



The **RADIOGRAM**

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 21 - NUMBER 03 - MARCH 2026



FREEZE YOUR ACORNS OFF 2026



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



In This Issue Of

The RADIOGRAM



Volume 21 - March 2026 - Number 03

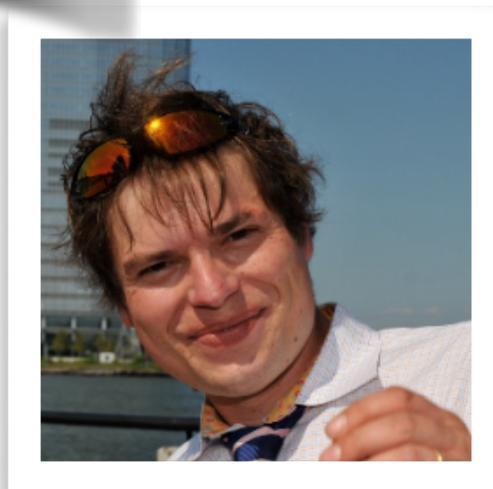
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From The PCARS President

Greg, KA8TOA
PCARS President



Hi Everyone

I would like to thank the members who set up the Freeze Your Acorns Off contest. We had a great turn out and 6 operators. Great food and camaraderie. One of the operators was the Massillon Radio Club. The visitors were welcome and a good turn out. Our PIO person N8WCP had the event advertised in The Portager a digital Newspaper for Portage County.

I am looking forward to see some of you at the club site for net night, always a good time. The nets have been average and Bob N8SKN is doing a good job with that. I would like to remind everyone, this is your club and it takes people to make it work, so get involved and if you have suggestions please let Tom and me know.

When the weather breaks we will schedule a clean up at the club site. Again my thanks to everyone who participated and helped out at FYAO event. We have a board meeting coming up Monday, March 2nd.

Stay healthy and warm!

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



I'm happy to say that the 21st running of "Freeze Your Acorns Off" is now in the record books, and it was another PCARS success story! I don't know who won, or who was determined to have the best chow, but I'm sure Chuck (W8PT) will have that for us at the upcoming PCARS meeting on March 9th. A BIG Thank You to Chuck for running the event so well (as he always does) and to all the participants, both on air and in spirit, who came out and joined us for a fantastic event. Special thanks to the guys from the Massillon Radio Club who came out and braved the cold weather with us. It's something we can all look forward to now in 2027! Sure looks like Bob (N8QE) was having fun! It was pretty cold out there, but some folks just kept on "pointing" while the rest of the team went in for coffee. Agnes (AD8IR) isn't afraid of a little cold weather!

We even had our own weather man out there! Kyle (W7KFR) said "It's Cold"! Thanks to all who came out and participated with us.

I know that FYAO is a 21 year old PCARS tradition. I know it was the very first PCARS event and has been a lot of fun ever since. It takes a "Special" kind of person to want to spend 6 hours sitting out in the cold of NE Ohio hoping to make some good Q's and get that certificate from PCARS! But it may not be for everyone. And there are rumors circulating – Scorch Your Acorns Off, Steam Your Acorns Off or maybe even Swelter Your Acorns Off may be floating around out there just over the horizon! Stay Tuned.....



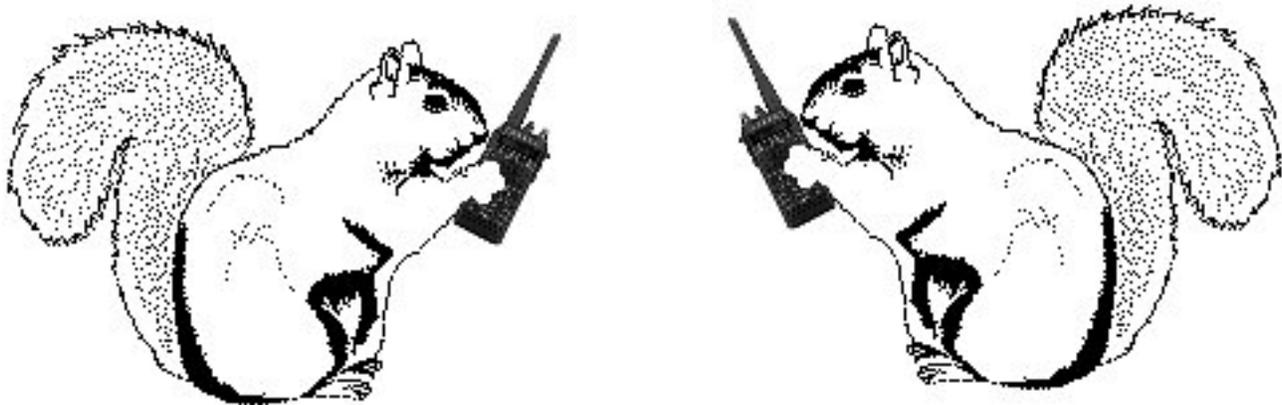
Our upcoming PCARS meeting for March (March 9th at the Kent American Legion Hall, 7:00 PM) is one you won't want to miss! Our Special Guest Speaker (on Zoom) will be Mike Martin K3RFI. Mike owns and operates RFI Services, a firm dedicated to resolving Power Line RFI issues as well as training Power companies to improve the way they handle and resolve these issues. He's been working full time for over 30 years in the field, solving Electrical Interference complaints for Power, Cable TV, Telephone Companies, and private residential & Commercial customers. "I have over 2500 clients and assist them in solving an average of 500 RFI complaints per year. The majority of customer complaints reported are from radio operators and most are found to be arcing sources." Mark your calendars now! You really don't want to miss this, it could be the difference in how much "BIG FUN" you have with the hobby!

One last thing. We are one of probably less than 5% of Ham Radio Clubs that have their own "Clubsite" where they can use the space for their own enjoyment of the hobby however and whenever they want. Of all the "assets" our club has, this is probably the one thing that has set us apart and allowed us to do all the things we take for granted. I am deputizing every PCARS member to be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of that space. If trash needs to go out you don't have to ask permission – Just Do It! If the tables and chairs need straightened out, Get It Done! If you drop something on the floor – Clean it up! We have a new vacuum cleaner, run it around and keep the place clean. We all need to take pride in this area which is for our exclusive Ham Radio use. If we want to attract new people to our ranks, we need to show them something worth belonging to. We need to set the bar high and then look as if we take it all seriously. Please, lights out and all doors locked when you're the last 2 or 3 to leave the premises.



Thank You to all who pitch in!

73. Tom WB8LCD



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



Happy Birthday PCARS Members



KE8RIQ	Sean
K8QF	Russ
W8CYN	James

KE8KCJ	Montie
WB8LCD	Tom
W8KNO	Joe

N5VLZ	Daryl
N8FUM	Dan

From Around The World...



