



The **RADIOGRAM**

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 03 -MARCH 2025



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



In This Issue Of

The RADIOGRAM

Feature Articles

Bob Naumann, W5OV SK	3
From the PCARS President	4
Freeze Your Acorns Off - Official Report	6
Freeze Your Acorns Off Pictures	7
Great Picture	11
On The Road	12
YLRL Memorial Scholarships for 2025	13
2025 Freeze Your Acorns Off Weather Report	14
Headwaters Adventure Race	16
Those Crazy Solar Indices	26
Young Ham Lends A Hand Contest - 2025	28

Regular Departments

PCARS Birthdays	10
From Around The World	10
Swap-N-Shop	18
PCARS Coffee Cups	18
PCARS on YouTube	18
Charlie The Tuner's DX High-Lites	21
Charlie The Tuner's Contest Update	25
February Meeting Pictures	29
Mark Your Calendar	30
Hamfest Calendar	30
PCARS Stickers and Patches	30
Ham License Plates Wanted	31
PCARS Monthly Meetings	32
VE Testing Information & News	33

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

POTA	19
Digital Operating	19
HF WAS & DX	19
Antenna	20
Flex Net	20
DX & Contesting	21

Volume 20 - March 2025 - Number 03



Finals

Thanks & 73	35
Fine Print	36



Bob Naumann, W5OV - SK

Robert Edmund Naumann, age 66 passed away on Monday, February 10, 2025. Robert was born in Jersey City, New Jersey on September 8, 1958. His funeral was held Feb 22, 2025 at the Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home in his home town of Dallas Texas.

Bob, W5OV was **PCARS** member #307 while he worked at DXE Engineering and lived in Cuyahoga Falls. Some of his previous employment related to amateur radio included:



Director - ARRL, The national association for Amateur Radio - Jun 2021 - Mar 2024 2 years 10 months. **Sales Manager - DX Engineering** - Feb 2015 - Dec 2019 4 years 11 months. **Operations Manager - Array Solutions** - Apr 2006 - Oct 2014 8 years 7 months, Sunnyvale, TX. He was also the **Director - Radio Club of America** - Jan 2013 - Nov 2019.



Bob was an active member in PCARS and helped to support our club. He enjoyed going to PCARS meetings and activities and talking with club members. He also participated in contesting at the PCARS club site. Bob really enjoyed amateur radio and was ready to talk ham radio with PCARS members anytime. His smiling face and enthusiasm will be missed. Over the years he also was active in contesting at the K3LR contest station.

You can read a tribute to Bob on the ARRL website at: <https://www.arrl.org/news/robert-bob-naumann-w5ov-silent-key>

From his obituary:

Robert (Bob) Edmund Naumann, 66, of Jersey City, New Jersey, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Dallas, Texas, on February 10, 2025. Born in Jersey City in 1958, Robert was lovingly adopted by Frank Edmund Naumann and Claire Van Der Sluys of North Haledon, New Jersey. He attended Eastern Christian High School (Class of '76) before earning a degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

A man of integrity, intellect, and generosity, Robert was a mentor to many, particularly within the Amateur Radio Service, where he was a highly respected figure in the contesting and DX community. His passion for radio led him to serve as Director of Operations at ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio, from 2021 to 2024. A passionate advocate of the field, he was an ARRL Life Member and a proud member of the ARRL Diamond Club.

Throughout his professional career, Robert brought his sharp mind and steadfast dedication to roles at Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Citigroup Financial, as well as holding leadership positions in the amateur radio industry. His kindness, wisdom, and generosity of spirit left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him. Above all, Robert was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His greatest joy was his family, whom he loved unconditionally. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Claire. He is survived by his beloved wife, Margaret Mary Naumann (Fahy); his children, Emily Anne Naumann and Timothy Robert Naumann; and his cherished granddaughters, Evelyn Margaret Naumann and Honora Lynne Naumann, who brought endless light into his life.



From The PCARS President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS President



We had a lot of fun in February. Finished some much-needed work on my shack and some work at the club.

Freeze Your Acorns Off was Cold but fun J.C. KC8JC and I worked from a picnic table in the park. We couldn't stay the full day, but we did manage to make some great contacts. We had 22 contacts but that included 16 multipliers. Fifteen meters was active.

Outreach work continued with three events. We took part in the Engineering Expo at Brunswick High School (Picture to the right). Over 130 students, parents and teachers were there to see over 30 exhibits from various groups. We had a lot of visitors to our site. As usual we had our POTA rig up and running along with a SDR setup showing VHF and LF signals. We made 26 FT8 contacts on 40 meters with our short simple antenna inside the building. Even I was amazed at the contacts. It helped that the building was block construction and we were near a door. Next, we visited Stark State for a presentation on ham radio and radio astronomy. They will be building a Radio JOVE receiver to pick up signals from the Sun and Jupiter this Spring and requested some help. It was a great event with lots of questions and interest. Last we visited Scouts in Stow for an introduction to ham radio. We demonstrated fox hunting and antenna building. We will be helping several of the Scouts to qualify for their Radio Merit Badge. March will have a presentation at a Geauga County library, more work with Scouts and more work with clubs at Mt. Union, Stark State and Kent State.



I would like to thank all the members that participated in the club clean-up event. Tables and chairs were cleaned, rugs shampooed, and floors cleaned. The place really looks great. Painting of the window areas in the VHF room will be completed in March. The club thanks Paul, KE8EGF for fixing the ceiling in the VHF room.

The March Monthly Meeting will be hosting Jim Storms AB8YK. He will be talking about the logistics required for Hamvention and the Youth DX Adventure program. Jim has been with us before, and I know it will be an interesting evening.

The following is a list of events currently scheduled for the rest of 2025. We will be having a lot of BIG FUN going forward.

- March 8-9th: WI and ID QSOP Events at Club.
- March 22nd: Introduction to Ham Radio Talk, Middlefield Branch Geauga County Library
- April 26-27th: FL QSOP

- May 3-4th: 7th Area, Indiana, Delaware, New England QSOP
- June 28-29th: Field Day
- July 19-20th: NA RTTY QSOP
- August 23rd: BBQSO/OH QSOP
- September 6th: OSPOTA
- September 6th: Kent State Aero Expo
- September 20th: WA state Salmon Run
- October 4th: CA QSOP at club-site
- October 18th: Jamboree on the Air, Camp Manatoc

We are planning a General Class to start in mid-March. If you know of anyone interested in getting their General, please have them email me (AC8NT@j3solutions.com).

I would also like to know if anyone is interested in attending a ham radio electronics class. It will contain all the technical training required for the Extra plus how to use some of the nifty new ham radio test equipment and software including using the NanoVNA, TinySA, Rigol Spectrum Analyzer, and the club's new scope. Software will include and SimSmith software for building matching circuits and an introduction to antenna analysis. It will include at least one Saturday lab session. If interested send me an email.

List of Possible Events

I am proposing a list of events including builds, but I need your help. Please let me know if you are interested in any of them. Events that bring members together are one of the best parts of clubs. Please consider the list. If you have any other ideas, send them to me.

1. Mineral oil dummy load with watt meter. Featured in QST.
2. Introduction to the Raspberry Pi. This would include introduction in useful commands and how to keep your Pi up to date and load applications.
3. Raspberry Pi build event where you could load and configure ham radio themed applications including versions of the ham clock, WSJT-X, creating a software defined radio, and track satellites.
4. Building a simple software defined receiver for HF.
5. Building an Arduino fox for fox hunting.
6. A class in ham radio mathematics. No calculus required. Simple use of some math tools allowing you to make ham radio calculations easier.
7. How to use a NanoVNA and the TinySA.

