



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

January 2016 - Volume 11 Number 1

¥ 15.24

## **In This Issue - DX in 2016**

**2 meters, 6 meters, 10 meters,  
12 meters, 15 meters, 17 meters,  
20 meters, 30 meters, 40 meters,  
80 meters, 160 meters -**

**no matter what meters**

# **GET ON THE AIR**

**Make 2016  
the year *YOU*  
obtain the  
DXCC award**



**PCARS K8BF**

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



In This Issue of

# The RADIOGRAM

January 2016  
Volume 11 Number 1



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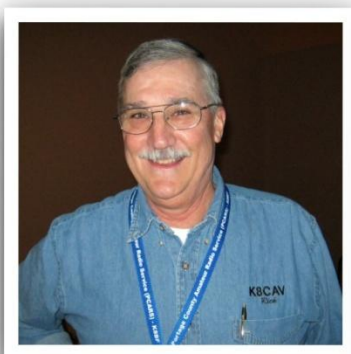




## 2016 - PCARS Officers



The newly elected officers for PCARS start their term of office on January 1, 2016. Take time to congratulate them on being elected. We're all looking forward to a great 2016 with the new leadership to keep PCARS the number one club in northern Ohio.



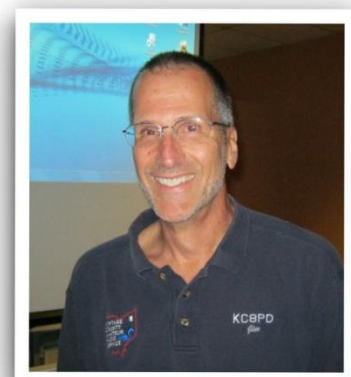
**President  
Rick, K8CAV**



**Vice President  
Jim, AC8NT**



**Treasurer  
Amy, KD8SKL**



**3 Year Trustee  
Jim, KC8PD**



**2 Year Trustee  
Chuck, W8PT**



**1 Year Trustee  
James, KD8VT**



**Immediate Past President  
Tom, WB8LCD**

# 2016 PCARS Officers

## 10 Years and We're Still Going Strong

This notice was sent out to area hams in Portage County and surrounding areas for the first open meeting scheduled for **January 9, 2006** for the Portage County Amateur Radio Service - PCARS. **The response was great and the club took off running and we've been going and growing ever since.**

### Greetings!

The hard work of a few dedicated individuals over the past 4 months has finally paid off. We've been working hard to get things in order, and all is ready!

There is a NEW Amateur Radio Club starting up in Portage County!!

### **The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Call Sign KD8CKP**

Our intention is to be an activities based club, participating in contests, special events, field day, etc. All with the goal of helping each member get more **FUN** out of their ham radio experience. We'll also be a public service oriented club, assisting the community where ever possible and promoting Amateur Radio to the non-ham public at large. When it comes to emergency communications, we'll strive to live up to the saying; "When All Else Fails.... Amateur Radio Works".

We hope to have programs at our meetings that will stimulate you to explore the many different activities that are available to you via Amateur Radio.

**The first general meeting of the club will be held on Monday, January 9th**, in the Castle room at Mike's Place restaurant - located at the corner of routes 261 and 43 in Kent at 7:00 pm.

You have the opportunity to become a charter member of the club and help to make it a success!

Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month in the Castle room at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Attached is our Mission Statement and a membership application. Even if you're not sure about joining the club, please stop in, check us out, and say hello.

Any questions? Contact:

Tom Sly - WB8LCD, at 330-626-1901 e-mail: [wb8lcd@portcars.org](mailto:wb8lcd@portcars.org)

Jim Aylward - KC8PD at 330-297-7979 e-mail: [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org)

Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ at 330-527-7609 e-mail: [kb8uuz@portcars.org](mailto:kb8uuz@portcars.org)

Please - pass this on to any other hams in the area you may know of.

73 & hope to see you on January 9th!





## Center of Hope - Holiday Donation Letter

Here's a copy of the letter that Jim, KC8PD received from the **Family and Community Services** following the PCARS donation in November.



705 Oakwood Street, Suite 221 • Ravenna, Ohio 44266 • Phone: 330-297-7027 • Fax: 330-296-2684



[www.fcsOhio.org](http://www.fcsOhio.org)

November 26, 2014

PCARS c/o James Aylward  
762 Perry Avenue  
Ravenna, Ohio 442466

Dear Jim and PCARS Members,

Thank you for your very generous donation of more than \$3,500 in cash, checks and canned goods to the Center of Hope, a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. Your gifts will enable us to help children and adults who are in crisis.

We could not exist without community support and donations from people who believe in the work that we do. Your confidence in our services is most appreciated.

Thank you for standing with us in defense of the vulnerable, the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, and those who suffer. We wish you the very best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark".

Mark Frisone  
Executive Director

Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. Since no goods or services were exchanged, the full dollar amount above is considered a charitable donation.



## Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **January 6<sup>th</sup> - General Class Upgrade Training Class** starts at 7 pm - PCARS Club Site
- **January 11<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - SDR Software - Steve, K8SRR
- **February 6<sup>th</sup> - VE Test Session** at the club site - 10 am - Walk-ins welcome
- **February 8<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting** - 7 pm - PCARS the first 10 years - Tom, KB8UUZ
- **February 13<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Eleventh Annual 'Freeze Your Acorns Off'** QRP event in Kent
- **February 24<sup>th</sup> - VE Testing at Club Site** - 7 pm for the General Class - Walk-ins welcome

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



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



## National Parks On The Air Starts January 1, 2016

# 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**



A Merry Christmas to all and I hope that Santa left all kinds of ham radio goodies under the tree! 2015 was a great year for PCARS and the start of PCARS second decade as a club promises to be even better. The new year kicks off with the start of the club's annual General Class course. This is an eight week course on Wednesday evenings designed to help you upgrade to the General class license. It ends with a VE session so you can use the skills and knowledge gained to pass your test. Education has always been one of PCARS more important goals and I really appreciate all of the effort given by our chief instructor and coordinator Jim, AC8NT and all of the folks that volunteer as instructors. For those not yet licensed PCARS holds two technician courses, one in the spring and one in the fall so stay tuned if you or someone you know would like to become an Amateur Radio operator.

The January issue of QST magazine has a construction article on SDR receiver dongles which is very interesting but lacked anything on specifics about software and some of the nifty things you can do with the SDR dongle. Our very own Steve, K8SRR will be doing a presentation at the January meeting to talk about just that topic and I think everyone will enjoy it. Steve has done a great job presenting SDR and software at the Maker Faire events at Kent State and at the Akron Public library this past year. It's fascinating what these devices and associated software can do - so make plans to be there.

At the February meeting Tom, KB8UUZ will be presenting a ten-year history of PCARS. We had originally planned to do this at the December Christmas party but decided that we could do more justice to the presentation by having it in February. Make sure you attend this meeting to see where we've been and how we've grown!

Construction projects have been a hallmark of PCARS and it's something we want to continue. Projects from power pole boxes, antennas, sound card interfaces and a lot in between have taken place at PCARS and have been designed for construction by those with just moderate building skills. With that in mind, I'd like to ask if you have a project you'd like to see PCARS do. Something new, or perhaps a project we've already done that you think would be nice to do again, let us know and we'll try to get it scheduled. The number of members interested in a given project carries a lot of weight in scheduling it so don't be shy, drop me a note at [k8cav@portcars.org](mailto:k8cav@portcars.org) and let me know what you'd like to see.

Speaking of fun activities, PCARS **Freeze Your Acorns Off** is coming up fast! With the way the weather has been so far this winter not many acorns may get frozen but I'm not sure anyone minds and besides, we all know the familiar refrain about weather in Ohio: if you don't like the weather now, wait five minutes and it'll change. Chuck, W8PT has sent out information on FYAO and the rules, and the contest-in-a-contest this year, so look it over, make plans on how you'll be at the top of the heap, and let Chuck know you'll be there.

I've often talked about all of the different activities that PCARS does, and how I think it's important as a club to have as many of you as possible being involved in them. Enjoyment of any of our activities isn't just doing the activity, it's others doing with us that really heightens the enjoyment. That shared sense of enjoyment and purpose isn't limited to just those who are actually doing an activity, it also involves those members who come just to watch. Their being there contributes much to the overall enjoyment of PCARS activities. The bottom line is you're all important as members to all of the things we do and I'd like to ask all of you to become and stay involved with PCARS. Not only does the club benefit, but you'll enjoy it as well.

## North Korea on the Air

*From the The Daily DX and DX-World.net*

In an unexpected turn of events, Polish DXer Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, who visited North Korea -- officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) -- this month in advance of a planned Amateur Radio operation early next year, showed up on the air from the most-wanted DXCC entity around 0000 on December 20.

During a "demonstration" for North Korean officials, **P5/3Z9DX** made nearly 800 DXers -- most of them in Asia -- very happy over the



Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, in North Korea.

couple of days he was on the air. Grzyb operated mostly on 15 meters with some excursions on 20 and 10 meters, SSB only. The P5/3Z9DX preview was the first from North Korea since the 2001-2002 operation by Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN.

The surprise appearance of P5/3Z9DX on the air coincided with some of the worst HF conditions in days, if not weeks, no thanks to a geomagnetic storm. Grzyb's visit to Pyongyang this month had been scheduled to iron out the details of his 2016 operation. The radio equipment he took to North Korea remained behind in government hands, as agreed beforehand. A P5/3Z9DX operation from North Korea now is poised to take place in February.

While operating from North Korea, P5/3Z9DX was running 100 W to a vertical antenna mounted on a metal fencepost some 7 feet above the ground among government high-rise buildings. He also was handicapped by high ambient noise levels. During the brief on-the-air stint, government officials came and went, apparently to keep a close watch on things. Grzyb told DX-World on December 20 that his "real" DX operation in February might take place from a different location.



## 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFVsDD_gwCLtTw-FPuBcYtA)





## 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 6<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup> - August 6<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup> - December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Also: February 24<sup>th</sup> - General Upgrade Class - 7 pm - June 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:KD8SKL@portcars.org)



## Contest Calendar

January 2016	
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 3
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0559Z, Jan 10
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 16 to 0559Z, Jan 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 18
Montana QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 23
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 29 to 2200Z, Jan 31
Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 30 to 1700Z, Jan 31
ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z, Jan 30 to 0359Z, Feb 1

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

## FYAO 2016 is Coming Up 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 mini-Winter Field Day 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](mailto: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.

And as I have mentioned before, James (*you know who you are*) leave the Alphas at home. This is a QRP event! Check out the FYAO 2016 flier at the end of this newsletter.





## PCARS Christmas Party 2015

Tom, WB8LCD

**By all accounts, the 2016 PCARS Christmas Party was a Huge Success!**

Nearly 50 were in attendance. After a blessing on the meal by Chuck, W8PT - we were treated to either a chicken or prime rib dinner catered by the Little City Grill of Kent. PCARS members have never been bashful about telling me when the food at any of our venues has been below par, but, this time, it was all positive comments. Everyone was served at their seats, and there was a generous supply of Christmas cookies for dessert.



After the dinner, a brief meeting was called to conduct some club business. Denise Renfroe was elected to PCARS as an associate member, when you see Denise please welcome her to the club! President Rick Kruis, K8CAV – then made the annual “**President's Award**” presentation. In his comments, Rick said that recruiting younger people into Amateur Radio was an important function of the amateur radio community, if we wish to continue to exist into the future. His first award was to **Nick Wagner, AC8QG** – of Stow. As a younger ham, with a young family, Nick has been an active participant in PCARS activities, which definitely helps to put a younger face on the club to the public. The second award went to **Jennifer Andrews, KB3GXB** – of Atwater. As a younger ham, Jennifer has also been an active participant in PCARS activities, and additionally, took the initiative to start a new ham radio club at Stark Tech, where she is currently a student. ***Congratulations to both Nick and Jennifer!***



After the meeting was the gift exchange, which included many nice gifts for those who participated. The best part of the meeting, both during and after the gift exchange, was the fellowship and conversation that continued until well after 10:00 pm. PCARS is still the “friendliest” club around and that is certainly something that sets us apart from others. I hope that next year you will all



be able to enjoy this special evening with us.

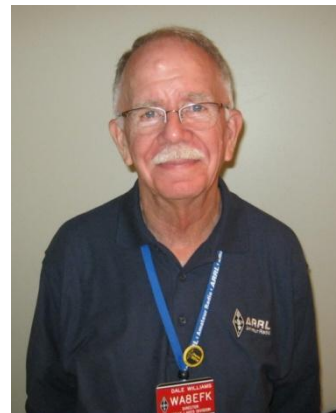
**BUT** – not everything went as planned. Our intention was to have a short presentation spanning the high points of the 10 year history of the club. Parky couldn't make it happen in less than an hour, so, I hope you'll all come out on the second Monday in February where that will be our club meeting presentation. Also, Santa (KB8DPN) was scheduled to be at the meeting for the gift exchange, but his daughter was unexpectedly admitted to the hospital so we gave him a pass. Despite the glitches it was a great evening.



