

PCARS Field Day - 2022



Tony, WA8AR
Field Day Chairman



First of all I want to congratulate everyone who participated in the PCARS 2022 Field Day. You all helped make 2022 another successful Field Day. Station Captains, IT Captain; Operators; Loggers; Power Team, and our volunteers who all helped get our stations setup and torn down in record time. We could not have done this without all of you pitching in.

Our performance this year, as measured by our total number of QSO's and our total point score looks to be very good. However we are slightly below our 2021 scores in both points: **2021** QSO's were 3,548 and Total Points were 12,046 **2022** QSO's are 3,367 and Total Points are 11,766. A geomagnetic storm hit during the 2022 FD event which all but knocked communications for some bands, and impacted modes other than digital much more (not that digital was totally immune to the effects of the storm). What we don't know is if the entire US was impacted equally, so we will not know how our score stacks up against others until the ARRL publishes the results of the contest in a few months.

Every year tweaks are made to equipment, procedures, training and management with the objective of improving our operating performance. The objective is to make PCARS the #1 in our operating class (so far we have made it to #2 Just not good enough YET!). Then again the results of 2022 are not in. **Just remember to have FUN and simply enjoy our great hobby.**

Special Recognition must go to this year's Field Day staff for outstanding performance:

FD Cochairman: Rick Kruis, K8CAV
40m Captain: Ed Polack, K8IV
20m Captain: Mike Sabo, N8WCP
VHF Captain: Mike Ryan, KB8TUY
CW Captain: George Proudfoot, K3GP
Flex Captain: Rick Kruis, K8CAV
GOTA Captain: Jim Wilson, AC8NT
IT Captain: Zeb Smith, KD8WZS
Power Team Captain: James Andrews, KD8VT
Public Information Table & PIO: Parky, KB8UUZ
Training: Jim Wilson, AC8NT
Safety Officer: Tony Romito, WA8AR



PCARS Field Day 2022 - Submitted to ARRL

The final PCARS Field Day 2022 report was done and sent in to the ARRL. It was submitted by Parky on the ARRL's web app. for Field day and the additional required information was also included as an upload. Everything has been received and accepted. Now we have to wait until later this year (usually in December) to see how we did compared to the other 4A stations in Ohio and the USA. It was a GREAT Field Day and all went fine and it appeared all had FUN. Only 11 more months until Field Day 2023. Start planning NOW.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service - Field Day 2022

Call Used: **K8BF** GOTA Call: **KD8WZS** ARRL/RAC Section: **OH** Class: **4A**

Participants: **48** Power Source(s): **Generator, Battery, Solar** Power Multiplier: **2X**

Score Submitted: 10,076 + 1690 Bonus = 11,766

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	1059	612	1696	3367	
Total Points	2118	1224	1696	5038	X2 = Claimed Score = (not including bonus)

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Set up in a Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=11	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100

Description	Points
Site Visit by invited elected official	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Educational activity	100
Youth Element Achieved	40
Submitted via the Web	50
Social Media	100
Safety Officer	100
Total Bonus Points	1,690

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone		
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	
80m	286	100	106	100	6	100	
40m	507	100	183	100	1488	100	
20m	258	100	239	100	181	100	
15m	7	100	34	100	-	-	
10m	1	100	2	100	1	100	
6m	-	-	48	100	-	-	
GOTA	-	-	-	-	10	100	
Total	1059		612		1696		3367



First K8BF Contact was logged at 18:00:04 UTC on Saturday by the **Flex Station** to N1TN in ME on FT8.
Last K8BF Contact was logged at 17:59:58 UTC on Sunday by the **40 Meter Phone Station** to W2OMU in NNJ.





