



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

*PCARS - the 2018 Hamvention® Club of The Year*

May 2024 - Volume 19 Number 05

## **HAMVENTION 2024**



**Field Day  
Is Almost  
Here!**



**PCARS K8BF**

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





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## From the President



**Mike, KP4VZ**  
PCARS President



**Has winter truly come to an end?** The third week of April surprised us with a sudden drop in temperature after enjoying days with temperatures in the 60s and 70s. K8BF (PCARS) took the opportunity to activate Punderson State Park (US-1985) despite the colder weather, which hovered around the low 40s. The conditions were even colder than those encountered during this year's Freeze Your Acorn Event (FYAO) in March, adding an extra element of thrill to the event.



April was an eventful month, as it kept us occupied throughout all four weekends. We began with a VE exam session, participated in the CFAC Hamfest, embarked on a POTA ParkPedition, constructed antennas, and engaged in the Florida QSO. We had an amazing time at the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club Hamfest. We had the opportunity to meet new ham radio enthusiasts from across northern Ohio, and we successfully sold a number of PCARS' old radios. Our next plan is to have a table at the MARC Hamfest at MAPS. A big thank you to Greg (KA8TOA) for his assistance in setting up the table and for donating it. We also extend our gratitude to Bob (N8QE) and Paul (KE8EGF) for their help at our table.

The month concluded with two notable events: the Florida QSO Party and an antenna construction session led by Brandon (KE8ARB). It is truly remarkable how we wrapped up the month of April with such engaging activities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who dedicated their time and effort to participate in these events.



### FIELD DAY

[Field Day 2024](#) is fast approaching; the field day team recently held their third planning meeting on April 24th, and it seems that everything is progressing according to plan. The Field Day Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, June 22, 2024. We have uploaded the [reservation form](#), and it is important to note that the deadline for making dinner reservations is June 8th. Members can attend the dinner free of charge, while guests will be required to pay a fee of \$5. Additional information will be shared through QSTs. On June 10th, during our scheduled meeting, Tony and the field day team will provide a comprehensive overview of the preparations for the upcoming field day.





## HAMVENTION

It is a tradition to snap a *PCARS group photo* at Hamvention every year. It would be awesome if you could join us! We'll be meeting up in the bleachers between Main Buildings 2 and 3 on Saturday at exactly 2:00 PM. Make sure you're on time and in the right spot so you don't miss out!

*We extend our heartfelt appreciation for the support we have received thus far. I strongly encourage everyone to become more involved in the club.*

## From the Vice President



**Ken, WA8LRW**  
PCARS Vice President



## March Activity Report

At the April monthly meeting, we learned about three of the SIGs. The DX and Contest SIG, The HF SIG and the Could be Anything SIG. I hope we will see additional members at the SIGs.

The participation at Punderson on April 20 was fun with great participation but cold and the propagation gods were not on our side.

The Florida QSO party contest had great participation but again the propagation gods handed us a curve ball. I have not seen 15 and 10 meters so dead since the bottom of the sunspot cycle. But through perseverance I think we had a respectable score, mainly on 20 meters. Thanks to all the participants.



# From the Treasurer

**Greg, KA8TOA**  
PCARS Treasurer



We sent off our donation to the RCA Youth. Thanks to the generous donations from our club members we sent a check for \$485.00 plus a \$20.00 check from a member for a total of \$505.00 donation from PCARS. They received the checks and a thank you letter is coming to the secretary. So again, **Thanks** to all of you who donated.

Field day donations have been coming in. This is one of our big fun things that the club does. Donations are welcomed and it is a lot of Fun and good training. Please remember to sign up for dinner. For now, 73's and enjoy the weather.

# Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| KE8WVV | Ethan   |
| K8KSU  | Melanie |
| KE8MKY | Jordan  |
| W8PJW  | Paul    |

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| W8EZT  | Frank   |
| WA8LRW | Ken     |
| WA8UWV | Douglas |

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| WA8YFL | Lloyd |
| K8NYM  | Wes   |
| WA8US  | John  |



# Schedule of Events



- May 6<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Board Meeting at PCARS Club Site – 7 pm
- May 13<sup>th</sup> - PCARS meeting at the Kent American Legion - 7 pm
- May 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - Hamvention 2024

*Special Interest Groups at the Club Site*

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

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

## Tech Tips – Less Expensive Tape Measure Yagi

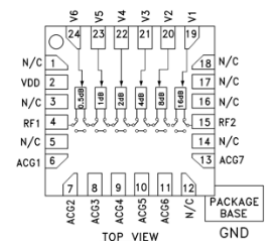
**Jim, AC8NT**



With the goal of making a less expensive 2 Meter Tape Measure Yagi, I have created a new design. This model uses a Lowe's yard stick as the boom. It costs about \$12 to build including the coax feed line with SMA connector for handheld attachment. It also takes less time to build and requires less tools. Not using PVC cement makes it a little more attractive for smaller kids to build. The SWR is 1.2:1 at 145.300 MHz, the sweet spot for fox hunting. At the \$12 price point it opens the build to a much larger audience. If interested, I have all the gauges and tools required to complete a build event. Just let me know if you are interested.

### Playing with attenuators

In RF we often require a flexible attenuator. I have found a great chip-based attenuator for very low power and used this chip as a receiving attenuator. The chip is the Analog Devices HMC472. It is digitally controlled and provides an attenuation range from .5 dB to 31.5 dB in .5 dB steps. I prototyped an attenuator for the fox hunt Yagi where you can select four attenuations using a rotary switch that cover a range from 0 dB to 9 dB. The chip has low insertion loss and works up to 3 GHz. That also makes it a good bench tool to have around.



We have been using the KC90N mixing attenuator for fox hunting, but it requires programming several different frequencies into the receiving handheld and using a level control on the attenuator. The mixing attenuator does a great job but requires a lot of training for the users. This simple passive attenuator allows the receiver to be tuned to only one frequency. Much less training is required.

I have ordered boards for this attenuator and expect them in early May. If you want to play with this chip, you can get a board with the chip and SMA connectors installed from Amazon for a few bucks. You might have some fun with it.

### Noise, Noise and More Noise



I was reviewing engineering projects at two different universities this month. Several of the projects included use of a buck or boost converters. At Mt. Union they were setup in labs near the university's ham radio station. Put simply we lost 80- and 40-meters during project demonstrations. Two of the designs completely wiped out the AM broadcast band. I used this as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of including EMI considerations in designs. Most of the students were using cheap converters. In the next few weeks, they will be reviewing FCC Part 15 and CISPR 22 to learn more about requirements and will be doing some experiments with shielding.

A lot of us are builders. It is part of ham radio. We need to make sure we are not part of the problem. When we build a project found in a book or magazine, remember we may be the source of the noise messing with our own rigs. Simple testing using our own receivers can find problems. Shielding and ferrites fix a lot of the issues.

## Spring ParkPedition In The Books

**Brandon, KE8ARB**



On a windy chilly April 20th morning, PCARS ventured out to Punderson State Park to do an activation. Punderson has a wonderful venue. This event was very well attended with at least 10 separate stations being put on the air. We shared the day with close to 30 hams from northeast Ohio. Setups ranged from verticals, end feds, multi band delta loops, and even a couple mobile antennas in the parking lot. The variety and versatility of portable radio never ceases to amaze me.

