



The RADIOGRAM

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 08 - AUGUST 2025

FIELD DAY IN REVIEW

ARRL FIELD DAY



www.arrl.org



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



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The RADIOGRAM

Volume 20 - August 2025 - Number 08

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PCARS 20th Special Event

At the club site - Ravenna

August 9, 2025 - 10am-6pm

On-The-Air Event and
Open House - Food & Fun

We'll See YOU There!

PORTAGE
COUNTY
AMATEUR
RADIO
SERVICE

2005
2025

20 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Special Interest Groups (SIG)

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From The PCARS President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS President



I won't soon forget this last month. It was all about my eyes. Don't let anyone tell you something is going to be easy. In my case, it did not go perfectly. But it is all fixed and I am back up and running.

August is going to be a great month. PCARS has two very big events. First, we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Twenty years of having a lot of fun. We will be celebrating by having a special event station and BBQ at the club on Saturday August 9th. Come on out and make some contacts from our World Headquarters. We will have brats and burgers and, as always, a great time with our fellow club members. Next is our annual Ohio BBQSO event on August 23rd. Again, lots of fun making contacts and enjoying brats and burgers. Two great events in one month. Please join us for the fun.

Last month we were to have Ward Silver N0AX talk about EndFed antennas. As you know, he slept through his presentation. We have rescheduled him for September. The August meeting will feature a presentation by Don Dubon N6JRL talking about the HD8G DXpedition. It should be a great presentation.

Events coming up include OSPOTA and our demonstration of ham radio at the Kent State Aero Expo. Both these events happen on the same Saturday, September 6th. This makes that day a big day for ham radio. If you are not going to work OSPOTA, let me know if you want to help with the Expo.

Get on the air and enjoy our upcoming events.

Jim, AC8NT



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

KF8ADQ	Joe
N8SKN	Robert
KD8OBA	Kenneth
KB8VJL	Al
N8GPS	Ned
W8AR	Walter

WT8J	Julie
KE8IMR	Karl
KC8TUE	Terry
WD8ICX	Gary
K8IG	Frederick
KD8CGH	Robert

W8RJG	Ron
W8GU	Mark
KB8TUY	Mike
K8FF	Wayne
KA8RXW	Lee



From Around The World...

From Nuts & Volts: Wire Wrap Is alive And Well!

https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/wire-wrap-is-alive-and-well?_hsmi=228192001&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8Ykm0iqHsNL6YO1jbfezL16EpC8PNWx3-O8H_3wOfz7SnAb80j7H2xstU82LBYPKARx-DHfUnhiZWdDZ9kmwt_31ar6zA



“Quick note about Wire Wrap. I first ran into this in 1972 when I was in the Navy and assigned to Hughes Aircraft in Los Angeles working on the new F-14 TomCat computer and radar systems to be introduced into the Navy. All the back planes (card racks) in the computer & radar boxes were wire wrapped. My first thought was this will never survive hard deck landings on an aircraft carrier. My next 6 years while in VX-4 and VF-143 - I never saw a single failure or intermittent problem caused by a wire wrap. That convinced me that wire wrap is very reliable. Later at Tecnicare - A MRI/CT Scanner/Nuclear Medicine Scanner manufacturer - the back planes of all the card racks were also wire wrapped.”

-Parky, KB8UUZ

From Hackaday: Ham Radio Foxhunt Transmitter

<https://hackaday.com/2025/07/13/2025-one-hertz-challenge-ham-radio-foxhunt-transmitter/>

Lightning Detectors (Wenzeltech.com)

<https://www.wenzeltech.com/Projects/lightningdetectors.htm>

John, WG8X



Well, this month turned out to be a bit more active than first thought.

Once Field Day was over, I was happy to get away for some time at one of our beautiful Ohio State Parks. I was ready to just relax, and stay away from the radio. Our destination this time was Mosquito Lake SP (US-1978). Yep, my time away from the radio didn't last long. While there for the Independence Day weekend, I managed a couple activations, and lots of fun!

The next couple weeks included occasional small trips to West Branch SP (US-1999), and Wingfoot Lake SP (US-3516). Then, I heard from Tim, AA4SS, who lives in VA. He visits family in the area often, and we take a day to head out for a rove. The rules are simple; a day trip to new-to-us parks.

Since we've both done a good job of activating parks in Ohio, we headed to Pennsylvania for the day. I had 5 parks left to go in Lawrence County, PA. So that was the target for this trip. We managed to hit all 5, and a 6th in Southern Mercer County just because we discovered it as we were driving by.

We ran 100W SSB into both an EFHW for the first couple stops, and a Linked dipole at the rest. I refer to this type of activation as "Tailgate portable". We managed 132 contacts over 6 POTA locations; one was a Two-fer, where the North Country National Scenic Trail (US-4239) passes through PA State Game Land 148 (US-8846).

That is almost it for this month, but I have I have a new website to pass along. This comes from Tim, AA4SS. <http://map.pota.ninja/?> uses information available from the POTA database to display a customized map of your POTA progress. I don't think that it's perfect yet, but does show a lot of promise. I'm not sure who's building it, but it looks like a cool site to bookmark. I'll be watching the progress. And now that is all we have for this month. Get out there and activate something!

73 DE WG8X



K8BF Field Day 25 - Submitted to ARRL



Tom, KB8UUZ
FD Media & Log Entry



The final PCARS Field Day 2025 report was done and sent in to the ARRL. It was submitted on the ARRL's web app. for Field day and the additional required information was also included as PDF uploads. Everything has been received and accepted. Now we have to wait until later this year (*usually in December*) to see how we did compared to the other 4A stations in Ohio and the USA. It was a GREAT Field Day and all went fine and it appeared all had FUN. Only 10 more months until Field Day 2026. **Start planning NOW.**

Portage County Amateur Radio Service - Field Day 2025

Call Used: **K8BF** GOTA Call: **KP4VZ** ARRL/RAC Section: **OH** Class: **4A**
Participants: **60** Power Source(s): **Generator, Battery, Solar** Power Multiplier: **2X**
Score Submitted: 9,482 + 2,190 Bonus = 11,672

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	685	739	1,893	3,241	
Total Points	1,370	1,478	1,893	4,741	X2 = Claimed Score = 9,482 (not including bonus)

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Set up in a Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
Message to ARRL SM	100
NTS/ICS-213 messages handled - No.=10	100
W1AW Field Day Bulletin	100
Natural Power QSOs completed (40M Solar)	100
Site Visit by invited Elected Official	100

Description	Points
Site Visit by invited Served Agency Official	100
Educational activity	100
Youth Element (3) achieved	60
GOTA Bonus - 5 pts per QSO	380
GOTA Coach Bonus	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Safety Officer	100
Social Media	100
Total Bonus Points	2,190

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:



	CW		Digital		Phone		Totals
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	
80m	104	100	136	100	265	100	505
40m	209	100	202	100	1,265	100	1,676
20m	347	100	155	100	352	100	854
15m	25	100	69	100	11	100	105
10m	-	-	14	100	-	-	14
6m	-	-	85	100	-	-	85
2M	-	-	2	100	-	-	2
Total	685		663		1893		3,241
GOTA	-	-	76	100	-	-	76



First K8BF Contact was logged by **N8QE** at 1800 UTC on Saturday on **20 Meters SSB** to N5VDQ in North Texas.
Last K8BF Contact was logged by **KD8DFL** at 1800 UTC on Sunday by the **40 Meters SSB** to KB9WSL in Indiana.

PCARS Field Day 2025 - Operator Contact Totals



Contact Totals by Operator



#	Call	QSOs
1	KD8DFL	359
2	K8IV	329
3	W8PT	304
4	K8KSU	264
5	WB9LBI	222
6	AD8IR	211
7	N8QE	181
8	K8FF	180
9	K3GP	159
10	N8BI	142
11	K8CAV	119
12	AD8FQ	111
13	KD8WCK	106

#	Call	QSOs
14	N8WCP	102
15	W8NET	68
16	W8GU	63
17	N8NB	61
18	W8KNO	60
19	W8AHC	55
20	KA8TOA	52
21	KP4VZ	36
22	KD8OBA	19
23	WA8LRW	14
24	KB8TUY	12
25	KE8EGF	5

PCARS Field Day 2025 - GOTA Station

What a great time watching the GOTA station in action.

The GOTA station used the call sign KP4VZ. Mike, KP4VZ was the GOTA Coach and worked with Mike KE8WZP, John KE8MXR and Ashley WP4PLR. The three GOTA operators made a total of 76 contacts all on FT8 Digital. Bonus points included 100 for the GOTA Coach and 380 (5 pts for each QSO) for the GOTA contacts.

