



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

February 2016 - Volume 11 Number 2

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



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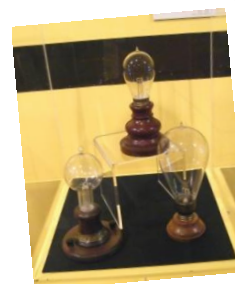
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FYAO 2016 is Coming Up Real Soon

Chuck, W8PT

I'm not sure if it will be Freeze or Melt, but we are hosting **11th Annual PCARS Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP event**. Our QRP event will take place on **Saturday, February 13, 2016**, at our favorite freezer, Fred Fuller Park in Kent at the Roy Smith Shelter House.

As requested in my last announcement, those of you who will be operating in this event, should let me know at your earliest convenience (email: W8PT@portcars.org). We are looking for a good turnout of operators.



I also am looking for those of you who will be bringing various delicious food offerings. And don't forget, we are having a special contest within a contest. It's a **BEST DISH Cook-off**. Those of you who feel that you have an award winning chili, mac & cheese, hearty soup, stew, or whatever recipe, **BRING IT ON**. And let me know before hand please.

The rules and forms for the FYAO are on the PCARS Yahoo Site. I don't foresee too many changes from last year, but it would be a prudent idea to read the new rules.

Let's make this a **BIG FUN** time again as in the past. And even if you don't plan to operate or bring food, be assured that you are welcome to come and enjoy the day with your fellow HAMS and PCARS members.



Check out the FYAO 2016 flier at the end of this newsletter.

Some Photos from past FAYO activities



ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN Steps Down

From the ARRL



The ARRL's 15th President Kay Craigie N3KN.

The ARRL Board of Directors elected the League's next president -- its 16th -- on January 15-16. President Craigie said it has been her privilege to serve during the ARRL Centennial in 2014 and to help usher in Amateur Radio's second century. "The operating events, the convention, the whole year!" she said. "To be ARRL President during this celebration was my great good luck, and I'll never forget all the members who told me how much they appreciate what the ARRL does for them and Amateur Radio."

ARRL's 15th President, Kay Craigie, N3KN, has served since 2010. President Craigie was first elected as a volunteer League official in 1986, when she became the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager. The ARRL Board of Directors chose her as the League's 15th president in January 2010.

President Craigie said she also was proud to represent the ARRL at international conferences and events during her time at the League's helm. "As President I represented the ARRL at the Radio Society of Great Britain's 100th anniversary observance, led the ARRL delegation at two International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 conferences, and was part of ARRL teams at Friedrichshafen and Tokyo," she said.

She also attended part of World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 as an observer. "For years, I have heard about the work done by IARU volunteers and the hams serving on their national delegations at the WRCs," she said, "but until I saw their efforts firsthand, I really didn't comprehend exactly how hard and how well they work together to protect and advance Amateur Radio for the rest of us."

President Craigie said she was happy to sign the first formal agreement between the ARRL and the Boy Scouts of America. "One of my best friends in Amateur Radio got his start as a Scout," she noted, adding that she hopes the agreement will lead to welcoming "even more talented young people into our ranks."

During her tenure as the League's President, she also has been deeply involved in efforts to achieve "reasonable accommodation" for all US hams, regardless of zoning and land-use regulation, and especially the current Amateur Radio Parity Act campaign. She said she's "certain that the ARRL's leadership and membership will continue to press this essential issue until the job is done."

President Craigie said she finds Amateur Radio still relevant, even in an era when technology seems to be advancing at lightning speed. "University students in scientific and technical programs get the point of Amateur Radio and see how it fits with their career plans and their talents," she said, adding that she has seen this firsthand in her community of Blacksburg, Virginia, the home of Virginia Tech. "Very bright students are not just getting licensed but are getting active." "These are the young people who will drive Amateur Radio technology into the future, and their energy and intelligence make me absolutely reject the idea that Amateur Radio is irrelevant and on its way out," the ARRL President said.

Tom Gallagher, NY2RF is the New ARRL CEO

From the ARRL



Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, of West Palm Beach, Florida, will succeed David Sumner, K1ZZ, as the chief executive officer of ARRL, effective April 18. In that role, he will oversee all activities at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Meeting in a special webinar session on January 25, all 15 ARRL Directors voted to elect Gallagher as CEO and Secretary, positions that Sumner will relinquish on April 18. Gallagher will join the ARRL staff as CEO-Elect on February 29, and a transition period will follow.

“I am excited by the prospects of ARRL’s Second Century, but I am equally mindful of Dave Sumner’s enormous 4-decade contribution to our organization and of the extraordinary contributions he has made to advancing the art and science of Amateur Radio, to growing our ranks, and to expanding the sheer enjoyment of ham radio around the world,” Gallagher said.

Licensed in Pennsylvania in 1966 as WA3GRF (and later N4GRF in North Carolina), Gallagher is a member of the West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group. He describes himself as “an incurable HF DXer and inveterate tinkerer” and credits his first visit to the Franklin Institute’s Amateur Radio station W3TKQ in 1963 for inspiring his interest in ham radio. Amateur Radio led to an early career in broadcasting. He was a cameraman and technician with WGBH-TV in Boston, the CBS Television Network, and Metromedia’s WIP Radio in Philadelphia.

He joins ARRL following 3 decades as an international investment banker and financial services executive. His career has included senior leadership positions with JP Morgan Chase & Co and CIBC Oppenheimer & Co in New York, and with Wachovia Capital Markets in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and as CEO of the Secondary School Admission Test Board in Princeton, New Jersey. Gallagher has served on boards, both public and non-profit, including two NYSE companies, the NPR affiliate in Charlotte, the Executive Board of The PENN Fund at the University of Pennsylvania, and The International Center of Photography.

Gallagher graduated magna cum laude with a BA from the University of Pennsylvania, and he holds an MBA from The Wharton School. He is a graduate of The Lawrenceville School, where he held the Nicholas Noyes scholarship.

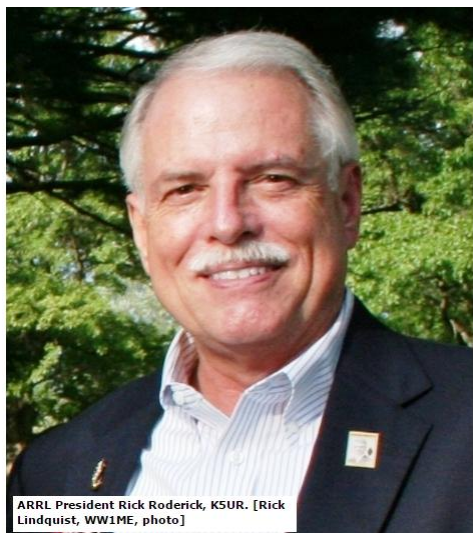
In addition to ham radio, Gallagher enjoys saltwater fishing and sailing which, he confesses, is sometimes just an excuse to operate maritime mobile.

At his Florida home along the Intracoastal Waterway, Gallagher has maintained a fairly low Amateur Radio profile, with a wire antenna that, he says, works well into Europe and Latin America. He also has a 40 meter Windom. “I would like to work Asia when I get a better HF antenna solution,” he said. Gallagher has both modern and vintage stations as well as a high-speed multimedia (HSMM) digital repeater.

Gallagher and his wife Lindy Allyn divide their time between West Palm Beach, Florida, and Manhattan. They have three sons. He plans to return to Connecticut; he’d lived previously for 13 years in New Canaan.

Rick Roderick, K5UR Elected as ARRL's 16th President

From the ARRL



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]

The ARRL Board of Directors has elected ARRL First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, of Little Rock, Arkansas, as the ARRL's next president. The Board took the action as it convened for its 2016 Annual Meeting January 15-16 in Windsor, Connecticut. Roderick, 63, officially assumed office for a 2 year term at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. He is the ARRL's 16th president, succeeding Kay Craigie, N3KN, of Blacksburg, Virginia, who served for three terms as the League's president.

The Board also chose other officers, electing Dakota Division Director Greg Widin, K0GW, of Stillwater, Minnesota, as First Vice President, succeeding Roderick, and Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, as Vice President, succeeding Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF. Roderick, Widin, and Milesosky all are ARRL Life Members. Fenstermaker was later named

by the Board as an ARRL Honorary Vice President.

As a result of the Vice President election, Rocky Mountain Division Vice Director Dwayne Allen, WY7FD, of Sundance, Wyoming, will become the new Division Director, succeeding Milesosky, while Kent Olson, KA0LDG, of Horace, North Dakota, will become the new Dakota Division Director. President Roderick will fill the Vice Director vacancies in due course.

In other action, the Board re-elected International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, K0QB; Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, and ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX.

The Board also elected one new member to the Executive Committee, which can act on the behalf of the Board between its two yearly meetings in January and July. Delta Division David Norris, K5UZ, will replace New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, on the panel.

The other Board members are Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB; West Gulf Division Director Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV; Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK.

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, also was attending his final meeting in an official capacity. Kramer retires on March 1 after about 10 years at ARRL Headquarters.

Still to come: This week, the Board is expected to choose a successor to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, who is retiring this spring after 44 years on the ARRL Headquarters staff.



Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **February 6th - VE Test Session** at the club site - 10 am - Walk-ins welcome
- **February 8th - PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - **PCARS the first 10 years** - Tom, KB8UUZ
- **February 13th - PCARS Eleventh Annual 'Freeze Your Acorns Off'** QRP event in Kent
- **February 24th - VE Testing at Club Site** - 7 pm for the General Class - Walk-ins welcome

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



First Tuesday - **Digital** - K8CAV
Second Tuesday - **QRP/CW** - WB8LCD
Third Tuesday - **Antenna** - WA8AR
Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** - W8PT
Fifth Tuesday - **Linux for Hams** - KB8AMZ
Fourth Thursday - Net Night at the club site - 6:30 pm



NPOTA 2016

National Parks on the Air

Take part in this 2016 operating event,
celebrating the US National Park
Service Centennial.

