



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. ~

November 2015 - Volume 10 Number 11

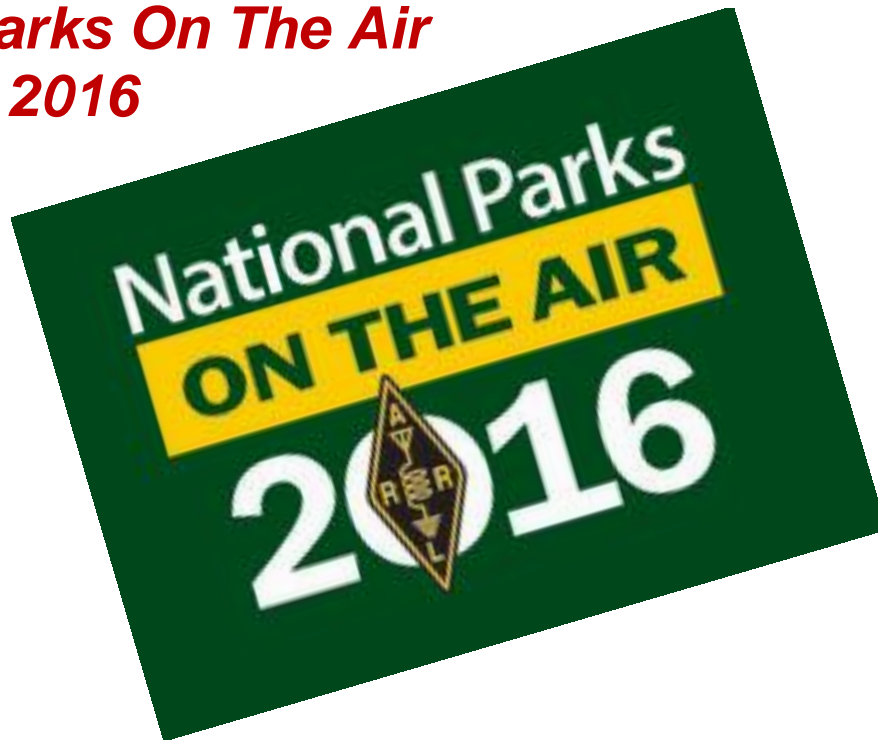
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PCARS - TENTH - ANNIVERSARY



National Parks On The Air Coming in 2016



PCARS K8BF
The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



November 2015
Volume 10 Number 11

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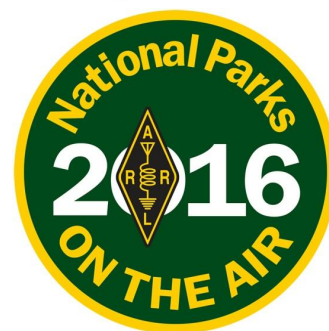
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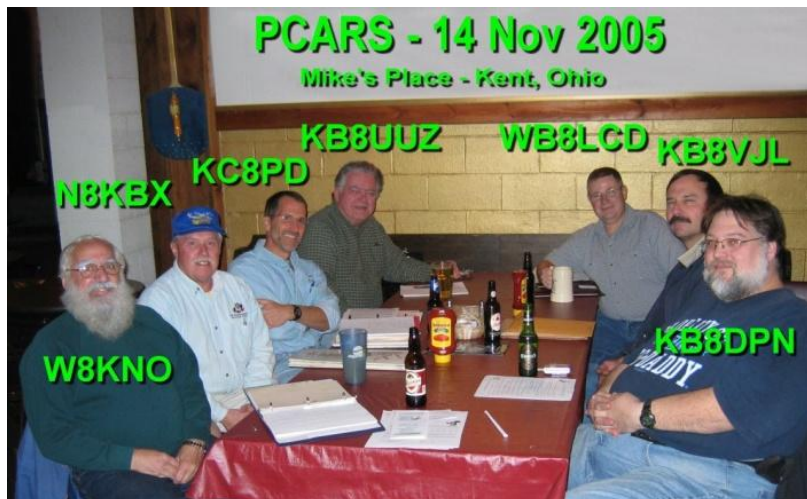


Next Month - WB8LCD writes about his total station upgrade!

10 Years and We're Still Going Strong

Turn back the clock 10 years - Fall 2005 - Ground work and preliminary meetings were held and paperwork had been sent to the state to incorporate the club.

November 14th - the first official PCARS meeting was held at Mike's Place in Kent. There, the founding members paid their dues, nominated and elected the first officers and approved the club constitution, logo, and other items to get the club underway. Following the meeting, our first roster was written up - we started out with just **9** members.



Today - Look at the PCARS roster now. We currently have over **280** paid members and we're still growing! Look back at the newsletters (They are all on the PCARS web site) and you'll see we have come a long way. And you know what? The best has yet to come.

We have a great cadre of officers and members dedicated to having FUN with amateur radio. Look at the club site - wow! Look at all the activities - busy!



We keep outgrowing places to have our monthly meetings - between 60 and 90 people show up for a meeting!! Amateur Radio is alive and well in Portage County thanks to all of **YOU!** Stay involved, support PCARS and most of all - Have Fun in this great hobby of ours!

2005/2006 PCARS Officers



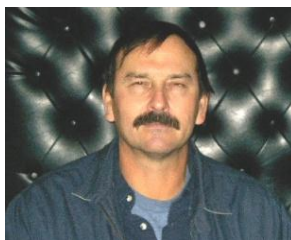
WB8LCD - President



KC8PD - Vice President



KB8UUZ - Treasurer/Secretary



KB8VJL - 3 Yr Trustee



W8KNO - 2 Yr Trustee



KB8DPN - 1 Yr Trustee

Center of Hope - Holiday Donations

PCARS members have become familiar with the Center of Hope, a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. It provides hot meals and distributes food and home products to thousands of our county's less fortunate residents every year. F&CS is also the owner of the building that the houses the PCARS club station.



As the Fall ends and Winter approaches, the staff of the Center of Hope face the enormous task of trying to help brighten the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays for the Center's clients. You can imagine how distressful it could be to not be able to provide a holiday meal for your family.

This is PCARS opportunity to return the favor to the Center. Let's assist the Center of Hope in meeting its goal of helping as many families as possible at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are asking that all PCARS members who attend the November meeting make a donation of food or, even better, a financial contribution to the Center of Hope.



Donations are tax deductible because the Center is part of a 501(c)(3) organization. Checks can be made payable to "The Center of Hope", or cash will be happily accepted.

In addition, the club proceeds from the 50/50 raffle at the November meeting will be donated by PCARS to the Center of Hope.

Let's show how generous the spirit of amateur radio operators can be by offering our support to an organization that helps so many families in our community. Any items or funds donated at a meeting will be delivered to the Center of Hope.



Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **November 1st - Daylight Savings Time ends** (we go to GMT -5)
- **November 3rd - VOTE**
- **November 4th - VE Test Session** at club site for the Tech Class - 7pm - club site - walk-ins welcome
- **November 9th - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm - ELECTIONS - WA8ZLK - EMP**
- **November 14th - PCARS 10th Anniversary !!!**
- **December 14th - PCARS Christmas Party/Meeting** - more info to follow

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



- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| First Tuesday | - | Digital Special Interest Group |
| Second Tuesday | - | QRP/CW Special Interest Group |
| Third Tuesday | - | Antenna Special Interest Group |
| Fourth Tuesday | - | DX & Contest Special Interest Group |
| Fifth Tuesday | - | Linux for Hams Special Interest Group |
| Fourth Thursday | - | Net Night at the club site - 6:30 pm |



Spring Forward - FALL BACK

It is that time of year again - Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 am (local time) - Turn your clocks **BACK** one hour (Fall Back). We go from Eastern Daylight Saving Time to Eastern Standard Time.

