, 73 and gud DXing and contesting.

Chuck W8PT

## *Flex Net*

***Rick, K8CAV***  
Flex Net Coordinator



**Next Flex Net: July 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM**

The next Flex Net will take place on Wednesday July 10th at 8:00 PM. This month's net will take place on 2 meters Simplex FM phone on 147.495 MHz, Technician class licensee holders have full privileges on 2 meters and I would love to see more of our Technicians on this net.

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!**

## *Could Be Anything Special Interest Group*

***Rick, KD8WCK***  
Could Be Anything SIG Coordinator



**5th Tuesday Could Be Anything SIG: July 30 at 5:00 PM**

For our 5th Tuesday SIG on Tuesday July 30, 2024 we have again set up a toy repair session for Replay for Kids. We had a lot of fun when we did this back in January and I'm sure it will be a blast again as usual.

Replay for Kids is a non-profit organization that modifies toys so that they can be operated and enjoyed by kids with disabilities. Naturally, toys that get used by kids get busted. Replay retrieves the broken toys from their service agencies and then arranges to have volunteers like us put them back into working order so they can go out to the kids again.

Timing details for our work session are a little tentative for now, and I will send a QST email as we get them confirmed. Tentatively we will set up by 5pm Tuesday July 30 at the club site 705 Oakwood St. in Ravenna, and work on toys until 9pm or so, as we did in January. Please feel free to come down as you are available, you don't need to be there at 5.

All tools and parts for the repairs are provided. You might bring a multimeter or continuity checker if you have one handy.

I have requested sewing repair items as well as the mechanical and electrical repairs that we have done in the past, and I will confirm that in a QST closer to the event date, as I know that at least a couple members and spouses expressed an interest in sewing repairs.

So, please save the date, Tuesday July 30, 2024, and join us at the club site for this fun work session. I will make QST updates confirming details as we get closer to the day.

73 de Rick KD8WCK

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:michelle@villagerbusiness.com) 330-472-7304



# PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



# Refurbishing A High Sierra Sidekick Antenna

*Gene, W8NET*

It's antenna season! This one was easy and fun. I always wanted to try a "screw driver-like" antenna. The issue was cost. I did NOT want a Yaesu ATAS-xxx, Diamond, MFJ, or other less capable antennas. I wanted a Tarheel, Scorpion, Hi-Q or a High Sierra.

Enter, my friend from the 3905 Century Club, Glenn Silver, KM4P. Glenn was trying to sell a couple items from an estate sale. One of the items was a "new in the box" High Sierra Sidekick. This was my chance. Done deal!

When the box arrived, I examined it very carefully. The box was opened, and a couple of the original packing foam pieces were not there. However, it looked like the original owner pulled out the antenna to look at it and put it back. It didn't even have fingerprints on it! It was pristine.

I believe my Sidekick was manufactured in 2004 or 2005 (but, that is a guess). The original owner was in Florida. That was an issue - I will explain later.

Newer High Sierra antennas used the very dependable Black Hawk Motor. I knew that I would not have a problem with the motor... ever. The I-box control box is VERY simple. It controls up and down, with a ICOM connector for power. That's it.

The first thing I did was cut the off the ICOM connector. I used a battery to power the antenna to check it out. Second, I turned it to the most-exposed coil position (higher height/lower frequency), then disconnected the power. Next, I disassembled the Lexan tube to expose coil; and disassembled the collar on top of the coil assembly.

Why worry about it being in Florida for 20 years? OXIDATION! If was in Arizona, or someone's closet in Montana, it would be less of an issue. But, 20 years of high humidity takes its toll.

My plan of action? 1) washed the coil down with contact cleaner. Same for the stainless steel 1/4" coil that makes contact with the copper induction coil; 2) wiped down the induction coil with DeOxIt (2 times); 3) with my finger, I spread a VERY, VERY thin layer of Jet Lube on the 1/4" stainless steel coil (for better conductivity and very small amount for lubrication). This is very important to do this often - a replacement 1/4" stainless steel coil is VERY hard to find.