## *From The Great Lakes Division Officers*

**Dale, WA8EFK**

**Director - ARRL Great Lakes Division**



**SPECIAL EVENT:** National Parks on the Air will be a key event in 2016. I hope you all will be able to take advantage of getting some On-the-Air-Time to operate and have some great fun contacting stations in our National Parks and actually doing some serious operating from the parks. Be sure to check out the full details at <https://npota.arrl.org/>. There are actually 20 qualified National Park Service Units within the Great Lakes Division, and plenty of opportunities to put them all on the air over the next 12 months. Be sure to check out the current "On the Air" list of scheduled events on the web page. Not surprisingly, many dates are already booked.

**ON THE AIR:** Are you? Maybe it is time to check! After the experience of operating last year's great Centennial Points Challenge, like many ops, I have experienced some serious withdrawal symptoms. So for 2015, I've given myself another challenge and made it a point to try to get on for a while every day and get some QSOs in the log outside of nets and contests. An all-too-often brief QSO with a foreign ham brings a new friendship and new interests. Certainly, my knowledge of this Earth's geography is improving as I frequently squeeze in some research on the country I have contacted. Of course, some time is spent searching for "rare ones", but I like the time spent for even a brief contact. This is not to say I am neglecting contesting. Operating contests is great for honing skills, and I note I seem to be able to copy everyone a little better after finishing a contest; with that little experience, copying DX through the noise and QRM truly becomes an easier task. Of course operating on a few nets keeps up the traffic handling skills and builds camaraderie. We have so many diverse aspects of this hobby, but one - actually getting on the air - is what it is all about. Let's all really DO IT!

**TOM'S COMMENTS:** Our Vice Director, Tom, W8WTD is on a well-deserved hiatus this month. He will return in January all refreshed for the upcoming year.

**UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT:** The Senate version of the measure passed through committee during November. The package will now go to the full Senate for a vote. NOW is the time to contact your Senator in Washington and encourage his/her support for the measure. When you do this, please reference the Bill Number S 1685. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters for personal delivery: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. You can find more information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>.

**WISHES:** Judy and I wish to extend the very best wishes for Peace and Prosperity in the coming year.  
**73, see you on the bands.**



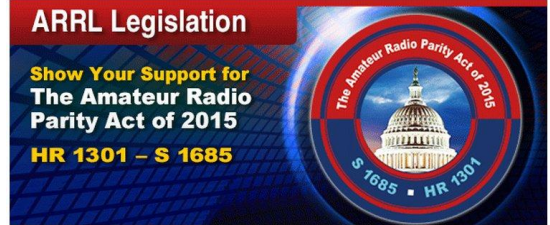
**PCARS K8BF**  
*The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!*





## House Bill 1301 and Senate Bill 1685

The Amateur Radio Parity Act S. 1685 has been endorsed by the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. In the voice vote on November 18, two Senators - Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) - asked to be recorded as voting "no." The Committee held an executive session to consider the various legislative measures and nominations.



"Our work is not finished on the Senate side of Capitol Hill, although this is a huge step forward," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. She urged ARRL members to continue to write, call and e-mail their Senators about S. 1685 to build up its support for the future. "We know that members' response to the call for a communications blast last week made all the difference for some Senators on the committee."

S. 1685 picked up another Senate cosponsor on November 18, when Sen Jerry Moran (R-KS), who sits on the Commerce Committee, has signed aboard the bill. "ARRL members in Kansas should contact his office to say thanks," President Craigie said. "Having an additional cosponsor who's on the Committee is especially good news."



On hand to observe the Committee mark-up session were ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD.

President Craigie encouraged ARRL members in Florida and Hawaii to keep contacting Senators Schatz and Nelson, urging them to change their minds about the legislation. "Don't be harsh or angry," she advised. "Keep it factual and courteous, and don't give up."

On November 5, US Sen Al Franken (D-MN) signed on as the second cosponsor of S. 1685. That legislation and its US House twin, H.R. 1301, call on the FCC to extend the limited federal pre-emption of PRB-1 to cover private land-use restrictions such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs). If the legislation becomes law, radio amateurs living in antenna-restricted communities would have the opportunity to negotiate with homeowners associations to install an antenna that reasonably accommodates Amateur Radio communication.

H.R. 1301 has 114 cosponsors as of November 18. President Craigie said ARRL members should continue to urge their Representatives to cosponsor H.R. 1301 and to thank those who already have signed on.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page on the ARRL website has more information on how you can become involved. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 can be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> .



## *The Amateur Radio Obsessives Who Send Messages from the Ends of the Earth*

**Andy Wright**



In 1993, Bob Allphin and a team of 11 other men took a boat to remote Howland Island, an uninhabited slip of coral that is officially part of a group called United States Minor Outlying Islands located in the Pacific Ocean.



It's not a place where tourists tend to gather, save a very specific breed. "If that rings a bell," says Allphin, "It's because that's the island Amelia Earhart was looking for when she ran out of gas and disappeared."

**Bob Allphin's DXpedition's Main Operating tent on Peter I Island, Antarctica, with six 1 kilowatt stations.**  
(Photo: Peter I DXpedition Archives)

The trip was going according to plan, but as the week progressed, the waves offshore grew larger and larger.

Powerless, the small gathering could only watch as the white capped water separated them from their main

vessel. With ample supplies visible off shore, they ran out of water.

"And there's no worse feeling because you're on an island where the temperature is 120 and you're thirsty as hell," says Allphin.

The dozen tourists combed the beach for upturned seashells filled with rainwater and strained that through a t-shirt into a bucket, adding iodine pills. This was the stew they planned to subsist on when they had a breakthrough—the crew was able to get water ashore. Still, they wound up stranded on the island an extra seven days.



Antennas set up on Niue, a tiny island in the South Pacific Ocean, and location of one of Don Beattie's DXpeditions (Photo: Hilary Claytonsmith)

Perhaps the most shocking thing is that this group risked their lives for a passion that is esoteric even by esoteric tourism standards—they weren't out at the remote island for Amelia Earhart. They were there to make contact with as many amateur radio operators from all over the world as possible.

**The antennas on Niue: (Photo: Hilary Claytonsmith)**

According to the American Radio Relay League, which is the national membership association for amateur radio operators in the U.S., there are around 3 million operators worldwide. Amateur radio (which is also



known as ham radio, and its users as hams) is, simply put, non-commercial use of radio frequencies to communicate. Amateur radio operators typically apply for a license from their country's governing body—in the U.S. there are three levels of licenses with ascending privileges, which are earned by taking written tests. Operators assemble their own small stations, including transceivers and antenna. Once setup, some are content just to talk with fellow Hams, reveling in the thrill of chatting with a stranger several states or oceans away. There are some who like to bounce radio waves off the moon. There is “contesting”, where operators compete to contact the most people within a short amount of time. There's DXing, an obsession with contacting those stations farthest away from the operator. And there's DXpeditions, where intrepid hams travel to far flung places with little to no operators and set up stations so their global community can knock a new location off their list.

DXpeditioning has existed in some form since the early 20th century. Today, such trips take various shapes. There are small ones where operators fly in and out; some even stay in hotels or at spots maintained by fellow hams where equipment is at the ready. Then there are the big operations—treks to often uninhabited, remote outposts that take months of planning, teams of up to twenty people, and hundreds of thousands of dollars. Multiple flights are taken, boats chartered, shipping containers filled with tons of equipment, tents erected. Many of these trips are determined by Club Log, an online application that allows operators to upload confirmed radio contacts and pinpoint the least contacted places in the world, which make up the “Most Wanted”.

The top ten locations on that list are the Holy Grail of DXpedition sites. Journeying to those spots is what 71-year-old Georgia-based Allphin—who is retired from his job at a mutual fund—specializes in. Allphin has been on about 40 DXpeditions, 11 of them to Most Wanted locales. (DXpeditions reshuffle the top ten list, accounting for Allphin's unintuitive count.)

**Operating one of the radio stations on Rodrigues in Mauritius. (Photo: Hilary Claytonsmyth)**



There are a few reasons places land on the Most Wanted list.

“It's either political, or it's a government agency that's trying to protect the wildlife, or it's so doggone hard to get there you can't afford it,” says Allphin.

North Korea, which hasn't been worked in over a decade, is number one on the Most Wanted list. (Polish radio amateur Dom Grzyb recently announced that he was inching closer to gaining approval to operate in the country.)

DXpeditioning does involve some of the romantic trappings of exploration—desolate snowscapes, tropical beaches, rough sea journeys, and wild animals. It also involves a lot of red tape, physical labor, and planning—and all for the love of racking up amateur radio contacts. If this sounds like fun, you might be a DXpeditioner.

Here are some things to consider: Negotiating access to hotspots like Bhutan, which restricts tourism, or Navassa Island in the Caribbean, which is overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, can take years. It took Allphin's team over a decade to get permission to set foot on Navassa, which they visited in January. Because you often pack in all your supplies, including radio equipment, there are customs authorities to grapple with and taxes (or trying to avoid taxes). There are other expenses to consider, from helicopter rides to paying for the oversight of Fish and Wildlife employees.

Allphin has embarked on trips with price tags surpassing half a million dollars. In order to defray costs, many expeditions set up donation pages and organizations such as the Northern California DXpedition Foundation and the Yasmie Foundation mete out grants.

Now that you've planned and executed your often many legged journey, the sweating begins.

**Bob Allphin's DXpedition group to Antarctica.**  
(Photo: Peter I DXpedition Archives)



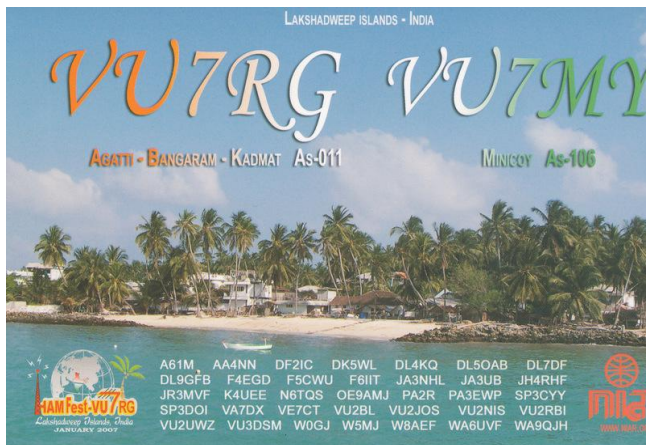
Upon arrival, you must erect your “radio city”, as Allphin calls it, where you will live for several weeks, sleeping and working in 24-hour shifts in order to make as many contacts as possible.

It can take two to three days to set up all the antennas and other equipment, according to Don Beattie, an amateur radio operator in the UK who has been on about 20 DXpeditions.

“And for many people, they come from halfway around the world so they’re jetlagged and in some cases they’ve had a particularly rough sea passage in the last couple of days,” says Beattie. “They arrive in less than tip top shape, so you have to be a little careful on how hard you drive the team to set up.”

And then of course, there are the vagaries of your destination. Salt air can be tough on equipment and Beattie has heard stories of operators showering with their antenna every 24 hours to scrub away salt. Allphin packed a cattle prod for his trip to Heard Island in the Antarctic, which he shared with elephant seals that can reach 16 feet and weigh over two tons. (He didn’t have to use it.)

Once the radio city has risen, it’s time to start making contacts. DXpeditioners get the word out ahead of time via amateur radio organizations, expedition websites, and by taking out ads in niche magazines. The number of people trying to make contact with, say, Lakshadweep, an island in the Laccadive Sea off the coast of India, is not small. Such trips can result in well over 100,000 contacts. Allphin participated in a trip where 195,000 contacts were made. The result of thousands of people calling at the same time is a “pileup”—something DXpeditioners speak about with awe.



**A QSL card from Bob Allphin's DXpedition to Lakshadweep Islands in India. (Photo: Bob Allphin)**

“When you tune across it, it just sounds like white noise,” says Beattie. “You can’t hear any speech, all you can hear is this incredible buzz as you tune across the frequencies. And knowing how to distill that down to the one call sign quickly and get a contact confirmed and then move on to the next one—that is one of the big skills.”

