



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

September 2016 - Volume 11 Number 9

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**In This Issue -**

## **OSPOTA is HERE !**



**GET TO A STATE PARK  
and HAVE FUN**



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



**2106 Ohio  
BB-QSO Party  
Results and Pictures**



**PCARS K8BF**

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



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Volume 11 September 2016 Number 9



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## From the President

**Rick, K8CAV**  
PCARS President



Portage County Amateur Radio Service's, "The Radiogram" has again placed in the Ohio Section's annual newsletter contest. On August 6th, our newsletter editor Tom 'Parky' Parkinson KB8UUZ was on hand in Columbus to receive the Second Place award from the Ohio Section's Public Information Coordinator John KD8IDJ. In the ten-year existence of PCARS The Radiogram has placed either first, second, or third numerous times which is an exemplary achievement! Publishing a newsletter like "The Radiogram" with the volume and quality of content that Parky provides takes a tremendous amount of time, effort and love and every issue affirms the commitment Parky has made to it. Much of the success is also due to our members writing articles and providing other contributions for Parky to work with, so keep that coming to Parky. Congratulations Parky for a fine effort and thanks for giving us a great newsletter every month!

We have a lot of exciting events coming up for PCARS members to get involved with. The ninth annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest takes place on Saturday September 10th. This contest is a lot of fun to operate and I hope many of you are planning to get out to one of Ohio's fine State Parks to operate.

In the past PCARS has held one General Class upgrade class in January of each year. This year we decided to run a second class starting Wednesday September 14th at 7:00 PM. This is a great path to upgrade to General so if you're interested let Jim know as soon as possible.

PCARS is attempting its first-ever balloon launch on Saturday September 17th at the Freedom Park in Freedom township, the same place we had Field Day this year. Jim, AC8NT is heading this up and the hope is we'll make the 80,000 ft. to 100,000 ft. level in the atmosphere. What Jim really needs now is volunteers to help out, especially chase teams to track and recover the balloon. There's a fair amount of money in the payload package so if you have a mobile APRS setup we can really use your help. Please get in touch with Jim and let him know if you can help out.

Public Service events continue and this month we can really use some help for communications support for the Mantua Potato Stomp that takes place on Saturday morning, September 10th. Jim KC8PD is the coordinator for the communications team so let him know if you can help out.

I've talked a lot about the fact that much of the reason PCARS has become the quality club it's become is because we have so many of our members that commit their time to chair or head up our many activities and events. We've also had a lot of participation by our members in these activities and events but we've noticed a bit of a drop off lately. Sometimes it's easy to say, "well I'm just a technician and I don't know about that contesting stuff" or, "I'm just not into that digital stuff", or other reasons you don't get out to PCARS events. Often times we're hesitant about trying something new for fear of failing or other reasons that keep you away. PCARS and its members is one of those unique organizations that value every one of you that participates in any activity or event we hold regardless of "newbie" or "old timer" status or what level of expertise you may have. That said the first step is yours so the next time something's on the calendar for PCARS, come on out even if it's just to watch and listen, and set yourself up for a very enjoyable time.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## From the Vice President

**Jim, AC8NT**  
PCARS Vice President



This has been another busy month. At the club we have had the Cruz-in and a Get-on-the-Air day and a lot of work at the club site. At home I have been refining antenna designs for my magnetic loop and spiral dipole projects and building a WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Report) system for extreme QRP (milliwatt). It has been good to have indoor projects to keep busy with the temperatures and humidity both through the roof.

### Cruiz-In

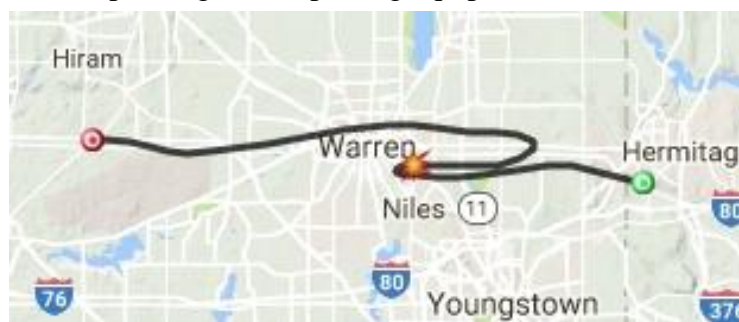
The Cruiz-in went well. The threat of bad weather, I believe, kept attendance down but we managed to get the voting completed and the awards made before the clouds opened up. It is a lot of fun to see how fellow hams setup their mobile rigs, especially the ones used with ARES® groups.

### Get-on-the-Air Day

Our first Get-on-the-Air day was interesting. We helped people answer antenna questions, work with software defined radios and complete build projects. We will be planning more of these events to allow hams, new and old, to finish projects and get on the air. I visit a lot of groups and there are still a lot of licensed hams that have not transitioned from 2 meter handhelds to HF. Usually it is an antenna issue and sometimes it is a little "mic fright". Hopefully PCARS can help get more hams up and running on HF. I would like to thank all those who showed up to help and get help.

### Balloon Launch

Our balloon launch is on for September 17th. Lately we have had serious wind problems. Launches from our area have landed as far and 130 East in Pennsylvania. Most have landed in heavily wooded areas and two have not been recovered. We have suspended launches until these jet stream winds move away from our area. I hope with will happen in the next week or so. Until then I am spending time replacing equipment that has been lost including cameras, APRS trackers and data loggers. We will have equipment ready for launch by the 17th. The Antenna SIG is also working on locating and equipping chase vehicles for the launch and I hope we will be driving a lot less than 100 miles for recovery. The launch is still planned from Freedom Park about 7 AM. If we would have launched Saturday the 27th, the predicted flight path would have been as shown on this map



### Next General Class

We have scheduled a General Class starting Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup> and continue for 8 weeks. If you know of anyone interested in upgrading to General, have them send me an email and we will put them on the list.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



## Monthly Meetings

The September meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> will feature Scott Yonally, N8SY our Ohio Section Manager. He will be talking about the benefits of ARRL membership and will also bring us up to date on issues the ARRL is addressing. We have rescheduled the 3D printing talk for our October meeting. It will feature Ryan Martin of MakerGear talking about useful ham radio things that can be made using 3D printing. More good topics are being developed for future meetings.

## QRP Build

We are rescheduling the QRP build for Saturday October 15th. We will be building a QRP antenna tuner. This little project is very useful for tuning those throw together antennas we often use in the field. Send me an email if you are interested. I will make sure we have enough kits for everyone.

## Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- September 10<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest - see the flier
- September 12<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting at the Kent American Legion - The ARRL - Scott, N8SY
- September 14<sup>th</sup> - General Upgrade Class starts at the club site - see the flier.
- September 17<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Balloon Launch - Freedom Community Park - details to follow
- October 1-2 - California QSO Party Contest at the Club Site
- October 15<sup>th</sup> - QRP Build Day - details to follow

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



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



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



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



# Columbus Hamfest & ARRL Ohio Section Conference

**Scott, N8SY**  
Ohio ARRL Section Manager



Saturday - August 6<sup>th</sup> - What a day it was..

## 2016 ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter Contest Winners

Boy what a night...and it wasn't the RNC or the NAACP Convention...it was the 2016 ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter judging! *INTENSE* is not strong enough of a word to describe all of the action...but in the end we have winners.

Here they are:

1st Place - The Mike & Key...Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association, INC.

## 2nd Place - The RADIOGRAM...Portage County Amateur Radio Service

3rd Place (TIE) - The Voice Coil...Mahoning Valley ARA  
ATCO Newsletter...Amateur Television in Central Ohio

Honorable Mention (TIE) CARA COMMUNICATOR...Cambridge Amateur Radio Association and The Spirit of '76 and '88...Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

### Judges' comments:

"All of the newsletters are really winners. A great deal of time, effort and passion went into writing them" "Even without detailed examination...they keep getting better!"



So, another contest year done and I am honored to have been a part of it. I can't think of anything than means more to me than seeing how alive and active amateur radio is and how its reputation keeps getting stronger.

Thanks to everyone that participated.. Each one of you is a true winner!!

## Allan Severson Memorial Award Winner

The Allan Severson Memorial Award is bestowed on an amateur radio operator in the Ohio Section who has demonstrated a continuing dedication to the advancement of amateur radio and to the Ohio Section. Usually one Ohio Section member is awarded per year and usually at the Ohio Section Conference in September.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





The award had been established in 1992 and was named "Ohio Ham of the Year" until 1999. That year it was renamed after Allan, of Lakewood, Ohio, who had become a silent key in 1997. The award winners listed here are all hams who, like Allan Severson, have dedicated themselves to the advancement of the American Radio Relay League in Ohio.

Although Allan had served the Section as Section Manager and went on to a distinguished career as Great Lakes Division Director on the ARRL National Board of Directors, the annual award announcement only mentions one sentence about him which is part of every memorial award certificate. That sentence quickly demonstrates the reason for the renaming of this award. "Allan's devotion to serve amateur radio inspired a whole generation of Ohio Section leadership."

The award this year goes to none other than: **John Myers, KD8MQ**

**Congratulations John...!!**



## PCARS VE Test Sessions

**Robert, N8RLG**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison

PCARS VE sessions for 2016 are scheduled for 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**AND** at the end of the General Study Class on **November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**

**Open for walk-ins as well**



### 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.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



## Contest Calendar

September 2016	
RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 3 to 1300Z, Sep 4
IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 3 to 1259Z, Sep 4
Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 3 to 0400Z, Sep 4
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 4
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 4 to 0300Z, Sep 5
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 10 to 2359Z, Sep 11
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Sep 10 to 1000Z, Sep 11
<b>Ohio State Parks on the Air</b>	<b>1600Z-2400Z, Sep 10</b>
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 10 to 0300Z, Sep 12
New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 17 to 0359Z, Sep 18 & 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 18
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 17 to 0400Z, Sep 18 & 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 18
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 17 to 0700Z, Sep 18 & 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 18
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 24 to 2400Z, Sep 25
Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 24 to 1200Z, Sep 25
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 24 to 0200Z, Sep 25 & 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 25

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



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



## 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)



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



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Ohio BB-QSO Party

**Chuck, W8PT**  
Contest Coordinator



As many of you know, this past Saturday, August 27th, PCARS participated in the Ohio QSO Party. I'm pleased to report that we had a very good turnout. We had 28 members and visitors sign in and I am sure that a few came and went without signing in.

We also had several that sat in the operator chairs and attempted to make contacts on some uncooperative bands. By looking at the reported point totals of other operators from other clubs, some had the same conditions that we had while others seem to be in a zone that allowed many contacts to be made. That's the vagaries of propagation.

In the end (we worked right up to the Midnight hour), we almost matched our total from last year. And that was really big since we had some difficulty at the beginning which was solved with commercial filters and a triplexer borrowed from **DX** Engineering (thanks Bob, W5OV).

We also suffered somewhat due to the fact that the antenna we use for 80 meters is less than optimal. That will be corrected in the next few weeks with two new dipoles for 40 and 80 meters respectively.

Later in the evening a pretty big storm blew through Ravenna with lots of thunder and lightning. We shut everything down until the foul weather passed.

I need to thank Tom Sly, WB8LCD, for providing his skills at the grill. He prepared some great tasting burgers and hot dogs that were enjoyed by all. If you went away hungry, it was your fault.

