



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. ~ Vol. 1 No. 2

~ Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UJZ
3 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL
2 Year Trustee - Joe Wehner - W8KNO
1 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN

~ 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
Application for ARRL affiliation was submitted November 29th



From the President

It just keeps getting better! I hope you all enjoyed the February meeting as much as I did. Many thanks to Jim, KC8RKV, for the echo-link presentation he provided. The March meeting promises to be a good one too, so don't stay home and watch TV, stop in for the fellowship and the interesting program Jim's (KC8PD) got lined up for us. Ham Radio is an activity - you must participate if you want to have all the fun it has to offer!

A good way to participate is on the Thursday evening net. So far, we've had 9 weekly nets with a total of 102 check-ins. Twenty-eight individual stations accounted for those check-ins and 3 stations have checked in to all 9 nets! Outstanding! By the way, check into 10 consecutive nets and you'll be sent a nice certificate thanking you for your participation.

Nets are a great way to get the names and calls together, and being the net control operator is really a great way to get to know the other local hams. Not to mention the traffic handling skills you learn which could serve you and your community in a time of crises. Even though the net control list is done for March and April, if you'd like to give it a try, just let me know when and we'll accommodate you!

Another good way to participate is in the outings we'll be sponsoring throughout the year. Freeze your acorns off? How could that be anything but fun? For those of us who were there, it WAS fun! We had a great day, and even though the contact count was not near as high as we would have liked, we all learned a few things about operating in the field. Next time I'm sure we'll all have a few improvements made to our equipment and the count will be much higher. I'm sure what we did will also help us as we plan for Field Day this year.



Tom - WB8LCD

If you've never been on a T-hunt, you really need to give it a try. Stay tuned for more information on that one. FIELD DAY! This is what hams live for! Be sure to get a hold of Jim (KC8PD) our field day chairman and let him know how you would like to participate. There'll be lots of things for everyone to do. What would YOU like to see the club do? We've tried to get PCARS off to a running start and make it interesting enough that you would want to get involved. But we need your input. You've probably got a lot of good ideas we haven't thought of, so send us an e-mail or catch us on the air. We want to give you what you want! Lastly, spread the word - if you know of someone who would like to belong to an active club, bring them along to the next meeting! I'll be looking for you there. Best 73's.

Tom - WB8LCD

From the Vice President

Well, we had a great turnout at the February meeting with around thirty people attending. It was an enjoyable evening with plenty of amateur radio fellowship and a terrific presentation by Jim Godfrey, KC8RKV, on Echo Link.



Some of the February PCARS meeting attendees

We should be hearing from the IRS in another month or so about the status of our application for tax-exempt status. Once that has been granted, anyone making a donation to PCARS can take the value of the donation as a deduction on their income tax return.

As of this writing, our application to the ARRL to be an affiliated club is still pending although we have reason to be hopeful that it will be approved soon. Officers and trustees of the club had an opportunity to meet with Jim Weaver, K8JE, the Great Lakes Division director, and Gary Johnston, KI4LA, the assistant director, and Joanne Solak, KJ3O, the Ohio Section Affiliated Club coordinator, at the Mansfield hamfest to clear the air about the concerns she had expressed.

From the Vice President – Continued from page 1

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics and activities are:

- ▶ March 13th club meeting – An introduction to the basics of Fox Hunts
- ▶ April 10th club meeting – EmComm turn out kits; what should be in yours.
- ▶ April 26th – SKYWARN training at 6:30 p.m. at Maplewood
- ▶ May 8th club meeting – “Bring Your Rig”, bring an HT, mobile or even desk top rig and tell us all about, pluses and minuses, or get your questions answered about features that may be perplexing you
- ▶ May 27th – The “Blind Squirrel” fox hunt!
- ▶ June 24th – 25th – Field Day, PCARS will be at the Cunningham Shelter, Ravenna City Park

I will be serving as the chair of the Field Day committee and both Bobby, WB8FEW, and Chuck, K8CMP, have already volunteered to assist. Some of you may have participated in the Field Day event held at Ravenna City Park a few years ago. This is a great facility with plenty of space for antennas,



a shelter with lots of tables, ac available for lights, etc., parking, restrooms, and even the Ravenna Police Department for security! We want to be both a competitive station as well as a great public relations event to demonstrate to the

community what amateur radio is all about. There are extra points available for Get On The Air stations this year and maybe we can use this to get some recruits or rookies on the air. We’ll have lots of food and beverages available and lots of fun, too.

Get in touch with me as soon as possible if you would like to be involved. The Field Day committee will be meeting in March to start our planning.

