



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



February 2007 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 2 No. 2

~ 2007 Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
3 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
2 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL
1 Year Trustee - Joe Wehner - W8KNO

~ Meetings ~

2nd Monday of every month, 7pm
at
Mike's Place
Routes 43 and 261 in Kent

~ Nets ~

Thursday nights
8 PM
on 146.895
PL Tones
110.9 Rootstown
114.8 Kent

PCARS
ARRL affiliated
April 20, 2006



From the President

Just for the fun of it, included here are a couple of photos of radio station WB8LCD. One of the station, one of me checking into the Thursday night net and one of me working 40 mtr SSB after the net. My station is modest, but with what I've been able to accumulate through the years, I have a lot of FUN on the air! Many of us have lots of "stuff" - but the key to having fun is you gotta sit in the chair and get on the air! The FUN in ham radio is all about the activity! If you have lots of stuff, but haven't been on the air, make it a priority! While ham radio is a very broad subject, getting on the air is the essence of what the activity is all about. Get on the air, and send me some photos of you and your shack - you just might make it into the newsletter!!!



Lots of hams are "home brewers" and so am I! The last photo is a picture of my latest home brew adventure! WB8VYW, WB9LBI, KC8PD and KB8UUZ all stopped over on a Saturday and helped me "home brew" a batch of beer!

The photo shows it sitting in the secondary fermenter, protected from harmful UV rays, just waiting to be bottled. That will happen this weekend, and the unbotting will happen at the 2007 PCARS Picnic! Stay tuned!



You know, one of the neat things about writing for the RADIOGRAM is that it can be done in real time - no 3 month prior to publication deadlines! (Although the last Friday of the month sure comes up quick!) If you've got something you'd like to add, get it in to Parky - KB8UUZ!

It's been said - "the only thing constant is change". Ham Radio certainly proves that statement! All the changes over the last decade have really made a difference, and now, for the MOTHER of all changes - no more CW license testing! WOW! Very big deal! The upshot is, we'll probably have lots of new hams and new upgrades! Is that a good or a bad thing? I've been an avid CW op in the past. I'd like to get back to it again. New rules don't affect that. New hams coming in have the choice to participate in CW or not. New rules don't affect that. Lots of new hams means more market for ham radio equipment manufacturers. We all benefit from that as they try to capture the market and bring out new and innovative products. Our frequency allocations become more occupied, a good thing as looked at from the point of view of legislators who might try to take them away based on a "use it or lose it" philosophy! New hams represent a great resource for ham radio in general and PCARS specifically! When you hear a new ham on the air, remember, they're NEW HAMS! They need our help and guidance as to how to properly use their new privileges! Don't be critical, help them understand the how and why of good operating practices. We need them as much as they need us!

Planning on a trip to Dayton this year? I am. Last year we were not too successful in getting a PCARS meeting going out there. This year we want to do better. I'm thinking a Saturday Noon meeting at a near by restaurant would be a good plan and maybe an informal Friday evening open house at my room at the Holiday Inn Fairborn! Let me know what you all think and whether or not you will be there. It would be a good time to get together on an informal basis!

Our March activity will be an antenna building project. If you want to see the antenna we'll be building, go to www.njqrp.org/pac-12.

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From the President (continued from page 1)

We'll have a complete kit of parts available at a very reasonable cost. I'll have one or two prototypes at the "Freeze Your Acorns Off" field event on February 24th! You can start letting me know if you plan to be there and what equipment you'll plan on bringing out. No QRP Equipment – no problem, show up and we'll have all the stuff there you need to get on the air!



As I'm listening to the net, I need volunteers for net control operators! If you are not a regular net control op and not on the list, let me know when you would like to take the net. It's a great opportunity to get the experience at net control in a friendly environment. It'll also help you get to know all the other local ops and put

the names and calls together. It's more fun than you might imagine if you've never given it a try!

Well, I'm going to sign off here, we all need to get off the computer and get on the air! I look forward to hearing you all on the net and especially all those times I'm driving around town and get to hear you, makes my drive time a lot more enjoyable. A special thanks to W8KNO for coming right back to me on 6 meters!

73 and stay warm!

Tom - WB8LCD

From the Vice President

We have had a busy PCARS start to the New Year beginning with our second Technician Class at the Maplewood Career Center on January 9th. There are ten students in this group, nine men and one woman, and



KC8PD operates on HF while the class observes

three of those young men are high school students. This is always good news for the hobby of amateur radio, generally as well as locally where PCARS will continue to make an effort to encourage interest in ham radio among the younger members of our community. They will be the future of amateur radio!

Just like in the Fall, the last night of class will also be a VE session so that the students will have a chance to finish the course by earning a license. Remember that we will also be taking walk-ins for this exam session so if you know anyone interested in taking the Technician test or upgrading mention this session to them.

Our VE team will also be offering testing bi-monthly at the Center of Hope. The plan is to offer Element Two – Technician, Element Three – General, and Element Four – Extra tests at every session. Watch the Radiogram for the VE schedule, but the tests will always be at 1000 hours on the first Saturday of every other month starting in February.

In order to help us plan, if you or anyone you know may be interested in taking any of the tests please call me at home (330) 397-7979, or send me a note at kc8pd@portcars.org. We will also accommodate walk-ins at each of these sessions.

With the official decision by the FCC to drop the Morse code requirement (Element One) effective February 23rd we hope to see plenty of area hams taking the initiative to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra.

We have two upcoming road trips for presentations on amateur radio participation in the post-Katrina recovery effort. The first is on Wednesday, February 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the Lake County ARA meeting which will be held at the American Red Cross Headquarters, 1016 Bank Street in Painesville. The second will be on Thursday, March 22nd at the Western Reserve Emergency Communication Service (WRECS) meeting at the Bentleyville Village Hall.

PCARS members are welcome to attend these meetings which provide a great chance to meet and get to know the members of other area clubs. If you need anymore information just let me know.

The speaker at our next meeting will be our own **Bill Fraedrich, WB9LBI**, with a presentation on the National Traffic System. Find out what it is, how it works, and how you can be a part of it. Knowing Bill, you can count on his presentation being both unique and interesting.

We have received a commitment from **Rick Kruis, AA5RD**, the Region 5 Director of the Military Affiliate Radio Service (MARS) to give a presentation on MARS and its evolving mission at our April 9th meeting. Rick resides in Hiram and is the past Ohio state director of MARS, recently having been promoted to the Region 5 Director position.

As always, we want to make sure that we are planning far enough in advance to give you plenty of notice about future events and programs. More importantly, we want to be sure that we are providing activities and information that **you** want. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send me a note or give me a call.