I also want to thank those who brought a dish to pass. All in all, the food was very delicious and much appreciated.

My thanks also goes out to those ops who spent a good amount of time with their backsides in the op chairs so that we could turn in a very respectable score.

Again, thank you to all those who made our 2016 Ohio BB-QSO Party event a **BIG FUN** success.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



# K8BF's Contest Summary Report for MRCC-OHQP

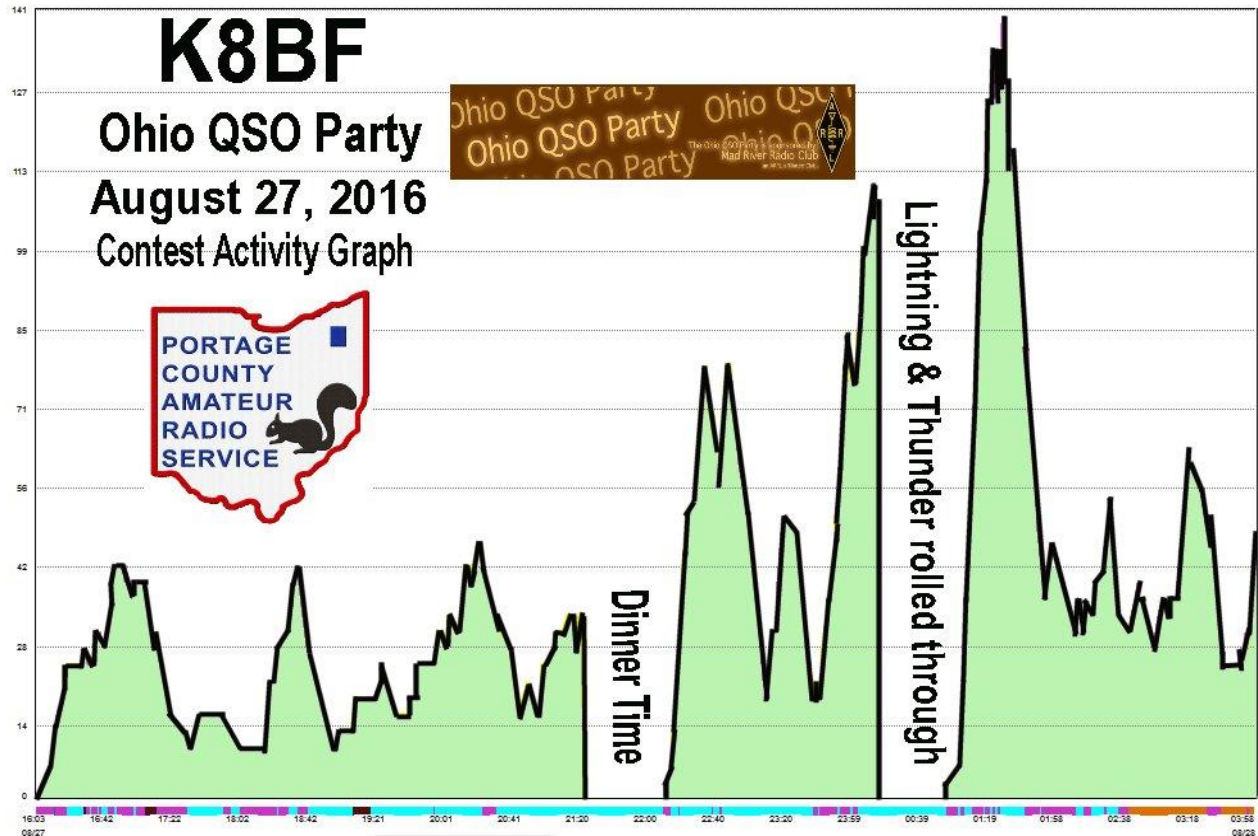
Total Contacts = 404      Total Points = 63,240  
 Contacts CW: 123      Mults CW: 43      Contacts Phone: 281      Mults Phone: 77

## Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	0	49	0	49	12
40	91	160	0	251	62
20	27	71	0	98	24
15	5	0	0	5	1
10	0	1	0	1	0
Total	123	281	0	404	100

## Total Contacts by Operators Making Contacts:

Operator	Total	%
KB8UUZ	142	35
W5OV	114	28
N8BI	59	15
K8CAV	28	7
N8QE	19	5
NR8W	19	5
KB8AMZ	7	2
KB8TUY	7	2
WA4WGA	5	1
WB9LBI	3	1
WA8CCU	1	0

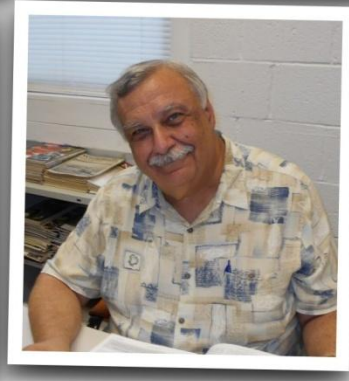
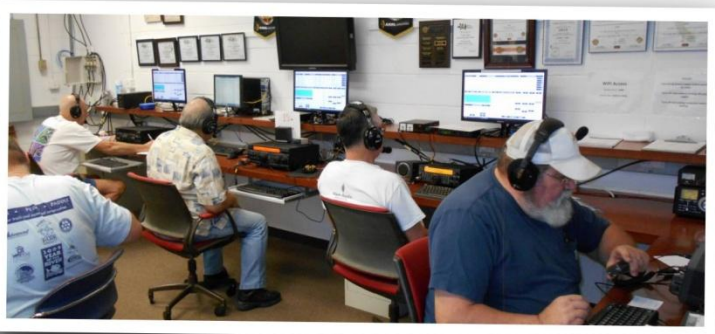


**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Pictures from the PCARS Ohio BB-QSO Party



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th







# Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th







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



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



# Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. - PCARS

**Putting the Big Fun in ham radio - K8BF**

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



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Scott, N8SY Re-elected as ARRL Ohio Section Manager

Balloted elections concluded on August 23, when ballots were counted at ARRL Headquarters.

In Ohio, **Scott Yonally, N8SY**, earned a new term of as SM, outpolling Matt Welch, W8DEC, of Windsor, 1392 to 483. Yonally, of Mansfield, has been Ohio's SM since 2014.



-----  
**Congratulations to Scott, N8SY !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## Field Day 2016 - 20 Meter Station

**Erica, AE8YL**



This was by far the best year for the 20 meter station since I have been captaining it. From a wonderfully RF quiet location to an interference squelching end to end line up, things were so much better from an on-air stand point.

Operating from the garage in the park was also significantly more comfortable than the trailer. What we lost in air-conditioning, we more than made up for in leg room.

The winch was another major improvement for setup and takedown of the twenty meter tower. Erecting the tower is the second biggest concern I have at Field Day; the biggest is lowering it with a very tired crew.

As always a great-big thanks to everyone who helped make it happen, from setup and teardown, to bringing food down to us, and of course the incredibly important time in the chair, operating or logging.

Never underestimate the importance of a good logger.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

KA8OAT	Richard	McPeak
W5OV	Bob	Naumann
WB8VYW	Mike	Hutsler
WD8BIW	Karen	Warner
KD8FME	Jim	Conlin
KD8HGI	Frank	Sheline III
KD8JRE	Michael	Harris
K5RDL	Ruben	Luevano

KD8ZDZ	Steven	Guldeman
N8KBX	Bob	Magree
KD8BBT	Andrew	Six
NT8K	Bob	Whiddon
AC8NT	Jim	Wilson
KD8VT	James	Andrews
KC8KYW	John	Kametz

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



## Ohio Section Special Recognition Award goes to KD8YVJ

In last month's issue of The RADIOGRAM an article was written congratulating Christopher Brault, KD8YVJ for being the recipient of the prestigious **Hiram Percy Maxim Award** from the ARRL.



On August 13<sup>th</sup> during the **DX** Engineering August Hot Deals in Tallmadge, Ohio, ARRL Ohio Section Manager Scott, N8SY presented Christopher, KD8YVJ with an **Ohio Section Special Recognition Award**.

The plaque states: "In recognition of a record of outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. This record consists of activities and achievements in Amateur Radio, which include support of the community through Amateur Radio, ability to recruit fellow students, scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities."



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



**Jim, KC8PD/AAF5PD**

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



It's that time of year again for National Preparedness Month. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the month of September is set aside for educational programs nationwide encouraging all of us, not just hams, to be prepared for natural disasters.

Many of us think that we have things covered for personal, family and business emergency preparedness. But there is always more to be learned and there are some handy resources for that.



Start out with FEMA's [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) web site. From brochures to checklists, whether for families or businesses, you will find a ton of helpful data. This includes everything from pandemics to house fires to natural disasters.

There is information about preparing all types of safety plans for individuals, households, communities, or even students on campus. You can also find recommended lists for the items you should include in your preparedness kits.

You can also find a lot of information on how to get involved in community activities and a wealth of information for businesses. For instance, you or your employer may want to take a look at the section on continuity of operations planning.

You can also check FEMA's emergency preparedness publications at <http://www.ready.gov/publications>.

The State of Ohio is also has some skin in this game and you will want to review <http://ready.ohio.gov/> which is the ReadyOhio web site.

And these days it almost goes without saying that there is an app for that! Find it at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fema/id474807486?ls=1&mt=8>

Check those sites out and get to work on making things safer for you and your family by being better prepared. And since it's the beginning of the month, have you charged all of those backup and HT batteries lately?

As always, a reminder of upcoming public service events:

- \* **Mantua Potato Stomp**, 9/10, contact Jim, KC8PD, [kc8pd@portcars.org](mailto:kc8pd@portcars.org)
- \* **Akron Marathon** – 9/24, signup at [http://www.summitares.org/signup\\_training.php](http://www.summitares.org/signup_training.php)



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## 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 !!**



September	
1	KB8UUZ
8	WB8LCD
15	K8CAV
22	NR8W
29	WB2DFC

October	
6	N8QE
13	WA8AR
20	could be you
27	could be you

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!

November	
3	could be you
10	could be you
17	could be you
24	could be you



## Tech Tip - A Calculator for Hams

Jim, AC8NT



Are you a ham that would like to upgrade to Extra but have trouble dealing with complex number ( $R+jX$ ,  $R-jX$ ) calculations or are you someone working on circuits requiring use of complex numbers. If so, I have a tool you can use to make your complex number math MUCH easier. It is the Casio FX-991EX calculator.

This calculator will do all the calculations required for the Extra test using both rectangular and polar forms. Entry of the numbers is very easy and within seconds you can solve any complex number problem. I recommend this calculator for any ham. It can do every calculation you need to support your hobby. Oh and did I say it is only \$16 on Amazon. For the price it is a great tool.

If you need a solution to a complex number calculation but don't want to use a hand calculator, visit the following website for an online calculator.



<https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/complex-number-calculator.html>



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Hamfest Report - Warren ARA Tailgate Party

*Joe, W8KNO*



On the 21st of August, the Warren Amateur Radio Association held its second

Tailgate Party. It was again held at Mosquito Lake and the weather was perfect. People were worried all week if the event would go off as scheduled since all the weather prognosticators were calling for rain. It may have gone north or south of the event none fell on it.



market.

The Party appeared to be a bit bigger than last year and that trend is anticipated to continue. Therefore, mark your calendar for the third Sunday in August.