There’s no chitchat on a DXpedition—hams call the expedition and state their call sign, a series of letters and numbers that is essentially their radio name. (“Some of it is Morse [code], it’s not all talky talky,” says Beattie.) The team member that answers repeats this back to them, along with a “signal report”—usually the number “59”—meaning everything has come in loud and clear, and the transaction ends.



“That’s a big thrill, and frankly, I think it’s one of the motivations that a lot of DXers would say is primary,” says Allphin. “They are tested to the limit in those pileups.”

Once contact is made, it is commemorated with a “QSL card”, a postcard made specially for the trip and sent via post. (Coordinating the sending of the postcards represents yet another logistical project.)

**Bob Allphin on St George Island.**  
(Photo: Peter I DXpedition Archives)

DXpeditioning is not without its risks. In 1982, two German hams on a trip to Amboyna Cay in the South China Sea were killed when occupying forces attacked their ship.

DXpeditioner Charles “Rusty” Epps had his own brush with death in 1974 on a trek to the Palmyra Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

“All that is, is a pile of busted coral and seashells that the tides and waves have stacked up on a reef,” recalls Epps.

While they were there another boat, carrying a man and woman, lodged itself on the reef. Epps and his team paddled out in dinghies and helped pull them ashore.

“We knew they were strange and would not have wanted to stay with them,” says Epps. “But we were leaving the next morning anyway.”

Not long after the DXpeditioners took off, a yacht arrived bearing an adventurous and wealthy couple from San Diego, Malcolm and Eleanor Graham. subsequently vanished. The couple that Epps helped rescue, Buck Duane Wlkaer and his girlfriend Stephanie Stearns. later surfaced on the stolen yacht. Eleanor’s bones were discovered in 1981; Malcolm’s was never found. Walker was convicted of killing Eleanor; Stearns, who was represented by Vincent Bugliosi, the attorney that prosecuted serial killer Charles Manson, was acquitted. The saga was turned into a TV movie and chronicled in a book by Bugliosi.



“It became so clear that had we stayed, we could have been the ones murdered,” says Epps.

Most risks run by DXpeditioners are not so dramatic—in addition to the time he had to hunt and gather water on Howland Island, Allphin recalled his second sketchiest moment as that of being forced to leap from the shore of an Antarctic island into a Zodiac boat.

**A QSL card from a trip to an uninhabited reef in the Pacific, Kingman Reef. (Photo: Bob Allphin)**

“It was an ugly, ugly place,” says Allphin. “There were about five million penguins there and the penguin poo was very deep. It was raining and we were stuck in that stuff.”

As he prepared to jump, his mind was on a nearby leopard seal, a predator that looks a little bit like Voldemort.

“The worst case scenario that was going through everybody’s mind was, ‘I miss the boat, I end up in the water and I have to contend with this leopard seal,’” says Allphin. (He made it.)

Leopard seals, arduous journeys, bureaucracy and occasional mayhem have hardly deterred hardcore hams from their quests.

“It’s a cocktail of things, I think, really,” says Beattie. “First of all, it’s the challenge of doing it. Why do you climb Everest? Because it’s there. Why do we do this? Because it’s fun doing all the planning, it’s a hell of a lot of fun getting there, and it’s a hell of lot of fun when you get there.”

Penguin poo notwithstanding, Allphin, who earned his amateur radio license when he was 14, says he will next turn his attention to destinations in the Pacific. “Amateur radio is pretty much the greatest hobby in the entire world,” he says.



Strange tales, hidden places, and unusual attractions. Handpicked by our editors. Guaranteed to awe and amaze.

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<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-amateur-radio-obsessives-who-send-messages-from-the-ends-of-the-earth>

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

<b>KD8DQT</b>	<b>Jeffrey Moore</b>
<b>KD8SOP</b>	<b>Eddie Renfro</b>
<b>K8MSH</b>	<b>Mark Haverstock</b>
<b>WA8OKR</b>	<b>Bill Hunt</b>
<b>N1CJW</b>	<b>Christopher Woolverton</b>
<b>N8IL</b>	<b>Neil Gerren</b>
<b>KE8BMP</b>	<b>Bobby Spence</b>
<b>NR8W</b>	<b>Russ Williams</b>
<b>KC8BTN</b>	<b>Ron Corban</b>
<b>K8EUR</b>	<b>Al Dolgosh</b>

<b>N8PXW</b>	<b>Jim Korenz</b>
<b>K8FS</b>	<b>Michael Evans</b>
<b>KD8VCK</b>	<b>Steve Beale</b>
<b>KD8SJA</b>	<b>Tom Gregory</b>
<b>KB8SZI</b>	<b>Peggy Parkinson</b>
<b>KD8YXH</b>	<b>Roberta George</b>
<b>KB8ZWT</b>	<b>Jeff Phillips</b>
<b>N8GIE</b>	<b>John Ziccardi</b>
<b>KE8BFA</b>	<b>Janice Miller</b>



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





## Ohio ARES® VHF Contest



**Purpose:** ARES® is tasked with being able to provide communications “When all else fails.” Local communication is critical and typically takes place on the VHF or UHF amateur band. In order to improve our ability to perform on these bands, Ohio Section ARES® is sponsoring the ARES® VHF Contest (*Yeah, we know, but calling it the Ohio VHF / UHF Contest got a little long-winded*). Participants in the contest are encouraged to make as many contacts as possible within the timeframe of the contest, with as many different geographical locations as the bands permit. The contest is open to all amateur operators, ARES® members are strongly encouraged to participate. How else are you going to win the ‘bragging rights’ session of your next ARES® meeting?

**When did you say it was?** The contest is January 9, 2016. The start time is (for those of us who sleep in) 10 AM through 6 PM Eastern. Yeah, a civilized timeframe that doesn’t rob sleep, and allows time with the family. Why, you can even watch a few cartoons in the morning!

**Where you gonna be?** You may operate this contest from anywhere. There are certain benefits for venturing out from your warm, comfortable home station. EOC stations can gain extra points. Portable stations can gain even MORE extra points – that is, if your frozen fingers will still be able to operate a keyboard. Portable stations MUST use portable antennas, nothing permanently attached...kind of like Field Day on ice. We are not going with any mobile operation this time. The image of a bunch of vehicles running around with portable towers, 150 pounds of antenna hardware and an occasional grounding anchor is best left to the ARRL contesters.

**Da Bands – a la’ Mode:** Because local emergency communication takes place primarily on the two meter and 70 centimeter bands, the contest is limited to those two bands. Within each band, we will have these modes: FM Simplex, “Everything else” Simplex; DIGITAL simplex contacts will make up a third mode on each band. Contacts with a station count once per mode- if you can talk the other guy into abandoning “his frequency” and meeting you on SSB or CW, more power to ya! NO REPEATER CONTACTS WILL COUNT. If you get bored, you certainly are welcome to chat amongst yourselves on repeaters, or simplex, or cell phones, or smoke signals.

**Da Contacts:** The goal is to contact as many different stations in as many different counties as possible. You can make as many overall contacts as you like, they will then be multiplied by the number of counties you’ve reached. Extra points will be available for contacting an EC, AEC, DEC or ADEC or SEC. Pretty simple- any more complex and we’ll confuse the scorekeepers.

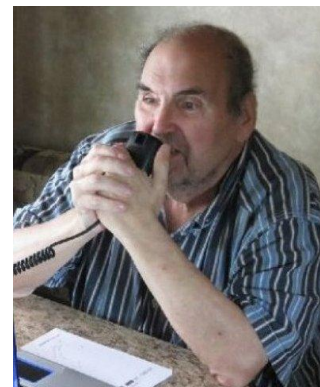
**Da Score:** Each FM Simplex contact counts as 1 point. Each non- FM simplex contact counts as 1 point. Each digital simplex contact counts as 1 point. (Detect a pattern here?) Contact with EC, AEC, DEC, ADEC, or SEC adds 5 points. Contact with an EOC or with a portable station adds 5 points. Operation from an EOC add 50 points to your total contact score. Operation from a portable location add 100 points to your total contact score. Total contact score (all bands/modes added together) will be multiplied by the total number of counties you contacted.

**Da Logs:** Please use any of the appropriate computer logging programs, paper dupe sheets, a well worn slide rule or rusty abacus. Just keep all that to yourself, we can’t find anyone with the time to go through all the detail contacts. Submit an email to [contest@delares.org](mailto:contest@delares.org) with the following: Your name, Group name, Location (City, County), FM Simplex Contacts, “Everything else” Simplex Contacts, Digital Simplex Contacts, EOC bonus, Portable bonus, Total Contact Score (Add above together, but you figured that out already), Multiply by total number of counties contacted (include your own!).

## MFJ-492 Battery Drain

**Chuck, K8BBE**

Here is some information I got from MFJ for the MFJ Menu Driven Memory Keyer (MFJ-492). I bought this keyer last year and noticed it loves to drain the quarter size battery within the unit when it's turned off.



When the quarter size is about dead, the keyer sends three very low tones and will

not move off the menu command when AC is applied.



MFJ has told me the unit is known for this problem, but there is nothing out there to fix it. My battery will last about six weeks without AC power before the memory is gone. MFJ told me to remove the battery then do a reload. This works, but it will need to be programmed every time it's used.

If anyone has this problem try this: Remove the small round quarter size battery. Do not replace it.

- 1) Turn the power switch off.
- 2) Hold the Menu button in and power the unit up at the same time. The unit should scan from A to D then return to Menu and send "ON"

Reprogram your F1 to F4 keys to whatever you want to keep in memory.

Still no fix from MFJ as to why the battery drains.



## Digital SIG

**Rick, K8CAV**

The next PCARS Digital Special Interest group meeting will be held on Tuesday January 5th at 7:00 PM at the club site in Ravenna.

This month we'll be talking about the sound card interface: what it is and why it's needed and cover everything from home-brew, roll-your-own to commercial units with varying capabilities.



We'll also be making time for any questions, problems or issues you may be having digitally so don't hesitate to bring them up.



## Palmyra - K5P - Update

*Lou, N2TU*

In about a week or so, the Palmyra Team will be on the air from Palmyra and our excitement is growing!

Palmyra ranks in the top ten of the Most Wanted List and #2 in Europe!



As with major DXpeditions, there has been a change of plans due to unforeseen events. Based on the original award received in January 2015, a Team of 12 operators was assembled.

The air charter is provided by our host, The Nature Conservancy, as part of the award. Earlier this year, the air strip was decertified and as a result the aircraft type had to be changed to allow access to the Palmyra. The aircraft selected will only seat 9 persons, which is a major change of plans for the DXpedition.

Several alternate options were examined but were unsuccessful. It was with great pain that three of the operators stepped back from the Team to allow the DXpedition to proceed.

All equipment has been received, being pretested and packaged for shipment to Hawaii. The Team plans on leaving Hawaii for Palmyra on 11 January 2016 and being active from 12 January through 25 January.

Future Palmyra Atoll activations may not happen for many years, as access is severely restricted. Permissions to operate on these rare and extremely controlled locations are very difficult to obtain. We wish to thank The Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their cooperation and support. Without this, K5P Palmyra2016 would not occur.

Check the K5P Palmyra2016 web page for future updates, propagation predictions and donation page.  
<http://palmyra2016.org/>



## 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 - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday is NET NIGHT at the Club Site !!**



January	
7	WB8LCD
14	KB8UUZ
21	KC8PD
28	K8CAV

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



Since this is being written before the final net of 2015 takes place, I will defer to next month for some 2015 net statistics. It's just a gut feeling right now, but I'm pretty sure that net participation has dropped off this past year.

**UNACCEPTABLE! You must now participate in all Thursday Night Nets!**

Well, I wish I had the authority to say that and it would happen, but, I realize I don't. So, I want to persuade you to participate by telling you some of the advantages of being a regular net member. While the PCARS net is technically a "social" net, you can keep up to date on PCARS club business and activities, as well as other activities in the amateur radio community at large. If you are a new ham, most get started on 2 meters, this is



one of the best places to get "on air" time, learn the language and procedures of amateur radio, and make new friends while you do it. One of the best ways to get acquainted with the other PCARS members, and, get the name and callsign relationship figured out, is by listening to the nets. When you participate, everyone else gets to know YOUR name and callsign and it makes you more known and easier to approach within the group.

If you make it a habit, it will happen every week for you, and you'll find that you're a more involved ham all the way around. To make it a habit you have to do it! If you're too lazy to get up off the couch and participate in this part of the hobby, chances are good you'll be too lazy to do a lot of the other FUN things the hobby has to offer – Don't Get Stuck In That Trap! *"Get your @\$\$ in the chair, and get on the air!"* (quoted from another famous local ham) You'll be glad you did.

