



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

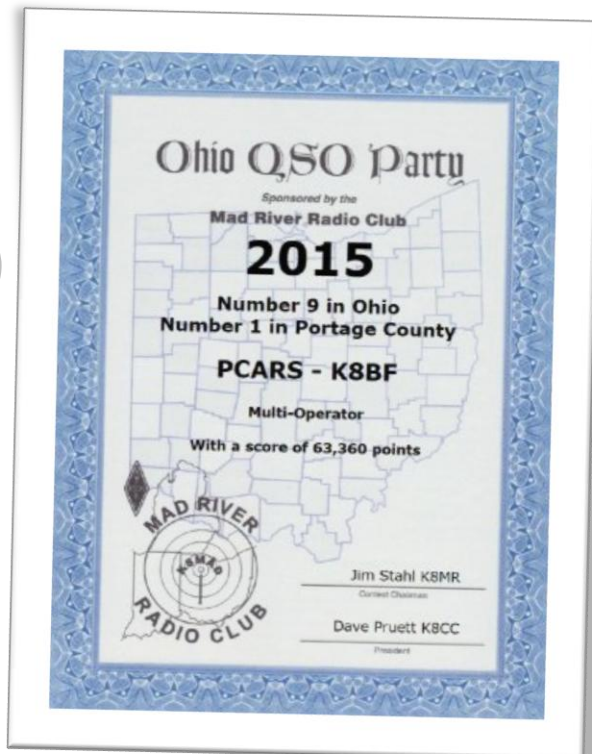
March 2016 - Volume 11 Number 3

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**PCARS and the**

## **OHIO QSO PARTY**



## **FYAO 2016 WINNERS**

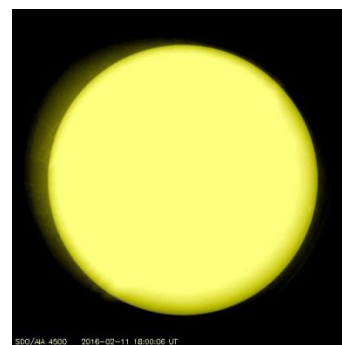


**PCARS K8BF**

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



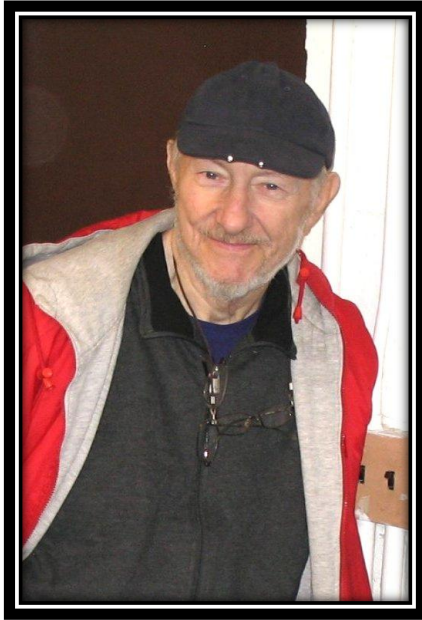
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## ***Ted Wands, WD8CVH - SK***

Many of you already know that Ted Wands, WD8CVH, passed away on Wednesday 2/17/2016 at approximately 9:30 AM. Ted's brother Fred said that sometime between Monday evening and Wednesday morning he had contracted a very aggressive blood infection that took him from "chipper and happy" on Monday evening to comatose on Tuesday night.

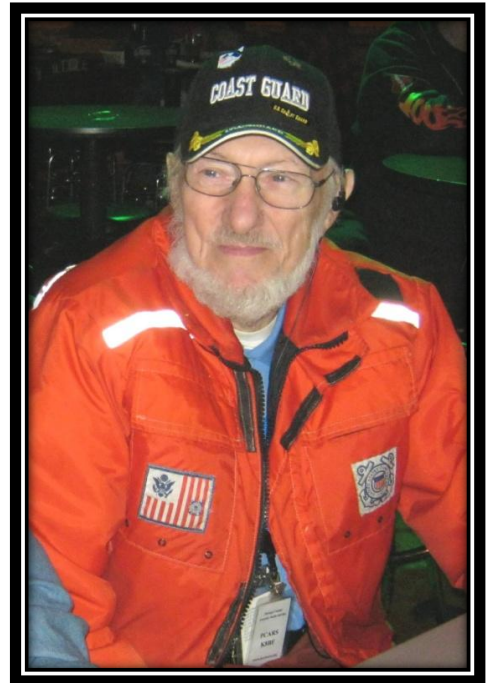


... —●—

Theodore D. "Ted" Wands II, 75, of Stow, died Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at Akron General Hospital.

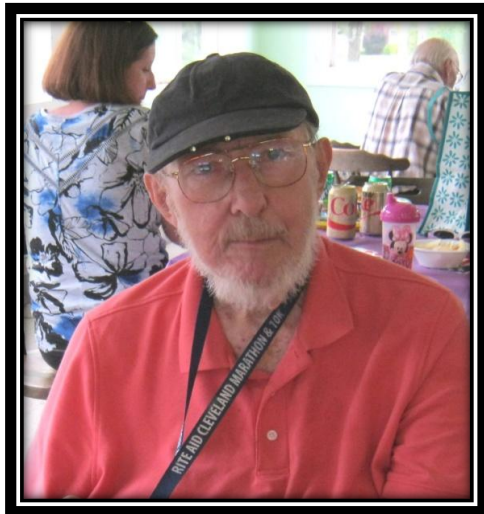
He was born September 9, 1940 in Ravenna, to Herbert V. and Neva Margaret (Watkins) Wands. He was a veteran of the Coast Guard during the Vietnam war. Ted was a member of the Kent United Church of Christ, Rockton Lodge F&AM #316, Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club and the American Sternwheel Association in Marietta. Ted was active in the Boy Scouts and served on the Board of Review for Troop 253.

He is survived by brother, Fred O. (Vicki) Wands of Stow; sister, Bette Hoover of Medina; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gail A. Wands (WB8VNO) in 2013; and sister, Margaret A. 'Peg' Wands.



Funeral services held at the Kent United Church of Christ with Rev. Heather Wicks officiated. Rockton Lodge # 316 service held prior to the funeral service.

Burial will be held at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association Akron Area Chapter, 4500 Rockside Road, Suite 440, Independence, OH 44131.



... —●—

Ted, WD8CVH was a member of PCARS since 2011. He was also an active member of the PCARS VE Team. Ted was always fun to be with, everyone enjoyed his company and he will be missed very much here at PCARS.

## From the President

**Rick, K8CAV**  
PCARS President



It's hard to believe but in only two weeks, daylight savings time starts and in three, spring is officially here. Here's hoping spring will be as mild as winter has been so we can all get out and work on antennas and other outdoor amateur radio activities that have kept us inside.

Winter weather didn't disappoint for Freeze Your Acorns Off however as we had plenty of cold and snow that Saturday. FYAO was another great success with plenty of operators and plenty of great food to keep everyone satisfied. Most important we had lots of visitors and shared a lot of good time together. Thanks to Chuck, W8PT for putting it all together so we could all enjoy a fun event.

PCARS is fortunate to have its own club facility where we can operate and gather for all manner of things ham radio. Almost from the beginning when the club site was started, Tom, WB8LCD has been hosting **Net Night At The Club Site** on the fourth Thursday of each month. It's a great chance for fellow PCARS members and guest to get together and socialize and check into the Thursday evening net. Recently Tom started adding a movie to Net Night At The Club Site every so often and it's been a great success. Tom's choice in movies is, shall we say eclectic and last night's movie "*Oh Brother Where Art Thou*" didn't disappoint. With Mike, KB8TUY providing the popcorn the evening was a lot of fun so if you haven't had the chance to get out for one make sure you put it on your calendar.

A lot of communications technology today has its roots at least in part with the NASA space program, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The two local NASA facilities, NASA Glenn Research Center and NASA Plumbrook will be holding open houses in May and June of this year. Jim, AC8NT will be providing more information in March about these events and this would be a great activity for PCARS members these facilities in a lot more detail than we ordinarily would.

Chuck, W8PT has been hard at work with the folks in the DX/Contesting Special Interest Group to establish what contests the club will be involved with this year. A lot of work has been put into upgrading the equipment and accessories at the club site to make it a first class facility. PCARS has been very successful in many of the contests we've operated in and Chuck and his group would like to see you out during more of the contests this year. Stay tuned for upcoming events and plan to be there to help out.

PCARS has lots of things going on, and many of its members taking the lead to make those things happen. The most important part though is you being a part of it. Whatever your interest is in amateur radio, take time to share it with the other members and you'll enjoy it that much more.



## *From the Vice President*

**Jim, AC8NT**  
PCARS Vice President



### **March Club Meeting**

I will be giving a talk on microcontroller projects for ham radio. These projects use Arduino, Pi and other common microcontrollers to add functionality to your equipment and shack.

Projects range in cost from \$40 to \$100 dollars depending on the size and contents of your junk box. We will also be covering software development tools and libraries necessary to complete the projects.

### **Club Projects**

We are working on several club build projects for the coming months. These include:

- 60 megahertz frequency counter for use with QRP rigs. A lot of these rigs are difficult to tune accurately. Cost about \$40.
- SWR Bridge for up to 100 watts. Cost about \$35
- Compact multiband antenna (from March//2016 QST) Cost about \$30.

If anyone has a project idea, please let me know. We are always looking for fun projects. Our projects will start in May.

### **Interested in trying contesting?**

If you are a new technician class ham, someone that would like to try contesting for the first time, or someone that loves VHF, I suggest you try the CFARC's 2 Meter Simplex Squares Contest. This looks like a lot of fun and you can take part with only a handheld. You can find full details of the contest at <http://www.cfarc.org/contest.php>. You can even win a nice prize with only one contact. Please give this a try; it should be fun.

### **Maker Faire Information**

I have dates for two Maker Faires being held this year. The Kent State Mini Maker Faire will be held Friday April 8. I plan to have a club table at this year's event. This will make year 3 we will have attended. The Detroit Maker Faire held at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan will be held July 30 and 31. This is a huge event that is definitely worth a visit. There is something for everyone. We are working with local clubs to make sure ham radio is at this event. More to come on these events.

### **Comment to the Club**

In the March 2016 issue of QST I read a letter from Terry Brown, N7TB entitled CW and Speed. For the past few months I have been spending more time making CW contacts and agree with his comments. He and I have noted the number of times we hear CQ's sent at 30+ WPM that are obviously automated that receive no response. I have also CQ'd at 15 to have stations respond at 30+, again automated. I would love to see more hams interested in CW, but we need to understand that a great number of hams are only capable of 10 to 15 wpm. Also, what happened to the courtesy of responding at the speed received? We need to do our best to help newcomers and OM's like me use and enjoy CW. Please if you hear someone trying their best to send at slower speeds, respond accordingly. Also, I wonder how many CW contacts I hear are done computer to computer, used like RTTY. I hear too many transmissions without any "fist". Just saying.

**NASA's 75th anniversary** will be celebrated with open houses at NASA Glenn Research Center on May 21-22 and at Plumbrook on June 11-12. These events are a great chance to visit key installations working on our space program. More details will be available in March. This is a great opportunity that should not be missed. I will keep you informed as details develop.



