



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

PCARS - the 2018 Hamvention® Club of The Year

October 2018 - Volume 13 Number 10

\$4.73

Fun at the Akron Mini Maker Faire



K3LR Tour WOW

Meshing Around in Ravenna

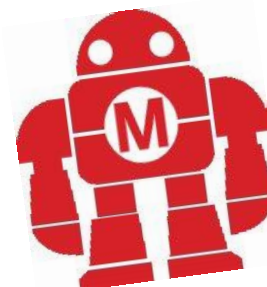


PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!

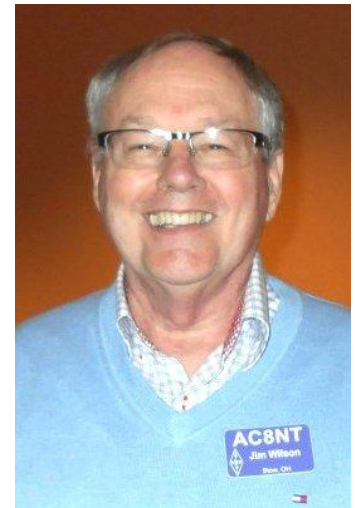


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From the President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS President



This month has been all about technology. First I finally got my DMR radio equipped with a code plug and some new tools. Just getting started with DMR and it has been “interesting”. Not the part about loading firmware and code plugs but the organization of all the talk groups. It is taking some time to get acclimated to this system. I also purchased a Zumspot and got it working. I needed this little gadget because I could not reach a DMR repeater from my shack. Another tool to learn, not hard but again “interesting”. The October Digital SIG will be focused on DMR, hopefully for dummies.

I have also been studying a new method of getting some distance on VHF and up frequencies. It is called

Airplane Scatter (no kidding). Contacts are made by bouncing signals off aircraft often using 10 or 24 GHz transmissions. I was looking at aircraft patterns in and around Cleveland and found densities that should make this possible. It is a good excuse to get some stuff out of my unused stuff area and give it a shot. I have made meteor scatter contacts on 2 meters so I have some experience. Will let you know how it goes. This picture shows aircraft in the Cleveland area on



September 25 at 1 PM. We are in a great area to try this mode. Lots to bounce off.

My ‘Go Box’ is getting finished up. Hope to have it completed by the release of the newsletter. Lots of work, but will make ham radio demonstrations and field operations for station AC8NT much easier. This project looked a lot simpler at the start. But like all projects “scope creep” set in and a simple thing turned more complicated. We are still planning to have a display of go boxes created by our members as part of the November monthly meeting. Please plan to bring yours to that meeting.

Coming up we have Nancy Rabel-Hall from NASA coming to talk about ham radio and NASA for the October monthly meeting October 8th. We plan to have a great 50/50 and would like a great crowd for the presentation. We have a VE test session on October 6th and the California and Arizona QSO parties. We also plan to have a Boot Camp preview and debugging session Saturday October 27th to test the various activities. As I have mentioned before, if you are interested in helping with the Boot Camp, please let me know.

We don’t expect you to show up at every event. We have a lot of members with varied interests. Look at the calendar, pick from the events and attend what you choose. I know you will find something that peaks your interest.

Also what to thank all those who helped with the Akron Maker Faire. Article elsewhere in newsletter.



From the Vice President

Tony, WA8AR
PCARS Vice President



Some Planning

Recently I have had members asking about things they would like to see the club do as we move forward. Not complaining about things the club has done and accomplished in this past year, more as looking forward to what we will get into next year to keep the ball rolling. Jim, AC8NT has done that soliciting preferences regarding suggested projects and activities with targeted polls, and those efforts will continue. I had a good discussion with attending members during the last Antenna SIG and will be sending out a more narrowly targeted QST Poll directed at that group as well as others in the club interested in antenna projects and related discussions. Feedback from members is both welcome and necessary for the continued health of our club and our hobby.

But remember that while new good ideas are a great thing, implementing those good ideas requires new people to step forward and lend a hand or take the lead in implementing them. PCARS members as a whole have done well stepping up and participating. However, we all have limited time and resources we can devote to our hobby, as long as everyone does a little we can accomplish a lot. Bottom line, we will need your input to help the club select projects and activities members would like the most. But remember we can't please everyone all of the time; the best we can do is to please all of the members some of the time (Yes that was adapted from a famous speech).

Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:



- Oct 1st - PCARS Board Meeting at the club site in Ravenna - 7 pm
- Oct 6th - VE Test Session at Club Site - 10 am
- Oct 6th - California QSO Party Contest at Club Site. Start at noon on Saturday
- Oct 8th - PCARS Meeting at the Kent American Legion - 7 pm
- Oct 13th - AZ QSO Party Contest at Club Site. Start at noon on Saturday
- Oct 27th - Ham Radio Boot Camp Preview and Debugging Session



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

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

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



OSPOTA Info and Inputs Wanted

Tom, KB8UUZ
OSPOTA Chairman

Hello OSPOTA 2018 participants and fans.

The Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) Contest Committee is working on the logs that were sent in for this year's contest.



It was a bit rainy throughout Ohio this year and some of the regulars decided to stay warm and dry by not going to an Ohio State Park. Well, you missed out on a lot of fun. Heck, it's only rain. Rain would not stop the ones that braved the elements and got out there to make contacts all over the world!

The results will be published in the December issue of The RADIOGRAM. The committee should be done processing logs and getting the certificates sent out by then as well.

Meanwhile - SEND IN SOME PICTURES and a Story of your OSPOTA 2018 adventure. Even if you operated at home - share your fun with all of us.

I'll put all those pictures and stories in the December newsletter for all to see. Stay Tuned!

Good news - Next year's OSPOTA contest will have a **Brand New** Ohio State Park. The new park is the Jesse Owens Ohio State Park. It is part of the Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area. For OSPOTA, you must be in one of the three State Park sections. More information will be posted on the OSPOTA Yahoo Group.

The OSPOTA Contest Committee Members:

Tom, KB8UUZ, Chuck W8PT, Joe W8KNO, John KB8UHN, John, KD8MQ

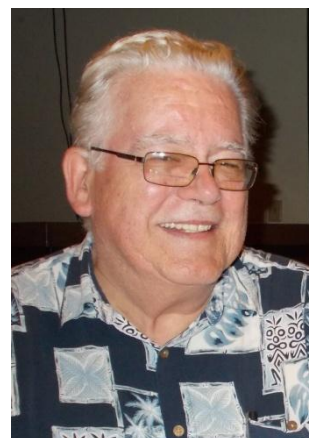


Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 8th



K3LR Tour

Tom, KB8UUZ



On September 15th a group of PCARS members took a trip just over the state line to visit the world famous K3LR Super Contest Station in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. It has been a few years since PCARS last visited and a number of things have changed at K3LR.

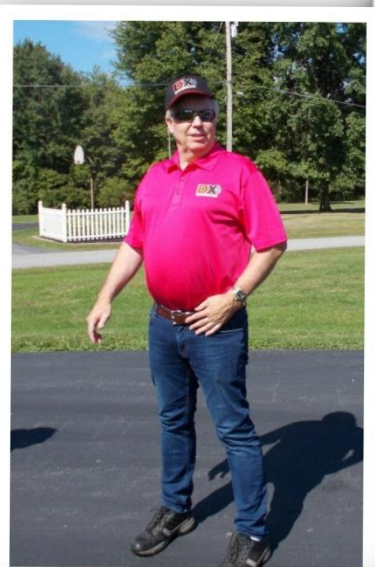
New antennas, new tower, new radios, new computers and more. Tim Duffy, K3LR opened up his super station for the grand tour. One tower has been recently replaced and some of the new antennas were on the ground ready to be raised up and mounted on the tower a few days after our visit. That gave us an opportunity to see just how big those antennas are and all of the large aluminum it takes to make them.

Tim explained each set up as we walked from tower to tower to the various receive arrays and transmit arrays. Tim is always working at squeezing every dB he can get by fine tuning and changing designs. Following a walkthrough of the 'antenna farm' it was on to the radio room. What a fantastic set up! All those radios, amplifiers and accessories put together to get the maximum amount of contacts using the antenna farm during a contest.

After the contest, we shared lunch at a local restaurant and then headed back to the Buckeye State. What a GREAT tour. Hats off and a big thanks goes out to Tim, K3LR for his hospitality.



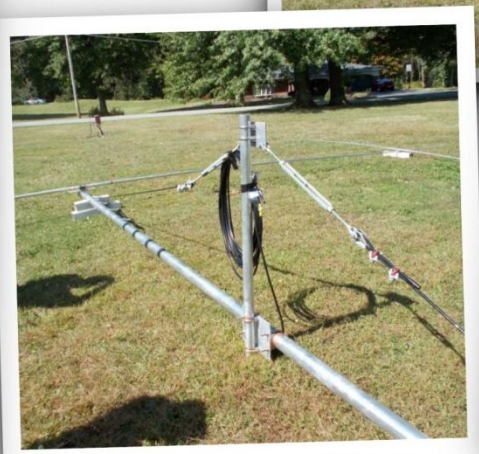
K3LR Tour - 15 September 2018

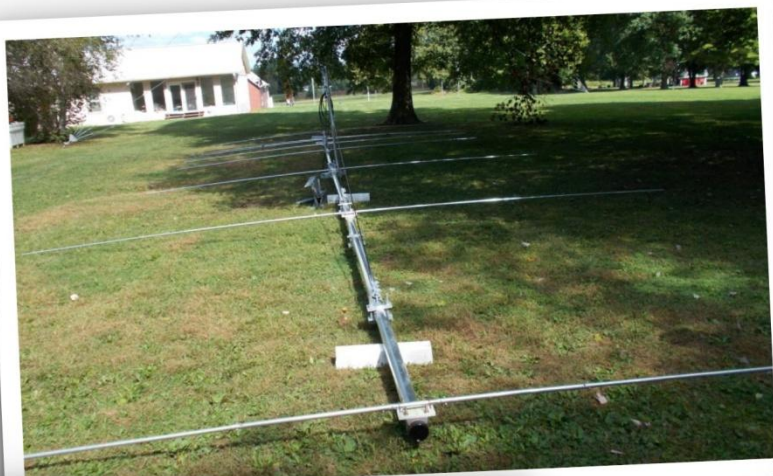


15 September 2018



K3LR Tour





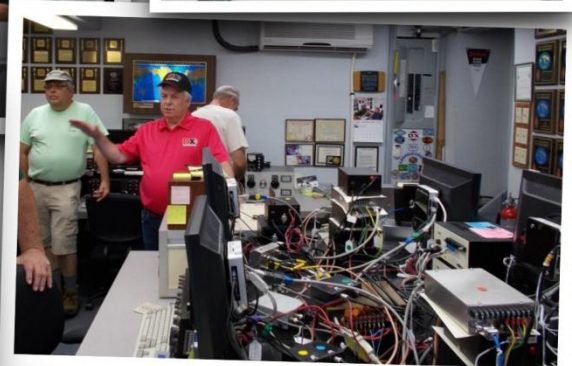
K3LR Tour



15 September 2018

K3LR Tour

15 Sept 2018





K3LR Tour

15 September 2018

Jamboree-On-The-Air in October



From the ARRL

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. This jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio operators ham shack. Many times you can find the hams will come to you by setting up a station at your Scout camporee, at the park down the block, or perhaps at a ham shack already set up at your council's camp.

Tell Me More

Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, including girls. Once at the ham radio station, the communication typically involves talking on a microphone and listening on the station speaker. However, many forms of specialized communication may also be taking place, such as video communication, digital communication (much like sending a message on your smartphone but transmitted by radio), or communication through a satellite relay or an earth-based relay (called a repeater).

The exchanges include such information as name, location (called QTH in ham speak), Scout rank, age, and hobbies. The stations you'll be communicating with can be across town, across the country, or even around the world! The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2017 JOTA-JOTI had over 1.5 million Scout participants from more than 160 countries.

When Is It?

Jamboree-on-the-Air is held the third weekend in October. This year that is: October 20 – 21 to be exact. There are no official hours, so you have the whole weekend to make JOTA contacts. The event officially starts Friday evening during the JOTA Jump Start and runs through Sunday evening.

How Can I Participate as a Scout?

Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area. You can also contact a local ham radio operator or a local amateur radio club. You can find a searchable database of clubs at www.arrl.org/find-a-club. This website is operated by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio, which is cooperating closely with the BSA on JOTA and many other activities. Your local club may be able to direct you to its planned JOTA activities. These can include ham stations set up at camporees or other events. Or, if there are no planned activities, you can either work with them to get something set up or arrange to visit a local radio operator's ham shack at a scheduled time to participate in JOTA.



