



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

September 2019 - Volume 14 Number 9



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



12th Annual Ohio State Parks On The Air



September 7, 2019



A little Rain or Mud
won't stop us



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



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PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



Feature Articles	
From the PCARS President	3
From the PCARS Vice President	5
Radiogram Wins First Place in Ohio Section	6
Annual Mobile Cruise-In	7
OSPOTA 2019	9
About 1x1 Special Event Call Signs	11
UN Amateur Radio Club	13
From the Great Lakes Division Director	15
From the Great Lakes Division Vice Director	16
Automated Contacts Banned	16
Vigilant Guard 2019	17
Drop a Card to a PCARS Member	18
Oldie But Goodie - SB-230 Revived	20
Knight Distinguished Service Award	22
National VOA Museum	24
Carrington Event - 160 Years Ago	25
Yes - I'm an Old Curmudgeon	27
From the Ohio Section Manager	29
Scouts and Ham Radio	31
Mantua Potato Stomp Volunteers Needed	32
Jamboree On The Air 2019	40
Ohio BB-QSO Party 2019	41
Center of Hope Donations, 2019	44

Mark Your Calendar	
Schedule of Events	6
VE Test Sessions	12
Contest Calendar	14
POW MIA Special Event	18
Net Info & NCS Schedule	23
Hamfest Calendar	21
Flex Net	33
Meetings, PCARS	49
Hiram Percy - Happy 150 th	50
Ohio State Parks On The Air flier	51
South Mill K8JLY Tour - September	52

Regular Departments	
Happy Birthday	10
Coffee Cup - Limited Edition	10
PCARS Patches & Stickers	12
Swap-N-Shop	26
Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites	34
SIG - CW/QRP & Linux	37
SIG - Digital	37
SIG - DX & Contest	38
Paper Chase	39
PCARS IO Group	39
Pictures from the last PCARS Meeting	45
Member Ham License Plates Wanted	48
PCARS on YouTube	48

Finals	
Thanks & 73	53
Fine Print	54

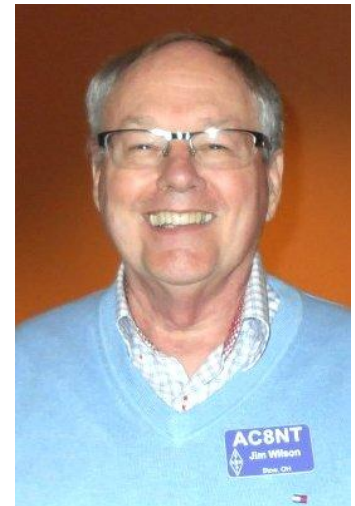


Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7th



From the President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS President



To say August was busy is an understatement.

Balun Build

We held a Saturday build to allow a few of our members to take a try at building one of the most commonly used pieces of antenna equipment. Most got their project at least started. If anyone else would like to build either a 1:1 or 4:1 current balun, just let me know. We have parts available at the club site and we will provide assistance in your build. Every ham should spend some quality time learning how to wind a toroid. It isn't the hardest thing to learn and it can save you some money.

Ohio BBQSO Party

I know Chuck will have a lot to say about this event, but I must say it was a great time. The storms that hit the week before the party brought down our 40 meter dipole. Thanks to Ed, K8IV we used his Field Day 40 meter antenna to save the day. We had a great turnout that enjoyed operating and having a great meal. This was a first class example of just how creative our club is in responding to problems. Thanks again to all that helped make this event a success.

Portable Antennas

The project to build a another portable magnetic loop antenna is underway. I need this to allow easier setup for demonstrations. As with every one of these that I have built it needs to be engineered based on the available vacuum capacitors. It is a lot of back and forth between eBay and the calculations. Goal is to have it completed by the end of October. Remember some of the best caps come from Russia and it takes a while to get them. If anyone wants to watch this project I will keep the work at the club site for look sees.

Bay Three Work

We have stripped the old paint off of the garage door in bay 3. The first week of September it will be painted along with the dividing wall. Most of the junk is gone and it has been cleaned up. What will remain is to paint the floor and build some better storage. This brings me to a request. If any of you know where we can find some stackable chairs in good condition, the club could use them. Let me know if you find some.

Fall is coming soon. This is your final chance to get all your outside antenna work completed before that white stuff arrives. Please make sure you complete your work **safely**. We don't want anyone injured.

DX Engineering Hamfest

A lot of us visited the DX Engineering Hamfest and spent some money on our hobby. This was an outstanding event. Lots of stuff for sale outside and lots of equipment to play with and buy at the showroom inside. You could not ask for a better event. I hope this repeats at least every year. It was also a great opportunity to make some new ham radio friends and visit with a lot of our club members.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



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From the Vice President

Nick, AC8QG

PCARS Vice President



Welcome to Meteorological autumn! Boy time has flown by this summer, but it's been a really great year for me so far! I've had a lot of firsts. I made it to Dayton Hamvention, worked RTTY and FT-8, and participated in the Ohio QSO Party, all for the first time. It's been a blast, but the year isn't over yet! I definitely have more to do before I'm done. I am so grateful for all of the help, mentoring, and encouragement that I and my kids have received from other club members! We couldn't do it without you!

It's really time to start thinking about our annual fundraiser for the Center of Hope in Ravenna. We raised \$9,600 last year. That's an amazing testament to the generosity of PCARS members! I believe we can match that for 2019. Now, I'm not asking anybody to break the bank. Do what you can in your own situation. I won't judge you for giving a dime or a dollar or whatever, but I do ask you to consider giving something. Another way to help out is to ask friends, family, coworkers, bosses, or anybody to pitch in. This fundraiser isn't limited to members only! So please join us and be a part of this effort!

In information science, the 80/20 rule suggests that 20 percent of a group will produce 80 percent of the activity. Give or take a bit, I think that applies to PCARS in a couple of ways. First, we have a small number of volunteers who do a lot. To those members, I say thank you! It takes a lot of time and energy to make this club so amazing! Please, everyone, consider how you might contribute over the next year. Second, for any club activity, we only see a small subset of members participate. I get it. There's a lot going on in the world besides ham radio! That being said, you should come out and join us! That's the only way to be a part of the Big Fun!

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

September: Ryan Shackelford — Director of the Portage County EMA

October: Australia Radio Club — Special Skype Presentation from Down Under

November: Election of officers and Center of Hope fundraiser

December: Christmas social

As always, if you have any suggestions for a meeting topic, or if you are interested in giving a presentation please let me know. We're always looking for new and interesting topics! Thank you to all the people that helped fill this list!



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:



- September 3rd - Board Meeting at the club site - 6:30 pm
- September 7th - Ohio State Parks On The Air contest
- September 9th - PCARS Meeting at the American Legion in Kent - 7 pm
- September 14th - Tour of the K8JYL old Radio Museum in Jackson Township
- October 5 & 6th - California QSO Party at the club site - starts at noon
- October 12th - Mini Maker Faire in Akron - noon to 4 pm
- October 12 & 13th - Arizona QSO Party at the club site
- October 18 & 19th - Scouts Jamboree On The Air

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - Every Month at
the Club Site in Ravenna - 7:00 pm

- First Tuesday - **Digital** - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV - **Sept Meeting Cancelled**
Second Tuesday - **QRP/CW** - Moderator: Terry, KB8AMZ
Third Tuesday - **Antenna** - Moderator: Tony, WA8AR
Fourth Tuesday - **DX & Contest** - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
Fifth Tuesday - **Linux for Hams** - Moderator: Terry, KB8AMZ

Fourth Thursday - **Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 pm** - Moderator: Tom, WB8LCD



The RADIOGRAM Wins First Place in ARRL Ohio Section

At the August 3rd Columbus Hamfest John Ross, KD8IDJ, the Ohio Section Public Information Coordinator announced the winners of the **2019 Annual Ohio Section Newsletter Contest**.

Here's the announcement from John, KD8IDJ:

"Just when I thought I had heard it all from the judges...they continue to excel in selecting the winners...and the discussion was even more exciting. So, here are your 2019 Newsletter Contest winners:

First Place: The RADIOGRAM - Portage County Amateur Radio Service

Second Place: Posts - from the Union County Amateur Radio Club

Third Place: DELARA News - Delaware County Amateur Radio Association

Fourth Place: ATCO - Amateur television in Central Ohio

Honorable Mention: MVRC The Mount Vernon Radio Club newsletter"

Or Newsletter Editor, Tom, KB8UUZ said during his acceptance that he thanked the members of PCARS that contribute to the newsletter to help keep it the best and most interesting newsletter. He also said he wanted to especially thank his wife Peggy, KB8SZI for her understanding and tolerance when he spends hours hunched over the PC keyboard every month working on the newsletter.

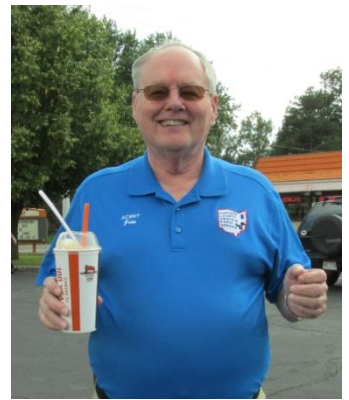
The **RADIOGRAM** will now be in the next ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter Contest and the results will be announced at the next Division Conference to be held at the Toledo Hamfest in Perrysburg, OH on March 14, 2020.



10th Annual Mobile Cruise-In

Jim, AC8NT

The 2019 Cruise-In at the Ravenna A&W was a success with a fairly good turnout. This is the time we all show up to show off our mobile rigs, drink root beer and talk ham radio. This year the weather was great and the conversation was lively.



Gene W8NET won the prize for most bands supported and he could demonstrate operation.

The neatest installation was won by Jordan KE8MKY. His installation was so neat you could hardly see the rig.

Both walked away with DXE gift certificates.

Considering I can work two bands with a handheld and an external magnetic mount antenna, I could not come close to these installs.

Hope to see more rigs at next year's event.





OSPOTA 2019



Tom, KB8UUZ
OSPOTA Chairman



Hello OSPOTA fans and participants,

The 2019 **Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest (OSPOTA) is coming up really soon - on September 7th many of you will be making the trip to one of the beautiful Ohio State Parks to set up and get on the air - We will be listening for you!

There are also a number of participants not at Ohio State Parks that will also be counting on you to be there so they can make contact with you.

Don't forget, there is a NEW Ohio State Park - Jesse Owens State Park and that brings the Ohio State Park count to 75.

STORIES - PICTURES - LOGS

Stories:

How about taking a few notes on your set up and operation, then send them in with your log so I can publish that in the PCARS (Portage County Amateur Radio Service) newsletter? Have you seen our newsletter? Go to www.portcars.org and look in the Newsletter section. You will find copies of all of the PCARS (Award winning) newsletters.

Pictures:

TAKE PICTURES - it's always nice to look over pictures after an event to remember the fun had by all that attended. This also goes for those of you not at a State Park - a photo of you while at the station making contacts is great! Send those pictures in as well, please!

LOGS:

PLEASE - don't forget to send in your log. All the info on what should be in the log is outlined in the rules, so I won't repeat it here. Note - This is the last year for any paper logs - starting in 2020 we will only accept Cabrillo file entries.

FUN FUN FUN

Most of all, get out there and **have fun with amateur radio**. Our hobby is fantastic and the fun of making contacts is just super.

When at an Ohio State Park, make sure you are polite and try to get the Park Rangers involved - have them make a contact or two, you never know how much that will go for good relations between amateur radio operators and Park Rangers.

And make sure when you leave, your area is cleaner than you found it. Park Rangers remember that type of thing for future visits by amateur radio ops.

Enjoy your trip and visit to an Ohio State Park - Enjoy making contacts with Ohio State Parks - Enjoy this hobby of ours.

I will be listening for you and looking forward to getting your stories, photos and logs.



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Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

W8IFM	William	Dunn
W5OV	Bob	Naumann
WB8VYW	Mike	Hutsler
KD8WBC	Don	Manning
WD8BIW	Karen	Warner
KD8JRE	Michael	Harris
KD8ZDZ	Steven	Guldeman
N8KBX	Bob	Magree
KD8BBT	Andrew	Six
KD8VT	James	Andrews
KD8UXG	Scott	Gardner

WA2MNA	Dan	Guernsey
KD8FME	Jim	Conlin
NT8K	Bob	Whiddon
W8GWI	David	Seckel
K8HTB	Joe	Carron
KD8PBL	Richard	Taylor
AC8NT	James	Wilson
W8AHC	Ronald	Echelberry
KA8OAT	Richard	McPeak
K8YLK	Josh	Heiks



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PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - Limited Edition

PCARS has obtained a number of special, custom made coffee cups that are available only to members.

Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE** !! The only catch is you have to claim it in person from the **Treasurer - Paul, KE8EGF**.

Paul has a list of current members and will check off your name when you get your **FREE** PCARS coffee cup.

There are a limited number of extra coffee cups and they are for sale at \$5.00 each - **Again, see Paul for all of the details.**



Portage County Amateur Radio Service



K8BF

2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year



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About 1x1 Special Event Call Signs

The Special Event Call Sign System meets the needs of amateur operators for temporary operation of their stations during events that are of special significance to the amateur service community. A Special Event Call Sign is an amateur station call sign with a one-by-one call sign format that may be reserved for assignment to



stations operating in conjunction with these short-term events.

The FCC has authorized the use of one-by-one format amateur radio station call signs for use during events of significance to the amateur community. Here is what the FCC has to say about 1x1 Special Event call signs:

Part 97 Amateur Radio Service - Section 97.3(a)(11)(iii)

*(iii) **Special event call sign system.** The call sign is selected by the station licensee from a list of call signs shown on a common data base coordinated, maintained and disseminated by the amateur station special event call sign data base coordinators. The call sign must have the single letter prefix K, N or W, followed by a single numeral 0 through 9, followed by a single letter A through W or Y or Z (for example K1A). The special event call sign is substituted for the call sign shown on the station license grant while the station is transmitting. The FCC will issue public announcements detailing the procedures of the special event call sign system.*

Section 97.119 (d) is as follows:

(d) When transmitting in conjunction with an event of special significance, a station may substitute for its assigned call sign a special event call sign as shown for that station for that period of time on the common data base coordinated, maintained and disseminated by the special event call sign data base coordinators. Additionally, the station must transmit its assigned call sign at least once per hour during such transmissions.

