

# PCARS

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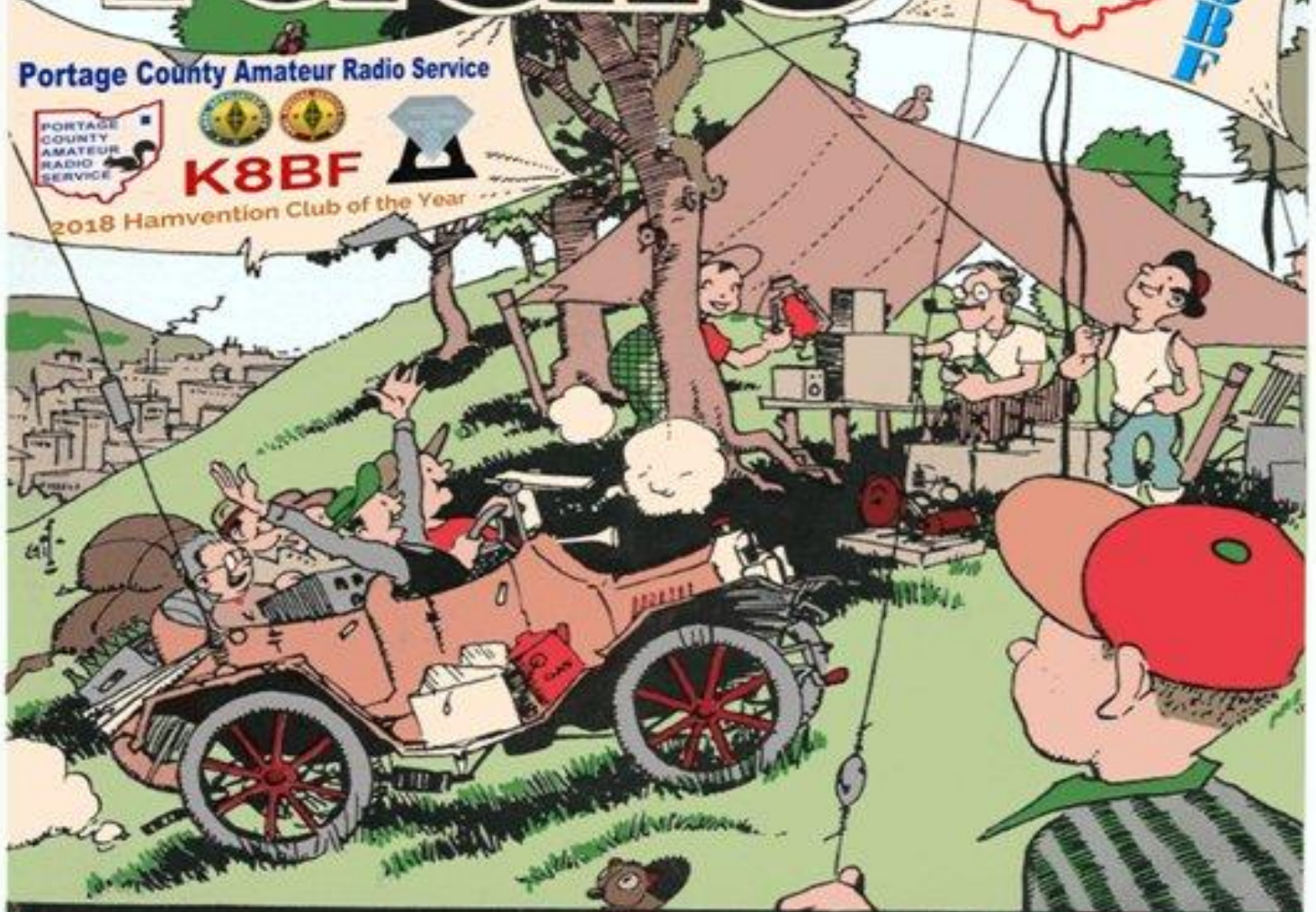
# amateur radio



Portage County Amateur Radio Service



2018 Hamvention Club of the Year



A. R. R. L. FIELD DAY, JUNE 24-25



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Portage County Amateur Radio Service

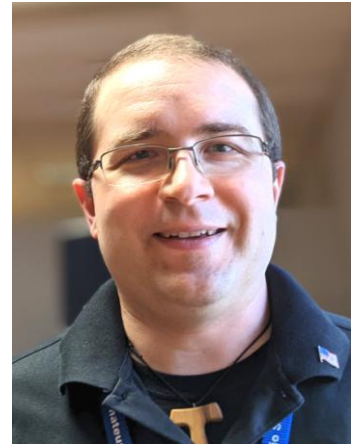


2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

## From the President



**Nick, AC8QG**  
PCARS President



### 2023 Hamvention



Hamvention this year was an absolute blast for my family! We once again camped at Caesar Creek State Park, and we were able to fully immerse ourselves in all three days of the event. The kids were beyond thrilled to meet their "radio friends" in person and even make some new friends this time around. And I managed to exercise some self-restraint and avoid breaking the bank despite all of the cool toys on display. All in all, it was a resounding success for the Wagner family!

PCARS once again took center stage as a featured sponsor of the Youth Forum. Our very own honorary lifetime member, Carole Perry WB2MGP, spoke highly of our club and its unwavering support for youth. The organizers of the Youth Forum and the young participants themselves are undoubtedly very grateful for our continued support.

### Field Day

The countdown has begun! Field day is almost here! I hope many of you will join us for setup and teardown, our Field Day dinner on Saturday, and of course, operating during the event! We have a great team leading the way, and we're prepared to put our best foot forward. Whether this is your first Field Day or your fiftieth, it's going to be a lot of fun!

All the details are here in this newsletter, so check those out and plan to be there!

### Volunteers Needed

Now and then, our dedicated PCARS members have to step down from their positions for various reasons. Additionally, we have term limits in place for officers and trustees, which means we require new members to step up and run for these roles periodically. Whether a position becomes vacant due to circumstances or election time approaches, it's crucial for our club's vitality to have "new blood" in leadership, bringing in fresh perspectives and ideas. When a position opens up or election season approaches, I encourage you to consider joining PCARS' leadership team. Your contribution will help us maintain the enjoyable and thriving community that makes our club stand out in the world of Amateur Radio.

### Final Thought

Don't forget, PCARS and ham radio are all about having fun! So go ahead and actually enjoy the gear you've invested in. Explore new knowledge, make exciting contacts, and make the most out of your hobby.



## From the Vice President



**Jim, AC8NT**  
PCARS Vice President



### Monthly Meetings

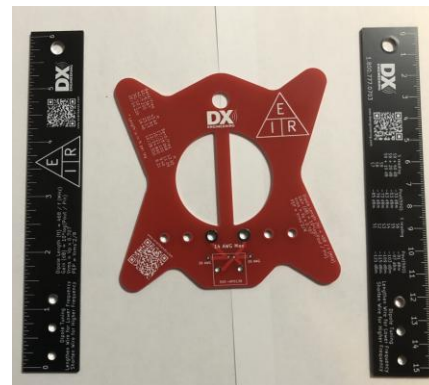
Hope everyone enjoyed the presentation by Clint Bradford of AMSAT. He had some great information and some humorous points. The June meeting will have a presentation by Rob Sherwood on “Picking your next radio”. I understand he will have some very interesting recommendations for your next spending opportunity.

### Hamvention



JC, KC8JC and I had some serious fun at Hamvention this year. The high point was picking up a couple of the new QMX kits from QRP-Labs. This transceiver has serious potential for portable digital and CW operations. We had to wait for Hans to get home and upload the assembly instructions, but assembly is now in progress. Hans is still working out some bugs in the firmware which should be released soon. Can't wait to get this rig on the air.

The second highlight was visiting the DXE booth. As soon as we arrived, Parky, KB8UUZ handed both of us a kit of parts for building a simple dipole antenna. The kit contained a winder that can be equipped with a BNC connector and two insulators that are also rulers. All the parts were printed circuit boards and had a lot of useful information on the boards including the lengths of wire for various antennas. Troy at DXE said they will be offering these parts as a kit with the BNC and other items. This will make a great build day activity.



### Chameleon Look-a-like

I have spent some very enjoyable hours building a portable vertical to take to the park. The most fun was designing the matching network UnUn to give a good match to my IC-705 without the use of a tuner. After lots of reading, I settled on a 5:1 match followed by a 1:1 current balun. I loaded it up and except for a portion of 40 meters, I have a working antenna that fits in a small 30” long bag. It takes about 10 minutes to setup and teardown. With summer upon us, I see some fun times coming.

### Field Day

I will have the GOTA station this year. We score 5 points for every GOTA contact. If you know any new hams, regardless of license class, or any young people that would like to get on the air, tell them to come out to field day. We get points and they will get on the air. A great combination.

Please try to get on the air outside this summer. Take your favorite QRP rig into the back yard, in the shade, with a nice cold drink and make a few contacts.

## Schedule of Events



- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - VE Testing at at the club site - Starts at 10 am
- June 5<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Board Meeting at the club site & Zoom - 7 pm
- June 12<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting at the Kent American Legion - 7 pm
- June 14<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Flex Net - 8 pm
- June 24-25<sup>th</sup> - FIELD DAY



### Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

- First Tuesday - **Digital Special Interest Group** - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
- 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

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

AD8FQ	Ben
KE8LWO	Bernadette
KD8LIR	Jennifer
KD8JN	Randall
KC8YSU	Steven
N8NH	Mark
AC8XO	Vince
K8PJW	Philip

KD8WCK	Richard
KD8EPF	Rena
KD8SIZ	John
WB8OVQ	Bob
K8HGX	Jack
W8CDL	Coletta
KB8VJO	Gary
WD8DAU	Dan



## PCARS IO Group

Members are reminded that PCARS has a IO Group site dedicated to PCARS. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list for important PCARS information.

Check out the PCARS IO Group at:  
<https://groups.io/g/PCARS>

### Two things every member should do.

1. Check the PCARS web site every day, maybe a couple of times a day, to see new info that's posted.
2. Join the PCARS IO Group. That's a great place to post message when you are looking for information or have a question about something. Try it - you just may like it!!



# RF Exposure Calculator



The FCC has changed its RF-exposure rules, eliminating service-specific exemptions from the need to do a routine RF-safety evaluation and replacing those exemptions with a formula that applies to all radio services. See the [FAQ on the ARRL RF-Exposure page](#) for more information. The rules did not change the exposure limits nor the two-tiered exposure environments for controlled and uncontrolled exposure. The controlled limits generally apply to amateurs and members of their household if those people have been given instructions by the amateur about RF safety. The uncontrolled limits apply in all other circumstances, such as exposure to the general public.