A special note – we really want to encourage all PCARS members to check in on our Thursday night net. It's our chance to stay in touch, update members and the public on club activities, and just get to know each other better on the air. After all, it's on-the-air activities that are the essence of ham radio. Let's hear everyone's voice and call sign on a regular basis.

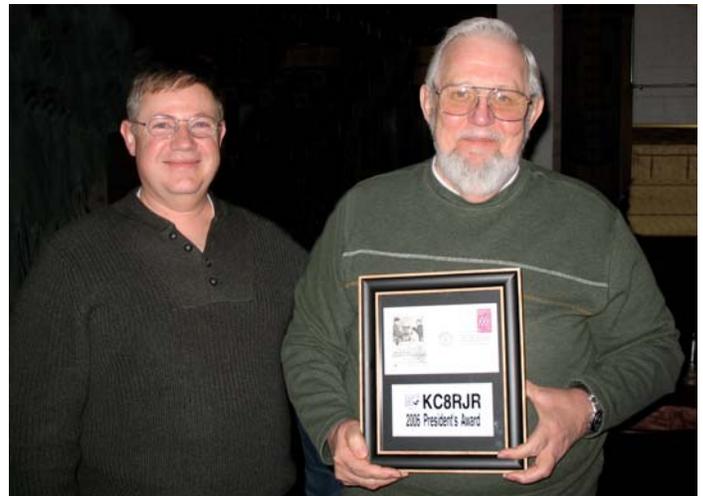
Jim - KC8PD



2006 President's Award - KC8RJR

As president of PCARS, I decided that it was within my authority to honor a member of PCARS and decided to do so in the form of an annual "President's Award". This will be an annual award, given to a PCARS member (other than an officer), solely at the discretion of the President based on whatever criteria the President for that year chooses. The award will be given at the January meeting following the year for which the award is given. That is the complete set of rules.

PCARS is fortunate to have a dedicated and talented group of officers. That, in and of itself, does not make a club great. It doesn't even guarantee that the club will be a good one. A club is a Members organization, and it's the Members who make it or break it. PCARS has flourished this past year because of the participation of



the membership.

When I thought of all the meetings, activities and nets we've done in the past year, I realized that we've done an awful lot in our first year. It would be hard to expect that any one member would have participated in everything. Yet, Errol, KC8RJR, was there for just about everything. Add to that, he probably drives farther than anyone to participate, I'm impressed. Add to that, he has contributed to any activity where help was needed (them field day steaks was good!). Add to that, Errol is really a great guy to get to know!



It was my pleasure to present Errol Jordan, KC8RJR, with the 2006 PCARS President's Award, and all the rights and privileges that go along with it.

Tom WB8LCD

Words from Weaver

AN OPPORTUNITY OR A DISASTER -- IT'S UP TO YOU

We've learned the FCC's Report & Order that abolishes testing on Morse code for Amateur Radio licensing will probably (no guarantee, yet) become effective Friday, February 23. This would be the first day new General and Extra class licenses can be earned without needing to pass the 5 wpm Morse code test. Whether one likes or hates the idea, code testing will no longer be required.

We can make of this what we choose. We can take the attitude this marks the pending death of Amateur Radio or we can look upon it as the best opportunity Amateur Radio has had in decades for regaining its health and growth. It is up to you . . . and to no one else. If we choose to take the first attitude, you will be right. Amateur Radio's pending doom is on the horizon. You will make this happen. It will be a self-fulfilling prophesy.

If we take the second attitude, we will again be right and we will see resurgence in Amateur Radio. Through



our own will, we will have a favorable, self-fulfilling prophesy.

In other words, the future of hamming is in our own hands. Will we grab hold of it and hold on for dear life, or will we let it fall like an egg on concrete to be crushed?

If we greet new, codeless hams with a sullen attitude, we will drive them away before they even know what Amateur Radio is. If we meet them with welcoming arms and nurturing friendship, and help them get started and on the path to good operating practices, they will become good, friendly, active amateurs -- just like we did.

Look back over the years. How was it that we became active hams after we were first licensed? Was it because some old goat growled at us and made us feel unwanted and ignorant each time we made a mistake on the air? Or, was it because an established ham took us by the hand and led us along the path to become good hams? Was it because everyone ignored us and made us feel unwelcome when we went to our first amateur club meetings, or was it because members of the club made us know they wanted us to come back . . . wanted us to join them . . . truly wanted us to become part of them?

If we don't want new hams in our clubs or even in your communities, we shouldn't offer VE Exams. This would be much better than to get new people licensed

and then abandon them as though they were "unclean." The decision to be a welcoming, nurturing club and club member is the first decision club officers and members should make concerning incoming amateurs. Do we want them or not? Will we go out of the way to make them feel welcome or not? Will we help them become good amateurs or will we let them drift by themselves to pick up bad operating habits so we can complain about how ignorant new licensees are these days?

I've heard the officers and members of club after club after club cry out for new, active members. The rising tide of new amateurs that will soon reach our doors is your opportunity to get the needed new members. Will you open the door to this tide of new blood or will you pile sandbags to prevent them from coming in?

WHAT CAN WE DO?

What can we do to get new licensees interested in joining local ham groups . . . to become the good amateurs we need? Here are a couple of ideas that just might spark interest.

HAVE A MIDNIGHT MADNESS licensing session followed by a pizza party. At midnight of the first day exams can be given under the new, no-Morse test rules, hold a VE session at midnight on (presumably) February 23. Have a pizza party before or after the session. Print special Midnight Madness VE Session certificates complete with the names of successful candidates, the date of the exam session, the name of the sponsoring club and have at least one of the VEs who heads the session sign the certificate. If you have a laptop and portable printer, and enough help to do the job, you could print the certificate and hand it to the candidate before he or she walks out of the session. If you can't do this, mail the certificate to them over the weekend.

If you publicize this well, you will be surprised at the response you will receive to this "special" VE session. Be sure to invite them to the next club meeting and arrange for a club member to bring them to the meeting.

HOLD A SPECIAL NEW OR RECENT LICENSEE Night at your club. Welcome new amateurs, including the "no-coders" with open arms. Assign a member of the club to be a tour guide for groups of one or two new people at the meeting. Instruct these guides to introduce the newbies to the members and show them your club station . . . in action. Encourage them to operate. During the evening, find out if the recent licensees would welcome having an Elmer, if they would like help in putting a station together or would like someone to come over to help them get comfortable with operating their station on the air. Make certain one or more members of the club will take care of advising them on equipment and putting the station together, or helping the new people learn how to operate.

