



~ Officers ~

President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
 Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
 Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
 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

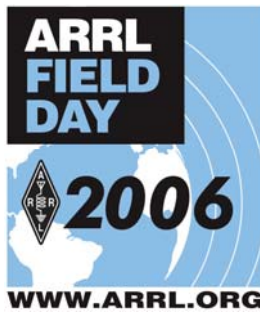
PCARS
 Application for ARRL affiliation was submitted November 29th



From the President

What a Great Season this is for Ham Radio! Our May 8th meeting is "Bring Your Rig" night – see what everyone else is using and what they like or don't like about it. May 13th is our Squirrel Hunt antenna building day – get yourself a simple antenna to use for Squirrel Hunting (or maybe even tracking down those pesky LIDS!) and have a fun day getting to know some great hams even better! Next up, The Dayton Hamvention. I hope to see you there. If you plan to attend, let me know via e-mail what your plans are (wb8lcd@portcars.org), we'll try to figure out the best time to have some sort of PCARS get together at the Hamvention.

The June meeting is on the 12th, and then – FIELD



DAY! Everyone needs to participate in field day – even if you can't spend the whole weekend with us. I'd like to see every club member stop by, sit in the chair and make a couple of "Q's" for the club. If you've got a friend you would like to introduce to ham radio, bring them

along! If you know a ham that has been inactive or off the air, let them know that we'd like to give them the opportunity to make a few contacts and see what they've been missing. Worst case scenario for field day – we're gonna have fun!

This is YOUR club! If there's something you would like to see us doing as a group, let us know. We want to make sure we have the activities and programs that you're interested in. Since getting started with PCARS I've had a chance to get to know some really great hams – but I'll bet there are a lot more in Portage County and beyond that we haven't even had contact with. I'd like to issue you this challenge: before this year is out, I'd like to see each member bring in another member! That would double the size of the club by the end of the year. Think about the ramifications of that and you'll have to agree it's a worthy goal. We'll make sure you've got a club you can be proud of and not be embarrassed to invite your friends to.

On Saturday, April 28, 2006, Jim – KC8PD and I traveled to the Ohio ARES conference in Columbus. PCARS member Bob – N8KBX was also there. Unfortunately, the Portage County EC and his two assistants were AWOL. I had a really good time and

learned a lot. The state EMA Center was really impressive. It was really interesting to hear what ARES is doing in other counties, there's lots of activities and involvement. I know a few of our members have gone to the Summit County ARES meeting and have been impressed with their attitude towards emergency preparedness. We need to do what we



can to build that attitude in Portage County. There's a huge difference between talk and action. Sign up for the ARRL EMCOMM courses! The biggest news from the meeting was that John Chapman was stepping down as state EC effective June 1st. Joe Phillips, the ARRL Ohio Section Manager, said he would have a replacement picked in time to be introduced at the Dayton Hamvention.

Our Thursday evening 2-meter net has continued to be a big hit! We've had lots of check-ins and each week we get a few echo-link check-ins. The net usually lasts about 40 minutes to an hour, and there's some good conversation afterward. The N8KW repeater has fantastic coverage so try and make it in on the PCARS net. Check us out and check in, every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on 146.895 (110.9 PL - Rootstown, 114.8 PL in Kent - PLUS Echo link through the KC8RKV system).

Looking more to the future, don't forget about our 2-meter simplex contest, Scheduled for August 12th. And, every year there is a Black Squirrel Festival at Kent State University (prelim date is Friday Sept. 8th) and we definitely want to have a portable special event station at the festival. It's a one day event, so it should be a lot of fun. As President of PCARS – I want to thank you all for making this a great club!



Best 73's

Tom - WB8LCD

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From the Vice President

PCARS President Tom Sly - WB8LCD, and I had the opportunity to attend the Ohio Section ARES meeting at the State EMA facility in Columbus on Saturday, April 22nd.



Tom - WB8LCD, John - WB8INY, Jim - KC8PD

Probably the most noteworthy item was the announcement by John Chapman - WB8INY, that he was resigning as Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator effective June 1st. John became SEC about two and one-half years ago when the then EC, Larry Rain - WD8IHP, passed away. John has certainly had his hands full with a variety of issues from around the state as well as coping with the recent huge demands on emcomm volunteers and the evolution and professionalizing of emcomm services. John is about a year or so into the

startup of his own business, a commercial cleaning company, and quite understandably has to devote more of his time and attention to the business as it grows. We all appreciate the service that he has provided and, I am sure, will continue to do into the future. I had a chance to chat with John about local issues and he was quite gracious and understanding although with all of the demands on his time right now I can't say that it is likely that any real changes will occur during his remaining tenure.

The meeting gave Tom and I a good opportunity to meet with ARES leaders from surrounding counties. Much can be learned from their programs and experiences. A large part of the program was small group discussions of a variety of issues that ARES will be facing in the near future.

I also had the chance to attend the Portage County EMA planning meeting on May 13th regarding their upcoming SET this spring. It is really something to see the planning efforts and cooperation from all of the participating agencies that have been attending these meetings. No information had been received by the EMA from the Portage ARES representatives regarding the SET.

On April 27th on behalf of PCARS, I attended the Volunteer Reception Center training at Hiram College offered by the Ohio Citizen Corps and sponsored by the Portage County Commissioners. Volunteer screening and reception centers will be familiar topics to those who have completed the AREC Level II and III courses or CERT training.



We are waiting to hear from the IRS agent who has been assigned to do the follow up on our application for tax-exempt status. I spoke with an IRS representative at the end of the 120 day application processing period. He advised that due "either to the complexity or simplicity of the application" it had been sent to an agent for further review. In our case we can be fairly sure that it was not the "complexity" of the application. Remember, once that status 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 has been forwarded to the ARRL home office for final approval. Hopefully, WB8LCD, will have received the notice of approval prior to the next meeting. Details of the process can then be discussed at the May meeting.

PCARS will be sponsoring a Technician Class course that will be offered at the Maplewood Career Center this Fall on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The cost will be \$20.00 which is paid to Maplewood, plus the cost of the Now You're Talking text sold by the ARRL. At the end of the course we will provide VE testing for the graduates. Special thanks to Larry Cole - N8FTP for helping to arrange the class and teach parts of the course. Larry has been the sole instructor for the course in past years. We would like to have other volunteers from PCARS to assist in the class presentation. In the meantime, let's get the word out and recruit some new hams!

Field Day committee: So far we have Russ - KB8DPN, Tom - WB8LCD, Bobby - WB8FEW, Chuck - K8CMP, and Bill - WB9LBI. The committee had its second meeting on April 29th and planning is well under way, but we can always use more help so drop me an e-mail or give me a call if you would

like to help. Already signed up for Field Day in addition to the committee members are Mike - AB8UD, Al - KB8VJL, Carl - N4TIE, Mike - KB8TUY, Wayne - AK8U, and Tom - KB8UUZ. We will circulate the sign-up sheet again at the May meeting.