Sidekick at a 40m position (see the exposed coil)

After reassembly, I connected the power and tried the antenna couple times, up and down. Smooth as silk!

Now, to try it on the air!





I will use the Sidekick mobile. However, I wanted to try it first before mounting it to my Jeep. I used a portable mount (that I have used many times before for portable operating and for POTA). It has 4 x 16" radials and a shunt coil.

I installed a 2' stainless steel mast on the bottom, and a 2' aluminum mast on the top. Then, I installed a DX Engineering Hot Rodz capacity hat.

The results were outstanding! I tuned every band from 75m to 10m, flawlessly. I will test it for a few more days before I install it on my Jeep. I hope to use my "new" Sidekick next week for a few POTA activations and then use it on my trip to the 3905 Century Club Eyeball in New Hampshire on September 5-8, 2024!

## From Around The World...



### Links from Here, There, and Everywhere

Remembering The Crystal Radio

<https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/remembering-the-crystal-radio>

The Future of Ham Radio! Palmer Junior Middle School's Ham Club!:

<https://www.bridgecomsystems.com/blogs/bridgecom-official-blog/the-future-of-ham-radio-palmer-junior-middle-schools-ham-club>

The May 10th superstorm electrified Earth's atmosphere

<https://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=18&month=06&year=2024>

The RigPix Database – Source of information and pictures of radios, accessories, and more!

<https://www.rigpix.com>

QO-100 Satellite Ground Station Complete Build:

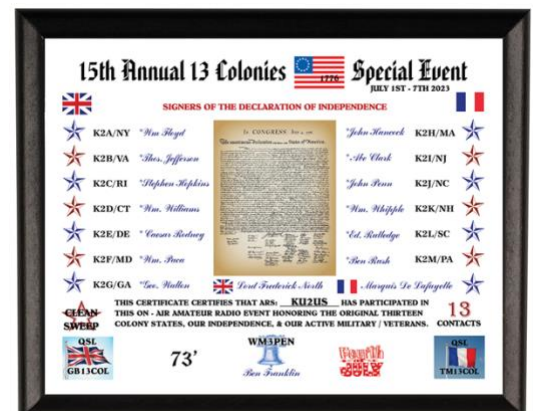
<https://m0aws.co.uk/?p=3105>

## 13 Colonies

The 13 Colonies Special Event will take place July 1-7, 2024. Operating times are July 1, 1300 UTC to July 8, 0400 UTC. Thirteen special call signs will be on the air, each one representing one of the original 13 British colonies that were established in 1607.

Three additional bonus call signs will be on the air representing Great Britain, France, and Philadelphia. All HF bands can be used, including the WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on 2 meters and 6 meters is encouraged.

The southeastern stations on the east coast are very close to each other. It will be harder for these states to contact each other so, use of 40-160 meters is encouraged. All modes of operation may be used, including SSB, CW, RTTY, and digital. The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state station. More information about logs, call signs, and QSL certifications can be found at The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event.





## On The Road with WG8X



*John, WG8X*



Hi everyone, I wish I could tell you all about my travels this last month, but to tell the truth, I let life get in my way. It's been a busy month for sure. There were some bright spots though. I haven't gotten to light up the new Ohio State Park yet, but hope to put it on my list for later this summer.

How was your Field Day? Mine was spent operating on 6 Meters from the W8LKY Field Day. The Friday & Saturday weather was challenging, but Sunday cooled off nicely; that is until the rain came.

The week of the Butler Hamfest, I managed to light up a couple new entities for me. One in WV, another in PA. Some were All Time New Ones (ATNOs) for the WWFF program as well.

Recently, I ordered a DigiRig as a replacement for the Signalink in my Go box. So far, I've only managed to mess with it while at home. You'll hear more about that next month.

