



The **RADIOGRAM**

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 10 - OCTOBER 2025



PCARS K8BF

The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



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The RADIOGRAM

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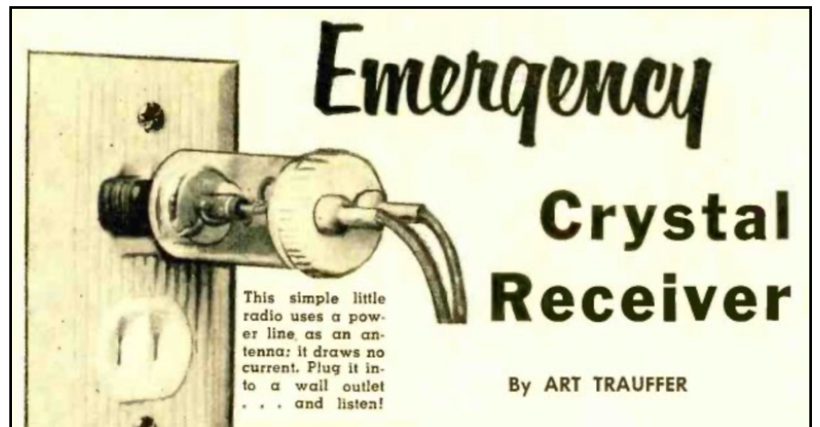
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Jim, AC8NT

PCARS President



September was a busy month for PCARS. We had OSPOTA, Washington Salmon Run and the Kent State Aero Expo. Upcoming in October we have the California QSOP and Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) for the scouts. Elsewhere in the newsletter I am sure you will see news about OSPOTA and the Salmon Run. I am going to focus on the Aero Expo.

Aero Expo

It is a shame the Expo happens on the same day as OSPOTA. I would have loved to do both, but that was impossible. We had a record crowd this year. Talked to over 80 families and met 26 of our fellow hams. We also gave out 200 pieces of SWAG. It was great meeting all the people and talking about ham radio and electronics. We also had several projects supported by IEEE that attracted a lot of attention including a Tesla coil, radio circuits and some different robots. I need to thank Linda, my XYL, for helping me with the event. There were a couple of outcomes that need mentioning.

1. Most of the hams were either Technicians or lapsed. All but one new nothing about PCARS. That is one important reason for us to continue to reach out to our community. If we see an opportunity, we need to take advantage. Maybe it is time for an outreach to hams program. We did one of these years ago, maybe we should try again.
2. We have on the near horizon legislation pending that directly effects our hobby. We need to get antenna restrictions eliminated. We also need, more than ever, to defend our spectrum. Having letter writing programs and donating to the spectrum defense fund are a great start. However, without the support of the rest of the population, we don't have much leverage. We talk about what ham radio does for the community, but that message needs to be broadcast to the public. When talking to the visitors at the Expo, most were amazed at what ham radio had to offer in emergencies and other public events. This public perception needs to change. We need to get out there and let everyone know all the things we do for the non-hams in the community.



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Scouts on the Air (JOTA) Saturday October 18th at Camp Manatoc

This year we are expecting a big turnout for JOTA. This is a great opportunity to reach out to scouts and show them our great our hobby. We will have multiple stations set to go get as many scouts as possible on the air. We are also planning to have fox hunts and a radio build. Watch for QSTs for this event. We will need help, and it will be some big fun. Mark the date on your calendar.



Elections

November is almost here and that mean elections. We are always looking for new blood and more members to take in an active role in supporting our club. Please consider running for office. It requires a little work, but the rewards are outstanding.

Get out there and let everyone you know about the support ham radio gives the community. Support our spectrum defense fund and if you haven't done so, click the following link and support our legislative efforts.

Jim, AC8NT

The Radiogram Takes Second in Ohio Section Newsletter Contest



Thank you to everyone who contributes each month to make *The Radiogram* what it is! It's an honor to be recognized!

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

K8CAV	Rick
KE8UKK	Mark
N8WCP	Michael
W8KFW	Karl
WA8SAJ	Jeff
K8AAB	Bob

K8DER	Donald
KC8RKD	James
WG8X	John
K4YJ	Dwight
KE8VS	Vern

KE8BWA	Andrew
W3MLS	Michelle
W8NET	Gene
KE8EGF	Paul
WA8AR	Anthony



From Around The World...



The RSGB LoRa Balloon Challenge 2025

<https://ianrenton.com/blog/rsgb-lora-balloon-challenge-2025/>

Improving SW Reception with a Simple Ground Wire

<https://swling.com/blog/2025/09/improving-sw-reception-with-a-simple-ground-wire/>

How To Set Up Your Own Remote Station

<https://hamradiohacks.blogspot.com/2025/09/how-to-set-up-your-own-remote-station.html>

The Practicality of Solar Powered Meshtastic

<https://hackaday.com/2025/09/17/the-practicality-of-solar-powered-meshtastic>

Optimizing VLF Antennas

<https://hackaday.com/2025/09/04/optimizing-vlf-antennas/>

John, WG8X



Hi everyone, it was a beautiful month here in NE Ohio. A bit busy, but beautiful all the same.

I grabbed a vacation day before OSPOTA, and wandered down to WV to activate a few new-to-me parks. It was a beautiful day for a drive in the country. Some days, I think I enjoy that more than operating.

I knocked off the first two parks from the list that day, but no joy at the 3rd one. The band didn't die, but it seemed as if everyone went to sleep around lunch time. I only managed 2 contacts at Bear Rocks Lakes Wildlife Management area in Tridelfphia, WV, so I'll need to plan a return trip there.

The day after, several PCARS members came out to Wingfoot Lake State Park to enjoy a day on the air operating OSPOTA. You'll see more about that coming up in a future issue of the Radiogram.

Later in the month, I joined some friends on a weekend trip to Fernwood State Forest. I was unaware till recently that camping there is free. They don't have the normal amenities like electric, drinking water, and dump stations, but hey what do you expect for that price?

The advantage was that the normal camper QRN was non-existent. I'd been planning all summer to break out some of the QRP gear, and this looked like a great time. The QRP gear had been bouncing around in the back seat of the truck for several months, so this seemed to be a good weekend for it. The radio this weekend was the Xiegu G106. This is a QRP rig which does a respectable job for only 6 Watts. I received good reports from all over. It's a good rig, but I just don't use it enough.



The only bad thing that weekend was the Stink bugs. They were awful. I heard that this time of the year is bad since they are trying to find homes for the winter. And boy were they!

