



The **RADIO**GRAM

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 07 - JULY 2025

**PORTAGE
COUNTY
AMATEUR
RADIO
SERVICE**



**2005
2025**

20 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

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The RADIOGRAM

Volume 20 - July 2025 - Number 07

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From The PCARS President

Jim, AC8NT
PCARS President



June has been a rough month. For the first time since I joined PCARS, I missed Field Day. I really missed this great event. I understand that as you get older, missing key events do to health issues becomes more probable. This time it was work on my eyes. The whole process requires limitations of fun things for 6 weeks. What a drag. I am looking forward to getting back into the swing of all things ham radio

Project Fun

During this down time, I have been allowed to play with a couple of projects. The first was duplicating an antenna project documented by Reinhard Nibler DC1YY in one of my favorite ham radio mags SPRAT. He built a UNUN with multiple taps for 1:1, 1:4, 1:9 and 1:16 ratios. He uses this to connect various lengths of wire for portable operations. This allows for much better matches without tuners for more bands. Hope to get it tested after my last procedure. If you aren't already a subscriber and are interested in QRP, you should give SPRAT a look.

The second project comes from Dave KO4YLZ. He is a big fan of SOTA and came up with a gadget that makes using his EndFed better. It is basically a radio-controlled relay that allows a change to the length of the antenna. Using his idea allows him to add 30 meters to his available bands and makes the efficiency of his setup better. It is a project that takes 20 minutes to build and works great. I have tried it and removed the need for my tuner for most bands. This might make a great build. Cost is about \$15.

Outreach

On June 7th with the help of the Wagner gang we setup at Lock 3 in Akron as part of the Polymer Palooza STEM event. Turnout was great. As a result of that event, I have received 31 emails requesting information on ham radio. That is a great result. Even Zippy from Akron University sent me an email asking for more information.



Events

We have some great speakers and events lined up. In July we have Ward Silver N0AX talking about EndFed designs and in August we have Don Dubon N6JRL talking about the HD8G DXpedition. We also have a great build scheduled for July 12th. This build setup by John WG8X will build a linked dipole antenna. Lots to look forward over the next couple of months.

Jim, AC8NT



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



Happy Birthday PCARS Members

KE8MXR	John
KO6FYU	Ray
KD8LDG	Don
W8PT	Chuck
W3JL	Cory

AC8QG	Nick
N8XAD	Bob
N8QZ	Paul
WB9LBI	Bill

KE8TFJ	Eric
AD8OL	Dennis
W2THU	Robert
G0BPS	Dick



From Around The World...

Ham Radio At War

<https://hackaday.com/2025/06/12/crowdsourcing-sigint-ham-radio-at-war/>

Retrotechacular: 1970s Radio

<https://hackaday.com/2025/06/21/retrotechacular-1970s-radio/>

SkyRoof, A New Satellite Tracker For Hams

<https://hackaday.com/2025/06/10/skyroof-a-new-satellite-tracker-for-hams/>

Making Solder Wick Less Painful

<https://hackaday.com/2025/06/04/making-solder-wick-less-painful/>

High-Stakes Fox Hunting: The FCC's Radio Intelligence Division In World War II

<https://hackaday.com/2025/06/04/high-stakes-fox-hunting-the-fccs-radio-intelligence-division-in-world-war-ii/>

APRS Thursday Net from 0000 to 2359 UTC every Thursday

<https://aprsph.net/aprstuesday/>





Hello everyone, Hope your Field Day was perfect. As I'm writing this, Field Day is still a few days off, and I'm praying for good weather; not too hot, and no storms.

This month, I wanted to give a recap of my adventures at Beaver Creek SP (US-1935).

Two months ago, I camped there for a weekend in order to finish out my Kilo (1000 contacts from a park). While it was a great weekend for camping; not so much for radio. Propagation was horrible, so no Kilo then.

Fast forward to Father's Day weekend, and the wife was out of town, so I decided to try it again. My goals for this trip had expanded somewhat. I was still chasing the Kilo, but had some other things going on too.

I wound up at a non-electric campsite this time. I have a buddy who has set up his rig for off-the-grid camping; no electric. I thought this would be a good time to assess my off-grid capabilities. I have one camper battery that doesn't run the radio; just the camper systems. For the radio, I had my 12AH and 20AH Lithium batteries charged and ready to go. Since I rarely use more than 30W power, my hope was that they would be sufficient for the long weekend.

My goals for the weekend were:

- 1) Finish my Kilo – I was about 200 contacts shy of my goal.
- 2) Build a Linked Dipole for 6m/10m/15m – 6 Meters had been pretty active in the days leading up to this trip, so I set a goal of building/testing the antenna on-site.
- 3) Finishing my N1CC award – N1CC is pretty involved. It requires that we activate on 10 bands at 10 different parks. Since my campsite was less than 100ft from the North Country National Scenic Trail (US-4239), it counted as a Two-fer, and finishing N1CC at both parks was a real possibility.



In order to finish N1CC, I needed 60M; a band I had done only once. So a lot of reading went into this. Thank God for good cell coverage.

While the goals for the weekend were achieved, I also learned a few things. First, One medium size camper battery is insufficient for a prolonged off-grid camping trip. I have a 750W inverter generator that is barely sufficient for charging the camper battery. In the future, I'd like to upgrade to dual 100W Lithium batteries for the camper, and supplement with solar cells.

