



~ 2015 Officers ~

President - Rick Kruis - K8CAV
Vice President - Tony Romito - WA8AR
Treasurer - Bob Hajdak - N8QE
3 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT
2 Year Trustee - James Andrews - KD8VT
1 Year Trustee - Erica Pelz - AE8YL
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

PCARS Field Day 2015 is in the books, and what a memorable Field Day it was! Congratulations to Chuck, W8PT for putting together a Field Day team that did a great job in overcoming monsoon-like rains which forced a last minute change in where and how we set stations up, and miserable band conditions caused by a solar event earlier in the week to post a decent showing for this year's Field Day. And despite all that, those who showed up had a great time! Thanks to all of you that participated in PCARS Field Day and made it a successful event.



Rick, K8CAV

There are a number of different ways folks look at Field day, some view it as a 'contest' of sorts for bragging rights, and some as a great social event for fellow hams to get together to play radio, eat, drink and be merry, all of which are valid reasons for participating in Field Day. At its core however, Field Day is an event designed to test how well Amateur Radio operators can gather all of their radios and gear together to operate effectively in a non-traditional environment such as "the field". Individuals and clubs put a lot of effort and advance planning into setting up the ultimate Field Day operation so as to maximize their score or enjoyment of the event, but there are times when events beyond control conspire to make that difficult to attain. The strength of amateur radio being the "last best hope" backup during

communications emergencies rests on the ability of amateur radio operators to work with and when necessary around those events that make plug and play communications systems, by their very nature unable to function in that environment. As amateur radio operators we're flexible, we can operate with virtually no infrastructure, through our day to day operations are skilled communicators, and we always find a way to communicate regardless of how bad things get. Field Day this year presented a small sampling of some of the events we might face should we be called to provide assistance during a disaster. Our successes were just that much more proof that the definition of amateur in Amateur Radio, "2: one who engages in a pursuit, study, science, or sport as a pastime rather than as a profession" truly fits what we do, and validates our slogan, "When All Else Fails" when it comes to communications.

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From the President *(continued from Page 1)*

The crowd for our annual PCARS picnic was a bit smaller than in past years, in part due to the recent streak of good weather keeping some folks at home trying to catch up on tasks that got put off due to earlier, unseasonably rainy weather, and that's totally understandable. But I have to say you missed a great time! There's nothing more enjoyable than being able to spend time with fellow PCARS members and their families and it was great to see those of you that could attend. Many thanks to Tom WB8LCD, Russ NR8W, and Bob N8QE for putting it all together and for cooking up some great burgers and dogs on the grill.

We have lots of things still to come for the remainder of the summer so be sure to keep tabs on the newsletter and QST e-mailings for information. August 8th is a PCARS "GI Party" to get our club site whipped back into shape (*more on that elsewhere in the newsletter*). Jim, AC8NT has finalized plans for the magnetic loop construction project and will take place on one or two Saturdays in August, to be announced. And then



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



there's the Ohio QSO part coming up on Saturday August 22nd. The annual PCARS Cruise-In is coming up on Thursday August 27th at the A&W in Ravenna and this year it will be combined with "Net Night at the Club Site" except the net will be run from the A&W. Saturday August 29th is the visit to the famous K3LR contest station and OSPOTA is set for Saturday, September 12th. There are *sooo* many things to do so make time to get out there and participate and have K8BF 'BIG FUN' with your fellow PCARS members.

I'd like to take a moment to welcome our Vice President Tony, WA8AR back home. Tony has just finished rehab after a very serious illness and surgery in late June and we're very glad he's on the mend and we're looking forward to having him back. Dave, WB2DFC is also on the down slope of rehab and close to going back on full duty at work after shoulder surgery so, "criminals beware" and welcome back Dave. Also, it's good to see Jim, KC8PD back to just about normal from his surgery earlier this summer, certainly a much speedier recover than was the case last summer! To every one of our members and families, good health and burn up that ether with radio waves! Hope to see all of you at our next event.

73,

Rick, K8CAV
PCARS President



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **August 1st - Great Lakes Division Convention** - Columbus, OH
- **August 1st - VE Testing** at the PCARS Club Site - 10 am
- **August 8th - Clean-Up & Fix-Up Day at the Club Site** - 9 am
- **August 10th - PCARS Meeting** - 7pm - at the Kent American Legion
- **August 22nd - Ohio QSO Party** contest at club site in Ravenna
- **August 27th - Annual PCARS Ham Radio Mobile Cruise-In** - Ravenna A&W - see the flier
- **August 29th - PCARS visit to the K3LR Super Contest Station** - more info in this newsletter
- **September 12th - Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest - see the flier
- **September 14th - PCARS Meeting** - 7pm - Guest: **Dave Sumner, K1ZZ**, ARRL CEO
- **October 12th - PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - WB9LBI - **The Magic of Morse Code**
- **November 9th - PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **ELECTIONS** - WA8ZLK - **EMP**
- **December 14th - PCARS Christmas Party/Meeting** - more info to follow

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 | | |



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Portage County Amateur Radio Service - Field Day 2015

Call Used: **K8BF** ARRL/RAC Section: **OH** Class: **4A**
Participants: **98** Power Source(s): **Generator, Battery, Solar** Power Multiplier: **2X**

Grand Total Score Submitted = 8990

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=11	100

Description	Points
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited elected official	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Youth participation Youth operators=2 Youth participants=2	40
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Total Bonus Points	1,490

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	941	31	1806		
Total Points	1882	62	1806	3750	Claimed Score = 7,500

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone		
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	
80m	83	100	10	100	82	100	
40m	714	100	21	100	1077	100	
20m	124	100			604	100	
15m	14	100			2	100	
10m					27	100	
6m	6	100			14	100	
Total	941		31		1806		2778



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th





Portage County Amateur Radio Service Field Day 2015



K8BF - Field Day 2015 Operators

	Operator	Total Q's	PHONE Contacts / Station	CW Contacts / Station	DIG Contacts / Station
1	WB9LBI	322	40/40M	222/CW, 60/Flex	
2	N8OQQ	309	280/40M, 29/Flex		
3	K3GP	262		262/CW	
4	K8IV	254	254/40M		
5	KD8DFL	199	199/40M		
6	KB8AMZ	185		185/CW	
7	N8BI	147	147/20M		
8	WB8LCD	134	67/20M 67/40M		
9	N8GIE	120	120/40M		
10	K8MSH	106	68/20M, 38/40M		
11	N8QE	99	89/20M, 6/VHF	4/VHF	
12	WN8R	91		1/Flex, 90/CW	
13	KA8TOA	87	87/20M		
14	K8CAV	84	61/Flex		23/Flex
15	KB8UUZ	79	79/40M		
16	WD8DAU	77		77/CW	
17	KD8FDK	48	48/20M		
18	KB3GXB	37	37/20M		
19	KD8FME	34		34/Flex	
20	W8KNO	29	29/20M		
21	KD8WZS	18	18/20M		
22	WA4GA	17	14/Flex	3/Flex	
23	AC8PR	16	7/Flex	1/Flex	8/Flex
24	KB8TUY	14	14/20M		
25	KC8RJR	6	4/VHF	2/VHF	
26	K8BBE	4	4/VHF		

Station Mode Totals

Station	PH	CW	DIG	Totals
40M	1077			1077
20M	604			604
CW		836		836
Flex	111	99	31	241
VHF	14	6		20
Totals	1774	941	31	2778

Station Band Totals

Station - Band	80	40	20	15	10	6	Totals
40M		1077					1077
20M			604				604
CW		714	122				836
Flex	175	21	2	16	27		241
VHF						20	20
Totals	175	1812	728	16	27	20	2778

5 July 2015 - 8:11pm



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th

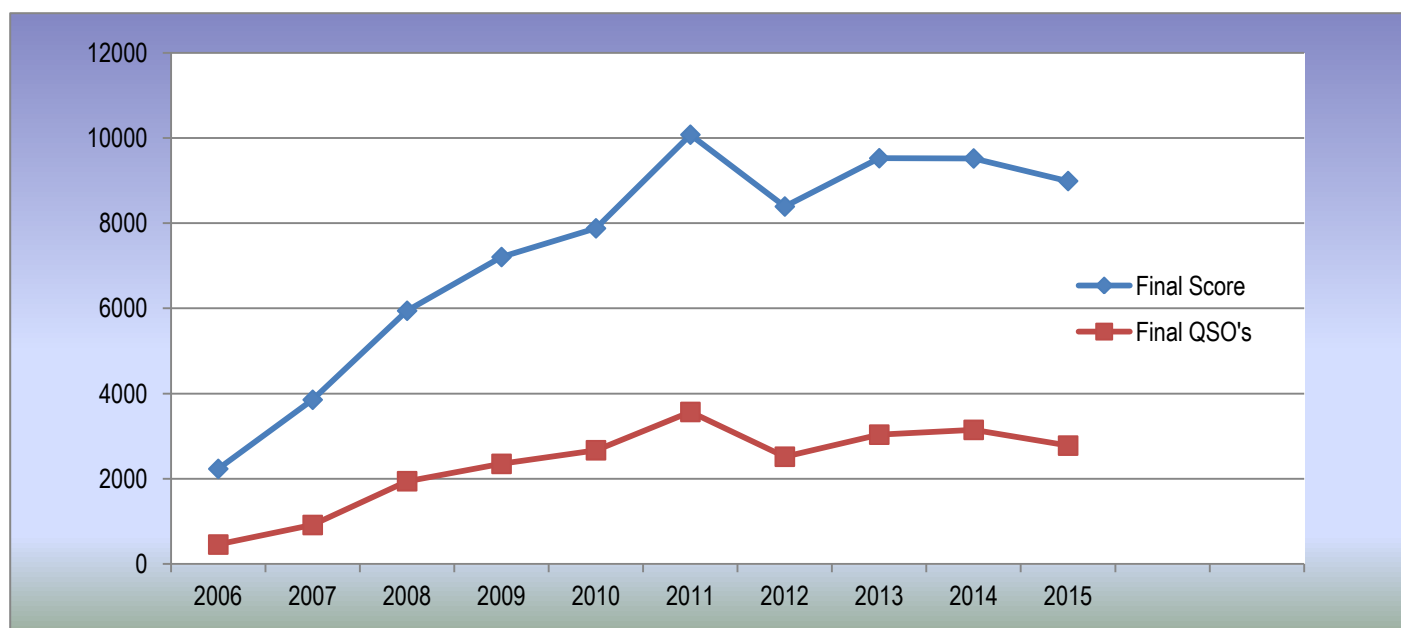


Past Field Day Comparisons

PCARS	Final QSOs	Final Score
2006 - KD8CKP	455	2232
2007 - KD8CKP	914	3854
2008 - KD8CKP	1942	5944
2009 - KD8CKP	2349	7206
2010 - K8BF	2669	7880
2011 - K8BF	3568	10078
2012 - K8BF	2517	8392
2013 - K8BF	3035	9526
2014 - K8BF	3147	9520
2015 - K8BF	2778*	8990*

* Submitted

10 Year Average: Final QSOs = 2337 Final Score = 7362



PCARS Field Day Final Scores and QSOs - 2006 through 2015



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



The collage features 15 individual photographs and a central title graphic. The photos show a variety of activities and participants at the 2015 ARRL Field Day Ham Radio event. Key scenes include:

- A woman in a grey hoodie looking at a document outdoors.
- A person in a yellow raincoat working on a radio antenna.
- A large blue generator on a trailer parked on a grassy area.
- Two people in rain gear standing near a radio antenna.
- A man in a black poncho standing on a lawn.
- A tall radio tower with a white trailer at its base.
- A man in a yellow raincoat and a baseball cap.
- Two people at a table covered with various items, possibly a swap meet or information booth.
- A man wearing headphones operating a radio station.
- A man in a white shirt working at a desk with a laptop.
- A man in an orange shirt talking on a radio while sitting at a desk.
- A man in a blue shirt operating a radio station.
- Two men working together at a radio station.
- A white travel trailer with a red awning parked in a lot.
- A man in a black shirt operating a radio station.
- A man in a blue jacket operating a radio station.
- A man in a camouflage shirt operating a radio station.
- A man in a striped shirt talking on a radio while sitting at a desk.