OSPOTA log checking began about a week ago. My goal each year is to finish my part of the process before the 2nd weekend in October. That weekend, some friends & I head to Sigel PA for relaxation, and to work the PA QSO Party. While we generally don't work the entire contest, much fun is had.

With that, I'll close out this month's installment. See you in November. 73 DE WG8X



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How much power does your microwave really put out?

If you don't care about the math, skip down to the *Real-World Application* section.

Scientific Basis

As we all know, microwave ovens work by emitting electromagnetic energy, which the food absorbs and converts into heat. To determine the actual heating power, we can perform a simple experiment based on two measurements.

1. The temperature rise of a known amount of water placed into the microwave.
2. The time that the microwave spends heating the water.

Energy is the capacity to do work or cause heating. For example, *One calorie of energy raises the temperature of 1 ml of water by 1°C.*

When working with energy, the calorie has largely been replaced by the Joule. 1 calorie = 4.184 Joules. So, now we can say, 4.184 Joules can raise 1 ml of water by 1°C.

Power is the rate of energy transfer. For example, *One Joule of energy delivered every second equals one Watt of power.*

4.184 Joules per second (aka 1 calorie) would be 4.184 Watts. Therefore, we can say, *4.184 Watts applied for 1 second will raise 1 ml of water by 1°C.*

That means if we had a tiny 4.184-watt microwave oven and placed exactly 1 ml of water inside for exactly one second, the temperature would rise by 1°C. Conversely, if we placed 1 ml of water in a microwave for 1 second and the temperature increased by 1 °C, then we could infer that the oven is producing 4.184 Watts. This provides the relationship we need for our experiment.

Incidentally, the Calorie (uppercase C) used to determine food energy is actually 1000 times as large as the calorie (lowercase c) used here when discussing energy.

Real-World Application

Of course, a kitchen microwave is much more powerful—usually in the 600 to 1200 W range. To test it, we will scale the relationships accordingly. Here is how you can measure your microwave.



Items Needed

1. Something to precisely measure the amount of water to be heated. I used a 500 ml beaker.
2. A container to hold the water when it is in the microwave. I used a plastic bottle, but a Starbucks or McDonald's paper coffee cup might be an even better container.
3. An accurate thermometer that can be immersed in the water.

Add a small piece of cardboard to hold the thermometer in place, as shown above.

Making the Measurements

1. Measure out an amount of water – I used 500 ml
2. Measure its temperature before it goes into the microwave – my thermometer registered 66°F (18.9 °C)
3. Place it in the microwave for a set amount of time – I used 2 minutes.
4. Remove it from the microwave and immediately measure the temperature – I measured 140°F (60.0 °C)

This gives us a **Temperature Differential of 41.1 °C.**

NOTE: Do not put the thermometer in the microwave!

Calculation

Working from the fundamental equations above, I have derived the following formula that you can use based on the values in your setup. Make sure that you use the same units of measure – milliliters, °C, and seconds. The wattage provided by the microwave to heat the water is equal to:

$$\frac{4.184 \times \text{Volume of Water} \times \text{Temperature Differential}}{\text{Time in Seconds}}$$

Inserting the numbers that I obtained, shown in the Measurement section above, we get:

$$(4.184 \times 500 \text{ ml} \times 41.1 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) / 120 \text{ seconds} = 716 \text{ Watts}$$



My oven is rated at 900 Watts, so that was a lower value than I expected. However, I redid the experiment after removing the turntable and its support. The Temperature Differential was then 53.9 °C.

$$(4.184 \times 500 \text{ ml} \times 53.9 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}) / 120 \text{ seconds} = 939 \text{ Watts}$$

So, the power output of the oven is indeed slightly more than 900 Watts, but more than 200 Watts are absorbed by the turntable and its support mechanism.

Have fun measuring your microwave!

73,
Paul NO8D

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EST. 2005

PCARS is on YouTube

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



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

PCARS IO Group

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

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



PCARS Patches & Stickers

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

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



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

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE, INC
PCARS

Est. 2005

2025 3905 Century Club Eyeball Trip

Gene, W8NET



An Epic Journey to the 2025 3905 Century Club Eyeball in Guthrie, Oklahoma and BEYOND!



From August 12 to August 22, 2025, my friend David, WN1F, and I embarked on an adventure that would take us through 14 states to attend the much-anticipated 3905 Century Club Eyeball in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and beyond. This trip was more than just a destination; it was a celebration of camaraderie and friendship, exploration, and the love of ham radio.

Departure from Ohio

Before we traveled west, David drove from his home in Scarborough, ME, to my home in Brimfield (Kent), OH. That was a 11+ hour drive. I was also in communication with Kal, N1ABY, for his travel plans. Turns out he was heading to Kent way on Monday August 11th as well. Bonus! David and Kal arrived 20 minutes apart – incredible timing. We decided to go to Mike's Place for dinner (they were at Mike's Place at my 2022 Eyeball). Always a fan favorite with the Century Club. As well as my XYL, Jackie. The four of us relaxed and enjoyed Mike's great food!



Our journey began in Ohio on Tuesday, where the excitement was palpable as we loaded our vehicle with everything we would need for the road ahead. With our GPS coordinates, snacks, and radios in tow, David and I set off early on August 12, eager to see five plus days almost-flat driving (NOT!). Our first destination was at the Illinois-Indiana border.

On the way, we decided to visit a famous roadside attraction – Uranus Fudge Factory. I have heard about it before, but Brandon, KE8ARB, suggested it – as a joke. Well... just check out the photos. **[PICS: Uranus Fudge Factory]** It is WAY OVER THE TOP for the jokes and innuendos, but it is a fun place. On entering, you are greeted with "Welcome to Uranus! Can we pack your fudge for you?". Yep, here it goes. David and I bought some fudge and other items (I bought a pound of chocolate fudge for the Eyeball Raffle!) They have an incredible variety of fudge, candies, snacks, etc. And, the fudge was great! This is the kind of place you REALLY want to see ONCE. I'm pleased we did, and I will never visit it again!



However, I WILL order some fudge again – ONLINE!