To use the RF Exposure Calculator, you fill-in a form with your operating power, antenna gain, and the operating frequency. Depending on how far above ground the RF source is located, you might want to consider ground reflections — and then click "Calculate".

You may need to run the calculator multiple times to get a complete picture of your situation, i.e. take into account the antenna's lobes and directionality.

[View detailed instructions](#) for each parameter. (opens in new tab/window)

Instructions: <http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calc-instructions>

More information: <http://arrl.org/fcc-rf-exposure-regulations-the-station-evaluation>  
<http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator>

## Parameters

- Power at Antenna: (Need help with this?)  (watts)
  - Mode duty cycle:
  - Transmit duty cycle: (time transmitting)  
You transmit for  minutes then receive for  minutes (and repeat).
  - Antenna Gain (dBi): (Need help with this?)
  - Operating Frequency (MHz):
- Include Effects of Ground Reflections

If you would like to receive future announcements of any FCC news related to RF-exposure or the requirements for amateurs to evaluate their stations, you may optionally provide an email address.

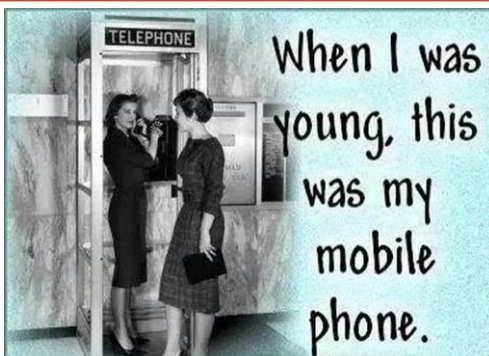
Email Address: (optional)	<input type="text"/>
Comments: (optional)	<input type="text"/>

## Results for a controlled environment:

Maximum Allowed Power Density (mw/cm<sup>2</sup>):   
Minimum Safe Distance (feet):   
Minimum Safe Distance (meters):

## For an uncontrolled environment:

Maximum Allowed Power Density (mw/cm<sup>2</sup>):   
Minimum Safe Distance (feet):   
Minimum Safe Distance (meters):





*John, WG8X*



### Hamvention and then some



Well, can you believe that this month is almost gone? It's been one of those months here for sure. Coming in to May, I was finishing my Kilo award for Zepernick Wildlife area down towards Lisbon. A Kilo is earned by generating 1000 contacts from a given park. That being done, I'm now working on my Kilo at Quail Hollow Park, which is near Hartville.

Let's start off this month with Kudos to MY friend, Nathan, N8NI. Nathan recently completed activations of all 271 POTA references in Ohio! Yep, Nathan worked them all! We've had occasion to meet up over the last couple years, as his job takes him literally all over the state. Congratulations Nathan!



Hamvention was hands down, my largest rove of the month. Since I'm still working on the activated all Ohio (POTA) References award, I headed to the area a day early so I could activate some parks in the area. It worked out very well; when the smoke cleared, I had activated 10 New-to-Me parks. This brings my total to 201 Ohio parks activated; 70 to go. By the way, when I say park, I'm referring to other things as well, such as State Wildlife areas, Nature Preserves, Historic sites, etc.



By the time, I arrived home, after Hamvention, I had rolled up 837 miles on the odometer. Subtracting for the travel to & from NE Ohio, I travelled almost 400 miles last weekend. This includes the 3 trips to and from the show itself, but still that is a lot of time behind the wheel!

In years past, the POTA plaque event ran concurrently, with the Summer Support Your Parks weekend. For the first time ever in 2023, the plaque event is being rolled out into its own event. It is scheduled for the 1st weekend in June. You can read all about this year's plaque event at [https://docs.pota.app/docs/award\\_events/plaque\\_event/plaque\\_event.html](https://docs.pota.app/docs/award_events/plaque_event/plaque_event.html)

This year, QRP labs introduced their QMX kit. It's a five band 5W 80-20 digital/CW transceiver. When I tried to stop by the QRP Labs booth on Saturday, the buyers were stacked 3 deep, but by Sunday morning, I was able to get close enough to the table to purchase a couple of them.

They are working on a firmware upgrade which adds SSB to the rig, but I suspect they downplayed that to keep from being deluged with eager buyers.

If you've been watching the PCARS Groups.io group, you've seen that several of these kits are in the hands of eager PCARS members.

There was also a local recycle company that was at Hamvention selling computers, laptops, etc. They had some 1st Gen iPad airtags. They are an older iPad, and will only run to IOS 12, but that's fine for my needs. I'm using it mostly for e-mails, and as an E-Reader. I'm finally getting up to date on reading my QSTs!

This little iPad actually seems to do voice recognition better than my iPhone 13. In fact, I used it to dictate the first draft for this month's article.

My big deal from Hamvention was orange iambic paddle from N3ZN. So far, I've found Tony's work to be awesome! It's a good solid key, and I no longer have to keep my left hand on top of the paddles to hold them from moving around. Yes, I do have a heavy fist on CW.



Of course, what Hamvention would be complete without a bit of rain? Yes, we got



some rain, but it was in the form of a very minor shower overnight Friday. It ended around 8 AM Saturday, and it turned into a beautiful day in Xenia. I hit a couple of the forums on Friday this year, and was very pleased with the content. First, our own Tom, WB8LCD spoke on "The Importance of Amateur Radio Clubs".



Afterward, I attended the Parks On The Air (POTA) forum. The growth of POTA in the last year has been phenomenal!



## Official Dayton Style

Call sign hat bought in 1996  
Must have font from 1980s and cost less than \$3.00

Hawaiian shirt (khaki safari vest optional)

Shorts below the knee because...actually, no one knows why

Calf high socks - no exceptions

White New Balance cross trainers (black Reeboks optional)





# Photos from Hamvention®





## Hamvention® Youth Forum

*Carole Perry, WB2MGP*



## Hamvention® Youth Forum



This year's 6 fabulous young presenters at the Hamvention® Youth Forum.

From left to right:  
**Lyle Strachan - KE0ZNV**  
**Javan Miller - W8UA**  
**Collin Holdsworth - K0NNK**  
**Carole Perry - WB2MGP**  
**Landon Baumgartner - KE8TJU**  
**Katie Campbell - KE8LQR**  
**Grace Papay - KE8RJU**

## RCA Young Ham Lends a Hand Contest Winner



*Carole Perry, WB2MGP*



What a whirlwind of fun at Hamvention 23! We were lucky enough to have 2 great winners this year. Kees Van Oosbree W0AAE was the other winner who was not in attendance at the Youth Forum.

### **Congratulations to Bernadette, KE8LWO!**

Bernadette was named one of two 2023 winners of the Young Ham Lends a Hand award from the Radio Club of America.

As read by Carole Perry WB2MGP at the Hamvention Youth Forum:  
*“Bernadette's dedication to recruiting other young people into ham radio, her involvement in her ham radio club and scouting community, her commitment to community service through her church, and her selflessness in helping her younger siblings are all examples of her outstanding character and her desire to make a positive impact on the world.”*



# Field Day 2023



**Tony, WA8AR**  
Field Day Chairman



I hope ever one is ready and looking forward to Field Day 2023 (June 24<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>)! Last Year was a good time and was also successful. As most of you know, K8BF again placed 2<sup>ND</sup> in the nation in class 4A, 1<sup>ST</sup> in Ohio and 1<sup>ST</sup> in our Section. That result was achieved thanks to a large number of our fellow members volunteering to pitch in and help with all aspects of our Field Day planning, preparation and operations. However, AGAIN, this year we are shooting to better our score and take PCARS to first place in the nation in our operating class! I believe that we have learned a lot from the past, so that we WILL fine tune our Field Day practices to enhance our score and bring home a National 1st place finish for PCARS. To that end we still need operators and volunteers to assist with setup before FD and teardown afterwards:

## Operators Needed

The 20 meter station has a number of slots open for the overnight hours. This year the 20 meter station will setup to operate voice and digital modes on both 20 meters and 80 meters (nighttime). The decision to switch to 80m at night will depend on propagation. If you are interested please contact Mike, N8WCP. Nighttime operations at this station are a crucial piece of our strategy to win BIG this year.

The Flex station also still needs operators for several slots. The Flex Station is designed for operation on multiple bands between 80 meters and 10 meters; able to use voice and digital modes, with the primary emphasis on digital modes. For more information please contact Rick, K8CAV. A good performance by the Flex station is another crucial piece to our success this year.

The GOTA Station can only be operated persons that were licensed since the previous year's Field Day OR may be operated by any generally inactive licensee. ALSO, non-licensed persons may also participate (Get ON The Air) under the direct supervision of a licensed control operator (basically any interested person can show up, with no experience and make contacts as if they were licensed). Anyone interested should contact Jim, AC8NT.

## Volunteers Needed for Setup/Tear Down

As we have done in recent years I will need **at least 14 volunteers** to assist the Field Day team with Setup and Tear down of antennas and stringing power cables from the main generator to stations. If you have done this before, great, but you do not need any experience to volunteer. The Captain for each station will direct all work for their station. If you are a new Ham this is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience putting up a variety of antennas. Setup has normally been completed in about 2 to 3 hours (more or less). Teardown after Field Day has been done in less than 2 hours. If you cannot volunteer for both, no problem, just let me know which task(s) you are volunteering for (Tony, WA8AR [tromito99@gmail.com](mailto:tromito99@gmail.com)) . The Club will supply coffee and water plus pizza for lunch(s).

## Here are the Field Day setup/teardown schedules:

**Prior to Field Day**, a detailed **Safety Plan** will be distributed to all volunteers. Each Volunteer must read and be familiar with the safety plan. Each Volunteer must sign, date and return a copy of the plan to the Safety Officer. Distribution of the safety plan will be accomplished at least three weeks prior to FD.

## SETUP Saturday June 24

- 8:30am Arrive on site (meet at the picnic shelter of the Freedom Township Park) PLEASE BE PROMPT
- 8:40am Assignment of work tasks
- 8:45am Begin Work
- 12:30pm Antennas up and ready for testing; power cables strung and energized [Pizza Lunch]
- 2.00pm Field Day Stations On-The-Air

## **TEARDOWN Sunday June 25**

2:00pm Stations Off-The-Air Work begins immediately [Pizza Lunch served before 2:00]

3:30pm All antennas down and stowed for transport. Power cables coiled up. Field Day over and done.

The only equipment the volunteers need to bring are gloves and safety glasses (**REQUIRED**). Steel toe shoes are always a good idea. Rain gear is essential (just in case). If shoes/boots are not waterproof an extra pair of dry shoes and socks are a good idea. The club will supply a dozen basic hardhats, but I encourage you to bring your own hardhat if you own one. **Hardhats must be worn** whenever you are working in an area where there is any equipment (antenna components) or any hardware above your head. Remember that even a medium size bolt falling from 25 or 30 feet can cause serious injuries (or worse).