How Can I Participate as an Amateur Radio Operator?

Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area and how you can help. You can find your council using the Council locator (<https://www.scouting.org/discover/local-council-locator/>).

Akron Mini Maker Faire

Jim, AC8NT



We had a great time representing PCARS at the Akron Library's Mini Maker Faire. Our team consisted of (photo left to right) Ben KE8JUZ, Terry KB8AMZ Jim AC8NT, Nick AC8QG, Rick K8CAV and Doug WA8UWV. We also hosted Anthony Luscre K8ZT our ARRL Assistant Ohio Section Manager for Education Outreach.

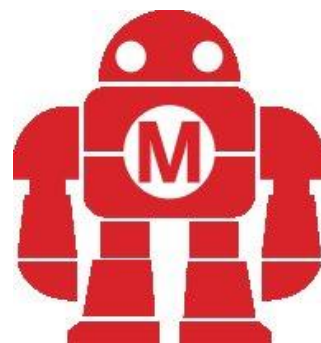
This year we tried something a little different. We wanted to display things that might attract interested kids and adults to our table where we could also discuss ham radio. I think this worked quite well. We demonstrated examples of electromagnetism including homopolar motors, an electromagnetic train, and a Lenz's law. We also showed not so well known examples of diamagnetism and paramagnetism or how to repel a grape with a magnet and attract aluminum foil balls with a magnet. With the help of my trusty assistant Ben we explained these attractions to many visitors. For this event we created a Google Drive that contained links that explained these demonstrations in detail. Visitors were given a card with PCARS contact information and a link to this drive. If you are interested go to www.bit.ly/AKMF2018.

Using this hook, we also provided a lot of information on our club and ham radio. Rick K8CAV demonstrated a SDR with an SDR dongle and laptop. Doug WA8UWV showed his Ubitx transceiver, as well as, an Arduino project and his great code practice oscillator. We answered hundreds of questions. Common questions were about the Morse code requirement and how tough the tests were.



Here Ben at 10 years old showed that kids could definitely take part in the hobby. We showed it didn't take Morse code, a lot of money, or being a geek to get to enjoy ham radio. We also fielded a lot of questions about our club site and training programs. I hope this gets more people interested in our classes and more members into our club. We met quite a few hams that have NEVER been on the air and recommended they come to our club to get help.

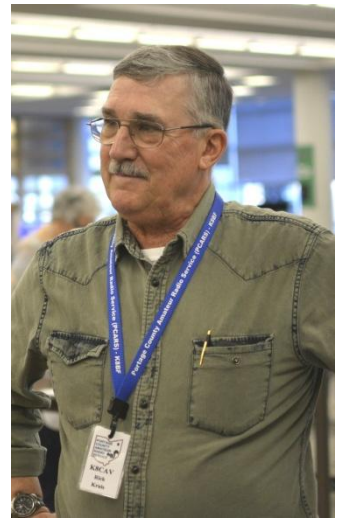
We also got help attracting people through a group called Compass Cali. This group put our table on their scavenger hunt. This group holds adventures for kids. I suggested that they might enjoy a fox hunt as an adventure. We handed out over 100 information cards. The web based information approach was very well received by parents and kids. Quite a few visited portcars.org and the info site using their phones during their visit. Going forward, Maker Faires show great promise as a way to introduce and promote ham radio. In our area we will continue to participate in the Kent and Akron fairs.



Support for Emergencies in Portage County

Rick, K8CAV
Portage County Coms Unit

Portage County and northeast Ohio in general are fortunate because we don't often see severe natural disasters that could cripple wide swaths of infrastructure such as hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes and other such incidents. With few exceptions most of what we see are incidents such as localized flooding, heavy winds and rain, snowstorms and the rare tornado along with downed power and utility lines associated with them. We also have occasional man-made incidents that require a response over and above normal levels public safety forces such as a large fire, occasional campus unrest or other similar incidents.



In these and other such incidents that occur, communications demands may be stressed to the point where additional help and support is needed. Further, non-radio support such as damage assessment teams and other requirements may need volunteer participation to help the authorities and public safety officials accomplish their mission effectively. In today's world, amateur radio operators are becoming well positioned to provide some of that help and support. There are two key concepts that are making amateur radio operators far more valuable as volunteers to assist during incidents that require help.

The first is the recognition on the part of ARES® and other amateur radio groups that knowledge of, and participation under the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the Incident Command System (ICS) is crucial to becoming a part of emergency response. All volunteers of whatever discipline must have completed the core ICS gateway courses before they will be allowed to participate with any governmental agency in an incident response. To that end, ARES® is now requiring all volunteers who expect to assist, to have taken the FEMA on-line ICS-100, 200, 700, and 800 courses, and practice the principles contained therein.

The second key concept is amateur radio moving away from the idea that the only things they can and will do during incidents is communications involving amateur radio. As volunteers there are other things we can do to help such as assisting using public safety radio systems, providing disaster assessment volunteers and more. Does that mean we've abandoned amateur radio as an asset during incidents? Absolutely not. During the recent flooding in Mahoning County, amateur radio operators provided volunteers to staff damage assessment teams. The local ARES® organization opened an emergency net on a local repeater to assist with coordination of teams and efforts. In one instance, two damage assessment teams composed of amateur radio operators, one headed by an EMA Director and one headed by a Deputy EMA Director used the Mahoning County ARES® repeater and net to coordinate their efforts. The EMA Director and his Deputy used cell phones. The Deputy Director remarked when the teams were finished, that it seemed more timely and efficient to use amateur radio versus cell phones to communicate, thus our value to them even though the primary mission was damage assessment, not communications.

In Portage County there are two organizations that provide communications and other support. The first is the Portage County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management Communications Unit, or "Coms Unit" as it's commonly called. The Coms Unit is part of the OHS/EM and is officially recognized by the County Commissioners. The Coms Unit is comprised of amateur radio volunteers and are sworn members. The Coms Unit is solely responsible to the EMA director, and is activated and deployed only by the EMA director. The Coms Unit trains regularly on nets, monthly meetings at the EMA, and through regular participation in drills, exercises, and incidents.

ARES® of Portage County is the second organization that provides communications and other support. ARES® of Portage County operates under the direction of the Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator and the District Emergency Coordinator, and may have direct relationships with supported agencies such as the American Red Cross, and others. They train regularly on nets and by providing communications support to community events.

Both of these organizations can't function without volunteers in numbers large enough to sustain the organization, and both currently need more volunteers to help out. I am asking that members of PCARS carefully consider volunteering your time and talents to either or both of these organizations. You can contact the Portage County Emergency Coordinator for ARES®, James Andrews, KD8VT if you are interested in ARES®. Contact Rick Kruis, K8CAV if you are interested in the Coms Unit.



The 8 Emotional Levels of Pile-Up Cracking

Joe, W8MP

- 1) Indifference- "I don't need that country"
- 2) Curiosity- "Might be fun though"
- 3) Excitement- "I love a challenge"
- 4) Determination- "I'm on a mission"
- 6) Compulsion- "Lord, get me through"
- 7) Obsession- "I refuse to give up"
- 8) YESSSSSS!!!!!!- "The after-glow"



I almost forgot. There's a 9th emotional level in pile-up cracking:

The 9th level: I must admit there have been times that I jumped into a big pile-up expecting to wage war for a while.

Then, somehow I picked the right frequency to call the guy on and got through on the first call.

It leaves me with that "I?" feeling, like in Peggy Lee's 1969 song.



September 27th Net Night Quiz

Tom, WB8LCD



1. How many current entities are there on the DXCC List? 227 328 340 412
2. If it takes 50 States to earn Worked All States, how many US Counties does it take to claim the Worked All Counties Award? 1200 2867 3077 4256
3. What is the name of the ship that has delivered the most DXpeditions to their destinations in recent years? Minnow Lusitania Braveheart Betanzos Starship Enterprise Monkey Business Bounty
4. What is the number 1 wanted DXCC Entity? N. Korea Bouvet Island Crozet Island San Felix Island Scarborough Reef
5. What May 18 DXpedition had to be cancelled when they arrived, but couldn't get off the boat? Bouvet Island Crozet Island San Felix Island Kelly's Island Cook Island
6. What famous DXpedition took place in the first year of PCARS? Kingman Barrier Cook Island San Bernardino Peter I Island N. Korea
7. What 2 operators from 3Y0X gave presentations to PCARS? Bob Heil- K9EID Mel Vye-W8MV Jim Storms-AB8YK Wayne Smith-K8FF Don Dubon-N6JRL
8. What is the least needed DXCC Entity? USA Italy Germany European Russia France
9. How many DX Entities do you need to confirm to get to be listed on the DX Honor Roll? 200 250 251 300 325 331 340 362 379
10. What is the most common sur-name on Pitcairn Island? Jones Tawaga Smith Sly Washington Hertz Ferdinand Costello
11. What famous ship landed at Pitcairn Island? Minnow Lusitania Braveheart Betanzos Starship Enterprise Monkey Business Bounty
12. Where is Bouvet Island located? Pacific Ocean Atlantic Ocean Indian Ocean
13. Where is the next big DXpedition going that we could actually work? (October 20 – November 3, 2018) Ducie Island Peter I Island Mount Athos Cook Island
14. Where did Father Moran – 9N1MM operate from? N. Korea Nepal Yemen China Mount Athos
15. EA0JC (Juan Carlos) was famous as? An Abstract Artist A South American Bandito The King of Spain An architect of modern buildings Dr. who performed the first liver transplant
16. What was Marlon Brando's Ham Radio Callsign? W6MB IG3MB FO5GJ WB2MLB He was never licensed
17. What new acquisition will help PCARS members work more DX from the club site? New A/C units 3 new ICOM 7300's Antenna Analyzer Roof Repair
18. Where does Curacao (PJ2) fall on the most wanted list of entities? 15 87 148 195 226 309
19. When working DX, or a DXpedition, what is the first thing you should do? Listen, then listen more Crank up the amplifier Put up a bigger antenna Make sure you license is good for the country you're trying to work
20. What is a "Green Stamp"? cash sent with your QSL request S&L Green Stamp round stamp on the QSL card guaranteeing its authenticity International postage

Bonus - What is "Grey Line" Propagation?

Answers on page 23

PCARS VE Test Sessions

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.

**October 6th, December 1st,
2019: February 2nd, April 6th, June 1st, August 3rd, October 5th**

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.

Any Questions? Contact: KB8UUZ@gmail.com

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!!

Center of Hope Donations



November is coming soon and it is a very important month for PCARS, and it's a very important month for **you** to show up at our meeting November 12th!

Three items come to mind as to why:

- 1- It's the perfect time to pay your dues for the coming year! (Look for the note elsewhere in this issue regarding your dues payments)
- 2 - It's our annual election of officers, and
- 3 - It's our annual 50/50 to benefit the Center of Hope in Ravenna.

You know why you need to pay your dues, you know why our election of officers is so important to the continued success of PCARS! Our annual donation to the Center of Hope is important, not only to the Center of Hope, but to the Portage County Community at large, and specifically to PCARS.

In the early years of PCARS, before our own club site space was even inhabitable, many PCARS functions and events were held at the old Center of Hope on W. Main St. in Ravenna. (The Center of Hope is one of the programs of F&CS). We even had a few of our clubs monthly meetings there. Early on we decided that in November, all of the clubs portion of the 50/50 raffle would be donated to the Center of Hope as a "thank you" for the assistance they had given PCARS for the use of the space, and later on for the generous opportunity to have space in the former ODOT facility. Our donation has grown from a few hundred dollars to \$6400 last year! Probably one of the largest single donations that The Center of Hope receives over the course of a year.

We want to continue that upward trend as long as we can! We have an outstanding club facility that we can all be proud of, and that we should all be thankful for. There are 3 ways you can help us. First, come to the meeting and buy LOTS of 50/50 tickets. The half of the 50/50 that would normally go to PCARS is given to the Center of Hope donation. Second, make a personal donation to the Center of Hope. Dig deep on this, give what you can to help someone in your community have a better holiday season this year. Lastly, don't be afraid to ask your friends, neighbors, employers, employees, and anyone else you come in contact with to help you support this very worthwhile endeavor. They can say "yes" or they can say "no", but if you don't ask them, there's no way to get to "yes", and that doesn't help anyone!

