



# The **RADIOGRAM**

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 21 - NUMBER 01 - JANUARY 2026



**PCARS K8BF**

*The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!*



# In This Issue Of

# The RADIOGRAM



Volume 21 - January 2026 - Number 01

## Feature Articles

From the PCARS President	3
From the PCARS Vice President	4
Center Of Hope Fund Drive	7
On The Road	9
Product Review	12
Freeze Your Acorns Off 2026	13
PCARS Christmas Dinner	21

## Regular Departments

PCARS Birthdays	8
From Around The World	8
K8BF Net News	8
PCARS is on YouTube	11
PCARS groups.io	11
PCARS Stickers and Patches	11
PCARS Coffee Cups	14
Swap-N-Shop	14
Charlie The Tuner's DX High-Lites	16
Charlie The Tuner's Contest Update	19
Mark Your Calendar	20
Hamfest Calendar	20
Ham License Plates Wanted	23
PCARS Monthly Meetings	24
VE Testing Information & News	25

## Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Antenna SIG	15
POTA SIG	15
Linux & Raspberry Pi	18
PCARS Flex Net	18

## Finals

Thanks & 73	27
Fine Print	28

## PCARS 2026 Officers



**President**  
Greg - KA8TOA



**Vice President**  
Tom - WB8LCD



**Treasurer**  
Paul - KE8EGF



## From The PCARS President

**Greg, KA8TOA**  
PCARS President



Hi everyone!

First of all i want to wish all our members and there families a very safe and joyful Christmas, along with a very Happy New Year.

I want to thank everyone for there support and confidence for recommending me for this position of president. Tom and I have been discussing our agenda over the past weeks and will bring up the items at the Board meeting in January. I hope to pursue your faith in me and not let you down. I am not a tech guy and there is a learning curve to be learned here. So time will tell. I will do my best and hope for your understanding. I have had many offers for helping me and I will utilize them.

For now enjoy the season of goodwill and see you in the New Year. I would like to thank the past officers for there time and efforts to keep PCARS going strong and the work they have done in the past.



# PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio





## From The PCARS Vice President

**Tom, WB8LCD**  
PCARS Vice President



My last 5 years as OH Section Manager were amazing. I've learned a lot and made quite a few new friends. I hope that I can use that knowledge and those connections to help PCARS remain the Amateur Radio PowerHouse Club that it always has been! Coming back to PCARS is like coming home. I'm looking forward to again being an active member and taking part in our legacy of FUN – because that's what it's really all about. None of us would be doing any this if it wasn't FUN. Twenty years ago, we were planning our first meeting. Wondering how it was all going to work out. There were some strong winds blowing against us! But here we are 20 years later with a history of success and nothing but opportunity in front of us. I can't wait to see what the next 20 years have in store for us!

### FYAO-2026

As the newly elected Vice President, I've been working already to make sure we get off to a good start. "Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) has been a PCARS tradition from the very beginning. It was our very first operating event as a newly formed club. It was a freezing cold day in February 2006 at Towner's Woods Park in Kent. There was no shelter house, it was a good hike from the parking lot to the operating location, and although we had plenty of firewood, it was way to windy to start a fire! On a positive note, we did have FUN and even though there were only a couple of Q's in the logs, we all learned a lot about QRP operating and site selection for club events! The following year we moved the event to Fred Fuller Park in the Shelter house, and we have been there every year since. We've had years where participants have earned nicknames like "Klondike Mike" and other years we have had weather that called for shorts and T-shirts! You never really know how it's going to turn out in February in NE Ohio!



This years event will be on Saturday February 21, 2026 at the Roy Smith Shelter house in Fred Fuller Park, Kent, OH. Basically, we have the whole Park to spread out in, so plan your station, dress appropriately for the weather and join us for this special 20th Anniversary running of PCARS' Freeze Your Acorns Off event! Put it on your calendar now and start making preparations. Chuck – W8PT – has run the show for the past few years and will be this year also. Look for lots of PCARS FUN, Fellowship and Food! (PRO TIP: the previous weekend is Valentine's Day – make it Special for your spouse or "significant other" so you're sure to get the 21st off with no restraints!) And please, take time to read the rules carefully so you'll be eligible to win the really big prizes!



One final comment here: the two photo's above come from a DVD created in December 2006 by Tom "Parky" Parkinson – KB8UUZ. This DVD chronicles the activities of PCARS in year one. It's an important piece of our history. I have a dwindling few copies of this original DVD and at our January 2026 meeting I will be putting one into the 50/50 raffle. I'm sure you'll want to get lots of tickets for you chance to own this piece of PCARS memorabilia!

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

I'm trying to get off to a running start with meeting presentations! I Think our first 3 meetings are going to be outstanding (what would you expect me to think??). But I know that not everyone thinks like I do, so it's important for you to tell me what you would like to see and hear in our upcoming club meetings. Please, send your idea's requests and specific information to me so I can try to accommodate you! (tomsly29@gmail.com) Our monthly club meetings are a very important function of the club. I want to ask you all to attend our meetings! We make the zoom link available so that those who are not able to attend can at least see our meeting, but you're really not a part of it unless you're there with us. You'll get a lot more out of the meeting by being there and the meeting will be better for all of us because YOU were there with us!