**To volunteer for the PCARS Field Day Setup/Teardown crew** just send an email to me at [tromito99@gmail.com](mailto:tromito99@gmail.com), Specify if you are volunteering for Setup, Teardown or Both as soon as you can. I will confirm by email.

Come out and help make 2023 another successful PCARS Field Day! Email me with any questions.

## *Field Day 2023 - CW Station*



**George, K3GP**  
CW Station Captain



As has been the tradition since 2018, PCARS CW operations will be conducted in a dedicated trailer out of the sun and any inclement weather.

We still need several more CW operators for field day as shown by the open slots in the schedule below.

Keep in mind that each CW QSO is worth 2 points, and most CW contacts are conducted at moderate speed. Come help PCARS work toward being the top 4A operation this year

If you would prefer the 2000-2300 (local Time) Saturday slot, I would be happy to take one of the open slots on Sunday instead. You can contact me by phone at 330-495-9123 or email: [rttyfan@gmail.com](mailto:rttyfan@gmail.com)

DAY	UTC	LOCAL TIME	OPERATOR
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	1800 - 2100	2 PM - 5 PM	WB9LBI
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	2100 - 0000	5 PM - 8 PM	N8NB
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	0000 - 0300	8 PM - 11 PM	K3GP
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	0300 - 0500	11 PM - 2 AM	K8RR
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	0500 - 0800	2 AM - 5 AM	-- OPEN --
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	0800 - 1200	5 AM - 8 AM	-- OPEN --
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	1200 - 1600	8 AM - 12 PM	K8FF
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	1600 - 1800	12 PM - 2PM	N8QE



# Field Day 2023 - 20 Meter Station



**Mike, N8WCP**  
20 Meter Station Captain



## Calling all Ops!

Things are shaping up for a Field Day! The Field Day antenna was set up for testing and is ready to go. Its segmented inverted V that will allow us to work 20M but if the band goes south at night, we'll have the ability to work 80M.

Rick, K8CAV gave those interested a refresher on operating the IC-7300 and Ken, WA8LRW presented operating FT4/FT8 in Field Day mode.

We still have a few openings for OPs if you're interested. Many thanks to Joe, W8KNO for offering to cover the 4:00A - 8:00A slots if nobody volunteers for those spots. If you're interested in operating, send me an email at [n8wcp.us@gmail.com](mailto:n8wcp.us@gmail.com).

DAY	UTC	LOCAL TIME	OPERATOR
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	1800 - 2000	2:00P - 4:00P	Bob, N8QE
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	2000 - 2200	4:00P - 6:00P	Chuck, W8PT
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	2200 - 0000	6:00P - 8:00P	Mike, N8WCP
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	0000 - 0200	8:00P - 10:00P	Greg, KA8TOA
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	0200 - 0400	10:00P - 12:00A	Ben, AD8FQ & Agnes, AD8IR
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	0400 - 0600	12:00A - 2:00A	-- OPEN --
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	0600 - 0800	2:00A - 4:00A	Joe, W8KNO
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	0800 - 1000	4:00A - 6:00A	-- OPEN --
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	1000 - 1200	6:00A - 8:00A	-- OPEN --
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	1200 - 1400	8:00A - 10:00A	Bob, N8QE
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	1400 - 1600	10:00A - 12:00P	Chuck, W8PT
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	1600 - 1800	12:00P - 2:00P	Mike, N8WCP



# Field Day 2023 - Flex Station



**Rick, K8CAV**  
Flex Station Captain



## 2023 PCARS Flex Station

Field Day is a month away and we are well on the way to getting the Flex Station ready for some **K8BF BIG FUN** contributions to PCARS Field Day 2023. As you can see from the schedule below, the Flex Station is fully staffed for the Field Day period **BUT** if you still want to operate at Flex, let me know. Some of the operators double slotted and would be willing to give up one slot if you want to contribute your digital expertise at the Flex Station.

Operators for Flex are important, but equally important are volunteers to help set-up on Saturday Morning, and tear-down on Sunday afternoon. I'd like to have five volunteers for set-up and tear-down to help out if at all possible; you don't have to volunteer for both.

If you want to help with operating, or with set-up and tear-down, please let me know by email at [k8cav.coms@gmail.com](mailto:k8cav.coms@gmail.com). Thanks, and I am looking forward to a fantastic Flex Station operation during PCARS Field Day!

DAY	LOCAL TIME	Mode	OPERATOR(S)
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	2:00P - 4:00P	10M, 15M PH, DIG or CW; 20M DIG *	Jim, AC8NT & JC, KC8JC
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	4:00P - 6:00P	10M, 15M PH, DIG or CW; 20M DIG *	Bob, N8QE
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	6:00P - 8:00P	10M, 15M PH, DIG or CW; 20M DIG *	Ken, WA8LRW
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	8:00P - 10:00P	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Ken, WA8LRW
SAT 24 <sup>TH</sup>	10:00P - 12:00A	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Gene, W8NET & John, KE8MXR
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	12:00A - 2:00A	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Rick, KD8WCK & Mara, KE8KBJ
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	2:00A - 4:00A	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Rick, KD8WCK & Mara, KE8KBJ
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	4:00A - 6:00A	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Mike, KP4VZ
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	6:00A - 8:00A	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Gene, W8NET & John, KE8MXR
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	8:00A - 10:00A	10M, 15M PH, DIG or CW; 20M DIG *	Andrew, KE8BWA
SUN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	10:00A - 12:00P	10M, 15M PH, DIG or CW; 20M DIG *	Bob, N8QE
n8qe	12:00P - 2:00P	10M, 15M PH, DIG or CW; 20M DIG *	Agnes, AD8IR

FLEX & CW to cooperate on 20M & 40M so both are not on the same band at the same time; CW has band priority on 20M & 40M; FLEX has band priority on 80M  
\* If 10M and/or 15M is open make QSO's using PH, CW, or DIG, otherwise use the 20M or 40M band DIG as indicated for that time slot.



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





**To Streetsboro**

**To Ravenna**







### Dayton Hamvention® 2023 Wrap Up

Dayton Hamvention® 2023 was held May 19 - 21 in Xenia, Ohio -- and all indications point to a successful event.

ARRL greeted attendees in its large exhibit area in the "Tesla" building. Traffic to the exhibit was brisk. Members and prospective members enjoyed meeting with dozens of ARRL program representatives and volunteers. The event hosted the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention.

While the final count is still a few days away from being completed, Hamvention spokesperson Michael Kalter, W8CI, said this was a great year, a great event, and it all started with a great team.

"[We] had great [weather, tremendous] efforts by the 700 plus volunteers, [and] outstanding community support, including [from] the Greene County Sheriff's Office, the Xenia Police Department, and Xenia officials," said Kalter. "A big thank you to everyone, especially ARRL, for its work co-developing the Event App, and, of course, all of the amateur radio operators and everyone who attended the event." Kalter said ticket sales were up this year and he expects attendance to surpass last year's count of 31,367. The good weather helped draw crowds, and other than some rain in the early morning hours of Saturday, blue skies and fair temperatures prevailed.

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, said the Education and Learning booth was packed with people for the duration of the event. "We shared information with attendees about the [ARRL Learning Center](#), the [Teachers Institute](#), and using ham radio for STEM education and youth outreach," said Goodgame.

"We also partnered with YouTube content creator Carlos Ortiz, KD9OLN, whose channel is *LifeAtTerminalVelocity*, and facilitated a youth-only parachute-mobile event. Carlos jumped from an airplane at 10,500 feet and made contacts with 13 youth, then their parents, for a total of roughly 25 contacts before landing. It was an amazing opportunity to engage youth in amateur radio with something that is different than the norm," Goodgame added.

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, moderated a Saturday afternoon ARRL membership forum, which included short presentations from ARRL Treasurer John R. Sager, WJ7S; Director of Operations Bob Naumann, W5OV; CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA, and President Rick Roderick, K5UR.



ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, greets ARRL Life Member David Gusman, KC7UI, in the ARRL Exhibit. QST Product Review Editor Pascal Villeneuve, VA2PV, looks on.



The ARRL Exhibit at Dayton Hamvention 2023.



Jaylen Stoneburner, 14, makes a contact with Carlos Ortiz, KD9OLN, parachute mobile at Hamvention. Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, serves as control operator.

Sager highlighted the work of ARRL's Investment Management Committee (IMC) and CAPTRUST, an outside investment firm that was selected to actively manage ARRL's investment portfolio for the benefit of its members. Naumann provided an update on [The ARRL Logbook of The World](#) (LoTW) that included recent improvements that have significantly reduced, and sometimes nearly eliminated, log processing queues. Minster highlighted a handful of ARRL initiatives including the yearlong theme, Year of the Volunteers, and its complementary operating event, [Volunteers On the Air](#) (VOTA). He encouraged members to "reach one rung higher" in their contributions to ARRL volunteerism and support. He also introduced the new ARRL [Estate Planning Workbook](#), which is intended to help members develop a plan for their equipment and amateur radio legacy, which will ultimately benefit spouses and other family members following an amateur's lifetime. Roderick charged members with concentrating on their efforts to make an impact on amateur radio, encouraging newcomers and youth, and ensuring their legacy for amateur radio.



Seen at Hamvention: ARRL member Doc Smith, Jr, KW8C, of Huron, Ohio.

The ARISS booth drew in attendees to learn more about [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station](#) and opportunities to participate and volunteer. Among the program representatives were ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and ARISS USA Delegate Rosalie White, K1STO, representing ARRL. ARISS is celebrating 40 years of amateur radio on human spaceflight vehicles.



L to R, Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, ARISS USA Delegate Rosalie White, K1STO, and Rocky Mountain Division Director Jeff Ryan, K0RM

In the ARRL exhibit area, a banner emblazoned with "ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program" hung above a booth adorned with university pennants that was swarmed with young adults. Student hams from colleges and universities around the country volunteered to help ARRL promote the collegiate program and the participation of their respective radio clubs and schools. These young hams greeted attendees with stories of how amateur radio is furthering their interest in wireless communications and other areas of STEM education. Their experiences are also leading to advanced careers in radio technology and related fields. The bright spotlight on young hams contributed a welcome message to all who passed by: "The next generation of radio amateurs is already here, and they're already active." ARRL's [YouTube channel](#) includes a short video with some of the student participants.

The Hamvention flea market was active again this year, and even picked up a nickname -- The Big Island -- a nod to its oval shape near the grandstand.

Kalter summed up the event as a great experience for everyone and noted that work has already started on the [Hamvention](#), May 17 - 19, 2024. The event is planning to host the 2024 ARRL National Convention. Read a complete recap of each day's events, written by ARRL Acquisitions Editor Mark H. Derks, KC1RVQ, using the links below.

