



# The **RADIOGRAM**

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

PCARS - 2018 Hamvention® Club of the Year

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 09 - SEPTEMBER 2025

# 20TH ANNIVERSARY - 2005 - 2025



**PCARS K8BF**

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



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# The RADIOGRAM

Volume 20 - September 2025 - Number 09

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## From The PCARS President

**Jim, AC8NT**  
PCARS President



August was a lot of fun. Two major operate and eat events at the club. First, was our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary followed quickly by the Ohio BBQSO party. The anniversary event was great fun. However, the bands did not cooperate. Solar activity shut down almost everything. The BBQSO party had much better propagation. These events highlight the fun we can have at our club site. We need to remember just how lucky we are to have our great site.

September will also be busy. We have OSPOTA and the Kent State Aero Expo on Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup>. Both great events. More on OSPOTA elsewhere in the newsletter. The Aero Expo will be held at Kent State Airport from 8 AM until 4 PM. We will have a booth with various radio equipment including my POTA rig up and running. Other things to see include various aircraft and the Goodyear blimp manned by a crew that graduated from Kent. If you are not taking part in OSPOTA maybe, you can come out to the Expo.

Also in September, I will be visiting several college clubs to check on their status. This includes clubs at Kent State, Akron and Mt. Union. These clubs always have issues at the start of the year. Members from last year graduate; some leave the university and others change schools. This makes managing these club "interesting". I will be spending some quality time recruiting new members. These clubs are necessary for us to grow our hobby and provide some seriously need young blood.

The September monthly meeting will host Ward Silver N0AX discussing EndFed antennas. We are still working to have some college clubs discuss their activities at the October meeting.

It is that time of year we start asking for members to think about running for office. Remember our elections are held at the November meeting. Please consider helping by running for office. We need candidates for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Trustee. We are also looking for help with the Digital and DX Contesting SIGs. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these positions.

Have fun enjoying Fall on the air!



# PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



## Happy Birthday PCARS Members

WD8BIW	Karen
KE8JUJ	Nicholas
WB2RPW	Gary
KA8OAT	Richard
AC8NT	Jim
NT8K	Bob

KD8JRE	Michael
KF8CCX	Dan
KE8SMS	Kim
W8AHC	Ronald
KD8PBL	Richard
W8IFM	William

KD8WBC	Don
W8DMP	Donna
W8HFZ	Tim
N8KBX	Bob
KD8FME	Jim



## Congratulations KE8LWO

### At the Foundation

## ARRL Foundation Presents the 2025 Scholarship Recipients

The ARRL Foundation is pleased to present the students selected to receive scholarship awards for 2025. Scholarships are made possible through the generosity of individuals and clubs. This year, 170 scholarships totaling more than \$800,000 were awarded. The ARRL Foundation Board of Directors offers these amateur radio operators best wishes for continued success as they pursue their college degrees. The 2026 application period is expected to open in October 2025. For more information, please visit [www.arrl.org/scholarship-program](http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program).

Published in the September 2025 QST magazine



**Bernadette  
Wagner, KE8LWO**  
The Quarter  
Century Wireless  
Association,  
Inc. (QCWA)  
Scholarship





Well, it's that time again; the kiddos are heading back to school, County fairs are in full swing, and we're looking forward to Autumn.

So far, August has been a whirlwind of various things; camping trips, POTA activations, the Ohio QSO Party, and being happy that the lawn isn't growing for the time being. Still, it's been kind of a relaxing month.

This won't last though. Now that the OHQP is over, it's time to look ahead to OSPOTA. BTW, Did you know that this is the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for OSPOTA? That's right; in 2008 PCARS rolled out OSPOTA #1. I wasn't there for that one, not drinking the Kool-Aid until 2010. But it's fair to say that I've made up for lost time.

This year, you can participate in OSPOTA by joining us at Wingfoot Lake State Park on September 6<sup>th</sup>, as we participate, and have some fun (A separate article will be elsewhere in this issue). Mark that date on your calendar and stop by.

Once OSPOTA is done, the log submission window goes on for 2 weeks, and then log-checking begins in earnest. My goal this year is to finish my part of it before the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October. That weekend, some friends & I have been heading up to Sigel PA for more years than I can count. While we don't work the entire contest, much fun is had.

With that, I'll close out this month's installment. I may skip next month, so I'll plan to be back in October.  
73 DE WG8X



## PCARS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event Station

*Parky, KB8UUZ*



PCARS held a Special Event Station on-the-air August 9<sup>th</sup> at the club site. Along with the special event, there was a cook-out and open house. Attendance was good an estimated 60 people showed up. It was a bit warm outside, but no rain to dampen anything.



The bands were not really cooperative, but we managed to make 113 contacts. Members were invited to get on the air to make contacts and the radio room was busy all day. We were on the air from 10 am until 6 pm.

