



~ 2015 Officers ~

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Past President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD

~ Meetings & Net ~

2nd Monday of
each month. 7pm
Thursday night
Club Net at 8 pm
on 146.895

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
April 20, 2006



Special Services
Club
March 22, 2010

From the President

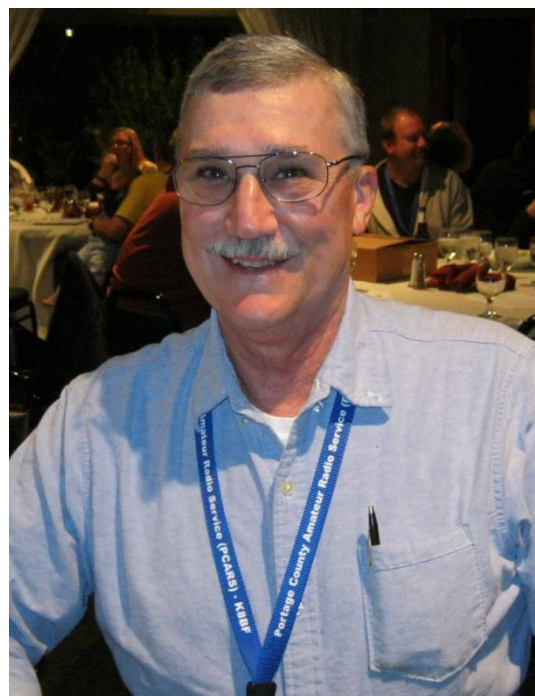
Spring is here, finally! By the calendar, and by all but a few vestiges of what were massive piles of snow are gone, we've turned the corner on a tough winter and not a moment too soon. And with that behind us it's time to turn to warmer weather and what that brings.

With the exception of the occasional flurry or two that we may see for the next few weeks, thoughts of extreme winter weather are behind us, but that doesn't mean we can relax. Thunderstorms and heavy winds are part of spring and summer so we need to be ready to take care of ourselves and our families should these events occur, and when possible to use our communications skills to help others should it become necessary. The Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is sponsoring this year's National Weather Service Skywarn training and this is a great opportunity to learn skills that can help the safety and well-being of your community. The training will take place at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna on April 1 with registration starting at 6:00 PM and the webinar training to begin at 6:30 PM. Also, consider becoming a member of ARES® of Portage County, or the Portage County Communications Unit/RACES to provide help when communications resources are requested.

Good weather also brings the start of public service events that we support with our skills as communicators. There are already a couple of events on the schedule. A color run being supported by the Stark State College Amateur Radio Service is scheduled for April 30th, and the Cleveland Rite Aid Marathon takes place on May 17th with more events to come. Volunteering for public service events helps support organizations in our communities and it's also a great way to learn and maintain communications skills that are used in emergencies so whenever you can, volunteer your time to help out.

Dreadful winters take a toll on our out-door antennas and spring is the time to get everything back in shape. Warmer weather makes working on things a lot easier and for those of us that hang our wires from or through the trees, early spring before the leaves bloom is a great time to get a better look at our antenna supports.

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From the President *(continued from Page 1)*

While we're outside looking at antennas, take a moment to check out other amateur radio related things like the condition of your grounds, your back-up power source, and others. Taking care of maintenance now means you'll spend more of the warm weather enjoying your hobby and not repairing things later you could have done now.

And speaking of those more enjoyable things, there are a number of events coming up that will tickle the fancies of more than a few PCARS members. The first up is the Mini-Maker Faire sponsored by Kent State University on Friday April 11th from noon to 4:00 PM. The event is held in the Kent State University Library and PCARS will be there representing Amateur Radio. In addition to the more traditional aspects of amateur radio we're going to try to have some amateur radio demonstrations that incorporate the Raspberry PI computer and MESH networks. If you would like to help represent PCARS and amateur radio to people attending Maker Faire, please let Tom, WB8LCD or myself know. We would really appreciate your help!

Next up is Antenna Day on Saturday May 9th. This is our “dress rehearsal” for Field Day when we will try to set everything up as closely as we can to how it will be done on Field Day. This lets us identify as many problems and issues as possible so we can get them corrected before Field Day. You being there to lend a hand would be great!

What would May be without the Dayton Hamvention®?! Three days of checking out the latest gear, walking the hamfest for that exact item you’ve been looking for that completes a project, forums to pique your interest, and most importantly a great time with fellow hams! PCARS will be doing a group photo again in front of the ARRL booth on Saturday, stay tuned for details.

Field Day, the biggest event PCARS puts on every year takes place on Saturday and Sunday June 27th and 28th. Chuck, W8PT and his staff have been hard at work planning this year’s Field Day, and it promises to be as good as ever. Whether you plan on participating at one of the stations, providing help in setting up or tearing down, helping in one of the support teams, or just to share some time with your fellow PCARS members, mark your calendars and plan to attend.

There are lots of fun things coming up later on in the summer in addition to the few I’ve listed so far and we’ll keep everyone up to date about current happenings here in the newsletter, on our web site www.portcars.org, and via the QST messaging system when appropriate. The most important part of any of these events is YOU, our members. By just you being there and participating, the event becomes that much more enjoyable so come on out, have a great time and enjoy being with your fellow PCARS members.

73,

Rick, K8CAV
PCARS President



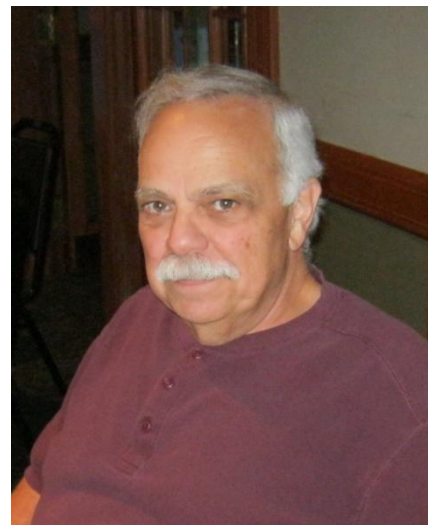
From the Vice President

Back in 1958, when ham radio operators still built most of their own equipment; kept themselves warm from the glow of beautiful vacuum tubes and the FCC was very active regulating and monitoring ham radio, there was a very interesting incident. On a warm summer evening, ham radio operators began hearing a CW transmission on the 40 meter band that was mostly random characters with but sometimes also containing a CQ followed by a partial call sign. The transmission was dirty, creating interference over much of the band and seemed to be originating somewhere in the north central US. After almost a full day hams began trying to triangulate the source of the transmission and the Cleveland office of the FCC got involved (ready to hand out a big fine!). Yes RACES existed back then and together with the FCC engineers began the hunt for the offending station. The problem was that every time the boys with the big beam antennas got a fix, the station moved! Now remember radio equipment back then was not light (aka boat anchors) and a portable/mobile station needed a small truck to move around. As the search moved into the second day the “ghost station” became more and more of a mystery.

As it happens 1958 was near the peak of a very strong sunspot cycle, and some of the hams began speculating that some strange propagation conditions were simply causing the station to appear to be mobile while in reality it was fixed. By the third day they were fairly sure that the station was probably somewhere in Ohio or western PA. The FCC had rolled out a direction finding van and were continuing to work closely with the local RACES groups. The ghost station operator had a terrible fist and hams were “hearing” all kind of strange messages in the neatly continuous code transmission. Hey, also remember this was in the middle of the

cold war and the Russians had spies everywhere. Towards the end of day three band conditions began to settle down and they were now sure the signal originated in northeast Ohio. They began to close in. Position fixes were refined and the FCC DF van was closing in. Tensions were high among the signal hunters. They were now certain that the station was just north of Kent Ohio. Then, just as they were racing down the Ohio back roads, moving in for the “kill”..... the station suddenly ceased transmitting. Everyone listened for the next couple hours, but there were no more transmissions.

There were many rumors about who had been operating the “ghost station” and even more about the mysterious random (or not so random) message it had sent. Some speculated that it may have been simply a malfunctioning transmitter accidentally left on by a “distracted” ham. One thing everyone agreed on is that the station had been operating from an area just north of Kent and near a place called Twin Lakes. The mystery has never been solved. PS. Don’t bet this was not a real story!!!



73,

Tony, WA8AR
PCARS Vice President

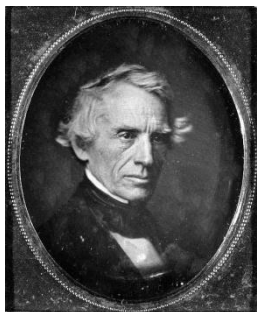


Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having a birthday in **April**:

KD8RJV	James	Corbett	KW8KW	Bill	O'Neil
KD8GHB	Joe	Racco	AB8SX	Mark	Eldridge
N8OQQ	Bryan	Buchwalter	N8GLK	Leon	Loveland
N8QE	Bob	Hajdak	KD8SJF	Paul	Sakalas
WB2DFC	Dave	Rarrick	W8JJW	John	Wagner

April 25 - Birthday - Radio inventor **Guglielmo Marconi** (1874-1937) was born in Bologna, Italy. He pioneered the use of wireless telegraphy in the 1890's. By 1921, Marconi's invention had been developed into wireless telephony (voice radio).



April 27 - Birthday - Telegraph inventor **Samuel F.B. Morse** (1791-1872) was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He developed the idea of an electromagnetic telegraph in the 1830's and tapped out his first message "What hath God wrought?" in 1844 on the first telegraph line, running from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore. The construction of the first telegraph line was funded by Congress (\$30,000) after Morse failed to get any other financial backing. After Western Union was founded in 1856, telegraph lines were quickly strung from coast to coast in America.



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **April 1st - Skywarn Training** - Maplewood Career Center - 6 PM
- **April 4th - VE Testing** - PCARS Club Site, Ravenna - Walk-ins Welcome - 10 AM
- **April 11th Mini Maker Faire** - Kent State University - Library - noon - 4 PM
- **April 13th - PCARS Meeting** - Kent American Legion - 7 PM - SSTV
- **April 18th - Michigan QSO Party contest** - PCARS Club Site, Ravenna
- **April 28th - Field Day Meeting** - PCARS Club Site, Ravenna - 7 PM
- **May 9th - PCARS Antenna Day** - Ravenna City Park - 10 AM
- **June 27-28th - FIELD DAY** - Ravenna City Park - 10 AM

Special Interest Groups - Every Month at the Club Site in Ravenna - 7 pm



- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| First Tuesday | - | Digital Special Interest Group |
| Second Tuesday | - | QRP/CW Special Interest Group |
| Third Tuesday | - | Antenna Special Interest Group |
| Fourth Tuesday | - | DX & Contest Special Interest Group |
| Fifth Tuesday | - | Linux for Hams Special Interest Group |

Fourth Thursday - Net Night at the club site - 6:30 pm



20 Meter Fire

The phone portion of the 20 meter band was hit by a freak fire last week that destroyed over 10 kilohertz, according to FCC Special Frequency Engineer Marvin Larpsnogg. apparently the fire originated on about 14.313 MHz following an unusually long series of QSO's by an undetermined number of California stations and one station from Parkman, Ohio running very high power and extreme modulation compression. Several A0 carriers were observed at the same time and may have contributed to starting the blaze. "We had a hell of a time putting the fire out", said Larpsnogg. "Shutting down the propagation generators did no good at all. The fire just spread up and down the band", he went on, "So we had to turn off all the ham bands from 40 through 10 meters to smother the flames." Finally, after nearly three hours, the FCC had the fire under control. Most HF bands were back to normal use the next day; however, 20 meters will be closed for several weeks while the frequencies are being refurbished. When notified of the fire the league of radio relaying amateurs cancelled the 20 meter DX contests until further notice. According to league spokesperson Sandy Ampersand, the 20 meter fire was the worst such incident since the famed 5 meter holocaust completely wiped out that band for all time 40 years ago.



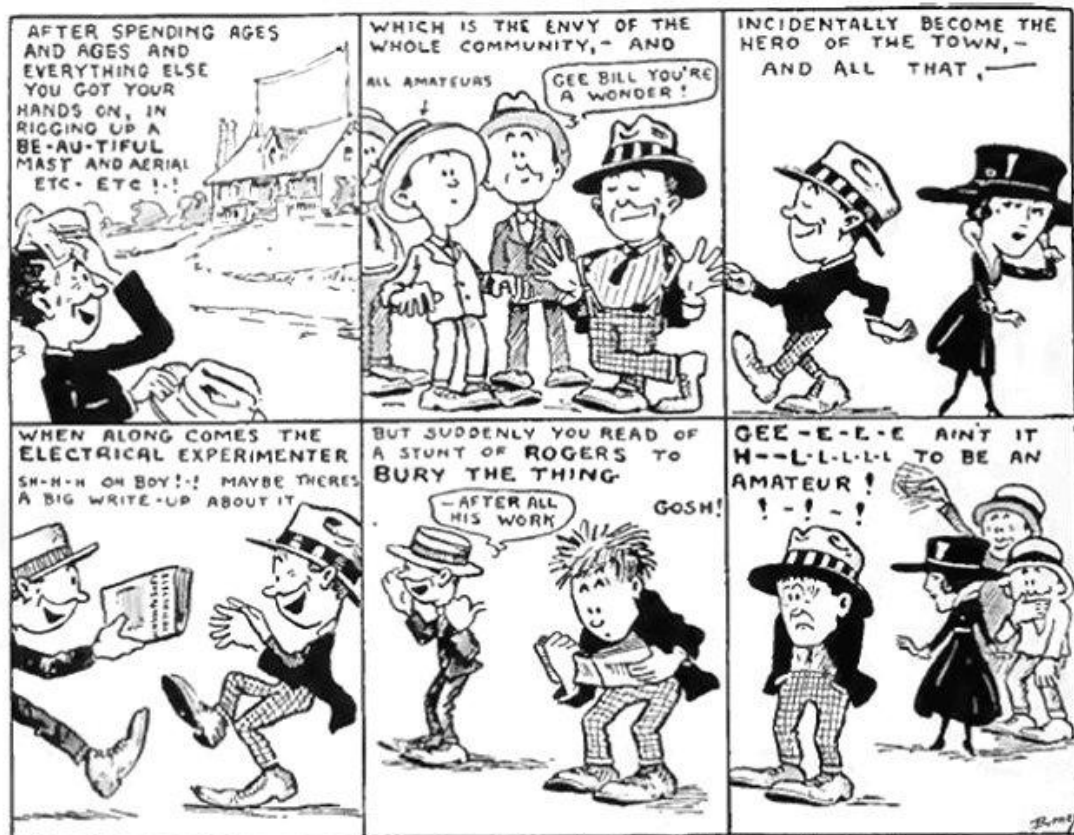
Relayed by **Lee, WA8ERA**
Author unknown

Tech Nerds Freaked Out About Obsolescence 100 Years Ago Too

Do you find yourself obsessing over the latest tech? Does owning the newest model smart phone or tablet feel like a need more than a desire? Well, as you can see in this comic strip from 1919, your anxiety about having the Latest New Thing is actually nothing new. In fact, you're continuing a long tradition of nerds obsessing over tech obsolescence.