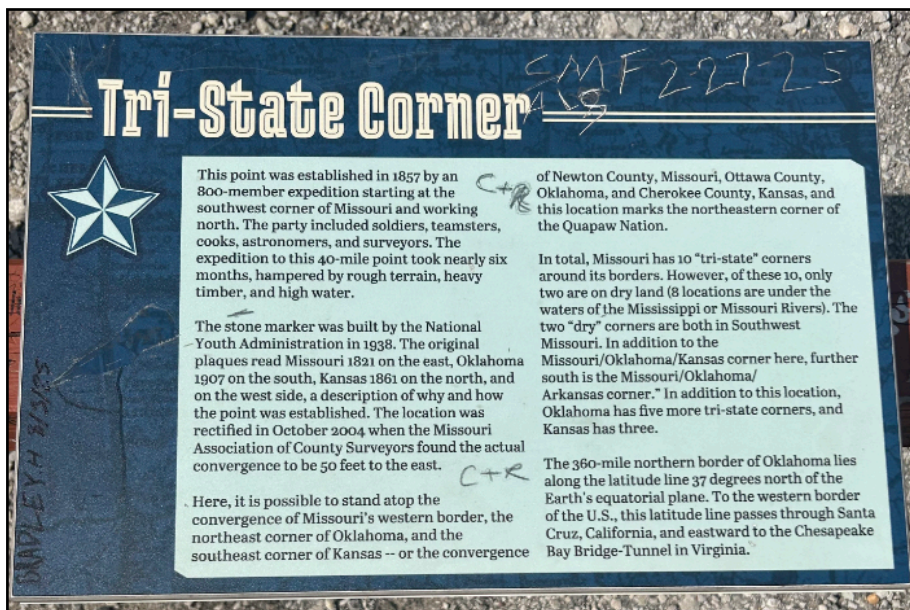
On to the IL/IN line. Our first stop was a preview of “things to come”. The conditions were good, and we called almost everyone on the net list. We had only a sprinkle from the big storm front. No problems. David’s mobile station is superb.



Journey through the Heartland

As we continued our westward trek, we entered the state of Missouri at St. Louis, crossing the Mississippi River. The last time I saw the Gateway Arch was in 1996. It's still there! Then, the scenery began to shift dramatically. The wide, open fields of golden wheat and corn stretched endlessly before us, creating a picturesque backdrop for our adventure. We took turns behind the wheel, engaging in lively conversations about our plans for the Century Club event, sharing anecdotes from previous ham radio gatherings, and discussing everything from childhood memories, to LD50 of various chemicals, to.... well, we had MANY hours to chat!

Our next stop was to the tri-point of KS/MO/OK. We could not find a close hotel at the tri-point (a very close casino was too pricey). We had time to scope out the tri-point, get a hotel 7 miles away, eat some dinner, and setup our station. Just when we were setting up, Clay, WA2JIM, arrived. We visited with Clay before the nets, and Clay used David's setup to check in to the 40m SSB net with us. Clay left after the 40m net, then David and I checked in to all the other nets that night. It was another huge glom of contacts on the tri-point!



Arrival in Guthrie, OK

Finally, after a long yet enjoyable drive, we arrived in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Our four-day stay was dedicated to immersing ourselves in the festivities surrounding the 3905 Century Club Eyeball. The town itself was a delightful blend of charm and history, boasting quaint streets lined with well-preserved buildings. After checking into our accommodations, we quickly connected with fellow ham radio enthusiasts, exchanging stories and forging new friendships that would last well beyond the event.

My wife and best friend Jackie had only a few days off vacation time left. But, she really wanted to go the Eyeball. So, we arranged to get flight on Thursday and Sunday. Tom, AA1NZ, and his XYL Karen were connecting to the same flight in Charlotte, NC as Jackie. And, Jackie's flight back to CLE on Sunday was 70 minutes after Tom and Karen's flight. Thank you, Tom and Karen!



The Eyeball was nothing short of spectacular, gathering dozens of radio operators from across the nation and Canada. Our host Clay, WA6LBU, did an outstanding job putting it together. We participated in a series of engaging activities, including insightful discussions, the QRP Nets, Great food, the big Raffle, and, of course, numerous opportunities to connect on the airwaves.

On Saturday afternoon, we had our “Annual Meeting” for the club. Many awards and certificates were presented, too many to itemize. But, the presentation of the new Masters is always something special. Byron, N8BF (#81), Marty, AG5T (#82), Jeff, K4JEL (#83), and Mac, W6PNY (#84) were beaming (and rightly so) as the spotlight was on them. Congrats for the highest achievement in the club.



And, course, they were in the obligatory “Master’s Photo”! The group photo is – left to right by ascending Master number – are Jimmy, N5OHL, Bill, N3WD, Gene, W8NET, Craig, VE3CMB, Dwight, WF4H, David, WN1F, Kirk, AA1NA, Eric, AA0HF, Mike, KU1V, Dean, KL7OR, Byron, N8BF, Marty, AG5T, Jeff, K4JEL, and Mac, W6PNY. This was the largest group of Masters in one place, ever!



Each night – after the Eyeball festivities were done – Dave and Debbie , AI4K and K9DBB, gathered many to the front of the Holiday Inn Express (most attendees were staying there) for MORE conversation, camaraderie, adult pops, etc. I know many were up until 1;30am+ (and then I went to bed!). No one wanted to leave.

The warmth and camaraderie of the 3905 Century Club were invigorating, and we savored every moment spent among like-minded individuals who shared our passion for the club. It IS family.

Discovering Beyond Guthrie

While our primary focus was the Eyeball event, we also took advantage of the opportunity to explore the surrounding areas. A group of Century Club Master Award holders decided to go to Four Corners (AZ/CO/NM/UT) after the Eyeball. However, with different paths: David and I, together with Mac, W6PNY, decided to venture out to Santa Fe, the state capital of New Mexico. Craig, VE3CMB, decided to go to the NM/TX line, as he had not worked TX before. Kirk, AA1NA, and Dean, KL7OR, (3905 Century Club President) decided to go to Denver, state capital of CO.