Second, while the radios run off of 12V, not so much for the laptop. I was forced to either charge it from the inverter in my truck, or start up the generator in order to charge the laptop. I didn't like either of those options. While I can log on paper, FT8 is difficult to do without a computer. So I'll be investigating 12 charging options for the laptop.

Third, I really like the hitch mount option for the rear of the camper. I have a Camco flag mount that fits into the hitch receiver. From there, I can mount my Spiderbeam mast to support wire antennas. I can also use this setup attached to the truck.

That's it for this month. Remember to stay hydrated, and have fun out there.

73 DE WG8X

James F. LaPorta Award

In memory of N1CC

That

John Myers
WG8X

has submitted proof of QSOs
from ten different Parks on the Air
entities on ten different bands each.

Reference / Bands
US-3515 40M 20M 80M 30M 2M 6M 70CM 10M 12M 15M
US-1999 20M 40M 80M 2M 15M 10M 30M 12M 17M 70CM
US-0020 20M 40M 15M 80M 2M 6M 30M 17M 12M 10M
US-1946 40M 20M 80M 2M 70CM 6M 10M 12M 15M 17M
US-3516 20M 40M 80M 10M 12M 15M 17M 30M 2M 70CM
US-1985 40M 30M 20M 10M 15M 6M 17M 12M 80M 2M
US-1979 40M 80M 20M 10M 15M 6M 30M 2M 17M 12M
US-1940 40M 20M 2M 70CM 60M 30M 80M 17M 15M 12M
US-4239 20M 40M 80M 2M 30M 17M 15M 10M 12M 6M
US-1935 80M 40M 20M 15M 30M 17M 10M 12M 6M 60M

N1CC
Tom LaPorta
22676 Diamond Bay Drive
Prosser, Texas 75783
Henderson County
8102

Confirming our QSO:
Radio: _____ Date: 6/15/2025 Time: 17:00 Frequency: 14.150 Mode: FT8 Signal: 4

2015

POTA
PARKS ON THE AIR

Jason Johnston, W3AAX
POTA Coordinator

06/15/2025
Date

Tech Tip: Quickly Measuring A Large Number Of Batteries

Paul, NO8D



I recently had to measure approximately 120 batteries to determine which were usable and which needed to be recycled.

The selection included various sizes: C cells, D cells, AA, AAA, and a significant number of those pesky coin cells, which test your patience while trying to ensure good contact without having the coin cell fly across the room.

My solution was to place the batteries on a piece of copper-coated PCB board, with one of their electrodes (the negative one) touching the copper surface.

I attached the negative lead from my multimeter to the copper surface. Then, I could easily move the positive lead from one battery to the next, allowing me to set up and measure selections of about ten batteries in record time.

Measuring the coin cell batteries has become a non-issue, as shown in the picture.

After that, I decided to keep a smaller piece of copper-coated PCB board on hand for when I need to measure just one or two batteries.

I hope this is helpful.

73,
Paul NO8D

Digital communication with a radio has been an interest since I decided to get back into amateur radio, choosing to start with email using Winlink. The Winlink website (<https://Winlink.org/>) describes it like this:

Winlink Global Radio Email is a network of amateur radio and authorized government stations that provide worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the internet is not present. The system is built, operated and administered entirely by licensed "Ham" volunteers. It supports email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in interoperable emergency and disaster relief communications. It is capable of operating completely without the internet--automatically--using smart-network radio relays. Licensed Winlink operators/stations use both amateur radio and government radio frequencies worldwide. Support for the system is provided by the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc., a US 501(c)(3) non-profit, public-benefit entity. Winlink Global Radio Email is a US registered trademark of the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (From the Winlink website.)

Simply speaking, Winlink provides a capability to send email via radio. This article is not a how-to download, install or use the software; it is just an example of one type of digital communication available at a fairly low cost and nets based on it. There are a great many capabilities but this article only touches on using it for email without the internet. I started using Winlink a few months ago so am not an expert, but simply an amateur radio operator enjoying the challenges that participating in the nets affords. I have no affiliation with Winlink, just a simple user.

Preparation is critical in the event of an emergency such as occurred at Chimney Rock, North Carolina where the town was washed away by hurricane Helene in 2024 and normal phone or internet communication were unavailable for an extended time. Winlink could have assisted with communication. I do not know if it did, only that it would have been another tool in the toolbox for disaster communication along with HF/VHF/UHF operators. Many of the nets are affiliated with EmComm organizations. These nets offer weekly challenges or questions in order to demonstrate capabilities within the software and maintain or improve skill levels of those associated with EmComm. It is those challenges suggested that are most enjoyable.

