



~ 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

I want to start out this month by announcing that PCARS has a new secretary. Mark Haverstock, K8MSH has volunteered to perform the duties of club secretary. As you all know the secretary position is not elected but rather appointed by the club president but that doesn't make it any less important than our elected positions in the club. Besides the visible functions like keeping meeting minutes there are a slew of behind the scenes tasks that the secretary performs that both keep the club rolling along smoothly and keep the club's membership records up to date. It's a demanding job and I'd like to thank Mark for taking it on.

Speaking of the Secretary, Mark has said that there are still a few members who have not paid their annual dues. Per the club's by-laws if you haven't paid your dues by January 31st, your membership is terminated with the club and in order to get back in you have to reapply and pay the initiation fee as well as your dues. If you're reading this the day it comes out, you still have one more day to get current. Check out the ability to pay your dues by PayPal, found on the club's web site under the 'Club Info' tab.

Talking about volunteer positions in the club, I still have one position open that needs to be filled and that is the Technician and General Class Coordinator. The position involves scheduling the semiannual Technician classes and the annual General class, and coordinating instructors to teach various classes for them along with making sure resources for the classes are available. Providing opportunities for people to earn their licenses or upgrade has been one of the more important functions the club has provided from its very start so please let me know if you would like to take on this position in PCARS.

Anyone who has been to the club site since the week of January 17th has noticed that it's looking really good! Clean, swept, and neatened up it looks great and for that thanks go to Jim, KC8PD and Mike, KD8FLZ. All of us need to be doing our part to make sure that it stays that way. It doesn't take a lot of time or effort to make sure that before we leave, we clean up after ourselves. The golden rule here is to make sure the club site looks better when you leave than it did when you got there.

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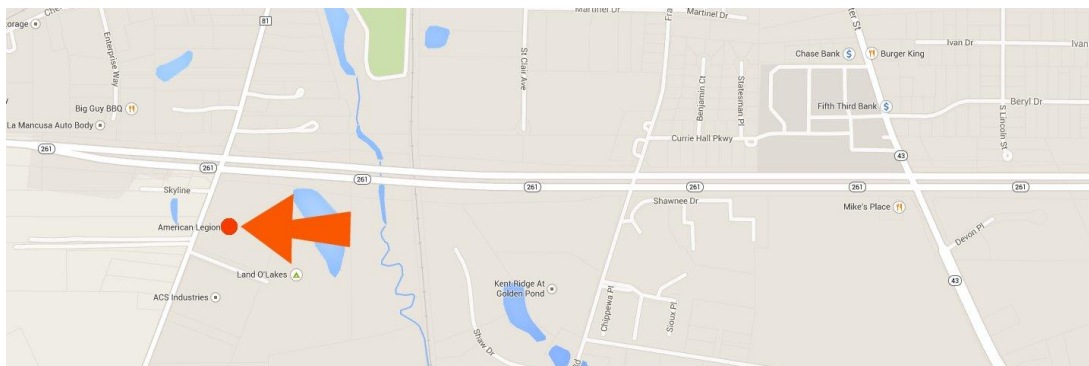


From the President *(continued from Page 1)*

PCARS is incredibly fortunate to have a club site with facilities for a radio room, class room, social room, and more. Take pride in our club site and do your part to keep it looking great.

And now to the topic on everyone's mind, where our next meeting is taking place: [The following was sent in by our Secretary, Mark, K8MSH] "The next meeting for PCARS will be on February 9th at the American Legion hall in Kent. The Address is 1945 Mogadore Rd, Kent. The hall is just south of Route 261 in the East side of Mogadore Road."

And last but certainly not least on comments this month, Freeze Your Acorns Off, aka FYAO



is coming up soon! It's one of the club's oldest and enjoyable events and we'd like to see a lot of members out there pumping out those QRP watts into the ether! Even if you don't want to operate, come on out to Fred Fuller park and enjoy the company of your fellow PCARS members! If you want to operate, or can bring soup, chili, or other edible goodies please drop a note to Chuck, W8PT to let him know.

73,

Rick, K8CAV
PCARS President

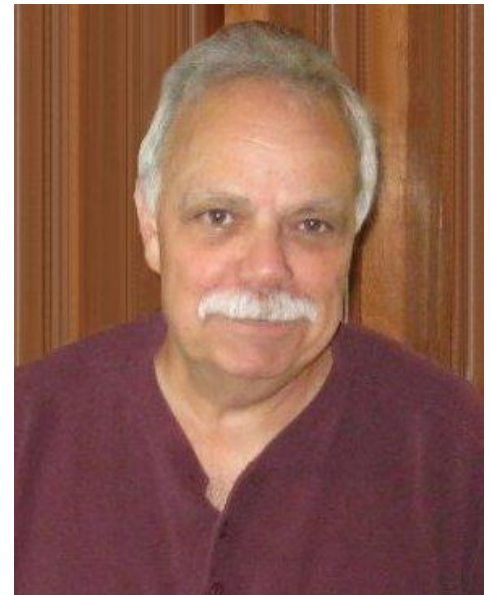


From the Vice President

February is upon us with all it's snow, freezing rain and icy cold temperatures! However, take heart, in a "normal" Ohio winter our last big snow is done by March 17 and Spring begins peaking out in the following weeks. But WAIT..... no need to wait for Spring to have some fun.... PCARS unique "Freeze Your Acorns Off" QRP contest and all day radio social gathering (hot food and lots of non-essential eyeball QSO's). And, if you ever wanted to actually win a contest, the limited number of operators and rugged operating conditions really open this contest up; just a little skilled operating and you can take home the annual honors while the rest of us just have some BIG Ham Radio fun. See you all at Fred Fuller Park, in Kent on February 14th!!

While the next BIG Ham Radio events are not until May (Dayton Hamvention®) and Field Day in June, PCARS will be having monthly special activities including a High Altitude Balloon Launch and a unique antenna design/build project(s), and more. Stay tuned for QST announcements that will provide more specifics.

In the meantime get on the air and just enjoy Ham Radio. HF propagation is relatively good and there are lots of opportunities to work some DX or simply enjoy having QSO's with some Ham Radio operators who you have never met....from around the corner to around the world.



73,

Tony, WA8AR
PCARS Vice President



Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **February 9th - PCARS meeting** - 7 pm
- **February 14th - Freeze Your Acorns Off** - 10th Annual PCARS QRP Special Event - see flier
- **March 3rd - VE Session** for the current General upgrade class - 7pm walk-ins welcome
- **March 9th - PCARS meeting** - 7 pm

Special Interest Groups - Every Month at the Club Site - 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

The Winter General Upgrade Class that started on January 13th is being held at the PCARS club site on Tuesdays at 7 pm and runs until March 3rd.

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

02/01/2015 - NOARS Winter Hamfest & Computer Show - Location: VFW Post 1079 - 500 South Abbe Road - Elyria, OH 44035 - Website: <http://www.noars.net/> - Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - Contact: Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS - 161 Herrmann Drive Avon Lake, OH 44012 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: winterhamfest@noars.net

02/15/2015 - Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest - Location: Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 North Home Road - Mansfield, OH 44901 - Website: <http://www.W8WE.org> - Sponsor: InterCity Amateur Radio Club - Contact: Danny Bailey, KB8STK - 70 Euclid Street Shiloh, OH 44878 - Phone: 419-896-2165 - Email: kb8stk1@hotmail.com

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

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

N4IT	Carl Capps
K8JE	Jim Weaver
KC8LJY	Mike Bakes
KD8TNZ	Bob Davies
KD8UXI	Mendy Palumbo
KD8DFL	Ray Larrick

KC8YYS	James Albright
KD8MLF	Eileen Mohr
WV8P	David Germ
KB8CLH	Vivian DeSimio
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro
KC8HOU	Lee Drewette



PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

February 7th, April 4th, June 6th, August 1st, October 3rd, December 5th

What to Bring to the Testing Session

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



Robert, N8RLG
PCARS VE Team Liaison

For those wanting to go for the Technician Class license, you may want to test before the pool changes at the end of June... because of the new pool and exams taking effect July 1. The new pool has only 3 schematics, compared to 6 in the current pool, but I'm not sure about the content of the rest of it. At a VE Test Session I took part in at a central Arkansas Field Day site the last time the Technician Pool changed (2010), one examinee had failed, because he was using a study guide 2 years out of date!!

The same thing gets done in 2015 when the General pool changes, and in 2016 when the Extra pool changes. You know how frustrating it is when an examinee fails the test... but even more so, when all find out they used an out of date study guide.

Daryl, WX1DER

Contest Calendar

February 2015	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 7 to 0100Z, Feb 9
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 7 to 1759Z, Feb 8
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8
F.Y.A.O. <See the flier on page 43>	1500Z - 2100Z, Feb 14
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 14 to 2400Z, Feb 15
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 14 to 2200Z, Feb 15
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 27 to 2159Z, Mar 1
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 28 to 0600Z, Mar 1

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

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



EmComm

On a regular basis during our Communications Unit meetings and trainings everyone is reminded that we train for events that we hope never actually occur. If they do, that means something bad has happened to someone.

On Friday, December 26th, a detective from the Portage County Sheriff's Department contacted the EMA to request the assistance of the Comms Unit during a search operation to be held the next day. A Mantua Township resident had been missing from his home for a week. The day after he had gone missing the Portage County Urban Search and Rescue team with help from the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department had conducted a search of the area surrounding his home and he had not been located.

The December 27th search utilized work dogs that had specialized training in searching for cadavers. The canines and their handlers would be accompanied by a Comms Unit member who would handle radio communications. There were eight K-9 teams and since we did not have enough CU volunteers to assign one to each team we used public service radios so that the non-hams could also have radio communications.

All CU members were on site before the 0900 start time and field operations finished around 1500 hours. The K-9 teams were assigned specific areas to search so each CU spent a substantial amount of time hiking in the woods. One of the CU members remained at the base of operations to assist with radio traffic.

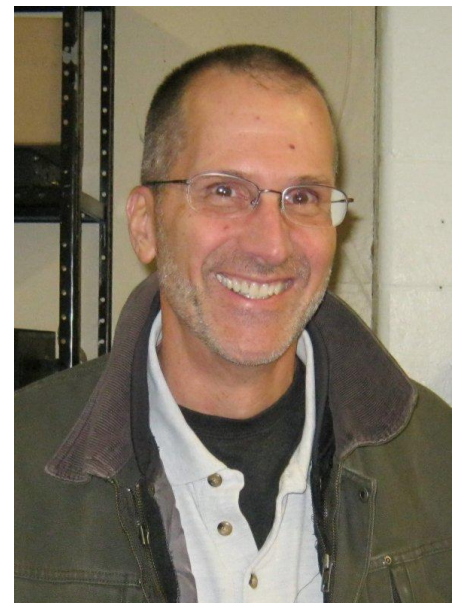
The K-9 search team leader introduced all of us to a terrific smartphone app that enabled the leader to track each team in real time and also maintain a thorough graphic record of the areas searched.

This was a great opportunity to meet and work with the K-9 handlers. Just like us, they are volunteers who have committed substantial amounts of their time and resources so that they can help in times of need. It was a privilege to work with them.

In the end, the search was unsuccessful. Regrettably, a few days later it was reported that the missing man was found in Cleveland and that he was the victim of a homicide.

This incident provided a real world example of the fact that while we can never be sure what type of incident may occur we can still be ready to assist. It also gave us the chance to demonstrate to law enforcement the value that amateur radio volunteers can bring to an operation.

It is also a reminder why we need we need you to become a member of the Communications Unit and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. We can never have too many volunteers. We need your participation. Please feel free to contact me for further information about the Comms Unit or Mike, KD8FLZ, ARES® of Portage County EC, for more information about ARES®.