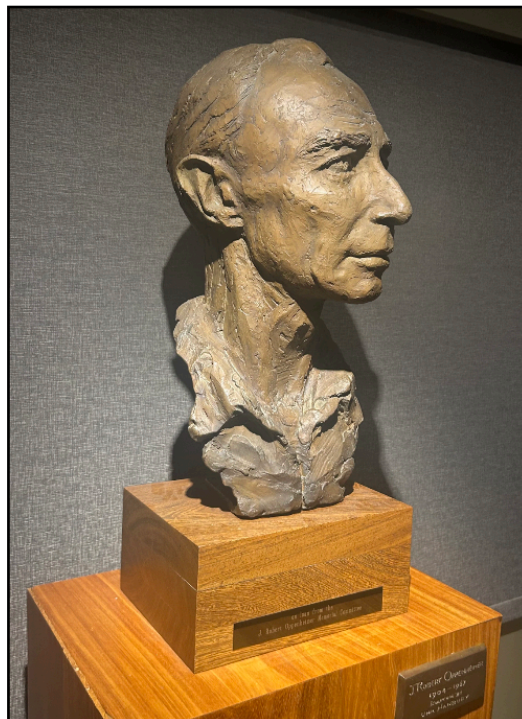
Mac, David and I had a relaxing drive from Guthrie, through the western part of OK, to NM and then took a right-hand turn at Albuquerque (homage to Bugs Bunny) to the state capital. Santa Fe's vibrant art scene and distinctive adobe architecture is stunning. We just got a glimpse of Santa Fe. The last time I was in Santa Fe was in 1992, visiting my son Chris who was living there with my ex. It's a fantastic city.

Since we had time to relax, David, Mac and I went to an outstanding Mexican restaurant, Adelitas. Great food and great service. AND, I ate one of my favorite Mexican dishes, Torta de Lengua (diced, slow-roasted beef tongue in a sandwich!). YUMMMM!

Then, we played radio at the motel parking lot in the state cap! Another large sum of contacts for all of us!

A Couple "Bucket List" Items

I always wanted to go to Los Alamos, NM to see the Museum and other historic places. We had another 6+ hours of driving to go to Four Corners. So, we had 45-60mins to visit Los Alamos. Not even close to enough time. However, we made the best of it.



Los Alamos is beautiful – a picture perfect town. The Museum is outstanding, but not large. And, we saw the Fuller Lodge as well. I really want to see Oppenheimer’s home and other sites, but no time. The whole place was dripping with history. I’m a history buff for the Manhattan Project. However, I was very surprised (and pleased) that they played ice hockey on the town pond in 1943! We were very happy that we went out of our way to see it.

After we left Los Alamos, he had another 4.5 hour drive to Four Corners. Northwest New Mexico is stunning. Beautiful mountains, mesas and buttes. And desolate. The fastest route was 2-lane roads – some very narrow. But, all well paved. David drove the whole way to Four

Corners – I enjoyed the scenery and the ride. Kirk, AA1NA, made reservations for all 6 of us at the Ute Mountain Hotel Casino in CO. Very nice place. We arrived 30 minutes before Kirk and Dean. Then, Craig, VE3CMB, arrived 20 minutes later. Our good friend “Yukon John”, KL7JR, (he was there recently) suggested that the hotel/casino has a great buffet for dinner and breakfast. And it was. PERFECT for us because our limited time. Thanks Yukon!



AND THEN, Four Corners Monument: the only place in the United States where the borders of four states—Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah—meet. As we had only 25 minute to prepare for the nets, we did not do the tour of Four Corners. We DID park in the adjacent open lot just before the sign for Four Corners. **[PIC: Four Corners sign]** The rugged beauty of the Southwest surrounded us, providing a stunning backdrop that will remain etched in our memories.

If you are new to the Century Club, some explanation is in order. Any operator / state combination counts as a QSO, or contact. Each operator can use one club callsign and one Special Event (SE) callsign. So, if I’m W8NET/M NM with NN0PE/M NM and N5O/M NM, and someone calls me, that is ONE call for THREE QSO’s (or, 3 QSL’s as confirmations).

If I’m on the border of IL/IN, it’s 6 QSO’s

If on the tri-point of IA/MN/SD, it’s 9 QSO’s

If at Four Corners, it 12 QSO’s!

Ok, think about this: If I’m at Four Corners with club and SE, and if I call Kirk, AA1NA also at Four Corners, I will receive how many QSL’s – FOR EACH NET?

FORTY-EIGHT! (48)

Of course, I also have to SEND 48 for each net. And, we did 4 nets. AND we had 6 of us. So, I would send (and receive) $48 \times 5 \times 4 = 960$ QSL's for one night ONLY for the other 5 guys at Four Corners. AND, of course – many others called us as well!

The word MASSIVE is an understatement. It was an epic effort. And were very lucky. Three days prior, a big corona hole/coronal mass ejection (CME) hit. The forecast was that it would affecting propagation on the night of 8/19 or early 8/20 (local). The propagation gods were smiling on us: it hit just after dawn on the 20th and done by net time 20th evening. The conditions were very good. It was perfect.

LOS ALAMOS and FOUR CORNERS: TWO ITEMS ON MY BUCKET LIST DONE!

Scenic Return Journey

After our adventures in Four Corners, we got a good night's sleep. We needed it! Breakfast was at 7:30am. We all needed to fuel up for our different routes. Kirk and Dean were going to the UT state cap. Craig was going east. Mac, David and I were heading to the NE/WY line. This was our longest segment of driving: 13 hours 45 min. AND, it was the most scenic segment. David drove first. Southeast Utah and southwest Colorado are stunning, with with red sandstone buttes and mesas. I asked David to let me drive through the mountains, because I learned to drive in the mountains in WV, and I REALLY LOVE IT! I had drove that segment before, many years ago. I'm sorry I did not take many photos though the mountains – I was very busy. If you have driven that segment of I-70 through the Rockies, you understand. If not – especially if you are a "flatlander" - it's not good for the faint of heart. The views (and the road) are breathtaking. David survived my driving, with (apparently) no ill effect. THANK YOU, DAVID, for allowing me to drive your awesome truck!

The route after Denver is almost flat in comparison. Some rolling hills and expansive vistas reminding us of the true beauty of America. We found a great place for the NE/WY line. It was a church parking lot, ~150 yards from the line. We were late for the 40m Early Net because of loooong drive. However, conditions on 75m were outstanding. **[PIC: statue of the Virgin Mary]** Mac, David and I worked the 75m Early, 40m Late, and the 75m Late nets.

In the morning, we said "bye" to Mac. He had another 10 hours+ for home. And, we wanted to get to the IA/MN/SD tri-point before the next night's nets. I have been to South Dakota, but only in their big cities. We did a more direct route to the tri-point: US routes, state roads, etc. I was very surprised how different it is compared to Nebraska. VAST cattle ranches; wheat, wheat, wheat; patches of "Badlands-esque". We then crossed into the Iowa-Minnesota-South Dakota region, where the lush greenery of the countryside provided a refreshing contrast to the arid landscapes we had recently explored. 8.5 hr drive was comparatively easy. We made it to the tri-point with time to spare.



