



~ 2015 Officers ~

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3 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT
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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



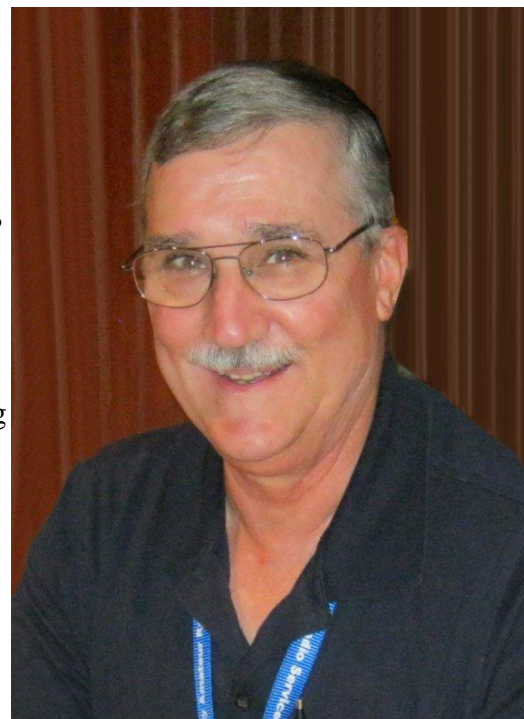
**Special Services
Club**
March 22, 2010

From the President

Finding a place for our monthly meetings is not an easy process; our needs include a place offering inexpensive food, good service, and a large enough room to accommodate all of our members. All of this and it also has to be rent-free. PCARS has had its meetings at a number of different places over the years, all of which stopped meeting our needs for various reasons.

We left Mike's Place in Kent because it was getting too small and the owner wanted to remodel and repurpose the room. Sideliners in Brimfield was abandoned when the facility closed, but we were already approaching capacity of the facility by that time. We also exceeded the capacity of On Tap in Stow-Kent. Stringz and Wingz in Streetsboro closed. Members felt food prices were too high at Overlook in Twin Lakes, and management would not work with us on menu and food prices; ultimately we left because new management wanted PCARS to pay \$150.00 per month rental and guarantee a minimum food purchase, and PCARS making up the difference if we did not meet minimum.

Our new meeting place, The American Legion Hall in Kent, has the potential to work out very well for PCARS. The meeting room is large enough to accommodate average attendance numbers for the foreseeable future. They serve food that's more than reasonably priced, and have adult beverages. So did we have problems and issues our first meeting there? We sure did, and a big chunk of that was because I far underestimated the number of people who would attend. We wound up with 81 members and guests on the sign in sheet, not the 50 I told The American Legion staff to expect, and that made planned seating inadequate along with some service problems. Additionally, most of the servers are volunteers at the post and cannot serve adult beverages because they are not old enough. We are working with The American Legion to iron out the problems we had and I think that it's going to work out well. I ask that all of you be patient as we work through the bugs. If you're having an issue during the meeting, please let me know and I'll do my best to resolve it. If you have some thoughts or ideas on what might work better, jot them down and shoot me an e-mail after the meeting. Above all treat everyone, including the servers and staff, with respect, and I think things will work out well for our group.



(continued on Page 2)

American Legion ARC	22
April is only One Month Away	42
Beer Day	40
Charlie the Tuner - HF High Lites	18
Contest Calendar	14
CW Practice at Club Site	40
Daylight Saving Time Starts	8
Dayton Bus Trip - PARF	45
Draft HF Band Plan Changes	28
Dues are Way Over Due	15
EmComm	16
FCC Paperless Policy Now in Effect	14
Field Day - 2015	22
Four Year Change	13
FYAO - 2015	5
FYAO - K8CAV	9
FYAO - K8IV	11
FYAO - KB8UHN	10
FYAO - KD8MQ	7
FYAO - Shelter Video	39
FYAO - WB8LCD	8
FYAO Pictures	6
General Class Pool Update	39
Ham License Plates Wanted	35
Hamfest Schedule	17
Happy Birthday	12
Inter-Member Communications	33
Intro to Emergency Comm Class	23
K1N Navassa DXpedition	26

Let's Talk	30
Mark Your Calendars	4
Meetings, PCARS	36
NE Ohio 2 Meter Simplex Contest	44
Net - Thursday Night Net	25
Net Info & NCS Schedule	24
Paper Chase	31
Patches & Stickers, PCARS	35
PCARS Membership App & Renewal	46
Pictures from the February Meeting	37
President, From the	1
Saint Patrick's Day	41
Shack Shot - WV8P	34
SIG - Antennas	17
SIG - Digital	24
SIG - DX / Contest	32
SIG - QRP / CW	39
Swap-N-Shop	27
Technician Class flier	43
Thanks & 73	42
US Island Awards	15
VE Test Sessions	12
Vee Ward - SK	4
Vice President, From the	3
Volunteer Needed	21
WRTC 2014 Video	42
Yahoo Group - PCARS	27
YouTube - PCARS	7



From the President *(continued from Page 1)*

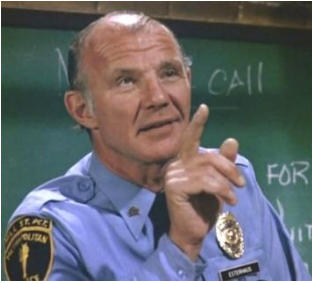
Freeze Your Acorns Off certainly lived up to its name this year! Chuck, W8PT did a great job organizing FYAO and I want to thank him for all the time and effort it took to put on a really fun – and cold - event! Thanks also to everyone who came out to operate and to share in some great fellowship.

When an organization conducts an activity there are different ways for defining whether or not the activity is a success. For many organizations that simply means did the activity take place; for example, did Field Day “work”? For PCARS, this has always been the case in that we want all of our activities to “work”, but we have also made having fun and making members feel like an integral part of the activity and organization a very important part of that activity. The leaders of PCARS and of any given activity do their part to make that happen, but that’s only half of the equation. The other half is you, our members. We obviously need members to participate in an activity to make it “work” and to make it enjoyable, but it also takes members showing up even if they don’t participate in the activity itself, to share in friendship and fellowship and add to the enjoyment of the event for everyone. Not everyone may enjoy operating at Field Day or FYAO, not everyone may enjoy

bringing a mobile installation to show at the Cruise-In, but I can guarantee that just by you being there that you and everyone else will enjoy sharing in friendship and fellowship. So no matter what we're doing, come on out to enjoy being with the rest of the PCARS gang!

Spring Forward is happening on Sunday March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour for the start of Daylight Saving Time! It means we lose an hour of sleep for one day, but it means we're that much closer to warmer weather and that will sure be welcome after the winter we've had so far!

While you're updating your clocks, don't forget to get yourself updated on all of the PCARS happenings coming up. Check the club's web site at www.portcars.org, watch for the QST emails from the club, and come to the monthly meeting and gatherings at the club site.



Until next month stay dry, stay warm and in the word of character Sgt. Phil Esterhaus on Hill Street Blues, "Let's be careful out there!" (now we're really going to find out who's old and who's not - hi)

73,

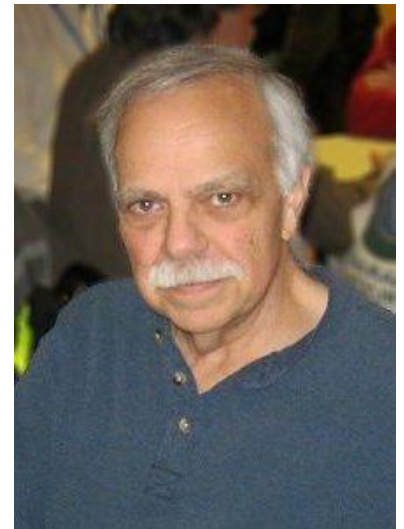
Rick, K8CAV
PCARS President

From the Vice President

I know that everyone is tired of this near glacial winter (except WB2DFC) and is wondering if spring will ever get here. So, as a public service I have reached back into my old Professional Geologist / Hydrologist / Geophysicist bag of tricks and come up with a firm prediction for the end of winter 2015. Our last major snow event will occur on March 17 (+/- 15 days). This forecast was prepared based on historical information dating back to the late Pleistocene, 11,500 years ago. So take heart, The End is Near!!

To help celebrate the end of this winter, this month's PCARS meeting presentation will be given by N6JRL, Don Dubon, President of The Dayton Amateur Radio Association and participant in numerous DXpeditions. His main topic that night will be the Peter 1 Island DXpedition. For those of you that don't know Peter 1 island is located about 1,200 miles south-southwest of Tierra del Fuego and 250 miles off the coast of Antarctica. The only access to the island for operators, equipment and supplies is by helicopter. The operating team made nearly 87,000 QSO's from the Island. Now that is a DXpedition. Don will have some great stories to share with us at the meeting.

As for presentation topics, please feel free to let me know what topics might interest you and just maybe we will be able to dig up an interesting speaker.



73,

Tony, WA8AR
PCARS Vice President

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **March 3rd - VE Session** for the current General upgrade class - 7 pm. Walk-ins welcome - club site
- **March 9th - PCARS meeting** - 7 pm - Don, N6JRL - **DXpedition to Peter 1 - Antarctica**
- **March 17th - PCARS Technician Class Starts** - *See flier in this newsletter*

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



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

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



Vee Ward - SK



Vee - 2015 PCARS meeting

Venetia A. "Vee" Ward, 84 of Ravenna died Wednesday, February 18, 2015. She was born August 5, 1930 in Alliance, Ohio to Christ and Mary A. (Riffle) Hustus. Formerly of Chagrin Falls, she has lived in Ravenna since 1970, worked at Twin Star Lanes as a waitress. Vee enjoyed crocheting, reading and talking to people. Survivors include her husband Richard "Dick" whom she married on April 29, 1967. The committal service was held at Grandview Cemetery in Sebring, Ohio on February 24th..