Our Field Day location at the Cunningham Shelter in the Ravenna City Park is a great spot that is open to the public and has plenty of open area and shelter space for antennas, equipment, and people. Our plan is to have a versatile setup with at least three or four stations on the air plus the GOTA station. We will operate multiple modes with opportunities

for everyone to participate. And don't forget: we plan to eat well, too!

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. Every few meetings we will circulate the questionnaires so that you can update us your topics of interest and give us feedback on the programs that we have presented. If you have any ideas or suggestions please send them to me at kc8pd@portcars.org.

Jim - KC8PD

April Showers Bring May Flowers..

And, what does May bring? HAMVENTION of course!!! It's that time of year again, the Hamvention is just a few weeks away. Thousands of hams from all over the world will descend to the Hara Arena just north of Dayton to revel in the multitude of ham goodies, both old and new! If you've never been there, or it's been a number of years since you were last there - by all means GO! We live just a few short hours from the one place that hams from all over the world *dream* of going to. Most of them will never get the opportunity to see the Hamvention



except through pictures. Pressed for time? Well, I've managed to see everything at Dayton in one day - it takes all of fast walking, and no dilly dally as you get through the massive outdoor flea market, but it can be done in one day! So, make a list of those goodies you just gotta have, and head off to the Hara Arena for the 2006 Hamvention. Maybe our paths will cross. See you there.

Tom - KB8UUZ



Charlie the Tuner's HF High Lites

I'm sure that by now many of you have had to mow the lawn and start on various yard work projects. I guess that is a sure sign of spring, but as I write this the sun is coming up and we'll be getting rid of the latest frost. But since this is not a gardening column nor is it a weather report, let's get to the subject of DX. The HF bands have been really noisy from my QTH and sounding odd. Signals have been relatively weak. But let's hope that some of you DX hounds will work some of the following.



DX Hunters

6O - Mike, PA5M in Somalia and active in his spare time as 6O0M. Operating mainly CW and should be there for at least 6 weeks. QSL via PA7FM.

9M6- Mega, JA3EGZ & Yoko, JA3DFM - 80-6 meters SSB & CW as 9M6/JA3EGZ & 9M6/JA3DFM from Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia - July 7-10.

C9 - Frosty/K5LBU (C91CF), Wayne/W5KDJ & Tom/WW5L active from Mozambique. June 29 - July 13 all modes.

DL - 12 special DR2006 stations & 25 special DQ2006 stations, plus special callsign DR2006J (for YL activities) active from May 13 - July 16 to celebrate the FIFA World Cup world soccer championships to be held in Germany in June-July.

HH - Glauber, PS7EB operates as HH/PS7EB from Haiti. May 19 - Nov 25. Plans to operate CW, SSB & digital modes. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

I - ARI Sala Consilina (Salerno) members will operate special event station IO8VAT. Apr 15 - May 15 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Vatican Radio. QSL via IZ8AJQ (bureau) or direct.

TA - Berkin, TA3J operates as YM125ATA. Apr 23 - Nov 10 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. All bands & modes. QSL via TA3YJ.

UA - Special station RK50SAB. Active on May 1-31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the amateur radio club station at the Ryazan Radioengineering Academy. QSL via RK3SWB.

IOTA Hunters

FO - Yves, F6CTL operates from the Pacific. June 18 - July 18. He expects to be active from the following islands (sorry no exact dates):

Marquesas Hiva Hoa	OC-027
Australes Rurutu	OC-050
French Polynesia Tahiti	OC-046
French Polynesia Moorea	OC-046
French Polynesia Huahine	OC-067
French Polynesia Fakarava	OC-066
French Polynesia Mangareva	OC-063

He plans to operate SSB & some CW on 10-40 meters.

GM - Marc, ON5FP & Jose, ON4CJK. The Outer Hebrides (EU-010) from Jul 29 - Aug 5. Main QTH will be on North

Uist, and operate from Barra, Benbecula, Berneray, Eriskay, Lewis & Harris, South Uist and Vatersay. On 6 August, while on their way back home, they'll operate from Skye in the Inner Hebrides (EU-008).

JA - JA1KJW/4, JJ1JGI/4 & 7N4AGB/4. Active from Oki Is.(AS-041, JIIA AS-041-003), Shimane prefecture from Apr 29-May 8. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau.

JA - JA4ZKI/4 & JE6QIG/4. Operate from Oshima (AS-117, JIIA AS-117-108), Yamaguchi prefecture on May 13-14. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau.

JA - JA1UNS/1, JI1PLF/1, 7NGMK/1, 7L4PVR/1 & 7N4VPS/1 Active from Hachijo Is. (AS-043, JIIA AS-043-003) May 19-22. QSL via home calls, direct or bureau.

OY - PI4CC Contest Club members PA2A, PA2AM, PA2VMA & PA0VHA Operate CW, SSB, RTTY & PSK31 as OY/homecall from Eysturoy, Faroe Is. (EU-018) May 29 - June 8. QSL via PA0VHA

SM - Bernd, DL8AAV. Active as SM1/DL8AAV/p from Gotland Is. (EU-020) for 2 weeks starting on May 24.

W - N4AAC, N4MAA, N4NSS & K8QV. Operate all bands & modes as W4Z from Mullet Key (NA-034, USI FL-1325). June 24-25 (from 14 UTC to 14 UTC) during the ARRL Field Day. QSL direct to K8CXM.

YB - YE6P DXpedition to Simeulue Is. (OC-270) Rescheduled to take place on May 24-29. QSL via YB1TC, direct or bureau.

IOTA CONTEST ---> July 29-30, from 12 UTC on Saturday - 12 UTC on Sunday. Combined SSB/CW contest, & includes 80, 40, 20, 15 & 10 meters. Every year expeditioners activate many island groups, and it is easily possible to qualify for the basic IOTA-CC-100 Award during the contest weekend. For full rules visit <http://www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/iota.shtml> or contact the Contest Manager, Don Field, G3XTT (iotacontest@rsgbhfcc.org). A free logging program (SDI, SD for IOTA) designed especially for the contest is available at <http://www.ei5di.com/>.

Well, that's it for this issue. The IOTA contest sounds like it should be a lot of fun. Hopefully, the bands will cooperate. Until next month, 73s.

Chuck - K8CMP

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!