In the case of this comic from the June 1919 issue of *Electrical Experimenter* magazine, the tech in question was amateur radio. The strip's protagonist struts around town, proud that his home has the latest and greatest radio tech, a beautiful mast and aerial, towering over his house!

But Mr. Fancypants is dismayed to discover (through reading *Electrical Experimenter* magazine, of course) that there's even newer, more exciting technology out there: underground aërials. How embarrassing!



What the Advent of Rogers Underground Aërials Did to Radio-Amateurdom—
By H. B. Burney.

The moral of the story? Your months-old smart phone is an above-ground aerial and you should feel ashamed.

Matt Novak

<http://io9.com>

Image: From the June 1919 issue of *Electrical Experimenter* magazine

PCARS is on YouTube

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFVsDD_gwCLtTw-FPuBcYtA



PCARS VE Test Sessions

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

April 4th, June 6th, August 1st, October 3rd, December 5th

What to Bring to the Testing Session

- \$15 is the current test fee. We prefer the exact amount in cash or a check made out to: ARRL-VEC
- A government photo ID (**driver's license or state ID card preferred**).
- Your Social Security Number or FCC Federal Registration Number. We are required to submit either your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) with your application. If you are upgrading, your FRN is on your current Amateur Radio license.
- A pen (black ink) and pencil (we can loan you either or both)
- **If you already have an Amateur Radio license: The original (*and one copy*) of any current (*unexpired*) amateur radio operator license issued to you.**
- If you've already passed a test: The original (**and one copy**) of any document that you will use to prove you've already passed a test element. These documents may include:
 - An unexpired Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) indicating the credit(s) earned indicating the credit(s) earned.
 - Original and copy of a pre-March 21, 1987 Technician license (this provides credit for the Element 3 [General] exam) - you must be currently licensed to get this credit.
- Expired License? Original and copy of your expired Amateur Radio License - you must take and pass element 2 to re-instate your license.



Robert, N8RLG
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Skywarn Training

The Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is sponsoring this year's National Weather Service Skywarn training. It will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1st**, in Conference Room "A" at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna on State Route 88 north of State Route 14.



Registration will begin around 6:00 p.m. This will be a webinar presentation. Participants will be able to download a training certificate and Skywarn Spotter ID card from the NWS Cleveland office web site.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

73,
Jim, KC8PD
Communications Unit Leader
Portage County OHS/EM

Contest Calendar

April 2015	
Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 2359Z, Apr 12
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 18 to 1800Z, Apr 19
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 19
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 25 to 2359Z, Apr 26
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 25 to 2159Z, Apr 26

Google the Contest Name - Read the Rules & Have Fun. YES - There are *MANY* More Contests out there - Check the Internet

K8BF - FIRST PLACE - California QSO Party



The certificate came through from the California QSO Party - PCARS was **FIRST PLACE** in Ohio and **FIRST PLACE** in the USA for the Multi-Multi, Low Power category.



Dayton Hamvention® Amateur of the Year - K3LR

PCARS Congratulates Tim Duffy, K3LR !

With great pleasure, the Dayton Hamvention® Awards Committee announces the 2015 Dayton Hamvention® Awards winners. For over a half century, Hamvention® has recognized individuals that have given so much to the radio amateur community.

Amateur Of The Year: Tim Duffy, K3LR



Tim Duffy, K3LR, of West Middlesex, PA, has a long history of giving back to Amateur Radio. He is founder, promoter and chairman of the successful Contest University (CTU) which has helped to teach radio sport contest operating with excellent volunteer professors. The first CTU was held in Dayton in 2007. Since then more 3,700 radio radio sport enthusiasts have attended 25 CTU's held in eight different countries under his watchful guidance.

Since 1984 K3LR has moderated the Dayton Hamvention® antenna forum, coordinating the presentation of more than 100 papers about antennas. He is also involved in scheduling many contesting activities during Hamvention® including the Contest Super Suite, the Contest Dinner and recently the annual Top Band Dinner.

Duffy serves as an officer of several radio clubs and was recently elected to the position of ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania. He became a ham at age 12 in 1972 and lives in Pennsylvania on 11 acres with over 50 antennas.

Richard Rieben

Editor's Note: Tim, K3LR is a long time supporter of PCARS and a contributor to our newsletter.



EmComm

Some miscellaneous updates and reminders for this month:

The local National Weather Service Skywarn training will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1st, in Conference Room "A" at the Maplewood Career Center on St.Rt. 88 north of St.Rt. 14. This year's presentation will be a webinar and you will be able to print out an ID card or training certificate from the NWS after you have completed the training.

Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) District Five has a new District Emergency Coordinator, Dennis Conklin, AI8P, and we wish him success in that new position. Dennis had previously served as EC for Summit County and has good experience in coordinating communications for events such as the Tour de Cure.

Our local ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications course concluded on March 28th and I would like to thank and congratulate the five students who completed the class.

From one of those students, David Waun, KD8TJD, we learned about a disaster response team that we had never heard of before. It is known as Operation BBQ Relief, <https://operationbbqrelief.org>, and its members are people from the restaurant industry as well as some serious BBQers. They transport their own equipment to

disaster areas and for other times of need and provide food service to responders and victims. David is a member and has quite the mobile BBQ kitchen. Pretty neat stuff!

Don't forget that the All-Ohio ARES® conference will be on Saturday, April 11th at the Ohio Fire Marshall's Conference Center, 8895 E. Main St, Reynoldsburg OH 43068, from 8AM – 4:30PM. You can find details and register at <http://arrrl-ohio.org/SEC/default.html>. April 25th will be the Ohio Section NVIS antenna day. More information will be available at the Ohio Section web site, <http://arrrl-ohio.org/>, and this is a good opportunity to practice those skills you need as an Ohio State Parks On The Air participant.



Recruitment is underway for communications volunteers to assist at the 2015 Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon which will be on Sunday, May 17th. We need at least three dozen hams for this event so even if you have not participated before we need you and can put you to work. If you are interested, send me a note at kc8pd@portcars.org.

Watch for emails and announcements about other upcoming public service events in our area.

73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI

Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EM Communications Unit/RACES



Hamfest Schedule

04/11/2015 - Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 61st Annual Hamfest - Location: Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 East Bath Road - Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 - Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php> - Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Avenue Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 234-206-0270 - Email: hamfest2015@cfarc.org

May 15-17th 2015 - Dayton Hamvention® 2015 - Location: Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Road - Dayton, OH 45415 - Website: <http://www.hamvention.org> - Sponsor: Dayton ARA



Antenna Special Interest Group

The April meeting of the Antenna SIG will be held on the 21st at 7 PM at the club site. This month we will be building the prototype of the Magnetic Loop Antenna which we have been discussing for the past couple months. Construction techniques for building the 30/20m – 10m, 100 watt antenna will be practiced and documented. This will be used to prepare a Saturday special club build project where any interested club member will be able to build their own Magnetic loop Antenna.

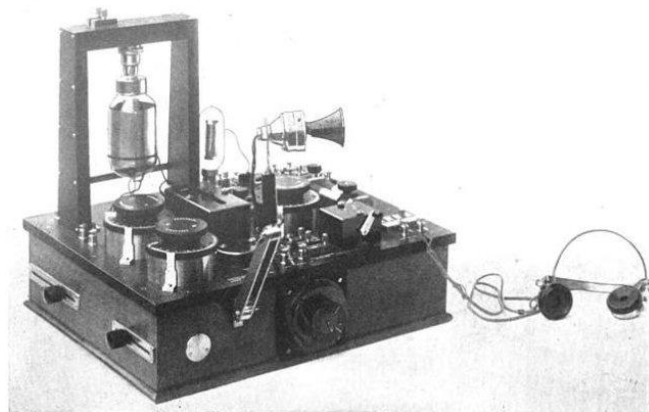
Tony, WA8AR



A Magician Used the First Pirate Radio Station to Troll a Scientist

Everyone knows Marconi was one of the world's most disagreeable scientists. What they don't know is he was surrounded by people nearly as disagreeable as himself. And that a famous demonstration of his "wireless" was taken over by a magician-turned-skeptic-turned-pirate.

In the early days, radio was treated with open skepticism by many. Oh, everyone agreed that radio waves could be sent through the air, but few agreed on the details. Guglielmo Marconi, who had worked out the first practical radio transmitter, made a not-so-very-good name for himself ruthlessly transforming his radio from a novelty into something that could send messages from across oceans.



In doing this, Marconi made a lot of enemies, although some of those enemies he did not deserve. As soon as he had demonstrated how revolutionary a business radio could be, other businesses sprang up, often run by people claiming that they had more of a right to the technology than Marconi did. One of the people who went into the radio business was Nevil Maskelyne, who also happened to be a magician.



Maskelyne was also a scientist, and inventor, and a skeptic. He was one of that class of magicians who loves magic when it is obviously fake, and hates it when it purports to be real. He debunked spiritualists and lampooned flim-flam artists, and he had decided that Marconi was just such an artist. Part of this was the fact that Marconi refused to conduct open and public tests of his technology. Given his competition, he can hardly be blamed for that. But Marconi deserved some of the skeptics' scorn. He covered up failures and even made false claims. He claimed, for example, that "wireless signals" could not be interfered with. The messages encoded in a wireless signal came through to their receiver confidential and complete. To back that claim up, he hired revered scientist and engineer John Ambrose Fleming.

One night, Fleming gave a lecture at the Royal Society, during which he would receive a message in morse code on his wireless set. The message was to come from a remote island, just at the end of a lecture on radio technology. Fleming got up and gave the lecture, calm and confident. The technician behind him saw the radio spring to life. It typed out, in code, a number of limericks about a "young fellow from Italy." Then it started in with some Shakespeare. As the lecture went on, the crew behind Fleming received more and more insulting messages. Someone had hijacked the radio. The technician, trying to be subtle, scanned the crowd and saw a confederate of Maskelyne, but there was no way to stop him without disrupting the lecture.

The pirate signal stopped just before the end of the lecture, and the real message came in. Fleming, hearing about the incident later, felt hugely insulted, and sent out an open letter condemning the "hooliganism." At that point Maskelyne gleefully pointed out that, if what Fleming had claimed about radio's confidentiality was true, there would have been no way to interfere with the radio signal. Fleming had disproved his own claims.

Esther Inglis-Arkell

<http://io9.com/a-magician-used-the-first-pirate-radio-station-to-troll-1681527405>

Images: John Ambrose Fleming (1919) *The Thermionic Valve and its Developments in Radiotelegraphy and Telephony*, The Wireless Press, Ltd., New York, p. 216, fig. 126

Thanks to *Dave, NF8R* for sending this in for The RADIOGRAM

FCC Expanding License Printing Options

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a shocking turnaround, the Federal Communications Commission has reversed its decision to halt the printing of paper amateur radio licenses. In fact, federal administrators say they will do just the opposite and expand printing options available to ham operators.

“We really didn’t understand the outcry that would come from the ham radio community,” says Pontus “Smokey” Blumenthal, FCC spokesman (formerly with the now-disbanded National Park Service). “We are getting a lot of bad press on the forums, in social media and at ham club meetings. We were only attempting to reduce overhead, lower our expenses and bring the budget more in line with expected revenues. But we may have been shortsighted and are now seeing new cash flow opportunities.”

Blumenthal says effective April 1, applicants receiving a new license or current amateurs renewing existing licenses may opt for one of several print options for a nominal charge. At press time those options are:

Plain paper; license emailed to you; print at home: **FREE**

Heavy card stock; print at agency and shipped in mailing tube to your home: \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

“Old World Style” parchment with the words “Past Here Be Sea Monsters” along the margins, printed and shipped to your house in well-packed box: \$49.95 plus tip for the delivery guy.

Richly colored vellum paper with license info printed in squid ink; printed and shipped to your home in a hermetically sealed box: \$129.95

License printed on actual **1-inch thick sheet of lucite** suitable for use as an entire radio operating desk top; printed by laser etcher and shipped via common carrier truck to your residence (no P.O. Box delivery): \$1299

Tanned 3’x3’ deer hide, license is hand printed by Native American Navajo artisans using buffalo ink; printed and shipped to your home in a secured shipping container accompanied by armed guard: \$4250 (Note: the FCC does not keep deer hide in stock and must dispatch a team of hunters each time an order is placed, so be patient.)

Blumenthal says all hams should take advantage of this new vanity licensing printing program. However he encourages orders to be placed soon; they are managed on a first come, first served basis.



“Old World” style on parchment paper



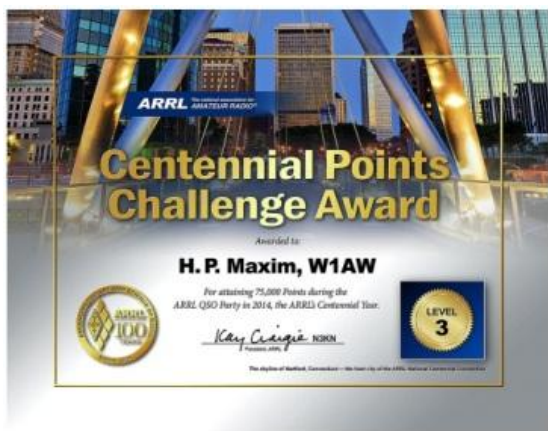
Deer Hide License

Gary, WBØRUR
HamHijinks.com

ARRL Centennial Points Challenge, W1AW WAS Awards Application Window Open

The window (<https://centennial-qp.arrl.org/>) to apply for ARRL Centennial Points Challenge and W1AW Worked All States awards (<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#Awards>) will open on Wednesday, March 25, at 1400 UTC. The ARRL Centennial operating events were hugely successful, with participation way beyond anyone's expectations.

"This was the biggest on-the-air operation in the history of Amateur Radio," ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, said. More than 5.5 million Centennial event contacts were recorded in Logbook of The World (LoTW - <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>) during 2014. That number includes contacts with W1AW portable operations as well as those with individual ARRL members and Field Organization volunteers. W100AW completed about 70,000 contacts.