Vee and Dick (KB8JFF) Ward both started coming to meetings at the beginning of PCARS and it wasn't long before both of them joined as members. Vee, always with that great smile, loved to chat about all kinds of things with everybody.

On Thursday night PCARS nets, when Dick would check in, she would speak up from the background and say hello to everyone on the net. Vee was at most of the PCARS events over the years and would always have kind words for everybody. She became a friend to everyone she met. Vee will be missed by all of us at PCARS.



Vee - 2006 PCARS meeting

FYAO - 2015

On Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 (Valentine's Day) the Portage County Amateur Radio Service held their 10th annual Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP contest. This is a special event for PCARS because it is the first event that was conceived and started by our then fledgling club 10 years ago.

That first outing was held by a small, intrepid group of HAMS out on a very cold February day. There were four stations that tried to make QRP contacts with only one of the stations being successful, making a total of 6 contacts. The total members present at the 2006 FYAO was 16.



We now shift to this past February 14, 2015 where we had 33 members and visitors come out on probably the coldest day of the year so far (7° F with wind chills in the negative double digits). We had six stations operating in, at times, near whiteout conditions.



We need to confess that the majority of the visitors, and those not operating, enjoyed the warmth of the park shelter house where hot chili, homemade stews and Sloppy Joe's were served along with soda and hot coffee.



The basic idea for FYAO is for HAMS to set up stations in either makeshift shelters or tents and brave the weather while making contacts using QRP power levels.



A review of the logs of the 6 FYAO stations showed that stations in 25 states and 3 countries were contacted. Who says that QRP doesn't work! We started with set up at 9AM; event start at 10AM and continuing until 3PM when the weather got bad enough that we felt it would be prudent to call it a day. Everyone that attended said that they really enjoyed the outing and had a lot of fun.



The 2015 FYAO results are as follows:

Station - Score

WD8DAU (WD8DAU & KB8TUI) - 21 - **KD8MQ** (KD8MQ & WI8T) - 205
WB8LCD (WB8LCD & WB9LBI) - 300 - **K8CAV** - 430 - **KB8UHN** - 1486



And the overall winner of this year's event:

K8IV - (K8IV, N8QE, AC8RH, KA8ZME) - 6340

Congratulations to all participants for your tenacity and your operating skills.

Until FYAO 2016, a very 73 to all. See you next year.



Chuck, W8PT

A collage of 30 photographs capturing various moments from a winter hamfest. The images show people in winter attire, indoor gatherings with food and equipment, outdoor snowy scenes, and vehicles. Notable photos include a man in a yellow jacket, a man in a NYPD sweatshirt, a man in a 'WARMERS HAND' jacket, and a sign for 'DX Engineering'. The photos are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping, creating a sense of a busy and festive event.

FYAO - KD8MQ

Well, what can I say about FYAO 2015? The day started out warm (relatively speaking), and got colder from there. By 2 PM, the temps were in the lower teens, and the wind was brisk, to say the list.

It had begun snowing about the time Allen, WI8T, and I left Alliance, and didn't stop. We used tarps to wrap our operating pavilion on three sides, which worked well until after lunch.



We finally gave up around 1:30-ish. We only made seven measly contacts. Maybe it was the cold, but I was just not able to get motivated this year. So we set the bar pretty low for next year. BTW, I'd like to thank Rick, K8CAV for the loan of his IC-718. It really is a fine little rig. The White oaks at Fred Fuller Park conspired against us to grab each & every line shot from my potato gun. We finally had to resort to plan B (rock & rope) to hoist the G5RV.

As to the shelter, AKA "The Warm Side", the food, and fellowship were great! Did I mention that the food was great? If anyone claims to have left FYAO hungry, it's their own darn fault!



All in all, in a year when other groups are cancelling their cold weather operating activities, the folks at PCARS sucked it up, got out of the house, and had some Big Fun!

Contrary to some of the statements I made that day, I WILL be back next year, and WILL be setting up outdoors. This is a great group, and I always enjoy myself at PCARS events.



73,
John, KD8MQ

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



FYAO - WB8LCD

On February 14, 2015, I participated in the 10th annual PCARS FYAO. This makes 10 in a row for me! (Maybe I should get a "Suitable for Framing" participation certificate) As far as temperature goes, I think this years one was the coldest. But, that first one, on February 25, 2006, was probably the most miserable as far as overall conditions were, that we've endured so far.

This year, I set up in the warm and comfortable confines of the Roy Smith shelter house at Fred Fuller Park. An RG8x cable out the window was the only place any cold air could get in, except when someone went out the front door and it didn't close all the way. That cable connected my Yaesu FT-450 (dialed down to 10 watts PEP for ssb) to my PAC-12 antenna set up just outside the window. That PCAC-12 antenna was the first



construction project we built as a club, and it still performs admirably. It's a little hard to operate to seriously from inside the shelter house because of all the distractions, but I still had fun, made a few Q's and didn't get my feet cold. Bill, WB9LBI, also made a few CW Q's using the Mic buttons for his key.

Our turnout was down a little bit this year, but I have to attribute that to the temperature. That first FYAO took place at Towner's Woods. There was no shelter house to stay warm in, nor any outlets to plug crock pots in. We thought it would be fun to build a fire to keep us warm, but it was so windy that day, we figured a fire would be too

dangerous, so we stuck it out in the wind and the cold. I think I made 1 Q that day, and it wasn't till later that I discovered my FT-817 was set at 0.5 watt instead of 5 watts! You can read all about that first years FYAO by going to the club website, click on the "newsletter" tab, and then choose the newsletter from March 2006.

We've come a long way as a club since then, but as I can attest from being at the 2015 FYAO, we are still a group of absolutely fantastic people that know how to get together and have fun!



Tom, WB8LCD

Daylight Saving Time - March 8th

Yes folks, it's that time of year once again. As that we will be going to Daylight Saving Time (EDT) we will be springing ahead one hour. This will happen at 2:00 am Sunday, March 8, 2015. Don't forget, or you will be late for everything until you "*spring forward*."

Remember UTC time does not change, we change. So, once EDT starts, we will be 4 hours behind UTC. So: 1700 (5 pm) UTC will be 1300 (1 pm) EDT.

Look at the bright side - Summer is only 4 months away.



FYAO - K8CAV

Freeze Your Acorns Off sure lived up to its name again this year! It was 5 degrees colder than last year and a lot more 'exciting' what with snow and blowing wind causing some white out conditions for a while. What started out at a balmy 28 degrees and relatively calm winds, ended in the afternoon with a hand-numbing 10 degrees and wind that just cut right through you.

In the past I've always hung a wire antenna in the trees and operated from inside of the lodge at the park. This year I decided to haul my small COMS trailer to the park and operate from there. A quick recon on Thursday afternoon before FYAO showed that Kent Parks and Recreation had plowed a driveway on the very south end of the park complete with a turn-around that would make getting the trailer in and out easy so the plan was set.

I arrived at 9:00 AM and dropped the trailer at its spot in the park, then drove back to the lodge and left a crock pot of home-made chicken noodle soup, courtesy of my XYL, Lynn. Back at the trailer, I started setting up by firing up one of those Mr. Buddy propane heaters inside the trailer. Next was the el- cheapo, errr inexpensive 800 watt generator from Harbor Freight. The last of the work outside was finished by setting up the new dipole I had built. Inside the trailer I set up the laptop and the KX3, got my paper logs laid out, and I was ready to go. Until the heater quit working. Ah well its warm enough now inside and the temps outside aren't that bad, right? Until temps outside dropped like a rock and the wind kicked up. And the snow came. And it turned into a whiteout. Fiddling with Mr. Buddy got things going again – for a while. Then more fiddling, and more fiddling, until Mr. Buddy decided he'd been fiddled with enough and started to work consistently. Now to the bench and to operate! Everything connected, check! Headphones, on, check! Power on, check and ready to ... good grief what's that noise?! Of course it was the generator sending oodles of RF noise down the power cord to the radio on every HF band through 6 meters. And of course no battery backup to run the KX3.



Discretion becoming the better part of valor, meaning I resisted the urge to smash everything to bits with a tree limb, I drove back to the lodge for some coffee and to watch some folks operate their stations – inside where it was warm – on AC power – with food and drink right at hand. I had just decided I lost all semblance of sanity when I walked John, KD8MQ, though until hats, scarves and half a dozen layers of clothing came off you'd have been hard pressed to know who it was. "John," I asked, "where the heck are you set up?" He said not a word but slowly lifted his arm and pointed south. My gaze followed his arm and yes - there it was, off in the distance, obscured by blowing snow – a park pavilion draped in blue tarps. Suddenly knowing I was no longer the dimmest bulb in the pack (with apologies to John), I drove back to my trailer and happily started making some Q's. Not very many, but enough to at least justify being out there. When mid-afternoon rolled around, I started tearing down and packing up which went smoothly and quickly except those few times I had to ungloved to untie knots. I went back to the lodge to submit my log and score sheets, pick up the crock pot, and then hit the roads for home.

I really did have a great time and I'm sure everyone else did as well, whether they were operating or there to enjoy the day with the rest of us. A huge thank you to Chuck, W8PT for all the work he put in organizing FYAO and to everyone that participated, brought food, and showed up to share in a really good time.



Rick, K8CAV

FYAO - KB8UHN

Freeze Your Acorns Off certainly lived up to it's name this year. The weather predictions were pretty accurate for February 14. As the day went on, the weather deteriorated into something you might find in Siberia.



With the weather predictions as they were, I wanted an easy take down of the antenna, which is a mast connected to the trailer hitch on my truck. I raised the mast to only about 26 feet so I wouldn't have to guy it. The antenna is a Carolina Windom, and the station was set up in the truck.

The event was great fun with lots of fellowship with our fellow club members, and

others. I was especially impressed with Colin, KA8ZME, he's a ham who had let his license lapse, and then decided to get back into ham radio with a new call sign. He walked the grounds of Fred Fuller Park to check out the stations operating, and logging our guest sheets.