We even had time for dinner at Denny's! And, one more time, we had a huge amount of contacts through the night.



One of our delightful stops was in Madison, Wisconsin, state capital. This was the shortest segment that we drove – from Sioux Falls to Madison – 6.5 hours. This brief interlude was a perfect way to recharge before continuing our journey back to Ohio. I found a place that 250+ 5-star reviews for dinner, with good prices. We decided to try it. Hotco Fresh Noodle Company. It was in an Asian marketplace. I was thinking “Yikes! Hmmm..” Well, we still tried it. It was exceptional! The serving was huge. They make the noodle FRESH, with incredible flavor in their sauces. David got the beef. I got the shrimp. Thumbs up all the way!

Back to the hotel and the nets. We were busy making contacts from the WI capital throughout the night.

The Run to Ohio and Home

We still had 8.5 hours to get to Kent, OH. The big monster in the way? CHICAGO AREA AND ITS TRAFFIC. There is no getting around it. I lived in the Chicago area for 17 years. The “GPS-way” routed us to Downtown through the Dan Ryan Expressway to the Skyway. WRONG WRONG WRONG!!! Instead, we used the Tri State Tollway. WAY better, WAY safer, and WAY, WAY faster. David drove, with my route guidance.

Done.

We took a break for lunch in South Bend, IN, home of Notre Dame. Who would think that South Bend would have a few Irish pubs in downtown? Ummmm... Well, we found one – The Fiddler's Hearth. **[PIC: Fiddler's Hearth]** It was fantastic! Don't remember what David got, but I got a brisket burger. That was one of best burger I have ever tasted. Perfectly done (medium rare), and a PILE of hand cut fries. It was huge. I couldn't eat it in one sitting (have you eaten a “breakfast burger” before?).



Food, fuel, and a change of driver. David relaxed for the home stretch. He was planning to do a few hour more after I was home. All easy to Ohio and home.



Conclusion

All told, I made 7527 contacts for the journey, in 14 states, 2 state caps, 2 2-state lines, 3 tri-points (including Four Corners). **[PIC: NetLogger 7527]** David had a similar number. And, many, many others. Why? Are we good operators? Maybe. Did the conditions help? Some. Did we have great stations? Maybe. But, two other thing greatly contributed to our success:

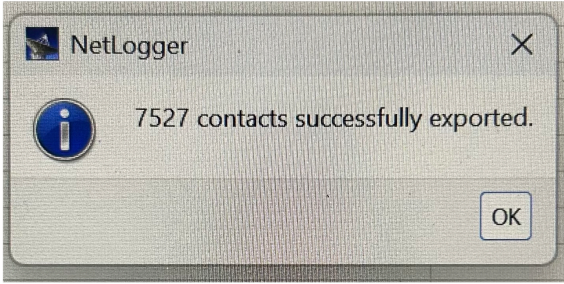
- Our club president, Dean, KL7OR, tried something different for 2 weeks surrounding the Eyeball. He instituted a “modified rodeo style” net, in which everyone has a chance to call as many operators that they can in 30 seconds. This was revolutionary. AND IT WORKED WELL! Thank you Dean (and the other who cogitated it and made it work).

- The other HUGE part of EVERYONE’S success – maybe the biggest part - was our incredible Net Control Stations. They were ALL fantastic! NCS’s, YOU made the “modified rodeo nets” work. You know who you are – take a well deserved, deep bow!

One more thing I need to say – about my travel partner, David, WN1F. I knew David somewhat well for many years. But, that’s different than being with someone 4 feet away for 11 days. David is a great guy, a fantastic operator (maybe one of THE best), a true gentleman and consider him one of my closest friends. As Bob Hope was fond of saying, David, “thanks for the memories”. (as an aside, we are talking about doing another Eyeball trip next year... stand by for more later!)

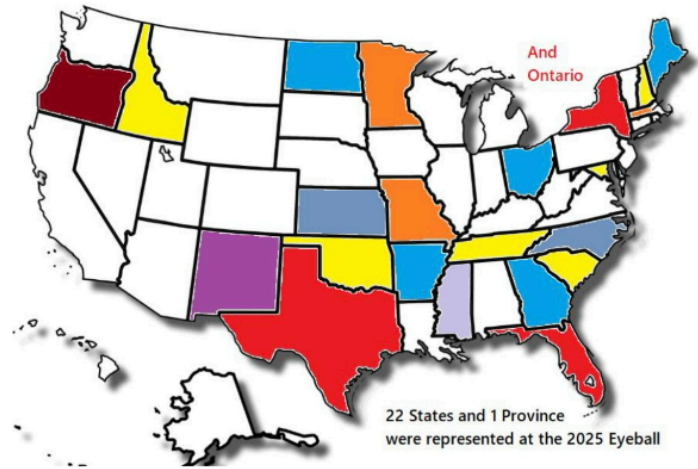
As we arrived back in Ohio on August 22 at 6:20pm, we couldn’t help but reflect on the incredible journey we had just undertaken. The 3905 Century Club Eyeball in Guthrie was more than just an event; it was a profound experience that deepened our friendship and connected us again with our great Century Club members. Our 14-state adventure was filled with laughter, exploration, and the thrill of discovery. It’s a journey that will be etched in our hearts and minds for years to come, a testament to the joy of friendship and the excitement of adventure on the open road.

73 de W8NET, Gene



I colored in a map to show where 3905 members came ...

[See more](#)



K8BF Net News

Greg KA8TOA
Net Control Coordinator



Here are the Net assignments for the rest of this year. Thanks in advance!

Oct. 2: WB8LCD; Oct. 9: N8QE; Oct. 16: N8WCP; Oct. 23: N8SKN;
Oct. 30: K8CAV;

Nov. 6: KD8WCK; Nov. 13: KE8ARB; Nov 20: KF8ADQ; Nov. 27: **No Net**

Dec. 4: KA8TOA; Dec. 11: KE8BWD; Dec. 18: N8WCP; Dec. 25: **No Net**

Jan. 1 ,2026: **No Net**

DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Just a brief report on our latest DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting that took place at 7PM on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



We had 7 members in attendance to discuss our latest efforts in our participation in the Washington State Salmon Run. A report on our efforts is located elsewhere in this Radiogram. But I wanted to take another opportunity to thank those who came out to sit in the op position chairs to make this outing the success that it was. No matter how we end up officially, I am proud of our effort. We nearly tripled our score from last year. That took a lot of work with the bands not at their best.