FIND A RECENT LICENSEE and have one or two of your members visit them to welcome them to the local amateur community. Make the new people feel welcome. Give them any Elmering assistance they might need. Bring them to a meeting and treat them as discussed above.

AT LEAST UNTIL NEWBIES BECOME INTEGRATED into the club, be sure someone drops by their homes and brings them to meetings and other club functions. At meetings and club activities, be certain to give new people things to do. Put them on committees that actually do something. Get them involved in on-air operating.

I'm sure many of you can come up with still more and better ideas than these. Whatever you do, welcome new amateurs into your club as though you want them to become valued parts of your group. Recruit them to join. Make them want to join.

Oh, yes, you might even want to form a Member-Search Committee. Task this committee with finding ways to attract new -- and older -- amateurs to your club. Put people with innovative thinking on this committee. They need to develop fresh ideas or at least fresh approaches to attracting and keeping new members.

Keep in mind that getting new members is less than half the job. Keeping them as active members is the main job. Club leadership is the key to this job.

My Personal Perspective on Losing Code Requirements.

On this one, I received about 300 comments. I had expected many responders would really tear into me for my rather neutral position which, in the end, can be summarized as "Don't sweat the small stuff; we have more pressing things to worry about." I was surprised that only three responders expressed disagreement with my position. Certainly, many responders indicated they were not pleased with the FCC decision to drop code testing, but they recognized it was a done deal and that in the long run it might even be good for Amateur Radio. This puts them squarely in the same category I am in.

Agree with me or not, I want you all to know that I appreciate the time and thought you invest when you write to me.

Agree with you or not, I need to know your opinions so I can include your thinking in the facts I collect before voting on topics in Board meeting. Whether my vote on Board issues follows your line of thought, I consider every comment and suggestion very seriously -- testing my personal thinking against your thinking and against other information I receive.

Thanks & 73,

Jim - K8JE

ARRL Great Lakes Director

New Vanity Call Sign Still On Hold

The hold on processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications remained in effect at week's end, although FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff members have indicated informally that it would end very soon. The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications. The suspension, which does not affect vanity call sign renewals, resulted from a new Amateur Radio Service rule that went into effect December 15 to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign on the same receipt day.

"The Commission continues to accept vanity call sign applications," a brief announcement on the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web page says.



"However, these applications will not be processed until software

changes in accordance with the recent rule making have been fully implemented."

The FCC granted the last Amateur Radio vanity call signs on January 4 for applications received December 15. The current suspension affects new vanity call sign applications submitted on December 18 or later. Once processing of new vanity applications resumes, the FCC says, it will process all applications in the queue in the order in which they were received. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued -- or the application is denied.

The FCC's "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 stipulates that if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the ULS. The FCC will dismiss any subsequent vanity call sign applications from the same applicant on the same receipt date. The FCC put new vanity call sign processing on hold after an applicant unwittingly submitted 30 applications for the same call sign three days after the new rule became effective.

The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

From the ARRL

Paper Chase

Another year and off we go into another series of QSO Parties. February brings us, Minnesota, Delaware and Vermont on the weekend of the 3rd-6th. Following up the next weekend, the 10th-12th we have the New

Hampshire, Louisiana and Northern New York QSO Parties.

We have a weekend off before the PCARS Freeze Your Acorns Off Special Event, but once again this year we have the Mississippi QSO Party going on at the same time as, and followed by the North Carolina QSO Party on Sunday.

If you recall, last year at the FYAO station we had six contacts and five were from stations in the Mississippi QSO Party. K5SVC was the first contact contacted by KD8CKP. And for those interested, PCARS finished in the Mississippi QSO Party tied for 2nd Place in Ohio!



If you recall, last month you saw a certificate I earned for only one QSO. In some of the above mentioned QSO Parties I have been first from Ohio with as few as three contacts. How hard is it to earn a certificate? Not hard if you submit your results. In addition, you will contact some new counties (you probably can work all

the counties in Delaware - there are only three) that will help you to achieve your County Hunter's Award.



On 40 meters as you tune past 7.260, remember to listen for

special event and IOTA stations. If you get on the air, you will be surprised what you will work and what awards you can earn. *GET THAT PAPER!!!*
Hear you in the pile ups.

Joe - W8KNO

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Hello and welcome to February 2007. Does it seem like the year is already going too fast. I know I can't wait for our FYAO event this month and I certainly am looking forward to Field Day, but still it seems that the older I get the faster time passes. Oh well, "c'est la vie" as the French Amateurs would say.

I don't know about you, but I have worked some very interesting DX this past month. Some of the more interesting places are: Moldova, East Kiribati (Fanning Atoll in the Line Islands which includes Christmas Island), and South Orkney Island (this is a base in

Antarctica).

Yes sir, the bands aren't open because we are in the low point of the sunspot cycle. Let's just say that I operate on the "glass half full" premise. The DX is out there if you want to work a little for it.

So let me tell you what you might be able to work in February if you give it half a chance.



3V – Tunisia- GM0DHZ will be QRV holiday style as 3V8SS from Jan 7 to Feb 11. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using CW and SSB.

3Y – Antarctica - LA9SDA is QRV as 3Y9SDA from Troll Station. Mostly on 20 m SSB and PSK. QSL to home call.

5T – Mauritania - F8PDR will be active as 5T5DY from Nouakchott on Feb 5-18. He will operate mainly CW on 10-80 meters, with 100 watts and vertical antennas. He will try to focus on 80 and 160. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

5Z – Tanzania - Vlad (not the impaler), UA4WHX is QRV as 5H3VMB/5 from the Lindi/MTWARA Region Group, **IOTA AF-074**. He is active on 80, 40, 30 and 20 meters using CW (for those of us who still know how to use a key). He has also been active on 17 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

7W0 – Sahara - DB1JAW DK5MH will be QRV as 7W0JAW and 7W0MH from the **northern Sahara** starting February 2 -10; 80-10m; mainly SSB, perhaps some PSK31 RTTY; QRV 24hrs/day; QSL via buro or direct to DB1JAW: Mike Weiler, Stormstr.126, 47445 Moers, Germany

9N – Nepal - LA7JO is QRV as 9N7JO from **Kathmandu**. Since he is here on work assignment, he is active at various times on 160 - 12 m - CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct.

D2 – Angola - JM1CAX is QRV as D2NX at various times while on work assignment. QSL via JH7FQK.

