



# The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

April 2018 - Volume 13 Number 4

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## Dayton Hamvention®



Amateur Radio...

Serving the Community

2018



## **PCARS K8BF**

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



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service  
(in Ohio)

# The Hamvention® Club of the Year for 2018



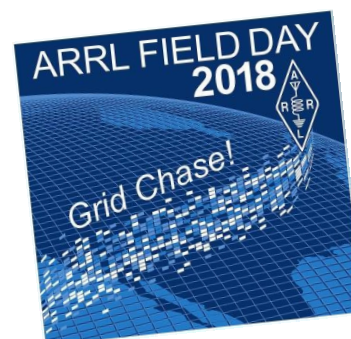
## **PCARS K8BF**

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



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## PCARS - Hamvention® 2018 Club Of The Year

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On Monday, March 5, 2018, Michael Kalter W8CI - the Hamvention® Assistant Awards Chairman and Hamvention® Spokesman announced the Hamvention® Award Winners for 2018 during a live Facebook presentation at DX Engineering.

"The Dayton Hamvention® **Club of the Year** honors go to the Portage County (Ohio) Amateur Radio Service. This very busy club says it has over 40 hours of activities each month, including public service, student outreach, periodic "Build Days" for working on projects together and monthly "Get On The Air" days when the club station is open for members and guests to learn about HF and different modes of operation.

The honors will be presented at the 2018 Dayton Hamvention awards banquet in May."

*The members of PCARS are proud to have been selected for this prestigious award. All of the members - past and present - have helped make our club what it is today. Along with future members our club will be even better in years to come.*



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# Hamvention® Announces Award Winners

*From the ARRL*

## *Amateur of the Year*

Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, of Crescent City, Illinois, is the 2018 Hamvention® "Amateur of the Year." The Hamvention Awards Committee -- chaired by Michael Kalter, W8CI, and Frank Beaford, WS8B -- this week announced its 2018 award recipients for Club of the Year, Technical Achievement, and Special Achievement.

"I am extremely honored to even be nominated for Amateur of the Year, let alone to win this award," Hotzfeld told ARRL. "I would like to thank the Hamvention Awards Committee. Their decision must have been a tough one, as I am certain the other nominees have done an outstanding job representing this hobby too. I would also like to thank those who mentored me throughout my different learning phases of this hobby. Not only has Amateur Radio been a life-changing experience for me, there are so many helpful hams in this hobby that it just feels natural to give back."



Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L. [Don Kerouac, K9NR, photo]

First licensed in 2006, Hotzfeld has been very active in local Amateur Radio clubs and in ARES. Once she "discovered" HF, she became obsessed with DXing and contesting. In the past few years, she has enjoyed inviting new hams to her station to DX or contest. She has been the pilot or lead pilot for four major DXpeditions. Hotzfeld also is a co-host of the *Ham Nation* webcast and has created how-to videos on YouTube for the ham radio community.

In 2017, Hotzfeld became engaged in public service, first traveling to Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey to help rescue small animals. She subsequently was deployed to Puerto Rico with the American Red Cross for 3 weeks as part of an Amateur Radio volunteer contingent, facilitating critical communications after Hurricane Maria.

## *Club of the Year*

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service ([PCARS](#)) of Ravenna, Ohio, is Hamvention's 2018 Club of the Year. PCARS was established in November 2005, and it is an ARRL-Affiliated Special Service Club. PCARS members average more than 40 hours of club activities each month, including special interest groups, license training, contesting run from the club site (K8BF), and club social events.



"Our members cover a wide range of interests that allow us to support public safety organizations, student outreach programs, and activities focused on growing our hobby," the club told the Hamvention Awards Committee. "We love to share our experiences and have a requirement that our events be filled with a lot of fun. Members have joined PCARS because of all the activities and fun we have."

The club donated more than \$6,000 in time and money to the community last year. It has created its own contests and events, including the annual Freeze Your Acorns Off in February and Ohio State Parks on the Air, which was used as a model for ARRL's year-long National Parks on the Air event in 2016.

PCARS sponsors several "Build Days" each year, with projects including home-built transceivers, antennas, and digital equipment to allow members to expand their horizons into new areas of Amateur Radio. A monthly "Get on the Air Day" lets members and non-members use club site equipment to learn about HF and new operating modes. "It is all about building our hobby, helping our community, building our skills, and, most of all, having fun," PCARS said.

## Technical Achievement Award

Chip Cohen, W1YW, of Belmont, Massachusetts, has received the Hamvention 2018 Technical Achievement Award. Licensed for 52 years and bitten by the antenna bug, Cohen became a radio astronomer and astrophysicist, working at Arecibo, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), the Very Large Array (VLA), and others. While a professor at Boston University, Cohen connected fractal geometry with antennas, pioneering a paradigm shift in the design of fractal antennas and what they make possible. The holder of 41 US patents, Cohen is known for inventing the invisibility cloak using fractal antenna techniques.



Starting 30 years ago with simple flea market treasures, W1YW bootstrapped fractal antennas with modest gear and employed ham radio to report on the success of his new technology. He started Fractal Antenna Systems, Inc. with WA1ZWT (SK) in 1995, and is presently its CEO.

Cohen is a DXCC Top of the Honor Roll DXer and a strong advocate for technical "innovation culture" through Amateur Radio. He is a Life Member of ARRL and a Fellow of the Radio Club of America, where he has served as vice president and director.

## Special Achievement Award

Heriberto Perez, KK4DCX; Victor Torres, WP4SD, and Emilio Ortiz Jr., WP4KEY, are Hamvention's 2018 Special Achievement Award winners. In the wake of Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico last September, Perez mobilized his radio equipment to Radio Sol in San Germán, the local public broadcasting station, accompanied by Torres and Ortiz.



The team handled health-and-welfare traffic to thousands of families across the continental US. Thanks to the support of more than 45 radio amateurs across the US, more than 4,000 messages were delivered via telephone to anxious families.

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"We would like to thank everyone who nominated a candidate," the committee said in announcing the award recipients. "The process is always difficult." A formal awards presentation will take place this May at Hamvention 2018 in Xenia, Ohio.

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## *From the President*

**Jim, AC8NT**  
PCARS President



### **Thanks**

I want to thank all of the folks that attended the Extra Class course. It was great fun to work with you all. Our goal was to increase the knowledge of electronics and ham radio and I think we succeeded.

### **Better Weather is Coming (We all hope)**

I am going to operate more outdoors this Spring, Summer and Fall. This winter has convinced me that being stuck inside is a bummer. I hope we can all enjoy taking the time to operate outdoors and improving our skills at getting setup for any eventuality. Maybe we can work to create some interesting outdoor settings for operations. Obviously Field Day and a club picnic are included.

### **April Meeting**

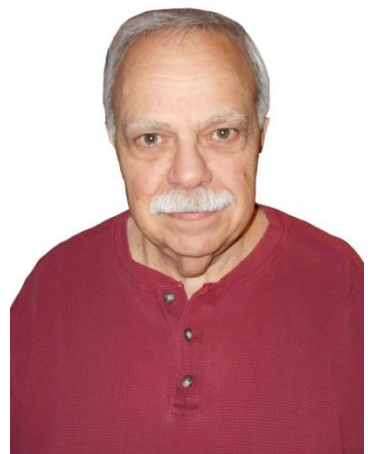
We are going to have a great speaker at our April meeting. Jim Storms, AB8YK will be talking about the upcoming Youth DX Adventure (YDXA) trip to PJ2T. As usual we will be having great conversation and a great time getting together. If you know of anyone interested in the hobby, invite them to attend and learn about our club.

### **Reminder**

Remember we are still having a serious water leak problem at the club site. Before you leave the club, please make sure all equipment in the operations room is covered up.

## *From the Vice President*

**Tony, WA8AR**  
PCARS Vice President



### **Staying On The Air During the Solar Minimum**

As most Hams know by now, we are approaching a Solar Minimum that is predicted to occur sometime in 2019. Already this year the sunspot number has fallen to zero for nearly 60% of the days in 2018. And this minimum is predicted to be the deepest in 100 years. For Ham Radio operators that means that propagation for frequencies above 7 MHz will be spotty at best and much of the time higher bands will effectively be dead, with only rare openings. So for the less experienced operators, how do you stay on the HF bands and still enjoy operating. Here are the strategies I am using.

First I am optimizing my antennas for the low bands, 40 meters to 160 meters. Even if you do not have space for a full size antenna, you can construct a smaller, less than ideal antenna, and still get on the air. The ARRL has a publication on antennas for small spaces and you can always stop in to the PCARS Antenna SIG and get some ideas on what you can build in the space that you have.

Second phone is easy but inefficient, especially during low sunspot periods. Instead break out the tried and true CW mode. In a few months you could learn CW well enough to be in the air. Check out the PCARS QRP/CW SIG for help getting started. Or, consider one of the many digital modes which are very efficient with weak or very weak signals. Again, there is a PCARS Digital SIG to help you with that. The bottom line is to be smart and flexible. Select a mode that is appropriate for your current propagation conditions.

Third, really understanding the actual current propagation conditions between your specific location and pretty much anywhere else. These range from using sophisticated computer programs to listening for beacons or even WSPR radio transmissions. These can tell you when to expect an opening or let you figure out if there is an opening in progress. Really getting into specifics on this topic is beyond the scope of this short article, but it is more, building your expertise to enhance your operating fun can be very rewarding. As an example, last summer I used a computer propagation model to predict openings to Australia. The program, indicated that there was a two hour window between 6 and 8 am, but only for very weak signals. I used JT65 and sure enough I made several contacts a day for a period of about two weeks. The signals were too weak to hear, but I knew exactly when and where to "listen". Yes, you can just hunt around and find them, it's all up to you.

I may get into some details regarding the latest predictions on what we might expect for this Solar Minimum and the up coming solar cycle. It may not be all that practical still can be pretty interesting!

## Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> - PCARS Board Meeting at the Club Site - Starts at 7 pm - Members welcome
- April 7<sup>th</sup> - VE Testing at the PCARS Club Site - Walk-Ins Welcome - Starts at 10 am
- April 7<sup>th</sup> - Ohio ARES® Conference - Marion Tech College / OSU Marion Campus
- April 9<sup>th</sup> - PCARS Meeting at the Kent American Legion - 7pm - Youth DX Adventure
- April 14<sup>th</sup> - GOTA Day at the Club Site - Come in and operate the radios - Elmer will be there
- April 21<sup>st</sup> - PCARS Club Open House & VHF Room Dedication to KC8PD at the club site
- April 28-29<sup>th</sup> - PCARS is ON THE AIR for the FL QSO Party at the Club Site - see Contest article
- April 28<sup>th</sup> - Ohio NVIS Antenna Day - Check with the Ohio ARRL Section website for details

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



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

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





# PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



# Why ARRL is Recommending Enhanced HF Privileges for Techs

From the ARRL



ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW privileges. ARRL believes the additional digital privileges will attract younger people to Amateur Radio.

The proposed additional HF phone privileges are 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. Technicians already have HF privileges on parts of 10 meters.

Some in the Amateur Radio community have questioned the need for expanded Technician privileges or to express other perspectives. ARRL has responded to point out some of the key advantages of its [petition](#), which recognizes the tremendous technological advances and changes in Amateur Radio. Some key points:

- A thorough review of operating privileges available to the entry-level license has not taken place since the late 1970s, when the Novice-class license -- the entry-level license at that time, and no longer issued -- was modified to allow Novices access to a limited portion of 10 meters. This included the first HF phone privileges for Novices.
- The 2-year process that led to the development of ARRL's petition includes *significant* input from the Amateur Radio community. The two surveys that the ARRL board's Entry-Level License (ELL) Committee conducted on this issue drew more than 8,000 responses from ARRL members.
- The 378,000 Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population, yet the Technician-class license no longer serves its original purpose from 18 years ago. Many Technicians do not participate actively, pursue on-air and public service opportunities, renew their licenses, or upgrade. An uncomfortably large attrition rate exists among Technician licensees. Technician licenses are not upgrading, because they don't find their operating privileges interesting enough to keep them in the hobby.
- The proposed addition of 275 kilohertz of HF phone privileges, spread across 80, 40, and 15 meters, would allow Technicians the opportunity to develop and expand their understanding of HF propagation. In addition, this proposed change would allow Technician licensees to participate in public service-oriented, emergency, and Section traffic nets on 75 meters, from 3900 to 4000 kHz, where primary state/Section-wide public service activities often take place.
- Additional operating privileges for Technicians will not limit their incentive to upgrade. ARRL points out that Technicians now have access to 850 kilohertz of spectrum in four HF bands. ARRL proposes an additional 275 kilohertz on three of those bands, so the total under this proposal is 1,125 kilohertz on four bands -- 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Compare that to current General-class HF privileges: 3150 kilohertz across nine HF bands -- 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. In addition, Generals have access to the five 60-meter channels and to the two newest bands, 2200 and 630 meters. The incentive to upgrade from Technician to General is a tripling of the available HF spectrum; upgrading to General allows access to eight additional bands, including the prime daytime bands of 20 and 17 meters. Also, Technicians upgrading to General or higher are permitted the maximum amateur power level of 1500 W PEP. Read [more](http://www.arrl.org/technicianenhancement).( <http://www.arrl.org/technicianenhancement>)

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## Club Open House & Dedication of the VHF Room to KC8PD sk



Originally scheduled back in January, and postponed due to bad weather, the dedication of the VHF radio room at the PCARS club site in the honor of **Jim, KC8PD, SK** will be on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**.