So a tip of my hat to the 10 members who made this happen.

We also discussed the upcoming California QSO Party that takes place on Oct 4-5. Yes, it's that close. We have historically done very, very well in this contest and I trust that we will put forth another great effort this time. I will be sending out full information on this event in the very near future.

For now, 73 and hope to see a lot of you the weekend of Oct. 4 - 5.

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

Killer Project

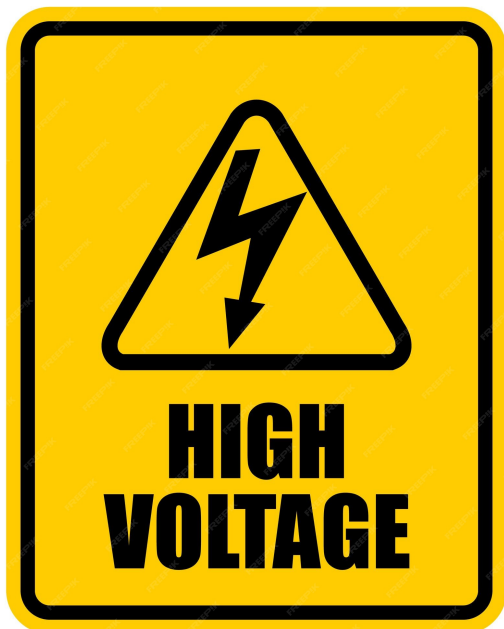
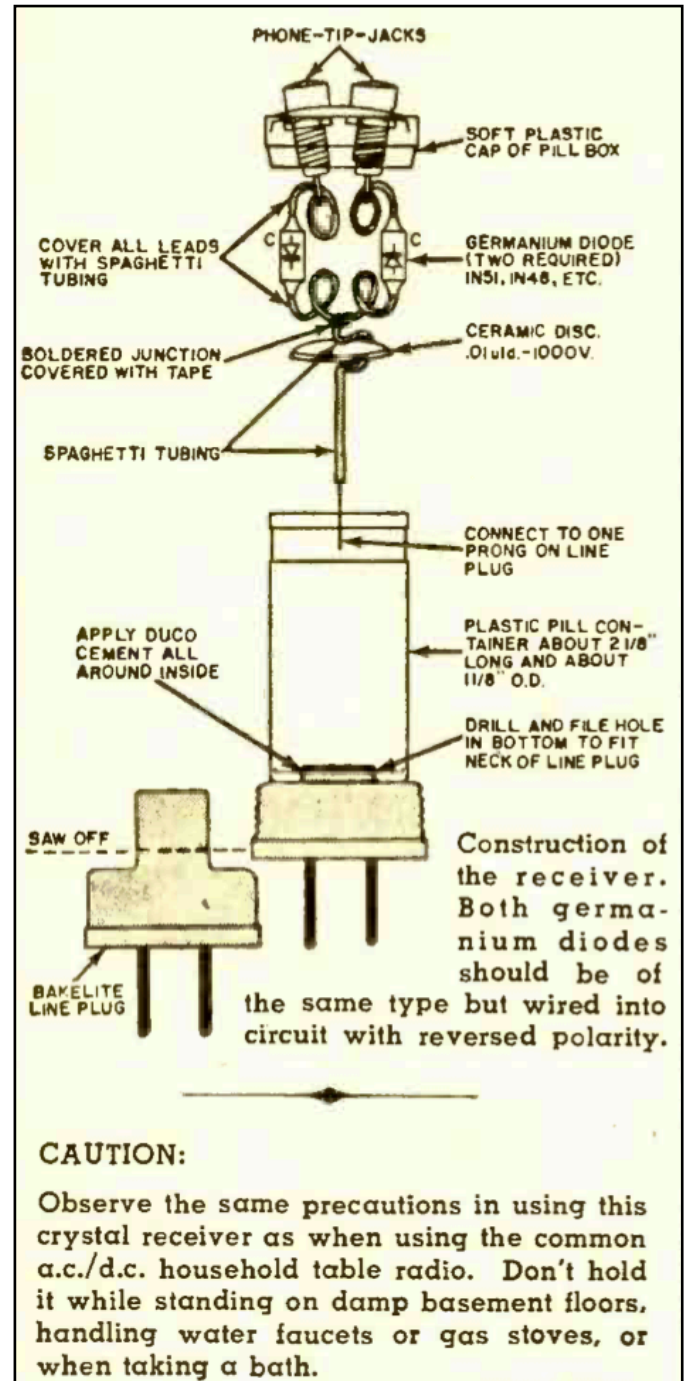
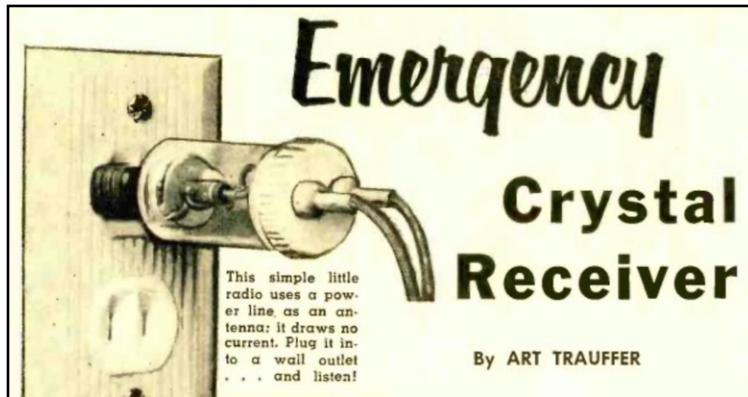
Jim, AC8NT



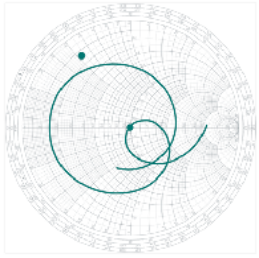
What could go wrong with this project?

This design for trouble was published in a 1956 Popular Electronics. I was getting this magazine that year but never tried this project. Maybe my dad tore it out before I had a chance to try it. Imagine plugging your headphones into an outlet. I love crystal radio circuits, but this “killer” project is one of the most dangerous.

Don't try this at home boys and girls!!



Antenna Special Interest Group



Jim, AC8NT
Antenna SIG Coordinator



Our next Antenna SIG will be held at PCARS World HQ on October 21st at 7PM. We will be continuing with our discussion of antenna tuning. This month we will be looking at SIMNEC as a tool. You might want to look at a good video tutorial at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6cjUXEIC4w>

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!