The central graphic is a red rectangle with the text "2015 ARRL FD HAM RADIO" in white, with the ARRL logo to the left.



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.

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

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

K8RFS	Robert Snyder
KD8PYN	Ned Brown
WD8RAY	Ray Woods
KD8PTQ	Mark Ladd
W8RJG	Ron Good
KB8TUY	Mike Ryan
N6TL	Randy Wilson
K8GI	Rick Patterson

KB8VJL	Al Atkins
KD8ZSH	Randall Thorpe
KD8JCY	Sandra Getty
AC1TT	Jim Moon
KD8CGH	Robert Benedict
NC8T	Paul Tait
W8JFQ	Robert Davet



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



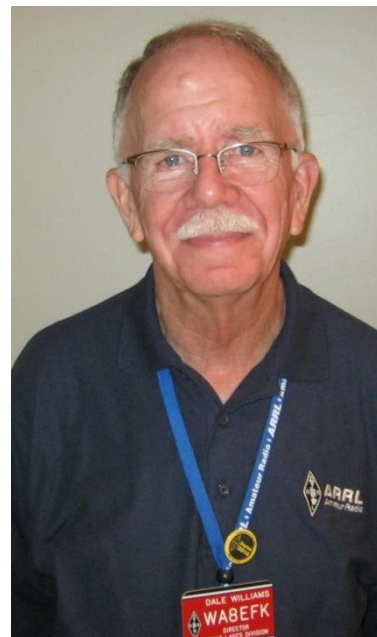
Dale's Tales

Convention: Debra Johnson K1DMJ, ARRL's Education Services Manager will be our guest and our keynote speaker for the 2015 ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention. Debra joins us from ARRL Headquarters and is directly involved with getting school kids involved with Amateur Radio. Among her many duties, she heads up the Teachers Institute plus the ARISS program to contact the International Space Station by amateur radio. If you have an interest in getting younger folks into this hobby, Debra's talk is one you should not miss.

The Voice of Aladdin Amateur Radio Club is hosting your Convention on August 1, this year. The location is the Aladdin Shrine Center at 3858 Stelzer Rd, in Columbus, OH. <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/> Forums will include DX, NVIS, Digital Voice, ARES®, HF Sound Card Modes, OSSBN/NTS and there will be on-site VE testing.

Returning this year will be an opportunity for ARRL members to join the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong (ROWH). A special session, available only at State, Division and National Conventions, will allow candidates to join the ROWH Check the Division Web pages at <http://arrl-greatlakes.org/> for membership applications. Not familiar with the ROWH? The ARRL Great Lakes Convention is your time to discover the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong.

73,



Dale, WA8EFK
ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

Field Day Video

Thanks go out to Greg, W8WWV who made the trip to PCARS Field Day 2015. He had planned on using his quad copter to catch some great video of set up and operation of the PCARS Field Day 2015. However, as you all know, Mother Nature was not cooperating. We had near record rain fall that started Friday and did not let up until around noon Saturday and then was on &



off for the rest of the weekend. This made for a VERY wet set up and operation. But, with a few minor changes, PCARS did manage to get everything up and running and we were on the air at 2 pm local making contacts and we ran the entire 24 hours.

While Greg was there, he did manage to get some video and put together a great video showing some of the set up and operation from the 40 meter station. Check it out on the PCARS YouTube site at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0cOt9GSuS8>



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



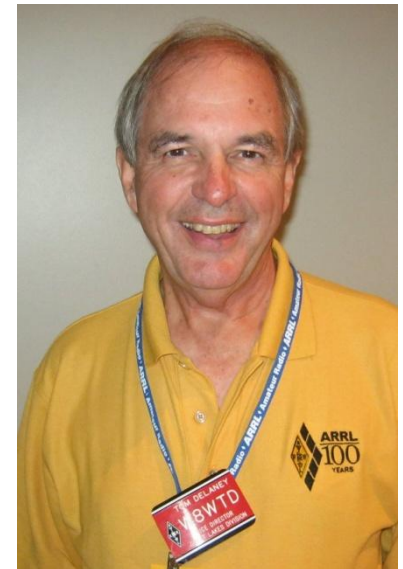
Comments from our Great Lakes Division Vice Director

Such crazy weather. I started thinking about past Field Days, and the only one that I can remember that was so cold and rainy wasn't one around here. It was in the late 1970's, when we were camping out on a mountainside in Idaho, above the 8,000 foot level. Cold and rainy. And that's what it was in West-Central Ohio this past weekend.

Still, it was good to see some of the clubs and their efforts. I only managed to get to two sites, the Champaign/Logan club in West Liberty, Ohio, and the Shelby County ARES® Group in Sidney, Ohio. The weather was a factor limiting each club, with a scaled-down operation in West Liberty at the park, and another accommodation to the weather in Sidney, keeping the vehicles off the very soggy grass fields, and moving the operation partly indoors. The spirit of Field Day held everyone together in spite of the weather. Put up that antenna, get on the air!

You have to admit that some things are easier to do when they are "fun." And Field Day was work this year. Putting antennas up in the rain just takes some of the fun out of it. And having to work for contacts isn't great, either. But we saw some real dedication out there this weekend. It may not be as much fun, but it hones the operating skills to ask for repeats, to keep trying to dig signals out of the noise. It's satisfying when you get that difficult contact in the log. It's just one more contact, but it was worth the effort to listen just a little harder, to figure out that call sign or section. Good work, everyone!

The next big event for the Division is our convention on August 1st in Columbus, Ohio. Make plans now to be there.



73, until next month,

Tom, W8WTD

ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director

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



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Contest Calendar

August 2015	
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 1 to 2359Z, Aug 2
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 1
ARRL August UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 1 to 1800Z, Aug 2
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 1 to 0600Z, Aug 2
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 8 to 2400Z, Aug 9
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 15 to 0600Z, Aug 16
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	1800Z-2359Z, Aug 16
Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 24
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23
US Islands QSO Party	1200Z, Aug 29 to 0300Z, Aug 30
Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 29 to 0200Z, Aug 30 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 30

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

Ohio QSO Party Rule Changes

The Mad River Radio Club and Ohio QSO Party Committee are pleased to announce significant changes in the Ohio QSO Party, effective for the 2015 event which will be held on Saturday, August 22nd.

We have decided to replace the serial number in the contest exchange with a signal report. While it was fun to watch the competition in real time, we believe the confusion caused with an exchange format different from that used in other concurrent events caused people to avoid participating in the OhQP if they were also involved in one of the other contests. So now, one can just treat the multiple contests as one big one covering several states and work everybody with the same exchange.

Secondarily, keeping track of serial numbers made things difficult for mobiles while in motion, and often caused confusion for multi-operator efforts using several operating positions.

We will be contacting software developers to update their software to the new OhQP exchange. While we hope all will be able to get updated logging software in time for the 2015 OhQP, for now we will still be able to process logs showing a sent serial number; just log the received RS(T) in the received number field.

In a second, relatively minor change, the use of CW Skimmer and similar automated spotting tools will be allowed for single operator stations. (Note - the use of the regular spotting networks by single operators has been allowed for many years). We do hope that stations using Skimmers will share their bounties of cool OhQP stations found with the rest of the world via the regular DX Clusters.

We're looking forward to seeing lots of you in the 2015 Ohio QSO Party, Saturday, August 22, 1600Z to 0400Z August 23!

Jim, K8MR



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



US Islands QSO Party

This is to invite members to participate in the 2015 US Islands QSO Party on August 29-30 (1200-0300 UTC). Nearly 3000 islands have been listed by the 21 year old US Islands Award Program and a little more than 2000 of these have been activated. There are many more islands in the USA and its territories that qualify for listing since an Island only need to be surrounded by water, at least 100 feet long and at least 50 feet from the main shoreline.

A mini-expedition to activate an island can be a fun club or individual Ham experience. This is especially true during USI's Spring One-Day Getaway and the August QSO Party. Being on the receiving end of relaxed pile-ups along with QSOs with other island stations and an expanding band of island collectors can be a rewarding activity. Some QSO Party island expeditions will be to previously activated Islands while others will be activating listed but not yet activated islands or new islands they have had added to the list.



The first reported activators of an island have their call sign shown on the list of US Islands. Initial activations require at least 25 QSOs and contacts with at least two DX entities (usually the US and one other), but subsequent activations can be as few or many QSOs as you want to make.

Participating non-island stations are an important part of the USI QSO Party. Information about the US Islands, the QSO Party can be found at:
<http://www.usislands.org/>

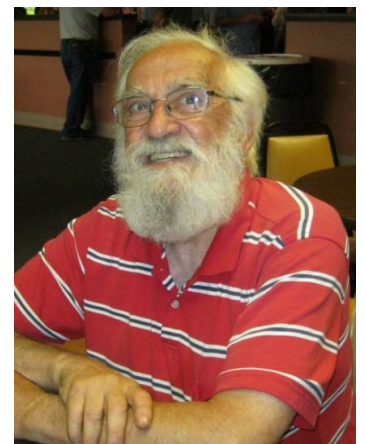
73,
Ralph, NM5RC
US Islands Award Program Committee Member

Hamfest Report - 20 Over 9 Hamfest



This was a small Hamfest, it is only the second one since they revived the tradition of having one; therefore, the size. It was held at the Austintown Senior Center which has plenty of parking space and a center that has a kitchen which served hot and cold food and drinks. Outside, there were six vendors. The Warren Amateur Radio Association (WARA) had one of the spaces and had on display the prizes that will be raffled off at their upcoming Tailgate gathering. Inside there were three vendors, the club table, the ARRL table and the Card Checking table. Activities were a VE session, three Forums, half hour door prizes (I won one) and the grand prize drawings.

It was good to see a club starting up a Hamfest while most clubs are eliminating theirs. I will be going back next year.



Joe, W8KNO



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



HamShield turns an Arduino into a VHF/UHF Transceiver

The Arduino seems to be making a big splash in ham radio circles these days. The ARRL has recently published a couple of books about the Arduino and Arduino-based amateur radio projects. And, recently, I purchased a NanoKeyer (www.nanokeyer.wordpress.com), which is a CW keyer powered by an Arduino Nano.



Now, a couple of enterprising young hams have built the HamShield <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/749835103/hamshield-for-arduino-vhf-uhf-transceiver>. It's an Arduino shield that turns an Arduino into a VHF/UHF transceiver. With the HamShield, you can transmit and receive on the 2 m, 220 MHz, and 440 MHz bands.