Contact Totals by Operator



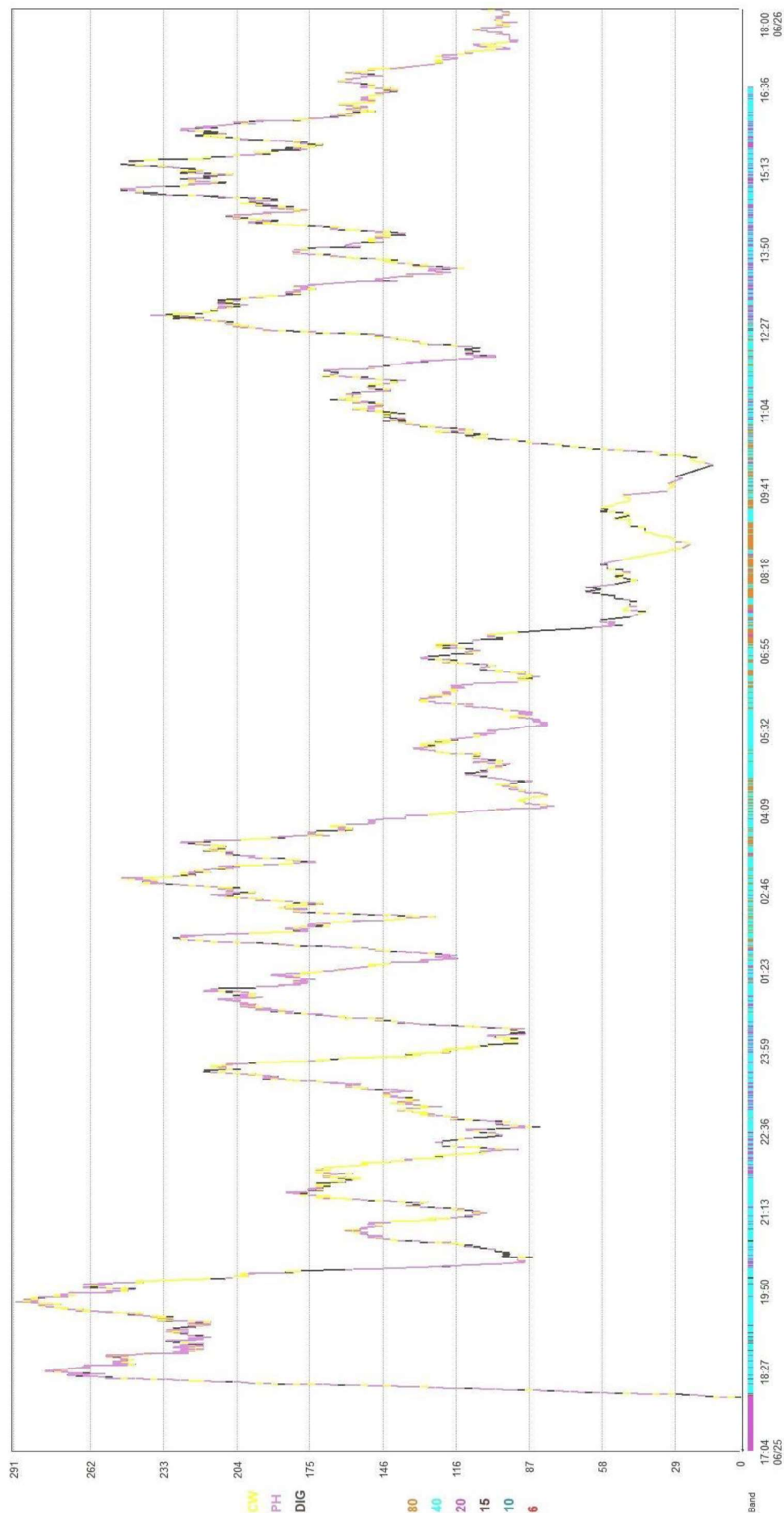
#	Operator	Contacts
1	ND8L	549
2	K8IV	418
3	KD8DFL	252
4	N8QE	242
5	N8GIE	232
6	K3GP	195
7	N8BI	180
8	K8FF	160
9	N8NB	152
10	K8RR	143
11	N3RA	129
12	K8KSU	110
13	WA8LRW	95
14	KE8ARB	88
15	AD8IR	59