[Start Planning Now](#)

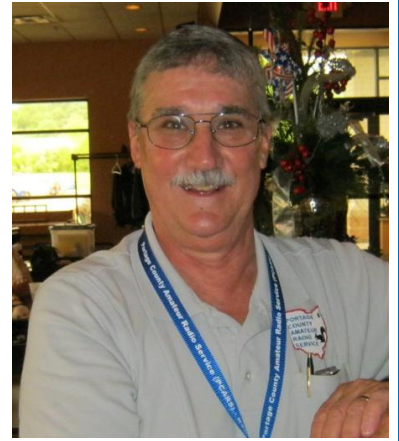
National Parks

ON THE AIR

2016

From the President

Rick, K8CAV
PCARS President



PCARS has been a successful amateur radio club for a lot of reasons, one of which is the many different activities it hosts to engage our interests in amateur radio. February brings the club's annual Freeze Your Acorns Off contest, an event that is lots of fun and challenges both our radio operating skills and for some, winter survivalist skills. In peeking back at the photos of last year's event on Valentine's Day, I was awed by those hearty souls that ventured out in cold blizzard conditions to set up and operate. If weather during this year's FYAO stays true to form for what it's been so far it could be a much more 'pleasant' time than last year but – it is winter after all and always a challenge no matter what. FYAO is an event unique to PCARS, created so that our members would have another activity to participate in and enjoy. Chuck, W8PT has put a lot of work into making this year's FYAO one of the best yet so, mark your calendars and come out for a great time.

PCARS decided from the very beginning that its monthly membership meetings would be a time of fellowship where we could share our time together as members and enjoy a presentation relevant to amateur radio. To do that meant that we needed to keep the business portion of the meeting as short and concise as possible. We conduct the more mundane aspects of club business in a different venue which our constitution and by-laws provide for, by scheduling a club board meeting a week prior to the membership meeting. The board members bring up and discuss both old business and new business and other items of interest to the club and when appropriate vote on actions to be taken with reference to a specific item of business.

Board members, who are the officers and trustees of the club, represent your interests by you electing them, but also rely on your input at the board meetings to make sure the club is going in the direction members want it to go. PCARS board meetings are always open to all club members to attend and bring their thoughts and ideas to the club leadership for consideration.

PCARS club activities cover more than just operating activities and the club's vice president is responsible for providing presentations at the monthly meetings and scheduling weekend activities. Our new Vice President, Jim, AC8NT has already lined up some great activities to include a trip to Tiny Circuits in Akron. He has more in the works so stay tuned to the newsletter and qst announcements for upcoming events.

The presentation for our February meeting is being done by our own Tom 'Parky', KB8UUZ with a theme of the ten-year history of PCARS. This will be a great opportunity to not only see how the club came about and see many of the things we've done, but also provide some guidance to us when we plan for our club's growth into its next decade. Come early, have dinner, and share some time with your fellow PCARS members.

If you're a member of PCARS there are lots of enjoyable things to do but you have to be a member and that means – paying your dues. PCARS dues are a modest twenty dollars per year and are payable on the first of the year. If you haven't paid them yet you can either get a check to our Secretary Mark, K8MSH or pay via PayPal on the portcars.org website. Click on the Club Info tab, and scroll down to the *Pay Your Dues With PayPal* section.

Yes, PCARS works hard as a club to provide activities for all to enjoy but as I've said many times, the most important and enjoyable part of our club is you the members participating. Whatever we're doing, please make some time to get out and enjoy being with the fine folks who make up our club.

From the Vice President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS Vice President



The General Class course is continuing with the test date at the club site scheduled for February 24 at 7:00 PM. We encourage anyone interested in upgrading their license to come to the test session. We are building an Extra Class course that will be video taped for anyone interested in upgrading. The taping will start the first week in March. We hope this will help those that have time constraints to learn the material necessary to upgrade. It will be built as modules allowing study to be self paced. We are also going to have our next Technician Class course in March.

Our February meeting will feature a presentation by Parky, KB8UUZ on the history of PCARS. It will be great. We are planning a presentation on Arduino and Raspberry Pi projects for the shack for March or April. We are also planning a field trip to Tiny Circuits for a Saturday in March. More on dates and times to come. As always if anyone has any ideas on presentations, please let me know.

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



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

N4IT	Carl Capps
K8JE	Jim Weaver
KC8LJY	Mike Bakes
KD8KCY	James Gurney
KD8TNZ	Bob Davies
KD8DFL	Ray Larrick

KC8YYS	James Albright
KD8MLF	Eileen Mohr
WV8P	David Germ
KB8CLH	Vivian DeSimio
KB8DPN	Russ Anderson
KD8FLZ	Mike DiCarro



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.

February 6th - April 2nd - June 4th - August 6th - October 1st - December 3rd

Also: February 24th - General Upgrade Class - 7 pm - June 25th at Field Day 4 pm

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: Amy, KD8SKL or e-mail her at:

KD8SKL@portcars.org



Contest Calendar

February 2016	
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 6 to 2400Z, Feb 7
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6
British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 6 to 0400Z, Feb 7
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 6 to 1759Z, Feb 7
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 7
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 13 to 2200Z, Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 26 to 2159Z, Feb 28
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 27 to 0559Z, Feb 28

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

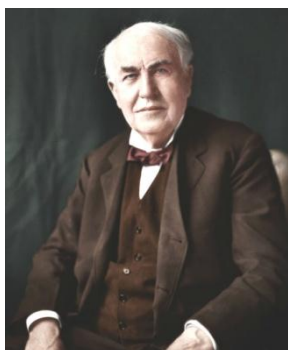
Visit to Edison & Ford Homes in Florida

Tom, WB8LCD



After celebrating the ARRL 100th anniversary last year, it made me think about that period in history when the League was formed. In a broad sense, that has always been one of my favorite periods of history, from shortly after the Civil War till about the stock crash of 1929. In the context of the technological and social advances that were made in that period of time, it was quite amazing. There are many men, including The Old Man (Hiram P. Maxim), from that period of time who have left their mark on history in most extraordinary ways. From that period, one of my favorite historical characters has always been Thomas A. Edison.

This year, just after Christmas I spent a week in Fort Myers, Florida. (It was in the mid to upper 80's every day) Although I've been to Ft. Myers many times, it's been about 40 years since I last visited the Thomas Edison and Henry Ford summer homes located there. It was number 1 on my list for this trip! Just being in that place where Edison and his contemporaries all hung out for the winter, would be inspiring, but I hoped if there were a random brain wave from any of these guys floating around that could penetrate my skull, it would be a good thing. I was not disappointed, and definitely came back inspired.



Thomas Edison was born in Milan, Ohio on February 2, 1847. As early as 12 years old, Edison was an entrepreneur, selling newspapers on the train that ran between Detroit and Port Huron. It was about that time that Edison began to lose his hearing, and he struggled all his life with that disability. In 1862, Edison entered the telegraph industry, and quickly became known for his ability as a "fast receiver". As new operators were moved up to more prestigious assignments (assignments in cities such as New York, Baltimore, Boston and Washington, DC were the most prestigious cities for a telegraph operator to work in), the veteran operators would test the new ops by sending faster than they could receive and making them QRS (Q code meaning "please send slower") the sending operator. In Boston, Edison was being initiated in this way.

But, when the veteran op broke to listen for the QRS, Edison snapped back, at the same speed, "Sounds like

you're getting tired, why don't you try sending with your left foot for awhile.” As far as I know, the very first time QLF was ever sent!

Through all his time in the telegraph offices, Edison was always tinkering with the equipment, looking for ways to improve it. He became infatuated with the book *Experimental Researches in Electricity* by the English scientist Michael Faraday. After working for the Boston office of the Western Union for just over a year, he quit his job. In January of 1869 he placed a notice in a telegraph trade journal that he “would hereafter devote his full time to bringing out his inventions.”

Through his career, he would accumulate 1,093 US Patents and a total of 2,332 patents world-wide.



In the late 1890's, Edison invested in property in Ft. Myers, FL. There he built his winter home (cottage) where he hosted and entertained captains of industry, politicians and celebrities. He became good friends with Henry T Ford, who later also built a winter home there, right next door to Edison's. Edison also had a workshop across the street from his home, almost an exact, miniature duplicate of his workshop at Menlo Park, New Jersey. Much work, and many experiments

on the light bulb were conducted at this workshop. (I left the Akron-Canton airport and got off the plane in Ft. Myers about 2.5 hours later.

I can't begin to imagine the logistics of that trip from Menlo Park, NJ to Ft. Myers, FL in the late 1890's or early 1900's). We think of Edison in terms of “electricity” but he was also involved in the rubber industry and the concrete industry, among many others.

In more recent history, much has been made of the relationship between Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. Tesla has been credited with enabling the 2nd Industrial Revolution with his introduction of the



AC motor. Try to imagine what the influence on the world might have been if Edison had been able to accept Tesla as one of his peers and the two had collaborated together!



museum area where you can view static displays, watch videos and participate with interactive displays. Even with those changes, it's still a fascinating place to visit.

- “Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.” TAE (Thomas Alva Edison)
- “I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.” TAE
- “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” TAE
- “Hell, there are no rules here – we're trying to accomplish something.” TAE

- “I never did a days work in my life. It was all fun.” TAE
- “There is no failure except failure to serve one's purpose.” HTF (Henry T Ford)
- “The only true test of values, either of men or of things, is that of their ability to make the world a better place in which to live.” HTF
- “Politics in the true sense, have to do with the prosperity, peace and security of the people” HTF
- “It is regrettable that people think about our monetary system, and of our economic structure, only in times of depression.” HTF

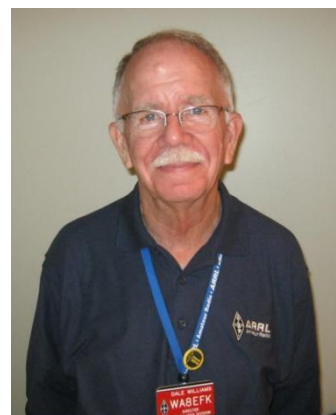


After my visit there, I came home thinking about all the time I could be productive, but instead, spend it being “entertained.” I need to improve on that.