According to Casey, KC7IBT, one of the project leaders, "We have both voice and data working on the shield right now and also have a powerful library to control it."

"We also have it talking to the Chrome browser, so any computer that can run a web browser can operate a packet radio station or voice station. We also have another piece of chrome software called "APRS Messenger", a text messaging app for APRS. One of our prototypes is

in a neat little case that clips right to the back of your laptop (shown in the video). I will launch these apps in the Chrome Store once we get closer to completion.

"We have 10 working prototypes currently, but need to raise money to fund the production cost and get the unit prices down to acceptable levels. This means buying parts in bulk and reducing production costs."

I think this is a very cool project, and I hope that you'll consider supporting the HamShield Kickstarter project. I plan to get one and see what I can do with it.

Dan, KB6NU

When not playing with Arduinos, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at www.KB6NU.Com. He is also the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides. His most recent book is The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code. The books are available on his website or on Amazon.

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



Hamfest Schedule

08/01/2015 - Great Lakes Division Convention (Columbus Hamfest) - Voice of Aladdin ARC - Location: Aladdin Shrine Center - 3850 Stelzer Road - Columbus, OH 43085 - Talk-In: 146.760 (PL 123) - Contact: Jim Leonard, WD8MRT - 37 Noble Terrace, Apt. B - Springfield, OH 45504 - Phone: 614-264-8566 - Email: wd8mrt@arrl.net

08/16/2015 - Warren Amateur Radio Association Tailgate Swap Meet - Mosquito Lake State Park - 1439 State Route 305 - Cortland, OH 44410 - 9 am to 2 pm - talk-in: W8VTD repeater 146.970(-) FREE - Contact: Amy Oliver, KD8OVM - 330-898-4415

08/23/2015 - Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 7th Annual Tailgate Hamfest - Location: Robert Pinn Armory - 4630 Allen Road Stow, OH 44224 - Website: <http://cfarc.org/tailgate2015.php> - Talk-In: 147.27+ (PL 110.9) - Contact: Frank Tompkins, W8EZX - PO Box 614 Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222 - Phone: 330-928-4048 - Email: tailfest2015@cfarc.org

08/30/2015 - Western Pennsylvania Section Convention - Skyview Radio Society - Location: Skyview Amateur Radio Campus - 2335 Turkey Ridge Road - New Kensington, PA 15068 - Website: <http://skyviewradio.net> - Talk-In: 146.64 - 600 offset (PL 131.8) - Contact: John Patrick Cancro, NK3P - c/o Skyview Amateur Radio Society - 2335 Turkey Ridge Road - New Kensington, PA 15068 - Phone: 724-309-6304 - Email: jpc2@psu.edu

09/13/2015 - Findlay Hamfest - Findlay Radio Club - Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky Street - Findlay, OH 45839 - Website: <http://www.findlayradioclub.org> - Talk-In: 147.15+ - Contact: Bill Kelsey, N8ET - 3521 Spring Lake Drive - Findlay, OH 45840 - Phone: 419-423-3402 - Email: n8et@woh.rr.com

09/13/2015 - Butler SwapFest - Butler County Amateur Radio Association - Location: Unionville Volunteer Fire Company - 102 Mahood Road - Butler, PA 16001 - Website: <http://w3udx.org> - Talk-In: 147.36/96 (PL 131.8) - Contact: Rick Melton, N3VKM - 214 Criley Road - Cabot, PA 16023 - Phone: 724-287-8134 - Email: N3VKM@arrl.net

09/27/2015 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show - Hamfest Association of Cleveland - Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Rd - Berea, OH 44017 - Website: <http://www.hac.org> - Talk-In: 146.73 (PL 110.9) - Contact: Glenn Williams AF8C - 513 Kenilworth Rd - Bay Village, OH 44140 - Ph: 440-835-4897 - Email: af8c@arrl.net

10/18/2015 - Conneaut ARC's Ham Fest - Conneaut Amateur Radio Club (W8BHZ) - Location: Conneaut American Legion - 272 Broad St - Conneaut, OH 44030 - Web: <http://www.facebook.com/W8BHZ> - Talk-In: 147.390 (PL 131.8) - Contact: Mike Pongrass, KD8OSJ - POB 693 - Conneaut, OH 44030 - Ph: 814-440-6679 - Email: KD8OSJ@yahoo.com

10/25/2015 - Massillon ARC Hamfest - Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Location: Massillon Boy's & Girls Club - 730 Duncan Street SW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Website: <http://www.w8np.org> - Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 110.9) - Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Drive NW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 - Email: truss@sssnet.com

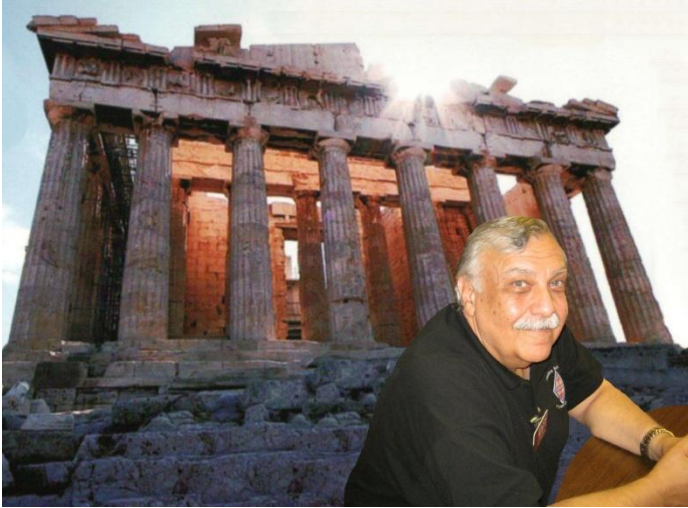
11/01/2015 - WACOM HAMFEST 2015 - Washington Amateur Communications, Inc. - Location: Washington County Fairgrounds - 2151 North Main Street - Washington, PA 15301 - Website: <http://www.wacomarc.org> - Talk-In: 146.790, 145.250, 147.285, 147.390 (all linked together) - Contact: Bud Plants, N3TIR - 236 Chambers Ridge Road - West Alexander, PA 15376 - Phone: 724-350-6745 - Email: bud@n3tir.com



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites



This month's DX report is kind of light. Most of the reported activity I received centered around the IOTA Contest held July 25-26. But there is still some interesting DX to be worked.

As always, 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).

CW, URUGUAY. Members of the "RADIO CLUB URUGUAYO" active as CW1R (ILLW Special Event Call sign) from Punta del Este Lighthouse (ARLHS URU 008, ILLW UY 0005, Grid Loc. GF25ma) during the upcoming International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend between August 14-16th. Activity will be on 80-10 m using CW, SSB and the Digital modes with at least 2 stations on the air. QSLs are via the Bureau or direct to: Radio Club Uruguayo, P.O.Box 37, 11000, Montevideo, URUGUAY, SOUTH AMERICA (w/SAE and 1 new IRC or 2 green stamps).

CY9, ST. PAUL ISLAND (Update). The St. Paul Island DXpedition scheduled for August 19-29th, 2016, has added another new member/operator to the team -- Phil, VA3QR. This completes their roster (9 operators). Phil has been a ham since his teenage years, enjoys DXing, contesting, and technical aspects of our hobby. This will be his first DXpedition. "How Can You Help?" (per CY9 Web site) - The team is contributing most of the funding for the DXpedition. Individual donations are very helpful and appreciated. No amount is too small. The single most expensive item is the cost for the transportation to access the island. While a contact cannot be guaranteed, those who do "work (QSO) us, that have made a donation, will automatically receive a QSL card. No need for a request to be made, no postage, no green stamps. It is a small way for us to say 'thank you'". We will send your card as soon as possible upon completion of the DXpedition automatically. Visit their Web site often for details as they develop at: <http://www.CY9dxpedition.com>

D6, COMOROS. Ken, LA7GIA, will be active as D67GIA from Grande Comores Island (Ngazidja) [AF-007] between September 14-23rd. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Equipment will be a TS-480SAT with an Ameritron ALS 500m into a Mosley Mini 32 ASP (2 element beam 20/15/10m), Mosley TW 22 M (2 element beam 17/12m), Hygain AV640 and wire antennas (backup). QSL via LA7GIA direct ONLY (SAE + 3 USDs). Please note, NO IRC, NO Bureau QSL. Bureau QSL will not be answered. For updates, check: <http://la7gia.com/d67gia-2/index.html>

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. Reminder - Tony, ZL2AGY, will once again be active as E51AGY from Rarotonga Island (OC-013, WLOTA 0971) between July 6th and August 6th. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands, CW only. QSL via his home call sign.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



HC & HC8, ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. Martin, LU9EFO, will be active as HC2/LU9EFO from Guayaquil City, Ecuador, and HC8/LU9EFO from the Galapagos Islands between August 3-24th. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB. QSL via F4BHW direct only or LU9EFO by the Bureau.

LX, LUXEMBOURG (LX9YL Project). An International YL team will be active using the special call sign LX9YL from Eisenborn between August 7-10th. The team will consist of Dora/HB9EPE, Johanna/DJ5YL, Mado/F1EOY, Christine/F4GDI, Claudine/F5JER, Tina/DL5YL, Evelyne/F5RPB and Sophie/F4DHQ. They plan to have three stations on the air covering 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes (PSK31, 63, 125 and RTTY). The logs will be uploaded on Clublog as frequently as possible. QSL via the Luxembourg QSL Bureau to RL (Radioamateurs du Luxembourg Radio League) or QSL Manager Philippe/LX2A. For more information on the activity, visit the Web sites at: * YL France - <http://www.ref-union.net/yls/en/lx9yl-en> * Luxembourg Amateur Radio Society (R.L.) - <http://www.rlx.lu/>

MJ, JERSEY. Kazunori, M0CFW/JK3GAD, will be active as MJ5Z during the CQ WW DX RTTY Contest (September 26-27th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via LoTW or via ClubLog's OQRS. Look for activity before and after the contest using the callsign MJ0CFW.

NH0, MARIANA ISLANDS. Operators Toshiaki/JR2UYE, Miho/JJ2VLY and Yutaka/JQ2GYU will be active as NH0J from the commemorative J-Tinian Radio Space Club station on Tinian Island (OC-086) between August 8-13th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JJ2VLY direct or LoTW. Log is expected to be uploaded to Club Log during their activity. Look for possible updates at: <http://jq2gyu.blogspot.jp>

OY, FAROE ISLANDS. Rene, DL2JRM, Rene, will be active as OY/DL2JRM from the Faroe Islands (EU-018) between August 7-10th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using mostly CW. QSL via DL2JRM, by the Bureau or direct.

SV5, DODECANESE. Volker, DL1ZB, will once again be active as SV5/DL1ZB from Kos Island (EU-001) between August 12th and September 29th. Activity will be on 20-6 meters using SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK63. QSL via DL1ZB, by the Bureau, LoTW and eQSL.

T6/YI, IRAQ. Moustafa, F4HGL, will be in Baghdad, for six months starting at the end of June. He is currently awaiting his license, and he will be active during his free time mostly on SSB. QSL via F5OWK.