The 'Grill Masters' Bob, N8QE and Mike KB8TUY cooked up burger, hot dogs and brats. Members brought side dishes and there was plenty of great food to go around. If you left there hungry, it was your own fault.

The operators that made contacts were:

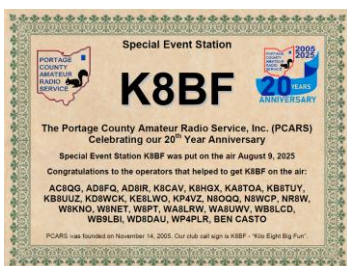
**AD8FQ - 28, AD8IR - 24, N8OQQ - 16, NR8W - 15, KB8TUY - 11, N8QE - 5, KB8UUZ - 3, N8WCP - 3, KA8TOA - 2, KD8WCK - 2, AC8QG - 1, K8CAV/BEN - 1, WB9LBI - 1, and WP4PLR - 1.**



The most fun contact I saw is when Rick, K8CAV was helping his grandson Ben Casto make a contact. Ben and his sister were there with Rick and Rick figured they would just want to get a hot dog and then leave. But Ben said to his grandfather - 'no, let's not go yet, I want to make a contact on the radio'. Rick was surprised and they sat down at the radio. Rick's smile and Ben's attention was just great to watch. Ben could not reach the PTT Pedal, so Rick had to use the PTT button on the radio while listening to the QSO. He was prompting Ben on what to say. It took a bit and I must say the station that they worked (KE8TQR in Uniontown, OH) on 15 meters was really being patient during the exchanges. Ben made it finally and his smile said it all - **Lots of Fun!**

Everyone that sat and made, or tried to make, contacts during this special event were awarded a really nice certificate at the PCARS meeting the following Monday. The members that qualified for the certificate were:

**AC8QG, AD8FQ, AD8IR, K8CAV, K8HGX, KA8TOA, KB8TUY, KB8UUZ, KD8WCK, KE8LWO, KP4VZ, N8OQQ, N8WCP, NR8W, W8KNO, W8NET, W8PT, WA8LRW, WA8UWV, WB8LCD, WB9LBI, WD8DAU, WP4PLR and BEN CASTO.** A copy of the certificate will be



hung up on the club wall for all to see.



This was a great day full of fun for all that attended. A lot of planning went into this and there were a number of members that were behind the scenes to make this a great club activity. I want to thank each and every member that helped make this a successful and fun day for PCARS members. After all, we are known as "Kilo Eight Big Fun" and that was true during this PCARS event.

20 years ..... where does the time go. Seems like just last week PCARS was started.



## Photos from the PCARS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event Day



**PCARS**  
**August 9, 2025**





August 9, 2025



## ***DX Engineering Coax & Crimp Tool Day***

DX Engineering has been a long-time supporter of PCARS. If you stop in at DX Engineering on September 9th, let them know you are from PCARS.

***Saturday, 9/13 • 10 am-12 pm***

# **Coax & Crimp Tool Demo**



**Located Inside the DX Engineering Showroom at the Summit Racing Equipment Super Store in Tallmadge.**

- » Check Out the Latest Radios & New Products
- » See How the DXE Tools Work & Try Them Yourself
- » Open Box Deals
- » Additional In-Store-Only Specials
- » Get Technical Advice
- » This is a FREE Event

**DX<sup>®</sup>**  
**ENGINEERING**



## Youth Ham Radio Insights—How Amateur Radio Clubs Can Help Young Operators

**Katie Campbell, KE8LQR**



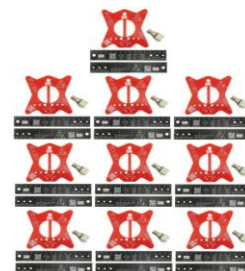
During my six years in amateur radio, I've been involved with numerous clubs and organizations, from small local groups to those with members worldwide. Each one I've been part of has helped me in innumerable ways—everything from learning CW to recruiting new young hams. These clubs have supported me with each and every one of my goals.

While a number of clubs and organizations already have some sort of youth program in place, having one isn't necessary to support young people in the hobby. It can be as simple as offering to explain a technical concept or bit of jargon to them. If your local club doesn't currently have a youth program arranged, starting one isn't challenging, especially if your club already has members or even just attendees from a younger demographic. The most challenging part is usually finding young hams to be involved with the club and/or program!

Plenty of clubs that already have youth programs have a framework they're willing to share, or they can provide advice and some tips on what has worked and what hasn't. There are many youth-focused amateur radio organizations that have hosted youth events or programs that could be easily replicated.