Operating portable will expose any weakness you have in your deployment, and today proved to find a few! The wind was cutting through the valley and toppled a portable mast. It was determined that the stakes used were the weak point. Something a bit longer would easily hold the guys in high wind. The station operator was not deterred and simply installed an EFHW in a tree instead. This is exactly why we operate like this. When something goes wrong, you find out what it was and improve it. Then you test your redundancies.



The other challenge was the miserable band conditions. Many bands that were typically very solid performers didn't even yield a contact. Digital modes weren't even enough to put together the quantity of QSO's we're used to. This meant that the bands that were working needed to be shared between multiple operators. We have always been fairly okay with coordinating who is on what band, but this showed that we could use improvement in this area.

There were some newer portable operators who took the time to setup and get on the air. They worked very hard to operate and make contacts and were unable to successfully activate the park. There isn't a thing wrong

with that. If this were easy anyone would do it!

Wind and band conditions aside, we were all able to have some good food and fellowship. The menu for the day was grilled chicken, hot dogs burgers, and Gene loaded up his crockpot with spicy baked beans. We gathered around the pavilion and solved the worlds problems.

Thank you to all who joined us for the event. I fired the guy in charge of the weather and band conditions so hopefully next time they will be better.





## PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - Limited Edition - Get One NOW

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



**Supply is limited.** If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE !!** The only catch is you have to claim it from the **Treasurer - Greg, KA8TOA.**

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



There are a **very limited number of extra coffee cups** for sale at \$5.00 each.  
**Contact Greg for all of the details: [Treasurer@portcars.org](mailto:Treasurer@portcars.org)**

## PCARS IO Group

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



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

*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!!

## Field Day 2024 20-Meters Operations

We're getting closer to Field Day! We have six time slots open so if you're interested in operating the 20M station this year, email me at [n8wpc.us@gmail.com](mailto:n8wpc.us@gmail.com). You don't need to be a seasoned contesteer to work Field Day and all licensed hams are welcome to participate!

We're going to change things up a bit this year. If 20M is quiet at night, we'll have 80M available to keep those contacts rolling!



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

## Field Day 2024 Flex Station Operations



**Rick, K8CAV**  
Flex Station Captain

The Flex Station still has one open time slot available, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM on Sunday. If you are interested, please let me know at [k8cav.coms@gmail.com](mailto:k8cav.coms@gmail.com) and I'll get you plugged in. Below is the Flex Station schedule as of April 24<sup>th</sup>.

| DAY        | TIME      | OPERATOR        |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| SAT 22 JUN | 1400-1600 | AC8NT / KC8JC   |
| SAT 22 JUN | 1600-1800 | N8QE            |
| SAT 22 JUN | 1800-2000 | WA8LRW          |
| SAT 22 JUN | 2000-2200 | WA8LRW          |
| SAT 22 JUN | 2200-0000 | OPEN            |
| SAT 23 JUN | 0000-0200 | KD8WCK / KE8KBJ |
| SAT 23 JUN | 0200-0400 | KD8WCK / KE8KBJ |
| SAT 23 JUN | 0400-0600 | KP4VZ           |
| SAT 23 JUN | 0600-0800 | W8NET / KE8MXR  |
| SAT 23 JUN | 0800-1000 | OPEN            |
| SAT 23 JUN | 1000-1200 | N8QE            |
| SAT 23 JUN | 1200-1400 | OPEN            |

## Field Day 2024 CW Operations

### CURRENT FIELD DAY CW POSITION SCHEDULE ADDITIONAL OPERATORS NEEDED

We need several more CW operators to complete the 24 hours of Field Day:

| UTC       | LOCAL     | OPERATOR |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1800-2100 | 1400-1700 | K3GP     |
| 2100-2400 | 1700-2000 | K8FF     |
| 0000-0300 | 2000-2300 | N8NB     |
| 0300-0600 | 2300-0200 | K8RR     |
| 0600-0900 | 0200-0500 |          |
| 0900-1200 | 0500-0800 |          |
| 1200-1600 | 0800-1200 | WB9LBI   |
| 1600-0800 | 1200-1400 | N8QE     |

Several more CW operators are needed to complete our 24 hours of Field Day.

CW operations are in an enclosed trailer, out of the sun and rain. Keep in mind that most CW speed during field day is moderate (15 to 25 WPM). Each CW contact is worth 2 points, providing a significant contribution to K8BF Standings (Second place in category 4A last year). Contact me at [rtyfan@gmail.com](mailto:rtyfan@gmail.com) to join the CW crew.

If you want to brush up your CW skills beforehand, consider making CW contacts on Parks on the Air (POTA). Like Field Day QSOs, these contacts are very brief and of moderate speed. You can locate POTA CW spots at the following link: <http://pota.app>

George, K3GP  
PCARS CW Captain

## 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.



=====

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

=====

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

=====

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

=====

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

=====

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

=====

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

=====

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



# PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



## PCARS Member Spotlight: KP4VZ

### Mike, KP4VZ



*Note From The Editor: This is the beginning of a new series in The Radiogram where we will take a look at how different members came into the hobby and how they like to spend their time. The plan is to showcase the broad range of interests we have within PCARS and provide members with resources within the club for experimentation and some inspiration to try new things. It's also a great way to get to know our club members. Special thanks to our President, Mike KP4VZ, for getting us started!*

### Oh, the beginnings!

Like many ham radio operators, my interest in Radio started with the Citizen Band. When I was 12 years old (1982), my mother surprised me with a 23 channel Cobra CB radio. It was a real treat! Two my older cousins already had their amateur radio licenses, but it wasn't until I turned 20 that two experienced operators (Elmers), helped me obtain my Novice license. Since I didn't have the means to buy an expensive rig, I managed to get my hands on a used President HR2510. With a 3 element 10 meter band monoband, I had the opportunity to engage in hundreds of QSOs in just a couple of months. It was an exciting time! Those were the early days of my ham radio journey, and they hold a special place in my heart.



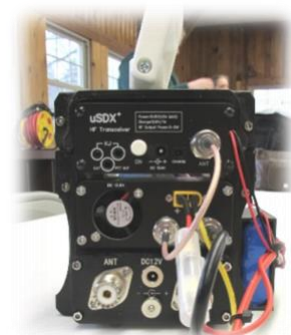
### What inspires me to keep experimenting with Ham Radio

As time has passed, my interest in computers and electronics has deepened. I am always on the lookout for opportunities to integrate Raspberry Pi computers into my daily ham radio endeavors. I have a number of Raspberry Pi devices that I use for installing ham radio software such as Hamclock, FLdigi, FLRig, WSJT-x (FT8/FT4), Gridtracker, and other applications. Additionally, I have conducted experiments with Allstar and DMR Raspberry Pi interface nodes. I have recently developed a keen interest in POTA, which has led me to assemble a field Ham Radio Go Box. To ensure durability, I acquired a Gator rugged case and equipped it with various essential components such as the ICOM 700, QYT KT-8900 VHF/UHF, signalink, power supply, 120v and 12v power connectors, speaker, LDG AT-7000, and a raspberry pi (located at the back of the box). Although it is a well-equipped setup, it does tend to be quite heavy, weighing approximately 40 lbs. However, a few weeks ago, I obtained a smaller case with wheels. My plan is to incorporate my ICOM 7300 into this new case and construct another GO BOX.



