



The **RADIOGRAM**

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

PCARS - the 2018 Hamvention® Club of The Year

May 2021 - Volume 16 Number 5

Club Site Outdoor Clean Up



CQ Portable

RF Exposure Rules Updated



Gearing Up For Field Day



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



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Portage County Amateur Radio Service



K8BF

2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

Richard Kurta, KD8SJB - SK - PCARS Member #228

Richard A. Kurta, age 79 of Shalersville, passed away Saturday, March 27, 2021, at UH Portage Medical Center.

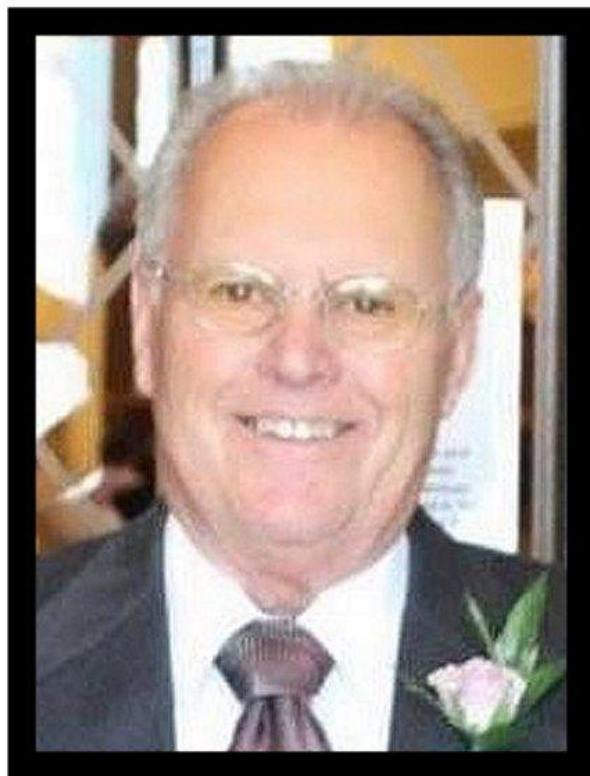
He was born November 26, 1941, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, to parents Andrew and Marie (Fiffick) Kurta. Richard was a devout Catholic who was a former member of St. Michael's Parish and current member of St. Joseph's Parish in Mantua. Mr. Kurta retired from UPS after 30 years of employment as a driver.

Richard was a talented musician who played the saxophone, beginning at a young age with the Kurta Family Band, and then several other bands throughout his life. He also enjoyed classic cars, shooting his guns, and was a HAM Radio operator. Most of all, he cherished the time spent with his family, especially the family vacations to Myrtle Beach and the time spent boating at their home on Lake Milton.

On March 24, 1961, he married his beloved Ellen "Arlene" Pulice, and they moved to Cleveland to start their family. In addition to Arlene, Richard is survived by his children: Tim (Justina) Kurta and Richelle (Frank) Scopilliti, his grandchildren: Andrew (Amanda) Kurta, Rhea (Teb) Jagger, Maria Suprenant, Olivia Suprenant, Stephanie (John) Giel, Chris Phillips, Zach Phillips, Gabe Phillips, Frank Scopilliti Jr, Nathan Scopilliti as well as his great-grandchildren: Kaelib, Dominica, and AJ. He is also survived by his sister Maxine (Robert) Yohman along with many adoring nieces and nephews.

Friends and family were received Friday, April 9, 2021, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM and 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Wood-Kortright-Borkoski Funeral Home, 703 E. Main St., Ravenna, OH 44266. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 11045 St. Joseph Blvd., Mantua, OH 44255, celebrated by Reverend Ed Stafford and Deacon Gerry Scopilliti on Saturday, April 10, 2021, at 11:00 AM. Entombment followed at St. Mary Cemetery in Ravenna.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.wood-kortright-borkoski.com.



PCARS

K8BF



From the President

Nick, AC8QG

PCARS President



In the last couple of weeks, I've experienced snow, sun, cold, heat, wind, rain, lightning, and hail. Just a typical Northeast Ohio spring, I suppose. The inconsistent weather slowed down a few of my family's outdoor projects, but it's also allowed for some quality fresh air at times. It's a welcome change from being stuck inside most of the winter. I guess the dreary days make me more grateful when we actually see some sunshine!

Big shout out to the team of people who helped out with the club site cleanup effort. The work was desperately needed, and you all did a great job. It was nice to see how fast a project can go when you have a handful of people all pitching in. **Thanks for the help!**

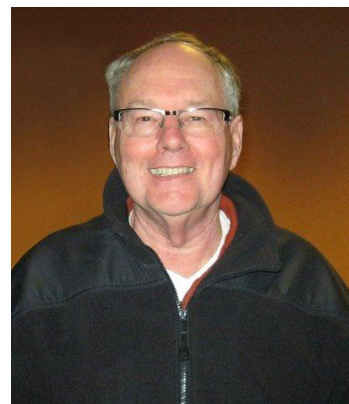
Field Day 2021 preparations are underway, and we need operators! Look for more information from our station captains elsewhere in this newsletter. COVID protocols will be in place at all times so that we can enjoy ourselves as safely as possible. It's not going to be quite the same as in years past, but we'll still have a lot of fun! If you're a technician or if this is your first Field Day, don't let that stop you. We can partner you with a control operator so you can join the fun on HF!

Speaking of fun, I'm really glad to see and hear all the people participating in our Special Interest Groups. It's been really interesting to hear about all the things people are doing on the air and to learn about all the projects they have underway. It's always great to get some tips from our more experienced hams, but I've been learning from everyone. Let's keep it going! Feel free to invite your friends, too. Everyone is welcome!

Finally, I'd like to thank all of our members who participate in our activities and events. Whether it's in person, on Zoom, or over the airwaves, you are the most important part of PCARS and the reason we continue to have **"Big Fun!"**

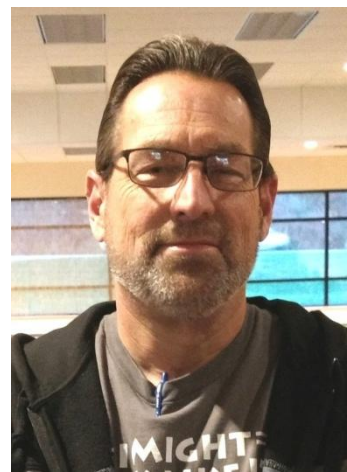
Thank You Jim, AC8NT

A big **THANK YOU** to Jim, AC8NT who volunteered and has now been appointed as the PCARS Secretary. We're glad Jim is taking over this important position. When you see him, say *"Thanks"*.



From the Vice President

Mike N8WCP
PCARS Vice President



Last month was spring cleaning time at the club site. In preparation for future meetings and activities, Jim-AC8NT donned a hazmat suit and used industrial strength disinfectant in the interior. No nasty germs or creepy crawlers survived the attack!

The following weekend a team of club members spent a Sunday afternoon clearing brush and weeds from around the tower and north side of the building. Many thanks to Nick-AC8QG, Jim-AC8NT, Chuck-W8PT, John-KD8MQ, Paul-KE8EGF, Rick-K8CAV, Gene-W8NET, Greg-KA8TOA, Mike-KB8TUY, David-KE8QEP, and Tim-KE8QOK, what an improvement! Since this was the

first time David and Tim had been to the club site since joining PCARS, Jim gave them the nickel tour.



I hope you had the opportunity to attend the Massillon ARC Tailgate Fest. It was a small hamfest but it was good to see old

friends I haven't seen in over a year and hunt for that needed piece of equipment. I'm looking forward to future hamfests and especially the DX Engineering Hamfest in August.

We had a good turn out for our April meeting. Jeff-WA8SAJ gave a great presentation on the battery powered emergency power system he uses at his QTH. Our speaker at the May meeting will be Anthony Luscre - K8ZT who will present Beyond Repeaters for Technicians. While geared towards technician class hams, it could be an eye opener for seasoned hams as well.



Field Day 2021 is less than sixty days away and all PCARS stations have time slots available. The club and station captains are working diligently to make field day safe and fun but we need ops in the chairs for twenty-four hours to make it successful. If you've never worked field day or a contest, no worries, we'll show you what it takes to make the contacts and have fun in the process. If you interested in working field day, contact any of the station captains ASAP to reserve your spot. You can work more than one station if you like.

CW Station - George-K3GP rttyfan@gmail.com
Flex Digital - Rick-K8CAV k8cav.coms@gmail.com
20M Phone & Digital - Mike-N8WCP n8wcp.us@gmail.com
40M Phone - Ed-K8IV ep.k8iv@gmail.com



Schedule of Events

On the calendar for upcoming meetings and activities are:



Although we are resuming in-person activities, many regular events are canceled or will be conducted virtually. Even events that are scheduled to be in-person may be canceled or moved to virtual. Please read this newsletter, join our weekly on-air club net, and watch for QST emails so you can stay up to date.

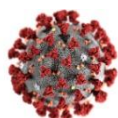
May 3rd - PCARS Board Meeting via Zoom - 7 pm

May 10th - PCARS Meeting - 7 pm at the Kent American Legion and on Zoom

NOTE: All In-Person Activities & Meetings

Subject To Cancellation

Check Web Site for Updates



- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| First Tuesday | - | Digital - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV |
| Third Tuesday | - | Antenna - Moderator: Tony, WA8AR |
| Fourth Tuesday | - | DX & Contest - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT |
| Fourth Thursday | - | Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 pm - Moderator: Tom, WB8LCD |

PCARS Custom Coffee Cups - **Limited Edition- Almost Gone**

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 you have to claim it from the **Treasurer - Paul, KE8EGF.**

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



Portage County Amateur Radio Service



2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

There are a **very limited number of extra coffee cups** and they are for sale at \$5.00 each.

Contact Paul for all of the details

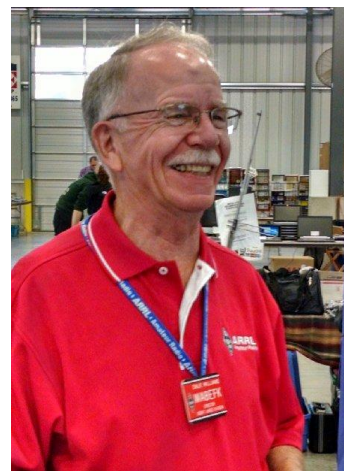


From the Great Lakes Division Director



Dale, WA8EFK
ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

Greetings, welcome to "Dale's Tales"



RF EXPOSURE. There have been a lot of questions regarding the FCC decision to eliminate the exemption Amateur Radio has enjoyed for many years related to RF exposure. ARRL has drafted a series of Questions and answers to address our mutual concerns. You will find information posted on our Great Lakes Division web page along with a simple calculator that can be used to determine if your station is in compliance with the long standing regulations. http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org/rf_exposure.html Updates will appear on the Web Page as we anticipate further clarifications from the FCC.

A REMINDER ABOUT THIS YEAR'S DAYTON HAMVENTION: From Michael Kalter, W8CI AND the Dayton Amateur Radio Assn. "With no in-person Hamvention this year, due to continuing Corona virus restrictions, we have been developing several activities to keep Hams busy and engaged in the hobby. We have a two day prize total of \$15,000." Hamvention will be "Virtual" this year.

On Thursday May 20, 2021 the **Virtual Contest University** will be held starting at 9 AM EDT 1300Z. This will be a free event! Friday May 21 Starting at 11 AM EDT 1500Z the 2021 **Virtual Hamvention Forums** begin. Saturday May 22 you may participate in the **Hamvention QSO Party** 8 AM to 8 PM EDST (1200 May 22 to 0000 May 23 UTC) W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, will be a bonus station scored at 10 points per band and mode. To stay up with details, check <https://hamvention.org/>

ARRL GREAT LAKES CONVENTION: With sincere regrets, it was announced that due to the complications of Covid-19 and the resulting unknowns related to venue planning, the decision has been made to cancel the scheduled DX Engineering Hamfest and the associated Great Lakes Division Convention planned for the weekend of August 7.

ARRL HQ JOB OPENINGS: I might be remiss if I did not mention this, but there are several job postings for ARRL Headquarters staff and these are real opportunities for those who might be interested in serving the ham radio community. <http://www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities>



From the Great Lakes Division Vice Director



Scott, N8SY
ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director



Normally by this time in the season I'm usually scrambling around getting things ready for another great Dayton Hamvention, but unfortunately, it's not to be this year.

I've been working really hard on a couple of projects that are showing some great results. The Field Organization Working Group that I'm on has put out a questionnaire that we sent to all 71 of the Section Managers asking what they feel is needed to do their job better. We've had some very interesting responses and are reviewing and working on finding solutions to those responses.

The PR Committee that I'm also on is conducting some Zoom presentations for PIC's and PIO's all over the country to help teach them "best practices" for contacting and communicating with the media about Amateur Radio with a special emphasis being placed on Field Day.

I have a special announcement for all the clubs in the Great Lakes Division. We will be recognizing the "**Best**" newsletter in the Division. Just to remind all of you about how the newsletters are judged, here are the rules. You can also find these and all the awards possible to be presented posted on the Great Lakes Division website < http://arrl-greatlakes.org/awards_criteria.html >

JOSEPH J. PHILLIPS, K8QOE, NEWSLETTER AWARD

This award will be given to the highest scoring newsletter submitted in Great Lakes Division competition to the newsletter review committee. Each newsletter for the contest will have been declared newsletter-of-the-year for the Section it represents during the present year; however, when the timing of the Division Convention occurs too early in the year to permit selection of a newsletter for the year, winners for the previous year may be submitted. An eligible newsletter must be regularly published at least four (4) times per year and be a recognized Amateur Radio organization within their state. Electronic (or Web based) produced newsletters may also enter. However, they must represent their printed newsletter in all formats. This is to ensure uniformity.

Non-amateurs, in the Public Relations industry will do the judging. They will judge on following criteria:

- **Style (15%):** This means newsletter design of all pages.
- **Content (35%):** This is the amount of useful information contained within the newsletter.
- **Service to members (35%):** This is the amount of information using individual member's names.
- **Clarity of presentation (15%):** This is the readability of the newsletter including accuracy of spelling and grammar.

The best newsletter from each of the 3 Sections (Michigan, Kentucky and Ohio) have been chosen by their respective Section Leaderships to compete for this very prestigious award.

That is going to do it from here this month. So, "**GOTA**" and have FUN!!!



From the ARRL Ohio Section Manager



Tom, WB8LCD
ARRL Ohio Section Manager



Welcome to Springtime in Ohio!

First off, the “1 Question Survey” that just finished up - **WHAT AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR AS WE BEGIN TO OPEN UP ACTIVITIES AGAIN?”** - had some responses that I thought were interesting.

5% of you said you were going to work on getting you license upgraded. Good for you – I wish you success and hope you’ll drop me and email and let me know how you did.

20% of you plan to get outside and work on your antennas. I’m not surprised at this, and I hope you’ll write up something for us and take some pictures as you move along with the project. Hams are *always* interested in what other hams are doing and how it works for them.

29% of you want to get back out to “Field” style operations – Fantastic! If you’re doing something special, let us all know what, when and where. We’ll all want to give you a Q and help you have a successful operation (I’ll try to get out to see you on Field Day, and hope we get to work you on OH State Parks on the Air).

11% responded that they are looking forward to Club Activities. Clubs are very important to Ham Radio. Clubs are where most people create life-long friendships and give their members a sense of community.

Finally, the last option was “attend hamfests” – a whopping 35% of you said that this was what you were looking forward to! I’m surprised (but not really surprised) at this. Hamfests are not only a Tradition in the hobby, but they usually encompass all of the other answers in one!