[Countdown to Dayton Hamvention](#)    [Day 1: Friday, May 19, 2023](#)    [Day 2: Saturday, May 20, 2023](#)  
[Day 3: Sunday, May 21, 2023](#)

See ARRL's photo album of Dayton Hamvention 2023 at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-at-2023-Hamvention>.



The [Kentucky QSO Party](http://www.kyqsoparty.org/) begins at 1300 UTC, June 3, and concludes at 0100 UTC, June 4. Kentucky stations can work all stations. Stations outside of Kentucky can only work stations located in Kentucky. Visit [www.kyqsoparty.org/](http://www.kyqsoparty.org/) for complete rules.

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The second annual [ARRL International Digital Contest](https://contests.arrl.org/teamreg.php?eid=31) occurs during the first full weekend of June (June 3 - 4, 2023). All digital modes, with the exception of RTTY, are allowed in the event. In addition to the event being eligible for the ARRL Affiliated Club Competition, a team competition consisting of teams of 2 to 5 Single Operator stations is also available. Teams must be registered before the start of the event at <https://contests.arrl.org/teamreg.php?eid=31>. For full rules, please visit <https://contests.arrl.org/dig/>.

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The year-long ARRL Volunteers on the Air event continues, recognizing the support and contributions of ARRL volunteers. Get on the air and make contacts with as many ARRL volunteers or members as possible. There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/# stations in all 50 states, and in several US Possessions/Territories. For a schedule of W1AW/# portable operations, see the [W1AW Portable Activations Schedule](http://vota.arrl.org). Be sure to upload your logs to LoTW and check your score online. Check out the full details at <http://vota.arrl.org>.



## Bulletins

### Changes to ARRL VHF+ Contest Rules Announced

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee has approved rule changes to the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, and the January, June, and September VHF contests, effective with the 2023 10 GHz and Up Contest, and the 2023 September VHF contest.

In the 10 GHz and Up event, distance point multipliers have been added for each band as follows: 10 GHz 1x; 24 GHz 2x; 47 GHz 3x; 75 GHz 4x; 122 GHz and above 5x. For example, an 80 km contact made on 10 GHz would be worth 80 points while the same contact made on 47 GHz would be worth 240 points.

Starting in September, in the January, June, and September VHF contests, contacts made on 902 Mhz and 1.2 GHz will be allowed for participants in the FM-Only category. Currently, the category only allows contacts on 50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz. Additionally, there will be changes to the Affiliated Club Competition scoring for entrants in the Rover categories. For a Rover's score to be included in their club's score, the entrant must make contacts from somewhere within the club's territory during the course of the contest.

Contact the ARRL Contest Program at [contests@arrl.org](mailto:contests@arrl.org) for more information regarding these changes.

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### Presentations from 2023 Contest University are Now Available

Select sessions from 2023 Contest University were live streamed by DX Engineering via YouTube. Those who missed the live streams can view the presentations at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm3LtGdvbZg>. Presenters shown in the video include Doug Grant, K1DG; Bob Wilson, N6TV; Philipp Springer, DK6SP, and Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Thanks to Tim Duffy, K3LR; Icom America, and DX Engineering for providing the video of the event.



**FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-2000** Transceiver with FH-2 Remote Control Keypad. With original box, manual, & power cord, \$1000.00.  
**Heathkit SB-200** Amplifier with newer 572B Tubes, \$500. **MFJ-976 1.5 KW Antenna Tuner**, \$250. **Ten Tec Century 21**  
**Transceiver** with Crystal Calibrator, \$250. **Yaesu SP-767P Phone Patch/Speaker**, \$50. **MFJ-931 Artificial Ground**, \$100.  
**MFJ-4906S Duplexer** 1.6 - 30 MHz & 50 - 54 MHz, \$50. *Trying to cleanup my shack.*

**Contact: Bob, N8QE** at [rhajdak@aol.com](mailto:rhajdak@aol.com) [08/23]

**FOR SALE: WEST MOUNTAIN RADIO PWRCrimp Crimp tool** for 15, 30 and 45 amp powerpole connectors. Like new, in factory box, with instructions. \$20.00 **YAESU FT1000MP transceiver** Good Condition, has optional roofing filter and optional SSB and CW filters, operating manual \$550.00

Items can be picked up in Alliance -OR- I can deliver at a PCARS meeting

**Contact: George K3GP** at 330-495-9123 or email: [rttyfan@gmail.com](mailto:rttyfan@gmail.com) [06/23]

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: [08/23] indicates the ad will run until the end of July 2023.

## 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.



**07/08/2023 - Mansfield Trunkfest 2023** - Location: Richland Co. Fairgrounds - 740 N. Home Road - Mansfield, OH 44901 - Website: <http://iarc.club> - Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club - Public Contact: Danny Bailey , W8DLB - 104 East Thrush Ave. Apt. H Crestline, OH 44827 - Phone: 567-899-3881 - Email: [w8dlb60@gmail.com](mailto:w8dlb60@gmail.com)

**07/15/2023 - NOARSFEST** - Location: Lorain County Community College - 1005 N. Abbe Road - Elyria, OH 44035 Public Contact: Carl , W8KRF - 3821 West 152nd Street Cleveland , OH 44111 - Phone: 216-256-9624 - Email: [noarsfest@noars.net](mailto:noarsfest@noars.net)

**07/20/2023 - Ashtabula County Hamfest** - Location: Pioneer Picnic - 1809 Middle Rd. - Pierpont, OH 44082 Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/arca-home/> Public Contact: Andrew Walbridge , W8IJC - 4962 Graham Rd. Jefferson, OH 44047 - Phone: 440-858-6370 - Email: [kc8oh.arca@gmail.com](mailto:kc8oh.arca@gmail.com)

**08/05/2023 - Columbus Hamfest** - Location: Aladdin Shriners - 1801 Gateway Circle - Grove City, OH 43123 - Website: <http://www.columbushamfest.com> - Public Contact: Art Wilson , N8ART - 182 Alexander Lawrence Drive Pickerington, OH 43147 Phone: 614-256-5829 - Email: [W8FEZAUDIO@AOL.COM](mailto:W8FEZAUDIO@AOL.COM)

**08/20/2023 - Warren Amateur Radio Association Tailgate Swap Meet** - Location: Mosquito Lake State Park - 1439 Wilson Sharpsville Rd (state route 305) - Cortland, OH 44410 - Website: <http://w8vtd.org> - Contact: Larry Oliver, KD8LYX - PO Box 809 Warren, OH 44482 - Phone: 330-553-9579 - Email: [WARAW8VTD@gmail.com](mailto:WARAW8VTD@gmail.com)

**09/10/2023 - Findlay Hamfest** - Location: Findlay, OH - Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 E. Sandusky St., Findlay, OH 45840 Phone 419-423-3402 - Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club - Website: <http://findlayradioclub.org>

**09/24/2023 - Cleveland Hamfest** Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 19201 E. Bagley Rd. - Berea, OH 44017 Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland - Public Contact: Doug Dever, AB8M - 8035 West Ridge Dr. Broadview Heights, OH 44147 - Phone: 216-401-5888 - Email: [dougdever@gmail.com](mailto:dougdever@gmail.com) - Website: <http://www.hac.org>

**10/29/2023 - Massillon Hamfest & Auction** - Location: Military Air Preservation Hangars (MAPS) - 2260 International Pkwy North Canton, , OH - Website: <http://www.w8np.net> - Public Contact: Perry Ballinger , W8AU - 2468 Bellevue Ave SW Massillon, OH 44647 - Phone: 330-705-8449 - Email: [w8au@sssnet.com](mailto:w8au@sssnet.com)

## Flex Net

**Rick, K8CAV**  
Flex Net Coordinator



**Next FLEX Net will be Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM**

**The PCARS Flex Net for June is cancelled** due to Field Day preparation activities. The net will resume on Wednesday July 12th at 8:00 PM, mode and frequency to be announced.

## From CQ Magazine



### FCC Looks for Input on 60 Meters

The FCC is asking the amateur community to weigh in on the future of the 60-meter band. In a proceeding more than seven years in the making, the Commission is proposing to adopt the contiguous 5351.5-5366.5 kHz segment approved by the International Telecommunication Union at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), but is seeking comments on what to do about the four current 60-meter amateur channels that are not part of that segment as well as the question of power limits.

U.S. amateurs are currently permitted to use up to 100 watts effective radiated power (ERP) on the band while the international rules adopted at WRC-15 limit power to the equivalent of 9 watts ERP. For more detailed discussion of this matter, see the "Zero Bias" editorial in the June issue of *CQ*. Proceeding numbers are ET Docket 23-120 and RM-11785. At press time, we did not have a comment deadline but it is expected to be late June or early July.

### Tweaks Made to New General Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has made a few adjustments in the General Class (Element 3) question pool scheduled to be used on licensing exams beginning this July 1.

According to the *ARRL Letter*, three questions were removed from the pool and minor changes have been made to several others. Details are available at <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id-369>.

### USA-Made Vacuum Tubes Return

*Newsline* reports that vacuum tube manufacturing is making a comeback in the United States, and so is the Western Electric brand name.

Charles Whitener purchased the rights to manufacture Western Electric vacuum tubes from AT&T 25 years ago and is now ramping up his plant in Rossville, Georgia to begin manufacturing a "re-imagined" version of the iconic 12AX7 dual triode frequently found in guitar amplifiers, to be followed by others.

**Western Electric**

Vacuum tubes remain popular among hams, musicians and audiophiles as tube amplifiers produce a distinctive sound quality. For decades now, tubes have been manufactured primarily in Russia and China, but costs have been increasing along with U.S. sanctions on trade with Russia. A report in *Wired* magazine on Whitener's tube plant says that "if all goes to plan, the U.S. could once again dominate vacuum tube manufacturing."

# Ham Call Sign Auto Plates

Mike Ludkiewicz, W1DGJ - SK

## First Year of Issue - Ham Call Sign Auto Plates

After completing an article about Amateur Radio Call sign auto license plates for the January 1995 issue of the American Radio Relay League's official journal, QST, I felt it would be appropriate to put together a collection of first year of issue ham plates from all the 50 states. My intentions were to also document this information for posterity. This unique collection had been attempted by plate collectors in the past, but to my knowledge it has never been successfully completed. Not something for the Guinness Book, but I feel it is an important part of Amateur Radio history.

**W1DGJ**  
Mike Ludkiewicz  
143 RICHMOND ROAD  
LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS 01056

CONFIRMING QSO WITH RADIO

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC

RST	FREQ	MHz	MODE

1925 FORD MODEL T



There were some problems associated with collecting first year of issue ham plates. Many states issued their first ham plates in small numbers, maybe due to the lack of communications and many states had a relatively small number of Amateur Radio operators licensed at the time. Not every ham chose to pay the extra fee for a special call sign plate and numerous states had strict restrictions on the use of their specially issued ham plates intended for emergency communications during the "Cold War" period. Some states required mobile radio installations while using the special ham plates. Several first year of issue ham plates are 45 years old and this makes the original owners over 65 years old. Most of them are now Silent Keys (deceased) and their old plates were often thrown out after their death. Besides, who saves their expired auto license plates?