## FYAO 2016 is a Success

*Chuck, W8PT*

2016 PCARS Freeze Your Acorns Off QRP Event is now history. In spite of really nasty cold temperatures and blowing snow, those who braved the WX to come out and support this event had a BIG FUN time.

We had 31 individuals show up and most kept close to the warmth of the Roy Smith Shelter at Fre Fuller Park in Kent. We started with hot, tasty coffee and donuts and moved right into some of the other goodies that attendees brought to share.

A couple of the operators were really keen on getting their stations up and running and showed up early to do just that. We ended up with four brave souls who set out their antennas and went to work just after the starting time of 10AM. Two of these stuck it out to the very end at 4PM.

Well, enough of the chit chat. Let's get to who did what.



Of the four ops, **John, KD8MQ** came in fourth with 163 points. **Third place was taken by Gene, AC8RH** with 211 points. **Second place was won by Mark, K8MSH**, with 280 points. Every time the operator who ultimately won the event, showed up in the shelter to get a cup of hot coffee and thaw out, he was told that he should be out there on the air because the others were hot on his trail. Frankly, we didn't know how anyone was doing, but to see this op grab a cup of Joe and hurry back out was a treat. In the end,

**John, KB8UHN, did prevail with 1948 points. Far and away, the WINNER.**

So congratulations to John and his great effort. His name will join the previous winners on the plaque commemorating this event.

As you may recall, we also had a contest within a contest. We held our first **Best Dish Cook-Off**. There was some mighty tasty food that was brought to share with all. And I have to say that I really enjoyed my share of the various delicious dishes. I chose three impartial judges (they did not bring food for the Best Dish contest and they were not related to anyone who did bring a dish) to do the taste testing.

These judges took great effort in sampling each of the entries and after serious deliberations and seconds on the food (and possibly thirds), they came to the following conclusion:

**3rd Place – Amy Leggiero’s (KD8SKL) Buffalo Dip**  
**2nd Place – Mark Haverstock’s (K8MSH) Spicy Sausage**



**And the winner of the First Annual Best Dish Cook-Off is:**  
**1st Place – Karen Andrews’ (N8HUC) Buffalo Chili**

Well, I want to congratulate all of those who participated in this year’s FYAO and hope that you had a great time. I also want to thank all those who took time out of their busy schedule to attend the event and to support PCARS in our annual Winter QRP contest. So until FYAO 2017, 73 to all.

**Editor’s Note:** As you may know, my trusty camera failed me after FYAO 2016. I knew I had pictures since I had reviewed them while at FYAO. Later that evening I tried to download them - I could not read the SD card... **PANIC** ... I bought a disk recovery program and after playing with it for about 10 hours, I managed to retrieve all of the FYAO pictures ! *Whew!* What a relief ! Looking back, the SD card was actually the culprit. In the 10 years I have been taking pictures (thousands of pictures) of PCARS activities, I’m on camera number 3. But, I kept using that same SD card. **Fact:** memory cards do wear out and go bad! Well needless to say that old SD card is crunched up and in the garbage can and I have a new SD card and am ready to take more PCARS pictures - SMILE!

## Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- **March 12 - K8BF on the air - Idaho QSO Party from the Club Site**
- **March 13 - Daylight Saving Time (DST) Starts - move clock AHEAD one hour**
- **March 13 - K8BF on the air - Wisconsin QSO Party from the Club Site**
- **March 14 - Microcontroller projects for ham radio - Jim, AC8NT**
- **April 8 - Maker Faire at Kent State University**
- **April 9 - K8BF on the air - Georgia QSO Party from the Club Site**
- **April 13 - Skywarn Training at the Maplewood Career Center (see flier in this newsletter)**
- **April 23 - PCARS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ARRL Affiliation - Special Event Station**
- **May 7 - PCARS Antenna Day at the Freedom Township Community Park**

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



First Tuesday	-	<b>Digital - K8CAV</b>
Second Tuesday	-	<b>QRP/CW - WB8LCD</b>
Third Tuesday	-	<b>Antenna - WA8AR</b>
Fourth Tuesday	-	<b>DX &amp; Contest - W8PT</b>
Fifth Tuesday	-	<b>Linux for Hams - KB8AMZ</b>

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





# Pictures from Freeze Your Acorns Off - 2016



**FYAO - 13 Feb 2016**





**FYAO**

**13  
Feb  
2016**



## 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)



## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

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

**PCARS**  
**Join Now**  
Discover the FUN



**PCARS**  
[www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)



# 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**



## 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.

**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: 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

March 2016	
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 5 to 2400Z, Mar 6
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 6
South America 10 Meter Contest	1200Z, Mar 12 to 1200Z, Mar 13
Oklahoma QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 12 to 0200Z, Mar 13 and 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 13
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Mar 12 to 1500Z, Mar 13
<b>Idaho QSO Party</b>	<b>1900Z, Mar 12 to 1900Z, Mar 13</b>
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 13
<b>Wisconsin QSO Party</b>	<b>1800Z, Mar 13 to 0100Z, Mar 14</b>
Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 20
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 20 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 20
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 26 to 2359Z, Mar 27

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

## Technical Committee Report

*Chuck, W8PT*



*Wait a minute* – what do you mean Technical Committee report? I didn't know we had a Technical Committee!

Well PCARS members, we do. Just to bring everyone up to date, some months ago it was decided that we needed a small group to tackle the noise problem at our club site. At the same time it was suggested that we really needed to get all the operating positions at the club brought up to a level of efficiency of operation. Up to that time, each operating position had, what can best be described as, a haphazard grouping of equipment. You had to borrow from one position to operate at another.

So a committee was formed to tackle these two challenges and as a standing committee, to continue to look after the technology part of the club site.

The noise problem, as many of you know, has been isolated to florescent fixtures in other parts of our building complex. We have been in contact with the fixture manufacture and also with the supplier of the ballasts used in these fixtures. This is an ongoing investigation and we feel we are close to solving the problem with the assistance of the ballast manufacturer. They will be supplying us with a couple of residential ballasts which comply with RFI limits that we will install to see if this solves the problem.

In the meantime, we reviewed what we needed to bring each operating position up to a standard that we could live with. We found that we needed keys, power supplies, sound card interfaces, and more. So the



committee put together a list and presented it to the board. We received approval and money was set aside for the purchase of the equipment.

I'm happy to report that the equipment has been ordered and a majority of it has already been received. It will be added to each operating position in the radio room very soon.

I want to thank the Board members for approving this plan. We have something that many, many clubs do not have – a fully functional club station. Some clubs would give anything to have what PCARS has. Once the positions are set up, I hope that many of you will take advantage of your club station and come out to operate.

One of the things we will be tackling in the near future is how to extend club access to all members without losing control of the security that is needed at our club site.

We will try to keep all the members up to date on what we are doing at the club site to enhance the ham radio operating experience.

## Daylight Saving Time Starts March 13th

### SPRING FORWARD - FALL BACK

Yep, Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> Daylight Saving Time starts. At 0200 local, turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.

**Remember UTC (Zulu, GMT) time does NOT change.**



*Examples:*

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** - we are still on **EST** (Eastern Standard Time).

At 0800 EST (8 am for you non-military people) it is 1300 UTC (1 pm) - That is a five hour difference between Ravenna, OH and Greenwich, England.

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** - we are now on **DST** (Daylight Saving Time).

At 0800 EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) it is 1200 UTC (noon) - That is a four hour difference between Ravenna, OH and Greenwich, England.



## Confessions of a DX LID

*Neil, N8IL*



I've been a ham since 1977. Pressures of work, family, and moving between cities and states interfered with the hobby. I got back on the air in 2009 after raising children into their late teens and didn't get serious about confirming contacts until 2012. Since that time, even though I have a job that can consume whole weeks, evenings, and some weekends, I've managed to confirm 270 country entities, and qualify for the ARRL DX Challenge. I love chasing new DX entities. I've even perfected a "happy-dance," making a fool of myself, annoying everyone in the house, while making it crystal-clear that I snagged a new one.

One DX entity in particular was especially rewarding and satisfying. There is a Greek monk, Apollo, in Mt. Athos. He operates very infrequently, as he doesn't want our great hobby to distract from his devotion to God. I first saw him pop up on 20 meters back in 2012. I tried every time he popped up on the DX Cluster, but never had any success. Finally, in late November, 2015 he operated for an uncharacteristically long time. He was operating CW, and at time, the pile was 40Khz wide and 4KW high! (Thank's OM Power for building that new 4KW amp, we all appreciate it!!!! NOT!!!!) I worked hard to control my adreanaline, and spent over twenty minutes just listening for the stations he was contacting, and determining his operating pattern. My first call to him yielded a ton of "LIDs" transmitting on top of him. It was extremely annoying! I kept a cool head, and continued following his QSO's up the band. I finally found him again, found another hole, and made another call. This time, I heard my call coming back, but much louder. That's when I realized I hadn't hit the "split" button on the rig. So, now, 30 minutes after trying, and two hours after he had appeared on 40 meters, I finally had a chance. It took another ten minutes to determine where he was listening, and I set myself up for another call. BOOM! He replied and we exchanged signal reports. With three attempts, two of which didn't even fall on his ears, I contacted him.

What's the point of all this? First, you have a better chance with CW, than with Phone. It consumes less real estate and is much better for weak signal operations. Secondly, it's an illustration of "best practices" that anyone can leverage to contact a rare entity in a single call in despite of the throngs of poor operators that transmit during the DX station's transmissions.

Most recently, my first contact with the Palmyra expedition was made with a single call. How is that possible? Especially when the pile is so wide that it seemed impossible? I'm an engineer and I work with sales guys on a daily basis. I learned the importance of listening very early in my career. The same principal can be applied while attempting a contact using any mode. Listen. Listen. Listen. Listen for twenty minutes before you're tempted to transmit. For any that don't know, most DXpeditions operate in split mode, listening for you above their transmit frequency. As you tune up the dial, you'll hear other stations. If you persist, you'll hear signal reports being given back to the DX station. That's when you know you've found where he's listening. Position VFO B just above that last contact, make sure you're transmitting with VFO B, and give it a shot. If he doesn't call you back, continue listening as he moves up the band. That's the basic premise. There will be some

Mount Athos - Greece		Monk Apollo					
<b>SV2ASP/A</b>		Dochiarion monastery					
ITU: 28 WAZ: 20		GR-63087					
		Mount Athos					
		Greece - Europe					
To Radio		QSL via					
N8IL							
Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHZ	2 way	RST	Remarks
24	11	15	220	7	aw	599	CS
GOD BLESS YOU BEST 73 From Mount Athos							



pont in which he'll either start tuning back down the band, or he'll go back to the beginning. That is a pretty common practice in CW since it's a little easier to tune a signal in from below.

When I listen to these rare DX stations working a pileup, one thing stands out. There seems to be little training or mentoring with new hams regarding these kinds of operations. There is frequently that new ham, or an old one (like me!) that transmits right on top of the DX's transmit frequency. "That guy" isn't stupid. He either forgot to enable transmit on his second VFO, or he simply doesn't know how it's done. Spread the word. Let the new hams know how these stations operate. Ask the old ham's to be a little more patient and put some goodwill back into chasing DX!