I attended the Massillon ARC’s “Spring Tailgate Fest” along with my friend Tyson, K8TTX. It was really exciting to be back at a hamfest after over a year. While not huge by any means, it was well attended and I had a good time. Seeing old friends in person, and meeting some new friends for the first time, was way more meaningful than seeing your face in a little box on the ZOOM screen! The other thing I thought was significant about it was that money was changing hands and hams were going home with new treasures! And there was lots of good stuff there to choose from.



You’ve probably notice a lot of press about “Radio Frequency Exposure” rules and the new FCC requirements for Hams effective May 3, 2021. While the topic is what I consider “Serious Stuff”, all the excitement around this current announcement is a bit over-stated. I would encourage everyone to do a written assessment of their operations and keep it with your license. I doubt you’ll ever be required to present it, but it’s a good exercise and it’s better to have it on hand than to fumble with excuses if you ever would be required to present it. I would encourage you all to download and read FCC Bulletins OET-65 a, b & c to get the first-hand explanation of what this is all about. Then I want to direct you to the following video presented by Greg Lapin, N9GL, Chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee: <https://vimeo.com/540342124>

While this is rather long, it should answer your questions. This is put out by an organization called RATPAC which offers bi-weekly videos on many interesting Amateur Radio topics. Check them all out: **Past RATPAC**

Presentations: [Published Format list](#) // [Menu Format list](#)

Back to that last 1 question survey, the second most popular answer was wanting to get out for “Field Operations” – coming in at 30%. That gets back to one of my main concerns for Ham Radio – Having Fun!

If you do some research, then do some promotion, YOU could be a “rare one” operating from right here in OHIO. Check out the County Hunters. There are actually a couple of counties in OH that are just a bit tougher to work than others. Plan some DXpeditions without the need to leave the state. There are also some Islands in OH that stations on other continents would certainly be interested in working, check out the Island Hunters.

Some folks like working stations that have a story to go along with them – Special Event Stations. Usually this comes with a certificate. Ohio has way too much history and historical figures and monuments for me to go into, but you get the idea. With any of these, to be successful you have to research your market and do some directed marketing to your target group. A notice in QST may not be adequate here. But, if you get the word out you could be the station running Q’s faster than you ever have before. Give it a try, it’s worth the effort.

2021 Young Ham Lends a Hand Winners



Carole Perry, WB2MGP
Chairperson RCA Youth Activities

2021 Young Ham Lends a Hand Contest Winners



This contest is designed to encourage and reward the spirit of volunteerism in amateur radio amongst our young hams. It has been sponsored for many years by RCA Youth Activities, QCWA, and the original founder with Carole Perry WB2MGP; Evan Rolek K9SQG.

This year’s winners are two extremely talented young hams who are tireless in their recruiting, teaching, and all-around volunteering in various ham radio organizations. It was a hard choice, so we have chosen two winners this year.

Isaac Schofer AC3CJ is 16 years old from Silver Springs, Maryland. Amongst many other activities, he is a volunteer at the KID Museum at the KM3KID ham radio station. Isaac is a volunteer at the Laurel VEC test sessions of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club. He has given presentations at Carole’s Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum and at the Orlando Hamcation Youth Forum as well. These are just some of his extraordinary achievements and volunteering efforts.



Ian Powell, W7OLI

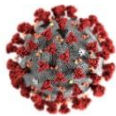
Ian Powell W7OLI is 15 years old and is from Boardman, Oregon. He is a member of the Hermiston Amateur Radio Club and participates in the ARES net. He is doing the ARRL-EC001 course and will be taking the FEMA test for ARES, so he can be ARES certified at age 18. His welcoming and tutoring of newcomers to the radio is well documented.

Both young hams will be receiving an award of \$100. It is our hope to honor them both in person at the 2022 Hamvention Youth Forum.

PCARS VE Test Information & News

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison

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



NOTE: All Dates Subject To Cancellation

Check Web Site for Updates



- You **MUST** register in advance - NO WALK-INS will be accepted. Send an email to KB8UUZ@gmail.com to register.
- You will be required to have, in advance, a Form 605 - properly filled in and signed. Once you register a form 605 will be sent to you via email. You can print it out and fill it in.
- **You must have your FRN prior to taking an exam** - no SSNs will be used on the Form 605 anymore.
- If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or someone that has been infected - please, do not come to the club site.
- You will wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times.
- No food or snacks allowed.
- Only people that are testing will be allowed in the building.
- \$15.00 Fee Payment will only be by check or exact change. We cannot make change
- If paying by check, make check out to: "ARRL-VEC" The VE Fee is \$15.00
- 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).
 - **FCC is requiring you have your e-mail address on the Form 605.**
 - **If you are taking a Technician test you will need your FRN number** (you can apply for an FRN on the FCC website). For hams having a license, your FRN is printed on your license.
 - If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You **MUST** bring your original valid amateur radio license and a copy of your valid amateur radio license to turn in with your Form 605.
 - Bring your own pencils and pens.



Any questions? Contact KB8UUZ@gmail.com

Additional Information - What to Bring to the Testing Session

- If you've already passed a test: The original (and one copy) of any document that you will use to prove you've already passed a test element.

These documents may include:

- An unexpired Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) indicating the credit(s) earned.
- Original and copy of a pre-March 21, 1987 Technician license (this provides credit for the Element 3 [General] exam) - you **must** be currently licensed to get this credit.

Expired License? **Original** and a copy of your expired Amateur Radio License - you must take and pass Element number 2 to re-instate your license.

Dates subject to change - Check the PCARS web site for the latest information

PCARS

ARRL Volunteer Examiners:
serving the Amateur Radio community

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



ARE YOU GOING FOR YOUR TECHNICIAN LICENSE? READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FRNs Required at Exam Sessions

Auto-registration in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) amateur radio exam for candidates using a Social Security number will be discontinued on May 20, 2021. Applicants must use an FCC Registration Number (FRN) for all license transactions with the FCC. Examinees must register in CORES and receive an FRN before exam day. Starting on May 20, electronic batch filed applications that do not include a candidate's FRN will be rejected. The Social Security/Licensee ID Field will be disabled.

The CORES website can be accessed at: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>.

An instructional video provides step-by-step instructions on how to establish a CORES account, which is necessary for licensees to make administrative updates and download electronic license authorizations. The instructional video can be found at, <https://www.fcc.gov/rofrn>.

After June 29, all filers **must provide an email address** on all applications. When an email is provided, applicants will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses once granted (allow incoming email from authorizations@fcc.gov). **If no email is provided when filing on or after June 29, applications will be rejected.**

ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend.

Further information about providing an email address can be found at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-to-require-email-address-on-applications-starting-on-june-29-2021>

Licensees need to log in to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) to download their authorizations. The FCC no longer issues paper copies.

“Additionally, FCC Mobility Division (MD) Deputy Chief Tom Derenge recommended that VECs make it clear to applicants that their address will be public information when the new license is issued. He suggested advising that an alternative address, such as a PO Box or work address, would be acceptable. Derenge pointed out that once an address is in the FCC database, it’s nearly impossible to be permanently removed.”

Examinees can be directed to this information on our the ARRL website or directly to the FCC website.

FRN registration information (see item #4): <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

FCC Privacy information: <http://www.arrl.org/fcc-licensee-privacy>

FCC CORES User Account and Registration: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>



FCC Not Yet Collecting \$35 Application Fee



From the ARRL

The majority of the FCC's revised Part 97 rules (adopted in December 2020) establishing new application fees that were to become effective on April 19, but the new amateur radio application fees will *not* become effective on April 19. The FCC announced on March 19 that the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 filings, would not become effective until the "requisite notice has been provided to Congress, the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated, and the Commission publishes notice(s) in the *Federal Register* announcing the effective date of such rules."

The \$35 fee, **when it becomes effective**, would apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications, as well as applications for a special temporary authority (STA) or a rule waiver. All fees will be per application. Administrative updates, such as a change of mailing, email address, or name, are exempt.

It is expected that such fees will not become effective before summer 2021. The FCC has stated that amateurs will have advance warning of the actual effective date, because it will publish such date in the *Federal Register*.

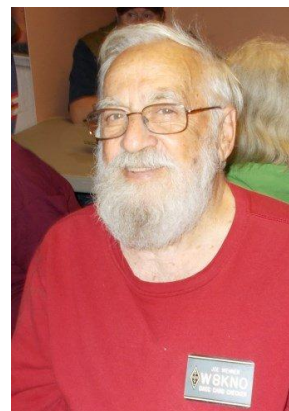
ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not have to collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. **Once the FCC application fee takes effect, new and upgrade applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the VE team as usual, and pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC via the [Fee Filer System](#) or [License Manager System](#).** Somma said this information was provided in a [VE Newsletter](#) distributed this past week. "Further news and instructions will follow when we have them," she said.

Armed Forces Cross-Band Test

Joe, W8KNO

Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test Set for May 7 - 8

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band Test, Friday and Saturday, May 7-8, in recognition of Armed Forces Day on May 15. The event is open to all radio amateurs. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this exercise, designed to include amateur radio and government radio operators alike.



The AFD Cross-Band Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military and amateur radio stations, as authorized under FCC Part 97 rules. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise in which military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur radio frequencies being monitored.

The schedule of military/government stations taking part in the Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test and information on the AFD message is available on the MARS website at, <http://www.dodmars.org/home/armed-forces-day-2021>.

Complete the request form to obtain a QSL card at, <http://www.usarmymars.org/events>

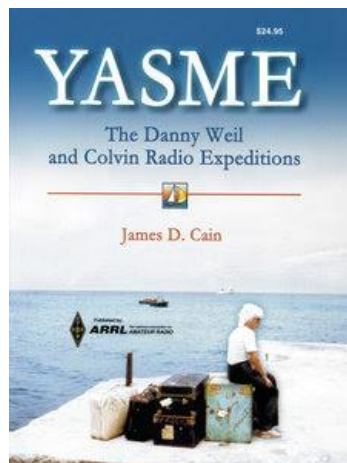
Chronicles of Amateur Radio DX History



From the ARRL

Yasme Foundation Releases Chronicles of Amateur Radio DX History

The [Yasme Foundation](#) has released two chronicles of amateur radio DX history that make for compelling reading -- a downloadable edition of *Yasme: The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions*, by Jim Cain, K1TN, and the extended article *Danny Weil -- a Dreamer of Distant Lands Who Took the Amateur Radio Trip of a Lifetime*, by Martti Laine, OH2BH.



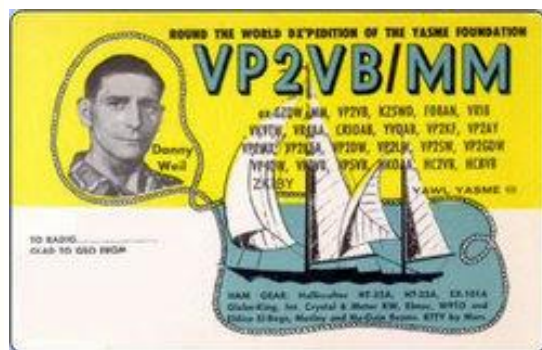
Cain's 324-page history, initially published by ARRL in 2003 and now out of print, is available for the first time in a downloadable format at no cost. It includes some as-originally-intended revisions to the text as well as a new introduction.

"Even after years of writing a DX newsletter and then publishing dozens of feature articles in *QST*, I guess I hadn't got it out of my system yet," Cain said, recounting the book offer that was too good to pass up. "I had a lot of words and even entire sentences left in me."

Cain's book documents the lives and DX adventures of Danny Weil, VP2VB -- of Yasme fame -- and of Iris and Lloyd Colvin, W6QL and W6KG. It also offers a look into the DXCC program from the 1950s through 2000.

Between 1955 and 1963, Weil sailed to various exotic locations in his yawl *Yasme* (four different boats in all) to operate, escaping dangerous and life-threatening disasters. Another ham radio legend, Dick Spenceley, KV4AA, created the Yasme Foundation to provide funding for Weil's excursions. He also prompted Weil's fundraising tour in 1956 to more than 100 ham radio clubs and gatherings. Weil's wife, Naomi, accompanied him on some of his maritime journeys to rare DX venues. In 1964, the Colvins took up the Yasme banner, visiting 223 countries and operating from more than half of them before their final expedition in 1993.

Yasme Foundation President Ward Silver, N0AX, said Cain's book, "along with recounting some fascinating history, explains a lot about how the structures of modern DXing emerged, introducing many of us to the colorful characters who populated the DX scene at the time."



Laine's article provides even more details about the life of Danny Weil and his DXpeditions, drawing from Weil's personal recollections as well as Cain's book. The article's web page includes links to a collection of Weil's QSL cards and an audio interview of Weil at age 80.

In 1920, an international group of operators, including Laine, conducted a [Yasme Memorial Expedition](#) using Weil's reissued call sign, VP2VB.

The Yasme Foundation today supports various projects relating to amateur radio, emphasizing its development in emerging countries and encouraging youth participation.



PCARS Patches & Stickers



PCARS logo patches (iron on) & stickers (stick on) are now available!!

Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo!! The patch is about 3". The

embroidery on the white patch is in Red, Black

and Blue. Cost for a patch is only \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There

are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS -

Wear a patch, use the stickers! See the club Treasurer: **Paul, KE8EGF** or e-mail him at: phyland@neo.rr.com



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

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

KE8MKY	Jordan Crabtree
KE8HQB	Norman Weber Jr
WD8KQH	William Seckel
W8PJW	Paul Wheeler
K8KSU	Melanie Hardman
WA8LRW	Kenwood Hall
WA8UWV	Doug Mansor

W8BDE	Don Bennington
K8HTB	Joe Carron
WA8YFL	Lloyd Brink
K8NYM	Wes Ferrell
W8EZZ	Frank Tompkins
WA8US	John Brock



Portage County Amateur Radio Service



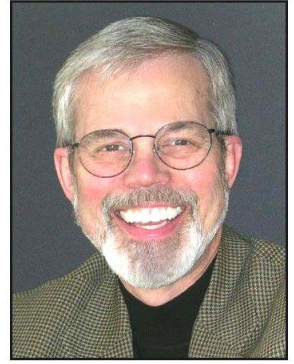
K8BF



2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

Vintage Radio Power Switching

Fred, K8IG



Vintage Amateur Radio Equipment Power Switching: A Problem and a Solution!



Many of us own amateur radio equipment that is as old...or older...than we are. The problem, of course, as some have tragically found, is that the power switches suffer from age, perhaps thousands of on-off cycles, arcing and mechanical failures. Many of these power switches are combination units that control not only the AC power but also tone, volume, the BFO or other applications requiring a potentiometer. The dilemma, of course, is that replacement switches for most of our vintage equipment are no longer available.

With Shakespeare in the forefront of our minds (not!), the question remains: To switch or not to switch...that was the pressing question. Of course, I could choose to simply leave the radio units all on but that would result in unnecessary power consumption, perhaps premature aging of the already old equipment, a cacophony of background noise and additional heat in the shack. So, I decided that avoiding use of the power switches on the multiple receivers/transceivers was the better choice and an alternative solution was necessary and remote power switching was the clear choice.

While I regret that I didn't take adequate progress pictures of the project, hopefully you will get the idea from the text and a few pictures. The finished "control panel" is shown mounted above the KWM-



2. The installed (Sorry, no pre-installation picture) panel mounting the relays and 120VAC receptacles is shown below the table. Essentially, I crafted and painted a small aluminum panel designed for under-shelf mounting that would mount ten rocker switches (Amazon KCD2—102N-G) that illuminate in the "on" position. My shack has bountiful 12 volt DC power available through various Anderson Powerwerx PD-8 power distribution blocks so low voltage (12 VDC) switching made good sense. These 12 VDC illuminated rocker switches were wired to remotely power relays (Amazon ApieL Relay My2NJHH52P). These relays (5 Amp) have two normally open and two normally closed contacts. I wired the relays using the normally open contacts.