73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI

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

Supporting the Hobby

Some of you may have attended MFJ Day at DX Engineering on January 10. Given the uncertain weather conditions, there was still a good turnout. Those who showed up got a chance to pick up some gear at a discount, as well as a chance to winning some nifty door prizes. MFJ President Martin Jue and several of his team were on hand to meet, greet and answer questions.

As you're probably aware, MFJ is the biggest manufacturer and distributor of ham accessories as evidenced by the thousands of products found inside their 140 page catalog. And it's hard to find a ham that doesn't have some opinion about their product line. Some people love them, yet others complain about quality control and the fit and finish of their products. Just browse the eHam site and other message boards and you'll get the idea.

I'll have to admit, I've fixed some cold solder joints, supplied missing parts, and fished out loose hardware from inside their products over the years. I've even muttered some descriptive phrases that matched the MFJ initials. But as I think about the big picture, ham radio would be quite different without Martin's contribution to the hobby.



**L-R Paul, NO8D - DX Engineering
Martin, K5FLU - MFJ
Tim, K3LR - DX Engineering**

Today, an increasing number of hams aren't into home brewing equipment. The next most economical solution--look in the MFJ catalog. Where else are you going to find two HF amplifiers priced under a grand? Or a legal limit tuner that doesn't break the bank? Or what about something as simple as a replacement resistor for your old dummy load?

Also, don't forget that they resurrected some respected brands that could have faded into oblivion, such as Hy-Gain, CushCraft, Ameritron and others. These brands not only appear in the MFJ catalog, but are distributed to other ham dealers in the US and across the globe. Martin has done a lot to preserve the legacy of amateur radio--and is a great guy as well.



But this article wasn't really intended to be all about MFJ, but rather the larger idea of supporting the ham hobby and helping it continue to grow. Our numbers have increased to an all time high of more than 700,000 in the U.S.--yet clubs complain of decreased participation, repeaters sit idle a good deal of the time, and attendance at local hamfests has dwindled over the last decade.

Most of us are content to sit at a club meeting, hopefully be entertained and perhaps have some fun. Many of us meet for breakfast once or twice a month. It's great socialize with fellow hams, but what are we actually doing to contribute to the hobby?

A simple way that doesn't take a whole lot of time is to renew your membership--or join the ARRL if you're not currently a member. If the 100th anniversary isn't enough motivation, remember that they're our voice when it comes to the interests of ham radio. No one else is looking out for us, especially commercial entities who look at our frequency allocations with envy.

Get involved in your local club. Pick an activity--even if it's just one--in which to participate or



lead. Offer to do a program, teach a class, become a VE, serve on a committee, or help sponsor a club activity.

Join ham-oriented service groups, such as ARES or Skywarn. Volunteer when your club asks for operators for special events such as parades, walkathons, etc.



Help your fellow hams locally. Antennas go up more quickly with help. If you're talented at troubleshooting rigs or setting them up, lend a hand. Become a mentor or "Elmer" to a new ham.

There are so many ways to contribute the hobby and these are just a few ideas you could consider. Perhaps 2015 is the year when we each can do one or two simple things to support amateur radio. Like Martin, you can make a difference too--even if the result isn't always perfect.

Mark, K8MSH



CW Class - Thanks



This is a month late, but I'd like to thank Terry Morris, KB8AMZ, for putting on the recently wrapped up CW class. I'd not hesitate to recommend it to anyone interested in picking up that particular skill. We started out practicing five characters each week and before I knew it, we'd been through everything. Thanks for everything, Terry!

Zeb, KD8WZS



Dues are Over Due

Please, help keep PCARS going by paying your annual dues. The sooner you get them paid, the easier our new Secretary & Treasurer's jobs will be.

You can mail in your dues, bring them to a meeting, or better yet - pay On-Line using **PayPal**. Yes, we have that option right on the PCARS web site. You pay a slightly higher amount to cover the PayPal fee, but it's easy and fast. Check out the PCARS web site under the "**Club Info**" tab.



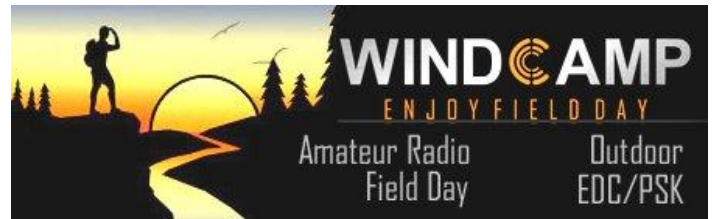
At the end of this newsletter is a membership form for you to use so PCARS has all your correct information on file. Send your membership form and applicable fee to the PCARS Secretary - Mark, K8MSH. Mark's address is at the bottom of the membership form.

FT-817... Better Than Ever !

Smaller, lighter, more powerful !!! My FT-817, a terrific "*all-everything*" radio just got better with a great battery upgrade.

My FT-817 is usually in a back pack with an external battery. The external battery, which is large and heavy, was needed for the 12 volts it provides and the long life in the field. So, if I made the whole package smaller, wouldn't just be a lot easier to get out there and QSO?

After some research I found a company named "WINDCAMP". Windcamp sells a 12 volt, 3000 mah battery with an option to replace the battery access door with charging connections. The battery, WLB-817S 3000mAh LIPO provides 12 volts and the CH-817S Charge Hatch provides the new battery access cover. The cover is an exact replacement of the factory door.



I purchased the battery and cover as a package which included the battery charger. Another feature of the Windcamp battery cover is the "POWER ON/OFF" switch. The switch is located on the new cover and is set to "OFF" when charging. The provided charger has a two color LED which changes from RED to GREEN when fully charged. As a side benefit, when the "POWER ON/OFF" switch is in the off position, the battery is disconnected from the radio, preventing battery drain. So, a fully charged battery stays fully charged until you are ready to operate.

The package comes with one 12 volt, 3000 mah battery (LiPO), one charge hatch, one battery charger (A/C only), and four rubber feet. The four rubber feet provide some protection for the switch on the hatch and allows the FT-817 to sit level on a desk or table. Installation time, about 30 minutes. The pictures show the completed upgrade and an open view of the FT-817. The original hatch and 9.6 volt/1600 mah battery are also shown. More voltage... more current, outstanding !



I've been on the air alot since the battery upgrade... it sure is nice to see 12 volts on the readout and have 5 watts of RF power! And.... this all fits perfectly into small carry case! I've included the link below to Windcamp.... also, Goole search "Windcamp" for more info, a Youtube video, and installation instructions. (I purchased mine on ebay). Windcamp link <http://www.windcamp-gear.com/en/index.asp>

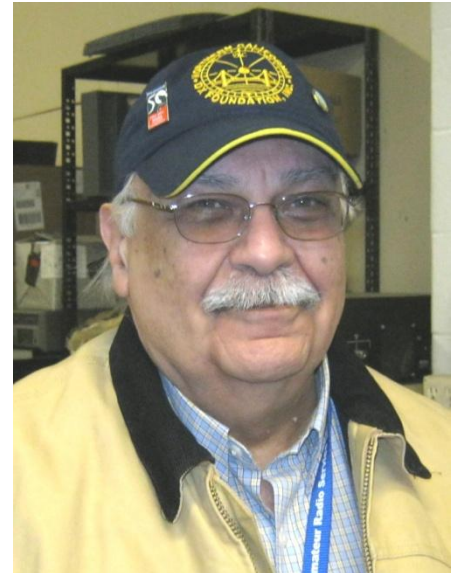
Any questions or comments, send me an email, wb2dfc@portcars.org.

Thanks, 72/73, dit/dit
Dave, WB2DFC

Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

As I write this, it is not quite February yet. We have had some snow but mostly rain in January with the promise of more snow to come. The HAM bands have been active with some major contests taking place on the weekends. There is a station on from Iran (EP6T) presently and I hope that many of you have had the chance to work it.

Just a note here but I have just ordered my ticket for Dayton. I know it is only February but why wait? And it gets you thinking about May and Hamvention! All the Banquet ticket tickets are also available so those of you who attend the DX, Contest, RTTY, or Top Band dinners, get your reservations in now. Tim Duffy has also announced that reservations are open for the Contest University so that is something else to think about. I attended a couple of years and those of you who want to learn more about contesting should seriously consider attending. It is well worth it. Tim and the other presenters (your teachers for this event) do a top notch job in presenting the material.



I also want to inform you that FDIM (Four Days In May), the premier QRP conference that takes place each year at Dayton, has also opened their ticket office. So if getting a first rate glance at what is happening in the world of QRP would interest you, please look into this conference.

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).

3G0, JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND (Update to OPDX.1193/1197). Members of the Provins ARC (F6KOP) will activate Robinson Crusoe Island (SA-005, aka Juan Fernandez Archipelago) as 3G0ZC between February 20th and March 8th. A team of 20 operators plan to be active with 8 stations on the air on 160-6 meters, using SSB, CW and the Digital modes. A Web site will be online soon. A FaceBook page is now available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JuanFernandez2015/747628888649765> More details will be forthcoming.

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

5Z, KENYA. Operators Bertrand/DF3FS (CW) and Oli/DL9OLI (SSB) will be active as 5Z4/homecall from Diani Beach between February 16th and March 8th (2015). Activity will be holiday style on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. They plan to use verticals on 80/40/30m and Hexbeams on 20-10m. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau. For more details and update, see: <http://www.df3fs.de/5z-2015/index.html>

7Q, MALAWI. Ken, LA7GIA, will once again be active as 7Q7GIA from Lilongwe between February 21-28th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW and RTTY with wire and vertical antennas. Please QSL via his home call sign, direct (NO IRCs) or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog.

9Q, DEM. REP. OF CONGO. The "Radioamateur Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo" (ARAC) has invited the "Italian DXpedition Team" for a short stay in Kinshasa during March 2015. The purpose of the activity will be theoretical and practical training and refresher courses for the Amateurs of the DR of Congo. The callsign of the operation will be 9Q0HQ. Operators mentioned are Silvano/I2YSB, Vinicio/IK2CIO, Angelo/IK2CKR, Marcello/IK2DIA, Stefano/IK2HKT, Mac/JA3USA (one week only) and Alfeo/ I1HJTK. The HF pilot station will be Art, IK7JWY, and the 50 Mhz pilot station will be Sergio, IK0FTA. Software Management (log in real time) will be run by Giacomo, IH9GPI. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1826, 3530, 7025, 10115, 14030, 18068, 21030, 24893 and 28030 kHz

SSB - 3780, 7103, 14270, 18155, 21310, 24975 and 28420 kHz

RTTY - 14087 kHz

6m - 50102/CW and 50123/SSB

ASIAN AND AFRICAN TOUR. Toshi, JA8BMK, plans to be active over the next month and into the new year. Activity will be focused mainly on the lower bands (160-80m) with better receive antennas and locations. QSL all call signs via JA8BMK. His tentative schedule is as follows:

February 5-25th (2015) - Vientiane, Laos; from a new QTH with lower noise & wider area & with RX antennas.

March 1-31st (2015) - Nha Trang, Vietnam; call sign XV7BM; with improved RX antennas.

CE0, JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND. Members of the Provins ARC (F6KOP), who were recently active from Tromelin, will activate Robinson Crusoe Island (SA-005, aka Juan Fernandez Archipelago) between February 20th and March 8th (2015). Call sign has not been announced as this was being written, but a team of 22 operators from 7 different countries will be active on 160-6 meters. Team Leader is Alain/F5JTV and Co-leaders are Tony/F8ATS and Jean Luc/F1ULQ. QSLs will be direct, by the Bureau or by LoTW. Look for a Web site to be online soon. A FaceBook page is now available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JuanFernandez2015/747628888649765> More details will be forthcoming.