HamClock Links! Maybe I'm the only one who loves HamClock, but the recent news of the passing of its creator, WB0OEW, and its potential shutdown has caused a stir. There is the new <https://openhamclock.com/> which can be self-hosted if you wish and a group dedicated to continuing the back-end services required for the original HamClock <https://daily.hamweekly.com/2026/02/open-hamclock-backend-seeks-to-keep-hamclock-ticking/>

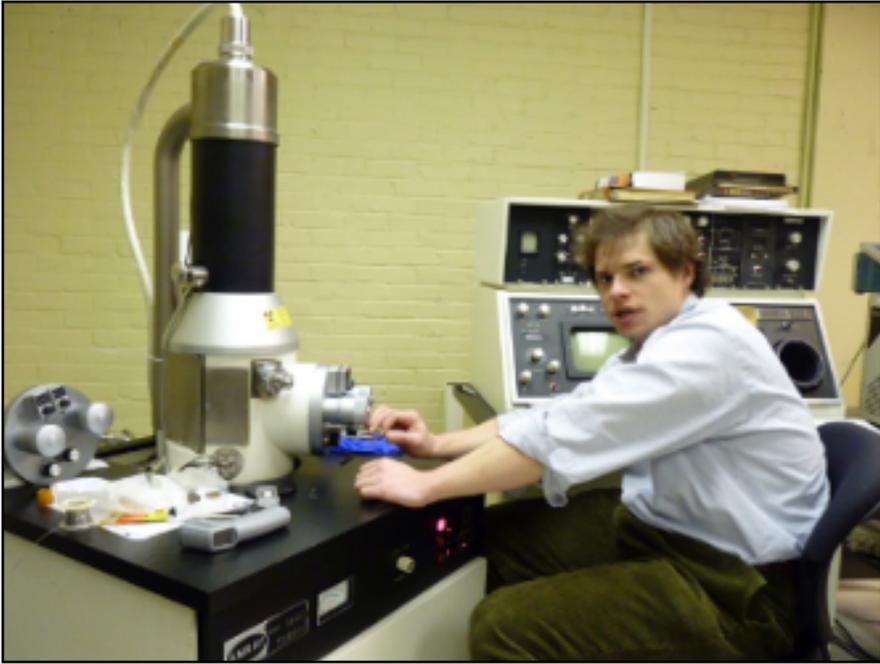
A Petition for Rule Making: Encryption and Ham Radio. The petition seeks limited use of encryption on ham frequencies for emergency communications.
<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/122533192529/1>

Practical Guide To Receiving HF Weather Fax WEFAX / Radiofax
<https://vu3dxr.in/practical-guide-to-receiving-hf-weather-fax-wefax-radiofax/>

From On All Bands: Can You Work DX on VHF & UHF?
<https://www.onallbands.com/can-you-work-dx-on-vhf-uhf/>

Voyager 1 Spacecraft detected by amateur astronomers
<https://www.iflscience.com/amateur-astronomers-detect-signal-coming-from-voyager-1-spacecraft-25-billion-kilometers-away-82455>

DXLook.com Launches New Composite Views to Compare Real-World Contacts with Propagation Predictions
<https://daily.hamweekly.com/2026/02/dxlook-launches-composite-views-to-compare-real-world-contacts-propagation-predictions/>



David, KE8QEP



My background is Geology, and I graduated from the same Kent State Department of Geology as 2 or 3 other PCARS members. I specialized in paleontology, specifically the microstructure of Decapods (crabs, shrimp's lobsters etc.). My current research is on both fossil and living whales, mostly related to microstructure of teeth and some aspects of brain evolution.



I got my Technician license in December 2020 and my General license in February 2022. I was very much influenced toward VHF and above from a Geology Professor (W9IP) I had in NY State while I was in college. It took me 27 years to get around to getting a license.

W9IP helped me with some electronic projects I was working on as an undergraduate, including a thermistor-based water flowmeter (Ham's know stuff). He also taught me how to make a thin section. I joined PCARS soon after I got my Technicians license. PCARS was the first "club" I ever joined, I was apprehensive, but the club members were very welcoming (even for an introvert like me). The club members are great people in general, but they are also very technically competent and many have had very interesting carrier paths. The members are some exceptionally fine people whom I am happy to have met. KE8QEP

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.

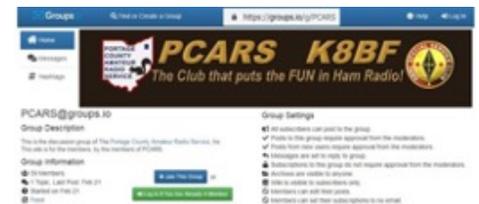


<https://youtube.com/@portagecountyamateurradios1933?si=09-NxUpDOoqdgTzc>

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.



And he's back! Yep, time slipped away from me last month, and I totally forgot to do my article for the Radiogram. I hope to make up for it this month.

I've still been doing some activating in the last couple months; but mostly at one park; Quail Hollow, as I chase my 2nd Kilo award there. As of this writing, I am 19 contacts away from that goal. After that, I'll chase my 3rd Kilo! Why quail hollow? That's easy, my Drs recommend getting in shape, so I've been hitting the trails there. Did you know that the Buckeye trail (BT) passes through the park? The BT is the longest loop hiking trail in the US.

One of my friends hikes out there, and follows it up with a POTA activation. He calls it a Two-fer. But, could Quail Hollow someday become a POTA Two-fer? It's not likely, but here's what is happening. In 2022, the BT was designated as a Ohio State Trail. According to Google, The Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) continues to build, maintain, and promote the trail with volunteers and private partnerships, while ODNR provides official designation and support, particularly for sections running through state parks and forests.

I read an article published in January, 2025 that the BTA had announced efforts to secure a National Trail designation from the National Parks service. If this ever happens, there is a chance (a small one) that the BT could get it's own POTA number. POTA normally will only add any parks that are owned by State or federal entities, so this would likely be a tough sell, but I can dream, right?

Just think of the opportunities if we could claim the BT for POTA.