I have to thank the many thoughtful hams who helped me with this unusual collection. Without their help it would not have been possible. A few plates were received from family members of Silent Keys, donating the plates to my collection in the deceased ham's memory. I can sympathize with some who did not care to part

with their first ham plate as being a ham myself I think I might feel the same way. I do not begrudge anyone for not caring to give up their first ham plate for my collection. I offered to pay a "reasonable price" to anyone who had a sentimental attachment to their vintage ham plate, but less than 5% wanted more than the shipping cost, that generally ran less than \$2. Many wanted nothing in exchange and were delighted to add their plates to this prestigious collection, but I always reimbursed them for any expenses. Two hams asked \$1000 for their ham plates and this gave me a very strong message.

One Old Timer in his nineties misunderstood my request and sent me his original 1951 FCC Amateur Radio license. He hoped it would fit my needs. I returned the ham ticket to him with my thanks for his interest in helping me along with a thorough explanation of what I was trying to collect. Two other Old Timers, also in their nineties, donated their first ham plates to my collection saying their plates would have a "better home" in my collection, rather than being discarded later. One ham sent me his first year plate along with 27 other plates representing the 27 following years he had ham plates issued on a yearly basis.

One first year of issue ham plate was sent to me by the widow of a Silent Key asking the plate be added to my collection in his memory. The only problem was the plate had been repainted in silver with his call sign in black paint. He had displayed his expired ham plate on a second vehicle and did not want to be stopped by the authorities for using an expired plate on his automobile. I tried a little lacquer thinner on the back of the plate and found it removed his paint without affecting the original paint underneath (most likely an enamel paint). Under his workmanship I found an excellent condition first year plate for my collection. Unfortunately I did not have the foresight to photograph his repaint job that protected the plate for many years.

Almost every plate in my collection has a very personal story connected with it. One plate came from a judge who asked me to excuse the poor paint job on his plate that was produced at the state's prison. I responded that he was the person responsible for the painter by incarcerating him in the prison that made the plate, and the painter could not be too smart for committing a crime to be placed there.

Another plate came from the XYL (eX Young Lady = wife) of a ham who was terminally ill. She wrote she did not normally read her husband's mail but found my letter "intriguing" She had recalled seeing the plate I had described among her husband's "radio junk" just the previous week in the garage. She sent me one of his first year issue plates for my collection and said the matching plate of the pair she would have buried with her husband upon his death. I don't consider myself to be an emotional person but this letter brought me close to tears as I regarded her husband as a "brother ham". He has recently passed away.

Most of the information about first year of issue ham plates was gained at the American Radio Relay League's library in Newington, CT. I searched QST magazines from 1937 thru 1973. I found information obtained from some hams not always reliable since time has a way of clouding memories. A few hams were extremely helpful by sending me copies of legislation authorizing plates in their state. In some cases I believe the passing of laws allowing the issuing of ham plates was not always directly followed by the immediate action of the motor vehicle authority in providing the plates. A good example is in Oklahoma where the ham call letter plate bill was signed into law in mid 1953 and the first ham plates were not made available until 1958.

I had heard stories of a ham plate being issued in Oklahoma during 1938. I did find there were a few confirmations of 1938 Oklahoma ham plates that were black on yellow (the same color scheme as the 1935 passenger plates) but the state/date was at the bottom of the plate and the state abbreviated to OKLA. My investigation was not able to confirm this as an "official" issue so I have to assume it was a booster type plate.

The first plates with ham call signs on them were issued in Michigan for 1939. The Great Lakes Amateur Radio Telephone Association of Detroit under the leadership of James Strang, W8NFR, proposed the special plates for hams. They petitioned the Secretary of State, Leon D. Case, to allow the request be granted under legislation that allowed a maximum of 3 letters and 3 numbers. It was more correctly a personalized or vanity type and 400 to 500 of these plates were issued to hams (ref. March 1939 QST). After the first year the officials felt the system not administratively workable and Michigan discontinued issuing them the following year.

Michigan did not start issuing official ham plates until 1954. The next plate issued with a ham call sign on it was a 1950 Florida plate that is generally considered to be the first "true" ham plate. This was made possible through the efforts of Florida's State Senator Lloyd F. Boyle, W4IMJ (ref. January 1950 QST), and Eddie Collins, W4MS, a good friend of mine. I was not aware of Eddie's achievement until after his death. Mississippi followed Florida by issuing ham plates in November of 1950 that expired in October of 1951.

I consider the "key" plate in this collection to be the 1951 Nevada ham plate since there were only 182 hams licensed in Nevada during 1951 and only 30 of them are now listed in the 1997 Radio Amateur Call Book as still living in Nevada. Of the remaining 152 hams they are either Silent Keys (deceased), moved years ago to another FCC District and had to change their call signs, upgraded their class of license and requested a new call sign, or have given up Amateur Radio in past years. None of the current Nevada hams were able to help me with a 1951 Nevada ham plate. The only 1951 Nevada ham plates that were known in existence belonged to California plate collector and to a Nevada ham who is the original owner. I located a California ham who had left Nevada in 1952. He eventually gave up Amateur Radio for 10 years and let his Amateur Radio license expire. After his retirement, he retook the FCC Amateur Radio exam and got back into ham radio with an entirely new call sign from California. Thanks to modern technology, I was able to locate him through a computer program that lists all the licensed Amateur Radio operators in the United States (QRZ!CD-ROM). He felt his ham plate was better off in my collection rather than hanging on his garage wall where it had been for the past 44 years.

The last plate I was able to locate to complete this unique collection of ham plates was the 1950 Mississippi. There were 535 hams licensed in Mississippi at the end of 1950 and I was able to find 210 of them still licensed in Mississippi or in other states. Many acknowledged having had a 1950 Mississippi ham plate, but only one ham still had his original plate. Could it be that the 1950 Mississippi ham plate is the rarest in this unusual collection? I was very fortunate that W5PUI decided to donate his Mississippi ham plate so I could complete the collection.

I believe this collection of first year of issue ham plates from the 50 states and the District of Columbia may never be duplicated. The scarcity of some plates in this collection will further be enhanced with time as the original owners who held on to them for personal reasons are passing on, and their old expired plates are thrown out.

Amateur Radio call signs are very distinctive identifications. There are 715,462 Amateur Radio licensees in the United States listed in the 1997 Radio Amateur Call Book. There are 160 hams named John Smith and 149 named Robert Jones that are listed, but a ham's call sign is very unique as it is the only one like it in the entire world. There can never be 2 call signs that are identical.

Several states issued special ham plates as "add on" plates to be used with the vehicle's normal registration plate and they were generally displayed on the front of the vehicle with the regular plate displayed on the rear. These "unofficial" ham plates were issued as a compromise to the Amateur Radio operators who were trying to have their state issue ham plates. Both Arkansas in 1951 and Nebraska in 1952 issued undersized ham plates. Iowa in 1954 and North Carolina in 1955 issued full sized plates with the ham's call sign on them. After hurricane Hazel in 1954 North Carolina hams involved with emergency communications wanted a special ham plate as identification to access disaster areas not open to the general public. In 1955 they were issued undated silver plates with black letters similar to the police and other state vehicles. The hams were required to attach these plates over and covering the regular passenger plate. These special ham plates were replaced in 1956 with official ham plates similar in color scheme to the regular passenger plates. In light of this, it's possible that the police did not like the idea of civilians using police type plates. Arkansas issued their official ham plates in 1954, Nebraska in 1956, followed by Iowa in 1960.

Two states, Massachusetts in 1965, and New Jersey in 1968, used windshield stickers to validate their plates. The Massachusetts plate bore an embossed 64 date while the New Jersey plate was undated on a 1959 base. The 1964 District of Columbia plate was and still is a vanity type. It was the only first year ham plate to



use a sticker to validate the plate. It was also the largest validation sticker in the United States and measured 3/4 inch by 11 inches. Metal year tabs were used by 7 states: California for 1954, Connecticut for 1956, Delaware for 1953 (with a 1954 expiration), Hawaii for 1955, New York for 1963, Oregon for 1954, and Rhode Island for 1958. Seven states displayed the expiration date of the plates: Delaware had a 6-30-54 expiration, Maryland had 3-31-57, Mississippi had OCT 51, Missouri had JAN 53, Pennsylvania had 3-31-57, Wisconsin had JAN 53, and the District of Columbia had 3-31-65 on the large sticker.

Four states did not have their plates embossed. They included the 1952 Alaska, the 1951 Tennessee, the 1956 South Carolina's call sign only, while the 1953 Delaware used the same porcelain base introduced in 1942. Three states showed the outline of the state. They were the 1954 Kansas, the 1951 Tennessee, and the 1956 Pennsylvania, which had the state's outline embossed on the plate.

The 1957 Connecticut plate was the first ham plate to utilize a special ham related symbol, the spark, to individualize their ham plate. Many early wireless operators were nicknamed "Sparks". The following four states used non ham related symbols. The 1952 Alaska used their Territory's flag, the 1953 New Mexico used the Zia Sun, the 1953 South Dakota used a graphic of Mt. Rushmore, and the 1960 Wyoming used the bucking bronco and rider. The 1958 Montana had an embossed PRISON MADE to indicate it's manufacturer.

Six states used radio slogans on their first year ham plate. The 1951 Arkansas used AMATEUR RADIO, the 1957 Idaho used RADIO AMATEUR, the 1956 Illinois used AMATEUR RADIO, the 1973 Kentucky used AM. RADIO, the 1951 Tennessee used RADIO, and the 1954 Texas used AMATEUR RADIO OPR.

Both Alaska and Hawaii were Territories when they issued their first ham plates. Alaska's first ham plate issued as a state was in 1960 and Hawaii's was an undated plate issued in 1961 that used a windshield sticker for validation. In 1973 Kentucky was the last of the 50 states to issue Amateur Radio call sign plates.

## PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - Limited Edition - Almost Gone

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



FREE PCARS coffee cup.

**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



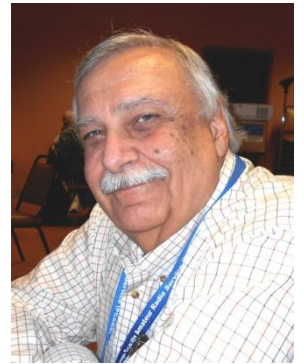
There are a **very limited number of extra coffee cups** for sale at \$5.00 each.