### **The January 12, 2026 meeting will feature Bill Salyers – AJ8B - speaking on DX Hints and Tips .**

Bill Salyers, AJ8B, is an active operator and is president of the Southwest Ohio DX Association. (SWODXA) SWODXA is the group that bestows the "DXPeditioner of the Year" award at the DX Dinner during Hamvention and hosts the DX Forum on Saturday of Hamvention.

Bill was first licensed as WN8IQN in 1971. He has become a somewhat prolific writer having first published an article in The DX Magazine in 1985. Since then, he has been published in QST, The National Contest Journal, Radio Amateurs Old Timers Club Australia, Radio Amateurs Old Timers Association of Britain, and the CWOPs newsletter. Bill is also the editor of the weekly DX column in the Ohio Section Journal, the webmaster for SWODXA, and the newsletter editor for SWODXA and the newsletter of the Twin Cities DX Association. Bill is also the "N" letter sorter for the 8th area incoming QSL Bureau.

Bill was on the QSO today podcast #319 and has presented several times at W4DXCC, W8DXCC, and the QSO Today Virtual Expo. Bill has also been an instructor in the CWOPS organization, the CW Academy.

Bill resides with his wife of 40 plus years, Karen, in Waynesville, Ohio. He is an IT Director in Cincinnati and has a 2-hour commute which allows plenty of time for DXing from the car with the Yaesu FT-857.

Bill has modest DXCC totals including 8BDXCC, WAZ, and 326 confirmed overall.

Currently, Bill is the host of The DX Mentor podcast and the DX Mentor YouTube channel. He has recently been added as a weekly contributor to the This Week in Amateur Radio podcast.

If you have any interest in DX'ing at all (and what Ham doesn't?) you will find this an interesting and useful presentation!

## **The February 9, 2026 meeting will feature Ken Dorsey – KA8OAD – speaking on HF digital voice using RADE**

I received my Novice call in 1981 and progressively upgraded until I reached Extra class, keeping my original Novice call throughout the years. I am currently the Emergency Coordinator for Summit County ARES and also participate in the county's CERT program.

My presentation will consist of information on and a demonstration of the latest HF digital voice mode called RADE (pronounced "raid") V1 which is part of the FreeDV software package. As the name implies this digital voice software is free and open source and the RADE V1 component is quite impressive to hear and not hard to get working if you are already using other digital software such as FT-8, Winlink or FLdigi.

## **The March 9, 2026 meeting will feature Michael Martin – K3RFI speaking on the topic of Radio Frequency Interference locating and mitigating.**

Mike has years of experience through RFI Services of Lothian MD. RFI is any unwanted signal, which prevents reception of the best possible signal from the source (Radio, TV station...) you want to receive. RFI may prevent reception altogether, it may cause a temporary loss of the desired signal, or it may affect the quality of the sound or picture produced by your equipment. RFI to electronic equipment is a frustrating problem and many times an indication of a hazardous condition; fortunately, there is a solution.

## **PCARS 20 for 20 Net Awards**

The final net has been logged! I've got the list and I'm checking it twice. We've had some pretty good nets in the second half of 2025. We appreciate everyone who checks in on a regular basis. Especially those who check in via Echolink – where we did have some issues over the course of the last 6 months. Hopefully the issues are all corrected and we're not going to penalize anyone who wasn't able to check in on our end. I'll be getting the lists to our "in house" certificate maker (Parky – KB8UUZ. Thank you!) as soon as I can and we'll in turn put them in your hands as soon as possible,

Well, that's it for this month. Remember, we're just getting started and 2026 is our 20th year of club operations. It's not going to be "just another year". It's going to be a year long celebration of the club dedicated to putting the FUN in our Ham Radio Activities. So, if I was you, I'd get on board, buckle up and Hang On! 2026 is going to be a wild ride.

73,  
Tom WB8LCD – PCARS VP



**PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC**  
**PCARS**

**EST. 2005**

## Center of Hope Fund Drive - OUTSTANDING

**Jim, AC8NT**  
2025 PCARS President



I want to **Thank You All** for your support of PCARS in our annual fund raiser for the **Center of Hope** (a part of the **Family & Community Services**) here in Ravenna.

What an **OUTSTANDING** effort in raising funds for the Center of Hope! Every PCARS

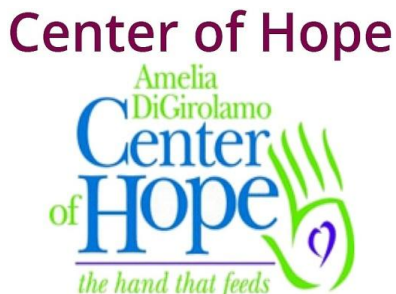


member should be proud to be affiliated with a club (PCARS) and an organization who serves our community in this way. I can say with certainty that our annual contribution is greatly appreciated!