Additionally, I have also constructed a compact QRP GO station consisting of a USDX (3.5W output), an optional 35 watts amplifier, and a 100 watt tuner. To house this setup, I utilized 3D printing to create a custom case.

I'm always contemplating my next steps... constantly in motion, never stagnant.



## Balun Build At The Club Site

### Brandon, KE8ARB



We had a total of 11 people attend the balun build at the Club Site. Everyone in attendance built a hybrid 4:1 balun/choke. This build had folks following through illustrated instructions mostly put together with the help of David Waugh, KE8QEP. The build was straightforward: Familiarize yourself with the inventory of the kit; Wind the balun; Wind the choke; Install everything into the case and solder it together.



There were several first-time builders in attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy winding toroids, soldering, and testing their build. The group had a lot of fun going over their work and checking things along the way. Because we took the time to test, we were able to find several issues and get them resolved. When it was all said and done, 10 of the 11 builds were completely functional. Even with the best troubleshooting and rework, we were not happy with the performance of one of the builds, so a new kit was sent home and we'll test it out when it's complete.

To everyone who came and built, please receive my most sincere thanks. It was a bit of work getting everything together, but seeing these builds come together was more rewarding than I could have imagined. I'm looking forward to hearing about your installations and operation. My hope is that the balun serves you as well as it has me.



**Yaesu FT-991 (not the 991A) transceiver.** Original owner, includes power cord with Anderson power poles, MH-31A8J microphone, manual, original factory box, and RT Systems ADMS-991-USB programming software and cable. WILL NOT SHIP CASH ONLY, will deliver within 150 miles of Hiram, Ohio. \$600.00

**Contact Rick** at [k8cav.com@gmail.com](mailto:k8cav.com@gmail.com) 330-620-8826. [05/24]

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

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

**Contact Fred, K8IG** at [K8IG@arrl.net](mailto:K8IG@arrl.net); call 440-446-8000 or text 440-668-2400. [05/24]

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

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

## Ohio Section Youth Net

**When:** The second Sunday of every month at 7:30 PM EST - **Sunday March 10, 2024**

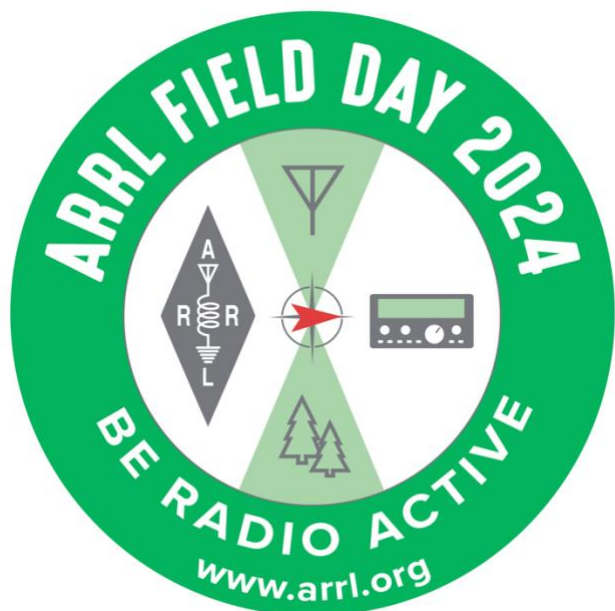
**Where:** The K8IV repeater located in Kent, Ohio (EchoLink node K8BF-L) RF: 146.895 Mhz with PL 118.8

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

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

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





I hope ever one is ready and looking forward to Field Day 2024 (June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>)! Last Year was a good time and was also successful. As most of you know, K8BF again 3<sup>RD</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, 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 we WILL fine tuning 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 CW station:** also needs operators for several time slots. This station requires highly skilled and experienced operators, if you fit that description The CW station needs you. For more information, please contact George K3GP. The CW Station is always crucial to our success every year.

**The GOTA Station:** *New rule changes by the ARRL* present an opportunity for all Technician or Novice licensees; newly licensed amateurs (since June 2023); other generally inactive licensees (inactive for 3 years or more), and 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 12 volunteers** to assist the Field Day team with Setup and Tear down of antennas and station equipment. 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).

**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.

## **The Field Day setup/teardown schedules:**

### SETUP Saturday June 22

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 23

2:00pm Stations Off-The-Air Work begins immediately [Pizza Lunch served before 2:00]  
3:30pm All antennas down and stowed for transport. 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 2024 another successful PCARS Field Day! Email me with any questions.

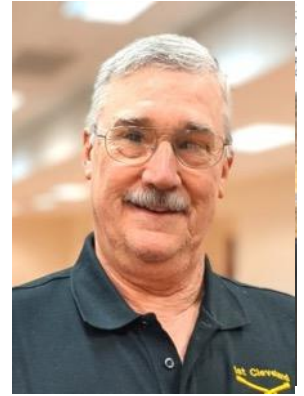
Tony WA8AR, PCARS Field Day Chairman





## *Solar Eclipse – Comms Unit Activities*

***Rick, K8CAV***



In November 2023, Ryan Shackelford, who is the Director of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management (PC OHS/EM) directed the Communications Unit (Coms Unit) to prepare a plan to support amateur radio backup communications between key agencies in Portage County and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the PC OHS/EM for the April 8<sup>th</sup> Total Eclipse event.

Ryan's initial concept was to station Coms Unit members and other amateur radio communicator volunteers at the EOC, the six county 911 call centers, and at each of the eighteen Fire/EMS agencies in Portage County.

The first tasks that were accomplished were to issue a Warning Order to all Coms Unit members, and establish a plan on recruiting additional amateur radio communicators to volunteer for the event. Recruitment involved publishing articles in the PCARS newsletter, contacting PCARS members via the PCARS QST email system, a presentation to PCARS at a club meeting by the PC OHS/EM Deputy Director Bret Lee, and contacting ARES District 5 and Summit County ARES. After several months with only one volunteer coming forward, Ryan, in consultation with the Coms Unit COML modified the plan to provide backup communications support using amateur radio, to just the EOC and the six 911 call centers with an operational period of 11:00 to 17:00. Once requirements were defined, the COML wrote an Operations Plan to support the event and distributed it to Coms Unit members and radio communicators. Additionally, the COML contacted the EOC and the six 911 call centers to identify agency liaisons and to establish locations and logistics for each agency location for the radio communicators who would be supporting them.

West Branch State Park, located in Portage County has a historic relationship with Mahoning County ARES for providing communications at the park during various events there. The Mahoning County EC (MCEC) initially contacted the COML through the Ohio Section Manager to inquire about providing COMS support to the park. COML approved coordinating with MCEC and their operation at the park. MCEC contacted Ryan Shackelford to provide their support plan, and MCEC and COML exchanged ICS-205 Coms Plans and COML integrated MCEC into a common coms channel for coordination.