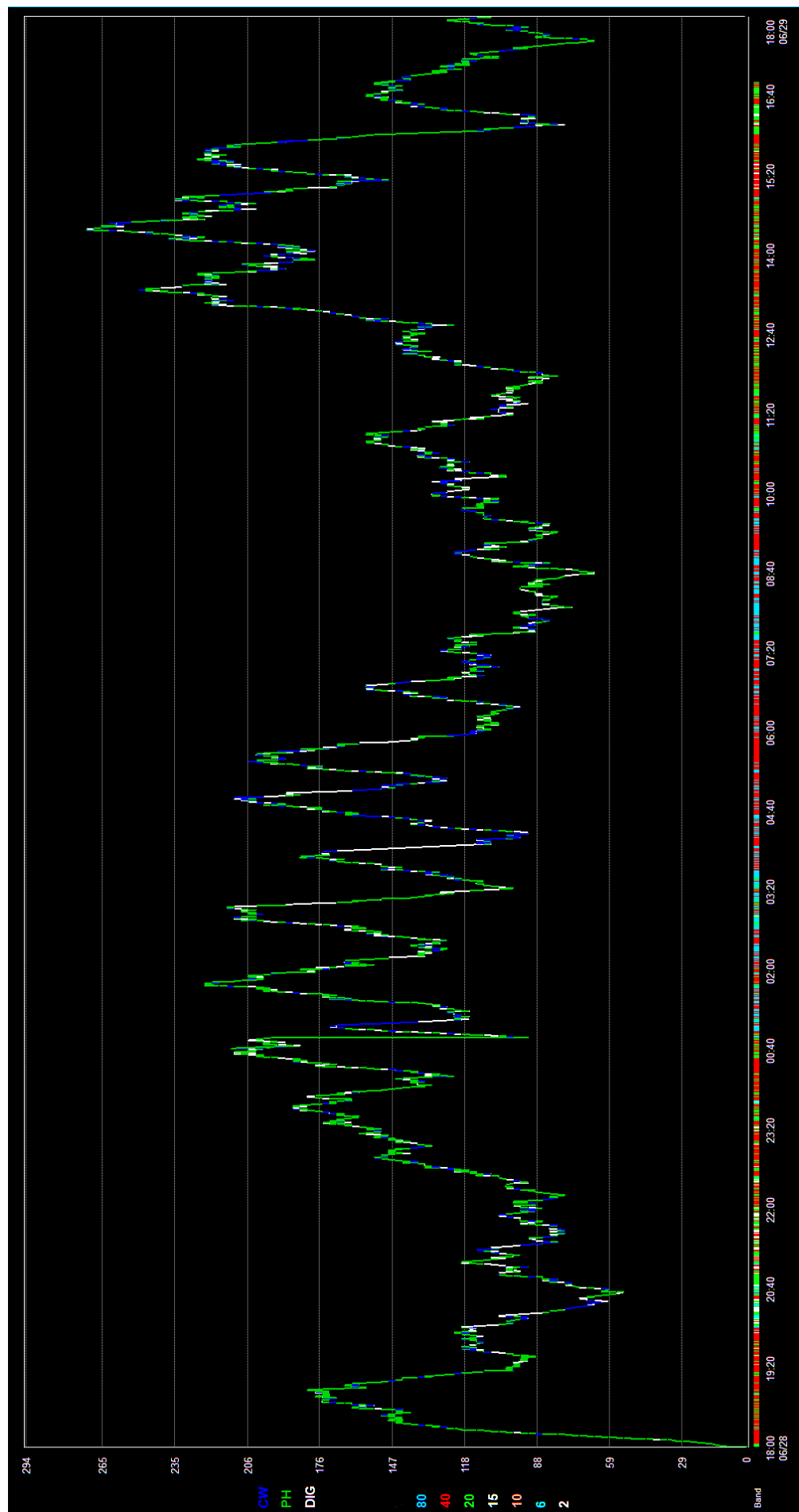
GOTA Summary - KP4VZ	
Band	QSOs Digital
40 M	67
20 M	1
15 M	3
10 M	5
Totals	76

Gota Operators	Bonus Points
KE8WZP Michael Liner - 50 Contacts	250
KE8MXR John Lopez - 15 Contacts	75
WP4PLR Ashley Gonzalez-Cordero - 11 Contacts	55



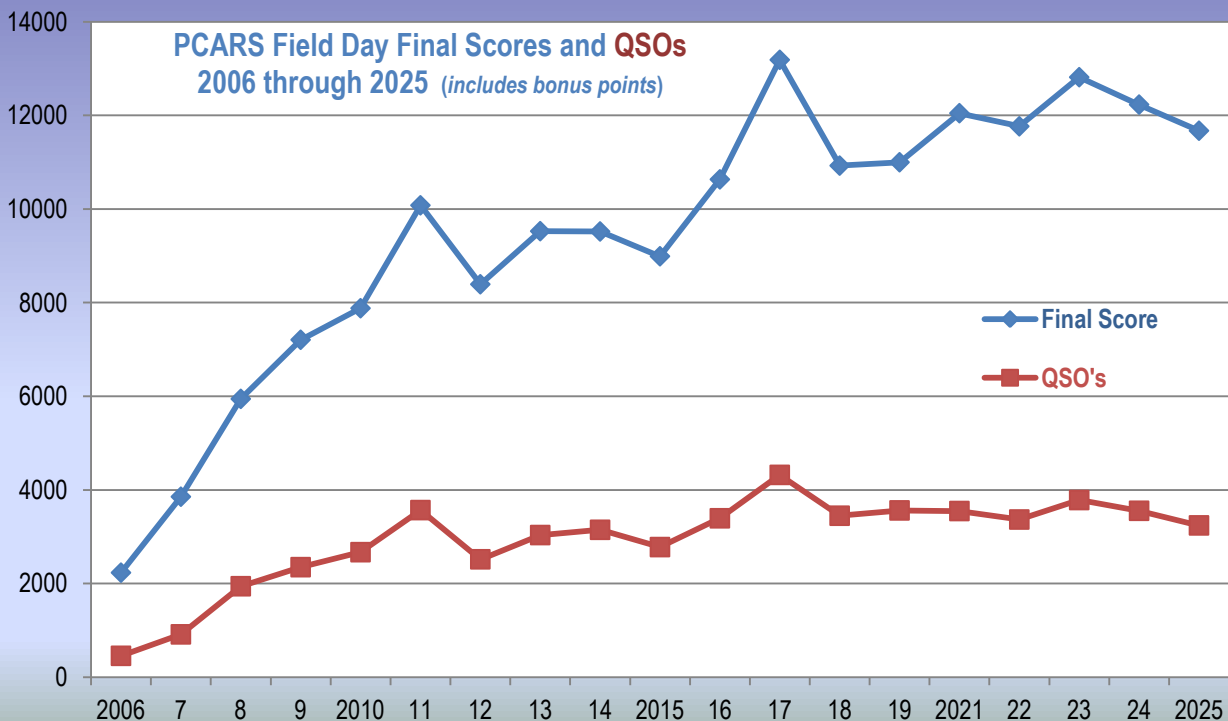


On Air Activity Graph K8BF

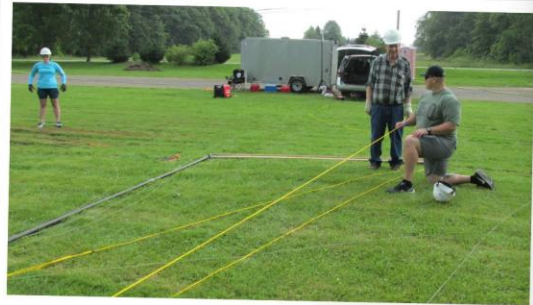


Field Day - Past PCARS Field Day Comparisons

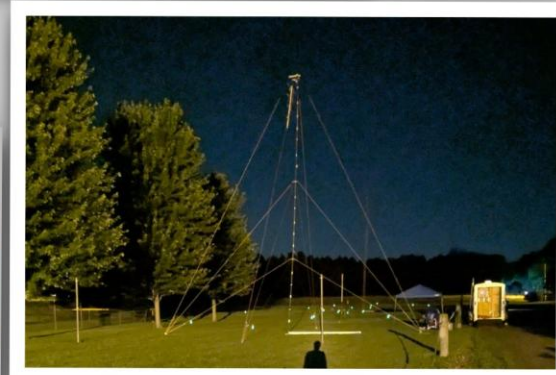
PCARS	Final QSOs	Final Score
2025 - K8BF	3,241	11,672
2024 - K8BF	3,553	12,230
2023 - K8BF	3,783	12,815
2022 - K8BF	3,367	11,766
2021 - K8BF	3,548	12,046
2019 - K8BF	3,561	10,998
2018 - K8BF	3,448	10,926
2017 - K8BF	4,320 (highest)	13,186 (highest)
2016 - K8BF	3,393	10,632
2015 - K8BF	2,778	8,990
2014 - K8BF	3,147	9,520
2013 - K8BF	3,035	9,526
2012 - K8BF	2,517	8,392
2011 - K8BF	3,568	10,078
2010 - K8BF	2,669	7,880
2009 - KD8CKP	2,349	7,206
2008 - KD8CKP	1,942	5,944
2007 - KD8CKP	914	3,854
2006 - KD8CKP	455	2232



Field Day 2025 - K8BF - 4A - OH



Field Day 2025 - K8BF - 4A - OH



PCARS-K8BF



Field Day 2025 - K8BF - 4A - OH

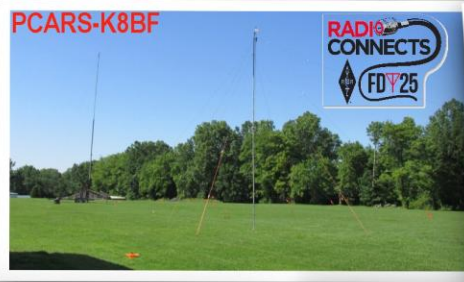
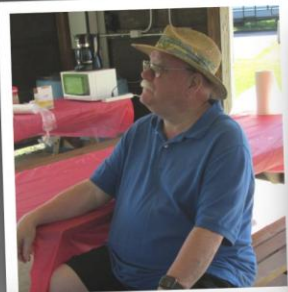
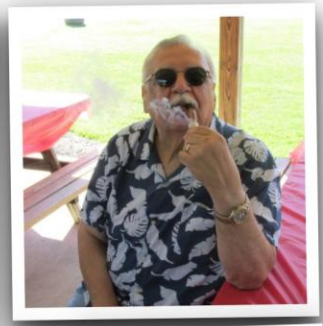


PCARS-K8BF

Field Day 2025 - K8BF - 4A - OH



Field Day 2025 - K8BF - 4A - OH



Field Day 2025 - K8BF - 4A - OH



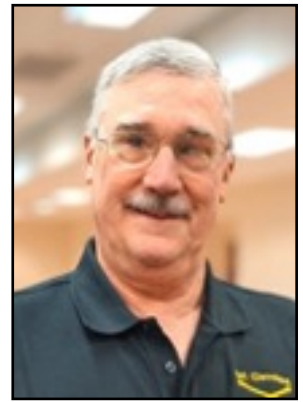
PCARS - K8BF

FD 2025



Flex Net

Rick, K8CAV
Flex Net Coordinator



The next PCARS Flex Net will be held on Wednesday August 13th at 8:00 PM. This month's net will be a Digital-Only net using the MT63 2000L mode, on 6 meters. Tune your transceiver's dial frequency to 50.350 MHz USB and center the MT63 cursors at 1,500 Hz on the waterfall. Remember the mode is 2000L not 2000S. Technician class licensee holders have full privileges on 6 meters and I'd love to see more of our Technicians on this net.