The Party featured mobile check-in prize, a raffle, a Chinese Auction, card checking, plenty of good foods and of course the flea



The pictures are of Amy, KD8SKL and her father Wayne, K8FF and the Tailgate. Top picture is Amy and I.

## PCARS Annual Picnic a Success

The annual PCARS family picnic was held at the Ravenna VFW on July 16<sup>th</sup>. All reports from the picnic attendees indicate it was a great day for the picnic and there was plenty of great food to share. Thanks goes out to Greg, KA8TOA for sending in the pictures.



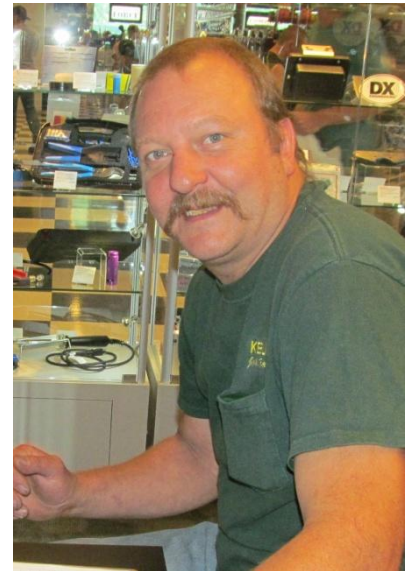


## Custom Cut Foam Radio Protection

**John, KB8UHN**

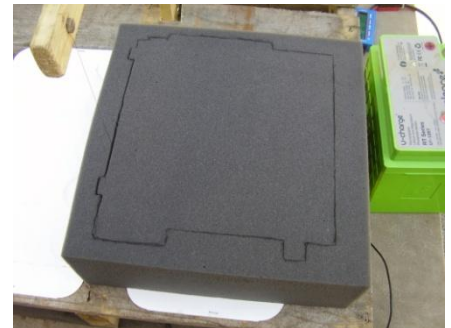
I recently purchased a new Icom IC-7300 to take with me to Ohio State Parks On The Air. I enjoy working portable operations, but have never really had a good way to transport my rig.

For years, I've used aluminum tool cases for carrying my equipment. They come filled with a block of "pluck and pull" foam, which is perforated such that you can pull parts of the foam out and create the shape you desire. The problem is the nature of its design. With all of the perforations, the foam itself is very weak and doesn't protect your equipment very well.



I stumbled onto some kind of instructions on the internet where someone used a guitar string to make a very nice hot-wire foam cutter. Well, I didn't want to go through all the work of building his design, not even sure if such a thing will work.

So I built a prototype. Borrowing a small pallet from work to make a table, screwing a piece of



wood vertically, and another horizontally at the top of the first piece, screwed loosely so it can swivel up and down. I secured one end of the guitar string under the pallet.

The guitar string easily poked through the four inch thick foam that I found on the online auction for about eight bucks. Secured the guitar string to the horizontal piece and then I used small bungee cords to make the spring tension.

The contraption performed like a dream when powered by a 12 volt battery and jumper wires clipped to the far ends of the guitar string. It pulled about 3.6 amps from the battery and was plenty hot enough to cut the foam like a hot knife through butter. Nice, smooth, plumb surfaces.



And the best part, I can take it apart and give back the pallet that I borrowed. I'll keep the pieces of wood and the guitar string in case I ever need to make another custom foam insert for some odd reason.



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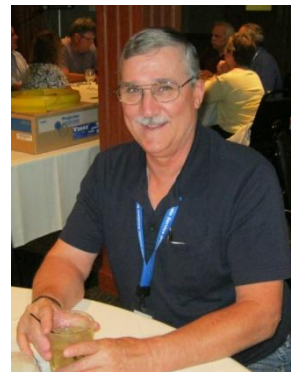


## Digital SIG

***Rick, K8CAV***

The next Digital Special Interest Group will meet on Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup> at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. This month we'll talk about different types of sound card interfaces, how the work, and why they're important for successful digital communications.

As always if you have any questions or problems we'll do our best to answer them for you.



## Stranger Things - Heathkit

***Paul, KD8SJE***

If you haven't already seen it, "Stranger Things" is Netflix's latest hit. It's sort of an "X-files meets the Goonies" 1980s sci-fi nostalgia-fest.

But the reason I'm mentioning it, is that a Ham Station plays an important role early on in the series—and it's mentioned by name, Heathkit.



They don't reveal much about the setup, but the kids are noticeably excited about using it. (They use handheld Realistic CB radios prominently throughout the first season too.)

Anyway...Stranger Things is a boffo series that I recommend, and I figured it'd be worth pointing out another case of Ham Radio reaching a mainstream audience,



# PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!





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# Hacking When It Counts: Spy Radios

**Dan Maloney**



World War II can be thought of as the first electronic war. Radio technology was firmly established commercially by the late 1930s and poised to make huge

contributions to the prosecution of the war on all sides. Radio was rapidly adopted into the battlefield, which led to advancements in miniaturization and ruggedization of previously bulky and fragile

vacuum tube gear. Radios were soon being used for everything from coordinating battlefield units to detonating anti-aircraft artillery shells.

But it was not just the battlefields of WWII that benefitted from radio technology. From apartments in Berlin to farmhouses in France, covert agents toiled away over sophisticated transceivers, keying in coded messages and listening for instructions. Spy radios were key clandestine assets, both during the war and later during the Cold War.

## The Limping Lady

Virginia Hall operating a British B2 spy radio from Vichy France. “Cuthbert” can be seen in the foreground.

**Source: Central Intelligence Agency**

Virginia Hall had all the makings of a diplomat. Impeccably educated, fluent in multiple languages, and worldly from her years spent abroad from her native Baltimore, Virginia’s dream of a life in the foreign service was shattered when a hunting accident led to the amputation of her left leg. Attitudes toward disabilities were different in the 1930s, and even fitted with a prosthetic leg (which she named “Cuthbert”) Virginia was deemed unfit for the life of a diplomat.



The outbreak of WWII changed that attitude. Virginia, by then living in France, was well-placed to act as a forward agent for the Allies. Volunteering first for the British Special Operations Executive (SOE), Virginia worked agents, ran safehouses, and reported intelligence from Vichy France. Later, she volunteered with the US Office of Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner to the CIA. Her efforts earned her a place on the Gestapo’s “Most Wanted” list as “The Limping Lady”. She and Cuthbert continued to work against the Nazis right up through the Normandy invasion and liberation and earned a Distinguished Service Cross for her efforts – a rare honor for a civilian, and rarer still for a woman.

## Behind Enemy Lines

**British Type A Mk II suitcase radio. © IWM (COM 229)**

While Virginia was adept in all aspects of tradecraft, one of the most powerful tools at her disposal was the suitcase radio, a catch-all term used to describe any transceiver small enough to be transported into the field and operated covertly. A suitcase was often used to house the radio as it would be less likely to arouse suspicion if the spy’s lair was discovered. The suitcase was also a great form factor



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for a portable transceiver – just the right size for the miniaturized radios of the day, good operational ergonomics, and perfect for quick setup and teardown. You can even imagine a spy minimally obfuscating the suitcase's real purpose with a thin layer of folded clothing packed over the radio.

Great care was given to ensure that the field agent would have every chance of using the radio successfully and that it would operate as long as possible under adverse conditions. With a power budget often limited to five watts or so, these radios were strictly QRP affairs. Almost every suitcase rig operated on the high-frequency bands between 3 MHz and 30 MHz, to take advantage of ionospheric skip and other forms of propagation. An antenna optimized for these bands would likely be a calling card to the enemy, especially in an urban setting, so controls were provided to tune almost any length of wire into a decent antenna. While some radios were capable of AM voice transmission, continuous wave (CW) modulation and Morse code was used almost exclusively for their ability to punch a signal through any natural (QRN) or man-made (QRM)

interference, the latter often being intentional jamming by the enemy. And to make sure the radio kept running, a full set of spares – fuses, tubes, crystals – was provided. Most radios even had a full schematic for troubleshooting. Operators were also meticulously trained:

**British B2 radio for field operations.**  
**Source: Crypto Museum**



While the suitcase ruse was perfect for urban and even rural operations, something a little sturdier was needed for true field operations. Resistance forces often found themselves deep in enemy territory and working outdoors in all weather conditions, so a

waterproof radio was needed. The British B2 radio was a good example of this; one variant was housed in two metal housings with padding for the delicate electronics. The waterproof containers were designed to be dropped to covert agents on a parachute and lugged around like a backpack.

## Bugs In Their Shoes

The end of WWII was by no means the end of electronic intelligence. Indeed, the advances in electronics spurred by the war gave the spies even more toys to prosecute the next phase of the twentieth century's seemingly unending wars – the Cold War.

Foreign service officers have always enjoyed diplomatic immunity, which today in places like New York City also apparently extends to parking ticket immunity. But it also makes any diplomatic mission a thinly disguised nest of spies in the host country. To take advantage of this, countries go to great lengths to gather data. Sometimes it's as simple as reading the local newspaper or watching activities at the docks or airport, and reporting information back to the home country in the inviolable diplomatic pouch. But some information is harder to get and requires a little electronic assistance. That's when the bugs come into play.

Some Cold War bugs were hugely successful, like Theremin's "Great Seal Bug" placed by Russian agents in the US Ambassador's residence in the late 1940s. It operated for nearly seven years before being discovered; the secret to its longevity was its passive operation, depending upon a resonant cavity that could transmit voice when illuminated by high-power radio waves. In hindsight, a group of Soviet scouts presenting an ambassador with an enormous carved wooden plaque probably should have seemed suspicious.



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Perhaps more subtle was the Romanian Securitate's attempts to bug diplomats in the 1960s and 1970s. Fashion not being a strong suit of Iron Curtain countries back in the day, Western diplomats in Romania preferred to order their attire from the fashionable shops of London and New York. With operatives in the Romanian post office, it was easy for the Securitate to intercept packages destined for consular personnel. Men's shoes were whisked away to the Securitate's technical division, where the heels were removed so that a tiny transmitter could be installed. The shoe was reassembled, sent on to the diplomat, and it would transmit for several days before the batteries died. One imagines that the audio quality must have been poor; pity the poor Romanian signals analyst listening to hours of shoes clapping down hallways. Such bugs were used up until they were discovered during routine sweeps that revealed the presence of radio signals that disappeared when diplomats were out of the room.



I've always maintained that pretty much anything that you can imagine is possible with electronics; as long as it doesn't violate the laws of physics, whatever you can imagine can probably be built. Few things spur the collective imagination and spirit of invention like war, and nothing focuses effort and resources better. It's a pity we put so much effort into fighting each other, but you've got to admire the ingenuity it takes to create devices like these, and the bravery of the men and women who take them into harm's way.

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From the HACKADAY web site: <http://hackaday.com/> Dan Maloney: Contributor

Dan has been a tinkerer since the days when Radio Shack still issued an annual paper catalog. Scientist by training but developer by necessity, Dan left his Ph.D. program with a Master's in biology when he realized that automating his experiments and data capture was far more interesting than the ribosomal whooziewhatsis he was supposed to be studying. His day job now is to keep the R&D pipeline filled at a Major Pharmaceutical Company by automating experiments and data capture. What goes around comes around.