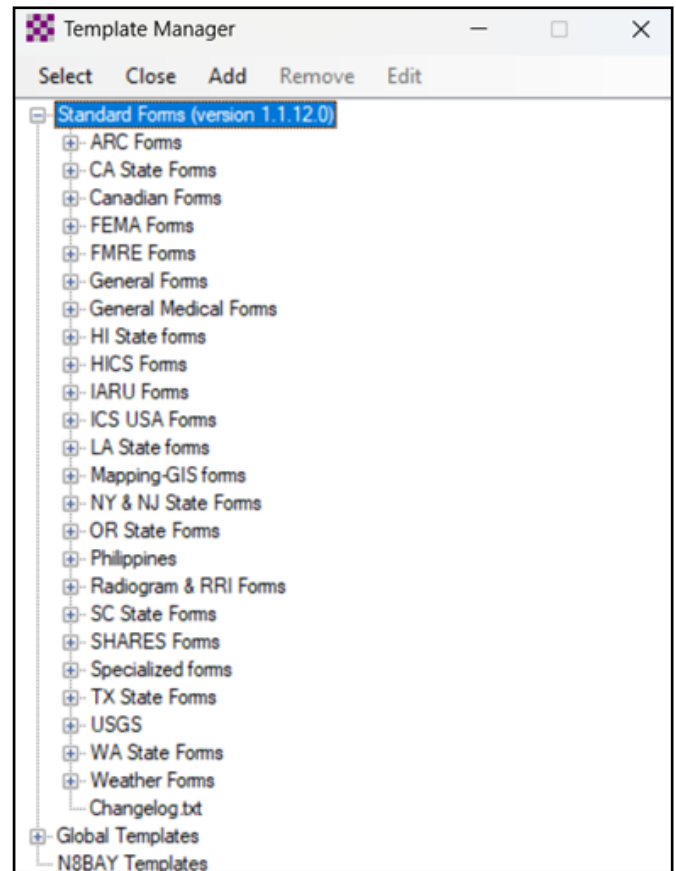
As the name suggests, it is a Microsoft Windows executable program. It can run on Linux or IOS systems with Windows emulators but it has not been attempted by me. It is a free download but speed limited unless a registration key is purchased for \$24. It can be used on HF and VHF/UHF bands. My setup includes a Windows laptop, Digirig interface and mobile VHF/UHF band radio. The radio does not have CAT control, yet Winlink operates through the radio seamlessly with a simple push of a button in the software. Email can be sent or received through RMS gateways or the internet. There are several local RMS gateways in the Portage, Summit and Stark county area. These can be easily found within the software.

Some but not all of the capabilities of Winlink are:

- Email thru transceiver or internet (telnet)
- Standard forms or custom can be created
- Attachments allowed including images
- Images can be reduced in size directly in the software
- Position reporting
- Weather bulletins (send and receive weather information)
- Message relay and peer-to-peer
- Message size limited to 120kb

- Address book
- Easy setup Automatic or manual updates
- Open source

There are many forms and templates available within the program as shown in the image below. Some of the organizations that conduct Winlink nets have their own forms, some use the standard forms. Some nets occur on a specific weekday or several days, some run for an entire week. This allows a more leisurely approach to participation. They generally provide both an invitation and confirmation at the end of their net. A few of the single day and multi day nets are provided in the tables below. The original Winlink Wednesday "KN4LQN" (NCS) is a single day net that request the emails through RF and not internet. "GLAWN" (NCS), for example, generally offers an optional exercise and runs for 6 days (Monday though Saturday). Completing the option and providing the correct format and information will generate a "perfect score" return message. "K7ACT" (NCS) runs Tuesday through Monday and offers a question each week, often either EmComm or amateur radio related. Many offer peer-to-peer submissions in addition to submitting messages through a gateway. Some offer maps of the participants (e.g., <https://www.qsl.net/kw4shp/WinlinkWed/WWmap.html>). Operators from other countries often participate in the nets as well. There are many more Winlink nets, these are just a few to demonstrate the geographic diversity.



If digital communication is your interest, try Winlink. It can be fun, rewarding and relaxing.

Single Day Winlink Nets:

Day of Net	Information	Region	NCS Call Sign
Monday	Ends Tuesday at noon https://w4akh.net/	Florida	W4AKH
Wednesday	https://ohd3ares.org/wp/?p=4398	Ohio	K8EAF
Wednesday	Original Winlink Wednesday https://winlinkwednesday.net		KN4LQN
Wednesday	Canada Winlink Wednesday https://cdn-acis-Winlink-net.groups.io/g/main/topic/Winlink_schedule/108797491	Canada	VA6RQ, VA3RIE
Wednesday	https://Winlinkofidaho.blogspot.com/2022/12/Winlink-wednesdays-of-idaho-2023.html	Idaho	KC7VBT
Thursday	Once per month https://emcomm-training.org/Winlink_Thursdays.html	Emcomm training group	ETO-BK

Multi Day Winlink Nets

Day of Net	Information	Region	NCS Call Sign
Saturday & Sunday	Ends Sunday 6:30 PM https://w4ggm.org/nets/#Winlink-nets	Maury, TN	KM4D
Saturday & Sunday	General Checkin Form https://iowaWinlink.net/	Iowa Winlink Weekend	WB0GAG
Sunday & Monday	Last Sunday & Monday of the month https://shywyarc.net/wp/wyoming-Winlink-net-2/	Wyoming	WY7HR
Sunday thru Thursday	Special Form https://groups.io/g/Winlink/message/1163	Northern California	NCALWLINKNET
Monday thru Saturday	Special Instructions https://www.facebook.com/groups/1356630358366704/	Great Lakes Area	GLAWN
Tuesday thru Monday	Weekly question https://n4mz.com/	Alabama	K7ACT

PCARS is on YouTube

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

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



PCARS IO Group

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

Check out the PCARS IO Group at:

<https://groups.io/g/PCARS>





PCARS 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/>

Morse Code

From SM6NT (QRZ page)

CW Forever

You must have at times,
Thought into the past,
Where some things go out
While others last
What comes to my mind is
The old Morse code,
That has weathered the storms
From any abode.