UTC (GMT or Zulu Time) does NOT change.

So, follow me on this..... at 2:00 am
(0200) local it will be 0600 UTC or 4 hours behind UTC.

We turn our clocks back one hour and that makes it 1:00 am EST (0100). It will still be 0600 UTC. We are now 5 hours behind UTC time.

You get to sleep in one more hour on Sunday morning. But don't worry, they will take that hour back again in Spring when we turn our clock ahead one hour (Spring Forward).



ARES®/RACES Teams Expected to Join MARS in CME Disaster Exercise



From the ARRL

Preparations are nearly in place for the previously announced Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) coronal mass ejection (CME) disaster [communication exercise](#), which will take place Saturday through Tuesday, November 7-10. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) groups are expected to participate in the quarterly contingency HF exercise in support of the US Department of Defense.

"We are looking forward to this exercise and the opportunity to partner and train with the larger Amateur Radio community," Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, told ARRL. The exercise scenario will simulate a CME event and focus on actions that radio operators should take prior to and following such an event, which could impact HF propagation. English said leaders from Army and Air Force MARS will hold a final exercise coordination teleconference on October 28 "to answer any final questions about the exercise and make sure everyone is ready to train."

English said he's responded to some 90 [inquiries](#) from ARES® and RACES groups as well as from individuals who would like to involve their ARES® teams, and he expects about 50 ARES®/RACES-affiliated organizations to participate. He said a few additional active duty military units also hope to take part in the exercise.

English said the November exercise would simulate a radio blackout as well as infrastructure damage. "During the exercise, we will simulate the blackout with a 3 hour pause, and then we will bring stations back on air and begin handling requests for information," he told ARRL.

Training objectives for this exercise will include understanding what a CME is and how much forecast lead time can be expected; the effects associated with a CME, and what precautions radio operators take to protect their equipment, prior to a severe CME. Following the simulated CME, operators will assess its effects and report that information. This will involve "inter-operation with Amateur Radio operators and groups to assist in assessment," English said.

ARES® and RACES teams, as well as individual radio amateurs, wishing to participate in this exercise may [contact](#) MARS and provide contact information.

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.

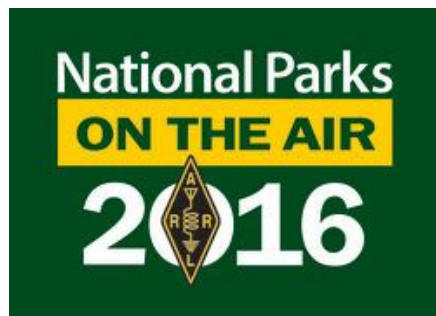
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFVsDD_gwCLtTw-FPuBcYtA



ARRL National Parks On The Air - 2016

From the ARRL

In 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event. The fun begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016.



“As ARRL just celebrated our own Centennial, and Amateur Radio is often enjoyed in the great outdoors, it seemed fitting to devise a program to help NPS celebrate their own 100th birthday,” said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. As he explained, NPOTA will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US. This includes all 59 National Parks as well as National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, National Scenic Trails, and other units. The program will have two participation tracks — Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as possible. Activators will attempt to activate as many of the units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles. Chaser and Activator totals will be tracked via an online **Leader Board** based on LoTW data, just as was done during the Centennial QSO Party. (Access the NPOTA Leader Board directly at <http://npota.arrl.org>)

Modeled after the Mixed DXCC award, only one contact with any given NPS unit will be required, and no tally will be kept of NPS units based on bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World (LoTW). No paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit will be added to LoTW as a “location.”

Three award certificates will be available: Chaser Award and Activator Award certificates will be available to any radio amateur who has at least one confirmed contact with an NPS unit or who activates at least one unit, respectively. A station’s total number of confirmed or activated units will be printed on the certificate. The National Parks Honor Roll certificate will be available for any station that confirms contact with at least 75 percent of the 59 National Parks *activated* in 2016.

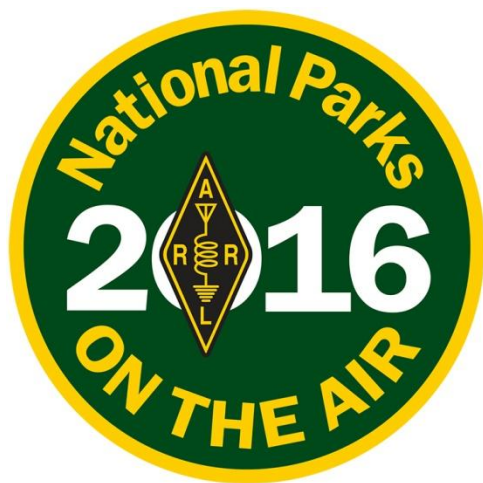
An Activator can earn additional recognition as a “Five-Star Activator.” While the Centennial QSO Party was an internal event for radio amateurs, National Parks on the Air is designed to be a public promotion of Amateur Radio’s capabilities. Various public relations bonuses and activities will be available to Activators, similar to the PR bonus points available to ARRL Field Day stations.

The success of the event and of the awards program rests on radio amateurs’ willingness to operate from NPS units.

“Portable operators, this event is for *you!*” Kutzko said. “Start thinking about how you would incorporate Amateur Radio into your visit to an NPS unit. Whether you’re camping in Yosemite, driving along the Blue Ridge Parkway, or set up in a corner of Andersonville Prison, you will definitely draw a pileup. As long as you are on the property of the NPS unit, you will qualify as being in the unit.”

Kutzko notes that depending on the size of a given operation, participants may need to secure a special-use permit. “This may take some time,” he said. “It’s possible the answer will be ‘no.’ Be mindful of the size and sensitivity of the NPS unit you want to activate, and be realistic about your plans.” NPOTA Activators will need to follow all NPS rules in whatever unit they activate.

In general, the more portable and compact your station is, and the more creative and adaptable your plans are, the greater your chances of success. While there is no formal partnership between NPS and ARRL for this event,



the League has been in discussions with the NPS over the past year, and it is aware that increased Amateur Radio activity in their parks is likely during 2016.

“It is your responsibility to be on your best behavior and not interfere with other visitors at NPS units,” Kutzko advised. “Remember, every time you visit an NPS unit for this awards program, your conduct will not only impact the reputation of Amateur Radio throughout the NPS system, but will also directly impact the success of the next amateur who tries to activate that unit. Be nice, be courteous, and be flexible. Demonstrate Amateur Radio in the best light possible.”

The NPOTA will use the official **list** of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. **Complete details** on the National Parks on the Air event are available on the ARRL website.

Ohio NPOTA Sites (click on name to follow link)

National Park Site Name	Description	Code	Note
Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers	National Monument	MN18	
Cuyahoga Valley	National Park	NP14	
Dayton Aviation Heritage	National Historical Park	HP11	
Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site	Affiliated Area	AA06	
First Ladies	National Historical Site	NS16	
Hopewell Culture	National Historical Park	HP15	
James A. Garfield	National Historical Site	NS39	*
Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial	National Memorial	NM20	*
William Howard Taft	National Historical Site	NS78	

** Indicates a sensitive unit. May have restricted access.*



Hamfest Schedule

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

From the President

Rick, K8CAV
PCARS President



The November PCARS meeting is without a doubt the most important meeting that you should make during the year, for a couple of reasons. The November meeting is when PCARS donates its half of the 50-50 raffle to the Center of Hope and also takes donations from members for them, and it's also the month that we elect officers.

