



The **RADIOGRAM**

Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.
PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 21 - NUMBER 08 - AUGUST 2026



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



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The RADIOGRAM



Volume 21 - August 2026 - Number 08

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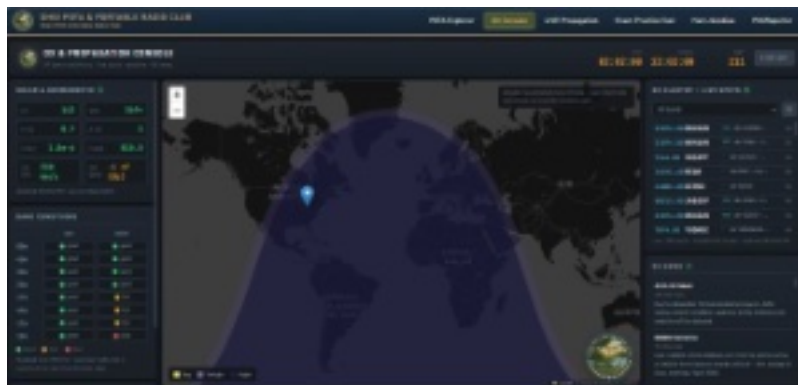
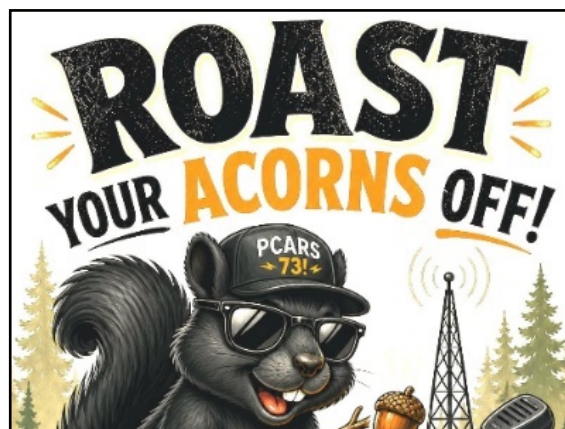
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Jack Comer, N8BI SK

From <https://www.geaugamapleleaf.com/obituaries/jacques-comer/>

Jacques “Jack” Comer, age 80, of Chardon, Ohio, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2026, with his family by his side.

Born on Nov. 27, 1945, in Elizabeth, N.J., Jack lived a life marked by devotion to family, service to his country and professional excellence.

Jack was the beloved husband of Carolyn Mastrovitch Comer, with whom he shared 37 years of marriage. He was a loving father to his daughter, Susan Comer-Falco, and her husband, Rudy Falco, and a proud grandfather to Sophia and Michael Falco.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jacques Comer Sr. and Marie Christiansen Comer.

During his college years, Jack entered active duty with the United States Air Force in 1966. He trained in the field of Radar Navigation Systems at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina.

As part of the 4th Field Maintenance Squadron under Tactical Air Command, he served on the F-4 Phantom II and was deployed to the Korean Demilitarized Zone, where he maintained high-power radar systems critical to the aircraft’s operations. Jack rose to the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. He was honorably released in 1970.

Following his military service, Jack built a distinguished career in medical imaging service. He worked for Varian Medical Systems, Siemens Medical Systems, Picker/Marconi and Philips Medical Systems, eventually managing the largest service territory by population in the United States.

Jack was known for his kindness, generosity and wonderful sense of humor and an overall ability to make people feel welcome.

Jack had a lifelong passion for amateur radio. First licensed 68 years ago in New Jersey under the call sign WA2EDD, he remained an active operator throughout his life and later held the call sign N8BI. He was a proud member of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service and a supporter of the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation. Through amateur radio, he formed lasting friendships, embraced advancing technology and enjoyed connecting with people around the world.

Jack will be remembered for his devotion to his family and friends, his military service, his accomplished professional career and his lifelong enthusiasm for learning. He lived with integrity, humility, humor and generosity, leaving behind a legacy of love, service and quiet strength.

His memory will be cherished always by those who knew and loved him.



Greg, KA8TOA
PCARS President



Hi Everyone

A lot going on with PCARS. I want to thank everybody who assisted with the Trunk Fest and Field Day. I understand everything went well with FD and we did well from what I know. Trunk Fest will be better next year. We made \$45.00 profit after paying for the porta-potty.

We had a lot of news articles this past month from field day from the Kent State paper and an article in QST about PCARS. We had a RTTY contest at the club site and Roast Your Acorns Off/ POTA event at Lake Milton State Park that was well attended.

A sad note: we lost a member SK Jack N8BI.

We are gearing up for the Ohio QSO party and Club Picnic in August. Also, we will be starting a Tech class at the club site on Wednesday nights after Labor Day. Please keep an eye on the club calendar for all activities coming up. Remember this is your club and you do have an input. All help is appreciated as is participation. QSTs will be coming out with more details and happenings of future items. I hope everyone had a good 4th of July and enjoyed family and friends.

For now, 73's!

Greg KA8TOA



Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Vice President



Meetings Coming Up:

Monday August 10th - Wayne Harris - Region 5 MARS Operations Officer – Wayne will be presenting a generic overview of MARS with a strong focus on recruitment – covering what MARS is, how it supports emergency communications, the types of operations run, training opportunities, and how amateurs can get involved.

Monday September 14th – Hal Turley – W8HC. Hal will present on the 2025 9U1RU DXpedition to Burundi. That was the SWODXA DXpedition of the year!

Monday October 12th – Deron Boring - N8XTH will give us another look at “Estate Planning” for Amateur Radio Operators.

Monday November 9th – This is our annual Election of Officers and 50/50 for the benefit of the Center of Hope. There will be a lot more information coming out about this as we get closer, but our goal is to make it the best, biggest, and most outstanding year end meeting EVER! Stand by for updates. Two points I want to make here; Our annual election of officers contemplates that there will be some of you who are willing to step up and run for office. Please don't take this lightly. In a club as active and engaging as PCARS is, it takes a lot of folks to keep the wheels turning. When PCARS was first envisioned, one of our goals would be that everyone would have the opportunity to put their mark on the personality of the club. Think about how you could be a part of the leadership of PCARS in 2027. The hobby, the technology and the club have all benefitted from the broad participation we have had through the years. Please, don't shut the door on playing an important role in the future of PCARS!

December 2026 – there will be no formal club meeting – hey – it's a busy time of year and we want everyone to enjoy at least one night off! SIGs and other activities will continue at the discretion of the leaders of those activities.

January 9th 2027 – Holiday party and January Business Meeting. I'll save you the trouble of looking that up – it's a Saturday! Starting at 2:00PM with a catered dinner beginning at 3:00PM. While I know that old habits die hard, lets give this a try! It just could be the way to start the new year on a high point. MUCH more information to follow.

I'll start getting ahead of the 2027 meeting schedule soon and keep you updated.

Now I'm on to the PCARS Thursday 2-meter club nets. While I don't have any “hard data” as I'm writing this, it seems to me that there has been an up-tick and check-ins so far through 2026. And it's not too late to finish off the year with some good nets. One of the things that puts us apart from lots of other nets is that we are not just looking for your check-in (another bean for the count as some guys put it). We encourage you to make comments. Tell us what you're doing and what you're working on. Ask for, or, offer to help. It's a good place to make those kinds of contacts. I can neither confirm nor deny but there have been some rumors going around about improvements to the K8IV repeater system. (I think some of them might be true) It appears that the EchoLink issues have been sorted out, so that's working pretty well.

One last thing, Net Night at the Club Site for December falls on Christmas Eve. So, by the powers invested in ME as the Net-Night coordinator, I'm moving it forward by 1 week to December 17th. AND, I intend to make it more of a Party – so put it on your calendar now and plan to be there!

73 - "sit in the chair and get on the air"!

Happy Birthday PCARS Members



N8GPS	Ned	KA8ETR	Dennis	K8IG	Fred
W8RJG	Ron	W8EC	Mark	KF8ADQ	Joe
KA8RXW	Lee	WD8ICX	Gary	KD8OBA	Ken
W8AR	Walter	KB8TUY	Mike	W8GU	Mark
K8FF	Wayne	KE8IMR	Karl	KB8VJL	Al
KD8CGH	Bob	N8SKN	Robert		

From Around The World...



FCC Okays Changes to Amateur Radio Exam Credit, Test Administration, Emission Type Rules

The FCC approved several rule updates affecting how amateur radio exams are credited and administered, along with changes to emission type designations. The changes streamline testing procedures for Volunteer Examiners and give operators more flexibility in how they identify emission modes.

New 60-Meter Frequencies Available as of February 13

New 60-meter frequencies approved by the FCC became available to amateurs, along with new power restrictions on that band. Amateurs must limit emission bandwidth to 2.8 kHz or less and continue to accept interference from other authorized users of the shared band.

Solar Cycle 25 Likely Reached the Highest Sunspot Number in over 20 Years

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center reported that Solar Cycle 25 likely produced the highest daily sunspot number seen in more than two decades, with a reading of at least 299. Stronger solar activity has translated into improved HF propagation conditions, a welcome surprise since Cycle 25 was originally predicted to be weak.

Another Outstanding Year for Amateur Radio Licensing!

ARRL reports that the total number of US amateur radio licensees continues to grow, extending a trend that's held since the Morse code exam requirement was eliminated in 2007. Technician remains the largest license class, followed by General and Extra.