DU – Philippines - A group of operators from Japan and the Philippines will be active as DX0JP from Pag-Asa, Kalayaan, in the Philippine **Spratly Islands** on February 3-13. They plan to be active on 160-6 meters (SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK), plus JT65 EME on 6 and 2m, with an emphasis on the low bands, especially 160 and 80 meters. QSL via JA1HGY (EME QSO only via JA1RJU). Updates will be published at <http://www.dxcom.jp/dx0jp>

HL – Republic of South Korea - DS5SWL is QRV as HL22 until June 30 to mark the city of Pyeong Chang's desire to host the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

HL - South Shetland Islands - DS4NMJ is QRV as HL8KSJ from the King Sejong station. No info on mode or band of operations.

J2 – Djibouti - IK2HKT has joined the team of operators who

will be active as J20M and J20R from **Moucha Island (AF-053)**, Djibouti in Feb. They plan to be QRV with the first station in the local late afternoon hours on the 1st. There is no Internet access on the island and they will have to return to the mainland in order to upload the logs. They will do their best to update the logs every 3 or 4 days (<http://www.i2ysb.com/j2>). QSL via I2YSB, direct or bureau.

ST – Sudan - S57DX is QRV as ST2R until April. QSL to homecall.

T30 – West Kiribati - T30XX has been QRV on 20 and 17 meters using CW and SSB at various times. (Here is another one I will be trying for.) QSL via JA8UWT.

V7 - Marshall Islands - WD8CRT is QRV as V73NS from **Roi-Namur Is., IOTA OC-028**, for at least 2 years. Activity on 160 - 6 m using mostly CW. (**Anyone who works this guy on 6 m CW, I'll give you a cigar.**) QSL to home call.

PACIFIC TRIP - HA9SDA and HA9RE will be active as ZK3RE from **Tokelau (OC-048)** from February 3-22 and as 5W0RE from **Samoa (OC-097)** from February 26 to March 11. They plan to operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-10 meters with two stations. QSL via HA8IB.

Well that's about it for this month. There are many other DX and IOTA events happening but I simply do not have the space to log them all down for you. These are some of the more interesting ones. So until the March newsletter, C U DN the Log.

Chuck - K8CMP

Morse Code Requirement Ends

IT'S OFFICIAL! MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT ENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now



unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Federal Register version of the "Morse code" R&O. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The rules that appeared in the Federal Register constitute their official version

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.



An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is **not** automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the omnibus proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz so there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

ARRL

PCARS VE Test Sessions

PCARS VE sessions for 2007 are scheduled for the first Saturday of every other month starting in February.

VE sessions For Technician, CW, General and Amateur Extra will start at 10:00 am at the Center of Hope, located at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. Walk-ins are welcome.

Please bring your original license, a copy of your license, your original CSCE, a copy of your CSCE, a photo ID, and a check for \$14.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC". We look forward to seeing you there!!!!



2007 Schedule

Feb 3, Apr 7, Jun 2, Aug 4, Oct 6, Dec 1

Ham Radio Podcasts

"So, what are you listening to, boy?" I asked my son, whose earphones appear to be surgically implanted on his head. "Brittaney Spears? Frank Sinatra? The New Kids On The Block? What?"

Ryan regarded me with that withering look reserved for Particularly Dense Parents. "Dad. I hardly ever listen to music anymore. I listen to podcasts. They have podcasts for every conceivable topic, even ham radio."



That got my attention. A podcast, as it turns out, is like a radio or TV show, usually some sort of commentary or interview. Instead of getting it off the air, you can download it into your iPod (hence the name). If you don't have an iPod, another music player or just your

home computer should do just fine. Best of all, they are free for the downloading.

The best known ham radio podcast is This Week In Amateur Radio, which can be heard on shortwave and locally on selected repeaters. You can download the weekly broadcasts at TWIAR.org, and play them on your iPod, Zune, or PC at your leisure. Note to KD8ETS: Nothing is available for your Victor Gramophone. Looks like you're finally going to have to upgrade, Clarence.

There are also video podcasts on ham radio topics. The boys at APRSTV.com have an archive of video presentations on topics ranging from building D-Star repeaters, to the day they tied a 10-meter beacon and a digital camera to a weather balloon and let it go. They also engage in one of my personal pet peeves: taking moving pictures of stationary objects. (I directed TV shows many years ago). If you ever make a video podcast, I implore you not to waste your bandwidth this way.

Whether audio or video, you have to locate podcasts of interest before you can download anything. The motherlode of all podcasts is iTunes, the online service set up by Apple Computers to sell content for their iPod players. To search their selection of podcasts, music,



and video, you must first download the free iTunes client to your computer, and run the setup procedure. This results in an iTunes icon on your computer desktop.

In the left pane of the iTunes program, click on iTunes Store. In the upper right of the screen, you'll find a search window, which you will use to locate "ham radio podcast" or "amateur radio podcast". The results of your search appear in two places: in the blue area at the top of the screen (click See All for more results), and in a list at the bottom of the screen. Notice the Popularity column, which indicates which podcasts are most downloaded.

Popular podcasts include:

- HamRadioCast
- Dits and Bits
- SolderSmoke
- QOTD (Morse Code practice at various speeds)

Like a Google search, many of the results aren't really what you were looking for, but they had "ham", "amateur" or "radio" in their descriptions. For example: Long Delayed Echos (Host Jeff Davis has his callsign in the description of the show)

Total Women Talk Radio (Host LaTara Ham-Ying has "Ham" as part of her name)

Unsigned Heard Podcast (I have no idea why this showed up on the list. And, it's tagged EXPLICIT)

When you click on the podcast description (in the blue area near the top of the screen), you get the program description and list of episodes at the bottom. Some podcasts, like SolderSmoke, have an entire library of episodes, others only a few. These episodes mostly appear at irregular intervals. On the right-hand side the description, take note of the list of other recommended podcasts that may be of interest to you.

In most cases, you can play any podcast that appeals to you, simply by clicking on it. If you want to download the podcast, you need to click the Subscribe button. This makes you eligible to download all the episodes of the podcast, and save them as audio files on the system. on your system. These can be played whether you are online or not.

In the upper left corner of the iTunes program, you'll see a category called LIBRARY. This lists all of the music. Movies. TV Shows, and Podcasts you previously downloaded. Your library is both searchable and sortable. My son recommends that you use iTunes as an organizer for all of your media files, whether you got them from the iTunes store or not. It's an excellent interface for organizing any collection of music or porn. Of course, you're free to choose another means of organizing your files, but that would earn you one of my son's patented Withering Looks.

