



The **RADIOGRAM**

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 21 - NUMBER 06 - MAY 2026



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



In This Issue Of

The RADIOGRAM



Volume 21 - June 2026 - Number 06

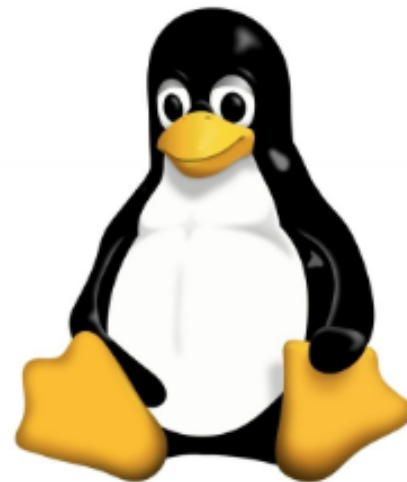
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Greg, KA8TOA
PCARS President



Hi Everyone

I hope everyone had a good Holiday weekend and as i am writing this the weather is improving, so get out and enjoy.

The projects at the club site are complete, shed is gone, light fixed and antenna removed, but Ken says it did not improve the interference on the club 40 meter station.

I would like to thank Russ and Mike for their assistance. I also want to thank Ben and Nick for stepping up and helping with setting up at club meetings and helping with the trunk fest signage. This month's General Meeting will not have a program but I will be providing Dinner at 5:30 pm at the legion. We will have a small business meeting and I am planning on having a strategy meeting or a round table event to discuss items for the club. Please come to the meeting. The date is June 8th Monday.

We have a lot of things going on this upcoming Month: Field Day and the Digital Contest. In July, we have Roast Your Acorns off, along with the trunk fest. All the captains for the Sigs are doing a great job. Everyone keep up the Good work for this great club.

73's Greg KA8TOA



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



From The PCARS Vice President

Tom, WB8LCD
PCARS Vice President



2026 is almost halfway over already. It's been a whirlwind for me! But I'm having Big Fun and PCARS is the place to do that. When you consider all of the activities and the hours of manpower and commitment it takes to put it all together, we have got to be one of the busiest clubs in the hobby! To all the club leaders / officers, SIG leaders, activities coordinators and anyone else involved in the management of all this – Thank You! And to all you folks who come out and participate in the activities of the club – Thank you too! Both groups are dependent on each other to keep things going. We're fortunate to have both.

Our June meeting will be a bit more introspective this month. President Greg wanted to lead a club wide discussion where every member could express their observations and opinions of all things PCARS. It will be *your* chance to ask questions, make comments and hear what others think about the PCARS experience. There will probably be some discussion on the upcoming Field Day operation. As always, this is intended to help us keep PCARS moving in the directions that are consistent with the desires and interests of the membership. I hope you'll come out on Monday June 8th and be a part of the discussion. (Oops, poor planning on my part. Not only is June 8th my anniversary, but I'll be also located somewhere on the outer banks of N Carolina for a family vacation. I will have some radio gear with me working QRP on 6, 15 and 40 meters). Coming up for the July meeting, we've got Brandon Mercer - KE8ARB, talking about all things "mesh networking" and I know you'll want to hear his presentation on the subject. Between the June and July meetings we've got Field Day. This is one of the Premier Amateur Radio events in North America, and PCARS is *always* a serious contender! BE THERE.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Radiogram is an article submitted by Michael Kalter – W8CI giving a final wrap up on this years Hamvention. My plans for Hamvention 2027 are already being put together. You really need to be there. What you'll experience is unlike any other hamfest that most of us will ever attend. It truly is the "Greatest Show in Amateur Radio" and It's right in our own backyard. This year I was accompanied by my daughter Jenny – KD8LIR and that made it a very special occasion. I'd say chances are better than 50/50 that she'll want to be there with me next year too! (Pebbles stayed home with her mom...) I've never noticed so many dogs there, but Jenny found them all. I had my PCARS hat on and while walking around I had more than one person comment that they belonged to PCARS too but didn't recognize me. Turns out they were members of the Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society (PCARS) from Florida. Although one of their members was just a bit late, he showed up to have his photo taken with us! One of the things I always enjoy about Hamvention is the opportunity to meet and talk with folks from all over the US and the world.

73,

Tom WB8LCD



Michael Kalter, W8CI
Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Hamvention 2026 drew a world of kindred spirits to the Greene County Fairgrounds — and reminded us that radio waves have always been humanity's most quietly miraculous language.

AT A GLANCE

Attendees: 37,924

Countries represented: 43+

Volunteers: 600+

It is finished — and already missed. The 74th annual Dayton Hamvention, held at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio, recently came to a close, leaving behind a fairground full of memories, friendships renewed and forged, and a quiet sense of awe at just how far a radio signal can travel.

From the moment the gates opened on Friday morning, it was clear this year's gathering was something special. Crowds poured in from across the United States and more than 43 countries around the world — engineers and experimenters, retired servicemen and curious teenagers, seasoned DX chasers and brand-new licensees. Every walk of life. Every mode of communication. All converging on a single fairground in Greene County, Ohio, united by one invisible thread: the radio wave.

“It doesn’t matter where you’re from — we can still have fun, talk on the radio, talk around the world, and just be friends.”

— Hazel Everetts, Assistant General Chairperson, Hamvention 2026

A gathering unlike any other

Hamvention is often called the world’s largest amateur radio convention, and the numbers bear that out. A record 37,924 attendees filled the exhibit halls, forums, and the sprawling flea market tucked inside the fairground’s horse track infield. Over 350 vendor booths offered everything from brand-new transceivers to decades-old components, with 162 vendors representing the full spectrum of the hobby.

But statistics tell only part of the story. Walk through any aisle of the flea market, sit in on any forum, and you quickly understand that Hamvention is less about equipment and more about people. Friendships maintained year after year over the same crowded tables. Mentors passing knowledge to newcomers who didn’t know, six months ago, what a feedline was. Young operators discovering that this hobby has no ceiling.

“Hamvention is the annual pinnacle event of our hobby. It is an honor to work with a great team to make this a successful event. Each year we work on improving the event. It takes a team of dedicated volunteers who share the passion and love of Amateur Radio. I encourage everyone that loves this hobby to get involved!”

— Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT · Hamvention 2026 Executive Committee

The next generation takes the stage

Among the most inspiring moments of the entire weekend was the Radio Club of America Youth Forum — a Saturday morning tradition that has run for more than three decades, and one that never fails to silence a room full of seasoned operators with nothing more than the enthusiasm of a ten-year-old at a microphone.

Founded and guided for many years by legendary amateur radio educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP — a Fellow and Director of the Radio Club of America, past Hamvention Ham of the Year, and ARRL Instructor of the Year — the RCA Youth Forum brought together carefully selected young ham radio operators, some barely out of elementary school, to deliver polished and passionate presentations on their work within the hobby. Topics ranged across the full breadth of amateur radio: satellite communications, high-altitude ballooning, antenna construction, digital modes, emergency preparedness, and the inspiring mission of bringing ham radio into schools and communities across the globe.

SPOTLIGHT — RCA YOUTH FORUM

Each year, seven to eleven young operators — some as young as nine or ten — take the Hamvention stage to share their experiments, achievements, and passion for the hobby. The forum is consistently one of the most well-attended and warmly received events of the entire weekend.

The audience was captivated. Here were young people who had built their own antennas, chased DX across continents, bounced signals off the moon, and worked satellites passing hundreds of miles overhead — presenting their accomplishments not as hobbies, but as serious scientific and technical endeavors. The room was packed, and the applause was genuine.

The forum reached a remarkable crescendo when an astronaut took the stage to address the young presenters directly — urging them to dream bigger, reach farther, and recognize that the skills they were developing in amateur radio were the same skills that take human beings beyond the atmosphere. It was a moment that drew the connection between radio waves and space exploration into vivid, personal focus: a person who had orbited the Earth, looking out at a room of young operators who might one day follow a similar path.

“The next generation of operators is already here — already curious, already building, already calling CQ.”

For many in the audience, it was the single most memorable moment of Hamvention 2026. For the young presenters themselves, it may well have been the moment that set the trajectory of a lifetime.

The invisible world we inhabit

There is a particular joy in belonging to a community that understands what most people walk past without a second thought: that the air around us is alive with signals. Radio waves propagate through walls, across oceans, off the ionosphere, and out beyond the atmosphere entirely. Amateur radio operators don't just use this invisible world — they know it, in a way that is almost devotional.

Every mode of amateur communication was on display at this year's event. CW operators tapped out Morse code. Digital enthusiasts demonstrated FT8 contacts spanning continents on a fraction of a watt. Satellite operators tracked overhead passes. EME enthusiasts — moonbouncers — described reflecting signals off the lunar surface and catching the echo nearly three seconds later. The hobby, in its full breadth, is staggering.