The club site will be open at 10 am and the VHF Radio Room dedication will be at 1 PM.

Everyone is invited to attend to see the club site, the dedication and participate in the KC8PD estate sale.



The following items are from the estate of Jim Aylward, KC8PD and will be available for purchase during the Dedication and Open House on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> at the PCARS club site.

We are in the process of sorting and boxing each item with any accessories and manuals there may be and are not available at this moment for inspection.

\* Eight Assorted Headsets/phones \* Astron 30M linear power supply \* Astron VS-35M 35 amp linear adjustable power supply \* Battery go-box \* Buddipole Portable HF antenna \* Diawa SWR/Power meter \* Eton FR300 Emergency crank radio \* ICE 404 (80m), 405 (40m Qty 2), 407 (20m) 200w bandpass filters \* Icom AH-4 automatic tuner \* Icom IC-207 2m/440 mobile \* Icom IC-2200H 2m 65w mobile \* Icom ID-880H 2m/440 D-Star mobile \* Linksys Wireless Routers \* Maxon SM-4450SC Business band FM radio \* MFJ-969 Manual antenna tuner \* Mirage B2518BG 160w 2m multimode amp \* Powerwerx 750DB 2m/440 amateur/commercial mobile \* Rigrunner 4005 5 outlet power pole box \* Rigrunner PG40S Battery backup switch/charger \* SCS PTC-IIUSB Pactor I, II, III TNC/Modem \* Uniden TT-4 Trunking scanner \* Wouxun KG-UVA1 2m/440 amateur/commercial HT \* Wouxun KG-UV-D1 2m/440 amateur/commercial HT \* Yaesu FT-8800 2m/440 mobile \* Yaesu VX-7R 2m/220/440 HT \* Yaesu VX-170 2m HT (Qty 2) \* Following sold as a group: Icom IC-706 MKIIG 160m-440 multimode mobile, LDG ZproII Auto Tuner, SEC-1223 Power Supply, Signalink Sound Card Interface, Tac-40 Cabinet Go-kit.

We do have photos of most items and if you would like to see a photo please send an e-mail to me, Rick, K8CAV at [k8cav.coms@gmail.com](mailto:k8cav.coms@gmail.com) with what item you want to see and I'll forward it, along with the asking price. If someone is interested in buying the entire lot let me know.



## Age Activated Attention Deficit

**Scott, N8SY**  
ARRL Ohio  
Section Manager



### **This is how most of my days go!**

Yes, this is the way most of my days go around here. I know that some of you can relate to this, but I wanted the rest of you to know just how it is when you retire! I decide to wash my car today, so I started toward to the garage when I noticed that there is mail on the hall table. I decided that I had better go through the mail before I wash the car, and that's when I laid my car keys down on the table and put the junk mail in the trash can under the table. As I did that I notice that the trash can was full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the trash first, but then I thought that since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the trash anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my checkbook off the table and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk where I find the can of Diet Pepsi that I had been drinking earlier. I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to put the Diet Pepsi aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that my pop is already starting to get warm, so I decided that I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the pop, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye—they need to be watered.

I set the pop down on the counter and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I'd better put them back on my desk, but first I've got to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water, and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone had left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight, when we go to watch TV, we will be looking for the remote, but nobody will remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decided to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water those darn flowers.

I splash some water on the flowers, but most of it spills on the floor, it figures So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then I head back down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do earlier. At the end of the day; the car still isn't washed. The bills aren't paid. There is a warm can of pop is still sitting on the counter. Those darn flowers are now starting to wilt since they didn't get watered. There's still only one check in my checkbook. I can't find the remote. I can't find my glasses. And, what hurts the most is that I don't remember what I did with the car keys!

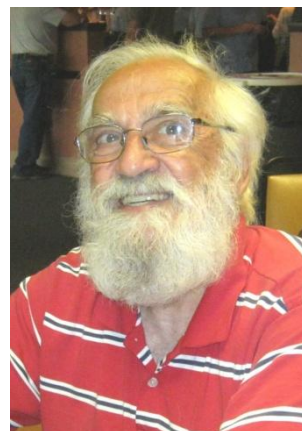
Then, when trying to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm absolutely baffled because I know that I was busy all day long and I'm really worn out. I realize that this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Do me a favor, will you? Forward this message to close friends you know, because I don't remember to whom it has been sent. Don't laugh – if this isn't you yet, your day is coming! And if I have had this article in the newsletter before....well, now you know why you're seeing it again.

## Paper Chase - Shark's Tooth Festival

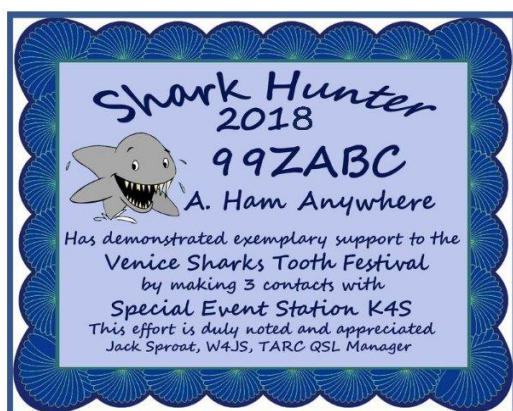


Joe, W8KNO



Do you want more than just a QSL Card?  
If so, this is for you!

The Tamiami ARC will be operating Special Event Station, K4S, from 09:16 on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April until 11:20 the 15<sup>th</sup>. It is in conjunction with the Venice Shark's Tooth Festival. This annual event in Venice, Florida, which is known as the sharks tooth capital of the world, is held near Caspersen Beach which is noted for its excellent yield of shark teeth. Income from the Festival benefits the Special Athlete Boosters of Sarasota County.



Operation is planned for SSB on 14.250. QSL is via John R. Sproat, Jr, W4JS; 1419 E Manasota Beach Rd; Englewood, FL 34223. Please include a SASE and included with your returned QSL card will be a small sharks tooth.



Do not get bitten by the **Special Event Bug!!** Hope to hear you in the Pile-up!

# Shark's Tooth Festival

Venice, Florida - The Shark's Tooth Capital of the World!

## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

N8QE	Bob	Hajdak	KW8KW	Bill	O'Neil
WB8DFC	Dave	Rarrick	K1ZZ	Dave	Sumner
KC8FQV	Mark	Studer			

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# Planning for Field Day 2018



**Tony, WA8AR**  
Field Day Chairman



## URGENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We still need three Field Day Team leaders. Most critical at this time is the **Food Service Director**. We need someone to step up as soon as possible since putting on a successful dinner requires advance preparation. To simplify this task we have decided that this years menu should be a simple picnic style dinner: hamburgers; brats; side dishes, and desert. Also Robert, N8RLG, has volunteered to serve as mentor/consultant for an inexperienced volunteer to guide them through the process. This will greatly simplify the task. Also, Robert has volunteered to cook the pancake breakfast. The Food Service Director will only be responsible for putting on the Saturday dinner. The other two positions, **Antenna Crew Chief** and **Transportation Crew Chief**, are also very important but require less advance preparation, but we also need them **ASAP**.

**Food Service Director:** Responsible for putting on the Saturday dinner. This is a key position as dinner is a big social element of Field Day for PCARS and of course we need to keep those operators fed so they have the fuel to make all those contacts!

**Antenna Crew Chief:** Responsible for assembling a team of volunteers to put up all of the station antennas for Field Day. This was a new position we added last year and it worked out very well with all antennas ready for operation by about 12:30, well before the FD start time of 2 pm. I have a document that this years crew chief can use as a guide.

**Transportation Crew Chief:** This is a new position this year. The crew chief will be responsible for assembling a small team to load the box truck that brings all the equipment to the FD site. Considering the distance to the FD site we just can't afford to leave any equipment behind. In the past we just put out a general call for volunteers to show up and help. We need to have a specific crew list that we can count on to be there. The crew chief also needs to coordinate closely with the station captains so there is a good manifest of items that must go on the truck.

Any member wishing to volunteer for any of these positions please contact me at: [tromito99@gmail.com](mailto:tromito99@gmail.com)

<b>Chairman</b>	Tony WA8AR
<b>Co-Chairman</b>	Mike KB8TUY
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Karen N8HUC
<b>Public Info. Officer</b>	Tom WB8LCD
<b>On-Site PIO &amp; Media Table</b>	Tom KB8UUZ
<b>Antenna Crew Chief</b>	TBN
<b>Transport Crew Captain</b>	TBN
<b>IT Managers</b>	Steve K8SRR
	Zeb KD8WZS

<b>CW Station Captain</b>	George K3GP
<b>Flex Station Captain</b>	Rick K8CAV
<b>VHF Station Captain</b>	Mike KB8TUY
<b>20 Meter Station Captain</b>	Erica AE8YL
<b>40 Meter Station Captain</b>	Ed K8IV
<b>GOTA Station Captain</b>	Jim AC8NT
<b>Power Team Captain</b>	James KD8VT
<b>Food Service Dir.</b>	TBN
<b>Educational Program</b>	Jim AC8NT

# **What is ARRL Field Day?**

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

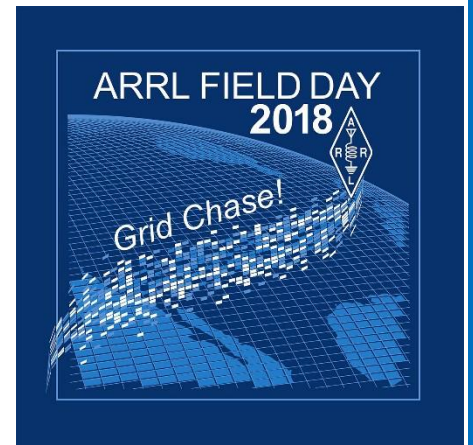
## **What is the ARRL?**

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

## **What is Amateur Radio**

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.



# Field Day CW Operators Wanted



**George, K3GP**  
Field Day CW Captain



Only three months remain until we once again will be at the field day site. It is time for interested CW operators to make plans to pound the brass for K8BF.

Here is the first draft of our CW operating schedule:

## PRELIMINARY 2018 PCARS CW STATION OPERATOR SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Operator	Logger
Saturday June 23	14:00 – 16:00	Could be YOU	
	16:00 – 18:00	Could be YOU	
	18:00 – 20:00	W5OV - Bob Naumann	W5OV - Bob Naumann
	20:00 – 22:00		
Sunday June 24	22:00 – 00:00	K3GP - George Proudfoot	K3GP - George Proudfoot
	00:00 – 02:00		
	02:00 – 04:00	K8AAV - Rod Ehrhart	K8AAV - Rod Ehrhart
	04:00 – 06:00		
	06:00 – 08:00	Could be YOU	
	08:00 – 10:00	Could be YOU	
	10:00 – 12:00	Could be YOU	
	12:00 – 14:00	Could be YOU	

At this time, the above schedule is completely flexible and subject to revision. Please let me know if you can fill one or more of the two hour slots at the CW position! You can contact me by email at: [k3gp@neo.rr.com](mailto:k3gp@neo.rr.com)



## Time Clocks for the Time Challenged



LA



Denver



Chicago



New York



UTC



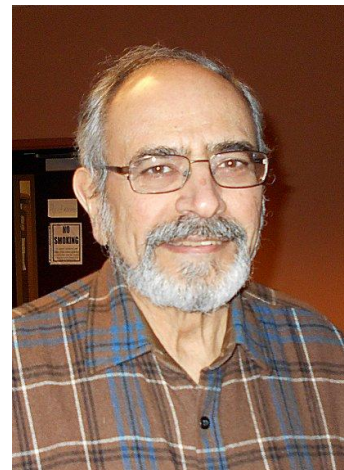
## Dark Emitting Diodes

**Doug, WA8UWV**

I'm sure most of you have heard of Dark Emitting Diodes. Those that cause a spot of darkness when negative electrical energy is conducted into them. The actual technology has been hidden from the public by releasing misinformation in the form of hoaxes. In a rare breach of security some startling information has been uncovered.

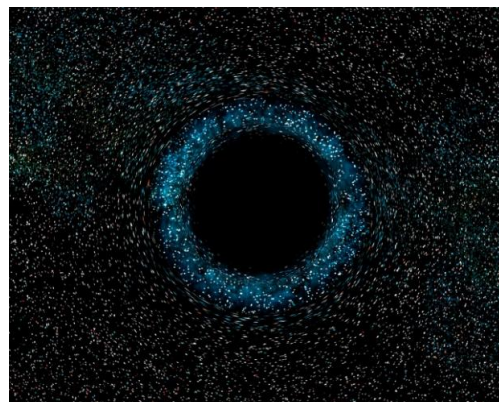


Scientists have discovered that the DED effect can apply to other forms of electromagnetic radiation as well. A prototype transmitter operating at HF and powered by the same negative electrical energy has been shown to cause a blackout of HF electromagnetic radiation over a small area.



Controlling the geometry of the blackout such that it surrounds your amateur antenna except in the direction and elevation you wish to receive will reduce atmospheric and manmade noise by over 16.14924 db. It is cautioned that you carefully avoid transmitting into the created void since the radiated energy would be reflected back to the transmitter in a form that would likely cause damage. It will be, at least, several decades before this technology is available to the average ham but hope is on the horizon since this has significant military applications.

I'm sure DARPA is looking into funding the necessary research. An associated research project is likely being funded under high security to negate such a field since the Chinese, Russians and North Koreans have been spying on these researchers and hacking into their computers to steal the technology. A public report on the progress of this technology isn't expected to be released until 4/1/2025.