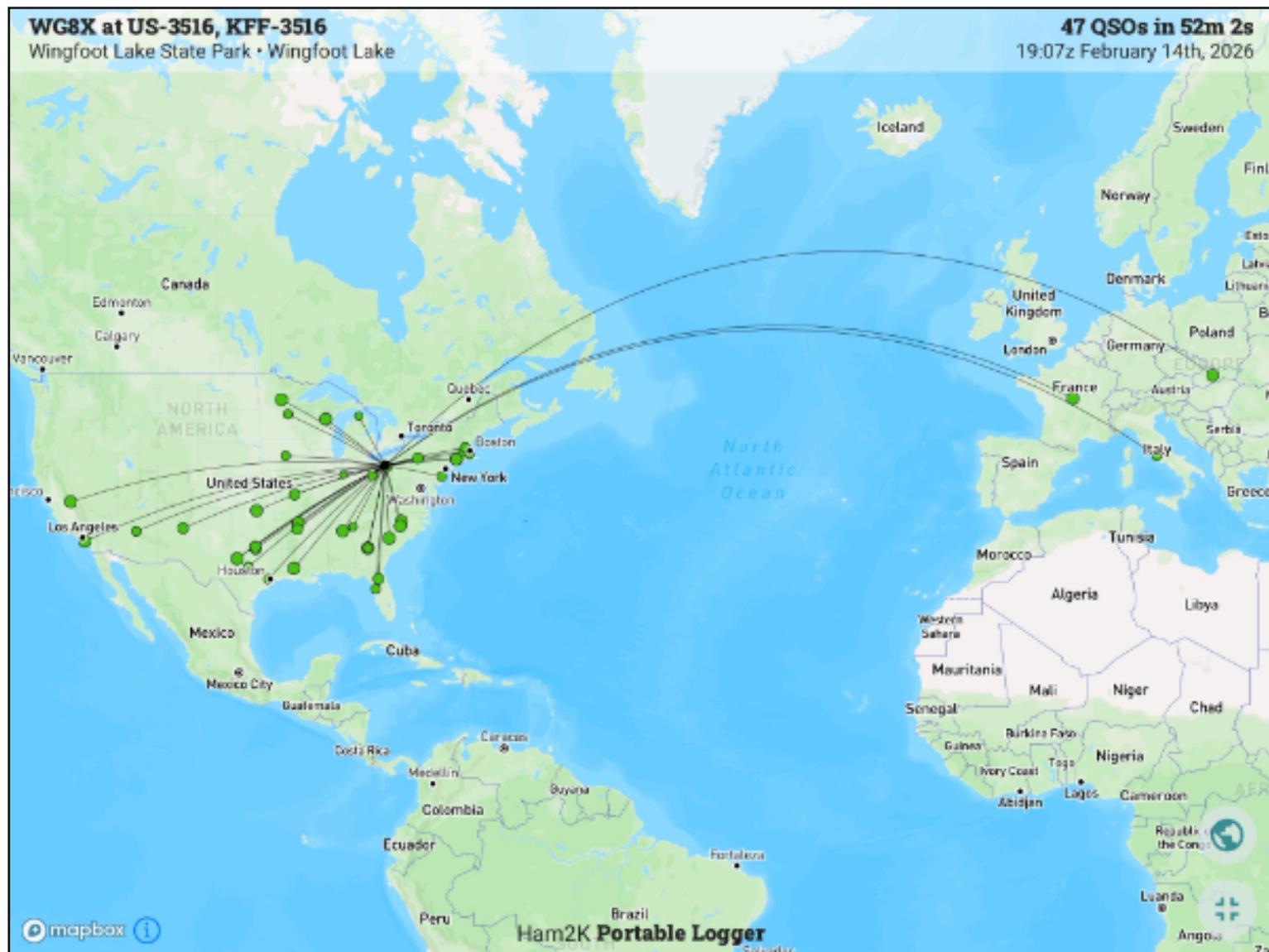
Since they have transitioned to local authority Both Quail Hollow (maintained by Stark Parks) & Tinker's Creek (Maintained by Summit Metro Parks) probably couldn't be added to the POTA system under their rules. I believe that they have been grandfathered in.

Back in January, I did head over to PA for a quick activation while scouting cabins in Cook Forest State Park for this years Pa QSO Party. Since I already have Cook forest in my log, I stopped at one of the PA State Game Lands in the area, and hung out for a time, making 49 contacts there before heading home.

I have done a couple visits to Wingfoot Lake this year to test out a "Activators First Dipole". That article will be out on March 4th. You can find it on onallbands.com. Wingfoot was interesting. I don't normally spend a lot of time on 20 Meters, but since that's the antenna I was testing, I hung out there for the afternoon. I had a great time working stations not only here in the US, but also in Europe.

I'm continuing to use POLO Ham2K logger for my activations. One feature I've discovered is that it will spot me not only to POTA, but also to WWFF (provided I remember to enter my WWFF Park Number when opening the log). I get a bit more DX by spotting to WWFF, since not all WWFF ops monitor the POTA spotting page.

And that's about it for this time. See you at the meeting. 73 DE WG8X



PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS
EST. 2005

North To Alaska!

Gene, W8NET



Hi everyone! A group of 13 3905 Century Club members will be going to Juneau, Alaska from March 11 through 18, 2026. The list of calls is here:

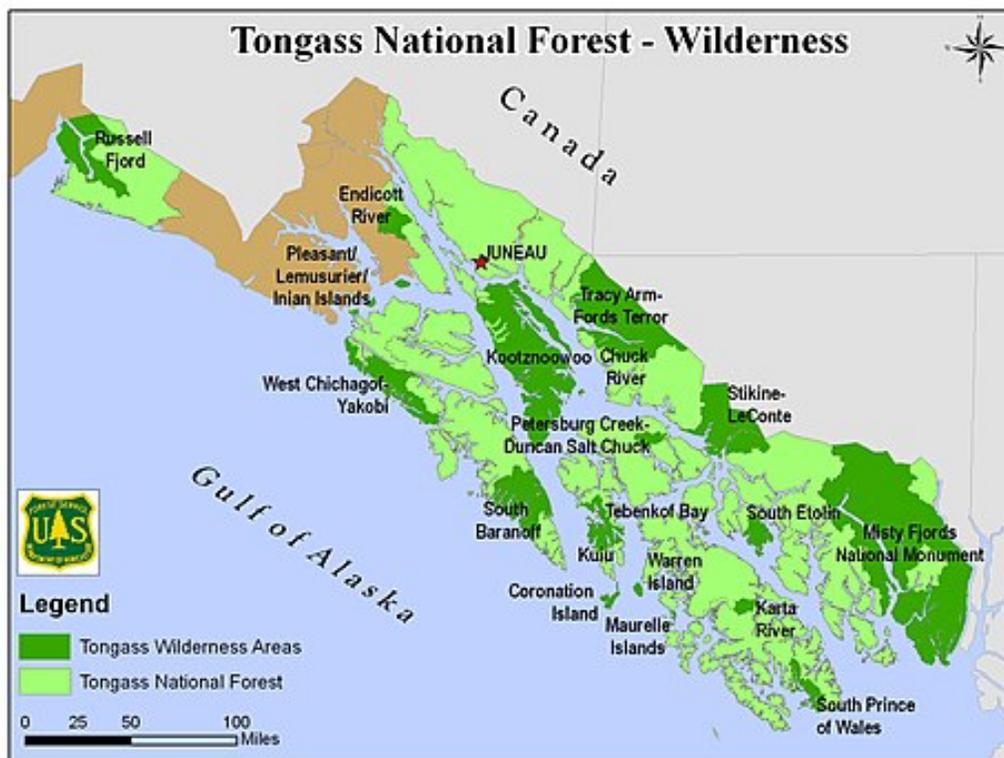
AA1NA, AC2MT, AI4K, KA0BMX, K9DBB, KU1V, N3VEJ, VE3CMB, W5LPZ, W6PNY, W8NET, WA2JIM, WN1F. All will have club calls and Special Event call as well.

We will be checking in to ALL Century Club nets as propagation permits. Also, we will try to be on the air throughout the week (especially on the weekend) when we can. AND, a few will be visiting a few POTA parks in the area (Tongass National Forest includes Juneau, and another 4 parks are VERY close!)