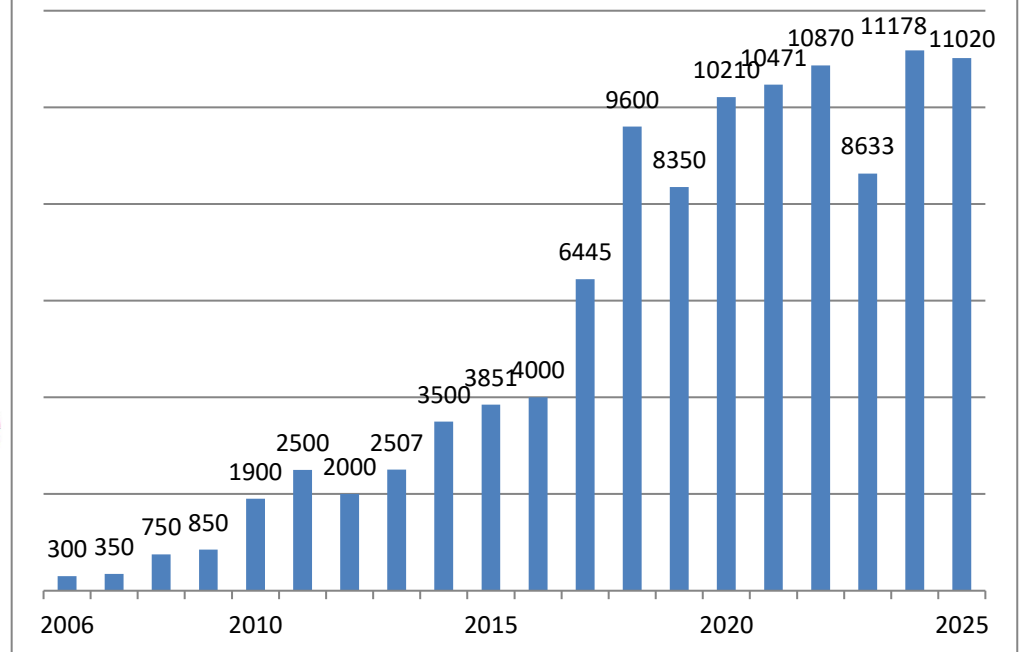
Our contribution for 2025 was **\$11,020.54**. I'm only guessing here, but among local organizations, we are probably one of the largest (if not **THE** largest) contributions they received. I'm proud to say that since PCARS started, our total contribution to support our community in this way has been just over **\$109,285.00**.

PHOTO: Russ NR8W, Paul KE8EGF, Mark Frisone, Executive Director of Family & Community Services, Jim AC8NT, Lajoyce Harris, F&CS Program Manager

Well Done PCARS! Let this part of our legacy be something that defines us in the future as an intentional part of our mission to support our community.



### PCARS Donations 2006-2025 to Center of Hope





## Happy Birthday PCARS Members



KA8WCV	Raymond
KB8ZWT	Jeff
KE8KBJ	Mara
KE8BFA	Janice

N8NB	David
N8GIE	John
KE8TEJ	Roger
K8JJM	Jeffrey

NX8G	Rex
N1CJW	Christopher
NR8W	Russell

## From Around The World...



**FCC Updates 60-Meter Allocation.** The ARRL has details here: <https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-allocates-60-meter-world-wide-amateur-band-approved-at-wrc-15-continues-amateur-use-of-four-addi>

**ARDC Launches 44Net Connect.** This new system makes it easier for hams to get access to the 44 IP address space for experimentation. Check it out here: <https://connect.44net.cloud/>

**ARISS Reports that HamTV is once again active on the ISS.** Details, video, and documentation for receiving signals can be found here: <https://daily.hamweekly.com/2025/07/hamtv-international-space-station-iss-installation-success/>

## K8BF Net News

**Greg KA8TOA**

Past Net Control Coordinator

4th quarter stats for Thursday nets:

11 weeks total check-ins 249 for average monthly check-ins of 23. Compared to 11 weeks and total check-ins 182 average monthly check-ins of 17 for 2024.

Thanks everyone for supporting PCARS and running the nets. Remember Bob N8SKN is taking over as the Net coordinator.





Well, after last month's column, I would have done well to have heeded my own advice. I have not gotten out there as much as I wanted to. My excuses range from the shortened days (I work till 4pm), to just very busy schedule over the last few months.

Granted, I did get out on my Black Friday Rove and had a great time. I knocked 4 new parks off my hit-list and had a ball doing it. You'll read more about that further down the page.

The rest of the month I spent doing a few CW activations at Quail Hollow. The high point was firing up my Xiegu G106 from home and working stations in the 10M contest using as little as 1W! Also, that weekend, I hooked up the sound card and made some FT mode contacts. I made a couple FT8 contacts on 1W, but I really needed 5W to do the job well.