V6, MICRONESIA. Lance, W7GJ, will be active as V6M from Falalop Island, Ulithi Atoll (OC-078), between August 26th and September 3rd. Activity is to celebrate his 50th anniversary of VHF DXing and will be focused on 6 meters EME. QSL DIRECT ONLY to W7GJ. Complete details about his operation, can be found on: <http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/Micronesia2015.htm>

V6, MICRONESIA. Operators Yuji/JH2BNL (V6AAA) and Minekazu/JA2NQG (V6WW) active from Pohnpei Island (OC-010) between Oct 25-29th. Activity on all bands, 160-6 meters, using CW, SSB, and RTTY with 500 watts. They will take part in the CWWW DX SSB Contest during the final several hours of the contest. QSL via their home callsign.

VK9WA WILLIS ISLAND DXPEDITION NEWS (Update). An international team will activate an amateur radio DXpedition station VK9WA from Willis Islets between November 14-23rd. They announced this past week on their Web page <http://vk9wa.com> the following: "Our eight man team vk9wa.com/team is now complete. Fund-raising and planning continue. We're grateful for significant sponsorships by INDEXA www.indexa.org and the German DX Foundation www.gdxf.de. We're happy to announce a partnership with Tangaroa Blue Foundation www.tangaroablue.org and the Australian Marine Debris Initiative www.tangaroablue.org, in conjunction with Parks Australia and the Department of the Environment, to conduct an island cleanup and debris inventory of Middle Cay. This cleanup and our ecology and animal reports will provide valuable data and help protect the many sensitive and threatened species of Willis Island."

ADDED DETAILS: The on-air operations will last 10 days with high power CW, SSB, and RTTY on 160-10 meters (possibly 6 meters). Their primary focus will be providing all time new contacts with this highly demanded, rarely activated entity with an emphasis on difficult paths - primarily US East Coast, Europe, and Africa.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



IOTA NEWS.....

AS-117. Kenji JA4GXS, will once again be active as JA4GXS/4 from **Kasado Island** (Yamaguchi Prefecture) between August 22-23rd. Activity will be on 40/20/17/15/6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via JA4GXS, direct or by the Bureau.

EU-169. (Update) Alfredo, IK7JWX, and a team of operators will go on their third Italian IOTA DXpedition. Their next operation will be to **Sazan Island** (M.I.A. MA-01, ARLHS ALB-04 + 19 + 20, ILLW L-028, WW Loc JN90PM) and they will be active as ZA0I between September 2-9th. Activity will be on all bands including 30/17/12/6m using CW, SSB, PSK and RTTY. This will also be an all time new one for the WFF award - ZAFF-010: "Karaburun-Sazan" proclaimed in 2010, is the only national marine park of Albania. QSL Manager for Italy is IK7JWX; for the world is IK2DUW. Look for updates and other details on QRZ.com.

EU-174. Oliver, DK7TX, will be heading back to Greece between September 3-16th, and will be active as SV8/DK7TX to activate 2-3 islands in this IOTA group. Possible islands are **Artemis**, **Ammouliani** and **Diaporos**. Activity will be holiday style mostly on 20/15/10 meters. He may also sign SV2/DK7TX from Nikiti-Chalkidiki. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or eQSL.

NA-248. (New IOTA) Cezar, VE3LYC, is planning to activate **Melville Island** sometime between Aug 3-10th (Exact dates TBA). Landing permission and logistics have been granted. Full details will be announced soon on a Web page.

OC-139. Rob, VK4AAC, will once again be active as VK4AAC/5 from **Kangaroo Island** (WLOTA 0869) between June 1st and August 25th. Activity will be on 40/20 meters SSB. Rob will also try to activate Flinders Chase National Park (WWFF VKFF-173), Dudley CP (VKFF- 809), Kelly Hill CP (VKFF-810) and Vivonne Bay CP (VKFF-811). QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct (see QRZ.com)

OC-262. Imam, YB4IR, will be active as YB4IR/p from **Tikus Island** in Aug (dates not listed yet). Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW, ClubLog's OQRS, by his home callsign direct or by the Bureau.

DON'T WASTE YOUR QSLs!! It has been brought to our attention that QSLs sent via the 4th Area QSL Bureau to Carl, WC4H, do not get answered. He will only accept requests with SASE with sufficient postage, etc. His Web page on QRZ.com confirms he wants no (zero) cards via the Bureau. The 4th Area QSL Bureau Manager informs that he get 15-20 cards each and every month for Carl, and has finally given up trying to get him to take the QSLs. He won't even send any envelopes to the Bureau for his call sign. The Bureau Manager states that he is even seeing 2nd and 3rd requests sent to Carl, so don't waste your QSLs.

OK! That's it for this month's report. AS I have mentioned in my previous reports, it's up to you to make Amateur Radio as interesting as possible for yourselves. Get on the air and work some DX.

Until next time, GUD DX!!73,

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



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



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



EmComm

The Communications Unit has spent time this summer training on the use of cross-band repeaters in the field. The effort was led by Rick, K8CAV, who created a frequency matrix that CU members could use for programming their radios with a common channel scheme. He then provided training at a CU meeting which the members then had a chance to use during a field drill in June.

In a similar vein, Steve, K8SRR, has taken the lead on getting CU members up to speed on the use of broadband/hamnet technology. This was previously referred to as HSSM/mesh networking and it involves the repurposing of wifi routers into, effectively, low power amateur radio transceivers for use in the 2.4 GHz band.

Steve has provided two trainings at CU meetings and the PCARS Digital SIG meeting on August 4th will be a workshop on broadband/hamnet with an opportunity for participants to update the software that has been flashed onto their wifi routers. There have been some changes to the broadband software that necessitate the update.

In August, the CU members will then be doing some in-the-field training on the use of the broadband, both for moving voice and data traffic and for the transmission of video images.

The past several months have been a period of change for the Military Auxiliary Radio Services (MARS). Navy/Marine Corps MARS operations are being terminated and Navy/MC members have been encouraged to volunteer for Army or Air Force MARS service.

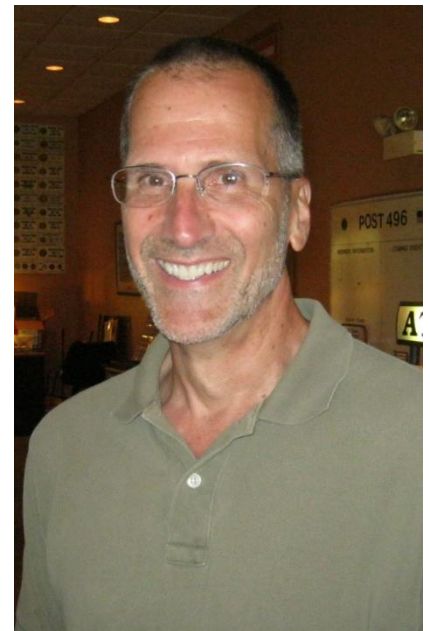


Army MARS, which over the past eighteen months has been repurposing itself as a provider of supportive communications to the military, has also been tightening up its enforcement of participation requirements. A number of Army MARS members have left the service, mainly due to issues with MARS leadership and the change in mission, but also because of participation.

After eight years as an Army MARS member, I have left that service and have applied to become a member of Air Force MARS. I hope to be receiving my call sign in the next few weeks.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- * **Bellefaire Biathlon**, 8/23, POC TBS
- * **Mantua Potato Stomp**, 9/12, Jim, KC8PD, kc8pd@portcars.org



73,

Jim, KC8PD

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



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



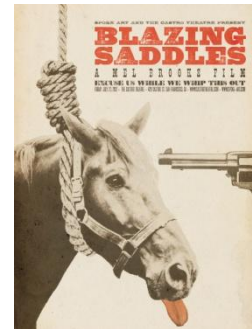
Net Night at the Club Site

Fun was had by all that attended the Net Night at the Club Site on July 23rd. Following the Thursday evening nets it was MOVIE TIME. The classic Mel Brooks film "*Blazing Saddles*" was shown.



In keeping with the theme, a pot of baked beans was offered and before the night was done, every single bean was gone.

No reports of gas explosions in Ravenna were noticed on the evening news.....



Linux for Hams SIG

The September 29th meeting of the Linux for Hams SIG will be given to the 2016 Field Day Planning Committee. Chuck, W8PT and Tom, WB8LCD will be leading the committee meeting.

We had our first meeting at the July CW/QRP SIG with a good turnout of members, many new ideas were discussed, and assignments were given to a few members to give a report of their findings at the September meeting. If you would like to attend the next planning committee meeting it will be at the PCARS Clubhouse Radio Room at 7:00 pm on the 29th.

Best 72/73,
Terry, KB8AMZ

GI Day at the Club Site!

I bet you all thought we were hosting soldier right? *hi hi*. Well no but for those of you who have served in the military you'll recognize that it means "a thorough cleaning and organizing" and after Field Day that's exactly what our club site needs.



On Saturday August 8th starting at 9 AM we're doing a complete cleaning and organizing at the club site. I need volunteers to help with the effort! We need to organize the radio room, get the computers back on-line, hang all of our plaques and awards, organize the second bay, lots of sweeping and cleaning, some mowing and weed whipping outside so there's LOTS to do. And in addition to bringing yourselves, if you could bring cleaning supplies and basic hand tools and maybe a mower and weed whip that would be appreciated as well!

Drop me an e-mail at k8cav@portcars.org and let me know if you can participate and what you could bring.

Thanks to all!! & 73,
Rick, K8CAV

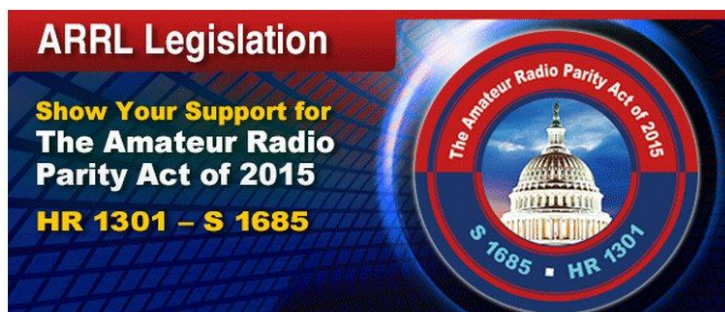


Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



House Bill 1301 and Senate Bill 1685

Amateur Radio Parity Act: A companion bill to House Bill 1301 has been introduced in the US Senate. It is Senate Bill S. 1685, introduced by Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker, with Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut as the initial Cosponsor. We have full details on the ARRL Web pages related to field support of this measure. Our efforts with House Bill 1301 are continuing very well with your support, as of Tuesday June 30, we have reached 84 cosponsors. Current FCC Regulations allow homeowners in deed-restricted residences to install TV receive only (TVRO) antennas. This includes both dish antennas and conventional over the air antennas. "Amateur Radio Parity Act" HB 1301 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to direct the FCC to allow Radio Amateurs to have "parity" with the current TVRO antenna regulations and install reasonable ham radio antennas. The new ARRL Web Page <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> contains the complete text of both bills.



August Hot Deals Day 2015 - DX Engineering

DX Engineering, a long time supporter of PCARS, sent this in:

"We are excited to announce that DX Engineering will be having a sale at our headquarters near Akron, Ohio. We're calling it "August Hot Deals," and we are extending you an invitation to attend.