As this is a digital-only net, we will be using prosigns and Q signals to streamline net operations. A review of the use of prosigns and Q signals named " Flex-Net-Digital-Operations.pdf" can be found on the PCARS groups.io site, here: <https://groups.io/g/PCARS/files/Flex-Net-Digital-Operations.pdf>

PCARS is on YouTube

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

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



PCARS IO Group

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

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



PCARS Patches & Stickers

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

Put the patch on your hat, your shirt, your jacket and show off that PCARS logo! The patch is about 3". The embroidery on the white patch is Red, Black, and Blue. Cost for a patch is \$2.00 each and can be obtained at any PCARS meeting. There are 2 types of stickers available - a 4" x 6" oval and a 3" x 10" bumper sticker. Stickers are \$1 each. Reach out to the club treasurer for details.



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



PCARS 20th Anniversary Special Event *August 9, 2025 10 am - 6 pm* at the club site in Ravenna

PCARS was officially started on November 14, 2005 in a meeting at Mike's Place in Kent, Ohio. Prior to that date, the club founders worked behind the scenes for months to establish the club constitution, mission statement and set goals to start a new amateur radio club in Portage County. Incorporation papers were issued and the first officers were nominated and elected. Information on the new club was published in local papers and hams throughout the area were notified of this new club. Our goal was to have fun with amateur radio and have hams gather together to enjoy this great hobby of ours. Turn out at the first meeting open to all in Jan 2006 was outstanding and PCARS was off and running.



**PCARS Established
November 14, 2005**



**At Mike's Place
Kent, OH**

PCARS has been a success due to the members being active, sharing, and helpful to all. We have grown to what we are today. We are very active in all phases of the hobby and we enjoy the company of like minded hams to share in the fun. More people join in our quest and we hope the club goes on for years to come.



PCARS is having a 20th anniversary special event station day at the club site in Ravenna on Saturday, August 9th from 10 am until 6 pm. **K8BF** will be on-the-air making contacts with hams around the world. There will be a 20th Anniversary Special Event Station Certificate available for the stations making contact with our club. Information on the special event station will be in QST magazine.

Now the fun starts: If you take part in getting on the air at the club site for the 20th anniversary special event, a really nice color certificate will be issued to you.

AND: PCARS will have an open house for all to attend. We plan on having the grill set up and having hot dogs, burgers and brats. Our Grill Masters - Mike KB8TUY and Bob N8QE will be on hand to use their grilling expertise for your dining pleasure. **PLEASE - Bring a dish, some soda pop, and snacks, to share as well.** This will be a **FUN** event you don't want to miss.



SO: Mark your calendar - Saturday - August 9th 2025 - 10 am to 6 pm
We all look forward to seeing you there!

PCARS 20th Special Event

At the club site - Ravenna

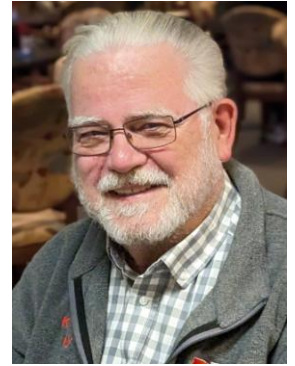
August 9, 2025 - 10am-6pm

On-The-Air Event and Open House - Food & Fun

We'll See YOU There!

Read the history of PCARS - visit our club website at: <https://www.portcars.org/wp/history/>

OSPOTA 2025 - GET READY



Tom, KB8UUZ
OSPOTA Chairman



Hello OSPOTA fans and participants,

The 2025 **Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest (OSPOTA) is coming up real soon - on September 6th many of you will be making the trip to one of the beautiful Ohio State Parks to set up and get on the air - We will be listening for you!

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

STORIES - PICTURES - LOGS

STORIES:

How about taking a few notes on your set up and operation, then send them in with your log so they can be published in the PCARS newsletter?

PICTURES:

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

LOGS:

PLEASE - don't forget to send in your log and summary sheet. All the info on what should be in the log and summary sheet is outlined in the rules, so I won't repeat it here. **Note - We only accept Cabrillo file entries.**



FUN - FUN - FUN

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

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

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

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

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



Count Down to Ohio State Parks On The Air - 2025

Ohio State Parks On The Air



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the **18th Annual “Ohio State Parks On the Air” (OSPOTA)** contest, from the hours of 10 am to 6 pm EST (1400 UTC to 2200 UTC).

18th OSPOTA - September 6, 2025

19th OSPOTA - September 12, 2026 20th OSPOTA - September 11, 2027

Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day holiday.



For hams throughout the State of Ohio, this is your opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the 76 beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. Don't just make a day of it - spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts, you will find that the parks are one of Ohio's greatest assets. Find out more about the Ohio State Parks at: <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-odnr/division-parks-watercraft>

In past years, hundreds of Amateur Radio Operators (hams) from around the country participated in the event. With the success of OSPOTA, we hope to have amateur radio operators at every Ohio State Park.

This contest places a premium on working stations located in the Ohio State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the design and deployment of Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas. You can find numerous designs on the Internet and in various Amateur Radio antenna manuals. Along with your operating skills, it will be a chance to showcase your antenna building skills as well.

Individuals and multiple operators can operate Ohio State Park stations. Non-park stations in Ohio as well as stations outside of Ohio can also compete.

Contacts can be made on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB and CW. All contacts have the same point values.

Make sure that you read the Rules, FAQ's and get your forms for the contest that are posted on the OSPOTA website: <https://www.ospota.org/> before the contest.



So get to an **Ohio State Park** and get **On The Air** in September.

Have some fun with this contest!

Learn more about PCARS at <https://www.portcars.org/>.



73 for now and we look forward to hearing you during OSPOTA 2025,
OSPOTA Contest Committee

January 2025



Ohio State Parks



On The Air



Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest - OSPOTA 2025

Eighteenth Annual Ohio State Parks On The Air – Amateur Radio Contest

Make sure to mark your calendar for the 2024 Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest – September 6, 2025. The contest is always held on the first Saturday following the Labor Day holiday. Each year this event has grown and we anticipate another year of growth with even more participating Amateur Radio Operators.

Let me remind you that the OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind:

- To promote public awareness of amateur radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system;
- To contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology;
- To promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators

Your participation has allowed these goals to be achieved. We agree it is a lot of fun to get out in a natural setting with your radio and see how well you can do at working operators in the beautiful Ohio State Parks.

This will be the 18th annual OSPOTA – Make plans now to be active in OSPOTA 2025. Don't forget – we have an OSPOTA IO Group located at: <https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA>

The [OSPOTA IO Group page](#) is used for messaging and sharing of information about OSPOTA for all the fans and participants in the OSPOTA contest. The [E-mail Group](#) is where the action is. Since we do allow spotting to encourage more contacts during OSPOTA, Facebook is being used before and during the contest for instant updates and to share stories and photos.

As the contest draws near, we'll be posting on the OSPOTA E-mail Group page the anticipated '*who's going to be at what Ohio State Park*' or '*Planned Park*' list as we have in past years. Send your planned park activation information to PlannedParks@ospota.org. Please, include the call sign that will be used and the Ohio State Park you plan to be at. If your plans change, just let us know and we'll update the list. Remember, more than one person or group can be at an Ohio State Park – there are no reserved State Parks.

Notes: Some Ohio State Parks are being managed by local park systems, but they are still listed and considered to be Ohio State Parks according to ODNR (Quail Hollow & Tinkers Creek).

At this point, there are 76 Ohio State Parks open for 2025. ODNR reports the new Great Council Ohio State Park (76th Ohio State Park) located between Xenia and Yellow Springs is open.

So – pick a park and make your plans now for OSPOTA 2025 !!!!!