The Center of Hope is an organization that provides meals and food to those in need, and falls under the umbrella of Family and Community Services, Inc. When PCARS was first organized, the Center of Hope generously offered the use of their facility for our monthly meetings and other activities such as the licensing classes and monthly projects. When Family and Community Services, the parent of the Center of Hope obtained the ODOT complex they offered the use of part of the ODOT garage to PCARS for their club site. Very few



amateur radio clubs are fortunate enough to have a dedicated club site, especially the kind we have. Over the years the members of PCARS have been very generous in November by donating the club's portion of the 50-50 raffle along with individual donations to the Center of Hope and those donations make a difference in their ability to provide food for those in need during the holiday season. I don't need to tell you that despite all the hype in the news about the economy improving, there are still many that won't have enough to eat so I'm asking all of you to be as generous as you can at our meeting in November. Tom, WB8LCD and I will have some special prizes for our 50-50 raffle. For those of you who want to donate

directly to the Center of Hope, you can make your checks out to PCARS so that we can provide one check in total to the Center of Hope and your donation will be acknowledged individually by Family and Community Services and the Center of Hope.

November is also a very important month because it's when you will choose the leadership of PCARS. This is your opportunity to influence the direction PCARS is going, and the people you want to see guide it, so please attend and participate in choosing the club's leadership.

I'd like to take a moment to thank Chuck, W8PT and the newly formed Technical Committee for the work they've been doing in upgrading the club's radio stations and addressing some of the problem areas we have such as noise and interference at the club site. The Technical Committee was born out of the desire by club members to become more active as a club in contesting activities and to address the quality of the club's radio equipment and facility. A look at not just the equipment upgrades, but the radio room layout and organization shows how far we've come in developing a decent club contesting facility but we're missing a very key component, and that's your participation. Attendance during contests the club participates in, and also during the monthly DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meetings doesn't reflect the input from members that drove the upgrades to the radio room. As I've said many times in the past, it's you as members of the club participating in the things our club does that makes it the kind of club people really want to be involved in. I know not everyone is a contester or DX'er but I can also say that participation in other areas the club sponsors is dropping. You being a part of the club's activities is the difference between PCARS being just a room full of equipment (pretty darn boring by itself), and a vibrant organization that members enjoy being a part of so make time to participate, share yourself with other members, and in turn enjoy being with them.



PCARS VE Test Sessions

Robert, N8RLG
PCARS VE Team Liaison



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.

November 4th (Wed evening - 7pm), December 5th

What to Bring to the Testing Session

- \$15 is the current test fee. We prefer the exact amount in cash or a check made out to: ARRL-VEC
- A government photo ID (**driver's license or state ID card preferred**).
- Your Social Security Number or FCC Federal Registration Number. We are required to submit either your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) with your application. If you are upgrading, your FRN is on your current Amateur Radio license.
- A pen (black ink) and pencil (we can loan you either or both)
- **If you already have an Amateur Radio license: 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.



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



Contest Calendar

November 2015	
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 14 to 0200Z, Nov 15
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z, Nov 29

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

ARRL Sweepstakes - Can you get a Clean Sweep?

From the ARRL



In a few short days, operators across all 83 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections (<http://www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations>) will take to the airwaves to compete in the first of two ARRL November Sweepstakes events. Always a fall favorite “Sweeps” is the longest-running “domestic” contest. The **CW event is November 7-9**, while the **SSB event is November 21-23**. The action on both weekends gets underway at 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday (Sunday evening in continental US time zones).

As veteran Sweeps hands already know, the exchange for this operating event is a bit more involved than it is for most other contests. Strange terms such as “precedence” and “check” - while very familiar to old timers and traffic operators - may seem confusing at first to newcomers. The exchange goes like this: Call sign of the station worked, consecutive serial number (NR) starting with 001, precedence (PREC) - a letter that indicates your operating category; see the rules), your call sign, check (CK) - the last two numerals of the year you were first licensed, and the two-letter or three-letter abbreviation of your ARRL or RAC section (SEC).

All popular logging programs include a template for ARRL November Sweepstakes. Be sure to use the latest version of your logger.

The holy grail of Sweepstakes is to earn a “**Clean Sweep**” by working at least one station in all 83 sections. Attain this elite level and you qualify to purchase a highly desired Clean Sweep mug for your accomplishment! Also, the Sweepstakes certificate of every op making a Sweep will include a “Clean Sweep” sticker. Making at least 100 QSOs, qualifies the operator for a Participation Pin. Section and Division recognition awards for each operating category also are available. Details are on the ARRL November Sweepstakes web page. Check out the Operator Guide (with rules) for 2015 at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest-Operating-Guides/2015/2015%20ARRL%20November%20Sweepstakes%20Package%20-%2030%20Sep%202015.pdf> Be sure to read the rules (<http://www.arrl.org/contest-rules>) for all ARRL contests too.

Logs are due 15 days after the event is over. ARRL still accepts paper logs, but electronic Cabrillo logs are submitted via e-mail for CW use: sscw@arrl.org for your SSB entry use: ssphone@arrl.org. Send paper logs to ARRL November Sweepstakes, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Those logging on paper also may want to consider WA7BNM's online Cabrillo converter (<http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/>), which lets the operator manually enter the logging data to create a Cabrillo file. Submitting logs electronically enhances the quality of the log-checking process and permits more rapid publication of results.

Some Observations from the PCARS K3LR Tour

Tom, WB8LCD

Stick with me here, I'm going to talk about Ham Radio by starting out with a short story about Golf.

PGA member Lee Trevino was having a day that he felt particularly frustrated with. Still, one of his fans from the gallery caught up with him and exclaimed "Gee Mr. Trevino, I sure wish I could play golf like you do!" "Yeah, sure", Trevino shot back. "You mean you wish you could play golf like me, if it was easy. If you want to play golf like me, get up every morning at 4:00 AM and hit balls at the driving range until your hands bleed. Spend your lunch hour on the putting green, then play 18 holes every afternoon or evening. In your spare time read everything you can find on the mechanics of a good swing, then practice till you have it. Don't tell me you wish you could play golf like me unless you're willing to do what's necessary to improve your game".

No matter what you do, if you want to be good at it, or even the best, then you've got to do the things necessary to make that happen. It takes time, dedication, persistence, attention to detail and constant adjustment to what you are doing. It's obvious that Tim Duffy, K3LR – has put in the time and dedication to reach the top as an Amateur Radio contesting. (Looks like another win in the CQ WW SSB DX Contest just a couple weekends ago!)

Recently, I had the opportunity to join PCARS on a tour of the K3LR contest station in western PA. Tim Duffy himself led us on the tour of the station and antenna farm. While it would be easy to talk about all the impressive hardware, that's not what this is about. Anyone could spend a bunch of money, assemble a bunch of hardware and still not come close to the K3LR results over the years. The attention to the details is imperative, and making adjustments is key. The hardware has changed over the years, always striving to be the best.

Tim showed us records of operations over the past 10-20 years. "Records" means a lot more detail than just a station log. It means details of every aspect of the station, so that anytime something is changed, it can be compared to prior results to see what the differences were. Detailed records can help you pinpoint where you need to make improvements. If you want to be a serious ham radio operator, make good records, keep them, and compare them year to year to see where you can make improvements in your station, or operating habits.



Tim talked about QSL'ing as a marketing tool for K3LR. That caught me a bit off guard, but it makes a lot of sense. QSL'ing at K3LR is 100%. If you're in a close contest and someone doesn't bother calling you, because he/she feels like he's been snubbed by you because he didn't get your QSL card, you just lost a point, or worse yet, a multiplier. When you get on the air in a contest, Tim wants you to be thinking (subconsciously) "I need to make a Q with K3LR". That's marketing! So is Tim's "Contest University". Help make others better at contesting, they'll have more fun with it, they'll be there when the contests are running, and they'll bring others into the fun, meaning more contacts for all of us.