The remainder of Dan's time is spent homesteading and trying to pry enough productivity out of 10 acres of New England glacial till and forest to sustain his family. While not remotely close to it yet, his goal is to free himself from the systems of support and build regenerative systems that require as few inputs as possible, which tweaks his hacker instincts as he searches for ways to automate his homestead as much as possible.

## 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)



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# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## OSPOTA - September 10th

Hello OSPOTA fans. Seems like Summer is passing faster than usual and that means the 9th annual OSPOTA is coming up sooner than you think. Make your plans, test that antenna set up, get out there and have some fun during OSPOTA 2015 on September 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8:00 pm local time.

We try to keep up on what's happening at the Ohio State Parks and as of July 25<sup>th</sup>, Latest word from ODNR is that Lake White Ohio State Park is still closed - they have construction going on with the earthen dam and the park -might- open again in 2017. Buckeye Lake Ohio State Park is open, but ODNR is doing work on the beach areas.

A note to remember - you are visiting an Ohio State Park. You are just a visitor, so please keep the area neat and clean and check the surrounding area to pick up any trash accidently dropped before you depart.

Also, as in the past, some park officials seem to think that since you are participating in OSPOTA, you need some sort of permit - You do not need a permit. You are just a visitor to the park that happens to be a ham operator testing out emergency communications with other hams in other state parks - again, you are a visitor to the park.



You have no special rights as to where you can set up and please don't make any demands to a Park Ranger. That's the easiest way to get tossed out of a State Park. Be polite, invite the Park Ranger(s) to see what you are doing and make sure you let him/her know that this is really like practicing emergency communications for public service. More and more governmental agencies such as Police, Public Health Departments, EMA, FEMA, Dept of Health & Human Services, Red Cross, etc. recognize how important amateur radio is for emergency communications. "***When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio Works***". Most of the time when you talk to the Park Rangers about this aspect - they think it's pretty cool and they leave you alone.

So - be polite - and most of all **HAVE FUN!** Take some pictures while you're out there, too. Check the rules again (they are posted here and on the main OSPOTA web site - since late last year). **Pick a Park and go for it!**



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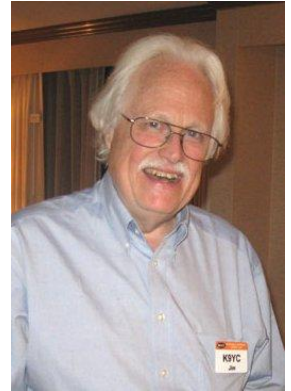




## Tips on Contesting

*Jim, K9YC*

**Editor's Note:** Adapted from an article  
Jim wrote on contesting



1) Read the rules for each contest before you start. They're usually pretty short and pretty simple. They define the exchange, how the contest is scored, the contest time, who can work who for credit, whether spotting clusters can be used, and things like operating power and operating frequencies.

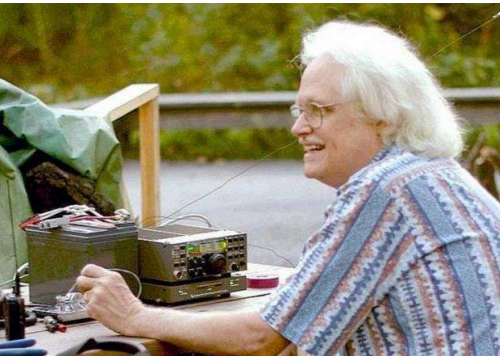
OSPOTA, for example, does permit the use of a spotting cluster. The exchange is PARK IDENTIFIER or STATE or DX. It's an 8 hour contest.

2) On the air, keep everything short and sweet. Learn to avoid wasting time with extra words. Avoid "lidisms" like "please copy," don't repeat the exchange the other guy gave you, don't waste time with "thanks for the QSO, 73, good luck in the contest." Most good testers use "thanks" or "thank you" to tell the other station the QSO is over, and they're ready for the next one.

3) When calling a station, send only your call, and only once on SSB. Listen for a second or two, and if the other station doesn't come back, send your call once more. And listen. (Two or more stations may have called at the same time and the other station didn't copy either one.) Say your call with standard phonetics, with good articulation.

4) When answering a CQ, NEVER send your exchange until the other station has sent you his exchange and you have copied it. For example, if he says "Kilo 8?" only send your call again. If he sends his exchange and you don't copy it, ask for a repeat, and do it with as few words as possible. For example, "K9YC Name?"

5) NEVER repeat anything that the other station has copied correctly. This is particularly important when you're weak or there is QRM or noise. Sending your call again wastes time, AND, more important, it makes him think he has it wrong, so he may ask you to repeat it, wasting more time.



6) When you're the station calling CQ, make your CQs short. "CQ OSPOTA, Kilo 8 Bravo Foxtrot, Kilo 8 Bravo Foxtrot" is the longest CQ to use.

7) NEVER use "QRZed" to finish a QSO -- the stations who want to work you are tuning the band looking for stations to work. They want to hear your call! When you're the CQing station, finish your QSO with "Thanks, Kilo 8 Bravo Foxtrot." When you only say "QRZed" that tuning station doesn't know your call, so it will waste time (yours and his) for him to find out. Or he may just keep on tuning for someone who DOES say his call.

8) When you're the CQing station, always give a station who may be waiting a chance to call you as soon as you've said "thanks." In other words, don't start another CQ after each QSO until you've listened a second or two for a station who has been waiting.

9) **Have fun. Keep a smile in your voice.**

10) Work on getting your station to SOUND good. This applications note tells how to adjust your radio so that the other station hears you better. <http://k9yc.com/ContestAudio.pdf>



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## *KD8MQ Receives the First Worked All Ohio State Parks Award*

At the August PCARS meeting, Tom, WB8LCD presented the **first** “Worked All Ohio State Parks Award” to John, KD8MQ.

Tom, WB8LCD started and sponsors this award to encourage operators to work from, and make contacts into the 74 Ohio State Parks.

This award is open to all Amateur Radio Operators with most contacts being made during the annual OSPOTA contests. This award allows verified contacts to be made anytime.

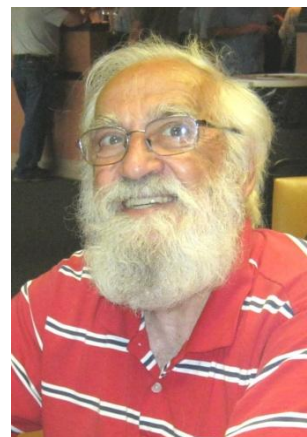
It took a long time for the first award to be claimed and **John, KD8MQ did it!**



## *Paper Chase*



*Joe, W8KNO*



The 15th anniversary of the Attack on the World Trade Center will be remembered by a special event sponsored by the Wireless Association of New York City, which remembers the more than 2,900 people who lost their lives.

The event will be on the air from the 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. You will be able to find them using

the call sign **WA2NYC** on or near 7.220, 21.330 or 28.450.  
For D-Star users - REF020C.

For a QSL, send your card and a SASE to:

Wireless Association of New York City  
233 Wolverine Street  
Staten Island, NY 10306



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## New Fairgrounds Venue "Perfect for Hamvention"

*From the ARRL*

**DX** Engineering's Tim Duffy, K3LR: New Fairgrounds Venue "Perfect for Hamvention"



**DX** Engineering Chief Operating Officer Tim Duffy, K3LR, says he's enthusiastic about the new Dayton Hamvention® venue at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio -- both as a vendor and as an individual radio amateur. DX Engineering recently produced a short video tour of the new Hamvention location, which includes an interview with Hamvention spokesperson Mike Kalter, W8CI.

Hamvention spokesman Mike Kalter, W8CI (left), chats on camera with **DX** Engineering COO Tim Duffy, K3LR.

"I can tell you that I have been hearing from all over the world a sigh of relief after [people] see the video we did at the Fairgrounds," Duffy told ARRL. "The new venue is huge, and it is clean -- it will be perfect for Hamvention." Duffy said he likes the Greene County Fairgrounds so much that he thinks that Hamvention will be even better at its new site than it had been for the past 10 years or so at Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio. Duffy, who is also ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager, encouraged the Amateur Radio community to support and encourage Hamvention's sponsor -- the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) as it makes the myriad arrangements for the big show. "This is a very tough job for an all-volunteer staff," he added.

Hamvention's new home: The Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. In the approximately 8-minute video, Kalter, who is DARA's treasurer, said he was happy that Duffy, as a Hamvention vendor, could see the new venue firsthand. "We consider this a collaboration," Kalter told Duffy. "We want everybody to be happy." [ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXXI18G0QA0> ]

For his part, Duffy was enthusiastic about the size of the new site. "This place is so big!" he said. The Fairgrounds covers more than 100 acres, and Duffy said he checked out every building. He told Kalter that he was impressed to see DARA volunteers showing up at the new Hamvention site every day as they prepare for their Xenia debut in 2017.

"What I saw here today -- I think you're well on your way," Duffy told Kalter. "Things are on the right track."

Kalter expressed the hope that DARA will be able to take Hamvention to "a whole new level" at its new location.



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## Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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

Greetings from my shack to yours. The warm WX is still here with high humidity to boot. If you are like me and do not have air conditioning, then I can presume that you have a large fan on when you are working DX. And for you guys that may still be running with boat anchors (big, hot tubes), my thoughts and best wishes go out to you.

There is a lot going on in the next few months to keep you DXers in the shack. There's a DXpedition going to Aves Island. Chatham Island will be activated. Both Western and Eastern Kiribati will be on the air. And I know this is WAY too early, but Central Kiribati where you don't normally hear anyone, will be on in 2017. We also have a short report on the new HAMVENTION venue. So read all about it in the following report. Let's get to it.

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, N4AA & QRZ DX, W4DN, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, W9ILY, N0FCD, CO3JK, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, IZ5HQB, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, RSGB IOTA Web Site, Sixitalia Weekly, VA3RJ & ICPO, VHF-DX-Portal(MMMonVHF) and VU2DSI for the following DX information.

And I have said it before and I will say it again, this report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know - "Work First Worry Later".

**COWS OVER THE WORLD (Update).** Tom, KC0W, and his all-CW "Cows Over the World" DXpeditions still continues and is now active as T2COW from Tuvalu until August 18th. Activity will be CW only on 160-6 meters using a K3 with a KPA500 amp (500 watts) into vertical antennas over salt water. He will be in all major CW contests. He updates his activities on his upcoming operations on QRZ.com. His tentative schedule is as follows:

Vanuatu (YJ): August 20th-September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Western Kiribati (T30COW): Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>
Solomon Islands: October 25th-November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Returns to Samoa (5W0COW): November 27th-???
Tokelau (ZK3): ???	Temotu Province (H40): (Depends on Tokelau)

Bangladesh (S2), Nepal (9N) Bhutan (A5): Exact dates unknown.

QSL via KC0W direct only. A log search will be available on ClubLog. He does not use LoTW. See QRZ.com for more details and updates.