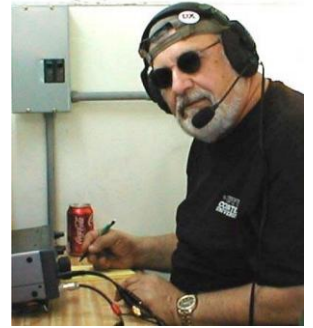
Our first **Net Night at the Club Site** for 2016 will be held on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. I'll have something special cooked up for you and hope you'll be there. We always have a good time at our Net Nights at the club site, so I hope you'll want to check us out. I look forward to seeing you there.

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](mailto: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"



Happy New Year from the Snow Belt!! I hope that you had a great Christmas and that you will recover sufficiently from any New Year's Eve partying.

2016 and I am still looking for our flying cars and robot servants. Oh well, we still have Hillary, Obama and Trump to kick around for another 10 months. Boy this will be an interesting year for the country. I don't know about you but I'm just glad I have the greatest hobby in the world to keep me sane.

I hope you have been on the air working some DX. The bands have been really wonky lately. Yes, that's a perfectly acceptable technical term. Ten meters and 15 meters have been open from time to time but both of them and 20 meters have been very noisy. There have also been occasional long path openings into Europe and Africa.

At times you probably have noticed that someone is working "**holiday style**". For those of you who may not understand the term, it simply means that the person is on vacation (probably with their family). And they cannot devote a whole lot of time to HAM radio. So you will have to be patient with them and look for them during their evening hours or early morning hours.

You may have also noticed that at times I will list an obvious IOTA DX entity but not include it in the listing under the IOTA News. It simply means that the DX not listed under the IOTA News heading is not operating under the IOTA banner. They just happen to be on a particular island but have not registered their activity with the IOTA program.

Oh, and if any of you heard a P5 on the air, it might have been Don, 3Z9DX. You can read the story below!

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. 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, 2 GS). Log will be uploaded to OQRS.

**3C, EQUATORIAL GUINEA** (Update). Ken, LA7GIA, who was expected to be active as 3C7GIA from Malabo Island (AF-010) between November 12-23rd, and then postponed it (not canceled), announced his plans to activate 3C Equatorial Guinea in March 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. 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.

**3D2/P, ROTUMA (Update).** Antoine, 3D2AG, will once again be active as 3D2AG/P from Rotuma Island between December 20th and January 20th, pending shipping schedule. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. Operations will be entirely Solar-Powered using Sustainable Renewable Energy! Running barefoot with 100 watts into a Spiderbeam and wire antennas. He mentions, "This will be a one-man DXpedition so not on the air at all times :-). As I will have no internet or phone connection while in Rotuma, please check cluster for spots. Operating at or close to the usual DX frequencies; also will try and cater for novice station band restrictions by listening split above xx.025 for CW. QSL via his home call sign direct only. Also, watch QRZ.com for update by Antoine.

**3W, VIETNAM (IOTA Op).** Herbert, DK2BR, will be active as 3W2BR from Con Son Island (AS-130) between March 5-21st. 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.

**4S, SRI LANKA.** Operators Josep/EA3BT and Núria/EA3WL active as 4S7JTO and 4S7NTS, from Beruwala, Sri Lanka (AS-003), between Jan 3-8th. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using mainly SSB, CW and RTTY. Equipment is an Icom IC-7000 and a Ameritron AL-600S (600w) amp. QSL both call signs via EA3BT (by the Bureau, ClubLog's OQRS or direct). ADDED NOTE: They are also expected to activate Berberyn Island (AS-171) "as much time as possible".

**5K3/HK0, SAN ANDRES AND PROVIDENCIA (Update).** Carlos, N4THW, recently back from Iraq (YI9HW), informs OPDX that a new DXpedition is being planned for 2016 to Roncador Island (NA-133) and Quita Sueño Bank in the Colombian Caribbean Sea. Activity will take place sometime between March or April for 2 weeks. Possible call signs will have the prefix 5K3 or HK0 [currently waiting to hear from the Colombian Minister of Communications]. He reported that there will be 10 operators (6 from Colombia, 2 from the U.S., 2 from Europe and Japan). They are now getting a permit from the Colombian Navy, and started the process of licenses from the Colombian Minister of Communications. Felix, HK0PPY, is helping in San Andres and Ernesto, HK7IPT, in Bogota. Carlos is in the USA getting the donations and contacting the company the do the logistics from Miami to San Andres. They are still looking for funds. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

**7P, LESOTHO.** Heli, DD0VR, will be active as 7P8VR from Lesotho between January 4-7th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters (no WARC bands). Heli will use a KX3 with the HL-1.1KFX amplifier by Tokyo High Power with 500 watts or the RZ3AH PA with GMI-11tube with 350 Watts out -- QRO SSB. For CW, he will only operate with 1-5 watts (G-QRP-Club -- NR. 7073). His antenna is a vertical. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

**CY0, SABLE ISLAND.** Aaron, VA1AXC, is once again active as CY0/VA1AXC on Sable Island (NA-063) until the end of January. Activity is SSB only and mainly on 20 meters usually around 2300z. QSL via JE1LET DIRECT ONLY.

**E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS.** Magnus, SM6WET, active as E51WET from Rarotonga Island (OC-083) Jan 4-9. Ops will be on 160-6 m (pending cyclone season) using CW, SSB, RTTY and JT65. QSL via his home call sign direct

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

**H4, SOLOMON ISLANDS.** "The Daily DX" reports that operators Tom/WL7HP (H44TM) and XYL Maggie/H44MK are in Guadalcanal (OC-047) until February 16th. 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.



**K5P PALMYRA DXPEDITION NEWS** -- In about a month, the Palmyra Team will be assembling in Hawaii on the first leg of their journey to Palmyra and excitement is growing! Palmyra ranks in the top ten of the Most Wanted List and #2 in Europe! As with major DXpeditions, there has been a change of plans due to unforeseen events. Based on the original award received in January 2015, a Team of 12 operators was assembled. The air charter is provided by our host, But the aircraft selected will only seat 9 persons, which is a major change of plans for the DXpedition. It was with great pain that three of the operators stepped back from the Team to allow the DXpedition to proceed. All equipment has been received, being pretested and packaged for shipment to Hawaii. The Team plans on leaving Hawaii for Palmyra on 11th January 2016 and being active from 12th January through 25th January. Future Palmyra Atoll activations may not happen for many years, as access is severely restricted. Permissions to operate on these rare and extremely controlled locations are very difficult to obtain. We wish to thank The Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their cooperation and support. Without this, K5P Palmyra2016 would not occur. Check the K5P Palmyra2016 web page for future updates, propagation predictions and donation page <http://palmyra2016.org/>

**P5, NORTH KOREA.** Dom, 3Z9DX, has been in Pyongyang since Dec 16th, and is meeting with telecom officials and other representatives. He brought his equipment into the country and surprisingly was able to begin an operation early Sunday morning on 21.222 MHz. Reports indicate he was very weak. The excerpts from "DXNEWS" and "DX-World" reports that Dom made +350 QSOs during his demonstration. His antenna is on a metal fence post 2m above the ground among government high rise buildings. The lowest noise level on 15m was 59+10, and on 20m it was 59+30. Dom was surrounded by a lot of people as he operates (officials coming in and out). Dom points out this operation is only a presentation so it's possible a different QTH will be found for the real activity planned for early next year. His equipment will remain in P5 for his potential future activities in Jan/Feb. Dom will return home to Poland on Dec 22nd (DXNEWS) or Christmas Day (DX-World). This all sounds good for possibly opening the door to amateur radio in P5.

**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 (Feb 20-21st) as a Multi-Op entry. QSL PJ6A via N4NX. Before and after the contest (they will be there between Feb 17-22nd) the ops will be signing PJ6/homecall and will be on 160-10 m - 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 m and a Yagi on 20-10 m. QSL PJ6/W6IZT via N7XG. All other PJ6/homecalls are via their home call.

**PY0F, FERNANDO DE NORONHA.** Leo, PP1CZ, will be active as PY0F/PP1CZ from Fernando de Noronha (SA-003, DIB OC-01, WLOTA 1208, WWFF PYFF-016) between Jan 19-26th. Activity is holiday style on 80-10 m with some tries on 6 m (if he has propagation on this band) and using CW, RTTY and some SSB. QSL him direct or OQRS (pp1cz@terra.com.br). NO Bureau or LoTW. Check out the pictures of his 2013/2014/2015 operations on QRZ.com.

**PACIFIC TOUR.** Bob, W7YAQ, will be activating two islands in the Pacific during February. His tentative schedule is as follows: Feb 6-7th - **Moorea Island** (OC-046), French Polynesia, using the call sign FO/W7YAQ. Feb 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** (Update). Six JA operators will be active from the VIP Guest Hotel (Free Radio Room) on Koror Island (OC-009) between January 7-14th. Operators mentioned are Mike/JA6EGL (T88SM), Hirota/JA6KYU (T88HS), Yas/JA6UBY (T88RR), YL Miyoko/JO3LVG (T88MK), Ichy/JH7IPR (T88UW) and Tsuneaki/JI6BFF (T88TK). Activity will be holiday style on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via the operators' instructions.

**V5, NAMIBIA.** Operators Werner/DC8QT, Georg/DD8ZX and Klaus/DJ9KM active as V5/DC8QT, V5/DD8ZX and V5/DJ9KM from Omaruru, Otjikoko Guestfarm, Namibia, between Feb 9-18th. 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.

**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 Mar 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](mailto: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.

**XW, LAOS.** Ken, K4ZW, will once again be active as XW4ZW from Laos between Jan 15-24th (possibly a shift a day or two). Activity will be on all bands, but with a focus on the lower bands and CW only. QSL via K1SE direct (with SAE/SASE). Log will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog. Ken states, "All Bureau cards received will be answered, but it is time consuming and expensive. Please note that I receive cards from the Bureau on average once or twice per year. It takes up to 1 year to answer the cards. You will need to be patient."

**YJ, VANUATU** (Update). Robert, DL7VOA, will be active as YJ4AO from the Eratap Beach Resort, Port Vila, Efate Island (OC-035, WLOTA 1051), between December 27th and January 13th (2016). Activity will be holiday style mainly on CW during the evening and night hours (maybe some SSB, no Digital). Equipment is an Elecraft K2 plus a borrowed amplifier with about 500 watts into a 10m pole with vertical dipoles on 10/12/15/17/20m and groundplanes for 30m and 40m. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. Robert states that this will be a special DXpedition celebrating his 40th birthday, 10th wedding anniversary and 25th anniversary on the air (a little late because it was already in 2013). He adds, "For this reason I obtained the special call sign YJ4AO which is a reminiscence to my very first call sign Y24AO. My wife and I always dreamed of visiting the South Pacific only once in our lifetime, and we are very happy to be able to do this trip now, so I ask everybody to understand that I spend some time with my wife with usual holiday activities like snorkeling, etc.... instead of conducting a 100% DXpedition." More detailed information (including a link with exact GPS coordinates) can be found on the QRZ.com Web site at: <http://www.qrz.com/db/YJ4AO>

**ZL9, NEW ZEALAND SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS** (Update/Rare IOTA). Operators Cezar/VE3LYC, Bob/KD1CT, Stan/SQ8X and Craig/VK5CE will be activating a rare/new IOTA, Antipodes Island (OC-286P), possibly between Jan 7-11th. This will be the first time anyone has ever activated it. The call sign will be ZL9A. Activity will be on 40-10 m - CW and SSB, with 2 stations running around the clock. Team Antipodes is pleased to announce that Johan, PA3EXX, has joined the team as their Pilot Station. QSL via VE3LYC, by the Bureau or direct. This op will count under the new DXCC entity name "New Zealand Subantarctic Islands" (the old name - Auckland and Campbell Islands [ZL9]) for DXCC purposes. A Web page has been activated to provide more details collect funds for this operation at: <http://iotahunter.org>

## IOTA NEWS

**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>

So there you have it for the near future. Get on the air and if you hear some rare DX that I have not listed, let me know and I will get out a qst broadcast message to all PCARS members.

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





## Wedding Bells

Jenna, KD8GHA got married on December 26th to a **non-ham**. A *father's worst nightmare*.. Ha Ha Ha.. His name is Austin Lovejoy and he is in the Air Force and will be station in Minot, North Dakota (you think our winter weather is bad.....) .

*I'll send pictures for the next news letter.*

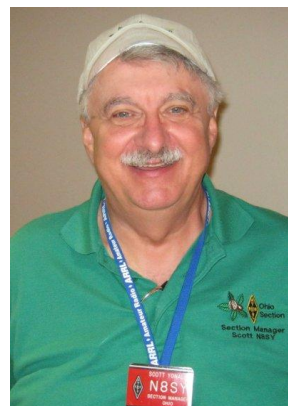
**John, N8GIE**



## Let's Talk

**Scott, N8SY**  
ARRL Ohio Section Manager

Can you believe this weather?? I know that a few areas around the northeast will have some traces of snow either by the time that you read this, or very soon after, but to have 50 degree weather for the first 16 days of December is just hard to believe. I heard today that Christmas could be in the 60's as well. I'm sure that we'll pay for all this good weather soon enough.