A few examples of youth programs and activities include a foxhunt (a very popular activity for getting young people into amateur radio), a kit-building workshop (also a very popular option, and immensely beneficial for young hams who may not have the budget for or access to equipment), or hosting an open club shack for a contest or operating event.

Editor's note: [DX Engineering Single-Band Low Power Dipole Kits](#), available as a single or in packs of 10 or 25, make a fun, simple, and practical kit-building activity for youth and adult amateur radio club members. (Image/DX Engineering)



The [Portage County Amateur Radio Service \(PCARS\)](#) gave youngsters the opportunity to build a "tape measure" antenna for use during a foxhunt. (Image/PCARS)

These ideas can help with retention of already-licensed young hams, but there are options that could be tailored to young people who are not licensed. Examples include having a [GOTA \(Get On The Air\) station](#) at the club's Field Day or just in general, hosting youth licensing classes where the material is broken down and explained in a more easily comprehensible manner, and holding an "Intro to Amateur Radio" session with a few workshops that would



be manageable for unlicensed young people—and their parents!



Amateur radio clubs like the Portage County Amateur Radio Service set up GOTA stations during Field Day to give non-hams of all ages a taste of the magic of ham radio. (Image/PCARS)

Making sure that parents are always included or, at a minimum, invited to activities for youth or at other club functions and programs is vital to having a successful youth contingent in your club. Many of the parents that may accompany their children are not involved with or are unaware of what amateur radio is, so making the information graspable for those without an interest or technical/amateur radio background is also important. It's also important to remember the schedules of young people

when holding a youth program or event. For example, if you schedule a youth net for Tuesdays at noon, it's likely you won't actually get any youth check-ins since they'll all be at school.

Balancing amateur radio activities with my school schedule has been one of the most challenging parts of being involved with the hobby. So many of the events (contests, nets, club meetings, etc.) are at times when I have to be at school or am busy with other school functions. While there isn't a one-size-fits-all time of day or day of the week for meetings and activities, aiming for evenings and weekends maximizes the opportunity for young people to attend. However, when looking to schedule bigger events like a foxhunt or intro to amateur radio day, a day over the summer will be better than a weekend day nearly every time.

A local club can be one of the most influential factors in determining if a young person opts to continue being active in the amateur radio community, whether it's a result of a dedicated youth program or merely the opportunity to find mentors and welcoming faces. Every interaction has the potential to snowball into a huge part of a young ham's involvement with amateur radio.

At my first Field Day after getting licensed, I met an older gentleman at one of the local clubs who told me that I should give CW a try and that he thought I might be good at it. CW is now my absolute favorite mode and has become one of my favorite aspects of the hobby. One small conversation like this in the setting of a local club can turn a young ham's experience with amateur radio into something they'll continue to enjoy throughout their lives. I hope all young hams have the opportunity to enhance their pursuit of the hobby through being involved with a welcoming and supportive local club.

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This article is from DX Engineering's On All Bands ([www.onallbands.com](http://www.onallbands.com)) and is reprinted with permission from DX Engineering

**(((ON ALL)))  
BANDS**

AN AMATEUR RADIO BLOG BY DX ENGINEERING



## From Around The World...



### 2025 One Hertz Challenge: Learn Morse Code One Second at a Time

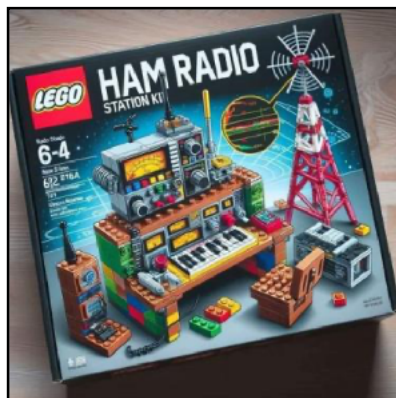
<https://hackaday.io/project/203560-1-hertz-morse-code-game>

### The Discovery of Radio Waves

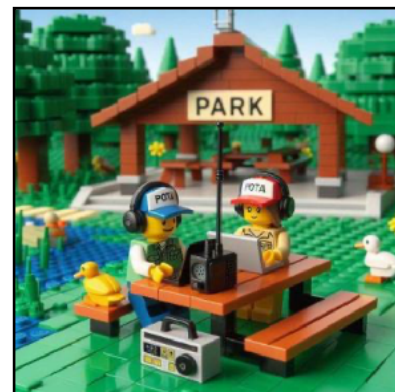
<https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the-discovery-of-radio-waves>