**3B8, MAURITIUS** (6m Op!). Bernie, ZS4TX, will be active as 3B8TX from the northwest coast of Mauritius [LG89sx] between Sept 16-19, as part of a short visit to the island and a 6m EME DXpedition. The call sign 3B8TX was allocated by ICTA. Bernie states, "Mauritius is not rare in Europe on 6m. My operation will favor NA/SA moonrise and ZL/VK moonset. Please send me an E-mail for any special time/skeds that may not be covered in the proposed time frames. I will also be running a beacon during the daytime looking for possible Tropo openings towards Africa. Using IC-7100 & 6M8GJ. QSL via LoTW (preferred) or direct to ZS4TX

**5H, TANZANIA.** Chas, NK8O/VE3ISD, will once again be active as 5H3DX from Zinga, Tanzania, between Oct 20 and Nov 12. Activity will be from the pediatric hospital at Zinga. Usual operations will be holiday style. Power output will be the legal limit for Tanzania at 100w and the primary antenna should be a Hexbeam configured for 20-6 meters, including



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the WARC bands. Operations will be primarily CW. He states that he will use a simple wire antenna and his KX3 with a KXPA100 amp. QSL via EA7FTR, LoTW and eQSL.

**6V, SENEGAL** (IOTA Op). A team of Italian operators will be active as 6V1IS from Ngor and Gorée Islands (AF-045), Senegal, between Nov 6-16. This is a Humanitarian DXpedition. On various HF bands and modes. Operators and Team members mentioned are Leopoldo/I8LWL (Organizer), Alfredo/IK7JWX (Team leader/QSL Manager), Ampelia/IS0AGY, Christian/IS0BWM, Loredana/IS0FFR, Patrick/IS0FQK, Simon/IZ7ATN, Vincenzo/IZ8FRH, Enzo/IZ8LFI and Michele/IW7EGQ. Log will be available on ClubLog. The operation does have a FaceBook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1707060236221730>

**7P, LESOTHO** (Press Release, date August 18th) [edited]. Pista, HA5AO, will operate as 7P8AO from Lesotho between October 15-29th. The primary purpose of the trip is to deliver humanitarian aid and support to an orphanage. At his own expense Pista is supplying clothing, shoes and school supplies to the children. This will be his third visit to Lesotho to work with the children. When not at the orphanage, Pista will be operating mainly CW, on 80-6 meters. Log search and OQRS will be available on <[www.ha5ao.com](http://www.ha5ao.com)>. QSL to HA5AO.

**7Y, ALGERIA** (LH Ops). Operators from the Algerian Amateur Radio Union (ARU) will be active from five lighthouses in the next coming months. They will be using special call signs whose suffixes form the word "LIGHTHOUSE" as follows: 7Y9LI from Cap Ivi, 7Y9GH from Cap Tenes, 7Y9TH from Ras Afia, 7Y9OU from Cap Fer Marsa and 7Y9SE from Cap Sigli. QSL for all call signs are via SM4VPZ. Also, an electronic certificates and plaque are available. Details on the rules and trophy can be read here: <http://www.qrz.com/db/7X5ARU> The following call signs and schedule of operations are as follows:

CALLSIGN	Dates	Lighthouse/Ref # / QTH/WW Loc.
7Y9GH	September 21-26th	Cap Tenes Lighthouse/ALG-018 Chlef/JM06QN
7Y9TH	October 27-31st	Ras Afia Lighthouse/ALG-029 Jijel/JM26UT
7Y9OU	November 15-21st	Cap Fer Marsa Lighthouse/ALG-011 Skikda/JM37NC
7Y9SE	December 7-15th	Cap Sigil Lighthouse/ALG-016 Bejaia/JM26JV

For more details and updates, watch: <http://www.aru-dz.org>

**A3, TONGA** (Rare IOTA). Masa, JA0RQV, will once again be active from Tonga. This time he will activate Niuafu'ou Island (OC-123) as A35JP/P between September 28th and October 4th. It has been 6 years since last activation of A33A (by K6HFA). OC-123 is currently claimed by 17.9% of participants based on IOTA Web site (as of 11th August 2016). Operations will be on 80-6 meters using CW and SSB. His equipment is an IC-7300 (w/100W) into a vertical antenna. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau, direct (SASE w/1 IRC), LoTW or ClubLog. For more details and updates, visit his Blog page at: <http://blog.goo.ne.jp/rqv>

**D6, DOMOROS**. Ops Pavel/OK1FPS, David/OK6DJ, Pavel/OK1GK, Ruda/OK2ZA and Petr/OK1BOA active as D66D from Comoro Islands (AF-007) between mid-Sept and begin-Oct (September 18-30th). Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Antenna/radio setup is 3x Elecraft K3, 2x PA, Antennas 2 x Spiderbeam including WARC, 1x vertical 40/30m, 1 vertical 160/80m + special RX antenna for low bands. QSL via OK6DJ, LoTW or eQSL. For more details and update, see: [http://www.cdxcz.cz/?page\\_id=512](http://www.cdxcz.cz/?page_id=512)

**D44, CAPE VERDE**. Ralf, DK8FA, will once again be active as D44TUI from Boa Vista Island (AF-086) between September 15-29th. Activity will be mainly on 20 meters using the Digital modes. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau. No eQSL, No LoTW!

**E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS** (2017 Op!). Dom, M1KTA, active as E51KTA from Rarotonga Island (OC-013), Mar 10-19, 2017. Activity will be on various HF bands including an entry in the British Commonwealth (BERU) Contest (March 11-12th). Outside of the contest he will be on the WARC bands. QSL via his home call sign. For more details and updates, watch: <http://m1kta-qrp.blogspot.co.uk/2016/07/cook-islands.html>



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**HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN.** Operators Kasimir/DL2SBY and Henry, SP2FOV, will be active as HB0/homecall from Liechtenstein between September 11-18th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to use different antennas, Spiderbeam, verticals and a Delta Loop. Their equipment will be TS-2000, FT-900AT and amplifier ICOM 1010 with about 700 watts. QSL HB0/DL2SBY via DL2SBY, direct or the OQRS (Bureau/direct) via ClubLog ONLY. Do not send your QSL via the Bureau! QSL HB0/SP2FOV via SP2FOV, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW or ClubLog.

**JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA.** Take, JG8NQJ, is once again active as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island in the Minami Torishima (OC-073, JCG 10007) group for the next couple of months. He is usually there to work on the island's weather station. Activity will be limited to his spare time. He will be mainly on 17 meters but also on 20/15/12/10/6 meters CW. QSL via JA8CJY or by the Bureau via JG8NQJ.

**KH2, GUAM.** After his V63AJ from Yap Island (OC-012) [see OPDX.1247], Mike, DF8AN will be active as KH2/DF8AN from Guam Island (OC-026) between November 16-20th. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, PSK and RTTY. QSL via DF8AN, direct or by the Bureau. No eQSL or LoTW.

**PJ7, SINT MAARTEN.** Phil, WA1ZAM, will once again be active as PJ7PL from the Royal Palms Beach Resort on Sint Maarten Island (NA-105, WLOTA 383, DIFO FS-001) between October 22nd and November 5th. Activity will be holiday style and mostly on 20-10 meters using SSB. He will also be active in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 29-30th). QSL via his home call sign.

**PX0, FERNANDO DE NORONHA.** Fabio, PP5BZ, will be active as PX0F from Fernando de Noronha (SA-003) between September 23-28th. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands and modes. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

**T32, EAST KIRIBATI.** Ken, KH6QJ, will once again be active as T32AZ from Crystal Lodge, Kiritimati (Christmas Island) [OC-024], East Kiribati, between Sept 1-15. Activity will be on 80/40/20/15/10 meters using SSB. Operations will include entries in the All Asian DX SSB Contest (September 3-4th) and the Worked All Europe (WAE)DX SSB Contest (September 10-11th). QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

**YX0, AVES ISLAND.** - Late report - this one has been put on hold for the time being. Negotiations between the DXpedition and the Venezuela Navy are in the works.

**ZL7, CHATHAM ISLAND** (Update). Haru, JA1XGI, active as ZL7/W1XGI from Chatham Islands (OC-038) between Nov 24 and Dec 1. Activity will probably be on 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12m bands, using mainly CW with some RTTY, JT65 and PSK. Equipment is an IC-7300 into two different verticals. He also plans to be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 26-27th). QSL via JA1XGI, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW. For more details and updates, watch: <http://island.geocities.jp/chathamholiday>

## IOTA NEWS

**EU-041.** Andrea, IZ1MHY, will once again be active as IM0/IZ1MHY from **La Maddalena Island** between September 11-18th. Activity will be on CW, SSB, and the Digital modes. QSL via his home call sign direct, by the Bureau to 9A8ARS or LoTW.

That's the DX news for the next few months. Get on the air and work some DX and let me know if you worked anything rare. **Until next time, 73**



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Cruise-In 2016

*Jim, AC8NT*

The 7th annual Mobile Cruise-In held on August 17<sup>th</sup> went well. We had a great turn out of mobile set ups and hams looking for installation tips for their rigs as well.

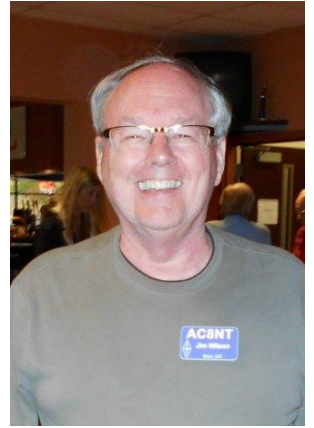
The threat of bad weather was closing in toward the end. But we managed to get the voting completed and the awards made before the clouds opened up. It is a lot of fun to see how fellow hams setup their mobile rigs, especially the ones used with ARES<sup>®</sup> groups.

The winners of the four categories were:

**Best Looking** 1st - W8SAJ 2nd - W6VM

**Ugliest** 1st - N8KBX 2nd - KD8OHJ

**Most Bands** 1st - W6VM 2nd - N8KBX **Best Safety Gear** 1st - N8KBX 2nd - W8SAJ



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Cruise-In 2016 Pictures



**7th annual Mobile Cruise In - August 17, 2016**



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Hamfest Calendar

**09/03/2016 - 67th Annaul Uniontown ARC (W3PIE) Gabfest** - Location: Uniontown Amateur Radio Club Grounds - 433 Old Pittsburgh Road - Uniontown, PA 15401 - Website: <http://www.w3pie.org> - Public Contact: Mike Kosco, KA3WOI - 12 Burlington Avenue Uniontown, PA 15401 - Phone: 724-437-3943 - Email: [mikeko@verizon.net](mailto:mikeko@verizon.net)

**09/11/2016 - Findlay Hamfest** - Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky Street - Findlay, OH 45839 - Website: <http://www.findlayradioclub.org> - Contact: Dave Hoxworth, AA8KJ - 1700 Stonehedge Drive Findlay, OH 45840 - Phone: 419-306-5013 - Email: [hamfest@findlayradioclub.org](mailto:hamfest@findlayradioclub.org)

**09/11/2016 - Butler County Amateur Radio Association BCARA SwapFest** - Location: Unionville Fire Dept - 102 Mahood Rd - Butler, PA 16001 - Website: <http://www.w3udx.org> - Contact: Rick Melton, N3VKM - 214 Criley Rd - Cabot, PA 16023 - Phone: 724 287-8134 - Email: [n3vkm@arrl.net](mailto:n3vkm@arrl.net)

**09/25/2016 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show** - Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Road - Berea, OH 44017 - Website: <http://www.hac.org> - Contact: Glenn Williams, AF8C - 4134 Stoney Ridge Road Avon, OH 44011 - Phone: 800-CLE-FEST - Email: [info-list@hac.org](mailto:info-list@hac.org)

**10/16/2016 - Conneaut ARC Hamfest** - Location: American Legion Post - 272 Broad Street - Conneaut, OH 44030 - Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1109527472432186/> - Public Contact: Michael Anderson, W3MJA - 1844 Dee Jay Avenue Erie, PA 16510 - Phone: 814-384-0443 - Email: [w3mja@yahoo.com](mailto:w3mja@yahoo.com)

**10/23/2016 - Massillon ARC Hamfest** - Location: Massillon Boy's and Girl's Club - 730 Duncan Street SW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Website: <http://www.w8np.org> - Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Drive NW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 - Email: [truss@sssnet.com](mailto:truss@sssnet.com)

**11/06/2016 - WACOM HAMFEST 2016** - Location: Washington County Fairgrounds - 2151 North Main Street - Washington, PA 15301 - Website: <http://www.wacomarc.org/hamfest.html> - Public Contact: Bud Plants, N3TIR - 236 Chambers Ridge Road West Alexander, PA 15376 - Phone: 724-350-6745 - Email: [bud@n3tir.com](mailto:bud@n3tir.com)



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



## Visit to the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs

Tom, WB8LCD

I early August I had opportunity to attend the monthly meeting of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, located in Santa Rosa, CA. SCRA has their social time and presentations in the first part of the meeting, and take care of their business in the last half of the meeting.