Questions? Check out the OSPOTA website at www.OSPOTA.ORG Email: INFO@ospota.org When the OSPOTA contest is over, send Logs and Summary Sheets to: Logs@ospota.org

Check out this handy Ohio State Parks guide at:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/parks/Ohio-State-Parks-Brochure.pdf>



Ohio State Parks



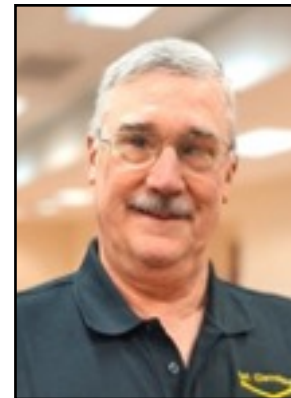
On The Air



PCARS Field Day 2025 Flex Station Review

Rick, K8CAV

FD Flex Station Captain



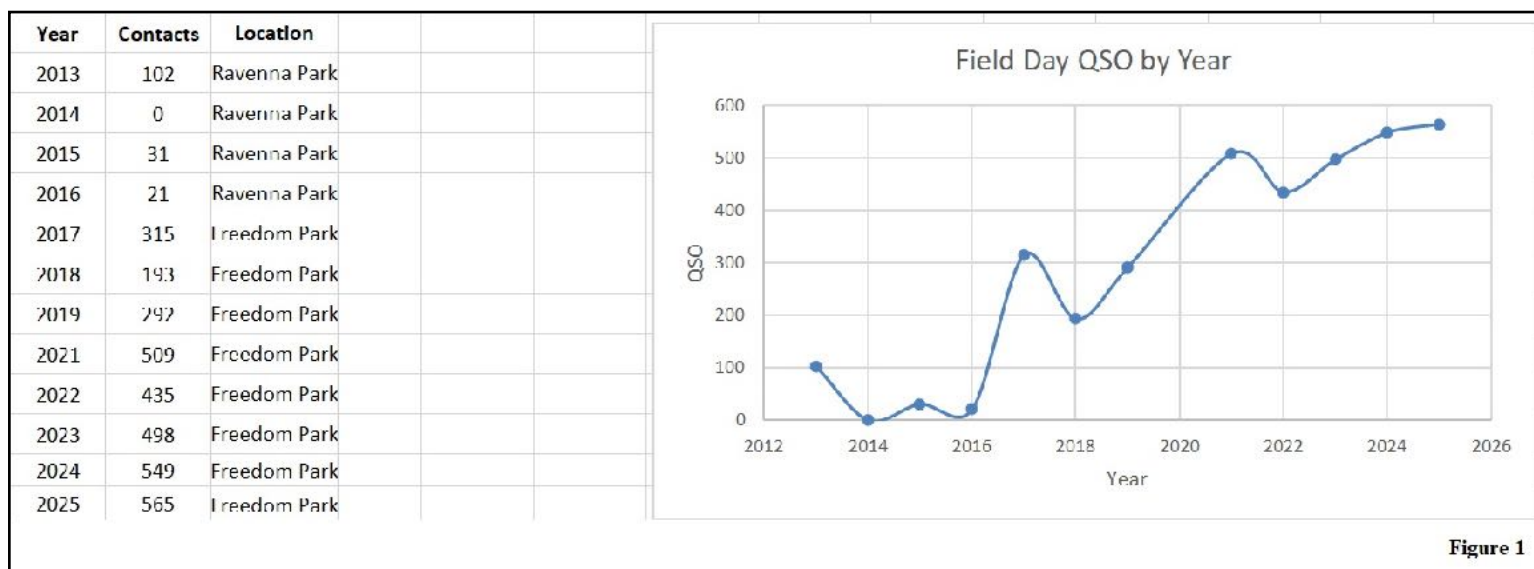
Flex Station Field Day operations for 2025 were very good. Before talking about the results for the Flex Station, I want to thank and acknowledge the people who volunteered to operate at Flex, all of whom did an outstanding job. In several cases some operators volunteered for multiple shifts to make sure we could maximize our performance at Flex. Sincere thanks go out to Bob N8QE, Ken WA8LRW, Agnes AD8IR, Ben AD8FQ, Rick KD8WCK, Mike KP4VZ, Gene W8NET, and John KE8MXR.

Their efforts supported PCARS having another outstanding Field Day. I also want to thank those who volunteered to help set up and tear down at the Flex Station. Your efforts helped get the station operational in a very timely manner.

The Flex Station again had a record-breaking year in the number of QSO's made, as you can see in the table and graphs in Figure 1. Due to a technical problem during the first shift of Field Day, we were only able to make 4 QSO's. Had the issue not occurred we would have broken 600 digital QSO's at Flex this year. Figures 2 through 4 highlight operational statistics at the Flex Station.

Despite a modest increase in contacts what is important to take away is that each year we do two things, increase our performance, and recognize and learn from our successes and failures so that we can improve our performance in the following year. This year we added a training event to help increase operator proficiency using FT8 and FT4 digital modes. The first Saturday of June, Ken WA8LRW held a training event at the club site on how to use WSJT-X to maximize contacts in the contesting mode for FT4 and FT8. After the training concluded everyone participated in the ARRL International Digital Contest to use the knowledge gained in the training to polish contesting skills. Ken WA8LRW and Bob N8QE were roving between operators to help them during the contest. The training and contest, being very similar to digital operations during Field Day and taking place within three weeks of Field Day, were valuable in increasing operator contest proficiency.

All in all, operations at the Flex Station in 2025 went very well. The Flex Station draft After Action Review has been completed and we are already planning for next year's operations. Thanks again to all of you who provided a very enjoyable experience at the Flex Station this year.



Field Day Flex Station 2024-2025 Comparison

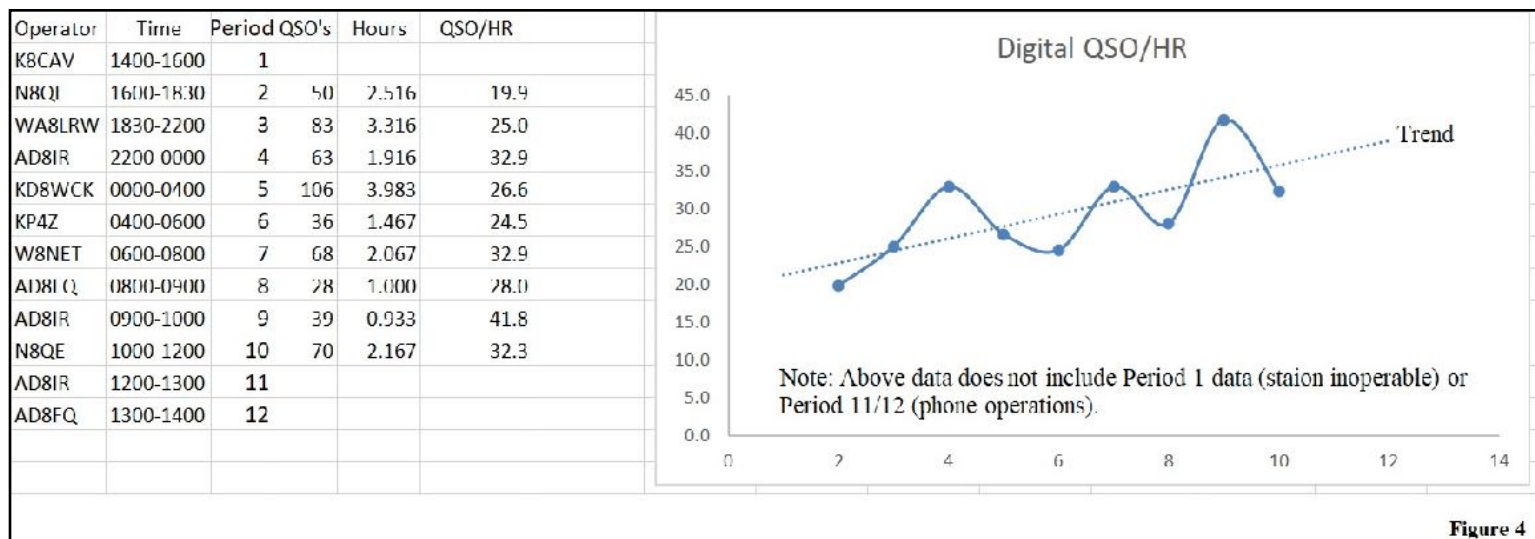
2024			2025			2024 to 2025 Difference		
Contacts	Hours	Contacts/ Hour	Contacts	Hours	Contacts/ Hour	Contacts	Hour	
Digital	549	22.0	25.0	566	22.0	25.7	3.10%	3.10%
Phone	17	2.0	8.5	11	2.0	5.5	-35.29%	-35.29%
CW	0	0.0	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A

Figure 2

2025 Field Day Flex Station Statistics

	FT4	FT8	DIGITAL TOTAL	PHONE TOTAL	QSO TOTAL
80 meters	66	70	136	0	136
40 meters	149	53	202	0	202
20 meters	96	49	145	0	145
15 meters	21	48	69	11	80
10 meters	0	14	14	0	14
Total	332	234	566	11	577

Figure 3



FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-818ND QRP Transceiver with: MH-31A8J Microphone, BNC Antenna with low and high ends, 8 AA cell battery box, 120 VAC charger, DC power cable, Heil microphone, footswitch adapter, 6 pin miniDIN to RG_45 Signalink Cable, carrying strap, manual, rtsystems YPS-818-USB programming software and cable, original factory box. \$500.00

Yaesu SCU-17 USB Interface Unit with External Sound Card and Rig (FT-818ND CAT) control with: manual, Cable 6 pin miniDIN to 6 pin miniDIN (sound card), Cable DB9 to 8 pin miniDIN (FT-818ND CAT), Cable USB A to USB B, Cable DB9 to DB9, original factory box. \$100.00

FT-818ND and SCU-17 sold together \$550.00

AEA PK-96 9600 baud TNC with original factory manual, no cables. \$45.00

Contact Rick K8CAV at k8cav.coms@gmail.com [08/25]

For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder: This is a PCARS **members only benefit**. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier. The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [01/25] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2025.

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

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

Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for **FREE!!** The only catch is that you have to claim it from the **Treasurer**. There is a list of current members and the treasurer will check off your name when you get your **FREE** PCARS coffee cup.



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

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS

Est. 2005

Linked Dipole Group Build

John, WG8X



A few weeks back, a small group of us got together on a Saturday morning to learn about Linked Dipoles. This is a multi-band antenna that can be used on multiple bands, depending on how you have your band jumpers set. I have a few of them already, but on this particular day, we were building 3-band versions that will work on 20M, 30M, & 40M. The theory behind them is pretty simple. Once you've built one, you'll get ideas for other versions to build.