Dales' Tales

Dale, WA8EFK

Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division



Greetings everyone, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for February, 2016.

OUR NEW CEO: As you are no doubt seen the press release, our ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ plans to retire this year. Dave has announced that the date will be April 18, ending more than 44 years of service at ARRL HQ. For many of us, it will be hard to imagine headquarters without Dave at the helm. None the less, on that date, our new CEO will step into office, Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. There will be a few weeks of overlap as Tom and Dave will be working together to effect a smooth transition of leadership. Tom's selection comes after an extensive search and an offer was tendered following the decision at the January ARRL Board meeting. Tom accepted, and the Board held an electronic meeting Monday evening January 25, where he was elected to serve as CEO and Secretary following Dave Sumner's retirement. Tom's bio is available on the ARRL web site.

The recent Board meeting also included another important change in Leadership, as President Kay Craigie, N3KN completed her 6th year as League President and opted to return to private life. Our First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR was unanimously elected to the office of President and began his term at the end of the meeting. Rick has served on the Board as a Vice Director, Director and a VP for more than 24 years.

One other change is forthcoming, as our Chief Operating Officer, Harold Kramer, W1JB is planning to retire in early 2016. More details will follow as our new COO is selected.

In addition to the above, various Board actions included election of the 2016 Executive Committee, (your Director was re-elected to this body) plus reviewing and accepting standing Committee Reports. The ARRL Strategic Plan was accepted and the Board will be assigning priorities for implementation. There was considerable discussion about how US population shifts have affected the number of ARRL members in each Division since Division boundaries were last adjusted. A committee was established to examine these changes, collect member input and report at the January 2017 meeting with their recommendations.

Actions by our newly elected President included the appointments to several committees. Our Vice Director, Tom Delaney, W8WTD was selected as Board Liaison to the ARRL RF Safety Committee, while your Director was re-appointed as chair of the Ethics and Elections Committee.

ON THE AIR SPECIAL EVENT: The big operating event National Parks On The Air has begun. Be sure to check out the full details at <https://npota.arrl.org/>. You can view your contact status on <http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA> and selecting "The Leaderboard". Standings come from Logbook of the World uploads, so remember that some may be delayed until the operators return to their home QTHs where they have Internet connectivity.

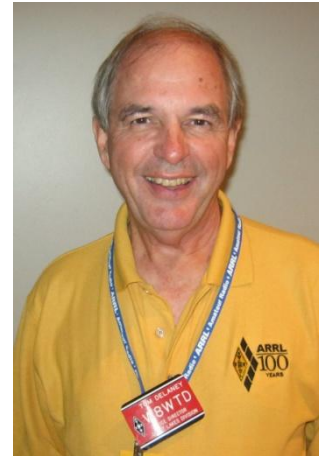
MEA CULPA: Being human and subject to making an occasional (Okay, frequent) mistake, I did so last month when I inadvertently omitted from the Great Lakes Division Annual Report, the call sign of Bill Finnegan NR8I. Bill was the winner of the ARRL's Herb S. Brier W9AD Instructor of the Year Award.

From The Great Lakes Division Vice Director

Tom, W8WTD

Vice Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division

ARES®: So who turned the map of the Division upside down? It seemed like it for a few hours this past weekend. Normally, cold temperatures and large snowfalls are more likely in Central Michigan than in Central Kentucky. But the storm that eventually became the Northeast Blizzard came roaring through the southern part of the Division before it charged up the East Coast. And it dropped enough snow to stop traffic on I-75 between London, KY and Lexington. While it was reminiscent of the I-65 snow last winter that stopped traffic over near Elizabethtown, this one probably wasn't quite as bad. But the Kentucky ARES® folks responded, at least in the "ready" mode. KEN was activated on 3.9725 MHz, and several local nets were called up throughout the area. No one actually deployed, but all the procedures were in place to do so. Thanks to everyone who participated!

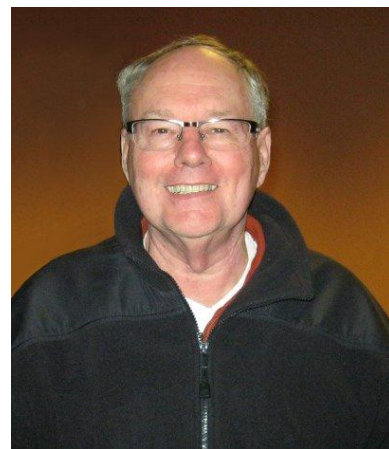


Who's an expert? Here's a story for you. Maybe it has to do with the fact that we are called amateur radio operators. Or maybe it's something else. I was asked recently to help find someone who could do a presentation on wire antennas for one of the clubs in our area. So I started asking around for an expert. People I thought were experts declined, saying that they weren't experts. After a while, I started thinking about the term, and decided that must be what was making the search difficult. No one wants to self-identify as an expert. We all have this mental picture of an expert as someone who knows so much about resonance, reactance, impedance, theory, and the ability to use complex antenna modeling systems. What about the practical? How many antennas has an individual constructed and put up? In my fifty-plus years of ham radio, I've put up temporary antennas for field day, permanent antennas on my house and the houses of friends, as well as antennas on public buildings, etc. Some worked well, others didn't, but I learned from what went wrong.

With that in mind, I recruited one of the non-experts (who knows a lot about antennas) and together we led a discussion with the club. Everyone took part, and we all found out more about antennas and what to expect. By sharing what we know and asking questions about what we didn't know, we all came to a better understanding of antennas. And it was one of the better club meetings I've attended anywhere. Funny thing. Even though to my "English-teacher" mind, expert and experience seem to have the same root, one term is more intimidating than the other. Bottom line - those of us with experience should not be so hesitant to share what we know.

The winter and early spring Hamfest season is here. Weather permitting, I'll be seeing some of you in the next month or so.

Jim, AC8NT



The antenna group is continuing its study and development of the magnetic loop antenna. We will focus on completing the build of our capacitors and working on an automatic tuning system for the loop. Frank Tompkins, W8EZX first noticed the article in QEX on a version of an automatic tuner for the MFJ loop. We will be looking at that design and some others I have come across. We will be involved in both RF and microcontroller development of a great solution.

You never know what topic will be discussed at one of our meetings. At the December meeting we discussed the so called “Magic” Antenna.



This antenna uses coax to replace the horizontal elements of a standard dipole. This is another name for a coaxial antenna.

I found a good article by G3TXQ on some experiments with this type of antenna. In fact it does require less space (length) than

the simple wire dipole but as usual there is no “free lunch”. It turns out that it has a very narrow bandwidth and much lower efficiency than a standard dipole. He concludes: “that the use of coaxial cable can reduce an element's length by something approaching the Velocity Factor of the cable.

However, the penalties are significant power losses and a much reduced performance bandwidth. Finally, in anything other than a simple dipole, the size reduction is likely to be significantly less than that predicted by a simple scaling based on the Velocity Factor.”

For those interested in antennas, this is an interesting antenna and deserves a look. Here are a few websites that have information on this type of antenna. Do some looking and have some fun considering this design. Maybe we can discuss this topic as part of a future meeting. Remember we meet at 7:00 PM the third Tuesday of the month at the club site. Everyone is welcome and we encourage everyone with an interest or an antenna problem to attend.

G3TXQ article: http://www.karinya.net/g3txq/coax_antennas/

VK2YVA article focused on VHF applications: <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/technical/projects/coaxial-folded-dipole-antenna>

N4UJW, PY2RML article: <http://hamuniverse.com/10metercoaxdipole.html>

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



Chuck, W8PT

Our next DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at our club site.

The meeting will start at 7PM and some of the topics for discussion are the upcoming FYAO and the K8BF Special Event to be held in April. If time permits we will also view the DVD on the 2011 VP8ORK DXpedition to the Orkney Island. We have tried to get this into our meetings before and simply ran out of time.



We want to have those of you who come to our SIG to come up with ideas of what you might want to get out of our meetings. So please come with some ideas. See you on the 23rd.

Field Day 2016 Update

Every June, the ARRL sponsors the premier event in Amateur Radio in the USA. Of course, I am talking about Field Day, which takes place on June 25-26.

First some background - Field Day is an annual amateur radio exercise, widely sponsored by IARU regions and member organizations, encouraging emergency communications preparedness among amateur radio operators. In the United States, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country, with over 30,000 operators participating each year. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, running 24 hours. Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, radio amateurs throughout North America have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.

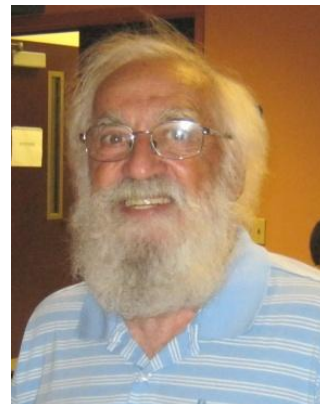
To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and of each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component, even though the ARRL continues to say that it is not a contest.

During our previous participations in Field Day, we have been somewhat hampered with inter-station interference between the CW station and the phone stations. One of the best ways to solve part of this problem is to align the various antennas in a straight line. But the layout at Ravenna Park where we have been holding our Field Day, does not allow us to do this.

Field Day rules allow operations within a 1000 foot diameter circle. So we have been looking for a venue where this would be available to us. We found it at the Freedom Community Park on Rt. 700 in Freedom Township. Rick, K8CAV, acted as our representative and attended a few of the township trustee meetings and was able to get the trustees to agree to allow PCARS to use the park for our Field Day site. They have been very welcoming and are looking forward to even attending to see what we do.

We have the basics of a plan in place regarding the placement of our operating stations and will finalize this plan very soon. We have an upcoming Field Day meeting in February (date to be announced) at which we will continue to review our goals and status of our preparations for this event. Anyone who is interested in taking part in PCARS' effort this year is certainly welcome to attend. I will advise on the date and time for the upcoming meeting very soon.