Club Spotlight

ICOM® Official Sponsor of ARRL Year of the Club



K8BF

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.

Founded: 2005	ARRL Affiliation date: April 20, 2006
Voting licensed amateur members: 153	Meetings: Monthly
Members: 153	Website: www.portcars.org/wp
Section: Ohio	Focus: On-air events, POTA, newsletter

Ravenna, Ohio's Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) refers to themselves as the "fun" club — K8BF stands for "Kilowatt Eight Big Fun" — but that doesn't mean they don't work hard to give back to their members. Holding more than 30 hours' worth of activities every week distinguished them as the Dayton Hamvention® Club of the Year in 2018; it is this consistent effort that keeps the group thriving. "Being a larger club demands a lot of people running the programs or activities," said PCARS Vice President Tom Sly, WB8LCD, "and a lot of people participating." It's a positive sort of pressure because "if we weren't having fun and providing an atmosphere of friendship, we'd have a problem, but we all seem to pull together," he explained.

Something for Everyone

PCARS has a rotating schedule of special interest groups (SIGs) every Tuesday evening. Each SIG is an

informal meeting centered around a specific ham radio topic suggested by members. For example, the first SIG of the month might be all about Linux and Raspberry Pi, and the following SIG might have a portable theme. Everyone is invited regardless of license class or experience level, giving all members a chance to learn more about these topics.

Operating events are a PCARS forte. "ARRL Field Day is the highlight of the year," said the club's 3-year trustee Bob Hadjak, N8QE, as the club consistently boasts around 60 participants or more each year. Besides holding Winter Field Day when the cold settles in, PCARS hosts the annual Freeze Your Acorns Off event — the name being a reference to their black squirrel mascot (such squirrels can be seen in and around Ravenna). As stated on their website, the rules are simple: they "gather on some cold Saturday to thumb their noses at Mother Nature" and score some low-

power contacts. Roast Your Acorns Off is its summer counterpart, and it was scheduled to debut in July 2026 as of press time.

PCARS finds that Parks on the Air® (POTA®) similarly keeps their members engaged. Their portable operations-themed SIG organizes group "Parkpeditions" to activate local parks. These allow for some practice leading up to their widely acclaimed annual Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) Contest, for which the goal is to work as many of Ohio's 76 state parks as possible. This year's event will be held on September 12. Past PCARS President Jim Wilson, AC8NT, said, "The POTA events championed by Gene, W8NET, and John, WG8X, have, in my opinion, brought new life into the club and into ham radio."

Always On the Air

To keep each other in the loop on activities and events, more goings-on not detailed here are in *The Radiogram*, PCARS's exemplary newsletter highlighted in the May 2023 "Club Station" column. J. C. Wilson, KC8JC, has since taken the editorial reins from Tom Parkinson, KB8UUZ. "The Radiogram is still edited as a monthly recap of the activities we've done the prior month, along with listings and schedules for all of the upcoming activities," he said. Its format is tried and true, like so many of this club's endeavors.

"PCARS does a lot of things right," reflected Jim Wilson, AC8NT. "I think one of the best things it does is get its members on the air."

K8BF Field Day 26 - Submitted to ARRL

Tom, KB8UUZ

FD Media & Log Entry



The PCARS Field Day 2026 report was done and sent in to the ARRL. It was Day and the additional required information was also included as PDF uploads. Everything has been received and accepted. Now we have to wait until later this year (*usually in December*) to see how we did compared to the other 4A stations in Ohio, the USA and Canada. It was a GREAT Field Day and all went fine and it appeared all had FUN. Only a few months until Field Day 2027 - **Start planning NOW.**

Portage County Amateur Radio Service - Field Day 2026

Call Used: **K8BF** GOTA Call: **KP4VZ** ARRL/RAC Section: **OH** Class: **4A**

Participants: **58** Power Source(s): **Generator, Battery, Solar** Power Multiplier: **2X**

Score Submitted: 12,680 + 2,685 Bonus = 15,365

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	1,028	905	2,474	4,407	
Total Points	2,056	1,810	2,474	6,340	X2 = Claimed Score = 12,680 (not including bonus)

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Set up in a Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
Message to ARRL SM	100
Formal Messages handled - No.=10	100
W1AW Field Day Bulletin	100
Natural Power QSOs completed (40M Solar)	100
Site Visit by invited Elected Official	100

Description	Points
Site Visit by invited Served Agency Official	100
Educational activity	100
Youth Element (2) achieved	40
GOTA Station	895
GOTA Coach Bonus	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Safety Officer	100
Social Media	100
Total Bonus Points	2,685

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
80m	154	100	179	100	223	100
40m	475	100	129	100	1,322	100
20m	390	100	135	100	904	100
15m	9	100	33	100	-	-
10m	-	-	109	100	-	-
6m	-	-	165	100	-	-
2M	-	-	1	100	-	-
GOTA	-	-	154	100	25	100
Total	1028		905		2474	



First K8BF Contact was logged by **N3RA** at 1800 UTC on Saturday on **20 Meters CW** to N0ARS in Missouri
 Last K8BF Contact was logged by **KA8TOA** at 1800 UTC on Sunday by the **20 Meters SSB** to W1SRG in Mass

PCARS Field Day 2026 - Operator Contact Totals



Contact Totals by Operator



#	Call	QSOs
1	K8IV	431
2	WB9LBI	415
3	W8PT	384
4	N8QE	360
5	KD8DFL	357
6	AD8FQ	318
7	N8WCP	303
8	AD8IR	291
9	K3GP	227
10	N3RA	188
11	K8KSU	187
12	WA8LRW	122

#	Call	QSOs
13	KA8TOA	118
14	W8NET	113
15	KD8OBA	104
16	N8NB	94
17	KP4VZ	59
18	KD8WCK	49
19	K8CAV	36
20	KB8TUY	25
21	KE8BWA	20
22	W8KNO	16
23	WD8DAU	7
24	KE8EGF	3



PCARS Field Day 2026 - GOTA Station

What a great time watching the GOTA station in action. 179 contacts were logged.

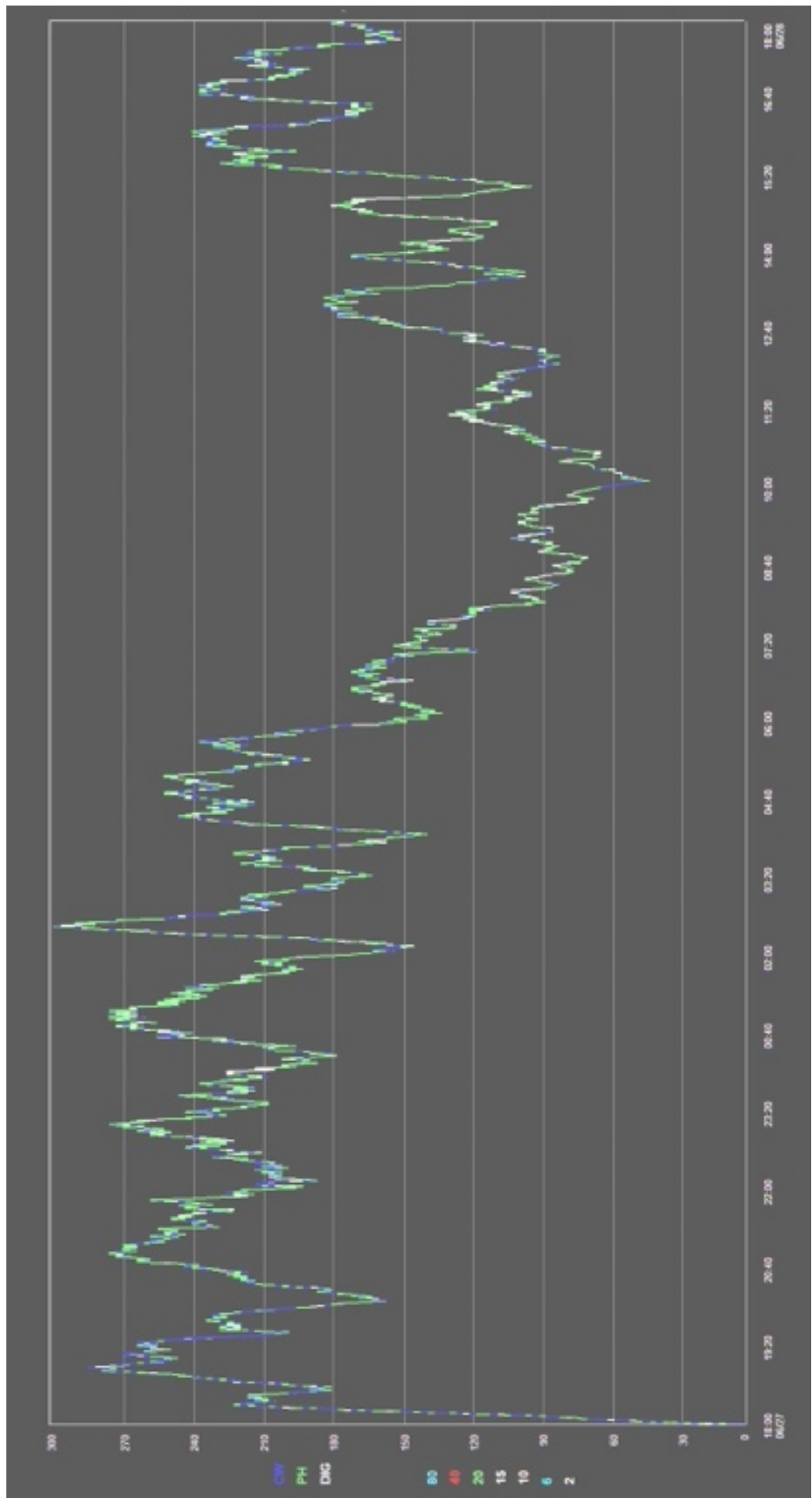
The GOTA station used the call sign KP4VZ. **Mike, KP4VZ** was the GOTA Coach.