DX0, SPRATY ISLANDS. Members of the Mabuhay DX Group (made up of Filipino- American-Canadian and Filipino DXers/Contests) will activate Pag Asa Island (AS-051, Kalayaan Island Group) as DX0P in April 2015. Operators mentioned are Ernesto/AD5MD, Jose/DU1BP, Bern/K6BF, Alex/K6BG, Leo/WA6LOS, Billy/ WE6DX, Joel/WJ1P, Chito/WW6CP, Rey/K6ZRH, Ven/DV3KWM and RJ/DU7RJA. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via WJ1P. Visit their FaceBook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DX0P2015>

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

H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Bernhard, DL2GAC, will once again be active as H44MS on a DX vacation to Honiara, Guadalcanal (WLOTA 0086), Solomon Islands (OC-047), between February 1st and April 30th (2015). Activity will be on 80-6 meters SSB only. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.

JW, SVALBARD. Rene, DL2JRM, will once again be active as JW/home call from the club station in Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen Island (EU-026, WLOTA 0125), between Feb 18-25th. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. He will also be an entry in the ARRL DX CW Contest (February 21-22nd). QSL via his home call sign.

JW, SVALBARD. Svein, LA9JKA (ex-JX9JKA), will once again be active as JW9JKA from Bear Island (EU-027) between (Approx.) December 6th and May 30th (2015). Activity will be limited to his spare-time, and Svein will be

focusing on the bands from 160-6 meters. Equipment is limited, due to rules of work. Focus will be on 160m during the winter, and 6m in springtime. QSL only direct to his home address (see QRZ.com).

K6VVA ANTI-PIRATE & K6VVA CO-PILOT EXPEDITION SOLUTIONS VIDEO. The K6VVA Anti-Pirate & K6VVA Co-Pilot Expedition Solutions video was developed as a part of the continued planning and preparation for a CW ONLY Expedition to North Korea (P5). It can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIQroPxFOiQ&feature=youtu.be>

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

PY0F, FERNANDO DE NORONHA 3 of the 5 member 1992 Navassa. DXpedition Team, Ron/AA4NC, Will/AA4VK, and Murray/WA4DAN are planning a "reunion" DXpedition to PY0F, Fernando de Noronha between Oct 18-27th, including operating in the CQWW Phone Contest. An all-band operation is planned on 160-6 meters with SSB, CW and RTTY. AA4NC will enter the contest as a Single-Op. A decision will be made later on whether to enter in a Multi-Op category. More details later. A multi-card color QSL with island scenes, similar to the QSLs for their recent CY0 operations is planned. WA4DAN will handle "Direct" QSLs. An OQRS service is being considered. Until a dedicated PY0F website is created, updates will be posted at <http://www.AA4VK.com> and at the various DX bulletins. The idea for this "reunion" trip merged just sitting around talking during the SEDCO/ W4DXCC Convention in Sept., 2014.

TI9, COCOS ISLAND. Operators Dom/3Z9DX, Jon/K7CO and Jorge/TI2HMJ will be active as TI9A from Cocos Island (NA-012) between February 16-23rd (2015). It has been 6 years since the last TI9 operation, and it is ranked 26th on the most wanted list. Boat trip to the island will take place February 14th (2015), and it takes 30 hours from Costa Rica. Their Radio Permit is issued for 7 days only. That means they can operate for only about 6 days (24h/day operation). They are in possession of the second permit, which allows them to stay on the island overnight. The team will have 2 radios on the air operating on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via 3Z9DX, direct, by the Bureau, the OQRS on ClubLog or direct PayPal request (no need to send a paper card). QSL requests with insufficient postage will be returned to the sender via Bureau. They are looking for funds. A survey/vote for bands/modes needs is available at the following web page, as well as more details and updates, see: <http://www.nielsen.net/ti9a>

V5, NAMIBIA. Operators Werner/DC8QT, Georg/DD8ZX and Klaus/DJ9KM will once again be active as V5/homecalls from V52W's QTH in Omaruru between February 10-19th 2015. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via their home call signs. They also plan to be active as V55V during CQ WPX RTTY Contest (February 14-15th). QSL V55V via DJ8VC, direct or by the Bureau.

V6, MICRONESIA. Madison, W5MJ, active as V63MJ from a new location, Kosrae Island (OC-059), between Feb 16-24th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters CW only using a K3 and KPA500 amp. QSL via his home call sign.

V6, MICRONESIA. Taka, JA8COE, will be active as V63CO from Falalop Island (OC-078), Ulithi Atoll, between March 2-6th. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via JA8COE, direct (2 USDs or IRCs) or ClubLog's OQRS. NO Bureau QSLs. For more details, updates and pictures, see Taka Blog page: <http://blog.goo.ne.jp/takaja8coe>

YJ, VANUATU. Haru, JA1XGI, will be active as YJ0XG from Port Villa in the middle of April 2015. Activity is usually on 160-10 meters, looking for EU/NA on lower bands. Modes will be CW (mainly), SSB and the Digital. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. Usually an OQRS will be available on ClubLog. Look for more details to be forth- coming or watch his Blog at: <http://kcv-net.easymyweb.jp/member/dxvacation>

IOTA NEWS.....

EU-059. Members of the Cray Valley Radio Society (G3RCV) will be active as MM8C from the rare **Hirta Island** (St. Kilda) between July 22-28th. Dates may change due to weather. Their plan is to be in the RSGB IOTA Contest (July 25-26th) as a Low-Power entry. QSL via G4DFI. The group plans to be active on the HF and VHF bands (IO75RT) using CW and SSB. They will also attempt to activate Conachair summit (GM/IS-098); which has yet to be activated. Operators

mentioned are Nobby/G0VJG (Team Leader), Dave/G4BUO, Toby/M0TBS, Giles/M0TGV, Justin/G4TSH, Tony/G2NF and Chris/G0FDZ.

EU-145. Operators Colin/CT7ACG, Andy/M0GAV, Sharon/M3VCQ and Cliff/G0MMI will be active as CR5CW from **Culatra Island** (DIA AI-01, DIP AL-001, WLOTA 0144) between July 24-27th. The team will be active from the Cabo de Santa Maria Lighthouse (PT-505, DFFA FA-06, ARLHS POR-041, Admiralty D2206) for the duration of the RSGB IOTA Contest (25-26 July) on 80-10 meters. Culatra Island is also part of the Parque Natural da Ria Formosa (WWFF CTFF-007). QSL via CT7ACG and LoTW.

V4, ST. KITTS. John, W5JON/V47JA, informs us that he will be active once again from his vacation home in Calypso Bay, St. Kitts (NA-104, WW Loc. FK87SG), located 200 feet from the Caribbean Sea, between January 20th and March 1st. Activity will be on 160-6 meters (incl. 60m) using SSB. Equipment is a Kenwood TS-590S and Elecraft KPA500 Amplifier. Antennas include: a 80-10m Multi-band Dipole, 40-10m 31 ft. Verticals, 35 ft. 40/80m Top Loaded Vertical, and shortened 160m Dipole. Also, a 3 element Yagi for 6m. Also, XYL Cathy, W5HAM, will occasionally operate as V47HAM. ALL QSLs go to W5JON direct only or via LoTW. NO Bureau QSLs.

XW, LAOS. John, KB4FB, will be active as XW4FB from **Vientiane** between January 13th and February 12th. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via his home call sign or LoTW. All contacts will be uploaded to LoTW in March.

YC8, INDONESIA. Ron, YC8ROP, will be active from **Sangihe Island** (OC-210) during the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 7-8th) and the CQWW WPX SSB Contest (March 28-29th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m)/Low-Power entries. QSL via LoTW or direct to YC8OP.

There's some great DX coming up, including a few great DXpeditions. So as I mentioned above, get on the air and work some of it.

Until next month.... 73,

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



N8BI - QSL Card

Looking forward to the 2015 contest season. Will be active for ARRL VHF contests June, September. Also the CQWW-SSB, ARRL DX SSB and the ARRL WPX contest.

Often found on 7.134 after 2200 ET or 0300 Z (Former call WA2EDD) (QSL via LOTW) Now, if I can just get everything working at the same time.....

73,
Jack, N8BI



QRZ Operating Awards Official Release

QRZ.COM is pleased to announce the culmination of a 3 year design effort that establishes QRZ as an operating awards authority. First, there was the QRZ Logbook prototype (V1) and now with our V2 Logbook in full production, we have added a Log Analyzer capability that many of you have been experimenting over the past few months. Today, we're rolling a full fledged awards program that recognizes your achievements based on your QRZ Logbook entries.

The awards now available from QRZ include:

- **United States Award:** The United States Award is available to any QRZ member whose Logbook on QRZ.com contains at least one confirmed contact from each of the 50 US States.
- **DX World Award:** The DX World Award is available to any QRZ member whose Logbook on QRZ.com contains at least one confirmed contact from each of at least 100 distinct ARRL DXCC entities.
- **Grid Squared Award:** This award is available to any QRZ member whose Logbook on QRZ.com contains at least one confirmed contact from each of 100 unique Maidenhead grid squares.
- **World Continents Award:** The World Continents Award is available to any QRZ member whose Logbook on QRZ.com contains at least one confirmed contact from 6 continental zones of the world. These include: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania.



Endorsements are available for Mixed or individual bands as well as Mixed and individual modes (Phone, CW, Digital.)

QRZ Awards are **FREE**. As a member of QRZ with a valid amateur radio license, you are eligible to earn awards based on your QRZ Logbook contents. Your QRZ operating awards show up on your callsign page in a special tab called "Awards". There is no requirement to become a QRZ Subscriber to earn operating awards.

Fine lithographed QRZ award certificates available at a modest cost. If you would like a handsomely lithographed and numbered certificate with QRZ's signature holographic seal of authenticity, you may order them directly from your callsign page. These certificates were custom designed for our members and have been reproduced on fine paper by a commercial printing company. They have a gorgeous, high quality look and feel that uniquely recognizes the hard work and dedication used in earning your award.

Applying for an award is simple once you have the confirmed QSOs in your logbook! From your logbook, simply click "Awards," select the logbook(s) to use toward the award by following the instructions on that page, and select the award

heading that you're interested in. From there you will be shown the analysis of your logbook for that award in the Mixed mode. If eligible, you will be presented with a Congratulations screen, and given the option to apply.

To view a different mode, such as CW, Digital, or Phone, simply select the mode from the "Award Type" drop-down menu, and a new analysis will be completed. Like before, if you are eligible, you will be presented with a Congratulations screen, and given the option to apply.

So what are you waiting for? No more waiting in line for the card-checker to validate your paper QSL cards. No more application or membership fees to obtain an award! It's never been easier!

Thank you for your continued support and feedback! We're very excited about the QRZ Operating Awards, and continuing to serve the Amateur Radio community!

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ
Publisher, QRZ.COM
aa7bq@qrz.com



Freeze Your Acorns Off - 2015

Our annual FYAO will take place on February 14, 2015. Yes that is Valentines Day and what better way to treat your Valentine to something special than to bring her or him out on a cold February day and spend it trying to make QRP contacts in the snow. Well, that's presuming that we have snow on Feb. 14. And it's also presuming that your Valentine will not retaliate and have you committed. But if they have spent any time with you at all, they will know that you are a peculiar person who loves to talk to strangers on the radio.

In any case, come on out and have some Big Fun, Great Food, and Great fellowship with your HAM friends.

As in previous years, the operating format will be a "contest" for all who participate. This is also a Special Event and people making contact with you are eligible to obtain a certificate. You are welcome to set up a station and operate from the FYAO site, either inside the Fred Fuller Park shelter or out in the elements in your own shelter.

The winner will receive a certificate suitable for framing and his or her name and call will be added to the FYAO plaque displayed at the PCARS club site.

Keep in mind that this is a QRP event so leave your Alphas at home.

Snacks, chili, mac & cheese, donuts, etc, are very welcome. I trust that there will be a number of pots of great tasting chili that various members will bring as in the past.