Upon entering the meeting place I signed in and walked up to a person and introduced myself. That person was also a new member of the club. We were both greeted by another person, who also introduced himself as a new member. As the meeting place filled up, I met many members, new members and prospective new hams. Very nice to see the number of new members in attendance! SCRA is obviously a growing club. Everyone was friendly, which made me feel right at home.



Their meeting topic for the evening was “Homebrew projects and boat anchors”. Kinda like our “Bring your rig night”. Many interesting projects were presented. A homebrew solar panel system for field operations, some first rigs and some interesting home brew rigs. Personally, I enjoyed hearing about making batteries for older radio gear. Most were using different combinations of modern batteries in either series or parallel, to obtain the

proper voltage and current combinations. The best part was that if you needed an old 67v battery, not only could you make the right combination of cells to come up with it, but, on the internet there are sites that will not only tell you how to do it, but they will provide you with original artwork so you can print and make the battery boxes that resemble identically the originals! Cool stuff – check it out. One member had a homemade 12v power distribution panel similar the the “Nut Runner” project we have done in the past. There was also discussion and planning for their MiniDX2016 event, which was a trip into the hills for portable operations. You can check out some photos of that here

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/39473485@N08/sets/72157672181388386/> or, you might just want to check out their website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/> .



It was a fun evening. Everyone made me feel welcome. I hope I can plan my future CA trips to coincide with their meetings and events! If you happen to be traveling around the country, Google the amateur radio clubs in the area you're going to then stop in and check them out – it's a lot of Big Fun!



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th





## Let's Talk

**Scott, N8SY**  
Ohio ARRL Section Manager



Wow.. Did the weather ever get miserable!! It's so hot that I haven't even been out on the motorcycle in a long while. It's just too hot to put the helmet on!!

Well, after last month's little flurry of exhausting exercises (two national conventions and a national air show, all within the same week) things are starting to settle back down a bit. I hope that you all enjoyed the Columbus Hamfest / ARRL Ohio Section Conference this year. The new location was great, and so was the weather. Wow, we couldn't have asked for better weather for sure, warm, sunny and just a nice breeze coming through the building to keep things somewhat comfortable.. The forums were inside where there was very good air conditioning, so there definitely wasn't anything to complain about there.

### Now, switching bands to another subject

Have you seen the NEWEST "Handbook Giveaway" drawing on the website yet? It's there...!! To enter the drawing all you need to do is fill in a couple of boxes on the form.. (your name and email). That's you need to do to be entered into a drawing to win a 2016 ARRL softcover Handbook. There's nothing else required (Oh.. You do need to be a resident of Ohio to win..) The winner will be mailed the Handbook at my cost. This is being offered just to see how many folks are really checking in on the website. Got the idea? Best of luck to you!!

Are you getting those emails from me? If not, all you have to do is to "Opt-In" to receive them. Heck, just send me an email [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) I'll get you added to the mailing list. There's a link to do this on the Ohio Section website, it's on the bottom left corner. For your convenience, here's a direct link to it: <http://arrl-ohio.org/forwarder/forwarding.html> I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up for one of these options. You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting.

### Let's shift bands once again

Let's talk about the Ohio Section Website.. You can find the Ohio Section Website at: <http://arrl-ohio.org> If you don't have this website set as your home page, I urge you to do so. It changes a lot and it's so important for you to be kept up to date with the very latest information.

Are you a member of the ARRL?? If you aren't a League member, this is a great opportunity to become one. Want more information on how to join? Here's the link: <http://www.arrl.org/membership-levels>. There's even a 90 day FREE trial that you can apply for if you've never been a member.. Got questions about being a member or what the League is all about? Send me an email [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) I'll be happy to call or write to you. We can even meet and have coffee if you'd like - and I'll buy!!

### One last spin of the dial

Lastly.. I'm always available for you, whether you're an ARRL member or not. If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to sit and chat awhile over a cup of coffee or something cold to drink, feel free to call or write me (419) 512-4445 or [n8sy@n8sy.com](mailto:n8sy@n8sy.com) That's going to do it for this month. I hope to see you all at your hamfests, club meetings or on the air!



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



## Swap-N-Shop

**FOR SALE: MFJ-259B Antenna Analyzer** with Case and rechargeable batteries. Good condition - \$160

**Yaesu FT-1000MP** - excellent condition with roofing filter and extra filters, manual - \$950

**Classic Hammarlund HQ-129** shortwave receiver, electrolytics and tubes replaced 5 years ago, average to good condition, \$100

**Ten Tec Corsair** - complete with external power supply and speaker, optional CW filter and manual - great CW rig - \$400 OBO

**Contact: George, K3GP at 330-829-9504** [09/02/16]

**FOR SALE: Tri-Ex Model LM-354 Tower** \$400 - **Cushcraft Model 520 20 Meter 5 El Beam** \$100 - **Hy-Gain Model T-2X Rotator** \$250 - **All the above together \$600**

**Kachina 505DSP** In great shape, original DSP radio, great for digital work \$400.

**Kenwood SP-430 Speaker** \$40

**Gwinstek Function Generator** \$25 **Gwinstek Digital Multimeter** \$25 **Albia Power Supply Dual Variable +15 & -15** \$25

**EZ Oscilloscope 60MHz Dual Channel** \$25 **Nye Viking, MBI-001 Tuner** \$100 **Sencore TF151, Transistor tester** \$25

**Shure model PE515, Microphone** \$25 **Shure model 444D, Microphone** \$25 **AEA model QT-1, Antenna tuner** \$25

**HEIL HTH, Handie talkie headset for Kenwood HT's** \$25

**Misc tower parts, lots contact me if interested. Will accept reasonable offers.**

**Contact: Allan, AB8AA at [AB8AA@portcars.org](mailto:AB8AA@portcars.org)** [10/02/16]

**FOR SALE: Base Antennas & Mosley Classic 36 6-element Tri-Bander** There are 3 Commercial Base Station antennas manufactured by **Antenna-Specialists Models: ASP-682 & ASP-680** factory tuned for the 2-meter band all 3 just came out of service with mounting clamps and N-connectors on the pigtails. Also there is a **Hustler Model: G6-270** dual-band base antenna, plus a **Diamond Model: X-50 ONA** dual-band base antenna, plus 2 tower standoffs, various coax cables, extra antenna clamps for mounting. This entire package and all for a price of \$700 for pickup only in N.E. Ohio (Cleveland area). NOTE: Will sell separate for each item, call for pricing.

**Yaesu FT-60:** \$100 **ICOM IC 91AD D-Star** \$100 **Bird VHF slugs** - \$50 each **Antenna Specialist 100 w mobile amp** - \$100

**Lafayette HA-410 10- Meter AM transceiver** w/AC cord, mobile hand mic., working. Plus two spare radios for parts - \$200.

**Contact: Jeff, WA8SAJ by phone at 440-951-6406** [09/02/16]



**FOR SALE: Cushcraft 3- element Mono-band 10 meter Yagi:** New \$ 289.95, will sell for \$ 125.00.

**M2 - 6M5XHP, 6 Meter Yagi 5-element** 18 ft boom: New \$ 419.95, will sell for \$ 125.00

**Contact: Ed, K8IV by e-mail at [K8IV@portcars.org](mailto:K8IV@portcars.org)** [10/02/16]

**FOR SALE: Rig Expert AA-30 - HF Antenna Analyzer** - Like new in box. No scratches or dings. Bought the 230-Zoom model, so I don't need this one now. Freq range: 0.1-30 MHz, LCD Screen, CD and 2 batteries. Cost new \$225, will sell for \$175.



**MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer - HF/VHF/UHF** - Works fine, about 15 years old, comes with MFJ-1312B wall charger, manual & box. Bought newer unit so this is excess gear for me. No batteries included. Costs new \$369. will sell for \$160.



**Contact: Tom, KB8UZZ by e-mail at [KB8UZZ@portcars.org](mailto:KB8UZZ@portcars.org)** [12/02/16]



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## National Parks On The Air

**John, KD8MQ**  
Ohio ARRL Section ACC



Hi everyone, we are in the dog days of summer for sure. There's nothing like kicking back in the air conditioned shack and working a few new parks. Or. . . How about if we say "the heck with the weather", and head out for some new adventures as an activator? There's still a lot of time left to get involved in the fun, either as a chaser, or an activator.

Well, the NPS centennial week just occurred August 20-27<sup>th</sup>. Hope you had the opportunity to be out there either chasing or activating a National Park. Also, don't forget to take pictures of your activations and post them to the Facebook - it would be great for the rest of us to enjoy.

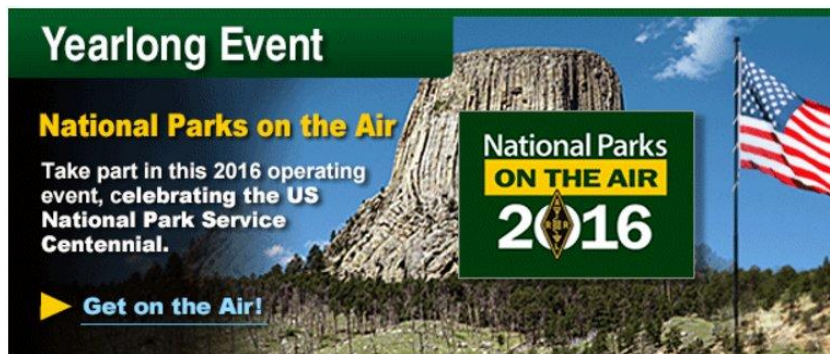
Speaking about Facebook, maybe it isn't your cup of Tea, but the Facebook NPOTA group is now over 4000 strong, and is a great place to get your fix of breaking NPOTA news. That's right; all the NPOTA news that is news usually breaks on the group first.