Gota Operators	QSOs	Bonus Points
Steve Skok, KD9ZDY	102	510
Bryan Buchwalter, N8OQQ	25	125
Janice Miller, KF8BFA	18	90
Mike Liner, KE8WZP	18	90
Ashley Gonzalez, WP4PLR	13	65
Cecilia Wagner	1	5
Domonic Wagner	1	5
Michael Gonzalez	1	5



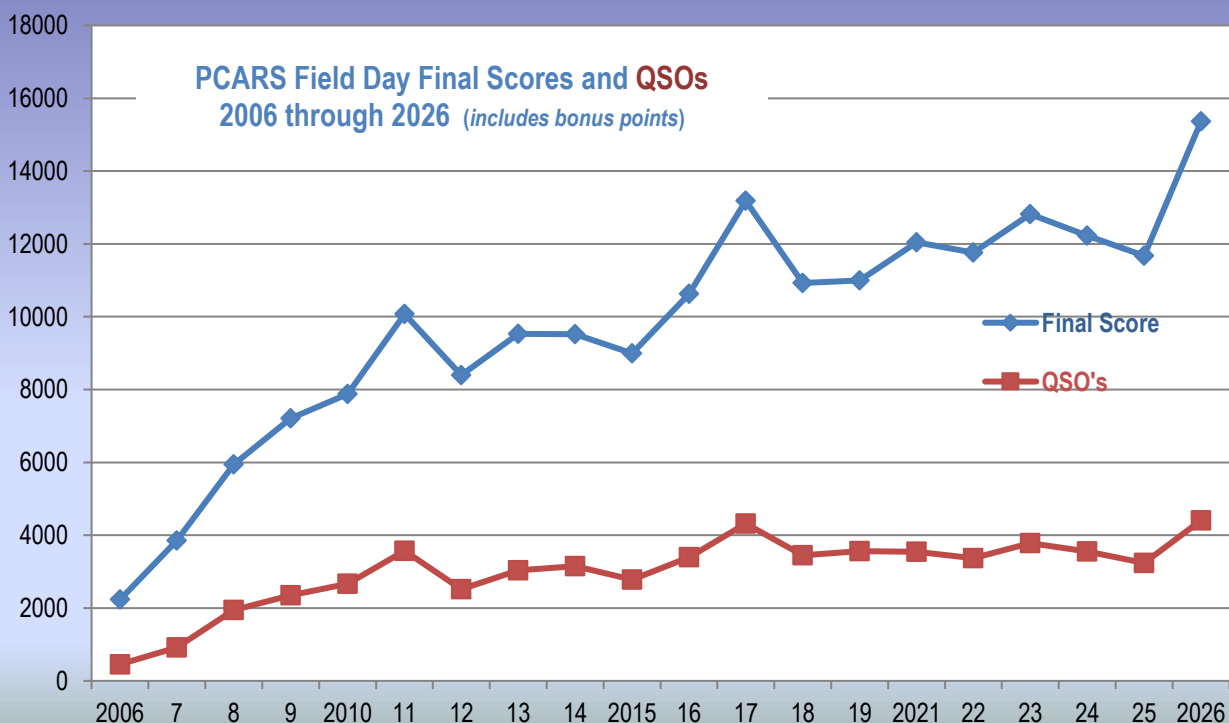


On Air Activity Graph K8BF



Field Day - Past PCARS Field Day Comparisons

PCARS	Final QSOs	Final Score
2026 - K8BF	4,407 (highest)	15,365 (highest)
2025 - K8BF	3,241	11,672
2024 - K8BF	3,553	12,230
2023 - K8BF	3,783	12,815
2022 - K8BF	3,367	11,766
2021 - K8BF	3,548	12,046
2019 - K8BF	3,561	10,998
2018 - K8BF	3,448	10,926
2017 - K8BF	4,320	13,186
2016 - K8BF	3,393	10,632
2015 - K8BF	2,778	8,990
2014 - K8BF	3,147	9,520
2013 - K8BF	3,035	9,526
2012 - K8BF	2,517	8,392
2011 - K8BF	3,568	10,078
2010 - K8BF	2,669	7,880
2009 - KD8CKP	2,349	7,206
2008 - KD8CKP	1,942	5,944
2007 - KD8CKP	914	3,854
2006 - KD8CKP	455	2,232



Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A - OH



K8BF - Field Day 2026

Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A - OH



Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A - OH



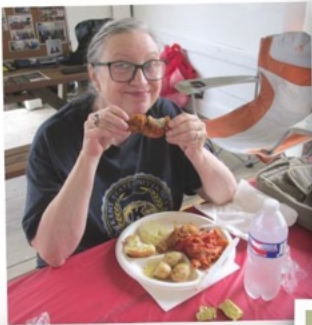
K8BF - Field Day 2026

Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A - OH



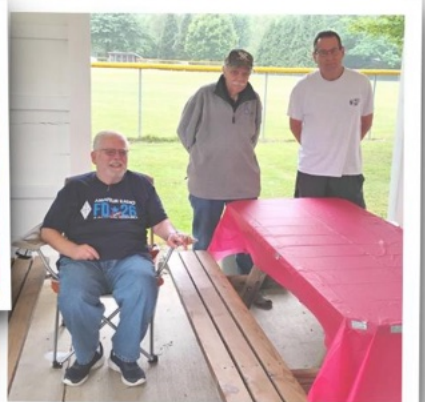
K8BF - Field Day 2026

Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A - OH



K8BF - Field Day 2026

Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A OH

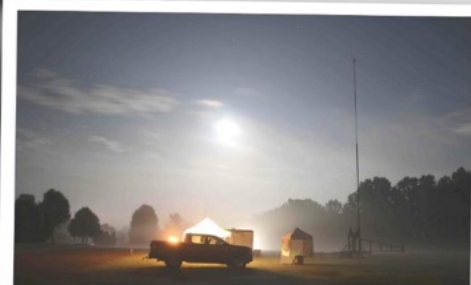


AMATEUR RADIO
FD★26
A NATIONAL RESOURCE
www.arrl.org

Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A OH

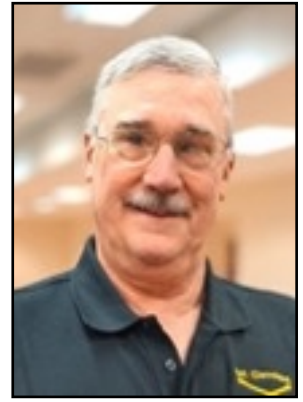


Field Day 2026 - K8BF - 4A OH



Flex Net Field Day Report

Rick, K8CAV
Flex Net Coordinator



The PCARS Field Day FLEX Station had another very successful year in 2026. The only difference compared to previous years is that this year, all of our contacts were digital, FT8 and FT4.



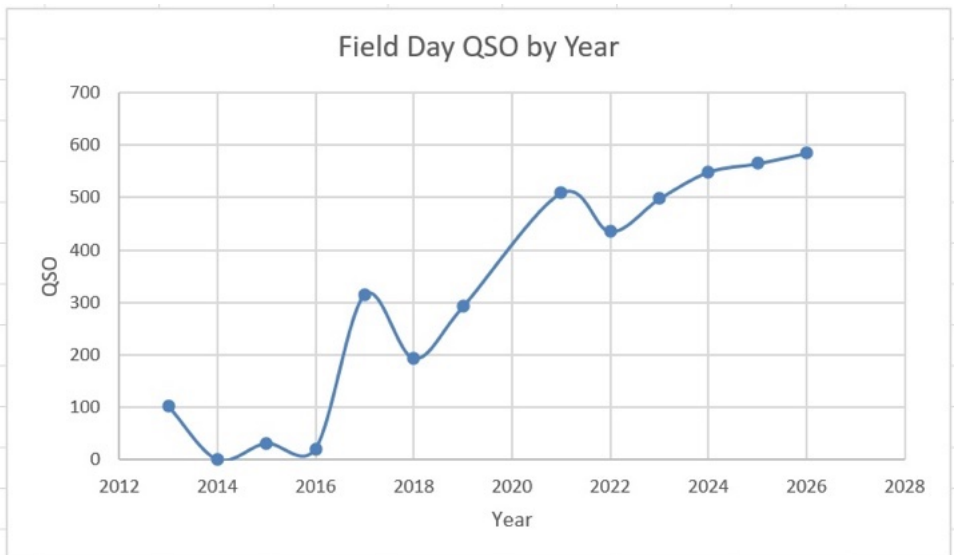
We had a total of 585 contacts, which was our best ever total. The FLEX contacts continues to grow every year. This year some of that was due to being at or near the peak of this solar cycle, some was due to having excellent digital contest operators at FLEX, and some was due to pre-Field Day training. An After Action Review is being published and will be made available in the Files section of the PCARS groups.io page.