From Xenia to interstellar space

No reflection on amateur radio and the wonder of electromagnetic communication would be complete without a thought toward the Voyager spacecraft. Launched in 1977 — the same era that shaped a generation of today's operators — Voyager 1 is now more than 15.8 billion miles from Earth, deep in interstellar space, beyond the heliosphere, beyond the solar system itself. And yet we are still talking to it.

A radio signal sent from Earth today takes nearly 23.5 hours to reach Voyager 1. By November 15th of this year, the probe will cross a historic threshold: it will be a full light-day away — the first human-made object ever to reach that distance. A signal sent in the morning will arrive the following morning. A reply will not return until the day after that.

This is radio at its most humbling. The same fundamental principle — an oscillating electromagnetic field propagating through space — that lets a ham in Xenia, Ohio contact a counterpart in Tokyo is the very thing keeping humanity tethered to its most distant ambassador. The physics does not change. Only the distance grows.

Distance to Voyager 1: 15.8 billion miles

Signal travel time: 23.5 hours one-way

In continuous operation: 49 years

600 volunteers, one community

None of this happens without the people who make it happen. More than 600 volunteers gave their time, their expertise, and their energy to produce Hamvention 2026 — directing traffic, staffing forums, manning information booths, setting up equipment, and doing the thousand invisible tasks that keep an event of this scale moving smoothly. They did it harmoniously, enthusiastically, and without any apparent desire for credit. That, too, is very much in the spirit of amateur radio.

The event also made a meaningful impact on the surrounding community. Hamvention generates an estimated \$35 million in regional economic activity each year, filling hotels and restaurants and creating a visible surge of energy throughout Greene County. For the Miami Valley, this is not just a radio convention. It is an annual affirmation that Xenia, Ohio is, for one weekend in May, the center of a global conversation.

Until next year

The fairgrounds are quiet now. The vendors have packed their tables, the forums have ended, and operators from dozens of countries are making their way home — by plane, by car, by train — many of them already looking forward to May 2027, when Hamvention will return for its 75th year.

In the meantime, the radios will keep humming. Signals will keep traveling. Somewhere in the darkness between the stars, Voyager 1 will keep moving outward at 38,000 miles per hour, faithfully answering every call we send its way.

And somewhere in that audience at the RCA Youth Forum, a ten-year-old who just heard an astronaut tell them to reach for the stars is already thinking about what comes next.

We are a remarkable species. We built something that crossed into interstellar space, and we still talk to it every day. We gather by the tens of thousands to celebrate the art of sending a signal into the unknown. We do it peacefully. We do it joyfully. We do it together.

73, and we'll see you in Xenia next May.

Happy Birthday PCARS Members



AD8FQ	Ben
KB8VJO	Gary
KD8JN	Randall
KE8TQR	Keith
KD8WCK	Rick
K8HGX	Jack

KE8LWO	Bernadette
WD8DAU	Dan
KC8YSU	Steven
AC8XO	Vince
KD8EPF	Rena

W8CDL	Coletta
KD8LIR	Jennifer
N8NH	Mark
K8PJW	Philip
WB8OVQ	Bob

From Around The World...



Icom Unveils ID-5200 at Hamvention and Teases the X-026

The big product reveal at Dayton this year was the ID-5200, Icom's long-awaited successor to the ID-5100. The new rig features a 4.3-inch color touchscreen, a waterfall display (a first for an Icom mobile), simultaneous dual-band reception, built-in Wi-Fi, and full D-STAR support including terminal and access point modes.

ARISS Announces Lunar Amateur Radio Project

In one of Hamvention's most talked-about forum sessions, ARISS announced the formation of Amateur Radio Exploration (AREx). It's a partnership with AMSAT and NASA to study the feasibility of putting amateur radio on the Moon.

The BBC's Long Wave Era Ends June 27 with a Special Event Stations on the Air

After more than 90 years of continuous operation, BBC Radio 4's long wave service on 198 kHz goes dark at 0000 UTC on June 27, 2026. The transmitters at Droitwich (commissioned 1934), Westerglen, and Burghead are all shutting down — casualties of aging infrastructure and dwindling listener numbers in the FM/DAB era. The RSGB and the BBC Amateur Radio Group are marking the occasion with four special event calls — GB1500M, GB198LW, GB198END, and GB198KHZ — active June 21–27.

FT2: The Ultra-Fast Digital Mode Finding Its Footing

FT2, developed by IU8LMC, compresses the FT8 QSO cycle down to just 3.8 seconds — completing a full contact in 7 to 11 seconds. The mode received unanimous ADIF certification in March 2026 and has accumulated over 500,000 logged QSOs with 2,000+ active operators.

I hope ever one is ready and looking forward to Field Day 2026 (June 27th and June 28th)! Last Year was a good time and was also successful. As most of you know, K8BF scored in the Top 5 in the nation, in class 4A, 1 ST in Ohio and 1 ST in our Section. That result was achieved thanks to a large number of our fellow members volunteering to pitch in and help with all aspects of our Field Day planning, preparation and operations. However, this year we are shooting to better our score and take PCARS closer to first place in the nation in our operating class! I believe that we have learned a lot from the past, so we WILL be fine tuning our Field Day practices. To that end we still need operators and volunteers to assist with setup before FD and teardown afterwards:



Operators Needed

The GOTA Station: Current rules present an opportunity for all Technician or Novice licensees; newly licensed amateurs (since June 2025); other generally inactive licensees (inactive for 3 years or more), and ALSO, non-licensed persons may also participate (Get ON The Air) under the direct supervision of a licensed control operator (basically any interested person can show up, with no experience and make contacts as if they were licensed). Anyone interested should contact **Mike KP4VZ (kp4vz@yahoo.com)**.

Volunteers Needed for Setup/Tear Down

As we have done in recent years I will need at least **10 volunteers** to assist the Field Day team with Setup and Tear down of antennas and station equipment. If you have done this before, great, but you do not need any experience to volunteer. The Captain for each station will direct all work for their station. If you are a new Ham this is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience putting up a variety of antennas. Setup has normally been completed in about 2 to 3 hours (more or less). Teardown after Field Day has been done in less than 2 hours. If you cannot volunteer for both, no problem, just let me know which task(s) you are volunteering for by emailing me at: **(Tony WA8AR tromito99@gmail.com)** . The Club will supply coffee and water plus Sandwich/pizza for lunch(s).

Here are the Field Day setup/teardown schedules:

Prior to Field Day, a detailed Safety Plan will be distributed to all volunteers. Each Volunteer must read and be familiar with the safety plan. Each Volunteer must sign, date and return a copy of the plan to the Safety Officer on FD. Distribution of the safety plan will be accomplished at least three weeks prior to FD.

SETUP Saturday June 27 - PLEASE BE PROMPT

- 8:30am Arrive on site (meet at the picnic shelter of the Freedom Township Park)
- 8:40am Assignment of work tasks
- 8:45am Begin Work
- 12:30pm Antennas up and ready for testing; power cables strung and energized [Pizza Lunch]
- 2.00pm Field Day Stations On-The-Air

TEARDOWN Sunday June 28

- 2:00pm Stations Off-The-Air Work begins immediately [Lunch served before 2:00]
- 3:30pm All antennas down and stowed for transport. **Field Day over and done.**

The only equipment the volunteers need to bring are gloves and safety glasses (REQUIRED). Steel toe shoes are always a good idea. Rain gear is essential (just in case). If shoes/boots are not waterproof an extra pair of dry shoes and socks are a good idea. The club will supply a dozen basic hardhats, but I encourage you to bring your own hardhat if you own one. **Hardhats must be worn whenever you are working in an area where there is any equipment (antenna components) or any hardware above your head.** Remember that even a medium size bolt falling from 25 or 30 feet can cause serious injuries (or worse).

To volunteer for the PCARS Field Day Setup/Teardown crew just send an email to me at tromito99@gmail.com , Specify if you are volunteering for Setup, Teardown or Both as soon as you can. I will confirm by email.

Come out and help make 2026 another successful PCARS Field Day! Email me with any questions.

For directions to the Field Day Site please see the map shown on our website www.portcars.org under Activities/Field Day.

Tony WA8AR, PCARS Field Day Chairman



PCARS Member Spotlight: The Wagner Family



Whether we're shouting "We could use that for OSPOTA!" in the middle of a shopping trip, packing radios for every family vacation, or taking homeschool field trips to W1AW, we are definitely a ham radio family. We've been known to integrate contests and camping, and we get excited every time we see the "giant" antennas as we drive by the K3LR superstation on our way through Pennsylvania.

The kids operate with distinct preferences. Agnes (AD8IR) and Benedict (AD8FQ) hold Amateur Extra class licenses and share an interest in contesting, but they partition the bands differently. While Agnes is often huddled over a laptop, hunting for digital contacts on a "shiny" new radio, Ben is happy making Qs with a mic or maybe even a CW key.

Those two siblings were Youth Forum presenters at Hamvention and the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. They've been featured guests on podcasts, given front page interviews to local newspapers, been featured in amateur radio magazines, and earned the Morse Code Interpreter Strip in Scouts, but none of that made them happier than winning Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO)!