**Contact Greg for all of the details: [Treasurer@portcars.org](mailto:Treasurer@portcars.org)**



## *DX & Contesting Special Interest Group*

**Chuck, W8PT**  
DX & Contesting SIG Coordinator



This past Tuesday, May 23, we held our DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting. We had 10 attendees total in person and by ZOOM.

We discussed an ongoing challenge and that is how we can get more members involved in contesting. I suggested that we look at promoting some interclub contests. This would be members taking part in contests from their own QTH and then reporting their total points on 3830. The person responsible for organizing the contest would then review all the reported PCARS scores and declare a winner for that contest and issue a certificate to that effect.

General rules will be developed for the interclub contests with specific rules, if needed, for the various contests. The State QSO Parties, that we do not play in from the club site, would be some of the contests that we could do this way. There are others that we can explore to see if any interest can be generated.

The second discussion was mainly me announcing that I will be stepping down from the position of Contest Coordinator. I will be stepping away from doing Freeze Your Acorns Off, the DX Column in the Radiogram, the DX/Contesting SIG Moderator as well as keeping the ARRL Approved Contest List up to date when we have new members join PCARS.

I believe that I have run the course enough and that maybe someone younger with fresh ideas could do a better job. I want to thank PCARS for allowing me to do this for some years now and hope that whoever takes over will have the same encouragement from the members and officers.

If there is anyone interested in picking up the baton, please contact our president, Nick, or myself.

## *Digital Special Interest Group*

**Rick, K8CAV**  
Digital SIG Coordinator



**Next SIG will be Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

The PCARS Digital Special Interest Group meeting for June is cancelled due to Field Day preparation activities. Meetings will resume on Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Note that we are meeting on Wednesday due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Can't be there in person? Then join us in the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88355094567?pwd=ZzRvd1hmQWNhYlZlZEcGF0dVhuNlNiQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 5509 4567

Passcode: PCARS2022



## Antenna Special Interest Group

**Bob, N8QE**  
Antenna SIG Coordinator



**Next SIG will be Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

The next meeting of the PCARS Antenna Special Interest Group will be held June 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM. We will be in-person at the PCARS club site and on Zoom.

At the May meeting we discussed how to check coaxial cable that has been struck by lightning, and getting help for Joe, K8HTB to raise his tower on May 25, 2023 in Twin Lakes from PCARS members.

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 the discussion, and talk about their projects with the group.

Can't be there in person? Then join us in the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87220356586?pwd=czgvLzRPcjVBT2hPSkVIZU1VaU84Zz09>

**Meeting ID: 872 2035 6586**

**Passcode: PCARS2022**

## Could Be Anything Special Interest Group

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



**Next SIG will be Tuesday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

The next  
the problems of the world.

Please join us in person or on Zoom if you can!

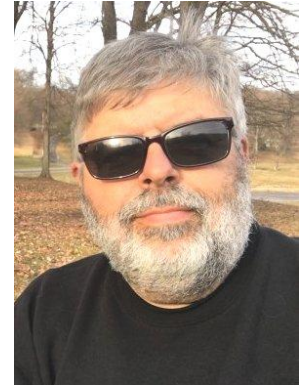


**PCARS K8BF**  
The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



## Portable Ops Special Interest Group

**John, WG8X**  
Portable Ops SIG Coordinator



### Portable Ops Special Interest Group field trip Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM



This month's portable operations special interest group will *not* be held at the PCARS club site. Instead, we'll be at the pavilion at **Chestnut Hills Park** (140 Chestnut Hill Dr, Ravenna, OH). Also, we're going to meet a little bit early. We'll be gathering at **6 PM**, which should give us plenty of daylight to play radio.

I'm bringing my Wolf River coil using the new longer whip.

Feel free to bring your station out for some QRP fun using simple antennas. I don't believe there's electric at this pavilion, so bring your battery.

This is not a POTA Park, but let's still look on this as a mini park activation.

I'm going to attempt to bring Zoom up from the park, so here's the info you'll need to log in.

**Here's the link:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89732195744?pwd=cldtZmxMemFqQndhQWtJN0s2NUNnUT09>**  
**Passcode: PCARS2022**

We were talking at the last Portable ops sig meeting about options for a PCARS POTA Field trip in July. But, after looking at availability of pavilions, combined with my wish to knock some more parks off my list, I decided to skip this one.

We'll do this again in October. I'll have something more definite next month.

## Youth DX Adventure - 2023 - PJ2Y

**The Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure announces their 2023 trip to Curacao on July 13-18<sup>th</sup> Has been CANCELLED**



The widely-reported backlog in processing U.S. passport applications has apparently caused the cancellation of this year's David Kalter Memorial Youth Adventure trip to Curacao. According to the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, which sponsors the program, "there was not enough time to put a successful plan together and allow participants to obtain passports in a timely manner." The announcement suggested that alternate activities may be planned.



## PCARS Thursday 2 Meter Nets

**Greg, KA8TOA**  
Net Control Coordinator



Thank you all for helping with this! Anytime you are unable to take the net, please give me as much advance warning as possible! **Check-in using the receiver located in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ 146.895 with a PL tone of 118.8. We also use EchoLink node K8BF-L**

The net control dates will be posted on the Club website. An email will be sent out after the posting. As usual if there are issues please contact me via the roadrunner email address. **Thanks to all of you for helping out.**

I am in desperate need for some net operators to run the Thursday night nets. It really is not that hard and it is fun, along with good training if you are ever needed for emergencies. I know we have been low on check-ins for the past couple of months. The commitment is only for once a month and this club is worth that. If anyone has ideas for the club, please do not hesitate to speak out at meetings or on nets or call or write. We appreciate the input. For now - 73.

June	
1	KD8WCK
8	N8QE
15	WB8LCD
22	KE8ARB
29	KA8TOA

July	
6	KE8LWO
13	N8WCP
20	N8QE
27	KE8BWA

August	
3	
10	
17	
24	
31	



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



## PCARS Patches & Stickers



PCARS logo patches (iron on) & stickers (stick on) are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo!! The patch is about 3". The embroidery on the white patch is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is only \$2.00

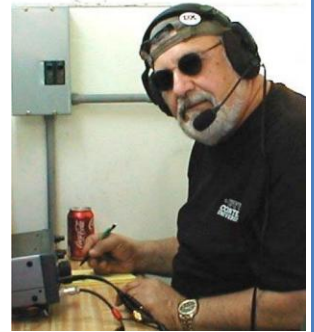
each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers!



See the club Treasurer: **Greg, KA8TOA** or e-mail him at: [Treasurer@portcars.org](mailto:Treasurer@portcars.org)

## Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



### Greetings DXers

### Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites – June 2023

Summer is here and I hope that many of you are getting on the air and working DX as the sunspot cycle continues to ramp up. I am always aware that during this month, we will also have the longest day of the year and then it will all start going back down. The years pass so quickly and Cycle 25 will be coming to its apex and starting its downward trend. So we DXers need to keep on the air while we have the ability to work some rare entities. It's a constant cycle and we work it as we can.

I must confess that I bought one of those QDX Digital Xcvrs. Yup, I will be working FT8. Go figure. But I know that some of the DXpeditions will be working FT8 and SSB and CW are not always a slam dunk. But it seems that digital does get the job done. So.... It might be the only way to get some of those islands that I need to get to the 340 mark. It is what it is!

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** The fact that donation requests, from various DXpeditions, are at times included in this column does not mean that PCARS or this HAM approves or disapproves of donating to the DXpeditions listed. I am only providing information for you to make up your own minds as to whether or not to donate.

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### June...

**5UA, NIGER.** Giorgio, IU5HWS informs DX-World that he will again be active from Niamey, Niger as 5UA99WS until June 15 2023. His focus will be on FT8, but will also run 40-10m SSB using FT-991A, amplifier and multiband dipole. LoTW uploads managed by IK5SRF. OQRS/QSL managed by EA5GL. QSL via EA5GL.

**6Y, JAMAICA** Pavel, CO7WT is operating as call/6Y until begin August. Pavel is on a business trip but is QRV during his spare time from 40 to 6 meter using SSB, FT4/8. QSL via IK2DUW, direct or bureau, LoTW.

**7Q MALAWI.** 7Q7WW Team will be active from Malawi, 21 June - 3 July 2023. Team - W1IE, KC4D. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8, RTTY. QSL via W1IE.

**D44, CAPE VERDE.** Oliver, DJ5QW will be active as D4CW and D44DX from Santa Maria village, Sal Island, IOTA AF - 086, Cape Verde, Cabo Verde, until 13 June 2023. He will operate on 80 - 10m, CW, SSB and also DMR. QSL via home call DARC Buro.

**FO, POLYNESIA.** Didier, F6BCW is QRV as FO/F6BCW from Huahine Island, IOTA OC-067, until October 25. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via F6EXV.

**FW, WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS.** (Reminder) Jean-Gabriel, F4CIX, is QRV as FW1JG and expects to be here until January 2024. He is active on 40 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

**OY, FAROE IS.** Following on from their Svalbard activity, during June 25 to July 5 look for OY/DC8TM & OY/DF3TS to be QRV from the Faroe Islands. QRV again on SSB & FT8. QSL via LoTW. This will be a SOTA & WWFF activity.

**PA, NETHERLANDS.** Special event call signs PA100K, PA100M, and PA100PCG are QRV until June 30 to commemorate the two-way telegraph service that started up from Radio Malabar to Radio Kootwijk. QSL via bureau.

**T31, KANTON IS.** After their T30UN DXpedition to Tarawa, W. Kiribati, the Rebel DX Group will be making a return visit to Kanton island and QRV as T31TT starting June 1st for approximately 10-12 days.

**TF, ICELAND.** Dervin, PD9DX operating as TF/call until June 9. Activity on HF using SSB, FT4/8. QSL via M0URX.

**TR8, GABON.** Roland, F8EN ex CN8EM, FO8BV, 3C3CR, TR50R will be active again as TR8CR from Gabon, 4 June - end of July 2023. He will operate on 30 - 10m, CW. QSL via F6AJA.

**V4, ST. KITTS.** W5JON as V47JA will again be active from Calypso Bay, St. Kitts until June 7, 2023. Operating on SSB and FT8; 6-160m using a Yaesu FT-3000D, and Elecraft KPA500 amplifier. Antennas: a Mosley Mini32A 10/15/20m beam, 33' Vertical 10-60m, 35' Top Loaded 80m Vertical, 160m Vertical and a 3 element Yagi for 6 meters. QSL direct to W5JON or via LoTW.

**V7, MARSHALL IS.** Bob, N7XR is operating as V7/call until end June from Kwajalein Atoll. Operation from 160 to 10 meter using CW, RTTY and FT8. QSL via OQRS.