A special event call sign aids amateur radio operators in calling attention "on-air" to their participation in the event as well as helping to bring notice to the event. Examples of the use of one-by-one call signs by amateur stations include a wide variety of celebrations such as conventions, festivals, dedications and anniversaries ...even local events qualify.

A one-by-one call sign consists of a single prefix letter (K, N, or W), the region number (0 to 9), and a single suffix letter (A to Z, except the letter X). There are 750 such call signs. Amateurs of any license class may reserve a 1x1 call sign for up to 15 days. Once you reserve the call sign, you simply substitute the self-selected 1x1 call sign for your FCC-assigned call sign. Be sure to read the 1x1 call sign Frequently Asked Questions (<http://www.1x1callsigns.org/index.php/faq>).

A One-by-One Database has been established so that you can determine which 1x1 call signs are available during specific dates. Coordinators have also been selected by the FCC to approve and post 1x1 call sign reservations to the database. (<http://www.1x1callsigns.org/index.php/search>)

Request Your One by One Callsign Online (<http://www.1x1callsigns.org/index.php/request>)



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



PCARS VE Test Sessions

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison

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

October 5th, December 7th

2020: Feb 1st, Apr 4th, Jun 6th, Aug 1st, Oct 3rd, Dec 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 your 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.
- 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 a 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 Patches & Stickers



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: **Paul, KE8EGF** or e-mail him at: phyland@neo.rr.com

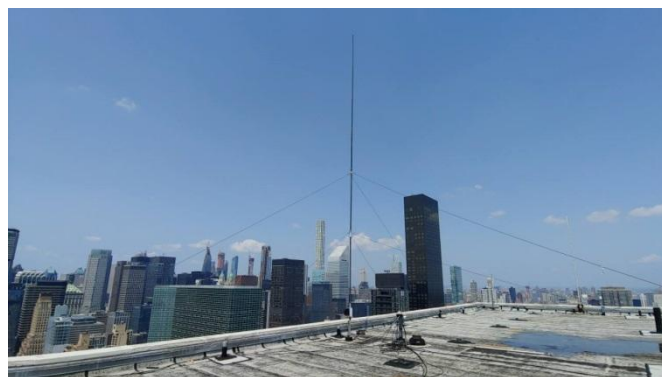


From the 4U1UN Facebook page

We are receiving a lot of messages regarding the lack of 4U1UN (United Nations Amateur Radio Club) activity on the bands. We will try to clear some things about the current Club's activities.

Many of you do not know that after the renovation of the UNHQ building in New York, the room dedicated to the recreation area, on the 41st floor, in which the 4U1UN radio equipment was located, was transferred to the special UN unit - Broadcast and Conference Support Section. That room now is allocated to professional communications equipment. This was the only room technically suitable to be used for installing our gear, with easy access to the roof but after renovation it became off-limits for any other services, except BCSS.

Please do not think that UNARC members gave up and are doing nothing - believe me, almost daily communication has not been interrupted for the past seven years. After the successful activity of 4U70UN back in 2015, with the support of the UN Administration, we were able to secure a tiny 20-square-foot room for the Club's needs on the ground floor of the building. For obvious reasons, no one will give us the opportunity to run a separate coaxial cable from the ground floor to the 41st floor. Considering the fact that the room, allocated for the Club, can be transferred to any other place at any time, we have developed a project for installing a remote station on the 41st floor.



The main difficulty in quick implementation of such project at the UNHQ is not political, but administrative. The BCSS is responsible for the security for all the UN communications equipment. They provide the entire UN communication (including emergency etc.) to all UN field locations around the World. There are communication repeaters, satellite links and other equipment, access to which is strictly limited. Only security personnel, authorized by this service, have permission to be there. Coordination of access to this room for club members (UN staff) at such a high level, takes several months to be approved, and the time allowed for work is limited to only one or two hours per visit.

If it were not for BCSS support, nothing would have been possible at all, even the placement of the beacon station and antenna! Imagine that you want to put a remotely controlled and unsupervised amateur radio station in the server room of the White House special communications service, and you will get the picture. Every time we get access - we are accompanied by representatives of three different UN services, and only because none of us is giving up - the process of returning the UN amateur radio station in the air, although slowly, continues.

Now, some good news!

This Saturday (August 24th), several members of the UN radio club, representatives of UN services and guests, once again got the opportunity to continue the configuration of equipment and its connections. Unfortunately, the assembled 19-inch rack and part of the equipment were disconnected during delivery to the 41st floor, including disassembling of the power amplifier. This is mainly because the BCSS personnel needed

to hand carry all the equipment several flights of stairs to the top floor. The ACOM-2000A amplifier fully assembled is very heavy, so its disassembling was certainly needed.



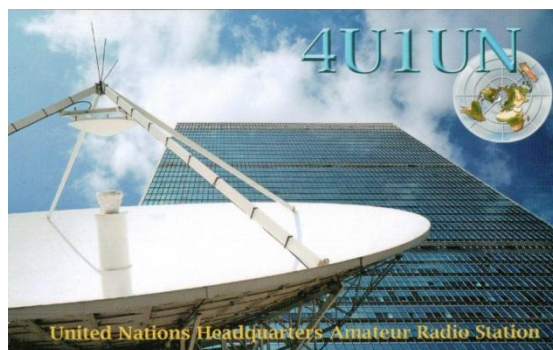
After four hours of work, the connections of the SteppIR BigIR vertical antennas were restored, a new SDA-100 controller was installed and a RemoteRig 1216H was connected for easy remote access. The antenna was tested and configured. Remote access from the first floor works (special thanks for the separately run Ethernet cable over the entire height of the building, for the use of the Radio Club). The operation of the ACOM-2000A amplifier with an antenna was tested.

While we were testing, we realized that our Elecraft K3 needed to be disconnected and sent for repair. Apparently, due to the lack of the ability

to retract BigIR antenna earlier, static discharges damaged the K3 power control board. Updating/re-installing of the K3 firmware didn't helped. Let's hope for a speedy recovery of the transceiver after treatment at Elecraft!

We really hope that in the very near future, after debugging and setting up all the equipment, we will finally be able to proudly look at the work done and begin to appear steadily on the bands; and you will be able to get ATNO with the UNHQ!

Thanks to everyone involved, especially to: James Sarte K2QI UNARC President, Philip Dale G6CBR UNARC, UN Security Staff, UN BCSS Staff, Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA.



Contest Calendar

September Contest Calendar	
Contest Name	Times
Ohio State Parks On The Air	1400Z - 2200Z, Sept 7
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 21 to 2400Z, Sep 22
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 21 to 2200Z, Sep 22
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 22
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29
Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 28 to 1200Z, Sep 29
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 28 to 2000Z, Sep 29

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

Contests that will be active at the PCARS Club Site in 2019	
Date	Contest
Oct 5-6	California QSO Party
Oct 12-13	Arizona QSO Party



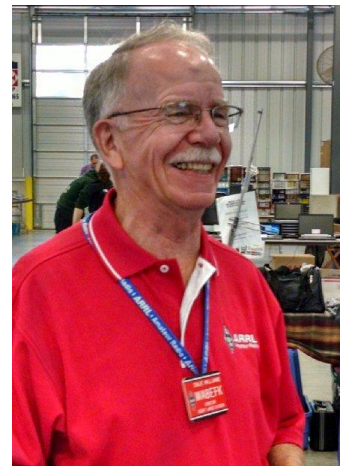
Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



From the Great Lakes Director



Dale, WA8EFK
ARRL Great Lakes Division Director



Greetings, welcome to "Dale's Tales"

At several recent hamfests, I have had the opportunity to seriously discuss the status of our Great Lakes Division radio clubs with some of their members. The range of comments was extraordinary, from "very healthy and growing" to "desperate and dying". The latter of course was very disappointing news. Why the differences? We did discuss them and also talked about what possible changes had affected the dying clubs.

[This is where this message gets tenuous.] The members' comments seemed often to relate to the effectiveness of the current slate of officers and/or their immediate predecessors. This is of course reported from the members' personal perspective and may have no basis in fact.

However, for most of us, perception is pretty close to reality, so the comments included items such as these: Some leaders had grown weary of the job and could not recruit replacements, others seemed unaware of their plight, others seemed to have no plans for the club while other leaders pointed their fingers at the "other guy" being at fault, not facing the reality of their own situation.

In the meantime, the really successful clubs are reported to have truly active and involved leadership, programs at their meetings, guest speakers, club projects, special interest groups, active local nets, club field activities, club parties, and importantly a PLAN to make themselves a success.

Perhaps it is time for the less than successful clubs to take a self-examination and ask themselves "Where do we want to go and how do we want to get there?" Frankly folks, if your club Board of Directors does not occasionally meet and plan for the club's future, you may want to consider urging them to move in that direction. Strong words I am sure, but today, one has a choice to do the things necessary to succeed, adapt to change, and CREATE excitement and growth, or face the unfortunate alternative: a slow and certain demise. From some of the members from those clubs on that slippery slope, I have heard the stories of "power struggles", "club empires" "entrenched officers" and a host of other reasons alleging change is not possible. Really?

Club members need to stand up and take action. Don't allow a continuing stagnant condition to exist in your club, empower yourselves to make change. Set some goals to make your club the success it needs to be. It only takes two or three to create a "wake up call" and encourage the needed changes. Plans and goals are critical to a club's future, have at it!

To those clubs on the successful part: congratulations! Keep it rolling! To those ready to make the paradigm shift to a new adventure, best wishes for your renewed success.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th

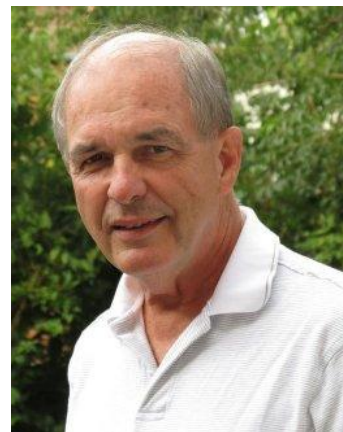


From the Great Lakes Vice Director



Tom, W8WTD

ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director



Of the many ways that ham radio has changed over the years, one of them has to be in the operating habits of many of us. It used to be that you could find contacts on the HF bands easily, whenever they were open. (As an operator who prefers SSB, I wish we were at a different point in the sunspot cycle. Oh well....) Of course, there are still some contacts to be made. But not as easily. Maybe our schedules provide us with so many more things to do that we allocate less time to radio.

So “events” become more important. Probably the biggest event to bring out lots of activity of HF was the National Parks on the Air several years ago. It was the right combination of contesting, contacting, portable operating, etc., to really make a hit with hams and get a lot of radio waves stirred up.

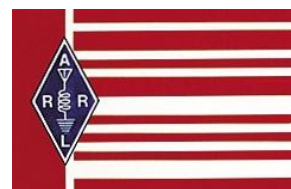
There are still lots of operating events to take advantage of. For example, the state QSO parties usually do well for participation. So if you’re looking for an “event,” you can probably find something to operate in most weekends.

A short-term “event” sponsored by ARRL is coming up right now. The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration starts on August 31st and runs through September 8th. Full details are on the ARRL website or in the September issue of QST.

Some of us need an “excuse” to get on the air, or at least an assurance that we’ll find stations to work. This is a good one. Hope we take advantage of it.

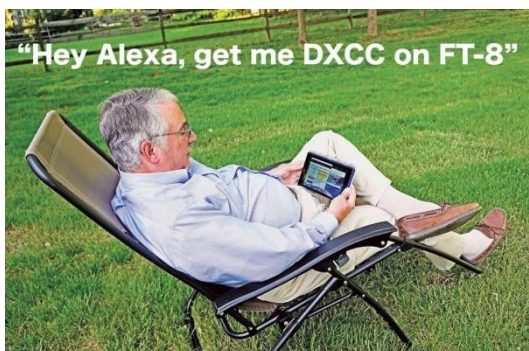
Automated Contacts Banned

From the ARRL



ARRL Contest and DXCC Rules Now Prohibit Automated Contacts

Following the direction of the ARRL Board of Directors, ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts. These changes also apply to the Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), VHF/UHF Century Club, and Fred Fish, W5FF, Memorial awards. The changes are effective immediately.



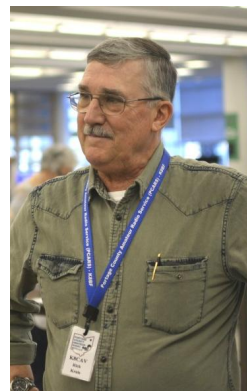
A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to “growing concern over fully automated contacts being made and claimed” for contest and DXCC credit. **The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact.**

Initiation of a contact may be either local or remote.

Vigilant Guard 2019

Rick, K8CAV

Portage County Coms Unit Commander



The week of August 5th saw first responders and the Ohio National Guard at several sites throughout Ohio coming together in support of Operation Vigilant Guard 2019. Vigilant Guard was a large-scale exercise under the auspices of Northern Command to test the ability of First Responders and the Guard to work together in support of incidents



occurring in Ohio. Here in Portage County Vigilant Guard started out on Monday and Tuesday with the Guard, Law Enforcement and the Ohio State Highway Patrol working together to address their incident. On Wednesday August 7th a refrigeration plant explosion occurred with casualties and a release of ammonia gas used in the refrigeration units. Some casualties were contaminated by ammonia. The ammonia plume forced evacuation of nearby residents to

a shelter. Local fire departments, Urban Search and Rescue, the HazMat unit, and the Portage County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management responded to the incident.