The relay and receptacles are remotely mounted below the shack table on a wood panel as shown. The ten illuminated rocker switches are connected to and control the ten relays via 18 gauge wire (red). Six duplex receptacles were mounted in three metal boxes interconnected by conduit as shown. The receptacles require that you remove (cut) the tab on the ungrounded (brass) side of each of the four receptacles so that they can be powered individually. I installed six receptacles to fill the three boxes as shown with the last receptacle un-switched (powered continuously with 120VAC). The power source for the receptacles is a three conductor, 12 gauge power cord.



In operation, I can individually control power for the 75A-4, KWM-2, 75S-3, TR4CW, TR5, TR-7. FT-1000, 75S-3B and one switch powers the SX-28 and 51S-1. The bottom line is that the three or so hours of construction and about \$100 in material costs will preserve the power switches on the classic radio equipment and add value to their heritage. Plus, the control panel takes little valued shack table space and looks "cool" too!

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE - FT-7800R Dual Band Mobile, TX 50W on 2M, 40W on 70CM, Receive from 108 to 520 MHz (cell blocked), 1055 Memory channels, Used as base radio, never mobile. Includes RT Systems programming software and cable. All original boxes, power cord, mic, etc. Like new, \$250 **Comet DS-150S Discone Base Wideband scanner/receive/TX antenna**. Receive 25-1300 MHz, TX 6M/2M/440/900/1200 MHz. Gain-Unity/2/4dB, UHF connector. All Stainless, excellent condition \$60.00

Contact: John, W8JJW by phone at: 330-842-3619 [07/02/21]

FOR SALE - Bridge Com Systems BCH-270 2M/70CM HT, BGM-270-Cable, & BGM-BCH-270 Spare Battery and Belt Clip new, never used. \$100.00. **MFJ-9340K 40M Cub QRP Kit** new, never used. \$100.00. **TIDRADIO UV-5R** Dual Band 2M/70CM HT new, never used. \$50.00. **DX Engineering DXE-SWP8** Memory Keypad for Kenwood, and ICOM new, never used. \$50.00. **Reconditioned Heath Kit SB-200 Amplifier** \$500.00 with new tubes.

Contact: Bob, N8QE at rhajdak@aol.com [05/02/21]

FOR SALE: Ham Radio Repair Closed after 50 years - I have tons of good parts for Drake, Collins, Swan, Hallicrafters, Heathkit, etc. Call for info is best too much to list. **Collins S-line, 75S-3C receiver, 32S-3A transmitter, 312B-4 console, 516F-2 power supply** (restored) - \$3500, with extras! **Collins KWM-2A transceiver, 312B-5 VFO console, 516F-2 powers supply** (restored) - \$2500 with extras! **Collins reproduction 5-way antenna / radio switch** 1200 watt rated - \$300 **Drake 2-Model AC-4 power supplies**- \$200 / each all re-built with new Heathkit Shop AC-4R boards, three-wire AC cords, "VOX" relay RCA jack. **Swan 117XC power supply / speaker**- \$200, re-built with new board. **AMECO PT-3 transceiver pre-amplifier** 1.8 to 54 MHz, RF switching installed - \$100.

Contact: Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ by phone at: 440-951-6406 [06/02/21]



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: [07/02/21] indicates the ad will run until July 2, 2021.



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



PCARS IO Group

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

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

Two things every member should do.

1. Check the PCARS web site every day, maybe a couple of times a day, to see new info that's posted.
2. Join the PCARS IO Group. That's a great place to post message when you are looking for information or have a question about something. Try it - you just may like it!!



RCA QSO Party for All Amateurs

W2RCA and the Radio Club of America invite all members and fellow radio amateurs to join in our Spring QSO party. May 8, 2021 – May 9, 2021

An SSB-only event, the objective is for members to meet and QSO fellow members, and for budding members to meet the RCA on-the-air.



We will do three bands, to allow East to West coast openings on the various bands: 75,40, and 20m. Feel free to make a QSO on each band as a separate contact. A certificate will be issued to the RCA member with the greatest number of combined 20M/40M/75M QSO's, and to a non-member for working the greatest number of RCA members. A special bonus is given for working W2RCA, of **10 equivalent QSO's**. **W2RCA will be on the air and looking for you!**

We encourage everyone to go a bit beyond the usual contest exchange, and have fun rag chewing a bit. W2RCA will issue special QSL's to all who participate and we are looking forward to working you. **BE SURE TO SPOT W2RCA so others can find the Club station!**

The specifics:

TIME: (May 8 2021) 1800- 2300 UTC 20M USB; suggest 14.280-14.300
2200-0300 UTC (into May 9) 40M LSB; suggest 7.240-7.260
0000-0300 UTC (May 9 2021) 75M LSB: Suggest 3.800-3.840

EXCHANGE: Signal report and member year (first in RCA); signal report and QSO number for non-members

LOGS: An email to W1YW@aol.com summarizing results; potential certificate winners will be asked to send a log copy. Submit summary by 10 June 2021.

More info? Contact **Chip W1YW** at W1YW@aol.com



Field Day 2021



Tony, WA8AR
Field Day Chairman



This year Field Day is back, and will be held June 26/27!! Field Day is, without a doubt, the largest operating event for PCARS every year. Traditionally for PCARS, Field Day has also been a major social event, however, because of lingering COVID concerns and restrictions we will need to suspend the social activities (no big dinner!!) and concentrate our efforts on practicing our emergency operating skills while competing with other clubs. Our goal is be #1 in the US in our operating class (Class 4A). We came very close to achieving that goal back in 2019 We can do it this year! There will be plenty of opportunities for club members to operate or log during FD and/or to volunteer to help set stations (antennas) before FD and tear everything back down when it is all over. We will be returning to the Freedom Township Park again this year as our Field Day operating base.

During the next eight weeks, station Captains for 40 meter phone; 20 meter phone; Flex Station (phone, digital, CW); dedicated CW station, and the VHF station will be putting out requests for operators/loggers to fill their operating schedules. In addition we will be looking for volunteers to help setup and tear down. Whether you want to operate in the biggest Ham Radio annual contest or help erect antennas for 5 stations (in less than 2 hours) this will be a great experience for everyone who participates. We can't do it without YOU!! Stay tuned for much more information and requests for help over the next two months.

Remember that, first and foremost, Field Day is a national simulated emergency communications drill. What we will do on June 26/27 is exactly what we would have to do in the event of a major national disaster. The FCC and Homeland Security already recognize the fact that when all other communications systems get knocked out, Amateur Radio could be the last communications network still operational.

Note that all of the rules governing ARRL Field Day can be found on the ARRL website.

Field Day 2021 - CW Station



George, K3GP
CW Station Captain



CW OPERATORS NEEDED FOR FIELD DAY

PCARS Field day will be here before you know it and CW operators are needed! Drop an email to rttyfan@gmail.com if you would like to pound some brass with us. Once again we will be operating from a enclosed utility trailer, protected from rain and wind. The operating equipment and position will be sanitized between shifts. We will post a schedule on the web site starting in early June. Hope to see you there!

Field Day 2021 - Flex Station



Rick, K8CAV
Field Day Flex Station Captain



Some key points to remember about Flex are:

- We're making it as safe as possible for amateurs to operate by limiting people at the Flex station to strictly operators and loggers, **NO** visitors or social gathering at or in the Flex Station; wipe-downs inside of the Flex trailer between shifts; hand sanitizer and wipes inside of the Flex trailer; masking required outside of the Flex trailer; each operator and logger to provide their own headphones and/or headsets; **no food or drink inside of the Flex trailer**. I am procuring some inexpensive microphone/headsets so that each phone operator will not have to worry about sanitizing a headset prior to use. I'll have hand sanitizer available at the station and disinfecting hand wipes for cleaning surfaces in the station.
- Flex is band and mode agile, within limits (see the Flex article in the March issue of *The Radiogram* for details). Coordination with CW on 20 m and 40 m is required, Flex is primary on all other HF bands.
- There will only be one computer, my laptop for logging, digital operations (fldigi and FT8/FT4), and CW. Fldigi and FT8/FT4 will log directly to N3FJP, CW will use the Winkeyer with N3FJP and macros for operating and logging. Field Day macros will be set up for fldigi. Phone will log to N3FJP using the laptop.

Depending on the Coronavirus situation we may be able to hold a training meeting for logging, digital, and CW operations. If an in-person meeting is not possible or advisable, I will try to set something up using a Zoom meeting.

We really want to make our in-person Field Day comeback a big success but we need YOU to step up to volunteer to operate! If you are interested in operating, logging, or helping with setup and tear down, please send me an e-mail to k8cav.coms@gmail.com . Thanks!

DAY	TIME	MODE	OPERATOR - LOGGER
SAT 27 JUN	14:00 - 16:00	10M, 15M PH or DIG; 40M DIG *	Jim AC8NT
	16:00 - 18:00	10M, 15M PH or DIG; 20M DIG *	
	18:00 - 20:00	10M, 15M PH or DIG; 20M DIG *	
	20:00 - 22:00	80M PH, CW, or DIG	
	22:00 - 00:00	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Gene W8NET - John KE8MXR
SUN 28 JUN	00:00 - 02:00	80M PH, CW, or DIG	
	02:00 - 04:00	80M PH, CW, or DIG	
	04:00 - 06:00	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Rick KD8WCK - Mara KE8KBJ
	06:00 - 08:00	80M PH, CW, or DIG	Andrew KE8BWA
	08:00 - 10:00	10M, 15M PH or DIG; 20M DIG *	Gene W8NET
	10:00 - 12:00	10M, 15M PH or DIG; 40M DIG *	
	12:00 - 14:00	10M, 15M PH or DIG; 40M DIG *	

FLEX and CW to cooperate on 20M and 40M to insure that both are not on the same band at the same time

* If 10M and/or 15M is open make QSO's using PH, CW, or DIG, otherwise use the 20M or 40M band DIG as indicated for that time slot.

Field Day 2021 - 20 Meter Station



Mike, N8WCP
20 Meter Station Captain



This is my first year as a station captain and I'm looking forward to our return to Freedom Park after working last year from home due to Covid. If you've never worked Field Day, it's a mix of a little work and a lot of fun! I encourage members to get involved.

The 20M station will operate primarily SSB phone but we'll have the option to work FT4 digital in the late night hours if band conditions don't favor phone operation. The station will consist of an Icom IC-7300 with a 3 element Yagi on a 30' tower.

To address any health concerns operators may have, we're limiting the number of people at the site. I'm also working on a headset solution that will ensure each operator has their own headset, of course if you own a compatible headset you're welcome to bring it.

I'm looking forward to a successful field day and that requires filling the operating schedule. If you're interested in working field day, helping set up, or have questions, please send an email to: n8wcp.us@gmail.com.

DAY	TIME	OPERATOR
SAT 27 JUN	14:00 - 16:00	
	16:00 - 18:00	Dave - KC8LSX
	18:00 - 20:00	Greg - KA8TOA
	20:00 - 22:00	Chuck - W8PT
	22:00 - 00:00	
SUN 28 JUN	00:00 - 02:00	Paul - KE8EGF
	02:00 - 04:00	
	04:00 - 06:00	
	06:00 - 08:00	
	08:00 - 10:00	Mike - N8WCP
	10:00 - 12:00	Greg - KA8TOA
	12:00 - 14:00	



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!





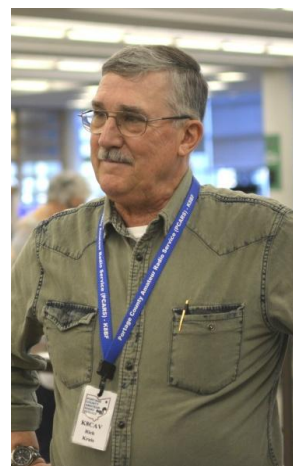
Portage County Park District Headwaters Race

Rick, K8CAV

Portage County Coms Unit Commander



Hey PCARS members! I'd really like to have five of you to volunteer to help out with communications support for the Portage County Park District's Headwaters Adventure Race on Saturday morning **July 10th**. The race takes place in Mantua Village, Mantua Township, and Hiram Township, and volunteers staff key points on the course to provide information to the race director. Specifics about our support can be found on page 21 in the March issue of *The RADIOGRAM*. If you can help out, please send an email to k8cav.coms@gmail.com. Thanks!!



Joel Harrison, W5ZN Nominated IARU Secretary

From the ARRL



ARRL Executive Committee Nominates Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to be Next IARU Secretary

At its April 5 meeting via Zoom, the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) nominated past ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to become the next Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](http://www.iaru.org)). The incumbent Secretary, David Sumner, K1ZZ, has announced his intention to step down on July 1. ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, explained that ARRL, as IARU Secretariat, has the right and obligation to appoint a successor. Harrison currently serves as IARU Assistant Secretary. The ARRL Board of Directors ratified his nomination on April 16.



The EC also agreed to hold an in-person Board of Directors meeting in July, in accordance with Connecticut COVID-19 regulations. ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, told the EC that a new procedure was being put into place to recognize centenarian members -- those who are 100 years of age or older. The membership team will now identify members who qualify for ARRL's Centurion Award, and the corresponding Director will determine how to proceed with the award presentation. The EC agreed to include a \$100 ARRL gift certificate to accompany the award. In addition, with the changes pending in the 9-centimeter band, the EC adopted a new calling frequency for that band of 3400.1 MHz. [Minutes of the EC meeting](#) have been posted.



Virtual Contest University 2021

Contest University

Tim, K3LR



Registration is now OPEN for Virtual Contest University 2021 on May 20, 2021 and for 2021 Hamvention Forums on May 21, 2021. Both events are being held live through Zoom Webinar and are **free**. You must register to be included in the webinars.

You need to register for each event separately. Four Icom radios will be given away at each virtual event. The drawing times are random and you must be registered and on Zoom at the time of the drawing to win.

Both events will be recorded and available on YouTube at the conclusion of the events. For more information please go to: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/> <https://hamvention.org/forums-2021/>

Each speaker will talk for 45 minutes with 15 minutes after for Q&A.

9:00 AM EDT Welcome to CTU by W8CI and K3LR

9:05 AM EDT WW2DX speaker "Cloud Contesting – Live Demonstration" – moderators NN1C and W9KKK

10:00 AM EDT W3LPL speaker "Preparing Your Station for Competition" – moderators NN1C and W9KKK

11:00 AM EDT M0DXR speaker "Contest Categories "Make the Most of Your Entry" – moderators W2NAF and KM3T

Noon EDT – Last 12 months – Contest Operator Silent Keys by K1AR and CONTEST BREAK

12:30 PM EDT DK6SP speaker "Youth – the Future of Contesters" – moderators W2NAF and KM3T

1:30 PM EDT UA9BA speaker "Contesting From Russia" – moderators K5TR and N5KO

2:30 PM EDT CT1BOH speaker "There is Nothing Magic About Propagation" – moderators K5TR and N5KO

3:30 PM EDT NC0B speaker "Transceiver Performance for the HF DX & Contest Operator" – moderators K1AR & N3RA

4:30 PM EDT Wrap up N9JA and K3LR

4:35 PM EDT 2021 CQ Contest Hall of Fame Presentation – K1AR



If you can't see the number, You:



Need Water



Need Pain Medicine



Need Sleep



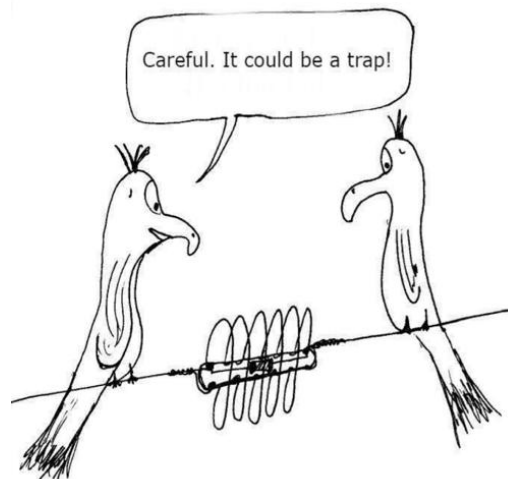
Need Food



Need New Radio



Need Glasses



Virtual FDIM - 2021



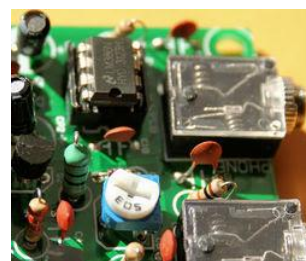
David Cripe, NM0S
President QRP-ARCI



The inaugural "[Virtual FDIM](#)" (Four Days In May) will be held on May 22, the traditional Hamvention weekend. The virtual event includes day and evening lectures.