**V63, MICRONESIA.** Sigfrido Romeo, IW9FMD, 5W0RS will be active as V63S from Pohnpei Island, IOTA OC - 010, Micronesia. He will operate on HF Bands. QSL via IT9YVO direct only. Unfortunately, although this is a recent posting, there were no dates given for his activation.

**VP6, DUCIE ISLAND.** George, AA7JV, and KN4EEI and W6IZT sail on from Polynesia to Ducie Island, where they plan to set up and run 5 rigs from June 10 to 24 with the callsign VP6A. In total, 14 operators will be involved remotely handling the "radios in a box" deployed on the island together with the 3 on the yacht, who will keep the radios maintained throughout.

**VP9, BERMUDA.** Dave, G4OSY, will be QRV as G4OSY/VP9 on 40-6m (SSB and maybe CW) from Hamilton Parish, Bermuda from June 27 to July 8, 2023. QSL via G4OSY. No eQSL or LoTW.

**VU, INDIA.** Look for AU40NRO to be active until June 30 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR). QSL via VU2NRO.

**VU7W, LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS,** Yuris, YL2GM will be active as VU7W from Minicoy Island, IOTA AS - 106, Laccadive Islands, 6 - 18 June 2023. He will operate on HF Bands with focus on 6m Band.

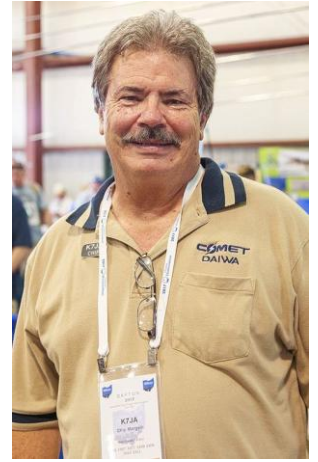
**ZL, NEW ZEALAND.** Special event station ZL100 will be QRV until July 25 to celebrate the first amateur radio contact made between New Zealand and Australia. QSL via bureau.

I keep saying this, but it's important...Remember **POF** – **P**reserve **O**ur **F**requencies – Get on the air and work some DX!!



# Charles "Chip" Margelli - K7JA - SK

The news of Chip, K7JA passing was just announced this past weekend. For those of you that have been in Ham Radio for the past 25 years or so will remember him as one of the people that always had a smile when you saw him at the major Hamfests and promoted the fun and camaraderie of ham radio to everyone he met. Very active in contesting and rag chewing as well. The following is from his QRZ biography:



*A CW sharpshooter needs to cool off his keying fingers after a shoot-out!*

*Photo shows Chip on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on May 13, 2005 during the show-down against the U.S. champion cell-phone text messenger. Teammate Ken,*

*K6CTW skillfully copied the text despite significant QRM in the shack. . .er. . .studio.*

*Twelve-time national winner of ARRL November Sweepstakes. World winner of CQ World-Wide DX Contest (Phone), National Winner of ARRL DX Contest, both Phone and CW. Five-time world high in All-Asian DX Contest. Silver Medalist at 1990 World Radiosport Team Championship with partner Mike Wetzel, W9RE. First-Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) #2123.*

*Team member for 1989 4J1FS M-V Island DXpedition, 1991 ZA1A re-opening of amateur radio in Albania with team leader Martti Laine, OH2BH, team member of 2003 COØUS joint Cuba-USA Field Day operation.*



*Iphone Janet The light and love of my life is gone. I'm saddened to report Chip, K7JA, has joined the ranks of SK, and I truly hope they are having a great time swapping tales together. He enjoyed 60 wonderful years as a ham and 45 happy years with me. Between DXing, contesting, ragchewing, moonbounce, satellite, writing, designing, building antennas, and Field Day, there was never a dull moment. His love of ham radio shined everywhere he went with everyone he met. I hope you will share any stories or snippets you might have and raise a toast of your favorite beverage in his memory. He will be missed, and hopefully remembered fondly. Until we meet again, I know we'll feel your spirit at Field Day.*

*Inductee (2008) into CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Awarded E.T. Krenkel Medal (Russia) in 2021.*

Chip Margelli 6652 Cerulean Avenue Garden Grove, CA 92845 U.S.A.  
 Confirming QSO with K8BF at 2127 UTC 15 Jun 2024  
 Ur Sigs were RST 59 (SSB) CW on 50 MHz

# K7JA

Transceiver MK-V 1 FTV-1000 Antenna 6-CL 0WA @ 75'  
 Remarks *TKS FOR ENJOY!*  
 PSE QSL TNX *CL* THE QSL MAN® - WAMPY Orange County • DM03xs

**Editor's Note:** I was fortunate to make a few QSOs with Chip over the years on 6m, 10m and 20m and received a QSL card from him as well.

Chip was indeed an Ambassador for Ham Radio and will be fondly remembered by all that knew him, or contacted him over the air.

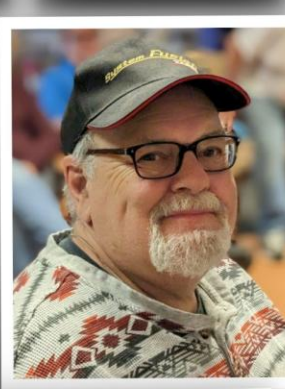
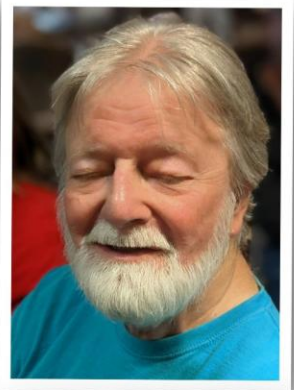
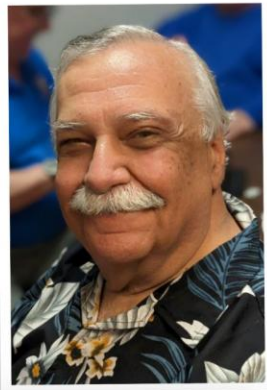
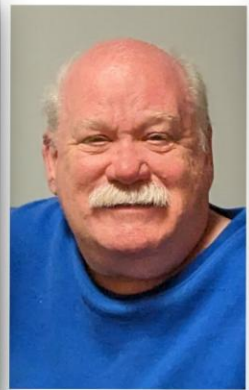




# Photos from the PCARS Meeting



**PCARS - May 8, 2023**



# 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 77 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.



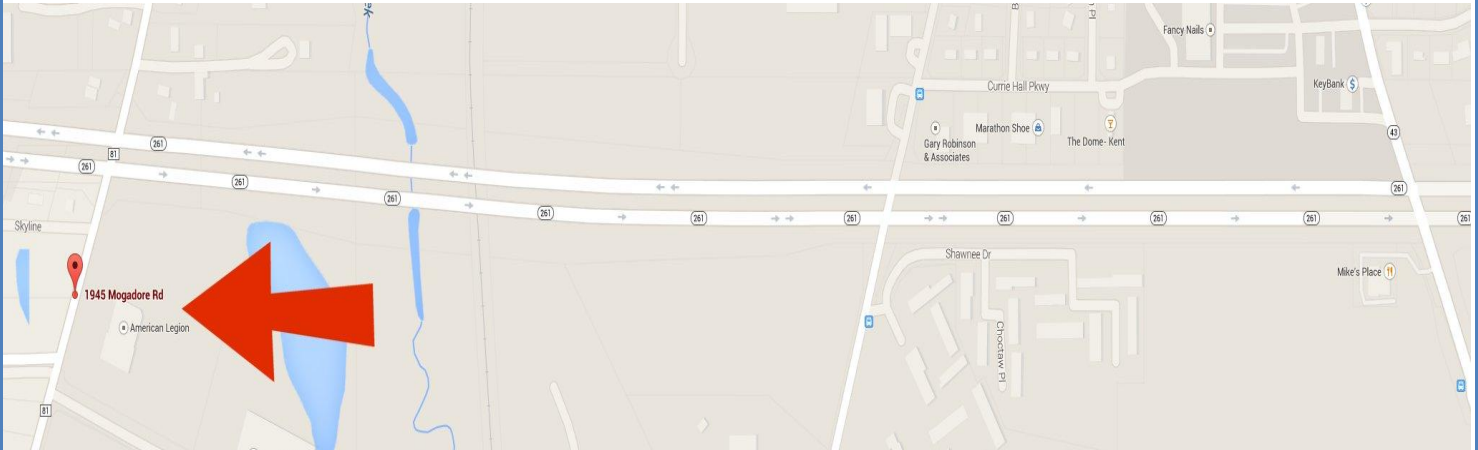
# PCARS Meetings

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.



**CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ABOUT IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

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



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



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

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

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

# PCARS VE Testing Information & News

**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison



**We will have a VE Test Session June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the club site starting at 10 am.**

**Future Dates:  
August 5<sup>th</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
\*\*\* Check the website for the latest information \*\*\***

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

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

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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)
- You **MUST** have a **valid e-mail address** for the FCC to be able to contact you.
- **Picture ID required**
- **Original and Copy of your valid FCC license** and originals of any applicable CSCE
- **Taking Technician Test?** - You **MUST** apply for your FRN and get it prior to testing.
- **VE fee is \$15** - Cash or Check payable to "ARRL-VEC"
- **17 years old or younger? VE Fee is \$5** per the ARRL reduced CE fee Youth Program
- **FCC License Fee \$35** - payable after FCC send you a link. **DOES NOT APPLY to upgrades.**
- **17 years old or younger? ARRL will reimburse you the \$35 FCC Fee.**

---

## Okay - now all the Details:

- **You must have your FRN prior to taking an exam** - No SSNs will be used on the Form 605 anymore.
- **If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or someone that has been infected - please, do not come to the club site. Use of masks is optional.**
- **No food or snacks allowed.**
- **\$15.00 Fee Payment will only be by check or exact change. We cannot make change**
- **If paying by check, make check out to: "ARRL-VEC" The VE Fee is \$15.00 (see below)**
- **Ensure you have the following:**
  - A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
  - If you are under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must be able to vouch for you and you need a copy of your birth certificate (you do not have to give us a copy, we just have to see and verify).
  - **FCC is requiring you have your e-mail address on the Form 605.**
  - **If you are taking a Technician test you must have your FRN number** (you can apply for an FRN on the FCC website). For hams having a license, your FRN is printed on your license.
  - **If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You MUST bring your original valid amateur radio license and a copy of your valid amateur radio license to turn in with your Form 605.**
  - Bring your own pencils and pens.
  - Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
  - **NO cell Phones allowed**



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

## Additional Information - What to Bring to the Testing Session

- If you've already passed a test: The original (and one copy) of any document that you will use to prove you've already passed a test element.