The Coms Unit of PC OHS/EM was tasked with providing a communications plan and communications support for the incident. Due to the size of the incident and agencies using different radio systems, the Ohio EMA provided a portable MARS tower and forty-five MARCS handheld radios for support. Steve Randlett K8SRR was appointed as the COML (Communications Unit Leader) and was tasked with planning and staffing communications support for the incident. Both Public Safety and Amateur Radio systems were used in this incident.

A call for volunteers resulted in ten members responding. Of those, four were also members of the Incident Management Assistance Team and were detached to IMAT. The remaining six members were enough to staff the Coms Unit positions needed. Those included the COML, a radio operator and a scribe in the Mobile Command Post for the Unified Commander and his staff, a radio issue/accountability member, a radio operator on bus transportation, and a radio operator at the decontamination/evacuation site.



A communications plan (ICS-205 in incident command system parlance) was written to support the event. While a significant number of first responding agencies in Portage County have transitioned to the MARS digital radio system, some departments were still using

VHF FM narrow band radios that are incompatible with MARCS, not allowing everyone to be able to communicate together. The problem was address using two methodologies. The first was to establish a

command zone/channel on MARCS and a command zone/channel on VHF FM. The two systems were tied together by the radio operators in the Mobile Command Post using an ACU-1000 patching system. The cache MARS radios provided by the Ohio EMA were issued as well to key personnel. This resulted in being able to establish a common command system and the use of MARCS enabled communications with outside organizations such as the Ohio National Guard who were equipped with MARCS radios. The use of Amateur Radio on VHF and UHF provided an internal Coms Unit net and also allowed PARTA buses used to transport evacuees, to have communications with Incident Command without the need of more public safety radios. Additionally, the first ICS-213RR request for resources (Ohio National Guard support) was sent to the Ohio EMA by Ryan Shackelford, the Portage County EMA director by e-mail using a radio link and the Winlink 2000 system.



Plans rarely survive the first shot in battle and this was no exception. The portable MARCS tower, while providing local MARCS connectivity was not connected to the outside MARCS network, requiring a last-minute change to the Communications Plan to accommodate this. Distances between the command post and bus transportation turned out to be greater than could be supported by simplex HT's. Support units did not arrive as expected, requiring a re-tasking of a radio operator. All of these and more were handled with little to no disruption in communications during the incident. The training and professionalism of the COML and Coms Unit members were instrumental in adapting and executing throughout the incident.

The value and accomplishments of the Coms Unit were recognized by the participants in this incident. In particular, Ryan Shackelford who was the Senior Controller stated in part in a letter to the Coms Unit Commander, "On behalf of the Portage County Local Emergency Planning Committee, we would like to thank the Coms Unit for your ongoing dedication and contribution to Portage County's robust emergency communications capability", "It is comforting to know that in the event of a real disaster we have such a proficient level of support." Being recognized for their dedication and expertise as Coms Unit members in support of this incident are Steve K8SRR, Bob N8KBX, Paul KE8EGF, Mike KD8FLZ, Sandy KD8JCY, Ian KE8IED, Mike KB8TUY, Eddie KD8SOP, Ron W8AHC, and Greg KA8TOA.



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



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th

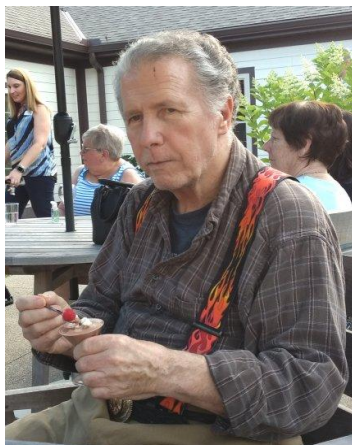


Drop a Card to a PCARS Member

Tom, WB8LCD



Some of you early PCARS members may remember Larry, KD8FLV. Larry was in the club's first Technician Class and became PCARS member number 69.



Although Larry did get his Tech license, he never really did get too involved with the club, or with Ham Radio in general. Larry had worked at Chrysler in Twinsburg, so I know that several of you knew him from there.

Not quite a year ago, I ran into Larry again. Larry is a resident at the same assisted living facility that my aunt lives at, in fact, he's just a couple doors down the hall. I had a chance to talk with Larry a couple times. He remembers his short time as a ham and is always friendly. I know that Bob, N8KBX has stopped in to see him a few times.



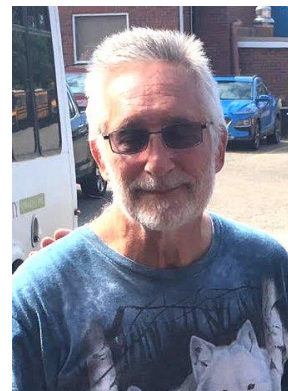
PCARS First VE Team

I'm sure that Larry would appreciate receiving a QSL card or a note from you, or even a visit if you found yourself in the neighborhood. His address is:

**Maplewood at Twinsburg Attn: Larry Krempasky
2463 Sussex Blvd.
Twinsburg, OH 44087**

POW MIA Special Event

Metro, W8MET



On September 13 thru the 22nd of 2019 We will honor and support our Veterans with a Special Event on the air as K4MIA/8. Linda N8LRS and Metro W8MET will be the sister-station from Ohio for our 4th year.



This event originated from K4MIA, Mike from Florida with other sister-stations involved. Details can be found on the ARRL website under "ON-THE-AIR" under SPECIAL EVENT under the call-letters of K4MIA.

Also, this Special Event will be in the September QST. Please take part in this Special Event for our Veterans. QSL is available with SASE. We will be operating on 40 meter's SSB

Oldie But Goodie ~ SB-230 Revived

Gene, W8NET



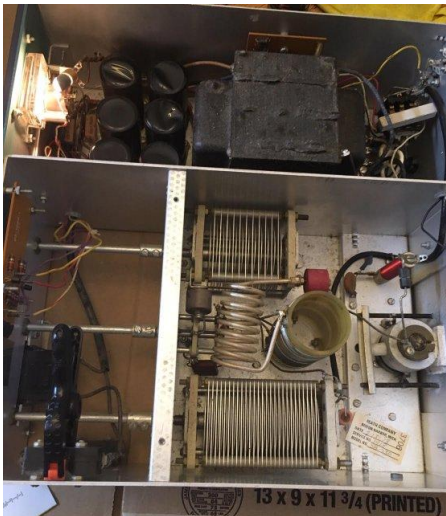
The Heathkit SB-230 SSB HF Amplifier

I love working on tube amplifiers, especially the older ones. Many of my favorites are the Collins 30-L, the Dentron MLA-2500 (I have 2), the Kenwood TL-922, and my REAL most favorite, the QRO HF-2500DX. It's just beautiful!

I always wanted to get a Heathkit SB-230. It's compact design and roomy exterior (a dichotomy!) could make it easy to work on (and re-engineer if needed). Three big issue could be problems: 1) They are hard to find at any price, but especially if it is working; 2) as a "Heathkit kit", the quality of assembly is hit and miss; 3) The amp uses the Eimac 8873 triode tube. It's an incredible tube (same basic design as the 8874 and 8875 found in Dentron MLA-2500, Alpha models, and many more). The problem is, the tube has not been manufactured for more than 40 years! An old, used tube with 75% life left could sell for \$400. A New Old Stock (NOS) tube could fetch \$750-800... IF you can find one! They are almost made from Unobtainium!

So, I thought the dream of buying and working on the SB-230 was almost gone.

Enter eBay. A dentist in Medina, OH was selling an SB-230 from his father's estate, starting bid of \$250... with a "Make an Offer" button! Like a dog on a pork chop, I pounced on it. I bid \$275, expecting a counter offer. He accepted my offer! I picked it up in his Medina dentist office, so no shipping charges. When I was there, he said "By the way, I have an extra tube for the amp". WOW!



Next, I had work to do. The amp was assembled in 1978. The last time it was powered on was 2011. I thought it would have problems because of that. So, I proceeded slowly.

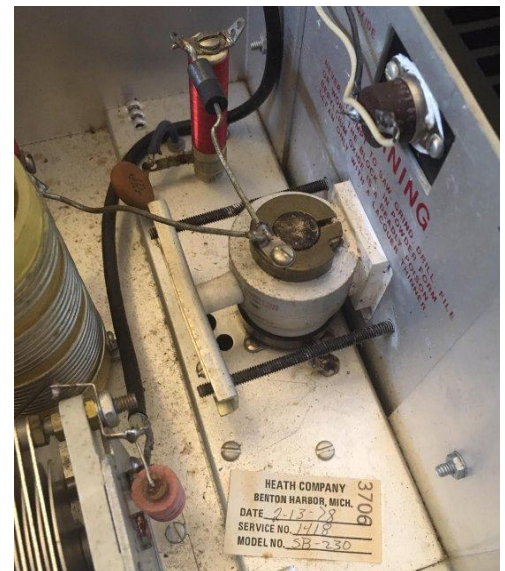
Simple cleaning and dusting and inspection: It was really clean. No signs of smoke, heat stress, burnt caps, etc. I used contact cleaner for cleaning the variable capacitors.

Change the mains plug for 120VAC: The amp was set for 230VAC. I changed the plug to 120VAC. Later, I would change the taps for 120VAC (you will read why later)

Clean every contact and switch: I always use DeOxIt for contacts and switches. It's more expensive than contact cleaner, but way better,

especially for sensitive, old items (and some are hard and expensive to replace). It cleans and conditions contacts. The most sensitive parts are the rotary switch wafers and the T/R relay.

Reforming the HV capacitors: How many time you have heard about "blown capacitors" or "capacitor cheese" for old equipment? If the capacitors don't have signs of stress, you can try to "reform" them. The "best way" to do it is to remove the caps from the device, attach a bleeder resistor, and apply voltage for many hours. If they are not too dry, that works. But, removing them is the same work (or more) as REPLACING them! The most PRACTICAL way is to bring up the working voltage SLOWLY (in-place... no work!). I use a Variac to vary the voltage from 30VAC through 60VAC. Remember, I said I would change the working voltage later? Half way through this process, I



changed the voltage. In this way, I incremented the voltage for approximately 36 hour, until the target voltage was reached (120VAC). Another 24 hours of heating up the capacitors, and I'm done reforming the caps!. As an aside, I plan on installing new caps, HV diodes and bleeder resistors later. For now, IT'S WORKING!

Check every ceramic capacitor, resistor and diode for signs of heat stress: EVERYTHING was good! Even the meter bulb was like new!

Install a thermistor: In every amplifier I work on, I install 1 or 2 (depending on the model and voltage) thermistors. Start-up in-rush current is one of the most stressful thing an high current electrical device will do. It's especially hard on HV capacitors and transformers. They only cost about \$5.00 each – an insurance bargain!

Check the tube for signs of arcing or heat stress: Like everything else with this amp, the tube and tank circuit was really clean – no signs of stress!



Moment of truth: Yes, it's pretty. Yes, it's clean. Yes, it works well AT IDLE. But, will it perform? I slowly turned up the exciter power for each band. The results are:

75m 55W → 590W 40m 60W → 610W
20m 60W → 595W 10m 55W → 545W

I was stunned! I could push harder, but why? I used it on the 3905 Century Club 40m net, peaking at 450W (first REAL use). It was "yawning"!

The Heathkit SB-230 is a SSB-only amplifier. It is a conduction cooling amp. The white beryllium oxide (BeO) block (attached to the anode, to the chassis heatsink) is an electrical insulator but a thermal conductor. BeO is one of the best thermal conductors. However, the duty cycle for the amp is not conducive for AM and digital modes (unlike the Dentron MLA-2500 [2x8875's] or the Alpha 76 [3x8874's] who could work 3 hours straight of RTTY) Light CW works is OK, but it's not designed for it.

What a joy to work on and use this amplifier! Thank you Heathkit (again)! I think I have a keeper.

Hamfest Calendar

09/08/2019 - Findlay Hamfest - Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds - 1017 East Sandusky Street - Findlay, OH 45839 - Website: <http://www.findlayradioclub.org> - Contact: Bill Kelsey, N8ET - 3521 Spring Lake Drive Findlay, OH 45840 - Phone: 419-348-0457 - Email: n8et@woh.rr.com

09/22/2019 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show - Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Road - Berea, OH 44017 - Website: <http://www.hac.org> - Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland - Public Contact: Glenn Williams, AF8C - 4134 Stoney Ridge Road Avon, OH 44011 - Phone: 440-934-5566 - Email: af8c@arrl.net

11/03/2019 - Massillon ARC Hamfest - Location: Massillon Boy's & Girls Club - 730 Duncan Street SW - Massillon, OH 44646 - Website: <http://www.w8np.org> - Contact: Terry Russ, N8ATZ - 3420 Briardale Drive NW Massillon, OH 44646 - Phone: 330-837-3091 - Email: truss@sssnet.com

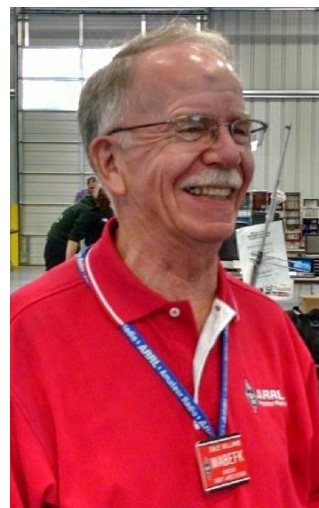
03/14, 15/2020 - Toledo Hamfest, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention - Location: Owens Community College - 30335 Oregon Road - Perrysburg, OH 43551 - Website: <http://www.tmrhamradio.org> - Contact: Rob Hall, KV8P - 8751 Oak Valley Road Holland, OH 43528 - Phone: 419-345-5759 - Email: kv8p@kv8p.com



ARRL Bestows Great Honor to Ohio Ham

Dale, WA8EFK

ARRL Great Lakes Division Director



ARRL Bestows Honor To Great Lakes Division Ham

Each year, the ARRL offers an award to recognize someone who has served admirably as an ARRL Section Manager. **The Knight Distinguished Service Award** recognizes exceptionally notable contributions by a Section Manager to the health and vitality of the League.