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 them to me at kc8pd@portcars.org. 73

Jim - KC8PD

Mansfield Hamfest Report

What a great Hamfest! I would have to rate this hamfest as a Mini Dayton! I borrowed the wife's van for this trip since my little Chevy won't hold seven people in it. With me that morning was Joe-W8KNO, Roger-KB8JHS, Bob-N8KBX, Tom-KB8UUZ, Tom-WB8LCD and Russ-KB8DPN. We didn't leave real early that morning.. and there wasn't a big rush to get there. Good thing for not rushing since Interstate 71 had some snow covering it in several places I had to slow down a bit. The hamfest was packed! The parking areas were filled completely up also. It would have been a little on the

cool side had the event been held outdoors due to the cold weather. As I stated earlier....just like at Dayton...here you could have found about anything you could think of needing there. I was lucky in waiting to replace my old HT batteries because I bought new batteries there at a real good price. DC Ace Electronics had all types on sale for this hamfest event. I bought 2300 mAH NiMH AA's for \$1.50 each.. and some extras. I thought that was too good of deal that I couldn't pass up. The prices of these high current batteries are dropping and for those of you who will need to replace your old batteries don't over look the hamfests sale specials...you could save a lot of money! For those of you looking for older ARRL Hand Books and older electronics books, and radio books.. you could have had a field day there. Radio/Electronics construction books from the 30's, 40's and 50's were all around there. I was looking at some QST's from 1954 and 1955...everything was build-it-yourself back then with some really outstanding workmanship and ingenuity by those hams back then. In closing, we all had a great time there and each of us vowed to return and pass on our enthusiasm for ham radio to others we cross paths with in our hobby..



AI – KB8VJL

Paper Chase

I hope you all worked the special Olympic stations. I was lucky enough to work two of the individual event stations and one of the two stations on during the Olympics. It was quite



interesting that there were many other Italian and Mediterranean stations on and if you worked them you might be eligible to obtain another Italian award. The first one is the Worked All Italian Regions. Contact a station in each of the Italian

Regions (see the table below). The Basic award requires a contact with 10 regions. Endorsements for 15, 20 and 23 regions are available. There are restrictions as to when or what and you used. A GRC list and \$7 is required (there is no fee for blind or paralyzed hams. Send to A>R>I> Sezione di Ivrea, Award Manager, PO Box 70, I-10015 Ivrea, Italy. For endorsements, there is charge, just a SASE with an IRC or green stamp.

PREFIX	REGION	Provinces Included
IX1	Valle d'Aosta	Aosia(AO)
I1	Piedmonte	Torino(TO) Vercelli(VC) Novara(NO) Alessandria(AL) Cuneo(CN) Asti(AT) Biella(BI) Verbania(VB)
I1	Liguria	Genova(GE) Savona(SV) Imperia(IM)La Spezia(SP)
I2	Lombardia	Milano(MI) Bergamo(BG) Brescia(BS) Como(CO) Cremona(CR) Pavia(PV) Mantova(MN) Lecco(LC) Lodi(LO) Varese(VA)
I3	Veneto	Venezia(VE) Padova(PD) Verona(VR) Vicenza(VI) Treviso(TV) Belluno(BL) Rovioa(RO)

IV3	Fuili	Udine(UD) Pordenone(PN)
IN3	Venezia Guilia	Gorizia(GO) Triesta(TS)
IN3	Trentino	Trento(TN) Bolzano(BZ)
14	Emilia	Bologna(BO) Reggio Emilia(RE) Parma(PR) Piacenza(PC) Ferrara(FE) Modena(MO)
14	Romagna Forli	(FO) Ravenna(RA) Rimini(RN)
15	Toscana	Firenze(FI) Siena(SI) Lucca(LU) Pisa(PI) Pistoia(PT) Massa Carrara (MS) Livorno(LI) Arezzo(AR) Grosseto(GR) Prato(PO)
10	Umbria	Perugia(PG) Terni(TR)
16	Marche	Ancona(AN) Pesaro Urbino(PS) Ascoli Piceno(AP) Macerata(MC)
16	Abruzzo	Pesacara(PE) Chieti(CH) L'Aquila(AQ) Teramo(TE)
10	Lazio	Roma(RM) Frosinone(FR) Viterbo(VT) Rieti(RI) Latina(LT)
18	Campaia	Napoli(NA) Avellino(AV) Salerno(SA) Caserta(CE) Benevento(BN) Crotone(KR) Vibovalentia(vv)
18	Calabria	Catanzaro(CZ) Cosenza(CS) Reggio di Calabria(RC)
17-18	Basilcata	Potenza(PZ) I8, Matera(MT) I7
17	Puglia	Bari(BA) Tatanto(TA) Foggia(FG) Lecce(LE) Brindisi(BR)
18	Molise	Isernia(IS) Campobasso(CB)
IS0	Sardegna	Sagliari(CA) Sassari(SS) Muoro(NU)Oristano(OR)
IT9	Sicilia	Palermo(PA) Messina(ME) Enna(EN)Ragusa(RG) Catalnissetta(CL) Catania(CT) Trapani(TP) Siracusa(SR) Agigento(AG)
--	--	Guglielmo Marconi(GM)