For many of us (me included), this is the first time we have been to Alaska. I will try to write an article after the trip.

We will be active on 80m THROUGH 10m, SSB, CW, PSK, RTTY and FT8. Please try to work us!

73 de W8NET, Gene





Want to have some fun?

It has been a cold and dreary winter. Not much fun outside. This is a great time to spend building something. I am proposing a build of the HF Signals LARCset radio. Why do I think this would be fun?

1. The cost of the build will be about \$40.
2. The build only requires soldering toroids and connectors.
3. Did I mention all the toroids were pre-wound?
4. The circuit board is small and fully populated with all surface mount components.
5. It even has nice crystal filters.
6. It is a 40-meter SSB and CW transceiver. I know only one band, but we are just out to have some fun, not replace our nice 7300. If you don't know code, you can talk.

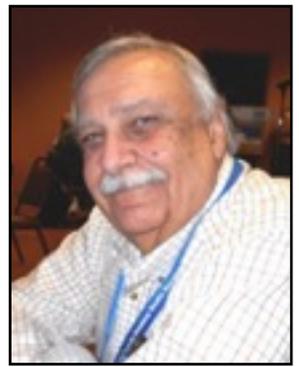
The build will be limited to 10 and the club will supply most of the required tools. We can even test the rig before you leave using club antennas and test equipment. This would be a great experience for hams that have not yet built a rig. If interested, please send me an email (ac8nt@j3solutions.com).



Freeze Your Acorns Off 2026 Results

Chuck, W8PT

DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



On Saturday, Feb. 21, we held our 21st Annual QRP Event – Freeze Your Acorns Off at the Roy Smith Shelter House in Kent. The turnout was very good with about 30 attendees and 7 stations set up either out in the cold or in the shelter house itself.

Before we get the main event, I want to list the winners of the Best Recipe Cookoff Contest that we have as part of our day's activities.

We had a 3 way tie for First Place, but I really need to say that all of the offerings were so good, that we could have a 6 way tie for First. I usually have only 3 judges so that we don't have ties. This time I reached out for 4 judges and that's where we ended up with ties for two spots – First and Third.

1st Place – Pozole – Gene W8NET

For those who don't know what this is, Pozole is a traditional, hearty Mexican soup or stew made from hominy (treated corn kernels) and meat, typically pork or chicken, seasoned with chiles and spices.

1st Place – Sloppy Joe – W8NP

(N3JJT, N8IVJ, KE8IDH, KD8ENV, KF8CKY, W8CRO) Frankly, I never knew which individual made the Sloppy Joe, but it was a great hit.

1st Place – Corn Bread Muffins – Bob KD8CGH

This is where things got interesting. These muffins were so good and so sweet, that Bob, N8QE and I took muffins and then poured the Sloppy Joe on top. FANTASTIC!!

2nd Place – Ham & Bean Soup – Ken KD8OBA

3rd Place – Perogies – Agnes AD8IR

3rd Place – Scalloped Potatoes – Kyle W7KFR

If this were being graded on sheer effort, Kyle would have the First Place position. He brought all the ingredients and prepared the dish at the site. Washed and peeled the potatoes. Made the sauce. Used a cast iron Dutch Oven outside on hot coals to cook the dish and it was very, very good.



And now the main event. Who won the QRP Event.

1st Place – 7870 Pts – Bob N8QE

2nd Place – 5296 Pts – Agnes AD8IR & Ben AD8FQ

3rd Place – 2622 Pts – Ken KD8OBA

4th Place – 2020 Pts – W8NP Massillon Amateur Radio Club

(N3JJT, N8IVJ, KE8IDH, KD8ENV, KF8CKY, W8CRO)

5th Place – 464 Pts – Bob KD8CGH

6th Place – 127 Pts – Joe KF8ADQ

7th Place – 111 Pts – Mark W8GU

Congratulations to all who set up stations and made the effort to make as many contacts as they could. Certificates will be presented for both contests at the next PCARS meeting. If not present, they will be mailed to the participants.

The 2026 FYAO is now in the books. From the comments, everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year's event.

I want to thank all those who came out to support their fellow Amateur operators. I also want to thank all those who braved the WX to set up stations out in the cold. And I don't want to forget all the great cooks who offered up the delicious meals we were able to enjoy.

Until next February, stay warm.

Chuck W8PT





Carole Perry, WB2MGP



At the 2026 Hamcation Youth Forum, moderator Carole Perry WB2MGP introduced her young speaker, Andrew Auster K04TZK who spoke about **Engaging Youth in Ham Radio**. Then Carole invited the audience to ask questions of Andrew, responding from the perspective of a young student, and to ask questions of Carole who would respond from the perspective of an educator who taught a ham radio program in middle school for 30 years. The audience loved it and was totally responsive with excellent questions and comments.

The 2026 Carole Perry Educator of The Year award went to Dr. Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF who was unable to attend in person.



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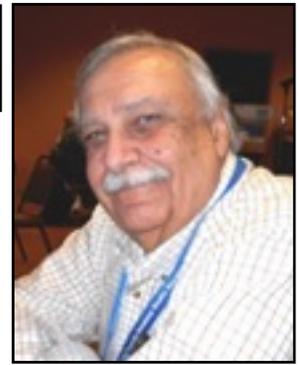


DX/Contesting SIG

PCARS Contesters and DXers:

Chuck, W8PT

DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



I hope you've had a good month since the last issue of the Radiogram. We went through some very tough WX, but there is light at the end of the tunnel, as folks want to say. But it could be a bomb cyclone or a polar vortex, so keep your eyes open.

Anyway, we held our DX/Contest SIG meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at our World Famous HQ. We had eight members attending but only one on ZOOM. Not sure where our regular ZOOM partners were hiding, but they were missed.

We had a short discussion regarding our recent Freeze Your Acorns Off event, which seemed to be a success. A separate report will be issued on that topic.

We also discussed the upcoming Idaho and Wisconsin QSO Parties that take place on the weekend of March 15 -16. We reviewed the rules and discussed how we will be set up to operate. Ken, WA8LRW, will again do all the tech work of installing the logging programs and also the macros for the CW side of these two events. Sorry to those hoping for FT8. Neither one allows FT8 or FT4 at this time. But as mentioned, this will probably change in the future. I mean, why would someone want to use their voice or bother with a key when all they would have to do is press a button, or actually do nothing but sit and watch.

Ok, OK, I know.

A few of those present then came up with what I think is a great idea. Let's have a Summer QRP event to coincide with our Winer QRP event. I feel like Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland in one of their early movies. "I know, let's put on a show". And some of you sadly are saying, "Who are Mickey Rooney or Judy Garland?" That's sad. Anyway, we are going to plan the birth of a Summer QRP event... **ROAST YOUR ACORNS OFF**. It will likely take place in July. Right now it's only a twinkle in our eyes, but we are hoping for a great event. Let's have good thoughts on this and we will keep you informed.

For now, 73 and gud DX. - Chuck, W8PT

POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @7:00PM at PCARS World Headquarters in scenic Ravenna, OH.