Here are a few things you should know about the Center of Hope:

- The Amelia DiGirolamo Center of Hope is dedicated to enhancing the nutrition of low-income people in Portage County where local food pantries are not present. Hot meals are offered at no cost five days a week and are typically served to between 75-100 individuals each day. Groceries are available monthly through the Christian Cupboard. Opportunities for socialization, cooking classes and referral services are also offered.
- Out of every \$1.00 donated, 94 cents goes toward direct service to their clientele. That puts the Center of Hope at the very top of the scale for percentage of funds that actually reach their intended target! There are over 100,000 individuals who receive service through the Center of Hope each year.

We are the Portage County Amateur Radio Service. This is one more way that our community benefits from our organization.

Please bring all of your donations, including those you collect from others, to the meeting with you on Monday, November 12th.**

When making your donation, please make checks payable to 'The Center of Hope'. By doing this PCARS does not need to report your donations as income. You will receive a charitable donation receipt directly from the Center of Hope. (If you collect any donations from friends, relatives, etc., the same applies to them) All donations are aggregated to the PCARS donation, even though the individual donor is given credit for it.

**** If you are not able to make the PCARS meeting but you would still like to help us support the Center of Hope, please check the PCARS web site - you can donate on-line through PayPal**



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



Get Your Park ON - Event Set for October

What is hoped will be the first annual "Get Your Park ON" operating event will take place October 14 - 20, in celebration of Earth Science Week. The event is open to Amateur Radio operators around the world and is sponsored by the national affiliates of World Wide Flora and Fauna ([WWFF](http://www.wwff.org)), which encourages radio amateurs to operate outdoors in protected nature parks.

During this on-the-air celebration, hams can participate in one of two ways. North American hams can opt to be Activators, setting up and operating in geological and nature centers, such as national and state parks and forests, national monuments, and protected nature habitats. They also may decide to be Hunters, operating from home and searching out and making contact with the Activators.

"We are trying to have parks activated in all states of the USA and Mexico and all Provinces of Canada," the sponsor's Facebook page notes. "Let's have some fun." The week-long special event is reminiscent of ARRL's popular National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016, but extends to a larger set of national treasures beyond those managed by the National Parks Service.

In October 1998, the American Geosciences Institute organized Earth Science Week, a national and international event to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth, a common goal shared by WWFF. Both programs encourage participants to get outside and enjoy nature.

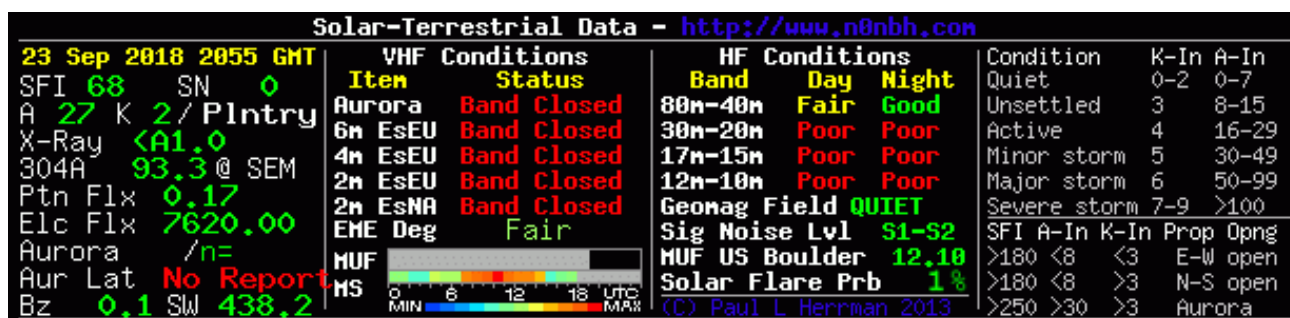


"Get Your Park ON" begins at 0000 UTC on October 14 and continues through 2359 UTC on October 20. [Visit](#) the "Get Your Park ON" Facebook page for more.

[Earth Science Week 2018](#) engages young people and others with learning resources and activities exploring the relationship between the arts and the Earth systems. This year's theme of "Earth as Inspiration" promotes public understanding and stewardship of the planet. Of special interest to the Amateur Radio community and their families is an "Inspired by Earth" photo contest and an essay contest for students in grades 6 through 9.

-- Thanks to Norm Meyers, N9MM

Interpreting Solar Data



"A" INDEX ... 1-6 BEST 7-9 FAIR 11+ BAD - Represents overall geomagnetic condition of the ionosphere over a given 24 hour period.

"K" INDEX ... 0 or 1 BEST ... 2 OKAY 3+ BAD 5 VERY BAD - This is the overall geomagnetic condition of the ionosphere averaged over the planet over the past 3 hours. K index indicates geomagnetic storms. Below 10 MHz, K of 5+ increases noise level appreciably, K of 7+ degrades HF significantly.

"SFI" ... 70 NOT GOOD ... 80 GOOD ... 90 BETTER ...100+ BEST - SFI is the Solar Flux Index and is a measure of total radio emissions from the sun.

- Higher Solar Flux generally suggests better propagation on the 10, 12, 15, 17, & 20 Meter Bands. Solar Flux rarely affects the 30, 40, 60, 80, & 160
- Generally, propagation conditions are best when the A index is 10 or lower, and the K index is 3 or lower.
- SFI Solar Flux Index: When >70 then 20m opens. When > 90 then 15m opens.
- X-Ray : Solar X-Ray emissions will cause shortwave fadeout. Classification from weak to strong X-Ray emissions : A, B, C, M, X
- During a solar X-ray outburst, the lower frequencies are the first to suffer, with subsequent fading up the frequency spectrum over a short period (usually less than a hour). Signals crossing daylight paths will be the most affected (obviously as X-Rays come from the sun).
- If you cannot hear signals there may be nothing wrong with your receiver or antenna. To see if a fadeout has occurred go to <http://www.solarham.net/xray.htm>



Hamfest Calendar

10/28/2018 - Massillon Hamfest - Location: Massillon Boys & Girls Club - 730 Duncan Street SW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Website: <http://www.w8np.org> - Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club - Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 110.9) - Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Drive NW Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 Email: truss@sssnet.com

Great Lakes HamCon 2.0 Cancelled

Great Lakes HamCon 2.0 scheduled to occur this October at Michigan International Speedway has been cancelled. Failure to come to a final agreement for the use of the speedway led to the difficult decision to cancel the event. With just two months remaining, the issues caused by the lack of agreement are insurmountable.

Refunds for event tickets purchased will be made. Purchases made via PayPal will be made through PayPal. Arrangements for refunds for cash purchases are being formulated and will be announced soon.



The support of our affiliated amateur radio clubs and their members was very much appreciated. We share your disappointment that this year's event cannot be held. Thank you for your understanding.



PCARS

**ARRL Volunteer Examiners:
serving the Amateur Radio
community**

**First Saturdays 10:00 am
at the club site in Ravenna
February, April, June, August,
October, December**



QRP, CW & Linux Special Interest Groups

Terry, KB8AMZ

QRP/CW SIG

Hello all. The next QRP/CW SIG will be held on Tuesday, 2018 OCT 09, at the PCARS clubhouse. October will be bring your rig night and other gear you want to share with the group. I hope to see you all.

Linux for Ham Radio Operators SIG

The next meeting of the group is Tuesday, October 30. Please bring your Raspberry Pi and peripherals. I more stuff for you to learn.



I am not an expert when it comes to purchasing test equipment in this hobby of ours but I purchased a digital oscilloscope, after checking with a club member Elmer, who told me this would be a good starter piece of equipment. I learned the about the price discount deal from the Ubitx board that I monitor from another, wiser than I, ham, Jack Purdum, W8TEE who displayed the announcement on the board. I am now on the Circuit Specialists mailing list and this offer just came to my attention. This sale ends October 10. You can check the Internet URL for this Hantek DSO5202P 200MHz, 2 Channel Digital Storage Oscilloscope Item #DSO5202P-INT \$279.17

normally priced at \$339.00.

DX & Contest Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT



Hello from the Contest Corner:

Many of you are aware of the upcoming contests here in October.

First on the docket is the California QSO Party. This contest takes place the weekend of October 6-7, and starts at Noon Local time on Saturday the 6th. It runs for 30 hours and we will be trying to keep K8BF on for the full time. We will be entering, as we have in the past, as a Multi-Multi, Low Power. So this means we need Ops. We will have four operating positions running and we will need operators to man them. Please come out and help K8BF score another 1st in the US and 1st in Ohio.

The second contest occurs the very next weekend. It's the Arizona QSO Party and takes place on October 13-14. It begins on Saturday at 1700UTC (1PM Local) and continues for 12 hours. We will again enter as a Multi-Multi, Low Power station. This will be the first time we have played in this contest and we certainly want to make a good showing. And, as in the CA QSO Party, we will need Ops. So come on out and join us. You may end up with a first place certificate to put on your wall for each of these events.

See you on the 6th of October at the club site.

Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV



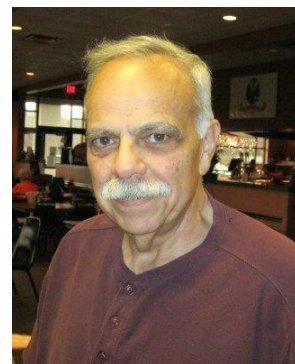
The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting will take place on Tuesday October 2nd at 7:00 PM at the PCARS club site in Ravenna. The topic this month will be DMR Radio and we're pleased to have DX Engineering's DMR guru, Dave KA8OAD give us a presentation and answer questions about DMR. And yup it's voice but it's digital voice over the internet so that certainly qualifies for our Digital SIG!

As always, if you have any questions, problems, or issues involving digital operations, we'll do our best to answer them. Don't hesitate to bring your computer, rig, interface or other hardware if you think it will help.

As many of you are aware, a beta version of WSJT-X is being released that has some major additions to it that will accommodate contesting and some other functions. Stay tuned for information about when this will be covered at a near future Digital SIG.

Antenna Special Interest Group

Tony, WA8AR



The Antenna SIG meets at 7 PM in the PCARS club site radio room on the third Tuesday of every month. The October meeting will be held on 10/16/18. 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.

Please note that the PCARS QST email system is functioning very well again, so please watch for PCARS QST for last minute announcements prior to all Special Interest Groups. And, always check the PCARS web site for Antenna SIG updates or last minute cancellations before going to the club site for a meeting.



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 - 4th Thursday is NET NIGHT at the Club Site !!

October	
4	N8QE
11	KA8TOA
18	K8IV
25	WB8LCD

November	
1	
8	
15	
22	
29	

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:

gregory999@roadrunner.com

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

Net Operators: Use the current versions of the Net Script and Log Sheet (with my e-mail address on it). You can find them on the PCARS web site in the Nets section. *Please* download them and use them. Also, 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 contact me or see if you can trade with someone.

September Net Night Quiz Answers & Winner

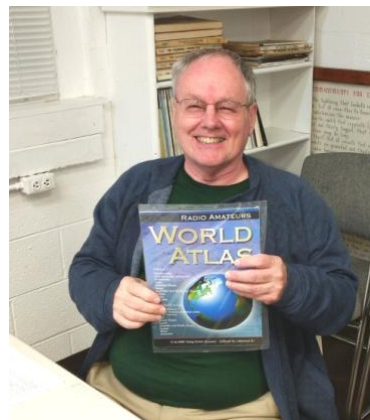
Net Night Quiz Answers

1. 340	2. 3077	3. Bravehart	4. N. Korea	5. Bouvet Island
6. Peter 1 Island	7. W8MV & N6JRL	8. USA	9. 331	10. Smith
11. Bounty	12. Pacific	13. Ducie Island	14. Nepal	15. King of Spain
16. FO5GJ	17. ICOM 7300's	18. 226	19. Listen	20. Cash

BONUS - Greyline describes the propagation of radio waves along the terminator separating night and day.

[http://www.norfolkamateurradio.org/Talks/G0KYA%20Greyline Propagation.pdf](http://www.norfolkamateurradio.org/Talks/G0KYA%20Greyline%20Propagation.pdf)

AND the winner at the club site for the Net Night Quiz was **Jim, AC8NT**



W4DXCC Convention Report from Chuck

Chuck, W8PT



"A Great Time Was Had By All"! Isn't that what is normally said by those attending family reunions, weddings, class reunions, etc? Usually it's not really true but it's what is said to be politically correct.

But I want to say it regarding the very recent (Sept 20-22) W4DXCC Convention sponsored by the SEDCO (SouthEastern DX and Contesting Organization).

This was my 3rd trip to W4DXCC, with my XYL, Jeanne, accompanying me the first two times. This time due to my daughter's health, Jeanne could not go. So I relented thinking I would not make it this year. But in talking with Tom, WB8LCD, he said that he would really like to attend. And after talking with Jeanne, who felt bad (really) that I would miss this year, she said that Tom and I should plan on the trip to Pigeon Forge, TN, where the conference is held.