There are two very essential groups of people that make things happen at the FLEX station. The first are the folks that staffed the setup and tear-down teams for each of the stations. Without these teams it would be difficult, if not impossible for each station captain to get their stations operational and taken down. I can't say enough about how

much I appreciate all of the setup team's efforts. The second group are the operators who staffed the FLEX station. Many of these members were experienced digital contesters and they, with the rest of the operators did a great job at FLEX. My sincere thanks to our operators Rick K8CAV, Bob N8QE, Ken WA8LRW, Agnes AD8IR, Gene W8NET, Rick KD8WCK, Mike KP4VZ, and Ben AD8FQ.

Rick K8CAV
FLEX Station Captain

Year	Contacts	Location
2013	102	Ravenna Park
2014	0	Ravenna Park
2015	31	Ravenna Park
2016	21	Ravenna Park
2017	315	Freedom Park
2018	193	Freedom Park
2019	292	Freedom Park
2021	509	Freedom Park
2022	435	Freedom Park
2023	498	Freedom Park
2024	549	Freedom Park
2025	565	Freedom Park
2026	585	Freedom Park



20M Field Day Station Report

Mike, N8WCP



Another Field Day is in the books, and it was fun and successful! Other than a little rain on Saturday the weather cooperated.

I would like to thank our station Ops who hammered away to make 1,127 contacts: Ben-AD8FQ, Agnes-AD8IR, Ed-K8IV, Greg-KA8TOA, Paul-KE8EGF, Bob-N8QE, Joe-W8KNO, and Chuck-W8PT.

Special thanks to Tony-WA8AR our Field Day Chairman who coordinated the event, Rick-K8CAV for his work with Freedom Township to secure the facility, and Ken Hall-WA8LRW for logging and network support.

Truly a team effort by all who participated.

Hope to see everyone at Field Day 2027!

73

Mike-N8WCP

PCARS Member Sick Call

These PCARS members are known to club leadership as recovering from a medical issue. Take a moment and drop a Get Well QSL Card to them to help lift their spirits.

John WG8X

Janice KE8BFA

Carl N4IT



John, WG8X



Hi everyone, and welcome to this month's edition. I'm calling it Off the road. Just to bring you all up to speed, here's what happened to me this summer.

On June 9th, I had knee replacement surgery that went incredibly well. According to the physical therapist, I was doing well and was ahead of the curve. Then came July 9th.

Leaving a local store, my Quadriceps Tendon let loose (broke), and I went down on the pavement like a sack of potatoes. The ambulance was called, and I was admitted to the hospital. Surgery to repair it was done the next day. I'm home and able to get around the house with help from a walker. I'll be in a leg brace for the next several weeks. Any POTA activations are on hold indefinitely.

I've tried to stay active; hunting when I'm able to hang out in the shack. Since I'm only good for maybe a half hour at a time sitting at the rig, my Ham radio activity has been limited to FT8 from the couch, where I can remotely connect to the shack computer.

But I'll be back on the road soon (Hopefully). For now, let's talk about a potpourri of things that have come to mind while brainstorming this article.

Have you checked out the PCARS website lately? Several months back I added something called a "Tag Cloud". To the right sidebar. Each time I post a QST to the home page, I add tags to it.

For instance, a post about the activities of our Black Squirrell Contest group may may be tagged with "Club Site", "HF", "Black Squirrell Contest Group". Each instance of a tag causes that tag in the tag cloud in the sidebar to become a bit more prominent. It's a cool feature if you are looking for a specific subject on the site. Of course you can also use the search box in the right sidebar just as well. This is just another way to navigate the site.

The Six Meter band has sure been hopping lately, with paths open to the west coast practically every day. Monitoring DXmaps.com, I've even noticed some paths into Europe, Asia, and South America, but I've not copied any DX myself yet. Just look at the screen shot of DXmaps I'm submitting.

My plan had been to become more of an active POTA hunter while recovering, but things don't always go according to plan. I'm reminded that when we make plans, God laughs.

I had to miss the inaugural Roast Your Acorns Off (RYAO) at Lake Milton State Park. I wish I had been able to make it, but hope that it gets added to the list of annual PCARS events.

Coming up the Saturday after Labor Day will be OSPOTA '26. It'll be a great day to get out and enjoy a day in one of our beautiful State Parks. You can read more about this in the September issue of the Radiogram.

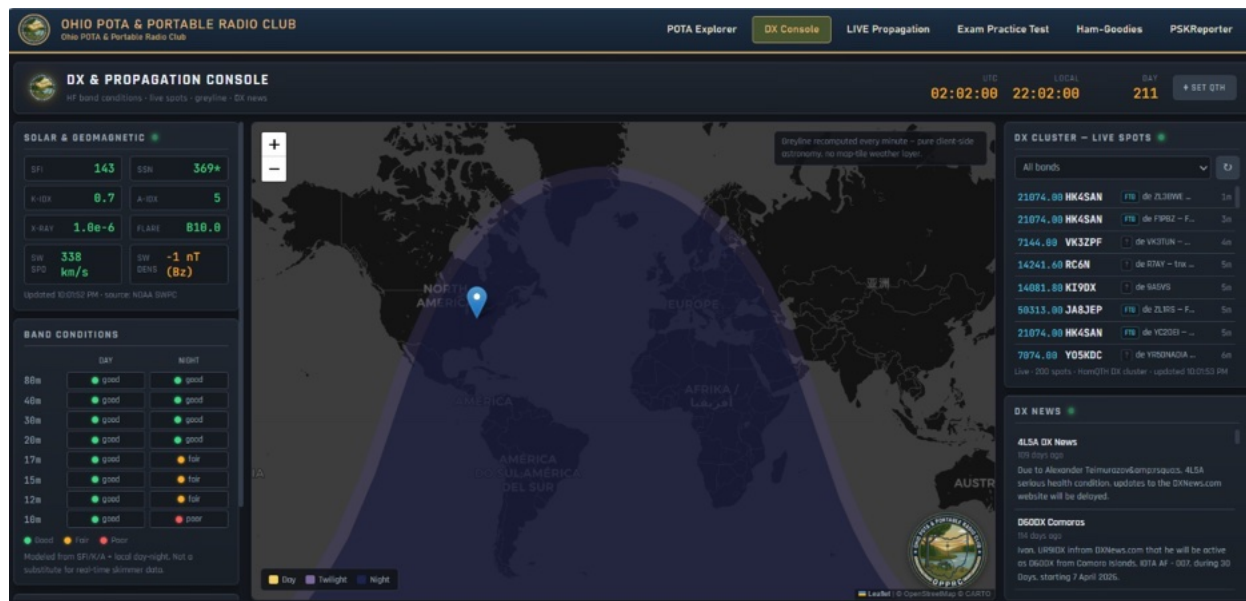


From Antenna Calc to DX Cluster: A Season of Building

Mike, KP4VZ

Over the last few months, I've been steadily bolting new tools onto ohio-pota.club. Some of it is stuff I've wanted for years: a repeater directory that actually covers our part of the state, a place to study for your license upgrade, Radio Cheat Sheets, and more.

Here's the rundown of what's live right now:



DX & Propagation Console

This is the new front door for anyone who wants a quick read on "is the band open right now?" One page pulls together:

- **Solar & Geomagnetic Data:** SFI, SSN, K-index, A-index, X-ray flux, solar wind speed, and density sourced directly from NOAA SWPC.
- **Band Conditions:** Day and night indicators (80m through 10m) with a simple Good/Fair/Poor rating modeled from SFI, K-index, and time of day.
- **Live Greyline Map:** Shows day, twilight, and night across the globe, recomputed every minute.
- **Live DX Cluster Feed:** Real-time spots (band, frequency, callsign, spotter, mode, and age) filterable by band.
- **DX News:** The latest headlines from around the globe.

Note: None of this pretends to replace a real-time network estimate when you sit down at the radio—the band conditions here are a modeled estimate, not a live measurement—but it's a genuinely useful "glance and go" dashboard.

Live Radio Propagation Mesh

Real-time local band conditions powered by live decodes

EN91

Set QTH

GPS

Connected! Live stream active for grid: EN91

Instructions & How It Works

Enter your location in the search box using any of these formats:

- **Grid Squares:** EN91 or EN91vh
- **ZIP Codes:** 44255
- **Full House Addresses / Street Names:** 123 Main St, Ravenna, OH
- **City / State:** Cleveland, OH

This widget measures **actual real-time RF propagation** entering and exiting your Maidenhead Grid Square using FT8/digital decodes. It calculates the Great Circle distance (Haversine formula), average signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), and spot volume to score overall band conditions.

Data Delay Notice: Digital mode decode cycles (like FT8) run on fixed 15-second intervals. Please allow **20 to 30 seconds** after setting your location for enough live packet samples to stream in and generate an accurate reading.

BAND	SPOTS	AVG DIST	AVG SNR	CONDITION
20m	78	4174 km	-11.3 dB	Good
6m	46	861 km	-7.2 dB	Fair
30m	32	4613 km	-11.1 dB	Fair
15m	31	2734 km	-7.9 dB	Fair
40m	19	2415 km	-5.2 dB	Fair
17m	11	3715 km	-9.2 dB	Fair
10m	1	3580 km	-18.0 dB	Poor
160m	1	670 km	-21.0 dB	Poor

Live Radio Propagation Mesh

This one is a step past modeled conditions—it's actual, real-time propagation, measured.