Yes, it's been hot outside lately

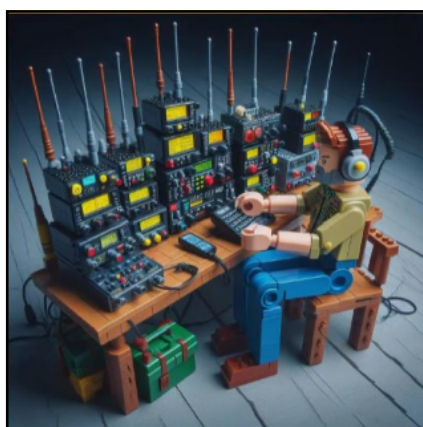


LEGO and Hams



LEGO POTA

### More LEGO and Ham Radio





## PCARS is on YouTube

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

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



## PCARS IO Group

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

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



## PCARS Patches & Stickers

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

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



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

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

EST. 2005

# OSPOTA 2025 - GET READY



**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
OSPOTA Chairman



Hello OSPOTA fans and participants,

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

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

## STORIES - PICTURES - LOGS

### STORIES:

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

### PICTURES:

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

### LOGS:

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



## FUN - FUN - FUN

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

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

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

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

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



## Count Down to Ohio State Parks On The Air - 2025

# Ohio State Parks On The Air



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

**18<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 6, 2025**

19<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 12, 2026    20<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 11, 2027

*Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day holiday.*



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Have some fun with this contest!

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



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

January 2025



## Ohio State Parks



## On The Air





# Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest - OSPOTA 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Check out this handy Ohio State Parks guide at:

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



Ohio State Parks



On The Air





## Churches and Chapels On The Air

From: <https://wacral.org/chota-history/>

“In 2006, it occurred to John G3XYF [a Christian farmer living in East Yorkshire] that it was high time the amateur radio world had “Churches & Chapels On The Air “.

After all, we have **Jamboree** OTA , **Islands** OTA , **Museums** OTA, **Mills** OTA, the well known **Summits** OTA and **Lighthouses** OTA. Now even **Fire Brigades** and **Preserved Railways** are getting in on the act.

Every September on the second Saturday the York Historic Churches Trust (YHCT) hopes all churches and chapels will be open to take visitors on a sponsored basis. The YHCT gives grants to help repair Christian buildings. Any money raised is divided equally between the YHCT and the church or chapel hosting the event.

I thought it would be a good idea to establish an amateur radio station in his church on that day for the benefit of visitors. This would be a double 'advertisement' - for the church hosting the event, and for the hobby of amateur radio - setting up the aerials shouldn't be a problem - most churches after all, have a suitable high point for rigging the antenna!

While there is no compulsion to raise money, I started by asking locals to sponsor him for the number of radio contacts made. My station was located in my own church in Lowthorpe, East Yorkshire – and it had the special call-sign GB0LOW.

CHOTA has developed substantially during the intervening years, and now each year twenty to thirty churches across the UK permit their local radio amateurs to set up stations in aid of this good cause. For details of churches and chapels taking part see WACRAL's web site on : <http://www.wacral.org/CHOTA.htm> If you would like to put a station on for CHOTA, then get permission from your local church, and let John G3XYF ( [jhwresdell@gmail.com](mailto:jhwresdell@gmail.com) ) know so that your event can be added to the list.”

*Note From Rick KD8WCK:*

*I'm going to play CHOTA25 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Macedonia on Saturday September 13 early morning until maybe 2pm. The call sign we'll use is WB8IXZ and I am hoping to have 3 stations operating on 20m 40m and 6m including PCARS members. Two stations are confirmed so far.*

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

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

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



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

## OSPOTA at Wingfoot Lake State Park

**John, WG8X**



Would you like to operate OSPOTA from an Ohio State Park? If your answer is yes, but are limited by one thing or another, we have the answer. PCARS will be operating OSPOTA '25 from Wingfoot Lake State Park. Everyone's welcome to stop out and operate. Since this years contest includes CW we'll have two stations set up. Bring your favorite CW key along, and show us what you've got!

OSPOTA is a low-stress, friendly contest. It's a great way get your feet wet in contesting. Did I mention that there'll be food? We'll be cooking Hot Dogs.

The fun time will be at t5he Buckeye Pavilion in Wingfoot Lake State Park from 8am – 7pm. The pavilion will be the first one on your right as you enter the park.

You can learn more about OSPOTA by going to <https://ospota.org/>. Hope you can make it.

73 DE WG8X



## K8BF Net News

**Greg KA8TOA**  
Net Control Coordinator



Here are the 2nd Quarter Stats for the 2025 Nets:

April, May, June

13 Weeks for a total of 221 check-ins which is an average of 17 weekly check-ins.

The average for the 1st Quarter was 18 check-ins. The average for then 2nd Quarter of 2024 was 19 check-ins. All are based on 13 weeks.

Everyone have a great Holiday weekend. Next up is the schedule for the end of the year.