Yes, we've always said ham radio should be fun, but somewhere along the way they learned that winning is a great way to have fun —thanks, Ed! That said, when they don't "win" a contest, that just lights a fire to try new approaches, make adjustments, and go for it again in the next one, and that makes every event fun.

Bernadette (KE8LWO) took a different route. The legendary Carol Perry (WB2MGP) encouraged her to get her tech license, but even with a call sign, mic fright kept her off the air for a while. Eventually, she overcame her anxiety by stepping into instruction. She helped out alongside other PCARS members at Maker Faires and also started coordinating local Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) events. She has now walked dozens of Scouts through their very first QSOs.

Last year, while traveling in Japan, Bernadette even used EchoLink to hit the K8IV repeater and call back home to Ohio. She benefitted greatly from the patience of several PCARS mentors, and we were thrilled as a family when she was awarded the 2023 Radio Club of America (RCA) Young Ham Lends a Hand award.

That contagious momentum recently caught up with my parents, proving that ham radio truly spans the generations. My father held a license decades ago but let it expire, and my mother had zero background in electronics.

That changed last year when she chaperoned Ben and Agnes to Curaçao for the Youth DX Adventure (YDXA). Surrounded by a team of young operators, she immersed herself in an ad-hoc test prep crash course. The pressure was intense, but she managed to pull off a passing score on her Technician exam shortly before flying home. This May at Hamvention, her upgrade to General was the payoff for that dramatic journey.



At that exact same testing session, my father sat for his exam and reclaimed his Technician ticket. He's already planning a license upgrade and discussing HF antenna setups for their home in Connecticut. The kids can't wait to talk on the air with their grandparents!

Speaking of Hamvention, that event has become an annual pilgrimage for us. Bernadette, Benedict, and Agnes use the weekend in Xenia to track down other young operators and catch up with adults who have mentored them for several years. They've always been welcomed and encouraged by the unbridled enthusiasm of hams like Tim Duffy (K3LR), Jim Storms (AB8YK), Ray Novak (N9JA), and many, many, many others. And, of course, they're always excited to connect with any and all PCARS members out in Xenia, even if they just saw you a week before!

Our connection to PCARS began the moment I passed my test and was welcomed right away. I still remember the enthusiastic thumbs up from Parky (KB8UUZ) when he let me know I passed during the VE session. While I was waiting for the CSCE paperwork, Tom (WB8LCD) suggested a trip down to DX Engineering and joining PCARS for a meeting. At that first meeting, Jim (KC8PD SK) welcomed me, and presenter Tim (K3LR) even handed me the 50-50 prize he had just won. Of course, it was a DX Engineering travel mug (which I still use)!

That was just the beginning of the mentorship. Terry (KB8AMZ SK) taught me CW, and later helped Ben with his first CW transmissions. Tom (WB8LCD) helped Bernadette make her first QSO at the Field Day GOTA station (a YL in South America). Even more mentors stepped up, with Bob (N8QE) and Ed (K8IV) patiently sitting with Bernadette as she made her first RTTY contact.

There are countless more stories like these of the help and support we received from PCARS. Finding this unparalleled community of expertise, tools, and patience at PCARS is exactly why, a few years later, I was honored to give back and serve first as vice-president and later as president of the club.

We learned the technical details from this group, but more importantly, we found a community that actively encourages and supports us both as amateur radio operators and as a family.



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



John, WG8X



Hi everyone, Welcome to this month's edition of "On The Road". My last month's travels will definitely qualify for this column.

It's been a busy month on the home front, now that there's the lawn to mow, and all the other tasks associated with keeping things running. But still, we manage to get out to activate. Most of my activations locally have been at Quail Hollow, as I continue the quest to rack up an insane number contacts at what I consider to be my home park.

During the trip to Hamvention, I also managed meet up with some friends, new & old. Did you know that during the week proceeding Hamvention, it is possible to work the required 10 contacts for an activation using only your HT? No fooling! Several of these activations take place each year; sometimes with folks no more than ten feet away from each other. I'll call these "Campfire activations" and can be great fun.

Contest University this year, had a segment for POTA activators. I've not attended for several years, so maybe this isn't a new trend.

But it was new to me

AJ, NK4O did a good session entitled "The Art of Enjoying Both POTA and Contesting Together". He's a Florida guy, and his presentation was mostly centered around activations during the Florida QSO Party by himself and his friends.

AJ uses what he calls the S.E.T. approach. This stands for:

- S**ocial – Add more operators
- E**ngineering – Add more gear
- T**actical – Be more strategic.

I learned a lot from his talk; more than I can share here, but I consider the money spent on Contest University to have been a good investment.

Sadly, I've been unable to find a video of his session. It's one that warrants a second look.

I will be back next year for sure. Granted, I consider myself a casual contender at best. But, at CTU, I feel it's possible to pick up so much great information that can be applied to all facets of our hobby.

My major purchase this year at Hamvention was a new smart charger from Bioenno. But, I have a lot of fun walking around looking at the new gear available and chatting with friends.

Oh yes, I did stop at the new Buc-ees in Huber Heights. Wow! If you are travelling and need to make a quick stop for something, this is **not** the place. Plan a couple hours for sure.

Moving on, my next couple columns may be aptly named “*Off The Road*”. It’ll likely be all about making the transition from a serial activator to active hunter. Follow along as I muddle through rehab and hunting new parks from the workshop.

Please don’t believe any rumors you hear that I’ll be working on an article entitled “*Loading Up a Walker For The Field*”. These are not true; but then again?

So that’ll do it for this month. 73 DE WG8X

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.



Lord Howe Island 2026

1st - 14th June 2026



8th May 2026



A team of 7 operators will activate Lord Howe Island from 1 – 14 June 2026. This will be a DX-Marathon activation, and we will be aiming to work as many DXCC entities and Zones as possible in the 2026 DX Marathon contest. Of course, this will

be a great opportunity for DX-Marathon contestants to get LHI in the log for 2026 as well. We will be using the contest callsign **VJ2L**. This is also a great opportunity for operators to add Lord Howe Island to their DXCC count or fill those much-needed band-slots. As well, those chasing POTA, SOTA and IOTA slots can use this opportunity to get much needed QSOs in the log.



We will also be promoting DX Marathon by encouraging greater participation from those in the Oceania region. We will be sponsoring a plaque for the Top CW Result for VK in 2026, as well as running a separate mini-awards program.

Visit <https://dxmarathon.com/> to learn more.

The team is pleased to announce that FlexRadio are supporting this activation with the provision of two Aurora 520M radios. For a remote DXpedition like Lord Howe Island, minimizing complexity, transport weight, and potential points of failure is critical, and the Aurora platform directly addresses these challenges.

Each 520M integrates a 500-Watt transceiver, power supply, full SDR transceiver, automatic antenna tuner, and 7-pole filtering into a single 8.5 kg unit. This level of integration significantly reduces the amount of equipment we need to ship, assemble, and maintain on-site.

Already in the planning phase, the impact has been clear. Instead of coordinating separate radios, amplifiers, power supplies, tuners, filters, and extensive cabling, our



Lord Howe Island 2026

1st - 14th June 2026

station setup is streamlined to essentially the radio, a laptop, and operator accessories. This allows us to focus more on operating time and less on station complexity.

This activation will also serve as a real-world deployment of the Aurora platform in a demanding DXpedition environment, and we look forward to sharing our experience with the wider amateur radio community.

Learn more about the Aurora series here: <https://www.flexradio.com/aurora/>

Our focus will be on 40 metres through 10 metres on CW, FT8 and SSB (no 6 metres and no 160 metres). The decision for 80 metre operation will be made when we get on-site. With seven operators we expect to be very active and will structure our schedule around propagation openings and demand.

We'll also be using a DX-Commander Expedition vertical antenna once again; easy to transport and fast to deploy. And a top performer for DXing.

<https://dxcommander.com/product/dx-commander-expedition-kit/>



In what we believe is a first, the VJ2L team will be providing award plaques for the following:

1. First past the post – working us on all bands CW – sponsored by CWops Oceania (not open to VK or ZL)
2. First past the post – all bands - FT8
3. First past the post – all bands - SSB
4. 1,000 miles/Watt Award – first past the post CW
5. Certificates for all who achieve 1,000 miles/Watt award

More details about these awards will be provided on our QRZ page closer to the activation.

So, mark VJ2L in your diaries. We're excited to operate these new FlexRadio Aurora 520M radios and even more excited to work as many ops as we can on SSB, FT8 and CW.

Subject to ongoing tests and internet reliability, we intend to run Clublog Live Stream.