When we were walking in from the antenna tour, walking down Tim's street, I noticed it didn't look like the street I live on. All the lines coming down the road were neat and tidy. Phone, electricity, cable TV, and



whatever else was on the pole, all were continuous runs – I didn't notice any obvious splices. In fact it all looked brand new. Tim commented that he has a good relationship with the local utilities and that they are responsive to him when he points out noise being generated off the lines. Being able to hear is just as important as being heard to make

a good Q. Finding the local noise and then getting it fixed makes a huge difference when looking to work the weak ones. Lowering the noise level brings a lot more stations into the log. Building that relationship with the utilities so that they are responsive is something that has probably taken years to build. But, even if only in little increments at a time, getting the noise threshold lower is key to being one of the best stations on the air. Tim also talked about his relationship with the neighbors. Keeping them all on board with his activities has probably resulted in a lot less stress and keeps the station evolving.

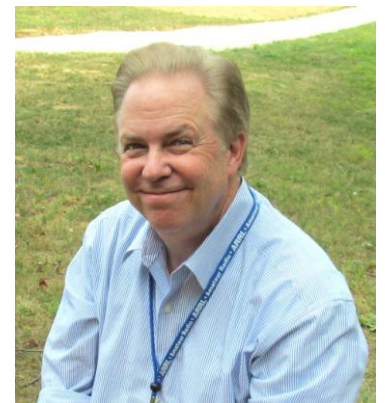
Ever been in someone's shack and notice that to get on the air, all the crap on the table top, chair, and any other horizontal surface in the room has to be shifted around just to get close enough to the radio gear to get it turned on? You can't be a successful operator if it becomes a chore to get on the air. In fact, you probably won't operate, because it's too much trouble. At K3LR, every operating position is neat, uncluttered and set up for business. Everything needed is there, where it belongs and ready to go.

At K3LR, there are usually many operators running the big contests. Working in shifts over a 24-48 hour period, keeping the operators fresh is a huge advantage to a 1 man operation trying to operate the whole contest on his own. In a separate building, next to the station, Tim has provided a place for his operators to rest and refresh themselves between shifts on the air. In a 48 hour contest, someone is sitting in the chair, and on the air, for every minute of that 2 days! If your station is running at just 2 Q's per minute and you miss just 1 hour, that's 120 Q's. If you've got 8 operating positions, and each one misses 1 hour, that's 960 Q's and maybe a couple multipliers – that's significant!



Buying the best, most hi-tech set of golf clubs won't make you a PGA class golfer. Buying the best, most hi-tech amateur radio gear won't make you a world class operator. But, if you add in the little things, they all add up to big results. Not everyone can be a world class contester or DX'r, but you can be your best, or you can just do what's easy. I'm betting you'll have a lot more fun if you take it seriously. Take a look at your station. I'm sure everyone can find some things to improve upon. Make a list of all those things, prioritize them, then start working on them.

Thanks to Tim, K3LR, for all the times he's opened his station to PCARS and other clubs, for Contest University, and for advancing the art and science of having fun with Amateur Radio.



*Tim, K3LR
Always a Smile
Ready to talk Ham Radio*

ARRL Asks FCC to Clarify that Hams May Modify Non-Amateur Gear for Amateur Use

From the ARRL



The ARRL has asked the FCC to make clear that Amateur Radio licensees may modify non-amateur equipment for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. Some hams have expressed concerns that recently proposed rules would inhibit post-sale modification of Wi-Fi equipment, now sometimes altered for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. The ARRL made its point in comments filed on October 8 on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in ET Docket 15-170 and RM-11673. The proceeding mostly addresses proposed amendments to FCC rules regarding authorization of RF equipment. The NPRM can be found on the web in PDF format at, https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-15-92A1.pdf.

"The Commission should clarify...that the ability of licensed radio amateurs to modify and adapt non-amateur equipment for use in the Amateur Service is beneficial, is permitted, and is not restricted by any rule of general applicability adopted in this proceeding," the League said in its comments. The ARRL said proposed rules requiring manufacturers to include security features to prevent network devices from being modified were "problematic," to the extent that they would preclude hams from adapting network equipment for ham radio applications.

"The Amateur Radio Service has a very long tradition of modification and adaptation of commercial communications equipment," the ARRL's comments pointed out. Amateur licensees should be permitted to modify any previously authorized equipment for use under Amateur Service rules, the League asserted. The proceeding attracted many comments regarding this aspect of the proceeding, although the proposed rules differ only slightly from the current rules.

The ARRL also urged the FCC not to apply any limitations proposed for Software Defined Radios to SDRs intended for use exclusively in the Amateur Radio Service, "as has been the policy for the past 10 years."

Equipment Authorization

The League also has called on the Commission not to combine the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) and Verification equipment authorization procedures into a single, self-approval program. The League said the proposal could lead to abuse by unscrupulous importers and manufacturers of unintentional emitters. Under the proposed rules, the FCC would do away with its DoC authorization program by combining it with equipment Verification to form a so-called "Suppliers Declaration of Conformity" category of equipment authorization. Testing in an accredited laboratory would not be required, nor would database registration or third-party review. The ARRL expressed concerns that the new regime would encourage and facilitate the introduction into the US of "non-compliant unintentional emitters" and offer no oversight.

The ARRL's comments said, "the only opportunity to preclude widespread sale and deployment of non-compliant RF devices, including unintentional emitters, is via the equipment authorization process." The League said hams and AM broadcasters have been victims of interference from such unintentional emitters as RF lighting ballasts "that routinely exceed the Commission's conducted emission limits." The ARRL said the solution is "not to loosen but to tighten the procedural controls over the testing and affirmative confirmations of compliance" to ensure greater compliance in conducted limits and other technical parameters that determine how much such devices contribute to ambient noise levels.

The League said some RF devices, such as RF "grow lights," now subject to the more informal Verification process should be subject to Certification, owing to their substantial interference potential. The ARRL noted that it has received and investigated "numerous reports of interference" from devices subject only to Verification. "A number of interfering devices, when tested by the ARRL Laboratory, have been found to exceed the FCC limits, sometimes by an alarming amount," the League said.

Improved Labeling for Part 15 and Part 18 Devices

The ARRL also said there is "an urgent need" for improved labeling requirements for certain Part 15 and Part 18 devices. "Necessitating change, notably, is the fact that there are many industrial Part 18 devices sold that are neither intended nor designed for use in residential environments, but because there is no external labeling...the end user consumer is left without guidance," the ARRL said, noting that, in most cases, equipment retailers are not providing any either.



The middle display containing both residential and commercial fluorescent light fixtures mixed together in no certain order. ARRL Photo

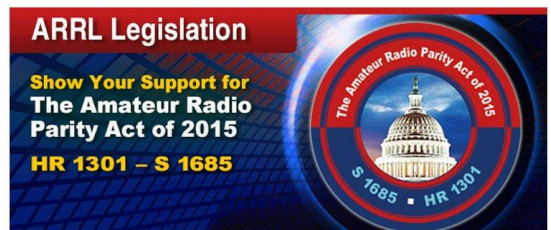
In July, the ARRL complained to the FCC about the marketing practices of various "big box" retailers, where non-consumer-rated lighting ballasts have been mixed in with consumer ballasts and other consumer products on display with no explanatory signage. Ballasts intended for industrial applications have higher permitted conducted emission limits in the Amateur Radio HF spectrum. The League called on the FCC to include a definition in Part 18 for the term "consumer RF lighting device," to provide a way to differentiate consumer devices from those intended for industrial or commercial environments.

The League also said the FCC should consider reducing its Part 15 limits for lighting devices to correspond with the Part 18 lighting device limits between 3 and 30 MHz to reduce the RFI potential of LED bulbs now being widely marketed, "before they become an aggregate problem." LED lamps operate under Part 15 rules.