For most applicants, the process will be simple and largely automated, explained Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager, Field Services and Radiosport Department.

"The form will auto-populate, if we have your information on file, and the form can be edited to update name and address information only," Fusaro said. "The system will select the awards for which you qualify. Certificates will be printed daily, so fulfillment will be ongoing, while plaques will be shipped directly from the supplier." Fusaro said ARRL Headquarters has hired extra staff members to handle the added workload.

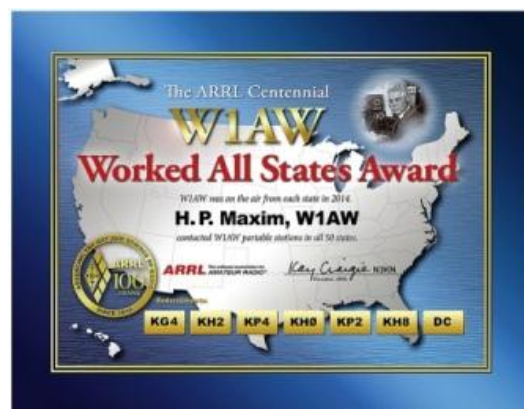
Certificates will be available for the Centennial Points Challenge Award, while W1AW WAS Award participants will have the option of a certificate or a plaque. Certificates are \$16, and plaques are \$60.

Fusaro said the task of checking and double-checking electronic logs, entering paper logs into LoTW, and resolving various anomalies put an unexpected burden on staff resources and delayed the opening of the awards window. ARRL Headquarters also had to recalculate all submitted scores to come up with final tallies.

"It's been a very time and staff-intensive process, researching busted call signs and running down claimed contacts and mode discrepancies for operators," Fusaro said.

Centennial Points Challenge logs must have been submitted through LoTW by January 22, but participants may apply for Centennial operating awards indefinitely. The system automatically looks for points-qualifying QSOs from submitted logs and applies them to each participant's Centennial Points Challenge total. While most Centennial QSO Party participants entered their contact information into LoTW, operators do not have to use LoTW to apply for Points Challenge certificates or W1AW WAS awards.

Qualifying for the Top Level Award requires 15,000 points. The Third Level Award requires 7500 points, while the Second and First Level awards require 3000 and 1000 points, respectively. Point totals will be printed on certificates.



US stations that worked W1AW/p and W100AW during the Centennial may request QSL cards via the Incoming QSL Service (<http://www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service>) on the Centennial QSO Party web page. This is a one-time only use of the QSL Bureau for this purpose, and those who want to receive cards via the Bureau should ensure that their accounts are sufficiently funded, because cards will not be held. Cards destined for stations outside the US will be sent via the QSL Bureau. Participants also may request cards directly, providing one SASE for up to six cards per envelope.

W1AW/p and W100AW will not confirm every contact on the traditional paper QSL cards, but will confirm QSOs for each mode and on most bands on a single card for each weekly operation.

From the ARRL

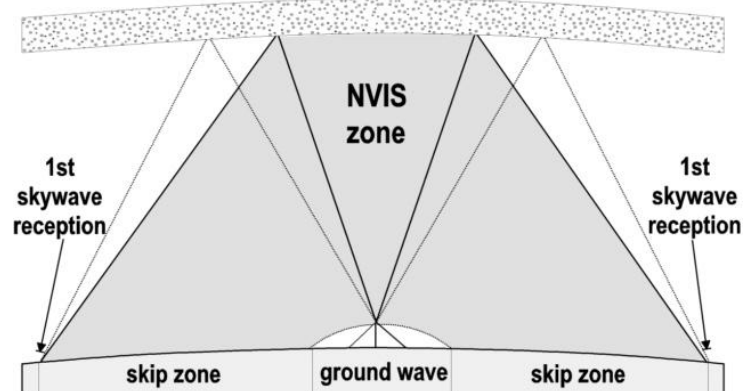


NVIS Antenna Day in April:

"Sure, But Does That Emergency Antenna Really Work?"

Ohio ARES® is sponsoring the NVIS Antenna Day, April 25, 2015. We are encouraging groups in every Ohio county to devise several portable NVIS antennas that they think will perform, and then test them on the air. The program grows out of an annual antenna party in Ashtabula County, which is both an operating event and a great time in early spring to break out the hamburgers and have some fun. They have found a vast difference in actual antenna performance, and have been able to narrow down their choices for a real emergency setup.

The NVIS Antenna Day will begin at 10 AM Eastern time. We will operate on both 40 and 80 meters, operating at 100 watts as you might during a real emergency. While a typical session might go through the afternoon, there is no official closing time. It is not necessary to set up a completely portable or remote station, although the location should have enough room for several antennas and be in a fairly quiet RF environment. This is not a contest for QSO rates and points; rather it's aimed specifically at determining the best of several NVIS antennas through signal reports, and through coverage. A group could make several contacts with the same station as they try different antennas. Stations at key locations such as the Ohio state EOC will be on the air.



Groups should compile a list of their top three antennas with descriptions and photos. Ohio ARES® will see if any particular antenna design bubbles up as the top performer across the entire state.

Antenna experimentation is an integral part of the hobby and the outcome will benefit each ARES® group or club by helping to create an arsenal that can be deployed during a real emergency. It could be a great time to test potential Field Day antennas, too. This is open to all hams as we hope they will become interested in joining their local ARES® organization.

Stan, N8BHL

Ohio ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator
broadways@standi.com

Editor's Note: Good web site for NVIS info: <http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Antennas/NVIS/>



Not So Far Away Places?

Well not exactly, but you'll understand what I mean after reading this article. I read, with much interest, the editorial in the latest DX Magazine (March/April issue) by Carl Smith, N4AA, on his take regarding DXpeditions and their cost and a possible answer for future DXpeditioners.

Normally, I don't send responses regarding my thoughts on whatever I've read and enjoyed or not enjoyed, but this time I felt it necessary. Here is part of what I wrote to Carl and his response back to me.

"The reason I'm writing you is to let you know how much I enjoyed your recent editorial in the M/A issue of The DX Magazine.

At a recent Board meeting of our radio club (Portage County Amateur Radio Service - aka PCARS) I brought up the notion and made a subsequent motion that PCARS set aside a certain amount from its budget to donate to various DXpeditions. There was some discussion why we should and why we shouldn't make donations, since PCARS is not a DX club.

My take is that even though we are not a DX club, many of us enjoy working these DXpeditions and receiving the confirming QSLs from places like Navassa, Croset, Bouvet and Desecheo.

The motion passed and we will be discussing the amount at a later time. But your editorial brought up a great point. Why not have DXpeditions to some lesser Most Wanted places? There are a lot of them out there and I'm sure that the pile-ups would still happen.

The Hams going on some of these DXpeditions are certainly spending a huge amount of money in addition to risking life and limb. And at some of the ages of these ops, this is no small thing."

Carl wrote back to me, "A lot of "DXers" don't seem to realize that the money those operators put into a DXpedition doesn't come back to them. At least a majority of it doesn't. IF... IF there are enough donations they might recoup some of it but that's all. If there are not enough donations, then those planning the DXpedition have to come up with funds out of their own pockets to pay the remaining bills. I'm all for making donations to the maximum possible. Of course you have to vet the team to be sure they are competent and capable of conducting a successful operation. That can come from previous DXpeditions that they were on and how they handled things.

Some of the major DXpeditioners have made efforts to explain all of this but I'm afraid the message did not reach enough of those "DXers".....

In lieu of donating directly to a DXpedition, donations may be made to NCDXF, which is a tax-exempt organization for DXers who take advantage of that. I believe INDEXA is now investigating how it can become registered for that authorization. It has not been up to now. Of course Foundations and Clubs outside the US would not be eligible for any tax deduction.

I've mentioned the possibility of going to the lesser needed places before but it fell on deaf ears then. I'm glad to know that at least YOU acknowledged that possibility and perhaps it's the "tip of the iceberg."

I asked Carl if I could use his editorial and reprint it in the Radiogram and he graciously said that I could use it and any comments he sent to me in response to my message to him. The following is a part of what he said in his editorial in his own words.

"The HUGH DXpedition by K1N on Navassa Island for two weeks ended February 15th with something over 125,000 contacts in the logs. (Actual count was 140,000). The team made a serious effort to take Navassa from the top of the Most Wanted lists way down, if not off, those lists. It is expected that no operation from there will be conducted for at least ten years, if not longer."

"The others at or near the top of the Most Wanted lists will be difficult to work as most, if not all of them are uninhabited islands like Bouvet, Crozet, and Heard. An operation is planned for Heard for 2016, but the others will not be on for some time, I don't believe. There is talk of an operation from Bouvet in 2016 too, but time will tell on that. Some of the others I notice are US Pacific islands – Kingman Reef, Palmyra, Johnston, Baker & Howland, Kure, etc. These are all controlled by the same agency that Desecho and Navassa belong to. It took years of work to get those two on the air and I'm sure it will take much effort to gain access to those Pacific islands..... Rumors of other operations come and go so we'll just wait and see if any hard evidence is provided for more of those difficult places to be activated."

"Some time ago I talked about DXpeditioners going to some of those lesser Most Wanted places. I've seen some of that but perhaps it's time to bring it up again. We can't have these Top Ten Most Wanted operations costing tens of thousands of dollars all the time."

"For one thing, the money isn't there and it takes a long time to plan those types of operations. So, how about looking at some of those places that are only ranked at number 25 or 35 or even 40 on the lists? A lot of those would be fairly easy to get to and would generate a lot of contacts for a small number of team members. You wouldn't need 25 operators, probably 8 to 10 would do. With equipment getting smaller and weighing less, the cost of getting it there wouldn't be a huge problem either. Antennas have become more readily available and easier to transport too. So, how about some of you DXpedition leaders take a look at the list, check out a couple of them and give some serious thought to going someplace easier to get to than Heard or Peter One. I'll look forward to hearing from some of you about that."

I think that Carl made some very good points regarding recent DXpeditions and their cost, not to mention the risks taken by these ops. I don't believe that he was saying that he does not appreciate the efforts that have gone into some of these difficult DXpeditions, but he was pointing out that, with escalating costs, operations like this would become improbable if not impossible.

I'm glad that PCARS passed a motion to set aside a portion of its budget so that we can donate to worthy operations. But funds, not only PCARS' but those of many other clubs, are limited. I am also looking forward to seeing if the DXpeditioners respond with announcements of less ambitious but still desirable places from which to operate.

Please don't misunderstand me. I applaud these intrepid ops who risk life and limb and spend their resources just so that others of us who sit in the comforts of our shacks, can gripe about the pile ups, the frequency cops and whether the ops are doing what we think they should be doing, all the while sending our call so that we can "bag" another far away place.

As Carl points out, these ops are just regular guys. But they have a passion for adventure and for Amateur Radio. They do this to fulfill a need they have to satisfy this passion and also to give back to Amateur Radio. Let's face it. Amateur Radio is the greatest hobby in the world. But it's still a hobby! Am I going to sit out and not work Heard Island when it goes on the air because I think it costs too much? What do you think?! I'm just hoping that Carl's points get across to a significant number of DXpeditioners and we see some of the less wanted and probably less costly operations take place in the future.

Chuck, W8PT



Club Work Shop

Work on the PCARS 'lab' has started! Tom WB8LCD, Mike KB8TUY, Zeb KD8WZS, and I got together on a Saturday morning to get a shelf installed above the countertop to hold test equipment. We also did an inventory of what test equipment in the 'lab' has been donated to PCARS so that we can obtain user manuals and determine what works and what doesn't, and what we need to purchase. Thus far we have a Tektronix dual band oscilloscope, a digital VOM, and brand new Bird 43 wattmeter that are all functioning and in good condition. We have a multifunction power supply/frequency meter/function generator/digital VOM that needs to be tested and evaluated, and several other pieces of equipment that also need to be evaluated. We also plan on adding a calibrated AM/FM RF signal generator as well as a soldering station and basic hand tools. All of this is being done so that PCARS members have a place to bring their projects and radios to work on and test with good equipment.

I've been a bit surprised to find that there is a perception that this 'lab' we're putting together is only for the engineers and professional electronics technicians in our club. I want to dispel that notion and state in no uncertain terms that nothing could be further from the truth! Last year I put together classes on digital and analog VOM's and one on oscilloscopes with an eye to the possibility of having a facility at the club site with these instruments available to our members. Additional classes are planned to cover other instrumentation that we will have as well as lab safety and other topics.



As with all things PCARS this project is happening because there's a need for it and more important, that there are members who are willing to share their time and expertise to make it happen. I want to thank Tom, Mike and Zeb for their help in getting this project off the ground. To keep the ball rolling, I'm asking that those of you with experience and expertise in electronics lab equipment consider helping out. I'm especially looking for presentations and hands-on classes to be developed for topics and equipment relating to an electronics lab. Stay tuned for developments!

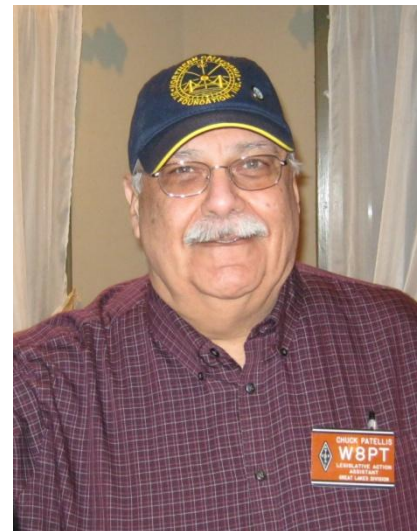
73,
Rick, K8CAV



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

The WX has turned somewhat towards spring. However, the weather prognosticators have yet to get a forecast correct short of sticking their respective heads out of a window to see if it gets wet so they can tell us for sure that it's raining. As I have said in the past, if we did to weather forecaster what they did to old testament prophets, there would be a whole lot less of them around.

Of course I am joking, but with all of the modern technology at their fingertips, you would think that they could get at least the next day's forecast correct 100% of the time. And don't give me that old saw about this being Ohio and wait 15 minutes. I've heard that said in more states of this union than I care to think of.



For instance, today is supposed to be 62 degrees. It's 2:30 and only 41 outside and raining. Oh well, I continue to wait for good WX in order to do some much needed work on my antenna system. I am telling all of you what great DX is out there to work and I can't work it myself. Doesn't that beat all!

Well, let's get to it then! Pay attention to the IOTA announcements. There is even a place called Isle Of Muck. I didn't know that there was to be a DXpedition to my back yard?!