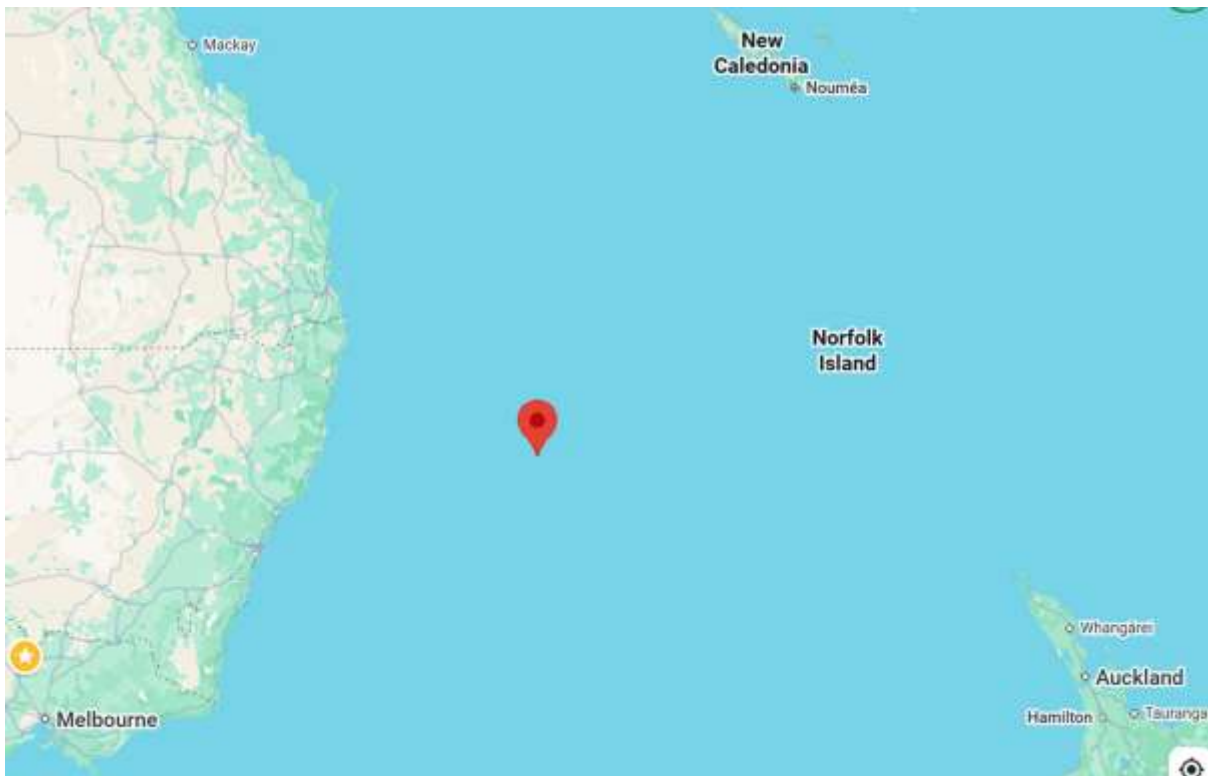
Lord Howe Island 2026

1st - 14th June 2026

If you have any questions, please contact Chris VK3QB. Refer qrz.com for contact details. Charles, M0OXO will be looking after QSL services. www.m0oxo.com



Lord Howe Island is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed volcanic remnant in the Tasman Sea, located about 600km east of Port Macquarie, Australia. Renowned for its pristine beaches, Kentia palms, and rare birdlife, it offers top-tier diving at the world's southernmost coral reef and hiking up Mt Gower. Only 400 visitors are allowed at once, ensuring an exclusive, nature-focused experience.



Note: The Australian regulator changed the callsign allocation for Lord Howe Island from VK9 to VK2 with the introduction of the Class Licence in 2023 (effective date 19 February 2024). Of course, Lord Howe Island remains its own DXCC entity and is



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recognised by most logging programs and awards programs as VK9L. So, when you log VJ2L, check it's recorded as DXCC VK9L.

Queries to VK3QB.



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



Gene, W8NET



This is a gift of freedom. [As my friend Kyle, W7KFR, reminds me “Beware of geeks bearing gifts.” Sound advice – YMMV.]

Microsoft Windows-based PC’s have the market. It’s comfortable and you know it well.

And Windows is bloated, inefficient, archaic, slow and unreliable. The Microsoft Windows Update is abomination – especially for ham radio ops (i.e. sound card and drivers).

Windows 11 now is the vanguard of what it coming, the canary in the coal mine: Less control, less connectivity, more licensing per month, more reliance on One Drive, etc. AND, Windows 12 will strangle you much more.

Now, we have better options: Linux. Yes, I know – the prevailing (and incorrect) thought is “Linux is not yet ready for prime-time”. **NOW, THIS IS COMPLETELY FALSE!** (this has been the case for a few years really).

As an IT/networking guy since 1979, I have seen the evolution. It’s stunning. *OK, DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE...*

Brief, and I Mean BRIEF, History of PC Operating Systems

[Fellow geeks – this is a summery of a precis of a capsule of a synopsis, I know]

I will not bore you with history of the other 1980’s PC operating systems (like DR-DOS, PC-DOS, CP/M, Concurrent CP/M, NeXT OS, Amiga OS, . Just be aware that we had 2 viable options after the pre-GUI (Graphical User Interface) explosion: Microsoft Windows and Apple Lisa/Macintosh

Microsoft did an incredible job about marketing to the masses. It was based on the CPM/DOS model, and it was very stable, if not a good performer. But, it had useful real world software. Also, Windows worked on cheaper hardware – and the manufactures were blooming.

Apple Macintosh (previously “Lisa”) was a cool, faster computer setup. They used Motorola chipset. REALLY FAST for that time. However, minimal real world applications. Their All Mac’s had a special integrated chip, the “IWM”. Their operating system was keyed to that chip. Only Apple hardware would work. So, what was the IWM? – The Integrated Woz Machine. At first, it was an Apple II computer FLOPPY DISK DRIVE CONTROLLER!

Both Microsoft and Apple had completely propriety KERNELS. What is a kernel? A kernel is the core program at the center of a computer's operating system. For many years, Microsoft and Apple were building their own. Microsoft still does, and that is a problem. Microsoft tried to build a better kernel (with stolen Digital Research and Wang Labs technology), but they still had a huge market for their old software. So, they built in hooks to make the new operating system (Windows NT – New Technology) work with old software. And they built new software on the same new, hodge-podge kernel. AND Windows Desktop (XP, 8, Vista, 10, 11) and their server software (2000, 2003, 2010, etc) were/are based on the same kernel. Microsoft OS products still have pieces old code from 1996. Their kernel is bloated and very inefficient.

Apple had the same issues. They were being dragged down with a handicapped kernel – and the IWM – and the worst: a culture of “control”.

Along Comes BSD and Linux

The Unix-based operating system landscape shifted dramatically between 1977 and 1992. This period saw the Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD) transition from a research add-on to an independent operating system, just as Linux emerged as a new open-source alternative.

1977–1984: The Birth of BSD

- **1977:** UC Berkeley releases the first Berkeley Software Distribution (1BSD) as an add-on for AT&T’s Unix.
- **1978:** 2BSD introduces the text editors *ex* and *vi*, which become Unix standards.
- **1980:** 3BSD supports virtual memory, prompting DARPA to fund Berkeley for network development.
- **1983:** 4.2BSD implements the TCP/IP stack, establishing the foundational architecture of the modern internet.

1985–1991: The Quest for Unencumbered Code

- **Corporate Conflict:** AT&T increases licensing fees for proprietary Unix, restricting academic sharing.
- **1989:** Berkeley releases Networking Release 1 (Net/1), isolating their network code from AT&T ownership.
- **1991:** Berkeley scrubs almost all AT&T code to release Net/2, a nearly complete operating system.
- **William Jolitz:** He writes the missing 6 files for Net/2 to create 386BSD, porting it to Intel PC processors. THIS WAS MASSIVE.

1991–1992: The Emergence of Linux

- **Linus Torvalds:** Frustrated by the licensing restrictions of Minix (another flavor of UNIX), he begins a hobby project on an Intel 386 PC.
- **September 1991:** Torvalds releases Linux version 0.01 to an FTP server, containing roughly 10,000 lines of code.
- **Early 1992:** Torvalds adopts the GNU General Public License (GPL) for version 0.12, ensuring the software remains free.
- **System Integration:** Linux combines its kernel with existing GNU project utilities to form a complete, usable operating system.

1992: The Convergence and the Lawsuit

- **The Lawsuit:** AT&T’s Unix System Laboratories (USL) sues Berkeley and BSDi over alleged trade secrets in Net/2.
- **Chilling Effect:** The legal battle stalls BSD development and scares commercial adopters away from 386BSD.
- **Linux Ascendancy:** Free from legal disputes, Linux gains massive development momentum during its first full year.

After 1992, MANY observers, companies, universities, governments and tech weenies (your author) were watching CLOSELY the rapid developments from the BSD/Linux camp... including Microsoft and Apple. And IBM. And Oracle. And a newcomer who was drowning in debt: Google. And many more.

Microsoft looked at it for their new server platform. They decided to bolster Windows NT instead. We still have (in part) NT in 10 and 11.