So at 0 Dark 30 (actually 7AM) I parked my '17 Mustang in Tom's drive, and schelped my bags over to his A7 Audi, loaded up and we were off to Tennessee. It would have been fun driving the Mustang to TN but not enough room for the luggage. (Actually there was, but I have to admit that the Audi is a better ride, although not as much fun as a stick shift, turbo Mustang.)

The ride down was pleasant and although Tom and I are on the opposite ends of the political spectrum, we always have a great time together. Discussions never get to the point where we stop talking to one another. We simply agree to disagree, while I try to figure out how to sabotage his beer requirement for the day.

The Conference is held at the Mainstay Suites, a very nice hotel, in Pigeon Forge. It took us about 7 hours to get to Pigeon Forge city limits and about another hour to get to the hotel which was only a few miles away. If you have ever been to PF, you know how bad the bumper to bumper traffic is. You crawl along at 2 miles an hour. Look up "Tourist Trap" in any Webster's and you'll see a picture of Pigeon Forge.



We checked in and then started on our trip itinerary by hunting up an English Pub up in the hills of Tennessee. Tom had told me about this place, that was recommended to him by a friend. I was game so we took off. We found it.

Weelllll.... the ambience was not necessarily what one would think when thinking English Pub. There were certainly a lot of signage on the walls along with banners of various soccer teams. The TV's were tuned to a soccer match (US teams). The menu was brief but I have to say that they had several good beers on draft. I had a

Smithwick's (pron - Smiddicks) and it was much, much better than the same beer from a bottle. My meal was Bubble & Squeek, which is a combo of cabbage, onion, and potato along with diced corned beef. It was OK. But I have had better. Tom had Shepherd's Pie. Now I have had that on occasion in various "pubs" and it usually is very good and you get a large plate of it. Tom got a small bowl and it didn't look that good. I'll let him tell you about it in his write-up.



The conference was an all day affair on Saturday with presentations starting around 8:30AM. The first was by one of the founders of Elecraft and he gave a presentation on how they designed their

latest amp, the PA 1500. It was very interesting. We had presentations on RFI hunting and how the things we have plugged into the outlets in our homes are very often the main culprits to our noise problems. We had a presentation on the aborted Bouvet DXpedition. What those guys went through I wouldn't wish on a mean dog. Some of the video he showed made all of us queasy, looking at the ship toss and turn. He did use a lot of humor. I mean what else could they do but laugh at the situation. If not that, they would all have been crying. One video showed a guy talking while in the background, a picture hanging on the wall swayed back and forth, back and forth. And not just a little movement, but it looked like the pendulum of a wall clock.

There were also presentations on the Baker Island DXpedition, DXing from Chili, and a report on WRTC 2018. All were interesting. What has been great about this conference is the accessibility you have to talk to the many well known DXers that have been on all of the DXpeditions that we have chased from our comfy HAM shacks. And the thing you realize is that these guys are all 50+ years old. There are only about 350 attendees at this conference so a one on one discussion is very doable and everyone is very accommodating.

There is no flea market, but all of the main equipment vendors are present including ICOM, Yaesu, Kenwood, Vibroplex, Heil, Flex and others. Again, you have more time to talk with these vendors than you would with the crush of people at Hamvention. The main prizes given away at the Saturday evening banquet were a IC-7300 donated by ICOM, a FTdx3000 from Yaesu and a \$1000 gift certificate by Elecraft. Many other smaller prizes were given also.

The trip back was a little more adventurous since it rained much of the way and came down in buckets at times. The Audi had a small glitch regarding a sensor that when wet, would cause the vehicle to buck as if there was a fuel problem. That's what you get when you design a vehicle that has a computer making the decisions. It's what we all face with our cars these days. And they want to have computers actually drive the cars???? What a mess that will be.

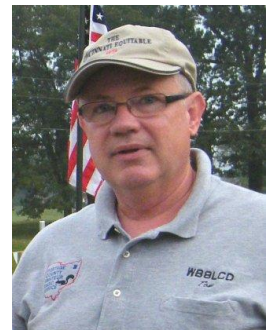
Anyway, Tom was able to figure out, through pushing many buttons several times, how to get the car to override the problem and the car ran well after that. As I understand it, there is an appointment with a service tech scheduled.

We had a great time and I will certainly be looking forward to W4DXCC 2019 "Lord willing and the creek don't rise?" So for now, vry 73. And remember, it's only a hobby and we're all in this together. I'm pullin' for you.

W4DXCC Convention Report from Tom

Tom, WB8LCD

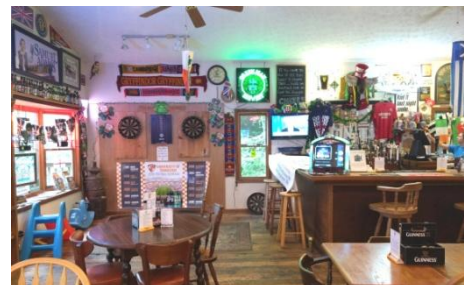
On Friday, September 21, Chuck - W8PT and I departed for Pigeon Forge, TN where the SEDCO Convention has been held every year since 2005. When Chuck first asked me about going, my thoughts immediately drifted back to 2012 when I was in Pigeon Forge for the Ten Tec Hamfest (It used to be part of Sedco, but the hamfest went the same way as Ten Tec). I had been visiting with a friend who lived in Sevierville, TN and decided to take in the fest. Walking around with my friend I heard a voice call out from off to the side "Hey Tom!" It was Dave Kalter, KB8OCP with Don Dubon, N6JRL. That was the last time I ever saw Dave prior to his passing away. Dave was a good guy and that's one of the many reasons I am such an ardent supporter of the Youth DX Adventure program.



Chuck and I left for what would be an approximately 8.5 hour drive. I knew my car was having some problems, but, I did have an appointment to have them resolved at the dealership on Tuesday morning after we got back. And besides, the service writer at the dealership said it would be no problem. There was a bad wheel sensor and the car drove OK even though the dash was lit up with warning lights. The problem started when it got wet. Fortunately, the problem only lasted a few minutes and apparently the car was smart enough to bypass whatever was not working (probably the stability control and the ABS based on the symptoms) and the car drove OK the rest of the way there. We had the same thing happen on the way home, with the same result.



After the long drive, especially long for the last 10 miles into the Gatlinburg area, we headed for the Fox and Parrot Pub. I've been there in the past and was really looking forward to having a pint there again. What a disappointment! I'll let it go with that.



Saturday it was up and to the conference, we were in the conference hotel which was actually nicer than I expected. The conference was outstanding! Here was the schedule:

Saturday September 22nd, Main Conference Hall

- 0800 - ... Registration Opens
- 0830 - 0845 Introduction, Pledge, Administrative details - *Dave Anderson K4SV*
- 0845 - 0950 Building a Modern Solid State Amp or How We Shrunk the Linear - *Eric Swartz WA6HHQ*
- 0950 - 1055 Bouvet : The Good, the Bad & the Ugly - *Dr. Glenn Johnson W0GJ*
- 1055 - 1200 Baker Island 2018 - *Rick Boulis N4HU with Tom Harrell N4XP*
- 1200 - 1330 Lunch Break
- 1330 - 1435 I can not work DX because of the Noise - *Mike Martin K3RFI*
- 1435 - 1540 DXing from Chile - Lessons learned over a decade - *Dr. Scott Wright K0MD*
- 1540 - 1645 An in person look at WRTC 2018 - *Scott Robbins W4PA*
- 1645 - 1700 Prize Wrap Up
- 1830 - 2100 Banquet

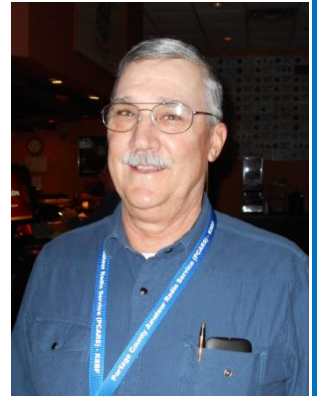
All of the speakers were interesting and engaging. The topics were all timely. There were *bunches* of door prizes! As usual, I won nothing. I was impressed that as a smaller event, even though I had never attended before, it was like I belonged there. Everyone was friendly. I made some new friends, and hopefully you'll get a chance to meet a couple of them at upcoming PCARS meetings in 2019! There were some vendors there, our friend Scott Robbins, W4PA with Vibro-plex and our friend Will Jourdain, AA4WJ from ICOM, just to name a couple. Throughout the day, there were several door prize coupons given out from DX Engineering - \$50 and \$25 certificates. At the Saturday evening banquet they had a \$100 certificate! It was won by a guy sitting at our table Steve, KI4KWR from Gigaparts. It was a Fantastic Day!

Sunday it was up early and another 8.5 hour ride home. Chucks an easy guy to talk with and that made the time go by pretty quickly. Back to my house by about 7:00PM. So, to recap, 8.5 hour ride on Friday, 10-12 hours sitting in conference on Saturday, 8.5 hour ride home on Sunday. Yes, I'm looking forward to doing it again next year. Outstanding program. I'm also going to get a little more serious about DXing. Ducie Island DXpedition coming up the end of October! CQ WW DX contest (SSB) October 27-28. And don't forget ARRL Sweepstakes in November. Get your butt in the chair and get on the air!



Coms Support for the Mantua Potato Stomp

Rick, K8CAV
Portage County Coms Unit



On Saturday September 8th at 8:00 AM Amateur Radio operators from the Coms Unit and PCARS gathered at Crestwood High School to sign-in and head out to their assigned locations to provide communications support to the 40th annual running of the Mantua Potato Stomp. The Mantua Potato Stomp is a foot race consisting of a one mile course, a four mile course, and a nine mile course. Radio volunteers staffed a NCS/Shadow, Sweep, and intersections on the course to provide information to the Race Director and be available to call for emergency services if necessary.

An operations order was written and sent to all communications volunteers prior to the event that outlined what the mission was and how it was to be accomplished. It also contained an area map with assignment locations, an assignment annex, and an ICS-205 plan for frequency assignments.

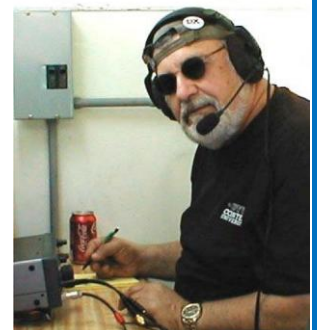
All of the communications volunteers arrived on time and deployed to their locations. Communications checks were conducted before the event started and all volunteers were ready to go when the race started. There were a couple of issues that needed to be worked around, the first being the COML's use of a contingency assignment list instead of the actual assignment list. The second was the Cross Band repeater radio not functioning well due to poor UHF sensitivity. In both of these cases, all of the communications volunteers did an admirable job adapting to the issues to make things work.

Supporting events such as this race is not only good public service for non-profit event organizers, its great practice for those of us in emergency communications organizations. Not only do we practice radio procedures very similar to what we would expect to do in emergency communications, we learn how to work through problems and issues that occur to enable the mission to be accomplished.

I would like to thank all of the following Amateur Radio operators for volunteering their time and skills for the event. Andrew KE8BWA, Mike KD8FLZ, Bob KZ8RLD, Jim KC8YYS, Paul KE8EGF, Mike KB8TUY, Greg KA8TOA, Terry KB8AMZ, Ron W8AHC, Ian KE8IED, Eddie KD8SOP and Rick KD8WCK.

Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



Only three more months before 2019 rings in. Where has the time gone?? Have you completed all of your HAM radio projects? Did you get that dipole fixed or get that 160m wire up? What about replacing that run of coax? Did the tower go up this year as planned or is it still lying in the garage? There will only be so many decent work days left before we see that dreaded white stuff.

What about the Spring clean-up of your shack? Yes I said Spring!! You've put it off for months and it's high time you get it done. Have you made sure all of your equipment is properly grounded? Better look behind your radios to make sure. I pulled out a wax envelope that I keep my US Stamps in, from one of the shelves in

my shack to find that the bottom corner that was the farthest in on the shelf had been eaten through. MICE!! So I pulled the books off the shelf and cleaned it thoroughly. I have not seen the mouse yet but with all the wires and cables in my shack which also contains shelves holding at least a thousand books (used to be my office when I was working), a mouse is bad news. I will be vigilant.