A big THANK YOU to the following for the forecast reports for this month and beyond. Without them and their timely information, it would be much harder to know what's happening on the bands. So thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, K1XN & GoList, NJ1Q & W1AW, W2VU, K3LR, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, AA4VK, K4RUN, N4AA & QRZ DX, WW4LL, W6SZN, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m News, KX9X, W9ILY, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DL1SBF, DL2SBY, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F1ULQ, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, G3VMW, HP1AC, I1HYW, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, IZ8IYX, JA1TRC, OG2K, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, PS7DX, PY2SP, RSGB IOTA Web Site, Sixitalia Weekly, TA2RX, VA3RJ & ICPO, VA3QSL and the VHF-DX-Portal (MMMonVHF) for the following DX information.

As always, this report could contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or busted call signs. Please do yourself a favor and adhere to the old adage of "Work First - Worry Later" (WFWL).

3A, MONACO. Operators Gil/F4FET and Diego/F4HAU will be active as 3A/home-call from Monaco between April 2-5th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB and RTTY. Operations will be focus on NA and AS stations especially on 10 and 12 meters, if propagation permits. They will be using vertical polarization antennas close to the Mediterranean Sea. QSL via their home call signs.

4S, SIR LANKA (Reminder). Peter, DC0KK, will once again be active as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, Sri Lanka (AS-003, WLOTA 0762), until April 10th. Activity will be mainly on CW and the Digital modes. QSL via DC0KK, by the Bureau (preferred) or direct (see QRZ.com). LoTW on request. All QSLs for all QSOs will be sent via the QSL Bureau.

5T2, MAURITANIA. Jean, 5T0JL, a member of CWJF GROUP, has confirmed that he has been authorized to use the special call sign 5T2MM between April 17-20th, and during the CQMM DX CONTEST (April 18-19th, see below). The QSL Manager is PY4KL (also for the 2014 operation 5T1MM).

5V, TOGO. Marc, F5IVC, is now active as 5V7SM from Lomé. He said that he is there "for professional reasons for 2 years or more". He states that his activity currently is only on 10 meters SSB, but is waiting for a multi-band antenna for the other bands. QSL info for now is via his French address (see details on QRZ.com).

5W, SAMOA. Four members of the Yamato Amateur Radio Club will be on holiday from Samoa (OC-097) between April 9-15th. Operators mentioned are Sasi/JA1KJW (5W0KJ), Mat/JA1JQY (5W0JY), Kuni/JA8VE (5W0VE) and Kaoru/JA3MCA (5W0MA). Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Their equipment consists of an Elecraft K2, K3x3, Ameritron ALM-500M for SSB operator Kuni, Spider Beam, HEX antenna and DP. QSL via each operator's home call sign, SASE or by the Bureau.

DX0, SPRATY ISLANDS. (Update). Exact dates are now official for the DX0P DXpedition to Pagasa Island (AS-051). Operation between April 14-20th. Activity on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and JT-65. QSL via WA6LOS. A Web page will soon be active at: <http://dx0p.org>. Operators mentioned are Jose/DU1BP, Joe/DU2BOQ, RJ/DU7RJA, Jun/DV1JM, Bern/K6BF, Alex/K6BG, Leo/WA6LOS (Team Leader), Billy/WE6DX, Joel/WJ1P/DU1JP, Chito/WW6CP and Rey/K6ZRH. They have a FaceBook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DX0P2015>

FR, REUNION ISLAND. Guy, F5MNW, will once again be active as FR/F5MNW from Saint Leu, Reunion Island (AF-016, DIFO FR-001, WLOTA 1812, WWFF FFF-011), between March 19th and April 14th. Activity will be on the HF bands using only CW. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. NO IRCs!

JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ, will once again be active as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island in the Minami Torishima (OC-073, JCG 10007) group between mid-March until mid-June. He is usually there to work on the island's weather station. Activity will be limited to his spare time. He will be mainly on 17 meters but also on 15/12/10 meters CW. QSL via JA8CJY, by the Bureau or direct to: Susumu 'Sin' Sanada, 5-17, 5-4, Shin-Ei, Toyohira, Sapporo 004, Japan. Online log is available at: <http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?jd1-jg8nqj>

JD1, OGASAWARA. Makoto, JI5RPT, will once again be active as JD1BLY from Chichijima Island (AS-031) between April 29th and May 5th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes (NO 6m EME). QSL via his home call sign JI5RPT. His log search will be available on his Web site at: <http://www.ji5rpt.com/jd1> He will also use Twitter to inform his real-time activities at: <http://twitter.com/jd1bly>

P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Norbert, DH1NK, will once again be active as P29NK from Papua New Guinea between January 15th and June 15th (2015). Activity will be limited (due to work at the hospital) on 80-10 meters using SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via DH1NK by the Bureau.

PJ7, ST. MAARTEN. Kevin, K4BDR, active as PJ7/K4BDR from St. Maarten between April 12-17th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB and Digital modes. This will be a portable, solar and backpack operation. QSL via LoTW.

W8, PARKMAN. Chuck, W8PT will be active as W8PT/AP from the muddy back 40 near his home QTH April 1st from approximately 1400 UTC until 1447 UTC or until everything gets covered with mud. Activity will be slipping and sliding on the mud from 160 through 6 meters FM, slow code CW and two cans and a string only. QSL direct.

V6, MIRCONESIA. By the time you read this Kiichi, JF1LUT, will be active as V63KI from Kolonia, Pohnpei (OC-010), until March 25th. Activity will be on 20-10 meters using SSB only. QSL only direct to QSL Manager to: A4manix, c/o Sankei Kousinsya Co.,Ltd., 6-20-6, Hirai, Edogawa-ku, Tokyo, 132-0035 JAPAN. Log will be uploaded to ClubLog.

VK9N, NORFOLK ISLAND. Four Australian operators will be active as VK9NT from Norfolk Island (OC-005, WLOTA 1469, WWFF VKFF-392) between April 24th and May 4. Operators mentioned are Chris/VK3QB (Team Leader), Luke/VK3HJ, Roy/VK3GB and Oly/VK3XDX/5. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW only. No Digital or 6m activity is planned. Equipment will be 2x TS-480HX, KX-3/KXPA-100, verticals and dipoles. Another KX-3 will be used portable and for some SOTA activity. Logs will be uploaded daily to ClubLog, and soon after the end of the activity to LoTW. An OQRS via ClubLog will also be active. QSL via VK2CA, direct or by the Bureau. An OQRS (Online QSL Request) [For Bureau and direct QSLs] will be available via ClubLog and is the "PREFERRED" method. IMPORTANT: If using OQRS for direct requests (preferred), please ensure that your address details are correct on QRZ.com. For more information and updates, visit: <http://vk9nt.odxg.org/vk9nt2015>

IOTA NEWS.....

AS-201. Markus, DJ4EL, will be active as TA0/DJ4EL from **Buyukada Island** between March 29th and April 12th. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW or via his home call sign by the Bureau and direct. Look for updates on his Twitter page at: <https://twitter.com/rapanuiman>

EU-008. Members of the Kilmarnock and Loudoun ARC (GM0ADX) active as MM0KLR from the **Isle of Muck** (IOSA NH06, SCOTIA DI18, WAB NM48) between April 26th and May 2nd. Operators mentioned are Graham/MM0GHM, Allan/2M0VNW, Arthur/MM0DHQ, Allan/GM3OZB, Gordon/GM7WCO, Jason/GM7VSB and Paul/GM0PJD. Activity will be on 160-2 meters including 60m. QSL via MM0KLR, by the Bureau or eQSL. QSL direct to MM0GHM.

EU-048. Once again the CDXG (Charente DX Groupe) will be on IOTA expedition, this year to **Belle Ile Island** (DIFM AT 015, WW Locator IN87IK). Activity take place between April 18-25th, using the call sign TM9B. Operators mentioned are Eric/F5LOW, Laurent/F5MKN, Bertrand/F6HKA and Leon/ON4ZD/OS0S. QSL via ON4ZD (see QRZ.com). For more info and possible updates, see: <http://www.charentedxgroupe.fr>

EU-051. Opertaors Giovanni/IK5BCM and Andrea/IU5BLZ will be active from **Ustica Island** between May 9-16th. Call sign(s) were not provided. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes.

EU-138. Fred, SM7DAY, will be active as SM7DAY/p from **Senoren Island** between April 11-18th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and PSK. QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau. Also, QSL via the OQRS on ClubLog. ADDED NOTE: Members of the South West Scania Radio Amateurs Club (SSRA) [which Fred is a member] will also be active from Senoren Island as SK7DX. QSL via SM7DXQ.

NA-112. Operators Joe/W03F, Keith/KK4PLI, Pete/W3ENK and Sterling/N4WKG will be active as N4F from **Ft. Macon State Park on Bogue Banks Island** (Emerald Isle, Carteret County, North Carolina), between April 25-26th. QSL via: Special Event, PO Box 1302, Newport, NC 28570.

OC-130. Marc, ON5SM, will once again be active as DU9/ON5SM from **Mindanao Island** (WLOTA 2803) March 16th and April 25th. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct (see QRZ.com). Log upload to LoTW and eQSL.

There's some great DX coming up, including a few great DXpeditions. I've given you some leads on great DX. It will be up to you to get on the air and work them.

Until next month.... 73,

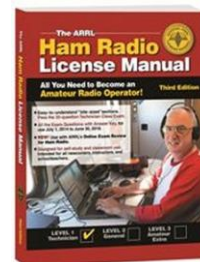
Chuck, W8PT
a.k.a. "Charlie the Tuner"



Volunteer Needed

I'm still looking for a volunteer to take over the responsibility of coordinating the PCARS semiannual Technician classes and the annual General class. These classes are one of the most important functions PCARS does because it brings new folks into our hobby.

The person taking on this responsibility would coordinate the time, instructors and resources to put the classes on. Please let me know if you would be interested in this position. Thanks!



73,

Rick, K8CAV



Linux for Ham Special Interest Group

March 31, 2015 Linux for Hams SIG - 1900 EDT - I will be discussing Satellite Software for Hams that runs on Linux. The next SIG will not be until September 29, 2015.

Terry, KB8AMZ

Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference

It is my distinct pleasure to announce the **Fourth Annual Great Lakes Emergency Communications Conference** on Saturday, July 18th, 2015, at Gilmour Academy Lower School in Gates Mills, Ohio.

We took a year off in 2014 but we're back in full force to bring you one of the best conferences on this side of the Mississippi River. I recruited a veritable pantheon of volunteers to help make this conference a huge success for you. I, for one, am pretty excited for another great conference.

Instructors are lined up to have training in Broadband Hamnet (formerly called HSMM-Mesh) and Antennas in a Pinch. We're working diligently to bring in professionals in generator power, solar power, and battery power. We're also aiming at have training for the non-ham and new amateur radio operator called Introduction to Communications. This training track will include different types of communications systems such as MURS, GMRS, FRS, and of course amateur radio. We'll go over different types of antennas as well as tips and tricks, do's and don'ts in two-way radio communications.



Our very own volunteer examination team will be staffed and ready for anyone interested in taking their technician license exam or upgrade.

Go Boxes!!! If you own a go box and would like to show off all your hard work, this conference is definitely the place to make it happen. It's a great opportunity to share ideas and see what others have done. I posted a link on our NEW website <http://www.glecc.net> titled 2013 Photos. Check it out to see what I mean.

Emcomm Vehicles!!! Requests have gone out to operators of government owned, privately owned, and club owned communications vehicles and trailers. Committed so far is Lake County Amateur Radio Association Comms Trailer and Chagrin Valley Dispatch Emergency Response Vehicle / Communications Truck. We've always had a nice turn out. I anticipate the Emcomm Vehicle / Trailer display being better than ever.



LUNCH!!! There is no cost to attend the conference. However, lunch will be catered at minimal cost to the participant. Lunch will be from 12PM to 2PM where all participants will have time to enjoy their meal and see all the displays throughout the conference.

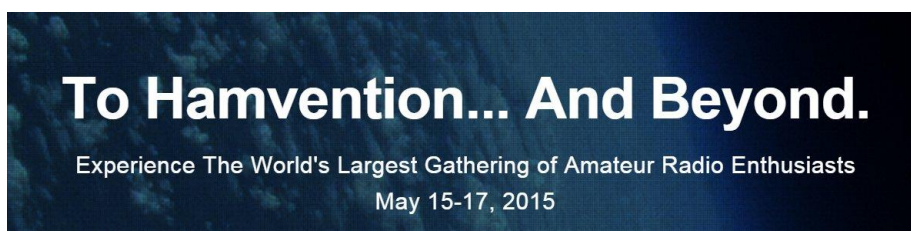
My committee and I are dedicated to making this conference the best one yet. But we can't make it a huge success without you. Mark Saturday, July 18th on your calendars. In the meantime, visit our NEW website for details <http://www.glecc.net> as they become available. Online registration is not open at this time but we're expecting to open it May 1st, 2015.

Feel free to contact me at mattwelch@geaugaara.org or call me at my daytime phone 440-585-7388 should you have any questions.

73,
Matt, W8DEC
GLECC Chairman

Dayton Hamvention® 2015

Only a month and a half from now Amateur Operators from all over the world will converge in the small town of Trotwood, Ohio for the annual Dayton Hamvention®. The largest single gathering of hams and it takes place practically in our back yard.



If you have been there, you know how great it is to see all that ham radio gear in one place. If you've never been there - make plans now and go. You'll be glad you did. The dealers and vendors will be showing off the new equipment. The flea market will be jammed with bargains in used equipment. There is something for everyone.

So, put May 15-17, 2015 on your calendar of events and plan to attend. Even if you only go for one day just to look around, it's worth the drive. I hope to see you there!

Tom, KB8UUZ

Digital Special Interest Group

The April Digital SIG will take place on Tuesday April 7th at 7:00 PM at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. This month's topic will cover Digital Slow Scan Television (DSSTV) using the EasyPal program and will tie into the presentation on SSTV being given the following Monday at the club's monthly meeting. As always we'll make time to help with any issues, hardware or software, that you may be having so bring your questions, computer, or radio as appropriate and we'll do our best to help you out.



Don't forget about the semimonthly digital nets held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM on the 146.895 repeater. This is a great place to test your setup, and practice using different digital modes. We'll also try to diagnose and solve any issues you may be having.

73,
Rick, K8CAV



Contest Activity at the Club Site

For all of you who may be curious, here is a brief report on our recent participation in two contests which took place the weekend of Mar. 14-15.