## *EmComm*

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



Amateur radio provides a multitude of ways for hams to get involved in the hobby and make the best use of their ham radio privileges. My favorite aspect of amateur radio has always been public service and emergency communications. I enjoy the community involvement.

Even better, the hobby has given me the opportunity to become even more deeply involved in local emergency preparedness activities. A quick recap of how this came about:

Way back when (like more than ten years ago) I completed the original ARRL Emergency Communications courses (Levels I, II and III) and had the chance to serve as an ARES® volunteer in Mississippi post-Katrina. This was followed by the introductory Incident Command System and National Incident Management System courses and in 2006 I was asked by our county EMA director to create a RACES team for the county.

That was my initial involvement as a volunteer for the EMA and I took advantage of the chance to take many of the on-line FEMA classes and then later to take emergency management classes at the Ohio EMA in Columbus. In addition, our county created an Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) in 2011 and as one of the original members have been able to take over a half dozen advanced ICS classes.

All of this kept me pretty busy as a Portage County EMA volunteer and, once retired, I was also able to join both the county's Emergency Management Advisory Board and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC is responsible for collecting the reports and collating the data from the businesses which use or possess extremely hazardous substances as well as preparing the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan and supporting the Hazmat team.

Last December I became the chairperson of the LEPC. In the meantime I have also been designated by the Portage County Commissioners as the acting EMA director when the Director, Ryan Shackelford, is out of town and I will also be serving as his deputy.

I mention all this because I never would have had the chance to do any of these things if I had not started off as a ham who wanted to volunteer for public service and emcomm activities. How many hobbies can offer opportunities like this? So don't hesitate, get involved, get trained, stay active, and you might be amazed what comes your way.

## *Some Friendly NPOTA or Portable Advice*

*Larry, W2LJ*

If you've never done any type of portable operating and you're intrigued by NPOTA, and are thinking of activating a park or entity, there are several things that you need to do. To a lot of QRPers, this will all be "Elementary, my dear Watson", as so many of us are used to taking our radios to all kinds of off-the-beaten-path locations. But if you've never left the friendly confines of your Home shack before, here are some things to consider:



1) Scope out the entity or park before "Game Day". Know where you're going to operate from. Is there an out of the way place where you can set up, or will you be right in the thick of things? Are there any prohibitions/releases/permissions needed? You want to know about these things and get them out of the way and taken care of before Activation Day. There's nothing as disheartening as showing up and having a Park Ranger come up to you and say, "You can't do this, because (insert any number of reasons) .....". And, while we're on the subject of Park Rangers ..... I know this is so basic as to almost be insulting, but I'm going to mention it anyway. No matter what else happens during your activation, PLEASE ..... at all times be cooperative, courteous and respectful to NPS employees. They're just there doing their job. It's important that we present Amateur Radio operators and Amateur Radio operations through the best lens possible. Don't ruin things for your future brother and sister Hams by being rude, pushy, or by having an attitude.

2) Know your equipment, know your antennas. Know what works, what doesn't. Take what you need (with backups), but leave the fluff at home. If you've never done a portable operations gig outside of Field Day, then you need some practice. Portable operations are not quite the same as Field Day. Close, but not quite the same. First off, your activation more than likely won't be for 24 hours, so you're going to have to consider power. Power is the most important thing. 4, 5 or 6 hours at the 100 Watt level? You're going to need to bring heavy, fully charged deep cycle batteries with you. 4, 5 or 6 hours at QRP levels? Life gets much easier. Smaller, lighter SLAs or better yet, feather-weight lithium ion batteries will serve you well.

Second, you may very well be "it". Solo ... a party of one. So that means all the work will be performed by you. Make sure your setup will be manageable by you, alone without any outside help. Don't be overly ambitious. There's nothing wrong with just tossing a wire into a tree and going "au natural". If you can manage elaborate that's all well and good, but this is supposed to be enjoyable for you, too. The KISS\* principle is a good one to remember and it applies to NPOTA and portable ops in general, very, very well.

Antennas. Unfortunately, there is no "one size fits all" solution, but the idea is to make a lot of contacts. You don't want to spend all your precious time setting up aerials to get on the air, so go with antennas that are relatively easy to set up quickly. Operating stationary mobile from the car? Hamsticks, Buddisticks, Buddipoles, screwdriver antennas are all good choices. Operating away from the car? End fed wires, Buddipoles, Buddisticks, dipole antennas, and the Alex Loop are all good choices, but again, your environment (presence of trees or not?) and/or park rules will be a big factor in deciding what you can or cannot use.

Logging. Logging is one of the most important aspects of NPOTA, and you really can't be casual about it. So far, in the early moments of NPOTA, it appears as though this program is quite the huge hit. It's not unusual to tune across the HF bands and hear pileups taking place. All these NPOTA chasers want credit for their time and effort. It's your duty as an Activator, to do your best to record the QSOs as reasonably accurately as you can. Bring an accurate watch with you, preferably one that can be set up to display UTC time. For the actual



task of logging, whether you bring along your laptop, or log on your cellphone (Hamlog is excellent for this!), or even log using plain ol' paper and pencil, you need to perform this task efficiently and well. Keep in mind that you will need to upload your logs to the ARRL's Logbook of the World. This is how Activators and Chasers get credit. If you're not already on LotW, then you need to send in for a password and set up an account. If you're already an LotW user, you will need to download and install the latest version of Trusted QSL. This will allow you to set up locations for your account other than "Home" using the NPOTA entity designators as location names. **THIS IS IMPORTANT!** If you do not upload your log using the NPOTA entity designator as your location, neither you or your chasers will get credit for all your effort. Believe me, you do not want hundreds of e-mails from angry NPOTA chasers asking you why they didn't get credit for working you. Not that that would ever, ever happen! ;-)



If your NPOTA activation will be your first solo portable experience, go to a local park away from home and try your setup there. Some people would recommend setting up in the backyard, but it's way too convenient to just walk back into the house if you've forgotten something. When you're away from home, even if it's a short distance, and you discover you have forgotten something vital, you are way more than likely to never, ever forget it again. Don't feel bad about making a checklist for yourself. Checklists are very, very good things.

3) Know yourself. Know your limits. Everyone would like to go hiking and activate that trail, or activate that park in the middle of the beauty and solitude of Nature .....but if you can't walk to the corner mailbox without getting winded - you're not going to activate a SOTA peak or a mountain trail. If you need to, find a place with a parking lot (gives you the option to operate from the car if you're not the outdoors type or if the weather is bad), picnic tables (if you're only somewhat the outdoors type) and "facilities" so your activation can be an enjoyable, exhilarating experience that you will want to repeat, and not look back upon with dread. You're most likely to enjoy your outing if you're comfortable, so dress appropriately, bring along water (and snacks if you need to), bring along some type of folding chair if you think it will be required.

4) Bring your cell phone and one of whatever VHF, UHF, VHF/UHF handheld(s) you may own. God forbid you sprain an ankle and need help, it just a call way, via telephone call or a repeater contact. The cell phone has an added benefit. If you are lucky enough to have cell service at your chosen location, you can log onto DX Summit or DX Heat and you can self spot your activation. You can quite literally go from calling CQ to pile up conditions within seconds. If you do self spot, please make sure to put "NPOTA" and your entity designator in the comments portion of the spot.

I really hope the above doesn't scare you off or deter you. It wasn't meant to, it was meant to bring some common sense ideas to be considered by new, or less experienced portable operators. Once you've left the shack and have gotten into the Great Outdoors, with your radio providing you with fun and companionship, I guarantee that you will be smitten and will want to go out and do it again, and again, and again, and again.

One last caveat. I am by no means an expert on portable ops. I'm not a SOTA Mountain Goat, nor a WIPID nor a WG0AT nor a N7UN, nor a K0JQZ for that matter. I'm just offering basic advice based upon my own limited experience. The comment box is always open, so please feel free to add to what I have written here; or correct me on anything I may have gotten wrong. We all learn when we share.

(<http://w2lj.blogspot.com/2016/01/some-friendly-npota-and-portable-ops-in.html> )

## ***DX and Contest SIG***

***Chuck, W8PT***



During our last meeting we set out to choose what contests K8BF would be entering. The following events were chosen:

**Idaho QSO Party** - 1900UTC Mar 12 to 1900UTC Mar 13

**Wisconsin QSO Party** - 1800UTC Mar 13 to 0100UTC Mar 14

We participated in these last year and did pretty well in the Wisc party. Since there are not a lot of HAMS in Idaho, we thought we try this again also.

**Georgia QSO Party** - 1800UTC Apr 9 to 2359UTC Apr 10

**PCARS Special Event Station** - 1500UTC Apr 23 to 0100UTC Apr 24

Since May 7th will be our Antenna Day Full Operating practice set up for Field Day, we thought we'd take the time to really make use of the day and work in some of the following:

**7th Call Area QSO Party** - 1300UTC May 7 to 0700UTC May 8

**Indiana QSO Party** - 1600UTC May 7 to 0400UTC May 8

**Delaware QSO Party** - 1700UTC May 7 to 2359UTC May 8

**New England QSO Party** - 2000UTC May 7 to 2400UTC May 8

During our set up for Antenna Day, we will be making the decision as to which event where we will make an effort.

**2016 Field Day** - 1800UTC Jun 25 to 2100UTC Jun 26 - This is our MAIN event each year.

**Ohio QSO Party** - 1600UTC Aug 27 to 0400UTC Aug 28 Don't forget that we really advertize this as our ANNUAL OHIO BBQSO Party. Brats and burgers – what more can one ask for. Well, maybe HAM bands that cooperate with our station.

**California QSO Party** - 1600UTC Oct. 1 to 2159UTC Oct 2 I have to say that we have done very well in this contest and we improve every year. Here's hoping that we continue this trend.

So the above represents where K8BF will be playing for the rest of the year. I didn't forget about OSPOTA but that is an event we sponsor and it does not include K8BF's participation. I'd like to see even more PCARS members or friends of PCARS, participate in any or all of these events than we have had in the past. Watch for reports on each of these events as they get near.



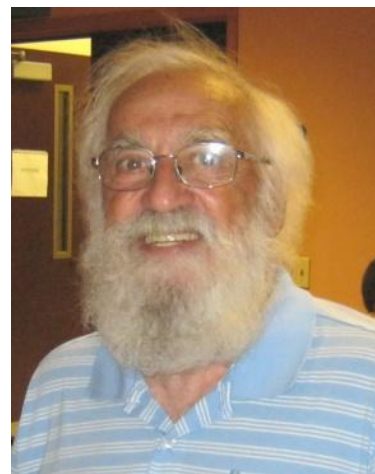


## Paper Chase

Joe, W8KNO

### Intergalactic Pi Day / Einstein's Birthday

On March 14th from, 0001Z-2359Z, N8P, The Lake Effect Amateur Radio Club of Marquette, MI will celebrate Einstein's Birthdat. To obtain a QSL, send your QSL card a SASE to: Lake Effect ARC / Pi, 36 Southfork St, Marquette, MI 49855. An event and celebration for the nerd in all of us!