## Hamfest Calendar

**04/14/2018 - Cuyahoga Falls ARC's 64th Annual Hamfest** - Location: Emidio & Sons Party Center - 48 E. Bath Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, OH - 8 am until 1 pm - Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club - Website: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php?festnow=2018>

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club invites anyone interested in Ham Radio, science, and technology to attend their Sixty Fourth Annual Hamfest, Electronic, and Computer show, held Saturday morning, April 14, at Emidio and Sons party center, at the corner of State and Bath Roads in Cuyahoga Falls. Doors open at 8am and this all inside event offers an opportunity buy, sell, and trade radios, computers, electrical supplies, test equipment, parts, maker supplies, tools, and cables; almost any type of technological treasure may turn up. Certified Volunteer Examinees will be on hand to offer free Ham Radio exams throughout the morning and QSL card checking services will be available. The Club repeaters (147.27+ and 444.85+) will be available for talk-ins and a mobile check in prize will be awarded. Admission is still just \$6 and drawings will be held through out the morning for over \$600 in DX Engineering merchandise certificates and ham radio walkie-talkies. Prizes are courtesy of The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, DX Engineering, and The ARRL. Food and beverage service will be available. For more information go to [cfarc.org/hamfest.php](http://cfarc.org/hamfest.php) Still got questions? Email: [hamfest2018@cfarc.org](mailto:hamfest2018@cfarc.org)

**May 18-19-20, 2018 - HAMVENTION® 2018** - Location: Greene County Fairgrounds - Xenia, Ohio - Sponsored by DARA - Website: <http://hamvention.org>

## PCARS VE Test Sessions

**Robert, N8RLG**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison



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

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Field Day, August 4<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

### 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 number 2 to re-instate your license.



# PCARS K8BF

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





## My First Experience with RTTY Contesting

**Terry, KB8AMZ**

I am part of the PCARS Contest Group. We elected to try RTTY contesting this year. Most of the group had not worked RTTY so we required a training session. George, K3GP stepped up for the training. We decided to use an upcoming RTTY contest for practice and learning. With the training all seemed simple enough and I thought it might be fun.



I met with the contest group at the clubhouse the last weekend of February. About 15 members were on hand, give or take a couple. We took about one hour turns or 5 contacts per person as it was a Search and Pounce type of contest. At the morning session I honestly felt that watching paint peel would have been more exciting. What replaced the "low excitement" for me were the members that showed up and the conversations that ensued. After about 3 hours I left since the radio positions were more than amply covered.

I returned a few hours later to work the last few hours of the contest. This time around was more fun probably because I was hearing and seeing more possible contacts on the waterfall display. I was happily tuning up and down the band for another contact when I felt a tap on my shoulder about an hour before the end of the contest. It was Chuck, W8PT giving me the 'pull the plug' sign. I lifted my headphone earpiece and he said "I'm tired and want to go home" so that was it. Chuck had been there all day. I wanted to continue on but it was time to go. My 2<sup>nd</sup> go at RTTY was a 'hoot'. I didn't think that I would like it but I actually had fun. Now whether I will try this solo from the home QTH is another consideration.

I really like this club and all the events that are available. I hope you do also.



Portable Ground? Maybe a "Floating" Ground?





## *From the Ohio Affiliated Club Coordinator*

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
Ohio ARRL Section  
Affiliated Club Coordinator



Let me start this month with my congratulations to the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). PCARS has been awarded the Dayton Hamvention “Club of the Year” award for 2018! As a PCARS member I can tell you how thrilled and honored we all are to receive this recognition. I can tell you that building a successful club is a TEAM effort – not the result of the efforts of one, or just a few people. It’s not just the club officers, or certain “favorite” club members. Everyone has a part in it. And everyone’s part is important to the success of the club. Congratulations to every member, past and present of PCARS! Let me move on to HAMVENTION!

Think about this for a minute: How lucky are we in the Ohio Section to have one of the world’s largest hamfests, right in our own back yards? Hamvention is like “Mecca” for hams. Yet I do know hams, right here in Ohio, who have never been to Hamvention! YOU need to get to Hamvention. I’m going to check with Scott (N8SY) and, if in my position of ACC I have the power invested in me, I will command it that every member of the Ohio Section come out to Hamvention! I promise, it will be an Amateur Radio Experience like no other.

Thank you to DARA for all the work they’ve done since 1952 to bring Hamvention to life. How much work did it take to make the move last year? A lesser club would have shrugged it off and said “all good things must come to an end.” DARA pushed forward, and the worldwide Amateur Radio community will now be blessed with a fantastic venue that should support Hamvention for decades to come! This kind of attitude is what makes for a truly great Amateur Radio Club!

Now, if you’re a club leader, officer, or just an interested member who helps make things happen, here’s a few things you should be looking for at Hamvention:

- Neat stuff you can bring back to show off to those who couldn’t make it this year. Even if it’s just “trinkets” for the 50/50, the other club members will appreciate getting a chance to see some of what they missed.
- Contacts. What an opportunity to meet fellow hams from across the world. But, it’s up to you to step outside of your comfort zone. Welcome our international visitors to the US. Welcome every attendee to Hamvention. Make it a point that everyone you have an opportunity to come into contact with goes home thinking that the Dayton Hamvention is one of the friendliest places they’ve ever been! The people you meet this year may be coming back next year – ask if they might be willing to come a couple days early, or, stay a couple days longer in order to meet with your club for a special event! Even if they aren’t coming back, they might be willing to Skype a presentation to your club.
- How about making your own Hamvention video? Not everyone makes it to Hamvention (despite my command!) and the folks in your club would probably enjoy your guided tour through the flea market, in the forums, your individual conversations with other attendees. Get everyone in your club to take along their still camera, or video recorder, then take parts from everyone’s Hamvention experience to make a montage of the Hamvention. Put it up on YouTube.
- Spend some time at the ARRL exhibit. Lots of ARRL staff will be present. Get to know them. Once again, they should be more than willing to find a way to be involved with your club.

Hamvention is a treasure trove of inspiration for any ham or Amateur Radio club! Not far behind Hamvention is summertime in OHIO! Now is the time to start planning and promoting activities for the summer. How about some group building projects? Field Day? State QSO parties – operate them as a club. Field Day? Fox hunting? Public service events? Field Day? Ham Radio promotions such as demo’s for scouts,

4-H, RV groups? Did I mention Field Day? Make up your own operating events! Add some food, beverage and invite hams from another club to participate with yours. Ohio State Parks on the Air. The point is, if you want to have a fantastically fun summer you've got to start planning for it now! And promoting for it.

But, if you can figure out a way to get people out to an event on the spur of the moment – let me know about it! I guess my point here is that every club can be a GREAT club for its members. Activities are an important part of club building. Getting together as friends, enjoying our common interests and having fun while we do it. What could be better than that? (Ed – K8IV says “winning”). Next time we're going to start talking about promoting your club.

## 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/>

As most of you may know, the portcars e-mail forwarding system is working anymore. Too many internet providers are looking at our forwarding system as spam and deleting the e-mails we send out through that system. So, what to do?

### *Two things every member should do.*

1. Check the PCARS web site every day, maybe a couple of times a day to see new information that is posted.
2. Another thing to do is to join the PCARS Yahoo Group. That's a great place to post message when you are looking for information or have a question about something. Try it - you just may like it!!

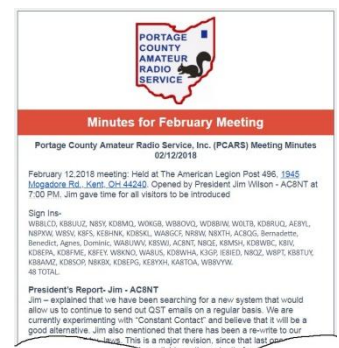
## PCARS QST's - Some Interesting Facts

As we develop the new PCARS QST Mail system, there are some facts that can be looked at concerning the emails sent out to all PCARS members. The new system is called Constant Contact. PCARS can send out QDT notices to all members who have an up-to-date e-mail address on file with the Club Secretary (WB8LCD).

Constant Contact gives us statistics on the effectiveness of the emails we send out. We have been looking at these over the last few QST mail sends.

- We have never had more than 53% of the address list open the email. You would have expected much higher. Especially when people have been complaining that they don't get a PCARS QST.....
- When we attach a link (To newsletter or other file), less than 23% click the link.
- Using our current list, we have received zero bounces indicating an error in delivery. So that means those that are on the list are in fact getting the QST e-mails.

We didn't have these stats using the prior system, so we can't compare systems.



## What to Do for April Fool Day at Work

**Randy, N6TL**



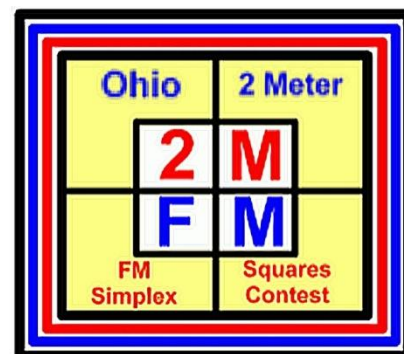
Since April 1<sup>st</sup> is on a Sunday - Try these at work on Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup>:

1. Take something from someone's office and leave them a ransom note.
2. Add several odd appointments with alarms set to go off during the day to a co-worker's Outlook calendar.
1. Add food coloring to milk that comes in a cardboard container.
2. Add food coloring to the windshield washer fluid of someone's car.
3. Switch around random keys on someone's keyboard who isn't a very good typist.
4. Switch the Push and Pull signs on a set of doors.
5. Hide food in a trash can and when someone comes by grab some and eat it.
6. Put a balloon on the tailpipe of a someone's car so it will pop when they start their car.
7. Glue the headset of someone's phone down to the cradle.
8. Take the door knob off a door and put it back on backwards, then lock it and leave the door open.
9. Put plastic wrap around the door frame of a commonly used door.
10. Cover a toilet seat with plastic wrap.
11. Take a squirt gun into the rest room stall next to someone and shoot little drops over the wall every couple of seconds while pretending to pee.
12. Leave cryptic notes warning someone of an impending prank then do nothing all day.
13. Rubber band the sprayer on the kitchen sink into the "on" position.
14. Place a pair of pants and shoes inside the only toilet stall in a rest room to make it appear someone is using it all day.

## CFARC FM Simplex Squares Contest

**Ohio 2 Meter FM Simplex Squares Contest Sponsored by The Cuyahoga Fall Amateur Radio Club.**

A contest for all hams in Ohio! All you need is a 2M FM HT or mobile radio and a simple antenna to compete for prizes and certificates; yes even a cheap HT will do.



The contest is 10 hours total, two 5 hour windows each on April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Use 2 Meter FM Simplex communication to contact as many other stations and grid squares in Ohio as possible. Anyone sending in a log with at least one valid contact is eligible to win prizes, but the more contacts you make the better your odds of winning. There will also be certificates for leaders in a variety of categories.

Full details and rules can be found at <http://tiny.cc/fmsq>

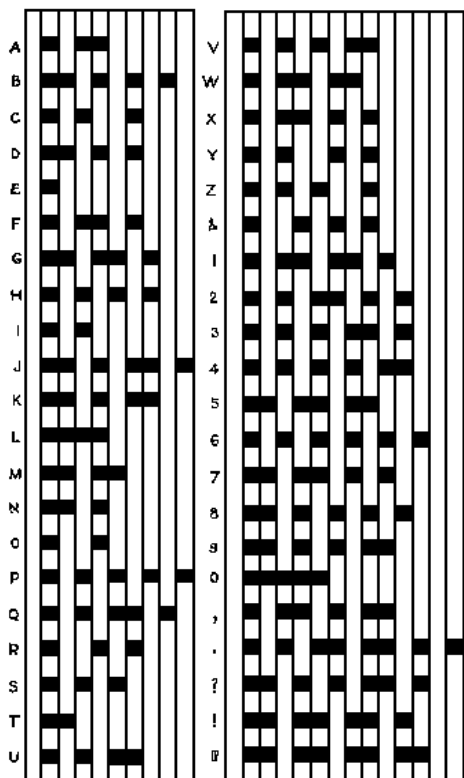


## A Short History of Morse Code

*Jim, AC8NT*



I have had a lot of fun visiting the Makerfaire at the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit. There is always something fun to see or learn. On one such trip, I spent some time at a huge model train exhibit. While taking it all in I heard a couple of telegraph sounders clicking away. Now I don't consider myself a champion brass pounder, but I can usually copy over 20 wpm. I was having a lot of trouble copying these messages. I asked one of the operators what they were sending. He said proudly, American Morse. For those of you that know me, you know that meant I needed to do a little research.



The original Morse code was developed in the mid 1830s by Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail for their electrical telegraph. The complexity of the character for each letter and number was based on the well-known printer's alphabet which sorted letters by the frequency of the use of a letter. Hence, short simple sequences were used for the most commonly used letters (E, T, A, O, I, N). Dots were simpler to send than dashes. So the code had many more dots than dashes. Also relatively long spaces were used between dots. The result of this development was American Morse Code shown on the left. Some things to note:

- The long space between dots in the letter Y
- The long dash for L and how similar it is to the longer dash for zero
- The complex characters used for numbers

Since the first telegraphs used a printed line or groove marked on a paper tape, these characters were easily read.

As more operators used the code, they found they could receive the code faster with their ears than using the paper tape. They also found that they developed a rhythm for sending the code that made it easier to receive.

We now call this the operator's fist. It did take a significant time for operators to get up to speed with this code.



In 1844 the first significant telegraph message was sent by Morse in Washington to Vail at the Baltimore and Ohio "outer depot" in Baltimore. The message was "What hath God wrought".