It begins at **9 am on Saturday, August 15**. Our DX Engineering staff will be on-hand in the DX Engineering Clearance area to answer questions until noon Saturday. The sale will last through 9 pm on Sunday, August 16 (only at the DX Engineering store, not available on the web).

Think of it as a DX Engineering in-house Hamfest where you can get huge discounts on open box gear and inventory reduction items. We'll have antennas, tools, power supplies, clocks, weather stations, coaxial cable remnants and more. Plus, you'll be able to purchase and pick up your in-stock order that same day!



The deals will only be good at our DX Engineering Clearance area, inside the Summit Racing Retail Super Store at 1200 Southeast Ave. in Tallmadge, Ohio. These Hot August Deals will not be available on the web.

Please add the date to your calendar of events, newsletter and website, and spread the word to your club members and friends. We hope to see you there!"



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



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 !!



August	
6	K8CAV
13	KB8UHN
20	KB8UUZ
27	NR8W
Net Night at the Cruise In	

October	
1	WB8LCD
8	N8QE
15	WB2DFC
22	KB8UUZ
29	KB8UHN

September	
3	WB8LCD
10	K8CAV
17	KC8PD
24	KD8FDK



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

Let's Talk

Wow!! I think this has to be the wettest summer on record! "Rain, rain go away, come again some other day."

I do have to tell ya', even though we had the rainiest Field Day that I can ever remember, I do believe we had one of the best ones for sure!! Yes, it was miserable out, but like I've been reminding everyone, Field Day is really an exercise for when something bad is going to happen, and I can tell you all from personal experience, when it does happen, this is the kind of weather you can expect. So, for the tactical side of this exercise, it was a huge success!! Yes, that's right, a huge success!! I can't think of a better way to demonstrate just how well we can function even in the most miserable weather conditions than we this that weekend. It was great!! Everywhere I went I saw nothing but smiling faces, a friendly handshake and absolutely the greatest food in the world.. Boy, do the hams in Ohio like to eat! There was every kind of food being prepared that you could imagine. At one of the Field Day site they even had a professional chef on board! Can you imagine the food at that location? And now, for the record, I visited 14 Field Day sites, driving 565 miles in that 24 hour period. A number of my Cabinet members also took on the challenge and visited a lot of sites as well. So, if you didn't see one of us out and about, we'll be sure to give it our best to be there next year.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Field Day pictures. Yes, we have a lot of them posted on the website. Go take a look at them <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/fd-pix/index.php> (Editors Note: YES, PCARS has a BUNCH of pictures posted there !)

As many of you are noticing, I'm making a very conscience effort to get to as many club functions and meetings as I can all around the state. As you know, the Ohio Section is the largest Section in the country. It's even bigger than a Division or two. So, with that in mind, it's only fair to say that Ohio also deserves to have a full time Section Manager. So, don't be surprised when I just "pop-in" at your meeting or function.

I did get to two Boy Scout meetings this past month and had a great time. If you've never visited a Boy Scout Troupe meeting, I would encourage you to do so. It's a lot of fun and wow.. are these kids ever bright! I am working on scheduling more visits with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and YES, even the Girl Scouts this next coming fall/winter. There's a lot of potential there that needs tapped for sure. You need to make sure that your club is involved with youth groups. Make sure that you have a contact with the local Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts as well as a teacher or teachers from the middle schools involved with your club. Don't forget, the youth of today will be taking over this great "hobby" of ours, but not without your support and willingness to bring them along. These kids are out there, YOU just need to take the first step forward and approach them on it.

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://arrlohio.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, how do I know so much about the website?? I'm the webmaster for it!

There's another NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website. I change the question at hand about once every couple of weeks or so. It only asks one question and it will take all of about 2 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others instantly.

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 its 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 is a lot of very good and exciting news and happenings on the Ohio Section website. If it isn't your home page on your browser, it should be!!



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Division Convention. The Great Lakes Division will be holding a Division Convention this year in conjunction with the Columbus Hamfest on August 1st. There's going to be lots of great forums that will be of particular interest to ARES® / NTS folks, as well as those who are not as involved. These forums are a combined effort of all 3 of the Section Emergency Coordinators and Section Managers in the Division, as well as other experts in their fields from all around the Great Lakes Division. This is the only place that you can get that type of ARRL sanctioned training with that level of expertise. Don't miss out on this opportunity. And, since we know that your time is very valuable to you, we have combined all of this with a hamfest. FUN, training and a hamfest all rolled up into one day, and one very exciting event.

Oh, by the way, here are the forums. NTS/OSSBN, ARES®, NVISX, DX, Digital Voice, HF Sound Card Modes, and of course there will be the ARRL Forum where a number of awards will be given out as well. And even a special event will happen this year. YES, there IS a Wouff Hong scheduled this year as well!!

Now if that isn't enough to get you to come, then let me tell ya' this. We will have a special guest from the League there as well!! Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, who is the Educational Service Manager will be there to answer your questions and let you in on what's happening at the League. WOW. Lots of things to do and see at the Convention!!

Look for the specific details of this event and the forums on the <http://arrlgreatlakes.org> website.

Now you ALL definitely have a stake in the Division Convention!! Your attendance will definitely be even more demanding and exciting. Make sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, August 01 at the Aladdin Shrine Hall (just across the street from Easton Mall) on Stelzer Road in Columbus. **Be there, or be square.**

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*.



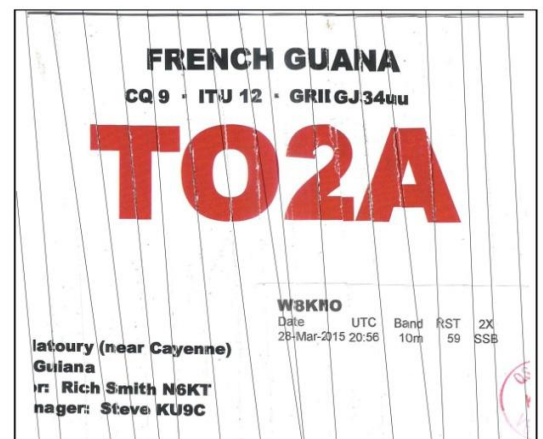
73,
Scott, N8SY
ARRL Ohio Section Manager

Straight or Crosscut Shredder?

Joe, W8KNO sent this in. He accidentally shredded a QSL card with his straight cut paper shredder.

Joe said "It was between a couple pieces of junk mail! Luckily it happened on Friday after I put the garbage out and all the other papers I shredded were 8-1/2 x 11. It made it easy to sort out the small pieces and with my kindergarten glue stick I was able to put it back together."

Good thing it was not a cross cut shredder !!!



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Ameritron AL-1500 full legal limit-plus 160M-10M amplifier. Complete with manual and original shipping boxes. Excellent condition non-smoker, like-new tube still capable of 2000+ watts so it loafs at 1500 watts. Asking \$2000 – pick up, or I will deliver to your northeast Ohio QTH. Reason for sale – I have too many amplifiers!

Contact: Al, K8EUR by phone at 440-345-5217 or email at K8EUR@portcars.org [11/02/15]

FOR SALE: Alliance HD-73 Heavy Duty Rotator Package Used, in service for 10 years then stored. Dual speed, maximum of 10.7 sq/ft wind load, 6 conductor wire required. One working Rotator, One not working Rotator (for parts or rebuild—motor tries to turn), Two working Control Boxes in excellent condition. Original manuals. Package only. \$75.

FOR SALE: Alinco DM-330MV Switching Power Supply Output 5-15 VDC @ 32A (max) 30A (continuous), Volt/Amp meter, terminals and cigarette outlet. Compact 6.9W x 2.6H x 6.5 D. Excellent condition in original box with data sheet. \$85.

Contact: Bill, K8KW by email at KW8KW@sbcglobal.net [10/02/15]

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-711, 2 Meter all mode, \$400 **FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-811**, 440 all mode, \$400

FOR SALE: Icom IC-271H, 2 Meter All mode \$300 **FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-411**, 2 Meter Hand Held, \$5

FOR SALE: Heathkit HM-102, SWR/Power meter, \$20 **FREE: Motorola MH-10**

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-208R, 2 Meter Hand Held \$5 **FOR SALE: Astatic D-105 Mic**, \$10 ea, Qty of 2

FOR SALE: DigiMax, D-500 Frequency Counter, \$10

FOR SALE: Kantronics Packet Communicator 3, \$20

FOR SALE: Electro Voice Model 638 Microphone, \$20

If interested make offer. Also I have several towers for sale, contact me for information

Contact: Allan, AB8AA by e-mail at: AB8AA@portcars.org [10/02/15]

FOR SALE: Cushcraft A3S with 40M Add-On-Kit - On the ground. Gently used. May need some work on traps. Make a creative offer !

Contact: Tom, WB8LCD by e-mail at WB8LCD@portcars.org [09/02/15]

FOR SALE: Icom IC-746 PRO - with power cable and microphone - \$800.00

Contact Richard, KA8OAT by phone at 330-898-6248 or e-mail at KA8OAT@portcars.org [09/02/15]

FOR SALE: 40 ft. Antenna Tower - Used, needs cleaning and painting. \$0.00 plus tax. Good Deal.

Kenwood TS140S - Works well, external speaker included. \$250.00

Contact: Rich, KD8FDK by e-mail at KD8FDK@portcars.org [09/02/15]

FOR SALE: Siemens SpreedStream 4100 DSL modem - Great for Echolink - have 2 - \$10.00 each

Linksys Wireless-G 2.4Ghz router - Great for Echolink - 54Mbps - Model WRT54G - \$14.00

WANTED: iPhone 5s. Current phone too old to work with dx spot apps or echolink.

Contact: Bucky, N8OQQ by e-mail at N8OQQ@portcars.org [09/02/15]

FOR SALE: MFJ-269B Antenna Analyzer Covers HF/VHF/UHF. Comes with manual **and** \$16 MFJ plug-in AC wall adapter. Cost new \$369 - Will sell for \$210

Astron SS-30M Power Supply Has Amp & Volt meters. 30 Amps at 13.8 Vdc Peak. Cost new \$149 - Will sell for \$99.

Contact: Parky, KB8UUZ by e-mail at: KB8UUZ@portcars.org [12/02/15]



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Affiliated Club Competition in ARRL Contests

If you looked on page 83 of the August issue of QST, you will find a box titled "Affiliated Club Competition" You will also note that PCARS was not listed. To appear in the list a club must first be an Affiliated Club, must compete in one of the following contests:

1. January VHF Sweepstakes
2. January RTTY Roundup
3. February International DX - CW Contest
4. March International DX - SSB Contest
5. June VHF QSO Party
6. August UHF Contest
7. September VHF QSO Party
8. November Sweepstakes - CW Contest
9. November Sweepstakes - SSB Contest
10. December 160 Meter Contest
11. December 10 Meter Contest

Contests and Radiosport

Contesting is one of the great activities of Amateur Radio. It boosts your technical knowledge and improves your radio operating skills—helping make you a better Amateur. Check out the 19 annual contests sponsored by ARRL.



At least **three** club members must have participated and submitted their results (and listed their club name as **Portage County Amateur Radio Service**). Within thirty days of the contest, a club representative must notify the ARRL what category PCARS participated in (*I'm the one that sends in the information based on members letting me know they participated and sent in a log*).