We will be discussing options for the Spring POTA Event, and others. John, WG8X, will be the moderator (thanks John!).

Watch for QSTs!

73 de W8NET, Gene

Gene, W8NET

POTA SIG Coordinator



Changes to PCARS License Testing

Jim, AC8NT
VE Liason



Digital Testing

On February 7th, we held our first all-digital test session. The process went smoothly. We had two examinees both taking their Tech test. One passed. He received his call the following Tuesday February 10th. The process is entirely digital. No paperwork needed to be mailed. This exam session was made using the ARRL VEC we have used in the past, so we still needed to collect the \$15 fee, and it was paid using a credit card.

The new system has the examinee locating their exam location at the <https://hamstudy.org> website. They register for the test and complete the required 605 on-line. If they don't have an FRN number, the registration process will electronically apply for one. FRNs are immediately generated during the registration process. This is a big time saver for new hams. Exams are graded automatically at the end of testing. Examinees are emailed a copy of their CSCE if they passed and are provided a sheet showing which questions they missed to make it easier to prepare for a retake. It is a very simple and quick testing process.

We setup 4 Linux stations for testing and have more computers we can use if necessary. This is a major improvement in our testing process.

Changing our VEC



Since the club's inception, the club has used the ARRL VEC. It has, overall, been a good experience. Thanks to Parky KB8UUZ, all the paperwork and fees have been effectively processed. With digital testing and paperwork, the fees still need to be processed and now the ARRL want fees to be paid by the club using a credit card. Checks made out to the ARRL VEC still need to be mailed in for processing. This payment process delays licensing and upgrades.

After careful consideration, we have decided to change our VEC from the ARRL to Laurel. Laurel is one of 14 VECs that have entered into an agreement with the FCC to coordinate amateur radio examinations. It was founded in 1984 and has more than 250 teams of examiners. It does not charge a testing fee.

Examinees are still required to pay all FCC fees. We now have an established Laurel Team Leader (Jim AC8NT) and are in the process of building our team. Our current VEs will need to complete a short training course, but Laurel does not require additional testing. Laurel uses the same digital system we have started using with only minor changes to procedures. Without fee collection, processing will be entirely paperless.

This is a great step forward in PCAR's testing efforts. Going forward it will allow us to more effectively test future hams and hams that want to upgrade. We will be posting future exam session on the Hamstudy registration site soon for the rest of the year.

Jim, AC8NT

Contesting

Outside the UK there are a number of significant contest stations that regularly appear in our contest logs – many are in the USA. RadCom talked to Tim Duffy, K3LR about the ‘Superstation’ he has built in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania.

The K3LR team is one of the most celebrated and technically advanced collective efforts in the world of amateur radio contesting.

The station is primarily designed for competitive entries in the Multi-Multi (M/M) category, where a team of operators will make QSOs on six bands simultaneously. This requires a massive logistical effort and a cohesive group of competent operators (all on site) to maintain peak performance over 48-hour contest periods.

From back garden ham to ‘International Superstation’

Tim’s adventure in amateur radio started in 1972 at the age of 12 (then WN3SZX to WA3SZX). His interest was sparked by assembling a Quaker Oats crystal set and he operated a simple station with wires and a small tri-bander at his parents’ house.

When he was 16, Tim built a station with his friend AF3P. They had three towers with mono-banders. And that put K3LR on the map.

His early fascination with radio quickly evolved into a lifelong passion for competitive radio contesting. He gained the call K3LR in 1977 while he was a junior in high school. Still at first high school, then college, Tim became chief engineer of a local AM/FM broadcast radio station. His education and enthusiasm led to a career in cellular telephony and wireless, then later to a commercial role associated with amateur radio.

Tim cut his teeth contesting at famous Multi-Multi stations like W3AU, W2PV and K2GL (N2AA). The idea that Tim’s K3LR station might be engineered for Multi-Multi grew from a suggestion by his lifelong friend, Scott Jones, N3RA.

“Scott suggested that we go ‘big’ at K3LR. Don’t build a multi-single station – go for the biggest class and build a massive station for Multi Multi,” Tim recalls.

In 1986, aged 27, Tim bought his current home. Remembering Scott’s words of encouragement and based on his earlier experiences, Tim transformed his hilltop property into what is today a ‘mega station’ currently featuring 14 towers and 11 to 12 operating positions.

As well as building and operating, Tim is a central figure in the contesting community. He is the Chairman of Contest University (CTU) [1] and the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) [2], organisations dedicated to training new operators and supporting the infrastructure of major contests.

As the CEO of DX Engineering [3], Tim bridges the gap between commercial radio technology and amateur radio sport, ensuring the K3LR station remains at the cutting edge of performance. His extensive experience with executive roles in the wireless technology sector has made him ideally qualified to lead and inspire.

Tim is a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame and the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. He was named the 2015 Amateur of the Year by the Dayton Hamvention and is an accomplished single operator who has competed five times as part of a World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) team.

He is a member of the First-Class Operator’s Club (FOC) and has been an RSGB member for 25 years. He is also a member of ARRL and DARC.



PHOTO 1: K3LR aerials for CQWW CW, November 2025.

The K3LR station

The K3LR facility is engineered for maximum performance, utilising a 16-acre antenna farm designed to make the most of every decibel of the received and transmitted signals.

The station currently includes 14 towers supporting over 50 different antenna systems (Photo 1).

The 20, 15 and 10m towers feature four full-sized, custom-built OWA Yagis spaced one wavelength apart, allowing operators to select various phased combinations to target Europe or Asia with precision. There is also a three-high stack on 40m, with the top antenna at 80m high.

The Yagis are Optimised Wideband Arrays (OWA). The OWA was developed by Jim, WA3FET and this technology was first applied to Yagi antennas at K3LR around 1990.

For the 160m band, Tim designed a massive vertical Yagi with four switchable vertical ‘T’ wires acting as reflectors and directors to steer the beam in four directions. For 80m there is a Large Phased Two Four Square eight vertical array.

The station uses innovative HI-Z 8-circle and HI-Z 4-square receiving arrays, loops, low dipoles and the DX Engineering NCC-2 to optimise weak signals from atmospheric noise.

If mains power to the site is interrupted, K3LR has a 50kW on-site generator that comes on line automatically, seven seconds after a power outage.

Hardware and software

The radio shack is equipped with outstanding technology, engineered for high reliability and – most importantly – to handle the extreme RF environment of a multi-multi operation. The station uses Icom IC-7851 transceivers, chosen for their superior receiver performance and outstanding reliability in multi-user settings. With 13 IC-7851s at K3LR – there has not been a failure to date.

Each band is powered by a K3LR custom-built, single-band amplifier using single 8877 tubes, capable of running ‘full legal power’ (1500W) with



PHOTO 2: Bob, N6TV at the 15m operating position for CQWW CW 2025.

high reliability and a 100% duty cycle.

In 2025 the team started using HAMSET headsets from Italy, a custom combination of Bose noise cancelling headphones with an adjustable microphone.