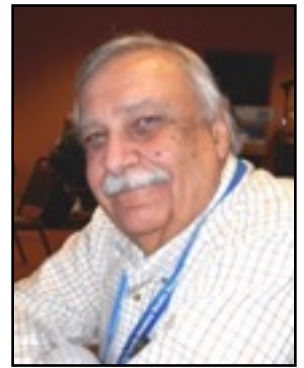
Raspberry Pi events will require you to bring a Pi and power supply to the event.

Please take the time to review the list and send your comments AC8NT@j3solutions.com.

Remember to Get-On-The-Air, have fun and take care of yourself.

Jim, AC8NT

Freeze Your Acorns Off Official Report



Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator

PCARS Members:

On Saturday Feb. 15th, we held our 20th annual Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event. The turnout was great with well over 30 people signing in and knowing that some attended without signing in. Given the WX, I was glad to see so many attendees.

We had 6 stations that turned in their score sheets and logs. I am not going to disclose who won until our March meeting. I don't want to spoil the suspense, so you will have to come out to the meeting if you want to know what happened. But I will tell you that the 1st and 2nd place entries were only 6 pts apart.

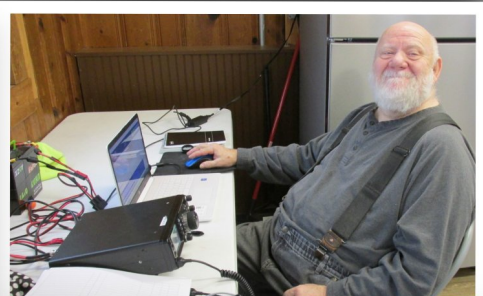
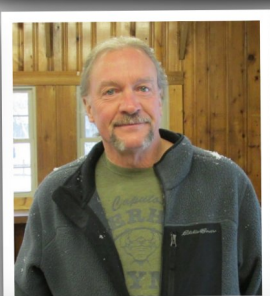
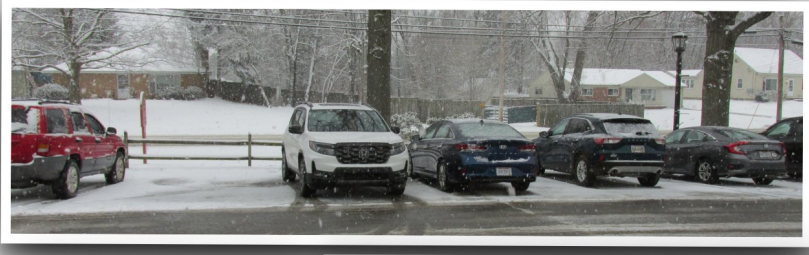
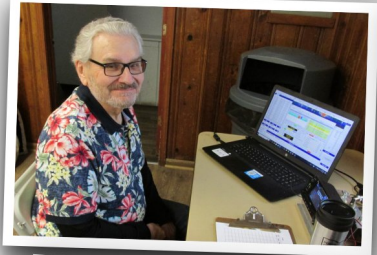
We also held our annual Best Recipe Cook-Off contest and the food offerings were really well received. Of the 6 dishes presented, 4 were completely finished by the end of the event. We had two types of chili, two different fruit cobblers, a bean and winer dish and a hearty vegetable soup. All were delicious. And yes, I am not disclosing the results of this contest either.

It seemed that everyone had a really good time with a lot of laughs and great conversations. I encourage you to attend next year and get in on the BIG FUN we have at our annual event. See you at our March monthly meeting. Til then....

--

73 - Chuck W8PT





PCARS - FYAO
15 Feb. 2025





**PCARS - FYAO
15 Feb. 2025**



**PCARS - FYAO
15 Feb. 2025**

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

KE8RIQ	Sean	KE8KCJ	Montie	N5VLZ	Daryl
K8QF	Russ	WB8LCD	Tom	N8FUM	Dan
W8CYN	James	W8KNO	Joe		



From Around The World...

Here are some links from around the ham radio web. Click and enjoy!

[spaceweather.com](https://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=21&month=02&year=2025) - Is a Second Solar Max Peak coming?
<https://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=21&month=02&year=2025>

[qrper.com](https://qrper.com/2025/01/are-we-spoiled-for-choice-why-theres-no-better-time-to-be-a-qrp-field-operator/) - Are we spoiled for choice?
<https://qrper.com/2025/01/are-we-spoiled-for-choice-why-theres-no-better-time-to-be-a-qrp-field-operator/>

[rtl-sdr.com](https://www.rtl-sdr.com/techminds-building-an-automated-navtex-receiver-using-a-raspberry-pi-and-sdrplay/) - Techminds: Building An Automated Navtex Receiver Using a Raspberry Pi and SDRplay
<https://www.rtl-sdr.com/techminds-building-an-automated-navtex-receiver-using-a-raspberry-pi-and-sdrplay/>

POTA New Park Finder - Looking for a POTA park to activate that you haven't been to yet? Look no further!
<https://newparks.ianrenton.com/>

The 52 Week Ham Radio Challenge - 2025 <https://hamchallenge.org/>
It's never too late to look through this list of challenges. There are plenty of activities in the hobby that might be new to you and fun to try. Work through it at your own pace, pick what you like, and leave the rest!

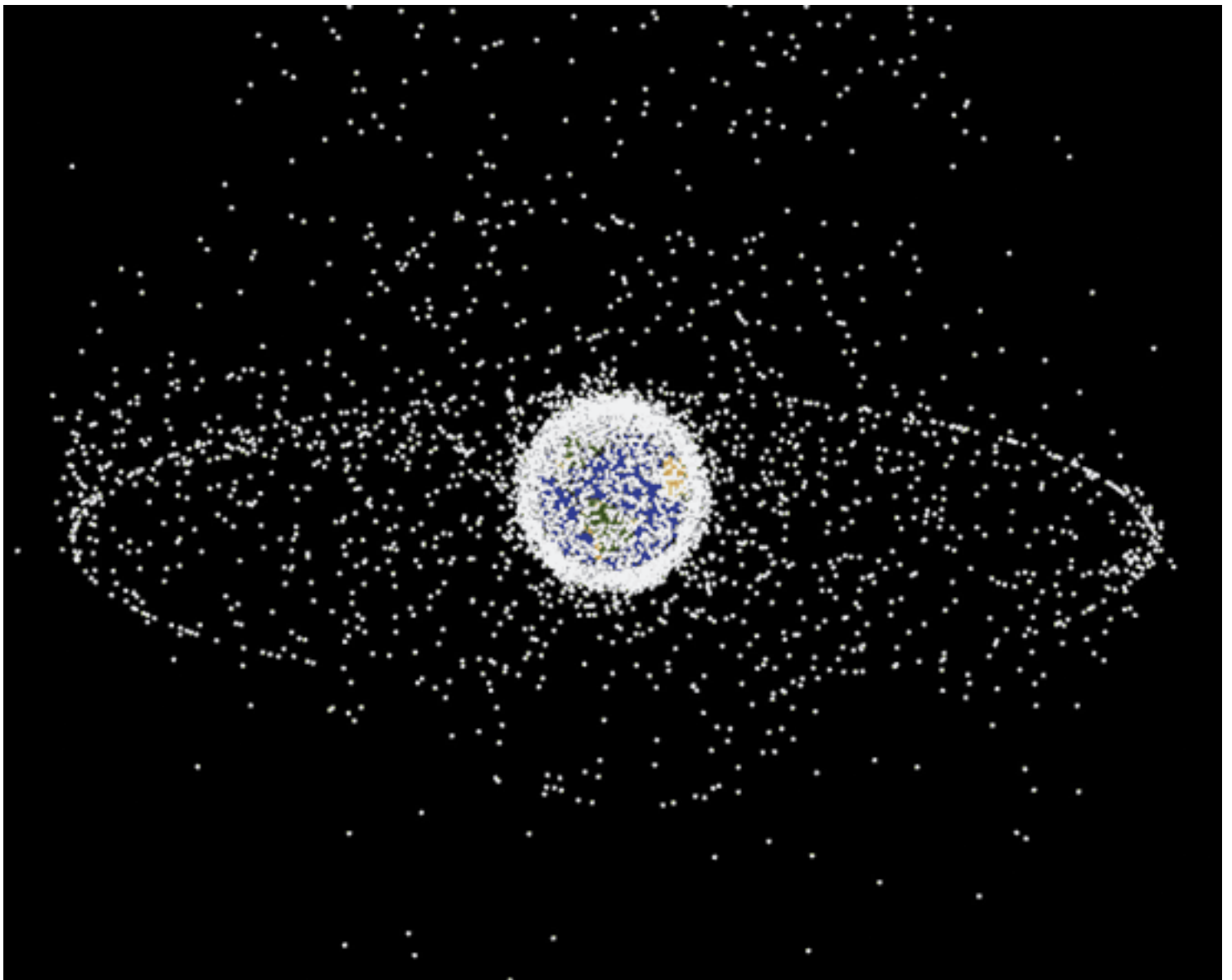
[KB6NU.com](https://www.kb6nu.com/hamcation-presentation-shows-how-to-ramp-up-club-participation/) - HamCation presentation shows how to ramp up club participation.
<https://www.kb6nu.com/hamcation-presentation-shows-how-to-ramp-up-club-participation/>