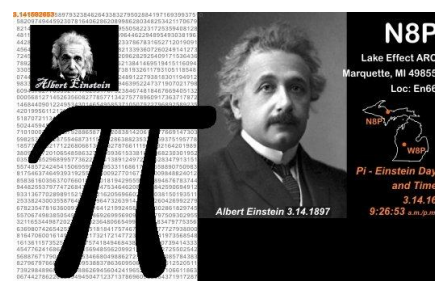


More information for the event can be found at: <https://www.qrz.com/db/N8P>

### Band/Ops Plan

Time (z)	Freq	Mode
00:01 - 03:00	14:070	PSK31 or until the band shuts down
12:00 - 14:00	14.270	SSB Might be hard to find an open freq, may have to move up or down.
14:01 - 18:59		Open for custom skeds, random pouncing
19:00 - 21:00	28.500	SSB
22:00 - 23:59	14.070	PSK 7.265 SSB

Hear you on the air!



## PCARS Thursday Net Control

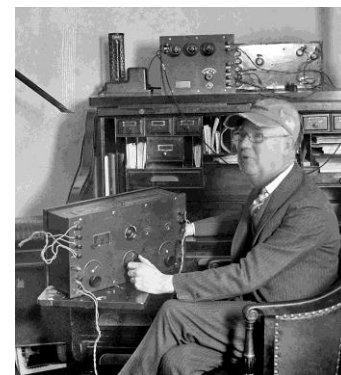
Tom, WB8LCD

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 !!

March	
3	WB8LCD
10	KB8UHN
17	KB8UUZ
24	NR8W
31	KC8PD

April	
7	K8CAV
14	N8RLG
21	KD8FDK
28	N8QE



The PCARS net is **BIG Fun** - tell your friends to check in via RF or EchoLink! If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a try, please contact me at: [WB8LCD@portcars.org](mailto:WB8LCD@portcars.org) Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn!

## Cycle 24 Activity - Lowest in nearly 200 Years

**Anthony Watts**



It has been a couple of months since WUWT (Watts Up With That) has checked in on the progress of solar cycle 24. Right now, the sun is in “cue ball” mode, with no large visible sunspots as seen below in the most recent Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) photo:

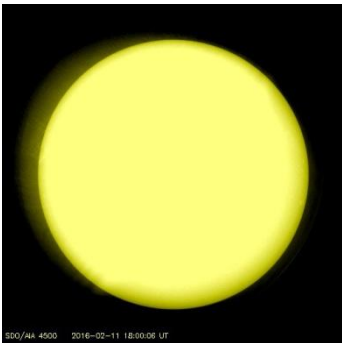


Figure 1: Plot of the monthly sunspot number so far for the current cycle (red line) compared to the mean solar cycle (blue line) and the similar solar cycle no. 5 (black).

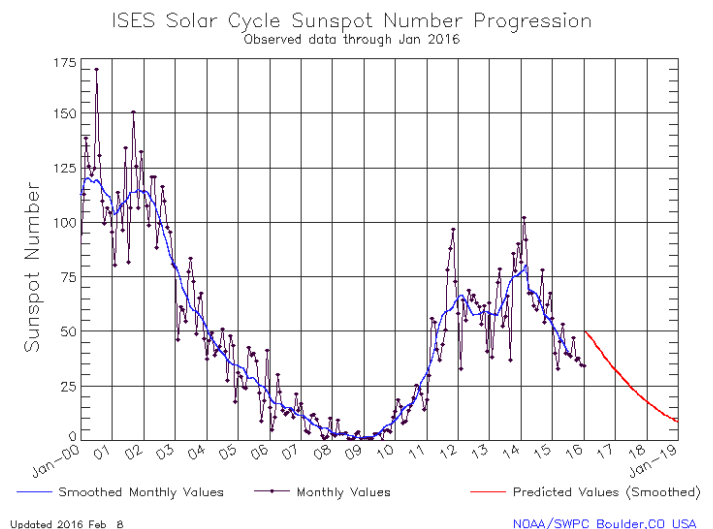
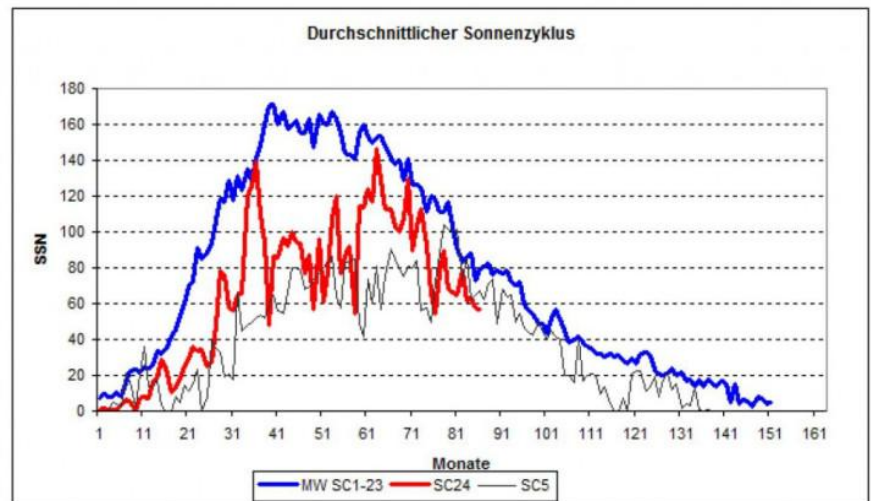
The earlier peak occurring at month number 35 (fall 2011) signaled the time of the SSN maximum at the sun's northern hemisphere. The later peaks occurring at about month no. 68 (mid 2014) are the SSN maximum for the sun's southern hemisphere.

They also have a prediction. (read about it here: <http://www.kaltesonne.de/die-sonne-im-januar-2016-rekorde-und-ozeanstromungen-der-golfstrom-bleibt-stabil/>).

As you can see from the plots in Figure 1, the current level of activity of solar cycle 24 seems close to that of solar cycle number 5, which occurred beginning in May 1798 and ending in December 1810 (thus falling within the Dalton Minimum ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalton\\_Minimum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalton_Minimum))). The maximum smoothed sunspot number (monthly number of sunspots averaged over a twelve-month period) observed during the solar cycle was 49.2, in February 1805 (the second lowest of any cycle to date, as a result of being part of the Dalton Minimum), and the minimum was zero.(ref: Wikipedia)

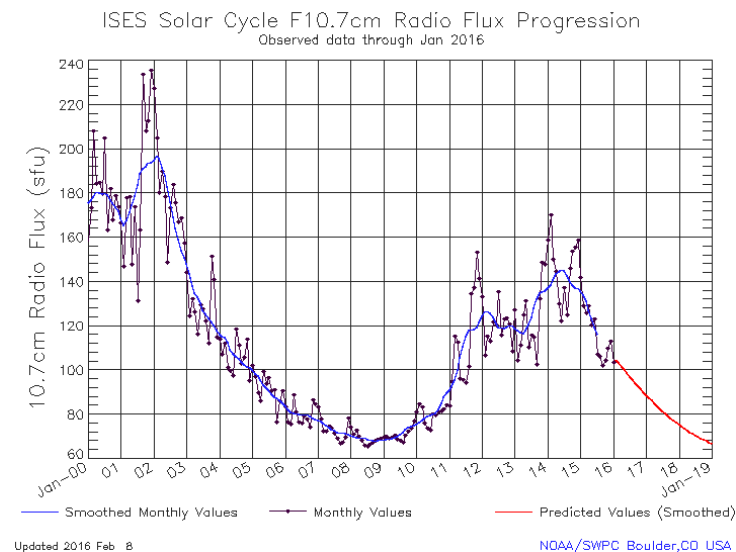
Since there is a new analysis out at Pierre Gosselin's website by Frank Bosse and Prof. Fritz Vahrenholt, I thought it would be a good time to do an update. They write:

[The sun was] rather quiet in January. The determined solar sunspot number (SSN) was 56.6, which is 71% of the mean this far into the period, calculated using the 23 previously measured solar cycles.



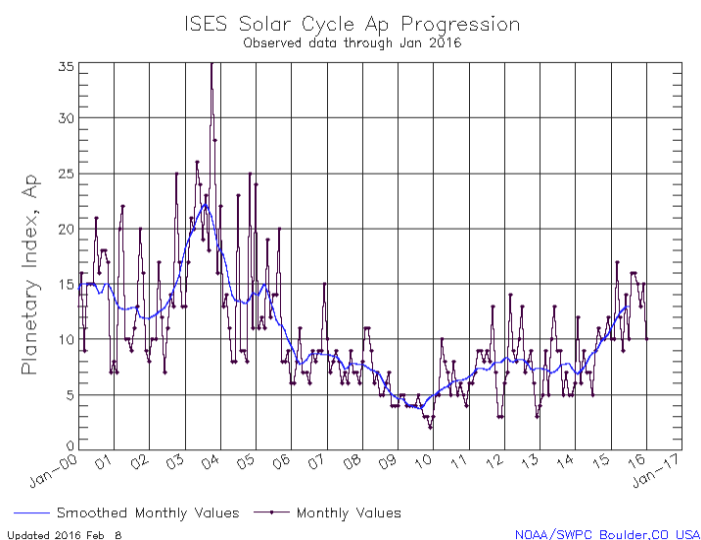


Below is what the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center has offered this month. Sunspot count continues below the red prediction line. 10.7 cm radio flux is about at the prediction level, and the Ap geomagnetic index continues to rise, suggesting that the solar magnetic dynamo might be a bit more active, but that activity isn't translating into increased sunspots or radio flux.



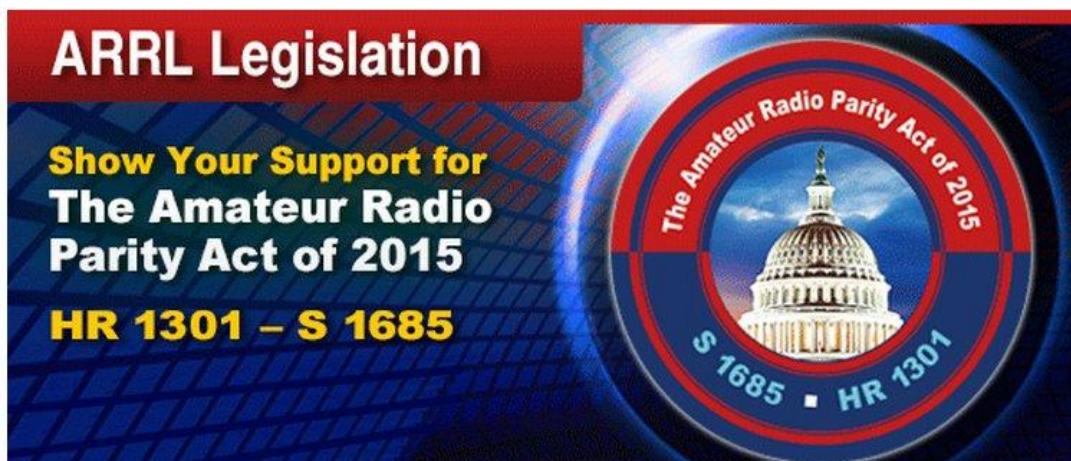
F10.7cm Radio Flux Progression

AP Progression



As always, there's more at the WUWT Solar Reference Page (<http://wattsupwiththat.com/reference-pages/solar/>)

Reprinted in the PCARS newsletter with permission from the Anthony Watts - WUWT (Watts Up With That) web site <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/02/11/solar-cycle-24-activity-continues-to-be-lowest-in-nearly-200-years/>



## IARU President Touts Amateur Radio

*From the ARRL*

### IARU President Touts Amateur Radio's Relevance in Emergency Communication

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, says Amateur Radio is “probably more relevant today than it was 25 years ago.” Ellam made the comment during an interview with Maximilian Jacobson-Gonzalez at the 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-2016), held in late January in Kuwait and sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The event's slogan was “Saving lives.”



IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, during an interview at the ITU 2nd Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications in Kuwait.

“We're so dependent now on all kinds of systems of communications — everyone has a cell phone, everyone is used to using the Internet — but they're not used to what happens when those systems go down,” Ellam said. “Amateur Radio is there. It relies on somewhat old fashioned technology, but there are also advancements in technology that we rely on.”



Ellam pointed out that hams can use computer-based digital techniques to pass message traffic at very low power levels and under poor propagation conditions. “Amateur Radio has kept pace by developing new ways to communicate,” he said.

Among the major challenges Amateur Radio is facing, Ellam cited the difficulty in some countries to obtain an Amateur Radio license. In addition, he said, some countries impose high duties on imported ham gear, and some make it difficult to erect appropriate antennas and support structures.

Ellam reiterated his focus on the value of the Amateur Service today when he spoke to two sessions at the GET-2016 gathering. “Amateur operators are on the ground. If they're not close to the site of a disaster, they might even be in it,” he told a Leaders' Dialogue forum. “They're there. They're ready to go. For the first 24 to 48 hours you have people on the ground, ready to assist. They own their own equipment. They don't rely on commercial networks. If cellular service goes down, we can assist by using HF or VHF or UHF communications on a peer-to-peer basis.”

Ellam pointed out that, although he's not an engineer and does not work in a technical field, he knows enough to get on the air using alternate power sources and a very simple wire antenna. “Don't forget the Amateur Radio services,” he implored those attending the forum. “They're a great asset to you in times of crisis.”

The ITU described GET-2016 as an international platform to discuss topics related to world-wide emergency telecommunication policy and disaster risk reduction.



## Exciting Times for Amateur Radio

*From the ARRL*

### New ARRL President Happy to be Part of “Exciting Times for Amateur Radio”

Making his inaugural ARRL National Convention appearance as ARRL President, Rick Roderick, K5UR, said he’s looking forward to meeting many League members in person in Orlando this week. The 2016 ARRL National Convention, February 12-14, is hosted by the Orlando HamCation®, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.

“We are embarking on a new era at ARRL as the second century begins,” President Roderick said. “I’m thrilled to be part of these exciting times for Amateur Radio.”

Over his term, President Roderick said, his emphasis will be on implementing the 5 year Strategic Plan that the ARRL Board of Directors adopted at its annual meeting in mid-January. Roderick said the plan “will help grow and advance Amateur Radio, and make the League stronger and more responsive to our members.”

He also said he’ll put forth a major effort to secure passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act as well as to urge improved enforcement by the FCC.

President Roderick, 63, is the ARRL’s 16th president, succeeding Kay Craigie, N3KN, who served for three terms as the League’s president. An ARRL Life Member, he has been a radio amateur for 48 years and lives in Little Rock, Arkansas.



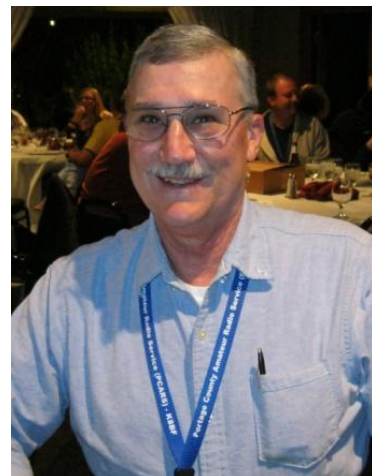
ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]

## Hamfest Schedule

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)

An advertisement for Radiosport magazine featuring ARRL awards. The background is a vibrant orange and yellow gradient. On the left, the word "Radiosport" is in white. Below it, the text "Show off your achievements with ARRL Awards" is in yellow and white. A list of awards includes "DXCC", "Worked All States", "VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC)", and "...and more". At the bottom left is the URL "http://www.arrl.org/awards". On the right, there are images of award certificates: "August UHF Contest", "VUCC Award", and "WAS - Worked All States Award". A yellow banner with the text "SPEEDY Processing!" is also visible.

**Rick, K8CAV**



In last month's newsletter in the Digital Special Interest Group column we talked about MESH networking hardware and listed sources for the hardware for folks interested in becoming capable of operating in MESH networks. We also said that the Ubiquiti nodes needed to be flashed with the MESH software and that the latest versions required careful flashing or you could turn your Ubiquiti into a seventy-five dollar brick. We said as well that the referenced VLAN switch needed to be set up properly so that it could accommodate a connection to the internet as well as to other IP devices. This month's meeting will give you the opportunity to bring that hardware in and have our resident expert Steve, K8SRR help you get either or both flashed and set up, and we can also help answer questions you may have involving MESH networking.

As a side note Zeb, KD8WZS and Steve, K8SRR recently set up three computers using Ubiquiti nodes and the N3FJP Field Day contest software to see how it would network and the results were very good. This should simplify our IT networking during Field Day and is a demonstration of the power of MESH networking.

As always, if you have questions or are having problems regarding digital communications, we will be available to do whatever we can to get them answered and resolved.

### PCARS Field Day Flex Station



I WANT YOU to be an operator or logger for the Flex Station for this year's PCARS Field Day! I know, it's not even daylight savings time yet and he's talking Filed Day? Yep I sure am because the Flex station plans some big improvements this year and besides, I want to get the jump on the other station captains for volunteers for Flex hi. For you daylight operators, we plan on having a triband beam up to cover all modes on 10 and 15 meters, and digital operations on 20 meters as well as CW on 20 meters. We're also planning separate wire dipoles for digital operations on 40 meters and all mode operations on 80 meters. This year I'd really like to get the Flex station staffed with more operators and loggers than we have in the past so we can have a very active and fun station.

Drop me a note ([K8CAV@portcars.org](mailto:K8CAV@portcars.org)) to let me know your preferred time and mode so I can get you on the schedule. Loggers really make things go smoother for the station so if you don't want to operate we could still use your help as a logger, just let me know when you'd like to help out.





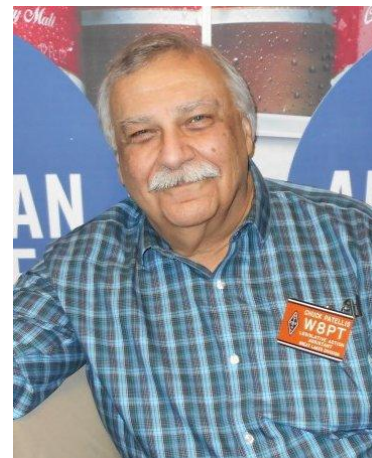
## Ohio QSO Party 2015 - PCARS Results

**Chuck, W8PT**

The 2015 Ohio QSO Party results have been posted and K8BF's efforts were somewhat better than 2014 but we still have a way to go before we can pat ourselves on the back.

I will list some of the results comparing our 2015 effort with those of 2014 so you can see where we improved.

Overall, our multi-op team finished 9th in Ohio and first in Portage County.



We ended up with 63,360 pts, having submitted a score of 72,312. So you can see that we need some improvement here. The biggest area of need is in the CW mode where we reported 126 Qs and only got credit for 107.

In 2014 we finished 10th in Ohio club scores with a total of 40,356 points. However, we submitted a score of 52,524. So you can tell that we are doing better.

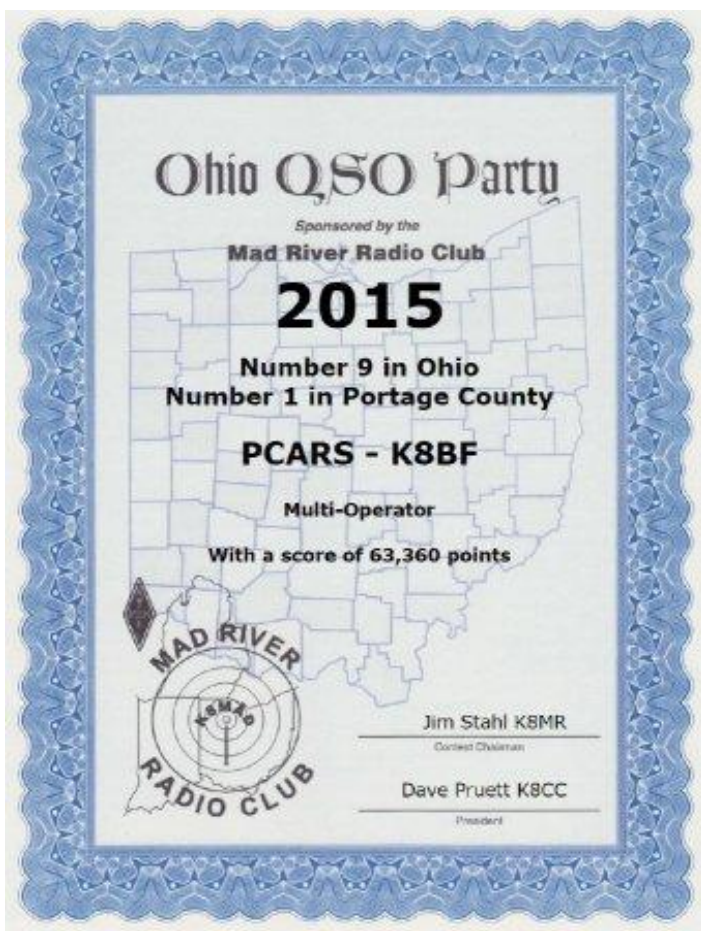
It's our intention to do some practicing between now and August when the 2016 OQP takes place. I'd like to see us cut our errors in half each year until we can finally submit a golden log. It's not impossible, but it will take work.

In any event, I want to thank those members who came out and placed their backsides in the op seats and made the contacts despite the noise issue, which hampered our efforts. I think I can safely say that in some cases, the noise may have contributed to some of our busted calls both on CW and SSB.

We will be looking for a good effort this coming August. In order to facilitate that, I will be putting together a couple of ops to possibly do a Saturday

practice session on copying call signs on CW. We may even use one of the more popular CW practice programs.

My thanks again to the operators and please look forward to getting a certificate suitable for framing when I pass them out at our next monthly meeting.



**PCARS**  
**Join Now**  
Discover the FUN



## Social Media and Ham Radio

**Dan, KB6NU**

In the last ten years, there's been an explosion in social media. I've found some to be really great. Others, I haven't found to be to my liking. Here are my opinions on a few of the most popular social media websites:



\* Twitter ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com)). I like Twitter. I have more than 3,000 followers on Twitter, and it's not only helped me sell more books, I've found out about a lot of great projects, and I've met and corresponded with a lot of great hams there. It's a lot of fun. If you have a Twitter account, follow me there. I'm @kb6nu.



\* Facebook ([facebook.com](https://facebook.com)). I have a Facebook account and I even have a page for my study guides. I don't like using Facebook, though, and avoid it when I can.