With this time of the year it brings out the Christmas parties everywhere, and I have been to a lot of them lately. I really enjoy spending the time with not only you, the Ohio Amateur, but your spouse / significant other as well. Ohio hams have to be the most generous, gracious and warm folks in the entire country! They have to be the best cooks too.. I have had the best food of my life going to your events! I love everyone one of you. You have the spirit for sure.

I know that there has been an article going around the ham fraternity that says Amateur Radio is not necessarily dependent on the youth for its survival. I do have to tell you, it is a very thought provoking article for sure. On my way to a party the other night I thought about that statement and how it related to my own life experience. I got interested in Amateur Radio several times. First when I was a Cub/Boy Scout, then again when I was in high school. Neither of those times did I have the time or gumption to get my license. I was busy with sports, being a kid and then working.. full time. After I got married I started volunteering with the Red Cross. I taught First Aid and CPR. CPR was just new on the scene at that point for everyone but doctors. That then got me started in volunteering for disaster services with the Red Cross. I went to a lot of disasters around the state, including Xenia. That's where I really starting looking at Amateur Radio as something that I could really sink my teeth into. So, after a few more years lapsed and much discussion with my brother (WA8BIW), he convinced me to get my Novice ticket. I was 27 then. So, the articles' statistics seem to be somewhat valid, at least in my case anyway. I agree that kids today have a lot of activities to keep them so busy I'm not sure how they even get their homework done. Janie and I really don't get to see our grandchildren as much as we'd like because they are never home. They're at ballet, soccer, baseball, basketball, gymnastics, karate, cheerleading... the list goes on and on. With that in mind I've come to the conclusion that maybe you do have to be a little

older to get the idea Amateur Radio can be as much fun as all those other activities. Now, even with that being said, I'm not giving up on today's youth. I have reached a few of them, and they've even gotten licensed. So, for whatever it's worth, I'm still going to plug away at the Cub/Boy/Girl Scouts to get enlistees to our absolutely FUN service.

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

**Let's shift bands once again..** I really want to talk to you about the Ohio Section Website.. You can find the Ohio Section Website at: <http://arrloho.org>. If you don't



have this website set as your home page, I urge you to do so. This website is one of the exceptions to the rules.. It changes all the time. It's never stagnating, and I would highly recommend that you check into the website at least 3 times per week or more if you can. Yes, it does change that much! Now, I've been trying an experiment to see just how many of you are actually looking and investigating the website as you've told me you're doing

when I ask you at your club meetings.. I've found out that not as many of you are actually looking as has been stated at your meetings! How do I know this? I thought it would be interesting to put a link on the main page for all to see. It's very clearly stated "Handbook Giveaway." All that you need to do is fill in a couple of boxes.. (your name and email). That's you need to do to be entered into a drawing to **win a 2016 ARRL softcover Handbook**. There's nothing else required of you and there's absolutely no cost to you. The winner will be mailed the Handbook at my cost. This is being offered just to see how many folks were paying attention. I had the link there for a full week and not much activity was generated. So, to make it more clear after a week I put a big RED arrow pointing to the link, and still not much activity. So, now I'm making it very clear that this link is there until the end of the year for you. I have decided that I will do this from time to time, just to see if you are paying attention. Got the idea? Best of luck to you!!



And finally... **I wish only that the best for each and every one of you for 2016. Have a safe, and very Merry Christmas and an absolutely fantastic New Year!!!!**



**PCARS****K8BF**

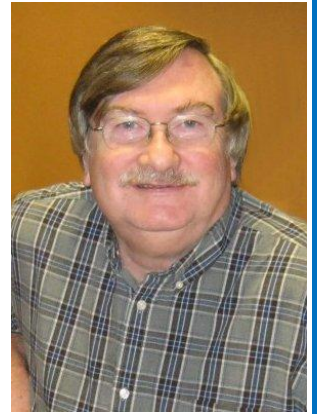
*The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!*



## Ten-Tec Sold Again

**Mark, K8MSH**

Now there's another chapter in the Ten-Tec saga. First they were purchased by the Alpha Amplifier folks, then by RKR Designs, and now by an unnamed mystery owner—all within the span of about two years. So what's in store for Ten-Tec's future?



Former Ten-Tec chief engineer John Henry made a recent post on <http://lists.contesting.com/tentec/> (AKA, the Ten-Tec Reflector) regarding future plans for the company. I'm going to highlight only a few points from the email, since it's rather lengthy. If you're a Ten-Tec owner or fan, take time to read the entire email to get the big picture as it exists now <http://lists.contesting.com/tentec/2015-12/msg00013.html>.

Henry is not the new owner, but he says he's going to do whatever he can to get the business back on track. "I want to see it be a success, and maintain what can be maintained of the people, and improve its image/products/etc. back to where they were years ago. The owner is quite insistent that I remain intimately involved with TEN-TEC even if it is on a part time basis. It is my choice of how much or little I spend on TEN-TEC and the door is assuredly left open for me to come and go as I please. He wants me to be the VP of Engineering, but, well, time will tell how all of this plays out."



According to Henry, the new owner "is planning the rigs and amplifiers and other accessory products to engineer and to manufacture for the coming year to cover the purchase and expenses for the year, working on the details of the various plans for service, sales, and marketing, etc." The current incarnation of OMNI VII is scheduled to be back in production in 1st quarter 2016, hoping to ship in 2nd quarter 2016. The Eagle will go back into production some time after the 1st OMNI-VII run.

In addition, the new owner plans to either bring back the Orion II or have an Orion III, time frame to be determined—which could be as early as end of 2016 or Dayton 2017.

According to Henry, prices will return to the original pre liquidation sale prices when the new website is up so that each will be at a price point that will make enough profit to make the company viable. Other features will be added where possible.

Henry also states, "There might be improvements/changes to certain rigs, e.g. maybe there will be an OMNI VII+ maybe an OMNI-VIII in a year." Since the Omni VII dates back to 2006, I'd think it's almost imperative they'd come up with at least a plus version quickly. Ditto for the Orion II, which was a 2005 revision of the original Orion.

There is no mention of whether the new owner has deep pockets, has any backers at this point, or will rely on income from Ten Tec's other operations. If you weren't aware, a substantial portion of Ten-Tec's income previously came from manufacturing enclosures and specialty radios for commercial and government customers—the RX331/RX340 receivers for example. This income stream helped support the amateur radio line.

Henry hints at a possible need to raise capital, such as a possible Gofundme funding campaign, where amateur customers can help donate to purchase the parts, and then part of, or all of, or x times the amount of the donation is taken off of their next order of a “major” Ten-Tec product, such as a transceiver, amp, etc. “To do this first class, we need a 200K capital infusion for a new factory building and some new equipment to replace what was liquidated if anyone cares to step up and accelerate our success. 400K would give us the facility, equipment and capital to put everything back in production to a stocking basis and allow us to complete the Orion III. If 400 people will give us 1K each, we will commit to the Orion III of your dreams in 18-24 months and give you 2K off the target price of 5K as well as engrave your name and call on a plaque on the new building that says you helped build it and save Ten-Tec.”



I’m sure there are some die-hard Ten-Tec supporters out there who would help provide capital to get things rolling. However, this proposed arrangement makes me a bit uneasy. I’m not sure I’m ready to pay up front for the R&D or production of a future radio, or guarantee support for my legacy rigs with the only return on investment being a discount on a radio I may or may not decide to purchase. Full disclosure—I own three Ten-Tec transceivers and have been a customer for a number of years. I recently paid several hundred dollars to their repair facility to get my Orion II back in shape.



One encouraging piece of information is that the new owner plans (for now, anyway) to stay in this for the long run. “The owner has emphatically stated to me that this the last time Ten-Tec will change hands for the next 15-20 years or so as he is my age and plans for us both to operate it until we are in our 70s or physically unable to continue, so Ten-Tec could not be in the hands of anyone more SERIOUSLY long term goal oriented. He has wanted Ten-Tech for a long time for the excellent DSP AGC technology built in to our transceivers so I think it is safe to say that there will be future generations of the Omni, and Orion style units as finances permit.” It would be nice to see Ten-Tec make a big comeback. Time will tell.

I wish them the best, and I will be one of the many who monitors the reflector for more news. Perhaps by the time you read this, the identity of the mystery owner will be revealed.





**Jim, KC8PD/AAF5PD**  
Radio Officer, Portage County OHS/EM  
Communications Unit/RACES



“What's in your wallet?” You can't help but hear that credit card commercial tag-line on a regular basis if you watch any television. For this column let's restate that line in a slightly different way: **“What's in your go-kit?”**

This may seem like an odd time of the year to ask that question, but if you check the calendar it will remind you that we actually in the winter season. It sure doesn't feel like winter when you are standing outside in the sixty degree sunshine. However, at some point the El Nino will quit shoving the polar air away from us and freezing weather will set in.

Believe it or not, northeast Ohio is most likely to have severe weather in the winter months. Sure, we tend to worry most about thunderstorms with damaging winds, flash flooding or maybe a tornado. But the fact is that winter is the season when there is a greater likelihood of power outages, road closures and the shutdown of schools and businesses. Are you ready?

That go-kit does not just include the radio gear that you need for emergency communications. It should also have weather specific clothing and supplies, not to mention an adequate food and water supply.

And when we refer to go-kits we don't just mean those that our emcomm volunteers should be carrying. We also mean the supplies that you keep readily available at home or in your vehicle to meet your needs or your family's should a crisis occur.

So get out that go-kit (or start one now) and check: does it include a hat, gloves, and additional layers of clothing plus boots and outerwear to protect you and keep you warm? Toss out the old snack foods and nutrition bars and replace them with fresh ones, they don't last forever! How about



batteries? Are they old and outdated or have the rechargeables been charged lately? If it is a comms go-kit, is all of the equipment still operational and do you know how to use it?



Do you have a shovel, scraper, flares or other emergency lights in your vehicle? Do you keep a blanket or extra clothing in the car? Even if you don't use them they may be invaluable to a stranded motorist.

How about the supply of food and water at home? Do you have a safety checklist and telephone contact list for your family? Do you know how to re-light pilots for the gas appliances in your home or how to safely power things back on after an outage?

Winter can truly be our most dangerous season. Don't wait until it is too late to be sure that you and your family are prepared and will be safe.

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all!**

## DX - The Chase is On

**Tom, KB8UUZ**



**WARNING** - Once you try chasing for DX entities you may find it habit forming! One of the most fun aspects in this great hobby of ours is to see just how far your signal will go and be heard by some distant station. The thrill of hearing a far away place come back to *YOUR* call is just amazing!

So you're saying to yourself: "**Self, I cannot possibly get foreign stations - I don't have a tower, a beam or 1,000 watts...**". I can tell you that you DO NOT need all of that to get your DXCC Award from the ARRL (obtaining confirmations from 100 DX entities).



For many years I used a multiband, homemade dipole strung up between two high trees in the back yard and used a 100 watt rig. Actually, not much has changed since then. I still have a multiband dipole at 55 feet, still have a 100 watt rig but I have added two small beams on a roof tripod, one for 10 meters and one for 6 meters. I've also added a 43 foot ground mounted vertical that works super on 80/40 and 20 meters.

okay - I know I can get my 'little pistol' signal out there and have fun.

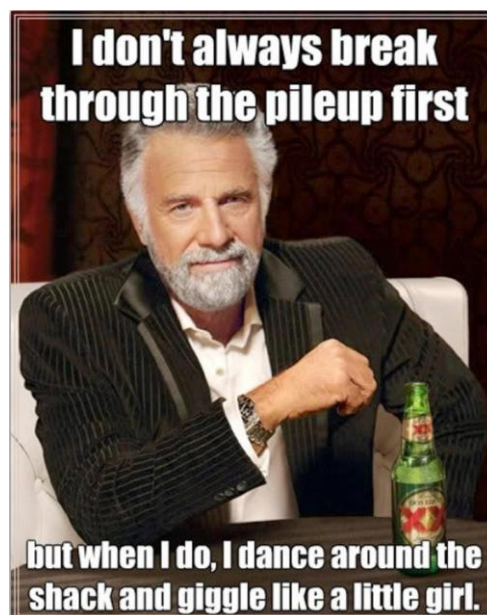


I also do contesting. That's a great way to snag a few rare ones and to tweak the systems I have to log those contacts. I like exchanging QSL cards. Once you have cards from overseas, you can look at them and remember the excitement you had when you made that contact.