The first such award was presented to Joe T. Knight, W5PDY (now SK) in 2003 -- for whom the award was named -- in recognition of his exemplary service not only as the ARRL Section New Mexico Section Manager for more than a quarter century, but also for his willingness to share his knowledge and skills.

The Knight Distinguished Service Award may be awarded to an ARRL Section Manager who has distinguished himself or herself in accordance with the following ideals:

- Exceptionably notable contributions over an extended period of time within his or her Section and beyond.
- Demonstrated efforts that have contributed to the health and vitality of the ARRL and its Field Organization.
- Displayed actions that are in the spirit of the unselfish contributions of Joe T. Knight, W5PDY.

Nominations may be made by any ARRL member and accompanied by a narrative of the accomplishments of the nominee identifying the long-term contributions of the nominee to ARRL and its Field Organization. The nominations are reviewed by the ARRL Programs and Service Committee, which makes the formal recommendation to the ARRL Board of Directors.



With that background, I am truly pleased to announce to all, at its July meeting, **the ARRL Board of Directors honored Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally N8SY with the Knight Distinguished Service Award.**

Scott easily met all of the required criteria and most certainly has shown exemplary service to the members of the ARRL Ohio Section, Great Lakes Division and the entire ARRL Field Organization.

Please join Vice Director Tom Delaney, W8WTD and me in congratulating Scott on this very special occasion.

Scott, N8SY - ARRL Ohio Section Manager

PCARS Thursday 2 Meter Nets

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 !!

Please enjoy the nations birthday weekend. The net control dates will be posted on the Club website. An email will be sent out after the posting. As usual if there are issues please contact me via the roadrunner email address. Thanks to all of you for helping out.

September	
5	KA8TOA
12	KB8TUY
19	WB8LCD
26	K8IV

October	
3	N8QE
19	K8CAV
17	WB8LCD
24	KA8TOA
31	K8IV

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

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice August weather. The nets have been a little sparse lately and it is understandable. I am still looking for a couple of operators to handle the nets. It is fun and good experience if ever needed for emergency operations. All the tools needed are on the club web site. The 45 minutes it takes, once every two months is not a big deal. Volunteer and help the club and your fellow members. All you have to do is talk, record and send the log to me. Please share the load. If there are any operators who have checked into ten consecutive nets and wish to receive a certificate, suitable for framing please let me know.

If you have not been a Net Control Operator for PCARS and would like to give it a try, please contact me at: grgory999@roadrunner.com everyone who is a club member is welcome to have a turn - and have fun being the PCARS Thursday Night Net Control !



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



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



National VOA Museum - Bethany Station 75th

National VOA Museum of Broadcasting to celebrate 75 years of VOA Bethany Station at Sept. 21 event

Seventy-five years ago, propaganda fanned the flames of hatred across the globe in a war that consumed the world. While much of that propaganda streamed from radio broadcasts originating in Hitler's Germany and the Empire of Japan, the **Voice of America Bethany Station** in West Chester helped calm the chaos by transmitting accurate VOA war news to Allied troops and people living in oppressed countries that lacked a free press.

From left: West Chester residents Joe Gruber, Melinda Zemper, Patti Alderson and Chris Wunnenberg are National VOA Museum of Broadcasting board members on the fundraising committee for "Celebrating 75 Years of the VOA Bethany Station" on Saturday, Sept. 21. Committee members not pictured are Karl Ulrich of Springboro, Jay Adrick of Madeira and Greg Stevens of West Chester. (VOA Museum Photo)



This year, the National Voice of America Museum in West Chester commemorates 75 years of the Bethany Station on Saturday, Sept. 21 - and wants you to join in the festivities.

The VOA museum will host "**Celebrating 75 Years of VOA Bethany Station**" on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the museum at 8070 Tylersville Road in West Chester. The evening will include dinner-by-the-bite, cocktails, wine and Cincinnati Liars Lager beer, along with museum tours and a friendly table-to-table Trivial Pursuit game, all backgrounded by the relaxed tempo of cool jazz. Auction and silent auctions will be held to raise funds to make the museum accessible for people of all abilities.

Event sponsors include: Platinum Sponsor Dillard's; Gold Sponsor Sebaly, Shillito & Dyer; and Silver Sponsors Emery Federal Credit Union; Larry and Sandy Brueshaber; Mr. Mechanic; Oak Tree Communications; and Voice of America Centre. Tickets are \$125 per person and \$250 per couple until September 1, then \$150 per person and \$300 per couple afterward. Cash bar, with two drink tickets per person provided. Dress is business casual.

"VOA news gave hope to generations of listeners—and inspired some to fan the flames of freedom in their home countries," said Jack Dominic, VOA museum director. "Knowing and understanding the story of the VOA-Bethany station and supporting the museum today can inspire all of us to work toward a more just, civil and ethical world embracing the rule of law."

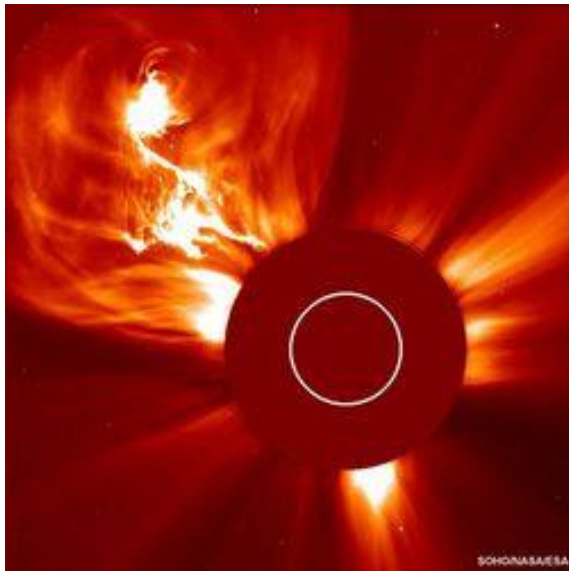
"Our volunteers are creating a unique community asset drawing visitors from around the globe," said Ken Rieser, museum board president. "The impact Bethany Station has made on global understanding and appreciation of the United States is extraordinary. Almost weekly, VOA listeners from countries near and far come to the museum and share their stories of listening to or viewing VOA news."

Article from: <http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2019/july/75-years-of-voa-bethany-station.htm>

160 Years Since the Carrington Event

From the ARRL

September 1 marks the 160th anniversary of the Carrington Event, the strongest geomagnetic storm known to have hit Earth since at least the 14th century. The event was named for British astronomer Richard Carrington, who first viewed and sketched the huge sunspot complex on the sun from which a gigantic solar flare -- a coronal mass ejection -- erupted, as he watched. Within hours, Earth was virtually enveloped by an aurora borealis that was visible even at lower latitudes and into the tropics. It was a truly spectacular light show that in some places, turned night into day. When the flare interacted with Earth's magnetosphere, however, it was another story.



This was the Victorian age, when practical wireless was still a few decades off, but the "auroral phenomena," as it was called then, had "a remarkable manifestation of magnetic influence" on telegraph wires -- the internet of the day, as it were. So considerable was the effect that *The New York Times* [reported](#) telegraph operators were able to disconnect the batteries that normally operated the system and were "working by the atmospheric current entirely!" Although the operators subsequently were able to reconnect their batteries, the storm continued to affect the lines. A telegraph manager in Pittsburgh reported "streams of fire" emitted from the circuits. In Washington, DC, telegraph operator Frederick W. Royce was severely shocked as his forehead grazed a ground wire. A witness said an arc of fire jumped from Royce's head to the telegraphic equipment.

The *Times* account quoted an operator in Worcester, Massachusetts, who said, "During ten years' experience in telegraphing, I have frequently observed the effect of the Aurora Borealis on the wires, but never before have I seen it so grand and appalling."

Operators said that at times the polarity of the battery power supply would become reversed. "One moment the batteries would begin to boil over, and we would have so strong a circuit that the armature would not come away from the magnet; the next moment, there would be no current at all," a report from Quebec recounted.

Based on examinations of ice samples, scientists believe that geomagnetic storms two and three times stronger occurred prior to the 14th century.

After the Carrington Event, scientists began paying a lot more attention to solar phenomena and sunspots. --
Thanks to Frank Donovan, W3LPL



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



Swap-N-Shop

For Sale: Hustler 4-BTV with the SO-239 adapter. I can help install it for you in Portage County and the surrounding area. \$75. W8NET, Gene. 330-619-9194 or w8net@me.com

WANTED: Hustler resonators. Any band, any condition. Also, working hamsticks except 75m and 40m.

Contact: Gene, W8NET - 330-619-9194 or w8net@me.com [12/02/19]

For Sale: Collins Antenna / Radio Switch. By Advanced Optics which looks like the Collins S-Line gear. Switching for 5 antennas and 5 radios, 1200 Watts from DC to 500 MHz. The cabinet is the same size as a 312B-4, 312B-5 & 516F-2 - \$550 **Drake B-line (Restored)** Drake R-4B receiver, T-4XB transmitter, AC-4 power supply, MS-4 speaker (1972 very late model), EV-638 dynamic microphone, RED LED digital readout, plus 9 extra range crystals for all WARC bands, including 10 & 160 meters, cooling fan on T-4XB, plus improved A.M. transmit! Restored, aligned using sweep method, full power output & great audio. Many new parts, (filter capacitors, knobs, blue filters, etc) too much to list here. AC-4 re-built. \$1200



GIN POLE 19-Foot Long - A commercial "Gin Pole" from the 70's & 80's. 19 ft length, has 5 ft aircraft aluminum sleeve in the middle for strength. Works great with ROHN 25G/45G/55G. Hangs on the rungs and the "top" hanger is adjustable up to 6 foot from the bottom hanger. Can handle very heavy tower sections and antennas. No longer needed, since I cannot climb any more. \$500 Pick up only



Contact: Jeff, WA8SAJ - 440-951-6406 [10/02/19]

FOR SALE: IC-735, AT-150 and PS-55. Comes with the HM-12 microphone and power cable. Original Manual and all other associated paperwork included. Asking \$550. Selling as a package. **FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-726R.** With 144, 440 and 50 MHz modules installed. Also installed the Communications Specialist TE-32. Made it easier to switch PL tones. Comes with the YM-48 microphone and power cable. Original Manual and all other associated paperwork included. Asking \$350. Selling as a package.

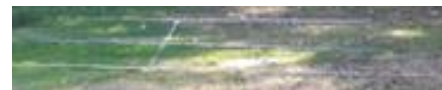
Contact: Bob Davet, W8RID, davet102@gmail.com 330-425-7313 [10/02/19]

FOR SALE: ICOM 703 QRP rig with built in HF tuner. Radio has the 250 Hz and 500 Hz filters, microphone, power cable and separation kit. Also a Samlex power supply. \$600

Contact: Dave, WV8P - wv8p@roadrunner.com [10/02/19]

FOR SALE: ICOM IC-7610 - Brand New, *still in the box*. Decided to upgrade antennas instead of radio. Un-opened box \$2650. **RC-28 - Remote Encoder** for the IC-7610 to easily operate the second VFO - Brand new - \$225. **8 Switch Memory External Keypad for the IC-7610/7850/7851.** Instant access to the 8 stored outgoing messages.

Made in Germany by DM2RM. Brand new - \$65. **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 on a tripod on my roof. Great shape & ready to use. Had the roof replaced and took down the antennas. Will be putting up tower and Opti-Beam antennas - if the ground ever dries out.....



Contact: Tom "Parky", KB8UUZ - kb8uuz@gmail.com [10/02/19]

FOR SALE: BIRD SLUGS - 5000H (5000 W 2-30 MHz) \$125 **5A** (5 W 25-60 MHz) \$50 **10A** (10 W 25-60 MHz) \$50 **Alpha 77DX Amplifier** with all of the Dick Byrd upgrades. These upgrades include the following; higher voltage plate transformer providing 4300 Volts idle, 7500 Volt rectifiers, 5000 Volt 35 µf filter capacitor, wide spaced loading capacitors like are used in the 77SX, all new step start components, large 10x38mm fuse holders, all new electrolytic capacitors on timer & QSK boards as well as LED lighting for the meters. This amplifier has ZERO HOURS since being upgraded as it was my back-up amplifier. \$4350 with factory Peter W. Dahl transformer or \$5000 with higher voltage after factory transformer. Either transformer is capable of supporting the addition of a second tube. The after factory transformer allows for reduced drive for a given level of output. **Baofeng UV-3R micro HTs**, 4 HTs with 4 chargers, these cover 2m/70cm and receive FM broadcast as well. \$50.00

Contact: James. KD8VT - 330-206-4909 [10/02/19]

FREE TO A GOOD HOME -- Two full height 18" equipment rack enclosures (communications style, about 27" deep). Includes a 4U server computer case with redundant power supplies (ancient but functioning computer included, with SCSI hard drives) and an elderly flat-screen monitor (maybe 15" or 17".) One cabinet might have doors, not positive. Available for pickup in south Akron, during business hours preferred but we may be able to work something out for after hours.

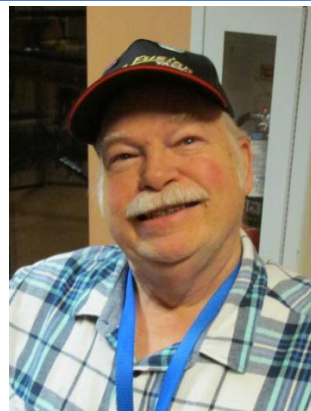
Contact: Rick, KD8WCK - rademattia@sbcglobal.net or 216 509-4182 [11/02/19]

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

[12/02/19] indicates the ad will run until Dec 2, 2019.

Yes - I'm an Old Curmudgeon

Rick, WA8TSI



Hobbies. Lots of hobbies. There are enough hobbies in the world for everyone to have their own leisure-time interests satisfied. I've been involved in many different hobbies. But, throughout my life the only hobby I have stuck with continuously is ham radio.