But the cool part was hooking the G106 up to the Hamsticks while at Quail Hollow. I felt that running 5W on an activation did not hinder me in any way. I still got plenty of contacts and did not notice any change over the 30W signal I put out with the FT-891.



To grab the pictures that you see in this month's article, I broke out the 40m QCX-Mini, and the QMX; both designed by Hans at QRP Labs. The QCX-Mini did great, but the QMX seems to need a bit more love before ready for activation. I took both to Quail Hollow for a POTA activation. The QCX-Mini netted me seventeen contacts.

I plan to do more of these minimalist type operations in the future. Once Spring arrives, I might even try setting up **outside** of the truck. Just kidding; I love those picnic table activations,

but not so much when the temps dip below 40.

The big POTA news in the past month was the erasure of all Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), and Fishing Lakes from the Virginia POTA Reference list. I'm not sure what the reason was, but perhaps some Ham Radio activations left a bad taste with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)?

This should remind us of the importance of being good citizens of our outdoor areas, lest the same thing happen here. Thankfully, we are well thought of by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) folks here in Ohio. I would hate to see anything happen to change that.

So back to Black Friday. The day after Thanksgiving was a normal Autumn Day, just perfect for a drive. I did not make it to all the parks on my hit list, but I did manage 4 of them. It was a series of quick "Run & Gun" activations, where I made less than 30 contacts, and moved on to the next stop. In planning an ambitious rove for the day, I didn't take into account that the days are a bit shorter at this time of year. Boy will I be glad when Spring returns!

For logging this month, I am using Ham2K POLO on my iPad to learn as many of the features as possible. I am treating it as research for an upcoming On All Bands (OAB) article. I have to say that POLO has worked out great for my portable operating. I still use N3FJP however, as my main log repository.

Coming up soon is the POTA Support Your Parks (SYP) weekend. They come around 4 times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall, & Winter), and the goal is to increase POTA activity by either activating or hunting. Winter 2026 SYP is coming up the weekend of January 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>. A Lot of clubs use SYP weekends as something to build events and activities around. PCARS is no different; you will read more about our plans for the weekend elsewhere in this issue of the Radiogram.

With that, I will tie the ribbons on it for this month. Stay warm, get out there, and have fun!

73 DE WG8X





## PCARS is on YouTube

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

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



## PCARS IO Group

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

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



## PCARS Patches & Stickers

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

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



PCARS T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Jackets, Hats, etc. can be obtained from:

**PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC**  
**PCARS**

EST. 2005

Jim, AC8NT



I am not one to write product reviews. However, in in October I purchased a FNRSI LCR-ST1 LCR Meter from Amazon for \$30. This has proven to be a great investment.

Lately I have been doing a fair amount of surface mount work. Not by desire, but because you can't purchase some of the parts you need in DIP or wire lead anymore. I try to buy the biggest parts I can, but that is also not always possible. All these parts are small and hard to handle. The size chart shown gives you an idea of how big the parts are. Capacitors and inductors follow similar sizes. As a note, if you want to use 1/4 watt resistor you would be using a 1206 sized part. The 2512 parts are 1-watt resistors. I have not used parts smaller than 1608. I leave that to the pick and place robots.

Two key issues are part identification and handling. If you think handling these parts is a problem, try reading the values. Here is where this little meter shines. You can pick up a part with the tweezer probes determine if it is a resistor, capacitor or inductor and read its value all at the same time. VERY NICE for "senior" engineers. For some it is handy to identify 1/8 and 1/4 watt wire lead resistors and smaller capacitors that for some may require a magnifying glass.

Surface mount requires a lot of practice, some specialized tools, special solder and flux and most of all patience. It also helps if you work without a cold that can cause you to sneeze without warning. This tool is a great addition to your bench and may be of help to some that are using small wire lead components.

After I master surface mount, I plan to build a flea circus. It won't be any harder. Have fun, build more and keep "the little gray cells" active.

Jim, AC8NT



comparison	Metric code	Imperial code	comparison
0.1x0.1 mm	0402	01005	0.01x0.01 in (10x10 mils)
	0603	0201	
	1005	0402	
	1608	0603	
1x1mm	2012	0805	0.1x0.1 in (100x100 mils)
	2520	1008	
	3216	1206	
	3225	1210	
	4516	1806	
	4532	1812	
1x1 cm	5025	2010	0.5x0.5in (500x500 mils)
	6332	2512	
	Actual size		

# Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



## PCARS - K8BF

*21st Annual*

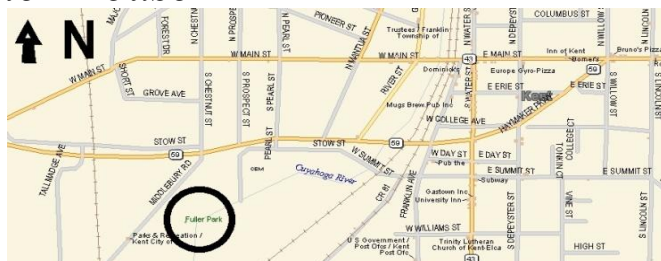
*"Freeze Your Acorns Off"  
(FYAO) Special Event Station*