There are three categories Unlimited, Medium and Local. Local is for a club with 3-10 members submitting and PCARS has been in this category in most of the contests except for one contest. To determine which category we are in, I need to know who participated and that's why you see the e-mail asking if you participated. So, please, send me an e-mail and let me know.

59, Ohio,
Joe, W8KNO
Club Contest Scorekeeper

Hamvention® 2015 Attendance

The Hamvention® committee announced that the attendance for 2015 was 25,621. That was an increase from 2014 when 24,873 attended. Previous attendance totals were:

1991	33,500
1992	33,000
1993	33,669
1994	35,000
1995	33,000
1997	28,000

1998	28,120
1999	28,176
2000	28,804
2001	26,151
2002	24,832
2003	22,168

2004	19,869
2005	20,411
2006	20,324
2007	19,318
2008	17,250
2009	18,877

2010	19,750
2011	22,312
2012	24,483
2013	24,542
2014	24,873
2015	25,621



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



ARRL Board Approves Dues Hike, HF Band Plan Changes, 2016 National Parks Centennial Event and More

Meeting over the weekend in Windsor, Connecticut, **the ARRL Board of Directors has approved a \$10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016.** In doing so, the Board adopted a recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee. ARRL basic dues have been held at \$39 a year since 2001. In addition, the Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan - with some tweaks, okayed a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial (*see editor's notes below*), began the search for a successor to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will retire next May, and named several ARRL award recipients. Sumner said the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option.



The ARRL Board of Directors met July 17-19 in Windsor, Connecticut. [Steve Ford, WB8IMY, photo]

capacity an opportunity to support their national association at a higher level.”

Enhanced membership services since 2001 include inauguration of Logbook of The World® (LoTW), a digital edition of QST at no additional cost, expanded QST and video product reviews, ARRL publications for Kindle, Online Exam Review, and free license renewal assistance. The League also has upgraded its public service support with additional staff, the Ham Aid program, Emergency Communications Training, and the ARES® E-Letter. Also new since 2001 are the Education & Technology program, the Teachers Institutes on Wireless Technology, and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

Advocacy on behalf of Amateur Radio has included relentless defense of Amateur Radio spectrum, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and an increased awareness of the value of Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill. The League also mounted a centennial celebration in 2014 that included a national and six regional conventions, the Centennial QSO Party, and W1AW portable operations.

Details of ARRL's revenues and expenditures are available in its Annual Report archive for 2002 to 2014.

“ARRL manages its resources judiciously and keeps costs as low as possible while maintaining a consistently high level of service for all members,” Sumner concluded. “Raising dues will ensure that high-quality programs and services will continue for all members as we provide a unified voice that protects and promotes all of Amateur Radio.”



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



ARRL HF Band Plan

In other business, the Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan recommended by the HF Band Planning Committee in its July 2015 report, with one major change from the proposals as outlined in the April 2015 issue of QST and summarized on the ARRL website. That change was to set the upper RTTY/data limit for 20 meters at 14.125 MHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 band plan.

Rule Making Petition to FCC

The Board also authorized the preparation of a rule making petition to the FCC, seeking changes in the 80 and 75 meter bands that are consistent with majority opinion among more than 1000 responses to an online membership survey. The petition would seek to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 to 3650 kHz. It also would restore privileges in the 3600-3650 kHz segment to Advanced, General, Technician, and Novice licensees.

In addition, the League will ask the FCC to shift the automatically controlled digital station (ACDS) band segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and Region 2 band plans, and authorize Technician and Novice licensees to use RTTY/data emissions in their 15 and 80 meter band segments, the latter contingent on expansion of the 80 meter band.

CEO Successor Search

Additional details are forthcoming, but the Board will begin its search for a successor to CEO Sumner, who has set a target retirement date of May 1, 2016. Sumner will be 67 and will have been on the Headquarters full-time staff for 44 years. He was named Secretary and General Manager in 1982, with a change in title to Executive Vice President in 1985, and the additional title of Chief Executive Officer in 2001 (the title of Executive Vice President was phased out in 2011).

ARRL 2016 National Convention


The Board authorized the holding of an ARRL National Convention in Orlando, Florida, February 12-14, 2016, in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of Orlando HamCation.

From the ARRL

Editor's Notes on National Parks:

Makes you wonder if the ARRL took PCARS Ohio State Parks On The Air to a higher level... Anyway, here is some interesting information about our National Parks (Note, ARRL said **National Parks (59)**, *however, it appears that there will be more parks and sites included that fall under the responsibility of the National Park Service*. At present there are 407 possibilities - and the number will probably change (up as new ones are added, and down as some are restricted and taken off the list).



The complete list of entities can be found here:  (Click on the small patch)

The list is actually growing. The president has already authorized four new units and there are other potential units in the pipeline including the Manhattan Project Park. The official announcement from the ARRL will include the complete list of units in play.

There will be some units that could be activated almost on a daily basis and others could be quite rare, especially those deep in Alaska.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



(Some of the types in this list [typed in bold] have links you can follow)

Type	Number
National Park (List of National Parks of the United States)	59
National Monument (List of national monuments of the United States)	80
National Preserve	19
National Historical Park	49
National Historic Site	78
International Historic Site	1
National Battlefield Park	4
National Military Park	9
National Battlefield	11
National Battlefield Site	1
National Memorial (List of national memorials of the United States)	30
National Recreation Area	18
National Seashore (List of United States national lakeshores and seashores)	10
National Lakeshore (List of United States national lakeshores and seashores)	4
National River	15
National Reserve	2
National Parkway	4
National Trail	3
Other	11
Total	407





PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!





Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th





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 53 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 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/>

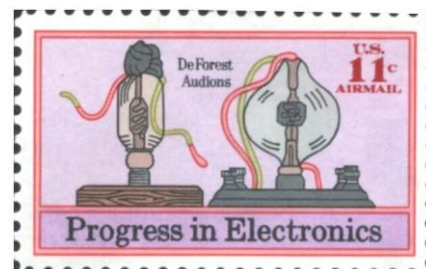
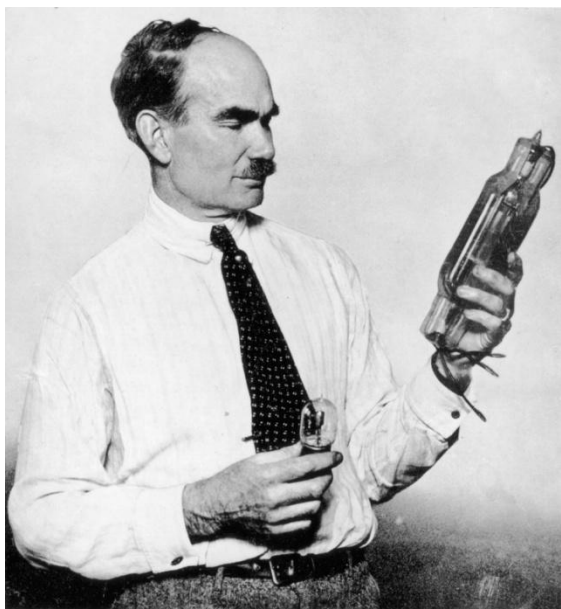


Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Lee de Forest - 1873 - 1961 - The Audion Vacuum Tube

Birthday - American inventor Lee De Forest (1873-1961) was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa on **August 26, 1873**. He held hundreds of patents for inventions and was also a pioneer in the creation of wireless radio broadcasting and television.



Lee de Forest's father was a minister and hoped that his son would follow in his footsteps. In order to be trained for this calling, de Forest left Alabama for prep school in Massachusetts. His life at school was hard, with chores as well as academics, plus work to supplement his scholarship. Besides, he was not well-liked there. Biographers report he was extremely concerned with getting recognition from his peers, an issue which lasted throughout his life. Alas, he only won acknowledgement as "homeliest boy in school."

Despite this, he was confident. During school, de Forest had tried to get money (and fame) by inventing things he might sell or enter in contests, but none were great successes. After receiving a PhD

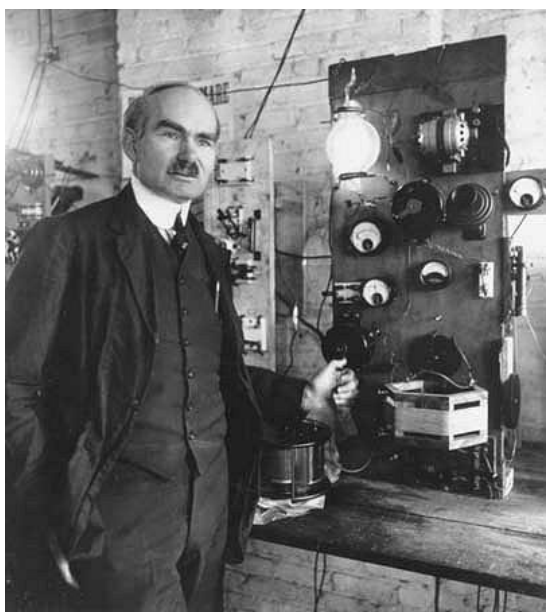
from Yale in 1896 with a dissertation on radio waves, he developed an improved wireless telegraph receiver. By 1902, he had founded the De Forest Wireless Telegraph Company but like other firms he would start, it failed because of poor business practices.

De Forest was extremely creative and energetic, but often was unable to see the potential of his inventions or grasp their theoretical implications. While working on improving wireless telegraph equipment, he modified the work of other inventors and created the Audion, a vacuum tube containing



some gas. It was a triode, incorporating a filament and a plate, like ordinary vacuum tubes, but also a grid between the filament and plate. This strengthened the current through the tube, amplifying weak telegraph and even radio signals. De Forest thought the gas was a necessary part of the system. In 1912, others showed that a triode in a complete vacuum would work far better.

This kind of "nearly getting it" would characterize de Forest's life. In 1912, he developed a feedback circuit, which would increase the output of a radio transmitter and produce alternating current. He didn't see the worth of his discovery, though, and by the time he applied for a patent in 1915, it had already been patented by E. Howard Armstrong. De Forest sued, with legal action lasting until 1934. He won, but the radio industry always credited Armstrong with



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



the invention. His other major contribution was to the film industry. In the 1920s, he had been trying to use electricity to improve sound recordings. He found a way to record sound on film, again adapting the work of others and using his Audion. This led directly to the creation of motion pictures with sound. He applied for a patent in 1921 (awarded in 1924) and tried to interest the film industry in his technology. They resisted. Hollywood didn't start talking until 1927 when The Jazz Singer appeared in theaters as the first feature-length "talkie" using a method different from de Forest's work. Ironically, the industry later reverted to the sound method de Forest first proposed.

Throughout his tumultuous life -- many failed businesses, ongoing lawsuits, patent applications, and four marriages -- de Forest promoted radio and later television as a way to raise Americans' cultural awareness. In 1910, he attempted the first live broadcast from New York's Metropolitan Opera House (starring Enrico Caruso). In 1916, he pioneered radio news, broadcasting -- although incorrectly -- the results of the presidential election. He was disappointed with how radio and television evolved, however, and was deeply critical of its low standards. De Forest wrote an autobiography entitled Father of Radio, but did not get that recognition from the rest of the world. He is remembered as one contributor to an industry that was, in truth, the work of many people.