The plan for supporting the six 911 Call Centers and the EOC involved stationing a radio communicator at each location to relay message traffic from the assigned liaison, as required. It was determined that radio communicators working inside of supported locations using hand-held radios would not reliably be able to communicate with area amateur radio repeaters, and that simplex operations with hand-held radios would be impossible. To facilitate reliable communications, each radio communicator was to use his/her high-power (mobile) VHF/UHF radio in their vehicle to communicate on established nets. The radio communicator and their supported liaison would each be equipped with public safety analog FM (NBFM) hand-held radios to communicate and pass message traffic. Each radio communicator would also be equipped with a public safety MARCS radio to operate on the OEMA67 channel.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> at 08:00 the Operations Plan became the Operations Order, OPORD Total Eclipse. Radio communicators reported to their assigned locations at 11:00 and met with assigned liaisons to issue radios and effect coordination. COML reported to the EOC at 08:00 for EOC operations. At 11:00 NCS opened a net on the primary repeater and took check-ins from radio communicators. After the initial check-in, NCS directed all stations to change to the first alternate repeater and conduct radio checks. NCS then directed all stations to change to the second alternate repeater and conduct radio checks. NCS then directed all stations to change to the simplex alternate and conduct radio checks while directing each station to note which stations could be heard on simplex. NCS directed all stations to return to the primary repeater and commence operations.

The Ohio MARCS radio system used by almost all first responding agencies in Portage County is a very reliable and resilient radio system, specifically designed to be able to support interoperability between disparate agencies, as well as accommodating each individual agency's communications needs. During this event, the system performed exactly as expected, with no noted failures at any point. As a result, support activities of the Coms Unit and its associated radio communicators consisted of conducting periodic radio checks. At 17:00 Director Shackelford determined no further communications support was required and COML directed radio communicators to demobilize and return home.

The Basis and Purpose of amateur radio is defined in FCC Part 97, and the *very first words* of section 97.1(a) state: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." Amateur radio has lived both the word and spirit of 97.1(a) from its very beginning, to the present day. The radio communicators who volunteered to assist the Portage County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management did so in exemplary fashion. Their willingness to give their time and talents, and to do so as professionals, casts great credit on amateur radio in the eyes of the supported agencies and of the public. The following members of our amateur radio community are to be both thanked and congratulated for their efforts.

~Rick DeMattia KD8WCK~

~Greg Ash KA8TOA~

~Paul Hyland KE8EGF~

~Andrew Roland KE8BWA~

~Ron Eckelberry W8AHC~

~Mike Ryan KB8TUY~

~Sandy Getty KD8JCY~

## *Portable Ops Special Interest Group*

***John, WG8X***  
Portable Ops SIG Coordinator



**Next SIG meeting will be Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

Since this is the week of Hamvention, and with the demise of MFJ, lets bring our favorite MFJ gear & stories this month.

There will of course be some discussion of the most recent ParkPediton which was held recently at Punderson.

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

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 921 5449 1950

Passcode: 878917

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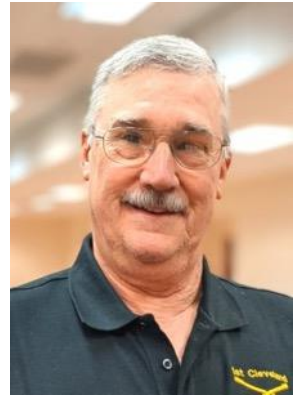
One tap mobile

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

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

## Digital Special Interest Group

**Rick, K8CAV**  
Digital SIG Coordinator



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

The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting will be held on Tuesday May 7th at 7:00 PM at the PCARS Club Site. It will also take place on Zoom with link information below. The presentation this month will be on how to effectively communicate on a digital-only net, using pro-signs and Q signals. This will be in preparation for the May Flex Net, which will be a digital-only net.

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96814463409?pwd=bW51VF12TllsZlNkajJ3NTRhaXVTUT09>

Meeting ID: 968 1446 3409

Passcode: 594134

## Antenna Special Interest Group

**Bob, N8QE**  
Antenna SIG Coordinator



**Next Antenna SIG meeting will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> - 7 pm**

The next meeting of the PCARS Antenna Special Interest Group will be held May 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM. We will be in-person at the PCARS club site and on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/99273855876?pwd=VW51VF12TllsZlNkajJ3NTRhaXVTUT09>

Meeting ID: 992 7385 5876

Passcode: 047804

At the April Antenna SIG hosted by Mike KP4VZ the group participated in troubleshooting the KE8ARB POTA Balun Build to discover a defective SO-239 connector caused by a soldering error.

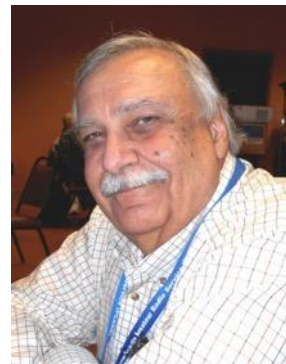
The Antenna SIG meetings are open to all PCARS members and guests. All ham radio operators or anyone interested in Amateur Radio are also welcome to attend.

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 antenna related projects with the group.

## *DX & Contesting Special Interest Group*

**Chuck, W8PT**

DX & Contesting SIG Coordinator



### **Attention PCARS DXers & Contesters**

For those of you who did not make it to the DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting on April 23, we had 10 in attendance either in person or on ZOOM.

We reviewed the rules for the Florida QSO Party that would take place on April 27 & 28. There will be a report on this contest in June's Radiogram.

We also looked at what other contests that would be taking place in May. The weekend of May 4-5 is LOADED! 7th Call Area; Indiana; Delaware; and New England are all hosting their QSO Parties. The ARI International DX Contest is also on that weekend as well as the 10-10 International Spring Contest, CW Mode. Arkansas QSOP is held later in the month as well as the CQ WW WPX Contest, CW Mode. This last one is a really big deal with hundreds of DX stations making their presence known. It might be a great time to look for the All Time New One during this contest happening the weekend of May 25-26.

And if you want to try something interesting, there is the NTC QSO Party on the 16th of May. This is hosted by the Netherlands Telegraphy Club (NTC) and it's a 1hour CW contest. Take a look at the rules and try your luck.

That's it for this month. Get on the air and work some DX and take part in a contest. HAVE SOME BIG FUN!!

## *Flex Net*

**Rick, K8CAV**

Flex Net Coordinator



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

The next Flex Net will take place on Wednesday April 10th at 8:00 PM. This month's net will take place on 6 meters USB phone on 50.150 MHz, +/- QRM. Technician class licensee holders have full privileges on 6-meters, and I'd love to see more of our Technicians on this net.

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

**Please join us if you can!**

## PCARS Thursday 2-Meter Nets

The Nets have been running about average which is a good thing. I would like to thank our operators who make the nets exciting and maintain their skills. Without these operators we would not be having as much fun as this club does. Remember to participate, get involved and have fun. I know it is a hobby and life does get in the way. Play radio enjoy your family, promote the club and take care. I will see you all at the regular meeting in April and enjoy the eclipse.

| May |        | June |        |
|-----|--------|------|--------|
| 2   | N8WCP  | 6    | N8QE   |
| 9   | KE8BWA | 13   | KE8WVV |
| 16  | KE8WVV | 20   | KE8ARB |
| 23  | WB8LCD | 27   | KE8BWA |
| 30  | KA8TOA |      |        |



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)

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

Villager Business Solutions - attention Michelle Zivoder  
8088 Main Street  
Garrettsville, OH 44231  
[michelle@villagerbusiness.com](mailto:michelle@villagerbusiness.com) 330-472-7304



# Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

The Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test, scheduled for May

11, 2024. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between hobbyist and government radio stations.