Fox Hunt Workshop

The PCARS Fox Hunt Workshop will be from 1000 EDT to 1400 EDT on Saturday, May 13th, at the Center of Hope which is located at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. We'll be going over fox hunt strategies and even try some homebrew antenna construction. More info will be out at the meeting on May 8th for what folks want to do. RSVP to me at kc8pd@portcars.org



Jim – KC8PD

May Contest Calendar

May, 2006	
MARAC County Hunter, CW	0000Z, May 6 - 2400Z, May 7
10-10 Int. Spring, CW	0001Z, May 6 - 2359Z, May 7
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 6 - 0700Z, May 7
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 6 - 0400Z, May 7
ARI International DX	2000Z, May 6 - 1959Z, May 7
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 6 - 0500Z, May 7 & 1300Z-2400Z, May 7
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m, SSB	0800Z-1400Z, May 13
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1200Z, May 13 - 2400Z, May 14
CQ-M International DX	1200Z, May 13 - 1200Z, May 14
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 13
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 13 - 0300Z, May 14
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, May 15
US Counties QSOP, SSB	0000Z, May 20 - 2400Z, May 21
EU PSK DX	1200Z, May 20 - 1200Z, May 21
Port Navy Day, PSK31	1500Z-2100Z, May 20
Port Navy Day, CW/SSB	1500Z, May 20 - 1500Z, May 21
CQ WW WPX, CW	0000Z, May 27 - 2359Z, May 28

Swap-N-Shop

**Nobody has anything for sale, or wanted this month!
Must be holding off until after Hamvention!!!**

Editors Note to PCARS members: 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.

PCARS Mentors

This is a new feature for the RadioGram and we hope that our members find it to be a timely and useful way to get answers to those ham radio related questions that are perplexing them. It has been a tradition in the hobby of ham radio that more knowledgeable and experienced hams would mentor new or aspiring hams as they worked their way up the learning curve. Those mentors were known as Elmers. Here is how the ARRL explains the origins of the term:



"The term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams--first appeared in

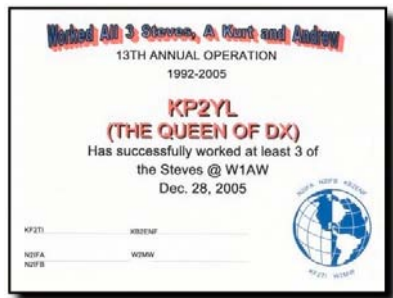
QST in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world: "Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'" Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."--Rick Lindquist, N1RL"

PCARS wants to help its members and potential new hams in two ways: First, by providing this column. Anyone with questions can either e-mail them to kc8pd@portcars.org or give them to me at a club meeting. We will farm them out to the folks who can give the best answer and then publish the questions and answers in future newsletters for the benefit of all. If you want to help answer questions, please send me a note. This is a great way to give back to the hobby. Second, you can volunteer to be a mentor or Elmer to a fellow ham. Just send a note to Tom, WB8LCD, at wb8lcd@portcars.org to let him know that you want to help. We will then publish a list of the Elmer volunteers in the newsletter and anyone looking for a mentor can contact one of the volunteers directly.

Jim – KC8PD

Paper Chase

With propagation becoming more concentrated in a southerly direction, this WAS (worked all Steves) certificate from St. Croix has a good chance of being claimed by anyone in our area. The three Steves are: KP2/N2IFA, KP2/KB2ENF and KP2/KF2TI. They will be operating from St. Croix from May 19th through May 22nd on the General portions of 160 - 10 meter bands. QSL direct to Steve Adell, KF2TI; 606 E. Vail Road; Landing, NJ 07850-1218. Hope to hear you in the pile ups!



Joe - W8KNO

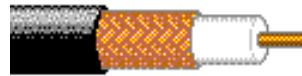
Hamfest Calendar

19-21 May 2006- **Dayton Hamvention** / ARRL EXPO 2006 - Dayton ARA - <http://www.hamvention.org/> - Talk-In: 146.94 Contact: see web site for all details. - Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd. - ARRL EXPO info: www.arrl.org/expo

4 Jun 2006 - 52nd Annual Hamfest & Computer Show - Breezeshooters ARC - <http://www.breezeshooters.net> - Talk-In: 147.96 - Contact: Bob Benna, N3LWP - 1010 Willow Dr. - Pittsburgh, PA 15237 - Phone: 412-366-0488 - Email: hamfest2006@breezeshooters.com - Butler (Pittsburgh), PA - Butler Farm Showgrounds - Route 68 (East of Butler)

Which Coax?

Getting antenna things ready to fix, upgrade, or install? Well you may wonder about your coax. It's the RF pipe line from your radio to your antenna and you sure don't want it to suck up all of your RF signal. Here's a handy chart showing the loss for various coax types. Just something to consider.



Tom – KB8UUZ

	CABLE ATTENUATION (dB per 100 ft)									
	Frequency									
	1.8	3.5	7.0	14.0	21.0	28.0	50.0	144	440	1296
LDF7-50A	.03	.04	.06	.08	.10	.12	.16	.27	0.5	0.9
FHJ-7	.03	.05	.07	.10	.12	.15	.20	.37	0.8	1.7
LDF5-50A	.04	.06	.09	.14	.17	.19	.26	.45	0.8	1.5
FXA78-50J	.06	.08	.13	.17	.23	.27	.39	.77	1.4	2.8
3/4" CATV	.06	.08	.13	.17	.23	.26	.38	.62	1.7	3.0
LDF4-50A	.09	.13	.17	.25	.31	.36	.48	.84	1.4	2.5
RG-17	.10	.13	.18	.27	.34	.40	.50	1.3	2.5	5.0
SLA12-50J	.11	.15	.20	.28	.35	.42	.56	1.0	1.9	3.0
FXA12-50J	.12	.16	.22	.33	.40	.47	.65	1.2	2.1	4.0
FXA38-50J	.16	.23	.31	.45	.53	.64	.85	1.5	2.7	4.9
9913	.16	.23	.31	.45	.53	.64	.92	1.6	2.7	5.0
RG-213	.25	.37	.55	.75	1.0	1.2	1.6	2.8	5.1	10.0
RG-8X	.49	.68	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.5	4.5	8.4	

PCARS Two Meter Simplex Contest

After months of reviewing various rules and discussions, we're ready to announce the First Annual PCARS 2 Meter Simplex Sprint Contest. The contest will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2006. This will be a 12 hour 2 meter simplex contest covering all of Portage County running from 11:59 am until 11:59 pm. The contest encourages hams to get involved in fun of contesting without the pressure of complete strangers and unfamiliar surroundings. This is just one more way to have fun in this hobby of ours and to help ensure your gear will work county-wide in case of an emergency. It's a 'work all Portage County' type of contest.



Did you know there are 5 Cities, 7 Vilages, and 18 Townships in Portage County? Well, this contest will encourage contacts into ALL of Portage County. The contest is open to anyone that can get on 2 meters inside or outside of our county. The complete rules, log sheet, and a summary sheet are on the PCARS web site at www.portcars.org You can also get the information from the

PCARS Yahoo site. Check it out!

Tom – KB8UUZ

Looking for an Old Call Sign?