The second award is the Certificato Del Mediterraneo (CDM). You will need to provide proof of having contacted at least 25 countries surrounding the Mediterranean since January 1, 1993. Endorsement for Phone, CW, Mixed and RTTY are available. Cards must be sent unless certification is made by an IARU Society Award Manager. Endorsements for all CW, Pone, RTTY and Mixed Modes. Send log extract with QSO data in alphabetical order to CDM Awards Manager ARI, Via Scarlatti 31, I-20124 Milano, Italy. The IARU Society Award Manager in the United States is the ARRL. The list of the countries is: Albania Dodecanese Monaco Algeria Egypt Morocco Balearic Isl. France Mt. Athos Bosnia Gibraltar Sardinia Corsica Greece Sicily Crete Israel Slovenia Croatia Italy Spain Cueta Mel Lebanon Syria Cyprus Libya Tunisia Cyprus Malta Turkey English Bases) Yugoslavia. Hear you in the pile ups!

Joe - W8KNO

Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

While I am writing this column, I am listening to the 3Y0X guys coming back from the Antarctic by boat. They were 250 nautical miles north of Peter One at the time, using call XR9A/mm. (Just took time to work them and got a 59!!)

So with that, lets get to this month's up-coming DX.

4J – Mir, UA3FDX and Pavel, RA3AUM will be active as 4J0DX and 4J0AUM from



Azerbaijan on March 17-27. They will operate on 10-80 meters (possibly on 160 meters as well) SSB and CW and will participate in either the Russian DX and CQ WPX SSB contests as 4J0DX. QSL for both stations via UA3FDX, direct or bureau.

5Z - Mike, OM2DX and Palo, OM2NW are active as 5Z4/OM2DX (QSL via OM3JW) and 5Z4/OM2NW (QSL via home call) from Kenya until March 6.

J7 - Igor, VA3YDX reports he will be active from Dominica from February 24 until March 14. He plans to participate in the ARRL DX SSB Contest and the DIG QSO Party. QSL direct only via home call (Igor Slakva, 105 La Rose Ave., #803, Etobicoke, ON M9P 1A9, Canada).

8R - Ken, K7ZUM and Craig, AH8DX will operate as 8R1ZUM and 8R1EA from Guyana from February 28 to March 7. Before the ARRL SSB DX Contest expect activity mostly on RTTY and the WARC bands. QSL via home calls.

AP - Dane, ST2T is now in Pakistan until the end of March. He has no chance to get an AP license, but he will try to be active from Ijaz, AP2IA's station (QSL via AP2IA).

EA8- Mari, EA8GL and Dunia, EA8BHD will operate as ED8IWD on March 5-8 to celebrate the International Women's Day (<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/events/>). QSL via bureau to EA8BHD.

F - Special call TM5CMC (Catastrophe des Mines de Courrieres) will be aired on March 4-19 to commemorate the Courrieres mining disaster of March 10, 1906, when 1,100 died in a coal dust explosion. QSL via F8CSD.

F - Three YL operators will be active as TP1CE from the radio club at the Council of Europe on March 11-12 to celebrate the International Women's Day. QSL via F5LGF.

JA - Special event call 8N1MOMO will be aired on all bands and modes from March 1 to April 5 to celebrate the Koga-city "Momo" (or Peach) Festival. QSL via the JARL bureau.

LY - Special call LY15A will be aired all of March to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania. QSL via LY2ZZ.

V3 - Carl, K3RV and Doug, W3NO will be active from Belize on March 21 - 28. They will participate in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest as V31RV, while before and after the contest they will operate as V31NO on 160-10 meters CW and SSB. QSL both callsigns via W3NO.

VK - The XVIII Commonwealth Games, contested by 4,500 athletes from 70 countries, will be held in Melbourne on March 15-26. Two special event callsigns will be aired all of March to celebrate this event: AX3MCG ("Melbourne Commonwealth Games", operated by VK3EW and VK3QI aiming to achieve at least DXCC) and AX3GAMES (activated by a multi-operator roster). QSL for both via the VK3 bureau. Australian amateurs will be allowed to use the AX prefix during the games period.

For those of you who like to work IOTA stations, there is a lot of activity on the bands for you in March.

9H - Texas DX Society's members cal/WF5W (9H3W), Steve/W9DX (9H3DX), Madison/W5MJ (9H3V), Don/N5DD (9H3RY), Bill/K5WAF (9H3WF), Mike/K5UO (9H3UO), Paul/W5PF (9H3PF) and Keith/NM5G (9H3KD) will operate on 10-80 meters and possibly on 160 meters from Malta (EU-023) on March 1-8. They will participate in the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 4-5); during non-contest periods primary activity will be 9H3DX on SSB, 9H3V on CW, 9H3RY on RTTY and 9H3WF on PSK. QSL for all via W5PF. Further details and on-line log searches a www.tdxs.org

9M2- Aniko, HA5TAA plans to operate as 9M2/HA5TAA from Tioman Island (AS-046) for a week between March 3 & 11. Look for her on 20 meters SSB.