Our next POTA SIG meeting will be on Tuesday September 9th @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

We will discuss the OSPOTA operation, last weekend plans, and thoughts about the future events including JOTA in October.

Please join us in Ravenna, or on Zoom.

73 de W8NET, Gene

Gene, W8NET
POTA SIG Coordinator



Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites



Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"

Greetings to all DXers:

Welcome to October and the first days of Autumn.

I just read where someone said we are in the waning days of Cycle 25. Well, I have not noticed that as of yet. It seems the bands are still full of DX and 10 and 15 meters are still opening with many very strong signals. But we know that the end of this cycle is coming. So those of you who are interested in DX (otherwise you would just skip over my articles) keep getting on the air and working DX whenever you hear it. If you have made some friends around the world that you have regularly talked to, don't let the opportunities to have QSOs with them pass by. At some point you may not be able to have a ragchew with them for many years to come until Cycle 26 starts.

And for some of us codgers, we may not be around for the next one. So take the advantage NOW!

There are many DX events scheduled so let's see what the bands have in store for us in the near future.

As always, big Thank You to: DL5ON; The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, 425 DX News, DXNL

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

October...

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.

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

5X, UGANDA. Pista, HA5AO will be active as 5X2I from Uganda, until 10 October 2025.

He will operate on 40 - 10m, CW, SSB, FT8, using FT710 transceiver with KPA500 amplifier and DX Commander antenna. QSL via OQRS on ha5ao website. CW - 3527, 7007, 10107, 14027, 18077, 21027, 24897 and 28027 KHz; SSB - 7090, 14145, 18130, 21285, 24955 and 28485 KHz; FT8 - 3567, 7056, 10131, 14091, 18091, 21091, 24911, 28091 and 50313 KHz.

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

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

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.

C5Y, GAMBIA. C5Y Team will be active from Gambia, 23 - 29 October 2025. Team - PC3M, PA3EYC, PA3GRM, PA4UUS, PA2LO. They will operate on HF Bands, CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, including activity in CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 25 - 26 October 2025. QSL via PH3T direct, LOTW.

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

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

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

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

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

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

OE, AUSTRIA. Special event call sign OE100OEVSV is QRV until December 31, 2025 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Austrian Amateur Radio Society. QSL via bureau.

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. QSL via home call buro, direct, LOTW, eQSL.

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

SM, SWEDEN. Members of the Swedish Amateur Radio Association will be QRV with special call signs SB100SSA, SC100SSA, SD100SSA, SE100SSA, SF100SSA, SM100SSA, 7S100SSA, and 8S100SSA until October 12 to commemorate more than 100 years of Amateur Radio in Sweden. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, FT8, and FT4. QSL via operators' instructions.

TZ, MALI. Jeff, K1MMB will be QRV as TZ4AM through December. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. Look for the TZ4AM/B beacon on 50050.5 kHz. QSL via KX4R.

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.

VK9, CHRISTMAS IS. Janusz Wegrzyn, SP9FIH will be active as VK9/SP9FIH from Christmas Island, IOTA OC - 002, until 3 October 2025. He will operate on 30 - 10m, SSB, FT8. QSL via home call, ClubLog OQRS.

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

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

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN. Diya, Y11DZ, is back in Juba and QRV as Z81D mostly during his weekends. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

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...

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

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

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

TZ, MALI. Jeff, K1MMB, is QRV as TZ4AM until December. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. Look for the TZ4AM/B beacon on 50050.5 kHz. QSL via KX4R.

V6, MICRONESIA. A group of operators will be QRV as V6D from Chuuk Island, IOTA OC-011, until October 6. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters with five stations using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via DL4SVA.

V7, MARSHALL ISLANDS. John, K5GDE, is QRV as V73WW from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, until January 2026. He is active on 40 to 10 meters using FT8. QSL to home call.

YI, IRAQ. Antonio, IZ5WPZ, is QRV as YI9WPZ until the end of November 2025. QSL to home call.

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 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! There's still a lot going on in the next couple of months.

So, get on the air and work some DX!!

As I always say, "Wobble the ethers."

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



Washington State Salmon Run

PCARS Contesters and Friends:

Just a brief report on our efforts in the Washington State Salmon Run (their state QSO Party).

On Sept. 20-21, the Black Squirrel Contest Group of PCARS, put K8BF on the air in Washington state's QSOP. In all, 10 members showed up at various times to sit in the OP chairs and try their hand at getting contacts with various Washington stations.

Here are the results of our efforts:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Contacts:	155	77
QSO Pts:	398	-
Multipliers:	35	24
Score w/bonus	14,930 pts	5820 pts

Of course the above is a raw score, but it still is pretty good considering we came in first last year in our category with just over 5820 pts. So we shall see where we place in their contest for 2025. However we did, I want to thank the members who showed up to sit in the op chairs and help us give a good showing in this contest. They did a great job.

73 to all,
Chuck W8PT

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG
Coordinator



Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

Greetings all!

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

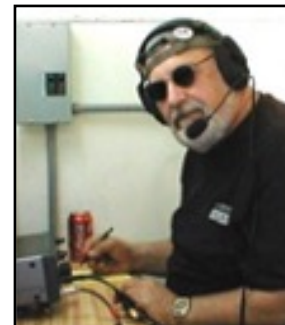
Details will be sent later in a QST.

ALSO, because of the enormous response this SIG, we are planning to do a regular "every-other-month" workshop. Since our SIG meets on EVEN months, we will do the workshop every ODD month. Last month, we had a nice group, doing Linux installations and playing with Raspberry Pi.

Gene, W8NET
Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator



Charlie the Tuner's October 2025 Contest Update



Chuck, W8PT
aka "Charlie the Tuner"

Greetings to My Fellow PCARS Contesters and anyone else interested in Contesting:
K8BF Scheduled Contests for 2025

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

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

In October we have the following:

California QSOP	Oct. 4-5
Nevada QSOP	Oct 11-12
Arizona QSOP	Oct 11-12
Pennsylvania QSOP	Oct 11-12
South Dakota QSOP	Oct 11-12
New York QSOP	Oct 18-19
Illinois QSOP	Oct 19-20

Other contests include:

QRP ARCI Fall QSOP	Oct 11
10-10 International Fall Contest, CW	Oct 18-19
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Oct 18-19
CQ WW DX Contest	Oct 25-26

Come on out to the club site and help us put K8BF on the air during the California QSO Party. We always have fun and enjoy fellowship with our fellow PCARS members. And as always, we really could use a few CW ops.