From the Lee de Forest web site
for more information visit: http://www.leedeforest.org/The_Audion.html

THE DE FOREST AUDION

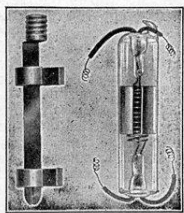
"There is only *one* Audion—the De Forest"

MOST SENSITIVE

The Bulletin of the U. S. Bureau of Standards states that the De Forest Audion is fully 50 per cent. more sensitive than any other known form of detector (Vol. 6, No. 4, page 540).

MOST RELIABLE

It is not affected by mechanical vibration nor burned out by static or the transmitting spark. It never fails at the critical moment. The detector is the heart of the receiving set. Why waste valuable time on an insensitive, unreliable detector? The genuine De Forest Audion is now within the means of every operator.



THE GENUINE DE FOREST
TUBULAR AUDION

Is sold separately to any amateur who prefers to build his own Audion Detector. **Price \$5.50**

Adapter 40 cents extra.
Get the Bulletin (X16)

WARNING—You are entitled to the genuine Audion, guaranteed by the owners of the Audion patents, when making an investment of this kind. Any evacuated detector having a filament, a grid and a plate, as well as other types, are covered by our patents, and several irresponsible infringers are being prosecuted. To be safe and get full value for your money, insist on the genuine De Forest Audion.

SEND FOR BULLETINS X16 AND M16 DESCRIBING AUDION

Detectors, Audion Amplifiers and Audion Receiving Cabinets

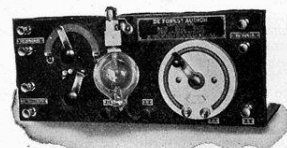
DE FOREST RADIO TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO.

101 PARK AVENUE

--

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Makers of the Highest Grade Receiving Equipment in the World



THE TYPE RJ9 DE FOREST AUDION
DETECTOR

Incorporates the Audion Bulb and the genuine De Forest patented circuits with the most approved accessories needed to form a complete detector.

The most popular Audion Detector ever offered. **Price \$14.00**

Get the Bulletin (M16)

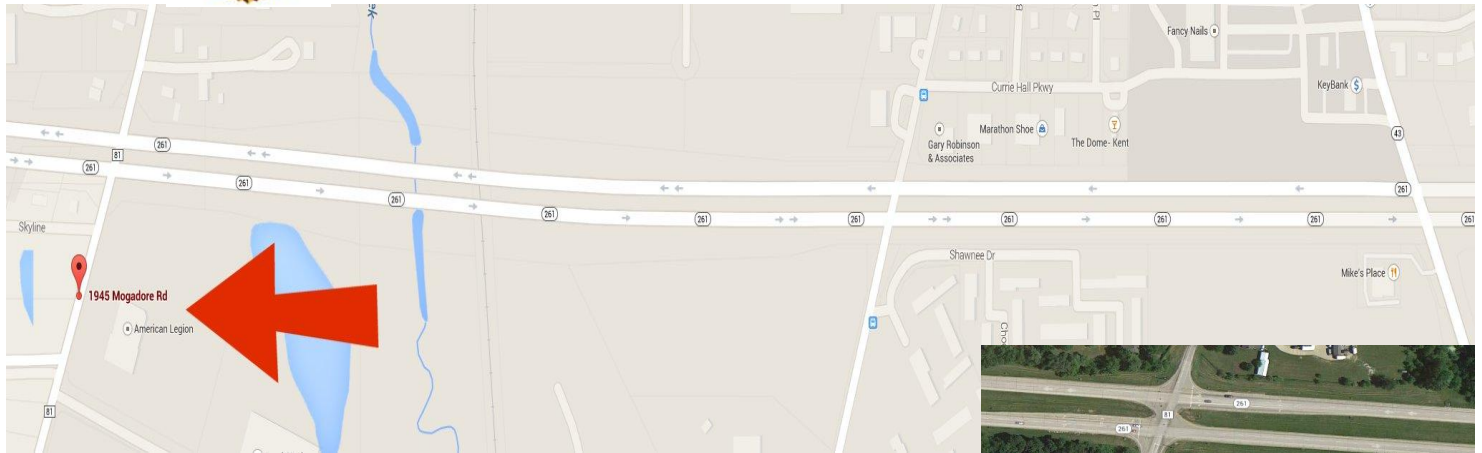


PCARS Meetings

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.



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OSPOTA - September 12th

Hello OSPOTA fans. Seems like Summer is passing faster than usual and that means the 8th annual OSPOTA is coming up sooner than you think. Make your plans, test that antenna set up, get out there and have some fun during OSPOTA 2015 on September 12th from noon to 8:00 pm local time.



We try to keep up on what's happening at the Ohio State Parks and as of July 25th, Latest word from ODNR is that Lake White Ohio State Park is still closed - they have construction going on with the earthen dam and the park -might- open again in 2017. Buckeye Lake Ohio State Park is open, but ODNR is doing work on the beach areas.

Now - with all this rain we have been having, who knows - it may rain during OSPOTA - make sure you have plans for some sort of shelter. AND, make sure where ever you set up is not in an area that would be prone to a flash flood - *please*, be safe out there. Let's all get out there and make as many contacts as we can during OSPOTA 2015.

Another note to remember - you are visiting an Ohio State Park. You are just a visitor, so please keep the area neat and clean and check the surrounding area to pick up any trash accidentally dropped before you depart.

Also, as in the past, some park officials seem to think that since you are participating in OSPOTA, you need some sort of permit - You do not need a permit. You are just a visitor to the park that happens to be a ham operator testing out emergency communications with other hams in other state parks - again, you are a visitor to the park.



You have no special rights as to where you can set up and please don't make any demands to a Park Ranger. That's the easiest way to get tossed out of a State Park. Be polite, invite the Park Ranger(s) to see what you are doing and make sure you let him/her know that this is really like practicing emergency communications for public service. More and more governmental agencies such as Police, Public Health Departments, EMA, FEMA, Dept of Health & Human Services, Red Cross, etc. recognize how important amateur radio is for emergency communications. "***When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio Works***". Most of the time when you talk to the Park Rangers about this aspect - they think it's pretty cool and they leave you alone.

So - be polite - and most of all **HAVE FUN!** Take some pictures while you're out there, too. Check the rules again (they are posted here and on the main OSPOTA web site - since late last year). Pick a Park and go for it!



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Digital Special Interest Group

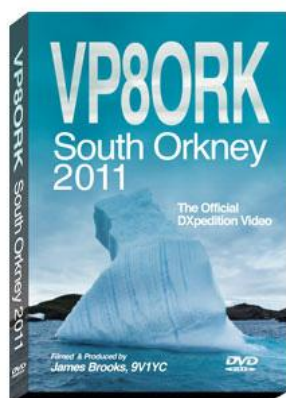
The PCARS Digital Special Interest Group will meet on Tuesday August 4th at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. This month's topic will be hands on upgrading/firmware flashing for the Linksys and Ubiquiti routers.

If you haven't upgraded for a while, you need to do this so your mesh node will work with everyone else's nodes who have upgraded. Steve, K8SRR will be there to help out. As always we'll be there to assist with any digital problems you may be having.



73,
Rick, K8CAV

DX/Contest Special Interest Group



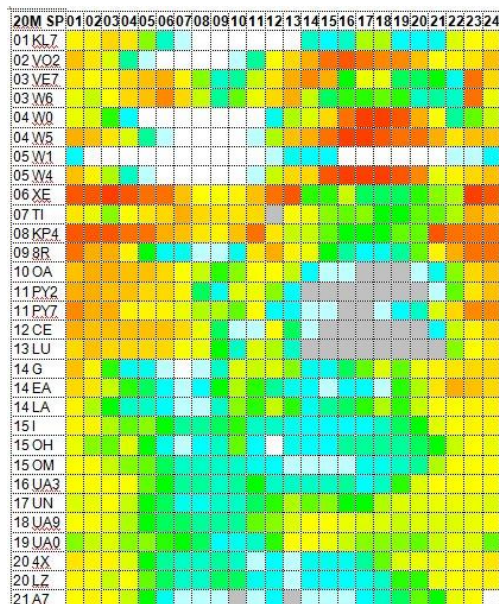
Our August DX/Contest Special Interest Group meeting will be held on August 25th (that's the 4th Tuesday) at 7 PM at our club site.

We will be briefly reviewing our performance in the **Ohio QSO Party** which will have taken place the previous Saturday. If time permits we will also view a DVD on the **2011 DXpedition to South Orkney Island (VP8ORK)**.

So I look forward to seeing you there.

Till then - 73,
Chuck, W8PT

VOACAP Propagation Planner



New, User-Friendly VOACAP Propagation Planner (<http://www.voacap.com/planner.html>) Debuts: A revamped online service, VOACAP Propagation Planner, a comprehensive, free-of-charge planning tool for HF contesters and DXers, is now available.

The more user-friendly beta version 2.0 does all the heavy lifting and number crunching on the VOACAP server and displays the results graphically by CQ or ITU zones (short-path or long-path) and by band-specific zone charts (also short-path or long-path). Tables can easily be copied into word processing software.

More information (<http://voacap.blogspot.fi/2015/07/voacap-propagation-planner-revisited.html>) is available at The Official VOACAP Blog.

Jari Perkiömäki, OH6BG

Editors Note: The graph to the left is my setup for 20 meters in July - this is NICE



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



How Much Performance Do You Really Need?

A reader recently e-mailed me: “Just a quick question – Are you still in the thinking stage about getting an Elecraft K3? Great rigs, aren’t they?”

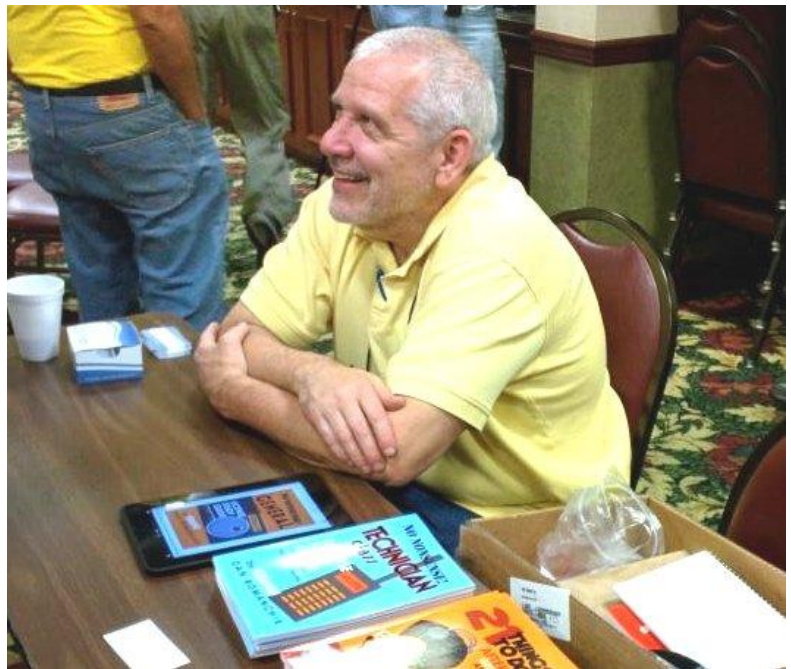
“What I would like you to think about, though, is how many contacts you log in one year’s time. If you log 100 per year (check your log) then your cost will be \$50 per contact for that year. If you log 500, then your cost will be \$10 per contact. If you keep that rig for three years, and log 500 contacts over that time, then you will have spent \$10 per contact.