*Where: Fred Fuller Park - 497 Middlebury Rd., Kent, Oh  
at the Roy Smith Shelter House*

*When: Saturday - Feb. 21, 2026  
Set up: 9 am*

*Operating Time: 10 am - 3 pm EST*

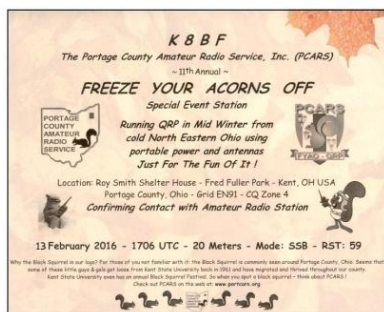


We will be active on CW & Phone in the General areas of the 6, 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands (Repeater & Echolink on the K8BF echo link node for a certificate) and anything else we can get working. Club Call Sign **K8BF** for a certificate. Other participating stations will be using their own callsign/FYAO, or calling "CQ FYAO" (only stations at the Freeze Your Acorns Off event should use the /FYAO designator). Yes, we'll be braving the cold weather of

North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.

Uniform of the day: Aloha or Hawaiian Shirts

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. We'll need all the contacts we can make to help keep us warm. Your support will be very much appreciated!



QSL for Card and Certificate via QRZ.com address for K8BF



Check PCARS out on the web at: [www.portcars.org](http://www.portcars.org)  
Questions? Contact Chuck, W8PT at [chuckw8pt@gmail.com](mailto:chuckw8pt@gmail.com)







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

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

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



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

## Swap-N-Shop



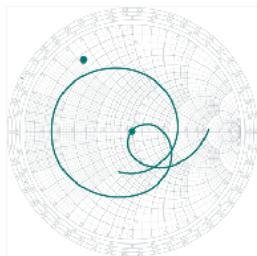
**For Sale:** QYT KT-8900 20W Dual Band 2m/70cm Mobile Radio w/programming cable New in box. \$80.00  
Contact Kyle at [w7kfr@protonmail.com](mailto:w7kfr@protonmail.com) [03/26]

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT-2000 160 - 6 Meter Transceiver with FH-2 Remote Control Keypad and CT-119 Programming Cable \$800.00 for everything. Original boxes are available. Geocron GEO-4K-COMP2 new in the box \$150. ARRL 10 - 40 Meter End Fed Antenna Kit new in the box \$50. MFJ-931 Artificial Ground \$75. MFJ-4906S Duplexer \$50. Will consider reasonable offers. Local sales only. Contact Bob Hajdak N8QE at (330) 807-5903 or [rhajdak@aol.com](mailto:rhajdak@aol.com). [01/26]

**FOR SALE:** BRAND NEW Custom-Built desktop PC Specs are as follows: Ryzen 5 5600G 3.9 GHz; 32 gb RAM; 1GB Ethernet LAN; 500gb m.2 SSD; DVI/HDMI video out; 500w power supply; Tempered glass case w/RGB RAM and fans; Linux Mint O/S. (Can be upgraded to Windows 11.); \$650.00; Contact Kyle (330) 562-8898 [01/26]

For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder: This is a PCARS **members only benefit**. Please don't ask to list items for a friend, relative or SK estate unless they are/were a member of PCARS. Requests come in from all over the USA (and beyond) to list items for sale or wanted items and we just cannot dedicate that much space to non-members. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier. The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [01/26] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2026.

## Antenna Special Interest Group



**Jim, AC8NT**  
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Our next Antenna SIG will be held on **January 20th**.

We will be continuing with our discussion of Antenna and Matching software. Feel free to bring any of your projects to discuss or your questions. I will be bringing my ENDFED antenna equipped with a relay to shorten it for 30 meters. It is working very nicely.

If you can't attend in person, please try to attend via Zoom. Use the following link:

PCARS K8BF is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96686108444?pwd=hN5hDgTGWwdLBLXkLSeAfVOfSa4nGq.1>

Meeting ID: 966 8610 8444

Passcode: 915088

See you at the SIG!

Jim, AC8NT

## POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

**Gene, W8NET**  
POTA SIG Coordinator



Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @7:00PM at PCARS World Headquarters in scenic Ravenna, OH. We will be discussing our plans for WINTER POTA WEEKEND!

At our last meeting, we decided to do our "Winter Support Your Parks" POTA event at PCARS World Headquarters, trying to activate as many parks that we can from the WARM surrounds of our great clubhouse! We are expecting to do Saturday January 17, 2026 @9:00AM to 3:00PM, BUT THAT COULD CHANGE after the 1/13 meeting. We are planning some food and stuff, so the meeting is important for the details.

Watch for QSTs!

## Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites

Greetings to all DXers:

**Chuck, W8PT**  
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

I'm hoping that most of you were able to stay awake to welcome in the new year. That old adage of, "I wish I knew how long I'd live, I'd have taken better care of myself" is very true! But we work with what we have. Right?? In any case, here's also hoping that Santa was kind to many of you and you received at least one thing to enhance your HAM shack.

We are still being blessed with a sunspot cycle and there are many rare DX opportunities coming in 2026. I know for myself that there are a few ATNO's that I will be watching for.

But with all the sunshine comes a little rain. At the end of November, the very strong winds we had some damaged on Tower 2. At first I thought it might be the rotor, and I'd have to shell out some major \$\$\$ for a new one and then get it installed. However, with Jack's (N8BI) help, we figure that it is not the rotor but the pin that we used to hold the mast to the rotor. It may have sheared. Since we can't do anything until the WX breaks, I am hoping that all will hold together until we can address the problem.

Until then, I'm going to concentrate on working DX when I can. So, let's take a look at what is coming up.

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

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

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

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

**January...**

**3G9, NAVARINO IS.** CB9N, XR9N and 3G9S will be the special callsigns that will be part of the expedition to the Chilean Antarctic Province CE9 on Isla Navarino, taking place during the first half of January 2026. January 10-17, 2026. QSL via OQRS.

**8Q, MALDIVES.** Alex, IW5ELA will be active from Sea Club Dhiggiri, Vaavu Atoll, Maldives as 8Q7EL during January 19-26, 2026. QRV holiday-style on HF bands – mainly CW using a FT-857 and vertical antenna. QSL via home call.

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

**AU7, LAKSHADWEEP IS.** Expedition Leader, Sarath (VU2RS) reports that the VU7 team is super excited to share our detailed plan for the upcoming AU7RS Lakshadweep Islands DXpedition, happening from 10th to 22nd January 2026. QSL via M0OXO.



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

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

**J3, GRENADA.** Rikk WE9G will again be back on his travel – this time to Grenada. Plans are to be QRV as **J3WG** during January 1-16, 2026; running SO2R on 16906m; mostly FT8 with some CW & SSB. Possible SOTA activity too.

**PJ7 – FS, SINT MAARTEN & St. MARTIN.** Flavio IW2NEF plans activity from both PJ7 and FS during January 13-21, 2026. While operating from Saint Martin he will be mobile using a 20m vertical antenna. Also QRV on other HF bands from Sint Maarten; SSB, FT8, FT4. QSL via Club Log OQRS, buro, LoTW.

**T88, PALAU.** Hiro JA6KYU, Mike JA6EGL and Koji JH6OPP will be active from Koror, Palau as T88HS, T88SM & T88XE during January 7-15, 2026. QRV on 160-6m; CW, SSB, Digi, AM / FM; 160-6m. QSL via home calls. QTH: VIP Guest Hotel.

**TL8, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.** João CR7BNW reports that he will be operating from the Central African Republic as TL8BNW during December 2025 to June 2026. QRV on 40-20-15-10M using a dipole in SSB and FT8. Exact operational dates to be announced closer to start date. QSOs uploaded to LoTW and QRZ logbook.

**TO2, FRENCH GUIANA.** Pierre, F4GPK will again be active from Kourou Space Center radio club, French Guiana as TO2FY until January 15, 2026. QRV on HF bands, SSB only; holiday-style. QSL via LoTW, eQSL or home call.

**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.

### Looking Ahead & Other Reminders...

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

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

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

**V30/V31, BELIZE.** Uwe, DL8UD will again be active from Mayahill, Belize as V31KO during February & March 2026. QRV on 160-6m; SSB/CW/FT8. Participation in the ARRL CW contest (Feb 21-22), SO/AB/HP as V3O. QSL via EA5GL

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

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

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

**Come on! Let's start the new year off by working some great DX. Get on the air!! Get that ATNO confirmed. As I always say, "WOBBLE THE ETHERS!!" Blow the dust off those rigs and get on the air.**

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

## Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

**Gene, W8NET**

Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

Greetings all!

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

I'm planning on doing another Workshop in late January. Watch for a QST for more information.



## PCARS Flex Net

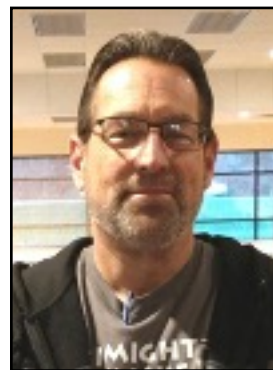
**Mike, N8WCP**

Flex Net Coordinator

December's Flex Net was on the 146.895 repeater using MT63-2KL. KA8TOA and KB8TUY checked into the net.

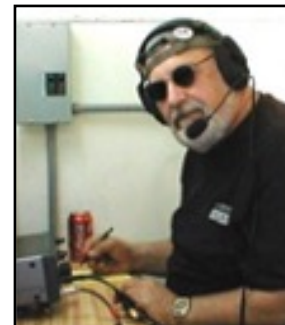
January's Flex Net will be Wednesday the 14th at 8:00PM. This month we'll be running RTTY on 3.590 +/- any QRM.