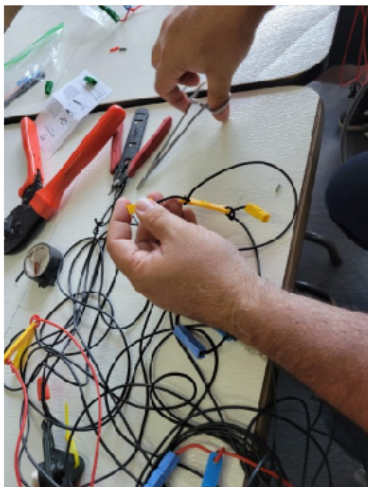
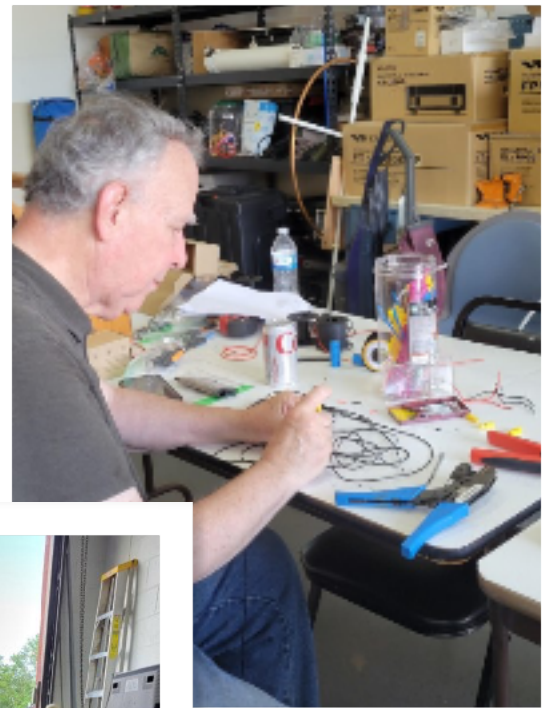
Linked Dipoles can be purchased from several sources, but building one is so much less expensive, and a whole lot more fun!

We built them one band at a time, testing as we went. By lunchtime, all four builders has successfully completed their new antennas.

If you'd like to build one of your own, I'll be leading another build session in the spring. If you can't wait, you can refer to my article on *onallbands.com* (<https://www.onallbands.com/ham-radio-portable-insights-a-linked-dipole-for-pota-activations/>).

Thanks to everyone who came out for some fun!





20 For 20 PCARS Net Awards

Tom, WB8LCD



We are off and running! As of the date I'm writing this (July 26) there is still one more net in July.

Currently, we have had 41 unique call-signs to the net starting in June. 13 of those have 1 "bonus" net banked, and another 14 have 2 "bonus" nets banked. So far, there are 11 who are 4 for 4 in July, including the July 3rd net, which doesn't count because I didn't want to start the award period on a Holiday week.

EVERYONE can still get the 10 for 20 award by stringing 10 check-ins in a row between now and the end of the year (not counting 11/27 and 12/25 when there is no net). IF you checked in on July 31 as your first time for the award, you can still get the 20 for 20 award by checking in to ALL remaining nets for the rest of the year. It's still possible, but it will take some dedication to check in every week.

By the way, don't forget to use echo-link if you're not in the area on net-night. Put it on your laptop or your phone and make sure you get checked in! But, if you've never used Echo-Link before don't wait till the last minute - there is a verification process you need to complete. Once that's done you can download the app to your laptop or even your cell-phone.

Last Thursday, July 24th, we had 31 check-ins to the net! It's been a long time since we've had a net with that many. Keep it up! Your participation in PCARS activities is probably the most important thing you can do to keep PCARS one of the best Amateur Radio clubs in the country!

73,
Tom WB8LCD

PCARS 20th Special Event
At the club site - Ravenna
August 9, 2025 - 10am-6pm
On-The-Air Event and
Open House - Food & Fun
We'll See YOU There!

PORTAGE
COUNTY
AMATEUR
RADIO
SERVICE

2005
2025

20 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY



The Website Chronicles

John, WG8X



Well, the website has been rolling along nicely this month with few, if any hiccups. The counter which analyzes traffic on the site continues to give us some good data.

I'm seeing 3 -4 of the dreaded "*Page Not Found*" errors this month. In each case, it looks like some folks are making up a unique URL to get to their destination. I guess we'll get those from time to time.

The traffic for the last 30 days has been telling. First of all, there's the top 5 pages that you are visiting. Those are

1. Portcars.org/wp/ Our home page
2. Portcars.org/wp/newsletter/ Our Newsletter page
3. Portcars.org/wp/field-day/ our Field Day page
4. *Portcars.org Unknown page (More about this in a minute)
5. portcars.org/wp/net-information/ Our Net Page

*The unknown page happens when someone tries to access the site by going to portcars.org. The user is supposed to be automatically forwarded to portcars.org/wp, which is where our site resides on the server.

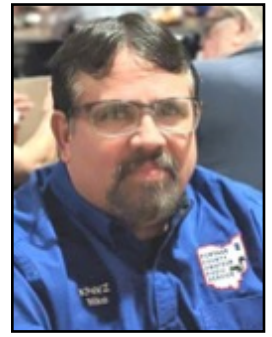
To be honest, I'm not sure why this is happening, but will be working to solve it over the next month. In the last few weeks, I have set up the development directory for the site, so I can play with some ideas for the upcoming website upgrade. Stay tuned! Remember, to keep those suggestions coming.

73 DE WG8X

Mantua Potato Stomp Race Volunteers Needed

Rick, K8CAV

The annual Mantua Potato Stomp race will take place on Saturday morning September 6th from 8:00 AM until approximately noon. The Race Director has again asked for communications support on the course. The course consists of a 4-mile run and a 9-mile run and takes place on the Headwaters Trail in Mantua Village and Mantua and Hiram townships. If you can help with this event please let me know by email at k8cav.coms@gmail.com. Thanks!



Microsoft's announcement regarding the termination of support for Windows 10 in October 2025 has created significant concern within the computing communities. After this date, users will no longer get security updates or bug fixes. This lack of ongoing support makes Windows 10 systems attractive targets for cybercriminals. The most popular Linux distributions (often referred to as 'distros') today are well-developed, user-friendly, and often match the sophistication of Windows or macOS.

Linux offers a practical option: keep your existing PC, safeguard your privacy, and enjoy consistent updates from engaged global communities. Linux Mint has consistently been at the forefront of beginner-friendliness for several years. Built on the reliable Ubuntu foundation, Mint comes with all the necessary tools that an average user needs: a complete office suite, multimedia codecs, and a user-friendly desktop that resembles Windows 7. The Cinnamon desktop interface emulates the Windows 'Start Menu' layout, ensuring that users seldom feel disoriented.

Trying Linux Before You Commit

Most popular distributions enable you to "test drive" the system straight from a bootable USB stick without affecting your internal storage. This "live mode" starts a fully operational desktop from the USB, providing a safe way to explore.

Linux Installation

For those just starting out, I highly suggest beginning with Linux Mint (linuxmint.com). Its user-friendly interfaces and comprehensive documentation make it perfect for grasping the basics.

Linux Mint is available in three distinct versions, each offering a unique desktop environment.

Cinnamon – The most modern, innovative and full-featured desktop

MATE - A more traditional, and faster desktop

Xfce - The most lightweight desktop

Installation steps:

1. Download the ISO image: Head over to the official website (linuxmint.com) and download the correct ISO image for your computer's architecture.

2. Create a bootable USB drive or DVD: You'll require a tool such as Rufus (Windows), Etcher (Windows, macOS, Linux), or the built-in disk utility on macOS to generate a bootable installation media from the downloaded ISO image. This step involves transferring the ISO image onto your USB drive or DVD, making it bootable.

3. Boot from the installation media: Restart your computer and access the BIOS/UEFI settings (usually by pressing Delete, F2, F10, or F12 during startup – the specific key depends on your motherboard). Adjust the boot order to prioritize your USB drive or DVD. Save your changes and exit. Your computer will now boot from the installation media.

4. Follow the on-screen instructions: The installation process is typically straightforward. You will be guided through selecting your language, keyboard layout, partitioning your hard drive (this can be a bit tricky, so pay close attention!), creating a user account, and choosing your preferred software. You can set up Linux alongside Windows: This process is known as dual booting Linux with Windows. In this setup, you install Linux on a computer that already has Windows installed. When you start your computer, you can select whether to use Windows or Linux. However, before proceeding, you need to disable BitLocker and turn off Fast Startup in the power settings.

5. Post-installation setup: After the installation is complete, reboot your computer and log in using the username and password you set up.

Installing 73linux – Ham Radio apps installer

So, what is Linux useful for without Ham Radio applications such as WSJT-X, GridTracker, and FLRig, among others?

I discovered a Ham Radio apps installer compiled by KM4ACK called 73Linux. This installer allows you to choose the applications you want to install and skip the ones you don't need. This keeps your system as lean and mean as possible.

From the terminal run the following command:

```
git clone https://github.com/km4ack/73Linux.git $HOME/73Linux && bash $HOME/73Linux/73.sh
```

If the above command fails, you may be missing git. If so, run

```
sudo apt install git
```

and then run the git clone command again.

Linux & RPi SIG – August 5th @ 7PM.

We invite you to participate in the upcoming Linux & RPi SIG scheduled for the 5th of August. Please bring your computer, and Gene (W8NET) and Mike (KP4VZ) will assist you in installing Linux or at the very least provide you with recommendations.