Joe, W8KNO

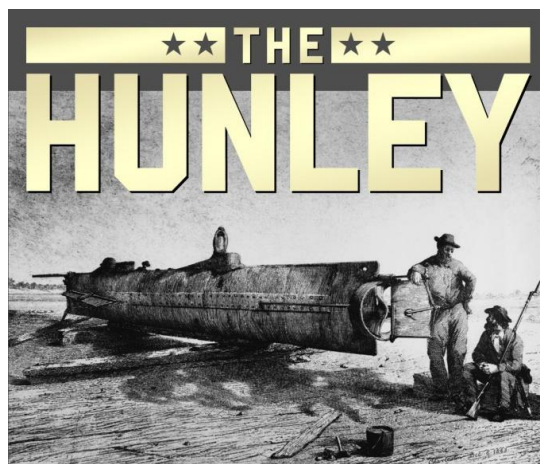


You all may have heard that the members of the K8BF California QSO Party team will be receiving a special Challenge Coin for having contacted 1x1 call sign stations that spelled "GOLD RUSH". Special awards within QSO Parties have become common place since the concept was introduced in the Kansas QSO Party some years ago. A new version of this idea will be introduced in the South Carolina QSO Party being held on February 27th starting at 1400Z and running through 0059Z February 28th. Instead of using 1x1 calls, the first letter of the county will be used for the award.

The award will be called the "**HUNLEY CHALLENGE**" and is to commemorate the mission of the H.L. Hunley submarine against the federal blockade ship U.S.S. Housatonic off the coast of Charleston on February 17, 1864. The H.L. Hunley was the first submarine to sink an enemy ship.

To earn the award, you must spell "**HUNLEY**" by contacting at least ONE amateur radio operator located in counties which begin with these letters:

H – Hampton, Horry
U – Union
N – Newberry
L – Lancaster, Laurens, Lee or Lexington
E – Edgefield
Y – York

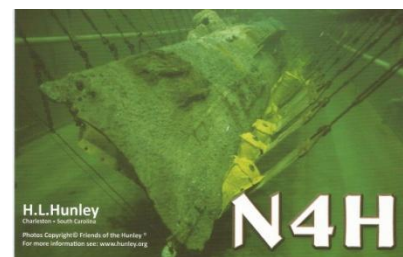


Those stations completing this challenge will receive a commemorative certificate via email.

To make it a little easier, there is going to be a "wildcard" that can be substituted for one of the missing letters. In fact you can use the "wildcard" for each time you contact it up to two times. The "wildcard" station will be **N4HLH**.

How to submit your "HUNLEY CHALLENGE" Award Application:

1. Go to <http://scqso.com>
2. Click on "**Hunley Challenge Award**" main menu item
3. Click on "**HUNLEY CHALLENGE Award Application**" link
4. Complete the application form AND upload your SCQP Cabrillo log
5. Click "**Submit Application**" button. *And you are all done!*



You will receive a confirmation via email. If you do not receive a confirmation or if you have any questions about the application process, please email Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP at dave@pkministrywebs.com.

Stations who qualify for this award will be listed on www.scqso.com. Application for this award must be submitted within 30 days of the South Carolina QSO Party and there is no charge.

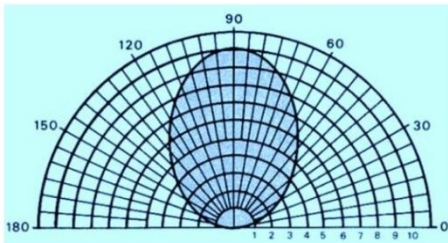
Good luck. It looks as if propagation to South Carolina will be open all 24 hours of the Party.

Hoping to Expand “NVIS Antenna Day”

Stan, N8NHL
ARRL Ohio SEC



The ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator is hoping to expand the “NVIS Antenna Day” on April 23 by encouraging participation by stations in neighboring states. This year’s activity also will offer the concept of establishing “anchor stations” around Ohio to provide consistent signal reports to other participants. The Near-Vertical Incidence Skywave or NVIS antenna has gained traction among emergency communication groups and others desiring a close-in radiation pattern for regional work on HF.



“Working with antennas has been an integral part of Amateur Radio since the first hams took to the airwaves,” Broadway said. “Having the ‘right’ antenna becomes even more important when we’re acting in the interest of public safety. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) organization in Ohio will put these two concepts together in another NVIS Antenna Day.”

Broadway explained the “anchor station” concept this way: Team A puts together a low-altitude G5RV, then contacts Anchor A in Toledo, Anchor B in Dayton, and the Ohio Emergency Operations Center (EOC) station. - “The Sarge” - for signal reports. “They then either adjust their design, or try antenna number 2, contacting the same anchors,” he said. “From their signal reports, they can determine right away which antenna is better and by how much.”

Anchor stations’ frequencies will be published, but participating stations may contact as many other stations as they can find, allowing each station to plot its coverage “footprint” to get a good idea of its capability for a real emergency.

Last year, numerous operators, teams, and EOCs took part in NVIS Antenna Day in an effort to determine the best NVIS antenna to use throughout the Ohio Section. “The differences weren’t as dramatic as one might expect,” Broadway said. “Those fashioned after the military AS-2259 cross-dipole configuration appeared to be the best, but other designs worked nearly as well.”

(editor’s note - See: <http://static.dxengineering.com/global/images/instructions/WP-NVIS-Rev2a.pdf>)

Broadway said NVIS Antenna Day is not a contest but an activity focused on having teams or individuals in and around Ohio to research and determine the NVIS antenna designs they believe will work the best - then get together to build and test them out on the air. Teams may include county-based ARES teams or groups, teams of friends, and even individual operators.

Getting under way at 1500 UTC on April 23, teams will begin making contacts to compare their antennas. Stations do not need to operate from the field but the location should allow room for several antennas.

“We don’t have an ending time, because some stations had so much fun - and so many pileups - last year that that they went on for quite a while past dark,” Broadway recounted.

After the event all teams will file reports with call sign, location, operator(s), number of contacts, and all antenna design and deployment details, including height.

“Each station then can rank its top three antenna performers with comments and ideas,” Broadway said. “Pictures are very much encouraged.” The sponsoring Marion County ARES team will compile the documentation, and narrow down the best-performing NVIS antennas across the region.

Broadway has invited radio amateurs in surrounding states to get involved and to participate in the on-the-air event. “We would really like to make this a regional event in 2016, with stations in their state EOCs and around the Ohio border to test their own capabilities,” he said.

ARES® Activates in Sebring

From the ARRL



ARES® Volunteers Help to Distribute Water in Ohio Community with Lead-Tainted Water

Flint, Michigan, is not the only community with water problems due to high lead content. During the week of January 18, some 8100 water customers in Sebring, Ohio, were notified that they, too, had problems with high lead content in their drinking water. On January 22nd, both Ohio and Mahoning County emergency management agencies began passing out bottled water in Sebring. Mahoning County ARES® Emergency Coordinator Wes Boyd, W8IZC, activated ARES to assist.



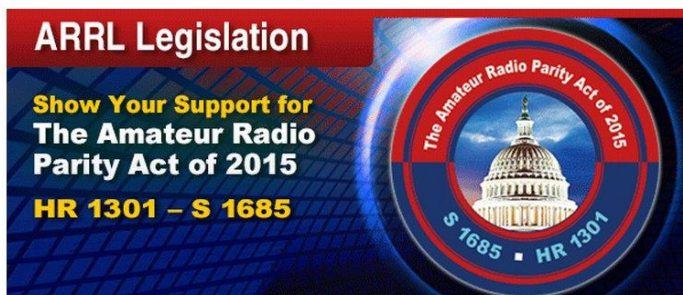
Mahoning EMA Director Dennis O'Hara, left, and Regional Red Cross Director Karen Conklin, coordinate the distribution of bottled water in Sebring, Ohio. [Courtesy of Stan Broadway, N8BHL]

“Response on the workday was low, but a handful of ARES® volunteers were able to respond,” said Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL.

Boyd said, “EMA and Red Cross were overjoyed that radio operators came to work not needing a radio.”

ARES® volunteers joined others in moving and distributing pallets of bottled water, and another call went for weekend duty. ARESv members from neighboring counties volunteered. All told, the volunteers moved more than 166 pallets of water in 6 days.

“This is a perfect example of being ready to serve in whatever capacity we can, in order to help our communities. Sometimes it doesn't involve only operating a radio,” Broadway said.



Rick, K8CAV



The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting will take place on Tuesday February 2nd at 7:00 PM at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

This month we'll be talking about using fldigi with the Windows 10 operating system with both a Signalink sound card/interface and a conventional sound card interface using virtual COM ports, and some of the issues you may face.

In the near future Steve, K8SRR is going to be doing some presentations to the Digital SIG on MESH networking including the use of an Ubiquiti device with a VLAN switch for providing internet access as well as access to multiple IP devices. Information of the specific VLAN switch Steve is recommending is shown below so that if you want to buy one you'll have enough time to receive it for information at an upcoming Digital SIG to configure it properly. There is also other information and links below concerning MESH networking as it pertains to Ubiquiti devices. Of special note is information concerning flashing newer Ubiquiti devices with the MESH firmware so that you don't turn it into a \$75-dollar brick.

As always if you have any questions issues or problems with digital please bring them to the meeting and we'll do our best to answer them.

From Steve, K8SRR:

"As discussed in the meeting, here is an email with the various parts needed for the Ubiquiti mesh nodes. As discussed in the meeting, if you purchase one, depending on the firmware installed, you could "brick" the unit when flashing to the BBHN software. Please review information on the BBHN website.