Propagation seemed to be missing for much of the day on 40 meters, which is what I was set up for. I thought maybe it was the antenna. I had no way to measure the wind, but at one point, I was sure I had made a mistake by not guying the mast. But it held up just fine. A few times, looking in the truck's rear view mirror, I was sure it was going to be blown down. I'll bet one gust was at least 35 miles per hour and seemed to last for four or five minutes.

The rig is an Elecraft KX3 at ten watts on SSB. I used my trusty lithium iron phosphate battery which performed perfectly in the cold. Still holding at 13.4 volts at the end of the event. For those of you who might have missed it, check out the article I wrote for the Radiogram, March and April of 2014 about these batteries.

I ended up quitting about an hour and a half before the event was over. After calling CQ for 35 minutes with no replies, I thought my wire antenna was probably laying in the snow. Surprisingly, It was still in pretty good shape. I guess the Propagation Gods were shoveling out their driveways instead of sending down their hands of reflection for us.

Looking forward for next year. Every portable event is a new learning experience. What worked and what didn't work so good. This year's FYAO probably tested all of us who operated, and was probably the coldest Freeze Your Acorns Off on record.



John, KB8UHN

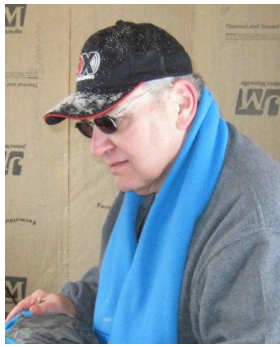
FYAO - K8IV

Hope you are all enjoying our winter blast! I know I'm a little crazy and I sometimes like a little adversity to add spice to my life, nothing like a good snow storm. With that being said, what do folks do on a blustery Valentine's Day especially Amateur Radio operators? Well, we play radio and antenna assembly in the wind and snow, especially this particular year. I normally tend to go all out, pull out all reasonable stops; well I told everyone I had a secret weapon this year. I can't say it was really a secret weapon but it sure required a lot of work well before arriving that morning and then after we finished to break down the station. I worked until 2:00am the night before assembling new antennas and balun assemblies.



DX Engineering FYAO Team

To receive the extra 100 points, I started my Sloppy Joes which were made with seven pounds of ground beef and 6 large cans of tomato sauce... Ok, Hunts Manwich which I doctored a good bit. I finished the Sloppy Joes at 3:30 am and I was off to bed and letting it simmer through what little there was left of the night.



Bob N8QE

Saturday morning I arrived at Fred Fuller Park a bit earlier knowing setup this year will be a greater challenge, my plan is to setup two transmitters and two antennas, one on 40 meters and one on 20 meters, it turned out to be quite a lot of work. I think two antennas, two radios, two watt meters, a tuner the coaxial cabling and emergency power cabling and the rest of the support equipment needed, requires four times as much work compared to a single setup.



Colin, KA8ZME

The group, better known as the DX Engineering FYAO Team started off with Bob N8QE and myself K8IV, we quickly grew our team members when Gene AC8RH slid up and wanted to help, so I put him and his big boots to work finish installing one end of the 20 meter antenna, Gene had to drag himself through a 4 foot drift and about 70 feet of deep crusted snow to attach the far end of the inverted "V" to a tree while I found another support on the opposite side of the parking lot. During this time Bob was making "Q"s on 40 meters, now with the 20 meter antenna and radio set up, another bit of luck would have it. Colin KA8ZME trudged up through the snow just to see what was happening. I ask Colin if he would like to operate a little, sure enough he hit 20 meters with a vengeance and Gene subbed in for Bob on forty meters with the same drive. Bob and I dragged our way through the snow to the main shelter to stuff ourselves with the fabulous table of goodies.



Gene, AC8RH

What a GREAT time we all had, keeping reasonable warm in the portable shack, watching the snow blowing past at likely 25 to 30 miles an hour and working FYAO stations. The real secret weapon turned out to be the superb team of operators, Bob, N8QE, Gene AC8RH & Colin KA8ZME and myself Ed, K8IV. I am pretty sure there was no way to wipe smiles from Gene and Colin's faces. This was probably a first for both of these operators and I will bet not the last! FYAO 2015, what a GREAT time we all had!



FYAO 2016 here we come!

73 for now.
Ed, K8IV

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

W8KNO	Joe Wehner	KD8JRF	Rod Stickle
K8SRR	Steve Randlett	KB3GXB	Jennifer Andrews
KD8NLQ	Richard Preisendorfer	WX1DER	Daryl Stout
AE8YL	Erica Pelz	K8QF	Russ Conklin
WA4WGA	Ray Mahorney	KD8FDK	Rich Taushanoff
W8CYN	Jim Shoemaker	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
KJ4MPN	Herschell Taylor	KD8CGF	Art Dembinski

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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

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

There will be a special VE Session at the end of the current General Upgrade Class - March 3rd - 7pm

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

The Four Year Change

To avoid confusion with examinees on when the question pools and exams change, one can call do what I call "The Four Year Change".

The National Council of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) currently has this "4 year cycle" on when the Question Pools and resulting exams change. In each cycle, you have the Technician changing the first year, the General changing the second year, and the Extra changing the third year. Then, the changes "take a year off"...before starting the cycle all over again. You basically take the year on when the exam element last changed, add 4 years to it, and that's when it'll change again. The updates are done every 4 years, to remove outdated information, and put in things like new technologies.



As an example, the Technician exam last changed in 2014. Add 4 years to it, and you get 2018, when it changes again. Next, the General exam last changed in 2011, so adding 4 years to it, gives 2015 (this year)... and 4 more years gives 2019, when it changes again. And, lastly, the Extra exam last changed in 2012, so adding 4 years to it, gives 2016 (next year) and 4 more years gives 2020, when it changes again.

Of course, if the number of available amateur radio license classes change (which I personally think is unlikely)... then, all bets are off, as it were. The important thing is to be sure that examinees are studying the CORRECT question pool for the class of license they are testing for. If they are testing before July 1 of the "change year", they should study the "old pool". Otherwise, the "new pool" should be studied.

Note that even a small difference between the old and new pools could mean the difference between passing and failing the exam. This is especially true, to be sure the study guide isn't out of date... the older it is, the more likely it is that the examinee will fail the exam, due to studying the wrong material!!

For those wondering, the NCVEC Question Pool Committee (QPC) prepares the pools, and properly licensed amateur radio operators can contribute questions to them. General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class licensees can submit questions for the Technician Class Question Pool... Advanced or Amateur Extra Class licensees can submit questions for the General Class Question Pool... and Amateur Extra Class licensees can submit questions for the Amateur Extra Class Question Pool.

From the NCVEC website, "when submitting questions for QPC Review, please provide the following in plain ASCII text:

- 1) Questions must have no more than 210 characters, including spaces, or a maximum of three 70 character lines.
- 2) Answers must be no more than 140 characters, including spaces, or two 70 character lines in length.
- 3) Each multiple choice question must be accompanied by 4 possible answers. The answers may be in any order, but the correct answer must be indicated.
- 4) Provide resource or Part 97 rule to support correct answer or explanation of the correct answer for QPC Review."

The new pool is usually released in December or January, prior to an effective date of July 1, when the new pool is to take effect. At times, an errata/update may be issued about a month or so after the original release...to take care of vague questions, errors in punctuation, grammar, typing, errors, etc.

New Study Guides usually aren't prepared until around late May or early June...and by that time, any corrections, withdrawing of questions, etc. should have been made. Once released and finalized, all of the Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC's) will be creating their exams based on these Question Pools.

Daryl, WX1DER
UALR Ham Radio Club VE Team Liaison

Contest Calendar

March 2015

CQ WW 160, SSB	2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar1**
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 1 to 0059Z, Mar 2
ARRL Int. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
DARC 10-Meter Digital	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 8
EA PSK63 Contest	1600Z, Mar 14 to 1600Z, Mar 15
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
N. American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
Feld Hell Sprint	1700Z-1859Z, Mar 21
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 28 to 2400Z, Mar 29**

Radiosport

48 Hours of **FUN!**

2015 ARRL DX Contest

When: Phone—March 7-8, 2015 (CW was February 21-22)

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday. Ends 2359 UTC Sunday.

This is your opportunity *to be the rare one.*

Enter Portage County Amateur Radio Service
as your club name!

**** Note the CQ Contests - Rule Changes - one change: the log MUST be sent in within 5 days after the contest !**
Google the Contest Name - Read the Rules & Have Fun. YES - There are **MANY** More Contests out there - Check the Internet

FCC “Paperless” Amateur Radio License Policy Now in Effect

Starting February 17 (Tuesday), the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission maintains that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC had routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses until this week.



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 will also 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 staff expenses.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW.. The ULS License Manager now permits licensees to change the default setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document.

From the ARRL

New US Islands Awards - One-Day Getaway

Fans of portable ham radio are encouraged to grab their equipment and head for the water as part of the new “One-Day Getaway,” sponsored by the US Islands Awards Program. The annual event will debut on Saturday, May 9, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC (Friday evening to Saturday evening in the continental US). Founded in 1994, US Islands promotes portable ham radio operation from islands in all bodies of water — lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and coastal islands in US territorial waters.



“US Islands is a great way to go on a mini-DXpedition without spending a lot of money,” said US Islands Awards Manager Jay Chamberlain, NS4J. “Discovering islands in your own backyard and setting up a station outdoors is always a good time. If hams have only operated outdoors during Field Day, we offer another route to get outside and enjoy portable ham radio in a different way.”

The One-Day Getaway is an on-air activity, not a contest. No scores are tallied, and no prizes are awarded. Participation from all radio amateurs, regardless of experience level, is encouraged. Contacts may be made with any station. US Islands offers achievement awards for both island activators and island chasers, including a certificate for your first US Islands activation.

While there are some 2800 islands on the US Islands list, there are more than 17000 islands within the US. Participants can use Google Earth to locate new islands and be the first to operate ham radio from that location.