Apple was intrigued. They believed (and rightly so), that their VALUE was the “Presentation Layer”, not the “kernel”. After a few years of finding the best “kernel”, they chose a FreeBSD-based kernel. Macintosh with Mac OS X was the fastest mass retail PC’s in the world. And, they were stable. THEN, they tried a hand in a “microBSD” or “microLINUX”. This is the iPhone operating system, iOS.

THIS DECISION MADE APPLE A \$450B/YR COMPANY

Another company saw what was happening. Google decided to focus on Linux because it is open-source, highly scalable, and allows their engineers full access to the source code to rewrite core components. Historically, their server software infrastructure began with roots in Red Hat Linux and later incorporated elements of Debian Linux. Now, they have 2 flavors: their custom Linux server OD (NO name); and gLinux (ALL of the corporate PC’s use gLinux).

Then, in conjunction with Motorola and Compaq, Google developed Android OS, based on Linux. (BTW: who now uses a Microsoft phone?) Oh, ChromeOS is Linux, too.

THIS DECISION MADE ALPHABET (GOOGLE) A \$422B/YR COMPANY

AND, IBM got it. They licensed ATT UNIX core, got the GNU-licensed tools from Linux, and developed Enhanced AIX. IBM Deep Blue (from chess fame) runs on AIX.

So, you don’t know Linux (or a derivative) ?

- Almost all of the AI computers run a flavor of Linux.
- Almost all data center/cloud computing services, like AWS
- Almost all CGI/animation software (like RenderMan - PIXAR/ILM)
- Raspberry Pi
- Android
- Chrome laptops
- All Apple products
- MOST Smart TVs
- MOST Smart appliances
- ALL VoIP phones
- Cisco routers (retail thru commercial)
- Most WiFi routers
- ALL real firewalls (Windows Firewall is a joke)

[This is very similar to a skit in the movie, “Kentucky Fried Movie”. Skit “Science Series #5: Zinc Oxide and You”. But, I digress...]

So, why UNIX (then Linux)?

ATT/Bell Labs developed UNIX for a switching system (like for phone calls and data lines). It was designed to be great for communications. It had to be multitasking, multi-threading, parallel processing and secure. They succeeded. UNIX/LINUX/BSD *ARE* THE INTERNET.

For a geek, the choice between Linux and Windows comes down to control, efficiency, and philosophy. While Windows treats the user as a consumer, Linux treats the user as an administrator.

Here is why geeks overwhelmingly prefer Linux over Windows.

1. Absolute Control and Customization

- No Restrictions: You can modify or replace any part of the operating system.
- Custom Environments: You choose your own Desktop Environment (like KDE or GNOME) or lightweight window managers (like i3 or Hyprland).
- No Forced Updates: Linux never forces a reboot or installs updates without your explicit permission.

2. Powerful Command Line Interface (CLI)

- Native Package Management: Install, update, and remove software instantly using tools like apt, pacman, or dnf instead of hunting for .exe installers on websites.
- Automation: Every system task can be scripted using Bash or Python to automate repetitive workflows.
- SSH Integration: Headless server management via terminal is native, fast, and seamless.

3. Efficiency and Resource Management

- Lightweight: Linux idle RAM usage can be as low as 500MB, whereas Windows often consumes 4GB+ just sitting at the desktop.
- No Bloatware: Linux distros do not come pre-installed with games, telemetry tools, or intrusive advertising.
- Hardware Longevity: Linux can revive 15-year-old+ laptops that Windows 11 deems "unsupported."

4. Open Source and Privacy

- Code Transparency: Anyone can inspect the Linux source code to verify security and privacy.
- Zero Telemetry: Linux does not track your search queries, app usage, or keystrokes to sell targeted ads.
- True Ownership: You own the software; it does not phone home to a corporate mother ship.

5. The Ultimate Development Environment

- Native Tools: Compilers, interpreters, Docker, Git, and web servers run native with zero virtualization overhead.
- Production Parity: Because most internet servers run on Linux, developing on Linux means your local code behaves exactly like it will in production.

That's Great... For Geek's. But Why Me NOW, Joe User?

Great question. The answer is MATURITY. Almost 30 years of development and breadth-of-apps makes it a VERY VIABLE option. It is time. And it's free, faster, more secure and very stable.

Most "flavors" of Linux are fine. But, for my tastes, you have 2 great "newbie" options, and 2 great "geek" options (well, really many more geek options):

- **Newbie #1: Ubuntu Linux** – This is a FANTASTIC implementation. VERY easy to set up and configure. Very “lightweight”, easy on the CPU.
- **Newbie #2: Linux Mint** – Very similar to Ubuntu, but has a few more tools (like the gcc+ compiler and others) installed (I use Mint for my everyday tasks – it’s flawless)
- **Geek #1: Debian Linux** – One of the big “branches” of Linux, including Ubuntu and Mint. VERY thorough implementation
- **Geek #2: OpenSuSE Linux** – A branch from another family of Linux, Slackware. Very polished. It’s the development arm of a commercial Linux offering: SuSE. I used OpenSuSE for hardened DoD-grade firewalls. One of my firewalls was installed in 2008. It was retired in 2021, without a single break or incident. 13+ in IT is unheard of – except for HARDENED LINUX!

You will have a small learning curve for Linux. The Linux windows interface is intuitive. AND, Linux has MANY alternate windows flavors (The hardware designations are different. But, some nomenclature is different. For example: No COM ports; they are TTY ports. Remember: wording differs, function does not. The great thing now is how easy it is to get great help (Google, AI assistance, YouTube, etc).

No excuses!

You can ALSO dual (or more) boot Linux + Windows! One of my laptops boots Linux Mint, Ubuntu and Windows 10. All three have a “common folder”: easy to move stuff around.

OH, BY THE WAY: In Linux, you can use Windows software by “virtualization” like VirtualBox or WINE. And, most times it works faster than native Windows!

JUMP IN – THE WATER IS FINE!

PEACE!

Gene Marsh, W8NET

CIO/CSO of the Davis Eye Center (retired), GIAC+, CNE, CompTIA Security+ and Networking+, Cisco CCNA and CCIE, SANS Fellow (retired), DoD Security & Networking contractor, ICANN Fellow (retired), IETF Member (retired), ASAP, PDQ, FYI, OMG, IMO, JK, TBD, TU, VIP, FAQ, ROI, Major Geek (NOT retired). BTN... NVM!

[Gene Marsh was a prominent advocate and researcher in the late 1990s, primarily known for his work on the IPv4 Multicast Address Space and his involvement in the early days of ICANN and Top Level Domains (TLDs).

A breakdown of his involvement includes:

- **IETF & IANA Contributions:** Gene Marsh was a key figure in managing the IPv4 Multicast Address Space Registry. His early work helped outline and assign the address blocks used for internetwork and local network control. He also did work on SMNP, SNMPv2 and RMON.
- **ICANN and Domain Naming:** During the late 1990s, he advocated for alternative root servers and the expansion of the Domain Name System. He was an active participant in early Internet governance debates, raising concerns about opening up Top Level Domains (TLDs) alongside legacy registries.
- **Corporate Involvement:** In addition to his internet protocols research, Marsh worked as a Senior Network Marketing Manager and Director at Diebold Incorporated, CIO/CSO of several companies, a DoD contractor and headed his own company, anycastNET Inc., and holds 5 IT-related patents.” – from Google; it has to be right... RIGHT? ;)]

POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday, 6/9/26 @7:00pm at QUAIL HOLLOW. We will be activating US-1987. No Zoom, of course. So, be there in person and see why POTA is the biggest thing in ham radio since the dipole!!!

73 de W8NET, Gene

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator



DX/Contesting Special Interest Group

PCARS Contesters and DXers:

We held our DX/Cotesting SPecial Interest Group meeting on Tuesday, May 26 at our World Famous Clubsite. We had 12 attending either in person or by ZOOM.

Our discussions centered on the upcoming ARRL International Digital Contest; the Club QSO Party; and Roast Your Acorns Off.

In regards to the Digital contest, the rules allow only one transmitter to be used. But since we are also going to be using this contest as a training vehicle for FT8, we will set up all the op positions with only one (20m) being used as K8BF for the contest. The others will be set up using members' call signs so that we don't run afoul of the contest rules. That will satisfy the Multi Op-Single Xmtr, Low Power category requirements.

We moved on to the Club QSO Party. After reviewing the rules, it was decided that we would not participate. It seems that the New Jersey club that is sponsoring this contest has made the participation by a club too complicated. It is also too close to Field Day. So we will skip this one.

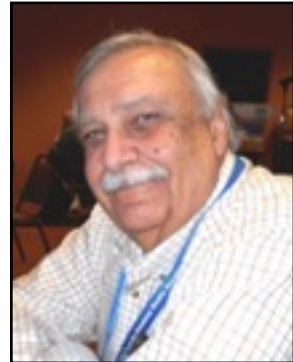
Our discussion regarding Roast Your Acorns Off, centered on food. And why not?? It was decided that the club would supply hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Mike (KB8TUY) and Gene (W8NET) will be doing the cooking with Gene supplying the grill. We have one more SIG meeting before the event and we will decide who does the purchasing of the food at that time.