<http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>

Ubiquiti Bullet M2 <http://tinyurl.com/jjxycs6>

Ubiquiti Power over Ethernet injector <http://tinyurl.com/grxbac9>

Engenius Antenna (small but expensive) <http://tinyurl.com/j456mgd>

TP-LINK Antenna (big but cheaper) <http://tinyurl.com/z9gyufs>

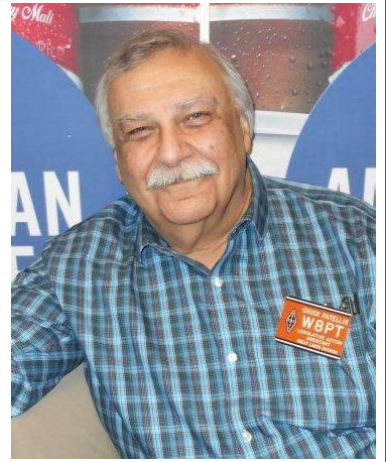
Netgear ProSafe GS108E - This switch is optional. This switch allows you to take advantage of plugging into the Internet. This VLAN switch is available through a number of different sources but seems to be least expensive through Amazon. It does need to be configured, more information to follow.

Any other switch could be used (suggest gigabit rated switch) but you will be limited to only using the node without being able to plug your node into the Internet if it is available. Your node could still access the Internet through other nodes that are Internet capable using a standard switch such as <http://tinyurl.com/zcblwk3>



California QSO Party - Update

Chuck, W8PT



The 51st running of the California QSO Party was held this past October and a group of PCARS members participated, putting K8BF on the air.

I believe that many of you know that we had some interference issues, which are being addressed. It did give us a big challenge getting to work anyone that was not at least 59 + 10. There were, however, periods of quite that allowed us to make many contacts.

The standings were issued in January and there seems to be a clear trend that was brought to light for the event. Of the eleven categories in which logs were submitted, five were won by folks in 5 land. More telling was that all five were from Texas. It seemed that propagation favored the Lone Star State during the event.

In our category (Multi-Multi Low Power), there were only four entries. The top point score was W5RTA with 51,205 pts. **K8BF came in second with 40,446 pts.** Coming in second is not what we strived for but it is better than third.

One of the things that really came to light is the fact that we submitted our log with a 45,360 point total. It means that we lost 4915 points after the log checking. It is something that we will look into to see where and how we could lose that many points.



I want to again thank all the operators who took the time and effort to put our club on the air. One of the goals we did meet was to contact enough of the 1x1 "Gold Rush" call signs to allow each of the operators to qualify for the Gold Rush Challenge Coin. There is no word yet as to when or how the coins will be distributed. I will make an announcement as soon as I hear when and how this will happen.



Again, thank you!

California QSO Party

PCARS
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Discover the FUN



PCARS
www.portcars.org



What Would Wayne Green Do?

Dan, KB6NU



Wayne Green was a crackpot...but he was a great one.

For those of you who aren't as old as I am, Wayne Green, W2NSD, was not only the publisher of 73 Magazine, but also the founder of Byte and other PC magazines in the early days of personal computing. In 73, he would write these long, rambling editorials. Often, he would take the ARRL to task, criticizing what he thought to be some lunk-headed policy or another.

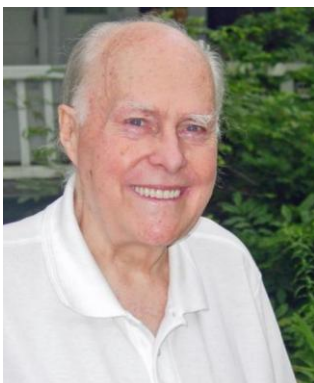
Just as often, he'd be encouraging hams to take up some new technology. He was, for example, one of the guys driving hams to set up repeater systems.

He would often exhort hams to get started in their own technology-related business. I remember one column where he urged hams to get involved in the home-security business. And, of course, when personal computers became popular, he wrote that hams should think about getting into that business. His reasoning was that our knowledge of electronics would stand us in good stead in those businesses.

Today, I think that he would be telling us to get more involved in with technologies like the Internet of Things, WiFi, or whatever other wireless technology is coming down the pike. "Wireless" is the key word here. These networking technologies are based on good, old radio, and who better to push these technologies forward than guys like us who understand radio.

This point was brought home to me last week as I was interviewing an executive of a wireless company for an article that I'm writing. He said to me that many of the companies he works with are taking a software-centric view to their wireless products. They simply use the reference designs provided by the wireless chip makers and expect those designs to work flawlessly in their products.

While they often do, he gave me an example where simply using the reference design was a colossal failure. In one case, he said, the company mounted the board inside a metal enclosure. Since the antenna was part of the printed-circuit board, the enclosure acted like a shield, and of course, the device had little or no range.



He went on to say that he thought that there was a real shortage of experienced RF guys in the wireless industry. Does that sound like an opportunity to you? It does to me. So, I'm going to make like Wayne Green here and exhort all you guys to get out there and take advantage of it.

This is not only a business opportunity, but a way for amateur radio operators to fulfill a couple of the "purposes" of amateur radio, as set forth in Part 97.1 of the amateur radio regulations. Part 97.1(b) says that one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." According to Part 97.1(d), another purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts." Let's do it!

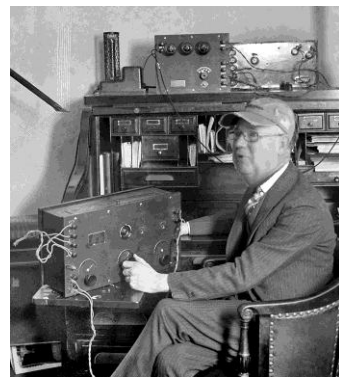
When he's not ruminating on the latest wireless technologies, KB6NU likes to make use of some vintage wireless technologies by working CW on the HF bands. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides). If you have a comment or a question, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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 !!



February	
4	KD8FDK
11	N8RLG
18	WB2DFC
25	N8QE

March	
3	WB8LCD
10	KB8UHN
17	KB8UUZ
24	NR8W
31	KC8PD

April	
7	K8CAV
14	N8RLG
21	KD8FDK
28	N8QE



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!

Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



Hello from the Snowbelt. I believe I used that opening last month, but this time it means something. Obviously I don't know where you all live, but if you are in Geauga County, then I know you have a lot of snow. Chardon was up to 29 inches in only 4 days. This morning while I am writing this, it has finally stopped snowing, but it is completely overcast and only 25 degrees. But hey, that's at least 10 degrees higher than it was yesterday at this time.

I'm glad that temperature has the effect of keeping us indoors (unless you have an outdoor occupation) so that we can play radio. Especially those of us who have earned our stripes and are now retired. As the old saying goes, being at the right place at the right time often pays dividends.

I hope that many of you have been able to work the Palmyra Atoll and the South Sandwich Island DXpeditions. Both should be over by now and South Georgia Island should be on the air as of Feb. 1. If you are going after them, please remember to use good Amateur practice and be considerate.

You can read about more DXpeditions and interesting DX below, but just to whet your appetite a little, here are a few more things that will be happening in this month of February. Look for the following DX entities to be active this month...such as Vietnam, South Cook Is., St. Barthelemy, French Polynesia, Easter Is., Togo, Fiji, and Micronesia just to mention a few.

And please read about a DXpedition called, "Cows Over The World". This one is very interesting. So let's look at some other happenings a little more in-depth.

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, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, K4ZW, N4AA & QRZ DX, N4JF, K5GS, N6GT, W6IZT, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, W9ILY, DC8QT, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, EA4CWN, ES1CW, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, HL1VAU, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, IK7JWX, JG7PSJ, JR1EFG, LA7GIA, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, OZ6TL, RSGB IOTA Web Site, Sixitalia Weekly, VA3RJ & ICPO, and VHF-DX-Portal (MMMonVHF)? for the following DX information. And a big thank you to Tedd Mirgliotta - KB8NW and his Ohio/Penn DX Bulletins.

3B8, MAURITIUS. Eric, OE4AAC, will be active as 3B8HD from the beach in Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius (AF-049), between February 11th and March 1st (2016). Activity will be holiday style, mostly on CW, and on 40-10 meters using Kenwood TS480HX with a Smartuner SG-230 into a Wire Trap Vertical for 30/40m, and elevated radials. QSL via OE4AAC, by the OE-Bureau or direct (Please include SAE, 1 GS for Europe, 2 GS for Overseas. Valid IRC also welcome). Log will be uploaded to OQRS.

3C, EQUATORIAL GUINEA (Update). Ken, LA7GIA, who was expected to be active as 3C7GIA from Malabo Is. (AF-010) between Nov. 12-23rd, and then postponed it (not canceled), announced his plans to activate 3C Equatorial Guinea in Mar. 2016. Activity dates are between March 4-13th. Operations will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. There is a slight chance for 80m depending on conditions. Equipment will be a TS-480SAT with an Ameritron ALS 500m into a Mosley Mini 32 ASP (2 element beam 20/15/10m), Mosley TW 22 M (2 element beam 17/12m), Hygain AV640 and G5RV 80-10m wire antennas (backup). QSL via LA7GIA direct ONLY (SAE + 3 USDs). Please note, NO IRC, NO Bureau QSL. Bureau QSL will not be answered. For updates, check: <http://la7gia.com/3c7gia/index.html> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KennethOpskar>

3D2, FIJI. Hardy, DF6PW, will be active as 3D2PW (pending) from Mango Bay, between February 13-19th (2016). Activity will be holiday style with a focus on 30/17/12 meters using the CW mode with 100 watts into wire antennas. QSL via LoTW or DF6PW by the Bureau.

3W, VIETNAM (IOTA Op). Herbert, DK2BR, will be active as 3W2BR from Con Son Island (AS-130) between March 5-21st (2016). Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. Equipment is an Icom 706 MKIIG into verticals. QSL via his home call sign direct only.