Jim, AC8NT



I was asked by some students if it was hard to find a satellite sending telemetry. I said it was easy to receive the signals, but not always to decode them. You can point an antenna almost anywhere in the sky and scan for signals. In the following picture every white dot is a satellite orbiting the earth. The elliptical pattern you see are the geostationary satellites. It isn't hard to find something to receive. This picture was provided by NASA, updated last month.





John, WG8X



Hi everyone, who's ready for springtime? While it's true that you can activate in cold weather, it is so much nicer when the temperature gets above freezing. While not due to weather, my activations in the last month have been limited to a few trips to Wingfoot Lake SP, and hanging out at FYAO.

My goal for this year is to get my Kilo award at Wingfoot Lake SP (US-3516), and Wingfoot Lake Wildlife area (US-9518). Most recently, I've been concentrating on the State Park, and am approaching the halfway point to my goal. Propagation has been pretty good. My best DX was the other day. I was on 15 meters, around 90 minutes before sunset, when Kaorua from Japan (JA9KRO) answered my CQ. His signal had that flutter that I think is characteristic of a signal coming over the pole. Perhaps one of our DXers could confirm this for me? Either way, it was so exciting to hear that weak call sign coming back from a distant land. That day, 15 had started off slowly, but improved as time went on. Surprisingly, I was able to complete an entire activation on 15 meters; a new experience for me. Next trip, maybe I'll try the 17 meter band.

FYAO didn't work quite so well for me this year. Since the weather hadn't been great, and I'd been nursing a sore knee, I opted to set up the desk in my truck and operate from there. However, I had some equipment issues and was unable to get anything close to a run going on FT8. I had dumped my coax end into the snow, which I assumed had contributed to it. After lunch, I swapped out a fresh piece of coax, and things did improve. But once the day starts out on a sour note, it is difficult to regain traction.



The next trip out to Wingfoot Lake was more of the same. I tried the FT8 again and was unable to get anything to work right. Also, I seem to have lost the ability to key the rig directly from N3FJP. I'm thinking there's a configuration issue happening here. So, the Apache case holding my POTA gear is currently sitting here in the shack, waiting on a free night when I can troubleshoot it.

In last month's column, I gave an incorrect date for Support Your Parks Weekend. The Spring Support Your Parks weekend is on April 19th & 20th. It is not in March.

I'm putting together a group build for later this year. The build this time will be a Link Dipole. The Link Dipole is a pretty simple antenna and works well for activating.

Changing bands involves lowering the antenna, and connecting (or disconnecting) the appropriate antenna sections. I'll be printing some parts for this one. Perhaps we'll break out the crimpers for installing some Powerpole connectors. I'm buying the 3D printer in the next couple months. That's the last piece of the puzzle before I can begin thinking about setting a date for the build. If only I could have both an unlimited amount of both time and money. That, I guess, is unlikely to happen though, so I'll continue to do the best I can with what I have to work with.

And that is it for this month. 73 everyone, and I'll see you next month. DE WG8X

YLRL Memorial Scholarships for 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Media Contact: Diane Ortiz - VicePresident@ylrl.net

February 13, 2025 — The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) has announced the Memorial Scholarship program for 2025.

The scholarship program is aimed at women Amateur Radio Operators studying radio, communications, electronics or Amateur Radio related arts and sciences.

The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) is an international non-profit organization of women Amateur Radio enthusiasts. It was founded in 1939 and is the longest running YL club in the world. The YLRL is sponsoring three memorial scholarships for 2025:

The Ethel Smith K4LMB Memorial Scholarship—\$2,500 award

The Mary Lou Brown NM7N Memorial Scholarship—\$2,500 award

The Martha “Marte” Wessel K0EPE Memorial Scholarship—\$1,500 award

The YLRL believes that education in the fields of radio, communications, electronics and Amateur Related arts and sciences will play an important role in shaping the world’s future. Through these Memorial Scholarships, YLRL hopes to encourage female students to learn more about Amateur Radio.

“YLRL is committed to investing in women in Amateur Radio, and we believe that every act of volunteerism through Amateur Radio — even a small one — helps turn the world into a better place,” said Vicki Zumwalt, President of YLRL. “We hope that our scholarships will not only encourage students to learn more about science, technology, engineering but also inspire them to take pride in being an Amateur Radio operator and to encourage others to do so as well.”

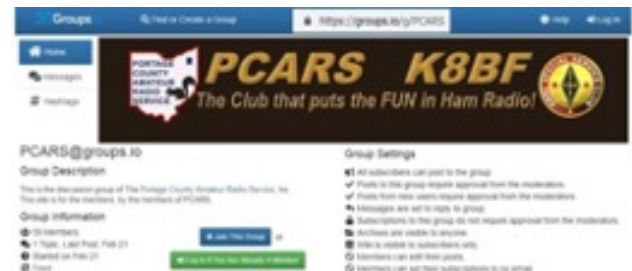
To qualify, students must be female, have an Amateur Radio License, meet the requirements listed on the YLRL.net website and apply using the online application. Applications are due by April 30, 2025. Winners will be announced in July 2025.

Application link: <https://YLRL.net/Scholarships>

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>



2025 Freeze Your Acorns Off Weather Report

Kyle W7KFR



With temperatures hovering in the mid to low 30's, the 2025 PCARS 20th Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off lived up to its name.

The Saturday event began with enough snow to cover roads in the morning, slowly progressing to sleet, then finally to rain in the early afternoon, though the event certainly was not a wash-out. There were more than enough breaks in the weather for PCARS members to unload gear and set-up antennas.

This was my first FYAO and I expected there would be plenty of other club members already bringing their stations to operate on the HF bands, so I opted to bring along a portable VHF APRS weather station project I put together a few years ago to record the weather conditions throughout the duration of the event.



The project centers on a Microsat PLXDigi APRS Digipeater module, a Leixen VV-898 VHF/UHF transceiver and a Peet Bros. Ultimeter 100 Weather Station.