Bill - WB9LBI

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- o **February 3rd** - VE Testing - 10am - Center of Hope, Ravenna
- o **February 12th** club meeting – **National Traffic System - Bill - WB9LBI**
- o **February 24th** – **Freeze Your Acorns Off**
- o **March 12th** club meeting – **Introduction to Contesting**
- o **March 24th** – **Homebrew Antenna Workshop**
- o **April 7th** - VE Testing - 10am - Center of Hope, Ravenna
- o **April 9th** club meeting – **Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)**
- o **May 14th** club meeting – **DXing**
- o **May 26th** – Antenna setup day at Ravenna City Park
- o **June 2nd** - VE Testing - 10am - Center of Hope, Ravenna
- o **June 11th** club meeting – topic open
- o **June 23rd and 24th** – **FIELD DAY!**



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Three PCARS member have a birthday in February:

KC8LJY - Mike Bakes

KB8DPN - Russ Anderson, Sr.

N4TIE - Carl Capps

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: **Astron RM-35M**, rack mount power supply. Separate Voltage and Amp meters. 35 amp peak, 25 amp continuous. \$100 or best offer. contact: Tom by e-mail at wb8lcd@portcars.org

EmComm

Everyone has heard of that time honored principle “Keep It Simple Stupid”, commonly referred to as KISS. Implicit in KISS is the concept that every layer of complexity or difficulty that we add to a task increases the risk of failure. In other words, each extra layer or step is just one more thing that can go wrong. The obvious solution: KISS.

What does KISS have to do with emcomm? There are probably dozens of ways that we could identify the need to simplify and standardize tactics and procedures for emcomm. Just imagine all of the variables that you may have to plan for and respond to in a disaster area.

So let’s just focus on one basic aspect of emcomm response that also has a direct connection to our daily amateur radio activities. The topic: your equipment. To paraphrase the Oldsmobile commercial, these aren’t your father’s radios. And they aren’t all that simple.

You really have to admire the sophistication and versatility of today’s amateur radio gear. Pick up a dual, triple or quad band HT that fits in the palm of your hand and enables you to listen to almost everything from the commercial AM bands all the way up to the UHF ham bands. Heck, you maybe able to monitor two frequencies at one time and program the radio to do everything but start your car.

And that radio at home. You’ve been proud of it ever since you opened the box and hooked it up to the power supply. Only thing is that you never use it for anything other than some SSB ragchewing on forty meters.

Or maybe the dual band radio in your car. Of course the last time it was operated on the “other” band was...gee, did you ever use it on 440?

Just how well do you know that rig or HT that you use on a regular basis? If you had to immediately program the dual band or HT for a new repeater frequency that required tone coding and decoding, could you do it? What if you had to save the frequency and

other data as a memory channel? Could you do it?

Sure, you know that the Function key on the HT enables all of the keys to perform different functions. But what the heck were they? And can you read the tiny writing on or below the keys without taking your glasses off and holding it next to your face? Or even worse, have any of the printed letters or numbers rubbed off?

But that's right, you purchased that handy little guide or cheat sheet to keep with the radio so that you didn't have to lug around the manual that was never easy to read and understand in the first place. Except you haven't looked for that guide book in a while and can't remember where you left it.

Make some time to sit down with that radio. Work your way through each of the menu items. Read the manual again (or maybe for the first time). Fiddle with the buttons and knobs. Make some mistakes and figure out how to correct them.

Search the groups at www.yahogroups.com for your brand and model of radio. There is bound to be at least one group dedicated to that rig or HT. Most of the groups require you to join in order to post questions or read the Files stored on the site. But you will find lots of useful information about the particular quirks of your radio and get knowledgeable answers to your inquiries.

You may also want to consider dedicating your least complicated radios to emcomm use. Bells and whistles are great, but when an emergency strikes that KISS factor may suggest that it is best for you to be reaching for the simplest, least complicated and most familiar and reliable radio.

My point is that you don't want to be fumbling with your radio or looking for an instruction sheet in the midst of emergency. What could be more embarrassing or counterproductive than having a radio that you can't operate? Not to mention one that doesn't work, so charge those batteries, too!

Keep it simple, stay in practice and be prepared.

Jim - KC8PD

PCARS Meetings - Mike's Place

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) meets on the second Monday of every month at Mike's Place - 1700 S. Water St. - Kent. Meetings start at 7 PM sharp and all are invited to attend. You can find out a whole lot more about Mike's Place on the web at: www.mikesplacerestaurant.com

You can look over their entire menu and see some interesting stuff on the web site. Check it out!

February Contest Calendar

February, 2007	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 3 - 2400Z, Feb 4
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 3 - 2359Z, Feb 4
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 3 - 0500Z, Feb 4 1300Z, Feb 4 - 0100Z, Feb 5
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 10 - 2400Z, Feb 11
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 11
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 12 - 2400Z, Feb 16
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 17 - 2400Z, Feb 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 19
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 24 - 2359Z, Feb 25
N. American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 24 - 0600Z, Feb 25
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 25 - 0300Z, Feb 26

FYAO Special Event

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) 2nd Annual "Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) QRP Special Event Station KD8CKP will be active in the General areas of the 15, 20 and 40 meter bands.

Join us on Saturday - Feb 24, 2007 - We'll be on the air from 10:00 am EST until 6:00 PM EST

Our transmitters will be at the Roy Smith Shelter at the Fred Fuller Park in Kent, Ohio in the middle of WINTER. Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



The poster for the FYAO-QRP event features a light brown background with a map of Portage County, Ohio, and a squirrel. The text includes: "KD8CKP The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) Second Annual FREEZE YOUR ACORNS OFF Special Event Station Running QRP In Mid Winter Just For The Fun Of It!! Location: Roy Smith Shelter House - Fred Fuller Park - Kent, OH USA Portage County, Ohio - Grid EN91 - CQ Zone 4 Confirming Contact With Amateur Radio Station WB8LCD 24 February 2007 - 1800 UTC - 40 Meters - Signal Strength: 59". There is also a small note about the Black Squirrel in the logo.

A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8 x 10 certificate will be available if you send your QSL cards and a SASE to the club call trustee - KB8VJL.

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. Your support will be very much appreciated!

Comments on Repeater Committee Report

At the regular PCARS meeting on January 9th, the Repeater Committee made its recommendations to the club. Comments from the membership were requested.

As of press time, we received comments from six members. These have been excerpted below.

On behalf of the Repeater Committee, thanks to everyone who took time to express an opinion.