So that's it for this month. 73 for now, Charlie the Contest Tuner.

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

Mark Your Calendar!

PCARS October 2025 Schedule of Events

October 6th	PCARS Board Meeting
October 4th	VE Test Session
October 13th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
October 18th	JOTA 2025 - Scouts On The Air
October 23rd	Net Night At The Club

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

1st Tuesday Odd Months	Digital Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV
1st Tuesday Even Months	Linux & Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
2nd Tuesday	Portable Ops Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET
3rd Tuesday	Antenna Special Interest Group - Moderator: 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

10/04 - Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club Hamfest -
Lima, OH
<https://www.nwoarc.com/>

10/11 - Williams County ARA Hamfest
Montpelier, OH

10/12 - Ashland Trinkfest - Ashland, OH

11/02 - 2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS - N. Canton, OH
<http://www.w8np.net/>

11/08 - Grant Amateur Radio Club Hamfest - ABCAP building in Georgetown, OH
<https://grantamateurradioclub.yolasite.com/>

12/6 - FCARC Winter Hamfest - Delta, OH
<https://k8bxq.org/hamfest>



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*.

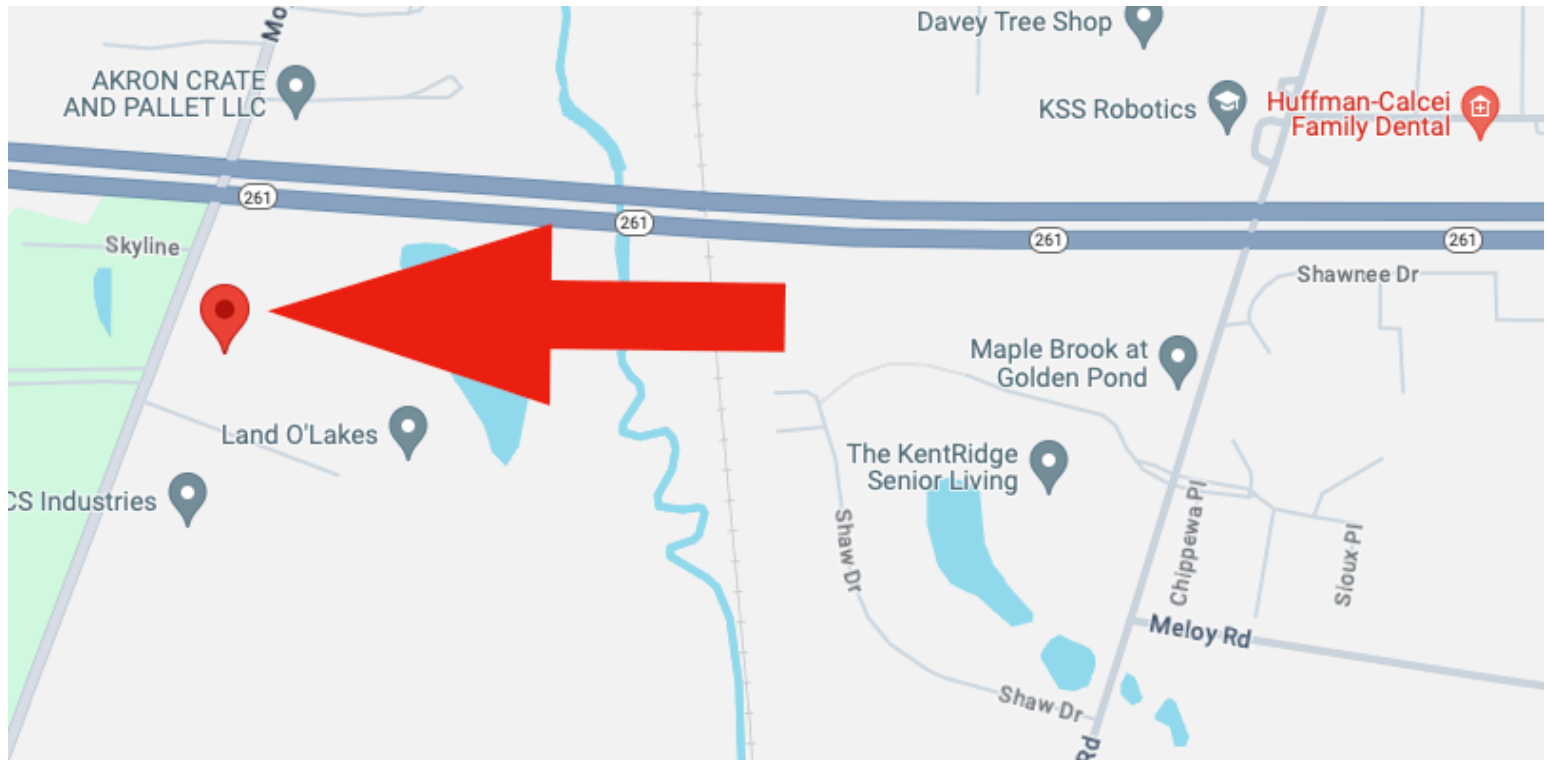
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at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

- 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/cores/>

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

October already? I could feel it while walking the dog in the morning, but I was able to see my breath recently and that means it's time to get to the park as much as I can for POTA activations and I need to check on my antenna to make sure it's ready for when the snow flies. Or ready for the leaf blower at the very least. It's been a great summer on the air around these parts and I don't look forward to the longer nights, but, as in every year, it brings some different opportunities. I've got a couple of things on the workbench that have been waiting for some indoor time. Maybe I'll get a few knocked out.

Are there projects you're checking off the list before the snow flies? Tell us about it!

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

**AC8NT, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, NO8D,
W8NET, W8PT, WA8LRW, 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.



Your Editor's setup for OSPOTA 2025 from his camper in Salt Fork State Park. What a blast!

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

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

PCARS Incorporated
Nov. 1, 2005

First Meeting
Nov. 14, 2005



ARRL Affiliation
April 20, 2006



Special Service Club
March 22, 2010

THE RADIOGRAM

The RADIOGRAM copyright ©2025, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS). The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - Fourth Place 2024 - Third Place 2015, 2022 - Second Place 2014, 2016, 2020 - First Place 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023. ARRL Great Lakes Division Newsletter - Second Place 2013 - First Place in the 2017, 2020 and 2021.

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

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

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