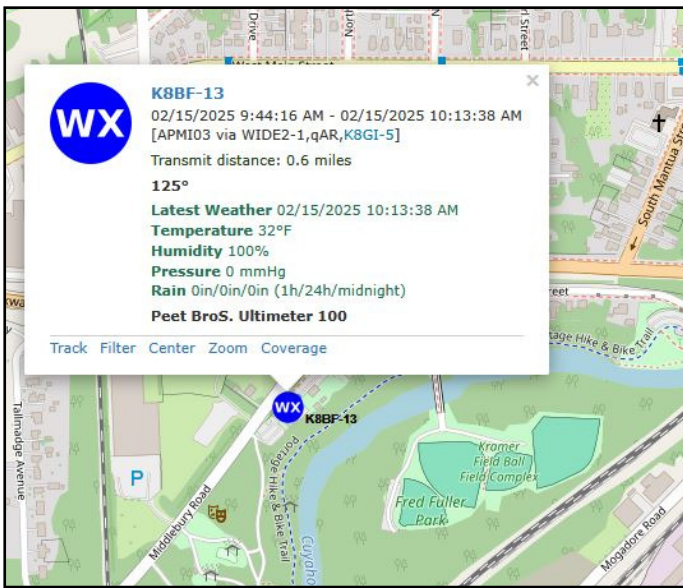
I've been using Microsat's APRS modules for a while and have found them to be rock-solid and reliable. Instructions are written to the PLXDigi's EEPROM using a configuration utility. APRS options with a Raspberry Pi are more complex to set-up and are more prone to failure due to power-loss/SD card corruption issues. The Microsat units also operate on 12 volts, eliminating the need for voltage converters, extra adapters, etc.

The Leixen VV-898 VHF/UHF transceiver is a Chinese radio and was selected ONLY due to its compact size. The electronic squelch on nearly all of these compact Chinese radios is problematic in that they tend to filter out the APRS packets themselves; however, running this solely as a station transmitting weather data and not relaying packets as a digipeater makes the radio usable on APRS.

A Peet Bros. Ultimeter 100 Weather Station with an anemometer and temperature sensor make-up the weather side of the APRS weather station and has an RJ-12 6p6c modular connector on the keypad display to interface its datalogger function to the serial port on the PLXDigi.

The antenna is a Diamond F22A 2m mono-bander mounted on a 10 ft. 1-1/4" mast and fed with 25' of LMR-400. Primary power is supplied by a 10Ah LiFePO battery and connected to a 10A charge controller for connecting solar panels.

Since this was a club event, I asked for prior approval to use the PCARS club call, K8BF, from the club's callsign trustee, Bob Hajdak N8QE.



Data packets from the station were relayed to the internet at 5 minute intervals through the already robust APRS network present in NE Ohio and monitored throughout the day on my laptop. I prefer <https://aprs-map.info>, but <https://aprs.fi> seems to be the more popular choice among APRS users and offers graphing functions that help visualize weather data.

And now... The Weather!

As previously mentioned, morning snow progressed to sleet, then eventually to rain, and the changing conditions were reflected in the temperature data collected by the weather station.

K8BF-13 Stats

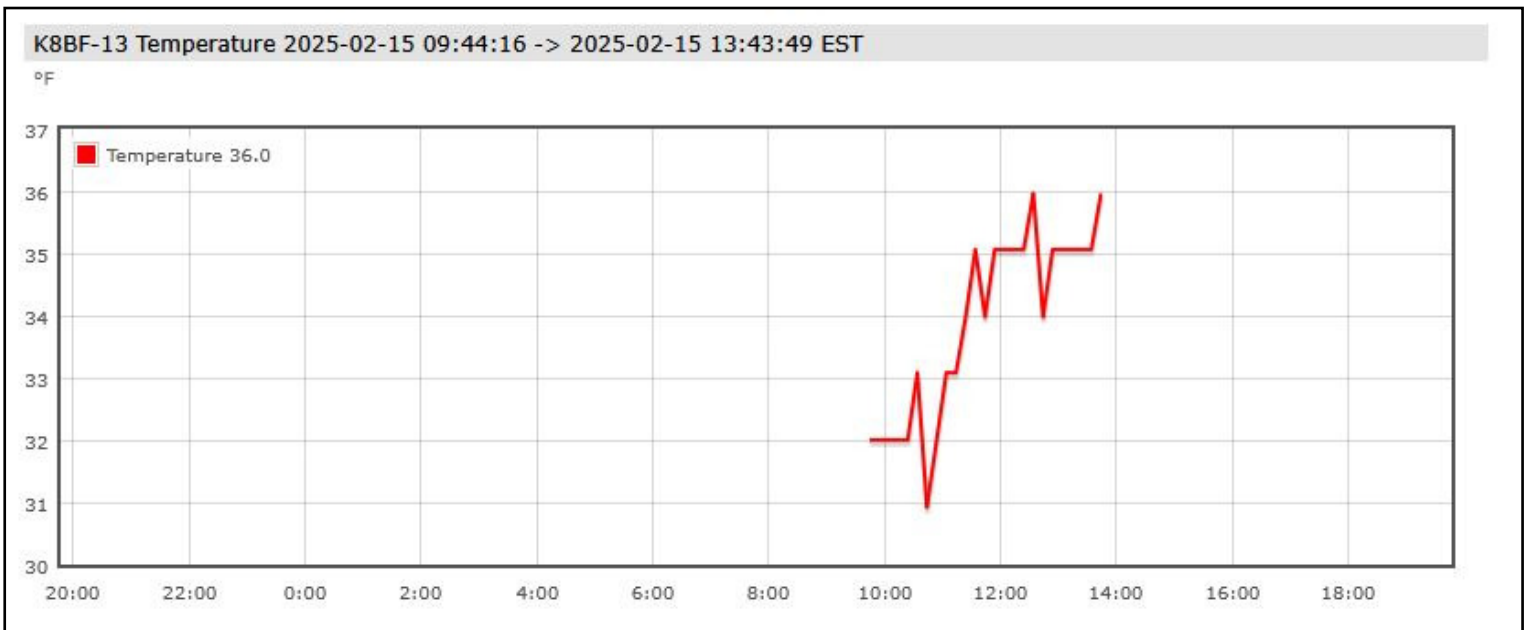
Overview Statistics Trail Chart Weather Telemetry Raw packets

The communication statistics that we show here may differ from similar communication statistics on other websites, the reason is probably that this website is not collecting packets from the same APRS servers. Each APRS server performs duplicate filtering, and which packet that is considered to be a duplicate may differ depending on which APRS server you receive your data from.

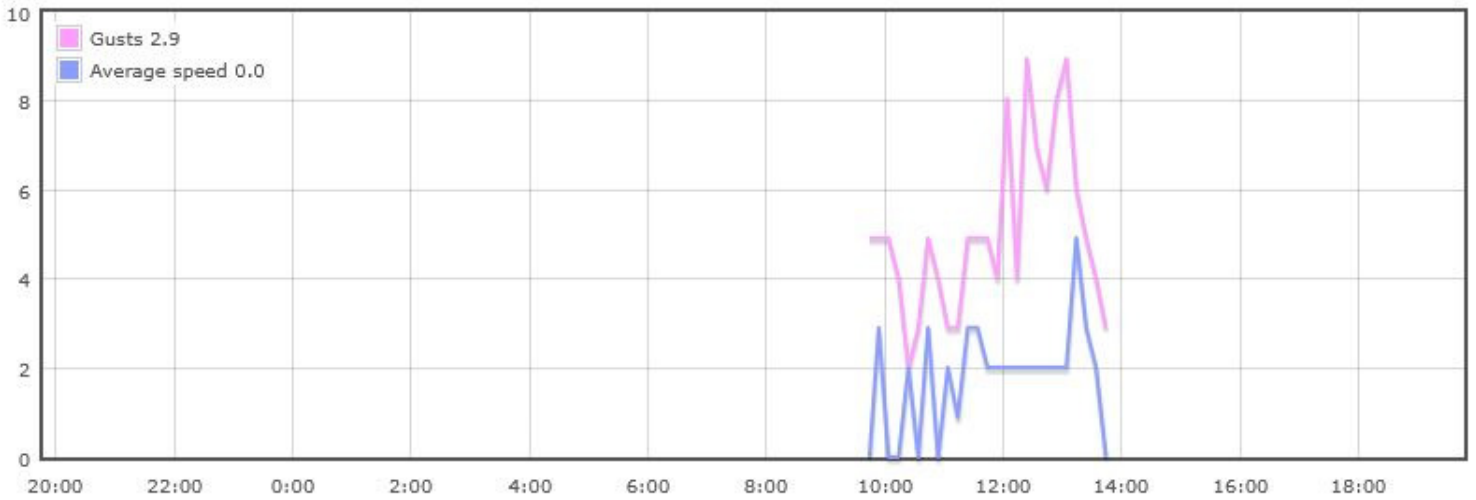
Stations that heard K8BF-13 directly during the latest 10 day(s).