For this month, I thought I'd do a recap of the DX Code of Conduct. POTA (Parks On The Air) advises in their rules that we should be following this code when operating. Better adherence to the code will make time on the bands more enjoyable for all of us.

That's all I have this month. So here's the DX Code of Conduct.

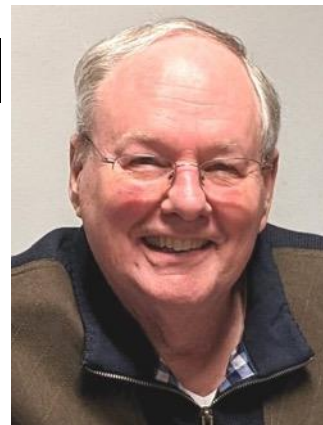
### DX Code of Conduct

1. I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.
2. I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
3. I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
4. I will not interfere with the DX station, nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
5. I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.
6. I will always send my full call sign.
7. I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
8. I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
9. I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
10. I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.
11. When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
12. I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
13. I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.



## Project Outreach

**Jim, AC8NT**



To increase public appreciation of ham radio and STEM, PCARS with the help of IEEE, will be holding demonstrations of ham radio and electronics at public venues. We currently have three events scheduled with at least two more in the works. These events feature on the air demonstrations of ham radio; demonstrations of SDRs exploring the radio spectrum; and various electronics projects. IEEE will be providing some great SWAG for visitors and help with demonstrations. If you would like to help with any of these events, please let me know by email at AC8NT@j3solutions.com.

### **“Tuning in Radio” at the Kent Public Library – Saturday July 13, Noon to 2 PM**

We will be setup inside the library with access to outside antennas. This event will take place as part of the Kent Blues Festival. The Kent Library is one of the event locations and will be hosting a Jack DiAlesandro at 2 PM. The library says traffic is always high on event days, so we have a great opportunity to introduce ham radio to the public. Check out the Blues Festival website and come out to enjoy ham radio and listen to some great blues.



### **“Tuning in Radio” at the Ravenna Public Library – August**

This event will be part of the library’s celebration of its new gazabo. It will be held on a Saturday in August. The exact date for the celebration will be determined when they are sure the construction will be completed. This is expected to be a well-attended event with lots of publicity. We will be setup in the new gazabo for the event. Lots of room for antennas and we should have a lot of visitors.



### **Kent State Aeronautics and Engineering Expo – Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM to 4 PM**

This Expo is one of the highlights of Kent State University. It is held at the Kent State Airport on route 59 in Stow. We will be setup in the hanger with plenty of access to external antennas. It always has an outstanding turnout with lots of things to see and many STEM activities. We are working with the College of Engineering Technology to make this a great event. Food trucks, airplanes, and events for kids and adults will also make this a lot of fun. What an opportunity for us to show how much fun our great hobby can be.



Jim, AC8NT

## 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 July 2024!

Well, the hottest months are now here and if you have tried to do some work outside, you probably gave up fairly soon. Many of you felt the heat while setting up for Field Day last month. I trust it was worth it for you and that you had a great time even with the hot WX. I know that PCARS members certainly were out in force for Field Day. For the most part, the bands cooperated. Especially 40 meters. That band was chock full of signals and unfortunately a lot of noise. Hopefully it will stay populated for the rest of the Summer.

Looking at July, there are a lot of DX scheduled and a few DXpeditions. Let's take a look at what's coming up for this month and the near future.

**Thanks to:** The Daily DX, DL5ON & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, 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**".

### July...

**6O3T, SOMALIA.** 6O3T Team will be active from Somalia, in 2024. Team - IV3JPP, IV3DSH, IZ8GCE, IV3ZXQ, IV3AZV, YL3JA. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, Digital modes with focus on Low Bands and 6m Band. QSL direct, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS. Turbulent territory, and not always easy to activate. Therefore, the date is TBA for security reasons.