If you have a suggestion for the February Flex Net, send an email to [n8wcp.us@gmail.com](mailto:n8wcp.us@gmail.com). Looking forward to hearing you on the net!



## Charlie the Tuner's January 2026 Contest Update

**Chuck, W8PT**  
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



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

### K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2025

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

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

North American QSO Party CW	Jan 10-11
North American QSO Party SSB	Jan 17-18
ARRL January VHF Contest	Jan 17-19

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

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

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

**PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC**  
**PCARS**

EST. 2005



## Mark Your Calendar!

### PCARS December 2025 Schedule of Events

January 5th	PCARS Board Meeting
January 12th	PCARS Monthly Meeting

### 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

01/18 - SCARF Hamfest - Shade, OH  
<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/scarf-hamfest-4>

01/31 - Struthers ROAR Mid-Winter Hamfest -  
Struthers, OH  
<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/struthers-roar-mid-winter-hamfest>

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

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



# PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio

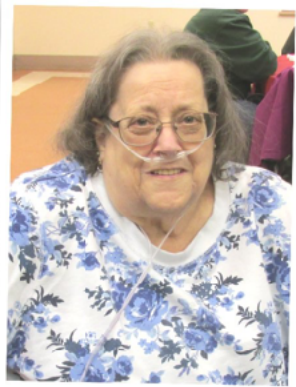




# PCARS Christmas Dinner

Dec 8, 2025





Dec 8, 2025



# PCARS Christmas Dinner



# 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.

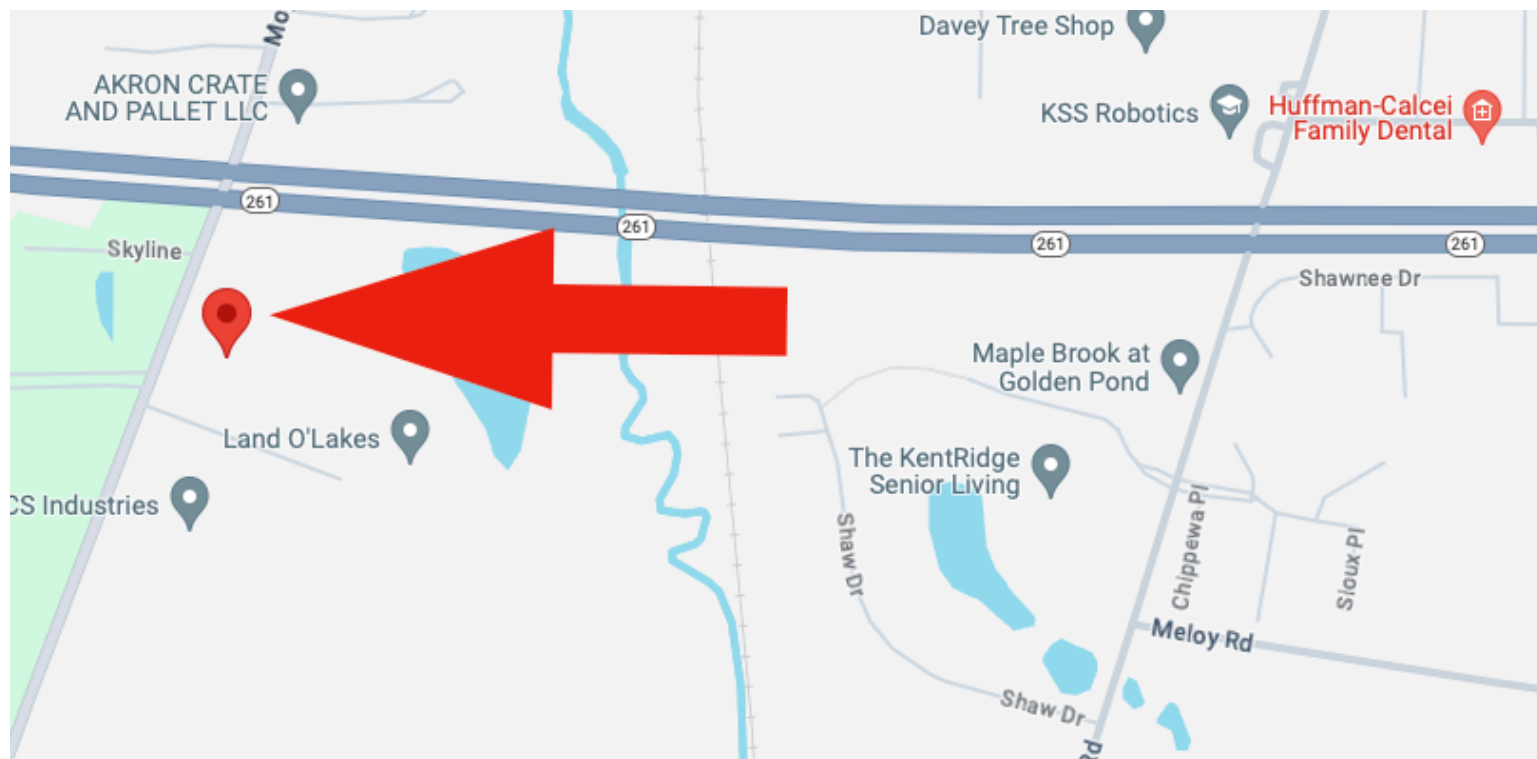
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and