To talk with ones fingers
Is surely an art,
Of any info you
Care to impart,
In most conditions
The signals get through,
While the same about phone
Is simply not true.

Those dits and dahs
Cut through the trash,
Of near by noise or
Lightning's crash.
To the sensitive ears
Of the hams receiver,
Who records this data
With ardent fever.

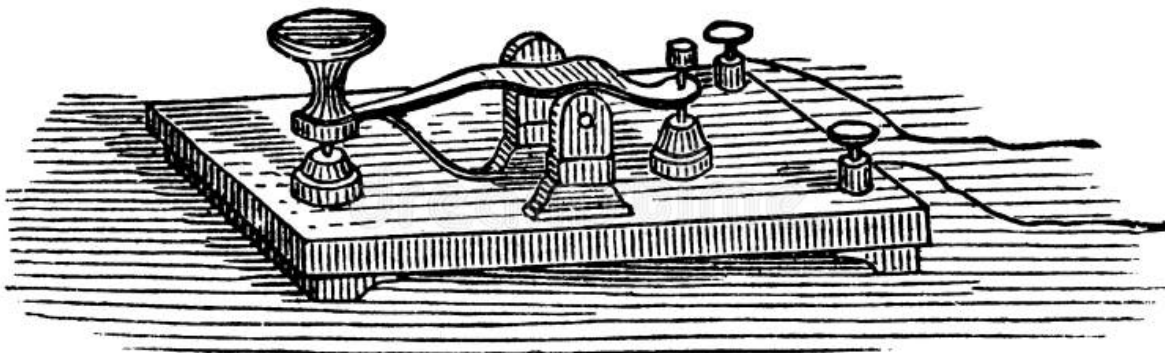
He knows he's doing
Something unique,
(in such poor conditions,
That's quite a feat)
To roger the message
That came off the air,
These brass pounders
Sure do have that flair

They say Morse ops
Are a dying breed,
But don't despair,
There's always that need,
That when conditions get rough
for the new automation,
Be rest assured,
There'll be need for your station.

CW is dying?
Believe it never,
This mode will be 'round
Forever and ever.
But one thing is sure,
What we really need,
Is to relay our knowledge
To the younger breed.

To carry the torch,
Long after we're gone,
To send Morse code
Through the air like a song.
When at last,
Silent keys pull that lever,
We can rest in peace,
It's CW forever.

A	• —	P	• — • —	1	• — • — • —
B	• — • •	Q	• — • —	2	• • — • —
C	• — • — •	R	• — •	3	• • • — •
D	• — • •	S	• • •	4	• • • • —
E	•	T	—	5	• • • • •
F	• • — •	U	• • —	6	• — • • •
G	• — • —	V	• • • —	7	• — • — •
H	• • • •	W	• — • —	8	• — • — • •
I	• •	X	• • • —	9	• — • — • —
J	• — •	Y	• — • — •	0	• — • — • —
K	• — • —	Z	• — • •		
L	• — • •				
M	• — • —	.	• — • — • —	?	• • — • • •
N	• — •	,	• — • — • —	/	• • • • •
O	• — • —	!	• — • — • —	=	• • • • •



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

John, WG8X



Our linked dipole build is coming up on Saturday, July 12th. This will be from 9am–12 Noon.

A linked dipole is a multi-band dipole where the radiator is cut into sections, and the bands are changed by connecting or disconnecting the proper sections.

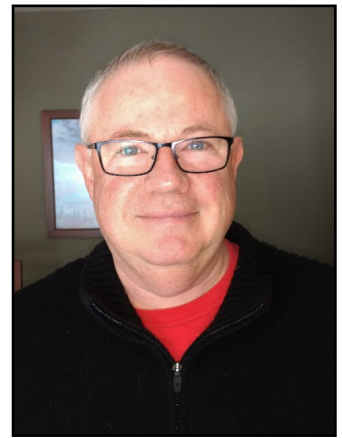
I have a few of these, and love the simplicity of them. They're easy to build. No soldering; all the connections are done using crimped PowerPole connectors. We'll be using 18 gauge silicone wire, which is less prone to tangling. With the exception of the center insulator, all insulators are 3D printed.

The cost is \$50 (\$51.52 via Paypal). Since I'm printing the parts, I need an accurate count of participants by **July 5th**. You can register on our website at portcars.org. There is a limit of 10 participants, so register early. If you have questions, let me know at wg8x.radio@gmail.com.



20 For 20 PCARS Net Awards

Tom, WB8LCD



On Thursday, January 5, 2006 I had the privilege to sit in the "Net Control Operator's Chair" for the very first PCARS Thursday Night 2-meter Net. That net exceeded all expectations and I believe that the weekly net has been one of the hallmarks that makes PCARS such an outstanding Amateur Radio Club! Now, as we finish up our first *twenty-years* as a club, I wanted to offer up a challenge to everyone to not only celebrate our 20th anniversary, but also earn some recognition within the club. The participation of our members in our activities is first and foremost what sets us apart from other clubs and makes us such an outstanding organization! With that I give you the "20 for 20" PCARS Net awards:

The award period will run from July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. There will be a PCARS net every Thursday evening during the award period EXCEPT July 3rd, November 27th and December 25th. Therefore, there are 23 nets you can check into to qualify for the award. In addition, all 4 nets in June 2025 are considered "bonus" nets, and you can use up to 2 of them that you checked into to count for nets you miss during the award period.