Believe it or not, I found an old QSL card I was going to send out many, many years ago. I was surprised when I saw this card, because the call that I was confirming was to K8CMP. As you know, that's the call I now have through the vanity call sign program. That started an investigation on my part – who originally owned that K8CMP call? Looking

around in the normal places, no one had the information going back enough years. I did a web search and got lucky. The web site that I found is www.geocities.com/w3hf. If you go to the web and simply do a Google on W3HF, his index will come up and then just click on it and it takes you to Steve's site. It takes a few days for him to search out an old call sign. If you give him enough info, he can pin point it more quickly. I was able to tell him where my old call sign did not appear and he was able to eliminate a lot of guess work on his part. Anyway, there is no charge. He also has a list of Call Books that he needs to complete his collection, if anyone is willing to part with an old book. Take a look and see what you think. He does a great service for us older hams and does not charge like the rest. The original holder of K8CMP was Bob Chufo from Youngstown, OH. And my QSO with him was on July 16, 1964 at 12:34PM. 6 meter AM running a Hallicrafters HT-40 (75 w); Hallicrafters HA-5 VFO with a Nuvistor 6 meter converter and a Hallicrafters SX-110 rcvr to a 6 ele LongJohn beam up 50'. As you can tell, I really liked Hallicrafters equipment. Again, my old call was WA8FQK. We didn't have Tech Plus back then. You had to pass a code test to get your Tech license. To show you how long ago that was, we didn't have Zip codes either. The address was 209 Outlook, Youngstown 4, Ohio. I made out the card probably that day, but why I didn't send it I'll never know. I do remember when going through some of my old stuff that I had several cards made out waiting for addresses. It's likely that I made out the card as I was talking to him, meaning to get the address later and never did. 42 years is a long time to try and remember something like this.

Chuck - K8CMP

Fox Hunts in Summit County

Hidden Transmitter hunts are on Wed. May 3, 17, 31, and will be starting from the Scout House in Silver Lake, on Rt. 59 behind The Church in Silver Lake., at 7:00 p.m. If you don't have direction finding equipment you are welcome to ride along with our regular hunters on a space available basis. There MAY be some loaner equipment available, so bring along an antenna adapter just in case. We look forward to having you join us in the fun.



Gay - WB8VNO



Summit County ARES

I had received an invitation to attend the Summit County ARES monthly meeting so since I was free for the evening; why not? Radio Bob-N8KBX and I rode together for the drive to the meeting which was held at the Quirk Cultural Center in Cuyahoga Falls. Presiding over the meeting was the Summit County EC Larry Fields-WD8ITF. The meeting started at 7:30pm on the dot. The main program for the evening was the Summit County Mass Casualty Plan Power Point presentation by the Summit

County EMA given by Jim Stanley-KB8FCQ. A break down of the Mass Casualty Incident showed where hams could be used if asked to take part if that need occurred. Other business of the meeting: AEC training coordinator Zeke-AB8OU updated the ARES net control operations and discussed some minor net problems and offered some solutions for the group to ponder. This was the first ARES only meeting I have ever attended and I was most impressed. And I see there is a lot for me to learn if I want to take part as an effective Ham Radio volunteer in ARES. I would like to thank Larry-WD8ITF and his AEC's and the rest of the attendants of the Summit County ARES meeting for their warm welcome and am looking forward to visiting our next door neighbors and friends to the west of our county! For more info visit their web site at (www.sumco-ares.org)

AI - KB8VJL

EmComm

It was a privilege for me to be the speaker at the April PCARS meeting and give the presentation on Turnout Kits, aka Go Kits. The presentation seemed to be well received and a number of folks asked me after the meeting if I could provide a written summary of the equipment and various supplies that were displayed. So that seemed like a good suggestion for this month's EmComm column. Let me emphasize again that there is no "one size fits all" equipment list and that what I have found to be appropriate for my needs is not necessarily what you may want or need. Everyone, depending on their training and experience, will find the way to customize his or her own kit.



Always remember that the gear that you take when you are deployed should be the gear that you actually need for the assignment. In other words, if you are a Level I responder who will be deployed on short notice to a pre-assigned location to setup or participate in a VHF net for anywhere from four to eight hours you won't need an HF rig or camping gear. By the same token, if you are a Level II volunteer facing a deployment that will last for days at a site without commercial power and will be expected to provide HF and VHF data communications both your equipment and supply needs will change dramatically.

This serves as another reminder of why pre-event planning is so critical. The emergency communication plan adopted by the EC for your county should identify the communication needs that are expected to exist in the event of a disaster or emergency and how amateur radio will meet those needs. The plan must identify the resources, both human and material, necessary for the task. The EC through his or her regular meetings with local ARES volunteers will then be able to regularly catalog who is available for which assignment and what they can bring with them to fulfill the mission.

Each volunteer should then put together his or her own turnout kit with whatever is needed for their likely assignment.

You can find any number of suggested lists for your turnout kit's contents. Check the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/FandES/field/aresman.pdf for a copy of the ARES Field Manual. Another great site is www.emcomm.org/gear_list.htm or just Google "amateur radio emergency communications "go-kit"" or something similar and you will get hundreds of responses.

This column will just deal with communications gear and not the personal supply needs for emcomm volunteers. Check some of the sample lists for the items that you might require for your basic personal needs, i.e., food, water, hygiene, etc. Suffice it to say, those will change significantly if you expected to be deployed for days or longer. From experience I can tell you that I have camping gear as well as clothing, food, water, and other personal needs for up to a week.

Your primary rule should be that you can always provide for yourself and not be a demand on the otherwise limited resources that may be available at your service site. **Remember:** you are responding to a disaster or emergency and you do not want to be a burden on either the residents in the affected area or the agencies that are trying to assist them.

Now, about those kits...

For basic VHF/UHF communications I try to have pretty much everything that I need in one toolbox and a small backpack and waistpack. This includes:

- Dual band HT with extra batteries, both LithIon and AA battery pack, speaker-mic, gain antenna(s)
- Dual band rig with headphones
- Power supply with power cord and a variety of hookup cables with Powerpole connectors
- Collapsible j-pole and mag-mount antennas, with additional coax with barrel connectors and adapters for SMA and BNC connections
- Leatherman multi-tool and various small tools, cable ties, electrical tape, etc., flashlights, including one on a head strap
- A separate tool box with partitioned drawers includes, among other things, more spare batteries, AA alkaline and 2300 mah rechargeables, AAA and C, a wide variety of hand tools, plenty of electrical connectors, a multi-meter and soldering iron, calculator, duct tape, etc.

Although this will meet basic VHF needs I also pack a portable Arrow two meter beam that disassembles and packs into a PVC tube. This antenna can mount on a variety of masts, either horizontal or vertical, and is a real plus for simplex operations.

For additional 12 volt power I also take a 55AH Optima AGM (absorbed glass mat) battery with a Powerpole RigRunner that is velcroed to the battery. This allows for quick detachment if it needs to be moved closer to the power supply. In addition, I carry a heavy duty battery charger (soon to add a trickle charger and some solar panels) that can also be used should I happen to discharge the vehicle battery inadvertently. This is



not a liquid or gel type battery and it cannot be spilled. It can be discharged 150-200 times and then fully recharged.

I also carry two power inverters, a two hundred watt unit that stays in the car and a 750 watt unit for portable use. It is also useful to be able to generate a/c for laptops, etc., when only 12 volt d/c is available.