Add to that the cast of characters that frequent the group make it well worth the time spent checking in. For instance, we have Emily, KB3VVE who decided to learn CW because of conversations in the group. I won't give the story away here, since you can read all about it on page 77 of the September issue of QST. Another local Facebook group member worth mentioning is Jeff, KE8BKP. I first met him at this year's Mansfield Hamfest. Jeff was pretty excited about NPOTA. A day does not go by that Jeff is not posting spots to the Facebook group. According to the Stats page ([npota.arrl.org](http://npota.arrl.org)), Jeff has over 370 NPS units worked, and is number 6 on the leader board in Ohio (#72 overall).

And lastly this month, let's give a shout to Bob Voss, N4CD. An avid County hunter, Bob edits the County Hunter News. Residing at the #2 spot overall, he currently has NPOTA activations to his credit (This number will increase once he returns home from his current trip to the NE US).

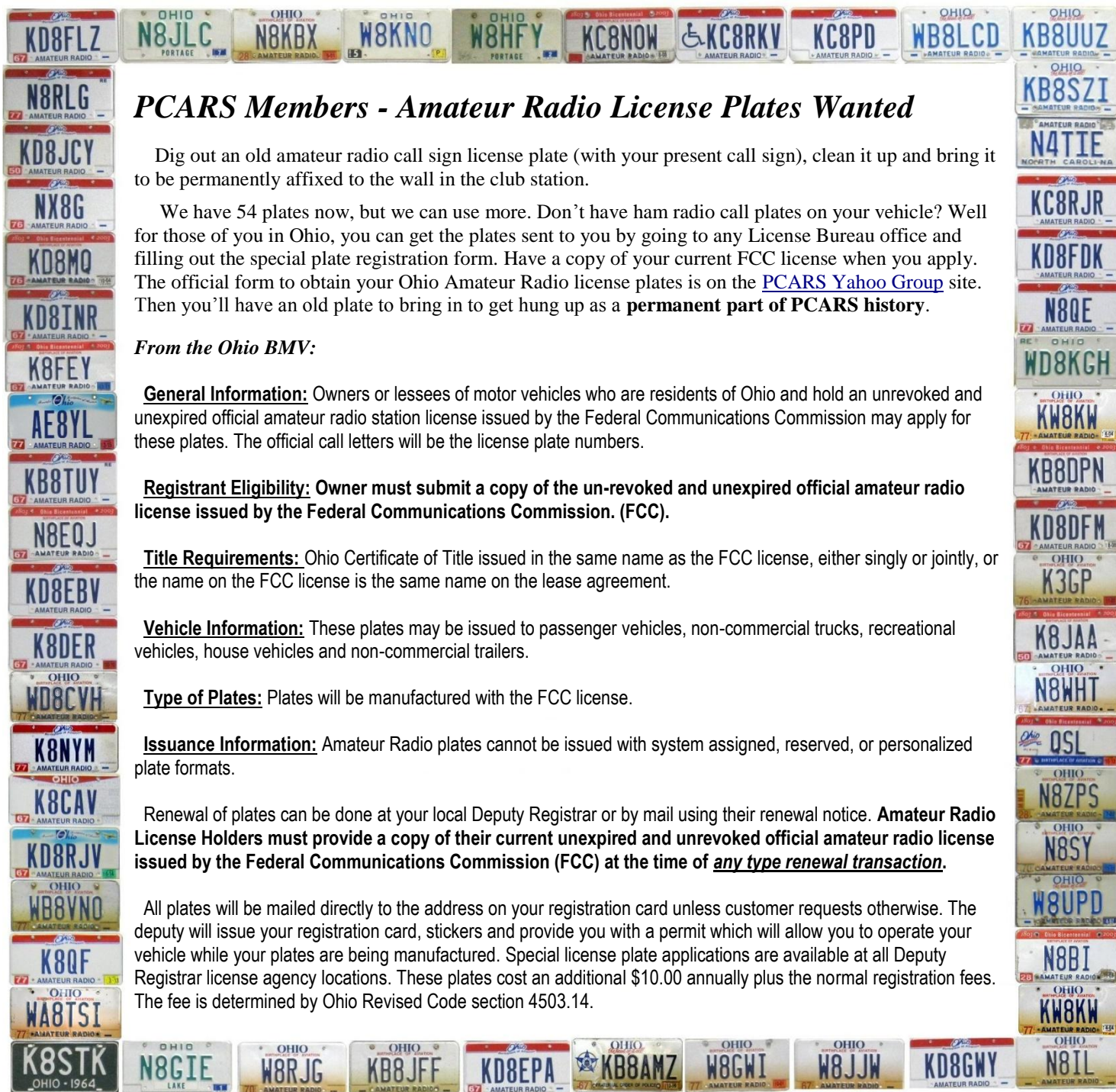
So, if you are on Facebook, check out the ARRL National Parks On The Air group. I bet you'll be glad you did. It looks like we may break the 10,000 activation point in the next few days.

A big thank you goes out to all the activators out there. Thanks for all you do, and stay safe!



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## 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 54 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/>



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



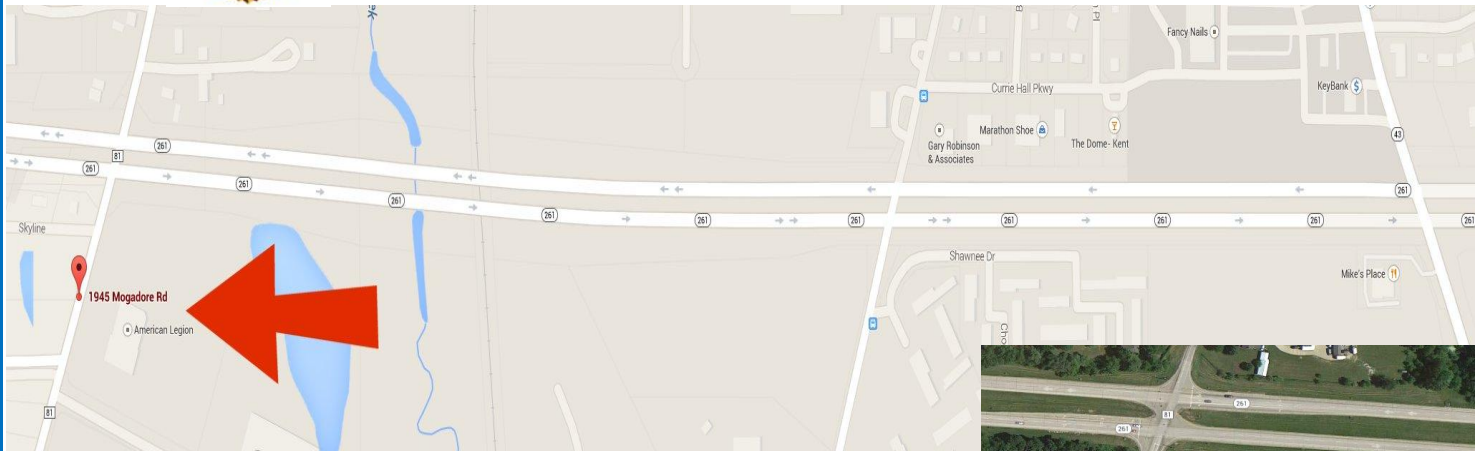


# PCARS Meetings

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.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





## Photos from the August PCARS Meeting



# PCARS - August 8, 2016



### Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th







## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th





## Important Dates in September

Here are some important dates in September:

### September 5 - Be Late For Something Day

Modern living and society puts incredible pressures on us to meet challenging deadlines, observe rules and regulations, and to regulate our lives by tight schedules. Wouldn't it be nice if you could just stop for a little bit and see what happens?

Be Late For Something Day encourages you to take a step back from your schedule and intentionally be late for something – remember that things can go on without you, and maybe it's not all quite as important as you thought; after all, you need some 'me time'!

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### September 5 - Cheese Pizza Day

Although we are all fond of piling toppings onto our favorite pizzas, the humble cheese pizza is celebrated with Cheese Pizza Day. It is estimated that there are more than 70,000 pizzerias across the United States, demonstrating how pizza has been adopted into the national psyche. Bizarrely, pizza – especially a basic cheese pizza – was regarded by its Italian inventors as a food for the lower classes who could not afford the luxury of meats. The ingredients are cheap, requiring just flour, yeast and water to make a basic dough, with toppings often being picked from local trees and made from local milk. Whether you're a fan of a deep dish from Chicago, or prefer the more authentic Italian thin base pizza, now you have an excuse to indulge! If you really want to spoil yourself, head down to Pizza Luis XIII restaurant in Salerno, Italy, where the world's most expensive pizza has been created – costing \$12,0000!

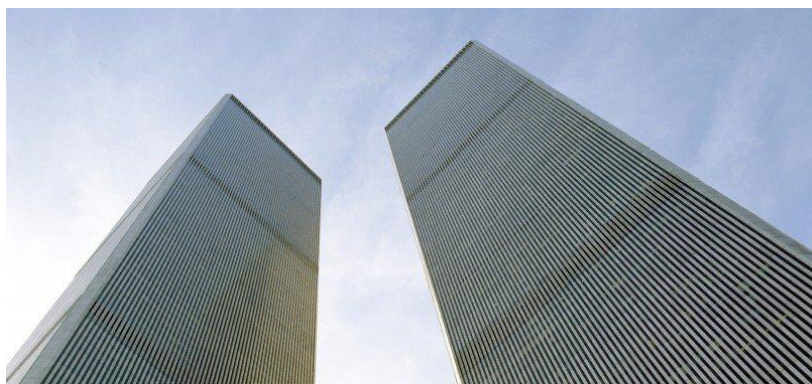
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### Sept 11 - Patriot Day

Patriot Day falls on 11th September (also commonly known as 'Nine-Eleven') and is remembered globally as the anniversary of the catastrophic terrorist attacks on the USA of 11th September 2001. Embedded in the memories of everyone who lived through it, this was the day four jet planes were hijacked and crashed into the New York World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, causing the deaths of 2,977 people. The fourth plane (United Airlines Flight 93) was directed at Washington DC, but its passengers bravely attempted to take back control and it crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The large majority of those lost after the attacks on the Twin Towers were working at or above the points of collision; thousands of people who had gone to work that morning like every other day, found themselves suddenly stranded at the top of a burning skyscraper. A number made the choice to jump from the flaming buildings rather than wait to be caught by the flames or for the building to collapse. No one could forget the terrifying and heartbreaking stories and images captured by the news footage of the day. In the wake of the World Trade Center collisions, many brave men and women from the emergency services risked their lives to try to help rescue victims of the attacks, and of them 411 lost their own lives attempting to fight fires and rescue people. Patriot Day is recognized by US law as the official day of remembrance for these tragic events, and has been observed every year since. Each year on this day, American flags are flown at half-staff to honor and commemorate those lives lost. The US President asks fellow Americans to observe a moment of silence at 8.46 am (Eastern Daylight Time), the time of the first plane collision into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. While the events took place within the USA, the shock and grief experienced in response to the attacks was shared across the globe, and for this reason Patriot Day will be observed not only in America, but all over the world.

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## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th





### Sept 13 - Peanut Day

Did you know that peanuts have almost zero cholesterol? That's just one of many reasons why peanuts are such a popular ingredient, snack and super food!

Peanut Day is a chance to work some peanuts into your diet, used in any way from tasty lunchbox snacks to as a tangy stir-fry sauce. Watch out for allergies, though!