This is our own in house event, as it were, so I encourage all PCARS members to come out and have some fun. Please remember that even if you don't plan to operate a station, you are certainly welcome to come out and simply fellowship with your friends and have a great time. I look forward to seeing you there.



73 and Good Luck with FYAO 2015,
Chuck, W8PT
FYAO Chairman



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 !!



February	
5	N8WLE
12	KB8UHN
19	WB2DFC
26	K8CAV

March	
5	KC8PD
12	WA8AR
19	WB8LCD
26	KB8UUZ

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



Netiquette -- Etiquette On Ham Radio Nets

There are a seemingly large number of ham radio operators who think that it is THE END OF THE WORLD if:

- 1) They don't check into a net FIRST.
- 2) They aren't in the FIRST GROUP of checkins.
- 3) They want to check in immediately, no matter what time they connect to the repeater, node, etc.
- 4) They miss checking into a ham radio net.
- 5) They are late checking into a ham radio net.

The fact is that NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!!

Ham Radio is a HOBBY, and it should NOT take priority over church, family, job, health, etc. There is more to life than ham radio, and the nets that go with it!! If you have to work late, or have another family, health, or job issue, take care of that FIRST!! Also, the Net Control Station is ALWAYS going to be NUMBER ONE on the log, whether you like it or not!! The ONLY time one should break into a net is if they have Emergency Or Priority Traffic...that is, information involving the safety of life, and the protection of property. Not being able to check in just so you can "go back to your TV program" is NOT a matter of life and death. If your TV program is more important to you, go watch the TV program, and forget about checking into the net!!

Also, may ham radio operators can't seem to understand that:

A) Most, if not all nets, are DIRECTED by Net Control, and that ANY and ALL calls will go through Net Control. The Net Control determines the format (roundtable or otherwise), and stations are expected to follow the directions of Net Control.

B) Net Control is basically "the home plate umpire", and they have the AUTHORITY to order a station OFF THE NET or OFF THE REPEATER, Echolink Node, D-Star Node, etc. if a station FAILS to comply with their instructions. Most all nets and repeater traffic is RECORDED, and LOGGED...and easily traced to the individual. This is especially true on digital modes, such as D-Star and Packet...you can NOT hide on either of those modes. Those failing to comply will likely receive a notice from an Official Observer, or a Notice Of Violation from the FCC, for disrupting a net.

C) When a station IGNORES Net Controls instructions such as:

- i) "Do NOT transmit or key your station, unless directed to do so by Net Control".
- ii) "Transmit reportable criteria only during severe weather nets, and especially if they are in emergency mode".
- iii) "Turn off such things as beaconing software, etc. during a net".
- iv) "Observe the repeater timeout timer limit". It disrupts the net for everyone else who wants to "play by the rules".

D) When a station uses "cutesy phonetics" instead of the ITU phonetics, if they are noisy, they are NOT going to be copied. If that's the case, the station may NOT get logged.

E) When a station talks too fast, it's difficult to understand what they are saying. The same is true of controlling ones emotions, such as reporting a tornado near you. People will hear the terror in your voice, and you can set them into a panic attack.

F) If a station fails to unkey after transmitting, it may time out the repeater; and if on Echolink or D-Star, it locks the system where no one else can use it.

G) If a station fails to participate in training nets (such as ARES Nets, Skywarn Nets, etc.), they have NO BUSINESS BEING ON THE AIR, when "the real thing" (tornado outbreak or other disaster) occurs.

I've been running nets practically ever since I was first licensed 24 years ago, and I've seen so much of this over the years.

I've also seen where people throw a fit when they see how a net is run, but when you ask if THEY want to do it, they backpedal. They want the GLORY, and NOT the GALL and the WORK required before, during, and after a net. No wonder it's like pulling teeth to get stations to be Net Control operators. Most hams have no idea what it's like to be on THIS SIDE of the microphone.



While we were all beginners at one time, those who have been on the air for awhile, and who have checked into nets, should know better.

We say we "put our heart into ham radio" (especially for Valentines month in February). In that regard, everyone should bone up on their "netiquette", as people are LISTENING on scanners, etc. When they hear this "bad behavior", "disorganization on the nets", it TURNS THEM OFF to becoming a ham radio operator. We need to do our part to PROMOTE the hobby.

Otherwise, sooner or later, attrition will kill it...pun intended.

Daryl, WX1DER

ARRL Board Okays Changes to DXCC Program, VHF and Above Contesting Rules

The ARRL Board of Directors has tweaked the DX Century Club (DXCC) rules to clarify and expand their recognition of remotely controlled station technology. It also has added a rule that puts greater ethical responsibility on operators with respect to remotely controlled operation. In addition, the Board adopted changes to the ARRL VHF/UHF contest rules that are aimed at encouraging greater participation. The Board took the actions during its annual meeting January 16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut.

The DXCC Rules changes, which affect Section I, subsections 8 and 9, explain and extend how contacts with remotely controlled stations now may be applied toward the DXCC award. As ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained, the changes are subtle but significant. The modified rules make clear that contacts with legally licensed, land-based, remotely controlled stations count for DXCC,



but the control point - the operator's location - of a remotely controlled station no longer has to be land based; the operator can be literally anywhere.

"It has always been permitted for a QSO to count for both stations, if either station was operated remotely from a control point within the same DXCC entity," Sumner explained. "Now the location of the operator doesn't matter; the operator could be on the far side of the Moon if he or she could figure out how to remotely control a station on land back on Earth from there." Transmitter location continues to define a station's location, and, for DXCC purposes, all transmitters and receivers must be located within a 500 meter diameter circle, excluding antennas.

Under the old rules, if either station was operated from a control point in another DXCC entity, the contact did not count for DXCC for either station. "This was unenforceable unless someone was transparent about what they were doing," Sumner said.

The Board further adopted a new rule, now Subsection 11 (subsequent rules will be renumbered accordingly), that acknowledges the reality of the technology enabling remote operation, and it puts greater responsibility on individuals when it comes to applying that technology ethically and responsibly.

"Issues concerning remotely controlled operating and DXCC are best dealt with by each individual carefully considering the ethical limits that he/she will accept for his/her DXCC and other operating awards," the new

rule states. It adds, in part, “the owner of these achievements needs to be comfortable standing behind his/her award and numbers. Peer attention has always been a part of awards chasing, of course, but in these times with so many awards and so many players, it is more important than even to ‘play the game ethically.’”

Subsection 11 acknowledges that technological advances “add to the difficulty in defining rules for DXCC,” but stresses that the intent of the rules is what’s important. “It will continue to be up to the operator to decide what types of legal remote control operating he/she will use (if any) to contribute to an operating award,” the new rule concludes.

The Board also adopted amendments to the General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz to encourage greater participation and band utilization. The changes become effective with the 2015 June ARRL VHF Contest. The revisions stemmed from recommendations offered by the Board’s Programs and Services Committee’s ad-hoc VHF and Above Revitalization subcommittee, composed of active VHF/UHF contesters, and they received strong support from the VHF/UHF community.

The subcommittee was charged with developing recommendations to increase the level and breadth of ARRL VHF and above contest participation and encourage operation on lesser-used bands. As a start to the process, the Board approved three changes that will permit assistance for all operator categories, with no effect on entry category; permit self-spotting for all operator categories, and allow single operators to transmit on more than one band at a time.

The changes will permit assistance in arranging contacts, but not in conducting contacts. They will, for example, allow a station to announce its location in a chat room, on a repeater, or even via e-mail.

In other actions, the Board instructed the HF Band Planning Committee - which soon will solicit members’ comments on proposed changes to the ARRL HF Band Plans - to include the possibility of requesting that the FCC add RTTY and data privileges for Novices and Technicians on 15 meters.

The Board also authorized ARRL Headquarters staff to implement guidelines to expand opportunities for field checking of 160 meter QSL cards for DXCC.

From the ARRL



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/>



Sporting the Radio Hat - 1949

A pith helmet, two valves and a volume knob.

Inventor Victor T. Hoeflich, founder of novelty manufacturing corporation American Merri-Lei of Brooklyn, New York, introduced his "Man-from-Mars Radio Hat" in March 1949. In the press conference, he used teenagers as models. Sold in department stores across the U.S. and by mail, the hat retailed for \$7.95. Designed after a pith helmet, it could be ordered in eight colors: Lipstick Red, Canary Yellow, Blush Pink, Rose Pink, Tangerine, Flamingo, Chartreuse and Tan. Later seven more color



options were added. Although the hat had a futuristic appearance at the time, this was in fact due to technical limitations. While the transistor had been invented in 1947, it was still experimental and not widely available. And portable transistor radios did not appear until 1954. The hat's radio relied on valve technology, and Hoeflich made the valves a prominent feature, as well as the loop aerial. The tuning knob sat between the two valves. Radio valve technology had advanced during WWII, allowing lower-powered versions. This meant the hat's radio could be battery-powered at the lower voltages required for a head-borne radio. The battery was carried in the user's pocket.

Although the Radio Hat was well received at the outset, the reception did not last, and advertisements ceased to run in the 1950s. Its failure was primarily due to technical limitations. It had only two valves, while household radios featured five or six, and thus, performed better. A superior FM radio format was becoming available in the U.S. from the late 1930s, but the Radio Hat could only receive AM frequencies. The loop antenna was directional and signal could be lost as the user turned his or her head. The Radio Hat had an advertised range of 20 miles; sometimes when tuning, it picked up stations further away, but these would be received as an annoying squeal, as the hat did not have the necessary circuitry. Ultimately, the hat radio was not a new idea, either. Inventor H. Day was pictured with an adapted top hat in 1922, and the August 1930 issue of American magazine *Modern Mechanics* published a story about a Berlin engineer who had created a boater-style radio hat.



Amanda Uren

Retronaut: <http://mashable.com/category/retronaut/>
Thanks goes to Dave, NF8R for sending this to PCARS

MFJ Day at DX Engineering

Even the cold weather could not keep PCARS members away from MFJ Day at DX Engineering in Tallmadge on January 10th.

It was nice to see the turn out and see all the PCARS members that made it there. Some members picked up some good bargains and others won some nice prizes.

It was fun to see and talk with Martin Jue, K5FLU the founder and owner of MFJ Enterprises along with Paul Sergi, NO8D the founder and owner of both Summit Racing Equipment and DX Engineering and Tim Duffy, K3LR of DX Engineering.

As you know, there are a number of PCARS members that are DX Engineering employees and they were there as well.



Digital Special Interest Group

The Digital Special Interest Group will meet on Tuesday February 3rd at 7:00 PM at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. This month we'll have a presentation on using and writing macros for fldigi. Macros are very useful for day to day digital operations, and become much more so for contests so if you'd like to learn how to write your own custom macros be sure to attend this meeting.

As always we'll be available to help out with any hardware or software issues you may be having. Bring whatever gear you can, computer, radios, etc. and we'll help you out. See you there!

73,
Rick, K8CAV

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Cushcraft A4 Tri-band (10-15-20) Beam. Beam was taken out of service and stored in a garage. Specs indicate 8.9 dBd/2000 W PEP. Recently assembled and SWR-tested then bundled. Also includes much new hardware and new plastic caps for tubing and traps. \$100.00

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

Contact Bill, KW8KW by e-mail at KW8KW@sbcglobal.net [05/02/15]

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

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

Icom PS-125 Power Supply

Ameritron AL-811H amplifier

Ameritron QSK-5: Transit/Receive Switch

Ameritron ARB-704: Amplifier-to-Transceiver Interface

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Moving and downsizing and have for sale: **Package Deal:**

Hy-gain TH7DX - <http://www.dxengineering.com/parts/hgn-th-7dx> , **Telex/Hy-Gain HG 52-SS** self-supporting crank-up tower [nested 21'] <http://www.hy-gain.com/support.php?productid=HG-52SS> and **Hy-Gain HDR-300** rotor and control with digital read-out <http://www.hy-gain.com/Product.php?productid=HDR-300A>

This package is offered for \$500 to an individual or organization that can provide the proper equipment and manpower to de-erect this system. I have final approval on the means & methods to prevent damage to life, limb and property. Current QTH is Chagrin Falls. Moving to Hudson after the residence is sold in the spring.