Complete information on the US Islands Program, a how-to guide for One-Day Getaway participants and a list of currently qualified islands is available on the group’s website - <http://www.usislands.org/>

From the ARRL



Dues are Way 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.



EmComm

If you have been watching for information about this year's Skywarn training, please continue to be patient. The National Weather Service Cleveland office has had some personnel changes and is unable to do their annual road show where an NWS staffer comes out to each county to do Skywarn training in person.

Instead, this year's training will be via an online webinar. However, unlike most webinars, you won't sign up individually for the webinar. Instead, it will be offered at different locations where you can attend as an audience member.

Our EMA is still completing the arrangements for this year's training and more information will be distributed once the plans are finalized.

As Spring approaches (and that can't happen soon enough) so does the season for public service communications. No matter what county you live in your help would be very much appreciated by the folks who organize special event communications.

I will be serving again as the Communications Manager for the Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon which will, once again, be held on the weekend of the Dayton Hamvention. Please consider volunteering for this race. We need at least three dozen volunteers for this event and for the third year in a row will also be interfacing with Cuyahoga County ARES® members who will be assisting with communications at the Emergency Operations Center. Contact me for information.

Locally we will have the Ravenna Parks and Recreation 5k which will be in June (date TBS) and the Headwaters Adventure Race on July 11th. No matter what county you live in, check with the local ARES® group or ham radio club that provides communications support for local events and offer your assistance.

By the time you read this, the Mahoning and Trumbull county ARES® units will be conducting their second annual winter tabletop exercise. The leaders of both ARES® teams are to be complimented on their efforts to collaborate on training like this.

The All-Ohio ARES® conference will be on Saturday, April 11th at the Ohio Fire Marshall's Conference Center, 8895 E. Main St, Reynoldsburg OH 43068, from 8AM – 4:30PM. April 25 will be the Ohio Section NVIS antenna day. More information will be available at the Ohio Section web site, <http://arrl-ohio.org/>, and this is a good opportunity to practice those skills you need as an Ohio State Parks On The Air participant.

There is still time to sign up for this year's Introduction to Emergency Communications class which starts on March 7th. The flier is in this newsletter.

In the meantime, stay warm and let's hope for a warm dry Spring.



73,

Jim, KC8PD/AAR5AI

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

Hamfest Schedule

03/15/2015 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association 59th Annual Hamfest - Owens Community College - 30335 Oregon Rd. - Perrysburg, OH 43551 - see the web site for contact info: <http://www.tmrhamradio.org>

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

04/12/2014 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club (CFARC) - 60th Annual Hamfest, Electronics & Computer Show - Location: Emido and Sons Party Center - 48 E. Bath Rd. - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Website: <http://www.cfarc.org> - Contact: Ted Sarah W8TTS - Phone: 234-206-0270 - Email: hamfest2014@cfarc.org

May 16-18th 2014 - Dayton Hamvention® 2014 - Location: Hara Arena - 1001 Shiloh Springs Road - Dayton, OH 45415 - Website: <http://www.hamvention.org> - Sponsor: Dayton ARA

Antenna Special Interest Group

At the March Antenna SIG we will return to planning for our first High Altitude Balloon Launch. The Launch is tentatively scheduled for May, with the exact date to be determined. The components that will fly have nearly all been built along with the enclosure. We still need to pack all of the components into the instrument package and test them all together to insure that there are no strange interferences. We have just begun to look for a new launch site west of Medina; north of US 30; to a line just north US 224. We are seeking friendly hams in the area that would let us launch from their property.



We will also try to finalize our plans for a club group build project of a 36" diameter Magnetic Loop Antenna which will tune 20 through 10 meters. Detailed specifications will be distributed to the members after the March Antenna SIG.

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

PCARS
Join Now
Discover the FUN



PCARS
www.portcars.org



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Man is it cold out there!! Every few days I turn my rotors on and give the yagis a spin just to make sure that they do not freeze up. I have had the rotor on the VHF tower freeze and it took some doing to get it to move. So I'm now proactive.

It's perfect WX to stay indoors and play radio and there is a lot of great DX opportunities coming up in the next few months to work some rare or at least seldom heard places.

I hope you got a chance to work Navassa Island (K1N). The operators were extremely good and tried to make Navassa available to as many as they could. I think it was the best run DXpedition that I have heard in a long time. Everything seemed to come together for these ops.

Unfortunately, there were also those who hate everything about DX and DXpeditions on the air also. The interference from these cretins probably made it impossible for some of the weaker stations to get through. (Someone suggested that I apologize to cretins everywhere for lumping them with these horse's patooties, but then I'd have to apologize to all the horse's patooties out there so I'll just let my statement stand.)



In any event, the K1N group gave us a great opportunity to work a DX entity that will probably not get back on the air for at least another 10 years. And by putting that island on the air, they removed it from the most wanted list and they have allowed other entities to move up. There is a new set of rare DX that will be seeing action this year.

So let's get to it!

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). By the time you read this, the 3G0ZC team should be on Robinson Crusoe Island. The 2nd team was expected to arrive on Feb. 20. Remember, members of the Provins ARC (F6KOP) will activate Robinson Crusoe Is. (SA-005, aka Juan Fernandez Archipelago) as 3G0ZC between Feb. 24th and Mar. 4th. For details the 3G0ZC Web site at: <http://www.juanfernandez2015.com> A FaceBook page is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JuanFernandez2015/747628888649765>

4S, SIR LANKA (Reminder). Peter, DC0KK, will once again be active as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, Sri Lanka (AS-003, WLOTA 0762), between now and Apr 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.

5H, TANZANIA. Stefano, IK6JRI, active as 5H1JRI from Zanzibar Island (AF-032) between Feb 20th & Mar 3rd. Activity is holiday style (during his spare time) on 40-10m, possibly 80m, on SSB only. QSL via IK7JWX.

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

C5, THE GAMBIA. Dom, M1TKA, will once again be active as C5/M1KTA from a beach sea front location near Brufu in The Gambia between March 12-17th. Activity will be holiday style on 80-10 meters (Also 30/17/12m) operating QRP using CW. Expect some SSB as /P from the beach and some Digital, especially at night (UK hours). Dom mentions that during the weekend of the RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest (BERU) between 12:00 UTC 14th and 12:00\ UTC 15th March, unless you are a BERU country in the contest, he will likely ignore you. There is a possible side trip to Bijol Island (AF-060) for a one day operation. QSL via his home call sign or the LoTW. For more details and updates, see his Blog page at: <http://m1kta-qrp.blogspot.co.uk>

D4, CAPE VERDE. Lukas, HB9EBT, will be active as D44TEG from Tarrafal, Sao Tiago Island (AF-005) between March 15-27th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters CW only using an Elecraft K3 with 100 watts into a Triple Leg antenna on a 15m Fiberglass pole and homemade feeder line. QSL via his home call sign, direct (NO IRCs) or by the Bureau.

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. The purpose of the activity will be theoretical and practical training and refresher courses for the Amateurs of the DR of Congo. The call sign 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 TOUR. Toshi, JA8BMK, plans to be active over the next month and into the new year. Activity will be focused mainly on 160-80m with better receive antennas and locations. His tentative schedule is as follows: March 1-31st - Nha Trang, Vietnam; call sign XV7BM; with improved RX antennas. QSL all call signs via JA8BMK.

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. 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>

EI, IRELAND. Olivier, ON4EI, active as EI8GQB and EI1A between Mar 1 and Apr 2. He plans to operate from his caravan using green energy. Olivier will activate the EI1A call sign during the ARRL International DX SSB (March 7-8th), Russian DX (Mar 21-22) and CQWW WPX SSB Contest (Mar 28-29) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. You can follow his activities and antenna experimentation on: <http://www.qrz.com/db/EI8GQB> This is a very interesting QRZ.com page. There you will find a live information banner with on air frequencies and information. His equipment will consist of: 18m top loaded vertical monopole for 160-80m-40m bands + 32 radials. 3 elements East-West directional inverted V beam for 40m band. 200m long beverage RX antenna East-West directional. 2 Spiderbeam antennas for

20/15/10m bands. Rigs are Elecraft K3+P3 & Kenwood TS2000 100W. 500Ah battery bank + 180W solar panel and 400W wind generator. Also, live video streaming will be provided on: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/ei8gqb> QSL via LoTW, or via QSL Manager PA3249, direct or by the Bureau.

FR, REUNION ISLAND. Guy, F5MNV, will once again be active as FR/F5MNV 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!

FW, WALLIS AND FUTUNA. Jean, F4CIX, has moved to Mata'utu, the capital of Wallis and Futuna, on Wallis Island (OC-054), and has received the call sign FW1JG. He is currently not on the air, but is expecting his equipment to arrive in approximately two months time. Jean states that he plans to be active on 40-10 meters using SSB and PSK31.

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. Activity will be on 80-6 meters SSB only. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct.

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. 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).

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 Three of the five 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 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.

TO1, FRENCH GUYANA. Herve, F5HRY, will be active as TO1A during the ARRL International DX SSB Contest (March 7-8th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (??) entry. QSL via his home call sign or LoTW.

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>

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

VP9, BERMUDA. Mike, G3VYI, will be active as G3VYI/VP9 from Ed/VP9GE's Hamilton Parish QTH (NA-005, WLOTA 0201) on Bermuda between March 11-19th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, but will be mainly CW on the low bands. Operations will be on CW mornings/evenings until his 24 hrs operation in the RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest (BERU) on Mar 14-15. QSL via his home call sign.

VU4, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (Update). Special call signs for the upcoming "HAMTECH 2015" organized by National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR <www.niar.org/>) from Port Blair. Look for the following callsigns to be used between Mar 6-18: VU4A – To be used by the Foreign Radio Amateurs. VU4I - To be used by the Indian Radio Amateurs. Complete details (in PDF format) are available at: <http://www.niar.org/downloads/niar-info.pdf>

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 Jul 22-28. 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 (WWF CTFF-007). QSL via CT7ACG and LoTW.