\* Reddit ([reddit.com/r/amateurradio](https://reddit.com/r/amateurradio)). Reddit hosts a very active amateur radio forum. What I like about Reddit is that these guys, unlike say the forums on eHam.Net or QRZ.Com are really interested in doing stuff, not just complaining or arguing. A lot of the hams on Reddit, and it's associated IRC channel (talk about retro!), #redditnet, have used my study guides, and apparently, I'm quite popular there.



\* Blab ([blab.im](https://blab.im)). Blab is an interesting concept. It's kind of like an interactive podcast. You can record the blab sessions and then post them to YouTube or your own website. When I suggested having a regular Blab session to talk about ham radio topics to my blog readers, they weren't very enthusiastic about it. Even so, I think that I'm just going to do it. Sometimes you just gotta go with your gut, and my gut says this could be fun and eventually popular. Blab is integrated with Twitter, so if you follow me on Twitter, you'll find out when I'm blabbing.

The biggest problem with participating on these social networks, of course, is that it takes a lot of time, time that could be used for building stuff or getting on the air. Even so, I would say that, overall, using them has certainly increased my enjoyment of amateur radio and has connected me to people that I probably would not have connected with otherwise.

What do you think? What social media accounts do you have? Which do you prefer? What have they done for you?

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





## Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



March is here and Spring is not far away now. But I'm sure that Old Man Winter still has some surprises for us before he is through. We have had some really good opportunities to work a few DXpeditions and there are a few more coming up. So let's take a look into the near future to see what will be going on.

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.

Please remember that this report "could" contain pirate operations or more likely a "busted call sign". So as I have repeated many times, WFWL (Work First Worry Later).

**3C, EQUATORIAL GUINEA** (Update). Ken, LA7GIA, was expected to be active as 3C7GIA from Malabo Island (AF-010) between Nov 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>

**3DA, SWAZILAND.** Ops Arkady/UA4CC and Arunas/LY2IJ will be active as 3DA0CC and 3DA0IJ, from Mozambique between Mar 8-15th. Activity on the HF bands but with focus on the low bands. QSL 3DA0CC via UA4CC, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. QSL 3DA0IJ via LY2IJ, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

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

**4W, TIMOR LESTE.** Dick, DJ2EH, Dick, is now active as 4W/DJ2EH. The length of his stay is unknown at this time. Activity has been on 160/80/40/30/ 20/17/15/12/10 meters using CW only. QSL via his home call.

**5J, SAN ANDRES** (Update). The Polish Team of operators announced that they would be active as 5J0P from San Luis, San Andres Island (NA-033), between March 6-21st. Operators mentioned are Bob/SP2EBG, Jan/SP3CYY, Jurek/SP3GEM, Janusz/SP6IXF, Roman/SP9FOW, Piotr/SP9RCL, Woj/SP9PT (Team Leader) and Janusz/SQ2OFS. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1822.5, 3515, 7015, 10115, 14015, 18075, 21015, 24895 and 28015 kHz  
SSB - 1845, 3795, 7085/7155, 14273, 18135, 21273, 24965 and 28485 kHz  
RTTY - 3585, 7045, 10139, 14085, 18103, 21085, 24915 and 28085 kHz  
6m - 50105/CW and 50115/SSB -- 6m Tips available on their Web page

**5X, UGANDA.** Alan, G3X AQ, will once again be active as 5X1XA from a new QTH between March 4-16th. Activity is usually on 80-10 meters CW only, but his primary focus will be on the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (March 12-13th). QSL via G3SWH, OQRS or LoTW.

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

**D2, ANGOLA.** Paulo, CT1ITE, is now active as D2/CT1ITE from Luanda until the end of March. Activity will be limited to spare time on 80-10 meters (possibly 160m) using CW and SSB. QSL via his home call sign.

**DU, PHILIPPINES** (IOTA Op). Bodo, DF8DX, is planning to activate three IOTA Groups in the Philippines during April. His tentative schedule is: April 9-14th -- Palawan Island (OC-128); call sign DU1WQY/1. April 14-19th -- Mindanao Island (OC-130); call sign DU1WQY/8. April 19-24th -- Luzon Island (OC-042); call sign DU1WQY. Activity usually will be on 40-10 meters using 100 watts into a vertical antenna. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW.

**E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS.** Don, VE7AQA, will be active as E51AQA from Rarotonga Island (OC-013) between March 4-19th. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using SSB. QSL via VE7AQA.

**ET, ETHIOPIA** (Update). The Ukrainian operators continue to be active as ET7L from the INSA Radio Club in Mekanisa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Activity will be limited due to their work duties, but they are expected to be active for at least 2-4 months. Most of their activity has been on 30/17/15/12 meters using CW and SSB, but the operators are now active on 160/80/40 meters. Operators are members of UT7L Contest Club (Yarik/UW7LL and Andy/UR4LRQ). Logs will be uploaded daily on Clublog; OQRS will be later. LoTW, as usual, after the end of operation. QSL Manager is US0LW. The Web site is now up and running with updates and log search at: <http://et7l.dxer.com.ua>

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

**GD4, ISLE OF MAN.** John, GW4SKA, will be active as GD4SKA from the Isle of Man (EU-116) between March 15-23rd. Activity will be mainly on RTTY with some PSK when things slow down. Operations will be on 80-10 meters using a TS590S, Acom 600S amp, Hexbeam, wires and verticals for the low bands. John will also be active as GD0A in the BARTG HF RTTY Contest (March 19-20th). Logs will be posted on ClubLog daily. QSL via M00XO OQRS or direct.



**HV, VATICAN.** Francesco, IK0FVC, the Team Leader of HV0A, seems to be showing up every Sunday around 1400-1630z on various bands and modes. This past Sunday he was on 20 meters RTTY and the week before on 17 meters SSB. QSL via IK0FVC (direct only) or LoTW.

**PJ7, SINT MAARTEN.** Joel, HB9EYA, will be active as PJ7/HB9EYA from Sint Maarten (NA-105) between March 27-31st. Activity will be QRP on 40/20/15/10 meters (in evenings) using a FT-817ND into a LDG Z-817 antenna autotuner and a "Gipsy Windcamp" portable dipole antenna (7-30 MHz). QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau or direct. NO eQSL.

**RI1, ANTARCTICA.** Mikhail, RW1AI, active as RI1AND from Novolazarevskaya Base (AN-016, WAP RUS-09) April 2016 to April 2017. Activity on HF Bands - CW, SSB & Digital modes. QSL via RW1AI.

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

**T8, PALAU.** Yuji, JF1DIR, will be active as T88IR from Koror Island (OC-009) between March 20-25th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters using CW and the Digital mode mainly. Yuji states he will not be on 12, 17, 80, 160m because of no antennas. His equipment will be a TS-2000 and FT-950 with a 500w amplifier into a 8 element Yagi for 6m, Tribander for 20-10m and a RDP for 40/30m. QSL via JF1DIR, by the Bureau or direct to: Yuji Hirose, 2512-6-302 Enzo Chigasaki-City, Kanagawa, JAPAN, 253-0084. Please DO NOT QSL T88IR via Bureau. Also QSL via LoTW and eQSL. ClubLog will be available for a log search, but not it's OQRS.

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

**V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS.** A few sources are reporting that Jim, AH6OY, will be active from Majuro Island (OC-029) between March 1-7th. His call sign is pending. He plans to participate in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (March 5-6th). "The Daily DX" states, "He'll be taking an IC-7000, and maybe an amplifier. Two spiderpoles or a 5 band Spiderbeam will be used for activity on 40-10 meters and possibly 80 meters for operations on SSB, CW, RTTY and JT65." Listen for QSL instructions.

**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 February and March 2016 from several different locations in Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Territory using KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST and VY0RST to further promote Amateur Radio up north. This is a first for the north- a joint venture KL7, VY1, VE8 and VY0 special event! All modes 6-160 meters and WARC bands are permissible. SWLs are welcome to participate. The object is to work or log (SWL) as many NCDXA "RST" stations as you can from their different locations. Work/log each "RST" station only once per their QTH/band and mode. For a wildcard, Portable "RST" Stations will also participate and are worth 3 points each/mode and band but must be the "RST" stations mentioned above! The portable stations must be outside their own prefix to count (ie-KL7RST/KL7 does not count but KL7RST/VY1, VY1RST/KL7, VY0RST/VE8 etc. do). Watch the DX spots as they plan to have stations on from Whitehorse,

Yellowknife, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and many other cities (maybe an Alaskan glacier or two!). QSL Manager is K7ICE. KL7YK is LoTW administrator for Alaska, VY1MB for Yukon and VY0CF for Nunavut. Optional full color certificates are also available (email - <JohnKL7JR@gmail.com> for details) for working/hearing any of the "RST" stations. (QSLs printed by KB3IFH)

SPECIAL EVENT DATE: February 15th (0001z) through March 27th (2359z), 2016

EXCHANGE: NCDXA "RST" stations send signal report and QTH (ie. - 5x7 Anchorage, 5x9 Whitehorse etc.). Receiving stations send signal report and state, province or country.

CERTIFICATE LEVELS: Beautiful full color certificates are available for working/logging:

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

**XW, LAOS.** Makoto, JA7FGI, will be active as XW7FG from Vientiane between March 29th and April 4th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using SSB, RTTY and possibly PSK31. There will be a focus on the high bands. QSL via JA7FGI, by the Bureau or eQSL.

## ***IOTA NEWS***

**AS-145.** A Group from Southern Thailand DX Club (STDXC) will be active as E20HHK/p from **Maeo Island** between March 3-5th. Operators are E20HHK, HS3NBR, HS8GLR, HS9HK, HS8JCV, E23CAL and E24NNG. QSL via E20HHK.

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

[www.a91hi.com](http://www.a91hi.com) [www.facebook.com/a9iota](http://www.facebook.com/a9iota) [http://twitter.com/A9\\_IOTA](http://twitter.com/A9_IOTA)

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

*Well there you have it for March and a little beyond. Get on the air and work some DX. Have fun with your hobby. Until next month, 73*





## Mansfield Hamfest Report

*John, KD8MQ*

Well, this year's Mansfield Hamfest was definitely one for the record books. Mid-Winter Hamfest? Bah! Next year, how about renaming it the Mansfield Early Spring Hamfest? Temps in the 40s, and 50s should have helped the attendance numbers. Along with meeting up with a few PCARS members, I spoke to one fellow who said that he showed up this year only because of the mild weather.



This year's event was moved back a week so as not to conflict with the ARRL Convention in Orlando. It was nice to not have two Ham Radio events on Valentine's Day weekend this year. Ordinarily, we have Freeze Your Acorns Off on Saturday, followed by the Mansfield Hamfest on Sunday. This was a nice change that I hope continues into the future.



At this year's Hamfest, an announcement was made over the PA that Dean, KB8MG had passed away. For several years, Dean was the public face of the Mansfield Hamfest. If you ever reserved a table, or bought advanced tickets for Mansfield, then you likely recognize Dean's name. I'm not sure when he became a SK, but our condolences to all who knew him.

Only two buildings were in use this year, and the crowd may have been down a bit, but this is a trend I'm seeing at most hamfests I visit; not just Mansfield. Hopefully it's a trend that is reversible.