I normally have my rig on even when I am simply doing computer work or preparing for a meeting. That way I can quickly try to work a rare DX if heard. My DX cluster is part of my logging program so it will verbally alert me to a needed DX entity if one is spotted. I worked a WH0 I needed just the other day because of this. For those of you who might be new to HF DXing or are just starting to work toward a DXCC award, 20m has been open to Europe, the Med and the Middle East most mornings from about 8AM to Noon local time. Give a listen. Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and other countries in that part of the world, including Northern Africa, have been making their way into NE Ohio. Let's see what else we can listen for in the next few months.

My thanks goes out to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, NJ1Q & W1AW, W2VU & CQ Communications, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, AK5Q, AA6RE, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, ES1CW, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, I2MQP & DX Italia News, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, Sixitalia Weekly, VA3RJ & ICPO and VE3VEE for the following DX information.

And as always, this report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operation 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.

5A, LIBYA. YL Elham, 5A0YL, is now active from Tripoli, and was heard on 20 meters (14280 kHz between 1530-1730z). She is a new operator and is being mentored by Abubaker, 5A1AL. No other details are available, but we were told to watch QRZ.com.

5H, TANZANIA. Maurizio, IK2GZU, will once again return to the "Mission Ilembula" to do some work at the new hospital and orphanage between October 24th and November 28th. He plans to be active during his spare time as 5H3MB on various HF bands. Maurizio will use his FT-100 and the mission's TS-850 into a tri-band 3 element beam (20/15/10m) fixed on Europe and a vertical or dipole for the other bands. QSL via IK2GZU, direct or by the Bureau. Also, QSL via LoTW (after his return home) and eQSL. For more details, updates and an online log, visit his Web pages at: <http://www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/Tanzania%202011.htm> <http://www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/qs1%20request.htm>

5R, MADAGASCAR (Looking For Ops!). Alex, K2BB, announced this past week that he and his friend Paul, UU0JR, will be active as 5R8R (TBD) from Nosy Be Island (IOTA AF-057), Madagascar, between November 19-29th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They will participate in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Multi-Single or possibly as Multi-2 entry (if they have enough ops...). Alex states, "We will have 2 stations... Radios, so far: Kenwood TS-590, Icom IC-7300, Elecraft KX3 just in case, Odyssey 2 SDR for fun, one radio will have an Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier, second station will be 100W.... Antennas, so far: 2 verticals covering 160-80-40-30m, a Spiderbeam for 20...10m and possibly a Beverage if we have enough space for it. We are renting a private villa which can accommodate 4 people - huge garden, swimming pool, kitchen, cook, beach access, you name it... Sounds likefun? Then join us! But make up your mind quickly. If interested, email me directly at <alex.k2bb@gmail.com>."

5W, SAMOA. Stan, LZ1GC is QRV as 5W0GC from Upolu Island, IOTA OC-097, until October 14. Activity is on the HF bands, with a focus on 160 and 80 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via LoTW.

7Q, MALAWI. Don, K6ZO, active as 7Q6M from Embangweni Mission Hospital, in Northern Malawi, Oct 23-29th. Activity will be on 160-10 m. He will be in the CQWW DX SSB Contest Oct 27-28th. QSL via K6ZO.

8P, BARBADOS. Tom, W2SC, will once again be active as 8P5A during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th) as Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. Look for him to do casual operating and testing before and after the

contest on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW or direct to NN1N.

9K, KUWAIT. Abdallah, 9K2GS, will once again be active as 9K2K during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via EC5AC or LoTW.

9X, RWANDA (Just A Reminder!). Members of the Italian DX Team, who will be active as 9X0T until October 10th, will also use a second callsign, 9X0Y, on FT8 only in the DXpedition mode. Again, suggested frequencies are:
CW - 1826, 3530, 7025, 10115, 14030, 18068, 21030, 24890 and 28030 kHz SSB - 3775, 7090, 14260, 18128, 21260, 24950 and 28460 kHz RTTY - 14084 kHz (only) FT8 - 7056, 10131, 14090, 18095, 21091, 24911 and 28091 kHz
The team has prepared a brief, step-by-step manual for configuring the "Hound Mode" of the WSJT-X program which can be found on their Web page. QSL via I2YSB direct only. For more details and updates as well as a log search and an OQRS are available on: <http://www.i2ysb.com/idx>

DU, PHILIPPINES, Brian, AI6US is QRV as DU7/AI6US from Negros Island, IOTA OC-129, until October 21. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters. QSL direct to home call.

EF9, CEUTA AND MELILLA. Haru, JA1XGI, active as EA9/W1XGI from Melilla between Oct 16-22nd. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands (probably 40-10m) using mainly CW and FT8. QSL via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. For more details and updates, <http://island.geocities.jp/ea9melilla>

EU, BELARUS, Special event station EV890G is QRV until October 20 in celebration of the 890th anniversary of the city of Grodno. QSL via EW4R.

FG, GUADELOUPE. Roger, SM7RYR, will be active as FG/SM7RYR from Deshaies, Guadeloupe (NA-102), between October 27th and November 11th. Activity will be holiday style mainly on 20 meters CW and possibly 17/12m (depending on conditions). Equipment is a KX2 with a KXPA100 into a GP on beach. QSL via LoTW.

FH, MAYOTTE, A group of operators will be QRV as TO6OK until October 4. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via OK6DJ.

FR & FH, REUNION AND MAYOTTE ISLANDS (Update). Willi, DJ7RJ, will be active as FR/DJ7RJ from Reunion Island (AF-016) between October 9-27th, and then as FH/DJ7RJ from Mayotte between October 29th and November 6th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters with a focus on the lower bands using CW and SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. NO LoTW or ClubLog. ADDED NOTE (Per The Daily DX): Stefan, DL9HAL, will also be with Willi on Reunion Island (but not Mayotte) working SSB and FT8.

GR150, ENGLAND (Special Event). Look for special event station run by Terry Robinson, GM3WUX, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). The station will be mainly on CW with some SSB between October 1-28th, using all bands 160-4 meters, excluding 60 meters which is not permitted by the licence. A special QSL will be available. There will be a log search and OQRS facilities at www.g3swh.org.uk/gr150nib.html and all logs will be uploaded to both LoTW and ClubLog in due course.

HL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA. (Reminder) Special event station HL50IARU is QRV until the end of October 2018 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IARU Region III.

HP, PANAMA, A group of operators will be QRV as H88X from Playa Farallon until October 9. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL direct to I0SNY

HS, THAILAND. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of IARU Region 3, members of the Radio Society of Thailand are QRV as HS50IARU until October 31. QSL via LoTW.

JD1, OGASAWARA. Kazu, JD1BNA (ex-JK1FXI), will once again be active from Hahajima (Mother) Island (AS-031) between October 24-28th. Activity will be mainly on 160/80/40 meters using mostly CW. QSL via JL1UTS, direct only.

JW, SVALBARD. Erik, LA2US, will once again be active as JW2US from Bear Island (IOTA EU-027) for the next month. Activity will be 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.

KG4, GUANTANAMO BAY. Several sources are reporting that operators Bill/W4WV and Al/W6HGF will be active as KG4WV and KG4HF, respectively, from Club Gitmo between October 10-24th. Activity will be on various HF bands but with some focus on 160/80m, and using mainly SSB and FT8, with some operations on CW, PSK and RTTY. QSL via their home call signs. They will also make nightly uploads to ClubLog.

OM, SLOVAK REPUBLIC. Members of the radio club Horec are QRV with special event call OM75TESLA until the end of the year to commemorate Nikola Tesla's death 75 years ago. QSL via OM3KHT.

OY, FAROE ISLANDS. Carsten, OY1CT, is active almost daily from Streymoy Island in the Faroe Islands (EU-018) around/about 14033 kHz after 1500z. QSL via OY1CT direct or ClubLog.

PJ4, BONAIRE. Operators David/NA2AA, Noah/K2NG, Ron/KK9K and Scott/NE9U will be active as PJ4G from Radio Mountain Bonaire station (see pj4g.com or @pj4radio on Facebook) during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th). Look for operators to sign PJ4/homecall before and after the contest. QSL for PJ4G via WA2NHA or LoTW. QSL all other callsigns via direct or LoTW. ADDED NOTE: Scott, NE9U, will be on the island between October 20th and November 3rd, active as PJ4/NE9U. QSL via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

SV8, GREECE. Sigi, DL7DF, will be active as SV8/DL7DF from Zakynthos Island (EU-052) between October 1-15th. He will be on holiday with his XYL Sabine in Greece. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SBB, and RTTY as often as possible. His equipment will be a Elecraft K2, a power amplifier XV600, a multiband vertical and a laptop computer. QSL via DL7DF, direct or by the DARC Bureau. Log will be uploaded within 6 months after his operation.

SW, GREECE EU-052. Operators Sergio/IK8TNG, Armando/IK8BPY, Stefano/IZ8CKY and Gianni/I7PHH will be active as SW8DX from the **Island of Meganisi**, Greece, between October 6-13th. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using CW and SSB (possibly Digital modes and FT8). Suggested frequencies are: CW - 3530, 7025, 10011.5, 14040, 18098, 21040, 24920 and 28040 kHz SSB - 3755, 7055, 14260, 18128, 21260, 24950 and 28460 kHz QSL via LoTW or IK8JAI. For more details and updates, watch: <https://meganisidx2018.wordpress.com/>

TI5/TI7, COSTA RICA. Chris, KL9A, will once again be active as TI7W from Costa Rica during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th) as a Single- Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL TI7W via W4FS. Outside of the contest he will use the callsign TI5/KL9A on all bands. QSL TI5/KL9A via W2GR.

TO6, MAYOTTE. Members of the Czech DXpedition team (CDXP) will be active as TO6OK from Mayotte (AF-027) until October 6th. Operators mentioned are Petr/OK1BOA, Petr/OK1FCJ, Pavel/OK1GK, Ruda/OK2ZA, Ludek/OK2ZC, Karel/OK2ZI and David/OK6DJ. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. Focus will be on low bands. QSL via OK6DJ, OQRS or LoTW. For more details and updates, see: <http://www.cdxp.cz>

TT8, CHAD. Kenneth, LA7GIA, has announced his next DXpedition to take place from a hotel in N'Djamena Oct 9-21. Callsign will be TT8KO. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using mainly CW and possibly SSB. No Digital modes planned. Look for more details to be forthcoming. Also, watch his Web page at: <http://la7gia.com/Chad/index.html>

V4, ST. KITTS. John, W5JON, will once again be active as V47JA from his Calypso Bay, St. Kitts, West Indies vacation home, between October 10th and November 6th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters (incl. 60m) using SSB and FT8. Equipment is a Yaesu FT1000MP, FT857D and an Elecraft KPA500 Amplifier. John states his antennas are a 33', 40-10m Vertical, 35', 80m Top Loaded Vertical, a base loaded 160m Vertical and on 6m a 5 element Yagi. ALL QSLs go to W5JON direct or via LoTW. NO Bureau QSLs. Also, visiting and operating from John's QTH will be Clive, GM3POI, between October 23-30th, as V4/GM3POI, on CW, SSB and FT8. Clive will also be in the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 27-28th) signing as V47X, and as a Single-Op/Single-Band (20m) entry. QSL V47X via M0URX.

V6, MICRONESIA. Shu, JA1FMN, active as V63PSK from Weno Island (in the Chuuk State; also known as Moen Island; OC-011) Nov 19-25. Activity will be holiday style on 40-15 meters using JT65, JT9, FT8 and PSK63. Watch primarily between 1700-0200z. QSL via JA1FMN, by the Bureau, direct, eQSL or ClubLog's OQRS (on Nov 26).

V8, BRUNEI. Members of the Brunei Darussalam Amateur Radio Association are QRV with special event station V850IARU until October 31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of IARU Region 3. QSL via V85TL.

VK9, NORFOLK ISLAND. Operators Takao/JO7GVC and Hirokazu/JK7LXU will be active as VK9/homecall from Norfolk Island (OC-005) between October 9-14th. Activity will be holiday style on 40-10 meters using CW, FT8 and

PSK. They will use a FT-891 w/100w into a CrankIR vertical. QSL VK9/JO7GVC via JO7GVC and VK9/JK7LXU via JK7LXU.

VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND. Operators Martin/A65DC, Paul/A65DR, Thomas/SM0CXU and YL Delia/VE7HDW will be active as VK9XT from Christmas Island (OC-002) until October 6th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. FT8 might be used at times when no other operations are going on. QSL via N4GNN direct, LoTW, eQSL or QRZ.com's LogBook. Direct card via Clublog's OQRS will be active for 6 months after the DXpedition. You may request your direct card there. QSL Fee on the OQRS will increase to 3 USDs for OQRS to cover envelope and PayPal costs. Free Bureau card via ClubLog's OQRS will be open for six months after the DX- pedition. For more details and updates, see: <http://vk9xt.qsodirector.com>

VP2E, ANGUILLA. Operators Rich/KE1B and YL Anna/W6NN active as VP2EAQ and VP2EAR, from Songbird Villa, Rendezvous Bay, between Nov 19-28. Activity "holiday-style" using a single station (an Elecraft K3S) 100w and a Buddipole antenna system directly adjacent to the sea. Ops will be on all bands 40-10 meters (including 30/17/12m), and all modes (CW/SSB/RTTY/FT8). Look for VP2EAQ to be active in CQWW DX CW Contest (November 24-25th). They expect to have Internet access, and plan to upload logs to ClubLog daily. You can check your QSO status and request a QSL card via the Online QSL Request System (OQRS). Direct QSLs are via their home callsign (see QRZ.com for details). Also, QSL via LoTW or eQSL. Bureau cards should be sent via KE1B.

VP2M, MONTSEERRAT. Operator Lee/K7NM, Steve/WM7Z, Richard/NS7K and Glenn/ AC7ZN active as VP2MLB, VP2MSA, VP2MSK and VP2MZN, respectively, from Gingerbread Hill, St. Peters, Montserrat (NA-103), late Nov and early Dec. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB, PSK and FT8. They will also be in the ARRL 160m CW Contest (November 30th-December 2nd) signing as VP2MSK and as a Multi-Op entry. QSL VP2MSK via NS7K, ClubLog or LoTW. QSL VP2MLB via K7NM. QSL VP2MSA via WM7Z or LoTW. QSL VP2MZN via AC7ZN.

XV9, VIETNAM. Jun, JH4RHF/OE1ZKC, will be active as XV9RH from Hanoi between October 10-16th. Activity will be a limited (due to work) on various HF bands using mainly CW. QSL via OE1ZKC.

XV, VIETNAM. William "BJ", WA7WJR, will once again be active as XV9WJR, but this time from Vung Tau, Con Son Island (AS-130), and Phu Quoc Island (AS-128) between October 3-27th. BJ reports, "I travel to VietNam about 4 times each year, and obtained a 3 year license to operate in Bien Hoa, Saigon, Vung Tao, and Phu Quoc Island." Activity will be mainly on 40/20/15 meters using primarily CW, some PSK31 and maybe phone. Suggested frequencies are: 7 MHz - 7.1 MHz (40 meters), 14 MHz - 14.350 MHz (20 meters) - primarily 14.028 and 14.014; and 21 MHz -21.450 MHz. He will also participate in the Oceania CW DX Contest (October 13-14th). QSL via his home callsign direct. He will upload his log to LoTW on his return home. For more details, updates and pictures, see QRZ.com.

XW, LAOS. Champ, E21EIC, will once again be active as XW1IC from Vientiane between October 12-16th. Activity will be on 40-6 meters using various modes. QSLs must be requested via the OQRS on ClubLog or via E21EIC and LoTW. NO PAPER QSL IS NEEDED.

XW, LAOS. Bruce, 3W3B (HS0ZCY/XU7ADF/XW1B/AA4XR), who lives in Da Nang, will once again be active as XW4XR from Vientiane between October 12-22nd. Activity will be on 40-10 meters (possibly 6m) using CW, RTTY, JT65 and FT8. QSL via E21EIC and LoTW.

ZD9, TRISTAN DA CUNHA (Update). Steve, G4EDG, is now active as ZD9CW from Tristan da Cunha Island (AF-029) until October 22nd. Activity will mainly be CW and RTTY, but some SSB too (No FT8). Operations will be on 40-15 meters and possibly 80m later in the operation. He will also be in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest (September 29-30th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via LZ1JZ. Steve will upload logs to LoTW during the operation if possible.

ZL7, CHATHAM ISLAND. Operators Shige/JH1GNU, Kaz/JH1HRJ and Tack/JE1SCJ will be active as ZL7X from Chatham Islands (OC-038) between October 16-22nd. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. The focus will be on the low bands CW and all bands FT8. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1822.5, 3504, 7004, 10115, 14010, 18080, 21010, 24895 and 28010 SSB - 3785, 7080, 14210, 18140, 21305, 24970 and 28510 FT8 - 1840*, 3563, 7060, 10140, 14095, 18105, 21095, 24920 and 28095 kHz * FT8: DXpedition mode except 160m QSL via JA0VSH (direct/by the Bureau), LoTW or eQSL.

That's it for this month and for a few months out. Until next month, vry 73.

Contest Calendars

October Contest Calendar					
Start-Date		Finish-Date		Contest Name	Sponsor's Website
6	1600	7	2200	California QSO Party	www.cqp.org
10	0001	10	2359	10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint	www.ten-ten.org
13	0300	14	2100	Nevada QSO Party	nvqso.com
13	1600	14	2200	Pennsylvania QSO Party	paqso.org
13	1700	14	0500	Arizona QSO Party	www.azqsoparty.org
13	1800	14	1800	South Dakota QSO Party	www.sdqsoparty.com
15	1300	19	2359	ARRL School Club Roundup	arri.org/school-club-roundup
20	0001	21	2359	10-10 International Fall Contest, CW	www.ten-ten.org
20	1400	21	0200	New York QSO Party	www.nyqp.org
20	1500	21	1459	Worked All Germany Contest	www.darc.de
20	1500	21	1500	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	www.kkn.net/stew
21	1700	22	0100	Illinois QSO Party	www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html
27	0000	28	2359	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	www.cqww.com

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, our contest coordinator

Contest Name	Time(s) - Date(s)
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 6 to 2200Z, Oct 7
Arizona QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 13 to 0500Z, Oct 14



K8BF

PORTAGE COUNTY
AMATEUR
RADIO
SERVICE

Ravenna, Ohio USA

The Club that puts the
FUN in Amateur Radio

Paranormal Radio

Mark, K8MSH

It's October, and time for all those spooky Halloween stories. Believe it or not, radio has been used for contacting the spirit world, going back to the early days of its existence. (Very appropriate with the "dead" bands lately.)

Many inventors had the idea to create a device which could bridge the gap between the living and the dead. Thomas Edison. Edison believed strongly that such a device was possible, and held many secret sessions with fellow scientists in an attempt to perfect his machine. In a statement in 1930, he announced that the device he would create *"would not function by any occult, mystifying, mysterious, or weird means, employed by so-called "mediums", but by scientific methods."* He went on to say *"I am engaged in the construction of one such apparatus now, and I hope to be able to finish it before very many months"*.

Ironically Edison died before perfecting his Instrumental-transcommunication device, but his idea became known as "spirit phone" and became a media sensation.

(<https://www.hdparanormal.com/single-post/2017/03/05/The-Spirit-Radio-baffling-scientists>)



Marcello Bacci claims to have discovered a way to communicate with the other side through the use of an old radio. Bacci's sessions in Grosseto, Italy, were attended by thousands through the years wanting to communicate with their deceased loved ones—and testimonials support that claim.

In every session, Bacci used the white noise on the short-wave radio frequency (SW) in a frequency ranging from 7 to 9 MHz. After 10 to 20 minutes into the session, the white noise would stop and would be replaced by a wind sound that would be repeated a few times. After a few moments of silence, communication would start. The voice of a usually unidentified spirit acting as a moderator would establish a conversation with Bacci and those with him.

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

W8GWI	David
WA2MNA	Dan
K8AAB	Bob
KD8ZXD	Robert
NO8D	Paul
K8DER	Donald
KD8EPG	Ken

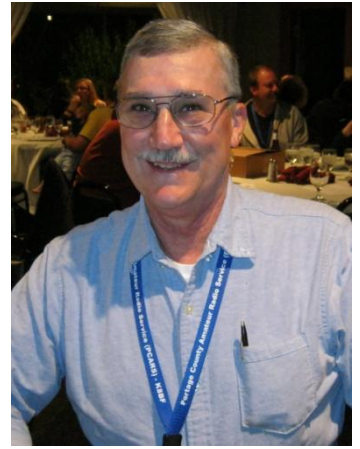
KD8IUA	Michael
K8HYM	Mark
KC8RKD	James
WA8SAJ	Jeff
K8SWJ	Scott
WA8AR	Tony
KE8BWA	Andrew

K8CAV	Rick
KE8EGF	Paul
KD8WHA	Aaron
W8NET	Gene
KD8MLE	Jonathan
KD8MQ	John
N8WCP	Michael

Video Mesh Supports the Ravenna Police

Rick, K8CAV
Portage County Coms Unit

For the fifth year, Amateur Radio Operators who are members of the Coms Unit provided Video MESH nodes at the annual Ravenna Cruise-In in Ravenna, Ohio. The Cruise-in is an event where hundreds of participants bring vintage automobiles, trucks, and other vehicles to display on East Main St. along with events such as stunt motorcycle riding demonstrations. It is attended by thousands of people and that creates large crowds in the area.



Captain Dave Rarrick of the Ravenna Police Department a.k.a. WB2DFC, again made a request to the OHS/EM Director Ryan Shackelford that Video MESH support be provided. The Coms Unit established three Video MESH nodes at select locations and a Video monitoring node at the Mobile Command Post. Amateur Radio was used to coordinate and properly aim each node, and Coms Unit members staffed the Mobile Command Post during the event.

Participation in this event has allowed the Coms Unit to continue to refine the methods and equipment used to provide Video MESH networking. In addition, it

has allowed us to solicit input from law enforcement as to how they envision Video MESH networking might be employed by them. Earlier this month in response to inquiries by the Kent State University Police Department, the Coms Unit was able to obtain more input as to deployment of Video MESH networks. As a result of this refinement and input, the Coms Unit now has enough information to begin the work of publishing a broad-based Video MESH Network Support Function, and to identify the equipment and software necessary for this support.

As Amateur Radio Operators, we often have access to communications technology that while certainly not new or unattainable by public entities, can be provided and deployed to public safety officials in a far more cost-effective manner, and also provide the people to deploy and operate this technology. When public safety entities do not have to provide the personnel to deploy and operate these systems, it allows those personnel to be involved with direct operations, again providing value to our public safety clients.



Global Learn Day On The Air - GLDOTA



Global Learn Day on the Air (GLDOTA) is organized to include Amateur Radio operators worldwide in the recognition of the importance of learning through radio contacts.

Individuals, clubs and schools are encouraged to join other amateur operators world wide to exchange contacts with each other and include children in this learning activity. Our goal is to shrink the world one contact at a time until we all come to know we all **one people on but one planet**.

GLDOTA will start at 0001 UTC on Friday, October 5 through 2359 UTC Monday, October 8, 2018. This is a worldwide event designed to engage children across the globe in a learning activity that allows them to experience science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to reach out and extend this opportunity to local schools, science museums, public libraries and all other educational enterprises. Total contacts will count towards awards and recognitions. Names of all participants and their self reported scores will be published following Global Learn Day 2018 (#GLD2018).

If you wish to participate please submit your call-sign and a brief statement describing your plans to participate. Substantial plans to participate will be published and shared with others interested in GLDOTA.
<http://bfranklin.edu/gldota/>

As listed on the ARRL Web Site: 09/27/2018

Global Learn Day on the Air (**GLDOTA**) is an extension of Global Learn Day, which celebrates learning and encourages everyone to recognize the importance of education. GLDOTA will start at 0001 UTC on October 5 and continue through 2359 UTC on October 8. Individual radio amateurs and clubs are encouraged to exchange contacts with each other and to include children in this learning activity. "Each contact during GLDOTA is a celebration, reducing the distance between us as we shrink the planet one contact at a time," the event announcement said. Suggested frequencies are 3.803, 7.187, 14.287, and 21.387 MHz. Contacts via satellite and with the International Space Station are also valid.



From the Ohio Section Manager



Scott, N8SY
ARRL Ohio Section Manager



Hey Gang... Like most weeks it's once again been a busy one for me! I've had fun visiting with all of you at club meetings and various other functions, the latest was the OH-KY-IN and Cleveland Hamfests this past weekend. I did a lot of driving, but it's always worth it to join all of you in having FUN!

Stan and I are still very active in getting out there and doing ARES Connect classes to not only show you how to get registered, but for those E.C.'s and D.E.C.'s that need to know how to setup events and such, we are getting everyone trained on how all of this system functions. It's a labor of love for both of us! Do you have a group of folks that could benefit from Stan or I coming and doing a class with them? Don't hesitate to ask us. We'd be happy to fit you in to the schedule for sure.