We had 10 members show up - some to operate and some to simply watch what went on. Those in attendance were: Terry KB8AMZ, Jim KD8FME, Bob N8QE, Nick N8WLE, Mike KD8RUQ, Greg KA8TOA, Nick AC8QG, Mike KC8TUY, Joe W8KNO, and yours truly W8PT.



Band conditions were very poor for the Idaho contest which began on Saturday afternoon at 3PM and only a hand full of contacts (13) were made. It seems that, from what we could hear, East coast and southern stations were hearing Idaho just fine. The propagation was causing many of the Idaho stations to simply skip right over us. We could hear contacts being made but could not hear the Idaho stations.

Sunday afternoon, the Wisconsin QSO Party started at 2PM. There were many more stations on but conditions were still poor. The poor conditions might have been caused by our sun's recent large coronal discharges which have continued to happen as of this writing.



We made 20 contacts during the Wisconsin contest. I was hoping that we could have done better but we were fighting a constant noise level that others complained about also.

In any event, we had fun and I hope that more members will turn out for the Michigan QSO party. Just a reminder, we are using these as contest training for our Field Day effort. Had conditions been better, this would have been a much better See & Do exercise. Let's hope that the propagation for those contests will favor us next time around.

I submitted logs to both QSO parties based on Multi-op, Low power (150w or less), Non-Assisted. SSB for Idaho and Mixed for Wisconsin. Submitted score for ID was 17 Qs for 221 pts. Submitted score for WI was 19 Qs for 465 pts. We were helped in this one by having a 1.5 multiplier for being low power. For QRP we could have doubled our score and probably made just as many Qs.

Chuck, W8PT
Contest Coordinator



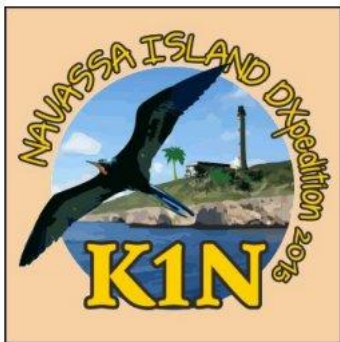
Advice From Someone Who Was There

Feedback and Lessons I learn a lot from every DXpedition I've ever been on. I've put together a summary of my two weeks of operation from Navassa. I'm sure all of my teammates will concur with what I've observed and learned. European stations complained a lot for the "short time" we worked Europe. **QUITE THE CONTRARY!!!!**

This is a **MOST** interesting point of discussion! If you look at the times in our logs, we spent **MORE** time working Europe than working North America. Our Club Log statistics, however, show that North America had 58% of the contacts, Europe 32% and Asia 6%. **WHY**, then, if **MORE** time was spent working Europe, was Europe about half the number of North American contacts??? Simple answer: **RATE**. Period. When you listened to us working North America, we could cruise right along at 300-350 Qs/hour, or more! I often saw the "rate meter" hanging around 500-600 Qs/hour. (I heard that someone on the team was clocked at 1,200 Qs/hour..... on 160m!!!!) When working Europe, we would be extremely lucky to see rates of 100 Qs/hour. European signals are as strong, if not stronger than North American signals, in the Caribbean. The west coast U.S. is much harder to work than Europe. South American signals were among the strongest! Here is a note I received after I returned home. It is from a well-known DXer in Europe: "I listened to XXX working US pile-up on 80m. Fantastic, at least 10 QSOs per minute, and when he turned to listen for Europe, the rate was only 10% of that.



K1N Team (left to right): Mike, NA5U; John, W2GD; Tomi, HA7RY; Ralph, KOIR; George, AA7JV; George, N4GRN; Gregg, W6IZT; Jerry, WB9Z; John, K6MM; Mike, N6MZ; Bob, K4UEE; Craig, K9CT; Lou, N2TU; Glenn, WO6J and Jeff, NM1Y.



Same on the other bands and modes." The problem is **THROUGHPUT**. Rate. Efficiency. Cooperation. Whatever you want to call it. For the time we spent working Europe, we should have **MORE** contacts than with North America, but that did not happen. It **COULD** have happened! No one more than me would like to have seen the European Qs outnumber North American Qs. For the "next one," I have some suggestions to help DXers, including myself, and particularly DXers in Europe, to be more successful.

Here is what I see are the issues:

1. Not listening to the DX operator.
2. **LISTEN** to and **LEARN** the rate and rhythm of the operator.
3. **LISTEN** to **WHERE** the operator is listening, and to his **PATTERN** of moving his VFO. You **MUST KNOW** where he will listen next if you expect him to hear you! How simple is that? It is part of the hunt... and the fun of DXing.... and getting rewarded!
4. Learn to use your radio (split/simplex, etc.).
5. Do **NOT** jump to and call on the frequency of the last station worked. The DX station will **NOT** hear you, because the din is total unintelligible chaos. Move **UP** or **DOWN** from that frequency, as we on our end were continuously tuning up or down after each Q. So, if one jumps onto the last-worked frequency, we will not hear you, even if you were the only one there, as we have already tuned off that frequency.

6. **TURN OFF ALL SPEECH PROCESSORS AND COMPRESSION!** Do NOT overdrive ALC. There is a night and day difference in listening to NA/AS and EU pileups. The horrible distortion makes it impossible to copy many, if not most European callsigns. I don't know what it is, but I would bet that mic gain and compression controls are "firewall forward," all the way clockwise. There were MANY loud stations that we did not work, **COULD NOT WORK**, simply because we could NOT understand their terribly distorted callsign. Have you ever listened to yourself in a pileup? We gave many stations a "19" signal report. Very loud, but extremely unintelligible! You want to have **IN-TELLIGABILITY**, not distortion!
7. Give your call sign **ONCE** and **ONLY ONCE!** **DO NOT KEEP CALLING!** Call. Listen. Call again, if needed. Listen. Listen. We would tune on by those who did not stop calling. We are looking for **RATE** and getting stations into the log. You should be, too!!!
8. If the DX station comes back with your call-sign, **DO NOT REPEAT YOUR CALLSIGN, AS WE ALREADY KNOW IT**, or we would not have answered you. Many stations (in all modes) would repeat their callsign two, three and even four times or more! This was so frustrating at times, that we would just move on to the next station. We **ONLY** want to hear "5NN" or "59" from you. Anything else is a total waste of time. Let me repeat, if we come back with **YOUR** call sign, **DO NOT REPEAT** it back to us! (Did I repeat myself?..... forgive me!) It **CHEATS** others out of a chance to get into the log. Only repeat your call sign if it needs correction, and then let us know it is a correction. Our propagation windows and time on the island are limited, and we need to maximize the opportunity for everyone. **SPEED** and **EFFICIENCY** ARE OF **UTMOST IMPORTANCE!**
9. **LISTEN** to the DX station come back to some-one. **IF THERE IS NOTHING CLOSE TO OR RESEMBLING YOUR CALLSIGN..... SHUT UP! SHUT UP!!!!** This needless interference slows things up, and lessens **YOUR** chance of getting into the log! We are focused on the call sign we heard and do not hear you, only your **QRM**.
10. Take some time to listen to the next DXpedition working North America, and listen to the rate and rhythm of the operator. It is fast, quick and efficient, and more people get into the log! Then listen to him work Europe. The wise operator will catch on quickly to what it takes to get into the log!
11. **SPREAD OUT!** Our highest rates (for any continent) were working the center and far edges of the pileup, where there was less **QRM**. Weak stations were much easier to work than loud stations in the middle of the pileup. If we say, "Listening 200 to 210," 70% of the pileup sits exactly on 200 in an unintelligible din, 25% of the pileup sits on 210 and is almost as bad. 5% of the pileup will be spread out somewhere between 201 and 209, making them very quickly put into the log. **S P R E A D O U T ! ! ! !** Dare to be different! Dare to be heard!
12. **LOUD** is NOT better! **MORE AUDIO/COMPRESSION** is NOT better! Finding the spot to be **HEARD** is the **MOST** important thing you can do to get into the log. My biggest thrill (and I'm sure on both ends) is finding the lone weak station and getting him into the log, quickly.
13. **LISTEN** to the DX operator's **INSTRUCTIONS!** As we would constantly tune our VFO, if we find a clear spot, we would often say, "33" (meaning for **YOU** to transmit on 14.033, 28.433, etc). A few would listen, and get into the log very quickly. You cannot hear these hints if you keep calling, calling, calling, calling Many times, I would say, "listening 200 to 210," and after a while, would say, "listening 240 to 250." Often 30 to 45 minutes, even and **HOUR** later, I would find **MANY** still calling on the original "200 to 210"..... of course, they would never show up in our log, as I was not listening there. **LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN** and **LISTEN SOME MORE**. The less you transmit, the better chance you have of get-ting into the log. You must know where I am listening, if you really want to get into the log.

14. LISTEN to the “good” guys who make it into the log. Study how they do it! It is not easy to find the “good” guys, as they are quick and efficient and are in the log and gone, long before anyone can find them. They don’t transmit much. They are listening.
15. LISTEN to the “bad” guys. It won’t take you long to find them. They keep calling and calling. They aren’t listening to find out where to transmit, or they wouldn’t be calling. How simple is that? Being LOUD helps, but not if the DX is not hearing you!

If you don’t want to get into the DX log, just ignore the above suggestions, and keep calling, calling, calling. I wish you the best of luck. You’ll need it.

Glen, W0GJ

From the ‘GrayLine Report’

<http://tcdxa.org/Newsletters/March2015Grayline.pdf>

Editor’s Note: For an in-depth article about the DXpedition adventure on Navassa Island - visit the web site listed above.

Drone Footage of Tower Demolition

Communications towers and camera-equipped drones are proving to be good bedfellows. This drone footage shows what is described as a 300-foot cable headend tower near Jackson, MN coming down after nearly all the guys are cut with a loud “snap!”.



The 62-year-old structure fought to the final assault.

The footage was shot by the fine folks at Prairie Aerial in Sioux Falls, S.D.



TVTechnology: <http://www.tvtechnology.com/article/drone-footage-of-tower-demolition/274982>

Chuck, W8PT



FT4TA Tromelin Island DXpedition QSL Card

Al, K8EUR sent a picture of the FT4TA envelope that he received last week in the mail. Note the stamps that were used and issued to commemorate Amateur Radio and the Tromelin DXpedition.



Much to my surprise, when I was putting this newsletter together, my QSL card from FT4TA arrived as well. On my envelope was the complete commemorative sheet that shows the stamps and more information. This is one envelope I will be keeping.



DX / Contest Special Interest Group

The recent DX/Contest SIG was held on Tuesday, Mar. 24, with 13 in attendance. We discussed our showing in the Wisconsin and Idaho QSO Parties. You can read about our performance elsewhere in this newsletter.

We did learn something from participating in two QSO parties during the same time period.... it's more difficult than you think. That is why we will be foregoing doing the same thing on the weekend of April 18. We were going to operate in the Michigan and Ontario, CN, QSO Parties. But since both require or strongly urge the use of electronic logging and since the Michigan party's exchange includes sequential serial numbers, it was decided that we would only operate in the Michigan party.

We will operate as a multi-multi using three operating positions. One will be dedicated to 80m, one will be on 40m and the other will scan 20, 15, & 10m. Dave, K8CC, a member of the Mad River Contest Club which is hosting the event, informed me that the preferred approach is to set up each station with its own sequential number stream (001, 002, 003, etc.) and not to have the three op positions share band-modes between their computers. He said that this meets the requirement of the rule regarding the use of serial numbers in this event. So we will not have to use Networking as we will during Field Day.

We will be using SSB and CW on each of the bands depending on who is operating. It's a 12 hour event starting on Saturday at 12 Noon and running until Midnight. We will be having a meeting to brush up on the rules and discuss the operation, the Tuesday prior to the contest - namely April, 14.

If you didn't make it to the SIG and still would like to be involved, please plan on being at the April 14th meeting. The Michigan QSO Party is a much more lively event than either the Idaho or Wisconsin contests, so this should be a good learning experience for those who have not participated in any type of contesting. Just a heads-up, we will be using electronic logging software, so there will be typing involved. If you just want to come out and give the ops moral support, you are certainly welcome.

See you April 14.

Chuck, W8PT
DX/Contest SIG



PCARS Thursday Net Control

Thank you all for helping with this! Anytime you are unable to take the net, please give me as much advance warning as possible!

Don't forget - 4th Thursday is NET NIGHT at the club site !!



April	
2	N8QE
9	KD8FDK
16	K8CAV
23	NR8W
30	KB8UHN

June	
4	KB8UUZ
11	N8QE
18	WB2DFC
25	WB8LCD

May	
7	WB8LCD
14	N8WLE
21	KD8FDK
28	KC8PD



The PCARS net is **BIG Fun** - tell your friends to check in via RF or EchoLink! If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a try, please contact me at: WB8LCD@portcars.org Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

Tom, WB8LCD

PCARS Thursday Night 2 Meter Net

The PCARS net continues to run strong! Following is some information on the net for the months of January and February 2015. I'll try to keep this updated on a regular basis through the year. The following have been your net control operators for the first 9 nets of the year: WB8LCD, KB8UUZ, N8QE, KD8FDK, N8WLE, KB8UHN, and K8CAV. I want to thank everyone who had been a NCS (Net Control Station) for the PCARS net, your efforts are greatly appreciated! And, I want to invite anyone who has never been NCS to give it a try – just let me know that you'd be willing and I'll get you in the schedule.

For those first 9 nets of the year, we have had a total of 229 check-ins, the lowest amount was on February 19th with 17 check-ins, and the most was on January 29th with 34. There have been 70 unique call-signs logged. So far, (through the end of February) there are only 4 stations out of that 70, that have the ability to check into every net in 2015. They are KB8UUZ, N8ATV, N8WLE and WB8LCD - each is 9 for 9 so far!



And don't forget – the 4th Thursday of each month is “Net Night at the Club Site”. Everyone is invited to the PCARS Club Site for an evening of fellowship with other PCARS members. Sometimes there's an activity, sometimes it's just social. Everyone is encouraged to check into the nets from the club station. It's always a good time!

73,

Tom, WB8LCD

Police Report: Disturbance at the Golden Corral

POINT OF DESPAIR, Montana – Local police responded to a disturbance last Monday at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 421 E Commercial Street, downtown Portsmouth. A complainant tells officers during a meeting of the Gold Diggers Amateur Radio Club, club member Junior Brown got into a fistfight with former club president Lou Rodden.