Station	Number of packets	Latest heard	Longest distance
K8GI-5	18	02/15/2025 1:48:50 PM-05:00	0.94 km
NEWBRY	25	02/15/2025 1:43:49 PM-05:00	35.58 km
WOOSTR	6	02/15/2025 11:25:01 AM-05:00	60.25 km

The event saw a morning low of 31 F with a high of 36 F in the afternoon and an average temperature of 35 F.



MPH



Wind was prevailing out of the South with gusts as high as 9 mph and an average wind speed of 0 mph. Overall, not a ton of data points, but it aided in keeping a record of the weather conditions throughout the PCARS 20th Annual FYAO event.

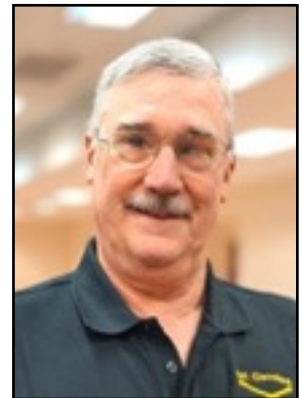
73, and as Dick Goddard used to say... "Sunshine!"

Kyle W7KFR

Headwaters Adventure Race

Rick, K8CAV

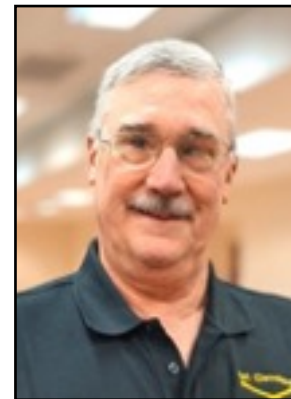
As of this writing, I still need 3-4 volunteers to help out with the Headwaters Adventure Race that takes place on Saturday morning June 7th. If you can help out please let me know at k8cab.com@gmail.com



PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS
EST. 2005

PCARS Field Day 2025 Flex Station

Rick, K8CAV
FD Flex Station Captain



The Flex Station for Field Day still has six time slots open for operators. The table shows what slots are pen. If you want to volunteer at Flex, please drop me a note to k8cav.coms@gmail.com.

DAY	TIME	OPERATOR
SAT 28 JUN	14:00 - 16:00	Jim AC8NT J.C. KC8JC
SAT 28 JUN	16:00 - 18:00	Bob N8QE
SAT 28 JUN	18:00 - 20:00	
SAT 28 JUN	20:00 - 22:00	
SAT 28 JUN	22:00 - 00:00	
SUN 29 JUN	00:00 - 02:00	
SUN 29 JUN	02:00 - 04:00	
SUN 29 JUN	04:00 - 06:00	Mike KP4VZ
SUN 29 JUN	06:00 - 08:00	Gene W8NET John KE8MXR
SUN 29 JUN	08:00 - 10:00	Andrew KE8BWA
SUN 29 JUN	10:00 - 12:00	Bob N8QE
SUN 29 JUN	12:00 - 14:00	



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

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

For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder: This is a PCARS **members only benefit**. Please don't ask to list items for a friend, relative or SK estate unless they are/were a member of PCARS. Requests come in from all over the USA (and beyond) to list items for sale or wanted items and we just cannot dedicate that much space to non-members. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier. The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [01/25] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2025.

PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - LIMITED EDITION! - Get One Now!

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

Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE!!** The only catch is that you have to claim it from the **Treasurer**. There is a list of current members and the treasurer will check off your name when you get your **FREE** PCARS coffee cup.



There are a **very limited number of extra coffee cups** for sale at \$5.00 each. **Contact the Treasurer for details: treasurer@portcars.org**

PCARS is on YouTube

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

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



POTA Special Interest Group

Hello POTA fans!

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator



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

Last meeting, we discussed our next (spring) POTA shindig. We decided to go to Cuyahoga Valley NP on the weekend of World Amateur Radio Day. "WARD" is always on April 18. That falls on a Friday this year, so we will be at CVNP for "World Amateur Radio Day +1"!

This month's meeting, we will be fleshing out more details for outing.

73 de W8NET, Gene

Digital Special Interest Group

The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting will be held on Tuesday March 4th at 7:00 PM at the PCARS Club Site. It will also take place on Zoom, at the link shown below.

Rick, K8CAV
Digital SIG Coordinator



This month will be an open forum meeting and will involve discussions on whatever digital communications topics you would like to have.

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96687118167?pwd=M40XjSbLcaP4Ui3KNWNGGDBc9DF6qR.1>

Meeting ID: 966 8711 8167

Passcode: 183655

HF WAS & DX Nets Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET
HF WAS & DX Nets SIG Coordinator



Greetings!

The next meeting of the HF WAS & DX Nets SIG will be Tuesday APRIL 1, 2025 at 7:00pm.

I will send a QST with details a few days before.

Antenna Special Interest Group

Jim, AC8NT
Antenna SIG Coordinator



We had a great time at the February meeting discussing a possible antenna for the Field Day GOTA station. Parts have been ordered and when the weather gets better, we will put it together and give it a try.

If you have an antenna issue or just want to talk about antennas, please come to the next SIG meeting. The next meeting of the Antenna SIG will be on Tuesday March 18th at 7 PM. Feel free to bring stuff for “Show and Tell”.

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

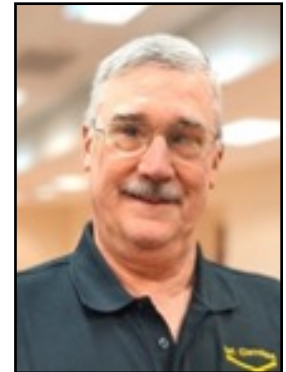
Topic: SIG Zoom
Time: Feb 18, 2025, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96686108444?pwd=hN5hDgTGWwdLBLXkLSeAfVOfSa4nGq.1>

Meeting ID: 966 8610 8444
Passcode: 915088

PCARS Flex Net

Rick, K8CAV
Flex Net Coordinator



The next PCARS monthly Flex Net will be held on Wednesday March 12th at 8:00 PM. The net will be held on 10 meters, USB Phone. The frequency for this net will be 28.350 MHz, +/- QRM. Technician class licensee holders are authorized to operate in this portion of the band and is a good opportunity to get some HF net experience!

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

Please join us if you can!

DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT

DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



We held our DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting at 7PM on Tuesday, Feb 25th at our World Famous Club site. We had 12 attendees so I want to thank all who came out and thank those who attended by ZOOM.

Our topics for discussion were the upcoming State QSO parties for Wisconsin and Idaho. Both of these state contests will be held the weekend of March 8-9. Both begin at 2PM on Saturday and we will begin gathering at least by 1PM to once again review the rules and we will make sure that all the operating positions are up and running. Logging programs for both contests will be running at the same time on all computers. The Wisconsin contest is only 8hrs in length while the Idaho party is a 24 hours event.

As before, we will try to accommodate all who show up but since we really can't schedule times for specific ops, we simply ask you to be patient if all the op positions are filled when you show up.