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. I've given you some leads on great DX. It will be up to you to get on the air and work them.

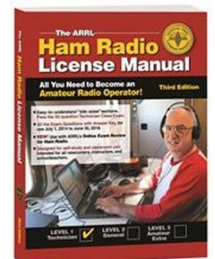
Until next month.... 73,

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

Volunteer Needed

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

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



73,
Rick, K8CAV

Field Day 2015 - Field Day Packet Now Online

The complete 2015 ARRL Field Day packet is now online - <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>. There are no rule changes for 2015. Field Day 2015 takes place June 27-28.

“Following a successful Centennial QSO Party with on-the-air activity at an all-time high, we are very excited for this year’s event and hope that individuals and clubs will carry their enthusiasm over to Field Day,” said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

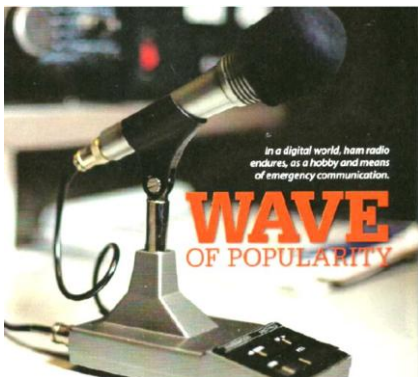
Field Day gear will be available by March 1.



From the ARRL



The American Legion Amateur Radio Club



Amateur Radio is featured in the March 2015 issue of The American Legion Magazine. The article, by best-selling author Don Keith, N4KC, explains how ham radio remains exciting, important, and relevant, even after more than a century in existence and changes in technology.

The article also talks about the American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) - home to club station K9TAL at American Legion

Headquarters in Indianapolis, which sponsors regular operating events. It also explains how the American Legion is integrating Amateur Radio into its organization and for its members, how members can become licensed and perhaps establish a club station at their local American Legion post.



The Legion has an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to provide assistance during emergencies, and Keith’s article discusses how Amateur Radio meshes with that effort.

Keith has written more than 2 dozen books, including *Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring The Magic of Amateur Radio*, *Firing Point* - a submarine thriller - and *Wizard of the Wind*, which includes a ham as a key character. He also has written extensively about World War II history.



Introduction to Emergency Communications Class – 2015

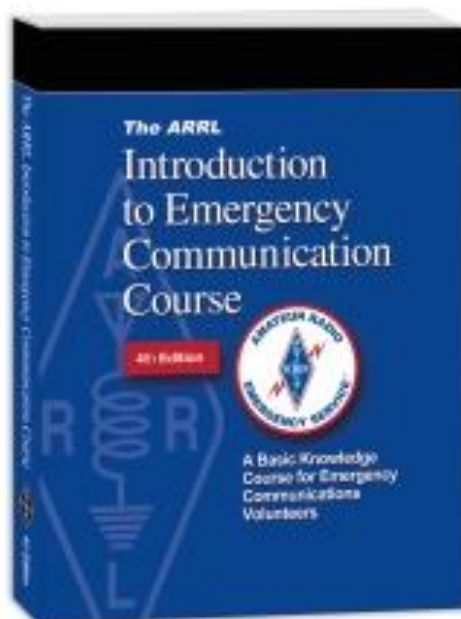
The Communications Unit/RACES of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) is sponsoring a local, classroom based version of the ARRL's Introduction to Emergency Communications course (EC-001). This was previously known as the Level I course and it as traditionally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

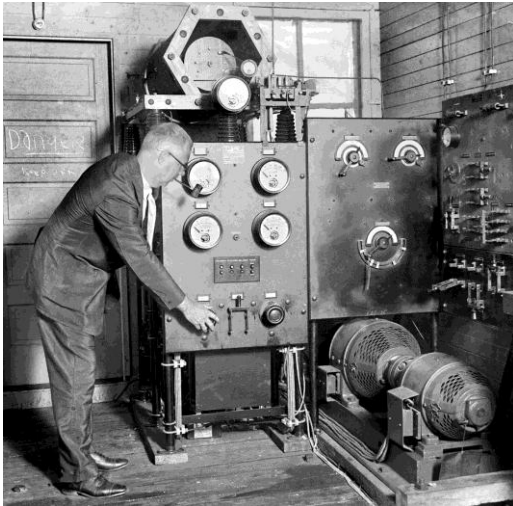
Jim, KC8PD



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 !!



March	
5	KC8PD
12	KB8UHN
19	WB8LCD
26	KB8UUZ

April	
2	N8QE
9	KD8FDK
16	NR8W
23	KB8UHN

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



Digital Special Interest Group

One of the lesser used digital modes is an ARQ (automatic correcting) system called Winlink 2000, or WL2K. WL2K is not a traditional station to station mode such as RTTY or PSK-31, rather it's a mode that allows radio connection to a WL2K station to move basic text messages into and out of the internet. For those in the emergency communications community or for those who travel in RV's or are maritime mobile, it allows access to your text based internet e-mail.



At this month's Digital Special Interest Group meeting on Tuesday March 3rd at 7:00 PM we'll be talking about what WL2K is and how to access the system.

As always, we'll be setting aside time to help with any issues you may be having with digital communications so bring questions and your gear if appropriate and we'll do our best to help.

73,
Rick, K8CAV



Thursday Night PCARS Net

I would like to personally invite everyone involved with PCARS to become a regular “check in” on our weekly 2 meter net. The biggest difference between a really **BIG FUN** Net and one that is just a bit lame, is participation. Check in, say hello, let us know what you've got going on in the hobby and catch up on all the latest news and events going on with PCARS.

The net meets every week at 8:00 PM (local) on the K8IV Repeater: 146.895 MHz, with a PL of 110.9. You can also check in using Echolink via the K8SRR Echolink node. Echolink had been a bit flaky in the past, but as of now Steve has it all tuned up and it's been very reliable so far in 2015. So, if you're reading this and think that just because you're out of range of the repeater you can't check in, give Echolink a try! It even works across oceans, when you're on vacation, from the Dayton Hamvention and anyplace you can get a WIFI connection.



Now that I've got you checking in on a weekly basis, how about giving it a shot as the Net Control Operator? Everyone should do it, more than once. There's no better way of getting familiar with the club members and their correct call signs than being one of the regular Net Control Ops. And, if you've ever pictured yourself being involved in public service or EmComm operations, its a good experience to have under your belt, as you never know when *YOU* might be called upon in that situation. It's not the time to say “no”, nor is it the best time to do it for the first time. The weekly net is easy, there's a script to work from and you're among friends in a non-stress situation. Send me a note and let me know when you're available and I will get you in the rotation.

As the Net Manager, keeping everything going is about as crazy as herding cats. One of the most important things to be done after the net, is getting the log into the net manager. For 2014, I've got all but 3 (and I'm working on the last 3). But, from what I have, following are the Net Control Operators from 2014, and the number of times each one served in that position:



12	WB8LCD	2	WB2DFC
6	KB8UHN	2	N8RLG
6	KB8UUZ	1	N8WLE
5	KD8FDK	1	K8CAV
5	KC8PD	1	K8IV
3	NR8W	1	N8ZPS
3	N8QE		

Thank you to all who have taken a turn, or more, as NCS (net control station). For those 48 weeks I have the logs (we didn't have a net on Christmas day) we had a total of **1,124** total check ins. The lowest number for a net was 8 on July 3rd, and the highest number was 36 on July 24th. Lets see what we can do to improve on all of these numbers in 2015! Who knows, being our 10th year, there could be some surprise check ins, and I know you'd hate to miss that!

73,

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Net Manager



K1N Navassa Island DXpedition is Ham Radio History

The K1N Navassa Island DXpedition wrapped up on schedule early on Sunday, February 15. While some seekers went away empty handed - even after hours of trying to break the massive pileups (and some intentional interference) - thousands were more fortunate. Going into the DXpedition, Navassa Island (KP1) was the second most-wanted DXCC entity (after North Korea) on ClubLog's Most Wanted List (<http://www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php>). After starting up in the waning hours of February 1, K1N logged 138,409 contacts with 35,702 unique call signs. The final K1N contact was made on February 15 at 1127 UTC.



“The last helicopter flight left the island at 1500Z with the last three team members who overnighted to keep stations QRV until the last possible moment,” said team member Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, in a K1N media release. “There was an excellent opening to Asia/Oceania almost all day and all night during the last 24 hours. All team members are back safe, healthy and happy in Jamaica.”

Johnson thanked DXers who stood by while K1N worked areas of the world into which it has short propagation windows. “The Jamaica Amateur Radio Association members provided valuable support for all phases of our operation,” he added.



Ralph Fedor, K0IR, runs CW stations during the K1N Navassa Island DXpedition.

Right after shutting down, the skeleton crew of operators remaining on the island packed and stowed the radio equipment for the return trip. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (<http://www.fws.gov/>) oversees access to the small island, and it has indicated that it would not allow any more DXpeditions to Navassa for another decade.

February 4 was the team's most prolific day, with 15,706 contacts. Twenty meters was the money band, with 14,563 CW, 16,895 SSB, and 2498 RTTY contacts. K1N also did well on 12 meters, logging 10,094 CW and 1423 RTTY contacts. The Navassa team even managed 411 phone contacts on 60 meters, and 231 on 6 meters. K1N also was active on the FO-29 satellite.

Logs have been uploaded to ClubLog. A log search engine and more contact statistics are on the K1N Navassa Island website. <http://www.navassadx.com/>

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/>



Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

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

Icom PS-125 Power Supply

Ameritron AL-811H amplifier

Ameritron QSK-5: Transit/Receive Switch

Ameritron ARB-704: Amplifier-to-Transceiver Interface

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kenwood PS-50 Power Supply. \$120.00

Kenwood SP-940 Speaker \$100.00

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

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

ARRL Seeks Member Input on Draft HF Band Plan Proposals

The ARRL is asking members to comment (<http://www.arrl.org/bandplan>) by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF Band Plans (<http://www.arrl.org/band-plan>) suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters - excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400 member comments in response to a March 2014 solicitation (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2014-03-06#toc01>) that sought suggestions for using the spectrum more efficiently so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

"The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ said. His article detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April edition of QST.