Contact Paul, N8QZ by phone 216-577-4570 or e-mail N8QZ@portcars.org [02/02/15]



Let's Talk

A New Year is here!! I have to tell ya' this one is starting out much better for me than last year, for sure. If you didn't know, last year at this time I had my right leg in a cast. I had broken both of the bones that connect your ankle to the rest of you.. Because it was my right leg, I couldn't drive, walk or do much of anything, other than hobble around on a set of crutches that I didn't do well with (my wife said that I looked like "PacMan" bouncing off the walls). Anyway, I'm on my own two legs this year and loving it, and now that I'm retired from my professional job, I even love it more than before! Life on retirement isn't like I thought it would be, it's much better. It's giving me much more time to do the Section Manager's job. Now I can give it full time like this position really demands.



I do have to chuckle a bit on this next item.. No matter how much I mention this, it seems that someone hasn't yet signed up to receive emails from the Section Manager / Great Lakes Director with the ARRL. I'm going to keep encouraging you to check out your account with the League and make sure that the box for receiving emails from the Section Manager / Division Director is checked.

Now, this part has really gotten popular the past couple of months, for those of you who say 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?

Oh, didn't know that the Ohio Section had a website?? We do.. You can find it 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!

****Have you noticed??**** There's a very short – one question – questionnaire that has started to appear on the Ohio Section Website. It changes about once every week or so. It asks just one question that will take all of about 5 seconds for you to answer and you'll get to see how you and others feel about the topic instantly. Why is this there? I want to know how you feel. This is YOUR way of letting me know how the Ohio Section is thinking. Yes, this is very important to me. I represent YOU and I'm asking how you feel about something. Now how many politicians ever go to that extreme? I bet the only time you hear from them is at election time. I'm hear 24/7 for YOU. Let me know how you feel, answer the question now pending.

Have you checked out the Great Lakes Division website lately? <http://arrl-greatlakes.org> It's changed. It's been brought up to the twenty-first century with an entirely new look and feel. It's cleaner and much easier for you to navigate. Check in often, and check out the changes..

Speaking briefly about the Great Lakes Division website, Jack Shirely, N8DX has reported the following on the Blog Board for the Eighth (8) Region Incoming QSL BUREAU..

Global QSL Abuse..

We are receiving a lot of USA to USA QSLs from this service. The cards will be returned to you via your letter manager and not forwarded by the ARRL bureau system.

I would encourage all of you to read what is on the site about how this department works. Yes, it is somewhat lengthy, but I think you'll not only learn a lot, but you'll have a much better understanding of what you are supposed to be doing as well.

Jack and I are talking about ways to improve your ability to get your incoming QSL cards. I think it will be a great improvement. I will report on this more as Jack and I continue the discussion.

Elmer Award..

Hey Gang, did you know that the League has a beautiful Elmer Award that you can apply for to give to your Elmer? They do, I presented one of these awards at a club meeting just this past month. It was great giving back to my Elmer and recognizing him for all the great things he did for me as I was starting out.

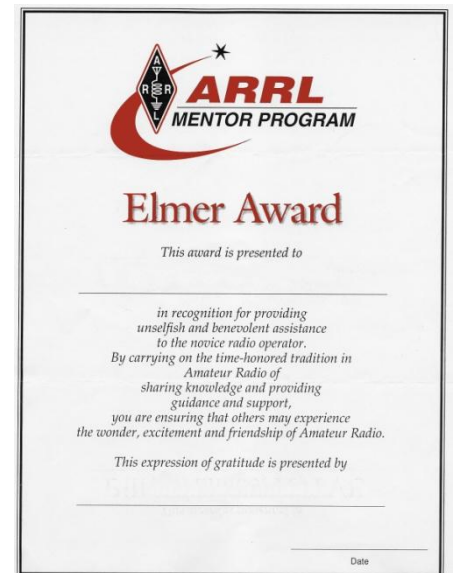
Recognizing your Elmer is a way of "paying it forward" and to encourage future Elmers out there. Anyone that is a League member can go on line to: <http://www.arrl.org/elmer-award> and fill out the form and either have the form mailed directly to the Elmer, or more impressively, and the one that I would encourage all of you to do, have the certificate mailed to you and present it to your Elmer in person, it's a fantastic way of recognizing your Elmer for all the things that he/she did to get you started. Yes, you do have to be an ARRL member to request a certificate, but you don't have to be one to receive it!

Now for the logistics.. First and foremost, like I said above, you need to be an ARRL member to take advantage of this particular program. If you aren't a League member, this is a great opportunity to become one. This is the perfect reason for you to join. Now, once that is taken care of, go on-line and fill out the form and hit the submit button. That's it. A few simple boxes to fill in and that's all there is to it.

Since this certificate is mailed to you via the US postal service you'll have to wait to get it (about 2 – 3 weeks), as it is a certificate that is snail mailed only at this time.

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

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



73,

Scott Yonally, N8SY
ARRL Ohio Section Manager

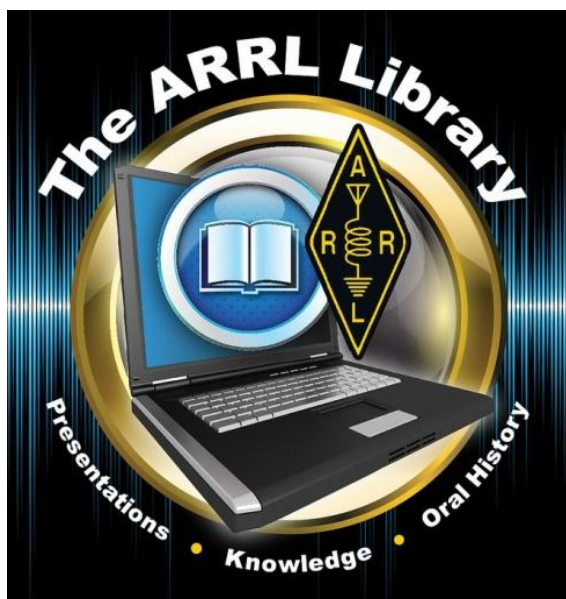


Affiliated Clubs Coordinator Information

Here's some freebies from the ARRL that may interest you:

First Contact award – lots of clubs have recently wrapped their licensing classes. I know that here in Northeast Ohio, there are some new call-signs on the air, and at club meetings. If you are fortunate enough to be someone's first contact, then check out this award on the league's website. The first contact award is presented to celebrate someone's first contact using Ham Radio. You can apply online at <http://www.arrl.org/first-contact>

Active Club Online Primer – This 48 page PDF is a compilation of the ARRL Club Presidents workbook, and the Special Service Club Manual. In my opinion, it should be required reading for all club officers. You can find it on the league website by doing a search on "Active Club Online Primer". The URL is <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/Active%20Club%20Online%20Primer.pdf>



The ARRL Library - On January 13th, "The ARRL Library" opened for business. You can read about this in depth at <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-arrrl-library-goes-live>.

So, what is the ARRL Library? It's a free repository of educational presentations and oral histories pertaining to Amateur Radio. It is aimed at helping to preserve Amateur Radio's history and to educate clubs and individuals. It's divided up into three sections, PDFs, PowerPoints, and Oral Histories.

While you can download PowerPoints and PDFs to use for club programs, you can also upload your material to the library. Full details are on the League's website.

They'll also be accepting oral histories for the library. Why not Interview some of your older members about the state of Amateur Radio "back in the day", and submit those recordings to the library?

There's lots more to be found, and the collection will be growing, so you can bet that I'll be writing more about this in the coming months.



Till next time, 73,
John, KD8MQ
Ohio ARRL Section Affiliated Clubs Coordinator



Navassa DXpedition Team Poised to Offer “Once in 32 Years” Opportunity

If all goes as planned, the K1N Navassa DXpedition team hopes to be on the air with up to eight stations in less than 2 weeks, offering a “once in 32 years” opportunity to work the most-wanted DXCC entity. It’s been 22 years since the last Navassa operation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which is responsible for the island, will not permit another operation for at least 10 years. The team said its exact departure date will not be determined until the last minute will depend on the USFWS and on weather conditions. The team will arrive at its staging point a few days before the earliest possible departure window and will be ready for rapid deployment to Navassa.

“As soon as the USFWS has landed on the island and declared it is safe to proceed, we will start the helicopter flights and commence operations,” the K1N team said this week in a media release.



“We hope to have a basic camp established by the end of the first day, and, if things go extremely well, we hope to have several stations on the air by nightfall on the second day,” the K1N media release said. “Helicopter deployment will continue for 3 days before the camp is fully established. A boat landing is not possible this time of year.” The team will have to move additional equipment and supplies ashore manually.

The K1N team will take along a VHF/UHF transceiver and an Arrow antenna in the hope of making some satellite contacts via FO-29. The dates and times of satellite operation will depend upon the availability of operators and pass times. AMSAT has provided the DXpedition with a Yaesu FT-817 transceiver and associated equipment as well as pass predictions, an operational plan, and training.

The K1N stations will always operate split frequency, listening up or down, depending upon band plan, so do not transmit on the DXpedition’s frequency. “The QRM problem is one reason we are not publishing our operating frequencies. We will also try hard to keep our splits narrow as possible to avoid annoying non-DXers,” the K1N team said. “It is absolutely necessary to listen to the instructions of the DXpedition operator.” The K1N operators will listen in the US General and Advanced segments. At least one station will be on 20 meters 24 hours/day. Operation on 160 and 12 meters will be CW only, while operation on 10 meters will be SSB only. At least one station will always be on RTTY.

The K1N DXpedition has requested stations that already have confirmed contacts with Navassa Island on certain bands not to call K1N on that band, to give others a better opportunity. Logs will be uploaded several times daily to ClubLog and “sooner rather than later” to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

The DXpedition also hopes to combat malicious interference. “Deliberate QRM has been a major hindrance on both ends of the pileups in recent years and is worsening. There is a tab on our website where you can help us identify QRMing stations,” the team said. “This tab will not be active until the DXpedition comes on the air.”

Using the data it receives, the K1N pilots hope to develop a “heat map” of interference locations. “This was covertly tested during the recent FT4TA Tromelin DXpedition and even with limited data input, several deliberate QRMing stations could be identified within a very small area!” the K1N team said.

From the ARRL



ARRL Centennial QSO Party Awards, W1AW/p QSL Cards in Process

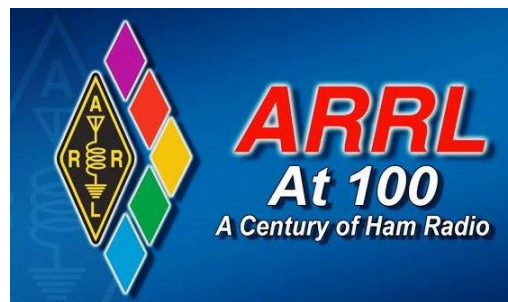
Do not despair! Certificates and plaques for stations that participated in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party are in process. At this point, point totals are being calculated and confirmed. Participation exceeded expectations, with nearly 16,000 stations achieving at least 1000 points in the Centennial QSO Points Challenge. Approximately 2500 stations reached the Top Level at 15,000 points. W1AW portable operations completed nearly 3.5 million contacts during 2014, and W100AW completed about 70,000 contacts. Most Centennial QSO Party participants entered their contact information into the ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW).