For HF operations the equipment needs expand a bit. Since I operate HF mobile with an Icom 706MkIIg, that rig is always with me. It is mounted in the vehicle so that it can be removed in about two minutes. It drives a 102" whip through an Icom AH-4 auto tuner that is mounted in a storage compartment in the rear of the vehicle. It can be quickly popped out and connected to a long wire and counterpoise for stationary operation. In addition, there is a Donner digital interface that is always attached to the radio so that soundcard digital modes are also available for the mobile setup.

If I will be operating HF from a fixed location, I also take along:

- Buddipole antenna with 16 foot mast, it can operate 40 to 2 meters
- Heavy duty 40 foot collapsible mast with drive-on base and guy lines
- 80-6 meter dipole
- Spool of 18 gauge wire for long-wire or dipoles (especially NVIS)
- LDG Z-11 Pro auto-tuner
- MFJ manual antenna tuner
- MFJ 259 antenna analyzer
- Multiple lengths of coax, primarily RG-8, jumper leads, dummy load
- Headset with boom mike

A brand new addition to the package for digital modes is an SCS PT-IIusb multi-mode TNC for PACTOR III and other modes. This enables me to use Winlink 2000 either through Airmail on HF or Paclink on VHF. Obviously the data modes require a computer so I have a Dell Inspiron B130 with all necessary software and cables.

Remember that at a disaster service site not all communications will be via ham radio. I also have a partitioned soft-side camera case with a five watt HT for GMRS/FRS frequencies



(and yes I am licensed for GMRS, WQCG586), a CB radio that doubles as a handheld or mobile unit (and a mag-mount antenna for the car), and a trunking scanner. The same bag also carries chargers for all the handhelds and for the rechargeable AA's. I also carry a fifty watt mobile GMRS unit that can be used mobile or portable.

Among the various other miscellaneous stuff that I have packed are heavy duty extension cords and outlets, EmComm vest and magnetic sign for the vehicle for identification, manuals and cheat sheets for each radio and other equipment, notebook and scratch pads with plenty of pens and pencils, message forms and so on.

If I am deployed to a disaster area without a/c power available, I also have a 5500 watt gasoline generator that can be loaded

into the back of my vehicle for transport. Extra gasoline cans can be strapped to the roof rack. I also pack heavy duty security cables to lash the generator to either the vehicle or to some other solid, tamper-proof attachment.

Well, no list is complete and I am sure that I have overlooked something. My equipment list will always be a work in progress with items being added or subtracted based upon experience or newly discovered need. I am also always looking for new strategies for packing the gear with an eye toward rapid setup and operation as well as security and protection for the equipment. If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to send me a note or give me a call.

Jim – KC8PD

Hot Rod

It's been a heck of a month... Last week I got to get to know the Ravenna Police Department when this very same vehicle was burglarized. Today I met the Ravenna Fire Department. I had a little smoke coming out of from under the hood, and my power steering quit. I was a block from home, so I drove it into the driveway and popped the hood. It was in flames, and the little fire extinguisher I emptied on it did nothing. I yelled to Mama to call 911. I got in and put the car in neutral and rolled the car back away from my garage. I then got the wife's van out from next to it and out of the driveway. Came back and ripped out the the 2m rig sacrificing the RG-58 coax. Fire department was here in less than 5 minutes. And -- then as quick as they came -- they left. So -- here I was with this 5,000 pound heap of smoldering plastic and metal sitting in my driveway, with all this fire foam all around it, thinking -- what just happened?

Mama, Russell and myself just sat there on the glider... I told Mama that I enjoyed sitting next to a fire with here -- but this was not exactly how I pictured it. Then I told Russell that this was a very very expensive way for us to invite his hero's from the police and fire departments over for a visit. He said... "Daddy's car -- Fire... Daddy's car is dirty!" -- You know that sticker I won at the last meeting? I just got that PCARS Black Squirrel sticker mounted last week... So -- when you think you've had a bad day...



Russ – KB8DPN

Suit Sat Still in Orbit

Tossed into orbit three months ago from the International Space Station, SuitSat-1 continues to orbit Earth--although its batteries are long since dead, Spaceweather.com reported this week that skywatcher Kevin Fetter videotaped SuitSat-1 as it passed over his Brockville, Ontario, Canada, home. A spare Russian Orlan spacesuit equipped with a battery-operated voice transmitter, slow-scan TV system, voice recordings and various sensors, SuitSat-1 was the brainchild of the Russian

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team. From the outset, radio signals from the unusual satellite were very weak due to an undetermined problem. Even so, SuitSat-1 remained in operation for more than two weeks, easily outlasting initial predictions that it would only transmit for about one week. The last confirmed reception of SuitSat-1's voice audio was on February 18. Calling the project a success, ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says SuitSat-1 captured the imagination of people around the world, despite its much-lower-than-expected signal strength. Eventually, SuitSat-1 will sink into Earth's atmosphere and disintegrate in a flash of fire. Another surplus Orlan suit remains aboard the ISS, so SuitSat-2 could be in the offing.



From ARRL Web Site

Echo Link & Hurricane Watch

Now that some of our members have become EchoLink users, they may want to check out the information at <http://www.voipwx.net/>

This is the VOIP Skywarn/IRLP/Echolink site. Here is the recent press release from the VoIP Hurricane net regarding their recruitment of EchoLink net control operators:

Hello to all... The following is a press release document on Net Control Operator recruitment put together by the VoIP Hurricane Net Management Team:

The VoIP Hurricane Net is looking for net control operators (NCOs) to assist with its weekly hurricane preparation net and during hurricane net activations. The VoIP Hurricane Net, which was created in 2002, is a support net working with WX4NHC, the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC). WX4NHC operations are organized by Julio Ripoll-WD4R, Assistant National Hurricane Center Coordinator and John McHugh-K4AG, National Hurricane Center Coordinator. The VoIP Hurricane Net uses a cross-link between an IRLP Reflector channel and an EchoLink conference to allow the NHC to access Amateur Radio Operators who do not have access to HF

communications and Amateur Radio Operators located at official National Weather Service (NWS) offices, and Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) providing additional means to forward severe weather and damage reports to flow into WX4NHC. It is also useful in times when poor HF Propagation does not allow contact with the NHC. It is another way to reach the NHC with critical weather and damage reports in times of a communications emergency caused by hurricanes. VoIP technology can also be utilized for other weather related and disaster communications. VoIP Hurricane Net Management is in search of additional NCOs to support the weekly VoIP Hurricane Net that meets every Sunday at