The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz, and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2700 Hz.

Band by Band Draft Recommendations

The committee suggests several modifications to the 80 meter band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data subband to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3600-3700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. "Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3500-3600 kHz will not improve the situation," Sumner said.

The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

- * Shift the ACDS band segment from 3585-3600 to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.
- * Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3525-3600 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- * Add 80 meter RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

On 40 meters, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz.

The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the "Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide," with wide data modes - outside of ACDS - at 7115-7125 kHz. The "Guide" shows 7070-7125 kHz for RTTY/data,

while the ARRL band plan shows 7080-7125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7100-7105 kHz segment.

On 30 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10.140-10.150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10.130-10.140 MHz.

On 20 meters, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14.0995-14.1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14.1005-14.112 MHz segment, and narrow ACDS in the 14.095-14.0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14.070-14.095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called "weak-signal" data modes often are used between 14.070 and 14.078 MHz.

On 17 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18.105-18.110 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18.100-18.105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18.110 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 15 meters, the committee recommends that 21.070-21.090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21.090-21.100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21.100 MHz for any additional wide data activity. The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 meter segment, where they're now limited to CW.

On 12 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24.925-24.930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24.920-24.925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24.930 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 10 meters, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28.120-28.189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28.070-28.120 MHz.

How to Comment

The League has set up a web page to record members' preferences and comments at, <http://www.arrl.org/bandplan>. Those wishing to offer more detailed comments may e-mail ARRL at, bandplan@arrl.org. The comment deadline is April 19. The HF Band Planning Committee will deliver its final report at the ARRL Board of Directors' July meeting.

From the ARRL



Let's Talk

Wow, another month has gone by. Boy, time is really moving fast! Life on retirement has really been a pleasant surprise. I know that I'm rubbing it in some, but after more than 40 years of getting up in lousy weather to go to work and now not having to, it's the greatest feeling. In recent days I have sat at the kitchen table enjoying a hot bowl of oatmeal and just thinking to myself "boy it's great not having to get out in this cold and snowy mess."

Now that I'm retired I've got the time to give much more to the Section Manager's job than when I was working full time. I now can give this position the time that it really needs to be a PRO-active Section Manager as the Ohio Section needs and deserves!!



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

Oh, you didn't know that the Ohio Section had a website?? We definitely 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 NEW – one question – questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website once again. It changes about once every couple of weeks or so. It only asks one question and it will take all of about 5 seconds for you to answer it, and you can see how your answer stacks up with others 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.

Also new on the Ohio Section website main page is a Twitter window. It's a window directly to the W8SGT (Ohio EMA) Twitter account. In the past months it has been very difficult to find where W8SGT is operating for their weekly net. They started out trying to use just a couple of published frequencies. They quickly found out that 80 meters is just too crowded to nail down one particular frequency. Thus the need to let everyone wanting to check in to the nets on Tuesday night at 7:15 pm just where they are.. Thus, the need to be able to update everyone quickly to go with the ebb and flow of the enormous amount of traffic up there. The Twitter window allows you to see just what frequency they are using at any given time. This also allows you to quickly see if they are on at other times too. Just go to the Ohio Section Website and look on the left side column.

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.

Now something that was announced by our Great Lakes Director at the Mid-Winter Hamfest this past weekend. There will be a Division Conference this year. It will be held in conjunction with the Columbus Hamfest on August 1st. Keep this date open. There's going to be a lot of neat forums that you won't want to miss out on.

Last item of the article. Did you know that there is a warrant for arrest out for that rodent that predicted 6 more weeks of winter? It's true, it seems that Punxsutawney Phil is in a lot of trouble for the recent deluge of snow in the eastern seaboard. Anybody got bail money??

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

Paper Chase - 3.14159265359

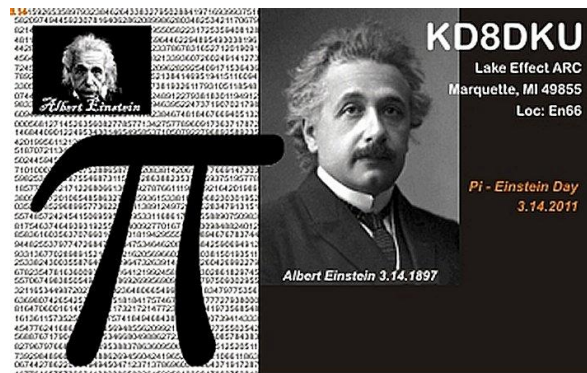
March 14th is the Anniversary of the Birthday of Albert Einstein. In the amateur community it is remembered by Pi Day (March 14th or 3.14). Two clubs will have special event stations on the air to commemorate his birthday.

One club is the David Sarnoff Radio Club, N2RE, of Princeton, NJ. It will be on between 8 am and 2 pm on the 14th. Look for the club around: 21.314, 24.314 or 28.314 MHz.

For a QSL card, send your card and a business envelope to:
Bob Uhrik, WA2BSP, 104 Knoll Way, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553.

The other club is the Lake Effect Amateur Radio Club, N8P, of Marquette, Mi. It will be on between 7 pm the evening of the 13th until 7 pm the evening of the 14th. Look for the club around: 7.083, 7.180, 14.070, 28.450. For a QSL card, send your card and a SASE to the Lake Effect ARC/Pi, 36 Southfork St, Marquette, MI 49855. For more information visit www.qsl.net/kd8dku

Hear you in the pile ups,
Joe, W8KNO



DX / Contest Special Interest Group

The DX/Contest SIG was held on Tuesday, Feb. 24 with 13 members present. We discussed the recent FYAO briefly and the comments from the group indicated that it was very well attended given the WX conditions and those in attendance enjoyed themselves. We mentioned that we might look at the rules for next year to see if any changes would be needed. This will be done at a later date. We also discussed if it would be a good idea to have, as part of the event, a Chili Cookoff with a blind tasting to declare a winning chili recipe. Those present thought it might be fun.

We moved on to our first Field Day 2015 meeting and went through the agenda for the night. We reviewed the objectives for the PCARS FD. They are:

1. Provide an enjoyable PCARS Field Day experience for all participants and visitors.
2. To meet PCARS performance objectives - TBD at the next meeting
3. Whatever the objectives are, to improve on our previous years' performance.

We reviewed the class we will be entering which is 4A. Our stations will include CW, 20m, 40m, Flex, GOTA, and VHF. The last two do not count toward our class designation.

We already have several volunteers for the Staff Requirements:

General

Chairman - Chuck W8PT

Vice-Chairman - Tom WB8LCD

Safety - Mike KD8FLZ

VE Testing - Parky KB8UUZ

PIO Publicity - Tony WA8AR

PIO Invitees - Jim KC8PD

PIO Information Table - Parky KB8UUZ



Logistics

Food Service Mgr - TBD

Power Team Mgr - James KD8VT

IT Team Mgr - Zeb KD8WZS

Operations

CW Station Captain - George K3GP

20m Station Captain - Erica AE8YL

40m Station Captain - Ed K8IV

Flex Station Captain - Jim KC8PD

GOTA Station Captain - TBD

VHF Station Captain - Errol KC8RJR

Traffic & Messages - TBD

After some brief discussions regarding antennas to be used by the various stations, we adjourned the meeting. The next FD meeting will be held in conjunction with the DX/Contest SIG on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 pm.

Those who have volunteered to be station captains or who have other duties that require additional help were strongly urged to start recruiting as soon as possible.

So until the next meeting, 73

Chuck, W8PT
DX/Contest SIG, Field Day Chairman

PCARS Inter-Member Communications

PCARS has quite a few different channels by which members can keep in contact with the group, or individual members. Each channel has its own specific characteristics, and purposes. If you know how to use them, it's easy to get the word out, in most cases without relying on someone else to take care of it for you.

First off, you can communicate directly with any individual member(s) by using the **PCARS email system**. All you need is the other members callsign – which you can look up on the PCARS website if necessary. (send me an email, to WB8LCD@portcars.org, if you need the ID and Password to get into the membership portion of the site). Once you have the other members callsign, all you need to do is send an email directly to him(her) at: callsign@portcars.org. Your email will be forwarded to the intended recipient(s).

Next up are the **Yahoo Groups**. There is a **PCARS group** and an **OSPOTA group**, and there is also an **ARES® of Portage County Group** and a **Portage County RACES group**. We ask all members to sign up for the PCARS group, as this is where you can post directly any information, questions and/or concerns you have for the club. If you have information or questions about other members, how to do something with your specific equipment, or anything of a personal nature, please get it out on the yahoo group.



The **PCARS QST email system** is main link for the club to the membership. This is a moderated email system, so you have to submit your post, and it may, or may not be forwarded to the main PCARS web site and an e-mail to the group. The first rule to make it through is that it must be Amateur Radio related. A birthday

party for a member is not an Amateur Radio related event, and would be rejected. That communication should go through the PCARS Yahoo group. It must be of general interest to the amateur radio community and/or of specific interest to PCARS members.



Canceling a scheduled PCARS event due to weather or other reasons, might be a good use of the QST email system. Remember – if you want to respond to something you hear about via QST email, **don't hit "reply"**. **Instead, address a new email to the sender of the QST.** Otherwise your response will be sent to the QST system, not your intended recipient, and will probably be denied. You may or may not receive notification that it was denied.

PCARS also has a **YouTube Channel**! If you have put together an interesting ham radio video or something about PCARS, send it to KB8UUZ (KB8UUZ@portcars.org). Parky will either put it up on the Youtube channel, or return it as inappropriate for the PCARS channel. We actually need some more content there, so, if you have something, or have an idea for something you would like to do, send it along to either Parky or any PCARS officer. We'll talk it over with you and help you make something that everyone in PCARS will be proud of.