For Now 73!  
Greg, KA8TOA

## Some Interesting Radio Projects

**Jim, AC8NT**



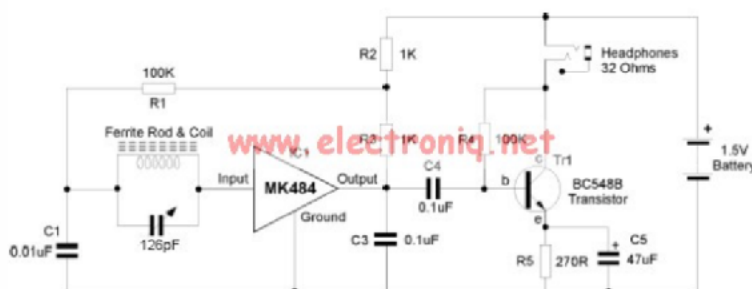
I have spent the last few weeks building a range of interesting receivers. I will be using these to demonstrate radio to students. We will be taking a brief look at some of the examples in this article. ALL REQUIRE PATIENCE TO GET WORKING!! Remember that most of the fun is debugging your build.

### Three-Penny Radio

This is an AM radio based on a three terminal integrated circuit. Part of the fun is using pennies as contact points for the build. The integrated circuit looks like a transistor, so pay attention to the connections. The coil is not shown in this picture. It is made of 170 turns of 28-gauge magnetic wire on a .5" iron rod. The original article can be found at:

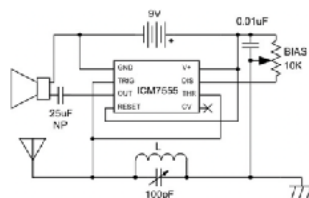
[https://scitoys.com/scitoys/scitoys/radio/three\\_penny/three\\_penny.html](https://scitoys.com/scitoys/scitoys/radio/three_penny/three_penny.html)

I also built a version shown in Electronic Design. The schematic is shown below. A couple of changes in the Electronic Design version include using a 365 pf variable and the same coil as above. This one has an audio amp and is much easier to tune. I have a three-penny version as well as the "improved" version. Both work well. This is circuit used in most of those cheap "baseball" Chinese radios.



### 555 Timer Radio

This is also an AM radio. It took me three days to get it to work. It was the winning entry in a 555 contest.



Remember to use the CMOS ICM555. This will NOT work with the standard 555.

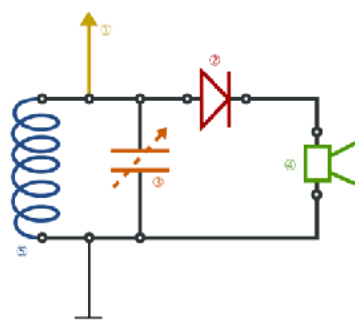
This circuit is very difficult to tweak. I ended up replacing the 10K pot with a series combination of a 10K pot and a 1K pot. Using the 1K as a fine-tuning tool. More information can be found using the following link:

<https://tubetime.us/index.php/2011/02/23/555-contest-entry/>

## Foxhole Radio

A lot of hams have built a crystal radio. Some have used real crystal, but most have used a 1N34A diode. I built one with my Dad in the '50s using a real crystal. But I have always wanted to build a foxhole radio. The link below gives good instructions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ydxy8QmH5R4>



Here are some hints and kinks for you to consider when building this radio. To make the radio more selective you need a high Q in the inductor. Bigger diameter coils are better and so is using larger gauge wire. I used 24-gauge wire in my radio. As in the instructions, you need to really heat up that blade to create some oxides on the surface. Using a very cheap razor blade is a good idea. I used blades I purchased at ACE. You need a real lead pencil. Not one with the newer plastic "lead". When I built my first crystal radio with my dad, toilet paper rolls had much stronger cores. Trying to rap wire around a modern core, it just collapses. Use 1.75" PVC pipe as a core. Much easier to wrap. Last, use a crystal earphone. Don't even try to use your Heil headset. You need a very high impedance for this radio.

## Conclusions

All the above radios worked. With my 66' EndFed, I could pick up 1100 KHz WTAM in Cleveland in the late afternoon. None of the radios worked first time. All required debugging. Even with all the work, I had some Big Fun building and testing them.

Remember if you want to build one of these, let me know. I have extra parts, and we could have a build at the club if interest exists. They are a lot of fun.

Jim, AC8NT



## July POTA Event

**Gene, W8NET**  
POTA SIG Coordinator



FINALLY, Just PERFECT Weather for POTA!

After many POTA events we have done, our West Branch State Park shindig on July 19th had PERFECT weather. NO snow; NO wind; NO thunderstorms; NO rain; NO cold! As Hall of Fame Penguins broadcaster Mike Lange was fond of saying, "If you missed it, shame on you for six weeks!"