5J, SAN ANDRES (Update). The Polish Team of operators announced that they would be active as 5J0P from San Luis, San Andres Island (NA-033), between March 6-21st. Operators mentioned are Bob/SP2EBG, Jan/SP3CYY, Jurek/SP3GEM, Janusz/SP6IXF, Roman/SP9FOW, Piotr/SP9RCL, Woj/SP9PT (Team Leader) and Janusz/SQ2OFS. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1822.5, 3515, 7015, 10115, 14015, 18075, 21015, 24895 and 28015 kHz SSB - 1845, 3795, 7085/7155, 14273, 18135, 21273, 24965 and 28485 kHz RTTY - 3585, 7045, 10139, 14085, 18103, 21085, 24915 and 28085 kHz 6m - 50105/CW and 50115/SSB -- 6m Tips available on their Web page

5V, TOGO. Wim, ON6DX, will once again be active as 5V7TH from Agbodrafo, a town in southern Togo, between February 10-22nd (approx.). His exact dates have not yet been confirmed. Wim will arrive in Lomé, the capital of Togo, on February 9th. He states that this will be a one operator DXpedition. Activity will take place during his local mornings and evenings as much as possible. Operation will be on 40-6 meters, including 30/17/12 meters) using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are available on the Web page. For more details and updates, see: <http://www.dxpedition.be/5V7TH.html> .

5Z, KENYA. George, WF3U, is expected to be active as 5Z4/WF3U from Nairobi until February 29th. Bands and modes of activity were not provided. QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW or eQSL.

6W, SENEGAL. Jacques, F6HMJ, will once again be active from Senegal, but as 6W7/F6HMJ this time between February 10th to March 1st. Activity is usually on 80-10 meters on mostly CW, with some SSB and RTTY. He will use an IC-706 MKIIG into dipoles. QSL via his home call sign.

7P, LESOTHO (Update). Members of F6KOP Amateur Radio Club announced that they will be active as 7P8C (call sign is official from the LCA [Lesotho Communication Authority]) from the Maseru District in Lesotho between February 8-17th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with 5 stations on the air. More details will be forthcoming as well as a Web page.

COWS OVER THE WORLD (DXpeditions Planned). The ARRL Web Site/Daily DX reported on January 12th: Tom Callas, KC0W, has announced the all-CW "Cows Over the World" DXpeditions for 2016. All callsign suffixes will contain "COW". The schedule calls for a summer departure to (in this order): American Samoa, Samoa, Tokelau, Solomon Islands, Temotu Province, and Bangladesh. He may add Nepal and Bhutan. There will be no time frame for operation from each entity. "The determining factor will be when the pileups die down it's time to pack everything up and move along", he said. Callas said he's spent months researching the absolute best DXing locations for each island and for Bangladesh (he's secured all but Tokelau). "This will be the only DXpedition that I'm aware of in which the operator will operate from separate sides of the islands", he said. The Minnesota DXer pointed out that the west and east coasts of South Pacific islands are separated by mountains, and that he learned first-hand how much mountains attenuate HF signals while he was operating from Haiti. Emphasis will be on 160, 80, and 40 meters. A tentative phase II "Cows Over Africa" DXpedition is on the drawing board. <http://www.arrl.org/news/cows-over-the-world-cw-dxpeditions-planned>

FH, MAYOTTE. Pat, F2DX, will be active as FH/F2DX from Mayotte Island (AF-027) [before joining FT4JA Juan De Nova 2016 DXpedition] between March 18-24th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters. QSL via F2DX, LoTW, OQRS, direct or by the Bureau.

GD4, ISLE OF MAN. John, GW4SKA, will be active as GD4SKA from the Isle of Man (EU-116) between March 15-23rd. Activity will be mainly on RTTY with some PSK when things slow down. Operations will be on 80-10 meters using a TS590S, Acom 600S amp, Hexbeam, wires and verticals for the low bands. John will also be active as GD0A in the BARTG HF RTTY Contest (March 19-20th). Logs will be posted on ClubLog daily. QSL via M0OXO OQRS or direct.

H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS. "The Daily DX" reports that operators Tom/WL7HP (H44TM) and XYL Maggie/H44MK are in Guadalcanal (OC-047) until February 16th (2016). Activity will mainly be by Tom on 40/20/17/15 meters using SSB. Look for both operators to be active from three different outer islands. QSL H44TM and H44MK via WL7HP.

J64, ST. LUCIA (Special Event). Members of the J6DX Group will once again activate the special event station J64SLI between Feb 20-26th. The special call sign is to celebrate St. Lucia 37th anniversary of Independence. Activity on the HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital bands. The team will be running QRP with 5 watts, using Buddipoles in a variety of configurations, all directly on the beach. QSL via WB5Q.

LX95, LUXEMBOURG (Special Event). Members of the Luxembourg Amateur Radio Union (LARU) will activate the special call sign LX95J between January and June. Activity is to celebrate the 95th anniversary of His Royal Highness the Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg. Operators mentioned are André/LX1AM (SSB), Ed/LX1EA (SSB, Digi) and Patrick/LX3X (Digi). A special QSL card will be issued for each QSO via the Bureau. QSOs will also be confirmed via LoTW and eQSL. Logs will be online after each month of activity. QSL cards will be sent to the worldwide Bureaus via the LARU LX QSL Bureau. If you cannot receive a

Bureau card, send yours direct and they will reply direct. Please include 2 greenstamps or 1 IRC. They advise you to send your direct card(s) after the June activity in one envelope. More details via QRZ.com.

PJ6, SABA. Operators Roger/G3SXW, Rob/GM3YTS, Bob/K4UEE, Tim/K5AC, Jeff/ NM1Y and Gregg/W6IZT will be active as PJ6A from Jolieville, Saba Island (NA-145) during the ARRL CW DX Contest (February 20-21st) as a Multi-Op entry. QSL PJ6A via N4NX. Before and after the contest (they will be there between February 17-22nd) the operators will be signing PJ6/homecall and will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They'll be using their Elecraft K3's, transmitting into a Battle Creek Special on 160 meters, wire beams on 80 and 40 meters and a Yagi on 20-10 meters. QSL PJ6/W6IZT via N7XG. All other PJ6/homecalls are via their home call.

PACIFIC TOUR. Bob, W7Yaq, will be activating two islands in the Pacific during February 2016. His tentative schedule is as follows:

February 6-7th -- **Moorea Island** (OC-046), French Polynesia, using the call sign **FO/W7Yaq**.

February 10-14th -- **Easter Island** (SA-001), using the call sign **CE0Y/W7Yaq**.

Activity from both islands will be holiday style on 40-15 meters using CW and RTTY. Equipment will be an Elecraft K3 into a vertical antenna. QSL via LoTW.

T8 PALAU. Kiyoshi, JA0EKI, will once again be active as T88XH from the VIP Guest Hotel (Free Radio Room) on Koror Island (OC-009) between March 9-15th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via JA0EKI. For more details about the VIP Guest Hotel (Free Radio Room), see: <http://www.palau-radio.com/index.php?page=rr2014>

TO1, FRENCH GUYANA. Herve, F5HRY, will be active as TO1A during the ARRL International DX CW Contest (February 20-21st) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15m) entry. QSL via his home call sign or LoTW.

TX7, MARQUESAS. Operatrs Ernoe/DK2AMM, Hans/DL6JGN, Tom/GM4FDM and Ronald/PA3EWP as TX7EU from Nuku Hiva, Marquesas (OC-027) between March 2-15th. Their QTH is the Hinako Nui Pension in Hatiheu on the northern side of the island. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They will have two stations (2x K3, 1x Expert 1, 3k-FA and 1x 600 Watts homemade amplifier), a Hexbeam and vertical antennas. One station will be running 24/7. Their focus on the end of the sunspot cycle is on the high bands. Subject to a reliable Internet connection, they will upload the log to ClubLog on a daily basis. Otherwise the complete log will be uploaded upon their return. QSL via DK2AMM, ClubLog's OQRS, direct or by the Bureau. For more details and updates, watch <http://www.marquesas2016.de>

V5, NAMIBIA. Operators Werner/DC8QT, Georg/DD8ZX and Klaus/DJ9KM will be active as V5/DC8QT, V5/DD8ZX and V5/DJ9KM from Omaruru, Otjikoko Guestfarm, Namibia, between February 09-18th (2016). Activity will be holiday style with a focus on 160-10 meters and if possible on 6m. Operating modes are SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via their home call signs.

VP8SGI SOUTH GEORGIA DXPEDITION NEWS. By the time you read this, members of the Intrepid-DX Group is QRT from Southern Thule Island (AN-009) and will have moved on to South Georgia. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1826.5, 3523, Tx5405/Rx5373, 7023, 10105, 14023, 18079, 21023, 24894 and 28023 kHz SSB - 3790, Tx5403.5/Rx5371.5, 7082, 14185, 18130, 21285, 24944 and 28485 kHz RTTY - 3580, 7045, 10142, 14080, 18099, 21080, 24912 and 28080 kHz 6m - 50105/CW and 50105/SSB They plan to have 6 stations on the air. QSL via N2OO, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. For more details on the stations layouts and other detailed information, see: <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8> Also look for them as VP8IDX as they travel from the islands back to the base in the Falklands.

VY0, CANADA (Nunavut Territory On HF). [Update] 2016 Worked All NCDXA "RST" Stations: A Special Event Covering All of Northern North America! Members of the North Country DX Association (NCDXA) will be active in Feb and March 2016 from several different locations in Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories

and Nunavut Territory using KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST and VY0RST to further promote Amateur Radio up north. This is a first for the north- a joint venture KL7, VY1, VE8 and VY0 special event! All modes 6-160 meters and WARC bands are permissible. SWLs are welcome to participate. The object is to work or log (SWL) as many NCDXA "RST" stations as you can from their different locations. Work/log each "RST" station only once per their QTH/band and mode. For a wildcard, Portable "RST" Stations will also participate and are worth 3 points each/mode and band but must be the "RST" stations mentioned above! The portable stations must be outside their own prefix to count (ie-KL7RST/KL7 does not count but KL7RST/VY1, VY1RST/KL7, VY0RST/VE8 etc. do). Watch the DX spots as they plan to have stations on from Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and many other cities (maybe an Alaskan glacier or two!). QSL Manager is K7ICE. KL7YK is LoTW administrator for Alaska, VY1MB for Yukon and VY0CF for Nunavut. Optional full color certificates are also available (email JohnKL7JR@gmail.com for details) for working/hearing any of the "RST" stations. (QSLs printed by KB3IFH) SPECIAL EVENT DATE: February 15th (0001z) through March 27th (2359z), 2016 EXCHANGE: NCDXA "RST" stations send signal report and QTH (ie. - 5x7 Anchorage, 5x9 Whitehorse etc.). Receiving stations send signal report and state, province or country. CERTIFICATE LEVELS: Beautiful full color certificates are available for working/logging:

- (1) One or two NCDXA "RST" station (s),
- (2) any KL7RST, VY1RST, VY0RST or VE8RST, but must work one of each
- (3) for those more competitive (keep in mind the scoring is for certificate levels and this is not a contest), a highest score category. Certificates are different scenery shots from up there for each level.