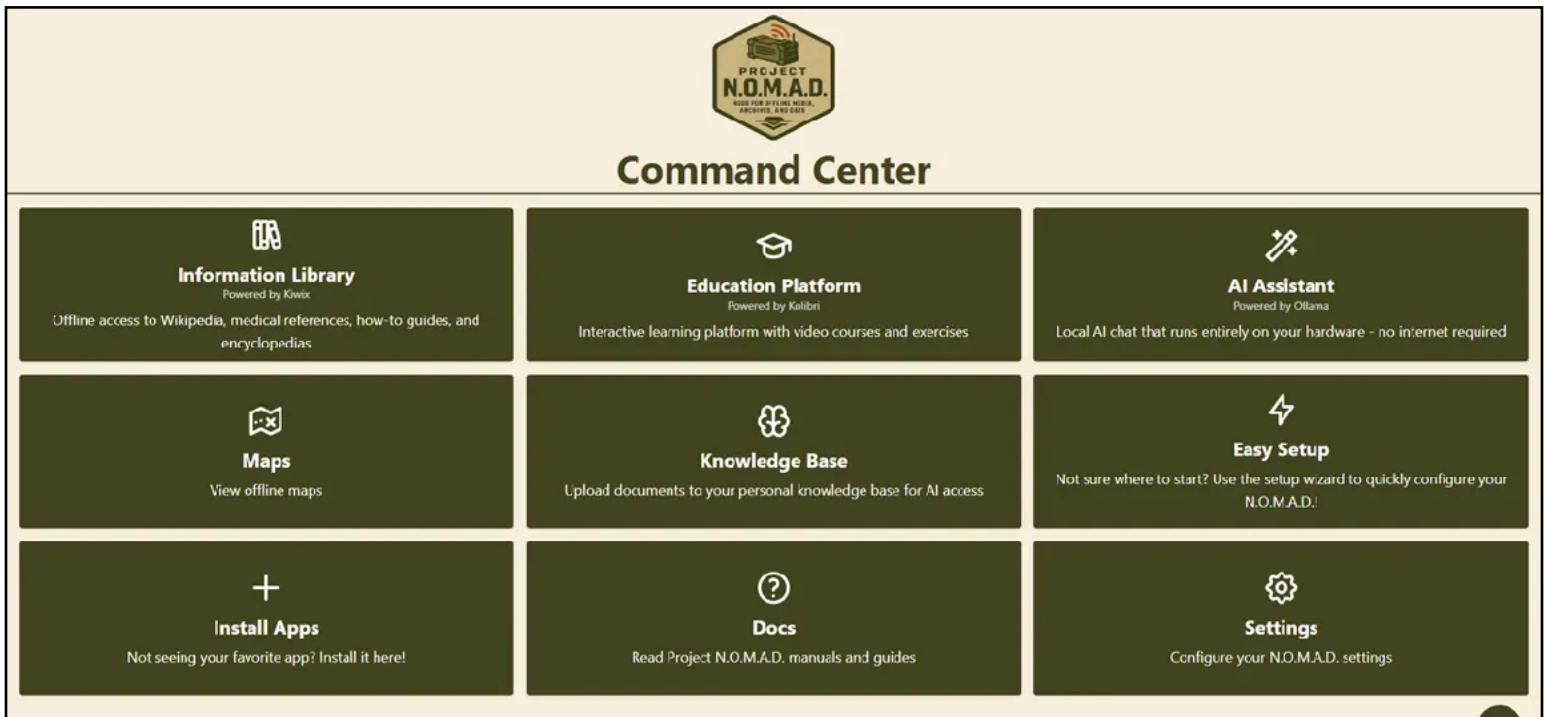
The documents for this event have been prepared by Parky (Thank You) and we will start to get the flier with all the particulars out so that everyone who wants to participate will know what is happening, including the Best Dish Cook-Off.

That's it for now.

73 - Chuck W8PT

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator





Build an Emergency Offline Information Server with AI Assistant using Project N.O.M.A.D.

In this day and age its hard for the average person to comprehend a world without the internet. It's ingrained in everyday life. It's how we access information.

As amateur radio operators we realize just how easily we can lose access to the networks we rely on for that information during times of disaster, and that when these networks do go down, there are very few scenarios where the internet survives. Even with a Starlink connection, the internet is still vulnerable to cyber-attacks and web-service outages.

Project N.O.M.A.D. is a revolutionary, open-source and FREE offline information management system designed to access digital information in a world without the internet.

What is Project N.O.M.A.D.?

Project N.O.M.A.D. ("Node for Offline Media, Archives, and Data") is a self-contained, offline, information server. Think of it as a "survival computer" that keeps critical information with AI Chat/Search capabilities running on your local network, without the internet.

It is an integrated environment built around containerized tools managed via a user-friendly web-browser based interface called the "Command Center." Powered by Docker containers and utilizing Ollama as its AI backend, Project N.O.M.A.D. places full control of your data firmly in your hands.

How is it Relevant to Amateur Radio?

As amateur radio operators, we understand the importance of emergency preparedness. Project N.O.M.A.D. directly addresses scenarios where internet connectivity is unavailable or unreliable.

A dedicated PC running Project N.O.M.A.D. is an information resource center completely independent of the internet and maintains access to critical resources such as medical references, technical guides, offline maps, disaster information and even amateur radio resources without depending on potentially congested or down internet servers.

Project N.O.M.A.D also includes offline versions of Wikipedia and other curated content powered by Kiwix and Kolibri, creating a vast digital library that's accessible, again, when the internet isn't.

A built-in AI Assistant allows users to ask questions and receive answers from the data in Project N.O.M.A.D's knowledge base with data that you choose. It is a powerful AI Assistant available on your local network right at your fingertips.

Best of all, you're your own data center. NO COMMERCIAL DATA CENTER REQUIRED. So if privacy is your thing, your covered. All data is stored and processed LOCALLY. Your searches and conversations are private; nothing is sent out onto potentially insecure networks or is subject to external filtering or censorship.

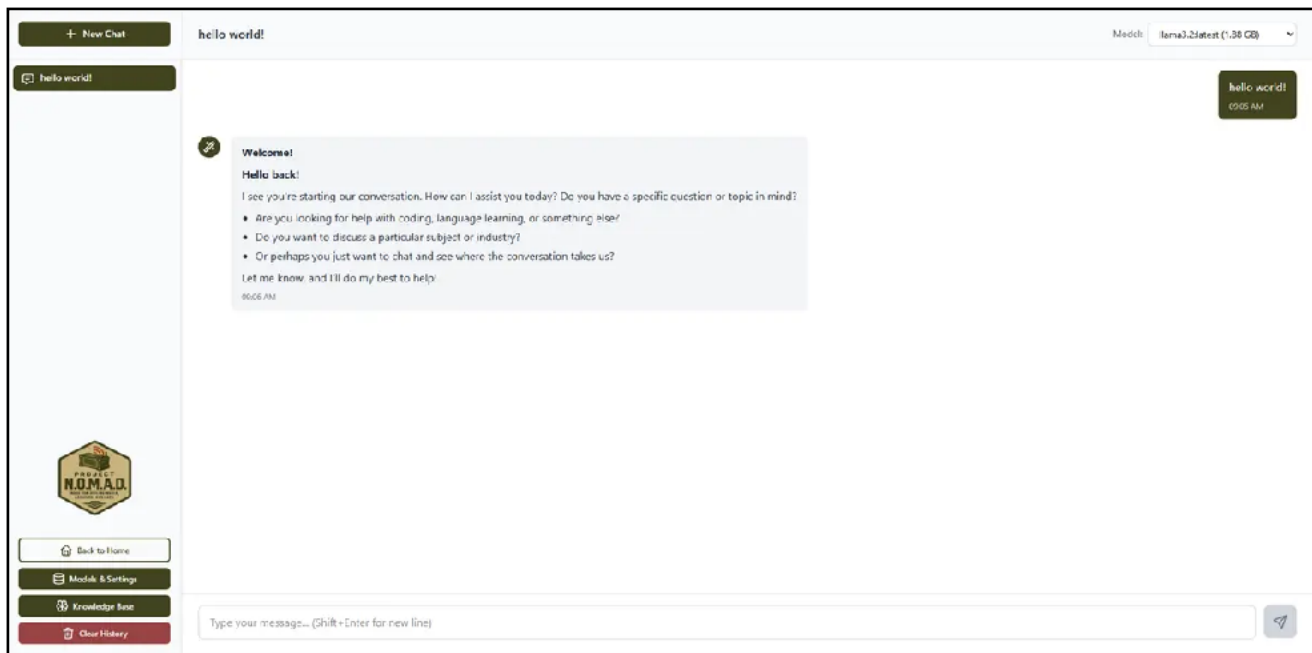
Some of Project N.O.M.A.D.'s key features include:

- Access to offline content such as Wikipedia, medical, technical and agricultural resources. You can even customize Project N.O.M.A.D. with your own documents such as EmComm Manuals, ARRL documents, QST Articles, Exam Question Pools, Radio Manuals, etc. by uploading them in PDF or ZIM file formats.
- Containerized tools for enterprise level deployment include an Information Library, Education Platform, Offline maps, Flatnotes, even Cyber Chef, a data encoding, encryption and analysis tool developed by the British government.
- A local AI chat agent - This is the star of the show when it comes to Project N.O.M.A.D. Search and get answers using local AI Chat with Ollama and a complete library of LLM's that indexes and searches your own uploaded documents.
- The web-browser based user interface makes it easy for managing updates, uploading content, and accessing it's AI functionality and makes Project N.O.M.A.D. accessible to any device on your network, mobile devices included.