Now, while I'm talking about this subject... It's time for YOU to get registered in the new ARES® Connect system, if you haven't already. I did an audit the other day and found some errors that I would like to let you know about. First and most importantly, we want you to be honest when answering all the questions about your training. Please, don't just hurry through the questions, read them carefully, if you don't understand something, please ask me, I'm here to answer your questions. We know that you mean well by answering that you have the needed courses in, but we are checking to make sure that you are in our statewide database when we are completing your registration. If you're not there, you won't get credit for the courses and you'll most likely get an email from your E.C. or me wanting to know where they are. You see, he needs them too. Now, this is actually a double-edged sword. Some of you have taken these courses and just haven't gotten copies of your certificates into the statewide database and your EC, shame on you!

As you can now see, it's going to be extremely important for you to be in our database if you want any of your volunteer time to count! So, how can you find out if you are there? Easy, here's a link to our database... <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/special/ICS%20Complete%20by%20County%20and%20Name.pdf>. On this same subject, some of you noticed that you can acquire your Level 3 by substituting your ICS 300/400 with the following NIMS courses. Completing the following "FREE" and "ONLINE" courses will act as a substitute for your FEMA Leadership Development Course requirements.

You absolutely will need to complete all 7 of these courses to get your ICS 300/400 credit. Here are the courses that you need to take: IS-120, 230, 240, 241, 242, 244 & 288.

Ok, now on to the upcoming S.E.T. Don't forget that the traditional date for the Simulated Emergency Test is the first full weekend in October. This year it is October 6th and 7th. Are you going to participate?

For those who want to send me Radiograms please send them through the Ohio Single Side-Band Net. They are on 3 times a day at 3.9725 (75-meters) and more often if there's enough traffic to warrant it. The folks on OSSBN will make sure that your Radiogram gets to me. Oh, here's one for ya'.. This might be a great time for you to take a look at form ICS-213. It's like a Radiogram, but not. That's the governments radiogram and we do need to practice using it. You can find this and many of the more popular ICS forms here: <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/forms-reference-materials.html>

Once again I want to remind those of you who have your OpenSpots/DVMM and similar devices that are operating on frequencies that are not designated for such devices, I hope that you got the hint these past several weeks that operating in the 435 – 438 range is not advisable. Yes, there are still some who don't seem to understand that even a signal as weak as a hundred milliwatts can interfere with other devices that **ARE** designated for use in that frequency range. It's not only good operating practice, but good sense to make sure that you have your equipment operating where it won't interfere with others.

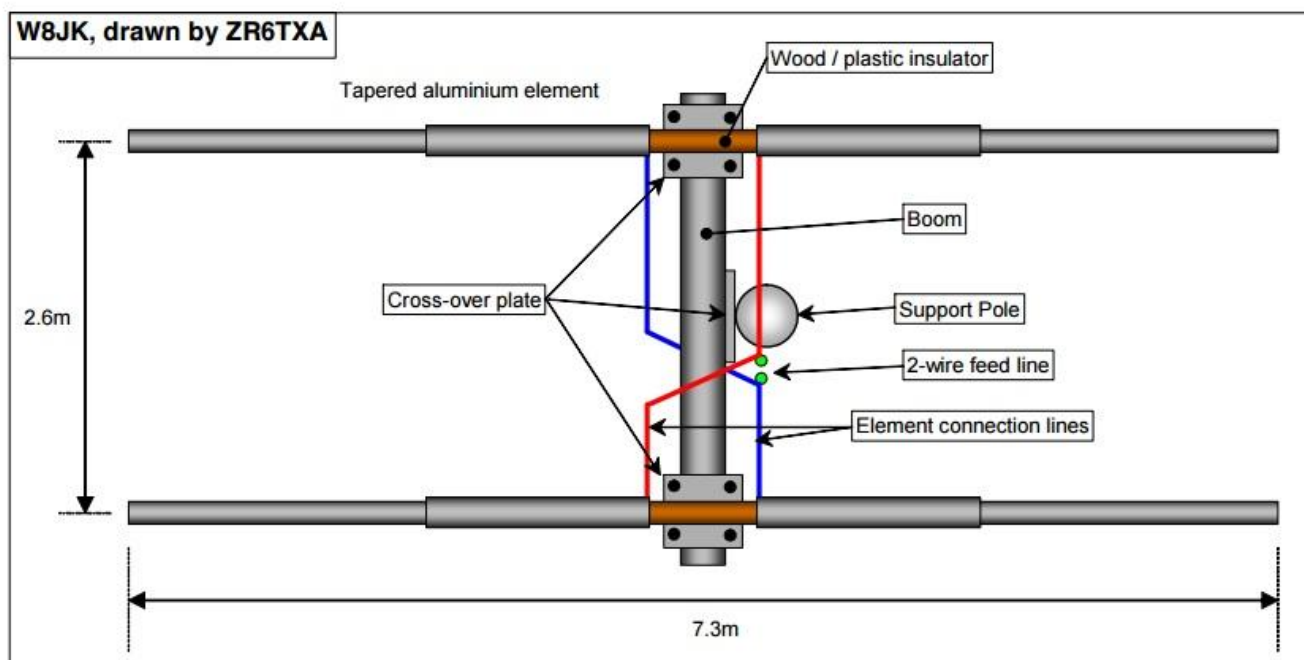
That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, and most of all... have FUN!!

The Famous and Effective DX Antenna by W8JK (sk)

From ZR6TXA on QRZnow.com

The W8JK Introduction The W8JK is a famous and effective DX antenna, first built by John Kraus, W8JK (sk), in 1937. After seeing a paper by George H Brown with theoretical calculations about the performance of closely-spaced dipoles, Kraus built the first W8JK beam antenna with two parallel dipoles driven with opposite phase, with the unprecedented close spacing of an eighth of a wavelength. The beam design I will describe was given by Kraus in QST magazine, in June 1982. Some of the characteristics are as follows :

- It is a compact, 6-band antenna, only 7.3m long, and covering the 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6m bands
- It operates over a continuous frequency range of more than 3:1
- It requires no loading coils or traps in the antenna
- No antenna or feed system dimensions are critical
- It can be operated in the horizontal or vertical position It is ideal for finding open round-the-world communication paths
- It can be fed with cheap, low-loss twin line.



Compared to the very popular tri-band trapped beams, the W8JK has some advantages and disadvantages :

- Having no traps to wind and adjust makes it a realistic project for the home constructor. Construction can be of aluminum tubing with some insulators.
- It has gain over a continuous range of frequencies, not just on three bands. This means it can be used in the WARC bands with equal performance to the staple 10, 15, 20, bands
- It continues to work up to 50MHz, with fairly good gain, allowing operation there immediately, without a second antenna.
- It has lower gain than the tri-bander, especially on 10m. At 6m, a 3-element beam has more gain than the W8JK.

- It fires both ways, so has no Front to Back ratio. However, unwanted signals can still be nulled out on the sides of the beam.
- It does not present a 50 Ω input impedance, so it requires an ATU.

Construction

The antenna is made with two parallel dipole elements, 7.3m long, and 2.6m apart. The dipoles are fed in the center, on the boom, and are fed out of phase. A pair of wires connect the antennas together, the left-hand side of one antenna being connected to the right-hand side of the other, and the same on the other side.



The feed line is connected to the two wires, in the centre of the antenna, and runs down the mast from there. A neat method of construction would be to make the “boom” out of a 2.8m long, 60mm diameter thick-walled aluminum tube.

This is mounted to your tower and rotator with a cross-over plate. Four half-elements are constructed of tapered aluminum tubing, each one having a total

length of about 3.55m. The elements are then pushed onto a fiberglass tube, or plastic or well-varnished wooden rod, to keep them insulated from the boom and each other. The insulators are clamped to both ends of the boom with cross-over plates.

The elements can be guyed to the boom for improved stability, with plastic rope from about 2m into each element, across to the other end of the boom. Use a dark colored polypropylene rope, which should last 5-10 years in the sun, rather than Nylon, which will perish in a year or two. For flexibility in take-off angle, and polarization, the antenna can be designed to rotate into the vertical position, around the central boom shaft. To achieve this, the boom can be placed inside a larger diameter steel or aluminum pipe, which is clamped to the rotator. An arrangement of ropes will allow the antenna to be rotated.

Round-the-world paths
The bi-directional nature of this antenna makes it possible to discover open round-the-world paths, something not possible with a normal beam antenna. The technique used by Kraus is to rotate the beam slowly, sending short Morse code dots, with a full-break-in or QSK transceiver. The delay time for the signal to return is about one seventh

of a second, so there is plenty of time for your transceiver to switch to receive mode. When you have found and peaked an open round-the-world path, call CQ, and you may be rewarded with DX anywhere along the path. Also, the question of Long-path and Short-path does not arise – you are transmitting on both paths at once, giving you a greater chance of catching the other station’s beam direction.

8JK
Electrical Outlines

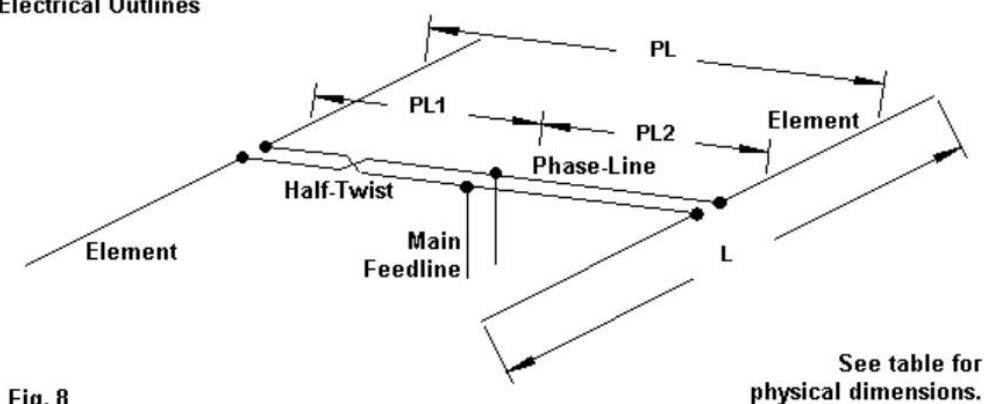


Fig. 8

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: Two beams for sale. These were made *BEFORE* MFJ started making Cushcraft antennas. **Cushcraft Ten-3** Three element **10 meter beam**. Cost new \$299.95 - Sell for \$150.00. This beam helped me make 7,651 ten meter contacts.

Cushcraft A505S - Five element **6 meter beam**. Cost new \$199.95 - Sell for \$100.00. This beam snagged me 4,900 contacts and 366 different grids on 6 meters. These beams were on a tripod on my roof. Had the roof replaced and took down the antennas.

Contact Tom "Parky", KB8UUZ at kb8uuz@gmail.com [01/02/19]



FOR SALE: I have a used **80 meter Carolina Windham**, with 100' of RG8X attached to it. I'll take almost any offer, and will consider any trade.

Contact Tom, WB8LCD at tomdly29@gmail.com [12/02/18]

FOR SALE: AMERITRON AL-82 LINEAR AMPLIFIER - \$1,450 Here is your chance to own a full legal limit amplifier in good condition for less than half the cost of a new one. Wired for 240V AC. With genuine Eimac 3-500Z tubes and a Peter Dahl HV transformer, items you will not get in a new AL-82. Due to the weight of the amplifier, I prefer a local sale - will drive up to 50 miles to deliver.



FOR SALE: YAESU FT-1000MP TRANSCEIVER - 100 W - AC VERSION - \$950 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.

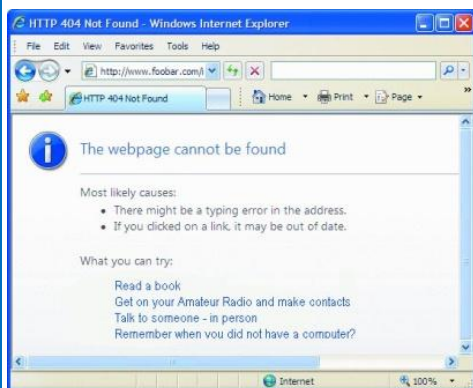


Contact George, K3GP at: 330-829-9504 Evenings or Weekends [10/02/18]

WANTED: I am looking for a Icom **706 MkIIIG** or and Icom **746 Pro**

Contact Richard, KA8OAT at 330-506-7068 [10/02/18]

Yes, Our Web Site is Still Not 100% Working



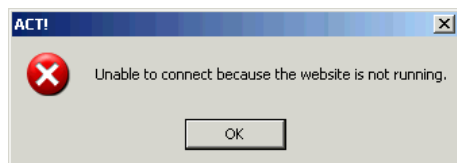
Yes, everyone (should be) aware that the PCARS club web site is still not 100% functional. It has been in this non-working condition for over a month now.