Green Heron RT-21 rotator controllers and custom RF switching systems allow for rapid reconfiguration of the antenna arrays. K3LR uses DX Engineering rotators and K7NV prop pitches. Every antenna can be rotated for best performance. Six independent receivers from Italy are always on, sharing the K3LR antennas with the world using the CW Skimmer software and links to the Reverse Beacon Network.

Team composition and the Multi-Multi environment

The K3LR Multi-Multi effort is not just about having the best radios and antennas. Success is also dependent on the competence and team ethos of the operators. For major competitions, the station hosts around 12 operators. Over 200 different operators have been a part of the K3LR team over the years and the K3LR station has hosted operating events using other call signs such as the ARRL call W1AW.

How does the K3LR station operate in practice?

In the Multi-Multi category, the station operates up to six stations on the air simultaneously using the following approach:

Each amateur band (160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m) is activated by a two-person team. While one operator 'runs' (calls CQ and manages the pile-up), the second operator listens for new multipliers or 'search and pounce' opportunities.

To comply with contest rules and prevent interference, the transmitters are electronically interlocked so they cannot transmit at the same time on the same band, requiring precise timing and coordination.

The team is built on a foundation of long-term loyalty. Operators such as George Gross, N3GJ and Phil Koch, K3UA, have been part of the K3LR

backbone for 30 years and over 100 contest weekends.

K3LR strategy

Success at K3LR is the result of intentional planning and a strategy that includes:

- **Operator scouting;** Carefully selecting and recruiting top radio contesting talent from around the world. Each operator at K3LR has a strong contesting resume and a track record of working well in a team environment.
- **Proof of performance:** The K3LR team conduct a systematic test procedure to ensure every piece of hardware is functioning perfectly before a contest begins. Everything is logged into the K3LR station notebook to keep track of parameters that may aid in performance improvements in the future.
- **Post-contest analysis:** This means studying logs and propagation data to optimise performance for future years. Tim meets with the operators frequently to understand their input - to suggest changes and improvements – to always make the station better.
- **International operators:** A typical example being Sandy Raeker, DL1QQ from Germany. She is an operator with extensive experience and is able to work at a rapid rate with high accuracy speaking both English and German languages.
- **Great food and accommodation:** The K3LR campus has four locations for housing operators and frequently has Sal, WM2H from Houston, Texas to handle the catering.

What has the K3LR contest station achieved?

The K3LR team is a dominant force in the four major annual contests - CQ Worldwide Phone & CW and the ARRL International DX Phone & CW but also other contests are entered regularly. The team has won more USA Multi-Multi #1's than any other team or station (in the USA) as of 1 January 2026. If you participate in any of the major international contests you will be familiar with K3LR (if you don't find them, they will find you!).

The K3LR team holds the USA records in CQWW Phone & CW, ARRL DX CW and CQ WW WPX Phone & CW contests (**Photo 2**). K3LR has completed over one million QSOs in 33 years of Multi-Multi team operations. All QSOs are loaded on ARRL LoTW, Club Log and QRZ.com. K3LR also sends and receives paper QSL cards on request.

The Western Pennsylvania K3LR team's competitive spirit is fuelled by rivalries with other Multi-Multi teams, such as with W3LPL in

Maryland, K1LZ in Maine and KC1XX in New Hampshire. In 2025, a friendly 'rivalry match' against the ND7K team in Arizona saw both stations break previous WPX records, highlighting the current high level of attainment.

Mentoring the next generation

A core part of the K3LR philosophy and mission is 'passing the torch' to younger amateurs. Tim has hosted all-youth teams, such as Team Exuberance in the 2019 CQ WW WPX SSB contest at the K3LR station. These teams, comprised entirely of operators under age 21, are mentored by the veteran K3LR crew but the youth are responsible for making every contact themselves.

In 2025, young operators like Katie Campbell, KE8LQR, participated in multi-op efforts at K3LR, gaining experience in propagation analysis and high-speed rate radio operating.

Through a combination of world-class engineering, a 'Formula One' approach to operation and a deep commitment to community and youth, the K3LR team continues to set a standard for what is possible in amateur radio contesting.

HamSCI activities at K3LR

Not just a contest station, K3LR engages with HamSCI (Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation) [4], a program which links amateur radio with scientific education and investigation. The recent installation of a magnetometer and SDR for HamSCI at K3LR demonstrates that the station engineering is appropriate for research, not just contesting.

The station design, therefore, is dual-purpose: HamSCI carried out a *field exercise* at K3LR in August 2025, installing a Personal Space Weather Station (PSWS) including a ground magnetometer and a wideband SDR, and laying cables. This also provided insight into the topography's role (how the land around the station influences HF propagation) as part of K3LR's engineering rationale.

HamSCI determined that the RF environment at K3LR is very 'clean', likely due to the careful engineering and maintenance of the K3LR installations. HamSCI will return to K3LR in August 2026 to continue its research.

References

- [1] Contest University: contestuniversity.com
- [2] World Wide Radio Operators Foundation: wwrof.org
- [3] DX Engineering: dxengineering.com
- [4] Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation: hamsci.org
- [5] K3LR website: k3lr.com



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

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 \$150. ARRL 10 - 40 Meter End Fed Antenna Kit new in the box \$50. Contact Bob Hajdak N8QE at (330) 807-5903 or rhajdak@aol.com [05/26]

For Sale: Astron VS-50M 12 Volt D.C. 50 Amp power supply - \$300, MFJ-1112 Multi D.C. outlets - \$30, MFJ-1117 high current D.C. outlet - \$50, MFJ-1118 high current multi D.C. outlet with switch and meter - \$75, Drake MN-2000 matching network - \$200, Heathkit HM-2140 HF dual reading "peak" wattmeter, with power supply -\$100. Contact: Jeff, WA8SAJ by home phone at (440) 9516406. [05/26]

For Sale: QYT KT-8900R 25W Tri-Band 2m/220/440 Mobile Radio w/programming cable New in box. \$80.00 Contact Kyle at w7kfr@protonmail.com [03/26]

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.

Field Day - 20M Station

Mike, N8WCP
20M Field Station Captain



We're making plans for Field Day 2026 which will be held June 27th & 28th. You don't need to be a seasoned contester to work field day, all licensed hams are welcome to participate in the fun! Our operations will be on 20M during the day and 80M at night if needed.

We currently have two open time slots, Sunday 12:00AM-2:00AM and 2:00AM-4:00AM and two unconfirmed time slots, Saturday 8:00PM-10:00PM and Sunday 4:00AM-6:00AM. If you're interested in reserving one or more of these time slots, please email me at n8wcp.us@gmail.com

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



Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"

Greetings to all DXers:

Welcome to March which is said to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb. Well, sometimes the lamb has teeth, so let's see what happens at the end of this month. In the meantime, there are DXpeditions and special event stations and solitary HAMS just wanting to have fun, going to some strange place to set up a station and have some fun. And we get to have fun along with them by making the contact. Let's see what we can expect. And remember, No. 10 on ClubLog's list of most wanted is on the horizon. I hope that the bands are kind to all of us.