Presentations start at 1400Z, each lasting about 45 minutes, then there will be about 15 minutes of QA between sessions. The line up this year includes:

- Jerry Wolczanski KI4IO - Making an Antenna Coupler
- Dr. Jack Purdum W8TEE - How to Select a Microcontroller for a QRP Project
- Dave Benson K1SWL - Anatomy of a Transceiver; Building a Better Mousetrap
- Han Summers G0UPL - Reach for the Skies: Extreme QRP at 35,000 Feet
- Will Jourdain AA4WJ - All about the Icom IC-705
- Dino Papas KL0S - Bench Setup Using Inexpensive Test Equipment
- Tim Snodgrass KC0DN - Breaking Free of the Sunspot Cycle
- Ashhar Farhan VU2ESE - sBITX - An Open Source SDR that YOU can hack!



We will also have evening sessions with the authors, and vendors. Evening QA session will begin that evening at 7PM (CDT) (0000Z) and will end at 9PM (CDT) (0200Z) .

Registration is \$10.00, then one week before the event you will receive a link to the event and a link to a PDF of the Proceedings Book. Please register as soon as you can so we have some idea of headcount. Also, registrants will be eligible to win fabulous and certainly valuable door prizes, like always! You do not need to be present to win but you DO need to be registered.

Grand Prize for the drawing: Icom IC-705 Transceiver!!

Printed copies of the Proceedings Book will be sold through the QRP-ARCI Toystore for \$15 a copy. If you can not attend, the book is a great way to catch up on the presentations from this Virtual FDIM.

"Book sales to US Customers Only, DX customers purchase through the Toy Store after 5/20/21."



RTTY Injury?



K3GP Approved Fix

Hamfest Calendar



HAMFESTING: This continues to challenge all of us as many clubs are making their best efforts to return their hamfests to the calendar. Several early-in-the-year swaps have now been postponed, but some clubs are adjusting their timetables and setting their hamfests up with different configurations and planning them for dates later in the season.

For the latest detail on regional hamfests, check the ARRL web page at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar> .
PLEASE NOTE THAT SEVERAL CANCELLATIONS ARE ON THE SCHEDULE.

Please note that all are subject to change, so please stay current by checking the sponsoring club's web page before making your travel arrangements.

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05/21/2021 - 05/23/2021 - *CANCELED* - Dayton Hamvention, Xenia, OH - Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association Website: <http://hamvention.org>

07/10/2021 - MANSFIELD Mid-Summer Trunkfest - Location: Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 N. Home Road - MANSFIELD, OH 44901 - Website: <http://WWW.IARC.CLUB> - Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club - Public Contact: Danny Bailey , W8DLB - 70 Euclid Street Shiloh, OH 44878 - Phone: 419-541-8557 - Email: W8DLB113@GMAIL.COM

07/17/2021 - NOARSFEST Location: Elyria, OH Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Website: <http://noars.net> .

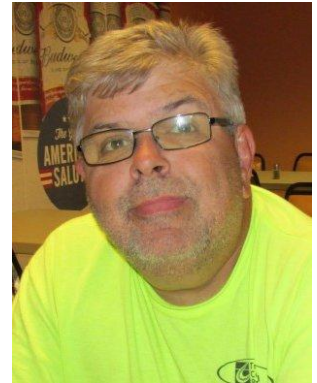
08/07/2021 - *CANCELED* - DX Engineering Hamfest - Location: **DX** Engineering/Summit Racing - 1200 Southeast Ave - Tallmadge, OH 44278 - Website: <http://dxengineering.com> - Sponsor: **DX** Engineering - Public Contact: Teri Grizer , K8MNJ - Phone: 330-630-7520 - Email: tgrizer@dxengineering.com

08/07/2021 - 2021 Columbus Hamfest Location: Grove City, OH Sponsor: Aladdin Shrine Audio Unit Website: <http://columbushamfest.com> .

09/26/2021 - Cleveland Hamfest -Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - 164 Eastland Road - Berea, OH 44017 - Website: <http://www.hac.org> - Public Contact: Mathew Nickoson, KC8NZJ - PO BOX 201173 Shaker Heights, OH 44120 - Phone: 8002533378 (800-CLE-FEST) - Email: kc8nzj@hac.org

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John, KD8MQ

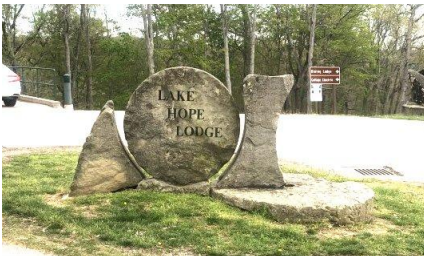


Going back 35 years, I was talked into setting up as a portable operator for the PA QSO Party. At that time the die was cast. I've loved portable operating ever since. Several programs place emphasis on operating from non-standard locations. 3905 Century club is one. NPOTA, which was run by the league in 2016 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of our national park system was a biggy!



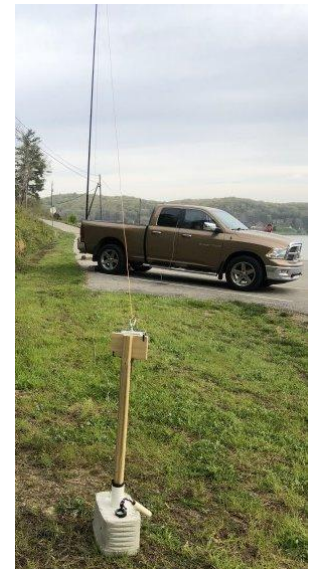
More recently, we have Parks on the Air (POTA), Worldwide Flora & Fauna (WWFF), Summits on the air (SOTA), US Islands (USI), and others. I've been most involved recently with POTA, & WWFF. While the two are similar, there are some differences. But, I digress.

My portable station consists of a Yaesu FT-891, hooked to an End Fed Half-Wave antenna hung from a Spiderbeam mast attached to the bumper hitch on my truck (See picture). The headset was recently upgraded to a Heil Sound Pro 7 from DX



Engineering. My previous Heil Sound headset is being sent to Heil to be re-furbished.

Power comes from a Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) battery built by John, KB8UHN. Logging is accomplished using N3FJP ACLog, running on my "modified" HP laptop. The modifications involve a larger extended (2600mAH) battery, and a 500G SSD. So far, the laptop has performed reasonably well, but is next on the list to be replaced.



Last month, we took a vacation to Myrtle Beach, and was lucky enough to score a cabin in one of South Carolina's wonderful state parks. Aside from the obvious vacation stuff, it was great to come "home" each night to the rig, and a waiting pileup of operators eager to put K-2907 (Myrtle Beach SP) in their logs. Before the week was over, I had 268 contacts in the log.

More recently, I made my annual trip to Southern Ohio for the Athens Hamfest. The event was cancelled this year, but I went anyway, and tried to see how many parks I could activate in a short 4 day span. The trip began at 7 AM on Thursday, and by the time I reached home at 3 PM on Sunday, I had 19 activations in the log. No, I did not see Bigfoot, but after driving approximately 725 miles to 15 different parks, I had about 723 contacts in the log. I activated a couple parks more than once.



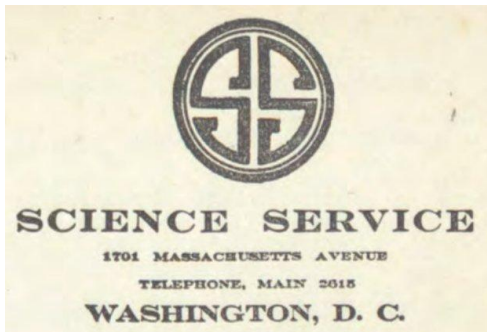
The pileups were huge at times, but my most memorable activation came on Friday afternoon. I had a couple hours to kill before dinner, so I headed to K-5455 (Zaleski State Forest) for an activation. Once set up, I was sure something was wrong with the rig, because the band was totally devoid of noise; it was totally quiet! I actually hooked up the antenna analyzer to diagnose this “problem”. It turned out that I had driven far enough away from the grid that I had found the perfect QTH! There was no line noise whatsoever! So, I called CQ, and the flood gates opened. I could copy everyone. I’ve never experienced this before. I will definitely be hitting this location again!



I had some failures crop up. A headset adaptor here, a jumper there. But, overall, it was a productive weekend that has me looking forward to my next rove. If you ever get bored with Ham Radio, give portable operating a try! If you have questions, feel free to drop me a line (kd8mq1@gmail.com)

Radio Receiver Runs On AC - Not a Battery !

Richard, KD8WCK



I ran across this interesting article - It's an announcement from a 1922 Science-Service (predecessor of Science News magazine).

The National Bureau of Standards had devised **a radio receiver that could operate directly off of AC line current, without** use of a storage battery. (High Tech Stuff for 1922)



ScienceNews
INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM SINCE 1921

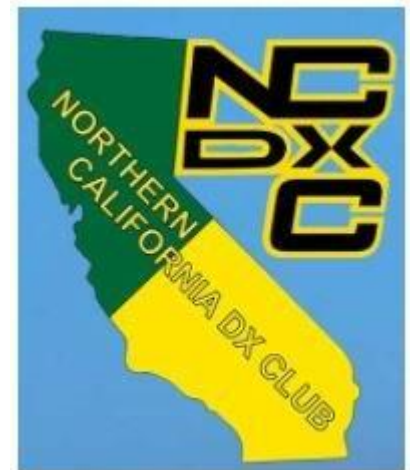
You can see the full article at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/sn-magazine/april-10-1922>

Registration Open for Virtual Visalia - 2021

John Miller, K6MM
Rich Seifert, KE1B

The 72nd meeting of the International DX Convention, aka “Visalia,” is now open for registration. The virtual 2-day meeting, sponsored by the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) will be held on Saturday, May 15, and Sunday, May 16, via Zoom webinars.

In addition to a safe, front-row seat without having to leave home, participants will be able to attend eight DX-related webinars on Saturday, eight vendor webinars on Sunday, and will be eligible for door prizes. Advance registration is required. All webinars will be recorded and posted later to the NCDXC website. All Zoom webinars will be recorded and posted to the NCDXC website.



FCC Enforcement Advisory



For the second time this year the United States Federal Communications Commission has issued an enforcement advisory "*Amateur & Personal Radio Users Reminded Not to Use Radios in Crimes*" - <https://www.fcc.gov/document/amateur-personal-radio-users-reminded-not-use-radios-crimes-0>

This was not specifically directed at licensed Amateur Radio Operators that have been using the bands properly. It was most likely issued to go on record for possible litigation from the government to non-licensed users of radios that are capable of transmitting in areas that require an operator's license and that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service.

DA 21-453
Enforcement Advisory No. 2021-05
Released: April 20, 2021

FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

REMINDER: AMATEUR AND PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES LICENSEES AND OPERATORS MAY NOT USE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMMIT OR FACILITATE CRIMINAL ACTS

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to again remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted and socially beneficial purposes, including emergency communications and speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.

As we did in our January 17 advisory earlier this year, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting "communications intended to facilitate a criminal act" or "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning." Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios "in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law." Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution.

Media inquiries should be directed to 202-418-0500 or MediaRelations@fcc.gov.

To file a complaint with the FCC, visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or call 1-888-CALL-FCC. To report a crime, contact your local law enforcement office or the FBI.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

47 CFR § 97.113(a)(4). 47 CFR § 95.333(a).

47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510. 47 CFR § 95.333(a).

Issued by: *Chief, Enforcement Bureau*

In the Chair

Matthew, KN4GWY



As I said at the last antenna SIG meeting I'm lazy and need to get in the chair more as Tony kept telling me.



Encouraged by the club members and the ARRL, I got off my couch and I put my Emcomm antenna in a neighbor's tree across the back ally and got in the chair.

Who would guess with this little effort I was able to make contact with a special event in Louisiana W5L celebrating the Louisiana purchase in 1803 on 18.128.



PCARS K8BF

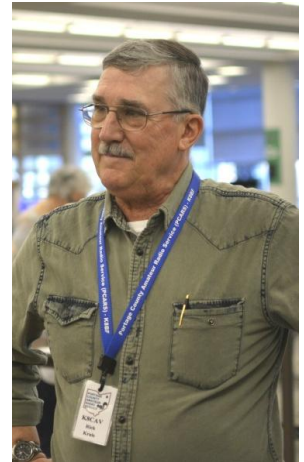
The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



Portage County Coms Unit Update

Rick, K8CAV

**Portage County Office of
Homeland Security/Emergency Management
Communications Unit Commander**



The communications Unit of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management recently conducted a field training exercise involving post-incident damage assessment. In the aftermath of incidents such as severe storms, tornados, flooding, or others where there is damage to homes and other infrastructure, assessing the amount of damage incurred, quickly is important. Once a certain threshold of damage is hit, State and Federal assistance can become available to the affected communities. Damage assessment teams travel to the site and document the number of affected structures and the amount of damage to each structure. This information is then collated by the EMA to ascertain whether the number and dollar amounts of damage exceed the minimums required for State or Federal assistance. The EMA then generates various forms and reports and submits the to the State and Federal entities.

In the past, this process was all accomplished using paper forms for the assessment teams in the field for each structure evaluated. The forms were then returned to the EMA where the information on each form had to be manually extracted and entered into a master form. The information from the master form was then used to manually populate various fields on State and Federal forms, for submission. All of this takes an inordinate amount of time and is prone to errors. Additionally, when updates or corrections become necessary, all of the forms dependent on that information have to be manually updated. For the teams performing damage assessment, the use of paper forms in the field can be problematic, especially in adverse weather condition. Additionally, the team has to try to make educated guesses as to dollar amounts of damage a structure has sustained.



Communications Unit

Portage County recently contracted with Orion to provide Damage Assessment Software and mobile apps for use in damage assessment. The system works by installing the Orion app on a cell phone or tablet that is Wi-Fi capable and has GPS capability. The Orion software is tied into the Portage County Geographic Information System and the tax department. When the Damage Assessment Team (DAT) is surveying a structure for damage, their GPS determines the address and the assessed value of the structure and populates the form on the app. The user enters observed damage and the app calculates percent and dollar amounts and adds that information. The DAT then saves and moves to the next structure to repeat the process. When the DAT returns to the EMA, they link their cell phone or tablet to the Orion software using Wi-Fi and the information is uploaded to the Orion software. This software provides near instantaneous aggregate damage information and additionally generates the various state and federal reports based on each team's uploads.

Communications Unit members attended a three hour training session at the EMA to become familiar with the Orion software and app. The Communications Unit then conducted a Field Training Exercise to get hands-on experience. On Saturday April 24th, Coms Unit members formed teams and then moved to the Red Fox housing development in Shalersville Township to assess "damaged" structures. They used the Orion app to evaluate and record the levels of damage and also take a photo that was attached to each assessment. Coms Unit members then returned to the EMA where they uploaded their information to the Orion software and were able to see the aggregate result on the Orion dashboard.