In 1848 Friedrich Gerke in Germany simplified the code by adding more dashes and changing some of the more complex characters to simpler sequences. This modified code was called Continental Morse. His code with a few modifications would become what is known as International Morse Code. It was found easier to receive and easier to learn. Some say American Morse required some musical talent to send effectively.

In 1858 the first transatlantic telegraph line was put into service. The first official telegram to pass between two continents was a letter of congratulations from Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom to the President of the United States James Buchanan on August 16. The underwater cable only lasted three weeks, but proved feasibility. It was replaced by a much better design that was put into operation in 1866.

You might ask why I brought up the transatlantic cable? Transatlantic telegraph lines were one of the major reasons Continental Morse spread to the United States. It wasn't because the Europeans had more clout. It was for technical reasons. When operators tried to send a message on the cable using American Morse, they had to send the message very slowly. In actual fact, the first messages were sent at .1 words per minute.

Dispersion of the pulses sent in the line would cause the dots to run together. Continental Morse with its use of more dashes could be sent quicker and it was adopted for all overseas messages. That message from Queen Victoria and President Buchanan required 17 hours to send. Dispersion was not as big an issue in the US where lines were run above ground and repeaters were used to increase distances. So, American Morse continued to be used within the U.S. Operators on the East coast used both codes. It was not until 1912 that Continental Morse became the standard for all international traffic which by that time had mostly converted to radiograms.

Some fun facts:

- Western Union continued to use American Morse long after International Morse was implemented. They proved in several studies that messages sent with American Morse took from 5 to 10 percent less time to send.
- When the Department of Commerce first established Amateur Radio Licenses in 1912, applicants were required to be able to send and receive at a rate of 5 words per minute.
- The last telegraph message sent by the French Navy was on January 1, 1997. The message was "Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence."
- The last telegraph message sent by the American Navy was on July 12, 1999. The message that was sent was "What hath God wrought", and the prosign "SK".
- It was not until 2003 that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) ratified changes to the Radio Regulations to allow each country to determine whether it would require a person seeking an amateur radio operator license to demonstrate the ability to send and receive Morse code. This allowed the US to eliminate the code requirement.
- It was not until 1885 that Oliver Heaviside developed the transmission model. One of the first studies was the effect of transmission lines on telegraph messages.
- Speaking of musical talent and Morse code. Did you know that Dr. J.B. Upham and Martin Smith developed a method called Telephonography that was used by Northern Army buglers to send messages during the Civil War? It was used when weather did not allow visual signaling to be used.

## International Morse Code

1. The length of a dot is one unit.
2. A dash is three units.
3. The space between parts of the same letter is one unit.
4. The space between letters is three units.
5. The space between words is seven units.

A	• —	U	• • —
B	— • • •	V	• • • —
C	— • — •	W	• — — —
D	— • •	X	— • • —
E	•	Y	— • — —
F	• • — •	Z	— — • •
G	— — •		
H	• • • •		
I	• •		
J	• — — —		
K	— • — —	1	• — — — —
L	• — • •	2	• • — — —
M	— —	3	• • • — —
N	— •	4	• • • • —
O	— — —	5	• • • • •
P	• — — •	6	• • • • •
Q	— — • —	7	• — — • •
R	• — • •	8	• — — — •
S	• • •	9	• — — — —
T	—	0	— — — — —



## 20 Meter Band Fire - Still a Mystery after 20 years

*John, KD8MQ*



This month marks the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the freak fire that destroyed over 50 KHz of the 20 Meter Band, and forced the FCC to shut down most HF Ham Bands for over 24 hours. Apparently the fire originated on about 14.280 MHz following an unusually long series of QSOs by an undetermined number of California stations running very high power and extreme modulation compression.

At the time, Marvin Larpenogg, an FCC Special Frequency Engineer, told reporters, “We had a heck of a time putting the fire out. Shutting down the propagation generators did no good at all. The fire just spread up & down the band, so we had to turn off all the HF Ham bands from 40 thru 10 Meters to smother the flames.”

Finally, after three hours, the FCC had the fire under control. Most Ham bands were back in operation by the next day. However, 20 Meters was closed for more than 8 weeks while the charred frequencies were being refurbished.

Since that time, many studies have been made of the fire and it's possible causes. One such study, made by



Dr. Eugene Peritonitis, Chairman of the Consultive Committee on Frequency Damage, indicated that the cause might have been due to thermo-frequency heating (TFH). However, the results of the study were inconclusive. Other studies have achieved similarly inconclusive results.

Some weeks after the fire, the FCC promised to install a sprinkler on the band to prevent another disaster. With the advent of deregulation, however, the sprinkler system was never installed, and 20 Meters still has no protection. The League of Radio Relaying Americans (LRRA) has expressed concern about this neglect of 20 Meters, and calls attention to the fact that the 5 Meter band was completely wiped out for all time

by the holocaust of the late 1930s.

Unfortunately, the FCC no longer has the funds to make good on its promise to protect 20 Meters. For that reason, all Hams should use extreme care when using 20 Meters and all other bands. They are a perishable resource. Don't use high power on any Ham band, or use any mode that might ignite a frequency, particularly during openings when the frequencies are especially dry. Remember, Only **You** can prevent **Band Fires**!

From GEARVAKF via the Amateur Radio News Service (ARNS) circa 1989. By the way, GEARVAKF is an acronym for “Greater Enon Amateur Radio Vention And Kite fly”. More information can be found at [kbakers.com/hamradio/gearvakf.html](http://kbakers.com/hamradio/gearvakf.html)



## Ohio ARES® Conference & NVIS Day

**Stan, N8BHL**  
Ohio ARRL Section  
Emergency Coordinator



The **Ohio ARES® Conference** is shaping up to be a big event! We start the day with Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, going into detail about the ARRL's committee report that will re-shape ARES® nationwide. There are lots of changes on the way, and we'll get a profile from Dale, who chaired the committee!

We'll talk training, of course, and other important topics that you can take home to your groups. We'll wrap up with a great presentation by George Reidel, N1EZZ. George was one of the first amateur radio responders to Puerto Rico, and was on St. Marks Island when the second hurricane came through! He lived the amateur radio mantra: *When all else fails*. It did, and George helped get them through.

**The conference is scheduled for April 7, Saturday, at the OSU Marion / Marion Tech campus in Marion, OH.** The meeting is in the health care lecture hall (a luxurious setting!) Registration is available on the [arrl-ohio.org](http://arrl-ohio.org) website. This is a must-see for EC's and assistants, and ALL amateurs are warmly welcomed! I hope to see you there.

Time	Topic and Presenter
0800 0830	Registration (Marion)
0830 0900	Opening - Stan
0900 0945	ARES® Changes and structure - Dale
0945 1000	Break
1000 1045	Ohio business / Ohio BETA - Stan
1045 1100	Break
1100 1145	Ohio Training / DMR talk groups - Jim / Scott
1145 1300	Lunch
1300 1345	Activities: NVIS - Black Swan - Stan
1345 1400	Break
1400 1445	OHDEN - The Sarge Gary / Richard
1445 1500	Break
1500 1545	Puerto Rico Communications - George Reidel
1545 1600	Close - Stan



## NVIS Day

We haven't talked much about it yet, but our annual NVIS Day is set for **Saturday April 28**, starting at 10 AM. Our objective is to create antennas that work well within a 400 mile radius- necessary for local HF communication during emergencies.

Like last year, we are planning on having the operation run from 10 - 4 EDT. Take a lunch break, enjoy each other's company. Transmit power should stay at 100 watts for accurate signal comparison. You may operate anywhere, home, club, portable. Want to know more about what NVIS is? Go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/nvis.html> and learn all about Near Vertical Incident Scattering and how you can easily put up a NVIS antenna and participate in this great exercise.

## Contest University 2018

# Contest University

**Tim, K3LR**  
CTU Chairman



### Still Time to Sign Up for Dayton Contest University

Student registration remains open for the 2018 Contest University (CTU), Thursday, May 17, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton, Ohio - the day before Hamvention® in Xenia.

The all-day session for contesting veterans and newcomers will touch on all aspects of Amateur Radio contesting.

**Thu, May 17, 2018**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**Dayton, Ohio USA**

CTU scholarships (registration fee paid) are available through a grant from the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) for students age 25 and younger. Contact CTU for more information.

Registrants who have given (or will give) a Hamvention presentation or who have given a hamfest or group presentation on Amateur Radio since May 17, 2017, may qualify for a \$10 registration fee discount. Choose the "Registration with Club Talk Discount."

CTU sponsors including Icom America, DX Engineering, the Northern California DX Foundation, The Yasmie Foundation, the Radio Club of America, and CQ Magazine. The May 2018 session will mark the 12th consecutive year for CTU Dayton.

More information is on the CTU website. <https://www.contestuniversity.com/>

## 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@yahoo.com](mailto:KD8SKL@yahoo.com)



## ARRL: How Can We Help?

**Dan, KB6NU**



Recently, I received this email from a reader:

*"Hi Dan,*

*Hope you're doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I've been reading your blog and other sources, and it's clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there's really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?"*

I replied that it is true that there's only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they've never really taken off. It's an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass. The second question - How can we help? - is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you're not currently a member, join. You'll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn't really seem to care about this. In the past, I've encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs. I honestly don't think this is asking too much, and I've never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.
- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on "Edit your profile," then "Edit email subscriptions."
- Invite your ARRL elected officials - your division director, vice director, and section manager - to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.
- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I'd like to see the "loyal opposition" get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It's easier to lose bands if we're not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the "maker" groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I'd love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need

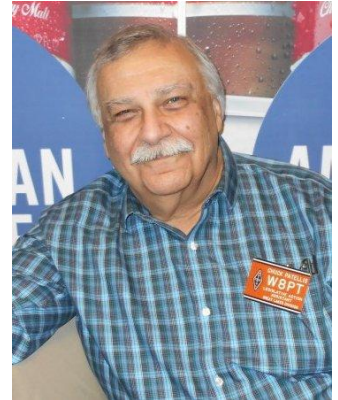


to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

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When he's not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He's the author of the No Nonsense amateur radio license study guides and The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.

## ***DX/Contest SIG***

***Chuck, W8PT***



We had a very good meeting on Tuesday, March 27. Discussion centered on two primary topics: The Florida QSO Party and secondly, RTTY contesting.

As some of you will recall, we have decided to forego the Michigan QSO party since we have never done very well in it at all. We are close enough that signals from MI simply pass over us. Even when we have used NVIS antennas, it just doesn't make a difference.



So we have decided to compete in the Florida QSO party that takes place the weekend of April 28-29. If conditions are anywhere near normal, we should do well making contacts with FL stations. And this contest has a real desirable element - it takes place over two days with a break for Saturday night so we all can get a good nights sleep. More contests should do that.

We will enter as a Multi-Multi, Low Power station and hope for the best. The contest takes place on only 4 bands (40, 20, 15, 10 meters) and operational modes are CW and SSB. Sorry digital ops.

We will have 4 op positions going with possibly a 5th for those who want to Search & Pounce.

In regards to the RTTY discussion, we are trying to figure out if there is a RTTY contest that we can play in before Field Day. Our RTTY Elmer - George, K3GP, wants us to keep our recent training in RTTY fresh so we don't forget how to operate when Field Day comes around. He and I will see what we can come up with.

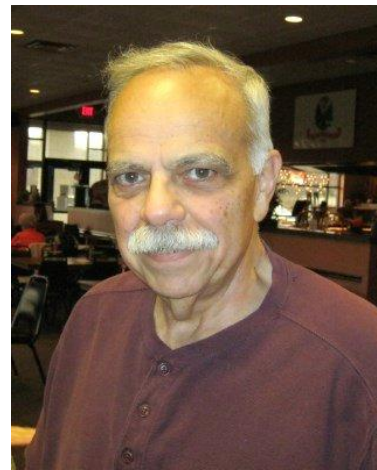
Now for a serious note - all the above is contingent on the WX. You may ask why, since we are inside. The problem is that we have serious roof leaks and if it is raining, we may not be able to operate. At present, all the rigs are covered with large sheets of plastic and additionally the rigs are put in separate plastic bags to ensure that no water will get to the electronics. Recently approximately 1/2 inch of water was squeegeed off the floor of the radio room due to the last rain we had.

We're hoping that our landlord will soon be able to at least patch the roof to prevent any damage to any of our club site. Let's keep good thoughts about this situation.

## Antenna SIG

**Tony, WA8AR**

The Antenna SIG meets at 7 PM in the PCARS club site radio room on the third Tuesday of every month. The April meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. All PCARS members and guests are welcome to attend. We will be discussing all antenna related topics including selection, design, construction, trouble shooting and safety for all Amateur Radio bands. Although we will generally have a designated monthly discussion topic please feel free to bring in any antenna related problem to the meeting and discuss it with the group.



This month we will be continuing our discussion topic on Antenna Modeling. The objective is to attempt to develop an understanding of basic antenna modeling and to become familiar with the use of the versatile 4NEC2 antenna modeling package. This software is FREE, reasonably powerful and seems somewhat user friendly. How user friendly remains to be seen!

Please note that the PCARS QST email system is functioning very well again, so please watch for PCARS QST announcements regarding all Special Interest Groups. However, **always** check the PCARS web site for Antenna SIG updates or last minute cancellations.