As Affiliated Club Coordinator, part of my job is to help work the ARRL table at as many hamfests as possible. While there, I got to visit with John, WA8KIW, the editor of SW Ohio's Monday Morning Memo. Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Scott, N8SY, and Tom, W8WTD who were hard at work gathering signatures for the Amateur radio parity act petition.

I also met several folks who are participating in the National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) Event. Mike, W8RF stopped by to show off his purchase of a new portable rig to be used when activating parks. I also got to talk to Bob, K8MD, who is an ARRL Ohio Section Technical Specialist. Bob has been activating National Park Units like crazy. He's currently 4th on the Ohio Activators list. Lastly, I got to talk to Jeff, KE8BKP. Jeff is a new Ham, and shared that NPOTA is what provided the spark to get him active on HF.



Speaking of NPOTA, there's lots of on the air activity around this event. Each day as I monitor the NPOTA group on Facebook, I read reports from folks who are stepping outside of their comfort zone in order to participate. I shudder to think of what will happen on January 1st, 2017 when this grinds to a halt.

If you are on Facebook, and interested in NPOTA, I recommend looking up the NPOTA group. It's a terrific group with a lot of good information being posted regularly.

## Get Ready for Field Day 2016

### ARRL 2016 Field Day Packet Now Available, New Bonus Point Categories Announced



It's not too early to be thinking about [Field Day](#) 2016 and planning your club's strategy for a bigger score and greater participation than last year. Field Day is June 25-26 -- always the 4th full weekend in June -- and the 2016 ARRL Field Day Packet now is available to [download](#) as a PDF file. This year's Field Day introduces two new ways to score bonus points -- Social Media and Safety Officer.

**Rule 7.3.16 Social Media** offers 100 bonus points for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public via an active, recognized, and utilized social media platform, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. This bonus is available to bona fide Amateur Radio clubs and Field Day groups that welcome visitors to their operations. These bonus points are not available to *individual* participants, and club websites do not qualify as social media for this bonus. The bonus points are available to all Field Day entry classes meeting the criteria.

**Rule 7.3.17 Safety Officer** offers 100 bonus points by designating someone to serve as a Safety Officer for groups setting up Class A stations. This person must verify that all safety concerns on the Safety Check List -- found in the [ARRL Field Day Packet](#) -- have been adequately met. This is an *active* bonus. Simply designating someone as Safety Officer does not automatically earn the bonus points. In order to claim this bonus, participants must include a statement verifying the completion of the Safety Check List in the supporting documentation sent to ARRL Headquarters. Last year, 2720 stations submitted ARRL Field Day entries. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015 -- an increase of just over 1 percent. Nearly 35,400 individuals took part in Field Day last year.



The 2016 ARRL [Field Day](#) logo makes a connection to the League's year-long National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) operating event. NPOTA celebrates the centennial of the National Park Service ([NPS](#)). The design's featured hiking boot footprint anticipates that many 2016 Field Day groups and individual operators may want to combine FD and NPOTA, setting up at national parks, historic sites, or at any of the hundreds of official National Park Service units throughout the US. [Pick your park](#), get the okay from park officials, get out and get on the air, and leave *nothing but footprints*!

Follow Field Day on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (hashtag #ARRLFD). Share *your* plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day!

For more information about Field Day 2016, [contact](#) ARRL Headquarters.



## Swap-N-Shop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Contact: George, K3GP** by phone at 330-829-9504 evenings or weekends [05/02/16]

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

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

**Kenwood TS-811A**, 440 Mhz All Mode, \$300      **Kenwood SP430 Spkr**, \$40

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

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

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

**Nye Viking MBI-001 Tuner**, \$100      **Vibroplex Bug**, \$50

*If interested make offer. Also have Misc Tower parts*

**Contact: Allan, AB8AA** by phone at 330-207-3296 or e-mail at: [AB8AA@portcars.org](mailto:AB8AA@portcars.org) [04/02/16]

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

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

**Bird VHF slugs** - \$50 each      **Sure-444D Base Microphone** - wired for Kenwood 8-pin - \$45

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

**Contact: Jeff, WA8SAJ** by phone at 440-951-6406 [05/02/16]

**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]

**WANTED: QST Magazines** -April 1969, April 1991 February 1998, April 2007 and January 2014.

**WANTED: J-38 Straight Key** - Decent to good condition. Reasonably (cheap) price.

**Contact: Bucky, N8OQQ** by e-mail at: [N8OQQ@portcars.org](mailto:N8OQQ@portcars.org) [06/02/16]

**FOR SALE: For Sale Yaesu FT-991 HF/VHF/UHF all mode transceiver.** Purchased new August 2015. Includes Heil Proset headset adapter and RT Systems programming software with USB cable. \$1,500

**FOR SALE: NON-FUNCTIONING Icom IC-756** (non-pro model) HF transceiver **and Icom IC-R70 receiver.** Both units intact but not functioning, some manuals and documentation included. \$25 each or \$40 for both.

**FOR SALE: home-made 4 ft. x 8 ft. communications trailer**, rear swing-out door, 1-7/8 inch ball hitch, two crank-out windows with screens, all LED lights. Two, external/internal UHF bulkhead connectors, 120 VAC breaker box with external 120 VAC shore power connector, overhead light, 4 ft. folding bench. Wheel hubs equipped with Buddy bearing greasers and bras, includes new spare tire and rim. Low miles and tread wear on tires. \$90

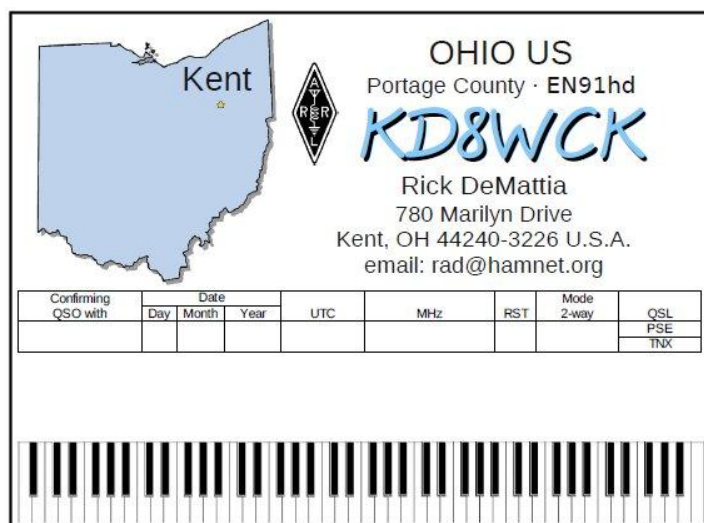
**Contact: Rick, K8CAV** by phone at 330-620-8826 or e-mail at: [K8CAV@portcars.org](mailto:K8CAV@portcars.org) [06/02/16]



## QSL from KD8WCK

**Rick, KD8WCK**

I'm a fairly new ham and operate on a shoestring budget, but I was pleased to make a contact in Guatemala TG9AHM Feb 19 on 20 meters at 2329Z in Olivia mode, and really surprised tonight Feb 22 0209Z to get KD0UUU in South Dakota on 40 meters also on Olivia.



OHIO US  
Portage County · EN91hd  
**KD8WCK**  
Rick DeMattia  
780 Marilyn Drive  
Kent, OH 44240-3226 U.S.A.  
email: rad@hamnet.org

Confirming QSO with	Date			UTC	MHz	RST	Mode 2-way	QSL PSE TNX
	Day	Month	Year					

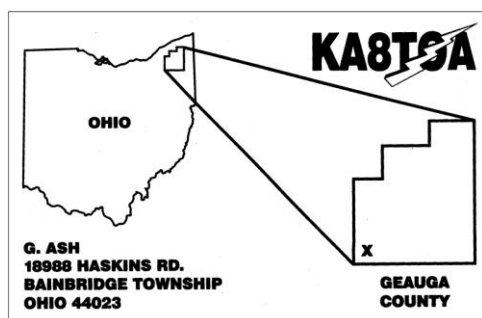
But my favorite recent Q was John KB8UHN at FYAO. He was operating in the cold on the south end of the park, and after I went home into the warm I rummaged around for the mic, figured out how to attach it to the FT-890, and made him my first phone HF Q since July 2014 when I was first on the air as General. Probably about a mile-and-a-half on 40 meters, but what the heck a Q is a Q for FYAO!

All I can say is, if any members have an HF rig and no antenna, just for the heck of it run a long wire and get on the air - you may be really surprised what you can do with a really bad antenna!

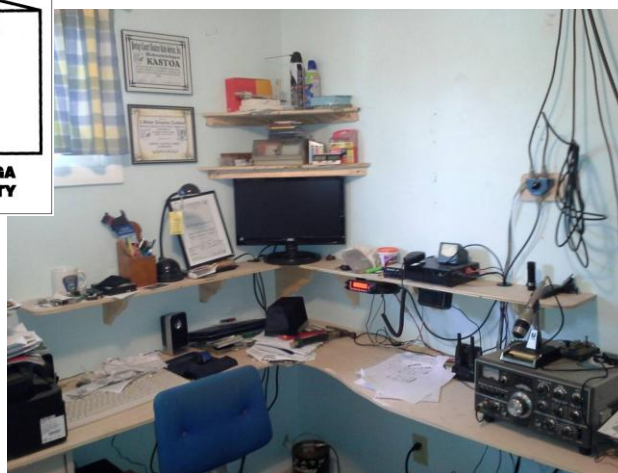


## Shack Shot & QSL from KA8TOA

**Greg, KA8TOA**



Yaesu FT-7900 for VHF and UHF with digital capability.



Yaesu radio is connected to a dual band vertical antenna and a Yagi dual band antenna. Using a Samlex SEC 1223 power supply. My HF rig is a Kenwood TS-520SE hooked up to a 5 band vertical antenna as well as a 40 meter inverted-V dipole.





## 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/>



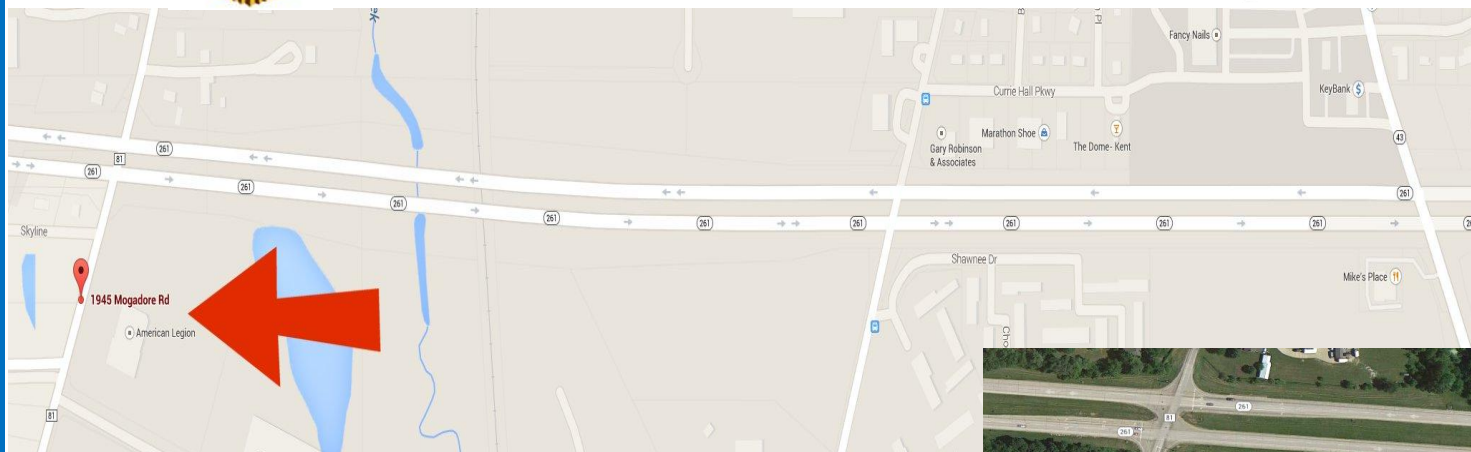


## PCARS Meetings

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.