According to witnesses, Brown repeatedly turned off the AC power to the chocolate fountain each time Rodden approached – much to the amusement of other club members.



Police line STATEMENT #1 – FROM LOU RODDEN:
“Each time I approached, the <expletive> fountain would shut off! After 17 times, I’d had enough and was looking for the manager. Then I discovered that no-good LID Junior Brown was responsible. Oh, I’ll teach him a lesson one day, you can count on that!”

STATEMENT #2 – FROM RESTAURANT MANAGER WES CANTRELL: “Mr. Rodden became visibly upset after his last trip to the chocolate fountain. We work hard to make each customer’s experience here at The Golden Corral a positive experience. For example, we recently added beef tongue to the menu because of customer requests. You can imagine how horrified I was when the chocolate fountain began to circulate intermittently.”

STATEMENT #3 – FROM JUNIOR BROWN: “That lazy bureaucrat Rodden thinks he can saunter up to the fountain and take a dip anytime he wants. And what’s worse, he puts his whole hand into the flow...up to the second knuckle. Nobody wants to eat the chocolate after he pulls those types of stunts. So, I guess I was messin’ with him a little bit and the guys noticed and we just kept on and kept on. He finally figured it out!”

Police say manager Cantrell called authorities when Rodden and Brown began trading blows with each other in the dessert section, knocking over the soft serve ice cream maker and scattering a plate of chocolate chip cookies on other diners.

Investigators later discovered that Brown was manipulating the chocolate fountain with a dongle device controlled via Bluetooth, which not only actuates the AC supply but also posts the chocolate levels to ACLog and various social media websites like Facebook and Twitter.

The pair have a long-standing history of feuding during ham radio club meetings. Both men were released on their own recognizance with only a \$25 citation issued.

Gary, WBØRUR

PCARS Yahoo Group

Members are reminded that PCARS has a Yahoo Group dedicated to PCARS information. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list. Check out the PCARS Yahoo Group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCARS/>



Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Heathkit SA-2040 Antenna Tuner 2KW PEP SSB/1 kW CW, 3.5-30 MHz. Also has a built-in 4:1 Balun. \$100.00.

Contact Bill, KW8KW by e-mail at KW8KW@sbcglobal.net [06/02/15]

FOR SALE: Package Deal! Perfect station for beginner or seasoned operator.

Icom 746Pro - late serial number - 0208xxx - with: HM-36 Hand mic. Mic adapter to use boom mic & foot switch (boom mic & foot switch not included). Fused DC power cords. Optional/extra plug-in cooling fan.

Icom PS-125 Power Supply

Ameritron AL-811H amplifier

Ameritron QSK-5: Transit/Receive Switch

Ameritron ARB-704: Amplifier-to-Transceiver Interface

MFJ-989D Tuner: Legal Limit, Roller Inductor (meters stopped working, needs diodes replaced. I have them, but never got around to replacing them).

This equipment has been packed in their boxes for the last 2.5 to 3 years. I bought all new Elecraft radios, tuner & amplifier and no longer had a use for them. **I have original boxes and manuals for the equipment.** I will sell **all** the above for \$2,800. This is a **Package Deal** - I will not sell it piece-by-piece, nor entertain any offers of trades.

Contact Jim, KE8G at: KE8G@cox.net [04/02/15]

FOR SALE: Heath Kit SB-1000. In great shape. Meter sticks sometimes. The tube is in great shape. Included are the original build manual and prints! \$600.00

Kenwood TS 450S. No tuner. Some scratches on top cover. Radio works perfectly. 2 additional filters have been installed! SS Filter YK-88SN-1 & CW Filter YK-88C-1. Hand mic and amp keying cable. \$550.00

Signalink USB with cables for the 450S. \$70.00

Kenwood PS-50 Power Supply. \$120.00

Kenwood SP-940 Speaker \$100.00

MicroHam Micro Keyer II with Icom cables DB37-IC-8. \$275.00

Contact Russ, K8QF at: Russ32458@aol.com or call 330-906-2880 [06/02/15]

QRP / CW Special Interest Group

The QRP / CW Special Interest Group (SIG) will meet on Tuesday April 7th at the PCARS Club Site. If you've been building a CUB transceiver, bring it along and let us all see how you're doing, or how it plays on the club site antennas! Got some other homebrew project you've been working on? Bring it along and let us check it out – hey – everyone says QRP'rs are homebrewers!

Meeting the night after the general club meeting each month can be a bit tough, but we've got a lot of things to do! Rick, K8CAV, is working at getting the PCARS Radio Lab all fitted out with equipment, and as soon as it's ready to go we can proceed with the alignment on the Hallicrafter receiver we started to bring back to life. One of the ideas behind the CUB project was to get a slow CW net started locally for practice. Bring along your ideas for when we can fit that into the mix of activities we're all involved with, and how you'd like to see it operate.

73/72,
Tom, WB8LCD

Let's Talk

Wow. Can you believe this weather?? I don't think I can ever remember a winter this bad...!! At least it's now starting to get a little warmer and the snow is melting a little. We even had a day where the temperature reached above 50 degrees!! I'm hoping that by the end of this month I'll be able to get my motorcycle out of storage and start riding once again. Oh well, I do have one redeeming thought for all of you. Spring has sprung!! Ok, enough of the weather stuff. Let's get to the meat of this article.

I've really been active in getting around the state to do presentations. I've handed out a number of Affiliated Club Charters, both new and renewed, and I even got to hand out one Special Services Club certificate this past month.

I was extremely privileged late last month to be able to present to two of our outstanding Boy Scout Leaders with a brand new award from the ARRL. It's the Community Organization (Square Knot) award. The ARRL and Boy Scouts of America had introduced this new award just last December and I'm very proud to say that I gave out just the 9th and 10th of these awards presented in the entire country. Needless to say, they were the FIRST and Second persons in the Great Lakes Division and Ohio Section to receive it. The recipients were both from the Muskingum Valley Council #467. Please congratulate Billie Dickson, WB8TRK and Matthew Murphy, KC8BEW on receiving this newest award. I'm very happy and proud of both of these recipients.

Are you getting those emails from the Great Lakes Director or Section Manager? Now, for those of you who may not want to go to all the bother of checking your account with the League, or you are just not League members, you still have a chance to get these important emails. All you have to do is to "Opt-In" to receive them. There's a link to do this on the Ohio Section website, it's on the bottom left corner. For your convenience, here's a direct link to it: <http://arrl-ohio.org/forwarder/forwarding.html>. I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up for one of these options. You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. But, who in their right mind would want to miss out on anything coming out of the Great Lakes Director or the Ohio Section Manager?

The Ohio Section Website. You can find the Ohio Section Website at: <http://arrloho.org>. If you don't have this website set as your home page, I urge you to do so. This website is one of the exceptions to the rules. It changes all the time. It's never stagnating, and I would highly recommend that you check into the website at least 3 times per week or more if you can. Yes, it does change that much!



Now on to the stats for Ohio. We are not as bad as it may seem on the surface, but we could be much, much better. Right now we have 99 "Affiliated" clubs in Ohio. Now on the Special Services side of things we definitely need to give this some attention. We have just 12 clubs up-to-date. Now, to get to "Special Services Club" status you've had to work even harder to make it, don't throw it all away. If you need help, just ask. Your ACC - John Myers, KD8MQ, or myself will find time to answer your questions and help you get that all valuable annual report filled out.



Are you a member of the ARRL?? If you aren't a League member, this is a great opportunity to become one. Want more information on how to join? Here's the link: <http://www.arrl.org/membership-levels>. There's even a 90 day FREE trial that you can apply for if you've never been a member.. Got questions about being a member or what the League is all about? Send me an email. n8sy@arrl.org I'll be happy to call or write to you or even call you if you've given me your phone number. We can even have coffee if you'd like, and I'll buy!!

Ok.. I know that I push the website and website edition of the Ohio Section Journal a lot. I'm even sure some of you think it's way toooooo much. But, the main reason for pushing this so hard is that it's where all the news is.. Yes, I know that there are some who don't even own a computer and won't own one either, and that makes me very sad. Not that they won't own a computer, but they are missing out on so much that's going on because of it.

There was a time, yes a long, long time ago, that we had no website and the Ohio Section Journal was in paper form only. Yes, with the Section Journal in paper form you could hold it, fold it and even throw it away if you wanted to and it was even sent via snail mail! Now I'm sure that a lot of you remember those times. But, what you may not have known was just how much money was spent on that paper edition. It was a lot. Way more than anyone would have guessed I'm sure. Not only that, but it was only sent out quarterly. Yes, just 4 times per year, and that was it. And it was sent to only to around 1,000 people. Now I know that sounds like a lot of folks, but the text version that you receive now is sent to over 3,600 folks, along with 900 from what I have on the Ohio Section List Server, and totals a whopping 4,500 people that are receiving it today. Over 4 times what used to get it years back!! And that's just what is emailed. Now with the more than 19.06 GB per year bandwidth used, 177,166 pages viewed per year and finally 749,410 hits per year that we get from the website, I'd say we're getting the news out to far more folks than we did just 6 years ago. And at a far less cost.

In fact, the cost is 0 (zero). Thanks to the internet it's free. And, you get it not when the United States Postal Service decides to deliver it to you, but almost as soon as I send it out you have it to read. I'd say that's pretty fresh news, wouldn't you?

The Ohio Section Journal

Leading Ohio Amateurs into a New Century

After I took over as Section Manager I decided that I wanted to bring back some of what was missing from the original version of the Ohio Section Journal. That is... pictures, graphs / charts and items of that nature, along with new things like hyperlinks that can

take you directly to something on the web, movies and all the neat advances that we have at our disposal now. This type of innovation is, after all, what made the OSJ what it was back then, "The leading authority for news for hams in Ohio." No other Section in the country was doing what we were with the OSJ at that time. I and thank Joe Phillips, K8QOE and Ron Griffin, N8AEH for that!! They were the innovators of the most advanced news distribution vehicle of the times.. Yes, once again Ohio was a trend setter for sure.

Now since then the internet has proliferated to a point that even the F.C.C. has even conceded that it's the way of the future and should never be throttled, I figured it was time we bring back what was missing from the OSJ that made it what it was. Is the website version the same as the "TEXT" version? Mostly, but you have to remember that with the ability of putting pictures / graphics and such in the OSJ via the website version, it's not quite the same.. It is much better, it much richer and in depth than what a "TEXT" version could ever be.

Will we ever be to a point where we can have just the website version. It's very doubtful. I say that because we have other groups of folks out there that you cannot forget and leave behind. One of those groups are folks that are not sighted. A number of them around the state rely on the text version to keep themselves abreast of what's going on, just like you do.

But, for those who CAN connect to the web version, I very strongly encourage you to do just that. Become a loyal user and reader of the website version.

That's going to do it this month from here. I hope to see all of you at the various hamfests or meetings soon and who knows; maybe you'll be one of the lucky ones to get a "mug" on me. Oh, by the way, the mugs are now filled with some extra surprises.

Have a question? Feel free to give me a call or write to me. My email and phone number are always listed on the Ohio Section Website <http://arrlohio.org> as well as on page 16 of QST.

73,
Scott, N8SY
ARRL Ohio Section Manager

IARU Emergency Telecommunications Guide Available Online



The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Emergency Telecommunications Guide is now available for download from the IARU website. The guide was developed to provide the IARU member-societies with materials suitable for training radio amateurs to participate in emergencies. It also was designed to

provide guidance to individual Amateur Radio operators with little or no experience in handling emergency communications but desire to enhance their ability to participate in such events or to simply have a better understanding of the process. The IARU Administrative Council meeting approved the Guide at its 2014 meeting.

"IARU member-societies are encouraged to distribute this guide among its membership and, if necessary, to provide a translation into a language used within their own country," an IARU media release said. "This guide can also be used in conjunction with other training materials by leaders within the emergency communication community to train radio operators in the basic theory and practice of handling emergency communications traffic."

The IARU International Secretariat has invited feedback, comments, or suggestions regarding the Guide. <http://www.iaru.org/emergency-telecommunications-guide.html>

IARU Emergency Telecommunications Guide



Stark State College Public Service Event

The **Stark State College Amateur Radio Service** is providing communications support for a public service event on the main campus on April 30th and is looking for ham volunteers to help out. Jennifer Andrews KB3GXB, the club's president needs seven communicators for water stops and two or three more for other stations on the course.

If you can help out please contact Jennifer directly at jandrews0322@starkstate.net, jla@outlook.com, or by telephone at 330-907-4957. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Jennifer, KB3GXB

Passport Application Letter

Dear Mrs. Ms. or Sir: I'm in the process of renewing my passport and still cannot believe this. How is it that Radio Shack has my address and telephone number and knows that I bought a cable TV from them in 1987 (23 years ago), and yet, the Federal Government is still asking me where I was born and on what date. For Pete's sake, do you guys do this by hand? Ever heard of computers?

My birth date you have in my social security file. It's on EVERY income tax form I've filed for the past 35+ years. It's on my Medicare health insurance card and my driver's license, it's on the last eight passports I've had, it's on every stupid customs declaration form I've had to fill out before being allowed off the plane for the last 30+ years. And it's on all those census forms that we have to do at election times.



Would somebody please take note, once and for all, that my mother's name is Maryanne, my father's name is Robert and I'm reasonably confident that neither name is likely to change between now and when I die. Between you and me, I've had enough of this bureaucratic bs! You send the application to my house, then you ask me for my #*&#%*& address. What is going on? You must have a gang of bureaucratic Neanderthal morons working there!

Look at my damn picture. Do I look like Bin Laden? I just want to go and park my rear on a sandy beach. And would someone please tell me, why would you give a darn whether I plan on visiting a farm in the next 15 days? If I ever got the urge to do something weird to a chicken or a goat, believe you me, I'd sure as hell not want to tell anyone!

Well, I have to go now because I have to go to the other end of the city and get another #*@&#^@*@ copy of my birth certificate, to the tune of \$100. Would it be so difficult to have all the services in the same area so I could get a new passport the same day? Noooooo, that would require planning and organization. And it would be too logical for the @&^*^% @% government. You'd rather have us running all over the place like chickens with our heads cut off. Then, we have to find some stranger to confirm that it's really me in the damn picture - you know, the one where we're not allowed to smile. Hey, you know why we can't smile? We're totally ticked off!

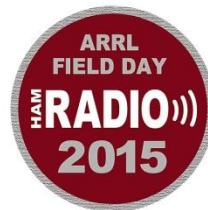
Signed- An Inrate Citizen.