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### Sept 14 - Eat a Hoagie Day

We're all familiar with the sub sandwich or 'Hoagie', and Eat a Hoagie Day is an excuse to enjoy a mouth-watering, giant sandwich crammed with all your favorites.



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### Sept 18 - Cheeseburger Day

Cheeseburger day is celebrated annually on the 18th September. This celebration of one of the most iconic and delicious foods of the USA, has been taking place every year since the early part of the Roaring 20s era. Cheeseburger day is marked in a number of different ways. One of the most common ways it's celebrated is by major and local fast-food chains offering free cheeseburgers to customers alongside other special offers. Usually the free offers have some sort of limit to prevent people from taking advantage of the generosity. This may be limiting the free cheeseburgers to one per customer, to only the first ten thousand visitors to the fast food store, or through making them available only for a one or two hour period on the day. To mark the day, many burger makers will use their creativity and culinary skills to make new variations on the traditional cheeseburger. This usually involves using premium types of cheese, other meats and a variety of unusual garnishes.



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### Sept 19 - Talk Like A Pirate Day

Yarr! One of our favorite days, Talk Like A Pirate Day encourages you to inject pirate-themed words and noises into everything you say. Talk like a pirate at home, at work, with friends, on the phone and to everybody you meet; top it off by dressing like a pirate, too!



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### Sept 28 - Drink Beer Day

Raise a glass of your favorite ale or lager and celebrate Drink Beer Day!

One of the oldest man-made beverages in history, beer has been produced since the Neolithic Era with some breweries dating back as far as 1040. It is little wonder why drinking beer has come to be such a popular and entertaining activity. With hundreds of different new and traditional varieties available, Drink Beer Day gives all drinkers a wonderful opportunity to sample both local and internationally brewed ales and lagers. Held annually, this exciting holiday is recognized in many different countries across the globe and taking part could not be easier. Simply gather a few friends, nip down to your nearest off-license or supermarket and crack open a beer for a fun-packed day. Alternatively, celebrate by attending beer festivals or beer-tasting events held in your local area.



## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th



## Thanks & 73



**Tom “Parky”, KB8UUZ**  
PCARS Newsletter Editor



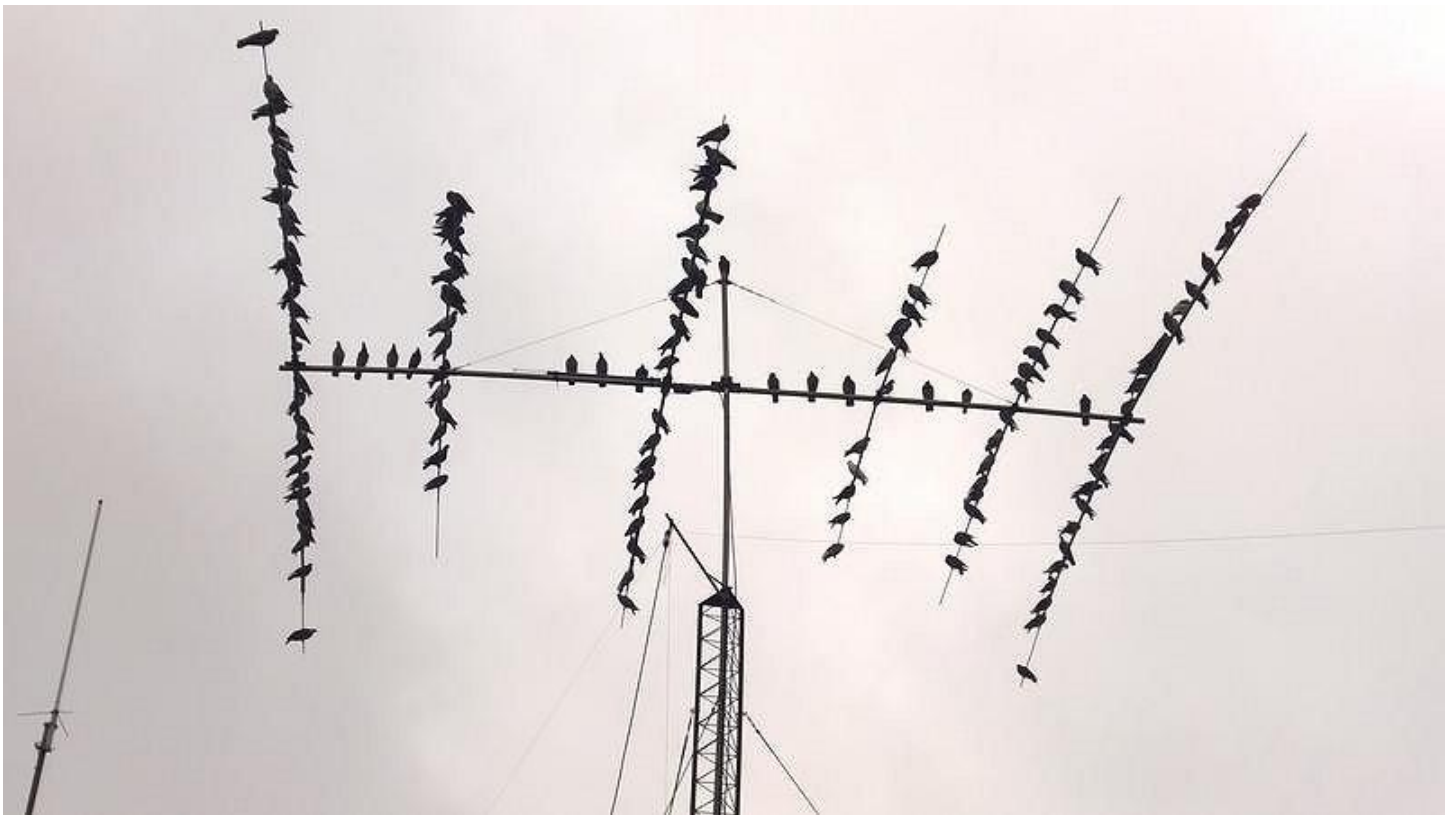
All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure PCARS will be known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club with plenty of activities to report on in this newsletter all throughout 2016 and beyond.

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

**K8CAV, AC8NT, N8SY, N8RLG, KB8UUZ, W8PT, AE8YL, KC8PD, WB8LCD, W8KNO, KA8TOA, KB8UHN, KD8SJE, Dan Maloney, K9YC, N8SY, KD8MQ** the **ARRL** and the **World Wide Web**.

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

### ***Proof that the Band Conditions are for the Birds !!!***



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## OSPOTA - September 10th

Hello OSPOTA fans. Seems like Summer is passing faster than usual and that means the 9th annual OSPOTA is coming up sooner than you think. Make your plans, test that antenna set up, get out there and have some fun during OSPOTA 2015 on September 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8:00 pm local time.

We try to keep up on what's happening at the Ohio State Parks and as of July 25<sup>th</sup>, Latest word from ODNR is that Lake White Ohio State Park is still closed - they have construction going on with the earthen dam and the park -might- open again in 2017. Buckeye Lake Ohio State Park is open, but ODNR is doing work on the beach areas.

A note to remember - you are visiting an Ohio State Park. You are just a visitor, so please keep the area neat and clean and check the surrounding area to pick up any trash accidently dropped before you depart.

Also, as in the past, some park officials seem to think that since you are participating in OSPOTA, you need some sort of permit - You do not need a permit. You are just a visitor to the park that happens to be a ham operator testing out emergency communications with other hams in other state parks - again, you are a visitor to the park.



You have no special rights as to where you can set up and please don't make any demands to a Park Ranger. That's the easiest way to get tossed out of a State Park. Be polite, invite the Park Ranger(s) to see what you are doing and make sure you let him/her know that this is really like practicing emergency communications for public service. More and more governmental agencies such as Police, Public Health Departments, EMA, FEMA, Dept of Health & Human Services, Red Cross, etc. recognize how important amateur radio is for emergency communications. "***When All Else Fails, Amateur Radio Works***". Most of the time when you talk to the Park Rangers about this aspect - they think it's pretty cool and they leave you alone.

So - be polite - and most of all **HAVE FUN!** Take some pictures while you're out there, too. Check the rules again (they are posted here and on the main OSPOTA web site - since late last year). **Pick a Park and go for it!**



## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th



# Ohio State Parks On The Air



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual “Ohio State Parks On the Air” (OSPOTA)** contest, from the hours of noon to eight p.m. EST (1600 UTC to 2400 UTC).

<b>9<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 10, 2016</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 9, 2017
11 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 8, 2018	12 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 7, 2019
13 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 12, 2020	14 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 11, 2021
15 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 10, 2022	16 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 9, 2023
17 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 7, 2024	18 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 6, 2025
19 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 11, 2026	20 <sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 11, 2027

*Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day holiday.*



For hams throughout the State of Ohio, this is your opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the 74 beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. Don't just make a day of it, spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts, you will find that the parks are one of Ohio's greatest assets. Find out more about the Ohio State Parks at: <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/>

In past years, hundreds of Amateur Radio Operators (hams) from around the country participated in the event. With the success of OSPOTA, we hope to have amateur radio operators at every Ohio State Park.

This contest places a premium on working stations located in the Ohio State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the design and deployment of Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas. You can find numerous designs on the Internet and in various Amateur Radio antenna manuals. Along with your operating skills, it will be a chance to showcase your antenna building skills as well.

Individuals and multiple operators can operate Ohio State Park stations. Non-park stations in Ohio as well as stations outside of Ohio can also compete.

Contacts can be made on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB. All contacts have the same point values.

Make sure that you read the Rules, FAQ's and get your forms for the contest that are posted on the OSPOTA website: [www.ospota.org](http://www.ospota.org) before the contest.

So get to an **Ohio State Park** and get **On The Air** in September. Have some fun with this contest! Learn more about PCARS at [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org).



73 for now,  
*OSPOTA Contest Committee*

1 Dec 2015



## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th





The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 9<sup>th</sup> annual

# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 10, 2016, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are **74** Ohio State Parks  
Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park  
and have some  
Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!



**Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?**  
Check out **all** the details at: [www.OSPOTA.org](http://www.OSPOTA.org)

While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)

1 Dec 2015



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**



# Amateur Radio GENERAL Class ~ Upgrade Class ~



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

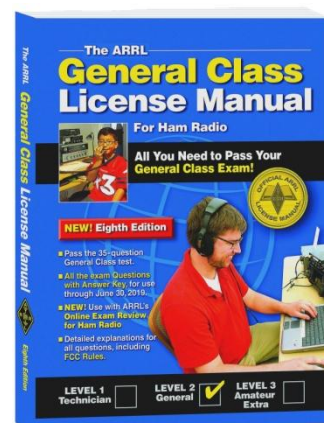
When: **Wednesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.**  
Starting September 14, 2016  
License testing on the last day of class - November 9<sup>th</sup>

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



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

Text: ARRL "General Class License Manual" Book may be purchased from PCARS for \$30.00 (Limited Supply)



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

Please register with Jim, AC8NT as soon as you can  
You can pay the registration fee the first night of class

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



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**





# 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 ~ Stop 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
	Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
~ Meetings & Net ~		Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ Tom Parkinson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	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. Second Place Winner in the Ohio Section for 2016.) 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 photos) to the newsletter editor: [kb8uuz@portcars.org](mailto:kb8uuz@portcars.org)



NLC



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 10th**