The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario that does not impact any public or private communications.

Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All times are ZULU (Z), and all frequencies are Upper Side Band (USB) unless otherwise noted.

The frequencies used for the test will not impact any public or private communications and will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

The following stations will be making two-way radiotelephone contacts with stations in the ARS between the time periods listed on the frequencies listed in Kilohertz below.

AAC / BARROW ARMY RESERVE CENTER, KY (USB + RTTY)  
1100Z - 2259Z 4011.0 kHz USB 5,346.5 kHz USB 6,968.5 kHz USB  
13,963.5 kHz USB 18,254.0 kHz USB

AAN / U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND, CO (USB + RTTY)  
1300Z - 2000Z 6,970.5 kHz USB 14,550.5 kHz USB

AAZ / FT HUACHUCA, AZ  
1500Z - 2359Z 7,645.0 kHz USB 14,579.0 kHz USB 18,211.0 kHz USB

ADB / CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA  
1500Z - 2359Z 14,487.0 kHz USB 20,994.0 kHz USB

AFM4NPD / NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY MID-SOUTH, MILLINGTON, TN  
1200Z - 2200Z 4,575.0 kHz USB 7,540.0 kHz USB 13,993.0 kHz USB

AGA0WJ/ NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND OAK HARBOR, WA (USB + RTTY)  
1600Z - 2200Z 5,403.5 kHz USB 7,431.5 kHz USB 13,528.5 kHz USB  
18,272.5 kHz USB

AGA2SY / HANCOCK FIELD, NY  
1200Z - 2000Z 4,540.0 kHz USB 7,473.5 kHz USB 15,807.0 kHz USB  
19,955.0 kHz USB 20,740.0 kHz USB 27,736.0 kHz USB

AGA5SC / SCOTT AFB, IL  
1600Z - 2300Z 5,186.0 kHz USB 7,938.0 kHz USB 14,832.0 kHz USB 27,736.0 kHz USB

AGA9TR / TRAVIS AFB, CA

1700Z - 2359Z 7,329.0 kHz USB 14,411.0 kHz USB 20,873.0 kHz USB  
27,877.0 kHz USB

GRIFFIN1 / 193rd RTI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BETHANY BEACH, DE

1300Z – 1800Z 7,533.5 kHz USB 14,441.5 kHz USB 18,293.0 kHz USB

NAF / NEWPORT NAVAL RADIO STATION MUSEUM NEWPORT, RI (USB + CW)

1400Z - 2300Z 7,498.5 kHz USB 14,463.5 kHz USB

NBGC/ USS HORNET AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ABLEMEDA, CA (USB + CW)

1500Z – 0000Z 7362.5 kHz USB 14,375 kHz USB 21,886 kHz USB  
27,860 kHz USB

NEPM / USS IOWA BB 61 LOS ANGELES, CA (USB + RTTY +CW)

1400Z - 2300Z 7,469.0 kHz USB 14,667.0 kHz USB 18,444.0 kHz USB  
21,856.0 kHz USB 21,918.0 kHz USB

NIIW / USS MIDWAY CV-41 SAN DIEGO, CA (USB + CW + RTTY)

11May 0001Z-0400Z & 11May 1400Z-12May 0300Z 4,010.0 kHz USB 5,371.5 kHz USB  
7,455.4 kHz USB 14,476.0 kHz USB 18,060.0 kHz USB

NMC1/ US COAST GUARD BASE ALAMEDA, CA (USB + RTTY)

1700Z - 2359Z 7,3530.0 kHz USB 14,461.0 kHz USB

NSS / US NAVAL ACADEMY ANNAPOLIS, MD (USB + CW)

11May 1300Z – 12May 0200Z 4,038.5 kHz USB 5,330.5 kHz USB 7,533.5 kHz USB  
9,447.0 kHz USB 14,487.0 kHz USB

NWKJ / USS YORKTOWN PATRIOTS POINT, SC

1400Z - 2300Z 4,027.0 kHz USB 7,360.0 kHz USB 14,438.5 kHz USB

NWVC / LST-325 EVANSVILLE, IN (USB + CW)

11May 1200Z – 12May 0300Z 3,325.0 kHz USB 6,913.0 kHz USB 9,988.5 kHz USB  
13,974.0 kHz USB

WAR / PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC (USB + CW + RTTY)

1200Z - 2400Z 4018.0 kHz USB 5,357.0 kHz USB 7,305.0 kHz USB  
14,383.5 kHz USB 20,997.0 kHz USB

An AFD message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) Serial PSK waveform (M110) followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY) as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. Technical information regarding these waveforms is provided at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pYDj7kQbm-QAyY4RPtx0dOXKohjaEjq9?usp=sharing>

The AFD Defense Message will also be sent at 1400Z and 2000Z on the frequencies designated below.

AAC: MILSTD110/RTTY 13,963.5 kHz USB

AAZ: MILSTD110 14,579.0 kHz USB

ADB: MILSTD110 20,994.0 kHz USB

AGA0WJ MILSTD110/RTTY 13,528.5 kHz USB

NEPM: RTTY 14,667.0 kHz USB  
NIIW: MILSTD110/RTTY/CW 14,476.0 kHz USB  
NWKJ: MILSTD110 14,438.5 kHz USB  
NWVC: CW 13,974.0 kHz USB  
WAR: MILSTD110/RTTY/CW 14,383.5 kHz USB

For those who wish to document their contacts with a QSL card, go to <https://www.usarmymars.org/events> and complete the request form.

## *MFJ: The End Of An Era*

From KB6NU's Blog <https://www.kb6nu.com/>

*There have been rumors floating around for the past couple of days that MFJ was going to discontinue production. That seemed almost impossible to me because they've become such a big part of amateur radio. Nonetheless, the rumors are true. Martin Jue sent out this message earlier today:*

April 25, 2024

Dear Fellow Hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter

As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies' Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vectronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours, 73s  
Martin F. Jue, K5FLU



## From Around The World...



### Links from Here, There, and Everywhere

Check out the Solar Eclipse QSO Party First Results:

<https://hamsci.org/article/april-8-2024-solar-eclipse-qso-party-first-results>

Here's an Amateur Radio Operator map to help you find local hams:

<https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map>

If you're honing your CW skills or are new to The Code, check out LCWO.net

<https://lcwo.net>

## On The Road with WG8X



*John, WG8X*



Well, another month is gone; we're a few days closer to Hamvention, and it finally appears that springtime might actually be on it's way! May is almost here, and I cannot wait! Hamvention is coming up on the weekend of May 17th - 19th. Most campsites at the nearby Caesar Creek SP have long since been reserved. But don't give up; there may yet be cancelations.



In the last few weeks, I've not gotten out as much to the parks as I normally would at this time of the year. Keeping the wheels running on the home front takes up a lot of my time. I did get out to a few parks though.