# PCARS Meetings



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

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



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



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

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

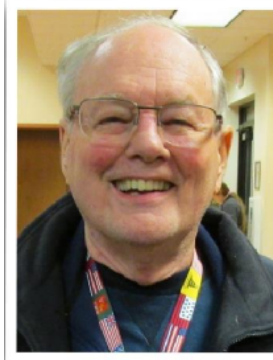


## Future Dates:

- February 1st
- April 5th
- June 7th
- August 2nd

**Check the website for the latest information**

**Jim, AC8NT**  
PCARS VE Team Liaison



On behalf of the VE team at PCARS, we all look forward to seeing you at the PCARS club site in Ravenna so you can take your license test or an upgrade to your existing license. As of December 6th PCARS will be using the new Exam Tools for testing. This new process will provide instant grading and tell examinees whether they passed or failed immediately after finishing the exam. Most will receive their calls and upgrade within three business days of passing the test. However, it does change what is needed for testing.

1. Examinees must send an email to [VEC@portcars.org](mailto:VEC@portcars.org) before the test date. You will then receive an email invitation to the exam session.
2. You must have a valid and working email address for this process. If you pass and the FCC requires a fee, you will receive an email with instructions for payment. This email will only be sent ONCE. It is important that you watch for it.
3. The invitation will provide information on filling out the electronic 605 form and will allow you to apply for an FRN as part of the completion of the 605. If you have an FRN, you will need it to complete the form.
4. You will show up at the club site at 9:45 am on the test date and start the process to take the test. You must have a valid photo ID and a copy of your current license if you are upgrading. See "All the Details" below for complete information.
5. The test is taken on one of the club computers. It is a easy and quick process. Remember there is no time limit for any of the tests. The system also allows you to change your answers if necessary while taking the test.
6. When finished, the system will grade the exam and let you know if you passed or failed. It will automatically transfer all the information necessary for your license directly to the ARRL VEC.
7. You will pay \$15 for the VE fee. Checks must be made out to "ARRL-VEC".
8. If you fail your exam the system will provide information on the questions you missed, so you can prepare for your next attempt.
9. When the FCC processes your exam you will receive an email with payment instructions for paying the \$35 FCC fee. This fee will not be charged for upgrades.
10. If you are 17 years old or younger the VE fee is \$5 per the ARRL reduced CE fee Youth Program. The ARRL will also reimburse you for the \$35 FCC fee.

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

**Any questions? Contact [VEC@portcars.org](mailto:VEC@portcars.org)**

Okay - Now ***All*** the Details:

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



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

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

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



Well, 2025 is in the books. I hope that your log saw a lot of action and that you got out and tried something new. That's the best thing about this hobby: there's always something new to experiment with no matter how long you've been at it. I have a couple of things on the bench that I want to tinker with this winter, but mostly, I'm actually looking forward to getting out to the parks this winter. When there's snow on the ground, there always seems to be more room to set up without getting in anyone's way.

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

**AC8NT, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, N8WCP,  
W8NET, W8PT, WB8LCD, WG8X,  
and the World Wide Web.**

Send all of your inputs to me at [KC8JC@portcars.org](mailto: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!



*A trip to West Branch last January...I can't wait!*

# 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](http://www.PORTCARS.org)

## 2025 PCARS Officers

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

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	N8SKN	Bob Rohde
Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PCARS Photographer	-	-
Public Information Officer	-	-
Secretary	AD8IR	Agnes Wagner
Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
Tech, Gen, & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Volunteer Examiner Liaison	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
Webmaster	WG8X	John Myers
POTA Coordinator	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

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

Articles are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily those of PCARS. Or, better yet, let me express it this way: "These are my opinions and only my opinions, unless you share them as well, which would make them our opinions, but I am not of the opinion that I can express your opinion as my opinion without your prior expression of said opinion, and then my re-utterance of that opinion would, in my opinion, be foolish unless I were expressing agreement to your opinion, and then it wouldn't be my opinion but your opinion to which I only agree." **GO AHEAD - STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER!** You have our permission to post, e-mail, copy, print, or reproduce this newsletter as many times as you like, but please do not modify what you use. If you use material in this newsletter, all we ask is that you give credit to PCARS along with the author of the article. Caution - some of the articles in this newsletter maybe covered by copyright - please do not copy and use the ones that have by-line information unless you obtain permission from the original author. If you're not sure, drop an e-mail to [KC8JC@portcars.org](mailto: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](mailto:KC8JC@portcars.org)

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