The ARRL said the FCC should adopt the League's new equipment-labeling proposals with respect to certain Part 15 and Part 18 equipment "in order to stop the flood of such devices intended for commercial or industrial areas only into residential areas."

House Bill 1301 and Senate Bill 1685

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



New DX Engineering Catalog & PCARS Black Squirrel

The new Autumn/Winter 2015 catalog from DX Engineering has a black squirrel hidden on the cover. This one is a bit hard to find, but the squirrel is there. Can you find it? *Answer later in this issue of The RADIOGRAM*

DX ENGINEERING

**Amateur Radio Products
Autumn/Winter 2015**

FREE Standard Shipping on Most Orders Over \$99

**Build A
GO KIT.**
DETAILS INSIDE

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DXENGINEERING.COM 800-777-0703
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Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

K8BF	PCARS	Your Club
N8ATV	Jerry	Jarze
N8SY	Scott	Yonally
KD8ZXB	Janet	Sheppard
KD8WZS	William	Smith
KD8ERY	Susan	Larrick
K3GP	George	Proudfoot
K3LR	Tim	Duffy
WA8CCU	Al	Nagy
KB3OQV	Kristen	Andrews
KD8GGZ	Mary Jo	Loveland
AC8PR	Keith	Johnson
KE8BBJ	Darren	Eccles

KD8RHW	Edwin	Elias
KB8UUZ	Tom	Parkinson
W8OJM	Tom	Tenney
W8RID	Bob	Davet
KD8UXJ	Eric	Shane
K8FEY	Bob	Hewett
KC8SYD	Ted	Kost
N8WLE	Nick	Rothermel
WD8PME	Robert	Posar
K8STK	Tom	Creech
KD8SJB	Richard	Kurta
N8BI	Jack	Comer
AF1K	Rich	Kuster

PCARS Thursday Net Control

Tom, WB8LCD

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 !!



November	
5	KC8PD
12	K8CAV
19	NR8W
26	WB8LCD

December	
3	KB8UUZ
10	KC8PD
17	WB8LCD
24	no net
31	no net

January	
7	WB8LCD
14	KB8UUZ
21	KC8PD
28	K8CAV



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!



DX & Contest SIG

Chuck, W8PT



On Oct 3rd the club site was opened in order to put K8BF on the air in the California QSO Party. This is a 30 hour contest that started at 1600 UTC on Saturday and ended at 2200 UTC on Sunday.

We put three operating positions on the air using the triplexer to channel signals from the three rigs to the Mosley Yagi. We later used the wire antenna and the vertical to try to get on 40 and 80 meters.

We did not do as well as in years past due to a very high noise level until it quit after 4 PM on Saturday. This really affected our efforts on the HF bands that were open at the time since we could not hear any signal lower than S9. One of the really good things that came out of this effort is that we were able to pin point the source of the noise. It is being caused by the fluorescent lights in the parts of the building being used by Family Services. We intend to work with them to see if we can eliminate or greatly reduce this problem.

I believe that we did our best considering the conditions and we should be able to do a lot better in 2016.

Quick stats: 363 QSOs 840 Points 54 Multipliers (missed getting 4 counties)

Total Submitted Score = 45,360

We had 15 total attendees with 11 of those taking part in operating. Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	QSOs
N8BI	86
W5OV	63
K3GP	52
W8PT	45

Operator	QSOs
KB8AMZ	40
KD8FDK	37
W8KNO	16
K8MSH	10

Operator	QSOs
KB8UUZ	10
N8QE	3
WB9LBI	3



YES - we got the "**GOLD RUSH**" special stations (subject to change after log checking of course).

Linux for Hams SIG

Terry, KB8AMZ

Our last 2015 meeting will be in December, Tuesday the 29th. Apparently there are others in this group that have little social life and committed several months ago that they would be available for the last meeting. Nothing is planned yet but I am sure that either Mike or will have something setup for the last night.

I might be displaying my Raspberry Pi and TNC combo on air with my Yaesu FT-817ND. So if you're game to be there 2 days before New Year's Eve we will begin at 1900 hours EDT in the radio room.



QRP/CW SIG

Tom, WB8LCD



At last month's QRP / CW SIG we had a discussion on the Philosophy of QRP. Technically, QRP means "low power", usually defined as 5 watts or less. Per part 97 of the FCC rules, we are only supposed to use the amount of power necessary to complete our contact, so operating qrp should really be a more common experience than it really is.

Although you will find other opinions in the Amateur Radio literature, we believe that the term "QRP" only refers to power level. There is no prohibition against using the absolute best equipment available. That does not preclude that some like the experience of using simple, or lightweight equipment and/or antennas. But it's not requisite. In fact, an excellent radio, feedline and antenna system will enhance your QRP success!

In future months, the QRP / CW SIG meetings will concentrate on learning all we can about the radios at the PCARS club site and their effective operation. Hopefully, in conjunction with the DX / Contesting SIG we will look for ways to improve the operating experience from the PCARS club site station. We will be looking to participate in some contests at the QRP level.

I would encourage anyone who is looking to become a better operator to join us on the second Tuesday of the month (November 10th) at the club site station. As one of our first operating goals, I would challenge everyone, either working from home, or from the K8BF station, to earn the 1000 miles per watt award from the QRPARCI. Who will be the first??

See you on the 10th.

Digital SIG

Rick, K8CAV



I know you all have Tuesday November 3rd on your calendars because that's election day and you're all going to be at the polls at some point during the day. So when your done voting, why not plan on stopping in at the Digital Special Interest Group meeting?

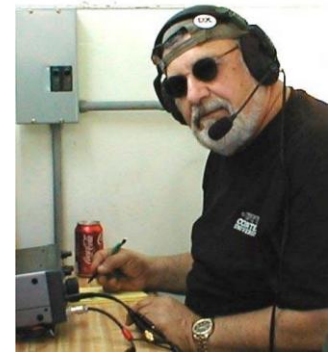
The meeting starts at 7:00 PM at the club site and we'll be talking about the club's first HF digital net that was held on October 27th.

As always, we'll set aside some time to try and answer questions or talk about any issues or problems you may have concerning digital operations. Hope to see you there!



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



STANDARD TIME. Remember to change your clocks November 1st! Countries who observe Daylight Saving Time (DST), which took place on Sunday, March 8th, are now expected to move their "local clocks" backward 1 hour on Sunday, November 1st, from 2:00 AM local time to 1:00 AM. In 2016, Day-light Saving Time (DST) will again go into effect on Sunday, March 13th, at 2:00 AM local time. **ADDED NOTE:** Hopefully, all amateur radio operators know **NOT** to change their GMT/UTC/ZULU clocks. However, since most operators usually set their computers to local time, some may have to change their settings on "some" ham radio software (ex. logging, propagation, DXTelnet, etc..) programs.

For those of you who are interested in working DX, you will find some good prospects listed below.

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, AMSAT NEWS SERVICE, ARRL Web, K1XN & GoList, NJ1Q & W1AW, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, N4AA & QRZ DX, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m News, K0BBC, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, JA1TRC, JI1AVY, JI3DST/JS6RRR, OH2BH, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, PY5EG, RSGB IOTA Web Site, Sixitalia Weekly, and VA3RJ & ICPO, VE3ZF, VHF-DX-Portal (MMMonVHF) for the following DX information. And a big thank you to Tedd Mirgliotta - KB8NW and his Ohio/Penn DX Bulletins.