While damage assessment is not a communications function, the ability of Coms Unit members to accomplish this mission can significantly speed up the assessment process and more quickly obtain state and federal resources to assist residents during times of disaster. Brett Lee, the Deputy Director of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security/Emergency Management expressed his sincere thanks to the following members of the Coms Unit for participating and becoming qualified with the Orion system: Rick K8CAV, Mike KD8FLZ, Bob N8KBX, Ron W8AHC, Sandy KD8JCY, Paul KE8EGF, Andrew KE8BWA, Greg KA8TOA, and Mike KB8TUY.

National Amateur Radio Operators Day



From the ARRL

Bill Introduced to Designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day

Arizona Congresswoman [Debbie Lesko](#) has reintroduced a resolution with bipartisan support to designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day. Introduced on April 19, the measure recognizes the important contributions amateur radio operators have made. She introduced a similar bill in the last Congress.



"Throughout history, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable services to our communities," Lesko said in a news release. "I am proud to reintroduce this resolution to honor the important contributions amateur radio operators have made in Arizona and across our nation. Amateur radio has brought people together and has provided critical emergency communications during natural disasters. Amateur radio is a vital part of our nation's communications infrastructure."

As Lesko's resolution notes, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) designates each April 18 as World Amateur Radio Day, to recognize the founding of the IARU in 1925. She said her resolution would recognize the amateur radio community with a national day in the US. The resolution cites the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) for providing "invaluable emergency communications services following recent natural disasters, including, but not limited to, helping coordinate disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Maria and other extreme weather disasters."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, commended Lesko for her support of amateur radio. "The voluntary contributions of America's approximately 774,000 amateur radio operators in support of the critical communications infrastructure of the United States are rarely recognized," Roderick said. "Congresswoman Lesko's resolution is an important first step in correcting that oversight."

Lesko was joined by members of both parties as original cosponsors of the resolution. [Read an expanded version.](#)



From the ARRL Contest Update

Brian, N9ADG
ARRL Contest Update



Long Term Trends?

There was a [recent article on Tom's Hardware website about a father's prediction 9 years ago of then-current technologies that he thought his son would never use](#). Unlike many predictive articles, the author actually came back to grade his foresight. It turns out his 2012 predictions were just slightly more wrong than right, with 15% of his predictions still up for grabs. His predictions included a mix of "raw" technologies, and the human uses of them. For example, whether we would still have wired internet vs Wi-Fi, whether movie theaters would still be a thing, and whether we'd still need glasses to consume content in 3D were all on the list.

Thinking about our little contesting corner of the greater amateur radio hobby, I'm not sure anyone from 2012 would have predicted that over the course of 4 years, a new digital mode would appear that would be responsible for over 60% of the contacts on the amateur bands, with the combined number of SSB and CW contacts not even making 30% of the total. Amateur radio and radio contesting don't, in general, either adopt or discard technologies or practices at the same pace as the consumer electronics sector. Change requires us to get "out of our comfort zones" to even try something new.

However, we've mostly been compelled to try all sorts of new things over the last year as a result of the pandemic. Considering some of the adaptations that have occurred, I'd like to hope that a few have staying power:

A general "leveling up" of the contesting population in the use of video communication tools to spread contesting information, reaching more people than ever before: Established programs like Contest University were able to increase scale by an order of magnitude. More local clubs were able to host established leaders for their local programs. More high-quality content is available for asynchronous viewing than ever before. Re-engagement of underserved radio club members with new ways to participate that can accommodate inability to attend in person. For communicators, hams have been behind in this area for quite some time.

A rethinking of contesting categories to accommodate virtual teams: The "dispersed" multi-op category was conceived as a way to allow multi-ops to occur with social distancing, but has provided some other benefits as well. Previously non-multi operators trying something new. All operators are likely investing time and resources in their own stations. Some argue that more multi-ops mean fewer stations to work. My opinion is that more multi-ops translate to more band slot opportunities, and some hams that wouldn't even be active because of limited time availability will get on the air as part of a multi.

Remote operation is now a given: Remote operation may be the only way to truly escape the plague of modern RFI. Inefficiencies due to travel may be reduced, so more time can be spent operating. We've already seen groups of younger amateurs use dream multi-multi stations remotely to rack up big scores, and make some lifetime memories.

Contests are now nearly 24x7: There's an opportunity to do something at least mildly competitive nearly every day of the week, and at all hours. Yet for all of the popularity of FTx modes, it seems like there isn't (yet) a corresponding number of contests for this mode.

Contests are easy to start and maintain: Whether it's to add a favorite category that got eliminated, to spur inter-club competition, or just because, it's easier than ever to do a "contest within a contest" or "contest on top of an additional contest." The [North American Collegiate Championship](#), [Unassisted Challenge](#), [WRTC](#), and [State QSO Party Challenge](#) are examples of this, as are various inter-club rivalries.

Now that there may be light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, people are starting to think about what "new normal" practices for the pandemic should continue on as normal afterwards. What have you learned from COVID contesting that you want to keep?

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to contest-update@arrl.org

Frequency Exposure Rules Updated

From the ARRL

Updated Radio Frequency Exposure Rules Become Effective on May 3

The FCC has announced that rule changes detailed in a lengthy 2019 [Report and Order](#) (R&O) governing RF exposure standards go into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile -- such as different antennas or placement, or greater power -- will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.



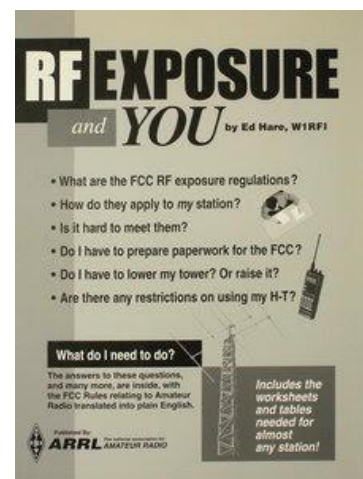
"In the RF *Report and Order*, the Commission anticipated that few parties would have to conduct reevaluations under the new rules and that such evaluations will be relatively straightforward," the FCC said in an April 2 *Public Notice*. "It nevertheless adopted a 2-year period for parties to verify and ensure compliance under the new rules."

The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

"For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation," said Greg Lapin, N9GL, Chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC).

"Ham stations previously excluded from performing environmental evaluations will have until May 3, 2023, to perform these. After May 3, 2021, any new stations or those modified in a way that affects RF exposure must comply before being put into service," Lapin said.

The December 2019 RF *R&O* changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria. The *R&O* also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure.



Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

"For amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion," Lapin said, "which means that every ham will be required to perform *some* sort of calculation, either to determine if they qualify for an exemption or must perform a full-fledged exposure assessment. For hams who previously performed exposure assessments on their stations, there is nothing more to do."

The ARRL Lab staff is available to help amateurs to make these determinations and, if needed, perform the necessary calculations to ensure their stations comply. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who helped prepare ARRL's *RF Exposure and You* book, explained it this way. "The FCC did not change any of the underlying rules applicable to amateur station evaluations," he said. "The sections of the book on how to perform routine station evaluations are still valid and usable, especially the many charts of common antennas at different heights." Hare said ARRL Lab staff also would be available to help amateurs understand the rules and evaluate their stations.

RF Exposure and You is [available for free download](#) from ARRL. ARRL also has an [RF Safety page](#) on its website.

The ARRL RF Safety Committee is working with the FCC to update the FCC's aids for following human exposure rules -- *OET Bulletin 65* and *OET Bulletin 65 Supplement B for Radio Amateurs*. In addition, ARRL is developing tools that all hams can use to perform exposure assessments.



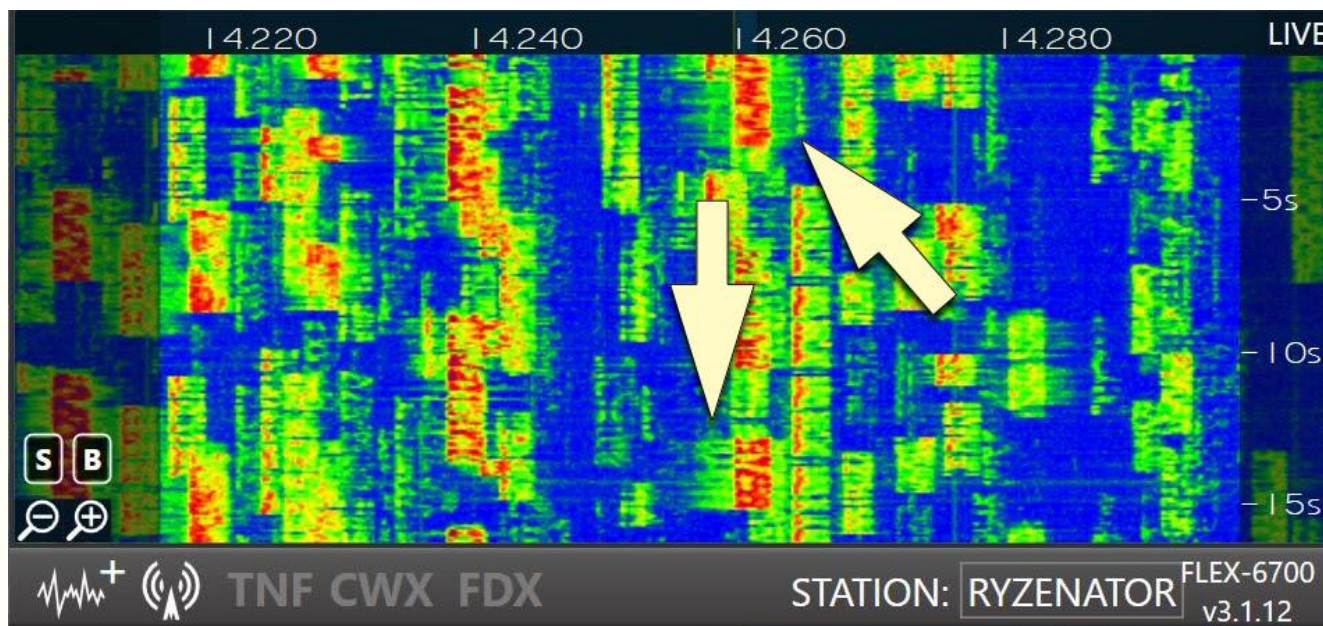
Splatter

WORD TO THE WISE

Interference caused by a signal with spectral components outside of normal and/or accepted boundaries for an emission type. It can be caused by distortion when an amplifier is driven outside of its linear range, when the input signal to an amplifier is itself is overly broad, or when one stage of the signal chain is overloaded. It is poor operating practice, and against the rules for most contests, for stations to purposefully use splatter as a means to keep adjacent frequencies clear during contests.



Splatter: In this picture, the arrows points out energy being emitted over approximately 9 kHz of spectrum. This is more than is necessary for an SSB signal.





From the ARRL ARES Letter

National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC Station Test is May 29

The WX4NHC Annual Station On-the-air Test will be held on Saturday, May 29, from 9 AM to 5 PM PM EST (1300Z-2100Z). A formal announcement will be made soon. This hurricane season, WX4NHC operators plan to be working remotely again. The National Hurricane Center is planning to maintain all CDC pandemic protocols until the end of 2021. The National Hurricane Center is allowing only the main meteorologist and staff to enter the building.

WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, said, "Last year's season was an incredibly busy one, but the remote WX4NHC operations were successful, collecting many important reports via the Hurricane Watch Net, VoIP Hurricane Net, Winlink, the online hurricane report form as well as many other means and modes." Ripoll offered his group's thanks to all who helped collect, send, and relay hurricane surface reports.

Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 9-15, 2021

Be ready for hurricane season. Determine your personal hurricane risk, find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, and review/update insurance policies. Make a list of items to replenish hurricane emergency supplies and plan how you will prepare your home. If you live in hurricane-prone areas, you are encouraged to complete these [simple preparations](#) before hurricane season begins on June 1. Adjust any preparedness actions based on the latest [health and safety guidelines from the CDC](#) and local health officials.

Now is the time to harden and prepare your station for power outages: have multiple sources of backup power including batteries and gas-powered generators. Test them now. Ensure your ability to take down and put back up antennas quickly and efficiently when storms threaten your area.

Hurricane Season 2021: Nets to Know

[Caribbean Emergency Weather Net](#) - Meets daily at 1030Z and 2230Z on 3815 kHz.

[Hurricane Watch Net](#) -- 14.325 MHz, 7.268 MHz -- Activated whenever a hurricane is within 300 nautical miles of expected landfall. Disseminates storm information and relays meteorological data to National Hurricane Center via embedded NHC station WX4NHC. Also relays post-storm damage reports and other relevant information.

[Intercontinental Net](#) operates from 7 AM to noon US Eastern Time on 14.300 MHz, providing a means of emergency communications to any location where normal communications are disrupted.

[Marine Maritime Services Net](#) -- 14.300 MHz -- The network acts as a weather beacon for ships during periods of severe weather and regularly repeats high seas and tropical weather warnings and bulletins from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center.

[Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network](#) (SATERN) -- 14.260 MHz -- The purpose of the SATERN net is to support the Salvation Army operations in local, regional and international disaster situations. - ARRL US Virgin Islands Section News



WRTC Postponed to 2023

Carlo, IK1HJS

President, WRTC 2022 Organizing Committee



At the WRTC 2022 Association Assembly on 23 April 2021, having previously consulted the WRTC Sanctioning Committee, **the assembly and Organizing Committee decided to postpone WRTC 2022 one year to 2023.**

There have been no changes in the qualification process or to the overall structure of the event and its sponsoring committee. A detailed report on the qualification standings will be prepared and released at a later date.

In consideration of the worldwide public health challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic, we believe our decision is reasonable. We have received many communications from competitors and friends of WRTC and have taken them very seriously.

There will be further announcements regarding WRTC as soon as new arrangements have been made. Thank you for your understanding and commitments in support of our adventure!

FT8 Usage - On the Rise



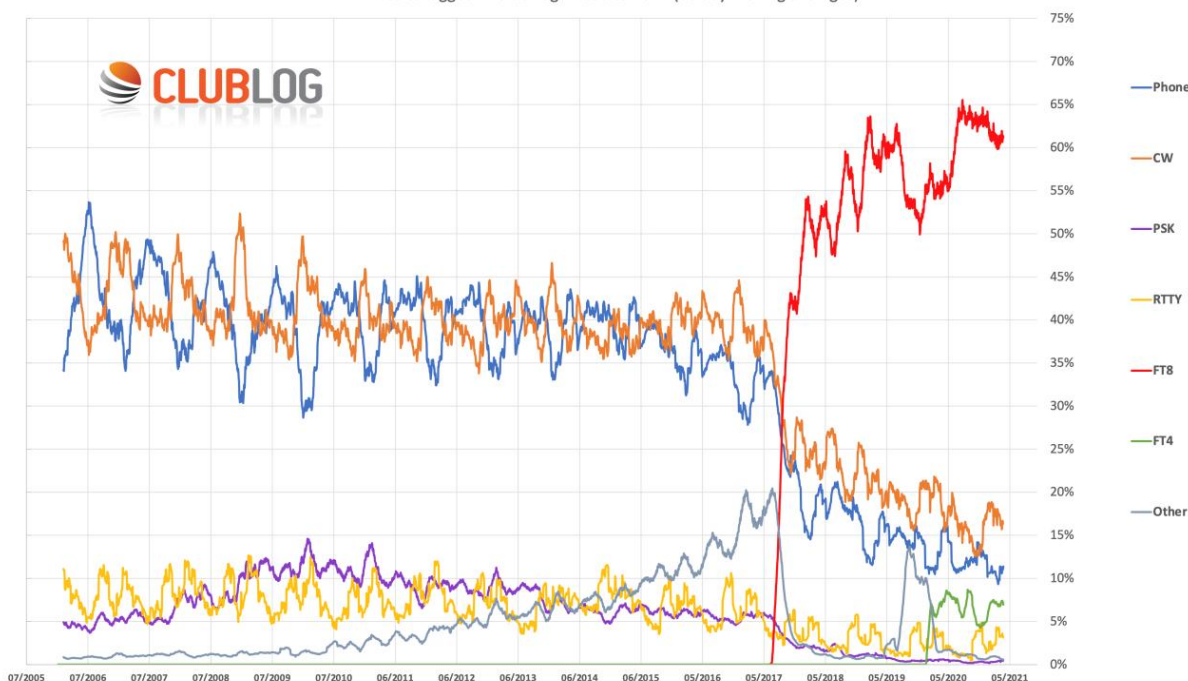
Club Log's recent update to its [survey of mode usage](#) shows FT8 usage continuing to eclipse all other modes. [Credit: Club Log]

Michael, G7VJR, the person behind Club Log, does an annual survey of activity, to "reveal trends about how we're using different modes on the bands." He is ONLY sampling Club Log users.