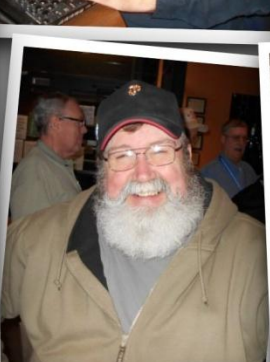
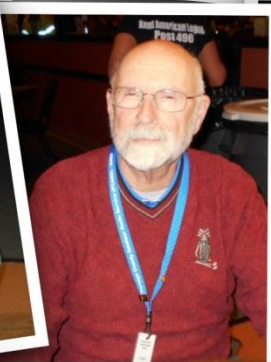
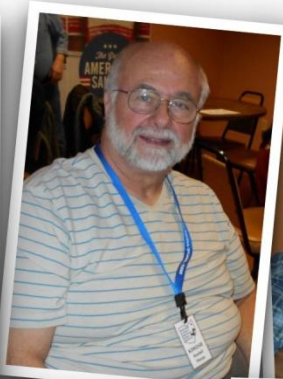
*The picture on the left shows  
The American Legion Post 496  
as viewed from Mogadore Road.  
(looking East)*

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 February PCARS Meeting*





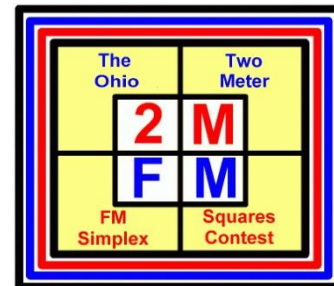


# PCARS

## 8 February 2016



## 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ohio 2M FM Simplex Squares Contest



Mark your calendars and reserve the last full weekend in April to participate in a fun and exciting 2 Meter Contest that offers both awards and prizes of value.

During each of two 5 hour contest windows (one on Saturday **April 23rd** from 11 am to 4 pm and one on Sunday **April 24th** from 1 pm until 6 pm) make as many contacts with other Hams as you can using 2 meter FM in the designated simplex windows. During the contact, you must exchange call signs, modes, and 6 character Maidenhead Grid Square locations with each other.

Like most Ham contests each valid contact counts towards achievement awards like “Most Contacts” and “Longest Distance Contact”, however in this contest, each valid contact will also earn you 2 or more “points”. These points become entries in a random drawing to be held in late May for prizes of value. Scoring favors mobile over base and portable over mobile contacts so plan on getting out and about for the contest. Currently we have DX Engineering Gift Certificates committed by the hosting club (Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club) and its members, and we expect more prizes to be announced in the near future.

A duplicate contact to the same station is still considered valid if one of the two sides has moved to a new 6 character grid square. That’s not far, because in this section of the country, 6 character grid squares are only about 3 by 4 miles in size. Also, because it’s an Ohio contest, one side of the contact must be from a 6 character grid square that is at least partially within the political boundary of the State of Ohio.

Finding your 6 character grid square location is relatively easy these days, especially if you have a Smart phone. There is an app called QTH (free for Android phones, a dollar or two for iPhones) that will tell you what 6 character grid square you are in. It displays a map that you can zoom in and out of, showing grid square boundaries in relation for cities and roads.

Don’t have a smart phone? Many GPS units can be configured to display your location in 6 character Maidenhead Grid Square format. There are also web sites that allow you to display grid square boundaries overlaid on maps. These can be printed and taken with you if you want to operate mobile or portable.

The points you earn are determined for each contact you make and based on your operating mode; 2 for base, 5 for mobile and 10 for portable. Your operating mode is **NOT** defined the way the FCC used to specify. Portable means all your equipment, including power, was carried or wheeled to the operating site by human or animal power. Mobile means you are using equipment installed in or on a motor or recreational vehicle or are getting power from such, and base means you are using permanently installed equipment or getting power from the AC mains. For example, using an HT and a hand held antenna in your back yard is considered portable, but if you disconnect the hand held antenna and connect the coax that runs to the beam on your tower, your operating mode is now base.

This is primarily a single operator contest, and while club and contest stations are encouraged to participate and submit logs, they are not eligible to win prizes or earn single operator awards. However, Clubs can earn awards based on the aggregate log submissions of their members. When a single operator submits their log, they can specify their affiliated club. This is an excellent opportunity for clubs to hold an antenna building session and encourage and foster “Elmering” their newer and inactive members.

The contest web site, [www.cfarc.org/contest.php](http://www.cfarc.org/contest.php) has all the details including rules, a grid square overview, antenna construction plans, winning tips, the current list of prizes, FAQs, and more. Look it over and if you still have any unanswered questions, e-mail [o2mfmss@cfarc.org](mailto:o2mfmss@cfarc.org). Mark your calendar now and plan to have fun and get out and about and for the second annual Ohio 2 Meter FM Simplex Squares Contest!



## Important Dates During March

**March 4 - Day of Unplugging** - Established in 2003 - Just what is the Day of Unplugging? Well, it is no secret that we are increasingly connected to the world around us. Smartphones, tablets, WiFi access and the Internet have enabled us to be connected to the entire world 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every single day of the year. This offers endless possibilities and has of course widened many people's horizons immensely by showing them what the world is like thousands of miles away. However, there are also times in our lives when we seem to forget just how necessary it is to step back from our digital devices and other gadgetry and actually perform the ancient art of speaking with people around us and observe the world that is all around us, and not just the pixels forming images of reality on the screen in front of us. Not to mention how much we could help the environment by deciding to set our electrical equipment aside every now and then and just meet up with the people we're endlessly e-chatting with for a coffee. The Day of Unplugging was created to do all of these things and more.

**March 9 - Panic Day** - It was Rudyard Kipling who penned the immortal lines: 'If you can keep your head, while all around are losing theirs ... you've probably forgotten it's Panic Day'.

**March 31 - World Backup Day** - Have you backed up your data recently? Every day people, businesses, even games lose huge amounts of valuable data because they fail to follow this one basic procedure. World Backup Day is set aside as a reminder to back up your files, even if it's once a year! A backup is a reserve copy of all the files you'd be loathe to use. There's nothing more traumatizing than having losing your phone, or having your hard drive crash, and having hundreds of valuable and irreplaceable documents or photos suddenly gone beyond retrieval.

## 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:

**K8CAV, AC8NT, W8PT, KB8UUZ, N8RLG, N8IL, KC8PD, W2LJ, W8KNO, WB8LCD, KB6NU, KD8MQ, KD8WCK, KA8TOA, W8EZT, Anthony Watts, The ARRL, and the World-Wide Web.**

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





# Portage County SKYWARN



**Spotters Training  
Severe Weather 2016**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016**  
**6:00 PM....Basic SKYWARN Spotter Training**

**Location:**  
**Maplewood Career Center**  
**Lowell B. Myers Dining Room (Cafeteria)**  
**7075 State Route 88**  
**Ravenna, Ohio 44266**

**Instructor:**  
**Michelle Sowers**  
**Emergency Management Specialist**  
**Northeast Region-Ohio Emergency Management Agency**

## **Severe Weather Spotter Training**

Learn how to identify and report severe weather using cloud formations and other weather indicators. SKYWARN spotters are a vital part of the National Weather Service warning system. The training is free and typically lasts about 2 hours.

To become a spotter, attendance at a storm spotter class is required. Pre-registration is not required. You will receive spotter information at the training and be registered with the National Weather Service. The target audience for the training is Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Amateur Radio Operators, School Representatives, and any individual with a weather interest.

*ID cards are no longer issued, participants must visit <http://www.weather.gov> to download and print the card and training certificate*



**Sponsored by:**  
**The Portage County Board of Commissioners and the**  
**Portage County Office of Homeland Security &**  
**Emergency Management Agency**



# Pioneer Amateur Radio Fellowship, Inc.

## Dayton Hamvention 2016

### Saturday, May 21, 2016 - 5:30 AM



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

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

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

**\$70\* before April 15, 2016**

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

**\$55\* after April 15, 2016**

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

P.A.R.F. reserves the right to cancel this trip should a minimum of 22 riders not be secured by April 15th. If that happens, a full refund will be made. Otherwise, cancellation by you at any time results in a \$5 deduction of refund for handling.

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

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

Parking will be in the back of the church.

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

Transportation is being provided by the Crossroads Transportation Company.

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

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

Joy Spencer [K8TDF](mailto:K8TDF)

2101 Bigelow St

Akron, OH 44314

**Or call 330-745-5115**

E-mail: [K8TDF@arri.net](mailto:K8TDF@arri.net)

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

**Location of Departure\*\*:**

Akron Baptist Temple, 2324 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44314

Located on Rt. 93 just north of Rt. 224

*\*\* The church is currently up for sale. We will keep you up to date should that happen and an alternative departure location is needed. (Rest assured, we will work to keep it within the local area.)*

Repeaters 147.135 & 146.610

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

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



# 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 ~		2016 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 Control Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
~ Meetings & Net ~  2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. 7pm  Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Public Information Officer	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Secretary	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
	Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers

 <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
	N8RLG	Robert Gurney
	W8RID	Robert Davet
	WA8CCU	Al Nagy
	NR8W	Russ Williams
	W8EZT	Frank Tompkins
	N8OQQ	Bryan Buchwalter
	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	KB3GXB	Jennifer Andrews

PCARS Incorporated  
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting  
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliated  
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club  
March 22, 2010

The **RADIOGRAM** is the official **Award Winning** (ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter First Place Winner for 2012 AND 2013. Second Place in the Great Lakes Division for 2013. Second Place ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter for 2014. Third Place Winner in the Ohio Section 2015) newsletter of the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)** – copyright © 2016. Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. The **RADIOGRAM** comes out the first day of each month (usually), please have inputs submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month. ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. **Why the Black Squirrel in our logo?** For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Seems that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961. They have migrated and thrived throughout our county. Kent State University even has an annual Black Squirrel Festival. So when you spot a black squirrel – **think PCARS!**

This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, The RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving this way are: You get **COLOR** pictures, active links, **NO** postage needed and the newsletter is delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! **The RADIOGRAM** is published every month and only sent to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list. Yes I know the cover says there is a cost, don't worry you won't get sent a bill or be hounded by bill collectors. Since this now looks like a magazine, I thought - what the heck, let's put a price on it. Every month it's listed in a different currency just for fun. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 20 kb ones.) to the newsletter editor: [kb8uuz@portcars.org](mailto:kb8uuz@portcars.org)



NLC



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