3W, VIETNAM (3W3MD - Press Release #3) [edited]. Great news from the Mediterraneo International Dx Club Team. -- During their already announced Da Nang City, Vietnam, DXpedition with the call sign: 3W3MD between October 31st and November 10th, the international team leading by Antonio, IZ8CCW, and Gabriele, I2VGW, will also be able to be active for some days from Cham Island IOTA AS-162 (claimed only by 17% of IOTA chasers). As a matter of fact, some operators will leave the main land for 3-4 days, and with two stations and a couple of antennas they will try to give the reference to many IOTA chasers as possible. Of course the rest of the team (19 skilled DX operators coming from 9 countries) will be on air from the beach of Da Nang with five stations 24 hours around the clock. According to the evaluations that they have done, they are confident to give to a lot of DXers the possibility to work this country on the Low Bands, WARC and especially on the Digital modes. For any further news and updates please visit the official Web site for this new great adventure at: <http://www.mdxc.org/3w3md>

9J, ZAMBIA (Special Event). Peter, 9J2HN, will be active with the special call sign 9J2JOCV from Lusaka, Zambia, between Sept 1st and Dec 31st. Activity will be on the HF bands. The special call sign "9J2JOCV" is for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the "Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer" (JOCV). If you need a paper QSL, please send your QSL with SASE (SAE + 1IRC or \$2) to JL1IHE direct only (no bureau access): Mr. Yoshitaka KAWAKU, 2-10 Yamate-cho, Hanno-city, Saitama 3570031 JAPAN. QSL through eQSL or LoTW will be issued after the whole operation period is ended. **ADDED NOTE:** Special event station 8J1JOCV has been active from Kanagawa, Samukawa Town, Japan, since June 1st to celebrate the same thing. Activity will last until March 31st (2016). QSL via JARL Bureau or direct. QSL Manager is JR1EMO (SASE+2IRC).

A3, TONGA. Operators Martin/OK1FZM and XYL Lenka/OK1WZM will be active as A35OK (CW/SSB) and A35OL (SSB), respectively, from Tonga between October 27th and November 10th. The pair will activate the

following IOTA island groups as follows: Oct 27-29th -- Tongatapu Island (OC-049). Oct 29th-November 3rd -- Ha'apai Islands (OC-169). Nov 3-10th -- Vava'u Islands (OC-064). Watch the IOTA frequencies. QSL via their home call signs.

CE0Y, EASTER ISLAND. Operators Yan/RZ3FW and Sergey/R4WAA will be active as CE0Y/RZ3FW and CE0Y/R4WAA, respectively, from Easter Island (SA-001) between November 24th and December 2nd. QSL via their home call signs.

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. Steve, G0KIK, will be active as E51KIK from Rarotonga Island (OC-013) between November 9-15th. Activity will be holiday style using a TS-50 running 100 watts into 1/2 size G5RV. QSL via G0KIK.

FR, REUNION ISLAND. Anne, OH2YL, will be active as FR/OH2YL from Reunion Island during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 28-29th). QSL via her home call sign.

HS, THAILAND. Operators Fred/HS0ZAR, Champ/E21EIC, Mike/E29BUQ, Tham/E21CJN, HS4ARY, Tony/HS0ZDX, Svante/HS0ZDY and Stig/HS0ZGD will be active as HS0ZAR during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 28-29th) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via K3ZO.

PZ5, SURINAME. Operators Gregor/DF7OGO, Tom/K3WT, Alan/K0AD, Ron/N0AT, Vladimir/N0STL and Bill/W0OR active as PZ5W from Paramaribo during the CQWW DX CW Contest (Nov 28-29) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via LoTW, or via N0AT, Bureau or direct. Ops will be there between Nov 23rd and Dec 2nd.

V5, NAMIBIA. Heli, DD0VR, will be active as V5/DD0VR (possibly V50VR) from Namibia starting December 10th for one month. Activity will be limited to his spare time because he is on holiday with his XYL Bigi, DE3BWR. Heli will use a KX3 with the HL-1.1KFX amplifier by Tokyo High Power with 500 watts or the RZ3AH PA with GMI-11tube with 350 Watts out -- QRO SSB. For CW, he will only operate with 1-5 watts (G-QRP-Club -- NR. 7073). His antenna is a vertical. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

IOTA News

AF-018. Operator Raffaele, IH9YMC, will be active from **Pantelleria Island** (IIA TP-001, MIA MI-124, WW Loc. JM56XT), African Italy, during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 28-29th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (??) entry. QSL via eQSL

OC-133. Saty, JE1JKL, will once again be active as 9M6NA from **Labuan Island** between Nov 26-29. Activity on the HF bands & CQWW DX CW Contest (Nov 28-29) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via his home callsign or LoTW.

OC-235. Operators YL Elena/RC5A and Yuri/RM0F will be active as DU9/RC5A and DU9/RM0F, respectively, from **Siargao Island** between November 1-13th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via their home callsign or use the OQRS (see QRZ.com).

GOOD DX!! Until next month..... 73





Jim, KC8PD/AFA5PD
Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EM
Communications Unit/RACES

Mike, KD8FLZ
Emergency Coordinator,
ARES® of Portage County



Back again this month with a column from both Jim, KC8PD, as the Communications Unit Radio Officer and Mike, KD8FLZ, as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® of Portage County Emergency Coordinator.

Since January 2014, the Communications Unit net has been open to area hams who have signed up as members of ARES® of Portage County to participate in the CU nets. After the net control station has called the CU roster, ARES® members are able to check in. They can then participate in the net training.

It is not difficult to envision circumstances during a local disaster when both the CU and ARES® will be operating. We want everyone to be well trained on net procedures as well as CU and ARES® policies and practices and to develop the skills they need to provide effective communications while interacting with each other.

Emergency communications locally are not the exclusive province of the Communications Unit. ARES® members also need to be well practiced and prepared. Also, there may well be the need for communication links between Portage County and the surrounding counties depending on the extent of the incident. That is where local ARES® members may have a critical role to play by maintaining contact with ARES® units in those other counties or at the State EMA.

We have had some joint CU/ARES® drills and more will be planned for the upcoming years as well as shared training. You can also gain excellent experience by volunteering for the public service events that ARES® assists with.

Mike, KD8FLZ, wants to hear from all ARES® members about the direction they would like to see the local ARES® unit heading in and what types of activities they are willing to assist with. You can contact him at kd8flz@portcars.org. PCARS has always strongly encouraged its members to get involved in emergency and public service communications. Both Mike and I would appreciate hearing from you if you have an interest in either the Communications Unit or ARES®.



Shack Shot - K8BBE

Chuck, K8BBE

I'm K8BBE, Chuck Girt, licensed amateur extra since 1956. I enjoy working CW and DXing. I recently completed WAS on packet radio on 80, 40, 20, 15 a few left on 10 meters.

I also hold a radio telephone class first class license since 1966 where I worked at WINW AM till Uncle Sam called me to the military. Returned in 1970 to go to work for Western Union Microwave. Retired after 38 years and went back to radio.

I'm now a contract engineer for WOFN FM **and** WZLP FM. I really enjoy these jobs since the Engineer does everything.

Here I am, doing a live remote and hamming it up at WZLP Loudonville.

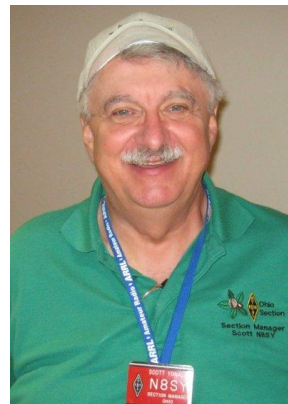


Black Squirrel on the DX Engineering Catalog



Let's Talk

Scott, N8SY
ARRL Ohio Section Manager



Wow, fall has definitely arrived!!! There's even that dreaded four letter word in the forecast for this weekend. (**SNOW**)

I've kept myself somewhat busy this year by traveling all over the state visiting with all of you at your hamfests, club meetings, picnics and breakfasts. It's been fantastic! I've enjoyed every minute of it! As you know, the Ohio Section is the largest Section in the country. It's even bigger than a Division or two. So, with that in mind, it's only fair to say that Ohio also deserves to have a full time Section Manager. So, don't be surprised when I just "pop-in" at your meeting or function.