C6 - Peter, W2IRT will operate holiday style as C6/W2IRT from Nassau (NA-001), Bahamas on March 4-10. He plans to be on 17 and 20 meters for the most part, using 100W and a dipole. QSL via home call (direct, bureau and LoTW).

FG - Gildas, FG/F6HMQ and Michel, FG/F6GWV will be active from Guadeloupe (NA-102) from February 25 to March 6. They will also operate as TO1T (QSL via F6HMQ) and will participate in the REF SSB (February 25-26) and ARRL DX SSB contests.

HL_ssh - Sang Hoon Lee, DS4NMJ [425DXN 761] is now active as DT8A from the Korean Antarctic base 'King Sejong' (HL-01 for the Antarctica Award) on King George Isl., South Shetlands (AN-010). He will be stationed there until December 30. QSL via HL2FDW.

I - Look for Davide/IW9GUR; Angelo/IW9HLM; Riccardo/IT9CVO; Andrea/IT9RKR and Andrea/IW9HQP to be signing IE9/ home call from Ustica Island (EU-051, IIA PA-001) on March 10-12. They plan to have three stations active on all bands except 30 meters, plus 6 meters.

SV - Look for SV5/SV1QN, SV5/SV1AIN, SV5/SV1GYG, SV5/SV1EQU and SV5/SW1GYN to operate on 160-6 meters SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31 from Patmos Island (EU-001), Dodecanese from March 28 to April 2. QSL via home calls.

V4 - Bob, AA1M and Mike, W1USN will be signing V44/ homecall from St. Kitts (NA-104) on March 2-10. They plan to operate SSB, PSK31 and CW on 80-10 meters. QSL via home calls.

ZD8- Jim, N6TJ will operate again as ZD8Z from Ascension Island (AF-003) on March 19-30, including an entry in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest. QSL via VE3HO.

ZF - Bob, K3UL will operate as ZF2UL from Grand Cayman (NA-016) on March 1-7. He plans to concentrate on the low bands, mainly CW. QSL via home call.

ZK1- Jim, W1EMT will be working on Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands on March 4-24 and plans to operate QRP on 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters as ZK1EMT in his spare time and during the weekends. QSL direct via home call.

That's it for this month. A lot is happening so I hope you HAMS get on the air. Hope that there will be something to report next month concerning lighthouses, for those of you that are interested. See you down the log.

Chuck - K8CMP

March - April Contest Calendar

March, 2006	
ARRL Inter. DX, SSB	0000Z, Mar 4 - 2400Z, Mar 5
Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase	0230Z-0400Z, Mar 9
Idaho QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 11 - 0100Z, Mar 12 & 1300Z, Mar 12 - 0100Z, Mar 13
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 11 - 0200Z, Mar 12 & 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 12
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 12 - 0100Z, Mar 13
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 18
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 18 - 0200Z, Mar 20
Run for the Bacon QRP	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 20
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 25 - 2359Z, Mar 26
April, 2006	
Kids Roundup	1400Z, Apr 1 - 2200Z, Apr 2
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 1 - 0500Z, Apr 2 & 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 2
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 8 - 0359Z, Apr 9 & 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 9
Montana QSO Party	2300Z, Apr 8 - 2300Z, Apr 9
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 15 - 0400Z, Apr 16
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 15 - 1800Z, Apr 16
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 17
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 22 - 0159Z, Apr 23 & 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 23

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.mikesplacrestaurant.com

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

Membership Benefit

As a member of PCARS, you have a new e-mail address! Yes, YOU have a mail forwarding e-mail address. The way it works is: <yourcall>@portcars.org So, if you want to send me an e-mail address, and your not sure what my address is, you can use: KB8DPN@portcars.org and it will automatically be routed to my regular e-mail address. Just another benefit that comes with your PCARS membership!

Russ - KB8DPN

Swap-N-Shop

DRAKE TR-7 transceiver (Serial #11002) w/ matching power supply and speaker, cooling fan, all filters except for AM, wired for 17 meters and other bands. Ready to put on the air. In very good condition. For digital photo, email ep4usa@adelphia.net. Price = \$650.00 + shipping. Call Jack, K8HGX, at 330-995-4887

Editors Note: Have you got some ham related item for sale? Or, maybe your looking for some ham related gear? Send me an e-mail and we'll put it in the Swap-N-Shop column.