Meanwhile, the PCARS Yahoo Group is working just fine. Why not stop over there and sign up for the PCARS Yahoo Group?



You can find it on the web at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCARS/>

Remember, everyone in this club is a volunteer and sometimes life gets in the way of hobbies. There are people working on this and hopefully the web site will be fixed in the near future.



Just hang in there and keep calm. We'll get there. If it's not fixed, I promise to pass out the people's phone numbers that are working on it.....



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 67 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.

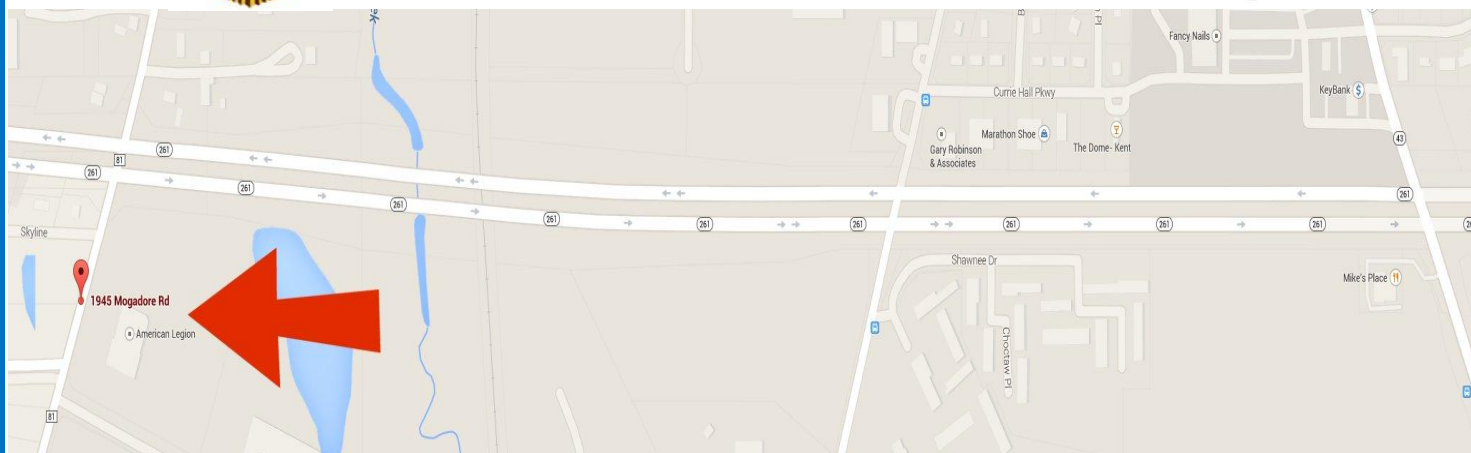


PCARS Meetings

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



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



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



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

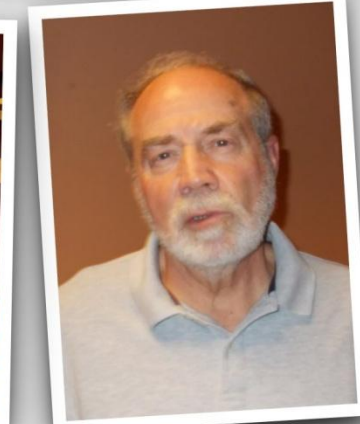
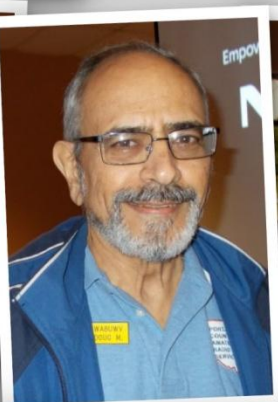
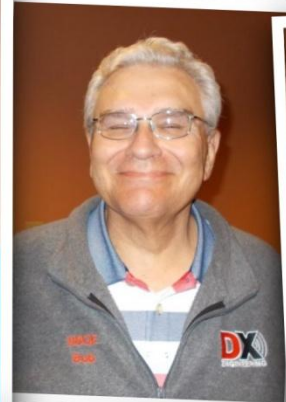
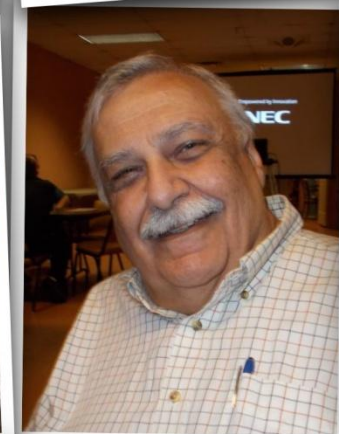
The menu consists of your basic burger / dog / chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, onion rings, and salads. There is also an appetizer selection as well. Adult beverages are available and costs are in line with what you would expect at most bar-restaurant facilities.

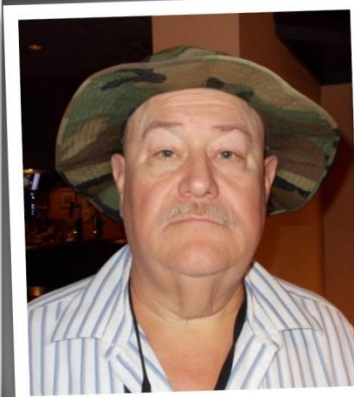
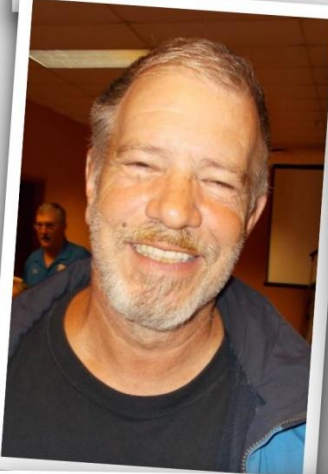
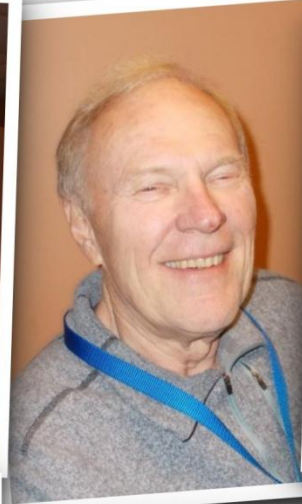
If you are a member of the The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion, bring your ID card as you get a substantial discount on adult beverage pricing.

Photos from the PCARS Meeting in September

**PCARS
Meeting**

**10 Sept
2018**





PCARS Meeting 10 September 2018



PCARS Meeting 10 September 2018



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Membership Application [] New [] Renewal

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

ARRL Member? [] Yes [] No ARRL Membership Expires Month: _____ Year: _____

Birthday: Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____

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

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

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

Check One

Pro-Rated Dues Amount:

☐

Regular Full Membership

Pay January 1 through May 31= \$20.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$15.00 (last 7 months)
Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$10.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$5.00 (last month)

☐

Regular Senior Full Membership (65+)

Pay January 1 through May 31= \$16.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$12.00 (last 7 months)
Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$8.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month)

☐

Associate Senior Membership (65+)

Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$4.00 (last month)

☐

Family* Member

Call Sign of Regular Member: _____

Pay January 1 through May 31= \$10.00 (full year)
Pay June 1 through August 31 = \$8.00 (last 7 months)
Pay September 1 through November 30 = \$5.00 (last 4 months)
Pay December 1 through December 31 = \$3.00 (last month)

(*Family = wife, husband, brother, sister, son, daughter, father, mother that is a licensed amateur radio operator and who's FCC license has the same address as the paid regular member's FCC license). Life Membership is available - Contact the club Secretary

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

What are **YOUR** Ham Radio interests:

Date: _____

Signed: _____

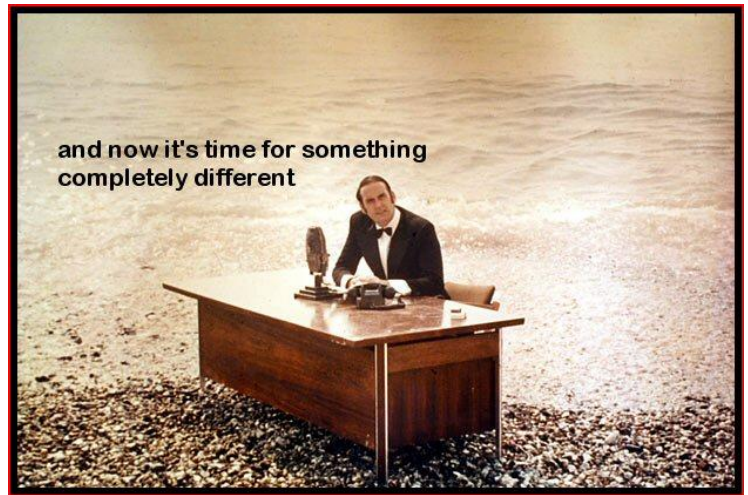
Mail to: Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
c/o: Gene Marsh, W8NET
3561 Keswick Drive
Kent, OH 44240

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

Rev. 28 Sept 2018

Words of Wisdom

- ✓ Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- ✓ Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- ✓ Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- ✓ Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- ✓ Eat a live toad in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you for the rest of the day.
- ✓ If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- ✓ If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- ✓ It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- ✓ Never buy a car you can't push.
- ✓ Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you don't have a leg to stand on.
- ✓ Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- ✓ The early worm gets eaten by the bird, so sleep late.
- ✓ When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- ✓ Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
- ✓ You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- ✓ Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once
- ✓ Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
- ✓ We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors but they all have to learn to live in the same box.
- ✓ A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- ✓ Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- ✓ Have an awesome day, and know that someone has thought about you.



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 the rest of 2018 and beyond.

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

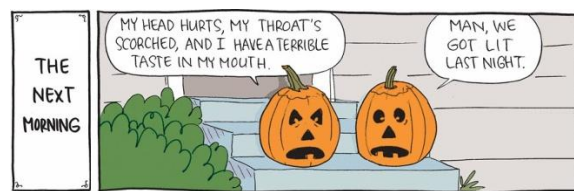
AC8NT, W8AR, KB8UUZ, K8CAV, W8MP, WB8LCD, KB8AMZ, W8PT, N8SY, K8MSH, ZR6TXA, N9MM, The ARRL, Ham Radio Web and the World-Wide Web.

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



Thoughts to ponder from **WB8LCD**:

- After suffering weak gain at the poles, the National Transistor Party has been trying to energize their base.
- Two atoms are walking down the street, and one says to the other, "Wait, wait, we have to go back. I've lost an electron somewhere." The second atom says, "Really? Are you sure?" To which the first atom replies, "Yes. I'm positive."



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

~ The Hamvention® 2018 "Club of the Year" ~

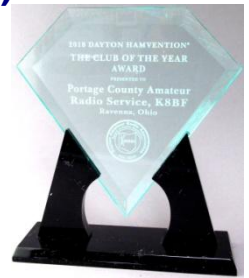


PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the **Kent American Legion Post 496**.
1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.

Meeting starts at 7:00 pm - 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**

Check PCARS out on the web: www.PORTCARS.ORG -or- www.K8BF.ORG



~ 2018 Officers ~		2018 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT Vice President - Tony Romito - WA8AR Treasurer - Amy Leggiero - KD8SKL 3 Year Trustee - Ed Polack - K8IV 2 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ 1 Year Trustee - Erica Pelz - AE8YL Past President - Rick Kruis - K8CAV	ARRL Awards - DXCC WAS, VUCC, WAC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	ARRL Awards - WAS	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
	Field Day Chairman, 2018	WA8AR	Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
	K8BF QSL Manager	K8FEY	Bob Hewett
	Membership Chairman	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Net Control Manager	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
~ Meetings & Net ~ 2nd Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Public Information Officer	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Secretary	W8NET	Gene Marsh
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Webmaster	KD8MQ	John Myers



PCARS Active Volunteer Examiner Team Members

KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
WB8LCD	Tom Sly
N8XTH	Deron Boring
N8PXW	Jim Korenz
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
K8IV	Ed Polack
W8RID	Robert Davet
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
NR8W	Russ Williams
W8EZT	Frank Tompkins
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
KA8TOA	Greg Ash
KB3GXB	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 Newsletter Winner in the Ohio Section for 2017 & 2018 and First Place Newsletter 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. 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 (this month it's the US Dollar) 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



NLC



Portage County Amateur Radio Service
705 Oakwood St. - Box 12
Ravenna, OH 44266