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**

March...

3B8G – MAURITIUS. Since mid-February, Suvarna VU3OPT (also 9N7GA) has been active from Mauritius as 3B8G. He tends to QRV on 20-15-10m, CW. QTH: LG89tx. He will stay on Mauritius until the end of March. QSL via VU3OPT or QRZ logbook.

5N7QBR – NIGERIA - Bodo, DF8DX will be traveling to Nigeria from March 1-10 to carry out work at the broadcasting station of Voice of Nigeria. He expects to be QRV as much as time permits; however, please note that this is not a DXpedition. His equipment will be limited to 100 watts, but he may have the chance to use the large antenna arrays of the broadcasting station.

5W0, SAMOA. Jacek, SP5EAQ informs DX-WORLD that he plans to activate Samoa for a period of three weeks starting on 22 March, operating SSB exclusively. Operations will cover all bands from 10 to 40 meters, with a possibility of limited activity on 80 meters. As with his previous operations, this will be a single-operator activation using my former callsign, 5W0AF.

8Q7ZW – MALDIVES - Lubo, OM5ZW and Laco, OM4WM will be active from Thulusdhoo Island in the Maldives as **8Q7ZW** during February 28 to March 12, 2026. QRV on 160-10m; CW, SSB & FT8. Focus will be on low bands. QSL via OQRS.

9G, ABOKWA IS. (GHANA) Silvano I2YSB lets us know that the Italian DXpedition Team will be active from Abokwa Island (AF-084), Ghana, during March/April 2026. More details including callsign will be announced soon.

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.

CN, MOROCCO. Reminder - Yannick, F6FYD will be QRV as CN2YD from now to March 31, 2026. Activity will be on 20 to 10 meters using primarily SSB. This includes a possible trip to Mogador Island, IOTA AF-065. QSL direct to home call.

H44MS, SOLOMON IS. Reminder - Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active as H44MS from Manakwai village, Malaita Island, IOTA OC - 047, Solomon Islands, during January - April 2026. He will be operating on 40 - 6m SSB and FT8. QSL via home call.

JG8NQJ/JD1 – MINAMI TORISHIMA - Take JG8NQJ will again be active from Minami Torishima as JG8NQJ/JD1 starting February 26 and lasting through until mid-May 2026. QRV when time permits. He runs mainly CW with some FT8. QSL via JA8CJY, LoTW.

PJ2, CURACAO. Reminder - Andre, PD1DRE will be returning to Curacao. Look for him to again be QRV holiday-style as PJ2/PD1DRE until March 4, 2026.

PJ2, CURACAO. Reminder - Thaire W2APF announces that he will be operating from Curacao as PJ2/W2APF until March 31, 2026. QRV on 80-10m; CW, SSB & FT8 using Elecraft K4D and KPA500. Antennas include a BuddiPole Hexbeam, DX Commander for 40 & 30m, and doublet for 80M QSL via H/c, LoTW.

T88, PALAU. Ken, JP1RIW (also BM2JCC) will be QRV from Palau Radio Club (Koror) as T88KH during March 26-30, 2026. Participation in the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL via BM2JCC or Club Log OQRS.

TL8, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. Reminder - João CR7BNW reports that he will be operating from the Central African Republic as TL8BNW until June 2026. QRV on 40-20-15-10M using a dipole in SSB and FT8. Exact operational dates to be announced closer to start date. QSOs uploaded to LoTW and QRZ logbook.

TX5, AUSTRAL IS. Team consisting of PG5M, PA3EWP, DL2AMD, PA2KW, DK2AMM & DL2AWG will be active from Raivavae Island, Austral Islands as TX5EU during March 12-25, 2026.

TX9W – MARQUESAS IS. - A team of 6 operators, four from the Oklahoma DX Assn (OKDXA), one from New Mexico and one from France, K5WE, W5CCP, N5TEA, K4VBM, WD5COV, and F6BCW will be active as TX9W from the village of Atuona on the island of Hiva Oa, Marquesas Islands beginning 19 April through 30 April, 2026. They plan to operate 6 stations on all bands 160 through 6 meters using the CW, FT8, FT4, SSB, and RTTY modes. An emphasis will be made on CW and SSB QSOs.

V4/WA7RAR – ST. KITTS & NEVIS - Chris, WA7RAR has plans to be active from St Kitts & Nevis during February 21 to March 7, 2026. QRV from near Cockleshell Bay on the SE Peninsula of St. Kitts. POTA activity is also expected. All operations will be 20-10m; SSB & CW. QSL via homecall (direct).

V5, NAMIBIA. Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as V51WH from Omaruru until March 24, 2026. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using SSB, RTTY, FT8, and some CW. He will be active as V55Y in various contests. QSL to home call.

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.

V30/V31, BELIZE. Reminder - Uwe, DL8UD will again be active from Mayahill, Belize as V31KO during February & March 2026. QRV on 160-6m; SSB/CW/FT8. Participation in the ARRL CW contest (Feb 21-22), SO/AB/HP as V30. QSL via EA5GL

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.

XX9, MACAO. DX Friends have announced a new DXpedition planned for March 19-31, 2026. QRV on HF bands + 6m. Team of 14 operators. Full details will follow on their official website found [here](#) (site currently under construction).

YJ1JXZ – VANUATU. Aki says he will be active from Port Vila, Vanuatu as YJ1JXZ from March 15 to April 6, 2026. QRV on 80-6m; on weekdays I will be active after 5pm Vanuatu time and all day during the weekend of my stay.

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

3B9N – RODRIGUES IS. - Following on from his [3B8G activity](#), look for Suvarna VU3OPT to be on air from Rodrigues island as 3B9N during early April to mid-May 2026. Again QRV on 20-10m, CW. Location: MH10qh. QSL via VU3OPT or QRZ logbook.

AU2M – ARNALA IS., AS-169 - Sarath, VU2RS, will be reactivating the Arnala IOTA Activation. This activation was postponed last year due to heavy rains. Following many requests, they have decided to move forward with the reactivation of Arnala IOTA from May 1st, 2026, to May 3rd, 2026.

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

HK4/PY8WW – TUTUMATE IS., SA-093 - Renato, HK4WW has announced the soon activation of IOTA SA-093 – Tutumate Islands, located in the Chocó Province, in the Darién region of Colombia. The tentative callsign will be HK4/PY8WW, and the operation is scheduled from May 9th to May 15th, 2026. The station will operate using solar panels and stored energy with an EcoFlow power system.

TX9, MARQUESAS IS. A team of 6 operators, four from the Oklahoma DX Assn (OKDXA), one from New Mexico and one from France, K5WE, W5CCP, N5TEA, K4VBM, WD5COV, and F6BCW will be active as TX9W from the village of Atuona on the island of Hiva Oa, Marquesas Islands beginning 19 April through 30 April, 2026. They plan to operate 6 stations on all bands 160 through 6 meters using the CW, FT8, FT4, SSB, and RTTY modes. An emphasis will be made on CW and SSB QSOs.