## PCARS Thursday Net Control

**Greg, KA8TOA**  
Net Control Coordinator

Thank you all for helping with this! Anytime you are unable to take the net, please give me as much advance warning as possible! **Check-in using the receiver located in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ 146.895 with a PL tone of 118.8.**

**Don't forget - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday is NET NIGHT at the Club Site !!**



April	
5	K8IV
12	KB8UUZ
19	WB2DFC
26	KD8SKL

May	
3	KB8TUY
10	KA8TOA
17	KE8BWA
24	KB8UHN
31	KB8UUZ

The PCARS net is **BIG Fun** - tell your friends to check in via RF or EchoLink!

I am trying to get some new net control operators, anyone interested please contact me.

If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a try, *please* contact me at:  
[KA8TOA@portcars.org](mailto:KA8TOA@portcars.org)

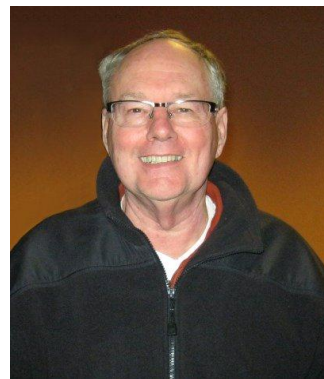
Everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn - and have fun being Net Control !

The following operators have 10 consecutive check ins: **KD8ZSH N8XTH KC3JXQ and KD8SOP**  
They will receive their certificates (suitable for framing !)

Net Operators: Please remember to e-mail me a copy of the log for the club records and certificates.  
If you have some issues and can't make it as net control see if you can trade with someone.

## Extra Class

*Jim, AC8NT*



I would like to thank the hams that attended. We had a great turnout that included both those looking to pass the test and many who already had their Extra. It was a pleasure to present, what I hope was, useful information that will make their experiences in ham radio more enjoyable.

After 11 weeks the Extra class is over. We covered a wide range of electronic topics including

- Circuit components, complex arithmetic, circuit analysis, and resonant circuits
- Semiconductor components and their specifications
- Step by step transistor amplifier design
- Op-Amps and their circuits and applications
- Oscillator circuits and design
- IQ modulation and demodulation, key to software defined radios
- Receiver specification and performance, audio and RF filters and their design
- Transmission lines, stubs and circuits
- Smith Charts and detailed use of Smith Chart software
- Antenna design and matching techniques



But the journey is far from over. Each person that attended now needs to play with this information, build circuits, design matched antenna systems and build equipment they can use. There will be failures that can be learning experiences and successes that will bring rewards.

We had a great project day for the class where projects included, building audio filters, designing amplifiers and even learning to load programs into Arduinos.

We are planning to hold some interesting Build/GOTA Days this year. These will be opportunities for anyone in the club to build project materials. Some of the planned projects include:

- Arduino Based Antenna Analyzer
- Tutorials on the use of LTSpice for circuit simulation, SimSmith for transmission line analysis and EZNEC/2Net4 for antenna design
- J-Pole two-meter antenna
- Another Balun build
- uBitx and Bitx40 build and test including upgrades to these two great kits

All the software we will be using is FREE and runs well on Windows 10. All projects will cost less than about 100 dollars (ubitx \$110, bitx40 \$70, antenna analyzer \$75) and many will cost less than \$40. Above all else we promise a lot of fun. We have a very talented club with members happy to help others learn and have fun with this great hobby.





These project days are on the calendar, so please set aside some time and join us for some quality fun.

I have started a review of the training materials. Each module will be updated to make it possible to learn the material without an instructor. That should make it possible for more hams to learn from the material. This process should be completed by June. I will post the updated materials as they are modified and let everyone know how to get to the material.

## Ham Cram at Summit Racing and **DX** Engineering

PCARS was invited to participate in the “Ham Cram” at Summit Racing / DX Engineering in Tallmadge, Ohio on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>. This was the second time PCARS has been to Summit Racing and DX Engineering to help with a Ham Cram class and VE testing.

Summit Racing and DX Engineering offered this class to their employees as an opportunity to obtain their Technician Amateur Radio Operators License.

The attendees, all employees of either Summit Racing or DX Engineering, had been studying the ARRL Technician book in preparation for the one day “Ham Cram” review and test.

The class ran from 8 am until 4 pm and included a complete review of the ARRL Technician book. Following the review, the PCARS VE Team administered the Technician test to the attendees.

We’re happy to report that 14 of the participants came away with their new Technician licenses.

PCARS instructor volunteers included: Jim AC8NT, Tom WB8LCD, Rick K8CAV, Deron N8XTH, Ed K8IV and Bob N8QE with assistance from Cory W3CDG.

The PCARS VE team members that administered the test were: Tom KB8UUZ, Jim AC8NT, Tom WB8LCD, Deron N8XTH, Ed K8IV and Bob N8QE with assistance from Cory W3CDG and Teri K8MNJ.

PCARS enjoys taking the time to reach out and help promote amateur radio.

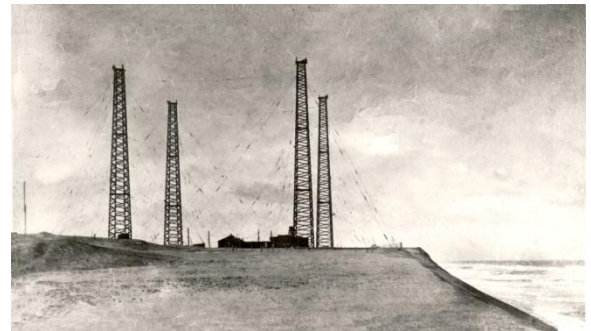


# Rare Grid Opportunity - FN51

*From the ARRL*

## History-Related Events Will Operate from Rare Grid in Cape Cod National Seashore

It is mere coincidence that the Titanic disaster in 1912 - one of the worst maritime disasters in history - and the birth of Guglielmo Marconi in 1874 - the developer of the wireless gear onboard the ill-fated ship - both occurred in April. Marconi Wireless Company radio operators onboard the Titanic transmitted the distress signal after the gigantic vessel struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic on its maiden voyage. Co-located Amateur Radio special events in April will commemorate both events.



ARRL International Grid Chase 2018 (IGC) enthusiasts take note: The special event operations will take place from FN51, a rare grid square that includes just a slip of land along the Atlantic side of Cape Cod's lower arm; most of FN51 is water. Both events will be held at the Nauset Coast Guard Station in Eastham, Massachusetts.

The Titanic/Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod operation will use W1MGY, in recognition of the Titanic's MGY call sign. Operation will begin on Saturday, April 12, at 9 AM ET and continue until April 15 at 1:27 AM ET (0527 UTC) — the time when the Virginian heard Titanic's last

radio message 106 years ago. The Titanic disaster claimed some 1,500 lives. The W1MGY operation will be open to the public only on April 14, 10 AM until 3 PM ET. According to W1MGY trustee Barry Hutchinson, KB1TLR, plans call for coverage on all bands, mostly within the General-class subbands, on CW and SSB. Two stations are planned.

Marconi's wireless station in Wellfleet on Cape Cod played a role in the rescue of 740 survivors from the Titanic. Marconi's wireless operator onboard the rescue ship Carpathia contacted the Titanic that fateful night to inform the wireless operator that the Cape Cod station was transmitting messages to the ill-fated ship. The Titanic's Marconi wireless operator promptly replied, "Come at once. We have struck a berg," initiating the rescue of survivors.

Today, the Wellfleet station site is listed as a National Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places (1975) and is now part of Cape Cod National Seashore.

The Saturday, April 21, International Marconi Day (IMD - <http://gx4crc.com/gb4imd/>) operation by the Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club will use the call sign KM1CC, which recognizes the former WCC shore station on Cape Cod. Operation will be on CW, SSB, and digital modes.



KM1CC will be among many stations participating in IMD activities on April 21. The 24-hour event is typically held on the Saturday closest to Marconi's birth date. During IMD, Amateur Radio enthusiasts around the world will attempt to make contact with various historic Marconi sites using communication techniques similar to those that Marconi used. Registered stations must operate from a site with some connection to Marconi.

Stations may register for International Marconi Day 2018 via e-mail. The list of stations (<http://gx4crc.com/imd-stations/>) already signed up for the 2018 IMD, along with their operating sites, is posted on the Cornish Radio Amateur Club website.



## New Digital Mode

*Jim, AC8NT*

Last week I successfully tested my new digital mode that I have called JAW114. This mode used a massively redundant code based on Newton's 8th law that states the noisiest signal creates the most contacts. I tested the mode using a multiband dipole laid along my condominium fence and tied to the metal sign that said no antennas allowed. The sign created almost a perfect match at 9 MHz. I used a modified Boefang two-meter handheld for the transmission that took 7 hours and 49 minutes to complete. The Boefang was selected for its amazing broadband capabilities.



I received great signal reports from Germany on 30 meters, Australia on 40 meters and the ISS on two meters. All at the same time. Most of the receiving stations used the Morse Code sub-signal modulating the noise floor. I can't wait for the QSL cards to arrive. Just think of it, worldwide communications using an inexpensive handheld. And just think how quickly you could collect contacts for DXCC if each transmission covered multiple bands and countries at the same time. We will be having a build day later in the year so everyone can enjoy this new mode.

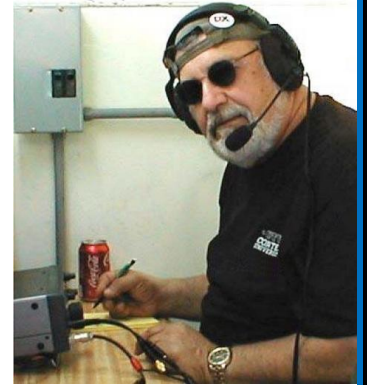
Late breaking news. I have been invited to visit the ITU. I think they want to give me some kind of award. I have also been invited to write an article about the new mode for "The Journal of Irreproducible Science".





## Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



### Hello to all you DXers:

The recent contests have shown that you can still make DX contacts on all the bands, IF someone is on the band in question. Yes, it's a BIG IF, but it can be done.

Speaking of being done, I sure hope we get done soon with all the rain. But if the old adage, "April showers bring May flowers" is true, we'll likely all be living in a huge florist's shop very soon. My back yard looks more like a wetland than a yard. And I noticed that the squirrels who are venturing out are wearing floatation devices. My cat doesn't go anywhere without his waders. Lately he has been asking to use one of my fly rods. I am starting to worry about him.

Why not take a look at what will be happening DXwise in the coming months.

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, ARRL Bulletins, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, N1DG, NJ1Q & W1AW, K3LR, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, WB6RSE, W7GJ, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, Sixitalia Weekly, and VA3RJ & ICPO and the WIA Website for the following DX information.

And as always, this report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operations or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know, so..... - **"Work First Worry Later"**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The fact that donation requests from various DXpeditions are at times included in this column, does not mean that PCARS or this HAM approves or disapproves of donating to the DXpeditions listed. I am only providing information for you to make up your own minds as to whether or not to donate.

**3B8, MAURITIUS.** Mart, DL6UAA will be QRV as 3B8MM until April 11. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, various digital modes and some SSB. QSL to home call.

**4S, SRI LANKA.** (Reminder) Takayuki, JI1SHQ, has reportedly moved to Sri Lanka (AS-003), and will be active as 4S7TNG for the next several years. He is preparing his antenna and will soon be able to be on the air. Activity will be mainly on 30 and 20 meters using mainly CW. His station is an ICOM IC-706MK2G (50w) into a V type Dipole, using two mobile whips; its height is approx. 60m. QSL via JI1SHQ by the Bureau.

**5V, TOGO.** John, N9MDH, will be active as 5V1JE from Lomé until end of May 2018, more or less. Activity will be on 80-10 meters (he likes the 30m band) using SSB and the Digital modes. He will use an ICOM IC-7300 transceiver into a Gap Titan antenna. QSL via eQSL or LoTW.

**C8, MOZAMBIQUE** (Reminder). Members of the Lion DX Team (OT8T) will be active as C8T from Mozambique between May 2-15th, 2018. Operators mentioned are Kurt/ON8KW (Team Leader), Roger/ON7TQ (Co-Leader), Bruno/CS7ABG (Co-Leader), Paulo/CU2CO, Emil/DL8JJ, Ron/ON1DX, Philippe/ON4ACP, Marc/ON4AMX, Erik/ON4CCV, Olivier/ON4EI, Hermann/ON4QX, Ivo/ON5CD, Cis/ON6LY and Franky/ ON7RU. Activity will be on 160-6

meters using CW, SSB and RTTY, and possibly other Digital modes (PSK, FT8). They have permission to do 60m and will also do 2m-EME. The setup will consist of 4 stations on the air for 24 hours and a fifth station for 2m EME + 60m and extra digimodes on all bands. QSL Manager has not been named, but it looks like they will be using ClubLog. Look for more details to be forthcoming. Visit their Web page at: <https://mozambique2018.wordpress.com>

**CY9C ST. PAUL ISLAND DXPEDITION** (Update). Planning continues for activation August 1-9th. Details and updates are posted on the DXpedition Web site <http://www.CY9C.com>. Any donations go toward boat cost, shipping, fuel, logistics and are appreciated and helpful. As a small thank you for donors, logs will be checked at the end of the DXpedition, and if you are in the log QSLs will be sent automatically. We are looking forward to not only working the traditional bands/modes but also EME, FT8, SAT, RTTY, 60m. Logs/QSLing will be available via ClubLog and also LoTW as soon as possible.

**DP0, ANTARCTICA.** Matthias, DH5CW, will be active as DP0GVN from the German Neumayer Station III (AN-016, WWFF DLFF-022, WW Loc. IB59UH) between mid-February 2018 to mid-February 2019. Activity will be on various HF bands during his spare time. QSL via DL5EBE.