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0000 UTC, which is Saturday Evening across most of North America. In addition, we are looking for NCOs to participate in VoIP Hurricane Net activations. The VoIP Hurricane Net activates to support WX4NHC's operations and there are EchoLink and IRLP nodes in areas affected by the hurricane. The VoIP Hurricane Net can also self-activate if a tropical system unexpectedly gains hurricane strength and threatens a land area with EchoLink and IRLP nodes in the area or a region requests use and support of the EchoLink/IRLP cross-link system for their area for weather related or other disasters requiring emergency communications. The VoIP Net Management team is looking for NCOs from any geographic area in order to maintain a net for as long as emergency communications are required before, during, and shortly after hurricanes, up to 24 hours a day and sometimes for several days. Net Control Operators from the Pacific, Asia, Australia/New Zealand and other international areas can play a critical role in assisting our net operations during the overnight hours of a North American activation during their local daytime, providing North America Net Control Operators rest during their normal overnight hours. We also encourage NCOs who can fluently speak Spanish to contact us in order to further support operations in South and Central America, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. We will consider individuals who possess any of the qualifications listed below:



- Most importantly, a sincere desire to serve as a net control operator and being flexible with the pressure and issues that arise during a hurricane net activation.
- Prior experience with an emergency or public support net.
- Prior experience with running a club or VoIP Net.
- Net Control Training through their local Amateur Emergency/Public Service group.
- Incident Command Training.
- SKYWARN Weather Spotter Training or equivalent international weather spotting training.
- Any professional experience as a communications dispatcher.

The VoIP Net Management team will be offering NCO training for our specific net in the coming weeks. If you're interested in becoming an NCO, please contact Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Director of VoIP Hurricane Net Operations at rmacedo@... Thank you for your interest and thanks to all of you for your continued support of the VoIP Hurricane Net!

The VoIP Hurricane Net Management Team

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Two PCARS members have a birthday in May:
WB8FEW - Bobby and KC8ZZG - AI



Anderson Powerpole Connectors

The Anderson Powerpole housings conform to the ARES and RACES standard and are designated 15, 30, and 45 amps. The rating range is a function of which connector pins are inserted in to the housings. The rating of the connectors is by the wire gauge that the connector pins accept, not the pins themselves.



The most commonly used Powerpole is the 30 amp. Even though a 30 amp connector is rated for 12-14 gauge wire they will accept 10 gauge wire. Smaller wire may be used by doubling over the wire. The current rating for a wire is rated by the temperature rise of 25 degrees C. A 15, 30 or 45 amp

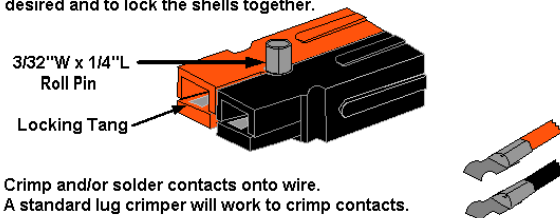
Powerpole connector pin will actually withstand well over 100 amps without damage and close to 200 amps to actually cause permanent damage. The voltage drop of a Powerpole 30 amp connector is approximately .016 volts at 37 amps. You can easily install Powerpole Connectors on your cables by soldering or by using certain inexpensive crimp tools such as the \$9.95 Gardner Bender GS88 (available at Lowe's Home Improvement). After attaching the contacts to your wires the color coded housings slide together and then click on to the contacts.

POWERPOLE CONNECTOR GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Assemble the red and black plastic housings together. Put the connector housings together before putting the connector pins in, this is easier, especially when using heavy paired wire. Before soldering or crimping the contacts on to heavy paired wire, orient the contacts so that they are both facing the correct direction so that they go in the housings without

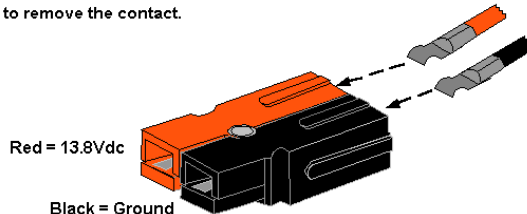
Assembly

Take a Red (Pt#1327) and Black (Pt# 1327G6) connector shell and use the interlock side tabs to join them together as shown. Insert roll pin into connector center if desired and to lock the shells together.



Crimp and/or solder contacts onto wire. A standard lug crimper will work to crimp contacts.

Slide contacts into shells, spoon side down. Push in until the contact locks on the locking tang. A screwdriver may be needed to push and seat the contact. If you make a mistake, the locking tang must be depressed with a small screwdriver or the Anderson Insertion/Removal tool to remove the contact.



ARES /RACES standard orientation.

twisting the wire. The plastic housings are held together with dovetail joints. Always slide these joints together! They will be damaged if you try to snap them together or apart. They

ONLY slide together in one direction. The contacts go in the housings in only one way. Insert the contacts with their sharp edge down against the flat spring that is in the housing. They should slide in and click. If you do not hear a click or they are



CORRECT!

The contacts are in proper alignment and ready to push in. Listen for a click on each one to make sure they are fully inserted.

not fully seated, fix them. When they are inserted fully you should notice that the contact and its wire "floats" slightly inside its housing. If it feels tight it may not be snapped in fully or you have made the contact wider than it originally was during crimping or soldering. Tug slightly on the assembled connector to make sure the contacts are locked in place. If you have trouble getting the contact to lock in to the housing you may have squashed the contact wider deformed it some how. Look at the side profile of the contacts before and after crimping, you may have to bend it back straight before inserting it in to the housing. When soldering the contact pins, be careful not to use too much solder. Keep the solder inside, where the wire goes. If a blob of solder gets on the outside of the connector body you may have trouble putting the contact into the housing. If you get solder on the contact surface area you will not make a good contact. When crimping the contact pins use a crimp that contains the wire completely inside the pin and doesn't spread the connector apart. A good crimp is one where the dimensions of the crimped portion are no more than an uncrimped pin. If the crimp is flattened out you will not be able to easily push the pin in to the body. If you bend the contact blade in relation to the crimp area you should straighten it before putting it in to the body. A properly crimped contact should have a minimum hold on the wire of more than 25 pounds. A pair of connectors should snap together with 6 to 8 pounds force. Last but not least, MAKE SURE you have the polarity correct before plugging in your equipment. "Measure twice, cut once" as the saying goes.

30 AMP CONNECTORS:

Put the contact over the wire making sure that all of the strands are inside the contact and the insulation is not. You



will find it is possible to use up to 10 gauge wire in a 30 amp contact even though they are made for 12 to 14 gauge. The # 10 will have to be cut cleanly and you have to neatly twist it to get all of the strands inside.

Smaller than # 14 will have to be doubled or tripled over to fill the contact recess and get a good crimp. If you are using paired wire orient the wire with the red/plus wire on your right

with the end of the wire away from you. Place the contact on the wire so that the sharp edge of the contact tip is down. Do both contacts this way and when crimped they will fit in to the plastic housing correctly without twisting the wire. Put the contact in to the smaller number one die. Center the crimp portion of the contact in the die with the rounded portion of the die up and against the seam on the contact and the tongue of the die directly opposite. Make sure that the wire is fully inserted in to the contact and crimp down firmly. Crimp with almost but not quite full force without bottoming out the tool. You will notice that the crimp is now slightly wider than it was. Rotate the crimp 90 degrees and squeeze it again in the number three die but this time not as firmly. The idea is to make the width of the crimp just slightly less that it was uncrimped.