Getting Started

Project N.O.M.A.D. benefits from robust PC hardware (sorry, no Raspberry Pi support here) including a dedicated GPU for its AI capabilities. However, Project N.O.M.A.D. does run exceptionally well on older hardware with just a CPU.

The installation is designed for Linux on a Debian-based system (Ubuntu recommended) with a quick install script in the Linux Terminal. It is incredibly easy to install Project N.O.M.A.D. Everything N.O.M.A.D. needs to run is installed by simply running the cURL script.



Recommended specifications for a bare-bones installation of Project N.O.M.A.D. include:

2 GHz Dual Core or better

4 GB of system memory

5 GB free disk space

Debian-based Linux (Ubuntu recommended)

Running large language models (LLMs) and other AI tools recommended requirements:

AMD Ryzen 7, Intel Core i7 or better

32 GB of system memory

NVIDIA RTX 3060, AMD equivalent or better Graphics Card (More VRAM allows for running larger AI models)

256 GB free disk space, preferably on an SSD

Debian-based Linux (Ubuntu recommended)

Additional Hardware Considerations:

GPU Acceleration - For optimal performance, especially with AI tools, a dedicated GPU is highly recommended.

Project N.O.M.A.D. represents a paradigm shift when thinking about how we can preserve access to critical information in times of disasters, cyber-attacks, etc. – one where YOUR hardware holds YOUR information in a convenient and centralized location. It allows us to maintain critical information capability, even in a world without the internet.

All the details including full installation instructions and hardware recommendations are available at www.projectnomad.us

Michael, KP4VZ

Whether you just received your **Technician Class license** or you are a **General, Advanced, or Extra Class operator** who has been inactive (intended for growth and mentorship, not for seasoned operators to rack up points) and is looking to get back into the swing of things, this invitation is for you!

The **Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)** invites you to participate in the 2026 ARRL Field Day. We are specifically looking for operators to help us run our **Get On The Air (GOTA) Station**, operating under the callsign **KP4VZ**.

Why join the GOTA station?

- **Re-Engage and Learn:** This station is designed specifically for those looking to gain on-the-air experience and eventually transition to regular club stations.
- **Per ARRL GOTA Rules:** This station is reserved for Technician Class operators and generally inactive licensees (General or higher).
- **Family & Friends:** We encourage you to bring your family and friends! They are welcome to watch, and we would love to get them on the radio to experience amateur radio firsthand.

Event Details:

- **Location:** Freedom Township Park (On OH-700)
- **Date:** June 27 – 28, 2026
- **Operations:** Saturday at 2:00 PM (1800 UTC) through Sunday at 2:00 PM.
- **Setup Crew:** We are looking for a few volunteers to help us set up antennas and gear starting at **09:00 AM on Saturday, June 27**.
- We will provide a tent, a generator, as well as water and snacks.
- GPS coordinates: 41.25741983244375, -81.14557769092598

Google Map Link https://www.google.com/maps/dir//41.25741983244375,+81.14557769092598/@41.2574125,-81.1867773,10705m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m7!4m6!1m0!1m3!2m2!1d-81.1455777!2d41.2574198!3e0?hl=en&entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDMyNS4xIKXMDSoJLDEwMjExNDUzSAFQAaw%3D%3D

If you've been looking for a way to grow your skills, "burn" some airwaves, and see what Field Day is all about, we would be honored to have you behind the mic.

How to Sign Up: Please reply via email to kp4vz@yahoo.com with your **name, callsign, and your preferred two-hour operating slot (e.g., Saturday 4 PM - 6 PM)**. If you are available to help with the Saturday morning setup, please let me know as well!

We look forward to seeing you in the field and helping you make some great contacts!

Michael, KP4VZ

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]

Wanted: Hustler RM-80, RM-80S, RM-75 or RM-75S. I need 2 (doesn't have to be the same). Contact w8net@me.com or text 330-619-9194 [07/26]

For Sale: Yaesu FT-2000 160 - 6 Meter Transceiver with FH-2 Remote Control Keypad and CT-119 Programming Cable \$750 for everything. Original boxes are available. Geocron GEO-4K-COMP2 new in the box \$125. MFJ-931 Artificial Ground \$75. MFJ-4906S Duplexer \$50. The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications Version 101 \$50. Will consider reasonable offers. Local sales only. Contact Bob Hajdak N8QE at (330) 807-5903 or rhajdak@aol.com [06/26]

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



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



ROAST YOUR ACORNS OFF!



July 25, 2026

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



Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"

Greetings to all DXers:

June, and Summer is here. Well, some of it is here. The cold WX and wind and rain make it seem like we haven't left April. A few good days here and there until we get to the part where it all dries out and we can't have small open fires in the evening because the governor places a ban on all open fires. This has happened in the last two summers.

I'm hoping that I can get some antenna and tower work completed before any really hot WX arrives. It's not fun dealing with a hot sun while trying to get things done.

The sunspot cycle is starting its journey to its 11-year minimum and if you want to work any really rare DX, it better be in the next year or so. After that, it will get harder and harder to work any planned DXpeditions. A few coming up in the near future are going to be DX entities, that if missed, will not be around for several years to come. So, let's take a look at what will be happening this coming month and in a few months to come.

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**

June...

5H3DX – TANZANIA. Look for Chas, NK8O to again be active from Dodoma, Tanzania as 5H3DX during June 8 to July 2, 2026. QRV on 30-10; CW, SSB & DIGI. QSL via NK8O, LoTW & Club Log.

5Z, KENYA. Paul, MMOZBH is QRV as 5Z4/MMOZBH from Murang'a until June 15. Activity is holiday-style with a focus on 10 meters FT8, 20 meters CW, and SSB.

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.

9X, RAWANDA. AI, F8FUA announces that he will be active from Kigali, Rwanda as 9X5KM during June 4-13, 2026. Holiday-style operation using an Elecraft K3, Hexbeam, dipoles and verticals; CW, SSB & Digi. Possibly QRV on low bands depending on local situation. Log uploaded to Club Log is internet access is available. Also QSL via H/c, LoTW.

D44, CAPE VERDE. Ger, EC1A reports: He was officially granted the callsign D44EC. The activity will take place between June 17th an 24th, will be from Praia (locator HK84), although if the opportunity arises during his stay, he will try to travel to Fogo Island to activate locators HK75 and HK74.

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. Frank, DJ5NQ, is QRV as E51ANQ from Rarotonga Island, IOTA OC-013. Length of stay is unknown. Activity is holiday-style on 80 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via DJ5NQ.

FS, ST. MARTIN. From June 10-24, 2026, John K9EL will be visiting Saint Martin on a family vacation and plans to be active as **FS/K9EL** during quiet times. Activity will focus on 6 meters when it is open and limited activity on other bands (40-10m). Operating times will be sporadic and often short. Daily Club Log and LoTW uploads are planned, possibly Club Log livestream. QSL via K9EL – Club Log OQRS preferred

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Ronan, F4LJA, is QRV as FY/F4LJA until June 5. Activity is on HF bands primarily using FT8.

OJ0, MARKET REEF. Markus, OH1MN sends us info to say he should be QRV from Market Reef as OJ0MN with Juha OH1LEG signing as OJ0Z until June 6, 2026. They plan to be active on 6 & 4m plus HF bands; SSB, CW, Digi.

V5, NAMIBIA. Eric, N7XOB, is QRV as V5/N7XOB while visiting Namibia until June 19. He will operate SSB on or near 7165 and 14265 kHz from various locations.

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.

V79, KWAJALEIN ATOLL. Lee, KO4CRN is currently based in Kwajalein Atoll for work. He applied for a Marshall Islands license and is now QRV when time permits as V73LM. He uses the Kwajalein radio club's equipment when active. Look for him on 20m SSB.

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

VK0, ANTARCTICA. Reminder - Tom, VK2TBC is going to be based at Casey Station, Antarctica and plans to be operational as VK0TBC between February and December this year. He will be running with a Flex-8400 and DX Commander plus other wire antennas. QRV when time permits on SSB & FT8.

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.

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Didier, F6BCW, is QRV as FO/F6BCW from Tikehau Atoll, OC-066, from early May until mid-July. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters using CW and SSB.