There are 3 awards:

1. "20th Anniversary 10 in a row" awarded for any 10 in a row check-ins during the award period. Up to two "Bonus" nets can be used for this award.
2. "20 for 20" awarded for 20 check-ins during the award period. Up to two "Bonus" nets can be used for this award.
3. "All 23 for PCARS Special 20th" is awarded for all 23 qualifying nets during the award period. Up to two "Bonus" nets can be used for this award.

Earn any (or all) of these awards and the certificates will be presented at the January 12, 2026 PCARS meeting. You don't even need to be a PCARS member to qualify for this award - just check into our weekly nets! I want to remind you that you can use Echo-Link to check into our nets from anywhere in the world - no excuses for being out of town!

The PCARS net meets every Thursday (except as noted above) at 8:00PM local time on the K8IV repeater. 146.895 mhz PL-118.8, or the K8BF-L Echolink node.

I'll look forward to hearing you on the nets - and I hope to hear some of you early PCARS members who haven't been on the nets lately!

73,
Tom WB8LCD



Webmaster Update

John, WG8X



AAAND, Heees BAAAACK!

Mike, KP4VZ Our Webmaster, has a lot going on right now, and asked to be able to step away from the website, so he can concentrate on other things. He asked me to step back in as webmaster.

For those who don't know me, I did webmaster duties on portcars.org, and ospota.org for several years. A couple years back, I stepped away from portcars.org, to take a break. Ultimately, the "break" turned into volunteering to do a needed upgrade to arrl-ohio.org.

Big Thanks Mike for the fantastic job he has done on the website over the last couple years.

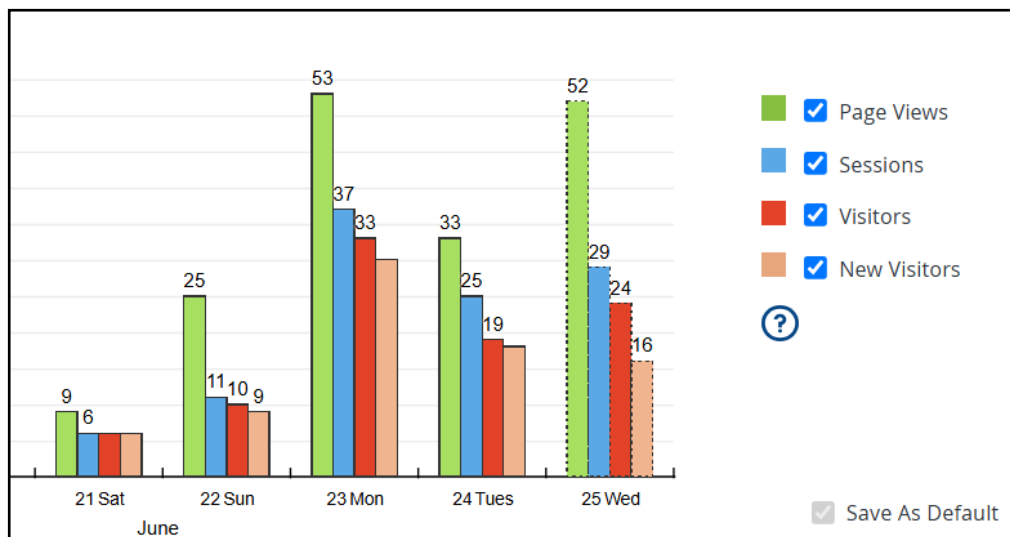
So what's ahead? I'll have more info in the coming months, but for now, let's just get through Field Day.

Last week, I installed a counter which analyzes traffic on the site, and shows us what pages everyone is looking at when they come to our website. No surprise, that for right now, the Field Day reservation page is pretty popular.

It helps to know where you are going, where you're coming from, and if you are having any problems that need to be addressed. You know; like the awful 404 "page not found" errors. I hate those.

I'll have more information for you next month, but as with the rest of you, I'm bumping up against Field Day, so all my articles this month are a bit on the abbreviated side.

If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see added to the website, please reach out. I want to hear from you. 73 DE WG8X