#	Operator	Contacts
16	KE8BWA	51
17	KD8WCK	46
18	W8NET	43
19	AD8FQ	42
20	AC8NT	34
21	KB8TUY	27
22	WA8AR	23
23	KA8TOA	22
24	N8WCP	22
25	W8AHC	22
26	KE8EGF	8
27	W8GPN	6
28	AC8QG	5
29	KE8JFW	2





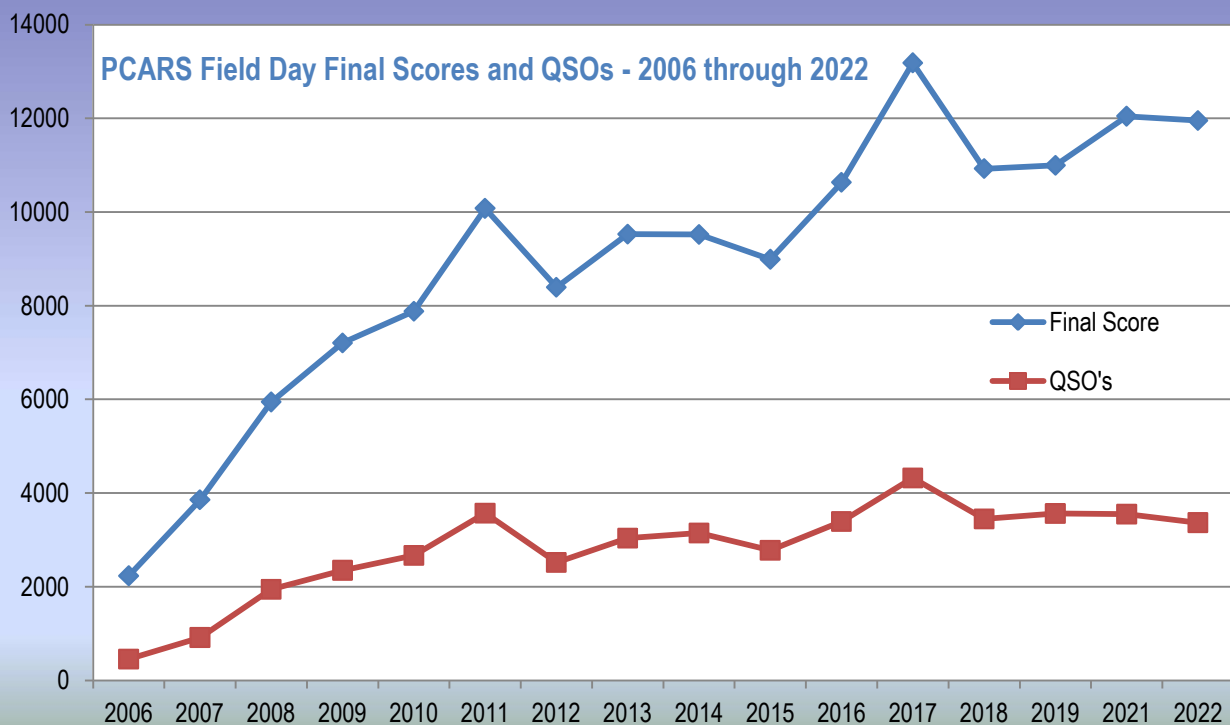
On Air Activity Graph for K8BF



Field Day - Past Field Day Comparisons

PCARS	Final QSOs	Final Score
2022 - K8BF	3,367	11,766
2021 - K8BF	3,548	12,046
2019 - K8BF	3,561	10,998
2018 - K8BF	3,448	10,926
2017 - K8BF	4,320	13,186
2016 - K8BF	3,393	10,632
2015 - K8BF	2,778	8,990
2014 - K8BF	3,147	9,520
2013 - K8BF	3,035	9,526
2012 - K8BF	2,517	8,392
2011 - K8BF	3,568	10,078
2010 - K8BF	2,669	7,880
2009 - KD8CKP	2,349	7,206
2008 - KD8CKP	1,942	5,944
2007 - KD8CKP	914	3,854
2006 - KD8CKP	455	2,232
16 Year Totals	45,001	143,276