You've heard of the **Ohio QSO Party**



Well, join us at the **PCARS** club site for the

Ohio BBQSO Party Club Picnic & Open House

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 23rd 2025**, the date for this year's **Ohio QSO Party**. PCARS is going to put **K8BF** on the air and we are inviting all PCARS members to come on out for some special **Big Fun**.

It's a **BBQSO Party, Open House,**
PCARS Picnic all rolled into one



Mike, KB8TUY and Bob, N8QE will be the chefs for the **Ohio BBQSO Party!**

That's right, we'll be chasing two kinds of "Q's": on the air contacts and great food fresh off the grill.

Contest set up starts at 10 AM - Contest starts at Noon and ops will continue until midnight (12 hour contest)

Burgers, Brats & Dogs will be served at around 2:00 pm and **everyone is invited to bring snacks or side dishes.**

As a huge linux nerd, I was excited to hear about a new distro (another term for linux operating system "flavor") called ArcOS. It stands for Amateur Radio Community Operating System. The idea is for a live session via USB that works out of the box on (generally) any modern computer. It is based off of Linux Mint (best distro if you ask me) and is fairly light on hardware demands compared to Windows or MacOS.



ArcOS is aimed at digirig, and you can pay a small fee and get VARA (\$50 since it's not open source) and it does have other amateur radio software. The project was built for casual or EMCOM use, which has the potential for many uses.

Go fish out an old unused 16gb flash drive and play around with it on LiveUSB, it wont damage your current OS or files.

KG4VDK has wonderful video explaining the distro and solid beginner tutorials on his youtube channel:
<https://m.youtube.com/@KG4VDK/videos>

Check out ArcOS:
<https://arcos-linux.com/>

K8BF Net News

Greg KA8TOA
Net Control Coordinator



1st Quarter Stats for the 2025 Nets:

Total of 240 check-ins and over 13 weeks. The average was 18 check-ins per week.

Compared to:

1st Quarter of 2024:

13 weeks for a total of 261 check-ins with an average of 20 weekly check-ins.

So we were a little low on weekly check-ins. Next month I will have the 2nd Quarter Stats. They are picking up because of the 20 year celebration Certificate.

For Now 73!
Greg, KA8TOA



THANK YOU, THANK YOU

PCARS thanks QCWA for its
generosity in awarding
our club a \$2,600 Grant!



Thanks Bob N8QE for supporting PCARS!!

HamShack Hotline Goes Off The Air

HamShack Hotline is shutting down as of Aug. 29, 2025.

Daryl, N5VLZ

However, there are alternate modes available, such as AmateurWire (<https://amateurwire.org>), and Hams Over IP (<https://hamsoverip.com>).

You will need to provide an ORIGINAL copy of your amateur radio license, and if you have one, your DMR ID. You also provide your name and email address.

AmateurWire will work with the GroundWire client for Android and iOS phones but there is an initial fee to purchase it.

My AmateurWire extension is 1577, and my HamsOverIP extension is 101797. You do NOT need "a hard phone" to use it, as the GroundWire app will take care of it, and you don't need an external headset mic to work with it.

POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator

Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday August 12th @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

As I will be out of town, John, WG8X, will be the master of ceremonies for our meeting. John will be discussing OSPOTA plans and thoughts about the future events, including JOTA in October.

Please join us in Ravenna, or on Zoom.
73 de W8NET, Gene



Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET
Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

Our next Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG meeting will be on Tuesday August 5th @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

We will be discussing Linux Mint optimization (next level as a "newbie"), and Raspberry Pi installs.

Please join us in Ravenna, or on Zoom.

ALSO, because of the enormous response this SIG, we are planning to do a regular "every-other-month" workshop. Since our SIG meets on EVEN months, we will do the workshop every ODD month. Details will be posted in a QST in early September!



OSPOTA at Wingfoot Lake State Park

John, WG8X



Would you like to operate OSPOTA from an Ohio State Park? If your answer is yes, but are limited by one thing or another, we have the answer. This year, we'll be operating OSPOTA from Wingfoot Lake State Park and everyone's welcome to come and operate. Since this years contest includes CW we'll have two stations set up. Bring those CW paddles along, and show us what you've got!

OSPOTA is a great low-stress, & friendly contest. It's a great way get your feet wet in contesting.

As of this writing, the food is still being planned. I'm looking for someone to handle the food part of this. If you can help, please reach out.

We'll be at the Buckeye Pavilion at Wingfoot Lake State Park from 8am – 7pm. The Buckeye pavilion will be the first one on your right as you enter the park.

Watch for more information in the weeks ahead. Yu can learn more about OSPOTA by going to <https://ospota.org/>

I hope you can make it.

California QSO Party

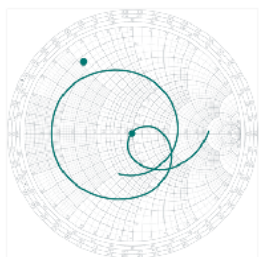


K8BF: First place for Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter Low Power!

Bill WB8LBI, Chuck W8PT, Ken WA8LRW, Bob N8QE, Joe W8KNO, Mike KB8TUY, Russ NR8W.

Not Pictured Mike KP4VZ, Stephen KD9ZDY, Gene W8NET

Antenna Special Interest Group



Jim, AC8NT
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Now that my eyes are back working, I will be holding an Antenna SIG meeting Tuesday August 19th at 7 PM at PCARS World Headquarters. We will be talking about antenna and matching software (free) that can be easily used to design antennas and improving antenna matching. We are going to break this down into small bites and keep the presentations short, so we have lots of time for antenna questions.

Bring all your antenna project questions with you to the meeting and we will learn something and help improve your contacts with better antennas.

DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Greetings PCARS DXers and Contesters:

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



On Tuesday, July 22, we held our DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting. We had 11 attendees either in person or by ZOOM and I want to thank those who attended. With our 11th place finish in the NA QSOP RTTY Event, we decided that if we do this again, we will really put forth a concerted effort to finish the way K8BF normally finishes..which is near the top of the list.

I mentioned the Dutch Lighthouse Hunt that begins in September. If you want more info on this event, go to <https://www.qrz.com/db/PD9LIGHTHOUSE>

The Dutch will be putting 11 stations on the air representing the 11 lighthouses that are in the Netherlands. Sounds like a fun event.

We also discussed the upcoming Ohio QSOParty on Aug 23-24. This, of course, is when PCARS also opens its doors to the public and has a BBQ to boot. A special shout out to Tim Duffy, hoping he will stop by for a burger or a braut and possibly have a few young HAMS in tow to see how a little pistol club does their thing. He surprised me during Field Day while I was running on 20m and turned to see him looking over my shoulder and having a nice group of young HAMS with him. Thanks Tim!

That's it for now. See you next month.

Chuck W8PT, PCARS Contest Coordinator

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to all DXers:

Welcome to August and in my opinion, the end of summer. I know, meteorologically it is still Summer, but for me, August has always spelled the end of Summer. For me it's Fall and Winter is breathing down on us. So, that means that if you have ANY outside antenna work or need to swap out coax or need to do some paint touch up on a tower, you better get to it. This year has been flying by and it won't be long before we have to break out some winter coats.

OK, enough of that. I hope that the band openings have been kind to all of you. I have been working some 6m SSB and 10m SSB and CW lately and it has been fun. I even got a good dose of RTTY during the NA QSO Party this past month. I'm going to have to see what I can do to get my home station on RTTY. I know that it's an older mode but it does provide some fun when you haven't done it on a regular basis.

There are still a good number of interesting DX opportunities coming up in the next few months as noted in the "Looking Ahead & Other Reminders" section of this report. Frankly, there are many more DX events that will be happening but space does not permit me to list them.

As always, big thanks to: HA7VK, W2GD, JA1GZV, K6EI, DL5ON & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, 425 DX News, DXNL.

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

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

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

August...

4U, ITU HQ. Station 4U0ITU is QRV until the end of 2025 to commemorate the International Telecommunications Union's 160th anniversary. QSL direct.

5Z4, KENYA. Ben, VE3NZ is currently in Nairobi, Kenya and will be active as 5Z4NZ when time permits until August 5th. He plans a longer stay in the future. Look for him mainly on CW; HF bands. QSL via home call.

6K, SOUTH KOREA. Ops 6K2CFI and 6K2GRX plan to be active as 6K2CFI/4 and 6K2GRX/4, respectively, from Jaeun Island (AS-060) August 15 to 17. They will be using SSB, CW and FT8 on 160 to 10 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to Club Log and LoTW. QSL direct to their home calls or OQRS.

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

A9, BAHRAIN. Reminder - Members of the Bahrain Radio Club are active with special call sign A9100IARU the **first five days of each month** to celebrate the IARU's 100th anniversary. QSL via EC6DX.

C2, NAURU. Reminder - Phill, FK1TS is QRV as C21TS and plans to extend his stay until September 2025. Activity is currently on 80, 40, and 30 meters using FT8. QSL via LoTW.

HS, THAILAND. The Asian Team Nr 3 for WRTC 2026 will be testing their equipment during the IARU HF Championship this year as E21WRTC. They will also be QRV before and after the contest until August 10. QSL via E21EIC, LoTW.

OK, CZECH REPUBLIC. Members of the Czech Radio Club are QRV with special call sign OL100IARU until the end of the year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the IARU. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

OX, GREENLAND. Markus, OX/DL6YYM, will be QRV on a CW only operation from Disko Bay. Activity will be from NA-134 on August 15-18 and from NA-018 on August 19-29. QSL via home call (d/B).

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special event station PA40MARAC is QRV until December 31 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Dutch Marine Radio Amateur Club. QSL via PA3CNI.