He's [updated his blog with the most recent data](#) (as of March 27, 2021). As you might imagine, FT8 continues to dominate, accounting for over 60% of the activity of Club Log users. What's more, on 6 meters, almost 85% of all activity is FT8 as logged by Club Log users.

His blog highlights a number of other interesting statistics, and is worth reading.

Modes logged in Club Log - 2006 to 2021 (60 day moving averages)



Bouvet Island DXpedition 2023

Intrepid-DX Group Joins Forces with LA7GIA in Bouvet Island Attempt



The Intrepid-DX Group has teamed with DXpeditioner Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, in its quest to activate Bouvet Island, the second-most-wanted DXCC entity according to Club Log. The [3Y0J DXpedition](#) is planned for January through February 2023. A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a sub-Antarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3Y0E, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007 - 2008.

"There's a lot to do, and we have a big financial mountain to climb," DXpedition co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said in [a recent interview](#) with Tim Duffy, K3LR. Ewing will share leadership duties with Opskar in the amateur radio adventure.

"The cost of the *Braveheart* charter is enormous, but we've got some experience under our belt doing South Sandwich and South Georgia back in 2016. That was perfect preparation for Bouvet. We'll have a very difficult landing, so we're prepared for that."



A 2018 DXpedition to Bouvet was scuttled after severe weather and an engine problem forced the team -- with Bouvet already in view -- to turn back.

The plan calls for the 3Y0J team of 14 to board the marine vessel *Braveheart* in Capetown, South Africa, for "the treacherous voyage to Bouvet," Ewing said. "We will plan to spend 20 days at Bouvet and, weather permitting, we plan to have 14 to 16 good days of radio activity."

"This will be an arduous and expensive mission. Our budget is \$764,000, and the 3Y0J team will fund much of this mission. We desperately need the global DX community to support our mission and help us make this important activation of the second-most-wanted DXCC entity. It is only through this kind of support that we can achieve our mission of making 100,000 contacts or more from Bouvet."

The Northern California DX Foundation and the International DX Association have already stepped up to the plate.

"We plan to make best use of propagation and modes on 10 - 160 meters," Ewing said in the announcement. Operation will be on SSB, CW, and digital modes. "But I want to make it clear," Ewing told Duffy. "There's no doubt. We *are* going!"

Follow the Intrepid-DX Group's 3Y0J plans via [Facebook](#). Visit the [3Y0J website](#) for more information and to make a donation. Read [an expanded version](#).



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Chuck, W8PT

a.k.a. "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings DXers:

May is here and the WX is finally starting to show some promise of sunshine and warmer temps. I know, there is always the chance of a stray snow day, but it's really pretty much behind us now. So it's time to get out and..... mow the grass!! The stuff keeps growing along with all the dandelions. My front yard looks more yellow than green. And my neighbor keeps her yard immaculate, I'm sure she looks at mine and shakes her head wondering why I'm digging holes in my back yard (ground anchors) and long trenches (coax burial) and not tending to the grass.

Well there's such a thing as priorities! Towers and antennas come first.... weeds wait their turn. As a HAM you have to set priorities. My XYL understands this completely. (Thank the Lord for a loving wife.) But every once in a while, I get a look from her that says I might have gone a wee bit too far in not taking care of something and I had better make it right. If nothing else, we HAMS know when to bend to the prevailing winds. It's like turning your Yagi antennas into the wind when a storm is coming. We don't want to lose the ability of working all that DX.

Speaking of which, let's see what's in store for MAY!!

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, the AB5K's AR Cluster Networks, NJ1Q & W1AW, NG3K & ADXO, W3UR & The Daily DX, W4VQ, K8YSE, W8GEX & 60m DX News, W9EWZ, K0BBC, 4X1VF, DL1SBF, DL7UXG & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, F5LRL, F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX, I1JQJ/ IK1ADH & 425 DX News, International DX Press, M0URX, OH2BH, Sixitalia Weekly, VA3RJ & ICPO and VK8NSB for the following DX information.

And as always, this report "could" contain "Pirate/SLIM" operation or more likely a "BUSTED CALLSIGN". As always, you never know, so..... - "Work First, Worry Later".

PLEASE NOTE: The fact that donation requests, from various DXpeditions, are at times included in this column does not mean that PCARS or this HAM approves or disapproves of donating to the DXpeditions listed. I am only providing information for you to make up your own minds as to whether or not to donate.

May...

3A, MONACO. Ennio, IW1RBI, is planning to once again be active as 3A/IW1RBI from Monaco during a weekend sometime either in late May, mid-June or early July. This all depends on the Covid-19 restrictions. Activity will be on 30-6 meters using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via the address on QRZ.com or LoTW.

3D2, FIJI. New Ham and YL operator Joanna "JK", 3D2ZK, from Denarau, Nadi, Fiji, was heard this past Saturday on 40 and 20 meters FT8, around 0355z and 1241z, respectively. Remember, she is expected to join forces with the Rebel DX Group and be active from 3D2/C (Conway Reef), 3D2/R (Rotuma Island) and several rare IOTAs around Fiji during May for 3-4 months.

3Z1921/HF1921/SN1921/SO1921/SP1921/SQ1921, POLAND (Special Event). Look for the special event call signs to be active in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the Third Silesian Uprising. The list of stations to be active between May 1-31st are:

3Z1921PS -- QSL via SP6YG (OT-31) SO1921PS -- QSL via SP9KJM (OT-06)

HF1921PS -- QSL via SP9KJU (OT-31) SP1921PS -- QSL via SP9PNB (OT-06)

SN1921PS -- QSL via SP9KDU (OT-06) SQ1921PS -- QSL via SP9PKM (OT-31) A special certificate is available.

4J880, AZERBAIJAN (Special Event). Look for special event station 4J880M to be active to celebrate the 880th birthday of the writer and philosopher Nizami Ganjavi. QSL via 4J3DJ direct or RA4AAT by the Bureau.

6D1/6D2/6D3, MEXICO (Special). Members of the Association of Radio Amateur of the Mexican Republic (ARARM) will activate three special callsign to celebrate their club's 61st anniversary. Look for 6D1A, 6D2A and 6D3A to be active until May 16th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters on all modes and the satellites. Diplomas will be awarded in three different categories (Gold/Silver/Bronze) based on the number of special stations contacted by the applicant (or reports in the case of SWLs). Complete details are available on QRZ.com. QSL Manager is XE2T via direct or LoTW.

6O, SOMALIA. Ali, EP3CQ, will once again be active as 6O1OO from Somalia starting sometime in May. He returns to Mogadishu on April 25th, and expects to be operational after his quarantine at the end of the month. The length of his stay will be two months (exact end date to be confirmed later). The 6O1OO station is currently the only active and licensed Amateur Radio Station in Somalia. QSL direct to: Ali Solhjoo, Schnackenburgstr. 3, Berlin 12159, Germany.

8N1, JAPAN (Special Event). Look for 8N1MORSE to be active from many districts of Japan. This special amateur radio station is to promote the Morse Communication activities in 2021 and commemorate the 230th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Morse, the 120th anniversary of the Guglielmo Marconi's 1st successful transatlantic radio communication by Morse Code, etc. This station is valid from 2021-Apr-12 to 2022-Feb-28 and will be operated by members of A1 Club and Denpaken Club-Employee Social Club of NICT (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology) with support of CQ Publishing Co., Ltd.

FM/TO3, MARTINIQUE. Marius, ON4RU/OQ3R, will be active as FM/OQ3R from Laurent's (FM5BH) QTH on Martinique (NA-107) between May 23rd and June 5th. Activity will be holiday style on 160-10 meters using CW only. He will also be active as TO3F during the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 29-30th) as Single-Op entry. QSL both callsigns via ON4RU direct.

FR, REUNION ISLAND (New Arrivals). Operators Phil/F5TRO and XYL Ann/F5BSB will be new arrivals and permanent residents on the island in May. Their callsigns will be FR8UA and FR8TZ, respectively. Phil states he will be active on 80-2 meters (and 70cm) at first, using CW, SSB and some Digital modes. QSL via direct or LoTW.

GB5, GUERNSEY. Members of the Guernsey Amateur Radio Society (GARS) will activate the special event station GB5LIB between 0001 UTC, May 8th, and 2359 UTC, May 14th. Activity on all bands and modes from 160-10 meters, and maybe 4/6m if conditions allow. Some satellite operation is likely too, including QO100. The station will be on air to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Liberation of the islands in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. QSL via LoTW (preferred), but see QRZ.com for more details.

JD1, OGASAWARA. Harry, JG7PSJ (JD1BMH/KW2X/WH0RU), will once again be active as JD1BMH from Chichijima Island (AS-031) between April 30th and May 7th. This will be his 25th visit. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via the Bureau to JD1BMH or direct to JG7PSJ.

OL75, CZECH REPUBLIC (Special Event). Members of the Radioclub Chrudim active as OL75KCR from Chrudim to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the foundation of Radioclub Chrudim. Activity until December 31st, 2021. QSL via ClubLog's OQRS.

R75, EUROPEAN RUSSIA (Special Event). Members of the Stavropol Radio Club (RO7T) will activate the special callsign R75T from Stavropol between May 1-31st. Activity is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the radio club. Operations will be on various HF bands and modes. QSL via RO7T, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

RP75, EUROPEAN RUSSIA (Special Event). To commemorate 75th anniversary of the Victory in WW II, the Union of Russian Radio Amateurs (SRR), is conducting "Victory-75" special on-the-air event between May 2nd (starts at 0000 UTC) and May 9th (ends at 1159 UTC). Many special memorial stations with "RP75" prefix in their callsigns will be active. Activity will be on all HF band and modes including the satellites. A special award (diploma) is available. For QSL routes, check QRZ.com.

VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND. A few sources are reporting that Steve, VK6SJ, will be active as VK9XX from Christmas Island (OC-002) between May 7-28th. Activity will be concentrated on FT8 on 80/40/30 meters during his spare time. He will be using a FT-857D with a vertical antenna. QSL via EB7DX.

VP8, FALKLAND ISLANDS. Matthew, M0ZMS, is expected to be active as VP8ZMS from the Mount Pleasant Complex, HQ BFSAI club station on the Falkland Islands between May 21st and August 21st. Activity will be on various HF bands and modes (mostly Digital). QSL via his home callsign, ClubLog or LoTW.

IOTA News...

AF-019. Members of Oriental Sicily Contest Team (OSCT - IB9O) will be active as IG9OSC from Linosa Island (ww Loc. JM65ku), Italy, between May 19-23rd. Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via IG9OSC, direct, LoTW or ClubLog's OQRS.

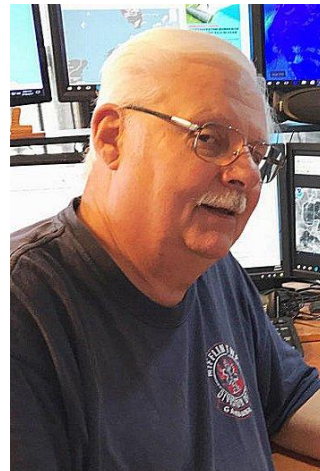
EU-068. Members of the Radio Club Du Bassin Minier (F6KJS) are organizing DXpedition to the Isle of Sein (IOTA rank 51.4%, WW Locator IN78NA79) between May 27th and June 7th. Their special callsign will be TM6KJS. There will be 10 operators (9 on the island and 1 assistant in Burgundy). Operators mentioned are Didier/F6BCW, Pascal/F1MNQ, Pierre/F1TCV, Jean-

Pierre/F0EWW, Lilian/F5SIK, Michel/F5LRL, Keith/VE7KW, Jean-Michel/F1COB, Jean-Michel/F4EHA and Christian/F4CXO. Activity will be on 80m-23cm using 6 stations. QSL info will be determined.

That's it for now. A nice list for May. Keep your rigs warmed up and don't buy into the saying, *"I only have a dipole so I can't work all this DX."* **Get on the air and LISTEN.** You may have to call a few more times than some others, but persistence pays off. You will find DX to work. 73 for now.

Ohio NVIS Antenna Day - The 'Next Step'

Stan Broadway, N8BHL
Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator



Beginning in April of 2014, Ohio ARES® has sponsored "NVIS Antenna Day" in Ohio. The activity has several goals: experiment with NVIS antenna construction, determine which is best for your location, have fun. Stations (either groups or individuals) tried different antenna configurations, made contacts with other stations to test signal strength and coverage. Operators of W8SGT, "The Sarge," were able to confirm coverage from the Ohio EOC to all areas within the state.



For 2021 we took one step further to answer the question, "When and how would we really use these?" Stations were instructed to operate "off-grid" to simulate a wide-area power loss. In such a scenario, the ten Ohio ARES® Districts would spin up district level nets to coordinate their counties. NVIS stations were instructed to send a message to their District Net advising of their location and operation. They were also instructed to send a message to the Ohio EOC station either by direct contact on the HF 75 meter net or by using digital messaging through either the Ohio Digital Emergency Net (OHDEN) or Buckeye Net's multi-mode operation. In this scenario, we would be able to prove our ability not only to simply make contact, but to actually transmit meaningful messaging from any county in Ohio to other counties or the state EOC.

Despite the traditional threat of rain on April 24, Ohio stations turned out eager to participate. 54 of Ohio's 88 counties were either in direct contact with The Sarge or were able to send a message successfully during the six-hour period. Well over 100 messages were received. Band conditions wavered but in general signals were strong and messages could be transmitted.

Antennas were on average between 5' - 10' high and most fell into the broad category of long-wire, inverted V, or the '2259' crossed-dipole types. This was another fun day, showing that ARES® can get the message through successfully.



Sun Stamps - Possibly Helps Sunspot Activity?