P.S. Remember what I wrote about getting someone to confirm that the picture is me? Well, my family has been in the United States of America since 1776. I have served in the military for something over 35 years and have had security clearances up the ying yang. However, I have to get someone important to verify who I am - you know, someone like my doctor....WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY!

Thanks goes to **Chuck, W8PT** for finding this gem



Field Day 2015



So far, here is the Field Day 2015 team:

General

Chairman - Chuck W8PT

Vice-Chairman - Tom WB8LCD

PIO Publicity - Tony WA8AR

PIO Agency Invitees - Jim KC8PD

PIO Information Table - Parky KB8UUZ

Safety - Mike KD8FLZ

VE Testing - Parky KB8UUZ

Logistics

Food Service Mgr - open

Power Team Mgr - James KD8VT

IT Team Mgr - Zeb KD8WZS

Operations

CW Station Captain - George K3GP

20m Station Captain - Erica AE8YL

40m Station Captain - Ed K8IV

Flex Station Captain - Jim KC8PD

VHF Station Captain - Errol KC8RJR

Traffic & Messages - Bill WB9LBI

GOTA Station Captain - Mike KB8TUUY

Even though Field Day is the last full weekend of June, it will be upon us more quickly than you think. We piggy-backed a Field Day meeting with our DX/Contest SIG and the 13 individuals that were in the SIG stayed for the Field Day meeting.

I reported that we had all but one Staff position filled. Food Service is still open. For someone who is thinking about volunteering for this position but is reluctant, I have a document that lists all that has to be done, including how much food needs to be bought and prepared. So no one needs to re-invent the wheel. So if you feel that you would like to take on this position, please let me know soon. We are not looking for fancy cuisine here. Burgers and brats will be the order of the day and the list tells you how much will be needed. The budget for Field Day will be covered by PCARS and donations will be certainly appreciated. More on this later.

The one position that needs immediate attention is the 20m station. We will have the use of the 20m monoband Yagi but we need to take stock of the tower sections we have on hand and arrange for a rotor, coax, rotor cable and controller. The unknown here is the base which will need work to make sure that it will allow us to tilt the tower into position using the falling derrick method of erecting a tower. This will have to be reviewed even before antenna day which is set for May 9th.

The GOTA Station will be using the club's fan dipole, but we will need to arrange for a rig for this position.

We will also again be selling tickets for those who want to bring guests for the Saturday night meal. The cost, as in the past, will be \$5 per guest ticket. PCARS current members are free. The Sunday morning breakfast will also require a ticket and the cost of this is \$1. As in the past, all will be required to purchase a ticket. The tickets will go on sale at the next PCARS monthly meeting since we want a head count for food purchase by Antenna Day. That will give you two meetings in which to buy your tickets.

PCARS members have been very generous in the past and we are hoping that this will continue regarding Field Day donations. The main food items will of course be the responsibility of PCARS, however, if you can donate snacks such as chips, cookies, soda, water or desserts, it would be GREATLY appreciated. And of course, monetary donations will be gladly accepted.

That's it for now. I will continue to keep you all informed as to our progress on PCARS Field Day 2015.



73,
Chuck, W8PT
Field Day Chairman

New Ohio ARES® District 5 Emergency Coordinator

I would like to formally introduce our new DEC for District 5. Then again, you in that area don't need an introduction to former Summit County EC Dennis Conklin, AI8P. Dennis has big shoes to fill from the retiring Jim Aylward, KC8PD, but Dennis has hit the ground running already! He, too, has some very creditable emergency chops, so you all are in very good hands, indeed! This is going to be fun!

We're getting down to it for the April 11th **All-Ohio ARES® Conference!** Don't wait to go to the website and register! We can't afford to exceed the room limitations- after all, this is the Fire Marshall's own building! We're looking forward to seeing you all there!



73,

Stan, N8BHL
ARRL Ohio Section EC

Paper Chase

If you attended the February club meeting, you heard Jim, KC8PD, give a history of the club. In that presentation, you saw pictures of the first "Freeze Your Acorns Off" event. Because of the contacts made during that event, the club submitted a log in the Mississippi QSO Party. That resulted in a third place finish.

This year the the Mississippi QSI Party will be held April 4th from 10:00 am until 10:00 pm EDT. The Magnolia DX Association (MDXA) will be participating and will be using four special event callsigns and their club callsign (K5MDX) during this event. The special event calls are K5M, K5I, K5P, and K5S and the club callsign. In order to receive a certificate you must spell "MISSISSIPPI" by using the suffixes in the special event callsigns. You can use one special event callsign multiple times. For example, if you work K5I that one contact can be used for all four I's in Mississippi. The club call, K5MDX, can be used as a wildcard. It may be substituted for any letter that you may be missing. However, it may only be used once. All bands and modes will be used.



If you would prefer to receive a QSL card instead of a certificate, send a copy of your log and a SASE to: MDXA, Attn: MS QSO Party - PO Box 576 - Saucier, MS 39574-0576. To obtain a certificate via e-mail, use your callsign as the subject

and attach your log file and e-mail it to: specialevent@mdxa.org.

If you would prefer a certificate suitable for framing, you can use either of two methods to obtain it. To receive a certificate, send an email with your call in the subject line to specialevent@mdxa.org. List your name as you would like it to appear on the certificate and your address. MDXA will crosscheck the logs of the 1x1 stations and send you the certificate as a .pdf file. If you prefer, we can print and mail you a certificate suitable for framing. Send the details above and \$2 to cover paper, ink and mailing expenses to the address above. You can send your two dollars via snail mail or Paypal to: breedenwb@cableone.net.

If PCARS could finish third in the Mississippi QSO Party running QRP, you should be able to get this certificate with a little effort.

Hear you on the air,
Joe, W8KNO

St. Patrick's Day Special Event Runs Out of Luck

A Saint Patrick's Day special event station shut down early after several misfortunes forced club members to cease operations before making a single contact.

The **B**oston **E**nthusiasts of **E**ngineering and **R**adio (BEER) Club was excited to put K1I on the air.

"We put a lot of planning into this, but the alcohol factor wasn't taken into consideration when it came to executing the set up," said club president Sam Smith.

"First off, Fernando, our technical officer, who consumed several pints of Guinness by 8 a.m., spent three hours trying to hang the dipole into the shape of a shamrock. We kept telling him that the radiation pattern would be unacceptable but he wouldn't listen," said Smith. Other club members resorted to setting up another antenna while Fernando continued his unsuccessful attempt.

Meanwhile, club members say things came to blows when one intoxicated member was asked to turn down his car stereo, which was blasting U2 songs during set up. "They're an Irish band!" explained Landon Garfinkle, the car's owner.

Alcohol was certainly one problem, but Smith says tainted food was the final straw.

"We all know that hams aren't the most hygienic bunch. And as it turned out, the corned beef and cabbage that Agatha cooked led to some stomach issues," said Smith. Police records show that park officials have asked the club to pay for the cleanup of two porta-potties at the park.

Three members of the radio club were cited by police for public intoxication. In a striking coincidence, the operators were using a beverage antenna.



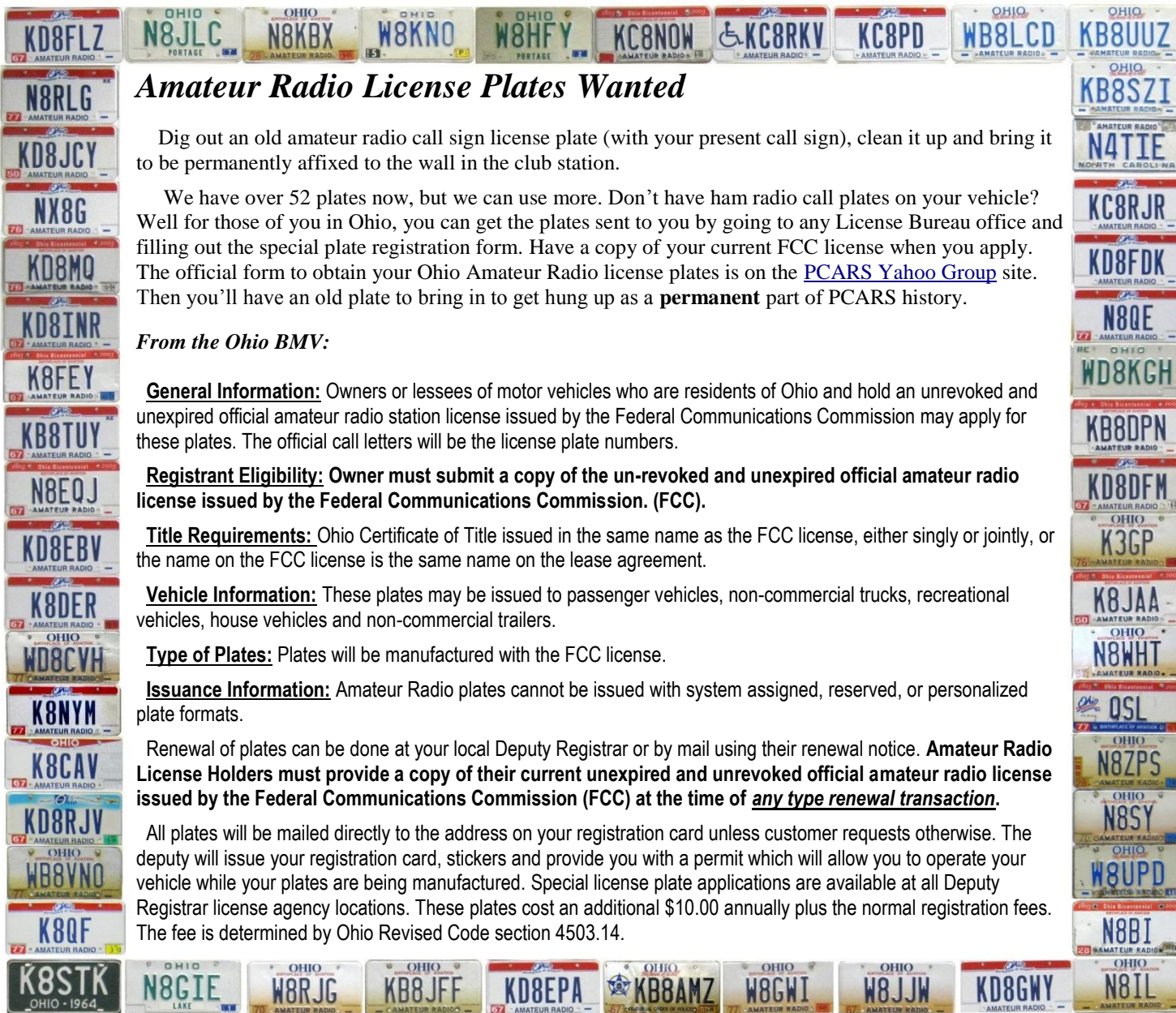
Kevin, K5KVN
hamhijinks.com

PCARS

ARRL Volunteer Examiners:
serving the Amateur Radio
community

First Saturdays 10:00 am
at the club site in Ravenna
February, April, June, August,
October, December

The logo is circular with a yellow border. Inside the circle, the words "AMATEUR RADIO" are at the top and "VOLUNTEER EXAMINER" are at the bottom, both in yellow. In the center, the letters "ARRL" are above "VEC", also in yellow. To the left of the center text is a yellow diamond shape containing a stylized antenna diagram with the letters "A", "R", "R", "L" at its points.



Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted

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

We have over 52 plates now, but we can use more. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the [PCARS Yahoo Group](#) site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent** part of PCARS history.

From the Ohio BMV:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PCARS Patches & Stickers

New PCARS logo patches (iron on) & stickers (stick on) are now available!! Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo!! The patch is about 3". The embroidery on the white patch is in Red, Black and Blue. Cost for a patch is only \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS



meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! See the club Treasurer: Bob, N8QE or e-mail him at: N8QE@portcars.org

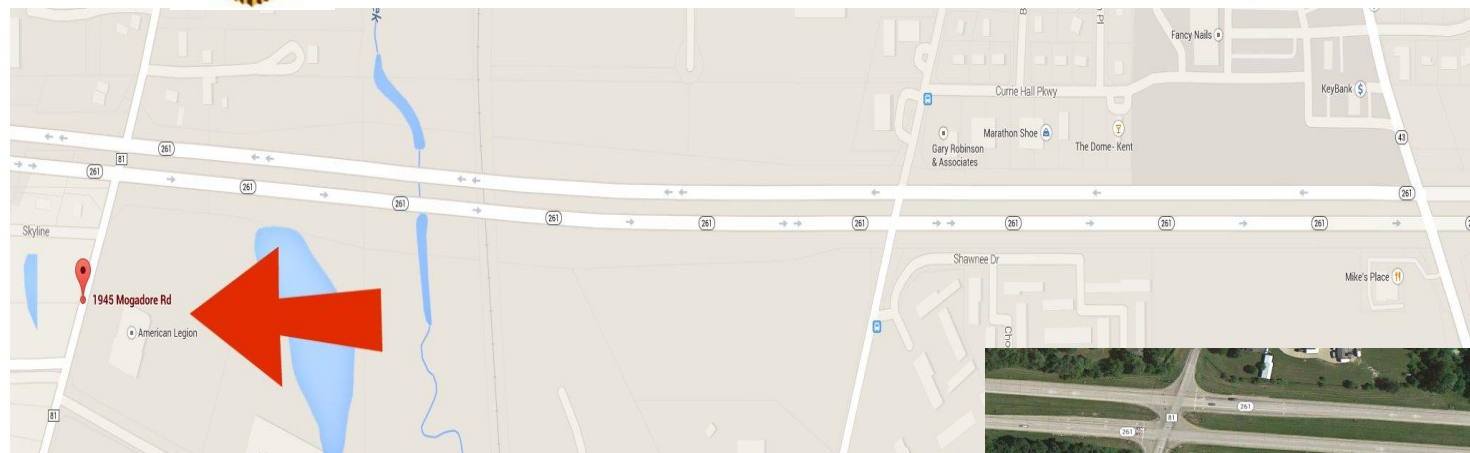


PCARS Meetings

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



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



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

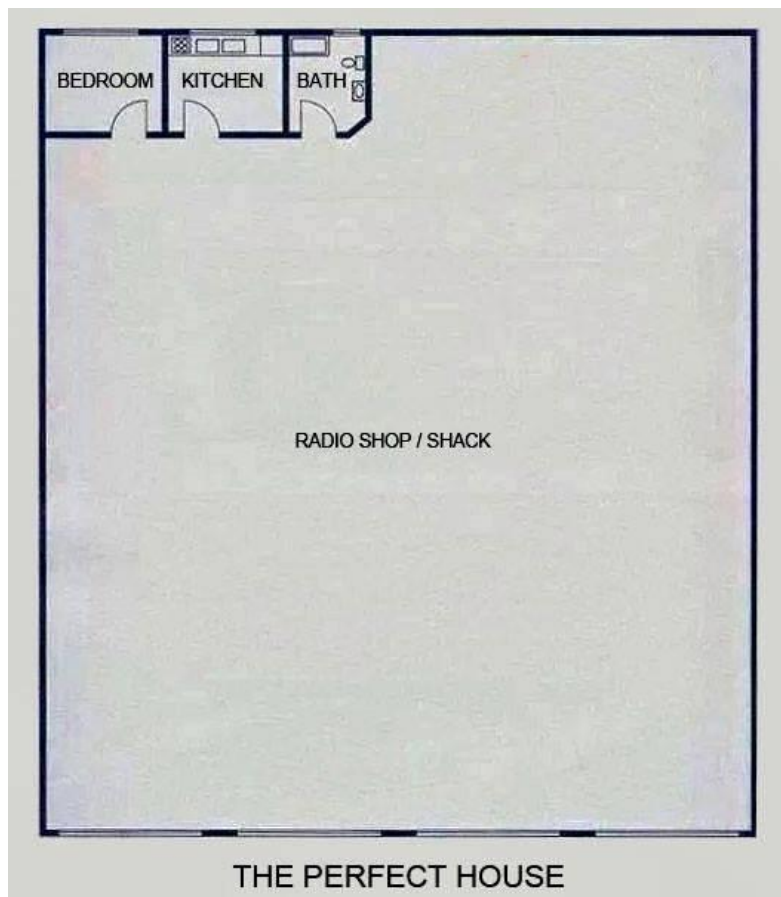


*The picture on the left shows
The American Legion Post 496
as viewed from Mogadore Road.
(looking East)*

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

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





K3LR's original New Home Plans



Utility Poles are a known source of RFI.....

