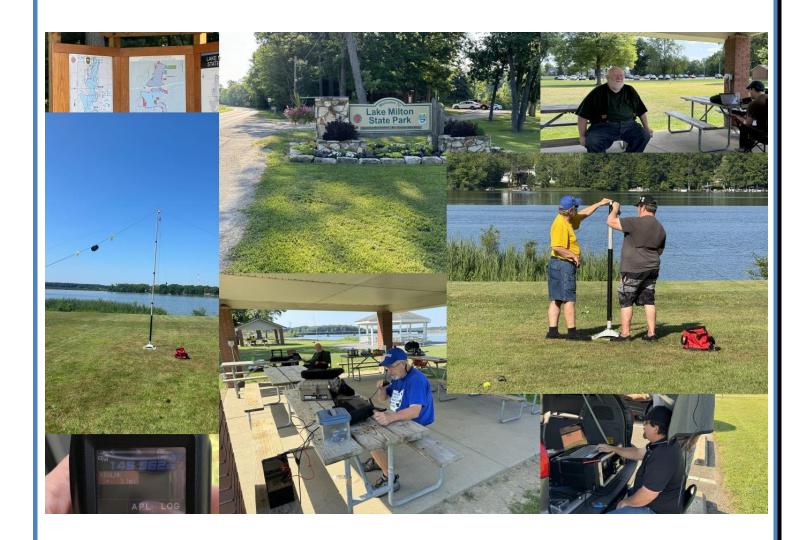


The RADIS GRAM When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works

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

PCARS - the 2018 Hamvention® Club of The Year

August 2024 - Volume 19 Number 08



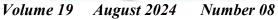


PCARS K8BF
The Club that puts the FUN in Ham Radio!



In This Issue of The

RADIOGRAM



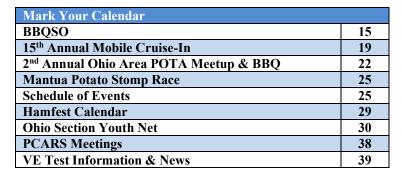


Feature Articles	
From the PCARS President	3
From the PCARS Vice President	4
From the PCARS Treasurer	5
PCARS Member Spotlight: K8CAV	6
K8BF Field Day 24 Submitted to ARRL	7
OSPOTA 2024 – Get Ready	16
Countdown to Ohio State Parks On The Air – 2024	17
Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest	18
Lake Milton POTA Expedition	20
Logging OSPOTA	23
Multi-Club POTA Activation	24
July Meeting Photos	36



Regular Departments	
Happy Birthday PCARS Members	5
Coffee Cup – Limited Edition	25
PCARS IO Group	28
Swap-N-Shop	29
SIG – Portable Operations	30
SIG – Digital	31
SIG – Antenna	31
SIG – DX & Contesting	32
Flex Net	32
SIG – HF WAS & DX	33
PCARS Patches & Stickers PCARS	33
Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites	34
From Around The World	36
Member Ham License Plates Wanted	37
PCARS on YouTube	37
Print a copy of your Ham License	40











From the President



Mike, KP4VZ PCARS President



July was an exciting month filled with fantastic activities.

I had the chance to participate in my first RTTY contest with K8BF on the North America QSO RTTY Party on Jul 20, which was a blast! On Jul 25, we hosted the 2nd **PCARS minihamfest** of the year, where about twenty members came to sell, buy, or simply enjoy the event. Special thanks to Tom Sly for coordinating the mini-hamfest. And on Jul 27, we organized our first **PCARS** multi-club POTA event, with SARA and CFARC clubs joining us. We definitely should continue hosting these types of events in the future.



I would like to express my gratitude to **Ned Sterns**, **AA7A**, for the informative talk on Rig Remote stations during the July general meeting.

This month, we are hosting two of our annual traditional club activities. We look forward to seeing many members at the annual <u>PCARS Cruise-In</u> at the Ravenna A&W on Thursday, **August 8th**, and the <u>Ohio QSO party and BBQSO</u> on Saturday, **August 24th**. Bring your family and friends to the club site for some delicious food and radio fun! Additionally, we will be holding our 3rd antenna build of the year, featuring a <u>HF low power Dipole</u> on **August 13th**. We strongly encourage you to join us for another great opportunity to enjoy the "Big Fun".

Check out our calendar at https://www.portcars.org/wp/Calendar PCARS.html





The upcoming elections are just three months away, and we are currently looking for individuals who are willing to step up to the challenge and nominate themselves for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Trustee.

From the Vice President



Ken, WA8LRW PCARS Vice President



July

- Ned Sterns AA7A presented on remote operation for Amateur Radio at the monthly meeting
- PCARS via K8BF participated in the North American QSO Party RTTY on July 20 21. We had a good turnout and were about the middle of the pack for our class. For many members, it was a new or not very recent experience. We ran Multi 2 on 80 15 meters and everyone had a great time.
- Net Night at the club Site was July 25 and we had a PCARS mini-hamfest. Lots of interesting things found new homes.
- A multi-club POTA event was held on July 27 with several clubs in the area participating at various parks.
- The "Could Be Anything SIG" is July 30 and is a REPlay for Kids night of modifying toys for disabled children.