Mara Johnson-Groh

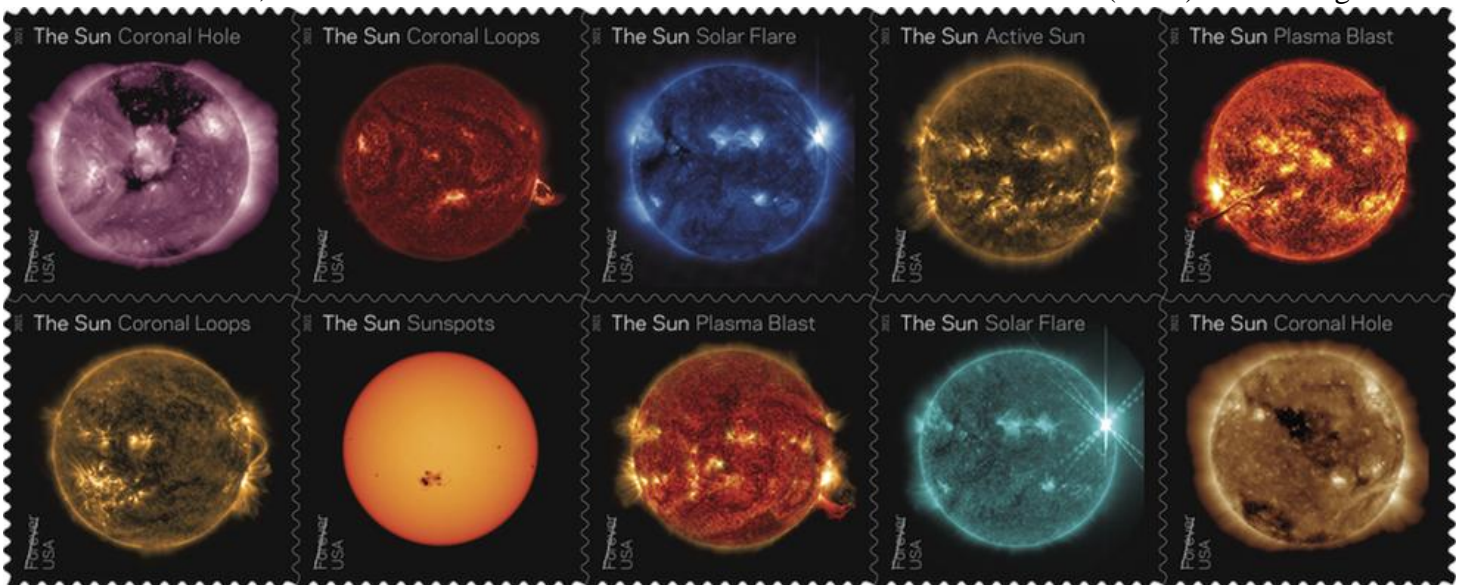
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.



The U.S. Postal Service to Issue NASA Sun Science Forever Stamps

The United States Post office announced on Jan. 15, 2021, that they would be releasing a series of stamps highlighting images of the Sun captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. NASA's images of the Sun's dynamic and dazzling beauty have captivated the attention of millions. In 2021, [the US Postal Service is showcasing the Sun's many faces](#) with a series of Sun Science forever stamps that show images of solar activity captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO.

"I have been a stamp collector all my life and I can't wait to see NASA science highlighted in this way," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) in Washington.



"I feel that the natural world around us is as beautiful as art, and it's inspiring to be able to share the import and excitement of studying the Sun with people around the country."

The 20-stamp set features ten images that celebrate the science behind NASA's ongoing exploration of our nearest star. The images display common events on the Sun, such as solar flares, sunspots and coronal loops. SDO has kept a constant eye on the Sun for over a decade. Outfitted with equipment to capture images of the Sun in multiple wavelengths of visible, ultraviolet, and extreme ultraviolet light, SDO has gathered hundreds of millions of images during its tenure to help scientists learn about how our star works and how its constantly churning magnetic fields create the solar activity we see.

That solar activity can drive space weather closer to Earth that can interfere with technology and radio communications in space. In addition to this immediate relevancy to our high-tech daily lives, the study of the Sun and its influence on the planets and space surrounding it – a field of research known as heliophysics – holds profound implications for the understanding of our solar system and the thousands of solar systems that have been discovered beyond our own. As our closest star, the Sun is the only nearby star that humans are able to study in great detail, making it a vital source of data.

For more information about NASA's SDO: www.nasa.gov/sdo.

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2021/the-us-postal-service-to-issue-nasa-sun-science-forever-stamps>

Mentoring, Manners & the 10 Commandments

John, NJ4Z

York County
Amateur Radio Society



Mentoring, Manners and the 10 Commandments of Ham Radio

Fun Stuff this Ham Radio Hobby. My involvement in the hobby has helped me grow as a person. It has made me a better communicator, expanded my ability to be a mentor, and has given me the opportunity to help care for and add to the legacy of a wonderful club. In the last year, I was more active in bringing people into the hobby. By doing so, I have had the opportunity to meet some great people, help them enter and grow in this hobby. I have also learned from them and expanded my knowledge of the hobby and my knowledge people in general. We have some amazing people in this hobby and in this club. I could not be prouder to be a member of YCARS and part of “best damn hobby on the planet.”

While exploring our new “Ask an Elmer” live events, one our members asked about tips for good manners while on air. That got me thinking my experience and some of the Good, the Bad and the Ugly that I have witnessed on air. There is plenty of good out there, much more than the bad and the ugly. There are a few frequencies we, as good operators, know to avoid at times. We all know there are rude people everywhere in life, they are in this hobby as well. There are very few of them, but they do make an impression. When we upgrade from Technician to General class operators and begin to operate on HF it is always good to remember our manners and forget our egos. Just like social media, it becomes easy to say things to others you wouldn’t say to someone’s face, let our egos and pride get the better of us.

There are good guidelines like the “DX Code of Conduct” (DX-Code.com). That is a guideline for best practices for not only working DX but HF in general. In an effort to help those that might be just starting out I added a few things and explained much of those items in the “DX Code of Conduct.”

So, in some seriousness and mostly tongue in cheek, let me set the scene... I descend down the mountain, all Charlton Heston like, chin pointed high, faraway look in my eyes, in my pajamas and bath robe, with my hair standing up due to all the RF in my shack, carrying this coffee-soaked napkin, presenting you with **NJ4Z’s 10 Commandments of Ham Radio**

- 1. Thou shalt not break FCC rules.** – no profanity, no malicious interference, no operation on frequencies that are out of the Ham bands, no coordinating illegal activities, etc. “They only way to be really cool, is to follow the rules.”- Captain America.
- 2. Thou shalt obey the band plan** – It is a friendly agreement and a guideline that should be honored. This way we can all enjoy the bands in the differing modes we enjoy. There is plenty of space in the band most days to have our fun, just have it where it is supposed to be.
- 3. Thou shalt ask if the frequency is in use before you use the frequency** – come on folks sometimes you can only hear one side of a QSO, so it is always a good idea to ask. Of course, you may wake up a ham that dozed off during a net that ended an hour ago and he may tell you the frequency is in use and has been for this net for the last 50 years. Just politely QSY or wait until he dozes off again.
- 4. Thou shalt be a courteous operator** – Rudeness has no place in Amateur Radio. Be courteous and kind. Doesn’t matter whether you are on HF or a repeater, it costs you nothing to be nice and to be kind. On HF let the operators tie a ribbon on the QSO before throw your callsign over one side or the other. If you are really bent on talking to one of the parties, than at least transmit “Contact” and wait to be acknowledged by one party or the other. If wanting to join a QSO on a repeater transmit your callsign and say “comment” and wait to be acknowledged. Always remember to thank other operator for the contact, yes, even in a contest or on a repeater. Just remember, “Be Excellent to each other.”

- 5. Thou shalt not be a LID** – for those who do not know what is a LID. Traditionally, a LID is a poor operator that is not very skilled operator. Today a LID is an operator that just calls repeated in a pile-up and is disruptive enough to the calling station they cannot pick up contacts. Thus said, don't repeatedly call over other stations when trying to make a contact, call once and listen for the station to come back to you. Pay attention to who the calling station is hearing, the first station, the last station, the loudest? Take time to listen and you will get a feel for the pile-up. You will know when to call, how vary your cadence. He just has to hear part of your call. You cannot hear him coming back to you if you are constantly calling. For goodness sakes if the station is not calling your call sign don't respond. If they are calling by the numbers and he is calling 2's and you are a 4, don't call him, he isn't going to call you back. I know some very good operators that will ignore the Lids or will flat out tell the offending station they will not work them. I have heard it done and I have done it myself. "Manners maketh man,"
- 6. Thou shalt not repeatedly "Kerchuck" the repeater.** If you are programming a radio, you really should not key up the repeater repeatedly without identifying. That is simply "Bad form, Jack, bad form." If you need to test, your ability to open the squelch or hitting the repeater, just key up, give your call sign and say testing or ask for a radio check.
- 7. Thou shalt not tune up on the DX station frequency.** – Oh man, you want to talk about a pet peeve of mine and a way to really piss off a lot of operators, go ahead and tune up on the frequency the DX station is calling on... "Oh my stars and garters" you will have kicked over the hornets' nest. If you need to match your antenna or tune a tube amp, please for all that is Holy and Good, move off the frequency a bit and do your business. Then come back to the frequency, ready to bust the pile-up. If the station is working split don't tune up on the QSX frequency either.
- 8. Thou shalt not call a station that you cannot properly copy** – Spotting clusters are a wonderful thing, especially if you are chasing DX and the wallpaper that goes along with it. There is a downfall to having the spotting clusters. Some operators will go to the frequency and listen... and if they hear anything, they will call the DX station. If you cannot clearly copy that station, you will not hear him if he is coming back to you for a QSO. Listen, listen and listen some more, sometime propagation may change and you will get a solid enough of a copy to work the station. Be Patient... it does not do you or anyone else any good to act like a LID on a station you cannot copy. How sad would it be if you have just enough signal to be heard by that DX station but you have no idea he is calling you back because you cannot copy.
- 9. Thou shalt remember to QSL** – It is a basic courtesy to confirm a contact with another operator. There is nothing like getting a QSL card in the mail or a bulk shipment from the bureau. Now I realize, that paper QSL cards have associated costs with the card itself and the postage involved. If you cannot afford to do that, that is fine. Most operators that want a QSL card will send you a self-addressed, stamped envelope. It is important to send them a card back, even if you just print it on your printer at home. That said, it is simple and easy to provide a confirmation of your contact with one of the electronic confirmation services such as Logbook of the World (ARRL), QRZ, e-QSL, etc. All you must do is set up your account and log your contact or upload your contact log file and the software does the rest. It will query the database of contacts and find matching contacts to yours and boom, you have a confirmation. There really isn't any excuse not to log the contact and confirm. You may be the contact that gets the other party an award.
- 10. Thou shalt Elmer other Hams** – We all share a common bond in this hobby and that is passion for Radio and learning. One of the best parts of Amateur Radio is being an Elmer. Forming a bond with other Hams, mentoring others, and having others as mentors, is priceless. The hobby is full of opportunities to build friendships that may last a lifetime. It provides opportunities for a shared experience. It is our duty as Hams to help others find the hobby and help them grow in it. It is how the hobby lives through the generations and it will be our legacy when we become Silent Keys. Do not miss the opportunity to enjoy one of the best parts of this hobby, there is nothing else like it to build and nurture those bonds. "Always pass on what you have learned." – Yoda



PCARS Thursday 2 Meter Nets

Greg, KA8TOA
Net Control Coordinator



Thank you all for helping with this! Anytime you are unable to take the net, please give me as much advance warning as possible! **Check-in using the receiver located in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ 146.895 with a PL tone of 118.8. We also use EchoLink node K8BF-L**

Here are log stats for first Quarter of 2021 - 310 total check ins for 12 weeks - 26 total average per week

For the 4th Quarter of 2020 We had 286 total check ins for 11 weeks - 26 total average per week

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

May	
6	N8QE
13	WB2DFC
20	WB8LCD
27	KA8TOA

June	
3	KD8WCK
10	K8YLK
17	KE8BWA
24	N8AMY

July	
1	K8YLK
8	N8AMY
15	N8QE
22	K8CAV
29	KD8WCK

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

Three more members for the 10 consecutive PCARS net check-ins award certificate:
Brandon - KE8ARB, David - KE8QEP and Erik, KE8QPY.
They will receive their certificates in the near future.

Antenna Special Interest Group

Tony, WA8AR
Antenna SIG Coordinator



May 2021 Meeting of the Antenna Special Interest Group

The May meeting of the Antenna Special Interest Group will be held on **May 18, 2021, 7:00 pm**. At this time I am planning this meeting to be a combination “limited in-person at the Club Site” and online Zoom meeting.

I am strongly considering making the Zoom participation in the Antenna SIG a regular feature of our meetings; continuing long after all COVID safety protocols have been lifted. This will open our Antenna SIG to members and nonmembers who cannot make it to the meeting in person. I have not yet determined the exact “in-person limitations” I will need to impose for the May meeting COVID safety precautions. Those limits may change over the next couple weeks. I will clarify them in a QST published at least one week before the meeting. The safety of all attending in-person will be my top priority.

Our discussion will use a round robin format that will ensure all “attending” a chance to speak and get input from the group. The topics of antenna selection, design, and construction will be our main topics for discussion. However, as we have done in the past, anything Ham Radio related will be open for discussion.

DX & Contest Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contest SIG Coordinator



On April 27 we held our DX/Contest Special Interest Group meeting. I want to thank those who attended. We had a good discussion regarding a number of topics. We reviewed the upcoming contests for May, including 5 QSO Parties. A couple of good ones that I feel should be mentioned are the 7th Call Area QSO Party that is held May 1-2 and the New England QSO Party held the same weekend. Since there would be a number of states included in these two contests, it might be fun just to see if you can sweep the states.

One other to mention is the Arkansas QSO Party. It's the only QSO Party being held the weekend of May 8-9. Check out their website. They have a map of the US with several red arrows pointing to Arkansas reminding people where the state is located.

We also had a long discussion, once again, regarding how we can get more members involved in contesting, especially when we can do this from our own QTHs and send in our logs listing PCARS as our club affiliation. With nearly 150 paid up members, we should be able to have more than 10-15 testers sending in logs. There have been times when we've had only 3 or 4 logs sent in. I know that not all our members are interested in contesting. But I also know that we have many members with base stations comprised of more than a handi-talk. We'd like to see you get on the air and if you only make a few contacts, it helps put PCARS on the map in regards to contesting. Yes, I am biased because I enjoy contesting, but I also want to see PCARS keep its high profile to show other groups what can be accomplished when members work together, not only for contest, but all facets of Amateur Radio.

That means we need to have members volunteer some time to man the stations for Field Day. There are still openings and all you have to do is operate for 1 hr. Contact the station captains and let them know you are willing to help.

OK, the Soap Box has been put away..... for now. **73 until next month.**

Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV
Digital SIG Coordinator



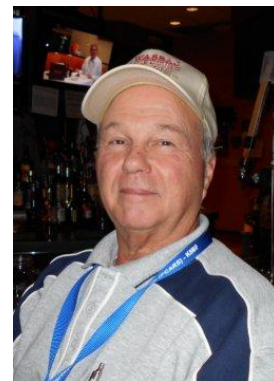
The PCARS Digital Special Interest Group will be meeting RF virtually on **Tuesday May 4th** on the K8IV 146.895 repeater. This is an open forum meeting which means will talk about what ever digital topics you want. We can also do digital coms on the repeater or if you'd like, we can switch to HF and communicate digitally there. 40 meters seems to be a decent band in the evening for ground wave coms locally. As always if you are having any problems or issues with setup or anything else, we'll do our best to help work them out.