**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.

**8Q7, MALDIVES (BIYADHOO IS.)** OE3DEC will be active as 8Q7EC from Embudu Village, Maldivian Islands, **IOTA AS - 013**, July 1-13, 2024.

**C5, GAMBIA,** Jean-Louis, F6ITS has just received his Gambian license and will be active as **C5GM** until December 2024. When not on his sail boat, he will QRV from Lamin Lodge (Grid: IK13qj). Jean-Louis says he has restarted CW after more than 10 years inactivity so is sorry for any mistakes and his slow speed. QSL info to follow.

**DL, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.** Special event stations DL2024E, DL2024U, DL2024R, and DL2024O are QRV until July 14 during EURO 2024, the 17th edition of the UEFA European Football Championship. QSL via bureau.

**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.

**GN7, UNITED KINGDOM.** GM7V Team will be active again from Benbecula Island, **IOTA EU - 010**, in RSGB IOTA Contest, 27 - 28 July 2024. Team - MM0CCC, MM0GPZ, GM0EGI, GM0LIR, GM4YXI, GM3WOJ. They will operate in Multi - Two High Power Category. QSL via N3SL.

**HL, REP. OF KOREA.** Team DT0IP (namely 6K2CFI, 6K2GRX, DS1TUW and DS1UDN) will be active from Munyo Island **IOTA AS-148** on 26-27 July, including part time participation in the IOTA Contest (27 July). They will operate SSB, CW, FT8 on 40-6 metres with two or three high power stations. Club Log's Livestream will be enabled. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, LoTW, or direct to 6K2CFI.

**I, ITALY.** Giovanni, IZ7FLP will be active as IC8K from Ischia Island **IOTA EU-031** from 30 June to 7 July. He will operate SSB, CW and FT8/FT4 on various bands. QSL direct to home call, or via LoTW in due course.

**I, ITALY.** Members of ARI Marsala (namely IT9BYS, IT9FUN, IT9FXV, IT9JLF and IW9APP) will be active as IQ9VG/p from La Scuola, one of the Stagnone Islands **IOTA EU-166**, on 13-14 July. They will be QRV on 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meters. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, or via IT9FUN (direct or bureau).

**K8K, AMERICAN SAMOA.** Yuris, YL2GM will be active as K8K from American Samoa, **IOTA OC - 045**, until 9 July 2024. He will operate on 160 - 10m. QSL via YL2GN, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS. K8K call sign is not confirmed yet.

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Special event station OE40LCR is QRV until July 31 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Austrian Albert Schweitzer Society. QSL via operators' instructions.

**OX, GREENLAND.** Bo, OZ1DJJ will again be QRV from western Greenland as **OX3LX** until July 16. He plans activity from grids GP47, GP60, GP80 and maybe some others during day trips; mainly active on 4/6m and some HF. A side trip to Christian IV island NA-151 might be possible. QSL via OZ0J.

**S7, SEYCHELLES.** Zsolt, HA8PX will be active from Takamaka, Mahe island, Seychelles as **S79/HA8PX** during July 5-10, 2024. QRV on HF bands; CW, SSB & FT8. Spare time operation. QSL via H/c, Club Log OQRS.

**T5, SOMALIA.** Alex, IT9HRK is QRV as T5/IT9HRK from Mogadishu. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using all modes. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via operators' instructions.

**TO7, REUNION IS.** Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be active as TO7PX from Reunion Island, **IOTA AF-016**, 8 - 18 July 2024. He will operate on 40 - 6m, SSB, FT8. He will operate on 40 - 6m, SSB, FT8. QSL via IK2DUW, LOTW.

**TR, GABON.** Roland, F8EN has been unable to be very active as TR8CR because of "problems with his amplifier". He is going back to France in the next few days for a family event, but expects to return to Gabon in early July with a new amplifier for at least a month.

**VP5, TURKS & CAICOS.** Adrian, AA5UK will be active as VP5/AA5UK from Providenciales Island, **IOTA NA - 002**, Turks and Caicos Islands, until 5 July 2024. He will operate on 40 - 6m SSB, Digital modes and also Satellites. QSL via AA5UK, LOTW.