Are you passing along that vital information that needs to go to your successor?? I'm finding that the reason for a lot of clubs being behind on their club record updates to not only the League, but also to the State of Ohio and the Internal Revenue Service (for those who are 501 (c) (3) organizations) is primarily because the newly elected club president wasn't informed that this was something needed to be done. Let me make a suggestion here.. Put a paragraph or two into your by-laws that state ALL club records are to be reviewed at least once each year, and definitely when a new president takes over. This will help not only the president, but the club members as well. Everyone looking out to see that the club records have been updated is a good thing. You might also want to make sure that it states somewhere who's supposed to be responsible for making sure that the records are completed as well. This way everyone knows who is responsible for what.

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

I want to talk to all of you about the **Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R.1301** in the US House of Representative and S 1685 in the US Senate -- It would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. Now I do want to stress this, even if this passes, it doesn't guarantee that you'll be able to construct an antenna farm on top of your 20 story apartment building. What it will do however, is at least give you a voice to the HOA's for something everyone could live with!

The Amateur Radio Parity Act would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

I want to urge you to write to your members of both the House and the Senate, asking them to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor.

Please, route your letters for your member of Congress to:

ARRL - Attn HR 1301 Grassroots Campaign - 225 Main St - Newington, CT 06111

Remember - a big bag of letters from the constituents is always more impressive than ones trickling in day after day.

The Ohio Section Website.

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



Are you a member of the ARRL?? If you aren't a League member, this is a great opportunity to become one. Want more information on how to join? Here's the link:

<http://www.arrl.org/membership-levels>. There's even

a 90 day FREE trial that you can apply for if you've never been a member.. Got questions about being a member or what the League is all about? Send me an email: n8sy@arrl.org I'll be happy to call or write to you or even call you if you've given me your phone number. We can even have coffee if you'd like. and I'll buy!!

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

Do you follow us on Facebook or Twitter? Many folks have started picking us up on Facebook and Twitter now. Yes, we definitely have a presence on both of these social media areas! Why, well that's an easy one to answer, it's because that's where the younger folks are hanging out these days. It's also a very quick way to post a short blast to everyone following us when something is happening. So, with that in mind, there's a lot going on up on Facebook and Twitter for the Ohio Section. Right now, we have over 1,600 followers from all over the world, with that number growing every day. So, do you follow us? On Facebook just type in: <https://www.facebook.com/ohio.section> On Twitter type in: @arrloho

There's a new link on the left side of the main page of the Ohio Section Website "Follow The Section Manager" Come on, follow me as I go around the state visiting with all of you folks. I post pictures of where I am and have a lot of great folks commenting and liking my posts. Hey, I even have Kay Cragie, the President of the ARRL following along with me. It's a lot of fun and you'll get to see all the places I go and the folks I meet along the way. Not on Facebook? It's easy to join in and the best part of it is, it's FREE!!

Hey, and don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on November 1st. This is when we get to gain that hour back that we lost early last spring - and it's a really neat birthday present for me. I get to sleep in an extra hour!!

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-857D Package Deal

Yaesu FT-857D - HF/VHF/UHF 100W - compact & in excellent condition with Hand Mic & Manual
Heil Headset with Yaesu adapter cable
Serial CAT Cable - for computer logging & control
Package Deal \$675 - prefer local pickup

FOR SALE: MFJ-259B Antenna Analyzer with Case. Good condition - \$170

Contact: George, K3GP by phone at 330-829-9504 evenings or weekends [02/02/16]

FOR SALE: Eagle One, HF Vert Antenna, \$100 brand new in boxes.

Heathkit SA2060 Tuner, \$300 good condition
Icom IC-718, HF All Mode, \$500 Brand new, never used, in original box.
Icom 271H, 2 Mtr All Mode, used in original box
Kenwood TS-711A, 2 Mtr All Mode, \$450 In original box with mike and manual
Kenwood TS-811A, 440 Mhz All Mode, \$530
Kenwood TS-450SAT, HF All Mode, \$600
Kenwood TS-830S, HF All Mode, \$450 Refurbished about a year ago and never used since. Has priginal manual and MC-50 desk mike
Kenwood SP430 Spkr, \$60
MFJ-4225, Switching PS, \$90
Mosley CL-36-M 10, 15, 20 MTR BEAM antenna, \$500
Mosley CL-33-M 10, 15, 20 MTR BEAM antenna, \$400
Nye Viking, MBI-001 Tuner, \$100
Palstar, PM2000A Watt Meter 300/2KW, \$100
Vibroplex Bug, \$50

If interested make offer. Also have Misc Tower parts

Contact: Allan, AB8AA by phone at 330-207-3296 or e-mail at: AB8AA@portcars.org [01/02/16]

FOR SALE: Antenna Specialist 100 watt mobile amplifier - \$100

Lafayette HA-410 10- Meter AM transceiver (Two Radios) w/AC cords, mobile hand mic., working.
Plus two spare radios for parts - \$300 for all 4 radios.

Bird VHF slugs - \$50 each

Sure-444D Base Microphone - wired for Kenwood 8-pin - \$45

Palstar AT-2K 2KW Tuner with 4:1 Balun - NEW - only a couple of months old - \$500

Contact: Jeff, WA8SAJ by phone at 440-951-6406 [02/02/16]

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

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

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

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

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

So I bought a new transceiver
and she asked...



"Are you going to sell any of
your old ones?"

IARU - Importance of Antenna Systems

From the ARRL

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council (AC) has adopted a resolution calling on IARU member societies to encourage governments to recognize the importance of the Amateur Radio Service and of Amateur radio antennas. The AC held its 38th meeting on October 9 and 10 in Bali, Indonesia, in conjunction with the IARU Region 3 Conference there.



The antenna resolution also called on member societies "to advocate for planning and development regulations that properly recognize the importance of an Amateur Radio antenna and do not place undue restrictions on the erection of antennas." It also urged member societies to discourage the imposition of any fees related to ham antennas, "particularly in view of the non-pecuniary nature of Amateur Radio and its popularity in the student and senior communities."

The AC completed its preparations to represent Amateur Radio at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15), which will take place during November in Geneva. The AC reviewed IARU positions and strategies for each WRC-15 agenda item that may affect ham radio. These included proposals for a secondary amateur allocation near 5.3 MHz. The Council also looked ahead to agenda items for the next WRC, which is anticipated for 2019. These would include an amateur allocation at 50 MHz in Region 1 (Europe and Africa) and "global harmonization" of the 1800-2000 kHz allocation.

"It is anticipated that a significant effort by IARU will be needed in preparation for WRC-19 to defend the amateur allocations between 137 and 960 MHz, in light of the pressure for spectrum for small, non-amateur satellites," the AC said in a statement. "Close coordination of regional efforts will be required."

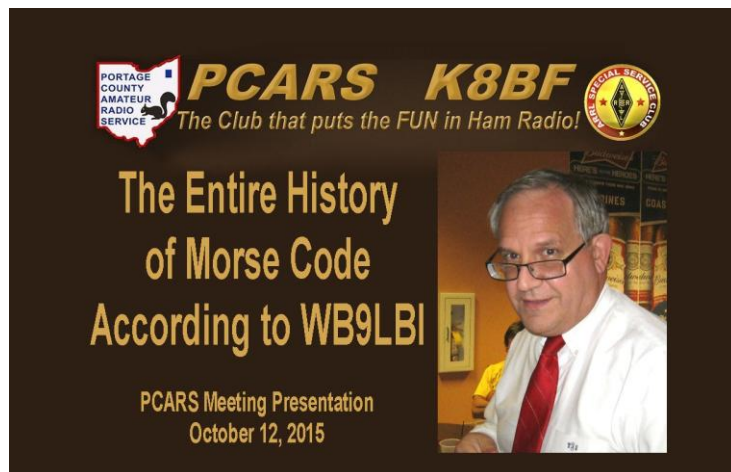
In a departure from its practice of recent years, the Council adopted a continuing theme for World Amateur Radio Day each April -- "Celebrating Amateur Radio's Contribution to Society." The Council could adopt a special theme in any given year, if appropriate. Read more (<http://www.arrl.org/news/iaru-administrative-council-stresses-importance-of-antenna-systems-for-amateur-radio>).