We also briefly discussed our participation at Freeze Your Acorns Off and all present said that they had a good time and that the food was the best we've had since there was a good mix of kinds of food present. I DID NOT let the cat out of the bag regarding who won what.

We did look briefly at the upcoming contests in April and mentioned that we will be, once again, playing in the Florida QSO Party Apr 26-27. We felt good that this did not conflict with the POTA event that will be held the prior weekend.

Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites

Chuck, W8PT

aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings DXers

February might be the shortest month, but PCARS had a lot going on. And there was and still is a lot going on in the world of DX. We just passed the meteorological end of Winter with the passing of February, so even though we will still have many cold and snowy days, things are going to get better. That means that many of us should be preparing for all that continuation of antenna work we started in the fall and didn't complete due to the WX.

When Spring finally hits, I will be concentrating on my second hobby, namely fly fishing. I've promised myself that I will get out to several Pennsylvania trout streams this year. But there will also be a lot of DX work to do to continue my hunt for the DXCC Honor Roll. I'm at 317 worked and 314 confirmed. Pesky Somalia is giving me fits since I can't seem to get a confirmation from the stations I worked. I've sent QSL cards out to Minami Torishima, and Wake Is to see if they will confirm my ATNOs.

I'm hoping that those of you who have been reading this column, have been using the info to hunt down your own ATNO's. Keep in mind that none of the contributors to the RADIOGRAM put in the effort each month only as typing exercise. We want to get information to all who read this newsletter, that not only inform but will cause you to use whatever you learn from these pages, to better your amateur radio experience. In other words, we do this for the betterment of the hobby.

I know that there are those who do not put much importance on working DX. But for those of us who grew up wanting to work those far away stations, DX is a constant reminder of those early days of excitement when we would hear a station in Europe or South America come back to our CQ. Not to mention the feeling of opening up the mail box to find a QSL or two sitting there.

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

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

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

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

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

March...

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

5H, TANZANIA. Chas, NK8O will be active again as 5H3DX from Tanzania, until March 6. He will operate on 30 - 10m Bands, CW, PSK31, FT8 and possibly SSB. QSL via home call, LOTW.

6W, SENEGAL. Willy, ON4AVT is QRV as 6W/ON4AVT from the town of Warang until April 10. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

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

8Q, MALDIVES. Takio, JH3QFL will be QRV as 8Q7FL until March 6. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using FT8. QSL direct to home call.

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

A9, BAHRAIN. Members of the Bahrain Radio Club are active with special call sign A9100IARU the **first five days of each month** to celebrate the IARU's 100th anniversary. QSL via EC6DX.

C2, NAURU. Phill, FK1TS is QRV as C21TS and plans to extend his stay until September 2025. Activity is currently on 80, 40, and 30 meters using FT8. QSL via LoTW.

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

E6. COMOROS. Elvira, IV3FSG will be QRV as D68Z from Moroni until March 18. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via IK2DUW.

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

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

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

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

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

- * 3F3RRC -- Chirique, **Panama**; PA-0033 [Fortuna Forest Reserve]
- * H7RRC -- Isla Del Cardon, **Nicaragua**
- * YN6RRC -- San Cristóbal Volcano (Tepemesquián), **Nicaragua**;
NI-0055 [Nature Reserve]

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN is QRV as TR8CR until at least April. Activity is on the HF bands using only CW. QSL via F6AJA.

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

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

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

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

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

D4, CAPE VERDE. A group of operators are QRV with special event call sign D450ICV until December 31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of Cape Verde. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via LoTW.

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

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

H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Bernhard, DL2GAC will be QRV as H44MS from Malaita, IOTA OC-047, until May 7. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to home call.

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

Come on....get on the air and work some DX!! Wobble the ethers.

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

**PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS**

EST. 2005

Charlie the Tuner's February 2025 Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to My Fellow PCARS Contesters and anyone else interested in Contesting. Here is my second contest update for 2025. I will keep the list of contests current so that you will be reminded of what your club is doing on the air.

K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2025

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

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

There are several State QSO Parties scheduled for this month.

Oklahoma QSOP	Mar 8-9
Idaho QSOP	Mar 8-9
Wisconsin QSOP	Mar 8-9
Virginia QSOP	Mar 15-16

Other larger contests include:

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB Mar 1-2
BARTG HF RTTY Contest Mar 15-16
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB Mar 29-30

We have participated in the ID and WI QSO Parties for several years now and have done well. We do joke about Idaho and working the "19" stations in that state, but it seems that there are few stations that participate in their State QSO Party, that we end up hearing at all. Therefore, the "19" joke. I'm hoping that we work 20 this year!

We have participated in the BARTG RTTY contest as a practice run for other RTTY events. But this year, we will be entering the NA QSO Party, RTTY mode in July, without any practice beforehand.

Come on out to the club site and help us put K8BF on the air in these events. As always, we really could use a few CW ops.

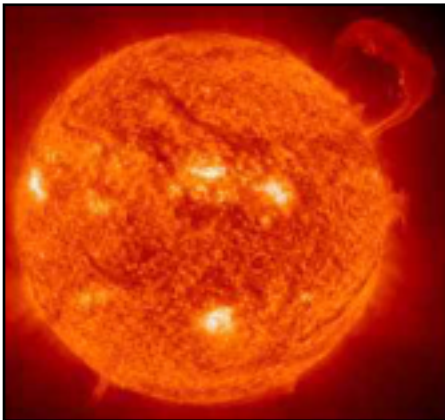
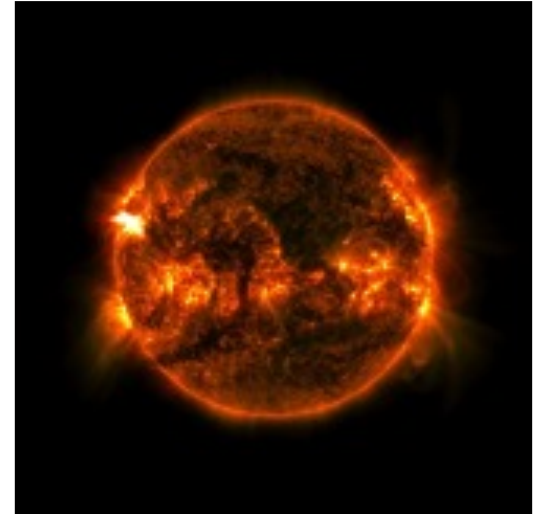
Those Crazy Solar Indices

Jim, AC8NT
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Our sun is constantly changing. Two things happen frequently, Solar Flares and Coronal Mass Ejections. Here is a review of how they affect ham radio.

Solar flares – A solar flare is a burst of radiation coming from the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots. Flares are the most energetic phenomena in the Sun. They are seen as bright areas on the Sun and can last from minutes to hours. Solar flares are measured using Kleczek's SFI index. SFI consists of two values multiplied together. The first is an "importance" factor based on the size of the flare. The second is the time the flare lasts. The larger the SFI the greater the effect on our propagation. Because they are electromagnetic radiation, they travel at the speed of light and make the trip from the sun to Earth in about 8 minutes. The picture on the right shows a very large solar flare that occurred on January 3rd of this year. (bright spot in the upper left of the image.). The X-rays and high energy photons help to increase the energy of the ionosphere increasing the Maximum Usable Frequency MUF. The effects of flares seldom reach the surface of the Earth because they are absorbed by our atmosphere. They present a low risk to those on the surface.