"The W1AW WAS certificate and plaque designs are complete, as is the design for the Centennial Points Challenge certificate," said ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "Once the web and software processes are ready to go, we will be able to start fulfilling awards." Patton said order forms will be available on the Centennial QSO Party web page for those who do not use LoTW or online ordering tools.

Patton said that in late January, the entire database of 2014 logs submitted to LoTW will be rerun through the Centennial QSO Party software in order to pick up any late changes to the database and produce more accurate scores. "Most participants will see their points total climb a bit higher," he said.

Designs for QSL cards for W1AW portable operations are under consideration, and cards likely will go out via the QSL Bureau and directly to stations in a few months. US stations who prefer to receive W1AW QSLs via a QSL Bureau account may sign up via the web form. "You must have a current, funded account with your district QSL Bureau," Patton noted. "Stations outside the US will receive cards via their bureaus as normal.

Patton said the number of QSLs from W1AW will be limited to one per each weekly operation and per each territorial operation (KH2, KH8 etc), with each card confirming about 10 contacts chosen from the W1AW logs. Printed cards will not be able to confirm counties or grid squares, but the LoTW system will, and has done that.



From the ARRL

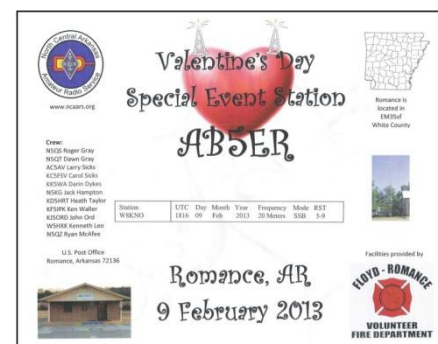
Paper Chase

February 14th brings what to mind? If you said valentines, you are correct. It is a day for Lovers. Though there have been no announcements of any special event stations, there have been some in the past, Romance, Arkansas comes to mind, keep your ears open and you may be surprised.



However, there is going to be a special event station on that is worthy of your effort to work. The USS Midway (CV-41) will have a special event honoring the Raising the Flag on Mt. Surabachi. It will only be on on Valentines Day from 1700Z-2359Z. Listen for NI6IW on 14.320 7.250 for SSB, 14.070 for PSK and REF 1C for D-STAR.

For a QSL card send a SASE to USS Midway Museum Ship Radio Room - 910 N Harbor Drive - San Diego, CA 92101.



Hoping to hear you in the pile-up,
Joe, W8KNO

Skills I Learned as a Contester

I like to see connections between seemingly unrelated things, and I see big connections between sharp flying and radio operating. Maybe that's why there's a high correlation between folks holding an amateur license and a pilot certificate -- they're really not that different.

When I turned 50 some years ago, I decided to tackle another challenge that had intrigued me since I was a kid. I had always wanted to fly, so I began the lessons and adventure and eventually earned a private pilot's certificate. During the year that it took to get the "ticket," I learned a lot about myself as a person and relearned a lot of science and math that I had forgotten since I was in high school back in the 1960s.



K1TH

and New York, it is possible to fly a general aviation aircraft between many airports without ever having to talk to a controller. But that restriction can really limit a pilot's ability to do any significant cross-country travel and, in my opinion, also really limits the fun of sharp flying.

The bug to fly cross-country hit me early in my student pilot training after a few trips to New York and Maine from my home base in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In fact, after allowing me to use the radio early on, my instructor told me to always identify myself as a student to the controller after the aircraft call sign. When I asked why, he said, "Because you can talk a lot better than you can fly, so let's help ATC know that!"

Recently I flew the Piper Arrow directly over Manhattan during the morning rush hour when commuting between Plymouth and Philadelphia. The New York Approach Control frequency sounded like a 10 meter opening at the top of the solar cycle. It was a constant stream of instructions, requests and verifications that many people's lives (including mine!) depended on total accuracy. I have come to appreciate that good contest and ATC communications have much in common. Here are some of the lessons I have learned.

- **Your brain should lead your mouth:** Always think about what you're going to say before you say it. There's no place for pauses, uummms or filler words after you begin your transmission.
- **Clear speech is more important than fast speech:** Think about what you're going to say and then say it with a pace comfortable for you. In the air and during contests, the amount of information conveyed in each transmission won't have more than a few component parts. Get it right the first time. Repeats waste time and break the pace.

- **Use proper procedures:** Know the terminology, the accepted shorthand abbreviations and standard phonetics. One ham radio-to airplane habit I had to break -- in the air, it's niner, not nine.
- **Pacing is critical during very short transmissions:** Listen first and discover the pace of the frequency. Attracting the controller's attention during high-traffic times is almost like busting a pileup. Too quick on the push-to-talk is as unproductive as waiting too long to transmit.
- **Turn off the ego before you turn on the radio:** Here's a lesson that all hams could learn from their ATC cousins. Approach Control is as attentive to a single engine "bugsmasher" as it is to a 747 in its sector. Tempers do occasionally flare on the aircraft bands, but nothing like the snide comments I hear continually on HF. I wish all the big guns would truly respect the little pistols who give them their big scores. And little pistols should know the challenge the guns face when there's a wall of stations calling them. Trust me, I've been at both ends of the pileup: With wires and a Yagi at 40 feet at home, to being part of the J3A team on Grenada in the 2000 CQWW where we scored #3 in the world, I've seen it all.
- **Fix your toxic audio:** When you tell a pilot their audio is bad, he or she usually switches radios or takes some other action. If a contester tells you your audio stinks, it probably does. Turning up the processor to cut a wider swath of the band isn't the answer.

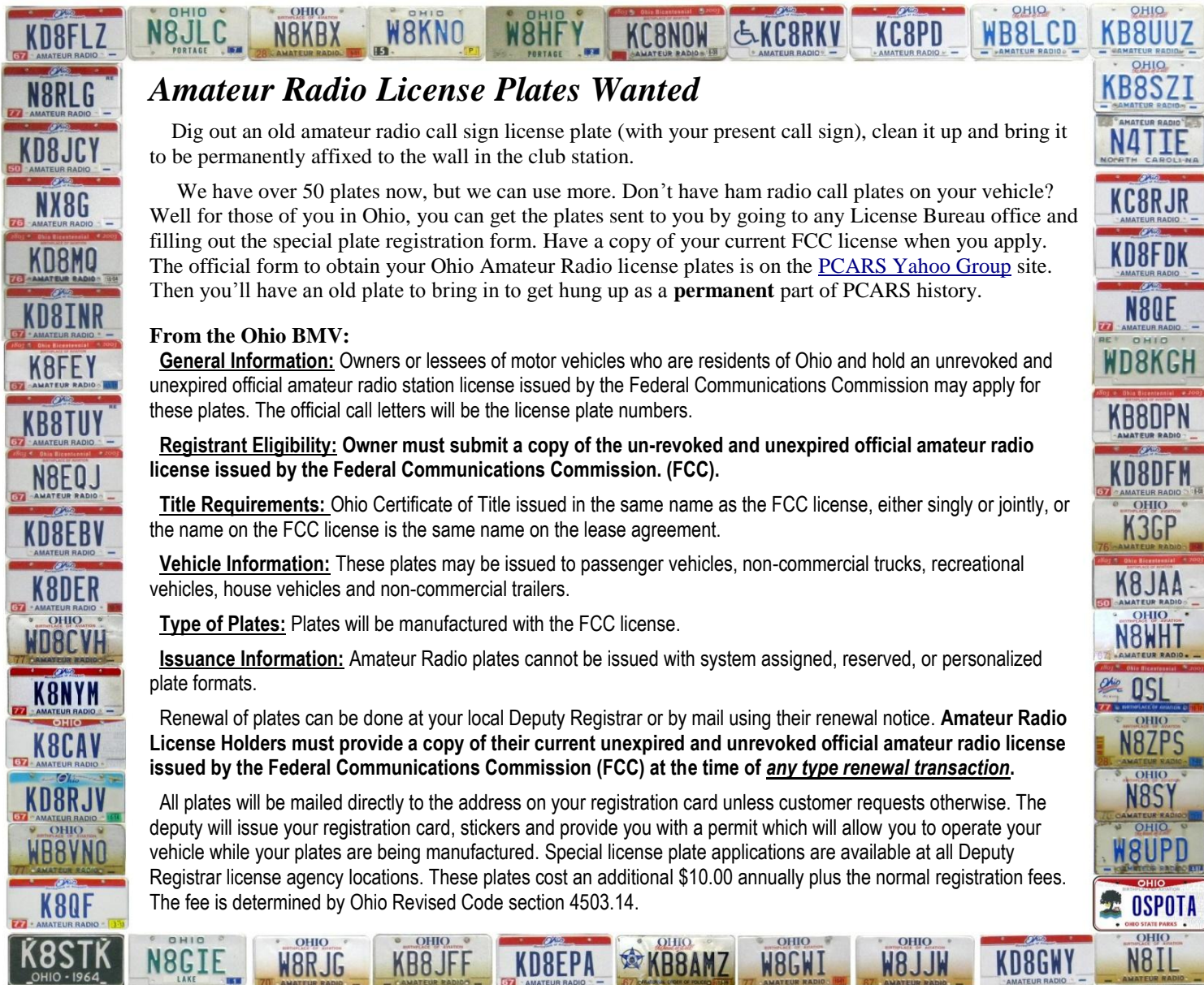
You never know just where ham radio can take you. It's taught me so much and taken me all over the world - even to where I touch the sky.

Tom, K1TH

Tom Hurley, K1TH (ex-WN2ROT, WB2ROT, WD8NLN, KC8SR and NO1J) was first licensed as a ham in 1965 and earned his private pilot certificate in 2001. He and his wife Linda, WB2BYO, reside in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Thanks to Tim, K3LR for sending PCARS this article





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 50 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.**

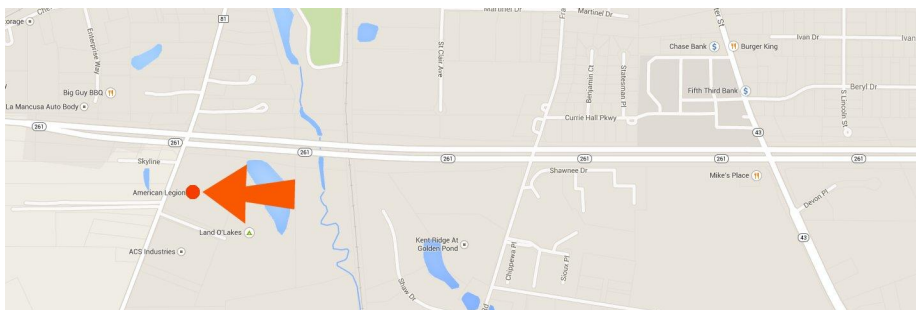
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card unless customer requests otherwise. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate 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 Meetings

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

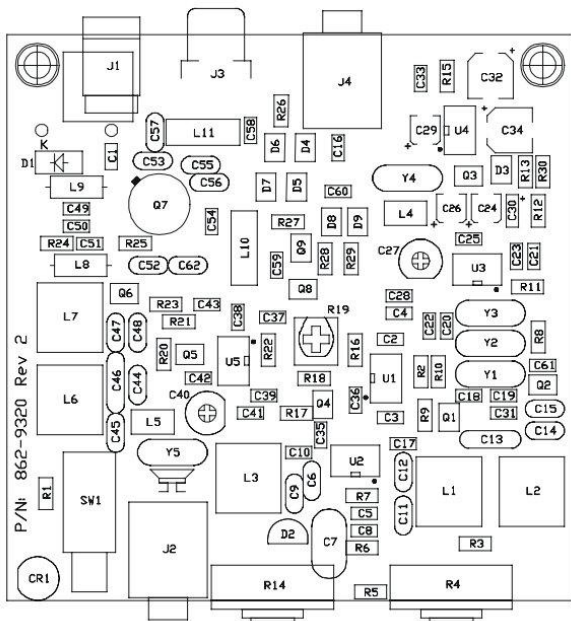
**The February Meeting will be held at the
American Legion hall
1945 Mogadore Rd. in Kent.
(Just south of Route 261)**

[The meeting place information was sent in from our Secretary Mark, K8MSH]



QRP / CW Special Interest Group

The QRP / CW SIG meets the second Tuesday of each month (usually the day after the PCARS Club meeting), 7:00 PM at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. Everyone is welcome. As a follow up to MFJ Day at DX Engineering, we'll be doing a build of the MFJ transceiver for 40 meters. If you didn't get one yet, get it ordered and on the way!