Echo Link

At the February meeting, PCARS was privileged to receive an outstanding presentation on Echo Link from Jim Godfrey, KC8RKV, with an audio-visual assist from his son, Albert Godfrey, KC8ZZG. Jim provided an overview of the interconnection between the N8KW repeater, which has receivers at NEOUCOM in Rootstown and Davey School in Kent, and its transmitter located on the Kent State University campus. His home is located across from campus with a line of sight view to the Music and Speech Building. Jim has a computer at home dedicated as a Echo Link node and its access to the internet is provided via



James - KC8RKV

a 13cm wireless link from a yagi antenna on his roof to a small antenna in a window at the Music and Speech building. There is an internet bridge at each end and the connection enables Jim to be on-call 24/7 for his job as a LAN administrator for KSU's library services. Also at his house is a thirty year old crystal controlled low power two meter rig that provides Jim with his immediate access to Echo Link using an HT on the simplex frequency/channel that the rig is set on. Echo Link is a combination of computer and radio technology that allows hams to make use of voice over internet protocol (VOIP). The software is free and it, along with lots of useful information, can be obtained at www.echolink.org. Once you download the software you need to register with the service so that you can be assigned a node number. Once that has been received you can designate your computer as a client, link, or repeater. A client can access Echo Link straight from his or her computer. A link allows you to connect the computer to a rig set to a simplex frequency and then gain access by using your HT or mobile rig. A repeater, of course, is a site that provides access to a local repeater. Installation of the software is straightforward although every user will face his or her own issues to make it work. As Jim explained, with the wide variety of internet service providers, both high-speed and dial-



KC8PD accessing Echo Link

up, routers, both direct connect and wireless, and firewall software, some tweaking is needed for each setup. Fortunately, troubleshooting software is available from the Echo Link site and there are some third-party sites that can walk you through issues such as port-forwarding for your router. Even better, KC8RKV himself is a terrific and generous local source for guidance and advice on making it work. Also of interest was the fact that there are proxy servers available that enable users to work around wi-fi hotspots that set limits on access to the net. Jim was able to provide us with a demonstration of how to access Echo Link through the N8KW repeater by using the DTMF tones on an HT to enter the node number of the repeater or client that you wish to reach. We enjoyed a chat with Bob, VA3, a friend of Jim's, at his home in North Bay, Ontario, using the North Bay repeater. It was an educational and fascinating presentation. We are fortunate to have hams like Jim in our area who can help us all to learn new modes or technologies. A big PCARS thanks goes out to KC8RKV for sharing his time and knowledge with us.

Jim - KC8PD

HAMFEST CALENDAR

19 Mar 2006 - TMRA Hamfest and Computer Show - Toledo Mobile Radio Association - www.tmrhamradio.org - Talk-In: 147.27 + (no PL - rptr in net mode) - Contact: Brian J. Harrington, WD8MXX - 4463 Holly Hill Dr. - Toledo, OH 43614 - Phone: 419-535-6594 - Email: bharrington@meduohio.edu - Maumee (Toledo), OH - Lucas County Recreation Center - 2901 Key St.

26 Mar 2006 - Lake County Amateur Radio Association - www.lcara.org - Talk-In: 147.21 (PL 110.9) - Contact: Rocky, KB8WFD - 7480 Fern Dr. - Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060-3233 - Phone: 440-209-8953 - Email: rocky@lcara.org - Madison, OH - Madison High School - 3100 Burns Rd.

2 Apr 2006 - 52nd Annual Hamfest/Electronics & Computer Show - Cuyahoga Falls ARC - www.cfarc.org - Talk-In: 147.27 - Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Ave. - Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 330-688-2013 - Email: w8tts@w8tts.com - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 East Bath Rd.

PCARS on Vacation

Al - KB8VJL went on a vacation cruise with his wife. While on the cruise, he made sure that a few pictures were taken of him proudly displaying the PCARS Black Squirrel. Here's a few pictures he sent in:



Listening in on Aircraft

Commercial airborne communications is mostly in the VHF range, specifically 118-136 MHz, with VOR (VHF Omnidirectional Range) navigation frequencies from 108-118 MHz. We used to be able to pick up a strong airborne signal on a TV set, but I haven't heard of this happening for a long time, and I suspect the tighter bandwidth capabilities of receivers might have something to do with it. There is also HF communications in the 3-30 MHz range, but that is used

mostly over the oceans or other areas for long-range communications. There are land-based radio navigation beacons that operate in the 2-400 kHz range.

To start with, the “tower” that has been made famous in so many Grade B aviation movies is associated with a specific airport and is further divided into several functions. The “tower” that most people think of is the function that provides take-off and landing clearances at that specific airport and usually controls the airborne traffic within five nautical miles (NM) of that airport. Being more than a few miles from the airport would allow you to hear the airborne traffic but not the ground-based tower end of the conversation. Also in the tower is Ground Control, which provides clearances to aircraft to taxi to and from departing runways or landing runways. In the facility are also other support frequencies, such as Clearance Delivery (CPT) and transcribed current weather (ATIS) at that airport. Being ground-to-ground, short-range communications, you’re not likely on a scanner more than a few miles away.