Enter a grid square, ZIP code, street address, or city/state, and the page streams in live FT8/digital decodes from PSKReporter's public feed. It scores band conditions based on what's actually being heard right now: spot volume, average distance (great-circle haversine), and average SNR per band. Because digital decode cycles run on fixed 15-second intervals, it settles in after 20–30 seconds to give you an honest, current picture of what each band is doing from your grid square.

Ham Radio License Practice Tests

A full, self-contained study tool for all three FCC written exams: Technician (Element 2), General (Element 3), and Amateur Extra (Element 4). It runs entirely in your browser with zero delays or server round-trips.

The Bench

Our running collection of small utilities aimed at solving the everyday annoyances of station building and operating:

- **Antenna Cut-Sheet Calculator:** Punch in a frequency (or tap a band button, 80m–2m) and select an antenna type. It outputs total length and per-leg length using standard formulas. (It's a starting point for cutting wire, not a substitute for trimming to resonance with an analyzer!)
- **Repeater Directory:** What started as a Portage County list has grown to cover seven northeast Ohio counties (Portage, Summit, Stark, Trumbull, Geauga, Lorain, and Cuyahoga). Includes a quick form to submit missing repeaters.
- **Radio Cheat Sheets:** Quick-reference guides built for the bench or go-bag. Currently covers the Icom IC-705 (power/menus, GPS, battery care, external tuners, memories, troubleshooting) and Icom IC-7300 (touchscreen menus, scope/waterfall, internal tuner, SEND/REMOTE jacks). More will be added as they hit the bench!

THE BENCH

HAM RADIO GOODIES & UTILITIES

[ANTENNA CALC](#)[CALLSIGN LOOKUP](#)[ACADEMY](#)[REPEATER DIRECTORY](#)[MANUALS](#)

Antenna Cut-Sheet Calculator

Enter a frequency (or tap a band) and pick an antenna type. Dimensions use standard ARRL rule-of-thumb formulas — always trim a little long and prune to resonance with an antenna analyzer or SWR meter.

FREQUENCY (MHZ)
14.285
80m 40m 30m 20m 17m 15m 12m 10m 6m
2m

ANTENNA TYPE
Half-Wave Dipole (flat)
v

TOTAL LENGTH
32.76 ft (32' 9.14")

EACH LEG
16.38 ft (16' 4.57")

Academy

The biggest addition to the site, organized into sub-tabs to cover core ham radio concepts:

- **Propagation:** How HF signals travel, MUF/LUF, sunspot activity, and reading conditions.
- **Operating Procedures:** FCC rules, band privileges, repeater/simplex etiquette, calling procedures, modulation/bandwidth, and station safety.
- **Antennas & Feedlines:** SWR explained properly (forward vs. reflected power, foldback power around 2:1 SWR), coax loss vs. ladder line, and why lossy feedlines give deceptively "good" SWR readings.
- **Basic Electricity:** Fundamentals written for beginners—Ohm's Law, water analogies for voltage/current/resistance, resistor color codes, capacitors, inductors, and AC vs. DC.

What's Next?

More cheat sheets, broader repeater coverage, and a contest log scoring tool currently in development. The log tool will let you drop in an ADIF or Cabrillo file (from events like OSPOTA) to automatically validate entries and calculate scores. Look for a write-up once that goes live!

More cheat sheets, broader repeater coverage, and a contest log scoring tool currently in development. The log tool will let you drop in an ADIF or Cabrillo file (from events like OSPOTA) to automatically validate entries and calculate scores. Look for a write-up once that goes live!

If you have a feature idea or a missing repeater to report, drop me a line—half of what's here exists because someone asked for it!

73,
Mike Gonzalez (KP4VZ)

Antenna Special Interest Group

Ken, WA8LRW
Antenna SIG Coordinator

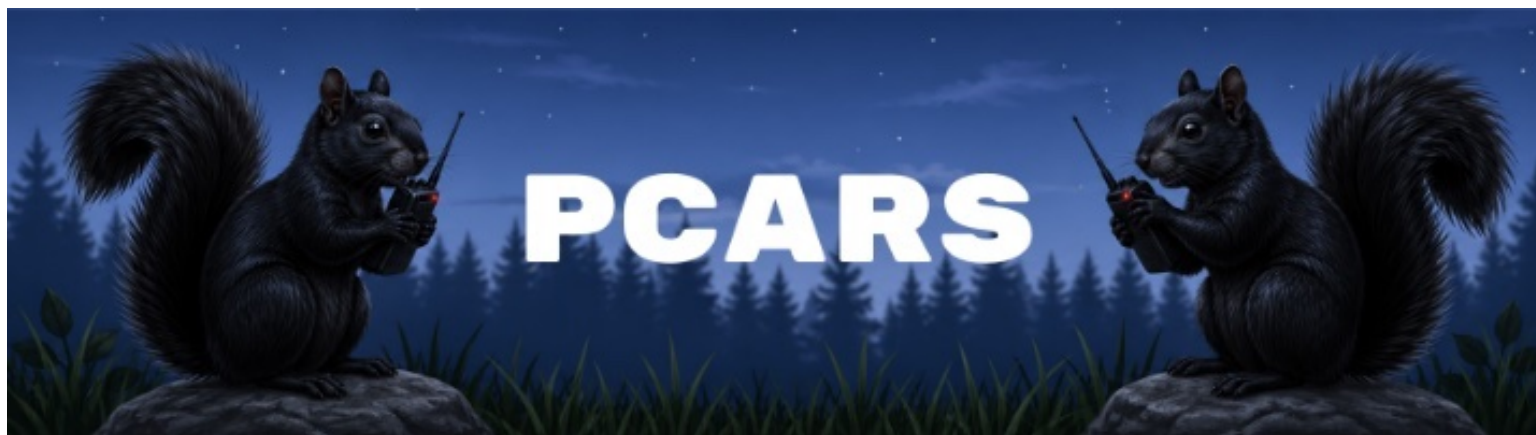
Last month, we dove into Antenna Modeling for Amateur Radio, checking out different programs and figuring out what they're good at and not so good at. We also took a look at how the various antenna modeling methods work. From that, we decided to explore the free program 4NEC2.

This month, we got hands-on with setting up and analyzing a few basic antennas. We had 4NEC2 running, and most of the station computers, so everyone could try setting up and analyzing a simple antenna on their own.

Next month, we'll keep exploring 4NEC2 with more complex antennas and learn about cool concepts like feed lines, transforms, and networks. We'll also discover how to use 4NEC2 to optimize an antenna.

If you're interested in antennas and how to model them, come join us next month at the Antenna SIG.





PCARS is on YouTube

That's right - PCARS is on YouTube. So what does that mean? Hey, we have a place to put all kinds of videos that are about PCARS for the world to see.

<https://youtube.com/@portagecountyamateurradios1933?si=09-NxUpDOoqdqTzc>



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>



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 Red, Black, and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$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. Reach out to the club treasurer for details.



PCARS T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Jackets, Hats, etc. can be obtained from:
Villager Business Solutions - attn. Michelle Zivoder - michelle@villagerbusiness.com - 330-472-7304.

Roast Your Acorns Off 2026 Report

Chuck, W8PT

DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



PCARS Members:

On July 25th, we held our first summer "Acorns Off" event. The WX was perfect. The event venue (Harry Meshel Picnic Area, Lake Milton State Park) was perfect. The food was great. Thank you Mike, KB8TUY, and Gene, W8NET, who manned the grill. There were a few who also brought out some very delicious meal offerings. You really couldn't ask for a better outing. Well...you could if we could have had more members out to at least encourage the operators to "MAKE MORE CONTACTS."

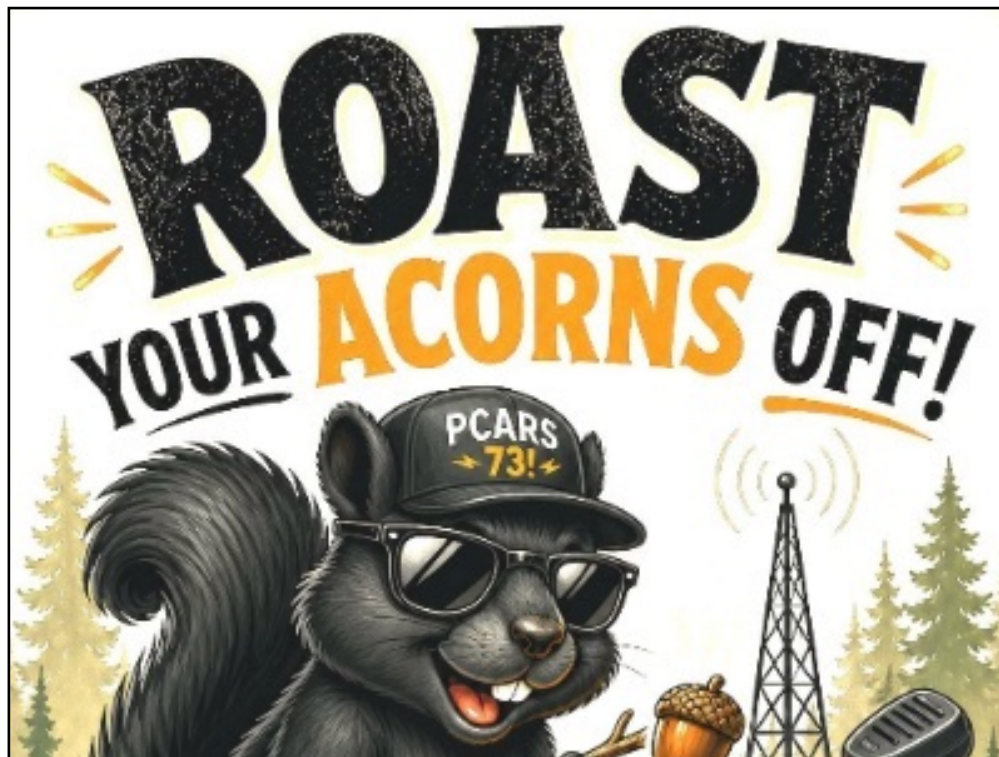
We had 15 visitors. Of those visitors, 7 set up stations and operated. The Ops were KD8OBA, N8QE, KF8ADQ, W8NET, AD8IR, KP4VZ, and W8KFW.