Today I'm dabbling in model railroading. I'm just getting my feet wet, really. However, for the last 53 years, (yup, over half a century) ham radio has been my constant companion. So, what is it that makes ham radio different?

To me, and it may be different for you, it's the depth of the hobby that makes it different. I'm finding that model railroading has depth too. That's especially true now that trains can make sounds like real trains and even behave like real trains. You can program in inertial settings so that stopping your train takes half a scale mile—just like a real one. But even with all of the digital functions available and all of the different scales (sizes) to play with, it's still not quite like ham radio.

Let's back up about 60 years or so...

Single Side Band. When I was a new ham, single side band operation was also fairly new. AM and CW had been around for ages: Since Hiram was a pup. But this highly distorted brother to AM was relatively new. You had to fiddle with SSB to tune it in. You see, AM has two distinct sidebands and a strong "carrier" signal. The energy in the AM signal is distributed in all three components. In the AM receiver, the sidebands "beat" against the carrier and reproduce the modulating signal in the detector circuit. This is automatic, without user intervention, in all AM receivers. No beat frequency oscillator (BFO) was required.

Then some crazy character said; "Hey, why transmit the carrier signal? We can inject a substitute signal at the receiver!" Double Sideband Suppressed Carrier (DSSC) was born. Without the carrier being transmitted, all of the final amplifier's power could be devoted to the two (upper and lower) sidebands. WOW! This was way more efficient. DSSC signals could carry farther than standard AM. By now, you can probably see where this is going...

Companies like Collins Radio, Central Electronics, Hammarlund, Hallicrafters and many others began experimenting with how to make voice radio communications even more efficient. Central Electronics was one of the pioneers in making one of the two sidebands go away. However, their system was difficult to keep in alignment. Collins Radio worked out a better, more practical, way to do it. Voila! Single Side Band! All of the power in one sideband!

Now, by 1966, when I was first licensed, SSB and CW were king of the hill. Also, FM, Amateur Television (ATV), radio teletype (RTTY) and even satellite communications were on the scene. However, except for RTTY and CW, all other modes were primarily for voice. Does anyone else remember modulated CW? That was where you picked up your code practice oscillator's output with a microphone! I ran MCW a few times.

Wow! I operated RTTY, AM, FM and ATV when I was a young ham. Plus, we had bands galore! Typical HF rigs of the day had 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Five bands! Oh, 160 meters was out there but most 160 users were "experimenters". Of course we also had the 6m, 1.25m, 2m and 70cm bands. Above 70cm there were more bands just for ham experimenters. Only nuts worked anything above 70cm! The 60, 30, 17 and 12 meter bands didn't exist yet.

Seventy years ago many hams built their equipment from schematics or tinkered the stuff together on their own. With only AM and CW to worry about it was pretty easy. As the hobby became more technical, commercial SSB equipment began to take over. Even then, Heathkit stuff was still a source of pride. With Heathkit, you could operate modern, top-performing equipment that you built yourself- from a kit! By doing the labor you could also save a few bucks. Oh, some hams had trouble with the kits. That led to their nickname- Griefkits. Old time hams of the time considered the guys with commercial radios like Drake, Collins, Yaesu, and Kenwood to be “appliance operators”. Apparently, if you didn’t build it yourself, you weren’t a “real” ham.

I did build some of my own equipment. I was good at scavenging old TV sets for vacuum tubes, transformers, rectifiers and any manner of electronic part. It all went into the junk box. Junk boxes were great for cobbling equipment together or for the occasional replacement part. Mainly, though, I was one of those darned appliance operators.

Now, if we fast forward a few decades, the strangest thing happened: Someone got the idea to cross a radio with a computer! In reality, transmitting ones and zeros is not unlike transmitting dits and dahs. Digital communications from a keyboard is also a bit like RTTY. In fact, computers can do RTTY now. And packets of data being exchanged can occur at lightning speed. The fact that DX can be worked on PSK31 or JT8 more easily than CW or SSB opens up a whole new era in radio. And I don’t like it. No, sir, I don’t. Not one bit.

This is my curmudgeon part. My cellphone doesn’t text or Google. It has NO voicemail feature. If someone wants to talk to me they can do just that- talk. If it’s important, they can call me back. Or try my landline! I’m the same on the radio. I use AM and SSB. No digital modes at all. That makes me a kind of dinosaur. Especially that AM part. Who uses AM any more?

As it turns out, there are favorite AM hangout frequencies on all of the bands where AM is allowed. I may be found (most often) on 7.290 plus or minus five. That’s where my 50 year old Drake Twins like to sit. I do use them for SSB and they even have 12 and 17 meters installed; but they usually just monitor 7.290. I just moved a netbook into the shack (over 2 years ago?) so I can access LOTW. I’m not active on LOTW yet, but I will be. It’s a sign of the times. Will I hook the netbook to a radio for digital work? It has Windows 7 installed and could do it. Will I? Hell no! My FT-990 could handle it nicely- but no. Like my cellphone, if they want to talk, let them talk. No bits and bytes for me!

Now, let me go back to the beginning of this article. Ham radio has real depth! From rag-chewing to contesting; from antique modes to digital; from A to Z; ham radio has something for everyone who has a technical side. Just look at the SIGs available at PCARS. They just scratch the surface of this great hobby! Any limits for experimentation in ham radio are nearly non-existent. The limit for fun- BIG fun- is nowhere to be found. The fellowship shown between hams is something most hobbies could only hope to achieve. Where else does a mentor (Elmer) have his own first name?

My 53 years in ham radio has been a blessing and a curse. The blessing has been through the other hams I’ve had the pleasure to meet; the technical learning I’ve been able to do; the doors to employment it has opened for me and the constant companionship the hobby has provided. The curse has been that I can’t escape it. Although I have had many other hobbies, some technical and expensive, just like Amateur Radio, I have always returned to ham radio. There is something about ham radio that I just cannot let go of. And, yes, I just ended that sentence with a preposition.

So there you go. Don’t look for me on digital modes. But be sure to enjoy them for yourself. Don’t expect to see me in the Arduino classes but look for me at the club meetings. No matter what your interest is- you are a ham! You are a part of the greatest hobby with the largest world wide fraternity in existence. Be proud to be a ham; even around an old curmudgeon like me. I’ll see you down the log page. 73s.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



From the Ohio Section Manager



Scott, N8SY
ARRL Ohio Section Manager



Hey Gang...

This was a busy week for sure. Saturday in particular was busy with the Ohio QSO Party as well as Courthouses On The Air. PCARS also had a BBQSO Party and Club Picnic at their clubhouse going on this past weekend as well. Wow.. what a way to celebrate the ending of summer for sure!!

We've got a Gallery started with a bunch of the pictures that got captured and sent to me for this past weekend's events. Go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/special819/> to view them.

Got pictures of your clubs' participation in either the Ohio QSO Party or the Courthouses On The Air? Send them to me at: n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Gallery.

This has been an interesting week for sure. Like many of you I kept receiving emails from the folks at Connect Systems offering me a real deal on the CS-800D radio before it gets Part 90 accepted. I and many of you have gotten a number of these emails over the past few weeks.

Like most ads like this I give them a good look and then look around at the shack and see if it is something that I really need or is it just something on the wish list. Well, after a few more of those emails hit my inbox I did take a real honest look at the shack and discovered that my VHF radio was of 1990's vintage and was actually a hand-me-down from my brother. It's a really nice Icom 2000 and I will say that it still works like brand new yet today, but I haven't had a new mobile radio for a very long time. I also haven't had anything other than HT's for DMR operation either.

So, with this once in a lifetime opportunity starring me in the email box, I decided to take the plunge. Now, with that I quickly discovered that I needed a dual-band antenna as well as a new power supply to go with that. Why a power supply? Well, the one that I had only put out 7 amps of power, and that was all that I needed for the IC 2000. Now with this new radio, they recommend a much larger supply. So, it was off to the candy store to get the needed supplies for the new radio coming.

Taking down the old Ringo Ranger 2-meter antenna was a real trip for Janie and I. It had been up in the air mounted on a mast for over 15 years. Every connection was frozen tight. Nothing would come loose. I ended up taking a pair of Vice Grips to the PL-259 connection and discovered that the silicone sealant that was supplied for the connection back then had completely locked up the threads on the connector.

I ended up taking a torch to the connector and heating it up some to finally get it off. The connector was in decent shape, but really needed cleaned up with a wire brush. The coax is in great shape, so at least I didn't have to replace that. The top of the mast had rusted so bad that the bolt securing the Ringo on was also frozen up. Back to the torch again! So, with the antenna now off I proceeded to take the mast apart and completely clean it up before hanging a new antenna on it. Luckily, I have a really cool set of wire brushes that attach to my drill so I can make quick work at cleaning off all the rust. Now, wouldn't you know it, I get all the rust cleaned up on the mast pipe and I then discover that I didn't have any primer. So, off to the store I go. Now, this is where I have to wonder about our legislature. I got to the store, grabbed up the spray can of primer and took it to the check-out. If you can believe this... I actually had to show my driver's license to the checkout gal in

order to purchase a can of spray paint! Then, to add insult to injury in this, the gal had to have another person actually verify the birth date on my driver's license!

How embarrassing. After paying for it I grabbed up the primer and practically ran out of the store. I got home and went to work getting the mast primed. I figured if I could keep focused on that I would cool off about the incident at the store.

After getting the new Diamond antenna put together it was time to get it mounted on the mast. Just as I start to take the assembly out to mount it, it started to thunder and cloud up. So, back in the garage I went. The next day Janie and I had other things to get done, but we did manage to find a few minutes so that I could mount the antenna on the mast and then she and I raised it up and got it back and mounted on the post once again.

I checked out the SWR and everything was perfect. Now I just need the new radio to make it complete. Wouldn't it figure, it was supposed to come on Friday, but for some reason the postal service didn't deliver it. It ended up coming on Monday. Now, to get the radio hooked up and playing was the last obstacle. I was careful in unboxing everything and making sure that I didn't lose any screws or important instructions. It took what felt like hours to get it all hooked up. I searched the menus, but I just wasn't able to find what firmware version the radio was. You need to know this before you download a CPS (Customer Programming Software) for this radio. There are several iterations of this radio and depending on what firmware you have will depend on what CPS you need to build your code plug with.

I ended up calling Connect Systems and talking with Chris. He guided me through the menus to get the radio to display what firmware it had. From there Chris guided me to the most recent CPS to use. After that, it was very simple. I downloaded Daniel, KB8LKH's code plug and uploaded it to the radio. Oh, I will say this, before I uploaded or changed anything on the radio, I downloaded what the manufacturer had in the radio first. This was for my protection in case something didn't load right, I had the original code plug to go back to. That's something that everyone needs to do before making any changes to a new radio.

I've been modifying Daniel's code plug to fit my needs, but I will say that having code plugs on the Ohio Section website saved me a huge amount of time getting on the air. Yes, I agree that folks need to know how to build a code plug for themselves. But, having a code plug already built and is updated so that the newest repeaters and talk groups are already loaded into it is a great time saver for sure. There's nothing hard about building a code plug, but it does take a lot of time and patience. Having one already built with the latest information in it has saved me a lot of time that I used modifying Daniel's to fit my particular needs. Thanks Daniel, and all of those other folks that build code plugs and share them with others.

My vertical HF antenna project is still on hold for a little while longer. I need to work on some things in the shack more before purchasing a new HF antenna. I'll get to it more when it's cold, windy and 4 feet of snow on the ground. Isn't that the perfect time to do antenna work anyway??

Switching bands... Have you taken the time to get signed up in "ARES Connect" yet? I know that this must sound like a broken record, but it is important for everyone to not only get signed up but start using as well. If you haven't already signed up, now is the time. I've set a goal of everyone getting signed up by the end of the year! I'm confident that we'll make that date for sure!!

Is your club doing any special activities that you'd like the Section to know about? Do you have a story that you'd like to tell about something that you or your club has or is doing? Let me know about it and let's get it in the next edition!

Whelp... That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine while we have it, and most of all... have FUN!!



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



Scouts and Ham Radio

Jim, AC8NT



Ham Radio's involvement with the scouting program has been on and off. I have been talking with the leadership of the Great Trail Council about how PCARS can help scouts learn more about radio and electronics. I have focused on the directors associated with Portage and Summit counties. They have suggested working with them on two areas.

Radio Merit Badge

This is an obvious match to ham radio. Without going into all the details, scouts must complete the following activities:

1. Explain what radio is.
2. Explain how stations work.
3. Explain the radio spectrum.
4. Explain how information is exchanged using radio.
5. Block diagram a radio station.
6. Explain radio safety.
7. Visit a radio station.

They must then complete a series of activities in one of the following areas:

1. Amateur radio
2. Radio broadcasting
3. Shortwave listening
4. Amateur radio direction finding

I think all of our club members would agree we can cover all of these topics. It is also clear that anyone that has completed the Technician Class License should be able to complete these requirements very quickly. We have a few members that are qualified merit badge councilors, so working directly with scouts is possible under the scouting safety standards. Qualifying as a merit badge councilor is not difficult. There are the usual forms to fill out and you must complete their safety program on-line.

Jamboree-On-The-Air October 18-20, 2019 (JOTA)

Stations will be setup up at both Camp Manatoc near Peninsula and Camp Stambaugh (celebrating its 100th anniversary this year) near Canfield. Scouts will be able to operate under amateur radio operator supervision. I also offered that those that could not make either of those two locations could come to our club site and operate under our supervision with the assistance of qualified merit badge councilors. This would be a great opportunity for us to meet a large group of potential hams (both scouts and their parents). Details on this event are being worked out but we will be involved. I will be sending out a QST when details are finalized.



There are other areas where we can provide help especially in electronics and computers. It would be great to have a scout build day where scouts could learn to solder and build something useful as well. We are already

working on an Fox Hunt antenna build and training session for scout leaders. The schedule is being worked out with the help of the Great Trail Council. At this event we will be building the 2 meter tape measure Yagi and demonstrating how fox hunting events are held. We have more than a few club members that can help with this build.