Even the bands were cooperating. Your intrepid reporter got 66 contacts on 30m FT8, including some for activating K8BF. Others reported very good conditions as well.

Thank you everyone who came out to enjoy the weather and the radio fun. And a special thanks for everyone who brought food, drinks, etc. An outstanding and fun POTA event!



## Could Be Anything Special Interest Group

**Rick, KD8WCK**

Could Be Anything SIG Coordinator



5th Tuesday Could Be Anything SIG Tuesday September 30th at 7pm

Back due to overwhelming demand - the 5th Tuesday SIG CW/POTA demo and offline practice session.

We had such a great time in July with our practice CW/POTA session that I thought we should do it again. Ops at all levels of CW proficiency are invited. If you're just getting started with the Code, if you're coming back to it but not comfortable with your speed, or if you are an active CW OP and proficient, we'll have something for you.

The plan is to look over the POTA.app spotting page and then practice listening to a station or demonstration of a station call CQ POTA, and respond at your own pace offline for practice. Bring a key and code practice oscillator or use one of the rigs in the operating room offline for practice.

Last time we had skilled operators who shared tips and tricks and encouragement, as well as members with ZERO proficiency and those with some proficiency. We all had a great time and hope to do so again.

So join us at the PCARS World Headquarters, 705 Oakwood St. Ravenna, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 30 2025 to have some fun and solve all the world's problems.

73 de Rick KD8WCK

## POTA Special Interest Group

Hi POTA fans!

**Gene, W8NET**

POTA SIG Coordinator



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

## Charlie the Tuner's DX High-Lites

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



Greetings to all DXers:

Well, Labor day is here and that means school has started in about all the towns and cities. That also means that since the kids are out of the house, you have more time to get on the air. OK, who am I kidding? Most of you, if you have kids, your kids are old enough to have kids of their own.

Yup! A great majority of us are OOOOLLLLLLDDDD! But if you have been paying attention, there are a new generation of youth that are getting into Amateur Radio. Yes, they may be using FT8 a lot since they are computer geeks, but it's keeping HAM radio alive. And surprisingly, quite a few of them are embracing the oldest form of digital communication...CW!

We know that from the young ops we have in the club. They are becoming quite adept at CW even in our contests. Let's make sure that we encourage them to keep it up and hope that some of us senior HAMS will give them pointers on how to be even more successful in their CW operations.

And while we're at it, let's not forget that some of the best and rare DX is found on CW. That being said, let's take a look at what is scheduled for 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

### September...

**3C, EQUATORIAL GUINEA & ANNOBON IS.** Yuris/YL2GM and Eugene/EA5EL will operate from Equatorial Guinea (3C3W) and Annobon (3C0W) in September 2025. The plan is to be on the air for 2 weeks from Annobon (3C0W), dates are depending on the ferry schedule. And while waiting for the ferry to 3C0W they will operate as 3C3W.

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

**5H, TANZANIA.** Chas, NK8O will be QRV as 5H3DX until September 21. Activity will be in his spare time on 30 to 10 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.



**5X, UGANDA.** Pista, HA5AO will be active as 5X2I from Uganda, 29 September - 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.

**8R, GUYANA.** Aldir, PY1SAD, is QRV as 8R1TM until September 23. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. This includes some Satellite activity as well. QSL to home call.

**9M2, WEST MALAYSIA.** In celebration of Malaysia's national holiday, special event stations 9M25MA, 9M25MB, 9M25MC, 9M25MD, 9M25MJ, 9M25MK, 9M25MM, 9M25MN, 9M25MP, 9M25MR, 9M25MT, and 9M25MW are QRV until September 30. QSL via operators' instructions.

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

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

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

**CX, URUGUAY.** Members of Radio Club Uruguayo are QRV with special event station CW200DI until September 18 to celebrate the bicentennial of the Uruguayan declaration of independence. QSL via bureau.

**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.

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

**OJ0, Market Reef.** OJ0YL & OJ0W Market Reef DXpedition September 20–26, 2025

Between Finland and Sweden lies Market Reef, a rocky outpost that has captured the imagination of DXers for decades. With no trees, only a lighthouse and seabirds standing guard, this tiny Baltic island is split by a uniquely zigzagging international border re-drawn in 1985 — a result of a century-old lighthouse placement mistake in 1885. From September 20–26, 2025, the island will come to life on the airwaves. OJ0W and OJ0YL will be activated by the Finnish-based team of: Anne OH2YL, Jari OH6QU, Juha OH6XX and Panu OH7CW. Bands: 160 to 6 meters, emphasis on low bands. Modes: CW, FT8, and SSB. At least two stations active around the clock, using amplifiers for strong, reliable signals.