Radar-assisted communications like Departure Control and Approach Control are located at major airports, such as Cleveland and Akron-Canton. These services are generally used to control arriving and departing aircraft within a 40 NM radius and altitudes of 7,000 – 9,000 feet. At busy airports and/or busy times, approach and departure controllers are on different frequencies. During slower traffic periods, or at smaller airports, one controller will handle both arrivals and departures. You’ll see this very often at Akron-Canton during the late evening hours when traffic is usually pretty light.

Outside the 40NM radius, Air Route Control Centers (ARTCC) handle communications. You’ll hear flight crews address them simply as “Center”. These are large area facilities that may handle traffic over several states and there are perhaps 15 centers that cover the entire United States. Cleveland Center covers an area from about the Indiana state line, east to Columbus, then southeast through parts of West Virginia up through central Pennsylvania (right about Phillipsburg) and into part of Southern Ontario, and over to Michigan. The Center is physically located in Oberlin, OH, but has remote transmitters, receivers and radar sites connected to Oberlin by landlines so that the controller sitting in Oberlin can follow and talk to the pilot over Pennsylvania, enroute to New York. The Center’s control area is divided into sectors, and also into altitudes. The first layer is ground level to about 12,000 feet. They handle the slower low-altitude enroute aircraft such as light single-engine Cessna 182 or Piper Cherokee varieties, or light twin-engine aircraft like 310’s or Aztecs. The next layer covers from around 12,000 to 23,000 feet. Most of the turboprops, King Air’s and such, operated in these altitudes while enroute. Higher, faster aircraft must still pass through these layers while ascending or descending.

Altitudes are referred to as “feet” up to 17,500 feet, then “Flight Levels” (FL) at 18,000 feet and above. So, an aircraft may be assigned to an altitude of 17,000 feet, but if he were cleared to climb another 2,000 feet, he would be cleared to “maintain FL 190.” In the movies, the military guys referred to FL’s as “angels.” Flying at Angels 40 meant you were at FL 400, or 40,000 feet. Gotta love the consistency of language.

Above FL 230, you have the last air traffic control layer, considered to be the “high altitude” layer.

What does all this mean to the guy who wants to listen in?

Well, listening into to the high altitude center frequencies doesn’t provide a lot of entertainment in my mind. You’ll hear frequency changes or occasional responses to traffic, but that’s about it. Plus, you’ll only hear the pilot-side of the conversation, so you’ll never know what Center said to elicit his response. For instance, Center may say to an aircraft “United 77, contact Cleveland Center, 135.7, G’Day.” You won’t be able to hear this, but you will hear the pilot reply, “Roger, thirty five seven, so long.” Or, Center might have said, “United 77, you have opposite direction traffic, 12 o’clock and 20 miles, two thousand feet below you.” The pilot might respond “Roger, he’s in sight,” or “Roger the traffic, we’re looking.” I always wondered who Roger was that he became so popular. The same is true for the other center frequencies, medium and low altitude. Not much going on.

This brings us to Approach and Departure radar, and the tower. On the approach control frequency, you may hear things like “Akron Approach, Mesaba 2315 at seven thousand, 110 assigned heading with Information Papa.” You may or may not hear Akron Approach respond, “Roger 2315, radar contact, turn right heading 150, descend to five thousand, radar vectors to the ILS 1 at Akron, winds zero six zero at eleven, altimeter two niner eight seven.” This would be followed by the aircraft’s acknowledgement, “Roger, ILS 1.”

As Mesaba got closer in, radar might say “2315, you’re three from the marker, cleared ILS 1, contact the tower, 118.3.” You would hear the response, “Roger (there he is again!) cleared the ILS 1, tower on eighteen three.” If you select 118.3 MHz on your scanner, you’ll might hear, “Good Afternoon Akron, Mesaba 2315 five out on the ILS 1.” Tower would respond, “Roger 2315, winds zero six zero at eleven, altimeter 29.87, cleared to land runway 1.” If you can pick up Ground communications, during his landing rollout, the tower would say something along the lines of “2315, turn right at the first available and contact Ground Control, point seven.” The pilot would contact Ground Control at 118.7 and receive clearance to taxi and parking.

In Portage County, you might have a chance to hear the radar/tower/ground side of the conversations, especially if you are located on a hill or with an antenna on a tower. Any ground transmissions from Cleveland Hopkins or the Center are not very likely, but you will certainly hear the airborne side of it. Remember, if the winds are from the north northwest to about east southeast at Cleveland, they will be operating on runway 6. You will hear the arrivals but possibly not hear the departures. Conversely, if the winds are such that they are taking off and landing to the southwest, you’re more likely to hear departures than arrivals. At Akron-Canton, you should pick up both.

Akron Fulton airport, if it still has a tower, will only be in part-time operation. Also, smaller airports such as Portage County, Wadsworth, etc, still use a common frequency, 122.8, that is referred to as “Unicom.” It is used for advisory only and clearances are not given. For instance, an arriving aircraft may call in, “Wadsworth Unicom, Cessna 1234 Delta, advisory please.” Assuming that someone is near the ground-based radio (not necessarily a requirement), the response may be “1234 Delta, winds out of the southeast at 8 to 10, runway 16 is in use.”