(includes bonus points)



Field Day 2022 - Flex Station

Rick, K8CAV

Field Day Flex Station Captain



PCARS Field Day 2022 is a wrap and along with it of course, is the Flex Station. There are three things that, as the Station Captain, I take into account when determining how well Field Day at the Flex Station went. How well and hassle free did setup and tear down occur, how well did we do in the number of contacts made, and finally, was it fun for all who participated. By those measures, I believe that PCARS Flex Field Day was a success, and I'll talk about it in more detail in a bit.

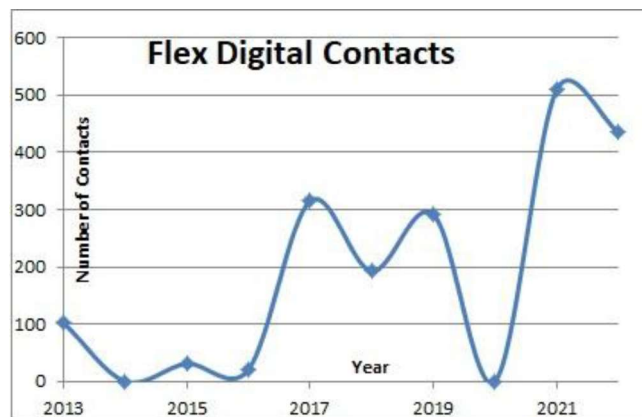


The Flex Station this year was a family affair! We had three father-son teams, Jim AC8NT and JC KC8JC, Gene W8NET and John KE8MXR, and Brandon KE8ARB and Ethan. We also had a brother-sister team, Ben AD8FQ and Agnes AD8IR. Rick KD8WCK and Mara KE8KBJ rounded it out by participating as a husband-wife team at Field Day. What a great way to have fun as a family! The Flex Station started Field Day with a fully staffed station. The only downside was that we didn't have enough communicators to staff each two-hour time slot so some volunteered to pull a double shift. Thanks go out to Bob N8QE, Ken WA8LRW, and Rick KD8WCK for stepping up to do double shifts! Hopefully next year we'll have enough volunteers without having to have double shifts.

The Flex Station, as its name implies is flexible in both band and mode. Flex can operate almost any HF band on any mode, as long as it doesn't operate on the same band and mode, at the same time as another Field Day station. This precludes Flex from doing phone on 40m and 20m, but everything else is open. Flex digital shares the same sub-bands as CW so, unlike phone and digital being able to operate on the same band at the same time with minimal interference to each other, digital and CW can't and so must coordinate with each other for band usage. In recent years with the rise in popularity of FT8 and FT4 along with WSJT-X having a contest mode specifically for Field Day, operations at Flex have become primarily digital. FT8 and FT4 have dramatically increased the number of digital contacts made at Flex since 2021.

A critical task for the Flex Station is setting up the station and antennas, and at the end of Field Day, tearing it all down and getting it packed up. In the past we've always had enough help to set up, but tear down has been more problematic, resulting in it taking longer and putting more stress on those that did help to tear down. This year the setup and tear down teams were outstanding in the amount of help that they provided, and resulted in both setup and tear down taking about two hours each, well within acceptable time frames. A huge thank you to the folks on those teams! Another thing implemented was starting setup at 8:00 AM on Saturday. Working in the cooler part of the day is a LOT easier, and starting that early provided more time for testing, and helping other stations and teams when needed.