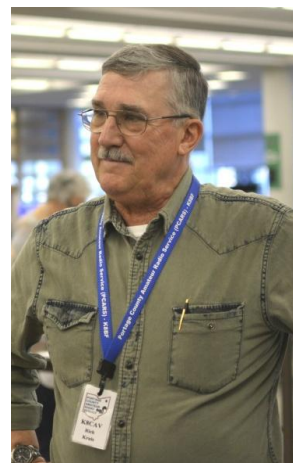
If you know any scout leaders, let them know we are here to help. We have a great club site equipped with everything necessary to help scouts find the fun and knowledge provided by ham radio.

Mantua Potato Stomp Volunteers Needed

Rick, K8CAV

Portage County Coms Unit Commander

The Mantua Potato Stomp will be holding their annual foot race on **Saturday September 7th** in the Mantua-Hiram area. This event consists of a four-mile and a nine-mile race on various roads in Mantua Village and Township and Hiram Township. Radio operators will be needed to staff the intersections on the course,



provide a Shadow to the race director, a NCS, and a sweep.



Ed, K8IV recently installed a UHF repeater at the tower on the hill just east of Mantua Village. It was used for the Headwaters Adventure Race, which is in the same area that the Mantua Potato Stomp race will take place. The coverage of this repeater in the local area is superb and allows Radio Operators to use just a UHF hand-held at almost every location in the area with full quieting coverage. Because of this we will no longer have to rely on establishing cross-band repeaters to get coverage throughout the course.

This is also the date for OSPOTA so I know many of you will be involved with that. But, for those who are not, I would sincerely appreciate your help. If you're new to public service communications support and are reluctant to do it alone, let me know and I'll pair you with an experienced operator so you'll get a chance to observe, learn and participate.

Drop me a note at k8cav.coms@gmail.com if you can help with this event and I'll get you assigned and e-mail a copy of the coms plan. Thanks!



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7th



PCARS Flex Net - September 11th

Deron, N8XTH



Flex Net in SEPTEMBER will be **Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 8:00 pm ET.**

This month's net will be on 20 meters SSB. We will announce the frequency via a QST e-mail to go out prior to the net. Also, we will have someone on the 146.895 repeater to help anyone find the net.

After the net, we ask that you please send a QSL card to each and every person you contact. You can use the **Squirrel Buro QSL box** that is located at the club site and at club meetings to exchange cards. Please remember to use *UTC time/date on all of your QSL's*.

If you would be interested in being a Net Control station for the Flex Net please e-mail Deron, N8XTH at deronmb@gmail.com

Below is the net schedule, (*subject to change*):

11-Sep-2019	20m	13-Nov-2019	10m
9-Oct-2019	15m	11-Dec-2019	20m

There will be two parts to the net. The first is a quick check in (This net is **not** designed to take the place of the weekly Thursday night nets on 146.895). The second part will be devoted to the PCARS A-to-Z Award where you will be given the chance to work different PCARS members in order to earn the award. (Information on the award is in the April 2019 PCARS newsletter.)

If you are a PCARS member participating in the A-to-Z net, the only requirement is that you provide a QSL card to each and every member that requests a QSL card from you. The new PCARS "**Squirrel Buro**" will hopefully help to defray the cost of exchanging cards by providing members a free way to exchange QSL cards at their convenience.

More than anything, this net is hopefully going to get more people on the air more consistently, help other members earn their first HF or SSB wallpaper, and help to put more **FUN** into amateur radio!

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



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

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



Greetings to all DXers:

There are a lot of opportunities for working DX in the next several months. I know, it won't be easy with the lack of sun spots but openings are happening in spite of this. Our club even worked a few stations on 15m during the recent Ohio QSO Party. You simply have to keep your rigs on and as we always strongly suggest, listen, listen, listen.

As always, thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, the AB5K's AR Cluster Networks, NJ1Q & W1AW, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, K4ZW, WB6RSE, N7NG, K8GG, K8GI, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, W9ILY, CX3ZAN, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DxCoffee.com, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, F5NQL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, OZ6OM & 50 MHz DX News, Sixitalia Weekly, and VA3RJ & ICPO 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.

3D2, FIJI, Bigi, DE3BWR and Helmut, DD0VR will be QRV as 3D2VR from September 2 to 9. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via DD0VR.

4L, GEORGIA. Ilya, R3XA, will be active as 4L9M from Gudauri during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 26-27th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (80m) entry. QSL via R3XA, ClubLog or LoTW.

5H, TANZANIA. Operators Alex/K2BB, Pavel/UU0JR and possibly others will be active as 5H3EME and 5H3UA, respectively, from Zanzibar Island (AF-032), approx. November 15-30th. Activity will be on various HF and VHF bands using CW, SSB, the Digital modes and EME. EME will be on 6m, 2m and possibly 70cm. Also, look for them to be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th). Look for more details to be forthcoming as well as a Web page.

5I, TANZANIA (IOTA Op). Silvano, I2YSB, informs that the Italian DXpedition Team (IDT) will be activating Zanzibar Island (AF-032) in Tanzania between February 4-18th, 2020. The IDT will be using two callsigns: 5I5TT for CW, SSB and RTTY; 5I4ZZ for FT8 and FT4. The Team will be comprised of 10 operators. Activity will be on 160-10 meters with 5 stations on the air. Suggested frequencies are: CW - 1826, 3530, 7025, 10115, 14030, 18068, 21030, 24890 and 28030 kHz SSB - 3775, 7090, 14240, 18130, 21310, 24950 and 28470 kHz RTTY - 14084 kHz FT4 - 3575, 7047.5, 10140, 14080, 18104, 21140, 24919 and 28180 kHz FT8 - 1845, 3585, 7056, 10131, 14084, 18095, 21091, 24911 and 28091 kHz ** For Japanese stations only: FT8 on 160m will use the normal mode. Their RX frequency will be on 1908 kHz. QSL via I2YSB direct only or LoTW after the operation.

6O7O SOMALIA DXPEDITION NEWS (Update). Ken, LA7GIA, reports [edited]: "I will QRV from Somalia Sept. 14th to Sept. 28th on all bands 160-10m mainly on CW. Activity on other modes (SSB, FT8) will be limited and on 1-2 bands only. I will particularly focus on working NA this time, as well low bands. I have some good vertical low band antennas, and some good RX antennas. The RX antennas will hopefully be located far away from noise sources. There will be a guard protecting the beverages 24/7. Please follow my instructions when it comes to calling for geographical areas. Because there is a very short opening to NA on low bands, in particular western part of NA. If there is propagation I will only call for NA when we approach my sunrise. EU will have the best conditions and shall try to work me during their evening time on low bands. Please carefully note the QSO and QSL policy mentioned on my Web page. Free&fast LoTW is only for the good first class operators who can follow the QSO policy and DX code of conduct. QSL via M0OXO. Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog.

7A, INDONESIA. A team of YB operators will be active as 7A2A from a contest station in Central Java during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 26-27th) as a Multi-? entry. QSL via LoTW. No other details were provided.

9G, GHANA. A group of Slovenian operators will be active as 9G5W from Kokrobite between November 16-27th. Operators mentioned are Tine/S50A, Leo/S50R, Marko/S51DS, Tone/S51TC, Sergej/S51ZJ, Peter/S54W and Renato/S57UN. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th). Their equipment contains 3x Kenwood TS-590SG with various verticals for 160/80/40/30m, and two SpiderBeams for 20-10m. QSL via S59ZZ or ClubLog's OQRS. Log will be uploaded to LoTW (usually 6 months later).

9M2, WEST MALAYSIA. A large group of operators will be QRV with special event call 9M16KING from Kuala Lumpur from September 1 to 30 in celebration of the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

9X, RWANDA. Harald, DF2WO, will once again be active as 9X2AW from Kigali between November 4-16th. He is currently preparing his 160m antenna and will build a Hexbeam with Bamboo Sticks for working on 20/17/15/12/10 meters using mainly Digital modes (FT8, PSK31, JT65 and RTTY), CW and SSB. QSL via M00XO or his OQRS. See QRZ.com for pictures.

9U, BURUNDI. Francesco, IV3TMM, will once again be active as 9U3TMM from Bujumbura (WW Loc. KI46QP) until September 17th. Activity will be on 60-6 meters using SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via IV3TMM, by the A.R.I. Italian Bureau, ClubLog or LoTW.

C5, THE GAMBIA. Don, G3XTT, will once again be active as C56DF from The Gambia, but this time in CQWW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th). Look for operation before and maybe after the contest. Activity will be on various bands, probably all CW like last time using low power (IC-7300 and wires) from a rooftop apartment. He will, of course, upload logs to LoTW and ClubLog, but possibly only after his return to the UK. QSL direct to Don's home callsign or via ClubLog's OQRS.

D4, CAPE VERDE (Update/Satellite Op). Harald, DF2WO, active as D44TWO from Praia, Santiago Island (AF-005), between September 29th and October 13th. Activity will be holiday style on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. He states that he works mostly on the Digital modes (FT8, PSK31, JT65 and RTTY) and slow CW. It was reported this past week that "he has been working hard in the last few months getting his Satellite station working and is now confident he will use it from Cabo Verde. He will be using an Icom 7300, 2 Transverters with 3 watts output on ES-Hail using the QO-100 Geostationary Satellite." He will also have a FT-450D into a homemade HEX BEAM and a dipole for 40 meters. QSL via M00XO (OQRS available).

E4, PALESTINE (Update). Janusz, SP9FIH, will be active as E44WE from Bethlehem (KM71OQ) until August 6th. Activity this time will be on 80/30/20/6 meters using SSB, some RTTY and possibly FT8 (F/H). QSL via his home callsign or ClubLog's OQRS.

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. Fred, DH5FS, will be active as E51SFS from the South Cook Islands between September 8-25th. He is scheduled to operate from Rarotonga Island (OC-013) between September 8-16th, and from Aitutaki Island, (OC-083) between September 20-25th. Activity will be on various HF bands and modes. QSL via his home callsign.

EX, KYRGYZSTAN. Ops Leszek/SP6CIK, Jarek/SP6OJK, Janusz/SP9FIH, Roman/SP9FOW, Jerzy/SP9TCE and Jozef/SP9HVV will be active as EX6QP from the south shore of Issyk-kul Lake between September 2-15th. Activity will be on various HF bands using an Inverted L, phased verticals, and Spiderbeams. Operating modes will be CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via SP6OJK.

FH, MAYOTTE ISLANDS. Willi, DJ7RJ, will once again be active as FH/DJ7RJ from Mayotte between October 15th and November 3rd. 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.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA. Thomas, F4HPX, will be active as FK/F4HPX from Noumea, New Caledonia (OC-032), sometime during the first half of November. Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands using a FT-891 and KX2 into a simple wire antenna plus an Alpha EZ Military stick. He also plans to be active for a few days from Pins Island. QSL via F4HPX, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog, LoTW or eQSL.

FK, NEW CALEDONIA, Jan, F6EYB will be QRV as FK8CJ from Noumea until the end of 2019. Activity will be primarily on 30, 20 and 17 meters. QSL to home call.

J6, ST. LUCIA, Bill, K9HZ is QRV as J68HZ from Labrelotte Bay, Castries, IOTA NA-108, until October 4. Activity is on 160 to 2 meters using CW, AM, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

KH0/WH0, MARIANA ISLANDS. Harry, JG7PSJ/JD1BMH/KW2X, will once again be active as WH0RU from Saipan (OC-086) between September 15-22nd. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via LoTW or direct to JG7PSJ. For possible updates, watch: <http://jg7psj.starfree.jp>

KH4, MIDWAY ISLAND. WE HAVE DECIDED TO PLAN FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN OCTOBER 2020

LZ, BULGARIA (LH and WFF Op). Dmitry/R2ATP and Evgeny/ex-RV3ATT will be on a 25 day expedition on the Bulgarian coastline to activate several lighthouses and Bulgarian Flora Fauna sites as LZ/R2ATP/MM starting September 1st, finishing approximately on October 20th. QSL via R2ATP or see QRZ.com for more details.

MD, ISLE OF MAN. Members of the NB DX Team will be active as MD/OP2D from Isle of Man (EU-116) between September 21-27th. Operators mentioned are Erik/ON4ANN (Team Leader), Erik/ON4CCV, Cedric/ON4CKM, Rudi/ON6MI, Andre/ON4DTO, Patrick/ON4DCU, Willy/ON2BDJ, Luc/ON4AAQ, Yvo/ON5CD and Walter/ON8CW. Activity will be on 80-10 meters. QSL via M0URX direct (2 USDs and a SAE. No IRCs) or via his OQRS (<http://m0urx.com/oqrs/>). Bureau cards via OQRS ONLY.

OE, AUSTRIA, Members of the VIC Amateur Radio Contest DX Club will be QRV as 4U500M during September to commemorate Ferdinand Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe 500 years ago. QSL via UA3DX.

OJ0, MARKET REEF. Pasi, OH3WS, will be active as OJ0W (as well as OJ0/OH3WS and OJ0/OG3A) from Market Reef (EU-053) between October 5-12th. Activity will be on 80-30 meters using CW and SSB. QSL all three callsigns via his home callsign.

OX, GREENLAND. Operators Thomas/OZ1AA, Bo/OZ1DJJ, Dave/OZ5DM, Mikkel/OZ7AKT, Alex/OZ7AM and possibly others will be active as OX7A from Kangerlussuaq during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 26-27th). Operation class TBD. QSL via OZ1ACB, ClubLog or LoTW. There will be activity on all bands and modes (including FT8) prior to and after the contest, but with operators using their own personal callsigns (OX3LX, OX3LG, OX5DM, OX7AKT and OX7AM). There will be an emphasis on the low bands and 60/30/17/12 meters. Most operators will be in Greenland between October 22nd and November 1st.