At the February 10th meeting, we'll be going over the box of parts and giving you a few ideas to help you make it a successful build. Builders will work at home, at their own pace, or, we can make arrangements for anyone who needs a place to build and/or proper tools to work with to meet at the club site to work there. This is a relatively easy project, all surface mount components come pre-installed from the factory. All soldering is "through hole". At the March and April meetings we'll take a look at any completed kits and help with the final tuning as necessary.



Also, for February, come show us what you plan to operate at FYAO! Share any strategies you have to make the FYAO event a successful one. Then on Saturday we can all see how it actually works in the field.

In coming months we'll be talking more about the "Four Days In May" event at the Dayton Hamvention and also hi-lighting a couple easy to build / easy up antennas for summer QRP'ing wherever you might find yourself on vacation.

If there's something you would like covered at an upcoming QRP / CW sig, send me an email to: wb8lcd@portcars.org . We'll get it on the agenda.



72/73,
Tom, WB8LCD

Linux for Hams Special Interest Group

At our last SIG we had an installfest. Pizza was served. Nothing planned until the next meeting on March 31, 2015. Any questions contact Terry, KB8AMZ or Mike, KB8TUY

73,
Terry, KB8AMZ

Introduction to Emergency Communications Class – 2015

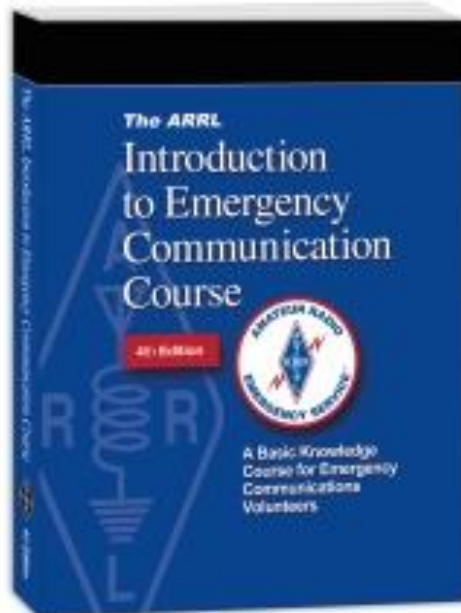
The Communications Unit/RACES of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) is sponsoring a local, classroom based version of the ARRL's Introduction to Emergency Communications course (EC-001). This was previously known as the Level I course and it as traditionally only been available on-line through the ARRL.

This local course will be taught by Jim Aylward, KC8PD, who is a registered Field Instructor and field Examiner for the ARRL. That means that this class will qualify you to take the written exam at the end of the course in order to obtain your ARRL certificate of completion.

The class will meet on four Saturdays in March starting on March 7th. The class will be held at the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) club site (in the building adjacent to the radio tower) at 705 Oakwood Street, Ravenna, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. and run to around 3:00 p.m., with a break for lunch, on each day. Attendance at the classes is mandatory. Excuses from a class session will only be granted for extraordinary reasons and anyone who misses more than one class will not be permitted to take the exam.

Anyone wishing to take the class must register prior to the class so that we can ensure that sufficient seating is available. The number of students may be limited. If you wish to attend you must pre-register by sending a note to Jim, KC8PD at aylwardjim@aol.com. Contact him if you have any questions about the class.

There is great deal of material to cover for this class and all students should purchase the course manual from the ARRL, <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Introduction-to-Emergency-Communication-Course/>. The book is item #7303 and costs \$24.95.



There will be no charge for the class and you do not have to be an ARRL or ARES® member to participate. There is a \$15.00 fee, payable to the ARRL, to take the final exam.

This is a great opportunity to be able to obtain the certification without the expense of the tuition for the on-line course. However, everyone must be prepared to be involved and to participate in order to obtain the maximum benefit from the material.

Jim, KC8PD



DX / Contest Special Interest Group

Our most recent meeting, held on Jan. 27th was well attended. We covered several topics that included our 2015 Contest schedule for the club site; a review brief review of the *New DXer's Handbook* written by Bryce Anderson, K7UA; our upcoming Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP contest; Contest training; and our ongoing challenge of eliminating our interference issues on Field Day.

The New DXer's Handbook - Second Edition, was issued by Bryce on Jan. 10th of this year. It's an update of his first edition which was done in 2010 and was slightly revised in 2011. This new edition is in full color and can be downloaded for free from his web site - www.k7ua.com

You may not want to print it out as I did, but you certainly can save it on your computer as a handy reference. It has a lot of info on such topics as DX Cluster Basics, Split operation, DX Propagation Basics? (which I highly recommend for all DXers), and the Art of QSLing among other topics. Do yourself a favor and take a look. You'll be surprised at what you can learn even if you have been DXing for a while.

Freeze Your Acorns Off is coming together and I have had a good many emails telling me who is coming to operate and also what food will be showing up. But I don't want to stop there. So if you haven't sent me an email yet, please do so. We are a hungry bunch and we will need a good amount of food and snacks. PCARS will supply the coffee to keep everyone wired, and a donut or two for all. Come on out even if you simply sit around a table sampling the various dishes and rag chewing with your fellow hams.

We will be using some up-coming state QSO parties to do some contest training. I encourage those of you who will be taking part in the PCARS Field Day event, to plan on attending these sessions as they are announced. We want to get those of you who do not regularly contest, and might be a little nervous about the faster pace of contesting, comfortable in front of the mic. We are also trying to think of ways to help those who want to log but have difficulty with either the logging program or typing itself. So again, watch for the announcements for the upcoming training sessions and plan to attend.

Finally, we went through a 2015 Contest calendar and picked a number of contests that we will enter and operate from the club site, as well as making note of those other contests that PCARS sponsors. The list is below:

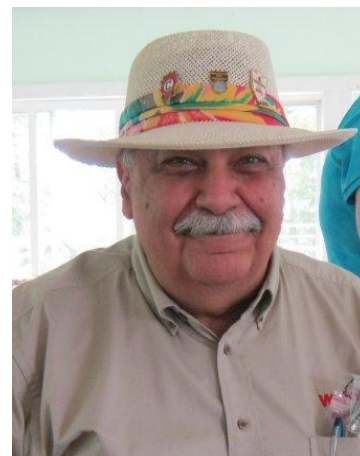
February 14 - Freeze Your Acorns Off - Fred Fuller Park in Kent
March 14 to 16 - Idaho and Wisconsin QSO Parties - from the Club site
April 18 & 19 - Michigan and Ontario QSO Parties - from the Club site
May 2 & 3 - There are 5 events that weekend - 7th Call area; Indiana, Delaware and New England QSO Parties as well as the ARI International DX Contest. There was a lot of interest in playing in one or more of these events from the Club site.
May 9 - Antenna Day at Ravenna City Park - PCARS Field Day site
May 14-17 Hamvention - Dayton (We have to mention that event)
June 27 & 28 - FIELD DAY - Ravenna City Park
August 22 & 23 - Ohio QSO Party - from the Club site
September 12 - OSPOTA - Our Club sponsored event
October 3 & 4 - California QSO Party - from the Club site

There's the schedule. Of course it is subject to change and even addition if needed. But as you can see, the number of events that PCARS will be involved in has grown over time and hopefully continue to grow as we add new members.

Finally, one of our members, Jack, N8BI, has some insight into the use of stubs to eliminate interference. He has ordered some stubs for his own station and we will be very interested to see how they work when he is operating Multi-two from his station. If it proves successful, we will seriously consider using stubs during our Field Day operation.

As you can see from the above, the meeting was very productive. I'd like to see more participation in our DX/Contest SIG as well as all the other Special Interest Groups. We are involved in the GREATEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD. Why not put your two cents worth in and at the same time, learn more about your hobby.

I will put my soap box away now and say 73 for now.



Chuck, W8PT



FCC “Paperless” Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its “process reform” initiatives.



Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization (“Active” status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager.

“We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs,” the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said.

According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC “give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses.”

The FCC said that applicants or licensees who include a valid e-mail address under “Applicant Information” in the ULS will receive an official electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants who do not provide a FCC Registration Number at the examination point will receive a printed license as well as an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark “Official Copy” will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on “standard, white recycled paper.” The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact FCC Support via the web, telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

The FCC rejected as “outside the scope of this proceeding” an ARRL argument that Section 97.23 of the Amateur Service rules be amended to replace “licensee mailing address” with other alternatives, including e-mail, for use in Commission correspondence. The rule, which requires that any licensee mailing address be in an area where the licensee has US Postal Service access, has precluded FCC issuance of location-specific call signs in such areas as Navassa Island (KP1) and some Pacific islands.

From the ARRL



Antenna Special Interest Group

At the February Antenna Special Interest Group Jim, AC8NT, is tentatively scheduled to give the group a dry run of the presentation that he is preparing on the theory, design and construction of the Magnetic Loop Antenna which he is currently using. The antenna tunes 20 through 10 meters; is highly directional (with excellent gain); can be operated in very restricted spaces close to the ground; is very efficient and being only 36 inches in diameter makes a great portable antenna.

The intent is to use this presentation as a special monthly activity and depending on the level of interest, do a club group building project of this unique antenna.

In addition the floor will be open to discuss any and all antenna related problems and design/build projects. The group meets the third Tuesday of every month, 7pm, at the club site and is open to all PCARS members and guests.



Tony, WA8AR



With Just a WSPR

It's really amazing what you can do with computers in amateur radio, and there's been an explosion in the number of digital modes. One interesting mode that I've recently been introduced to is WSPR, which is short for Weak Signal Propagation Reporting. The protocol and the original WSPR program was written by Joe Taylor, K1JT, and is designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions on the HF bands to test propagation paths.

I won't try to cover all the technical details here. There are several sites that cover them pretty well:

- * Wikipedia: WSPR (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WSPR_%28amateur_radio_software%29)

- * G4ILO's Shack: WSPT - Distant Whispers (<http://www.g4ilo.com/wspr.html>)

I was introduced to WSPR by my friend, Joe, AC8ES. He posted a message to our club mailing list asking if anyone had a toroid core that he could buy to make a QRP balun for 10 MHz. When I asked what he was going to use it for, he said that he was making a WSPR transmitter with a Raspberry Pi, and the balun was for the dipole he built for it. He said that he'd gotten roped into doing this because he'd attended a local Raspberry Pi users' group, and when he mentioned he was an amateur radio operator, they encouraged him to try this project.

How could I refuse a request like that? I have a whole kit of ferrite cores, and after some back and forth, we found a small core that he could use.

The software he chose is WsprryPi (<https://github.com/JamesP6000/WsprryPi>). It's described a "Raspberry Pi transmitter using NTP-based frequency calibration." It uses a GPIO port to generate WSPR signals anywhere from 0 to 250 MHz. Joe said that there are several Raspberry Pi programs that run WSPR, but that he chose this one because it seemed to have more features than the others.

The picture shows Joe's setup. Since the output generates a square wave, a low-pass filter is needed to filter out the high-frequency components. As you can see, the GPIO output is fed through a 0.1uF decoupling capacitor into a Mini-Circuits 10.7MHz low-pass filter, then to a 1:1 balun, which is connected directly to the dipole elements.