**YB, INDONESIA.** Look for Ferdy **YB9MKF/P**, Herry **YC9MFD/P** and Nando **YD9LAU/P** to be active from Semau Island **IOTA OC-241** during July 4-7, 2024. QRV on HF bands. QSL via YB9BU.

**ZC4, UK SOVEREIGN BASE CYPRUS.** Adrian, G0KOM will be active as ZC4MK from the UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus (AS-004) on 10-17 July. He will concentrate on 6 metres, "with other bands a secondary consideration if 6m is not open". QSL via Club Log's OQRS, or via home call.

### Look Ahead & Reminders...

**7Q, MALAWI.** 7Q7MW Team will be active from Malawi, during end of the October 2024. They will operate on HF Bands, including activity in CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 26 - 27 October 2024.

**CY9C, SAINT PAUL ISLAND.** CY9C Team will be active again from Saint Paul Island, IOTA NA - 094, 26

**August - 5 September 2024.** They will operate on 160 - 6m CW, SSB, RTTY, EME, SAT, FT8. QSL via WA4DAN direct, OQRS, LOTW.

**N5J, JARVIS IS.** N5J Team will be active from Jarvis Island, IOTA OC - 081, 5 - 20 August 2024. Team on Island - AA7JV, N1DG, HA7RY, KN4EEI. 25 ops will be remote. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8. DXCC Country - Jarvis and Palmyra.

**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.

**XT2MD, BURKINA FASO.** XT2MD Team will be active from Burkina Faso, 31 October - 11 November 2024. They will operate on HF Bands and EME. QSL via IK2VUC buro or direct.

**XW, LAOS.** Vincent, F4BKV is QRV as XW4KV until the middle of 2024. He is active only on 15 meters. QSL to home call.

**YI, IRAQ.** Antonio, IZ5WPZ is QRV as YI9WPZ until August. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via IK2DUW.

My usual disclaimer: 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 ethers wobbling and work some DX. Uncover your rigs and put some power to them! If you happen to have boat anchors, light up those tubes.

**Get on the air and work some DX!! 73 for now....*Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner***  
**Get on the air and work some DX!!**