P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Puiu, P29VIM is QRV from Papua and other nearby islands until September 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, JT9 and FT8. QSL via YO5BIM.

PJ4, BONAIRE. Randy, K5SL, will be active as PJ4/K5SL from Bonaire (SA-006) between September 7-14th. Activity will be on 40/30/20/17 meters using mainly CW, but possibly some 17 meters SSB. QSL via his home callsign.

T6, AFGHANISTAN, Robert, S53R will be QRV as T6AA from Kabul from Sept to the Summer of 2021 while on work assignment. Activity on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. Active as T6A during major contests. QSL to home call.

TM41, FRANCE (Special Event). Look for special event station TM41CDXC to be active between September 13-27th. Activity is to celebrate the 41st Clipperton DX Convention (September 27-29th) at Mejanne-le Clap (Gard). QSL via F5CWU or the OQRS

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN (ex-CN8EM, FO8BV, 3C3CR), will once again be active as TR8CR from Gabon during the months of October and November. Activity will be on 40-17 meters (possibly on 80m) using CW only. QSL via F6AJA, by the Bureau or direct.

V6, MICRONESIA. Sho, JA7HMZ, will once again be active as V63DX from Pohnpei Island (OC-010) between Nov 22-27th. Activity will be on 160-6 m, all modes and including the CQWW DX CW Contest (Nov 23-24th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry signing V6A. QSL via his home callsign direct or LoTW. No Bureau QSLs.

VP2V, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS. Ops Jeff/K5WE and Bill/N5AQ active as VP2VEM and VP2V/N5AQ, respectively, from Tortola, British Virgin Islands, beginning Oct 4th through Oct 13th. They will operate on all bands 160-10 meters, mostly CW with some RTTY, FT8, FT4, and SSB. Their equipment will include K3 radios with 400 watt amps. Antennas will include a Hexbeam, a Crank-IR vertical, and dipoles. Depending upon a reliable internet connection, logs will be uploaded to ClubLog daily. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW upon returning home. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS, or QSL VP2VEM to K5WE and VP2V/N5AQ to N5AQ

XP, GREENLAND. Henning, OZ2I/OZ1BII, active as XP2I from Kanger-lussuaq between Nov 20-25th. Activity CW only on all HF bands. He will participate during the CQWW DX CW Contest (Nov 23-24th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. For activity outside of the contest, he will sign OX/OZ2I. QSL via OZ2I, LoTW, eQSL or ClubLog's OQRS.

YB, INDONESIA, In celebration of the 74th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia, look for special event stations signing 8A74RI/call area number until September 17. Activity is on the HF, and V/UHF bands using all modes. QSL via bureau.

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba and is here until mid October. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND. Steve, WB4GHY, is currently on Ascension Island on a work detail. Look for him to possibly be active on various days as ZD8SC. The length of his stay is unknown. Activity will be on 80-10 meters on SSB only using an IC-7000 to a directional antenna. QSL via WB4GHY or LoTW.

ZK3A TOKELAU ISLANDS DXPEDITION NEWS (Press Release, date July 9th). [edited] Planning is on schedule for the ZK3A DXpedition to Tokelau Island IOTA OC-048. The DXpedition will run from October 1-11th, 2019. Tokelau Island ranks #40 most wanted in the world, and #26 most wanted in Europe according to ClubLog. We are excited to have an advanced set-up team who will build a 160M four square from an existing 40M high tower.

IOTA NEWS...

AF-053. Jean-Philippe, F1TMY, plans to be active as J28PJ/P from **Moucha Island**, Djibouti, between September-October. Activity will be on various HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via F1TMY or ClubLog.

TK, CORSICAN IOTA TOUR. Laurent, F8BBL, will be active as TK19IOTA from the following Corsican IOTA islands between September 6-22nd: Corsica (EU-014), Iles Cerbicale (EU-100), Lavezzi Archipelago (EU-164) and Sanguinaires Islands (EU-104). He will also activate one SOTA: Capo Di Locu (TK/TK-148). Activity will be holiday style on various HF bands using a KX3 Elecraft + MP1 Antenna. QSL via F8BBL, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW. F

Continuing with carry over from last month's DX listings, along with new opportunities in the next several months to work DX. **Until next month, 73 and Gud DX!!**

CW/QRP & Linux Special Interest Groups

Terry, KB8AMZ

CW & QRP SIG

Hello. September 13th is the next QRP-CW SIG. The GOTA at these meetings has been successful and enjoyed by those members wanting to get better with sending and copying Morse Code. Unless the group decides to change itinerary the same program will probably be employed for the remainder of the year.



Linux for Hams SIG

There is no SIG in September for this Special Interest Group, however, there will be a SIG In October. We will meet October 29 for the next Special Interest Groups for Ham's using applications on a Linux Operating System. More stuff to learn.

Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV

The Digital Special Interest Group meeting for September is cancelled. We'll resume our next meeting on Tuesday October 1 at 7:00 PM at the Club Site in Ravenna.



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7th



DX and Contest Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT



We had a very good turnout at our last meeting held on Tuesday, Aug 27. We discussed our upcoming participation in both the California QSO Party and the Arizona QSO Party, which both take place in October. We have historically skipped doing anything in September since PCARS holds the Ohio State Parks On The Air event during this month.

We also discussed our recent participation in the Ohio QSO Party (Report found elsewhere in this Newsletter). Our efforts brought up several topics which need to be addressed. I will be attending the next PCARS Board meeting to mention these to the Board members to make them aware of our concerns.

As always, there is an open invitation to all PCARS members to our DX/Contest SIG. Hope to see more of you there.

Here's a bit of help for those of you who use FT8 to work DX:

FT8 OPERATING SUGGESTIONS. Dean, 8P6SH/8P2K, has recently been very active on FT8 from St. Philip, and states, "Its been very interesting but also somewhat frustrating. I thought I would share a few thoughts on working DX from a DX perspective. After working quite a few stations on FT8 over the past couple months, I thought I would share a few thoughts on working DX on HF:

1. When you're calling a DX station on HF is the grid that important? Many times it's not a bad idea to go with "XX0DX W1ZZ 01" This is especially important when signal levels are low - -20db and below. The grid information is generally redundant and will be confirmed on LoTW anyway. In the typical 'pile-up' that I get on the band, I try to work the stations that send a signal report first as these QSOs are shorter.

2. Do not call a DX station on its transmit frequency. Often I have 4 or 5 DX stations all calling on the same frequency and then, even with perfect conditions I'm sending repeat after repeat and seemingly getting nowhere. Find a clear frequency and call.

3. Know when you can log the station. Many times I am working a station and I have gotten a "RRR" or "RR73" from the other station. I either send a CQ or work the next station, only to get the station who had sent a confirmation sending a grid or report to initiate a QSO. I believe this is because I have not sent a "73" message. Those of us who have worked other modes for years know that "73" is optional. Please log the station once you have sent a report, received a report and received some kind of confirmation. That final "73" is ok, but usually from a DX station working through a list of 6 stations it is very much optional.

4. Hope these pointers are taken in the spirit they are given - to help you get into the log quicker! THANKS."

If you have any comments, you can contact him at: dmsthil@gmail.com



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



Paper Chase - Plano Balloon Festival

Joe, W8KNO

For the ninth consecutive year, W5P will be the call sign used to celebrate the **Plano Balloon Festival**. September 20-22, 2019. This is the Festival's 40th year and features 51 hot air balloons.



The event is a joint effort between the Lucas Amateur Radio Club (K5LFD), The Plano Amateur Radio Klub (K5PRK) and Allen Wylie Lucas Amateur Radio Club (W5AWL).

The clubs will have 2 SSB stations operating from 2 PM (EDT) / 1800 UTC on Friday (9/20) until 3 PM (EDT) / 1900 UTC Sunday (9/22) (Operations will cease at night between 9 pm-9 am EDT/ 0100-1300 UTC).

If conditions permit, other bands may be operated, but primarily operation will be near the following frequencies: SSB: 40 meters - 7.255 +/- QRM 20 meters - 14.307 +/- QRM

Self spotting is planned; therefore, check your favorite spotting sites/networks to see where they are operating.

Additionally, W5P Operators may be operating from other nearby locations at times between Thursday, September 19th and Wednesday, September 25th on different frequencies/bands and often using different modes such as PSK-31 or FT8.

For a special QSL card, please send a self addressed stamped, 3-1/2 x 5-1/2 inch envelope to NW5Q:

Stan Starks
732 Eagle Lake Ct.
Allen, TX 75002

eQSLs will be available at www.eqsl.cc and also on Logbook of the World. Hear you in the pile-up!

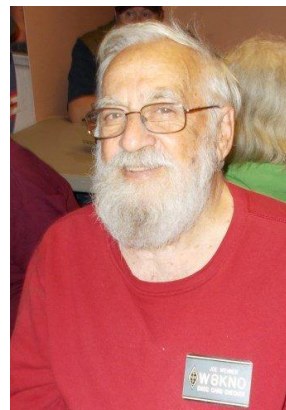
PCARS IO Group

Members are reminded that PCARS has a IO Group site dedicated to PCARS. It's a great site to sign up for and get on the mailing list for important PCARS information.

Check out the PCARS IO Group at: <https://groups.io/g/PCARS>

Two things every member should do.

1. Check the PCARS web site every day, maybe a couple of times a day, to see new info that's posted.
2. Join the PCARS IO 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!!



Jamboree On The Air 2019

From the JOTA Web Site



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 operator's 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 speakers. 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. 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](#).

If nothing is currently planned, or if current plans aren't reaching your area, you can work with the council or a local unit (pack, troop, crew) to set up a JOTA station or arrange for visits to your ham shack. You can also participate just by making QSOs with the many JOTA stations that will be on the air.

Ohio (BB)-QSO Party 2019

Chuck, W8PT



Greetings from the contest gang of PCARS.

We participated in Ohio QSO Party, recently held on Saturday, August 24th. This was a 12 hour contest with the objective to work as many other Ohio stations as possible in as many of the 88 counties as possible. Of course, working other stations from the US and other countries also counted toward our final point score.

I'm pleased to report that 25 members signed in during the contest and of these, 14 operated to help us toward a successful event. Joe, W8KNO, worked from home under his own call and added to our total.

Our raw score from the club site yielded 533 Contacts and 164 multipliers. The scoring robot from the Ohio QSO Party gave us a submitted score of 124,905 points. Until this event, PCARS had never broken 100K in any contest in which we participated.

I would like to extend a very big thank you to all those who made this possible. That includes people that helped with setting up the computers, getting a replacement 40 meter dipole set up (K8IV and company), hams that sat in the chair, even if they did not make contacts (they tried) and all of the other behind the scenes people. It was truly a joint effort with MANY people involved. Best part of the whole day was the FUN we had.

Operator	QSO's
Bill, WB9LBI	227
Parky, KB8UUZ	84
Ed, K8IV	75
Joshua, K8YLK	37
Ben, KE8JUZ	23

Operator	QSO's
Bob, N8QE	23
John, WA8US	19
Greg, KA8TOA	17
Terry, KB8AMZ	13
Doug, WA8UWV	4

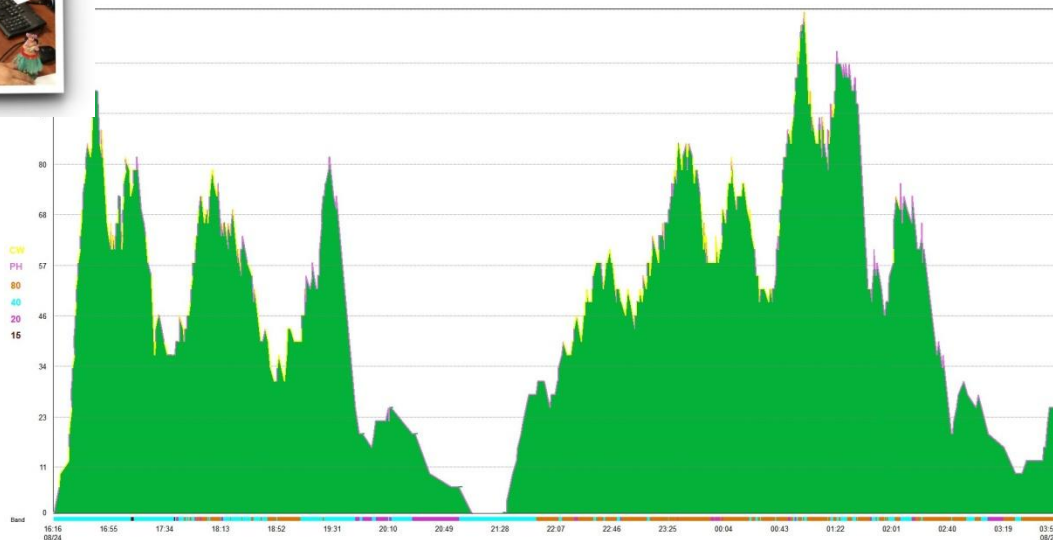
Operator	QSO's
Chuck, W8PT	4
Mike, KB8TUY	2
Agnes, KE8LWP	1



Toward the end of the contest, the bands were quiet and we were having problems finding stations - during the last hour the last four of the operators that were manning the radios (KB8UUZ, K8YLK, K8IV and W8PT) were in a side competition with each other and all managed to make contact with some of the Hawaiian stations running their QSO Party.

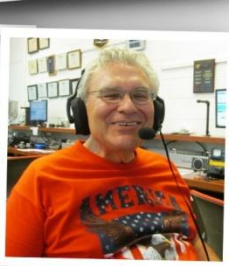
The graph on the right shows the times we were on the air and the activity (QSOs made). That blank area you see was when the food was being served and everyone bailed out to get a bite to eat.

The cooks (Mike, Gene, Metro & Ben) were manning the grill. Others brought side dishes and all was good!!!