Now, you have all those contacts and QSL cards - now what? **Apply for DXCC!!!!!!!!!!!!**

In this issue of the RADIOGRAM, there is more information regarding DX contacts and DXCC information.

Get on the air and have some fun with this great hobby of ours. **I can guarantee when you get that far away station in your log book, a smile WILL be on your face all day!**





# Top 100 Most Wanted DX from North America



Here's the latest Top 100 Most Wanted DX from North America. Some of those rare stations **WILL** be on the air in 2016. This may be your chance to snag a rare one in your quest for DXCC!

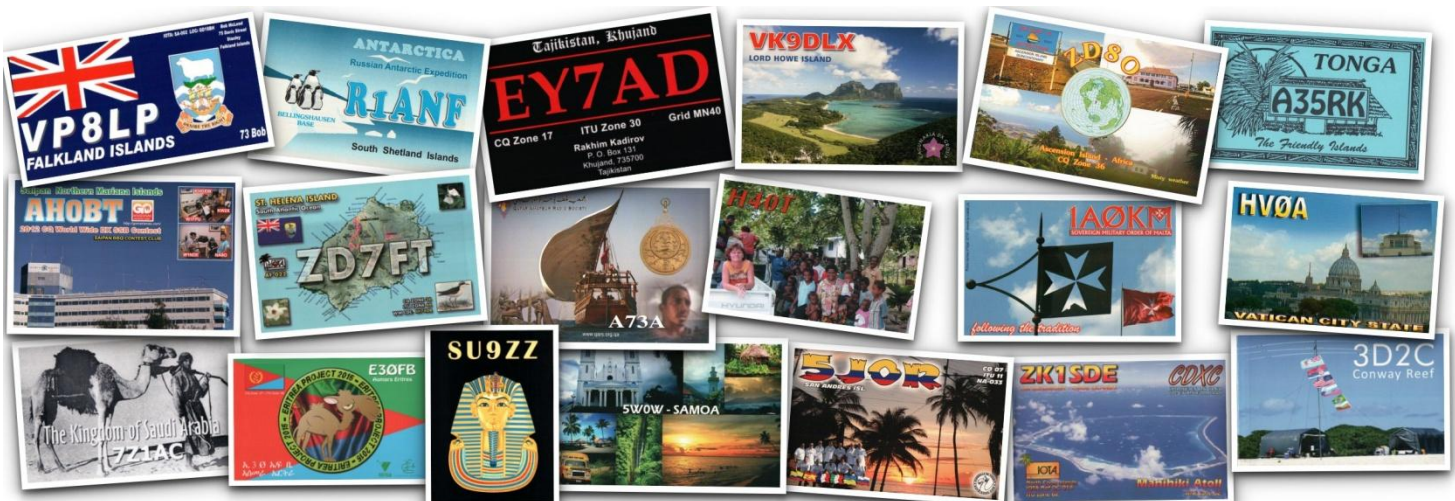
#	Prefix	Entity
1.	P5	DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2.	BS7H	SCARBOROUGH REEF
3.	FT5W	CROZET ISLAND
4.	VP8S	SOUTH SANDWICH IS
5.	BV9P	PRATAS ISLAND
6.	VK0H	HEARD ISLAND
7.	FT/J	JUAN DE NOVA, EUROPA
8.	3Y/B	BOUVET ISLAND
9.	FT5X	KERGUELEN ISLAND
10.	VP8G	SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND
11.	JD/M	MINAMI TORISHIMA
12.	KH5K	KINGMAN REEF
13.	EZ	TURKMENISTAN
14.	KH1	BAKER HOWLAND IS
15.	FK/C	CHESTERFIELD IS.
16.	KH5	PALMYRA & JARVIS IS
17.	VK0M	MACQUARIE ISLAND
18.	SV/A	MOUNT ATHOS
19.	FT/G	GLORIOSO ISLAND
20.	YK	SYRIA
21.	R1F	FRANZ JOSEF LAND
22.	VK9W	WILLIS ISLAND
23.	H40	TEMOTU PROVINCE
24.	KH7K	KURE ISLAND
25.	XX9	MACAO
26.	S2	BANGLADESH
27.	CE0X	SAN FELIX ISLANDS
28.	YA	AFGHANISTAN
29.	3A	MONACO
30.	3W	VIET NAM
31.	V8	BRUNEI
32.	4W	TIMOR-LESTE
33.	3C	EQUATORIAL GUINEA
34.	ZC4	UK BASES ON CYPRUS

#	Prefix	Entity
35.	UJ	UZBEKISTAN
36.	JD/O	OGASAWARA
37.	1S	SPRATLY ISLANDS
38.	ZS8	PRINCE EDWARD & MARION IS
39.	VK9C	COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND
40.	XZ	MYANMAR
41.	VK9X	CHRISTMAS ISLAND
42.	9M2	WEST MALAYSIA
43.	XU	CAMBODIA
44.	VK9M	MELLISH REEF
45.	AP	PAKISTAN
46.	EP	IRAN
47.	KH3	JOHNSTON ISLAND
48.	VP8O	SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS
49.	9N	NEPAL
50.	VU4	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
51.	EX	KYRGYZSTAN
52.	4S	SRI LANKA
53.	5A	LIBYA
54.	T31	CENTRAL KIRIBATI
55.	KH4	MIDWAY ISLAND
56.	3B7	AGALEGA & ST BRANDON IS
57.	T8	PALAU
58.	XW	LAOS
59.	J2	DJIBOUTI
60.	PY0T	TRINIDADE & MARTIM VAZ IS
61.	3Y/P	PETER 1 ISLAND
62.	A5	BHUTAN
63.	VP8H	SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS
64.	T2	TUVALU
65.	V6	MICRONESIA
66.	9V	SINGAPORE
67.	FT/T	TROMELIN ISLAND
68.	4J	AZERBAIJAN

#	Prefix	Entity
69.	3C0	ANNOBON
70.	YV0	AVES ISLAND
71.	H4	SOLOMON ISLANDS
72.	PY0S	SAINT PETER AND PAUL ROCKS
73.	ET	ETHIOPIA
74.	P2	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
75.	9M6	EAST MALAYSIA
76.	ZL9	NEW ZEALAND SUBANTARCTIC IS
77.	8Q	MALDIVES
78.	E4	PALESTINE
79.	C21	NAURU
80.	3D2/C	CONWAY REEF
81.	VU7	LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS
82.	YJ	VANUATU
83.	3D2/R	ROTUMA
84.	3B8	MAURITIUS ISLAND
85.	7Q	MALAWI
86.	T33	BANABA ISLAND
87.	3D2	FIJI ISLANDS
88.	E3	ERITREA
89.	ZL8	KERMADEC ISLAND
90.	FK	NEW CALEDONIA
91.	T5	SOMALIA
92.	TL	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
93.	ZK3	TOKELAU ISLANDS
94.	KH9	WAKE ISLAND
95.	FW	WALLIS & FUTUNA ISLANDS
96.	9X	RWANDA
97.	DU	PHILIPPINES
98.	ZB2	GIBRALTAR
99.	ZD9	TRISTAN DA CUNHA & GOUGH IS
100.	3XA	GUINEA



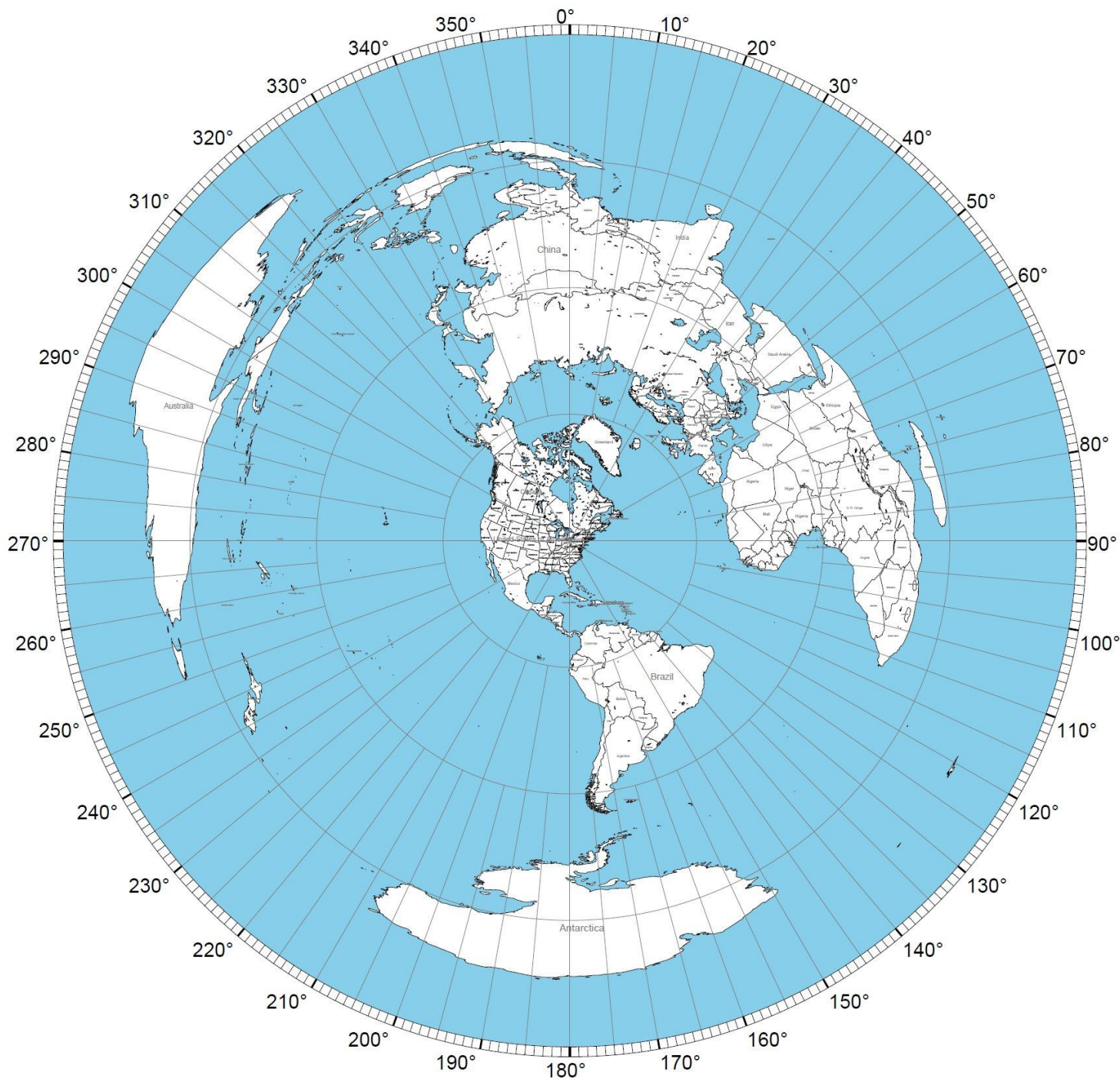
Top 100 Most Wanted  
for North America



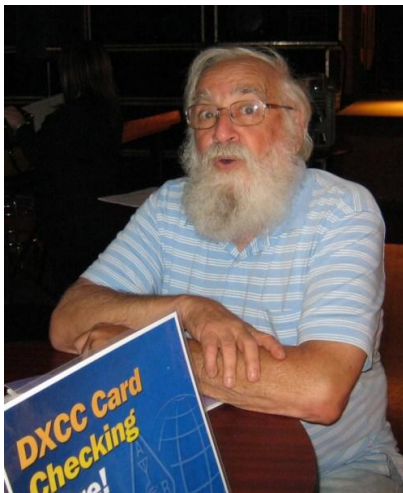


## Azimuth Map Centered on Ravenna, Ohio

Which way do I point or align my antenna to maximize my chances of getting that DX entity I need? Well, here ya go! The map below is centered on Ravenna, Ohio and it shows you the bearing from your home QTH to that DX entity you are trying to make contact with. We are so used to looking at flat projection maps that just do not show the correct directions from our location. A good example: The city of Perth in Western Australia sure looks as if it would be south west of us on a flat map - but, if you look at this azimuth map - you see that that Perth is actually North West - about 320 degrees on the compass from us! Okay - armed with this information - get that DX !!



Okay - you have all these contacts, you've sent and received a bunch of QSL cards, what do you do now to get that really nice DXCC award certificate from the ARRL? Who can you talk to about this award, what do you have to do?