XV, VIETNAM. Torsten, SM3NFB (ex-XV7TH, XV9TH), is once again active from Vietnam, but this time from Da Nang as XV3TH until February 6th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. He is reportedly using an Icom IC-735 transceiver into vertical antenna. QSL via SM3NFB.

IOTA NEWS

AS-202. (Update) Members of Bahrain Amateur Radio Group (BARG) will be active as A91HI from **Hawar Island** between April 28th and May 1st. This is a first time activation. Operators mentioned are Fawaz/A92AA (Team Leader), Ahmed/7Z1OO, Khalid/A41OO, Obaid/A61DJ, Ely/A93LT, Jeremy/EI5GM, David/EI9FBB, and Col/ MM0NDX. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, with four stations running simultaneously. QSL via A92AA, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. For more details, see: [http:// www.a91hi.com](http://www.a91hi.com) <https://www.facebook.com/a9iota> https://twitter.com/A9_IOTA

OC-243. Operators Andy/VK5MAV, Craig/VK5CE and possibly one more will be active as homecall/6 from **Breaksea Island** between March 1-8th. Their planned activity is to have two stations active simultaneously, on 40/20/15/10 meters. Andy will be on CW and Craig on SSB. QSL via their home call sign, direct, by the Bureau or via ClubLog's OQRS. See QRZ.com for more details or visit: <http://oc243.blogspot.com.au>

SA-031. (Update) Dagoberto, CE5COX will be active from **Cape Horn Island** and lighthouse (CHI-006, WLOTA LH2320) using 3G9JA. Activation Cape Horn Island and Lighthouse will take place between February 1-6th. QSL via CE5JA.

SA-047. Orlando, PT2OP, will be active as PS5M from two different lighthouses on **Mel Island** (DIB PR-01) between Feb 18-21st, during the 2016 - VIII South American Lighthouses Weekend. Lighthouses mentioned are: Conchas Lighthouse: ARLHS BRA-074, WLOTA L-1435, DFB PR-01, Lat: 25o 32' S - Long: 048o 17' W and Grid: GG54ul. Caraguatá Lighthouse: ARLHS BRA-023, WLOTA L-1435, DFB PR-02, Lat: 25o 34' S - Long: 048o 19' W and Grid: GG54uk. QSL via PT2OP, direct (please SAE + 2 GS) or by the Bureau is OK. For details on the DIB and DFB Brazilians's awards, see: <http://www.radioamador.org.br/AEI/aei-ingles.htm>

SA-090. Members of the Grupo DX Caracas will be active as YW6Z from Isla Píritu Afuera between February 18-21st. Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via W4SO direct.

Well that's it for now. Get on the air and work some DX.

Jim, KC8PD/AAF5PD

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



I have started to construct a new radio go-kit using a Plano tackle box that also has a storage space that will accommodate a 12 volt LiFePo battery. A special thanks to Bob, K8FEY, for the idea. It also gave me an idea for something a bit different for this month's EmComm column.

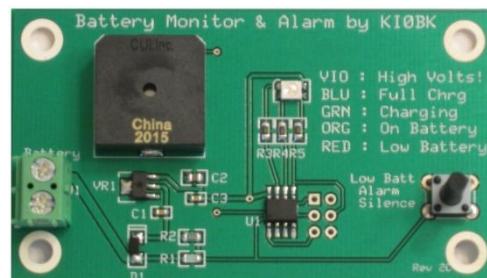
My plan was to install a West Mountain Radio Super PWRgate and Rig Runner for power management and distribution. Total cost for the pair would be around \$210.00 at the regular retail prices. Then last week the monthly ARRL ARES E-letter appeared in my email and it had an advertisement for a Low Loss PWRgate made by KI0BK. I clicked the link and it took me to the web site for FlintHills Radio, Inc., <http://ki0bk.no-ip.com/~pwrgate/LLPG/Site/Welcome.html>.



Jim, KI0BK, has some interesting and reasonably priced products for sale. Some of the technical data for the Low Loss PWRgate (photo 1) is that it uses MOSFET power transistors to switch the load between power sources with less than a 20 millivolt drop and it transfers up to 25 amperes at up to 16 volts continuously. The functions is essentially the same as the West Mountain unit although the design and components are different. It has three PowerPole output connectors.

Most importantly for my plans was that it cost \$49.95 plus shipping! This looked like a pretty cost-effective unit for the go-kit since it was \$160.00 less than the West Mountain package.

There were some other items on the web site that also caught my eye, particularly the Smart Lead Acid Battery Monitor & Alarm (photo 2). At \$29.95 (plus shipping and \$8.00 if you want an enclosure) it seemed worth a try for my twelve volt power go-box that incorporates a 12 volt AGM battery.



I also ordered a couple of his flush mount PowerPole panels for the power go-box. They seemed like a neat way to install PP connectors on the go-box that would be accessible when the lid was closed.

Service was fast and all the items were in my mailbox three days after ordering.

I don't have these installed yet, the project is underway, but will follow up with some information after I have an opportunity to evaluate how well they function.



Ramsey Kits Calls it Quits

After more than 40 years as a purveyor of inexpensive electronics kits for hobbyists, the Ramsey Hobby Kits group has announced that it's thrown in the towel, effective January 1st. The Ramsey RF Test Equipment Group is unaffected by this change.



The Victor, New York, company sold a wide array of hobby kits over the years, starting with its LED Blinky kit in the 1970s and eventually including simple ham radio transmitters and receivers, aircraft band receivers, and other devices.

Ramsey kits were frequently available at hamfests. The company said it will continue to provide technical and warranty support for hobby kits purchased through the end of 2015. Ramsey said its remaining hobby kit inventory has been relocated to Amazon.

Hamfest Schedule

02/21/2016 **Mansfield Mid Winter Hamfest** -
Location: Mansfield, OH - Sponsor: InterCity
Amateur Radio Club - Website:
<http://www.W8WE.org> - Location: Richland County
Fairgrounds - 750 Home Road North - Mansfield,
OH 44901 - Website: <http://www.W8WE.org> -
Public Contact: Danny Bailey, W8DLB - 70 Euclid
Street Shiloh, OH 44878 - Phone: 419-896-2165 -
Email: kb8stk113@gmail.com

Mid Winter Hamfest & Computer Show
Mansfield, Ohio
Sunday, February 21, 2016
Richland County Fairgrounds
750 North Home Road
Gates Open at 7am

NEW DATE!
Talk-in on W8WE
146.94 71.9PL
Visit us at www.iarc.us

FORUMS AND VE TEST SESSION
9:00 am—Ohio Army MARS Forum
10:00 am—ARES Forum
11:00 am—OSSBN Forum
12:00 noon Digital Forum
12:00 noon VE Test Session
(Pre-registration for test is required, e-mail
steve@ndsmc.com to register)

**Alinco
DX-SR8T**

SPONSORED BY THE INTERCITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Tickets: Advance \$5
At the Door \$6
Tables, *Advance Only*: \$15
Ticket and Table Deadline- January 22
Online ordering-<http://hamfest.w8we.org>
Advance orders (**must include SASE**) to:
Danny Bailey, W8DLB
70 Euclid Street
Shiloh, OH 44878
419-896-2165 (After 3 P.M. Please)
kb8stk113@gmail.com

03/06/2016 **NOARS Winter Hamfest** - Location: Elyria, OH - Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS)- Website: <http://www.noars.net> - Location: Elyria VFW Post 1079 - 500 South Abbe Road - Elyria, OH 44035 - Public Contact: Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS - 4122 Bush Avenue Cleveland, OH 44109 - Phone: 216-398-8858 - Email: winterhamfest@noars.net

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Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: DRAKE R-8 HF Receiver. Multi-mode (AM, FM, USB, LSB, RTTY and CW) receiver offering excellent sensitivity and high dynamic range covering 100 kHz to 30 MHz. It features an high-Q, 8-pole electronically switched IF filter providing a range of five bandwidths, selectable AGC, wide/narrow Noise blanker, RF Preamplifier, Attenuator, adjustable RF gain, Notch filter, Muting control, built-in Speaker, 2 VFOs, Passband offset, 100 Frequency memories, 3 Scan modes, 9 Scan functions, Clock and Timer, multiple RF inputs, etc. Original Manual. This quality R.L. Drake Receiver is in good to very good condition. \$485.

Drake "7-Line" Logbook. Blue cover logbook with the entire Drake 7 Line pictured. It was a handout at Dayton in the early 1980's. No entries. In good condition. \$20.

Shure 444D Microphone. Magnetic-controlled cartridge desk microphone 200Hz-6KHz. Dual impedance (Hi-Low switch selectable) with PTT/VOX switch, DC-Isolated, coiled-cable wired for Kenwood TS-830S but can be changed. \$25.

Burndy P8A PENETROX A Oxide-Inhibiting Joint Compound 8 oz Squeeze Bottle. Assemble your antennas correctly! Brand new, never opened. I bought an extra this summer when I built my tower and beam. Originally \$17.... Yours for only \$10.