Repeat the first crimp in the first die, but with less pressure. AGAIN, MAKE SURE you have the polarity correct before plugging in your equipment. This is the first crimp of a PowerPole 30 amp contact. Notice it is in the first die #1 with #12 wire and that the seam in the contact is against the rounded side of the tool's die. Make sure the end of the contact's crimp section is just below flush on the side of the tool. This is the 2nd step of a PowerPole 30 amp contact. Notice that the contact is in the back die # 3 and is turned 90 degrees. Do not crimp this very much, just enough to make the width of the crimped section less that what it was before you started. Again make sure the end of the contact's crimp section is just below flush on the side of the tool.

Tom – KB8UZZ

Mark Your Calendars

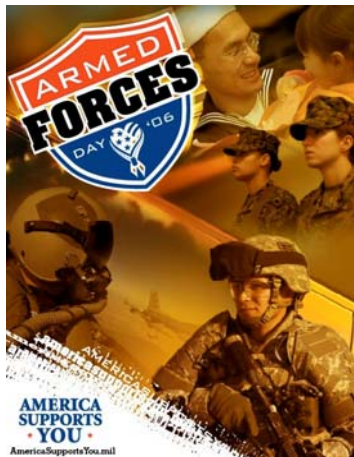
On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- o 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
- o May 13th – Fox hunt strategies and homebrew antenna construction, to be held from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 (or so) at the Center of Hope, 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna.
- o May 27th – The ‘Blind Squirrel’ fox hunt! Details will be announced at the May meeting.
- o June 12th club meeting – ‘Working the Satellites’ is the tentative topic
- o June 24th – 25th – Field Day, Cunningham Shelter, Ravenna City Park

Armed Forces Day 2006

Armed Forces Day 2006 military/amateur activities set. The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will cosponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio communications tests Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14 in celebration of the 56th Armed Forces Day. Although the

actual Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 20, the Armed Forces Day on-the-air activities will take place earlier, to avoid conflicts with those who might be attending Dayton Hamvention, May 19-21.



The annual activity features traditional military-to-amateur crossband (ie, hams transmit on amateur frequencies and receive military stations on nearby military channels) SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense's annual Armed Forces Day message via digital modes (RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31 and MT63). "These tests give Amateur Radio operators

and Short Wave Listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise," the US Armed Forces Day announcement says. QSL cards will be provided to those making contact with military stations. Commemorative certificates will be awarded to those receiving and copying without error the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense. The tentative schedule of on-the-air events--including a list of participating stations, the Secretary of Defense's message transmission schedule and more information--is available on the US Army MARS Web site. The schedule is subject to change without notice.

PCARS Thursday Net Schedule

We have had a lot of fun on the 2-meter net. We've had check-ins from around town to around the world (well, at least N. America!) via Echolink. Every week there's chatter that continues after the net for another 30-45 minutes! It's a great place to find that guy you've wanted to hook up with but just never caught him on the air before. And don't forget, you'll be recognized for 10 consecutive check ins! We may have a few more certificates to pass out at the May meeting. Get on the net, it's a good way to keep up with what's going on.

Net control:

- May 4 W8KNO – Joe
- May 11 KB8UUZ – Tom
- May 18 WB8LCD – Tom
- May 25 ***OPEN***
- June 1 K8CMP – Chuck
- June 8 KC8TYR – Robin
- June 15 KB8UUZ – Tom
- June 22 KC8PD – Jim
- June 29 KB8VJL – Al
- July 6 K8CMP – Chuck
- July 13 KB8VJL – Al
- July 20 KB8UUZ – Tom
- July 27 WB8LCD – Tom



Notice! There are a few new net control ops listed – THANK YOU! Also, there is an open slot on May 25th – Give me a call, send me an e-mail, we'd love to put your call in there and

give you the opportunity to run the net. If you want to make a commitment for August or September, that's ok too – get your name in there before all the good dates are taken! If you go to the PCARS web-site, we've got a basic script to use and a log in sheet. It's important that you keep a good record of the net and turn the log sheet in so we can keep a record of each week's net. It's really a good experience and will make you a better operator. And it's important experience to have if we ever do have a REAL emergency and you have to take it – you'll be glad you had the practice session.

Tom - WB8LCD

ARRL VEC Announces Vanity Call Sign License Renewal Program

The ARRL VEC has announced that it now can process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee (see "Processing Fee Schedule"). The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members will pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. In addition, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, points out that trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the Universal Licensing System (ULS) or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC. "2006 is an appropriate year for the ARRL VEC to implement this service, since the licenses of the many radio amateurs who obtained their vanity call signs as a result of the FCC program that went into effect in 1996 will expire this year," Somma said. The first of those licenses are due to expire in June. "As the FCC has already noted, licensees who want to keep their vanity call signs must pay the regulatory fee, currently \$21.90 for the 10-year license term, when renewing their licenses," Somma noted. "Licensees who don't want to pay the mandatory regulatory fee to retain a vanity call sign may request a sequentially issued call sign at the time of renewal." The FCC has proposed to reduce the vanity call sign regulatory fee to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The new fee, if adopted, would go into effect in August or September. Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN. Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from the vanity call sign regulatory fee. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such heritage vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the ULS Amateur Radio database. Somma says the ARRL's new license renewal/modification Web pages contain complete information on license-filing procedures, including step-by-step instructions on how to renew or update a license using the FCC's ULS site. League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers. There's additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page.

Processing Fee Schedule

For ARRL Members:

Non-Vanity License Renewal or Change No charge
 Vanity License Change (address, name) No charge
 Vanity License Renewal \$26.90 (includes the current \$21.90
 FCC regulatory fee and a \$5 ARRL VEC processing fee)

For Nonmembers:

Non-Vanity License Renewal or Change \$14 ARRL VEC
 processing fee
 Vanity License Change (address, name) \$14 ARRL VEC
 processing fee
 Vanity License Renewal \$35.90 (includes the current \$21.90
 FCC regulatory fee and a \$14 ARRL VEC processing fee)

For Club Stations:

Non-Vanity License Renewal or Change No charge
 Vanity License Change (address, name) No charge
 Vanity License Renewal Current \$21.90 FCC regulatory fee

ARRL

Radio Blackout

RADIO BLACKOUT: April 27th a strong M8-flare from sunspot 875 caused a shortwave radio blackout on Earth. Antennas at the University of Florida Radio Observatory recorded the event in the form of a dynamic spectrum, below. Horizontal lines on the left are radio stations. On the right they vanish, silenced by the flare for more than 10 minutes:

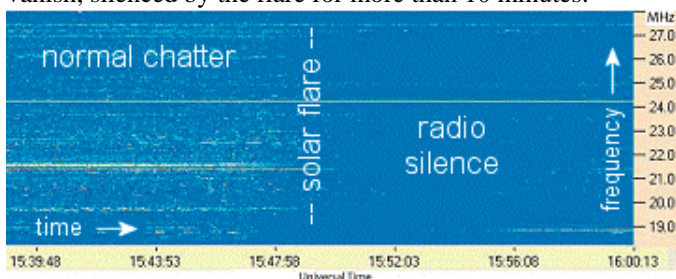


Image Credit: Thomas Ashcraft and the UFRO

How does a solar flare cause a radio blackout? X-rays from solar flares knock electrons from atoms and molecules in Earth's atmosphere. Once free, these electrons can steal energy from radio waves, quenching them. Some of yesterday's lesser flares produced radio waves of their own.