TF, ICELAND. Nicolas, F5TGR will be active from Iceland as TF/F5TGR during July 26 to August 9, 2025. QRV on 40-30-20-15-12-10m; CW, FT8 and SSB. QSL via LoTW, Club Log OQRS.

TO3K, MAYOTTE. TO3K Team will be active from Mayotte Island, IOTA AF - 027, 2 - 20 August 2025. Team - IV3JVJ, IK3ZQA, IZ3NYS. They will operate on 80 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8, FT4. QSL via IV3JVJ.

TY, BENIN. Red, DL1BUG will be QRV as TY5FR until August 6, including the IARU HF Championship. He will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via home call (d/B), ClubLog or LoTW

TY, BENIN. Antonio, IK7WUL will again be on a humanitarian mission to Benin during August 18 to September 7, 2025, and QRV (10m SSB) when time permits as **TY2AA**. QSL via I8KHC, LoTW.

VR, HONG KONG. Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society are active with special call sign VR100IARU until December 2025 to celebrate the centenary of the IARU. QSL via bureau.

WH0, SAIPAN IS. Harry, JG7PSJ will be active again as WH0RU from Saipan Island, IOTA OC - 086, during October 2025. He will operate on 40 - 10m CW, SSB, RTTY, its possible he will be active also in CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 25 - 26 October 2025. QSL via JG7PSJ only direct, LOTW.

YN, NICARAGUA. Rafael, NN3RP will operate holiday style as YN2RP until August 5 on 40 to 10 meters usng CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and FT4, and maybe via FM satellites. QSL via NN3RP (d/B), ClubLog or LoTW.

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. Special event stations ZS100SARL, ZS6SRL, and ZS9HQ are QRV during all of 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the South African Relay League. QSL via LoTW.

Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

3G0, SAN AMBROSIO IS. 3G0XQ Team will be active from San Ambrosio Island, IOTA SA - 013, in October 2025. Team leader XQ7IR. San Ambrosio and San Felix Islands are small volcanic islands in the Chilean Oceanic Trench, located 900 km off the coast of Chile.

5J0, SAN ANDRES IS. Currently waiting on their licenses, a team consisting of EA7BF, EA7FPG, EA7JW and EA7ATX plan to be active from San Andres Island during November 20-30, 2025. QRV on 160-10m, regular modes plus Digi. More info to follow later..

9U1, BURUNDI. 9U1RU Team will be active from Burundi, 31 October - 20 November 2025. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, Digital Modes. QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

ANTARCTICA. Alex, DL2ALY is QRV as DP0GVN until December. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using SSB and FT8, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via DL4BBH.

CR2, SAO MIGUEL IS. CR2M Team will be active from Sao Miguel Island, IOTA EU - 002, Azores Islands in CQ WW DX CW Contest, 29 - 30 November 2025. Team - CU2CE, CU2DX, K0AV, W6NV. They will operate in Multi Two Category. QSL via LOTW.

D4, CAPE VERDE. A group of operators are QRV with special event call sign D450ICV until December 31 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of Cape Verde. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via LoTW.

E44OM, PALESTINE. E44OM Team planning to be active from Bethlehem, Palestine in September 2025. Team - OM2DX, OM2IB, OM2ZZ, OM3RG and others. They will operate on HF Bands. QSL via OM2DX.

E51, NORTH COOK IS. A team formed by N7QT, WA7CPA, N7JP, KC7EFP, N9ADG & KN2P will be active from Manihiki Atoll, North Cooks as E51MWA during October 9-20, 2025. QRV on various bands / modes. Full details on their [website](#).

FW5, WALLIS IS. FW5K Team will be active from Wallis and Futuna Islands, IOTA OC - 054, 20 October - 7 November 2025. Team - Alex K6VHF, Dave KA6BIM, Hannah W7HAN, OC NG7E, Scott N7JI, Marc NC7M, Hannah, W7HER. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, RTTY, including activity in CQ WW DX SSB Contest in Multi Two Category. QSL via ClubLog OQRS, LOTW.

H44MS, SOLOMON IS. Bernhard, DL2GAC will be active as H44MS from Manakwai village, Malaita Island, IOTA OC - 047, Solomon Islands, during September - December 2025 and January - April 2026. He will be operate on 40 - 6m SSB and FT8. QSL via home call.

J75A, DOMINICA. Team will be active from Dominica Island, IOTA NA - 101 in CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 25 - 26 October 2025. Team - F5VHJ, FM5BH, FM5FJ. They will operate in Multi Two Category. QSL via F5VHJ, LOTW, ClubLog OQRS.

JA, JAPAN. Members of the Japan Amateur Radio League are QRV with special commemorative station 8K3EXPO from the 2025 Expo in Osaka, Kansai until October 13. Activity will be on all bands. In addition, station JA3XPO is also active. QSL via operators' instructions.

OE, AUSTRIA. Special event call sign OE100OEVS is QRV until December 31, 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Austrian Amateur Radio Society. QSL via bureau.

PJ6, SABA IS. The YASME Foundation is pleased to announce a supporting grant to sponsor youth participation in the PJ6Y DXpedition to Saba (IOTA NA-145) in October. This event offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a diverse international team of nine first-time young DXpeditioners to experience DXpeditioning at the highest level. Additionally, 30–40 young hams will join remotely using the innovative NexGen2 RiBs. Additional information on the event can be found on the QRZ.com page of PJ6Y (or here on DX-WORLD). YASME encourages other organizations and individuals to support youth-oriented activities and events, such as PJ6Y. The on-island team will establish three local stations plus two remote stations from the ground up, we will be active on CW, SSB, and FT8 on 160m to 6m, including operations from a satellite station.

PJ7K, SINT MAARTEN IS. Team will be active from Sint Maarten, IOTA NA - 105, 12 - 22 September 2025. Team - OK1FCJ, OK2ZA, OK2ZC, OK6DJ, OM5ZW. They will operate on 160 - 6m and satellites, CW, SSB, Digital modes. QSL via OK6DJ.

T30, WEST KIRIBATI. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as T30TTT from North Tarawa until September 8. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4 with up to 10 stations active. QSL via LoTW.

T33, BANABA IS. In November 2022, the [Rebel DX Group](#) were QRV from Banaba as [T33T](#). This year, in September, they plan to return there staying for up to 3 weeks and active this time as T33TT. Full details to follow, but you can expect plenty of FT8 on HF bands plus some CW & SSB. QSL via Club Log OQRS / LoTW.

T88, PALAU. Yasu, JH2DFJ will be active again as T88DF from Palau, 2 - 17 September 2025. He will be active on HF Bands CW (QRSS), SSB, RTTY, SSTV, WSPR, JT65A. QSL via home call buro, direct, LOTW, eQSL.

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

VR2, HONG KONG. Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society are QRV as VR100IARU until December to commemorate the centenary of the IARU. QSL via bureau.

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

Come on....get on the air and work some DX!! As I always say, "Wobble the ethers."

73 for now....Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



Charlie the Tuner's August 2025 Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



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

K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2025

Freeze Your Acorns Off	Feb 15	Completed
Idaho and Wisconsin QSOPs	Mar 8-9	Completed
Florida QSOP	Apr 26-27	Completed
7th Call Area QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
Indiana QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
Delaware QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
New England QSOP	May 3-4	Completed
ARRL International Digital Contest	June 7-8	Completed
Field Day	June 28-29	Completed
NA QSOP RTTY	July 19-20	Completed
Ohio QSOP & BBQ	Aug 23-24	
OSPOTA	Sep 6	
Washington Salmon Run	Sep 20-21	
California QSOP	Oct 4-5	

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

In August we have the following:

NA QSO Party, CW	Aug 2-3
Maryland QSO Party	Aug 9-10
NA QSO Party, SSB	Aug 16-17
Hawaii QSO Party	Aug 23-24
Ohio QSO Party	Aug 23-24
U.S. Islands QSO Party	Aug 30-31
Colorado QSO Party	Aug 30-31
Kansas QSO Party	Aug 30-31

Other contests include:	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Aug 17
	World Wide DIGI DX Contest	Aug 30-31

Come on out to the club site and help us put K8BF on the air during the Ohio QSOP and get a great summer cookout meal while you're there. As always, we really could use a few CW ops.

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

PCARS July Meeting



Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS February 2025 Schedule of Events

August 2nd	VE Test Session
August 4th	PCARS Board Meeting
August 9th	K8BF 20th Anniversary Special Event Station with Open House and BBQ
August 11th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
August 23rd	Ohio QSO Party and BBQ

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

1st Tuesday Odd Months	Digital Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
1st Tuesday Even Months	Linux & Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
2nd Tuesday	Portable Ops Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
3rd Tuesday	Antenna Special Interest Group - Moderator: Jim, AC8NT
4th Tuesday	DX & Contest Special Interest Group - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT
5th Tuesday	Could Be Anything Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, KD8WCK

Hamfest Calendar

08/02 - Columbus Hamfest - Grove City, OH
<https://aladdinshrine.org/hamfest/>

08/09 Cincinnati Hamfest - Owensville, OH
<https://cincinnatihamfest.org/>

08/16 - Portsmouth Radio Club - New Boston, OH
<http://www.portsmouthradioclub.com/>

08/17 - Warren Hamfest - Cortland, Oh
<http://w8vtd.com/hamfest>

08/24 - 2025 Seneca Radio Club Trunkfest
<https://w8id.org/2025-seneca-radio-club-hamfest/>

08/30 - Athens Trunkfest
<https://www.ac-ara.org/>



PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted!

Dig out that amateur radio call sign license plate (with your present call sign), clean it up and bring it to be permanently affixed to the wall in the PCARS club station!