New Video Posted to PCARS YouTube Site

Check out the PCARS YouTube site and see the latest video that was posted. The video is "The Entire History of Morse Code According to WB9LBI:

Bill, WB9LBI shared his presentation at the October 12th PCARS meeting.

Good facts, good humor, great fun.





Amateur Radio License Plates Wanted

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

We have over 53 plates now, but we can use more. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the [PCARS Yahoo Group](#) site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history**.

From the Ohio BMV:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PCARS Yahoo Group

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

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

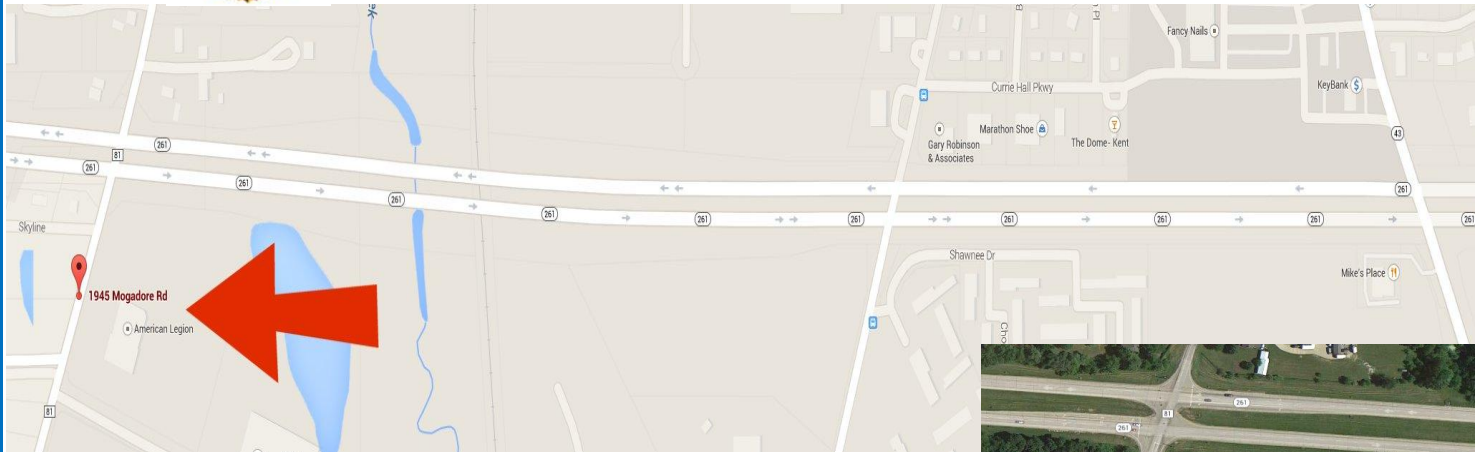


PCARS Meetings

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.

Photos from the October PCARS Meeting





PCARS Meeting
October 12, 2015

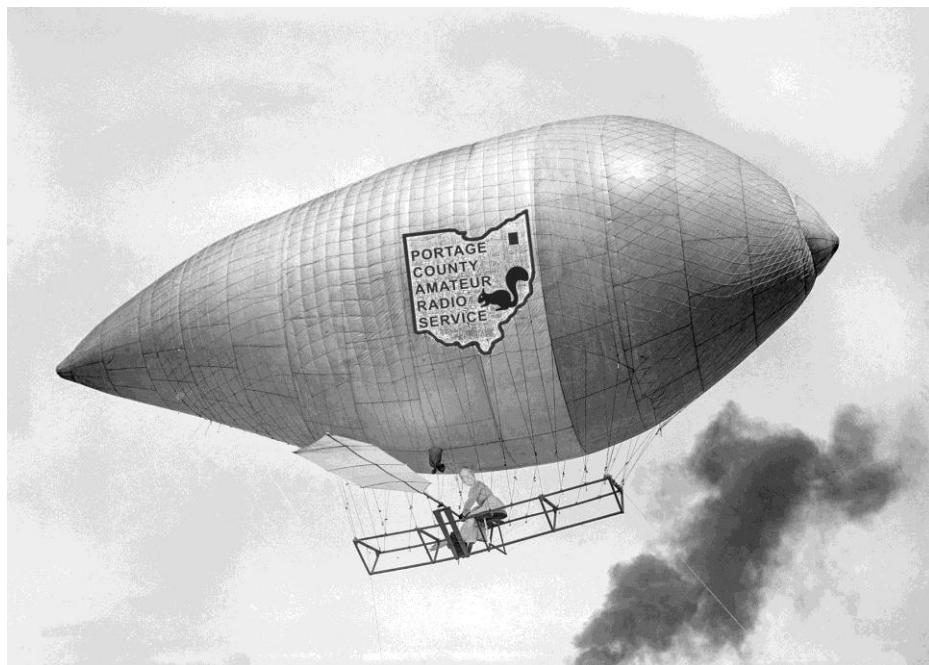
Stand By - PCARS Balloon Launch Delayed

Late news from Jim, AC8NT that the launch date of October 31st for the PCARS Balloon has been delayed.

No firm date has been set, but Jim said they are working on it.

When details are released, Jim will post the information on the PCARS web site.

(Look close - AC8NT is the pilot)



Thanks & 73

Tom “Parky”, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor

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 and beyond.



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

K8CAV, KB8UUZ, W8BBQ, N8RLG, WB8LCD, W8PT, KB8AMZ, KC8PD, KD8FLZ, K8BBE, N8SY, DX Engineering, the ARRL and the World-Wide Web.

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





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. If you don't pay by 1/31 - you are no longer a member and you will have to pay the \$5.00 fee again plus dues per the schedule below.

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

Dues Amounts

<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	Pay January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 (full year) Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months)
	Call Sign of Regular Member:	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:
<input type="radio"/> Database Updated	Member Number:

Rev. 15 Jan 2015

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

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!

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 Officers ~		2015 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Rick Kruis - K8CAV Vice President - Tony Romito - WA8AR Treasurer - Bob Hajdak - N8QE 3 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT 2 Year Trustee - James Andrews - KD8VT 1 Year Trustee - Erica Pelz - AE8YL Past President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD	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
~ Meetings & Net ~		Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ Tom Parkinson
2 nd Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	P.I.O.	WA8AR	Tony Romito
	Secretary	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
	Tech & Gen Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	V.E. Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
	Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010



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
W8EZX	Frank Tompkins
N8OQQ	Bryan Buchwalter
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
KA8TOA	Greg Ash

THE 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. Third Place Winner in the Ohio Section 2015) 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!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. The **RADIOGRAM** comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inputs submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month. ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is 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, active links, **NO** postage needed and the newsletter is delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! **The RADIOGRAM** is published every month and only sent 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. Yes I know the Sept cover says US\$4.95, don't worry you won't get sent a bill or be hounded by bill collectors. Since this now looks like a magazine, I thought - what the heck, let's put a price on it. In Oct we added Canada. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 10kb ones...) to the newsletter editor: kb8uuz@portcars.org



NLC



"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"