**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.

**PJ7, SINT MAARTEN IS.** Team will be active from Sint Maarten, IOTA NA - 105, 12 - 22 September 2025. Team - OK1FCJ, OK2ZA, OK2ZC, OK6DJ, OM5ZW. They will operate on 160 - 6m and satellites, CW, SSB, Digital modes. QSL via OK6DJ.

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

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

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

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

**V6, WENO IS.** V6D Team will be active from Weno Island, Chuuk Islands, IOTA OC - 011, Micronesia, 22 September - 6 October 2025. They will operate on HF Bands. QSL via DL4SVA ClubLog OQRS, LOTW.

**VK9, NORFOLK IS.** VK9NT Team will be active from Norfolk Island, IOTA OC - 005, 14 - 27 September 2025. Team - VK3QB, VK3HJ, VK6CQ. They will operate on 160 - 10m CW, SSB, FT8. QSL via M0OXO OQRS.

**VK9, CHRISTMAS IS.** Janusz Wegrzyn, SP9FIH will be active as VK9/SP9FIH from Christmas Island, IOTA OC - 002, 19 September - 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.

**YO, ROMANIA.** Members of the Federatia Romana de Radioamatorism will be QRV with special call sign YO2025ENESCU until September 21 during the George Enescu International Festival and Competition. QSL via bureau.

**Z8, SOUTH SUDAN.** Diya, YI1DZ, 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...

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

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

**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.



**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 a lot going on in the next month or so. 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**

## Linux and Raspberry Pi Special Interest Group

**Gene, W8NET**

Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG Coordinator

Greetings all!

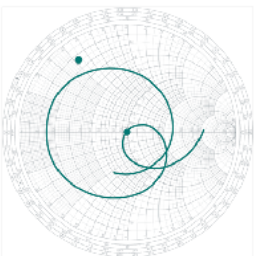
Our next Linux & Raspberry Pi SIG meeting will be on Tuesday October 7th @7:00pm at PCARS World Headquarters in Ravenna.

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. Details will be posted in a QST in early September!



## Antenna Special Interest Group



**Jim, AC8NT**

Antenna SIG Coordinator

At the September SIG we will continue our discussion of Antenna software. This month we will be measuring an antenna and determining a matching method. It will be fun. Also, remember to have your antenna questions at the ready. We will always provide the time to help.



# Charlie the Tuner's September 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	
<b>Washington Salmon Run</b>	<b>Sep 20-21</b>	
<b>California QSOP</b>	<b>Oct 4-5</b>	

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 September we have the following:

Tennessee QSOP	Sep 7-8
Texas QSOP	Sep 20-21
New Jersey QSO Party	Sep 20-21
NH QSO Party, SSB	Sep 20-21
<b>Wash St. Salmon Run</b>	<b>Sep 20-21</b>
Maine QSO Party	Sep 27-28

Other contests include:	ARRL September VHF Contest	Sep 13-15
	Wisconsin Parks On The Air	Sep 20
	CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY	Sep 27-28

Come on out to the club site and help us put K8BF on the air during the Washington State Salmon Run and enjoy some fellowship with your fellow PCARS members. And as always, we really could use a few CW ops.

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



# Ohio BBQSO Party





## August Meeting Pictures





## Mark Your Calendar!

### PCARS February 2025 Schedule of Events

September 2nd	PCARS Board Meeting
September 6th	Ohio State Parks On The Air
September 6th	AeroExpo Event Kent State
September 8th	PCARS Monthly Meeting
September 20th-21st	Washington Salmon Run Contest