From: <http://spaceweather.com/>

Report on Antenna Day

Well a fun and a productive time was had by all who had the chance to attend the PCARS Antenna Day on Saturday, April



Al-KB8VJL, Bill-WB9LBI, Tom-WB8LCD, Errol-KC8RJR, Jim-KC8PD

8th, at the Ravenna City Park. This was a trial run for some of

the antenna configurations that we might want to use on Field Day. Although only partly cloudy, it was one breezy and chilly day. The hot coffee provided by Chuck - K8CMP, sure helped along with nutrition from the various glazed and frosted deep fried toroids. The crowd tended to congregate in the sunshine, at least when the clouds weren't hiding it! K8CMP also brought a portable tripod base and mast to use with a dipole setup that used two hamsticks. He and Tom - KB8UUZ, struggled mightily with the antennas, cutting and snipping bit by bit off the ends of the whips, trying to get the SWR down to an acceptable limit but the standing wave gods were not cooperating and Chuck remained a bit dissatisfied with the outcome. But it wasn't all a loss for Chuck because he also



had a chance to spend a bit of quality time with his new acquisition, an ICOM 7000, which we can only hope he decides to bring with him to our "Bring Your Rig" show and tell at the May meeting. Yours truly used the occasion to hoist a forty foot extendable mast called the "Wonderpole" by its manufacturer. It is made of non-conductive fiberglass and other reinforced layers that are supposed to make it one of the strongest portable masts available. It was seated onto a steel base that you can drive onto with your vehicle to hold it solidly in place. For the field use the base was bolted to eight foot rough-cut oak 1" x 12" oak planks and then guyed at about the twenty-five foot level. Supported at the top as an inverted Vee was a dual-band 80/40 dipole that I had cobbled up the day before. It was a project out of one of the ARRL antenna books. It also required a good deal of trimming and we finally got an acceptable SWR on 40 meters and made a couple of contacts with hams in North Carolina and



Bill - WB9LBI Errol - KC8RJR

Tennessee. Eighty meters was not as cooperative and Bobby - WB8FEW, theorized that the high SWR was probably the result of the twists in the parallel antenna wires. We had plenty of assistance getting the dipole up and down from Errol - KC8RJR, Bill - WB9LBI, and Glenn - KA8CMD. Others in attendance and assisting in a variety of ways were Al - KB8VJL, and Russ - KB8DPN.

We finally called it a day when our Prez declared that he was

as cold as he cared to get. As always, fun was had and lessons learned. By the time you read this, the results will have all been reviewed by the Field Day committee at its meeting on April 29th. The committee plans on giving PCARS the best possible Field Day experience with a great time and good fellowship to be had by all.

Jim - KC8PD

Why The Black Squirrel?

Ten rare Black Squirrels were imported from Ontario Canada in February 1961 by Larry Woodell, superintendent of the



Kent State University grounds, and M. W. Staples, a retired executive of the Davey Tree Expert Company. When first accidentally (?) released at KSU, the large, black-spiked squirrels were frequently mistaken for skunks. Today they own the Kent

State University campus and have since migrated throughout the county. So, we adopted the Black Squirrel as our 'mascot'. No matter where you go in the county – you'll see the Black Squirrel and think of PCARS!

News from the April PCARS Meeting

Yahoo

PCARS GROUP on YAHOO!

A new group has been added at the suggestion of our membership. The Yahoo Group PCARS is a way for PCARS members and others to interact, share files and group messages with each other. Join today! <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCARS/>



Thanks

Well, that's the 4th issue of the PCARS newsletter. Another 15 hours of work putting it all together. This issue sure has allot for everyone! I hope you enjoy it. I look forward to you sending in those articles to share with our members. Thanks goes out to this months contributors: WB8LCD, KC8PD, K8CMP, KB8UUZ, W8KNO, WB8VNO, KB8DPN, KB8VJL, KD1CY, ARRL, the Record Courier, and the world wide web. With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

*Tom - KB8UUZ
Newsletter Editor*



LIFETIMES

PORTAGE COUNTY

Amateur Radio Service meets

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service recently held its regular monthly meeting at Mike's Place Restaurant in Kent.

A short business meeting was held, during which two new members were accepted.

Following the meeting, there was a presentation by the club's vice president, Jim Aylward (KC8PD), on the topic of emergency turnout kits.

The Amateur Radio Service has a long history of providing emergency communications for areas hit by disasters. During a disaster, most normal means of communications may be disrupted and Amateur Radio plays a critical role for both the emergency services and the cit-

izens of the affected area.

The turnout kit is a package of supplies and equipment the radio amateur would need to provide the communications necessary at a disaster site. Having the turnout kit prepared ahead of time enables the radio amateur to respond quickly and to know that the equipment and supplies needed to be self sufficient in providing communications services are ready to be used.

PCARS meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mike's Place Restaurant in Kent. All radio amateurs and anyone interested in ham radio may attend. For more information on PCARS, visit the Web site, www.portcars.org.



At a recent meeting of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Jim Aylward, KC8PD, talks about items in ham radio operators' emergency communication turnout kits.



2006

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And Featuring...

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the dates
May 19, 20 & 21**



**Your Hamvention admission includes access to ARRL EXPO
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- Visit special ARRL exhibits and booths, including the huge ARRL bookstore!
- See live presentations on the ARRL Stage
 - Meet ARRL staff and volunteers
 - DXCC Card Checking
 - Join or renew with ARRL – and receive a FREE GIFT



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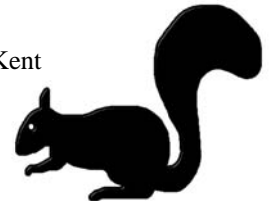


ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

Visit **www.arrl.org/expo** for the latest ARRL EXPO 2006 news!



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.	kb8vj1@portcars.org
2 Year Trustee	W8KNO	Joe Wehner	w8kno@portcars.org
1 Year Trustee	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.	kb8dpn@portcars.org

PCARS Appointments & Committees

Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner	w8kno@portcars.org
Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj1@portcars.org
Field Day	KC8PD	Jim Aylward	kc8pd@portcars.org
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.	kb8vj1@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 Mentors – Need some help or advice? Contact:

Echo Link	KC8RKV	James Godfrey	kc8rkv@portcars.org
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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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor

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PCARS Web Site: www.portcars.org



Nolo
Lavetro
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