Well - being here in Portage County, you are in luck!. One of our PCARS members is an **ARRL DXCC Card Checker** - our own **Joe, W8KNO**. Joe is always ready to help anyone with the DXCC award process. He can explain how the system works and guide you along the path toward obtaining that ARRL DXCC award.

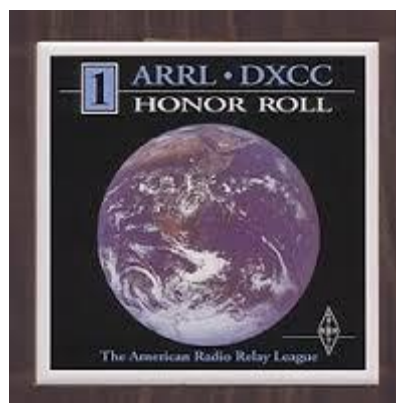
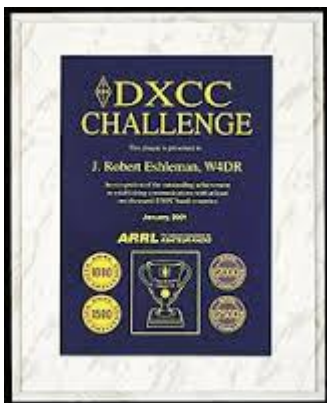
There are multiple ways to apply for the award. If you're on the ARRL Logbook Of The Word (LOTW), you can apply on-line through the ARRL. If you have QSL cards, you can still use the on-line form at the ARRL to enter your QSOs. Then you'll need the services of Joe, W8KNO to verify the cards and send in the paperwork. Before you know it, a beautiful certificate will arrive in your mail box that you can hang up in your radio room with pride.

But it doesn't stop there. Keep going and who knows, one day YOU can be on the DXCC Honor Roll, or maybe get the coveted Five Band DXCC award.



Just a few of the DXCC awards are: Phone, CW, RTTY and Mixed modes. You can also get certificates for each band you have 100 DX entities. You can get endorsement stickers, too.

Check out the ARRL web site to read over the information and if you have any questions concerning DXCC - contact Joe, W8KNO ([W8KNO@portcars.org](mailto:W8KNO@portcars.org)), he can help you along the way toward DXCC.





## New Repeater in Area

### N8DXE

Amateur Radio operators in northeast Ohio can enjoy new 2 meter coverage. With its antenna secured to a professional communications tower located at DX Engineering headquarters, the N8DXE repeater promises to serve Hams in the Akron, Ohio and surrounding areas on 146.985 MHz.

N8DXE is an open repeater and no PL tone is required. Hams are free to use this repeater whenever they're in range, (about 30 miles centering around Tallmadge, Ohio.

"DX Engineering is all about serving the Ham community," reports Tim Duffy K3LR, DX Engineering's Chief Operating Officer. "Since every member of the DX Engineering staff is a licensed Ham too, installing a public repeater was a no-brainer. Its coverage really helps Ohio's repeater network."

N8DXE's frequency pair used to belong to the Goodyear Amateur Radio Club. The club graciously transitioned those frequencies to the **DX Engineering Employees Radio Club**. DX Engineering will continue the Goodyear club's mission of community service, and encourages local operators to use the repeater for club events, emergency communications drills, and exchanges with other operators.

At the heart of N8DXE is a commercial-grade Icom IC-FR-5000 repeater programmed for FM Amateur Radio use. Controlling the IC-FR-5000 is an Arcom 210. N8DXE uses an Andrew® DB224E four-dipole phased vertical antenna, delivering 6 dB gain. DX Engineering installed the antenna atop a 135 foot cell phone tower to ensure excellent coverage across northeast Ohio's hilly terrain.

Local and travelling Amateur Radio Operators may check in to N8DXE anytime, day or night. The repeater tower is clearly visible from I-76, near exit 29 in Tallmadge, Ohio.



**From the DX ENGINEERING Employees Radio Club**

# N8DXE

Confirming QSO with: DX Engineering  
Employees Radio Club  
1200 Southeast Avenue  
Tallmadge, OH 44278 USA

Date	UTC	MHz	RST	Mode	2-Way	QSL

Ohio — Summit County — EN91hb — CQ 04 — ITU 08

**DX ENGINEERING**  
N8DXE  
DXEngineering.com

## Hamfest Schedule

01/24/2016 **Tusco ARC Hamfest** - Location: Strasburg, OH - Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club - Website: <http://www.tuscoarc.org> - Location: Wallick Auctions - 965 North Wooster Avenue - Strasburg, OH 44680  
Public Contact: James Mercer, KD8KFZ - 151 Fairview Lane NW New Philadelphia, OH 44663 - Phone: 330-343-1830 - Email: [mercera1@aol.com](mailto:mercera1@aol.com)

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](mailto: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](mailto:winterhamfest@noars.net)



## Finding DX

Now you're all geared up and ready to get going with DXCC for 2016..... **Where's the DX?** You can slowly turn the radio dial going through the bands, but there are other things you can do to make the chase a bit more fun. There are a few tools that can be used to find out who's on where.

Who's on the air right now? Check out the DX Clusters available on-line. You can get in there, and after you register (usually **FREE**), you can set up various filters to see different things on the cluster. You can see all of the spots coming in as they are entered from around the world (in real time). Or, you can filter it so you just see spots being posted from North America. I like the latter method.

**DXWATCH.COM**

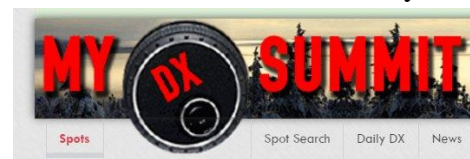
So where are these clusters? Here are just a few sites that you may find helpful. I really like **DX Watch.com** ([www.dxwatch.com](http://www.dxwatch.com)). It's free to get registered so you can set up filters. It also shows the flags of the entity which is kinda neat to see. Here's a sample. You can see here that VP8LP from the Falkland Islands is coming in on 10 meters, so is ZZ90IARU from Brazil. You can click on the call and get even more information about the DX station being spotted.

Logged in as KB8UZZ! [show/hide my last filters](#)

de cq zone: 4 - central zone of NA / band: 160m,80m,40m,20m,15m,10m,6m / mode: phone  
[cancel filter selection](#) / [send a spot](#) / [search spot by callsign](#) rows to show: 50 ▾

de	dx	freq	obs	time
VE4EA	 VE4EA	50130	[LoTW] EN19KW<ES>EO10AX calling CQ	1934z 26 Dec
KD8TNF	 CE2NVS	28462	59+ TY 73 LOUD OHIO	1926z 26 Dec
K2DRH	 N3MK	50125	[LoTW]	1919z 26 Dec
KD8TNF	 VP8LP	28533	[LoTW] 59+ TY 73 BOOMING OHIO OVER QRM	1918z 26 Dec
K2DRH	 N1SDH	50160		1918z 26 Dec
K8XX	 VE4DN	50127	Thanks EO10 to EL88 53 qsb	1918z 26 Dec
KR4SO	 VP8LP	28533	[LoTW]	1917z 26 Dec
K4TTZ	 VP8LP	28533	[LoTW]	1915z 26 Dec
AB8SX	 N1QLL	14303	[LoTW]	1914z 26 Dec
KC9ECI	 K6FRC/B	28300		1914z 26 Dec
KC9JUV	 KC4TVZ	28425	[LoTW] EM58<>EM84	1913z 26 Dec
K4TTZ	 ZZ90IARU	28455		1911z 26 Dec
ND0B	 VA3EV	50135	[LoTW]	1908z 26 Dec

Other DX clusters include: **QRZ.Com** (<http://www.qrz.com/dxcluster>), **e-Ham** (<http://www.eham.net/DX/>), **MyDX Summit** (<http://new.dxsummit.fi/#/>) and there are others out there as well. Look around, find one you like and bookmark it. It will help you find the DX entities, states, grids, etc. you are looking for.



**Who can I talk to about DX?** Ahhhhhh, you came to the right place! There is a **DX & Contest Special Interest Group** that meets at the PCARS club site on the **fourth Tuesday of each month**. It starts at 7 PM and is hosted by Chuck, W8PT. Stop in and get **ALL** of your questions answered about chasing DX and the various tools that are available to help you.

This is only the tip of the iceberg in your chase for DX. Other topics that will help you are: Logging, QSLing, On-Line QSL systems, and much more. Don't be timid about asking for help - we all started out not knowing anything about this part of the hobby. You're lucky to be a member of one of the most active clubs in northern Ohio and there is a gold mine of experience that you can tap into here at PCARS - all you have to do is ask. Soon, you'll be one of those hams that others will be able to ask for answers to their questions as well.

**This is a GREAT hobby - Come On - Get Involved and have FUN !!!**

## Swap-N-Shop

**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      **Vibroplex Bug**, \$50  
**Heathkit SA2060 Tuner**, \$100 good condition      **Icom 271H, 2 Mtr All Mode**, \$100 used in original box  
**Kenwood TS-711A**, 2 Mtr All Mode, \$300 In original box with mike and manual  
**Kenwood TS-811A**, 440 Mhz All Mode, \$300      **Kenwood TS-450SAT**, HF All Mode, \$350  
**Kenwood SP430 Spkr**, \$40      **Astatic T-UG8-D104** with Heil HC-4 Microphone, Great shape, \$100  
**Yaesu G-450A Rotator**, Brand new, \$100      **Swan-250 6 Meter** radio, \$50 or make offer  
**Gwinstek Function Generator**, \$25      **Gwinstek Digital Multimeter**, \$25  
**Albia Power Supply Dual Variable +15 & -15**, \$25      **EZ Oscilloscope 60MhZ Dual**, \$50  
**MFJ-4225**, Switching PS, New, \$85      **Mosley CL-33-M 10, 15, 20 MTR BEAM** antenna, \$200  
**Nye Viking, MBI-001 Tuner**, \$100      **Palstar, PM2000A Watt Meter 300/2KW**, New, \$100

*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](mailto:AB8AA@portcars.org) [03/02/16]

**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](mailto:KB8UUZ@portcars.org) [03/02/16]



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



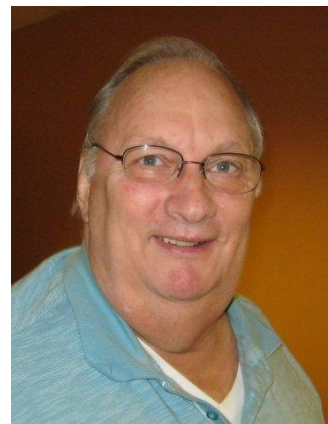


## Shack Shot - K8EUR



### Al, K8EUR

Continuously licensed in Ohio as K8EUR since 1957, I now enjoy DXing on 160 and 80 meters, and chasing new ones on all the other bands for the DXCC Challenge total. I QSL to DX stations 100% via the Bureau, and also via ARRL Logbook of the World (LOTW). All the DX contacts in my paper logs since 1957 have been put into a digital log and uploaded to LOTW. So far, my oldest LOTW confirmation dates to 1968, and my first confirmed DX contact with a paper QSL was G2ART on 15 meters on November 3, 1957. Being on the air back then during the grand-daddy of all sunspot cycles is an unforgettable experience! I now operate on SSB, CW, RTTY and other digital modes.



Living on a small city lot, I realize the importance of getting the most antenna performance from available space. Since hearing the weak ones is the most important part of working DX, I took a "walk in the woods" behind my home and installed a ground-mounted DX Engineering DXE-ARAV3-1P Broadband Active Receiving Antenna - it has only a 9-foot vertical stainless steel whip and receives its power through the 75 ohm CATV-type coaxial cable. It needs



no ground radials. By placing it far away from houses and other noise producing sources - and its inherent reduced susceptibility to atmospheric noise - I have been able to get Q5 copy on 160 and 80 meter DX signals that are absent on my full-size transmitting

antennas.



My main antennas currently consist of full-size dipoles for 160 and 80, a high performance DX Engineering DXE-4030VA-1 dual band vertical for 40 and 30 and a DX Engineering 5-band Hexbeam for 20 through 10. I recently worked DX0P Spratly for a new RTTY DXCC - and they only made 400 NA contacts total on all bands!



During my pre-1980 VHF days, I took time to complete WAS and WAC on 6 meters. I also have 42 states confirmed on 2 meters (without EME), and several countries/continents via EME. Just back on the HF DX trail since 2002, I have DXCC on 9 bands and have pushed past 329 confirmed total for DXCC - 192 on Top Band alone - and 2500+ for DXCC Challenge. A wise old DXer once told me *"The first 300 are the easiest"*. Now I know what he meant!

My DXCC totals are 335/329 all time/current and I expect to get into Honor Roll territory with the planned DXpeditions in early 2016.