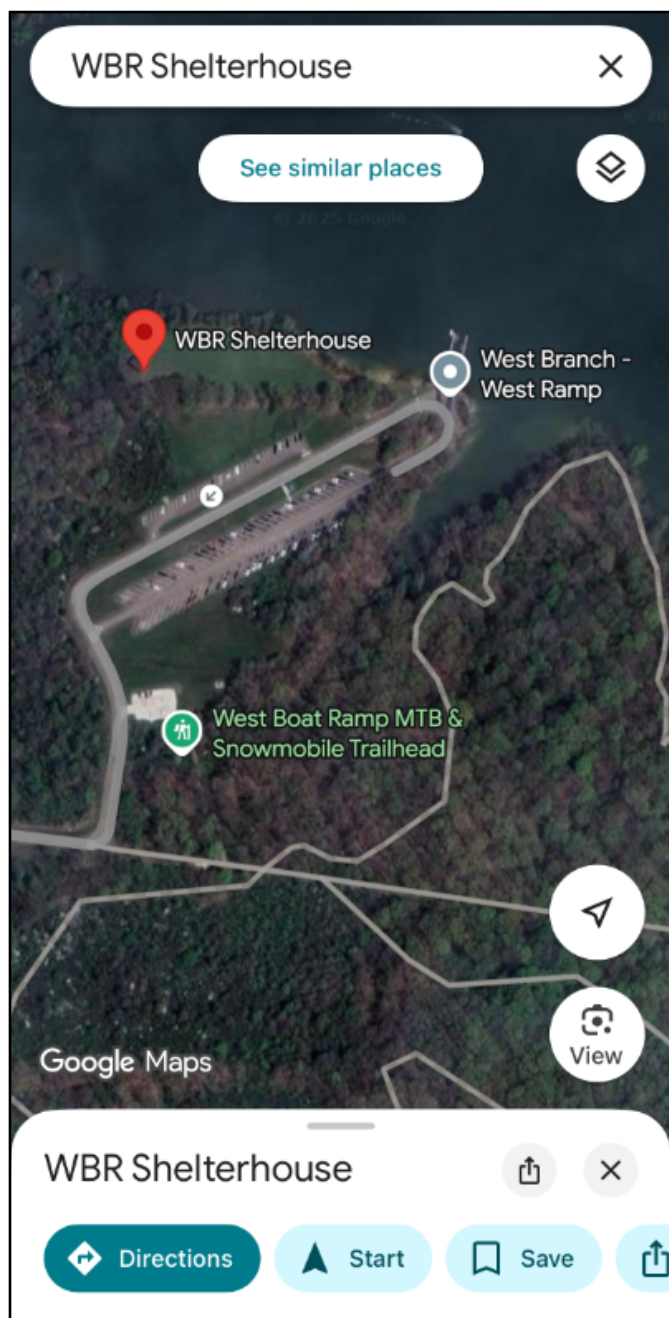
POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna @7:00pm.

We will be discussing our next POTA event - the Summer POTA Support Your Parks Event on Saturday July 19, 2025. We have reserved a shelter at West Branch State Park (WBR Shelterhouse). This is also the weekend for Summer Support Your Parks POTA Event. Get your activation done for the certificate!

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator



WBR Shelterhouse HAS NO POWER. GET YOUR BATTERIES, SOLAR PANELS, ETC READY!

For now, we have the following items committed:

- Cooler and ice, Gene
- Hot dogs, Karl
- Hot Dog buns, Gene
- Charcoal & foil, (can't remember who!)

We still need:

- Case of water
- Macaroni salad or potato salad
- Any other drinks you like

I will be setting up at ~7:00am. Anyone is welcome to come, early or late. The "formal" hours of event is 8:00am-2:00pm (we shifted one hour earlier than usual because of July heat). For me, I will be there until 5:00pm or later - you are welcome to join me!

Cya in Ravenna!
73 de W8NET, Gene

Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET

Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

Welcome to the new Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG!

The inaugural meeting was on Tuesday June 3, 2025 @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna. IT WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS! We had 18 attendees - too many to fit in the group picture!

Since we do not have a July SIG meeting, I have scheduled TWO "clinics": one for Linux, one for Raspberry Pi .

- Wednesday July 2, 2025 @7:00pm - Linux Clinic
- Wednesday July 9, 2025 7:00pm - Raspberry Pi Clinic

HINTS: 1) clean up your old laptop, 2) get an empty microSD card ready.

IF YOU HAVE AN OLD LAPTOP THAT YOU WANT TO USE FOR LINUX, bring it to the Linux Clinic - I will have a bootable USB thumb drive to install Linux Mint!

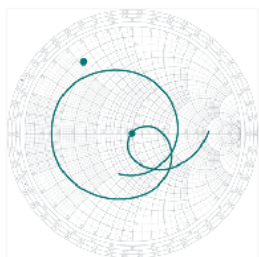
IF YOU HAVE A 8GB, 16GB or 32GB MICROSD card, bring it to the Raspberry Pi Clinic - I will have a few images to choose from for your Raspberry Pi. AND, if you don't have a Raspberry Pi, we will find one for you!

Our next SIG meeting will be in August, so we want to get things moving before then!

Cya in Ravenna!
73 de W8NET, Gene



Antenna Special Interest Group



Jim, AC8NT
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Sorry I missed the June meeting. I will be at the July get together.

The July Antenna SIG will be held Tuesday July 15th at 7 PM at PCARS World Headquarters. This month we will covering the topic of Smith Charts, how they are used, and matching using SimSmith software. This was the topic to be covered at the June meeting. I think you will enjoy learning about this tool. Come join in the fun.

If you can't attend in person, please use the Zoom information below to join on line.

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

Meeting ID: 966 8610 8444
Passcode: 915088

DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Greetings PCARS DXers and Contesters:

We held our DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting at 7PM on Tuesday, June 24th at our World Famous Club site. We had 11 attendees so I want to thank all who came out and thank those who attended by ZOOM.

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



Our topics for discussion centered on the upcoming North American QSO Party - RTTY mode which takes place the weekend of July 19-20. It starts at 2PM local time (that's 1800 UTC) and ends at 2AM Sunday morning. Ken led a discussion and short explanation as to how this will all work out. I'm hoping that because of the nature of a digital contest, we will have many of our FT8 members in attendance.

As before, we will try to accommodate all who show up but since we really can't schedule times for specific ops, we simply ask you to be patient if the op positions are filled when you show up.

We did look briefly at the upcoming contests in the next few months which of course includes the Ohio QSO Party along with our yearly Open House and BBQ.

Until next time, keep wobbling the ethers.