Based on the comments I received, this event should go on for a very long time. Especially being able to set up your station and operate without having to have 3 layers of clothing to keep you from freezing. Not that we will stop FYAO. It's just that everyone commented how nice it was to operate in very nice WX.

I will be announcing the scores for this event at the next Monthly meeting.

Thank you again, to all who showed up and I hope that more will come out next year.

73 - Chuck W8PT





ROAST YOUR ACORNS OFF

POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday, 8/11/26 @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in scenic Ravenna, Ohio. We will be discussing the VERY FUN RYAO on 7/25, and looking forward to OSPOTA.

Kenny, KB8OBA (THE POTAMAN), will be our PCARS POTA SIG Coordinator and leading the meetings going forward. Thank you everyone who supported my efforts. I'm not going anywhere, but will be focusing on other projects.

73 de W8NET, Gene

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator



DX/Contesting Special Interest Group

PCARS Contesters and DXers:

On Tuesday, July 28, we held our DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting. We had 10 in attendance either in person or on ZOOM.

We discussed our recent RYAO Event that was held at Lake Milton State Park. Everyone said that it was a success. To repeat my earlier comments in the report on this event, the WX was perfect; the food was great; the venue was perfect; everyone who attended had a very good time.

A couple of suggestions for changes next year.

1. We will be including 12, 17, and 30 meters in the contest. Since this is a QRP event, this should not be a problem.
2. We need more exposure to get more members to attend.
3. Since both pavilions had power available, we want to make sure that people know that so that they can use mains rather than drain their batteries.
4. Also with power available, those who want to bring food prepared in a crockpot or slow cooker, can do so.

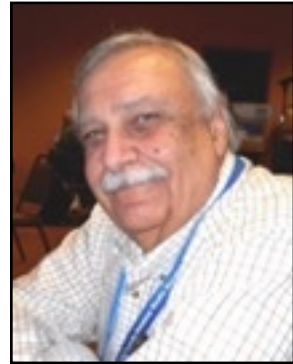
We discussed the up-coming Ohio QSO Party. We will be set up in the operations room as before. The main discussion related to the BBQ portion of our Open House. It was mentioned that we need to move the grill away from the entrance of Bay 3. Too much smoke filled the bay last year and made sitting and eating in the bay a problem. There was a lot of discussion regarding the idea of this being open to the public. Since it is our Open House, many could not figure out why there had to be something separate for this to happen. We decided that we will carry on as in the past and let the public come if they want.

Finally, we discussed the North American QSO Party coming up on the 15th of August. Since they now allow teams to enter as multi-multis, we want members to participate from their own QTH's using their own calls, but being a member of a team of 4 or 5 other ops. I will be calling for ops and putting a team or possibly two teams together. We need to know ahead of time who wants to do this since team members have to be PRE-REGISTERED with the organizers of this contest, for their scores to be counted. More on this in the near future.

For now, a lot is happening. So, keep tuned.

73 - Chuck W8PT

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - LIMITED EDITION! - Get One Now!

PCARS has obtained a limited 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 that you have to claim it from the **Treasurer**. There is a list of current members and the treasurer will check off your name when you get your **FREE** PCARS coffee cup.



There are a *very limited number of extra coffee cups* for sale at \$5.00 each. **Contact the Treasurer for details:** treasurer@portcars.org

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE WANTED FOR SALE WANTED FOR SALE

Free 5' length of pvc for an Ed Fong dbj-1 dual band antenna. Two DXEngineering items: a radial plate for \$50.00 and a tilt base for a vertical antenna \$100.00. Call Lee at 330-777-9803. KA8RXW. [08/26]

For Sale: Refurbished Butternut HF2V vertical antenna. VERY GOOD condition. Every contact surface cleaned and prepped with copper grease. SO-239 adapter and shunt coil included. \$250 (new retail price is \$686.99) delivered in Portage County or eastern Summit/northern Stark counties. Will help design and install your setup. Contact w8net@me.com or text 330-619-9194 [08/26]

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: [01/26] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2026.

2026 Colorado QSO Party

2026 Colorado QSO Party: Work Colorado or help activate a county

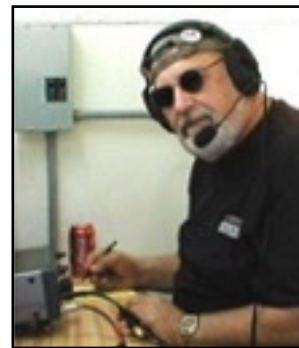
The 2026 Colorado QSO Party will take place **Saturday, September 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:59 p.m. MDT**. Radio amateurs of all experience levels are invited to get on the air, make contacts, and help activate all 64 Colorado counties.

The event is a great opportunity for friends to operate together, mentor newer hams, test stations, or combine a county activation with a POTA or SOTA outing. Operators may participate from fixed, mobile, or portable stations, and awards and certificates are available.

Learn how to participate, find operating information, and announce a planned county activation at: <https://coloradoqsoparty.org/getting-started/>

Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites for June 2026

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to all DXers:

August is often referred to as the Dog Days of Summer. Sometimes, the heat really builds up and then it gets very cool. Why should this matter? Because August (and September) are the best months to get antenna work completed. Normally we have cool late afternoons and evenings. The mornings start out cool also. So, those of us who have issues with our antennas or simply want to get another one in the air, can do so comfortably. Over the last 9 years, the largest amount of work done on my two towers has been in the Fall. So, let's use this month, and the next, to get things buttoned up before Winter.

In the meantime, there are still many DX events happening. So, let's take a look at the next month or so.

As always, big Thank You to: The Daily DX, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites; DL5ON; The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, 425 DX News.

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

Here's ClubLog's Top 10 Most wanted DXCC entities:

1. **P5 DPRK (NORTH KOREA)**
2. **BS7H SCARBOROUGH REEF**
3. **CE0X SAN FELIX ISLANDS**
4. **BV9P PRATAS ISLAND**
5. **KH7K KURE ISLAND**
6. **KH3 JOHNSTON ISLAND**
7. **3Y/P PETER 1 ISLAND**
8. **FT5/X KERGUELEN ISLAND**
9. **YV0 AVES ISLAND**
10. **3Y/B BOUVET ISLAND**

August...

9V, SINGAPORE. Reminder - Eric, KH6WI, is QRV as 9V1EO for the next two years. Activity is on Satellite QO-100 using FT8 and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

C6, BAHAMAS. Philippe, EA4NF will be active on FM LEO satellites from the Bahamas under the Callsign C6AUB during August 19 to 23, 2026. He will be operating in full-duplex mode using a portable transceiver equipped with his standard Arrow antenna and whip antenna. QSL via LoTW.

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. Steve, ZL2KE, along with Steve, **E51CZZ** (ZL4CZ), will again be active from Rarotonga as E51KEE. E51KEE (CW / SSB until August 14, 2026. E51CZZ (SSB) until August 6, 2026. QSL both calls via IK2DUW.

HB0, LIECHTENSTEIN. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Liechtenstein Radio Amateur Association (AFVL) local operators will be active as HB040A August 28-30, 2026. This will be a SSB & FT8/FT4 activity. QSL via LoTW.

OH0, ALAND ISLANDS. Team consisting of DL1TAM, DL5AXI, DL5ARI, DO6KD, DL1STL and DG0OCG will be active from Aland Islands during August 5-12, 2026, using the same callsign as last year: OH0ERF. They will operate holidaystyle from 160m to 10m (including WARC) in CW, SSB, and FT8. 6m will be added if conditions allow. Rig: IC7610, 2x IC7300. Amp: ACOM 700S. Antennas: 3band delta loop, 3element 3band Mosley beam, 40m vertical, 160m vertical, and various wire antennas.

OJ0, MARKET REEF. From August 15-22, 2026, Henri **OJ0JR** and Anne **OJ0YL** plan to activate Märket Reef, bringing this rare OJ0 entity back on the air for DXers around the world. Bands: 80 to 10 meters. Modes: CW, SSB, and FT8. Equipment: Yaesu FTdx10, Elecraft K3S, SPE Expert 1.3K-FA, MyAntennas EFHW-8010, Windom for 80-10 m, DX Commander 40-10 m, and dipoles.

P40, ARUBA. Mat, DL4MM will again be QRV from Aruba as P40AA during August 6-10, 2026. Main focus is WAE CW Contest (SO/HP). Also active on 160-6m CW, SSB and Digi outside of contest. QSL via DL4MM, Club Log OQRS.