Alliance HD-73 Heavy Duty Rotator Last try before the dumpster. Used, in service for 10 years then stored. Dual speed, maximum of 10.7 sq/ft wind load, 6 conductor wire required. Working Rotator, 2-working Control Boxes. Original manuals. Reduced to \$20

Contact: Bill, KW8KW at KW8KW@sbcglobal.net [04/02/16]

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

Yaesu FT-857D Package Deal - \$675 - prefer local pickup
compact & in excellent condition with Hand Mic & Manual
Serial CAT Cable - for computer logging & control

Yaesu FT-857D - HF/VHF/UHF 100W -
Heil Headset with Yaesu adapter cable

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

FOR SALE: Kachina 505DSP In great shape, original DSP SDR radio, \$400

Heathkit SA2060 Tuner, \$100 good condition **Kenwood TS-711A**, 2 Mtr All Mode, \$300 In original box with mike and manual **Kenwood TS-811A**, 440 Mhz All Mode, \$300 **Kenwood SP430 Spkr**, \$40

Yaesu G-450A Rotator, Brand new, \$100 **Swan-250** 6 Meter radio, \$50 or make offer

Gwinstek Function Generator, \$25 **EZ Oscilloscope** 60MhZ Dual Channel, \$50

MFJ-4225, Switching PS, New, \$85 **Mosley 10, 15, 20 MTR BEAM** antenna, \$200

Nye Viking MBI-001 Tuner, \$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 [04/02/16]

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: 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 \$200.

Contact: Parky, KB8UUZ by e-mail at: KB8UUZ@portcars.org [03/02/16]



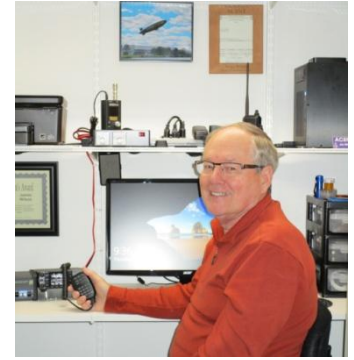
Shack Shot - AC8NT

Jim, AC8NT

My shack is built into the closet of my home office. I have an ICOM IC-7000 as my base rig. I have equipment for all digital modes and gear to work into the microwave region.

My antennas are a home brew Magnetic Loop in my attic installed next to a vertical for 2 meters and 70 cm.

I am also building a portable rig for EME consisting of a home brew 200 watt 2 meter amp and a Yagi array with two axis rotor control and preamp.



Shack Shot - WA8SAJ

Jeff, WA8SAJ

My interest in Ham-Radio started in 1960 with the curiosity of how you could talk with no wires as in the Dick Tracy Walkie-Talkies and look what we are into today. I remember very well when my Tech license came in the mail on October 21, 1965 at 4 PM, just before my paper route duties. I could not do my paper route fast enough to get



on the air with my big time 6-meter station, a Knight-Kit T-60 & National NC-303 with Ameco CN-50 6-meter converter!

Well, that lasted for a short time until I could move up to SSB with a Heathkit HX-30. Later on I moved up to a Heath-Kit SB-110A and built 3 different homebrew 4-400A 1 KW amplifiers for my high school vocational electronics classes.

After my NAVY duties, I built one more H.F. 4-1000A amplifier for all that great DX in the 70's, along with teaching classes for Novice and Techs. I later got into 2-meter weak signal work on SSB (150

grids) and also fast scan ATV on UHF from the 1980's into 1990's great times!

Now into the 21st Century, I get on AM and SSB to rag chew with friends and many I have known since I got my ticket 50 years ago. I enjoy 10-meters since there is a mystic about that band similar to the 6-meter band I started with. I had many Elmer's in my ham adventure and certainly thank all of them for their help. Being retired from the Communications Industry I spend time technical writing, consulting, SWL'ing, and repairing old ham gear bringing them back to life for folks to enjoy.

The tower is 40 years old, self-supporting steel Commercial River View), with a 10-meter mono band, 2-meter 16 element, 432 SSB / ATV 27 element, 2-meter Hustler G-6-144B vertical on top, 10-meter vertical side mounted, and a inverted "V" for 80-10 meters.





PCARS Members - 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/>

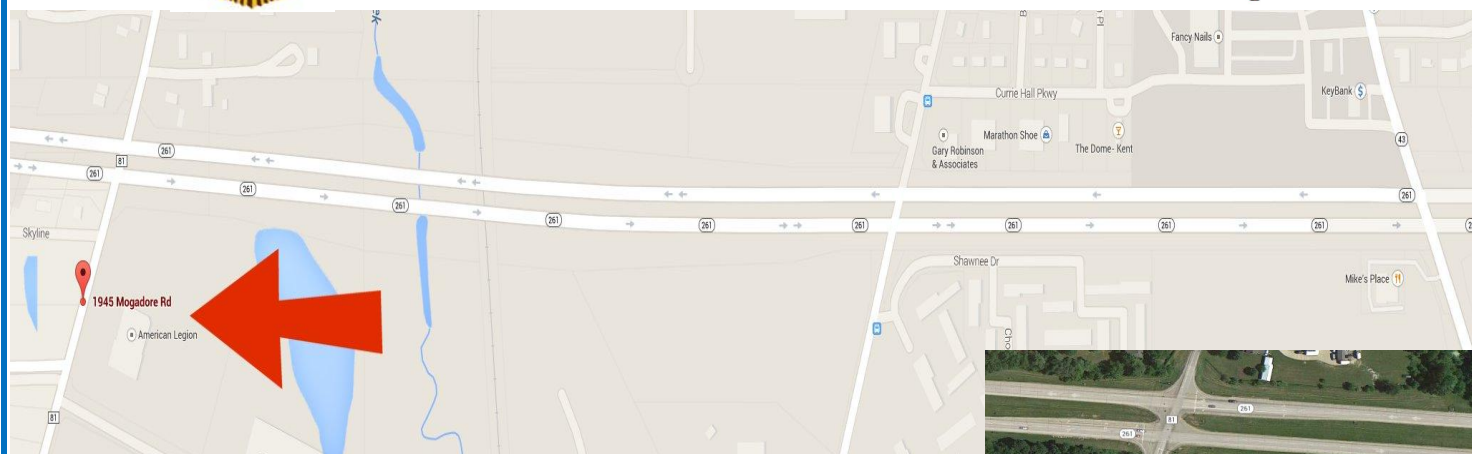


PCARS Meetings

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 January PCARS Meeting



PCARS

January 11, 2016





PCARS
Join Now
Discover the FUN



PCARS
www.portcars.org



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



Dos Equis Man

- He can send CW at speeds faster than the mind can comprehend.
- His log is hand written on parchment paper with gold columns.
- When he says "is this frequency in use", all others go QRT.
- When he works 20-meters, the over the horizon radars shut down out of respect.
- He has been known to request aurora events at will.
- His tubes never seem to age. His audio is cleaner than a classical music FM radio station.
- He copies RTTY by ear.
- He told Hiram Percy Maxim's father to buy the kid some radio parts.
- He let Elecraft copy HIS receiver design.
- He built his own Skimmer that identifies stations when they are still tuning up.
- W3LPL, KC1XX and K3LR call him for advice on antennas.
- He gave WB6ACU guitar lessons.
- He told the rebellious young Scott Redd to give up the guitar, get a haircut, and join the Navy.
- The rocks that came out of the hole for his tower base are now known as Scarborough Reef.
- He has worked every country on the DXCC list...FROM every country on the DXCC list.
- He believes 48-hour contests are too short.
- 2 weeks ago he operated the NEQP, 7QP, IN QSO Party, and ARI contest and won them all.
- He is, the most interesting ham radio operator alive.



(Thanks to K3LR for sending this one in)

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 2016 and beyond.



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

W8PT, K8CAV, AC8NT, N8RLG, KB8UUZ, WB8LCD, WA8EFK, W8WTD, W8KNO, N8NHL, KB6NU, KC8PD, WA8SAJ, K3LR, 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: Member Number:
<input type="radio"/> Database Updated	

Rev. 15 Jan 2015

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



PCARS - K8BF

Eleventh Annual

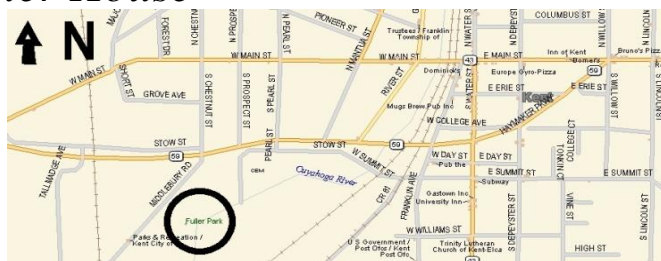
"Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) Special Event Station



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

*When: Saturday - Feb. 13, 2016
Set up: 9am*

Operating Time: 10am - 4pm EST



We will be active on CW & Phone in the General areas of the 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Repeater & Echolink on the K8SRR echo link node for a certificate) and anything else we can get working. Club Call Sign **K8BF** for a certificate. Other participating stations will be using their own callsign/FYAO, or calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator). Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8" x 10" certificate is available if you contact K8BF and send your QSL with a large SASE to the club call trustee:

Bob Hewett, K8FEY - 3670 Sea Ray Cove - Reminderville, OH 44202

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



Check PCARS out on the web at: www.portcars.org
Questions? Contact Chuck, W8PT at W8PT@portcars.org



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

~ 2016 Officers ~		2015 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Rick Kruis - K8CAV Vice President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT Treasurer - Amy Leggiero - KD8SKL 3 Year Trustee - Jim Aylward - KC8PD 2 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT 1 Year Trustee - James Andrews - KD8VT 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.	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Secretary	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	V.E. Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
	Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers

 <p>PCARS Active Volunteer Examiner Team Members</p>	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

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

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 © 2016. 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 cover says there is a cost, 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. Every month it's listed in a different currency just for fun. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 20 kb ones.) to the newsletter editor: kb8uuz@portcars.org



"When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"