Chuck W8PT, PCARS Contest Coordinator

Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"



Greetings to all DXers:

Wow!! Is it hot or what?? While I'm writing this, it is 90 F and the humidity is 60%. Just got done mowing about 2 acres and I am whipped. But this is nothing compared to what some of our HAM friends are putting up with in the tropics and other islands with their heat. That's why you see many pics of DXpeditions with the ops only in shorts and flipflops. Otherwise, they would simply melt.

But that's what they are willing to endure for our benefit. Just so we can say we worked some South Pacific island 59. So let's take a look to see what we can expect in July and beyond.

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**

July...

3W9T, VIETNAM. Trung, W6TN is currently active as 3W9T from Vietnam. He is working on HF Bands. QSL via PP request look on XV1X profile on QRZ for instructions.

3X, GUINEA. Reminder - Jean-Philippe, F1TMY is QRV as 3X1A from Conakry until mid-2026. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters, and on Satellite QO-100. QSL via ClubLog.

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

5K0T, FUERTE IS. HK4T will be active as 5K0T from Fuerte Island, IOTA SA - 078, late July 2025. He will operate on HF Bands, including activity in RSGB IOTA Contest, 26 - 27 July 2025. QSL via EA5GL.

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.

FP, MIQUELON IS. Eric, FP/KV1J will be again active from Miquelon Island, IOTA NA-032, until 14 July 2025. He will operate on 80 - 6m SSB, RTTY, CW, FT8 and FM Satellites. He will be active in Canada Day, Marconi Memorial and IARU Contests. QSL via home call, LOTW.

JW0V, SVALBARD. Vlad, OK2WX will be active as JW0V from Svalbard Island, IOTA EU - 026, 14 - 23 July 2025. He will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8. QSL via I8KHC.

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.

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.

TG, GUATEMALA. Todd, AF4CZ is QRV as TG9/AF4CZ until July 9. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using FT8, FT4, and some SSB. QSL to home call.

VP8, FALKLAND ISLANDS. Gerard VK4BGL/G3WIP will be active as VP8DPD from Falkland Islands, IOTA SA-002, until 12 July 2025. He will operate on HF Bands. QSL via G3WIP buro, LOTW, eQSL.

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.

ZD9BV, TRISTAN da CUNHA. Andy, ZD9BV started his activity from Tristan da Cunha Island, IOTA AF - 029. He has setup antennas. He will operate on HF Bands. QSL via ZD9BV direct.

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.

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.

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.

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. We are thrilled to announce that October 17-29, 2025, a dedicated team of 12-14 operators will activate **PJ6Y** from the stunning **Saba Island, IOTA NA-145**. This expedition represents a significant step in our ongoing mission to inspire and mentor the next generation of amateur radio operators through hands-on DXpedition experiences. 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.

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.

TO3K, MAYOTTE. TO3K Team will be active from Mayotte Island, IOTA AF - 027, 2 - 20 August 2025. Team - IV3JVJ, IK3ZAQ, IZ3NYS. They will operate on 80 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8, FT4. QSL via IV3JVJ.

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

Could Be Anything Special Interest Group

Rick, KD8WCK

Could Be Anything SIG Coordinator



Please join us at 7pm on the 5th Tuesday of July, July 29 2025, for a practice/simulation session on working CW as a POTA hunter.

POTA is a great way to refresh or prime your CW skills. Even if you are slow to copy, as a POTA hunter you get several chances to get all the activator's information before you send out your own call. And the activators are generally very willing to slow down to the hunter's CW rate.

Andrew KE8BWA will guide us along the practice session. If you have a key and code practice oscillator, bring it. If you have a key and a G90 or similar rig that you can set to use as a practice oscillator, bring it and power. We have a practice oscillator or two at the club to use, and other keys and radios to practice with off-the-air.

In addition I hope to get one of our CW Field Day operators to demonstrate Field Day CW operations. It will be great to develop a little more expertise for manning the 2026 Field Day CW station. I need to check with station captain on this one.

More details will follow with a QST email blast and messages on the PCARS groups.io forum as we get closer to the SIG day.

I look forward to seeing you at the club site, 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna.

73 de Rick KD8WCK



Charlie the Tuner's July 2025 Contest Update

Chuck, W8PT



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	
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.

July we have the following:

CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	July 19-20
North American QSO Party - RTTY	July 19-20

Other contests include: RSGB IOTA Contest July 26-27
13 Colonies Special Event July 1-8

The 13 Colonies Special Event is not a contest in the true sense of the word, but it is a fun event and you get a really nice certificate for participation. Try it!!

The **ARRL International Digital Contest** should be an interesting one to play in. You can really learn how to operate a digital mode and a contest at the same time.

Come on out to the club site and help us put K8BF on the air. As always, we really could use a few CW ops.

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

PCARS June Meeting



Polymer Palooza 2025



Tom, WB8LCD



July 24th will be another Net Night at the Clubsite Mini-Hamfest!

Now that you're all back from Hamvention and loaded down with New Stuff, get out all that stuff you would normally just push off to a corner of the basement and get it out there where someone else can put it to good use! I know that there are a lot of PCARS "treasure troves" out there just waiting to see the light of day! I also know that there are a lot of PCARS members (and friends) that would like an opportunity to pick up some cool stuff! AND, I'm pretty sure they would be happy to put some cold, hard cash in your hands in trade. It's a Win / Win!