I believe that a repeater should be established and that it should be digital. We should not decide immediately since we do not know what band the manufacturers will decide to make the equipment for. I also believe that antennae and coax should be reinstalled and the space cleaned up and some sort of usable equipment be installed. - **Joe W8KNO**

Cable or phone connectivity for remote access can be done via 2.4 GHZ wireless bridges. They are cheap and I have extras. With proper antennas a line of site distance of 9 miles is possible. Anyone in Ravenna with high roof can have the link and it can be tied into their Cable/DSL or ISP. Remote Desktop is more stable and secure than VNC. - **Jim KC8RKV**

I think our club should focus first on getting PCARS on the site and in operation on the tower. And it's my opinion that we should not make any deals with anyone else to co-locate on the tower in the near further until PCARS iron out what WE want. My thoughts are to get a repeater (completely ours) up on line... but try and hold off if possible until we can get someone else to pay for a (real) high speed digital system. The world is digital... we are going to get left behind.... time to keep moving on. And having a basic HF wire antenna off the tower so the site could be used for contesting and special events by our club members would be terrific! Maybe even a CW Traffic Net. The first group I would allow to co-locate after we define our needs would be "N8KW and The Group" due to their help and friendship towards us. - **Al KB8VJL**

The N8KW group has been very gracious in allowing our club use of their repeater. I think we should be definitely offer this site to them. I would also support the creation of a repeater for our club on an alternate band – I liked the 440 idea. - **Scott N8TPK**

I am very interested in the idea of a club station and possibly a contest site as well. In addition, it will be great to have our own repeater site. - **Chuck K8CMP**

I think a repeater on 1.2 GHz would definitely be unique to this area. I think that any repeater on the IRLP net would be a great asset. - **Ken AB8IE**

Bill - WB9LBI
Repeater Committee Chairman



Hamfest Calendar

4 Feb 2007 - Winter HAM Fest - Gargus Hall - 1965 North Ridge Rd. - Lorain, OH - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - <http://www.noars.net> - Talk-In: 146.70- (open repeater) - Contact: Tom Porter, W8KYZ - 161 Herrmann Dr. - Avon Lake, OH 44012 - Phone: 440-930-9115 - Email: tporter161@oh.rr.com

11 Feb 2007 - Mid-Winter Hamfest - Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 North Home Rd. - Mansfield - InterCity ARC - <http://www.iarc.ws> - Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 71.9) - Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG - 1094 Beal Rd. - Mansfield, OH 44905 - Phone: 419-589-2415 - Email: deanwrasse@yahoo.com

18 Mar 2007 - Hamfest and Computer Fair - Lucas County Recreation Center - 2901 Key St. - Maumee, OH - Toledo Mobile Radio Association - <http://www.tmrhamradio.org> - Talk-In: 147.27+ (no tone needed) - Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR - 4463 Holly Hill Dr. - Toledo, OH 43614 - Phone: 419-385-5624 - Email: bharrington@meduohio.edu

Note from KB8VJL

Effective today Jan. 18th 2007; let it be known to all PCARS members and Friends of the PCARS Ham Radio Club, that in appreciation of the outstanding work and his personal time spent to insure the PCARS web site is a site we all can be proud of I present **Russ - KB8DPN**, paid membership for life in the PCARS Ham Radio Club. I have looked at many ham radio web sites via the internet and PCARS is well above and beyond anything else I've seen! Russ, for your outstanding devotion to insure we have a club web site to be proud of I will pay your PCARS membership dues for life.

Also let it be known that in appreciation of the super/outstanding work that **Tom - KB8UUZ** does to insure that the PCARS Ham Radio Club has a top notch club newsletter; I present Tom, paid membership for life in PCARS. I know, and others know that Tom has spent days and days working on our club newsletters. He has given up much personal time he could have spent with family and even skipped radio contests to insure our clubs newsletter was the best he could make it.

Dues paid my me (no strings attached) for both of you will go back, retroactive to year 2006 and then each year forward as PCARS gets better with time. 2006: year number one of the best ham radio clubs... in my opinion.

Al - KB8VJL

Editor's note: I spoke with Al after he made this announcement on the net and told him I could not accept his gracious offer. I work on this newsletter as a personal commitment to PCARS, and I enjoy doing it. Sure, it takes hours of work, but with the continued help of all the members contributing, it does make it easier. Al and I go back over 8 years and we'll just keep going as we do to hamfests and enjoying this hobby of ours - Thanks for the kind remarks Al.

PCARS Thursday Net Information

Net Schedule for February

Feb 1	KB8UUZ
Feb 8	WB8LCD
Feb 15	K8CMP
Feb 22	KC8PD



Everyone is encouraged to check in, and, to try out being a Net Control Operator. Like to try it out? Contact Tom - WB8LCD the net coordinator for more information - Hey, you'll have FUN!

Photos Wanted

One of my PCARS projects this year is to get photographs of all our members. So, dust off the camera, have someone take a snap shot or two of you - preferably: radio in hand, or in your radio shack, or in your mobile set up, or working on an antenna - you get the idea. Send those pictures to me! If you don't have a digital camera, send a regular photo to me & I'll scan it in. Looking forward to your photographs for the PCARS collection!

Tom - KB8UUZ

Eyeball to Eyeball - W8KNO

This month's E2E is with Joe Wehner, from Hiram Township. If you made it to our Christmas Party, you would certainly know that Joe's alter ego is Santa. Joe had the special call sign W8S this past Christmas and was a great hit at our Christmas Party.

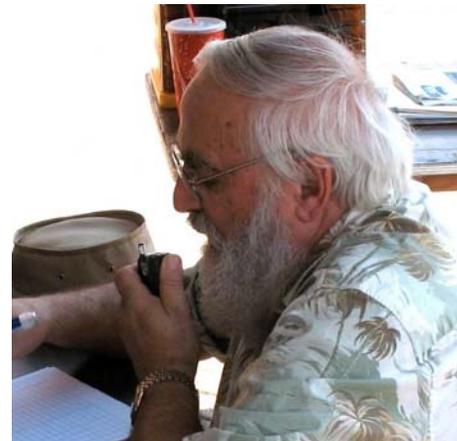
Joe's interest in radio started very early. He started to collect old time radios, the old victrolas, including the ones you had to crank to play. And by the time he was a sophomore in high school he had repaired his first TV.

But let's not get ahead of the story. Joe was born and raised in New Jersey. As he says, in the same hospital as Pat Boone and Connie Francis. In high school, Joe's interest in radio led him to be elected vice-president of the high school radio club. The club had only one licensed amateur, and Joe was not it. Joe learned to use a tube tester and was able to read schematics, and in doing so, was able to get a job working in a local radio and TV repair shop. It wasn't a paying job, but Joe was able to use the tube tester without having to pay the owner.