RI1, FRANZ JOSEF LAND. According to the forecast ice conditions, and logistical / bureaucratic issues, our skipper insisted on a change of dates for RI1FJL DXpedition. New departure date is 7th of August. We expect to arrive on the island on August 15th. We have finally received written permission from the Polar Observatory management. They allowed us to stay on their base and use all the facilities, including electricity.

T2, TUVALU. Aki, JK1JXZ will again be active from Funafuti, Tuvalu as **T2JK** July 30 to August 7, 2026. QRV on 80-6m; on weekdays he will be active after 5pm Tuvalu time and all day during the weekend of his stay. If the stay is extended, it may be possible to continue operations until August 14. QSL via LoTW.

TJ, MONDOLEH IS. Darek, **TJ1GD/P** has extended his AF-095 activity until August 13th. He also mentions his QSL manager, Czesiek SP3EOL, is currently awaiting shipment of cards from LZ1JZ.

TK, CORSICA. Alex, OE5AUH and his nephew David, OE5DDJ will be active from Corsica during August 9-22, 2026. Operating along the way, they plan to hike the [GR20 trail](#) in the Corsican mountains.

TY, BENIN. Red, DL1BUG will again be active from Cotonou, Benin as **TY5FR** until August 4, 2026. Look for him on 160-10m; CW & SSB. QSL via DL1BUG (direct).

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS. Reminder - Randall, KX4QD is QRV as V73HW for the next two years. Activity is in his spare time on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

V51, NAMIBIA. Gunter, DK2WH says he will again be active from Namibia as V51WH starting August 25 and lasting through until October 10, 2026. He operates from a farm near Omaruru and in April last year installed an Optibeam 9-5 on a 15m mast. QRV on 160-6m, including 60m. Gunter will use V55Y in the CQWW RTTY contest. QSL via DK2WH.

VK9W, Willis Island. Sandeep "Sands" has announced he will be back on Willis Island for a winter tour at the end of 2026. Updates regarding this operation will be added as information becomes available.

VK0, ANTARCTICA. Ramon, LU1DMZ, is QRV as LU1DMZ/Z from the Orcadas base on Laurie Island, IOTA AN-008, until the end of 2026.

VP0/H, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Rafal Mazur, SQ4O, is active as HF0PAS from the Polish Antarctic Station Arctowski on King George Island until October. He has installed directional Yagi antennas for 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters, with future goals of stringing up a wire dipole for 80 and 40 meters.

XU, CAMBODIA. The XU7AMO team at the National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia has launched regular weekly operations on the HF bands and the QO-100 satellite. Look for activity every Wednesday at 0500 UTC on 15 meters SSB, and every Friday at 1200 UTC on QO-100 SSB.

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Special event stations using the ZL100 prefix are QRV through August 31 celebrating the NZART centenary.

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

C5, THE GAMBIA. From October 1 to November 4, Lui, YT3PL will be in The Gambia and active as **C5R**. He will be joined by Luc, F5RAV (**C5C**) from October 23 to November 1, where both will QRV for the CQWW SSB contest, using a 1kw amp sponsored by Ranko, 4O3A (also **C5A**). Luc will also operate SATs and will try to be active from Bijolo AF-060 again as **C5B**.

H49, SOLOMON ISLANDS. Rolando 9A3MR (Team leader), Zrinko (Zik) DK8ZZ (co-leader), Mladen 9A2NA, Frane 9A3CJY, Kristijan 9A4WY and Livio 9A7Y will be active from Solomon Island (OC-047) using special callsign **H49A** in October '26.

S9R, SÃO TOMÉ. The **S9R** DXpedition will take place from October 17 to 31, 2026, from São Tomé and Príncipe, specifically from Tamarindos (grid locator JJ31rp). The operation will be active on multiple HF bands and modes, aiming to provide worldwide coverage and fair access to all regions. Team: D2ACE D2IM – EC7R – CT1BOL – CT1BZG – CT3MD.

T88, PALAU. Nobu JA0JHQ will again be active from Palau as **T88PB** during September 4-7, 2026. Participation in the All Asian DX SSB contest. QSL via H/c, LoTW. QTH: Palau Radio Club, Koror.

VK9, CHRISTMAS IS. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group (PIDXG), in partnership with Youth on the Air (YOTA), is proud to announce a DXpedition to Christmas Island in November and December 2026 that will be planned, led, and operated by the next generation of DXers. The team will arrive on Christmas Island on November 16 and be on the air through December 4, 2026 — approximately 18 days of operation. The station plan calls for four local stations, two remote NexGenRiB2 stations operating over Starlink, and a portable QO-100 satellite station. Activity will be on 160–6 meters, plus satellite including QO-100. The team will participate in the CQWW CW Contest.

VP2V, BRITISH VIRGIN IS. A British Virgin Islands DXpedition is planned during October 19–27! Operators will be Brayden KC1KUG, Michael W3MLJ, and Violetta KN2P. They will be active during the CQWW DX SSB Contest under the callsign VP2VXX, and outside of the contest as VP2V/ followed by their home calls. They also are planning to be active on 6–160m. Looking forward to putting VP2V in a lot of logs!

VP9, BERMUDA. From September 23-29, 2026, Lee N7NU, Ron WJ7R and Al K7AR will be active from Bermuda as N7NU/VP9. QRV on HF bands; CW, SSB & Digi. Participation in the CQWW DX RTTY contest as VP9I. QTH: VP9GE. QSL N7NU/VP9 via N7NU.

Z68, KOSOVO. Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be active from Grashticë, Kosovo as **Z68PX** during September 4-11, 2026. QRV on 60-6m; SSB & FT8/4 using a vertical antenna + dipoles. QSL via H/c, buro or direct Club Log OQRS. LoTW.

Disclaimer: As you know, these DX events can change due to various reasons that sometimes are out of the control of those who are doing the planning. Be patient. I'm hoping that you use this info to hunt down your ATNO or simply to work some DX before your rigs become boat anchors or you become a boat anchor yourself!

LET'S KEEP WOBBLING THE ETHERS!!

Keep the airways going by working some great DX. Get on the air!! 73 for now....

Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner



Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

Hi everyone,

Gene, W8NET
Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

The next Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG meeting will be held on Tuesday 8/4/26 @7:00pm in PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna. This will be an open forum, Q&A for both Linux and Raspberry Pi. We will be on Zoom as well - please join us on Zoom if you can't attend in person..

I have some interesting project updates for the meeting: NOMAD, Nextcloud and Webmin.

Cya in Ravenna!

73 de W8NET Gene



Charlie the Tuner's August 2026 Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to My Fellow PCARS Contesters and anyone else interested in Contesting:

K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2026

Minnesota and British Columbia QSOPs	Feb 7-8	Completed
Freeze Your Acorns Off	Feb 21	Completed
Idaho and Wisconsin QSOPs	Mar 14-15	Completed
Florida QSOP	Apr 25-26	Completed
7th Call Area QSOP	May 2-3	CANCELLED
Indiana QSOP	May 2-3	CANCELLED
Delaware QSOP	May 2-3	CANCELLED
New England QSOP	May 2-3	CANCELLED
ARRL International Digital Contest	June 6-7	Completed
Field Day	June 27-28	Completed
NA QSOP RTTY	July 18-19	Completed
Roast Your Acorns Off	July 25	Completed
Ohio QSOP & BBQ	Aug 22-23	
OSPOTA	Sep 12	
Washington Salmon Run	Sep 19-20	
California QSOP	Oct 3-4	
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB	Oct 24-25	Added

Other August Contests that may be of interest to PCARS Members:

NA QSO Party - CW	Aug 1-2
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 8-9
NA QSO Party – SSB	Aug 15-16
Hawaii QSO Party	Aug 22-23
U.S. Islands QSO Party	Aug 29-30
WW Digi DX Contest	Aug 29-30
Kansas QSO Party	Aug 29-30

73 for now and hope to hear you on the bands in 2026. Charlie the Tuner.

Note: Other contests decided upon by the contest committee might be run from Members' QTHs using the club call with our License Trustee's prior permission. Of course, they will also have to adhere to their specific station license requirements.

PCARS

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

ESTABLISHED IN 2005



VE TESTING

FIRST SATURDAY OF **EVEN** NUMBERED MONTHS

AT THE PCARS CLUB SITE

★ **IN RAVENNA, OHIO** ★



VE TESTING PER
LAUREL VEC



LAUREL
— VEC —

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATOR

COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS February 2026 Schedule of Events

August 1st	VE Test Session
August 3rd	PCARS Board Meeting
August 10th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
August 22nd - 23rd	Ohio QSO Party
August 22nd	Ohio BBQSO Party

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

1st Tuesday Odd Months	Digital Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
1st Tuesday Even Months	Linux & Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
2nd Tuesday	Portable Ops Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
3rd Tuesday	Antenna Special Interest Group - Moderator: Ken, WA8LRW
4th Tuesday	DX & Contest Special Interest Group - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
5th Tuesday	Could Be Anything Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, KD8WCK

Hamfest Calendar

August 1 Columbus Ham Fest
Grove City, OH — Aladdin Shriners. Sponsored by Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit.



August 15 - Cincinnati Hamfest - ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention
Owensville, OH — Clermont County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Milford Amateur Radio Club.

August 16 - Warren Hamfest
Cortland, OH— Trumbull County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Warren Amateur Radio Association.

September 5 - Athens Trunkfest
Athens, OH

September 13 - Findlay Hamfest
Findlay, OH

September 27 - Cleveland Hamfest
Berea, OH

July Meeting Pictures



PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted!