Next we have the **weekly PCARS 2 meter nets**. Every Thursday evening at 8:00PM (local) on the K8IV repeater: 146.895 Mhz, PL 110.9. The weekly net is one of the best places to pass and receive information from other club members and officers as to what is going on both with PCARS and its members. We take your check in and then go back for comments, which can be just about anything you want to discuss, or make the membership aware of. You miss a lot if you don't check in on a regular basis, and it is real time, so an announcement can turn into a dialogue where you get the specific information you need! And, you can check in via Echolink using the K8SRR Echolink node. **There's no good reason to miss a PCARS net!** (OK, there may be some good reasons, but it's always better to be there)

Finally, there's the "Award Winning" **PCARS newsletter – The RADIOGRAM**. This is an open forum for Amateur Radio related articles, puzzles, descriptions of personal projects, and just about anything else the editor might let through. It's a great place to share ideas and construction plans, and even photos of your shack, antenna farm, antique radios or latest radio adventure! Share what you've been up to with the group. You just might inspire someone else to get on the air and join you.

RADIOGRAM

So, if you've got something to say or announce, PCARS has an appropriate venue (or two) for you to get the word out. Communications with others IS one of the basic premise's of the hobby!

73,
Tom, WB8LCD

Shack Shot - WV8P

The "Ham Cave" as the wife would call it. Located in the motor room of the basement.

Rigs top row L to R: Ten Tec 6&2 all mode;
Icom 703+; Daiwa CNW419

Bottom row L to R: Ten Tec Argonaut V;
Ten Tec Argonaut VI; Ten Tec Eagle

Antennas : 285' long wire up 50ft.; 80mtr
Carolina Windom up 60' ; Hustler 5-BTV
ground mounted

The Icom 703 is battery power and will
be used at the camper as well as portable this
year. Still working on an antenna?

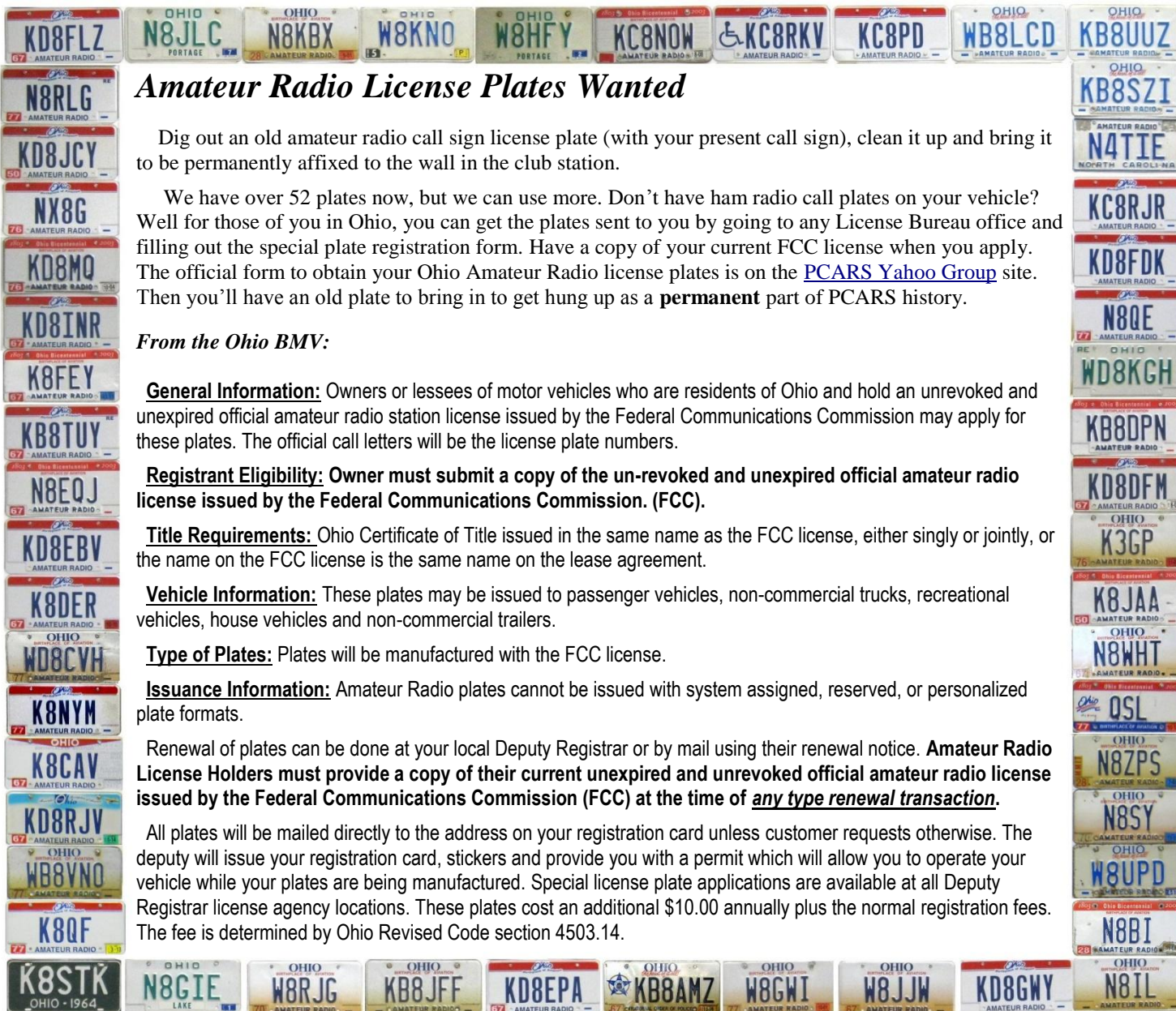


Dave, WV8P

PCARS

ARRL Volunteer Examiners:
serving the Amateur Radio
community

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



Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted

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

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

From the Ohio BMV:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PCARS Patches & Stickers

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



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

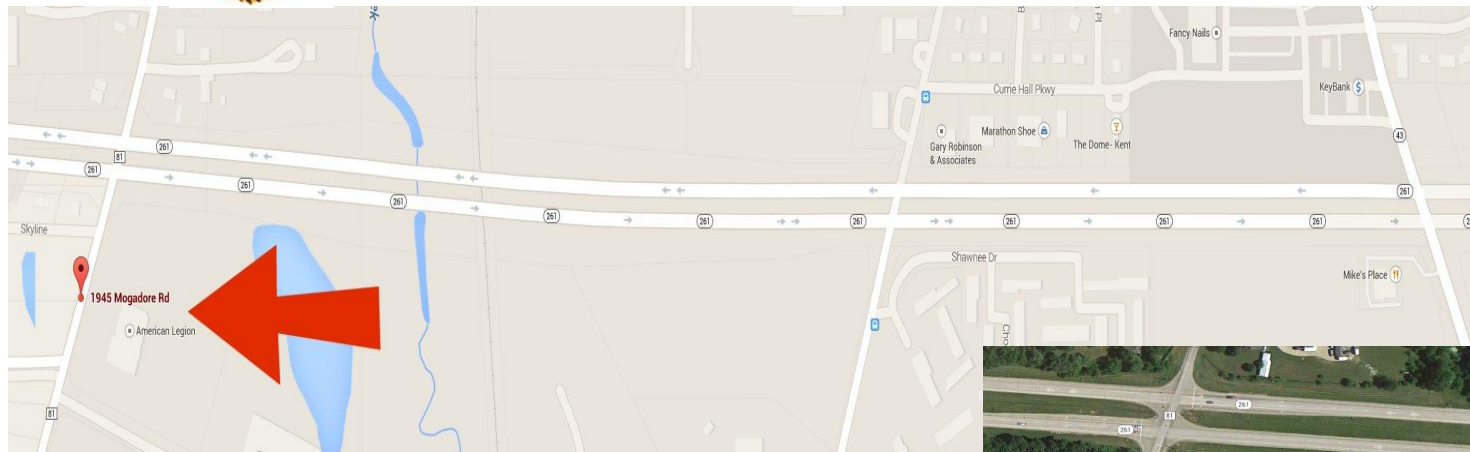


PCARS Meetings

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



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



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



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

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

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



Pictures from the February PCARS Meeting





FYAO 2015 - Shelter Video

Check out the new video on the PCARS YouTube site - FYAO 2015. <http://youtu.be/CwxfNBzBNNc>

The 10th annual Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO) ham radio QRP (Low Power) event held February 14, 2015 at the Fred Fuller Park in Kent Ohio.

Cold and Snow - a view from inside the warm shelter. Outside temps went from 22 degrees to minus 7 degrees and we got about 8" of snow. But everyone had FUN. A video from John, KB8UHN. Portage County Amateur Radio Service in Ohio



General Class Question Pool (after July 1st) - Update

The National Council Of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) issued a 2nd Errata update to the original release of the new General Class Question Pool (which was released in mid-December... with the first errata in mid-January).

Those planning to test with the **NEW** Question Pool should go to the NCVEC website located at: (<http://www.ncvec.org>) to download UPDATED pools in Adobe Acrobat PDF and Microsoft Word DOC format, plus the one schematic diagram in JPG format. If you plan to test BEFORE July 1, this does NOT apply to you... but it DOES apply to those not testing until **AFTER July 1**.

Daryl, WX1DER

UALR Ham Radio Club VE Team Liaison

QRP / CW Special Interest Group

First off, my apologies for cancelling the February SIG meeting at the last minute. I needed to step in for the General Upgrade class, and didn't want to put that off as their test is coming up on March 3rd. There is a break between the General class exam on the 3rd, and the beginning of the Spring Tech class on March 17th.

The March QRP/CW SIG falls on Tuesday March 10th (the day after the meeting), so let's regroup and get started on the MFJ Cub project. I still have one kit extra, so if you want to claim it, send me an email – *first come, first serve*. (\$89.00 – no tax, no shipping). You also still have time to get one from **MFJ**, **AES** or **DX Engineering** – we'll be building the 40 Meter unit.