Joe says, "The antenna is just a dipole taped up to the walls of my living room and hallway." As you can see he made the balun and dipole from 24 ga speaker wire.



The performance of this setup has been kind of amazing. In one e-mail, Joe reported, "Your toroid seems to be working well. Got the balun and antenna finished and executed seven WSPR transmissions from the Raspberry Pi. The WSPR reporting website WSPRnet (<http://wsprnet.org>) came back with a couple dozen reception reports; typical distance is ~300+ miles, max was 593 miles." In a second e-mail, Joe writes, "Did a few more beacon transmissions and checked the WSPR signal reports again. Someone picked up my 5 mW signal from 1010 miles away in Canada."

Joe's turned into quite a WSPR fan. He's even written an Android app - WSPRnet Viewer (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.glandorf1.joe.wsprnetviewer.app>) to retrieve and displays report from www.wsprnet.org. Tapping on a specific report displays more details about it, along with a world

map that shows transmitter and receiver locations.

Unfortunately, I don't have a Raspberry Pi, or I'd try this as well. I do have a BeagleBone Black, but there doesn't seem to be software that I can download and install as easily as the Raspberry Pi software. That being the case, this might be a good excuse to purchase one of those new, cheaper RPi's.

Dan, KB6NU

When he's not digging through his junk box or teaching amateur radio classes, KB6NU writes about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. He has just released *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code*, available on Amazon.Com or on KB6NU.Com



Three Free Books

This month is a good one for free on-line books (in PDF format). Here are a few that were spotted by KB8UUZ, K3LR and KC8PD:

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Heil Microphones. From Bob Heil K9EID "*It All Starts With The Microphone*" You can find it here at: <http://www.heilsound.com/pro/images/mic-primer/MicPrimer2012.pdf>

From KB8UUZ Found on-line

=====

To aid your efforts in the upcoming ARRL DX contests, K3TN, K0DQ, K3ZO and N3JT have updated the "*PVRC DX Contest Cookbook*" that was put out in 1994. Take a look, use it to increase your scores - and if you have any hints/kinks/ideas of your own to add, send them to K3TN to make this a living document. You can find it at:

<http://www.pvrc.org/Files/PVRC%202015%20ARRL%20DX%20CONTEST%20COOKBOOK%20.pdf>

From K3LR

Found in the PVRC Newsletter

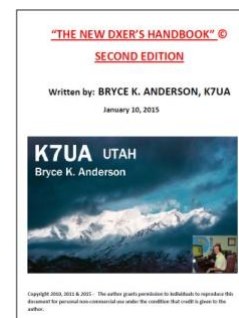
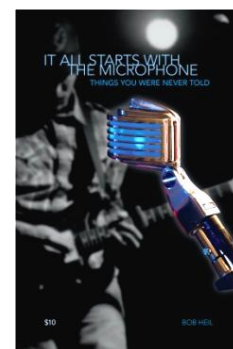
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Four years ago, Bryce K7UA wrote a series of short articles for his local DX club called the "*New DXer's Handbook*." Bryce tells us "The original has become outdated and wasn't written for a broad audience in the first place" but a revised second edition is now available free of charge. (Thanks, [Daily DX](http://www.dailydx.com))

http://www.k7ua.com/uploads/4/9/9/0/4990079/new_dxers_handbook_second_edition_optimized_1.15.15.pdf

From KC8PD

Found in the ARRL's Contest Update



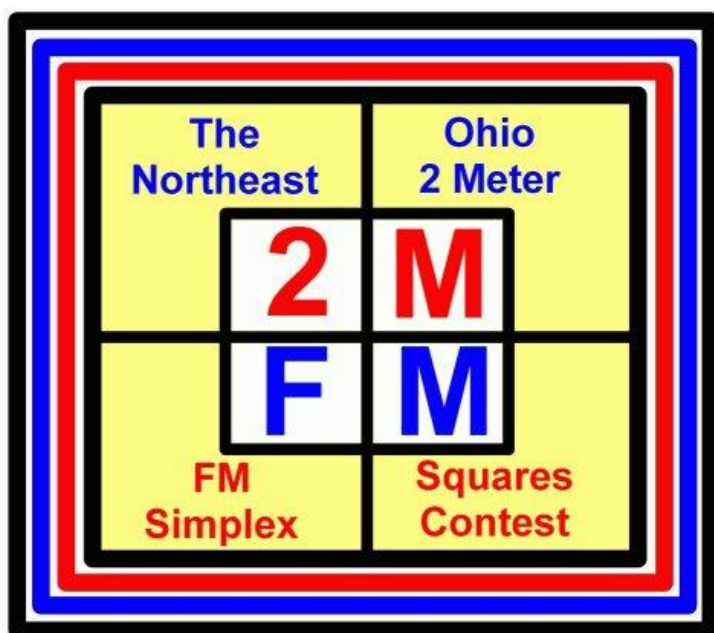
The 2015 Northeast Ohio 2 Meter FM Simplex Squares Contest

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

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

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

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



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

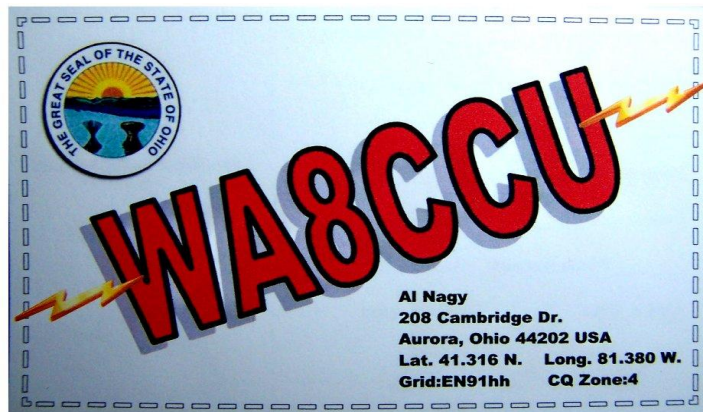
All the details: Full details including rules, grid square information, HT enhancements, antenna construction links, operating tips, etc. can be found at: www.CFARC.ORG/contest15.php

Thanks to John, KD8MQ for passing this information to PCARS

WA8CCU - Shack Shot & QSL Card

From the shack of Al, WA8CCU - Yaesu FT-920 with a Heath Kit SB-200 amplifier is the backup station.

The Icom 756 pro III with a Heath Kit SB-1000 amplifier is the primary station.



Thanks & 73

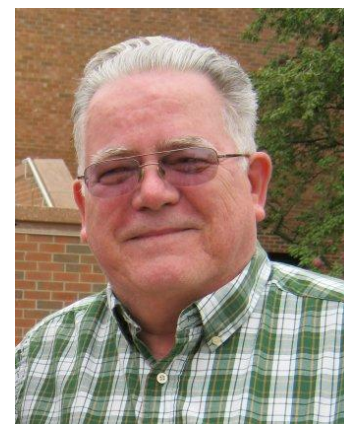
All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure PCARS will again be known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club with plenty of activities to report on in this newsletter all throughout 2015.



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

K8CAV, WA8AR, KB8UUZ, N8RLG, WX1DER, W8PT, KC8PD, K8MSH, KD8WZS, WB2DFC, N8BI, NF8R, AA7BQ, N8SY, KD8MQ, K1TH, KB6NU, K3LR, WA8CCU, Amanda Uren, 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



Pictures from the January PCARS Meeting



Amateur Radio GENERAL Class

~ Upgrade Class ~



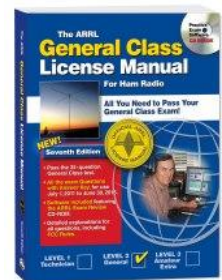
The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)** is offering a General Class upgrade course

When: Tuesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.
Starting January 13, 2015
License testing will be held on the last day of class March 3rd

Where: At the PCARS Club Site located in the
Dietrich Building - 705 Oakwood Street - Ravenna.

Cost: \$25.00 registration fee for non-PCARS members
Your \$25 fee includes a One Year Membership in PCARS
There is **no** fee for current PCARS members

Text – ARRL “General Class License Manual”
Books may be purchased from PCARS for \$30.00



Information & Registration: Contact: **Tom Sly, WB8LCD**
by e-mail: WB8LCD@portcars.org
or phone: **330-554-4650**

Please register with Tom, WB8LCD by January 10th
You can pay the registration fee the first night of class

As a **General Class Amateur Radio Operator** you will be able to Contact other ham radio operators in the area around the world on the HF Bands.
It will open up a whole new area of fun for you in Amateur Radio.



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Tenth Annual

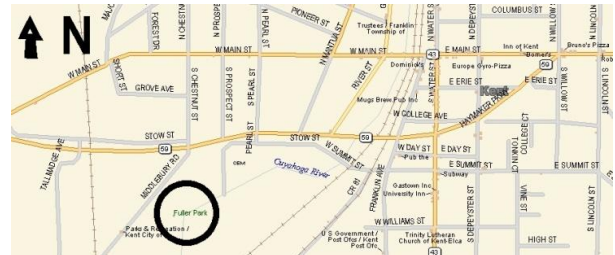
"Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) QRP *Special Event / Contest*



*Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh
at the Roy Smith Shelter House*

*When: Saturday - Feb. 14, 2015
Set up: 9am*

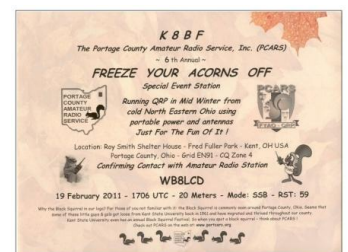
Operating Time: 10am - 4pm EST



We will be active on CW & Phone in the General areas of the 6, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Repeater & Echolink on the K8SRR echo link node for a certificate) and anything else we can get working. Club Call Sign **K8BF** for a certificate. Other participating stations will be using their own callsign/FYAO, or calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator).

Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.

A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate will be available if you contact K8BF and send your QSL with a SASE to the club call trustee:
Bob Hewett, K8FEY - 3670 Sea Ray Cove - Reminderville, OH 44202



So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org





Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [] New [] Renewal

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: _____ Year: _____

Birthday: Month: _____ Day: _____ (don't need year)

A \$5.00 initiation fee will be assessed in the first year of membership for all new members.

Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31st. Dues are as follows:

Example - Regular Member Pays on Jan 1st \$20 for entire year. If paid on June 1st, \$15 for entire year, etc.

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Full Membership | Pay January 1 through May 31= \$20.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate Membership | Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Senior Full Membership (65+) | Pay January 1 through May 31= \$16.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate Senior Membership (65+) | Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family* Member
Call Sign of Regular Member: _____ | Pay January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months)
Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month) |

(*Family = wife, husband, brother, sister, son, daughter, father, mother that is a licensed amateur radio operator and who's FCC license has the same address as the paid regular member's FCC license)

Checks can be made out to either "PCARS" - or - "Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc."

What are *YOUR* Ham Radio interests:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
c/o: Mark Haverstock - K8MSH
6835 Colleen Dr.
Youngstown, OH 44512

Date Received:	<input type="radio"/> New	<input type="radio"/> Renew
Initiation Fee: \$	+	Dues: \$ = Total \$
Paid: <input type="radio"/> Cash	-or-	<input type="radio"/> Check Check #
Date Voted:	Results:	Member Number:
<input type="radio"/> Database Updated		

Rev. 15 Jan 2015



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. Check the PCARS web site for the meeting location - we'll be changing the location until we find a good venue.

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 Coordinators	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
EchoLink	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
Field Day Chairman 2015	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
Historian	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8BF Callsign Trustee	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
K8BF QSL Manager	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
Membership Chairman	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
Net Manager	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
P.I.O.	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Secretary	WA8AR	Tony Romito
Tech & Gen Class Manager	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
V.E. Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers



PCARS
Active
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members

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



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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(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

NLC

THE RADIOGRAM