Dig out that 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 over 80 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.

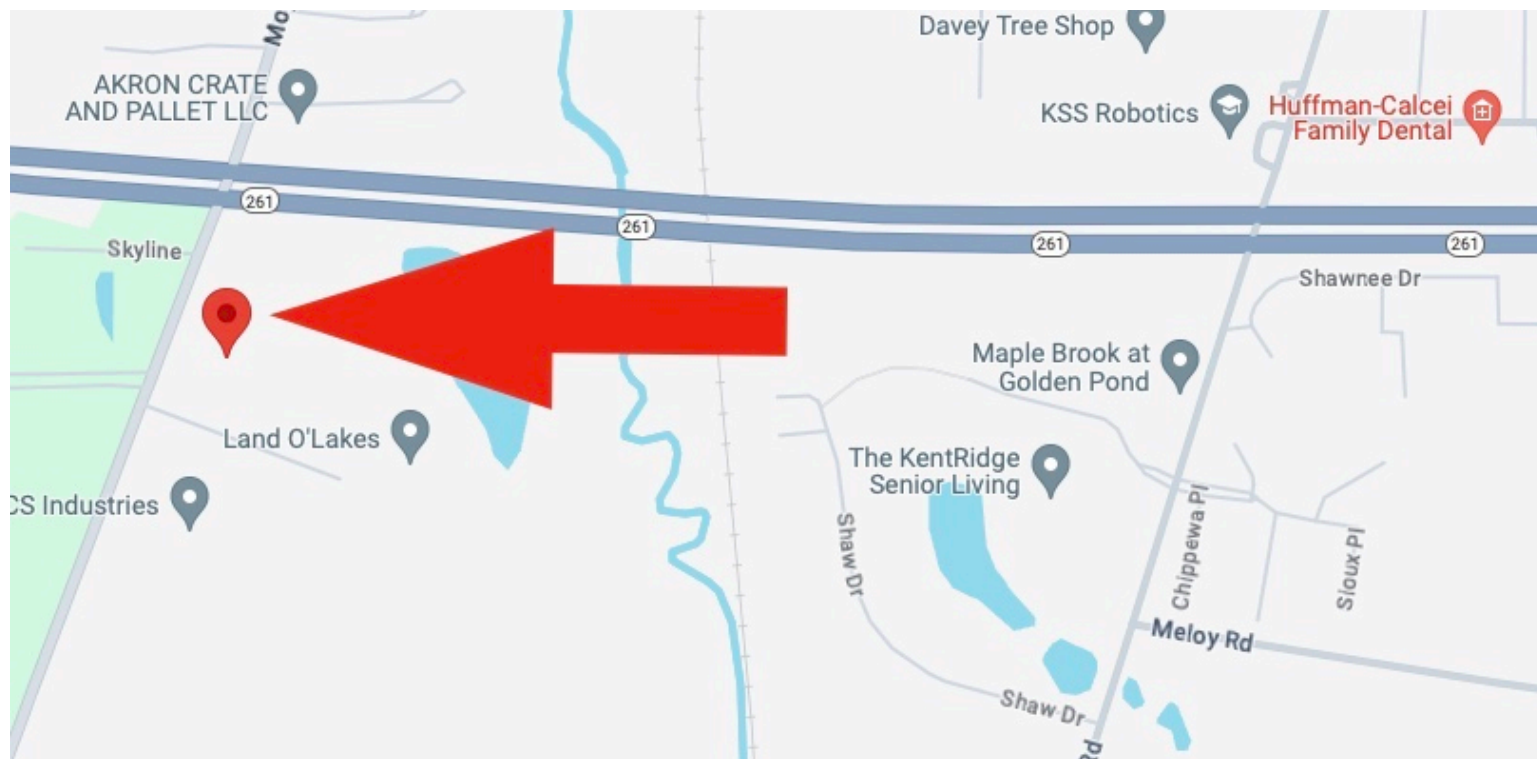
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at 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 Meetings



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) in-person 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 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 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.

**Future Dates:**

- August 1st
- October 3rd
- December 5th

Check the website for the latest information

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS VE Team Liaison



On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to seeing you at the PCARS club site in Ravenna so you can take your license test or an upgrade to your existing license. All tests will be given using Exam Tools. This new process will provide instant grading and tells examinees whether they passed or failed immediately after finishing the exam. Most will receive their calls and upgrade within three business days of passing the test. However, it does change what is needed for testing.

1. Examinees must go to <https://hamstudy.org/>. On the right side of the page, click "Find a Session". Select one of our PCARS sessions and follow the instructions to register for the test. Examinees must have a valid and working email address for this process. If you pass and the FCC requires a fee, you will receive an email with instructions for payment. This email will only be sent ONCE. It is important that you watch for it. Try to avoid company or educational email addresses. Emails are often filtered and you might miss your FCC notice. If you don't have an FRN number the registration system will, through the FCC, get you one.
2. You will show up at the club site at 9:45 am on the test date and start the process to take the test. You must have a valid photo ID and a copy of your current license if you are upgrading. See "All the Details" below for complete information.
3. The test is taken on one of the club computers. It is a easy and quick process. Remember there is no time limit for any of the tests. The system also allows you to change your answers if necessary while taking the test.
4. When finished, the system will grade the exam and let you know if you passed or failed. It will automatically transfer all the information necessary for your license directly to the VEC for processing.
5. There will be no fee charged for testing.
6. If you fail your exam the system will provide information on the questions you missed, so you can prepare for your next attempt.
7. When the FCC processes your exam you will receive an email with payment instructions for paying the \$35 FCC fee. This fee will not be charged for upgrades.

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for **9:45 am** Registration, **10:00 am** Testing starts, on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at the PCARS club site in Ravenna.

Any questions? Contact VEC@portcars.org

Okay - Now **All** the Details:

- If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or other communicable germs, or someone that has been infected - please, *do not* come to the club site. *Use of masks is optional.*
- No food or snacks allowed.
- Ensure you have the following:
 - A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
- If you are under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must be able to vouch for you and you need a copy of your birth certificate (you do not have to give us a copy, we just have to see and verify).
- If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You **MUST** bring your original valid amateur radio license.
- Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
- NO cell Phones allowed.

Email Addresses REQUIRED - All applications are required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents via regular mail.

FCC - \$35 Amateur Application Fee - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will **not apply to upgrade to an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees**. The new fees will apply only to applications for a **new** license, **renewal**, rule waiver, or a **new vanity call sign**.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions.

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate. The candidate will have **10 calendar days**, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days.

Youth Licensing Grant Program - The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for **new** amateur radio license candidates **17 years old or younger** for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. The \$35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates 17 years old or younger would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VE team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates 17 years old or younger, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required.

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program.

Printing Your FCC License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager.

I've created a set of instructions on how you can request an “**official**” **printed copy of your license***
[Click here to download the instructions](#)

J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor



PCARS has been buzzing this summer with activities new and old. I hope that you're taking the opportunity to get to as many events and SIGs as you can. This is a very active club and we're having a lot of fun as you can see in this month's issue!

As we get into what are usually the warmest of days, it's good to remember that time on the radio is time well spent. Get outside and work portable if you can. Try a POTA activation. Pick a new mode. It's easy to see in these pages that we've got members who do it all. Just reach out and ask!

Thank you to all of those who sent inputs for this month's issue:

**K8CAV, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, N8WCP, W8NET, W8PT,
WA8LRW, WB8LCD, WG8X and the World Wide Web.**

Send all of your inputs to me at KC8JC@portcars.org in the form of plain text and full-size photos. Share your latest tips, tricks, and insights into this hobby of hobbies with your fellow club members.



A little CW POTA from the camper is always fun!

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 PL 118.8 in Sugar Bush Knolls. - EchoLink Node: K8BF-L

Check PCARS out on the web: www.PORTCARS.org

2026 PCARS Officers

President - Greg Ash - KA8TOA
Vice President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
Treasurer - Paul Highland - KE8EGF
1 Year Trustee - Gene Marsh - W8NET
2 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
3 Year Trustee - Bob Hajdak - N8QE
Past President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT

2026 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards DXCC	-	-
Club Site Management	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Field Day Chairman	WA8AR	Tony Romito
FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
K8BF QSL Manager	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
Membership Chairman	-	-
Net Control Coordinator	N8SKN	Bob Rohde
Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PCARS Photographer	-	-
Public Information Officer	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Secretary	-	-
Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Tech, Gen, & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Volunteer Examiner Liaison	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Webmaster	WG8X	John Myers
POTA Coordinator	W8NET	Gene Marsh



**Active
PCARS
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members**

KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
AC8QG	Nick Wagner
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
KA8TOA	Greg Ash
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
N8FUM	Dan Torchia
KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
W8EC	Mark Haas
K8IG	Fred Freer
W8HFZ	Tim McLeod
K8PJW	Phil Weiss
N8XTH	Deron Boring
K8IV	Ed Polack
N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

THE RADIOGRAM

The RADIOGRAM copyright ©2026, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Fourth Place 2024 - Third Place 2015, 2022 - Second Place 2014, 2016, 2020 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023. ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter - Second Place 2013 - First Place in the 2017, 2020 and 2021.

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 KC8JC@portcars.org. The RADIOGRAM always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually). 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. Legend has it that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and they migrated and thrived throughout our county. Look into the black squirrel legends and see what you find! 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: KC8JC@portcars.org

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