Yep - A Real Craigslist Ad

[new york craigslist](#) > [westchester](#) > [electronics](#)

[email this posting to a friend](#)

Avoid scams and fraud by dealing locally! Beware any deal involving Western Union, Moneygram, wire transfer, cashier check, money order, shipping, escrow, or any promise of transaction protection/certification/guarantee. [More info](#)

please [flag](#) with care:

[miscategorized](#)

[prohibited](#)

[spam/overpost](#)

[best of craigslist](#)

7591 vaccum tubes in original boxes - \$50

Reply to: [sa](#) [craigslist.org](#) [Errors when replying to ads?]

Hi i have 8 7591 vacuum tubes that were new old stock, i tested these in a scott amplifier and worked well. I carefully removed the glass on each tube to clean both sides as all the tops had silver inside blocking view of tubes light now the tubes have no glass but may still work. asking 50.00 each.



*“... Wire A to Connector G....
Wire Y to Connector 342...”*



Pictures from the March PCARS Meeting





Disclaimer

Yes folks, it's April and with that comes April Fool Day. I try to throw in some material that has a bit of humor to celebrate the 1st. If you found something offensive - I am sorry, really. If you found something that made you laugh - That's Great ! I must say, finding the material for the April issue is getting harder and harder each year, even with the internet. So when you run across something that you think would be good of the next April issue, please send it to me. I'll throw it in my April Folder.



Now, just to be clear about a disclaimer:

This newsletter is meant for educational purposes only. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead is purely coincidental. Void where prohibited. Some assembly required. List each check separately by bank number. Batteries not included. Contents may settle during shipment. Use only as directed. No other warranty expressed or implied. Do not use while operating a motor vehicle or heavy equipment. Postage will be paid by addressee. Subject to approval. This is not an offer to sell securities. Apply only to affected area. May be too intense for some viewers. Do not stamp. Do not staple. Use other side for additional listings. For recreational use only. Do not disturb. All models over 18 years of age. If condition persists, consult your physician. No user-serviceable parts inside. Freshest if eaten before date on carton. Subject to change without notice. Times approximate. Simulated picture. No postage necessary if mailed in the United States. Breaking seal constitutes acceptance of agreement. For off-road use only. As seen on TV. One size fits all. Many suitcases look alike. Contains a substantial amount of non-tobacco ingredients. Colors may, in time, fade. We have sent the forms which seem to be right for you. Slippery when wet. For office use only. Not affiliated with the American Red Cross. Drop in any mailbox. Edited for television. Keep cool; process promptly. Post office will not deliver without postage. List was current at time of printing. Return to sender, no forwarding order on file, unable to forward. Not responsible for direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect, error or failure to perform. At participating locations only. Not the Beatles. Penalty for private use. See label for sequence. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Do not write below this line. Falling rock. Lost ticket pays maximum rate. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Add toner. Place stamp here. Avoid contact with skin. Sanitized for your protection. Be sure each item is properly endorsed. Sign here without admitting guilt. Slightly higher west of the Mississippi. Employees and their families are not eligible. Beware of dog. Contestants have been briefed on some questions before the show. Limited time offer, call now to insure prompt delivery. You must be present to win. No passes accepted for this engagement. No purchase necessary. Processed at location stamped in code at top of carton. Shading within a garment may occur. Use only in well-ventilated area. Keep away from fire or flame. Replace with same type. Approved for veterans. Booths for two or more. Check here if tax deductible. Some equipment shown is optional. Price does not include taxes. No Canadian coins. Not recommended for children. Prerecorded for this time zone. Reproduction strictly prohibited. No solicitors. No alcohol, dogs, or horses. No anchovies unless otherwise specified. Restaurant package, not for resale. List at least two alternate dates. First pull up, then pull down. Call toll free before digging. Driver does not carry cash. Some of the trademarks mentioned in this product appear for identification purposes only. Record additional transactions on back of previous stub. Decision of judges is final. This supersedes all previous notices.

Thanks & 73

All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure PCARS will again be known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club with plenty of activities to report on in this newsletter all throughout 2015.

Thanks go out to the contributors for this month's newsletter:

K8CAV, WA8AR, KB8UUZ, WA8ERA, N8RLG, KC8PD, N8BHL, W8PT, KB8AMZ, W8DEC, W0GJ, N8OQQ, AF1K, NF8R, K8EUR, N8SY, KB3GXB, K5KVN, W8KNO, K3LR, Matt Novak, WB0RUR, Richard Rieben, Esther Inglis-Arkell, HamHijinks, the ARRL and the World-Wide Web.



Tom "Parky", KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

With *your* continued help – we can keep making this a *great* newsletter.

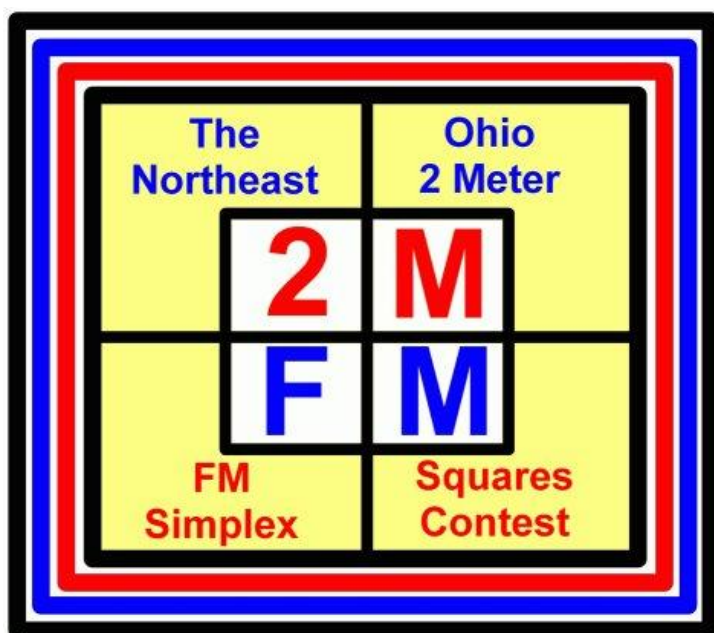
The 2015 Northeast Ohio 2 Meter FM Simplex Squares Contest

Mark your calendars now and reserve the weekend of **April 25 and 26, 2015** to get out of the house and participate in this first Northeast Ohio 2 Meter FM Simplex Squares contest sponsored by the **Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club** (CFARC).

Here's the deal: During each of two 5 hour contest windows in April, one on Saturday the 25th and one on Sunday the 26th, make as many contacts with other Hams as you can using 2 meter FM in a designated simplex window. During the contact, you must exchange call signs, operating modes, and 6 character Maidenhead Grid Square locations with each other. The contest scoring favors mobile over base and portable over mobile operation, and a second contact with the same ham is not a duplicate if either participant has moved to a new 6 character grid square (about a 3 by 4 mile area – and yes, it's really a rectangle). Submit your contacts to the automatic scoring web site by the deadline and you're in the contest.

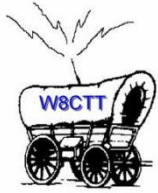
By participating, you get: Every ham who submits at least one valid contact will get a customized Certificate of Participation, suitable for printing and framing. Certificates of Achievement will be awarded for notable accomplishments such as most contacts, most grid squares, farthest distance contact, most points, etc. Local clubs will also be recognized for having the most participating members, the most contacts by members, the most points, etc.

Each valid contact will be enhanced by the mode multiplier to generate points. Each point will be one entry into a random drawing for one of the Main Prizes. Main prizes are still being lined up, but so far they include a \$50 and two \$25 Gift Certificates to DX Engineering. Encouraging club "Elmering" and antenna building.



All you need is an HT to participate. However, by using inexpensive and easy to build antennas, the range of any HT (or mobile rig) can be greatly increased. The antennas referenced on the contest web site can also be used for public service events, emergency operation, and some for radio direction finding. We ask all clubs to announce this contest during their meetings and nets, and to actively "Elmer" their members with antenna building help and contest operating advice. For many hams, this could be both their first contest and first antenna building experience. Help make it a fun and successful one.

All the details: Full details including rules, grid square information, HT enhancements, antenna construction links, operating tips, etc. can be found at: www.CFARC.ORG/contest15.php



Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

Dayton Hamvention 2015

Saturday, May 16, 2015 - 5:30 AM



Don't miss out on this year's PARF Bus Trip to the world's largest topical conference and product exhibition. Save on gas, parking, and walking by riding with us! Leave the driving to us and you can come and go to the flea market with your great purchases and leave them on the bus. The bus will be parked close to the flea market entrance.

You can save \$10* if you book before April 15th.

The cost of the **Bus & Entrance ticket** to the Hamvention:

\$65* before April 15, 2015

The cost of the **Bus Only** to the Hamvention:

\$50* after April 15, 2015

(You will need to get your own Hamvention Entrance Ticket at gate \$25, or order by phone & have held at Will Call--possibly getting Advanced \$20 price.)

P.A.R.F. reserves the right to cancel this trip should a minimum of 23 riders not be secured by April 15th.

We will take riders right up to departure that morning (if there are seats available) on a first come, first served basis.

Departure time is 5:30 AM **SHARP**, so please be on time so you don't miss the bus!

Parking will be in the back of the church.

There will be a stop for breakfast @ McDonald's and a dinner stop @ Golden Corral Buffet (out of pocket expense).

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company.

This bus is a smoke free bus, so there will be no smoking permitted.

To Order - Complete application & send with check/money order (*payable to "PARF"*) to:

Joy Spencer [KA8TDF](mailto:KA8TDF@arrl.net)

2101 Bigelow St

Akron, OH 44314

Or call 330-745-5115

E-mail: KA8TDF@arrl.net

Please supply a return e-mail address for your receipt confirmation.

Location of Departure is:

Akron Baptist Temple

2324 Manchester Road

Akron, Ohio 44314

Located on Rt. 93 just north of Rt. 224

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

Please pass the word out to all of your ham friends & computer geeks.

The above pricing does not include any tips...a hat will be passed for driver's tip.

Fourth Annual GREAT LAKES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

"Where Education and Training Meet"

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015

8:00AM to 5:00PM

GILMOUR ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL

****35001 Cedar Rd, Gates Mills, OH 44040 ** TALK-IN 146.79 (-) PL 88.5 ** GLECC on APRS****



Go Box Display



Emcomm Vehicle Display



Forums and Presentations

**MANY DISPLAYS, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND TRAINING SESSIONS
FREE TRAINING TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!
LUNCH PROVIDED AT LOW COST!**

Visit the website for online registration, directions, schedule, and more information

<http://www.glecc.net>

LICENSE EXAMS

Want to become an amateur radio operator?

Want to upgrade to General Class or Amateur Extra Class?

Contact Jackie N8JMW at 440-636-2806 or n8jmw2@gmail.com for details

Event Chairman

Matt Welch W8DEC

440-636-2560

w8dec@arrl.net

Vice Chairman

David Andrzejewski KD8TWG

440-220-2064

david@davidandrzejewski.com

The GLECC Committee is comprised of highly motivated and experienced volunteers from the amateur radio community dedicated to the education and training of volunteers interested in public service, emergency, and disaster communications.



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

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM



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

All are welcome to attend ~ Drop in and say hello!

"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

PCARS uses the **K8IV** Repeater: **146.895 MHz** PL 110.9 ~ Rootstown, Oh ~ EchoLink Node: K8SRR

PCARS thanks **K8IV** for making the repeater available to area hams and for PCARS activities

2015 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards - DXCC WAS, VUCC, WAC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
ARRL Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Club Site Manager/Liaison	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
Field Day Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF Callsign Trustee	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
K8BF QSL Manager	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
Membership Chairman	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Net Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
P.I.O.	WA8AR	Tony Romito
Secretary	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
Tech & Gen Class Manager		
V.E. Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers



PCARS
Active
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members

KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
WB8LCD	Tom Sly
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8IV	Ed Polack
K8QF	Russ Conklin
WD8CVH	Ted Wands
N8RLG	Robert Gurney
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
NR8W	Russ Williams
W8EZT	Frank Tompkins
N8OQQ	Bryan Buchwalter
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
KA8TOA	Greg Ash



The **RADIOGRAM** is the official *Award Winning* (ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter First Place Winner for 2012 AND 2013. Second Place in the Great Lakes Division for 2013. Second Place ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter for 2014) newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) – copyright © 2015. Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!**

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our logo? For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is now commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961. They have migrated and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. So when you spot a black squirrel – **think PCARS!**

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