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!

WOBBLE THE ETHERS!! Keep the airways going by working some great DX. Get on the air!! If we don't use it, we may lose it. 73 for now....*Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner*

Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET

Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

Greetings all!

Our next Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @7:00PM at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna, OH.

In this session, we will be focusing on Raspberry Pi for ham radio. We have a monitor/keyboard/mouse to use if needed.

ALSO, I will have a thumb drive for Ubuntu Linux and Mint Linux. Bring your old laptop and we will bring it back to life!

Cya in Ravenna!
73 de W8NET, Gene



PCARS Flex Net

Mike, N8WCP

Flex Net Coordinator

February's Flex Net was held on 146.550 FM simplex. Five stations participated in the net: KA8TOA, N8QE, WB8LCD, KB8TUY, and N8WCP.

To celebrate Pie Day, March's Flex Net will be held on Wednesday the 11th at 8:00PM on 28.314 USB. This is in the Technician allocation so we're looking forward to our Tech class members joining us on the air!

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 March 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 2025

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

In March we have the following for those interested in participating on their own*:

North & South QSO Parties	Mar. 1-2
ARRL Inter DX Contest, SSB	Mar. 7-8
South American 10m Contest	Mar. 14-15
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar. 14-15
Virginia QSO Parth	Mar. 21-22
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Mar. 28-29

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.

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS

EST. 2005

Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS February 2026 Schedule of Events

March 2nd	PCARS Board Meeting
March 9th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
March 26th	Net Night at the Club

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

03/15 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair
Perrysburg, OH
<https://w8hhf.org/>



04/11 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 70th Hamfest
Cuyahoga Falls, OH
<https://www.cfarc-hamfest.org/>

04/26 - Athens Hamfest
Athens, OH
<http://ac-ara.org/>

05/14-05/17 - Four Days In May
Fairborn, OH
<http://qrparci.org/fdim>

05/15-05/17 - Hamvention, 2026
Xenia, OH
<https://hamvention.org/>

February 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.

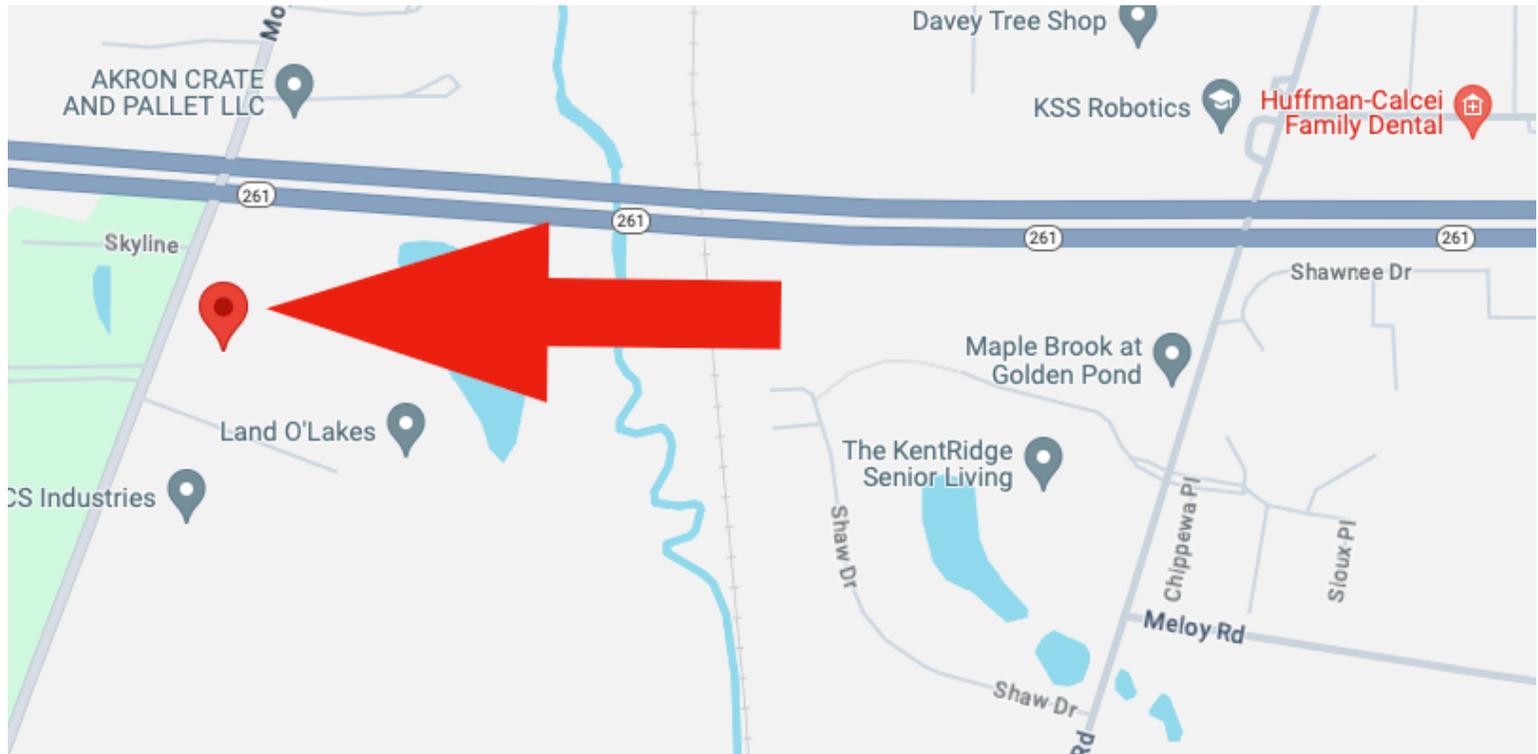
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at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

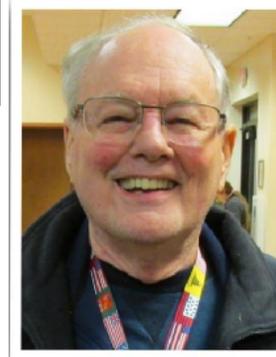


The American Legion Post 496 is located on the southeast corner of State Route 261 and Mogadore Rd. The driveway is on the south side of the building and as you enter you will pass through a parking lot on the south side of the building. Please do not park in this lot but instead continue on to the parking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

- April 4th
- 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



It is very tempting to look outside, see the sun, and feel like we might be on the other side of winter. But having grown up here, I know better. Doesn't mean I won't be fooled into pulling out the bicycles and getting them ready for those few days when there's no snow and things feel like early spring. I do know that I'm making sure my POTA kit is in good working order so that I can get back out to the parks and out of my Jeep!

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

**AC8NT, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, KE8QEP, N8WCP,
W8NET, W8PT, WA8LRW, WB2MGP, 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.

Remember: With **YOUR** continued help, **WE** can keep making this a **GREAT** newsletter!



Maybe March will be the last month of Parking Lot Activations for me!

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

2025 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

2025 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	-	-
Secretary	AD8IR	Agnes Wagner
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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