Here is a list of current frequencies. Although they do change on occasion, these should be relatively stable.

Akron-Canton Regional:

ATIS 121.05
Ground control 121.7
Tower 118.3
Approach 125.5
Departure 118.6 & 125.5
Other 134.9

(Cleveland Center handles departure/approach during slow periods)

Cleveland Hopkins

ATIS 127.85
Ground control 121.7 & 133.6
Tower 120.9 & 124.5
Approach 124.0 & 126.55
Departure 128.25 & 118.15

Low/Medium altitudes you are most likely to receive: 120.77, 134.9, 128.15. You may also hear 120.6 and 120.4 in the Cleveland/Akron area.

High Altitude: these frequencies are not necessarily stable. On a given day, 124.42 may take care of the high sector overflying Cleveland, and next week or even later the same day, it may not. Sector coverage depends on a great deal on traffic volume. If traffic is very light, one sector controller may be covering his sector and part of another two consequently using a single frequency; in heavy traffic volume, three controllers and three frequencies would be used. Reminder, Cleveland Center covers thousands of square miles.

Frequencies: 119.32, 119.72, 119.87, 119.92, 120.07, 120.62, 124.42, 126.52, 126.97, 132.12, 132.92, 133.07, 133.37, 133.52, 132.12, 134.77, 135.17, 135.72, 135.77

Joe Otto

Article Submitted by Bill – WB9LBI

About the Author: Joe Otto is has been a professional pilot for forty years. He works for Flight Safety International in Columbus, training pilots in for the Dassault Falcon business aircraft.

Severe Weather Awareness week

Statewide Tornado Test and Severe Weather Awareness week is March 26 to April 1 and the Statewide Tornado Drill is scheduled for March 29.

Joe - K8QOE - Ohio SM

EmComm

Recent activities at the local level have prompted discussions about some of the basic organizational features of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® which is national service that operates within the structure of the American Radio Relay League. In fact ARES is a registered trademark of the ARRL. It has and always be a part of the PCARS mission to encourage all of its members who are licensed amateur radio operators to be active members of ARES. PCARS intends to support ARES operations locally and to assist all of its members in maintaining their familiarization with and training in ARES programs and policies. This column covers some of the basic information and more will follow in future editions

of the newsletter. All quoted information comes directly from the ARRL website.

So, just who are the members of ARES? They are all



“licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than

possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership.”

ARES operates at four levels of organization which include: **“national, section, district and local. National emergency coordination at ARRL Headquarters is under the supervision of the ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager, who is responsible for advising all ARES officials regarding their problems, maintaining contact with federal government and other national officials concerned with amateur emergency communications potential, and in general with carrying out the League’s policies regarding emergency communications.”**

The **Section** Emergency Coordinator is **“appointed by the Section Manager (who is elected by the ARRL members in his or her section) and works under his/her supervision. In most sections, the SM delegates to the SEC the administration of the section emergency plan and the authority to appoint District and local ECs.”**

The Ohio Section EC is John Chapman, WB8INY.

The **Local** EC is **“appointed by the SEC...Depending on how the SEC has set up the section for administrative purposes, the EC may have jurisdiction over a small community or a large city, an entire county or even a group of counties. Whatever jurisdiction is assigned, the EC is in charge of all ARES activities in his area, not just one interest group, one agency, one club or one band.”**

The EC for Portage County is David Cluggish, N8IIQ. Many of you may know Dave who also serves as vice-president of the Portage Amateur Radio Club.

If there is a need for coordination among local ECs, the SEC may appoint a **District** EC.

The ARRL and ARES have not set a specific “formula” that must be followed the local ECs. Instead, the ARRL recognizes that **“Just what shape the plan in your locality will take depends on what your EC has to work with. He/she uses what he/she has, and leaves provision in the plan for what he/she hopes, wants and is trying to get. Flexibility is the keynote. The personnel, equipment and facilities available today may not be available tomorrow; conversely, what is lacking today may be available tomorrow. In any case, bear in mind that organizing and planning are not a one-person task. The EC is simply the leader, or, as the title indicates, the coordinator. His/her effectiveness inevitably will depend on what kind of a group he/she has to work with; that is, on you and your cohorts. Make yourself available to your EC as a**

member of his planning committee, or in any capacity for which you think you are qualified.”

That gives you a basic idea of the general organization of ARES down to the local level where the EC carries the responsibility of coordinating all of our local efforts. Within PCARS we will do all that we can to train and equip our members to be available to our EC to assist ARES in meeting the emergency equipment needs of our community.