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.

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.

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!

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Members of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters are QRV with special call sign ZL100C until August 2026 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the club's founding. QSL via bureau.

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!

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

Greetings all!

Gene, W8NET

Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

The next Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG meeting will be held on Tuesday 6/2/26 @7:00pm in PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna. The main topic will be dual booting Linux with another OS like Windows (or another instance of Linux). No Zoom - it will be hands-on! Also, any other topics are welcome.

We still need a couple laptops for our SIG. Please consider a donation. OR, get your old laptop to the meeting, and we will REVIVE IT!

73 de W8NET, Gene



PCARS Flex Net

Mike, N8WCP

Flex Net Coordinator

May's Flex Net was held on 7.295 AM. This was the first time we tried this mode and six stations participated; WA8SAJ, KB8TUY, K8IV, KA8TOA, KD8WCK, and N8WCP.

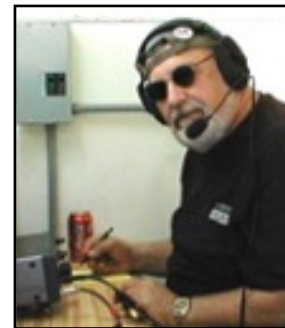
The Flex Net will take the summer off and return in September. If you have a suggestion for the next Flex Net, please send an email to n8wcp.us@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing you on the net!

73

Mike - N8WCP



Charlie the Tuner's June 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	
Club QSO Party	June 20-21	Added
Field Day	June 27-28	
NA QSOP RTTY	July 18-19	
Roast Your Acorns Off	July 25	Added
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 June Contests that may be of interest to PCARS Members:

Atlantic Canada QSO Party	June 6-7
Kentucky QSO Party	June 6-7
ARRL June VHF Contest	June 13-15
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	June 20-21
West Virginia QSO Party	June 20-21

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

**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.*

*Contests that appear in BOLD are ones in which K8BF will participate.

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

June 1st	PCARS Board Meeting
June 6th	VE Test Session
June 8th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
June 27th-28th	ARRL Field Day

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

June 6 FCARC SummerFest
Delta, OH — Delta American Legion Post 373.
Sponsored by Fulton County Amateur Radio Club.



July 11 Intercity Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
Ontario, OH — The Ontario Center (Richland Mall). Sponsored by Intercity Amateur Radio Club.

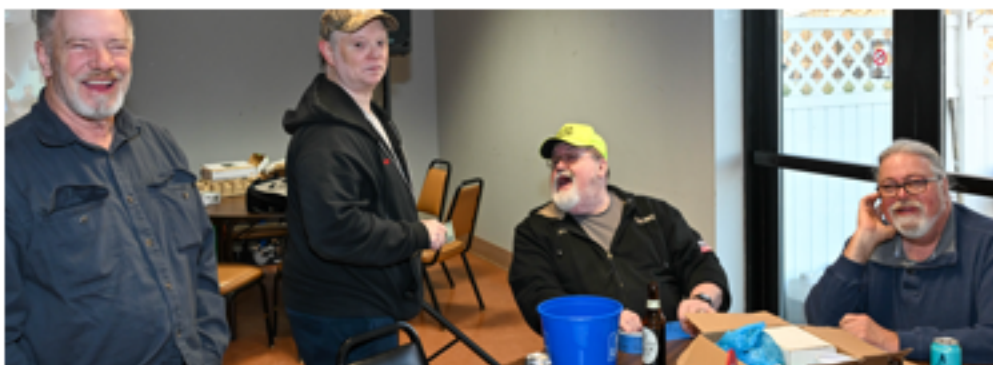
July 19 Van Wert Hamfest
Van Wert, OH — Van Wert County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Van Wert Amateur Radio Club.

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.

May 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.

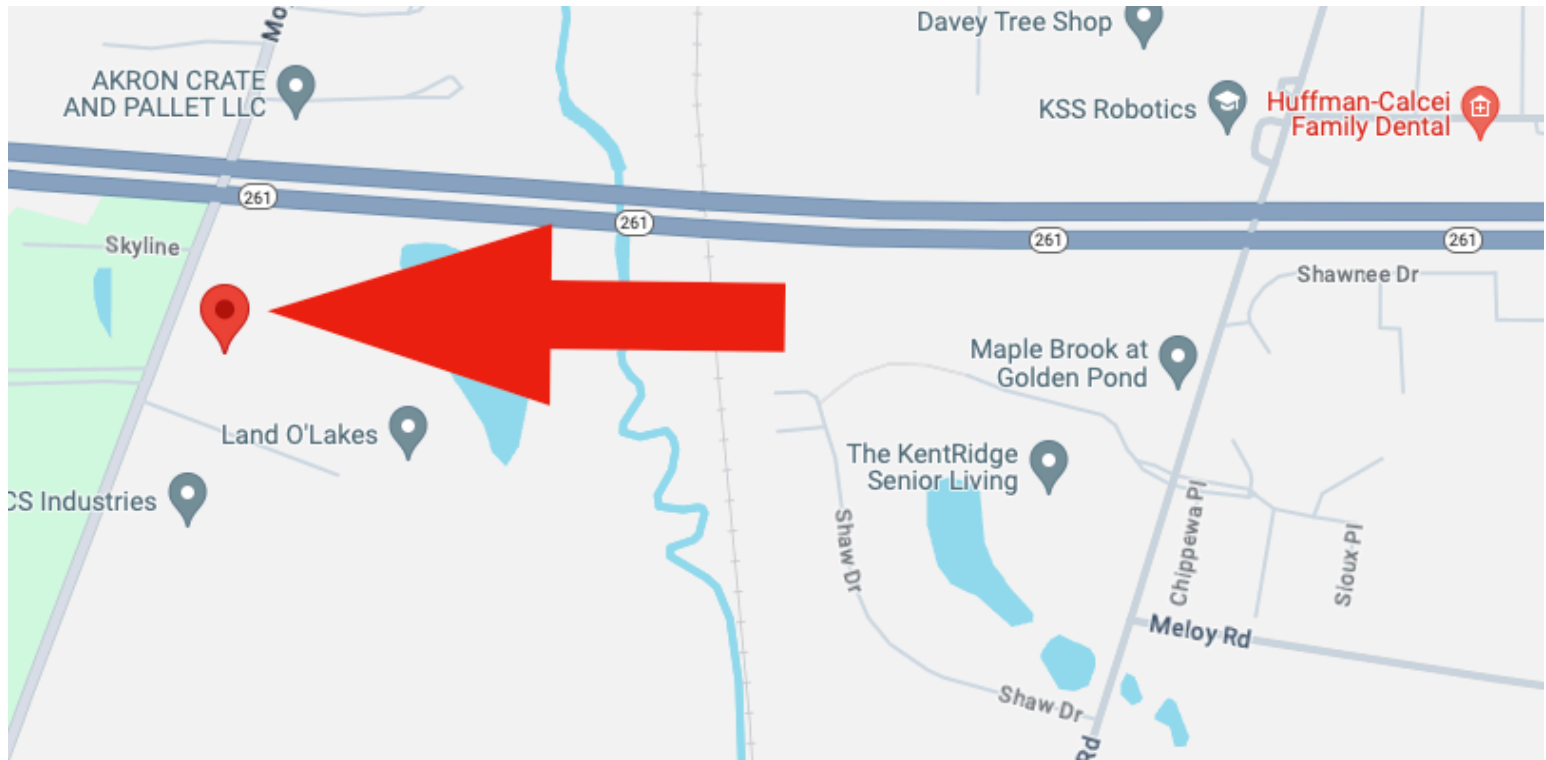
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at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

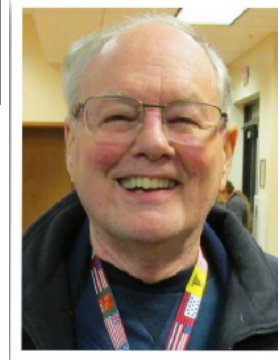


The American Legion Post 496 is located on the southeast corner of State Route 261 and Mogadore Rd. The driveway is on the south side of the building and as you enter you will pass through a parking lot on the south side of the building. Please do not park in this lot but instead continue on to the parking 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.



Jim, AC8NT
PCARS VE Team Liaison



Future Dates:

- June 6th
- August 1st
- October 3rd
- December 5th

Check the website for the latest information

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

We're fresh off of Hamvention and off and running to Field Day. When we tack on Roast Your Acorns Off and the Trunkfest, it looks like summer is a great time to be radio active and getting out with PCARS. There's just so much to do!

I hope you get a chance to check out some of the new club events. If there's anything PCARS is good at it's having a great time with radio. Make sure to snap a few pictures out there and send them in.

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

**AC8NT, AC8QG, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, N8WCP, W7KFR,
W8CI, W8NET, W8PT, WA8AR, 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.



Great to be back in The Great Outdoors!

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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)
705 Oakwood Street - Box 12
Ravenna, OH 44266 USA