Coronal Mass Ejections – Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are huge bubbles of coronal plasma (ions of mostly hydrogen and helium) threaded by intense magnetic field lines that are ejected from the Sun over the course of several hours. CMEs often look like huge, twisted rope, which scientists call "flux rope." Unlike flares, CMEs are made of ions which have mass. Therefore, they don't travel at the speed of light and can take from 15 hours to days to reach Earth. A CME often contains billions of tons of ions. The picture at the right shows a CME in the upper right of the image. CMEs can be harmful to astronauts especially while they are outside the space station. Unlike flares their effects on our magnet field can be a problem on the surface resulting in possible damage to pipelines and our power grid. The particles arriving at our ionosphere are inconsistent in volume creating varying effects on

propagation. They are responsible for "unreliable" propagation. DX works at 2 PM ; gone at 3 PM; back at 7 PM. CMEs are measured using two values K a logarithmic value proportional to the size of the event, and A which is the average of the K values over 24 hours. K values over 5 and A values over 80 indicate poor propagation. CMEs occur about 1 per week at the bottom of the solar cycle and two to three per day at the height of the cycle. This is about the same rate as solar flares.

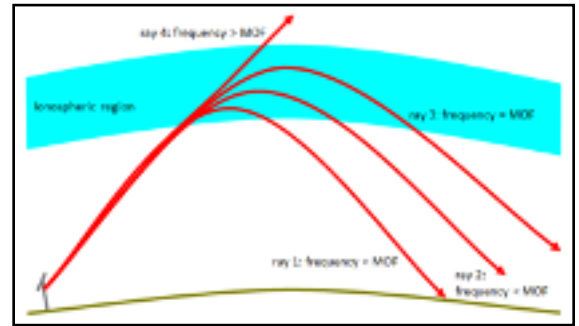
Both flares and CMEs are the result of sunspots. The more sunspots you have the more solar events you have. We are currently at the high point of solar cycle 25 so we have many spots. The number of sunspots is represented by SSN.



How do these events taking place 98,000,000 miles away affect our hobby?

Let's review some of the physics of a radio signal. It is electromagnetic radiation. We can show that our signals have energy proportional to it frequency. The higher the frequency, the higher the energy. We also know it will be refracted off a layer of the ionosphere if that layer has greater energy than our signal. If the signal has too much energy it simply goes out into space. We call the highest frequency that is refracted or reflected the Maximum Usable Frequency or MUF. The ionosphere receives most of its energy from the sun, so it has more energy in the daylight and less at night. That is why lower frequencies 160, 80, and 40 meters need to be used at night. Higher frequencies have too much energy for the low energy ionosphere and take off into space. In the daytime 20 meters works much better because there is more energy in the ionosphere.

The figure to the right shows the higher our signal travels into the ionosphere before it is refracted the longer the hop. Longer hops, better DX. When the results of solar events reach Earth, they increase the energy of the ionosphere. Higher energy creates a higher MUF. Six meters becomes fun. However, if the energy added is so strong it increases the energy of the lower ionosphere, our signal is refracted at a lower level, and we don't benefit from those large hops. Bummer!!



Simply put, small or modest solar events can be good for DX. Large events are generally bad for propagation. The chart below from qsl.net shows the relationship between MUF and the number of sunspots SSN and the Solar Flare Index SFI. You can see as the number of spots and flares increase, the MUF goes up. However, when the SFI gets very large, refractions happen at much lower altitudes reducing hop distance. Remember the ionosphere is not uniform MUF will be different at different locations. Be wary of average MUF numbers.

condex	BAD		Low		Average		Good		Better		Best
MUF	< 15 MHz		> 21 MHz		> 24 MHz		> 28 MHz		> 50 MHz		
SSN	0	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	250	
SFI	67	83	102	124	148	172	196	219	240	273	

Now we can look at geomagnetic storms like those generated by CMEs. When looking at the chart below remember that K is logarithmic. A K value of 2 is represents the size of events is 10 times the size of a K value of 1. A K value of 3 represents events 100 times as big at a K value of 1. A on the other hand is linear 2 is twice as big as 1 and 5 is five times a big at 1. Remember this when looking at K and A values.

HF Propagation conditions		Best			Average			Poor			BAD
Geomagnetic activity index (log-scale)	K	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Geomagnetic activity index (linear)	A	0	4	7	15	27	48	80	132	207	400

You can see that modest values of K typically less than 6 or A values less than 80 are good for propagation. Very high numbers typically are bad news.

Cut to the chase.

We like K and A numbers to be lower for good DX. We want the SFI to be high for six meters, but the hops will likely be shorter. It is not easy to predict flares. It is possible to a degree to predict K values. If you would like a prediction of the next three days K values, you can use the following site.

<https://www.spaceweather.gov/communities/space-weather-enthusiasts-dashboard>

Remember we are looking for K values less than 3 for good propagation. This was the prediction for February 24th. Looking good.

NOAA Kp index breakdown Feb 24–Feb 26 2025

	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26
00–03UT	3.33	1.67	1.67
03–06UT	1.33	3.33	2.67
06–09UT	1.33	3.00	1.67
09–12UT	3.00	2.00	1.67
12–15UT	1.33	1.67	1.67
15–18UT	1.33	1.67	0.67
18–21UT	2.33	1.33	1.67
21–00UT	2.67	1.00	1.67

I hope this takes a little of the mystery out of the solar numbers.

Young Ham Lends a Hand Contest - 2025

Carole Perry, WB2MGP

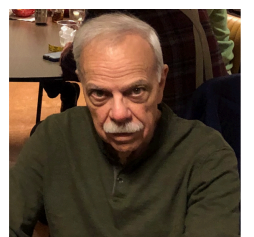
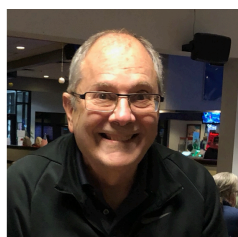
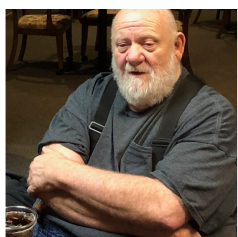
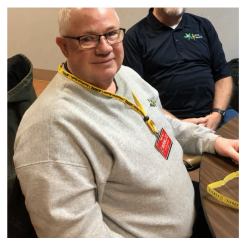
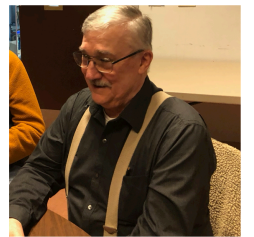
It's the time of year to send in your nominations for a worthy candidate for this contest that encourages one of the basic tenets of amateur radio; volunteerism. I am now accepting nominations to recognize a young licensed person, 19 years of age or younger who has gone above and beyond to help others.



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

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

PCARS February Meeting



Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS February 2025 Schedule of Events

March 3rd	PCARS Board Meeting at PCARS Club Site - 7 PM
March 8th	Idaho-Wisconsin QSO Party 2 PM - 12 AM
March 10th	PCARS Monthly Meeting - 7 PM
March 22nd	Outreach: Ham Radio Presentation at Middlefield Library
March 27th	Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

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

Hamfest Calendar

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

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



PCARS Patches & Stickers

PCARS logo patches (**iron on**) & stickers (stick on) are now available!

Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo! The patch is about 3". The embroidery on the white patch is Red, Black, and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Reach out to the club treasurer for details.



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

PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted!

Dig out that amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it to be permanently affixed to the wall in the PCARS club station!

We have over 80 PCARS member's ham plates now, **but we can use more**. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS IO Group site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of**



From the Ohio BMV:

General Information: Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of Ohio and hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission may apply for these plates. The official call letters will be the license plate numbers.

Registrant Eligibility: Owner must submit a copy of the un-revoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (FCC).

Title Requirements: Ohio Certificate of Title issued in the same name as the FCC license, either singly or jointly, or the name on the FCC license is the same name on the lease agreement.

Vehicle Information: These plates may be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

Type of Plates: Plates will be manufactured with the FCC license.

Issuance Information: Amateur Radio plates cannot be issued with system assigned, reserved, or personalized plate formats.