Given the success we had last year with digital, along with the fact that sunspot numbers in the new cycle have been rising nicely, Flex set a goal of making 750 digital contacts this year. Unfortunately what we didn't count on, and could do nothing to counter, was poor propagation caused by a solar flare just prior to the start of Field Day. Fortunately the effects of that flare did not extend into Sunday so we were able to make up some lost ground. The bottom line is that we had 435 digital contacts this year versus our previous high last year of 509 digital contacts. Tony WA8AR added several phone contacts, and Ben AD8FQ added some straight-key CW contacts. An after-action review will be conducted after the end of Field Day, so we will have plenty of lessons learned and suggestions to use next year to improve our standing.



As a Station Captain, nothing is more important to me than making sure everyone involved at the Flex Station is enjoying the experience. Certainly making a lot of contacts is part of that, but equally important is making sure that everyone knows they are part of the team, and are enjoying the total experience; in short, having FUN! Based on comments I received it seems that everyone was satisfied working at Flex, and enjoyed the experience.

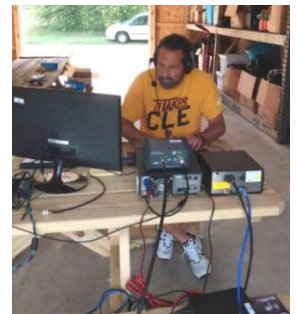
The Flex team doesn't exist in a vacuum, there are other Field Day Teams and people that, had they not existed or not done a good job, would have made the experience less enjoyable. Tony WA8AR, our Field Day Chairman, put together a great Field Day team. In addition to experienced station captains for each station, the logistics teams were very important to the experience. From providing electrical power, to keeping us fed and hydrated, providing a flawless wireless network and everything else between, those contributions were critical to our success at Field Day. Many **THANK YOUs** to all of the team leaders and their staff for a fine job!

The US Navy has a term for job well done that I really like, called, "*Bravo Zulu*". Any Naval person that receives a "*Bravo Zulu*" knows they have exceeded expectations and I'd like to extend that to the members of the Flex Station. Bravo Zulu to Jim AC8NT, JC KC8JC, Bob N8QE, Ken WA8LRW, Andrew KE8BWA, Tony WA8AR, Rick KD8WCK, Mara KE8KBJ, Gene W8NET, Brandon KE8ARB, Ben AD8FQ, and Agnes AD8IR.



Field Day 2022 - 20 Meter Station

Mike, N8WCP
Field Day 20 Meter Station Captain



Another Field Day is in the log and everyone involved did a great job! This year we used a rotatable dipole and with the nice turn out by club members to help, setup and teardown was a breeze.

While the propagation wasn't great, the team made every effort on phone and digital modes to make contacts. Overall, the 20M station made 320 Q's. Best of all, we enjoyed good food and the company of fellow hams.

I would like to thank those who helped make Field Day 2022 a success: Station Ops: Tim-W8GPN, Bob-N8QE, Ben-AD8FQ, Agnes-AD8IR, Greg-KA8TOA, Joe-W8KNO, Brandon-KE8ARB, Nick-AC8QG, Paul-KE8EGF, and guest op Wayne-KE8JFW who made his very first ham radio contact! Tony-WA8AR our Field Day Chairman who coordinated the activities and teams to ensure a successful event. Rick-K8CAV our liaison to our host Freedom Township. James-KD8VT and crew for providing us with reliable power. Zeb-KD8WZS and his son for setting up the mesh network, workstations, and logging software. And every member who assisted with setup and teardown. It was a true team effort!

Hope to see everyone at Field Day 2023!



Field Day 2022 - CW Station

George, K3GP

Field Day CW Station Captain



SET UP: Began Saturday at 0730 local and was complete including antenna trimming and testing by 1130. Antenna erection was accomplished using a falling derrick beam designed and provided by Rick K8CAV and the assistance of a volunteer ground crew that ensured a safe installation - thanks to all that helped.