Battery Powered Portable Power Generators

Jeff, WA8SAJ

At the April PCARS meeting, I gave a presentation on Battery Powered Portable Generators and there were a number of links that you may want get more information, Here are those links:



- 1) [Gas Power, Guaranteed—Browse all Cordless Outdoor Tools | EGO](#)
- 2) [EGO 145-Watt Power Inverter in the Power Inverters department at Lowes.com](#)
- 3) [Reliance 306LRK 6-Circuit Transfer Switch Kit P2 in the Generator Transfer Switch Kits department at Lowes.com](#)
- 4) [Amazon.com: Parkworld 886115 Combiner, Household \(2\) 5-15 Plug Male to Generator Twist Lock L14-30 Receptacle Female Y Adapter Cord: Home Audio & Theater](#)
- 5) [Inergy Technologies - Power For Life](#)
- 6) [Portable Solar Battery Charger | Portable Solar Panels | Off-Grid Solar Generators | Goal Zero - Extreme Portable Power](#)
- 7) [Renogy Official Site | All-in-one Solar Kit | solar panel kits | Portable Solar Generator](#)
- 8) [EcoFlow | Portable Power by EcoFlow | EcoFlow RIVER | EcoFlow DELTA](#)
- 9) [Bluetti AC200](#)
- 10) [Bluetti EP500 Power Station-The Future Of Home Backup Power](#)
- 11) [Titan Solar Generator | Point Zero Energy](#)
- 12) [Nature's Generator Store - All Products](#)
- 13) [Solar Generators | Wagan Corporation](#)
- 14) [Solar Power - 4Patriots](#)
- 15) [Go Anywhere with Portable Power - Lion Energy](#)
- 16) [Generac Power Systems - Power Equipment and Generator Manufacturer](#)
- 17) [Mobile Power Systems and Solutions for RV, Utility, Fleet and Marine Application](#)
- 18) [100 Watt Solar Panel Kit](#)
- 19) [Portable Power Station, Power Outdoors - Jackery](#)
- 20) [Solar & Portable Power | Powerwerx](#)
- 21) [LDSreliance Store - Your source for off grid solar power products](#)
- 22) [Zamp Solar - US Manufacturer of Solar Panels and RV Kits](#)
- 23) [Bougerv rv parts solar panels generator parts | Bougerv — BougeRV](#)
- 24) [Foldable solar kit](#)
- 25) [Ampacity Charts](#)
- 26) [AC WORKS | Medical Grade Power Supplies – AC Connectors](#)
- 27) [Guide to Home Electrical Wiring: Fully Illustrated Electrical Wiring Book](#)
- 28) [CAMCO L14-30P to 3 x 15A Adapter 12-in in the Power Adapters department at Lowes.com](#)
- 29) [BigBattery.com – Your Source For Power](#)
- 30) [Shenzhen Montek New Energy Co., Limited - power station, solar generator, \(Just announced\) !](#)
- 31) [2021 Ford® F-150 Truck | Tougher Than Ever, \(Just announced\)!](#)
- 32) [The Best American-Made Lithium Batteries | Battle Born Batteries |](#)
- 33) [Best Portable Power from 200Wh to 6,000Wh – PECRON](#)
- 34) [U.S electricity generation by source: Natural gas vs coal - Washington Post](#)
- 35) [The Largest Offshore Wind Farm in America - Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind - YouTube](#)
- 36) [Powerpack - Commercial & Utility Energy Storage Solutions | Tesla](#)
- 37) [Projects & Facilities | Dominion Energy](#)
- 38) [Portable Power Station for Storing Solar Energy](#)



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

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 72 PCARS member's ham plates now, **but we can use more**. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS IO Group site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history**.



From the Ohio BMV:

General Information: Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of Ohio and hold an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission may apply for these plates. The official call letters will be the license plate numbers.

Registrant Eligibility: Owner must submit a copy of the un-revoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (FCC).

Title Requirements: Ohio Certificate of Title issued in the same name as the FCC license, either singly or jointly, or the name on the FCC license is the same name on the lease agreement.

Vehicle Information: These plates may be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

Type of Plates: Plates will be manufactured with the FCC license.

Issuance Information: Amateur Radio plates cannot be issued with system assigned, reserved, or personalized plate formats.

Renewal of plates can be done at your local Deputy Registrar or by mail using their renewal notice. **Amateur Radio License Holders must provide a copy of their current unexpired and unrevoked official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the time of any type renewal transaction.**

All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card unless customer requests otherwise. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at all Deputy Registrar license agency locations. These plates cost an additional \$10.00 annually plus the normal registration fees. The fee is determined by Ohio Revised Code section 4503.14.

PCARS is on YouTube

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



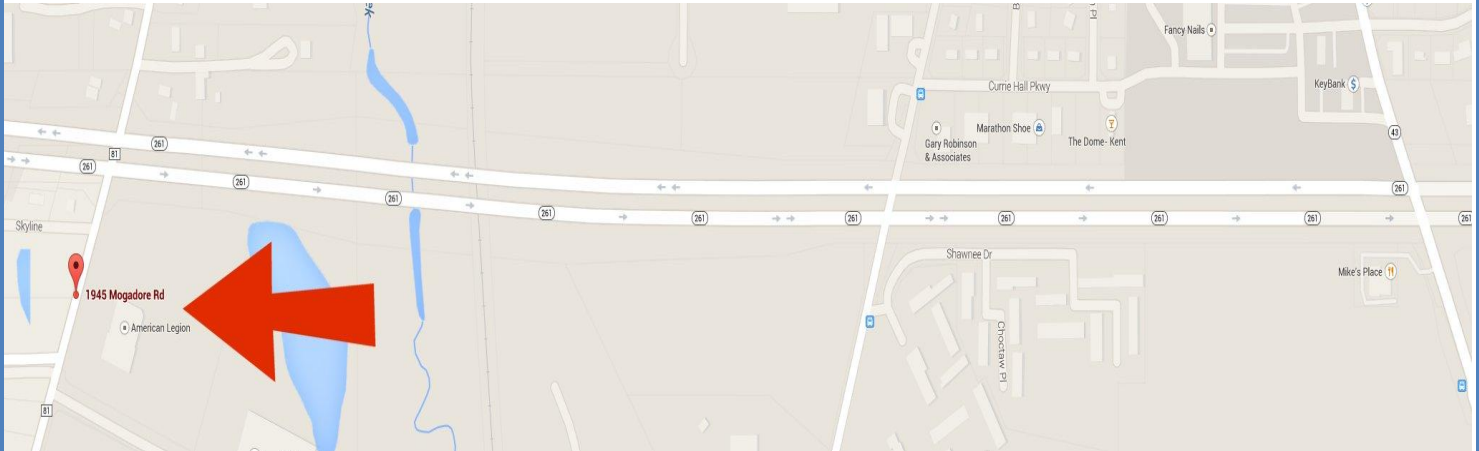
PCARS Meetings

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



CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ABOUT IN-PERSON MEETINGS

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



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



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



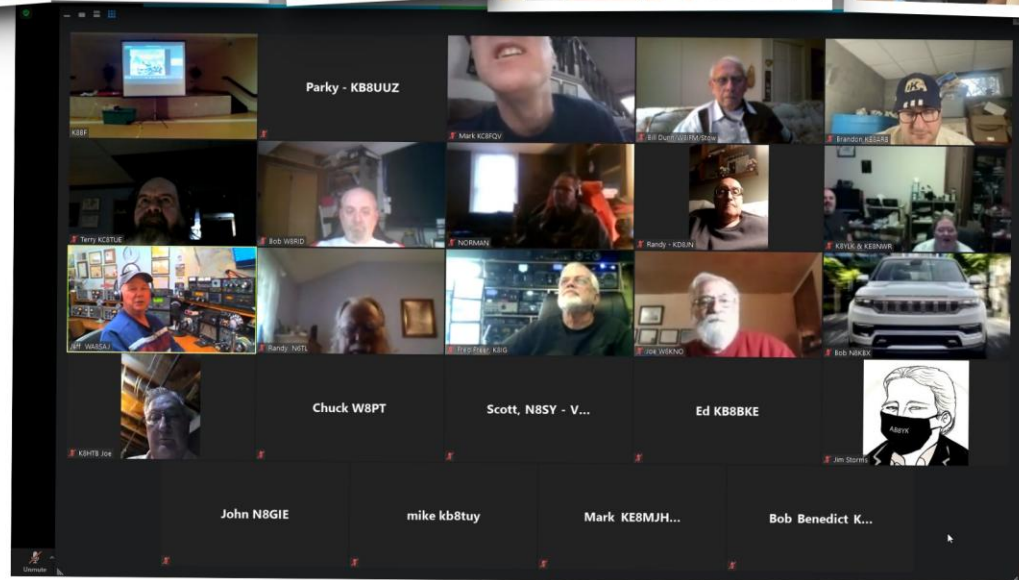
The menu consists of your basic burger / dog / chicken sandwiches, wings, fries, onion rings, and salads. There is also an appetizer selection as well. Adult beverages are available and costs are in line with what you would expect at most bar-restaurant facilities.

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

Photos from the April Meeting



PCARS



12 April 21

From: WOSU 89.7 NPR News | By **Steve Brown**
Published April 20, 2021

Bugging Out: Brood X Cicadas Make a 17-Year Run for the Surface

The Brood X cicada emerges once every 17 years in Ohio and other Appalachian and Great Lakes states.

An insect that hasn't seen the surface since George W. Bush's first term as president is starting to reemerge, and Ohioans are more likely to hear them than to spot them in the wild.

The Brood X cicada, last seen in the U.S. in 2004, is making its once-every-17-year appearance. And while they don't do much physical damage, they're hard to miss.



"They're not a financial nuisance, unless you get tired of them for the four weeks that they're here and you want to move away," says Ryan Larrick, a survey technician who studies insect damage for the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

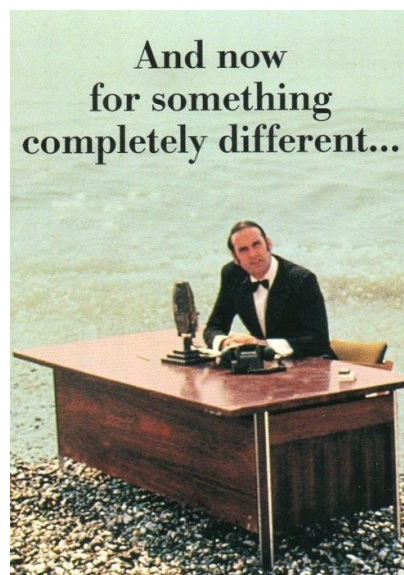
The Brood X cicada is a fascinating creature for several reasons, chief among them the way it's able to make so much noise.

The bugs possess a thin membrane drum in their abdomen that resembles a ribbed straw. When they move the ribbed structure it makes a sound about a hundred times per second, and an air cavity amplifies the sound.

Larrick says several male cicadas "singing" together can form a chorus that can reach 100 decibels, or about the same volume as a running lawnmower.

As to why they emerge in the oddly-specific cycle of once every 17 years, Larrick says it's to avoid predators.

"Because with predators they could actually learn the patterns of the cicada's emergence if they were every year. With it being every 17 years, predators really don't realize when they're emerging," Larrick says. In their short time above ground, many female cicadas will lay their eggs near the top of trees to avoid predators. When the eggs hatch, larva will fall to the ground, find holes in the earth to get back underground, and feed on sap from tree roots for the next 17 years until they make their end-of-life appearance in 2038.



And now
for something
completely different...



PCARS
www.portcars.org



Thanks & 73



Parky, KB8UUZ
PCARS Newsletter Editor



I really appreciate the help in gathering material to keep this newsletter number one. Without your help we would not have received the newsletter awards in past years. All of our members (and others) look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending those inputs! I'm sure PCARS is known as the **BIG FUN** amateur radio club. So chip-in and send your article in to keep this newsletter great for 2021 and beyond.

Please - Be careful out there, wear a mask and practice social distancing. **Ohio is still mostly in the red. And Portage County is still red (as of May 1st).** We will get through this if we all work together. I'm still looking forward to seeing **ALL** of you in person - sometime later in 2021. **Hang in there, please.**

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

AC8QG, N8WCP, KE8EGF, WA8EFK, N8SY, WB8LCD, WB2MGP, KB8UUZ, W8KNO, K8IG, W1YW, WA8AR, K3GP, K8CAV, K3LR, NM0S, KD8MQ, KD8WCK, K6MM, KE1B, KN4GWY, N9ADG, IK1HJS, G7VIR, W8PT, N8BHL, NJ4Z, LA7GIA, KA8TOA, WA8SAJ, NF8R, The FCC, Mara Johnson-Groh, Steve Brown, The ARRL and the World-Wide Web

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

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Here's What You Can Do After You're Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

<https://www.prevention.com/health/a35852257/what-can-you-do-after-fully-vaccinated-covid-19/>



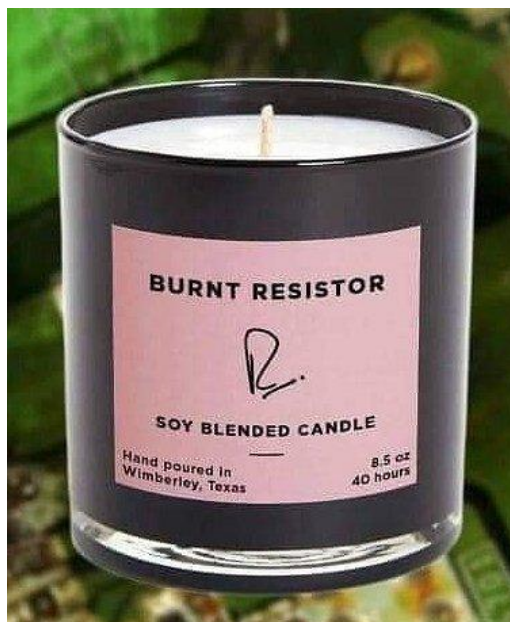
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**I still hear those voices
telling me:**



BUY ANOTHER RADIO!



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

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

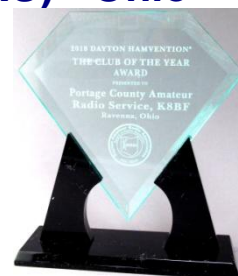


PCARS meets the second Monday of each month at the **Kent American Legion Post 496**, 1945 Mogadore Rd. - just South of Rt. 261 - Enter the rear of the building for the meeting room.

Meeting starts at 7:00 pm - All are welcome to attend ~ Stop in and say hello!

PCARS uses the **K8IV** repeater: **146.895 MHz PL 118.8** in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ EchoLink Node: **K8BF-L**

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



~ 2021 Officers ~		2021 PCARS Appointments & Committees	
President - Nick Wagner - AC8QG Vice President - Mike Szabo - N8WCP Treasurer - Paul Hyland - KE8EGF 3 Year Trustee - Amy Leggiero - N8AMY 2 Year Trustee - John Myers - KD8MQ 1 Year Trustee - Chuck Patellis - W8PT Past President - Tom Sly - WB8LCD	ARRL Awards - DXCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Field Day Chairman, 2021	WA8AR	Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	Historian	KB8SZI	Peggy Parkinson
	K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
	K8BF QSL Manager	N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
	Membership Chairman	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Net Control Manager	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	Net Night - Club Manager	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	Newsletter Editor	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
~ Meetings & Net ~ 2nd Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Public Information Officer		
	Secretary	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Social Media	N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Manager	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Webmasters	KD8MQ	John Myers
		K8SRR	Steve Randlett

 PCARS Active Volunteer Examiner Team Members	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
	N8XTH	Deron Boring
	N8PXW	Jim Korenz
	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
	K8IV	Ed Polack
	WA8CCU	Al Nagy
	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	AC8QG	Nick Wagner
	N8FUM	Dan Torchia
	W8GWI	Dave Seckel
	N8AMY	Amy Leggiero



THE RADIOGRAM

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

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The RADIOGRAM is published every month and only sent to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: KB8UUZ@gmail.com

By attending PCARS in-person activities, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending PCARS in-person activities, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and covenant not to sue and agree not to hold the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) or any of their directors, officers, contractors, vendors or volunteers liable for any illness or injury. While PCARS implements preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with Federal, State and Local guidelines, we cannot guarantee that attendees will not become infected with COVID-19 as a result of attendance.



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NLC