I'll be at the clubsite around 5:30 to direct you to your spot. Bring a folding table just in case – I'm planning a beautiful evening with cool breezes so we'll open up some of the parking lot too if necessary! All spaces will be assigned on a "first come / first served" basis. All pricing will be fair, equipment (and other stuff) as described, and deals between the buyer and seller only.

On top of the PCARS Mini Hamfest, you will be able to check in to the PCARS net, which is important if you are wanting one of the 20th Anniversary Net Certificates! Most importantly, it will be a "Low Stress" evening of Fun and Fellowship with your fellow PCARS members and friends. Hope to see you there.

73,
Tom WB8LCD



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS February 2025 Schedule of Events

July 7th	PCARS Board Meeting
July 12th	Antenna Build - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
July 14th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
July 19th	North American QSO Party - RTTY
July 24th	Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

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

07/19 - NOARSfest - Location: Elyria, OH
<https://www.noars.net/hamfests/noarsfest/>

07/20 - Van Wert Hamfest - Location: Van Wert, OH
<http://w8fy.org/>



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 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.

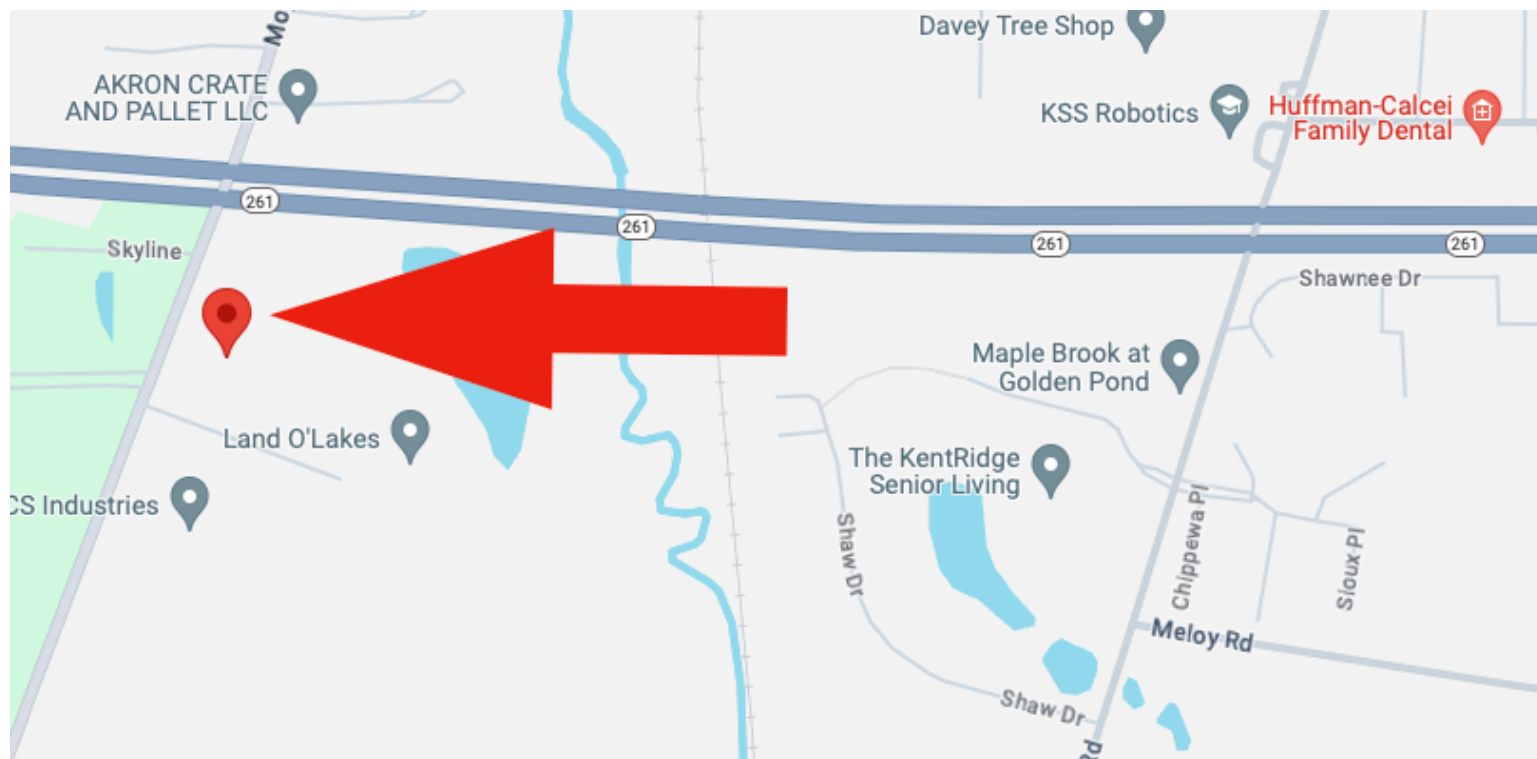
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at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



July! The days are so much longer and the radio activity is high. I spent a week out camping in the upper peninsula of Michigan and got a chance to activate three different parks. Even with the mosquitoes, it was a great time being outside and playing radio in the peace and quiet of a national forest. You really should try it some time if you haven't already.

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

AC8NT, AC8QG, KB8UUZ, KD8WCK, N5VLZ, N8BAY, NO8D, W8NET, W8HFY, 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.



Not Pictured: 10,000,000 mosquitoes buzzing very close to my head, face, and hands making sending code very, VERY difficult.

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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