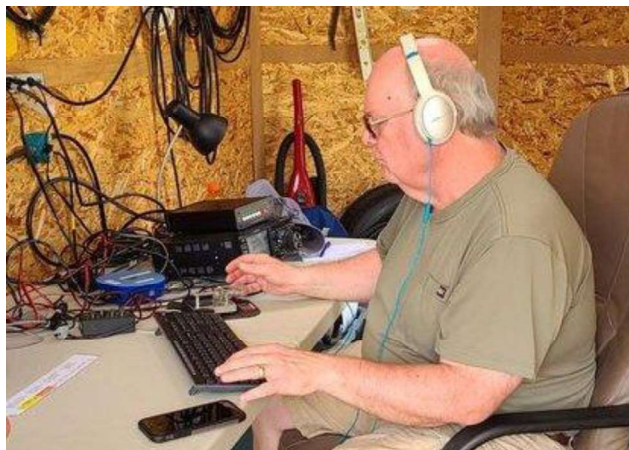
OPERATION: Began on time and continued for the full 24 hour period. Operators included N3RA, ND8L, N8NB, K8RR, K8FF, K3GP and N8QE.

TRANSCEIVER: This year for the first time a Yaesu FTDX10 and a multi-band band pass filter were used. Observed interference from other field days stations was nearly non-existent, including a remarkable period on Sunday morning when the our position was operating on 20 meter CW at the same time another position was operating 20 meter digital.

BAND CONDITIONS: Saturday daytime band conditions were mediocre at best, improving as darkness approached. Sunday band conditions were markedly better.

PROBLEMS: On two different occasions, the computer lost connection to the WinKeyer. A restart of the N3FJP program did not fix the problem, instead requiring a reboot of the computer. Each time this happened we lost 5 to 10 minutes of on-air time. No other problems were encountered.

TEAR DOWN: Began immediately at the conclusion of Field Day at 1400 Sunday. Once again a volunteer ground crew and the use of the falling derrick beam allowed us to complete tear-down activities, pack the trailer, and leave the site by 1530.



Field Day 2022 - VHF Station



Mike, KB8TUY
Field Day VHF Station Captain

The bands never really opened so we didn't collect as many contacts as we thought we might. 24 contacts on the first day and 26 contacts on the second day. All on FT8.

On Sunday I had a problem with computer time and didn't realize that I was off time which cut our contacting to nothing after 12:30 Sunday.

The main problem that needs to be dealt with the VHF station is the problem of timing which can be taken care of by a GPS dongle. We'll have to get one for next year.

Field Day 2022 - Comments from Members

I operated from 6 - 8 am with many all FT8 & FT4 digital contacts. I think Nick operated from 4 - 6 am with 5 FT8 digital contacts. Joe was there from 2 - 4, but don't remember his contact count. The digital contacts should all be recorded in the WSJT contest log file inside WSJT folder on the computer as well for recovery.

N3FJP seemed to be recording them correctly on the screen as I made the contacts.

73,

Bob N8QE

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I operated from 2:00 till 4:00. Called CQ on 14.168 every 15 seconds with the exception when I went to get a Snicker doodle.

I relieved Greg and he had not had a contact in about an hour. I widened out the band scope to watch from 14.150 to 14.200 and believe I might have seen a contact up around 14.195 just before Nick relieved me.

He changed over to FT8 I then went to the FLEX trailer and talked to Rick & Rick and when I returned, Nick had made one contact but conditions were still bad. There was a disturbance and Tony showed me on this smart phone and that is my story and I am sticking to it. It was the first time I have never made a contact or even heard a contact in all the Field Days I have attended.

Sorry I could not help the score!

Joe - W8KNO.



Field Day 2022 - PCARS Photos



PCARS FIELD DAY 2022

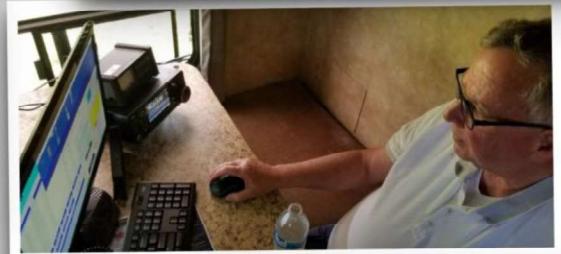


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