***73 for now....Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner***



**PCARS K8BF**

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



# June Meeting Photos



# 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.

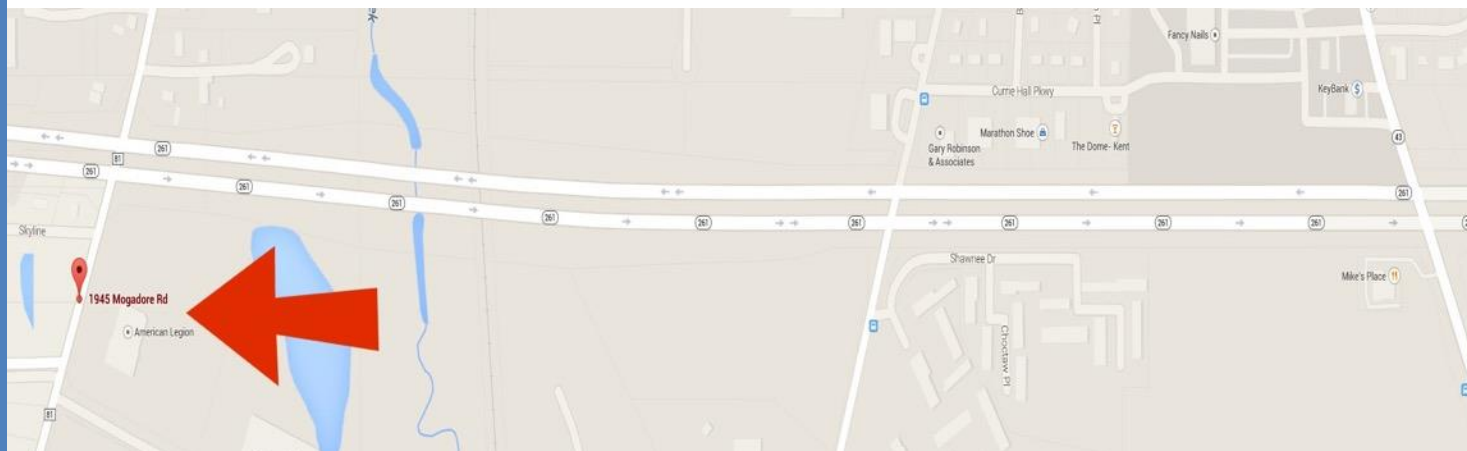


# PCARS Meetings

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



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



The American Legion Post 496 is located on the southeast corner of State Route 261 and Mogadore Rd. The driveway is on the south side of the building and as you enter you will pass through a parking lot on the south side of the building. Please do not park in this lot but instead continue on to the parking lot on the east side of the building which is 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 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

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*\* Check the website for the latest information \*\*\***

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](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com)

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## 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](mailto: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**

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## 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**

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**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/cores/>

**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.

**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**

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at [www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program](http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program).

## 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](#)













# My Last Word on Knots

Jim, AC8NT

## Knots We Talked About and Those We Missed and Need to Know

We had some fun at Field Day with knots. A skill more hams need to master. We learned that a good knot must be effective (do what it is supposed to do); must be easy to tie and untie; and work with a variety of ropes, especially synthetic rope. We looked at knots for tying two ropes together (bends), tying ropes to other things (hitches), and making loops in the rope or at its end. Some of the knots we talked about are shown on this page. Instructions for tying a variety of knots, including these, can be found at [animatedknots.com](http://animatedknots.com).

	Fisherman's Bend		Buntline Hitch
	Hunter's Bend		Highwayman's Hitch
	Square Knot		Bowline Loop
	Midshipman's Hitch (Version of Taut Line Hitch)		One Handed Bowline Loop (Rescue Knot)
	Clove Hitch		Alpine Butterfly Loop

However, I forgot to cover a couple of knots that are also important to hams. The first is a knot that is secretly passed between the spouses of hams. It is known as the "Budget Knot". A picture of this knot is shown here. It is tied by the spouse before we go to Hamvention using steel core paracord and doused in super glue. It is almost impossible to untie or cut with a knife. Hams should have a very good set of cuts at the ready to prepare for its appearance.



The second knot is the Trucker's Hitch. This knot can be very frustrating to tie. So frustrating, a music video has been created to show how the knot is tied. Please click the following link to view this training video. It is a lot of fun to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUHgGK-tlmY>

## Thanks & 73

**J.C., KC8JC**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor



I don't know about you, but June flew by for me. With a new antenna at home, I'm on the air and catching things on bands I never could before. It's like starting the hobby anew. I highly recommend it! I'm also hoping that you had a fantastic Field Day. It was great for PCARS and the articles in this issue show it.

I'm looking for volunteers to tell their stories as a featured club member for our next issue. Thanks to Bob N8QE for stepping up this month and telling his story. You could easily be the next member featured in the pages of The Radiogram. Just drop me a note!

Send your inputs on any ham radio topic to me at [KC8JC@portcars.org](mailto:KC8JC@portcars.org) and you will find yourself in the great company of our many prestigious newsletter contributors.

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

**AC8NT, K8CAV, KB8UUZ, KD8WCK, KP4VZ, N8QE, N8WCP, W8NET  
W8PT, WA8LRW, WA8UWV, WG8X and the World Wide Web.**

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



More on this antenna soon. Who knew there were so many bands to work?!

# 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](http://www.PORTCARS.ORG)



~ 2024 Officers ~	2024 PCARS Appointments & Committees		
President – Mike Gonzalez – 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, 2024	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 Leggiro
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

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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.

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