April 8<sup>th</sup> found my wife & I at Findley SP for the Eclipse. She was even impressed with the eclipse! Unfortunately, the park was jam-packed, which brought RFI from the neighboring campsites. On Monday night, I gave up and drove to a more secluded part of the park to operate portable style. This was just so I could get away from the interference.

Then on the 20<sup>th</sup>, there was the PCARS ParkPedition. You'll read all about this in Brandon's article, but let me just ask "Who orders SNOW in mid April"?

The following day, I made a trip to Columbiana County to activate an ATNO (All time New One). It was Highlandtown wildlife area. While the band conditions weren't bad, they weren't great either. A couple European stations managed to get in my 20M log, but not without a lot of repeats.

As you are reading this, I'll be relaxing in Southern Ohio, handing out a two-fer (US-1968 & US-5455) in Vinton County. I might do some out of the way activations while I'm down there. I'll share that in next months column.



Back to Hamvention. Xenia for me this year is about restocking some small parts from the flea market, and hitting a few of the too-numerous –to-list-here forums that are going on over the weekend.

You can meet new friends and reconnect with old ones who you've previously only met on the air. Also, did you know that you can get in free to the show by volunteering some of your time to work? You can learn more at Hamvention org.

Unfortunately, there will be two no-shows in the indoor displays this year will be MFJ Enterprises, and R & L.

And then, there are the Parks! There are so many POTA numbers in the area of Hamvention that it's well worth doing an activation (or ten) if you can spare the time.

Sorry to say, this is all I have time for this month. 73 all, and maybe I'll see you at Hamvention.



## Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



### Greetings DXers

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

So far the WX has not made its mind up as to what it wants to do. We get one or two days of nice WX and then it feels like winter again. And let's not talk about the wind. The wind turned the mast on Tower 1 and it will be a real job getting the antennas back pointing in the correct direction according to the rotor controller. Right now, when I need to point one of the antennas in a certain direction, I have to hit the rotor button and then run to a window to see where the antennas are pointing. Good for the waistline but a real pain in the neck.

Anyway, let's see what DX is on tap for this month, and a couple months ahead.

**Thanks to:** G0TLE, The Daily DX, DL5ON & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, DXNL for the following DX information.

I'm using the same disclaimer as last year. This report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operation or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know, so... - "**Work First, Worry Later**".

### DXCC Top 15 Most Wanted Countries 2024 Club Log

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. FT/G GLORIOSO ISLAND
8. 3Y/P PETER 1 ISLAND
9. FT5/X KERGUELEN ISLAND
10. YV0 AVES ISLAND
11. 3Y/B BOUVET ISLAND
12. ZS8 PRINCE EDWARD & MARION ISLANDS
13. KH4 MIDWAY ISLAND
14. VK0M MACQUARIE ISLAND
15. PY0S SAINT PETER AND PAUL ROCKS

### May...

**3G0, EASTER IS.** 3G0YA Team will be active from Easter Island, IOTA SA - 001, 18 April - 6 May 2024. (earlier they announced as CD0Y). Team - DL6FBL, DK9IP, DM6EE. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, Digital modes. QSL via DJ4MX, ClubLog OQRS.

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

**9M4, TIOMAN IS. MALAYSIA.** 9M4IOTA Team will be active from Pulau Kapas, Terengganu, IOTA AS - 073, Malaysia, 31 May - 2 June 2024.

**9X, RWANDA.** Harold, DF2WO will be active again as 9X2AW from Rwanda, May 2-17 2024. He will operate on 160 - 10m, CW, SSB, Digital modes and QO-100 satellite. QSL via M0OXO, OQRS.

**A5, BHUTAN.** Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are QRV as A52P and A52CI, respectively, until May 4. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via Club Log.

**CE0, EASTER ISLAND.** A group of operators are QRV as 3G0YA until May 6. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via DJ4MX.

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

**FT4, GLORIOSO IS.** Marek, FH4VVK is planning to be active as FT4GL from Glorioso Islands, IOTA AF - 011, 24 May - 19 June 2024. He will operate on HF Bands. QSL via F4FTV, LOTW. DXCC Country - Glorioso Islands, FR/G. QTH Locator - LH38pk.

**FY, FRENCH GUIANA.** Operators at club station FY5KE are QRV as TO60CSG each weekend in May and June to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guiana Space Centre. QSL direct to home call.

**JD1, OGASAWARA.** Harry, JG7PSJ will be QRV as JD1BMH from Chichijima, IOTA AS-031, until May 4. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL direct to home call.

**ON, BELGIUM.** Special event station OT2024EPIC is QRV until May 19 to promote the seventh edition of the Antwerp Port Epic cycling race. QSL via operators' instructions.

**ANTARCTICA.** Igor, RQ8K is QRV as RI1ANE from the Base Progress, IOTA AN-016, until May 2025. Activity is in his spare time. QSL via RN3RQ.

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

**VP6, PITCAIRN IS.** Dave, WJ2O will be active as VP6DF from Pitcairn Island, IOTA OC - 044, May 30 - June 10, 2024. He will operate on HF Bands. QSL via home call.

**VP9, BERMUDA IS.** Darrell, AB2E will be active as VP9/AB2E from Bermuda Islands, IOTA NA - 005, 23 - 27 May 2024. He will operate on 160 - 10m Bands, including activity in CQ WW WPX CW Contest as VP9I. QSL via home call direct, LOTW.

**VU7, LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS.** Lal, VU7LAL is QRV from Agatti and Kavarathi until May 31. Activity is on 40, 20, and 10 meters. QSL direct.

**Z8, SOUTH SUDAN.** Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba until May 31. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 160 and 80 meters, using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

**ZC4, CYPRUS.** Dave, G4WXJ will be active as ZC4RH from Cyprus, IOTA AS - 004, until May 9, 2024. He will operate on HF Bands, FT8, FT4, SSB, CW. QSL via DK6SP, LOTW.

### **Look Ahead & Reminders...**

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

**C91, MOZAMBIQUE.** Pedro, CT7AHV will again be active from Mozambique as **C91AHV** during June 1-15, 2024. QRV on 40-20-15-10m with two beam antennas on SSB & FT8. Pedro hopes to livestream on both Club Log and You Tube. QSL via EA5GL, LoTW.

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

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

**FS, SAINT MARTIN IS.** Hal, FS/W8HC will be active from Saint Martin Island, IOTA NA - 105, 25 June - 2 July 2024. He will operate on 40 - 6m, CW, FT8. QSL via LOTW.

**FS, SAINT MARTIN IS.** Gregg, W6IZT will be active again as FS/W6IZT from Saint Martin Island, IOTA NA-105, 25 June - 2 July 2024. He will operate on 40 - 6 m mostly CW. QSL via N7XG direct, buro, LOTW.

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Jorg, OE6VIE is QRV with special event station OE60RRDXA until June 30 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Rhein Ruhr DX Association RDXA. QSL via LoTW.

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

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

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

**XW, LAOS.** Vincent, XW4KV is QRV from Vang Vieng until June 1. Lately he has been active on 15 meters using FT8 around 1100z. QSL via F4BKV.