“Now, consider what that rig will be worth in three years. Will there be something come along that just blows the K3 away in terms of performance?”

I replied: “K3s are great radios. I’ve just purchased a used KX3, though, so I am not planning on getting a K3 in the near future. I have purchased a 50-W HobbyPCB amp to use with the KX3, so I’m not going full QRP.

“I make a lot of QSOs/year. My average over the last 13 years is more than three per day, and that doesn’t include contacts made with other callsigns, such as the club station, or on Field Day. I’m sure that my cost/QSO will be low enough to justify my investment. :)

“In addition, rigs seem to keep their value pretty well. I’d guess that you can sell a three-year-old K3 for at least 80% of what you paid for it. I think that one of the reasons that an Elecraft K3 is worth the investment is that Elecraft provides such good customer support, and that they are continually improving their radios. For example, they just came out with a new synthesizer board, with better RF specs, for the K3.



“I don’t see anyone coming out with a radio that blows the K3 away in terms of performance in the near future, although I might be wrong. FlexRadio has perhaps the best chance of doing that, but you’ll have to buy into the Flex user interface philosophy to take advantage of that. I think that Elecraft and Flex, plus the three Japanese manufacturers, will make incremental performance improvements over the coming years, leapfrogging one another as they bring out new models.

“One thing to think about is how much performance is overkill? Just like you can now buy a computer that has way more computer power than the average user will ever need, I think that most of these high-end radios offer way more performance than the average ham will ever need. It’s cool to look at the Sherwood Engineering receiver tests and see that your rig is in the top ten, but will the average ham actually notice the difference? My guess is probably not. “Thanks for sparking my thought process on these issues.”

My guess is that most amateur radio operators don't think about what the rig will be worth in three years



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when buying an HF transceiver. Instead, they're looking at what the radios that are currently available cost, and when there's a big price difference between two models that appeal to them, they're trying to figure out if the higher price is warranted. In many cases, the lower-priced model wins out. It's not because the more expensive radio isn't better, but it's not that much better.

It all goes back to how much performance you actually need. Yes, you can probably do more with a \$10,000 radio than you can with a \$1,500 radio, but is it really worth the added expense? In other words, are you going to have more fun with a \$10,000 radio than you are with a \$1,500 radio?

Dan, KB6NU

Let me know what you think. E-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com

When he's not agonizing over what radio to buy, Dan operates CW on 30m and blogs about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com. He's the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and the CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.

K8BF - On The Air - Ohio QSO Party

Attention all PCARS Contesters and friends of PCARS who would also like to sit in at one of our operator positions during a contest. PCARS Club station - K8BF - will be participating again in this year's Ohio QSO Party. The event takes place on August 22nd and runs from Noon to Midnight local time.

We will have three stations operating both CW and SSB. We will again be class Multi-Multi low power. Low power means that all rigs will be limited to 100 watts maximum.

I will be scheduling a meeting prior to the event to review the rules and make sure that everyone that will be operating will be familiar with our equipment.



Hope to see you there!

Chuck, W8PT

Hamfest Report - Randolph Hamfest

This was the first time I had attended the Hamfair in ten years. I went because I had a shopping list of three items I needed. I was lucky and got one of them. I saw many friends and had a nice time. The Hamfair like many has become smaller and it covered on isle outside and most of the Commercial Building. VE testing was available and everyone passed, three up-upgrades and one new licensee. The weather was beautiful and helped make the day enjoyable.



Joe, W8KNO



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K3LR Contest Station Tour Scheduled

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, August 29th. PCARS has been invited to visit and tour the Super Contest Station of K3LR. Our last visit was in May of 2014. If you missed that, this is your chance to see what is behind that booming signal heard around the world during contests.



Tim Duffy, K3LR is a long time friend of PCARS. Tim extended the invitation and will host the tour for our members starting at 11:00 am.

Due to limited parking at K3LR, PCARS members are asked to meet at the PCARS club site so we can car pool to K3LR. We will depart from the club site at 10:00 am. Come on out and see the changes made at K3LR since the last time we were there.

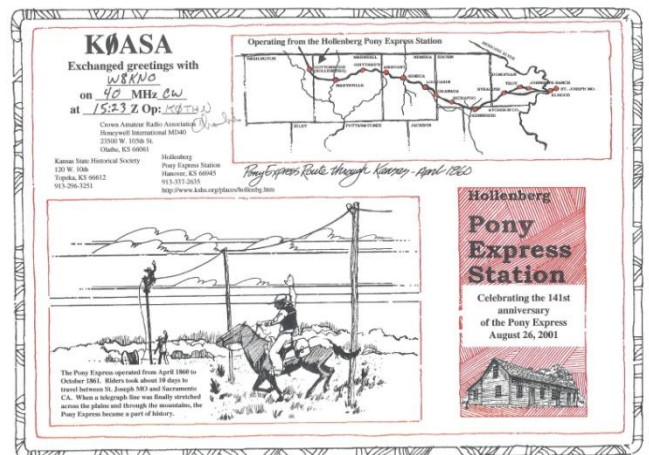


Following the tour, we'll have lunch with Tim at the Quaker Steak and Lube in Sharon, PA. Once done with lunch, it's back to the PCARS Club site.

Paper Chase

If you have never a certificate or QSL card from a special event station, you will have your chance this month. The Alliance Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring the Alliance's Aviation Heritage - call sign W8T. You will find them August 15th from 10 am till 4 pm on or near: 7.260, 14.260, 21.260 or 28,260. Mail your QSL card to John Meyers KD8MQ, 910 W Mill St, Alliance, Ohio 44601 or you could give him your QSL card at the next club meeting. www.w8lky.org

If you would like a little more of a challenge, the Crown Amateur Radio Association, K0ASA, will be hosting the Hollenberg Pony Express Festival/155th Anniversary of the Pony Express. You will find them August 30th from 10:30 am till 5 pm on or near: 7.045, 14.045 and 18.085 all cw frequencies. The first years of this special event was only CW and I worked my first CW on the air contact with them. There is now a phone frequency: 14.245. For a Certificate and QSL send your QSL to: Crown Amateur Radio Association, 11551 W 176th Terrace, Olathe, Kansas 66062 (<http://www.arrlmidwest.org/ponyexpress.html>)



Hope to hear you in the pile up,

Joe, W8KNO



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PCARS 2015 Picnic

This year's picnic was held on a Sunday July 26th (rather than a Saturday) due to a scheduling conflict at the Ravenna VFW. I think we'll try to stay with the Saturday schedule in the future.

However, those who came out for the picnic enjoyed a very nice afternoon of fellowship and a meal. Russ, NR8W and Bob, N8QE did an excellent job on the grill, and there was enough good food that no one should have gone away hungry!



Russ, NR8W and Bob, N8QE

It was a sunny, warm day, although those to the south of us experienced a downpour just before the picnic. To the north we were lucky to see a drop or two. Everyone enjoyed the casual conversation and just taking the afternoon to relax.

Tom, WB8LCD

Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMR) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

"Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category," the FCC said in its Report and Order, which appeared on

July 21 in The Federal Register. "Once [it's] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments."



The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise collect from such regulatory fees "will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories." Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly \$340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015.

From the ARRL



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Getting Closer

As most of you already know, Tom, WB8LCD has been working on upgrading his antenna system. The old tower and antenna are gone. After two tries to dig a *BIG* hole for the new tower - all is good at this point.

The tower has arrived and now the wait is on to have the concrete cure properly before attempting to raise the new crank up - fold over tower.

Meanwhile, Tom is starting to work on the new antennas. All of this work is going to pay off with a **GREAT** station to get on the air again with.

I'm sure that when there is more progress, Tom will write up a great story of his adventure with "*The Tower of Power from Sugar Bush Knolls*" !

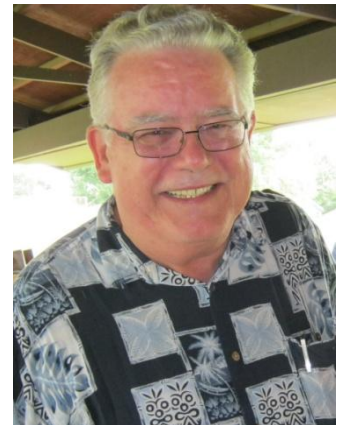


Thanks & 73

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, KB8UUZ, N8RLG, WA8EFK, W8WWV, W8WTD, K8MR, NM5RC, W8KNO, KB6NU, W8PT, KC8PD, KB8AMZ, WB8LCD, N8SY, OH6BG, DX Engineering, the Lee de Forest web site, the ARRL and the World-Wide Web.



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

Tom "Parky", KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Pictures from the July PCARS Meeting



**PCARS
13 July 2015**



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th

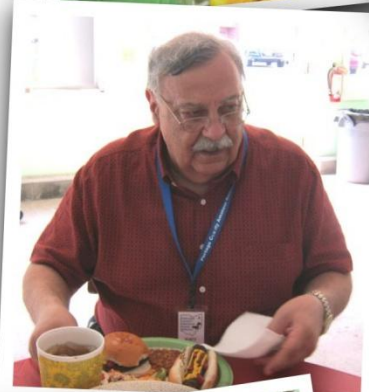




Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th



Pictures from the PCARS Annual Picnic



PCARS Annual Picnic
26 July 2015



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th





PCARS Annual Picnic - 26 July 2015



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Mobile Cruise-In



So you think that you have one of the best amateur radio mobile installations to be found? Well here is your chance to show off that mobile rig and have the opportunity to compare it to dozens of others, HF, VHF, UHF, you name it.



On Thursday, August 27, 2015, starting at 6:00 p.m., the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) will be sponsoring the 6th annual Amateur Radio Cruise-In Night at the **A&W** Restaurant located at 769 East Main Street in Ravenna.

Hams from all over Northeast Ohio will be cruising in to check out the wide variety of mobile radio setups and get some ideas for their own vehicles. **Prizes will be awarded for.**

- 1. Best looking installation**
- 2. Oldest vehicle with a permanently installed station**
- 3rd Category to be announced at the Cruise-In**

Enjoy an evening of ham radio fellowship and fun and get to know other hams from throughout the area. Talk-in will be on the K8IV repeater, 146.895 MHz, PL 110.9



More information on the PCARS web site, www.portcars.org or contact Erica, AE8YL, at AE8YL@portcars.org



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 8th annual

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 12, 2015, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **74** Ohio State Parks
Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park
and have some
Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!

Can't make it to an Ohio State Park?
You can still be in the contest !!



Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?

Check out **all** the details at: www.OSPOTA.org



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th





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	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
V.E. Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers

The logo is circular with a gold border. Inside, there's a dark blue circle containing a yellow diamond-shaped call sign emblem. To the right of the emblem, the text 'ARRL VEC' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, 'VOLUNTEER EXAMINER' is written in smaller, yellow, curved letters following the bottom edge of the circle.

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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ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. **Why the Black Squirrel in**

our logo? For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is 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!**

This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, The RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! **The RADIOGRAM** is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)
Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ - Newsletter Editor

THE RADIOGRAM



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 12th