Photos from the Ohio BBQSO Party & Open House 2019





2019 Center of Hope Donation

Tom, WB8LCD



Yes! PCARS will once again be presenting a donation to the Center of Hope right after our November meeting this year. No matter what it turns out to be, I know that the folks from both the Center of Hope and Family & Community Services will appreciate what we do for them. I also know that those in the community who receive the meals and food that is provided for will also appreciate our donation. No matter how it turns out – everybody WINS!

Our name, Portage County Amateur Radio *Service*, and our Mission Statement both stress that one of our goals is to be of service to our community. While this club activity does not involve Amateur Radio directly, it does show that our club has a bigger vision as to what our service can be. And it certainly can't be bad for our club to be seen by our community as an organization willing to help in ways that are not as obvious, but still of great benefit to the community in which we live.

Center of Hope



We have a pretty good story to share and no-one can accuse us of being just a bunch of crusty old guys who stay in the basement! PCARS presented a donation to the Center of Hope in our very first year of existence – 2006. That year's donation was small, about \$300. But, we have given a donation every year since then, the total of which now stands at just over \$39,000! Last years donation alone was \$9600.

That's a pretty sizable amount for a group like PCARS! For 2019, I have to ask, are we willing to take it over the top again? I think we should. I think we should adopt \$10,000 as our donation goal for 2019. (Somewhere in my head is a voice that's saying that with just a little more work we could take our total over \$50,000! Either way, should we meet our goal, we'll have something to brag about...)

Here's how we can reach that goal:

I want to ask every member of PCARS to dig as deep as you can to support this. No one's keeping individual score, it's not a competition between us, but please, do what you can. It doesn't matter whether you give your donation directly, or if you use it to buy 50/50 tickets. Everything counts. I learned a long time ago that "all you can do is all you can do, but all you can do is enough." Obviously, to reach our goal, we are going to have to extend our reach. Maybe brag about PCARS to some of your non-ham friends, tell them about all the great things we do! Who wouldn't want to be a part of that? Here's a way that regular folks can be a part of something BIG even if they've never even heard of Ham Radio before. And, after hearing about PCARS, participating with us in doing good for our community, they just might be interested in learning more about our hobby!

Are you a member of any other Amateur Radio clubs, or other civic clubs or organizations? Why not ask them to participate with us? Invite them to our November meeting! How about the people you do business with? Where do you buy your cars, where do you bank? Who's your dentist, doctor, insurance agent, broker, realtor, car mechanic, where do you get your hair done – you get the idea. If not cash, maybe they would be more willing to donate something nice to the 50/50. That's OK too.

Very shortly, there will be a PAYPAL button live on the PCARS website for donations. That will make it easy for someone to find and make their donation directly. I've been working on some donation letters that I will send out in a QST next week so that you can use them either as email or print them out and hand them or mail them to people you know. In addition, donations can be made by check payable directly to the Center of Hope. It can either be given to someone who will bring it to the club for processing, or, mailed directly to PCARS for inclusion with our donation. Cash is certainly acceptable, but we would prefer it not be put in the mail. By the way, both the Center of Hope and PCARS are charitable organizations, and donations are 100% deductible (we are not offering tax advice and ask you to check with your accountant or tax preparer if you have any questions as to how the deduction would benefit you).



The Center of Hope provides a very important function in our community. I am proud that PCARS has supported them through the years and hope that we can continue to be a significant part of their mission to our community. I hope you will all join in to make this our biggest year ever!

Photos from the August PCARS Meeting





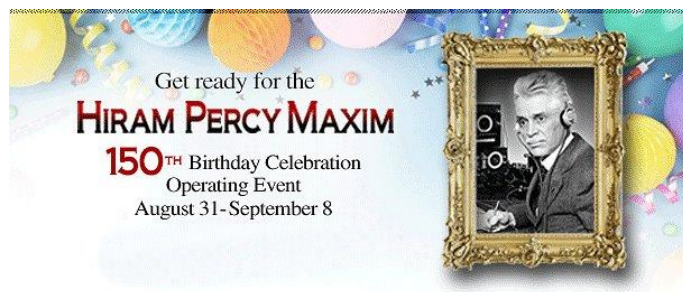
PCARS Meeting - August 12, 2019



PCARS Meeting - August 12, 2019



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7th



PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted !!! PLEASE !!

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 72 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 IO 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.

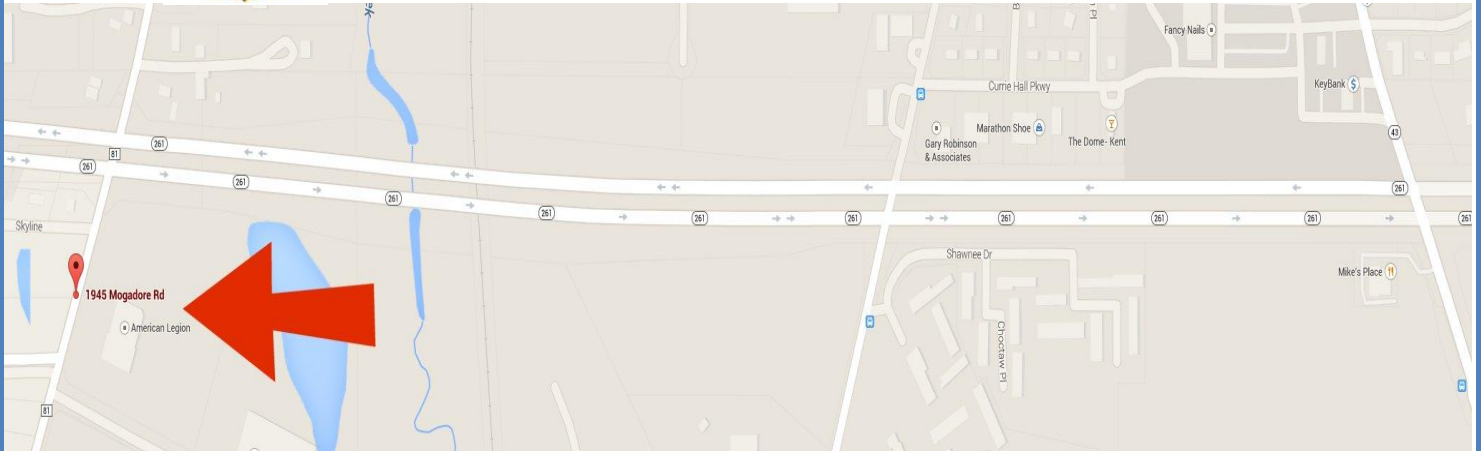


PCARS Meetings

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.

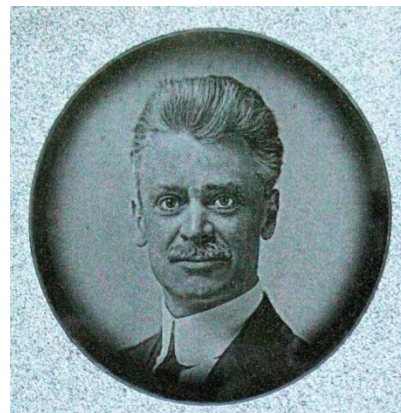
If you are a member of the The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion, bring your ID card as you get a substantial discount on adult beverage pricing.

Happy 150 - Hiram Percy Maxim

From the ARRL

The ARRL Announces a Birthday Celebration

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of ARRL's first president and cofounder Hiram Percy Maxim (HPM), W1AW, born on September 2, 1869. ARRL will hold an operating event this summer to celebrate HPM's legacy from **0000 UTC on August 31 and continue until 2359 UTC on September 8**. It is open to all radio amateurs.

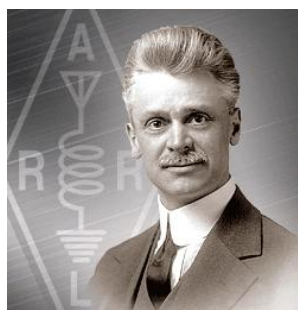


The event goal is straightforward: Contact as many participating stations as possible. W1AW and *all* ARRL members will append “/150” to their call signs during this event (DX operators who are ARRL members may operate as <call sign>/150, if permitted by their country of license.) Participating stations will exchange a signal report and their **ARRL/RAC Section**. DX stations will send a signal report and “DX.” Those taking part may use all Amateur Radio bands, excluding 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters.

The event will recognize three mode groups: CW, phone (any voice modes), and digital. Submit Cabrillo log files. ARRL will calculate all final scores based on participant uploads to the ARRL event web app (link not yet active).

There are 84 multipliers, which only count once. These include the 83 ARRL/RAC Sections (RAC sections include the Canadian Northern Territories, encompassing VE8, VY1, and VY0), and DX. The W1AW operating schedule during this period may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate on-air celebration operating activities. Contacts with W1AW/150 will earn 3 points apiece. Contacts with any ARRL member will earn 2 points each. These stations will also identify as <call sign>/150. Contacts with nonmembers will earn 1 point each.

Participants can earn 150 bonus points by:



- Contacting W1AW/150 on each band and mode.
- Uploading entries (ARRL members only).
- Using social media to publicize this event and/or participation before, during, and/or after the event.
- Operating with 5 W PEP output or less throughout the event.
- Making at least 20 contacts while operating portable.
- Completing at least 150 contacts.
- Online certificates will be awarded, and available **via download** only. Updates and results will be **publicized**.

This event has no power or operator categories. Participating ARRL members who use Logbook of The World (LoTW) are encouraged to **create a separate LoTW certificate** for uploading <call sign>/150 contacts. Members should upload their logs for this event using their /150 certificate. This event requires online web app submissions. No email or paper submissions will be accepted.

Editor's Note: Scott, N3FJP has released a new (free) contest program that will help you keep track of your contacts during the HPM 150 event. Scott makes the contest programs we use at PCARS and during Field Day, so you should find this one easy to use as well. See: <http://www.n3fjp.com/hpmaxim.html>

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 12th annual

Ohio State Parks On The Air



12th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 7, 2019, from 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC
(10 am to 6 pm Eastern Time)

There are **75** Ohio State Parks
Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN!**

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



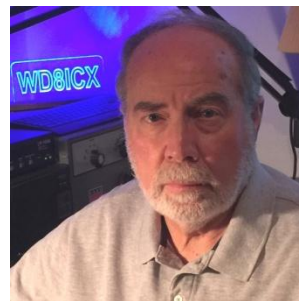
Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?
Check out **all** the details at: www.OSPOTA.org

Also, visit the OSPOTA IO Group at: <https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA>
While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: www.portcars.org

Jan 2019

South Mill - K8JLY Tour - September 14th

Gary, WD8ICX



Plan to attend a tour of **ARS K8JLY**, a museum of antique amateur radio's and related equipment in the historic Smith Mill located in Jackson Township just north of Massillon. Constructed in 1925, the building features radio's from the 1920 and 30's plus amateur radio's built by Johnson Viking, Globe Electronics, Hallicrafters, Allied Radio Knight kits, military radio's, Thordarson, National, photographs of amateur stations, and just about every Heathkit

radio made plus a radio repair shop for antique radio's. The museum is owned by Cid Vance, K8JLY, and you can see some pictures and read about his museum on his QRZ web page.



The date for the club tour will be **Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 10AM**. The museum is located at 4442 Erie Ave. N.W., Massillon.

UPDATED DIRECTIONS: Directions from the north: go south on Route 21 to Massillon, turn east (left) at the first traffic light onto Lake Ave. then at the first traffic light on Lake Ave. turn north (left) onto Rt. 236 (Erie Ave.). Drive 2.8 miles north on Erie Ave. At the stop sign on Erie Ave., continue straight ahead (do not turn right onto Rt.236). Just past Smithview Ave. on your right is the

museum also on your right. On Google Maps the museum is called: Towpath Treasures & Crafts. There is limited parking so car pooling is recommended. If you have any questions, contact me at: gmarks@neo.rr.com



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 throughout 2019 and beyond.

As you read earlier in this newsletter, at the Columbus Hamfest on August 3rd, **The RADIOGRAM** was awarded first place in the ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter Contest for 2019. I want to thank **all of the contributors** to the newsletter for their help in keeping this the best amateur radio club newsletter around.

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

AC8NT, AC8QG, KB8UUZ, WA8EFK, W8WTD, K8CAV, WB8LCD, W8MET, W8NET, KA8TOA, WA8TSI, N8SY, N8XTH, W8PT, KB8AMZ, W8KNO, WD8ICX, The ARRL, VOA Bethany, 4UIUN Facebook, JOTA Website, Ohio Section Newsletter, Wikipedia and the World-Wide Web.

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



Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th



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



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

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

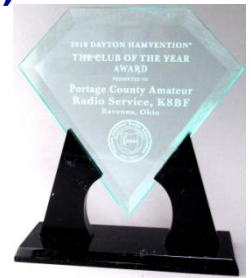


PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the **Kent American Legion Post 496**, 1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.

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



~ 2019 Officers ~		2019 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT Vice President - Nick Wagner - AC8QG Treasurer - Paul Hyland - KE8EGF 3 Year Trustee - Terry Morris - KB8AMZ 2 Year Trustee - Ed Polack - K8IV 1 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ Past President - Rick Kruis - K8CAV	ARRL Awards - DXCC WAS, VUCC, WAC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink & Web Guru	K8SRR	Steve Randlett
	Field Day Chairman, 2019	WA8AR	Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	KD8SKL	Amy Leggiero
	K8BF QSL Manager	KD8SKL	Amy Leggiero
	Membership Chairman	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Net Control Manager	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
~ Meetings & Net ~		Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ Tom Parkinson
2nd Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Public Information Officer	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Secretary	W8NET	Gene Marsh
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Webmasters		KD8MQ	John Myers
		K8SRR	Steve Randlett



**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
W8EZT	Frank Tompkins
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
K8MSH	Mark Haverstock
KA8TOA	Greg Ash
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
AC8QG	Nick Wagner
N8FUM	Dan Torchia
W8GWI	Dave Seckel



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 ©2019. The **RADIOGRAM** is an **Award Winning** newsletter: **ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Third Place 2015 - Second Place 2014, 2016 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019. ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter - Second Place 2013 - First Place in the 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. 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



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