We'll also have some discussion on the **Four Days In May** event at the Dayton Hamvention® as well as discussing some additional field operating events for over the summer (keeping the acorns warm and toasty), and some other building projects to go along with the Cub.

If you haven't been to the QRP / CW SIG in awhile, come on out, it's going to be a fun year!

73/72,

Tom, WB8LCD

CW Practice at the Club Site

I've been meeting with a couple club members, following the conclusion of Phase Two of the CW Class, the W1AW Wednesday evening slow code (5, 7.5, 10, 13, and 15 wpm text) transmissions.

I am hopeful that these members will begin making Q's on air, with the key of their choice. Meeting with them gives me an idea how they are progressing between practice copy sessions.

Other club members can attend also, but:

- (a) You need to know all the CW International alpha characters, digits, punctuation, and a few pro-signs as this is for "on air copy practice". This is not a "learn the code" session (I hope to have another "learn CW" class later this year.
- (b) You need to be punctual because W1AW begins sending at 1900 EDT. And lastly,
- (c) You need to practice at home between sessions.

NOTE: There have been some cancellations due to weather, illness, family, etc. This is forewarning that a weekly copy practice may be canceled if required.

For the Time Being - 73.

Terry, KB8AMZ



Beer Day - March 1st

Beer Day in Iceland marks the abolition, on 1 March 1989, of a 75-year long prohibition of beer. Making up for lost time, the citizens of Reykjavik indulge in a beer spree on the same day each year. Highly festive celebrations are held at pubs, restaurants, and clubs all around Reykjavik and the festivities continue long into the night.



A runtur (bar crawl) is a popular way of getting to know the various bars and beers in this city famous for its hedonistic nightlife.

Many bars and nightclubs are open until 0400. Suggestions that 2 March should be declared National Hangover Day have apparently been strongly resisted. Icelandic beers include Viking Gylltur, a strong lager with a bitter taste, Viking Dimmur, Sterkur, Thule

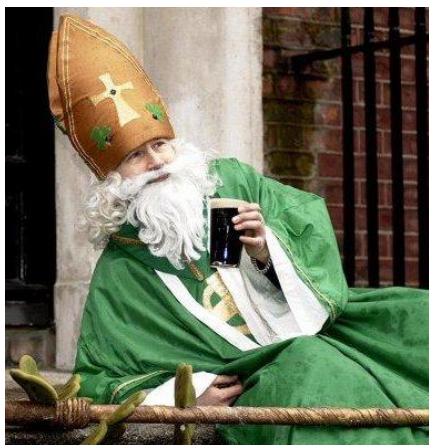
and Ice Bjor. Take your pick.

The legalization of beer remains a significant cultural event in Iceland as beer has become the most popular alcoholic beverage.



Saint Patrick's Day - March 17th

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick (Irish: Lá Fhéile Pádraig, "the Day of the Festival of Patrick"), is a cultural and religious celebration occurring annually on 17 March, the death date of the most commonly-recognized patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461).



Saint Patrick's Day was made an official Christian feast day in the early seventeenth century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church and Lutheran Church. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland as well as celebrating the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilithe, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. Christians also attend church services, and the Lenten

restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol are lifted for the day, which has encouraged and propagated the holiday's tradition of alcohol consumption.

Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador and Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated by the Irish diaspora around the world; especially in Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.



Where ever you go to celebrate the festivities of St. Patrick's day - be careful, let a designated driver be your chariot and have fun.

WB2DFC says "Be careful out there, enjoy yourself and I trust I won't have to pull you over".



Dave, WB2DFC

What's Irish and hangs out on your back patio? Patty O' Furniture.....

PCARS
Join Now
Discover the FUN



PCARS
www.portcars.org



WRTC - 2014 Video - a Must See

A GREAT professional video all about the WRTC 2014 activities that were held last Summer - you *must* see this super video!

James Brooks 9VIYC has produced a professional documentary on the 2014 WRTC event. Fast-paced and of the highest quality, this hour-long video makes for great viewing and the many interesting elements make this program well-suited for a club program attended by hams and non-hams alike.



<https://vimeo.com/119947598?ref=tw-share>



April is only One Month Away

Yes I know it's March - but I wanted to get the word out early so everyone can keep their eyes open for some fun articles for our annual April Fool issue of **The RADIOGRAM**.

Traditionally I've been adding some fun stuff in the April issue in hope to make you chuckle a bit and enjoy the newsletter even more. So, if you spot something that we can use, let me know.

Unfortunately, if the item has a copyright and we can't get permission to re-print, we'll have to skip it. Your newsletter editor does not want to get dragged into court over copyright issues...

73,
Tom, KB8UUZ

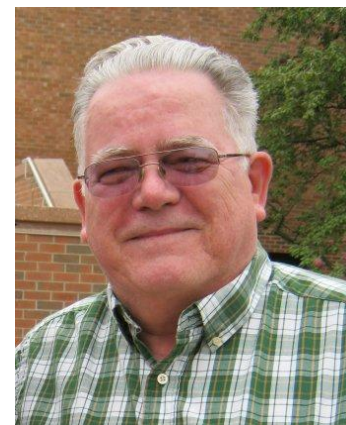


Thanks & 73

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, KB8UUZ, KD8MQ, WB8LCD, KB8UHN, N8RLG, WX1DER, KC8PD, NS8Y, W8KNO, WV8P, KB8AMX, K8IV, W8PT, WB2DFC, 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



- Amateur Radio Instruction Class -

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

will be offering an Amateur Radio **Technician** course

that will enable *you* to obtain
your FCC **Technician** license as an

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR



When:

Tuesday evening 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

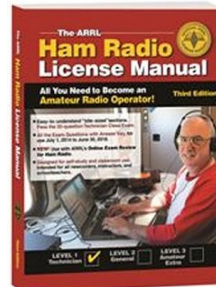
March 17, 2015 through May 5, 2015

Official Amateur Radio License testing will be held
at the end of the course

Where:

At the **PCARS Club Site**
Radio Room located in the
Dietrich Building
705 Oakwood St. in Ravenna

Registration: First night of class



Cost:

\$25.00 Registration fee - which also provides
the attendee a One-Year Membership in PCARS
(No Registration Fee for PCARS Members)

\$30 Text – “Ham Radio License Manual”
(text may be purchased first night of class)



Information:

Contact Tom Sly, WB8LCD

e-mail at: WB8LCD@portcars.org

phone at: **330-554-4650**

As a licensed **Amateur Radio Operator** you will be able to

- **Contact other ham radio operators in the area and around the world**
- **Serve your community – ham radio operators are the critical communication link during disasters and emergencies**
- **Participate in a fascinating and rewarding hobby**

For more information about PCARS, go to www.portcars.org , or contact

Tom Sly - WB8LCD, at WB8LCD@portcars.org, or by phone at **330-554-4650**

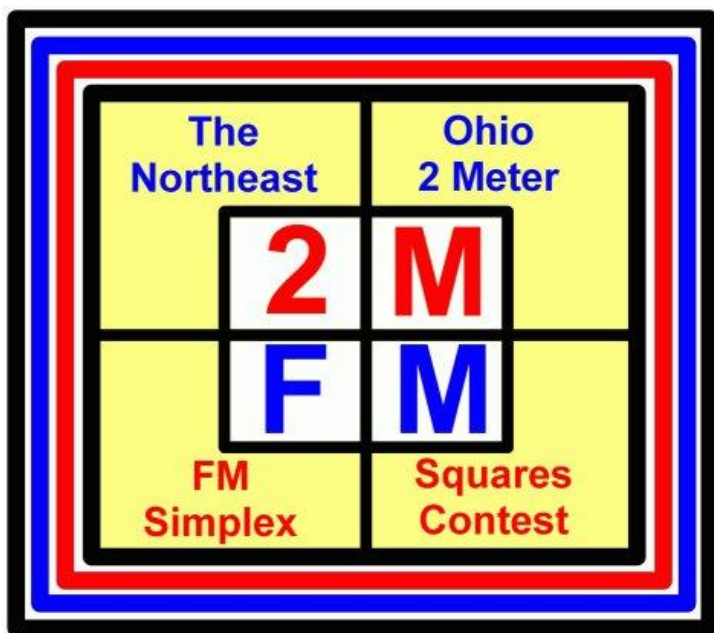
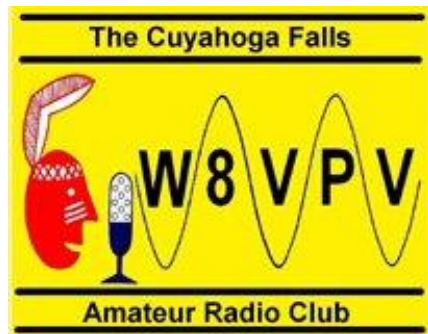
The 2015 Northeast Ohio 2 Meter FM Simplex Squares Contest

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

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

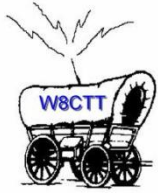
By participating, you get: Every ham who submits at least one valid contact will get a customized Certificate of Participation, suitable for printing and framing. Certificates of Achievement will be awarded for notable accomplishments such as most contacts, most grid squares, farthest distance contact,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

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



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

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



Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

Dayton Hamvention 2015

Saturday, May 16, 2015 - 5:30 AM



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

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

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

\$65* before April 15, 2015

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

\$50* after April 15, 2015

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

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

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

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

Parking will be in the back of the church.

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

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company.

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

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

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

2101 Bigelow St

Akron, OH 44314

Or call 330-745-5115

E-mail: KA8TDF@arrl.net

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

Location of Departure is:

Akron Baptist Temple

2324 Manchester Road

Akron, Ohio 44314

Located on Rt. 93 just north of Rt. 224

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

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

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



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 at the Kent American Legion Post 496.
1945 Mogadore Rd. - Just South of Rt. 261 - enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.



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

"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"

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

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

2015 PCARS Appointments & Committees

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



PCARS
Active
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members

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



RADIOGRAM

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