These documents may include:

- An unexpired Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) indicating the credit(s) earned.
- Original and copy of a pre-March 21, 1987 Technician license (this provides credit for the Element 3 [General] exam) - you **must** be currently licensed to get this credit.

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

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

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

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

### **Email Addresses REQUIRED**

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



### **New FCC \$35 Amateur Application Fee**

**March 23, 2022** - The FCC released a [Public Notice](#) stating that the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 application filings, would become **effective on April 19, 2022**. The Federal Communications Commission's authority to impose and collect fees is mandated by Congress. **April 4, 2022** - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will **not apply** to most license modifications, including those to **upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees**. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees took effect on April 19, 2022.

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

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

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

### **Youth Licensing Grant Program**

The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new amateur radio license candidates **younger than 18 years old** for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. "We are thrilled that we are able to provide this opportunity to our youth candidates," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

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 younger than 18 years old would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required at the session.

The ARRL Board approved the Youth Licensing Grant Program at its July 2021 meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, expanding on the scope of the original motion proposed by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.

The Board believes the recruitment and training of young amateur radio operators is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL and subsidization of the \$35 fee will reduce the number of new amateurs that would otherwise be lost from these groups. Initially the new program would serve up to 1,000 new license applicants under 18 years old. The program length is indefinite; it may be renewed or terminated by the Administration and Finance Committee or by the Board of Directors.

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).

=====

**ARRL VEC Application Fees webpage:** <http://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>

**ARRL News Story:** <http://www.arrl.org/news/new-amateur-radio-license-applications-fee-to-become-effective-april-19-2022>

**FCC Registration:** <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) retired the [Legacy version](#) of its **CO**mmission **RE**gistration **S**ystem (**CO**RES) on July 15, 2022. CORES is the FCC's public-facing database that enables and tracks certain types of FCC and FCC applicant actions, including amateur radio applications and licenses. Its implementation has enabled routine amateur applications and licenses to be issued overnight instead of over weeks, as was the case with earlier methods. The [updated version of CORES](#) is now available. ( <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do> )

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**July 2022 - From: Maria Somma, AB1FM - VEC Manager - ARRL**

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE FCC APPLICATION FEE AND VEC FILED APPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

Application File Number search using an FRN: [FCC Application File Number Search](#)

CORES payment system background information and instructions: [Information](#).

CORES step-by-step payment instructions: [FCC Application Fee Instructions](#)

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

**3. Examinees should NOT amend any applications that a VEC submits on their behalf, especially NEW license applications.** Amending VEC filed applications will cause the application to be dismissed without action in the FCC system and potentially require the applicant to pay another \$35 fee. If there is a minor mistake on the application, either call us and we can correct and resubmit the application, or the individual can pay the fee, be issued the call sign, and then log back in and make corrections.

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

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

**PCARS**

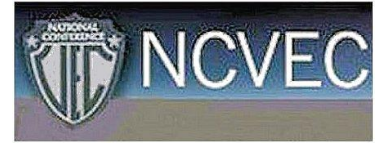
**ARRL Volunteer Examiners:**  
serving the Amateur Radio community

**First Saturdays 10:00 am**  
at the club site in Ravenna

**February, April, June, August,**  
**October, December**

**ARRL VEC**  
VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

# General Class Test Pool Changes July 1st



## New General Question Pool Released for Ham Radio Licensing Effective July 1, 2023

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the [2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool](#) to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The [pool](#) is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

"The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting July 1, 2023," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who is a member of the NCVEC Question Pool Committee.



General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of [The General Class License Manual](#), and/or the 6th edition of [ARRL's General Q & A](#) are encouraged to test by, or before, June 30, 2023.

New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after, July 1, 2023.



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- EASY TO OPERATE





66<sup>th</sup> Annual

Largest Hamfest in the Tri-State Area



# BreezeShooters



2023 HAMFEST + ARRL SECTION CONVENTION

Web Site: <http://www.breezeshooters.org>

Email: [hamfest@breezeshooters.org](mailto:hamfest@breezeshooters.org)

**The Return of the BreezeShooters Hamfest is Official**

**Sunday June 4, 2023**

**And Returning to the**

**Butler Farm Show Grounds**

**625 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001**

**(site of the Hamfest for decades prior to 2016)**

- Advance Admission Tickets available at a discount on the website
- ARRL WPA Section Convention
- Indoor and Outdoor Flea Market spaces available in advance
- Wide Range of Educational Forums
- Numerous Vendors including Quicksilver Radio, KJI Electronics, and Satellite Headquarters
- VE License Testing for all Amateur and Commercial Classes
- ARRL, DXCC Card Checking and Bureau representatives
- Live Demonstrations of the WEARS EMCOMM Mobile Unit
- BreezeShooters Award Presentations
- Prizes, Prizes, Prizes

Talk-in will be on the 147.300(+) Repeater- *pl 131.8*

Watch <http://www.breezeshooters.org> for details.

If using a MAPPING APP on your phone, be sure to query "BUTLER FARM SHOW GROUNDS – Butler PA"

=====<==Cut Here==>=====

**ADVANCED MAIN PRIZE TICKET SALES**

<b>Main Prizes Drawing</b>	\$2 Each	3 for \$5	7 for \$10	15 for \$20	40 for \$50	90 for \$100
<b>Main Prizes Total OVER \$6000 VALUE</b>	Limited Time Incentive: Buy \$50 get Admission Ticket, Buy \$100 We'll fill out tickets plus get Admission Ticket					
ENCLOSED CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF:	\$	Send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: Advance Ticket Sales, Breezeshooters Hamfest PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh, PA 15237				
Make check Payable to Breezeshooters, Inc. Mail Deadline is April 30, 2020. Ticket Stubs returned in your SASE!						
NAME:	CALL:	PHONE: ( ) -				
ADDRESS:						
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	EMAIL:			

Ver2 →

## Thanks & 73



**Parky, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor



I really appreciate the help in gathering material to keep this newsletter number one. Without your help we would not have received the newsletter awards in past years. All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure you know PCARS is known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club. So chip-in and send your article in to keep this newsletter great during 2023 and beyond.

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

**AC8QG, AC8NT, KB8UUZ, WG8X, N8QE, KA8TOA, WB2MGP, WA8AR, K3GP, N8WCP, K8CAV, WIDGI, W8PT, KD8WCK, The ARRL, CQ Magazine and the World-Wide Web**  
With *your* continued help – we can keep making this a *great* newsletter.

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### **Hello - Still need Some Help Here**

How would you like the opportunity to be the next Editor of **The RADIOGRAM** ? Let's face it folks, I'm not getting any younger and I would hate to kick the bucket and just leave PCARS hanging for a newsletter editor. I also want a bit more time to play radio.

**I thought  
growing old  
would take  
longer.**

So here is your chance (if you are not as old as I am) to jump in and have the fun of editing and publishing the monthly PCARS newsletter that all of our members and other hams around the world enjoy seeing monthly.

I've been doing the newsletter since PCARS started it in 2006 (seems like yesterday) - it is about time to let someone else take the reins and be the new Editor. It does take a bit of time every month, but it is fun doing it. You will be right in the thick of things in amateur radio news from all kinds of sources, from local PCARS to Portage County to Ohio to Great Lakes Division to ARRL and beyond.

Nothing special or complicated is used when making the newsletter. I just use Microsoft Word, a paint/picture editing program and a few other programs that are easy and free. Plus, I use the internet to gather up articles every month to bring interesting material to PCARS members.

So, if you are interested, I would be more than happy to show you how I do it and get you going. You too, can be an award winning club newsletter editor! Interested? Email me at [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com)



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

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

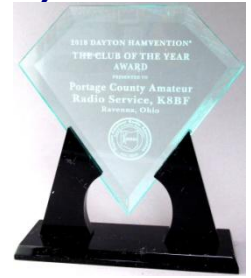


PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the **Kent American Legion Post 496**,  
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - Enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.

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



~ 2023 Officers ~	2023 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
<b>President - Nick Wagner - AC8QG</b> <b>Vice President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT</b> <b>Treasurer - Greg Ash - KA8TOA</b> <b>1 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ</b> <b>2 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT</b> <b>3 Year Trustee - Mike Ryan - KB8TUY</b> <b>Past President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD</b>	ARRL Awards - DXCC	<b>W8KNO</b> Joe Wehner
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	<b>K8CAV</b> Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	<b>W8PT</b> Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink	<b>AC8NT</b> Jim Wilson
	Field Day Chairman, 2022	<b>WA8AR</b> Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	<b>W8PT</b> Chuck Patellis
	Historian	<b>KB8SZI</b> Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	<b>N8AMY</b> Amy Leggiero
	K8BF QSL Manager	<b>N8AMY</b> Amy Leggiero
	Membership Chairman	
	Net Control Coordinator	<b>KA8TOA</b> Greg Ash
	Newsletter Editor	<b>KB8UUZ</b> Tom Parkinson
	OSPOTA Chairman	<b>KB8UUZ</b> Tom Parkinson
	PCARS Photographer	<b>KE8LWO</b> Bernadette Wagner
~ Meetings & Net ~	Public Information Officer	
<b>2nd Monday of each month. 7pm</b> <b>Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895</b>	Secretary	<b>KE8EGF</b> Paul Hyland
	Social Media	<b>N8WCP</b> Mike Szabo
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Mgr.	<b>AC8NT</b> Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	<b>KB8UUZ</b> Tom Parkinson
	Webmaster	<b>WG8X</b> John Myers

**PCARS  
Volunteer  
Examiner  
Team  
Members**

<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
<b>AC8NT</b>	Jim Wilson
<b>AC8QG</b>	Nick Wagner
<b>N8QE</b>	Bob Hajdak
<b>KA8TOA</b>	Greg Ash
<b>WA8CCU</b>	Al Nagy
<b>N8FUM</b>	Dan Torchia
<b>KC8JC</b>	James "JC" Wilson
<b>W8EC</b>	Mark Haas
<b>K8IG</b>	Fred Freer
<b>W8HFZ</b>	Tim McLeod
<b>K8PJW</b>	Phil Weiss
<b>N8XTH</b>	Deron Boring
<b>K8IV</b>	Ed Polack
<b>N8AMY</b>	Amy Leggiero
<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis



## THE RADIOGRAM

**PCARS Incorporated**  
Nov. 1, 2005

**First Meeting**  
Nov. 14, 2005



**ARRL Affiliation**  
April 20, 2006



**Special Service Club**  
March 22, 2010

The RADIOGRAM copyright © 2023, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Hamvention® 2018 Club Of The Year. The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: **ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Third Place 2015, 2022 - Second Place 2014, 2016, 2020 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021. 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 [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com). The RADIOGRAM always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inputs submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month. ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961. They have migrated and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. **So when you spot a black squirrel – think PCARS!**

The RADIOGRAM is published every month and only sent to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com)

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

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



NLC