**E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS.** Oleh, UR5BCP, will be active as E51BCP from Rarotonga Island (OC-013) between April 15-20th. Operation will also including some SOTA activations. QSL via KD7WPJ.

**E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS.** Operators Bruce/AD7MM (E51BAS), Marilyn/KI7DLK, Doug/W6HB (E51DLD) and Peter/WA6HXM will be active from Rarotonga Island (OC-013) between May 13-25th. Activity will be holiday style on 160-10 meters, and operating from E51AND and E51KC QTHs (also possibly from E51JD, E51BQ and E51CG QTHs). QSL via their home call signs direct (see QRZ.com).

**HF VOYAGER.** David, AA6YQ, author of DXLab - "Better DXing Through (Free) Software", posted the following: "Jupiter Research Foundation Amateur Radio Club (JRFARC) has integrated an HF transceiver with an autonomous ocean-going drone. Our mission is to deploy a ham radio station that roams the world's oceans while providing an opportunity for amateur radio operators everywhere to make contacts with rare locations. "We sent this new Voyager out to the open ocean on its way to California on January 15th, 2018 as a passenger on the JRF HUMPACs mission. As they search for 'missing' humpback whales, JRF's pilots will guide HF Voyager to sections of the Equatorial North Pacific that are not normally available to ham operators. The station will use FT8 and PSK-31 on the 20 meter band as its primary operating modes. You may also find it using WSPR in times of poor propagation." See <http://www.jrfarc.org/hf-voyager/> The portal in <http://hfvportal.jrfarc.org/> takes a minute or two to display data. The club plans to give a certificate of recognition to operators worldwide that have a confirmed contact with the HF Voyager. In the future we hope to collaborate with Amateur Radio organizations and publishers to sponsor operating events and contests for HF Voyager contact milestones. Gridsquare collectors, maritime operating fans, Islands on the Air participants, and all other hams interested in this unique opportunity to make a contact with an autonomous roving maritime station should find this to be an exciting new aspect of their favorite hobby. Be sure to check out our HF Voyager Blog for updates and schedules: <http://www.jrfarc.org/hf-voyager-updates>

**JD1, OGASAWARA.** Makoto, JI5RPT, will once again be active as JD1BLY from Chichijima Island (AS-031) between May 2-4th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes (NO 6m EME). QSL via his home call sign JI5RPT. His log search will be available on his Web site at: <http://www.ji5rpt.com/jd1> He will also use Twitter to inform his real-time activities at: <http://twitter.com/jd1bly>

**JW, SVALBARD.** Erik, LA2US, will once again be active as JW2US from Bear Island (IOTA EU-027) for the next 4 months. Activity limited to his spare time and he will operate on various HF Bands mostly CW at the lower band edges and IOTA frequencies. Also, on this trip he will be on BPSK, FT8 and RTTY. Equipment is a FT-450D, Signalink USB, Expert 1K-FA and a OCFD antenna. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS, LoTW or eQSL.

**KH6, HAWAII.** Philip, N2HX, will be active as KH6/N2HX from Maui (BL10pw) between May 2nd and June 1st. Activity will be holiday style using mostly SSB and RTTY. QSL via N2HX.

**KH9, WAKE ISLAND** (Update). Philip, N7NVK, will be active as KH9/N7NVK from Wake Island (OC-053) starting sometime in April. He reported the following update on QRZ.com on March 21st: "Still awaiting clearance documents. Tentative travel date 04-09-2018."

**KL7, ALASKA** (Attn: NPOTA enthusiasts). The North Country DX Association (NCDXA) will be active as KL7RST/KL7 from the Denali National Park in Alaska starting around April 20th. QSL via K7ICE. This stopover is part of the 2018 Worked All "RST" stations special event running from February 1st to May 31st. The NCDXA "RST" stations are on Facebook. Check out the hams you worked and learn about them at: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Country-DX-Assoc-K7ICE-1717462798496577>

**T2, TUVALU**. Tony, 3D2AG, will once again be active as T2AR from Funafuti Atoll (OC-015) tentatively between April 8-15th. Activity will be limited (due to work; 0430-1300z, 1730-2000z) on 160-10 meters as well as 60, 2 and 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65 and FT8. QSL via 3D2AG direct or PayPal.

**W8PT, PARKMAN, OH**. Chuck will be QRV as his own call for about 1 to 5 hours starting sometime late in the afternoon or early evening on April 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the *Squirrel Water Ski Events* happening in the field next to his house due to all this rain we are having. Activity on most bands including the neighbors TV. Absolutely **no raspberry pi** FT8 contacts. QSL to call sign in QRZ.com with an SASE and \$35 in cash. No IRCs.

**XT, BURKINA FASO**. Harald, DF2WO will be QRV as XT2AW until April 10. Max, DK1MAX will join him and be active as XT2MAX from March 23 to April 2. Activity will be on the HF bands, including 6 meters, using CW and FT8. QSL XT2AW via M0OXO and XT2MAX direct to DK1MAX.

**XV, VIET NAM**. William "BJ", WA7WJR, reports on his QRZ.com page that he will once again be active as XV9WJR during April and May.

**YJ, VANUATU**. Grant, VK5GR, announced this that he is "planning another holiday style DXpedition for 2018" with his family on Efate (OC-035) between April 17-29th. He hopes to operate as YJ0AG (waiting to receive the license). Activity will be on 80-10 meters using mostly the Digital modes (RTTY, FT8, PSK, Olivia) as well as SSB and some SSTV, possibly CW. Grant states, "I am looking to particularly work unique stations and will be where possible targeting Europe Short Path where YJ is high on the ClubLog most wanted list. Operation will of course be intermittent as again family comes first but I will attempt to operate during the main openings (EU SP at night will be a feature). The station will be a K3/KPA500 combination with a G3TXQ UltraLight HexBeam for 20-10m plus a multi-band vertical for 80-10m (with water access along the EU SP and NA LP paths)..... I also hope to operate in the SPDX RTTY Contest." QSL will again be managed by M0OXO through his OQRS service for electronically requested cards delivered to you either direct or via the Bureau. QSL via the Bureau go to VK5GR.

#### **IOTA NEWS.....**

**EU-064**. Members of Charente DX Group (CDXG) will be active as TM3Y from **Yeu Island IOTA** (DIFM AT021) between April 14-20th. Operators mentioned are Franck/F4GBD, Eric/F5LOW, Laurent / F5MNK, Fabrice/F5NBQ, Bertrand/F6HKA and Leon/ON4ZD-OS0S. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via ON4ZD. All QSLs will automatically be sent via the Bureau. ClubLog's OQRS will be available and they will try to upload daily. Visit the CDXG Web page at: <http://www.charentedxgroupe.fr> This activity supported by: <http://www.xbstelecom.eu>

**NA-085**. Members of the Thomasville Amateur Radio Club (TARC) [W4UCJ] will be activating St. George Island on April 14-15th, between 1200-0200z (April 14th, 8am - 9pm EST). The event call sign W4P has been reserved for them to use during this event. They will be running at least 2 radios and swapping between bands and modes as needed. Their Facebook page will be updated with the current frequencies and modes that they are on. They plan to use mostly Dipoles with maybe a vertical and end-fed thrown into the mix. QSL will be via printed cards.

**OC-128**. Bodo, DF8DX, will be active as DU1WQY/1 from Palawan Island between April 15-18th. Activity will usually be on 40-10 meters using mainly CW with 100 watts into a vertical antenna. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW.



**SA-071.** Members of the Curva do Rio Group (CDR) will be active as PR2CI from Couves Island between April 6-8th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via the Bureau, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. For direct, via PY2AE with SAE and 2 USDs.

So that's it for the coming month plus a few months out. Get on the air and work some DX. And as I have said in past newsletters, take advantage of any of our club's Open House days and work some DX from the club site. Until next month, vry 73.

## *QRP, CW & Linux SIGs*

*Terry, KB8AMZ*

### **QRP & CW SIG**

Hello all. These months are going by quickly. Its time for the fourth SIG of the year and it will be 10 April. We will discuss what our next build project will/should be. If the rigs are dry we may attempt to get on the air and work some CW.

### **Linux for Hams SIG**

Hello all. Our next SIG is over one month away. Not until 29 May do we meet again. Be sure to bring your Raspberry Pi (any version), keyboard and mouse, and monitor. We will be comparing often used commands both CLI and GUI based.



## *Local Source for ARRL Badges*

Are you looking to get an official ARRL name badge? David, W8GWI, one of our PCARS members, is an authorized ARRL Badge maker. You can contact Dave at: Ironclad Enterprises, LLC - P.O. Box 261 - Tallmadge, OH 44278 - Telephone: (330)630-2438 Leave message - Fax: (330)630-2438 or by email: [w8gwi@arrl.net](mailto:w8gwi@arrl.net) The nice thing about having him local is you can order your badge and pick it up in person at the following PCARS meeting!



## *Swap-N-Shop*

**FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-180A** general coverage receiver tunes from 540 to 30000 kHz in six ranges. It has improved mechanical and electrical stability, tunable BFO for CW or fixed BFO for optimum SSB, silicon rectifiers, accessory power supply and 115/230 VAC 50/60 Hz operation. Other enhancements include: antenna trimmer, noise limiter, RF gain, S-meter, stand-by and AVC on/off. There are 3.2 ohm speaker terminals on the rear panel. The clock works. It is in excellent physical and electrical condition. An original manual in excellent condition is included. It is used frequently and a demo is possible. The first reasonable offer takes this champion of the tube era. A complete new tube set was installed 6 months ago.

**Contact Dave, N8NB at 330-501-5031** [04/02/18]



**FOR SALE:** Package deal - If you're looking for a complete, no-tune 500-watt mobile (or home) station, this is it. All equipment is in excellent condition and worked the last time I put it on the air. If you want to use it as a home station, you'll need 2 additional separate power supplies (not included) to get on the air. I cannot sell separate pieces; all of the following must be sold as a package:

- ICOM 706mkIIg** (s/n: 1511093) with hand mic+ remote head connecting cord
- SG-500 amplifier**, fully transistorized, with SGC cooling fans attached (purchased in 2008; S/N 52963558)
- Tar Heel Model 40-A mobile antenna**, 1,000 watts capability, w/ 6-foot whip; works 40 through 10 m
- Ameritron AWM Mobile SWR/Wattmeter**
- Ameritron ARB 704 Interface Buffer**
- TuneMatic Model TM-1 Automatic Motorized Antenna Controller**

Total purchase price = \$1,790.00, payable in cash or bank check. Purchaser must pick up or pay shipping. The only reason I am selling is that I downsized my vehicle, and there is no room in my new one for all of the gear.

**Contact Jack, K8HGX** at: 330-995-0506 or email to: [jack@alpernlaw.com](mailto:jack@alpernlaw.com) [06/02/18]

**FOR SALE: 13 ELE 2 Meter Yagi** – it has a 15' boom, with a "T" reflector at the end. Speaking to the folks at Cushcraft, they were confident that this is an early version of the A13B2 They said the specs should be similar to the current version. (<http://www.cushcraftamateur.com/Product.php?productid=A13B2> ). The only difference is that the new versions don't have the "T" reflector. Asking \$75. It will be at the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest if not sold by then.

**FOR SALE: Mirage B1016G VHF Amp.** 2 Meter, 10W in/160W out. Asking \$125.

It will be at the Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest if not sold by then.

**Contact John, KD8MQ** at: 330-936-5021 or email to: [KD8MQ@gmail.com](mailto:KD8MQ@gmail.com) [07/02/18]



**FOR SALE: AMERITRON AL-82 LINEAR AMPLIFIER** - \$1,500.00 With a pair of Eimac 3-500Z Tubes, puts out 1500 W with 100 W drive. Good Condition, wired for 240V, 160 through 10 meters including WARC bands. Weighs 80 pounds. Prefer local sale, can deliver up to 50 miles.

**FOR SALE: YAESU FT-1000MP TRANSCEIVER** - 100 W - AC VERSION - \$1,000.00 Excellent condition, Loaded with the following filters: Has Optional Roofing Filter. 8,215 IF Optional Filters: 500Hz, 2.0 KHz, 2.4 KHz, 6.0 KHz 455 IF Optional Filters: 250Hz, 2.0KHz, 2.4 KHz, 6.0 KHz Includes manual and hand microphone.



**FOR SALE: TEN-TEC CORSAIR TRANSCEIVER** - 100 W WITH MATCHING POWER SUPPLY / SPEAKER COMBINATION \$250.00 Good Condition - superlative full break-in CW performance - good starter radio. Has optional narrow SSB and CW filters. Includes manual. Will not sell transceiver without power supply.



**FOR SALE: HAMMARLUND HQ-129 VINTAGE RECEIVER** - \$100.00 Good Condition commensurate with its age, fully functional. Completely re-capped, re-tubed and re-aligned 10 years ago.



**FOR SALE: MFJ 259-B ANTENNA ANALYZER WITH CARRYING CASE**- \$150.00 Good condition, fully functional, with manual. Covers 0.5 to 170 MHz in 6 ranges.



**Contact George, K3GP** at: 330-829-9504 after 6 PM Weekdays or Weekends [07/02/18]

**WANTED: Junker D.B.G.M Telegraph Key** Have a Junker D.B.G.M telegraph key laying around collecting dust? For the right price I would like to buy it.