After high school, Joe didn't go into show business as the other notables mentioned above, but went into the Navy and spent from 1955 to 1971 in that branch of the service. He attended electronics school at Great Lakes Naval Training Center and since he was first in his class, was able to choose his billet so he chose the USS Toledo

berthed at Long Beach, CA. From the Toledo, he later transferred to Prep school and after successful testing was accepted to the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. During his four years at Annapolis, he was a member of the Radio Club (W3ADO) and got his Tech license. His call was K2UEL and he upgraded to General two years later. He had the privilege of operating the club station and operating NSS during Armed Forces Day in May of 1962. This allowed him to key up 40kw!! (But not on any of the amateur bands.) As a matter of fact, Joe says that his favorite rig was the station at the Academy. It consisted of a Collins 32W1 exciter, a Collins 75A4 rcvr, and a Collins 30L1 amp all hooked to a tribander. Who wouldn't like to run that station?!

Upon leaving the service, Joe moved to Ohio and back then, you could not take your call



with you if you moved from one call area to another. So he decided to travel to Cleveland to the Federal building where the FCC periodically came down from Detroit to administer the license tests. He went to get an 8 call and ended up taking the Advanced test without any study and passed! He asked for an older call sign and was given W8KNO. AS of May of this year, Joe will have been licensed 48 years. He has slowly grown into a contester, DX chaser, and a paper chaser, but not necessarily in that order. When asked, Joe could not give me a single aspect of Amateur radio that he enjoys more than others. He has an excellent ethic though. He put this down on paper a few years ago and with his permission, I'd like to repeat it here. *"With all the activity I have had, I understand that each of us are at a different stage of activity in our amateur lives. We need to appreciate what each of us does or can do and help one another."* This is why Joe values "comradery" above all else when it comes to Amateur Radio.

Joe lives in Hiram Township with his wife, Rena (KD8EPF - also a member of our club). I can say that we can all count ourselves fortunate to have Joe and Rena as members and more importantly, friends and fellow amateurs.

Thanks Joe for letting us all get to know you a little better. Until next month, 73 from.....

Chuck - K8CMP

PCARS Annual Dues are Over Due

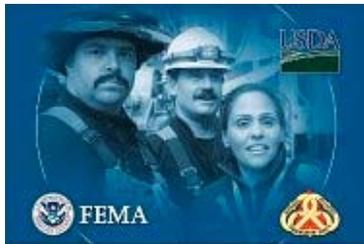
Time flies when your having fun! Annual dues (\$20) are over due as of January 31st. Please bring your 2007 dues to the next meeting, or snail mail it to KB8UUZ (check last page for address).

Checks can be made out to PCARS. If your call sign, name, address, phone, e-mail, etc has changed, please let me know so the records can be updated accordingly.

NIMS & ARES

NIMS Implementation for Non-Governmental Organizations Applies to ARES. Local government often calls on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for assistance. NGOs are non-profit entities working cooperatively with government. Such organizations serve a public purpose, not a private benefit. Examples of NGOs include faith-based charity organizations, the American Red Cross, and ARES (ARRL).

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) enables responders from different communities with a variety of job responsibilities to better work together. NIMS uses a systems approach to integrate the best of existing processes and methods into a unified national framework for incident management.



ICS-100: Introduction to ICS

The NIMS Integration Center recommends 14

activities for NGOs that support NIMS implementation. The IC recommends that NGOs formally adopt NIMS, and identify a Point of Contact for local emergency management authority. Other recommendations include use of the Incident Command System (ICS), an excellent organizational tool. The use of ICS aligns the NGO with all other responding entities so that deployment is accomplished in a consistent, efficient and effective manner. ICS implementation must include the consistent application of Incident Action Planning and Common Communications Plans.

The IC also recommends supporting "Integrated Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACs)" to ensure the NGO is able to communicate with local Incident Command Posts (ICPs), local 911 Centers, and EOCs.

Other recommendations include establishing a public information system, revising plans and SOPs with



NIMS, promoting Mutual Aid, exercising NIMS by participating in NIMS-based exercises, inventorying Response Assets using the Resource Typing standards found at: www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/mutual_aid.shtm, and sharing this inventory with local emergency management authority.

Training may include IS-700 NIMS: An Introduction, and IS-800 NRP: An Introduction; Incident Command System (ICS-100) and Incident Command System (ICS-200).

For guidance, refer to:

www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm

A Fact Sheet, "NIMS Implementation Activities for Nongovernmental Organizations" is available at

www.fema.gov/emergency/nims

ARRL

Bitten by the Contest Bug

Due to a last minute change in plans for the afternoon and evening of Saturday, January 13th, I found myself with some extra time on my hands. "Hmmm," I thought, "could be a good chance to get in some ham radio."

The weekend before, I had finished off the installation of a used Butternut HF6V vertical antenna that I had recently purchased. It had arrived in good shape and the installation went reasonably well though the tuning and tweaking of the antenna did take some time. In fact, ten meters leaves a bit to be desired and the extra coils for 12 and 17 meters are still little more than decorations.



One surprise was that the stick tuned up on the bottom two MHz of the six meter band. I had mentioned this to Tom, KB8UUZ, who suggested that I try the VHF contest coming up on the thirteenth.

I thought of that on Saturday and a little after one o'clock in the afternoon I went downstairs and fired up the radio on six meters and heard...nothing. Well, since it was so quiet I figured that I should try to find out more about the contest during the lull in the action (which, by the way, apparently continued for the rest of the weekend...oh, that 'magic band'). Checking the ARRL website for contest info I discovered that the North American QSO Party was that same day, starting at 1300 hours local and running for twelve hours.

Next stop was www.n3fjp.com to download the logging program, a couple of minutes for the installation and setup, and I was on the air.

Fifteen meters was low on noise but long to the west coast and I was easily working California, Oregon, Washington and down into the southwest. There weren't a lot of stations on fifteen and after I had worked all that I could hear I moved down to forty meters. Business was pretty brisk on forty so I worked it for a bit with an occasional jump back up to fifteen.

It was neat watching the multiplier count increase each time I worked a new state on a different band. I had always wondered how those multipliers worked and



CQ CONTEST - CQ CONTEST - THIS IS KC8PD

now it was starting to make sense. Too much sense, as a matter of fact, because now I was starting to think "must find more mults." Sooo, this is how it starts.

After a bit I moved on to twenty meters, which was busier, and worked my way up and down the band, from 14.150 to 14.350, a couple of times working a fair number of stations and some new geography. After working about thirty stations I moved back to fifteen for a bit and the spent the late afternoon hours splitting my time between forty and twenty.