We have over 80 PCARS member's ham plates now, **but we can use more**. Don't have ham radio call plates on your vehicle? Well for those of you in Ohio, you can get the plates sent to you by going to any License Bureau office and filling out the special plate registration form. Have a copy of your current FCC license when you apply. The official form to obtain your Ohio Amateur Radio license plates is on the PCARS IO Group site. Then you'll have an old plate to bring in to get hung up as a **permanent part of PCARS history**.



From the Ohio BMV:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

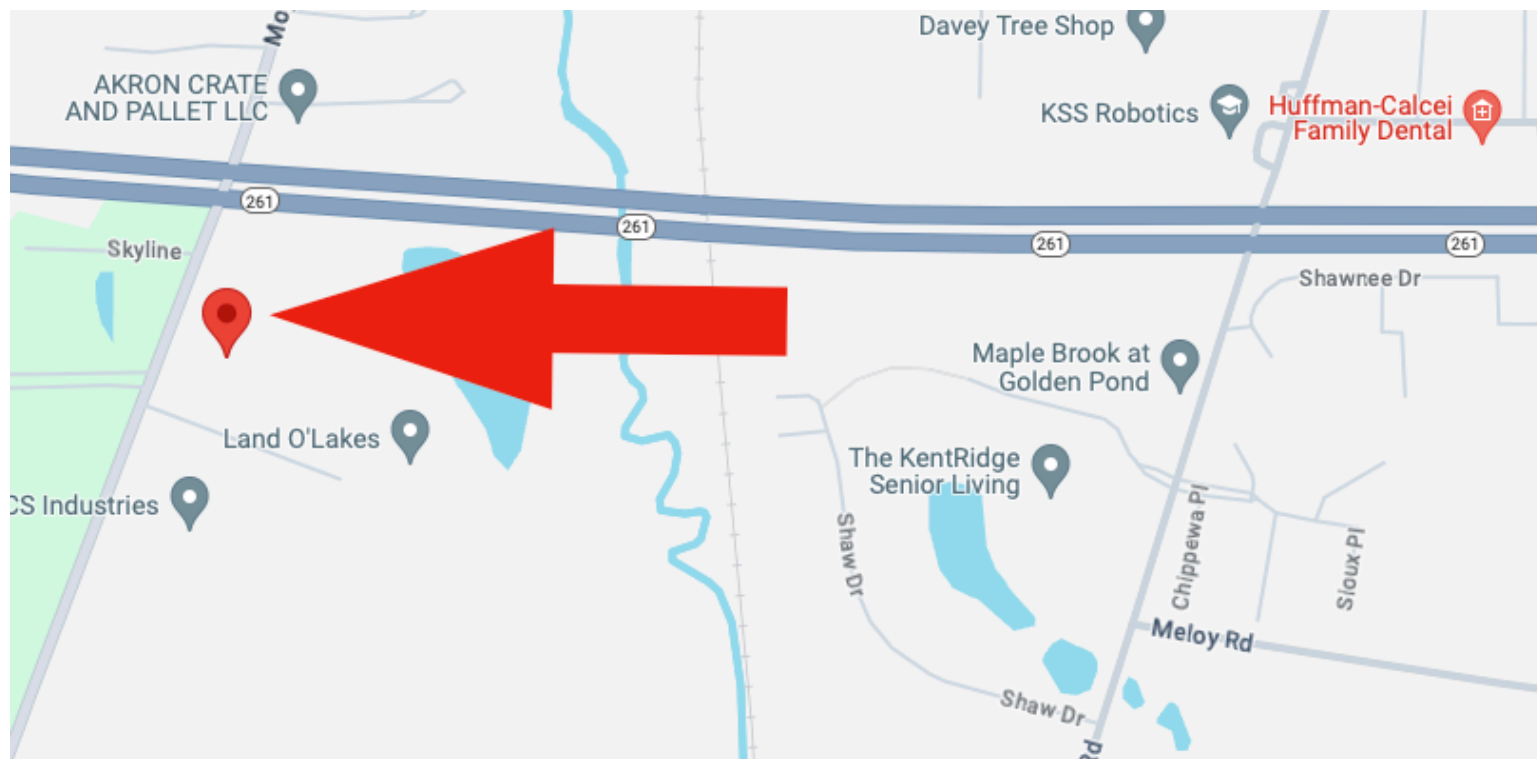
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at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

PCARS Meetings



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

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



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



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

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

PCARS VE Testing Information & News



Future Dates:

- August 2nd
- October 4th
- December 6th

Check the website for the latest information

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison



On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to seeing you at the PCARS club site in Ravenna so you can take your license test or an upgrade to your existing license. Face masks are not State/County mandated at this time, but you are always welcome to wear one.

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

Any questions? Contact KB8UUZ@gmail.com

Quick Facts

- **Yes**, PCARS VE test Sessions are held at the club site in Ravenna starting at 10 am - see schedule.
- **Walk-Ins are accepted.** Would appreciate an email to KB8UUZ@GMAIL.COM if you plan on attending.
- You **MUST** have an **FRN Number** (SSNs no longer accepted) **Taking Technician Test?** - You **MUST** apply for your **FRN** and get it prior to testing
- You **MUST** have a **valid e-mail address** for the FCC to be able to contact you.
- Picture ID required
- Original and Copy of your valid FCC license and originals of any applicable CSCE
- **VE fee is \$15** - Cash or Check payable to "ARRL-VEC"
- FCC License Fee \$35 - payable after FCC sends you a link. DOES NOT APPLY to upgrades
- **17 years old or younger? VE Fee is \$5** per the ARRL reduced CE fee Youth Program
- 17 years old or younger? ARRL will reimburse you the \$35 FCC Fee

Okay - Now **All** the Details:

- If you are sick, have a cough, a high temperature or have been exposed to COVID-19 or other communicable germs, or someone that has been infected - please, *do not* come to the club site. *Use of masks is optional.*
- No food or snacks allowed.
- Ensure you have the following:
 - A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
- If you are under 16 years of age, a parent or guardian must be able to vouch for you and you need a copy of your birth certificate (you do not have to give us a copy, we just have to see and verify).
- If you are upgrading to General or Extra - You **MUST** bring your original valid amateur radio license **and a copy** of your valid amateur radio license to turn in with your Form 605.
- Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
- NO cell Phones allowed.

First-Time Exam Applicants MUST Obtain FCC Registration Number BEFORE Taking Exam - All amateur examination applicants are required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) **BEFORE** taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system. Applicants will create an FCC username and account, respond to the verification email from FCC, and then register for the FRN. Register on the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES): <https://apps.fcc.gov/core/>

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

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

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at exam sessions. New applicants will pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual.

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

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

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

Printing Your FCC License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

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

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

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

J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor



As we roll into August I like to get out in the field as much as I can while the sun is out. Sure, it's humid and there are bugs to contend with but I still feel the sting of the wind when I was out activating West Branch on a Saturday morning in January. So out I go to the park to sweat and make as many contacts as I can while swatting mosquitoes. By the way, be really patient with your activators in the deep summer. Bugs and various animals can create fascinating challenges at the park!

By the way, is noise from a goose QRM or QRN? Asking for a friend...

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

**AC8NT, K8CAV, KB8UUZ, KE8RIQ, KP4VZ, N5VLZ,
W8NET, W8PT, WA8LRW, WB8LCD, WG8X, and the World Wide Web.**

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

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



Nacho the Radio Beagle being serenaded by static and CW as he naps the afternoon away at camp.

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

~ The Hamvention® 2018 Club of the Year ~

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

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

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

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

2025 PCARS Officers

President - Jim Wilson - AC8NT
Vice President - Russ Williams - NR8W
Treasurer - Paul Hyland - KE8EGF
1 Year Trustee - Mike Ryan - KB8TUY
2 Year Trustee - Gene Marsh - W8NET
3 Year Trustee - Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
Past President - Mike Gonzalez - KP4VZ

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

2025 PCARS Appointments & Committees

ARRL Awards DXCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Club Site Management	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Field Day Chairman	WA8AR	Tony Romito
FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
K8BF QSL Manager	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
Membership Chairman	-	-
Net Control Coordinator	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PCARS Photographer	-	-
Public Information Officer	-	-
Secretary	AD8IR	Agnes Wagner
Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Tech, Gen, & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Webmaster	WG8X	John Myers
POTA Coordinator	KE8ARB	Brandon Mercer



Active
PCARS
Volunteer
Examiner
Team
Members

KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
AC8NT	Jim Wilson
AC8QG	Nick Wagner
N8QE	Bob Hajdak
KA8TOA	Greg Ash
WA8CCU	Al Nagy
N8FUM	Dan Torchia
KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
W8EC	Mark Haas
K8IG	Fred Freer
W8HFZ	Tim McLeod
K8PJW	Phil Weiss
N8XTH	Deron Boring
K8IV	Ed Polack
N8AMY	Amy Leggiero
W8PT	Chuck Patellis
KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez

THE RADIOGRAM

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Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. Caution - some of the articles in this newsletter maybe covered by copyright - please do not copy and use the ones that have by-line information unless you obtain permission from the original author. If you're not sure, drop an e-mail to KC8JC@portcars.org. The RADIOGRAM always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually). ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. Why the Black Squirrel in our logo? For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Legend has it that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and they migrated and thrived throughout our county. Look into the black squirrel legends and see what you find! When you spot a black squirrel - think PCARS!

The RADIOGRAM is published every month and only sent to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that, we can take you off the e-mail list. Send your newsletter inputs (in .TXT format) along with in-focus pictures (not small 50 kb photos) to the newsletter editor: KC8JC@portcars.org

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