**Contact Terry, KB8AMZ** at 330-221-0169 or by e-mail at:

[hooked2u@neo.rr.com](mailto:hooked2u@neo.rr.com) [07/02/18]



**For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder:** This is a PCARS members only benefit. Please don't ask to list items for a friend, relative or SK estate unless they are a member of PCARS. Requests come in from all over the USA (and beyond) to list items for sale or wanted items and we just cannot dedicate that much space to non-members. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier. The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [06/02/18] indicates the ad will run until June 2, 2018.

## Contest Calendars

April 2018	
Contest Name	Times - Date
Florida State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Apr 7 and 1400Z-2200Z, Apr 8
Texas State Parks on the Air	1400Z, Apr 7 to 0200Z, Apr 8 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 8
Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 7 to 0400Z, Apr 8 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 8
Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 7 to 0200Z, Apr 8
North American SSB Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Apr 8
New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 14 to 0200Z, Apr 15
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 15 to 1800Z, Apr 16
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 14 to 0359Z, Apr 15 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 15
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 15
Nebraska QSO Party	1300Z, Apr 21 to 0200Z, Apr 22 and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 22
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 21 to 0400Z, Apr 22
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 28 to 2359Z, Apr 29
<b>Florida QSO Party</b>	<b>1600Z, Apr 28 to 0159Z, Apr 29 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 29</b>

*YES - There are MANY More Contests out there - Check the internet.*

**Keep the following dates open - K8BF will be contesting from the PCARS club site.**

Check the PCARS web site for up-to-date details from Chuck, W8PT.

Contest Name	Times - Date
<b>Florida QSO Party</b>	<b>1600Z, Apr 28 to 2159Z, Apr 29</b>
ARRL June VHF	1800Z, Jun 9 to 0300Z, Jun 11
NA QSO Party - RTTY	1800Z, Jul 21 to 0600Z, Jul 22
CQ WW VHF	1800Z, Jul 21 to 2100Z, Jul 22, 2018
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 25 to 0400Z, Aug 26
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 6 to 2159Z, Oct 7

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



Coming in May - **HAMVENTION<sup>®</sup> 2018** - Stay Tuned





## PCARS Ham 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 PCARS club station.**

We have 65 PCARS member's ham 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 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.

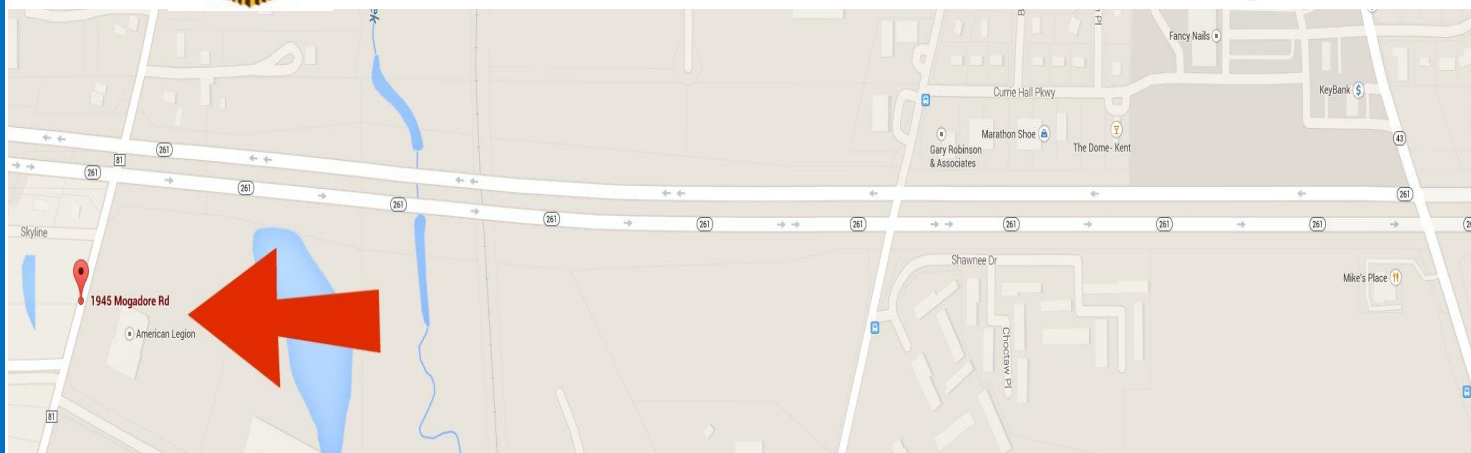


## PCARS Meetings

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) meetings are held the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** of each month and start at 7:00 pm.



*The meetings are held at The American Legion, Post 496  
1945 Mogadore Road - in Kent. (Just South of Route 261)*



The American Legion Post 496 is located on the southeast corner of State Route 261 and Mogadore Rd. The driveway is on the south side of the building and as you enter you will pass through a parking lot on the south side of the building. Please do not park in this lot but instead continue on to the parking lot on the east side of the building which is the near the rear entrance into the Post 'Canteen'. As you enter the post from this entrance you'll see a bar to the left and a dining area to the right. The meeting area we'll be in is on the right, to the rear of the dining area.



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

The menu consists of your basic burger / dog / chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, onion rings, and salads. There is also an appetizer selection as well. Adult beverages are available and costs are in line with what you would expect at most bar-restaurant facilities.

If you are a member of the The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion, bring your ID card as you get a substantial discount on adult beverage pricing.



## *Photos from the PCARS Meeting in March*











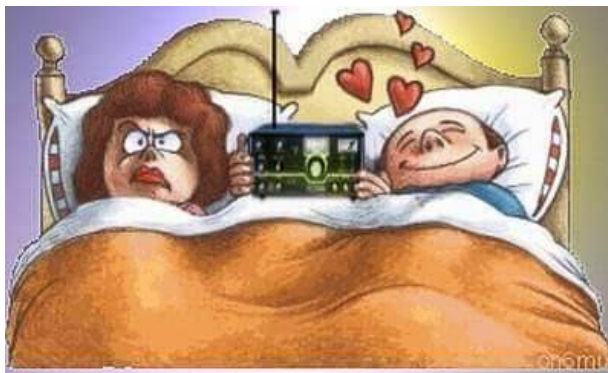
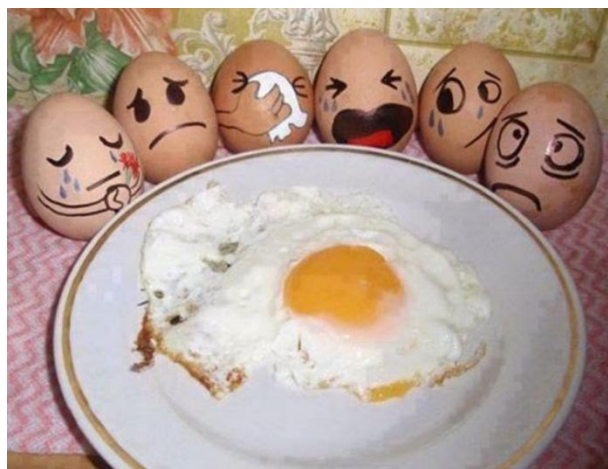
# PCARS Meeting - March 12, 2018



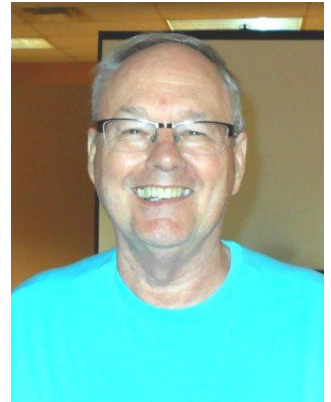
Ever wonder what Amy is looking at on her phone?  
Look close - the Secret is out!



Old Saturday Night Live videos !



*Jim, AC8NT*



### **Where did the Q codes come from? QTH, QRM, etc.**

The original Q codes were created about 1909 by the British government as a list of abbreviations... prepared for the use of British ships and coast stations licensed by the Postmaster General. They were created to allow communications between ships with crews speaking different languages. Telegraph operators prefaced Q codes by sending the symbol INT (dit dit dah dit dah) indicating a question was to follow. As an example QRC asks what is your true bearing? Hams have adopted their own set from these original lists and added a couple of their own.

My favorite Q code is QLF. Are you sending with your left foot? Not a flattering comment for a CW operator.

### **Where did CQ come from?**

First, French is and was the official language used for international postal services, the organization in most European countries that manages telegraph communications. CQ originated from “securite”, French for “safety” or “pay attention”. It was later popularly changed to the phrase “seek you”. Marconi later added D making CQD a distress call.

I guess that means all hams can speak at least a little French.

### **When was first ham contact between Europe and the US?**

November 27, 1923 marked the first transatlantic two-way contact between American amateur Fred Schnell and French amateur Léon Deloy.

### **Do hams have a Patron saint?**

Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was killed at Auschwitz by the Germans during World War II. In 1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe. He is known as the Patron saint of ham radio.

### **What is the Guinness record for receiving Morse Code?**

According to The Guinness book of world records, the world's record for Morse Code speed was set in Asheville, NC in July 1939 by Ted R. McElroy. He was clocked in Continental Morse Code with witnesses at 75.2 WPM. The record still stands today.



## *Important Dates in April*

### **2nd April, 2018 will be... Peanut Butter and Jelly Day**

Peanut Butter and Jelly Day celebrates the most popular sandwich in America! It doesn't matter whether you like grape, strawberry, orange marmalade, blackberry, or any other form of jelly, the best compliment to them is the amazing and delectable peanut butter! Peanut Butter and Jelly has become such a popular taste sensation that it can be found in hundreds of different derivations.



Peanut Butter was first invented by the Aztecs, who ground roasted peanuts into a rich nutritious paste. Peanut paste has been used all over the world in many different derivations ever since, being an absolute foundation of many cuisines. One thing that made this protein and calorie dense food popular is it's resistance to going off, and the ease with which it could be transported. Combine that with an amazing taste and texture, and it's no wonder that peanut butter is a world favorite!

It comes in so many different varieties too! Chunky, smooth, natural, salted, unsalted, even premixed with jelly! Peanut Butter really is an amazing food, and has been used to feed those who haven't been able to eat 'solid food' for one reason or another. It's been used for a myriad of snacks, including ants on a log (Celery filled with peanut butter topped with raisins), peanut butter cookies, but it's most popular derivation by far is the peanut butter and jelly sandwich!

Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches were thought to be invented during the American Civil war, when the men mixed their peanut ration and jelly ration to create a delicious new treat while out on the field. When the men finally returned from the war, bedraggled and tired, they also brought with them news of this wonderful treat that brought them comfort on the field. Peanut butter and jelly sales soared at the wars end, all thanks to this delightful combination of sweet jelly and smooth peanut butter!

Peanut Butter and Jelly aren't just found in sandwiches either! There's Peanut Butter and Jelly Ice cream for those who prefer a cold mix of this treat, it can be found in a special brand of spread called "Goobers" where the Peanut Butter and Jelly come pre-mixed! There are Peanut Butter and Jelly cookies, cakes, even the famous breakfast tart company Pop-tarts has come up with a variety of peanut-butter and jelly sandwich Pop-Tarts. No matter what your particular taste, you're bound to find a variety of this delicious mix to suit your palette.

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### **5th April, 2018 will be... Deep Dish Pizza Day**

Pizza lovers far and wide will be making the most of Deep Dish Pizza Day. This is your holiday! But first, let us thank Pizzeria Uno's founder Ike Sewell, without whom this day wouldn't exist. He is credited with creating the spectacular deep dish pizza in 1943 in Chicago. This wonderfully tasty pizza, also known as Chicago-style pizza, is characterized by a superb buttery crust that can be as high as 3 inches tall, along with generous amounts of flavorsome sauce, toppings and cheese. On this day, get together with friends or family to visit your favorite pizza restaurant and enjoy a wonderful slice (or more) of cheesy goodness.



Don't fret if you can't get the exact deep dish pizza – a pan style pizza, thick crusted pizza or pretty much any delicious pizza will do. Better yet, use this day to finally create that perfect pizza you've always dreamed of making, and invite others over to share it with you!

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## 6th April, 2018 will be... New Beer's Eve

For lovers of all brews everywhere, the years of 1920 to 1933 were incredibly sad times. This was the period of the Prohibition in the United States, where any and all forms of alcohol were verboten. Thankfully in 1933, the United States government came to their senses, and President Roosevelt decided that this frothy brew should once again flow freely in the taverns and bars of the country.



On this date in 1933, people lined up around the block at the doors of their favorite public house to prepare to imbibe the first legal brews in 13 years. Ever since that night, this day has been referred to as 'New Beer's Eve', a precursor of 'New Beers Day'. It was said that at 12:01 on 1933, Roosevelt stated "I think this would be a good time for a beer." For such an auspicious patron, Anheuser-Busch pulled out all the stops, delivering the beer with their Clydesdale draw carriage directly to the Commander in Chief. The first 24 hours of the end of the prohibition saw an estimated 1.5 million gallons of beer consumed.



This is a great time to set up a party, bringing in an abundance of different types of brews and calling in New Beer Day with an abundance of craft beers and the like. Seeing how it's only this year's New Beer's Eve once, it just makes sense to go a little out of well-travelled waters for it. There are micro-breweries popping up all over America, so the opportunity to try a local brew for the first time is popping up every day. Nothing better than celebrating the end of the prohibition by trying out a beer that may never have existed if it had not!

But that doesn't mean you should spend a small fortune on it, most microbreweries produce beers at a very reasonable rate. While there are higher priced beers on the market, there is nothing saying that they are in fact of superior quality. Some of the most delicious beers on the market are bottom shelf mostly unknown micro-brews. So go for a rarely experienced beer, but don't get a new mortgage on your house to make it happen.