## New Video Posted to PCARS YouTube Site



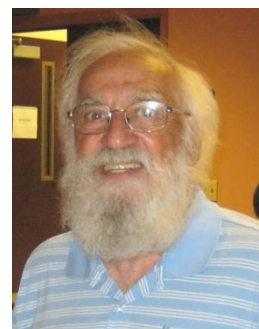
Check out the PCARS YouTube site and see the latest video that was posted.

The video is "2015 - The Year In Review Slide Show"

In this 35 minute video, you'll see over 300 pictures taken from January through November 2015 at the PCARS activities. From Snow storms at FYAO to rain storms at Field Day to great weather at other activities - **PCARS always has BIG FUN!**

## Paper Chase

*Joe, W8KNO*



Please read "Inside HQ" in the January issue of QST. Harold Kramer, WJ1B, writes: "The Centennial QSO Party was the largest operating event in the history of Amateur Radio. .... We will distribute more than 850,000 QSL cards for Centennial operations ..... If you signed up on the Centennial QSO Party website and on Logbook of The World, the W1AW/p cards will be distributed through local QSL Bureaus. ....".

So get those envelopes into your incoming QSL Bureau Manager so that you may see the benefits of your effort.

# Radiosport

**Show off your achievements with ARRL Awards**

- DXCC
- Worked All States
- VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC)
- ...and more

<http://www.arrl.org/awards>

**SPEEDY Processing!**

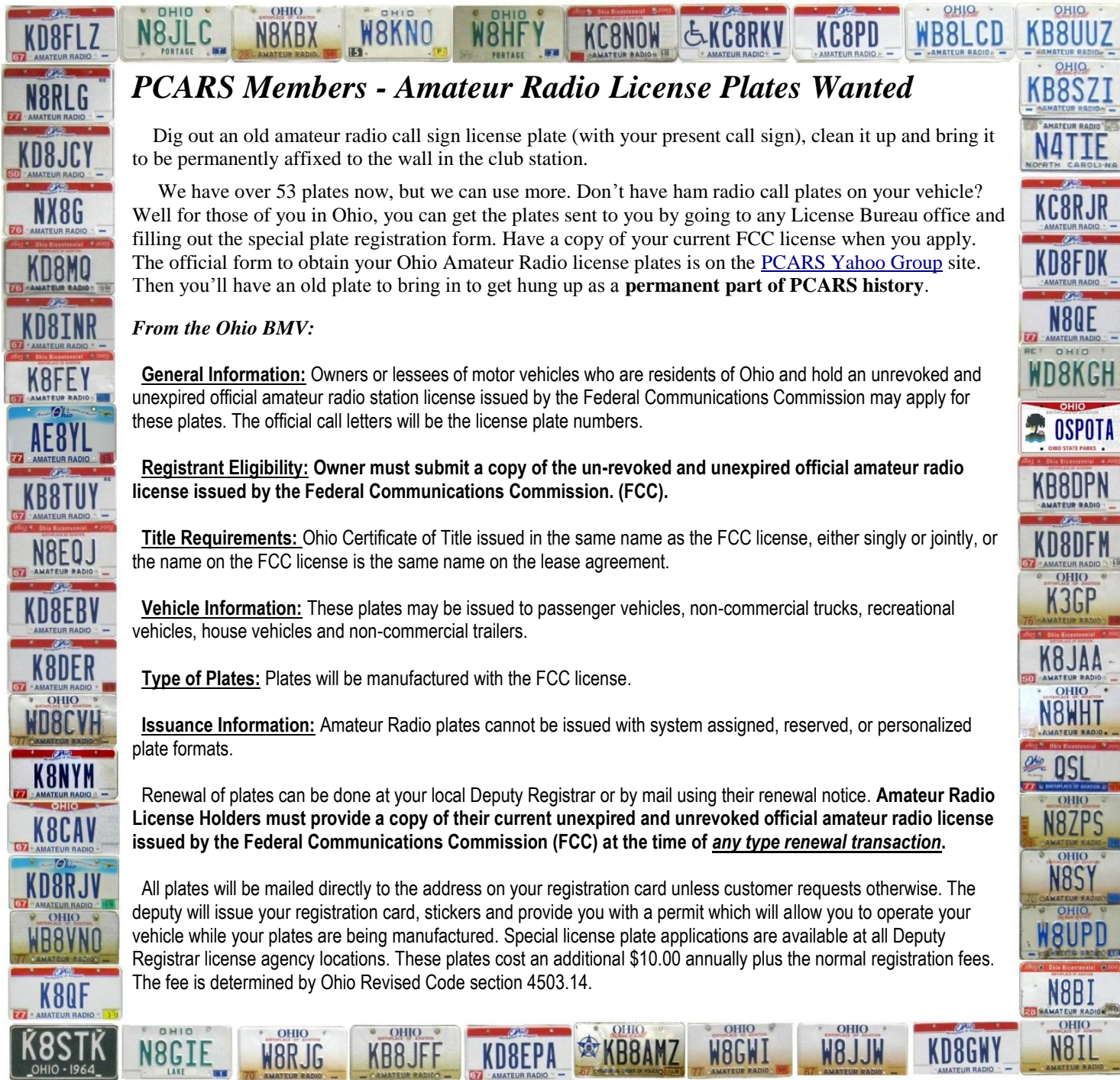
August UHF Contest

VUCC Award

WAS Award

Worked All States Award

David Patton, NN1W



## 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/>



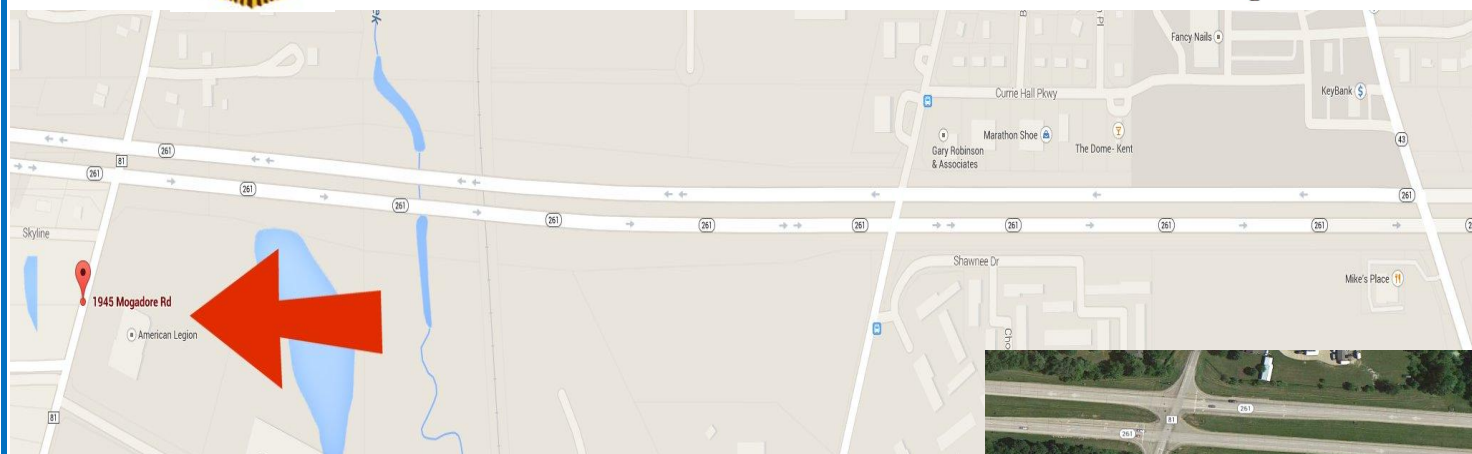


## PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 December PCARS Meeting











# PCARS Christmas Meeting December 14, 2015



## Yaesu Day at DX Engineering

On Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, DX Engineering is celebrating Yaesu Day at its showroom near Akron, Ohio. The event will allow Ham Radio operators to meet and mingle with colleagues from around the Midwest, and get their technical questions answered by Yaesu representatives.

The banner features the Yaesu logo with the tagline 'The radio' on a black background. Below it, white text reads 'Yaesu Day at DX Engineering Saturday, January 23rd 9 am to 2 pm'. To the right, three red diagonal banners contain white text: 'Meet with Yaesu Sales Reps', 'Check Out the Latest Yaesu Radios', and 'Get Super Deals on Open-Box Gear'. At the bottom left is the DX Engineering logo.

For over 50 years, Ham Radio enthusiasts have relied on Yaesu for radios that offer innovation, reliability and quality. Yaesu Day gives Amateur Radio operators a chance to check out several Yaesu radios before making a purchase. Attendees will also have the opportunity to consult directly with the DX Engineering and Yaesu staff for advice.

As an added incentive, Yaesu Day at DX Engineering will include special discounts on open-box DX Engineering gear. Amateur Operators are also encouraged to check-in to the N8DXE Repeater, at 146.985 MHz, no PL tone required.

More details on Yaesu Day will be announced on [www.DXEngineering.com](http://www.DXEngineering.com) and on the DX Engineering Facebook page.

**Yaesu Day at DX Engineering - Saturday, January 23 - 9 am to 2 pm - Inside the Summit Racing Equipment Retail Super Store - 1200 Southeast Ave., Tallmadge, OH**

## 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:

**KB8UUZ, KC8PD, K8CAV, N8RLG, W8PT, WB8LCD, WA8EFK, K8BBE, N2TU, N8GIE, N8SY, K8MSH, W8BBQ, N8DXE, AC8NT, K8EUR, W8KNO, DX Engineering, Andy Wright from Atlas Obscura, Club Log, The Daily DX, DX-World.net, The ARRL, and the World-Wide Web.**

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







*Happy New Year  
2016*





## Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [ ] New [ ] Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? [ ] Yes [ ] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ (don't need year)

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

**Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31. Dues are due no later than Jan 31st. If you don't pay by 1/31 - you are no longer a member and you will have to pay the \$5.00 fee again plus dues per the schedule below.**

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

### Check One

### Dues Amounts

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

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

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

What are **YOUR** Ham Radio interests:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Rev. 15 Jan 2015



This is a reminder that the class to prepare for the General license will be starting January 6, 2016. Here is the flyer showing the cost and contact information. Please send me an email ([AC8NT@portcars.org](mailto:AC8NT@portcars.org)) or call if you are interested. We want to make sure that we have enough materials for the class.

Thanks & Happy Holidays - Jim Wilson, AC8NT

## Amateur Radio GENERAL Class ~ Upgrade Class ~



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

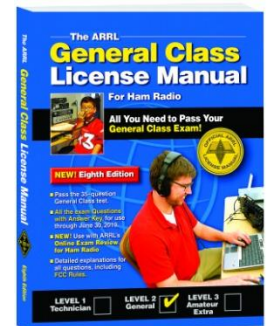
When: **Wednesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.**  
Starting January 6, 2016  
License testing on the last day of class - February 24<sup>th</sup>

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

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

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

Information & Registration: Contact: **Jim Wilson, AC8NT**  
by e-mail: [AC8NT@portcars.org](mailto:AC8NT@portcars.org)  
or phone: **330-342-8149**



Please register with Jim, AC8NT by January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
You can pay the registration fee the first night of class

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

# Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



## PCARS - K8BF

*Eleventh Annual*

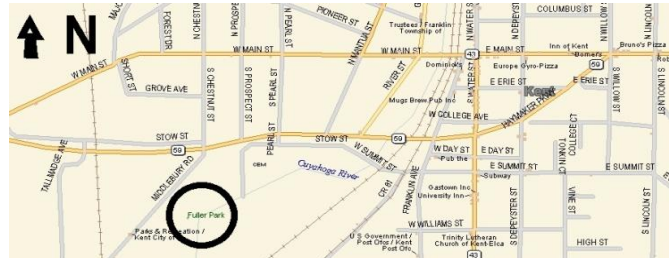
### *"Freeze Your Acorns Off"* *(FYAO) Special Event Station*



*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](http://www.portcars.org)  
Questions? Contact Chuck, W8PT at [W8PT@portcars.org](mailto:W8PT@portcars.org)





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

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
	Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
~ Meetings & Net ~		OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ Tom Parkinson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	P.I.O.	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	Secretary	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	V.E. Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
	Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers

PCARS Incorporated  
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting  
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated  
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club  
March 22, 2010

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

## THE RADIOGRAM

The **RADIOGRAM** is the official **Award Winning** (ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter First Place Winner for 2012 **AND** 2013. Second Place in the Great Lakes Division for 2013. Second Place ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter for 2014. Third Place Winner in the Ohio Section 2015) newsletter of the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)** – copyright © 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](mailto:kb8uuz@portcars.org)



## "When All Else Fails - Amateur Radio Works"