Renewal of plates can be done at your local Deputy Registrar or by mail using their renewal notice. Amateur Radio License Holders must provide a copy of their current unexpired and unrevoked official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the time of any type renewal transaction.

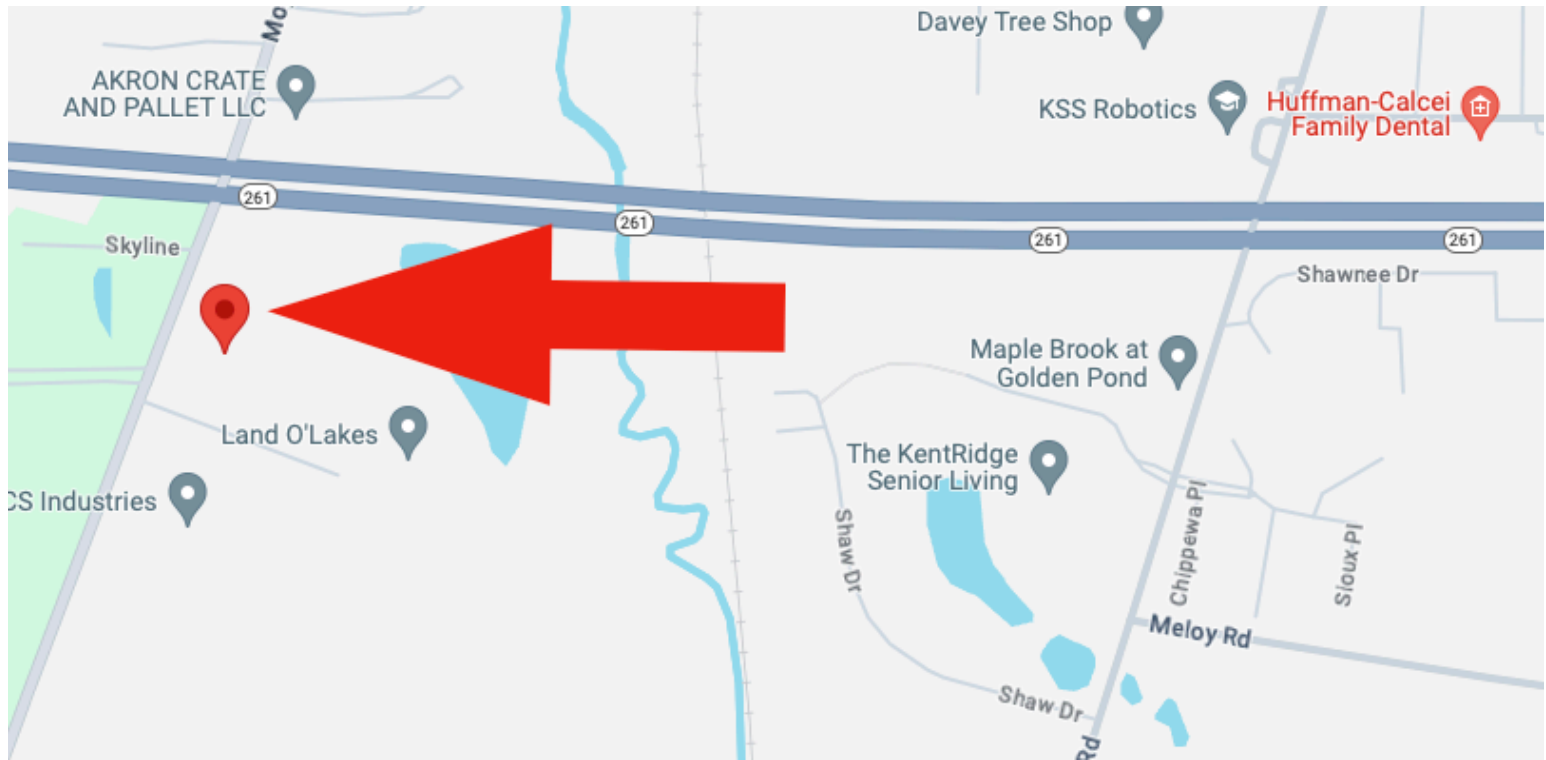
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at all Deputy Registrar license agency locations. These plates cost an additional \$10.00 annually plus the normal registration fees. The fee is determined by Ohio Revised Code section 4503.14.

PCARS Meetings



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

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



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



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

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

PCARS VE Testing Information & News



Future Dates:

- April 5th
- June 7th
- August 2nd
- October 4th
- December 6th

Check the website for the latest information

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison



On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to seeing you at the PCARS club site in Ravenna so you can take your license test or an upgrade to your existing license. Face masks are not State/County mandated at this time, but you are always welcome to wear one.

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

Any questions? Contact KB8UUZ@gmail.com

Quick Facts

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

Okay - Now **All** the Details:

- If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or other communicable germs, or someone that has been infected - please, *do not* come to the club site. *Use of masks is optional.*
- No food or snacks allowed.
- Ensure you have the following:
 - A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
- If you are under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must be able to vouch for you and you need a copy of your birth certificate (you do not have to give us a copy, we just have to see and verify).
- If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You **MUST** bring your original valid amateur radio license **and a copy** of your valid amateur radio license to turn in with your Form 605.
- Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
- NO cell Phones allowed.

First-Time Exam Applicants MUST Obtain FCC Registration Number BEFORE Taking Exam - All amateur examination applicants are required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) **BEFORE** taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system. Applicants will create an FCC username and account, respond to the verification email from FCC, and then register for the FRN. Register on the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES): <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/>

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

FCC - \$35 Amateur Application Fee - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will **not apply to upgrade to an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees**. The new fees will apply only to applications for a **new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign**.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. New applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual.

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

Youth Licensing Grant Program - The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for **new** amateur radio license candidates **17 years old or younger** for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. The \$35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates 17 years old or younger would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VE team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates 17 years old or younger, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required.

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

Printing Your FCC License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

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

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

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

J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor



February is the harshest month of the year in my opinion, so when we finally turn the page on the calendar and end up in March, it feels like we're making progress. The days get a bit longer and the sun seems more interested in melting the snow than it has been. I haven't been getting out to the field every weekend as I'd like, but I've taken a trip or two outdoors to play radio.

We definitely had a great time at Freeze Your Acorns Off and as you can see by the contents of this issue, it made an impression. The weather wasn't fantastic, but that's sort of the point of FYAO, isn't it? It was great to see folks out and the food was great. I wish I could have stayed longer (and logged more contacts!).

I want to thank all of our contributors to this month's issue. New faces and bylines make for a more interesting newsletter.

Send all of your inputs to me at KC8JC@portcars.org in the form of plain text and full-size photos. We really want to hear what you're up to and what you've come across in the hobby that has your attention.

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

**AC8NT, K8CAV, K8ZT, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, KD8CGH, W8NET,
W8PT, WG8X, WB2MGP, W7KFR, and the World Wide Web.**

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



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

~ The Hamvention® 2018 Club of the Year ~

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

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

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

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

2025 PCARS Officers

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

2025 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards DXCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Site Management	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Field Day Chairman	WA8AR	Tony Romito
FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
K8BF QSL Manager	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
Membership Chairman	-	-
Net Control Coordinator	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PCARS Photographer	-	-
Public Information Officer	-	-
Secretary	-	-
Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Tech, Gen, & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Webmaster	KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez
POTA Coordinator	KE8ARB	Brandon Mercer



Active
PCARS
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members

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

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

THE RADIOGRAM

The RADIOGRAM copyright ©2025, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Fourth Place 2024 - Third Place 2015, 2022 - Second Place 2014, 2016, 2020 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023. ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter - Second Place 2013 - First Place in the 2017, 2020 and 2021.

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

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

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