There are many good suds to be tried this time of year, and it's a great time to run beer scout for the craft beers that are out there. You can take this opportunity to introduce friends and family, and even fellow beer drinkers to your favorite beverage. But make sure you have a good beer to offer them. There are beers with different qualities that have light fruity qualities, and others with the dark rich body of Guinness. Setting up a party with your friends to get together for a beer tasting is a great way to celebrate this holiday.

So celebrate this New Beer's Eve by heading out and exploring the vast unexplored wilderness that is craft beers! There are so many options out there for the intrepid beer scout to discover. It's been a long time since the prohibition, and the world is full of the amazing achievements of brewers reveling in the new freedom we've been given because of it. This is the time to go out to your favorite pub and perhaps sponsor an event there, helping others to celebrate the wonderful liberation in libations we experience. You're craft brew deprived friends will thank you!

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## 7th April, 2018 will be... Beer Day

Wheat, barley, rye, and hops, dark or light, sour or bitter, Beer Day celebrates the entire history of this magnificent drink and everything it has to offer to the world! When something has been around for essentially the entirety of human civilization, you know it has something special about it. So what makes beer so special? Is it the wide variety of flavors it comes in? The frothy head and the frost that forms on a truly perfectly chilled glass? Beer Day is your perfect opportunity to dive in and sample the panorama of flavors and experiences it offers.



### History of Beer Day

The history of Beer Day, well, given that we have (apparently) the entire breadth of human history to explore in our examination of this delightful drink, where are we going to start? Well, let's start with a little bit of (slightly disgusting) science and how it plays into the creation of this frothy drink. Anyone who knows anything about beer production today knows that yeast is a vital element in its creation, but 7000+ years ago yeast didn't come in nice sealed foil packages waiting for nothing more than water and sugar to be added. No, it roamed wild and free. So how did brewer's capture it?

The first beer was almost certainly created by accident, a container of wet cereal grains left open to the sky, and the wild yeasts of the area that happen to fall into it. That's right, the same method you use for ensuring that food spoils is the exact same method they used for starting up a nice rich brew. What this meant was that every brew created was different, even in the same area, though some consistency was possible. At the very least it meant that regions were known for the particular flavors their yeasts imparted to their beers.

So what does that mean for you? It means that Beer Day is all about variety!

### How to Celebrate Beer Day

Celebrating Beer Day is probably one of the greatest celebrations you can have! Simply go out and buy your favorite brew, and a few varieties you've never tried. Get friends together to share their favorite flavors and to bring a few new options to the mix. People may talk about wine as the pinnacle of culture, but these people have simply never had the joy of a beer sampler from a local brewery, or discovering the hoppy nature of a little-known beer. Beer Day is for Beer Hipsters? It's possible.

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## 18th April, 2018 will be... Amateur Radio Day

Long before the invention of the World Wide Web, when instant communication was a dream and a letter was actually considered a pretty speedy way to communicate (outside of the phone), there were a group of pioneers who had already discovered the glories of a word-wide communication and the joy of communicating with people all over the world instantly. What could this amazing form of communication be? Why, Amateur Radio! Amateur Radio Day reminds us of these great pioneers, their modern descendants, and how radio has been serving a worldwide community for well over 100 years.



### History of Amateur Radio Day

Back in April of 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union came into existence in the incredibly cosmopolitan city of Paris. These intrepid adventurers had discovered that the short wave spectrum that amateur



radio used to transmit and receive was able to unite people the world over, something that had formerly been speculated as being impossible. This group of experimental radionauts proved this theory wrong, and banded together to campaign for and protect those bandwidths that would come to serve the community of radio enthusiasts.

Since then the IARU has worked tirelessly to broaden the range of bandwidths available to radio fans, and has expanded to include members all over the world, from 25 countries at last count. Interest in Amateur Radio has only grown since those early days, with over 3,000,000 licensed operators spreading their voices across the globe today. It's through this medium that people from different nations and cultures were able to spread ideas with great speed, long before the ability to shoot off an email or video chat was ever possible.

### **How to Celebrate Amateur Radio Day**

IARU has events all over the world to celebrate this great invention and to bring together people who still find value in being able to skip a radio across the ionosphere over thousands of miles and bring together two sides of the globe through little more than a oscillating wave of energy. If you've ever seen or worked with one, take some time on Amateur Radio Day to research the things it has been used for, and maybe see about getting into a small beginners set to start exploring the world of amateur radio. Amateur Radio Day is your opportunity to dive into the world of Amateur Radio and discover what new friends and communities exist all over the world, so why wait?

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### **22nd April, 2018 will be... Jelly Bean Day**

Some of us harbor a dark secret, one that leaves us shamed and reviled by all those who, by their estimation, are the repositories of better taste. They sneer at our choices and look upon us with disgust as we dive in and enjoy that thing which bears all the rich, bitter sweetness that we love in life. That's right. We like the Black Jellybeans, the dark sheep of the Easter bunny's basket of indulgences. Jelly Bean Day celebrates the entire rainbow of flavors that the world has to offer, and that includes our precious black licorice, and so we can for once agree on one small detail. That Jelly Beans are delicious, and the world would be a sadder place without them.



### **History of Jelly Bean Day**

Jelly Beans have a long history, reaching back further than their association with Easter and, in fact, the Easter Bunny. In the mid 1800's, the Jelly Bean was developed, bringing these flavorful rainbows into our lives and much joy with them. It is thought that the original bean was inspired by the sweet candy known as Turkish delight, comprised of rich fruit and powdered sugar. Perhaps the development was someone trying to find a less messy and more portable version of this already popular treat.

Jelly Beans have had a surprisingly deep influence on our culture, with the term expanding beyond meaning a simple delicious candy. The term Jelly Bean has been used to describe simple multi-use electronics equipment in the Electronics Industry, as well as the odd but distinctly American use in the 1910's. During this time Jelly-Bean was often used to describe a youth who dressed in the latest style to catch the eye of young women, but beyond that had little to offer those who took the bait. One of the most well-known uses of Jelly Beans is in the hugely successful Harry Potter series, where-in we can find the devilish and untrustworthy "Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Bean". A rather adventurous assortment of Jelly Beans where the flavors could literally be anything you imagine. While some of these flavors haven't translated into real life, Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Bean is indeed a product you can buy, with such flavors as Earwax, Vomit, and more. Certainly not for the faint of heart.

## How To Celebrate Jelly Bean Day

First off, take a big bag of Jelly Beans and make them disappear down your gob hole. Yes, you can leave the black ones if you like, we'll just accept them by SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope) at our offices address. Thank you very much. Or you can share them with other right thinking people who live in your vicinity. Another popular activity is to hold a charity event by filling a jar with jelly beans and offering people the opportunity to win a raffle prize. All they have to do is guess the number of jelly beans, and when the day is over you find out how many people got it spot on, or how many guessed the closest. Those who win get to split the prize, while the money goes to your favorite charity!

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## 27th April, 2018 will be... Morse Code Day

We've heard the sound in movies both old and new, it finds its way into horror movies as some lost mysterious code. Heroes in action flicks use it to help send out secret messages past the villains holding them captive, and secret lovers have passed messages using it in carefully constructed pieces of art or even braille. It served as the foundation for a new era of communication, and has served vital roles in wars old and new. What is it we're talking about? Morse Code of course! Morse Code Day celebrates this amazingly concise, powerful, and influential way of transmitting information and the history of how it changed the world.



## The History Of Morse Code Day

The year was 1836, and Samuel F.B. Morse was working on something with a pair of compatriots that would utterly change the way the world transmitted information. What they would develop would be the device and technology that would drive communication until the radio finally became fully developed years later. Even then, radio was often used to transmit Morse Code over long distances, as even weak signals could often carry a comprehensible message in Morse code. It also has the distinction of being a coded language that a human with the right experience can translate by ear, at speed, without a decoder.

While it was developed for English, the alphabet has frequently been modified for other languages, making its reach and use universal in nature. From then it has found its way into Aviation, Amateur Radio, and can even be transmitted by flashing lights, as any fan of media can tell you. Mirrors, flashlights, even bright spotlights have all been used to transmit information in this amazing and diverse code base. Perhaps the most amazing and unexpected use of this language is to help those with disabilities be able to communicate through simple tapping, or even through a simple skin buzzer. It truly is powerful and adaptive.

## How to Celebrate Morse Code Day

Morse Code Day makes for a great opportunity to add an unusual and interesting method of communication to repertoire. You can share notes with your friends on pages filled with dots and dashes, you can even send them via your digital devices. Leave messages on cake or flash each other notes with mirrors across schoolyards and workplaces. However you celebrate it, give yourself a chance to find new ways to communicate by adding a little Morse Code to your life!

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## 28th April, 2018 will be... International Marconi Day

Amateur radios, point-to-point contacts, high-frequency wave transfers, a mysterious yet attractive prize for the most connected stations... All of this sounds like the beginning of a quirky yet adorable B-movie. In reality, it is the essence of International Marconi Day, a 24-hour amateur radio event which celebrates the career of Italian wireless communications pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. The event takes place annually on the Saturday closest to his birthday (April 25, 1874).

To commemorate the Nobel laureate's achievements, fans use HF radio to make direct point-to-point contact between stations, relying on the same technology Marconi developed and utilized in his time. Although nowadays the Internet is the medium of choice for global communications, the idea behind International Marconi Day is to keep the spirit of invention alive. The event also provides an exciting throwback to the days when a connected planet Earth was but a bold dream and only a few exceptional people, such as Marconi, saw the value in it.



## Thanks & 73



**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 is known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club with plenty of activities. So chip in and send your report in to keep this newsletter great all throughout 2018 and beyond.

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



**KB8UUZ, AC8NT, WA8AR, K8CAV, N8SY, W8KNO, K3GP, WA8UWV, N8RLG, KB8AMZ, WB8LCD, N6TL, KD8MQ, N8BHL, K3LR, KB6NU, W8PT, KA8TOA, NF8R, W8BBQ, W8GWI, ARRL and the World-Wide Web.**

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

**HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE APRIL FOOL  
MATERIAL IN THIS ISSUE**





# 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 118.8 in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ EchoLink Node: **K8SRR**

PCARS thanks **K8IV** for making the repeater available to area hams and for PCARS activities

Check PCARS out on the web: [www.PORTCARS.ORG](http://www.PORTCARS.ORG) -or- [www.K8BF.ORG](http://www.K8BF.ORG)

~ 2018 Officers ~		2018 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
<b>President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT</b> <b>Vice President - Tony Romito - WA8AR</b> <b>Treasurer - Amy Leggiero - KD8SKL</b> <b>3 Year Trustee - Ed Polack - K8IV</b> <b>2 Year Trustee - Robert Gurney - N8RLG</b> <b>1 Year Trustee - Erica Pelz - AE8YL</b> <b>Past President - Rick Kruis - K8CAV</b>	ARRL Awards - DXCC WAS, VUCC, WAC	<b>W8KNO</b>	Joe Wehner
	ARRL Awards - WAS	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	<b>K8CAV</b>	Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink	<b>K8SRR</b>	Steve Randlett
	Field Day Chairman, 2018	<b>WA8AR</b>	Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	<b>W8PT</b>	Chuck Patellis
	Historian	<b>KB8SZI</b>	Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	<b>K8FEY</b>	Bob Hewett
	K8BF QSL Manager	<b>K8FEY</b>	Bob Hewett
	Membership Chairman	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
	Net Control Manager	<b>KA8TOA</b>	Greg Ash
	Net Night - Club Manager	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
	Newsletter Editor	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
<b>~ Meetings &amp; Net ~</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. 7pm</b> <b>Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm</b> <b>on 146.895</b>	OSPOTA Chairman	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
	Public Information Officer	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
	Secretary	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	<b>AC8NT</b>	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
	Webmaster	<b>KD8MQ</b>	John Myers

 <p><b>PCARS Active Volunteer Examiner Team Members</b></p>	<b>N8RLG</b>	Robert Gurney
	<b>KB8UUZ</b>	Tom Parkinson
	<b>WB8LCD</b>	Tom Sly
	<b>N8XTH</b>	Deron Boring
	<b>N8PXW</b>	Jim Korenz
	<b>N8QE</b>	Bob Hajdak
	<b>K8IV</b>	Ed Polack
	<b>W8RID</b>	Robert Davet
	<b>WA8CCU</b>	Al Nagy
	<b>NR8W</b>	Russ Williams
	<b>W8EZT</b>	Frank Tompkins
	<b>AC8NT</b>	Jim Wilson
	<b>K8MSH</b>	Mark Haverstock
	<b>KA8TOA</b>	Greg Ash
	<b>KB3GXB</b>	Jennifer Williams



## THE RADIOGRAM

**PCARS Incorporated**  
Nov. 1, 2005

**First Meeting**  
Nov. 14, 2005



**ARRL Affiliation**  
April 20, 2006



**Special Service Club**  
March 22, 2010

The **RADIOGRAM** is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Hamvention® 2018 Club Of The Year – copyright © 2018. The **RADIOGRAM** is an **Award Winning** newsletter: **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. First Place Winner in the Ohio Section for 2017 and First Place Winner in the Great Lakes Division 2017.** 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. Caution - some of the articles in this newsletter maybe covered by copyright - please do not copy and use the ones that have by-line information unless you obtain permission from the original author. If you're not sure, drop an e-mail to [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com). The **RADIOGRAM** always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. 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!**

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 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: [KB8UUZ@gmail.com](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com)



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