### 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

09/07 - Findlay Hamfest - Findlay, OH  
<https://findlayradioclub.org/>

09/13 2025 Swap Meet/Hamfest - Toledo, OH  
<http://www.lucasares.org/>

09/28 - Cleveland Hamfest - Berea, OH  
<https://www.hac.org/>

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

10/11 - Williams County ARA Hamfest  
Montpelier, OH

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



## 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.

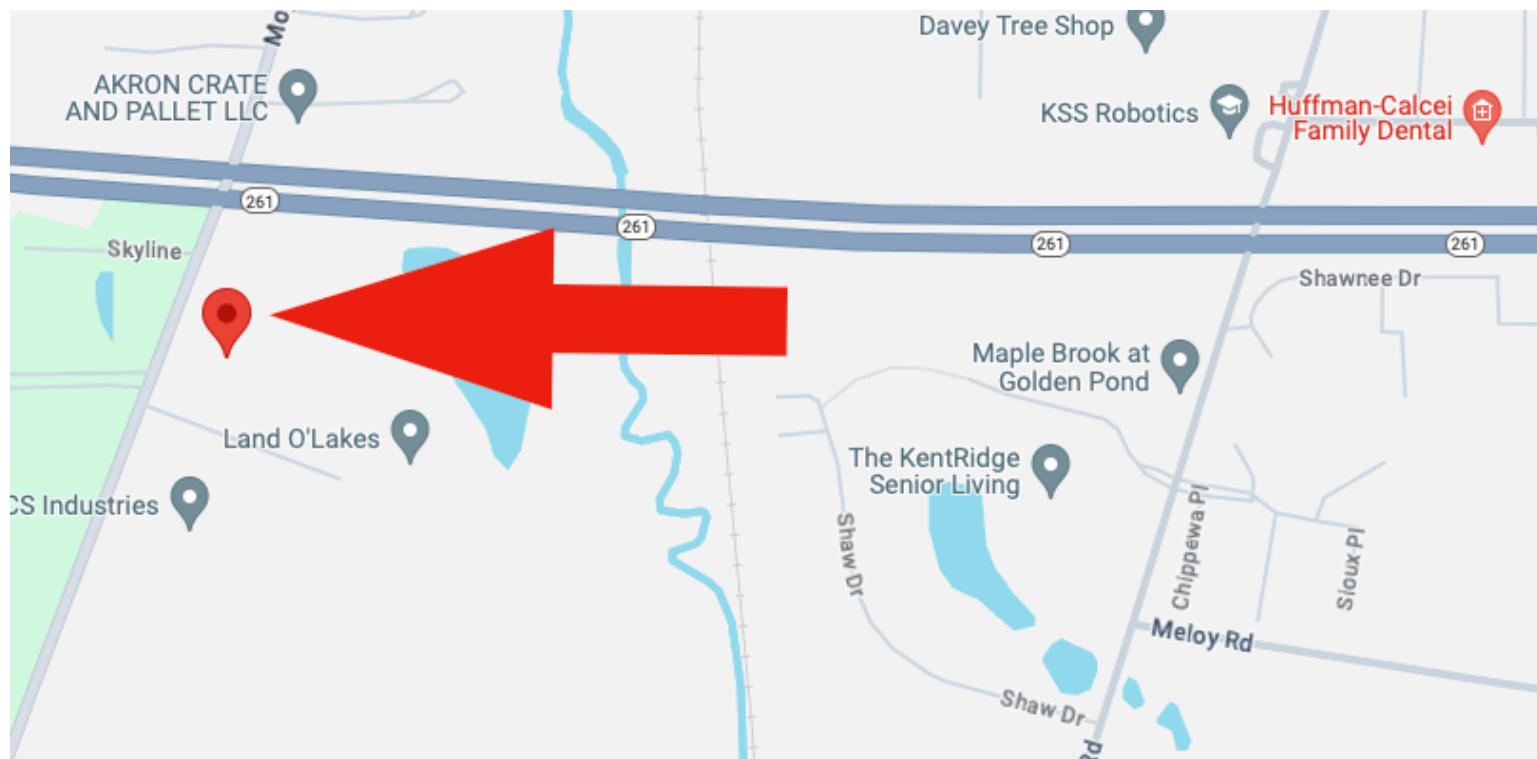
All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card. The deputy will issue your registration card, stickers and provide you with a permit which will allow you to operate your vehicle while your plates are being manufactured. Special license plate applications are available at 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](mailto:KB8UUZ@gmail.com)**

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## 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](mailto: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

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## 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](http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program).

## Printing Your FCC License

Information provided by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

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

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

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

**J.C., KC8JC**

PCARS Newsletter Editor



That last week of August gave us a good signal that autumn will be here before we know it. In fact, it might be a bit on the early side. I'm probably not alone in trying to squeak out a few more activations while the sun shines along with participating in OSPOTA. OSPOTA is a fantastic contest and is perfect for fitting into a weekend. I love it because it lasts just about as long as I can sneak away for a contest. Give it a try! There will be lots of us on the air.

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

**AC8NT, AC8QG, KA8TOA, KB8UUZ, KD8WCK, KE8LQR,  
W8NET, W8PT, WG8X, and the World Wide Web.**

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

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



*Get outside and operate while the weather is still with us!*



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

~ The Hamvention® 2018 Club of the Year ~

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

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

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

Check PCARS out on the web: [www.PORTCARS.org](http://www.PORTCARS.org)

## 2025 PCARS Officers

President - 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

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](mailto:KC8JC@portcars.org). The RADIOGRAM always obtains written permission for reproducing copyright material. The RADIOGRAM comes out the first day of each month (usually). ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service®) is a program of, and both logos are registered trademarks (used with permission) of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio™. Why the Black Squirrel in our logo? For those of you not familiar with it: The Black Squirrel is commonly seen around Portage County, Ohio. Legend has it that some of these little guys and gals got loose from Kent State University back in 1961 and they migrated and thrived throughout our county. Look into the black squirrel legends and see what you find! When you spot a black squirrel - think PCARS!

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

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