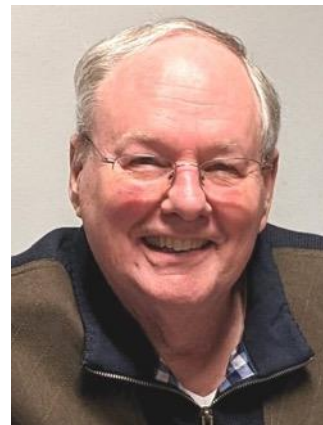
As usual, here's my disclaimer: Keep in mind that these DX events can change due to various reasons that sometimes are out of the hands of those who are doing the planning. Keep the ethers wobbling and work some DX. Uncover your rigs and put some power to them!

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

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

## Outreach Program

*Jim, AC8NT*



Our Ham Radio/Engineering outreach program continues. This month we visited three events.

### Stark State Canton – Spring Fling Event

This event was to showcase clubs that existed at Stark State's Canton campus. They have a small ham radio club championed by club advisor and PCARS member Prof. Vern Sproat KE8VS and were looking for more members. This event was outside on Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> and for a Spring Fling it was COLD. We setup our portable station and a vertical antenna for 20-10 meters. For such a cold day we had a lot of visitors. Reminded me of our FYAO event with a lot of the students wearing beachwear. We also had the opportunity to connect with the Physics club. The Physics club wants to do some radio astronomy projects and we have agreed to help them set up a hydrogen line receiver. Along with some students signing up for more information on ham radio, we had several of the teaching staff ask for more information. I always like interest from our educators.



### Stark State Akron - Spring Fling Event

Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> we held an event like the Canton event at Stark's North campus. A nice warm day with a much better turnout. People sticking around longer to get a little taste of airtime. Much better antenna location. Setup the Chameleon vertical and made a lot of SSB and FT8 contacts. You have all heard this before, but it is amazing what we can do with 5-10 watts. On the downside it took 125 feet of coax to reach the antenna and most of it was covered in duct tape. What a tear down mess. We also had picture restrictions, so I could only take one picture before the event started. You might notice the duck shoot. We added this to the booth to get more traffic and it worked well.



## Mt. Union – Engineering Project Review

I was invited to review student engineering projects at Mt. Union. Saw some very interesting work. Before the event I tuned up the antenna for the club site and made some contacts with both my portable station and the club station. With some help, they will have a club callsign in May. Thanks to Dr. Fontgalland KE8YFK, there is a lot of interest in RF at Mt. Union and therefore considerable interest in ham radio as a learning tool. It is the goal to celebrate full operation of the station with its call sign in May. The students had fun taking lots of pictures of this old man working on their equipment. As a note, it was not cold inside, but on the roof, it was very cold. Why is it that we seem to work on antennas more when the weather is bad than on nice days?

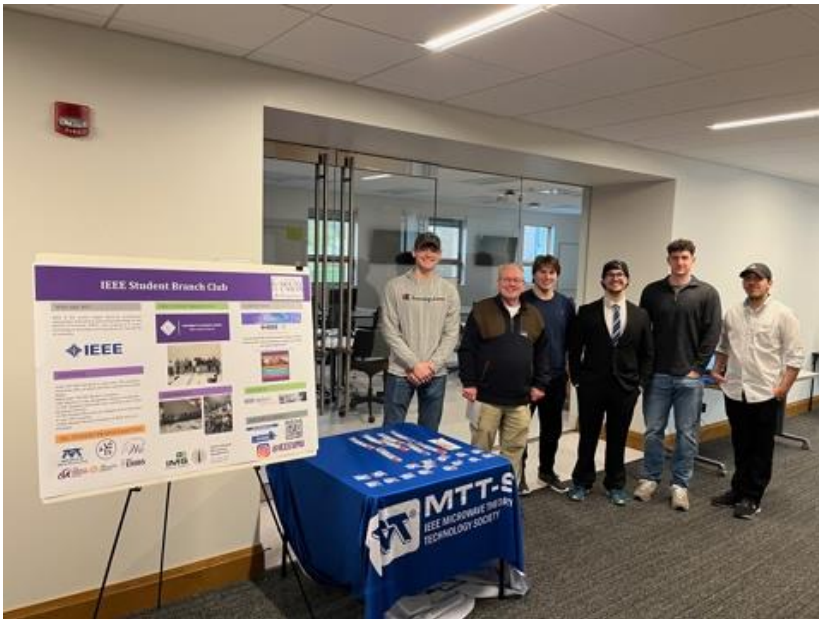


## Future Events

We are working on finalizing dates with the Portage County Libraries for demonstration events. I have been promised these dates the first week in May. We have a firm date for the Kent City Library the afternoon of Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>. We are also scheduled for the celebration of the new gazebo at the Ravenna City Library. This is scheduled for the weekend after completion of construction in August.

We are halfway to our goal of 12 STEM/Outreach events for 2024. It appears we will exceed this number based on current interest. If anyone is interested in helping with

these events, please let me know. Just send an email to [AC8NT@j3solutions.com](mailto:AC8NT@j3solutions.com)



# PCARS K8BF

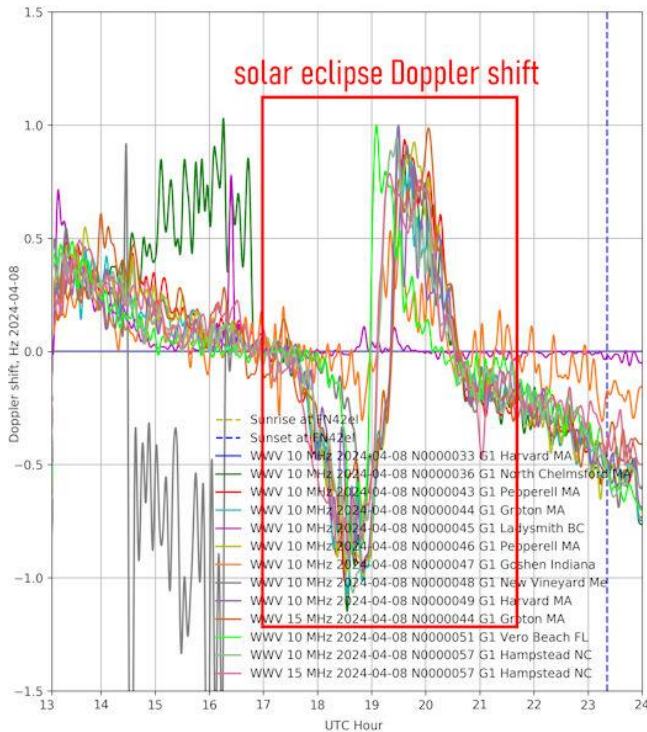
The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



# Solar Eclipse Shifts Time Signals

From *Spaceweather.com*:

**THE SOLAR ECLIPSE SHIFTED TIME SIGNALS IN THE USA:** The US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has a radio station in Fort Collins, Colorado. Call letters: [WWV](#). Operating at multiple shortwave frequencies, WWV broadcasts precise time and frequency information 24/7 to listeners worldwide. On April 8, 2024, the frequency of WWV shifted:



*This plot also contains data from WWV's sister station in Hawaii, WWVH*

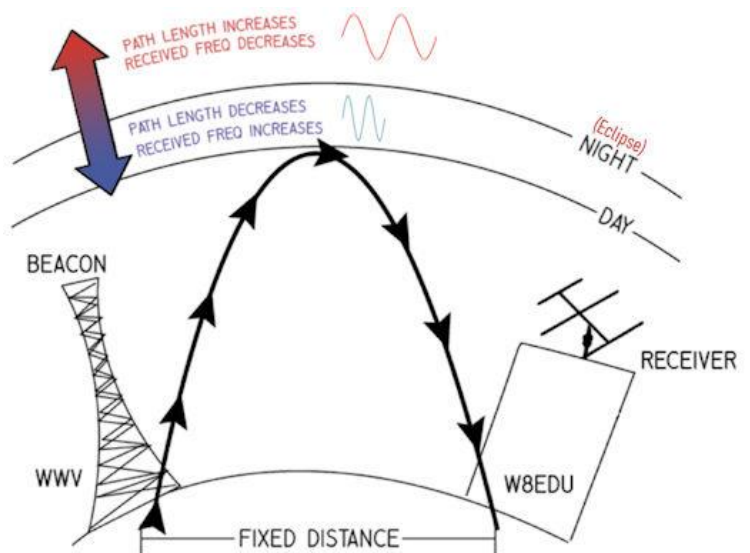
"It was the solar eclipse," says ham radio operator [Kristina Collins](#) (W8EDU) of Cleveland, Ohio, who assembled records from 13 monitoring stations in and around the path of totality. "The [HamSCI](#) Personal Space Weather Station Network's Grape stations measure Doppler shift in the carrier signal of time standard radio stations such as WWV. On April 8th, the network saw a distinct S-curve signature associated with the eclipse."

The Doppler shift occurred when the shadow of the Moon pierced [the ionosphere](#), creating a temporary hole where ionization was reduced. This, in turn, altered the "skip distance" from transmitters to receivers, as shown in the diagram below:

Because the skip point was moving, reflected radio signals were naturally Doppler-shifted.

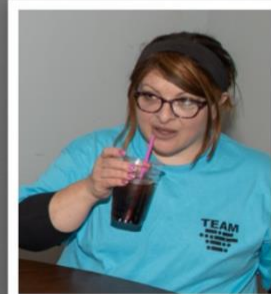
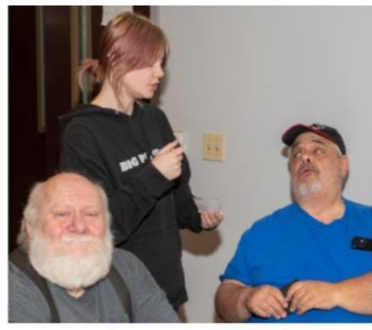
Spaceweather.com reader and senior physicist Larry Carr of Brookhaven National Labs made this calculation: "Using the 10 MHz WWV frequency, an average shift of about 1/2 Hz implies the layer bottom (the 'skip point') was moving at speeds up to 15 m/s. During the entire eclipse, the reflecting layer moved on the order of 50 km."

The total Doppler shift was only a few cycles per second, similar to normal night-day variations, so no one actually lost track of time during the eclipse. Nevertheless, it is a fascinating demonstration of an eclipse's power to touch the Earth.





# April Meeting



# PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted !!! PLEASE !!

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

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



## From the Ohio BMV:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PCARS is on YouTube

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

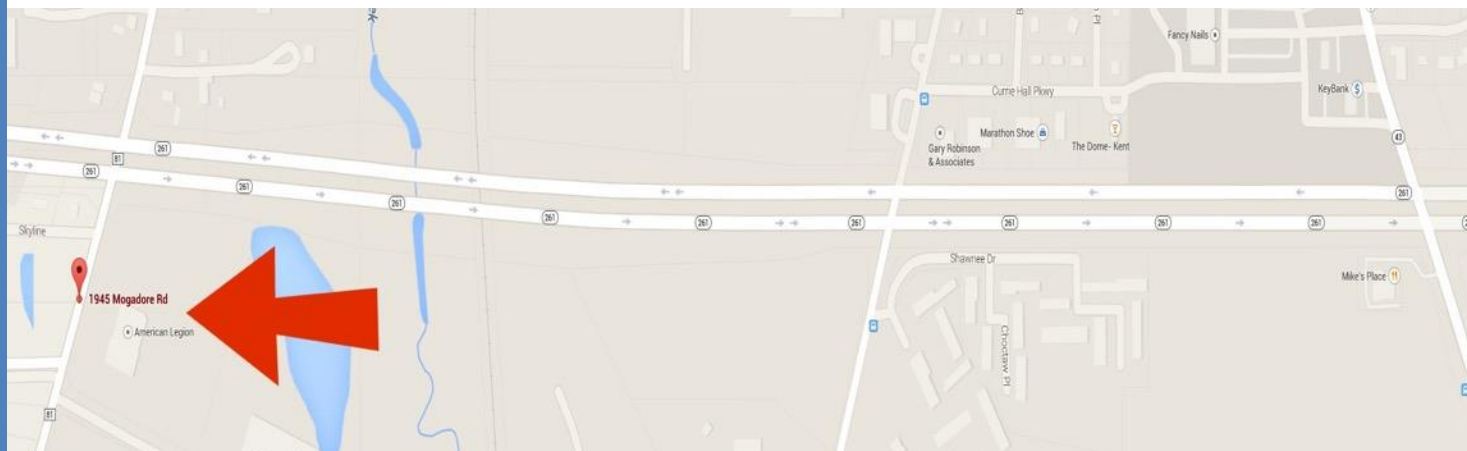


# PCARS Meetings

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



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



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



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



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

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

# PCARS VE Testing Information & News

**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison



## Future Dates

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

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



PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for 9:45 am Registration, 10:00 am Testing starts, on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. Any questions? Contact [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com)

## QUICK FACTS

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

## 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/cores/>

**Email Addresses REQUIRED** - All applications are required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the

latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents via regular mail.

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Printing Your FCC License

### Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

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

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

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



## Thanks & 73

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



With the most recent ParkPedition and the shift in the weather, it's almost safe to say that spring is here and hams are heading outside once again. Antennas are getting some attention and people are gearing up to hit the parks for POTA and camping and fun. I know that's the part I enjoy the most.

Speaking of things we enjoy, this month we started a new series with our President, Mike KP4VZ, telling us about how he got into ham radio and what it is that keeps him engaged with the hobby. I'm looking for more members of our club to share their stories. That means *you!* It doesn't take too much time to pull together what it is you love about ham radio and put it out there for the club. Don't be shy! I know we have some great stories out there and more than enough club members who want to hear them.

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

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

**AC8NT, K3GP, K8CAV, KA8TOA, KB6NU, KB8UUZ, KE8ARB, KP4VZ, N8QE, N8WCP, W8NET, W8PT, WA8AR, WA8LRW, WB2MGP, WG8X, The ARRL, SpaceWeather.Com and the World Wide Web.**

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



Pro Tip: Prepare for those showers – even in May!

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

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



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


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

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

Check PCARS out on the web: [www.PORTCARS.ORG](http://www.PORTCARS.ORG)



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

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

## THE RADIOGRAM

PCARS Incorporated  
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting  
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation  
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club  
March 22, 2010

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

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

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

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

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



NLC