By around 1930 local I took my first stab at eighty meters and made a few contacts and then it was back to forty for an hour or two with an occasional peek back on eighty for a couple more Q's. That lasted until about 2100 hours and then most of the time I was on eighty except for a few more contacts on forty. Sometime after 2200 hours a beer was starting to sound awful good and I threw in the towel.

In the end it seemed like a successful event. I worked a total of 236 stations, accumulating 89 multipliers and a grand total of 21,004 points. It really was kind of addictive and I would find myself setting arbitrary milestones, like reaching 75 mults, and telling myself "Then I'll wrap it up." Right. Each time I would hit one of those targets I would think, gee it's still early, maybe I can do this for a little bit longer.

Persistence does pay, though. The totals for each band were: eighty meters, 34; forty meters, 116; twenty meters 61; and fifteen meters, 25.

Much to my surprise, I worked thirty-seven states and two provinces on forty meters. Thirteen more states and my afternoon's effort would have qualified for a WAS!

I had a couple of special contacts, too. First was working Joe, W8KNO, on forty meters. It was a surprise to recognize a call sign and Joe gave me some great encouragement. The other was also on forty and it was with none other than WIAW, the ARRL home office. The operator also gave me a laugh because he was using the name "Slippers" in the exchange.

The bottom line: it was an awful lot of ham radio fun and I am sorry that I waited so long to try it. Once again ham radio left me sitting there with an enthusiastic and silly grin on my face.

Jim - KC8PD

Tick - Tick - Tick

Ever sit in your radio shack on a cold snowy evening and hear a faint 'tick - tick - tick' that shouldn't be there?

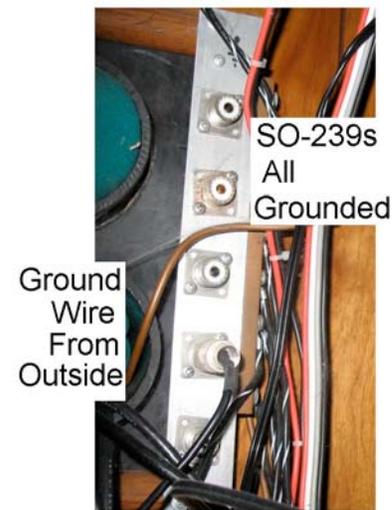
Well, it's happened to me a couple of times. I traced the ticking sound to my tuner.... When the humidity is low, temperature is cold, and the snow is blowing down, your antennas can - and will - build up static electricity.

That ticking noise? It's the capacitor plates arcing!! Don't believe me, just unplug your coax when this is happening and prepare yourself for a healthy shock!

Static is all around us, but the low humidity really helps to make larger discharges. You build up static as you move around (that's called tribocharging) and it takes about 2,000 volts of static before you feel or see the discharge from your finger tip to a door knob, a cat's nose, or what ever.

Anyway - what can you do to safely discharge that static? Watch the weather reports, when dry snow is going to be blowing, unplug your antenna lines and ground them.

I made up a simple grounding rail from aluminum and some SO-239's. The center pins are also being grounded as are the shields to my main ground - which is connected to two ground rods just outside my shack. No more 'tick-tick-tick' or getting zapped by static.



Tom - KB8UUZ

TUSCO Hamfest Report

This year the snow held off just long enough. On the road at 6 am, headed south toward the TUSCO hamfest.



The roads got better the further south we went. KB8UUZ

drove and we made pretty good time and arrived early enough to enjoy breakfast at the restaurant next to

the hamfest location. At 8 am we went in and the place was packed! The building being used was a bit small as compared to past years for TUSCO, and the isles were a

bit narrow, but everyone enjoyed the first hamfest of 2007! Plenty to see and ponder over with a wide variety of equipment and parts all waiting for a new home. I



picked up some tools, and a couple of metal boxes with antenna connectors for future projects. While there we ran in to two fellow PCARS members: Mike - AB8UD and Errol - KC8RJR. Errol was looking real sharp wearing his new PCARS jacket & shirt.

After going though everything four times, we headed north to Portage County. About an hour after we made it home, the snow came blowing in from Lake Erie again. A great day for a hamfest and we really enjoyed the trip.

AI - KB8VJL

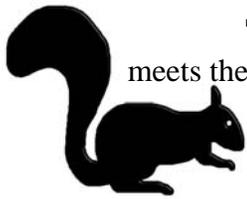
Pictures from the January PCARS Meeting



Thanks

Well, that's the 2nd issue of the PCARS newsletter the 'RADIOGRAM' for 2007. I appreciate your help in getting material for me, all the members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending me those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **WB8LCD, KC8PD, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8UUZ, KB8VJL, K8JE, WB9LBI, ARRL**, and the **World Wide Web**. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom - KB8UUZ
Newsletter Editor



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

meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Mike's Place – Routes 261 & 43 in Kent
All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!



“When All Else Fails – Amateur Radio Works”

PCARS Uses Repeater: 146.895 MHz (PL 110.9 – Rootstown, Ohio PL 114.8 – Kent, Ohio)

Repeater is graciously provided by N8KW for use by PCARS members

PCARS Appointments & Committees

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Field Day	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Controller	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Repeater	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
VE Team	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
	N4TIE	Carl Capps
Web Master	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.



**PCARS Mentors – Need some help or advice?
Contact by email at <callsign> @portcars.org**



1. Wire Antennas	14. Mobile (install)	Code	Contact
2. Beam Antennas	15. Computer Logging	17	Jim - KC8RKV
3. APRS	16. QSLs	5, 24	Bill - WB9LBI
4. Contesting	17. Echo Link	1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 16	Tom - KB8UUZ
5. CW Operation	18. Help - Icom	3, 6, 8, 12, 14, 17, 23, 25, 26, 20. - FT100 - VX5, 19. - TH-F6 - D700	Russ - KB8DPN
6. DF (Fox Hunt)	19. Help - Kenwood	1, 5, 10	Tom - WB8LCD
7. DXing	20. Help - Yaesu	2, 6, 14, 17, 23, 25	Jim - KC8PD
8. Experiment/Ckts.	21. Help - Boat Anchors	4, 5, 9	Joe - W8KNO
9. HF Phone	22. Amplifiers	2, 7, 9, 12, 20, 21	Chuck - K8CMP
10. QRP	23. EmComm		
11. Satellite	24. Traffic Handling		
12. VHF	25. FEMA / NIMS		
13. PSK-31	26. Computer Hardware		

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This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, the RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving the newsletter are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and it's delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail. The RADIOGRAM is published every month and is sent only 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. To remove your self from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuz @ portcars.org

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