Jim – KC8PD

Mark Your Calendars

- March 4 - Red Cross 7th Annual Real Heroes Breakfast honoring Jim - KC8PD – 10am at the NE Ohio Univ College of Medicine – Rootstown – Tickets at the Red Cross - \$20.00 – Business attire.
- March 13 - PCARS Meeting - 7pm - An introduction to the basics of hidden transmitter hunting.
- April 10 - PCARS Meeting – EmComm turn out kits; what should be in yours.
- April 26 - SKYWARN Training – 6:30 pm by Gary Garnet of the National Weather Service – at the Maplewood Career Center on Route 88 in Ravenna.

FCC noncommittal on "Morse code" proceeding

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last fall. The next—and most-anticipated--step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date. "There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time." The WTB staffer indicated there would be no "big announcements" at the Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum either. Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined in its NPRM&O to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making--many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions--including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants--into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235. Worth noting is that the FCC did not propose in

WT 05-235 to extend HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, such "codeless Techs" would be able to gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination. Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket--the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released last April 15. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding. In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to expand portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. The Morse code proceeding neither put forward nor recommended any changes in CW allocations or privileges.

From the ARRL

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Three PCARS members have birthdays in March:

KC8RFT – Denzil, WB8LCD – Tom, W8KNO – Joe

PCARS Thursday Net Schedule

The following people are scheduled to run the Thursday night PCARS net on the 146.895 repeater – 8:00 pm.

March 2 – KB8UUZ	March 9 – KB8DPN
March 16 – KC8PD	March 23 – WB8LCD
March 30 – W8KNO	April 6 - WB8LCD
April 13 – KC8PD	April 20 – KB8UUZ
April 27 – KB8DPN	May 4 – W8KNO

If you'd like to give it a go and be a Net Control, please contact me so I can get you in the schedule. Being net control is a good way to practice, and have fun at the same time.

Tom – WB8LCD

Freeze Your Acorns Off

The first annual Freeze Your Acorns Off day was fantastic. The mini-field event took place on Saturday February 25th at Towner's Woods Park. It was a QRP day and there were 4 stations on the air! We were on 15, 20, 40 meters SSB and 40 meters CW. The champions of the day were on 20 meters with one contact all the way into Arizona! The day started around 10 am when I went over to Tom – WB8LCD's house to pick up some fire



wood. We thought we might have a fire to help warm things up, but the wind was a bit strong, so we elected to not start the woods on fire. Anyway, lots of members showed up and we were on the air until 2 pm. KC8RJR strung up a Windom antenna about 40 feet in the air between a few trees, AB8UD had a 15 meter dipole up about 20 feet, WB8LCD put up his portable antenna on a picnic table, and W8KNO put up a rotatable dipole next to his station. The temperature in the morning was okay and not too cold, but the weather front moved in and it sure got a bit breezy and the temperature fell. we had lots of fun, plenty of warm coffee, and everyone enjoyed themselves. After tearing everything down, we headed to Eat-N-Park and warmed up over more coffee and got a bite to eat. We said that this should be an annual outing – so I guess you can mark your calendar for the last Saturday in February as the PCARS Freeze Your Acorns Off event day!

I hope I got the list correct, here are the attendees: WB8LCD, KB8UUZ, KC8RJR, WB8FEW, KB8DPN, K8CMP, KC8JGJ, KB8DPN, KB8VJL, W8KNO, KB8JHS, N8K BX, N4TIE, WB9LBI, AB8IE, AB8UD & his daughter Megan.



Tom – KB8UUZ



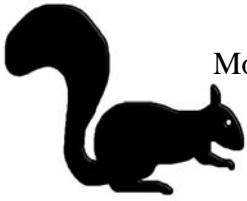
Photos from the February PCARS Meeting



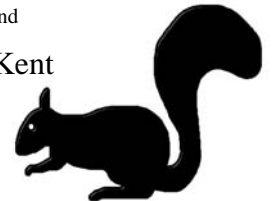
Thanks

Well, that's the 2nd issue of the PCARS newsletter. Whew, another bunch of hours of work putting it all together. I hope you enjoy it and I look forward to you sending in those articles to share with our members. Thanks goes out to this month's contributors: WB8LCD, KC8PD, KB8VJL, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8DPN, K8QOE, KB8UUZ, WB9LBI. With your 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 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 Elected Officers

Office	Call	Name	E-Mail
President	WB8LCD	Tom Sly	wb8lcd@portcars.org
Vice President	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
Treasurer	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson	kb8uuz@portcars.org
3 Year Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj@portcars.org
2 Year Trustee	W8KNO	Joe Wehner	w8kno@portcars.org
1 Year Trustee	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.	kb8dpn@portcars.org

Appointments & Committees

Club Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj@portcars.org
Field Day	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj@portcars.org
Net Controller	WB8LCD	Tom Sly	wb8lcd@portcars.org
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson	kb8uuz@portcars.org
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson	kb8uuz@portcars.org
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.	kb8dpn@portcars.org

PCARS Web Site: www.portcars.org

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Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

Tom Parkinson – KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor
9992 State Route 700
Mantua, OH 44255

This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter**. 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.



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Nolo
Lavetro
Cumminado