August

- The annual Amateur Radio Crusine-in will be held on Aug 8 at A&W in Ravenna.
- The monthly meeting will feature a presentation on the Ravenna Arsenal.
- An HF Dipole build is Planned for the Club Site on Aug 13.
- PCARS via K8BF will participate in the Ohio QSO party at the club site on Aug 24 along with the PCARS BBQ and open house. Everyone is invited and you can operate in the contest.

September

- Ohio State Parks on the Air Contest is planned for Sept 7
- The monthly Meeting will feature a talk on the Hurricane Net

October

• I am still looking for a speaker for the monthly meeting for October. Ideas and suggestions would be greatly appreciated.



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



From the Treasurer

Greg, KA8TOA PCARS Treasurer

Caribbean Street

The PCARS treasury is in great shape and all major bills have been taken care of. We will in the next few months be collecting dues and we will have an audit in August. Now this is my last year as treasurer and we need someone to step up for this position.

This position is very important for any club. I have learned a lot about non-profit rules and it has been a pleasure to serve the club. I would like to thank past officers for helping me out, along with the trustees. A big thank you to members for helping with ticket sales, paperwork and such. Paul KE8EGF, Mike N8WCP, Tim Novak, and Karen.

The nets have been on the lite side but it is summer so not a big deal. We have some new net control people and they are doing a fantastic job. So overall in great shape. The club should be proud of this. If things work out I should have some stats for everyone.

Now, the last few months have been busy for the club, Field Day planning and the event along with some changes in the by-laws to improve the operations of the club. These activities take time and manpower but in the long run they help the club flourish. Let's remember this is a hobby and we volunteer our time and labor to make this a great club. It is one of the best i have belonged in. I am glad to have served and to meet some great people. So besides this, one of our goals is too involve younger people in the hobby and to recruit people to join the club. Another goal is to make things easier for the officers and to maintain the club's existence. We have lost members to death and moving out of state or age and illness. We all understand this and it happens to all clubs, so please consider this, we need some people to step up even if it is for one year and guaranteed you will have help to support you and then you will understand how great a club this is and things we do for amateur radio and the community.

Have a great rest of the summer, stay safe, have fun. Greg KA8TOA - Treasurer and NCC

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

PCARS members having their birthday in **August:**

KF8ADQ	Joe
W8EC	Mark
W8GU	Mark
KC8TUE	Terry
KE8NJA	James
K8FF	Wayne
KA8RXW	Lee

KE8ELR	Andrew
N8SKN	Robert
KD80BA	Kenneth
KB8TUY	Mike
KD8ZSH	Randall
N8GPS	Ned
W8RJG	Ron

WT8J	Julie
KE8IMR	Karl
W8LDH	Larry
KB8VJL	Al
WD8ICX	Gary
K8IG	Frederick
KD8CGH	Robert

PCARS Member Spotlight: K8CAV

Note From The Editor: This is a new series in The Radiogram where we will take a look at how different members came into the hobby and how they like to spend their time. The plan is to showcase the broad range of interests we have within PCARS and provide members with resources within the club for experimentation and some inspiration to try new things. It's also a great way to get to know our club members.

My interest in radio communications started when I was in the fourth grade and my best friend, Ken Randlett (dad to PCARS member Steve Randlett K8SRR) received a set of CB walkie-talkies from his



dad. Ken and I were fascinated by the ability to talk to each other by radio just like the soldiers from the WWII TV shows did. At about the same time, we discovered there was an amateur radio operator in our neighborhood.

Ben Fiorito K8ZNS was one of those hams whose shack was in a small garage that was filled, floor to ceiling with nothing but radio stuff. Ken I would spend hours sitting in his shack, listening to him call CQ on 2 meters AM, using an Army Surplus radar transmitter and a VHF converter into an HF receiver as his station. Ben taught Ken and I the morse code using Army training material recorded on magnetic wire. We did not learn a whole lot in the way of theory then, but by the time we were seniors in high school, we studied together and took the Novice test, becoming licensed in 1971 as WN8GGB. After graduating from high school, I enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard as a Field Radio Repairman, MOS 31E. Between basic training and a new job when I returned home, my Novice class licensed had expired, but a group of guys I worked with reengaged in amateur radio, and I was licensed as a Technician Class in 1976 as WD8CQP. When the FCC dropped the code requirement to 5 wpm for all license classes in 2000, I took and passed the Extra Class exam. Shortly after I applied for the vanity call sign K8CAV which I currently hold.

My interests in amateur radio are varied. I have always enjoyed the technical aspects of our avocation, working with radios, antennas, and computers as they relate to communications. My interest in emergency communications dates to 2002 when I joined Army MARS. In addition to the required courses for MARS, I also took the three ARRL emergency communications courses available at that time which introduced me to the role amateur radio plays in supporting emergency communications. In 2007, I was approached by Jim Aylward KC8PD to do a presentation on Army MARS to the newly minted PCARS club. While sitting through he meeting before it was time to do my presentation, I became aware of the high caliber of club that PCARS was and joined shortly thereafter. Jim was a staunch advocate for the role that amateur radio could play in emergency communications. Shortly after he formed the Communications Unit for the Portage County EMA, he persuaded me to become a member where I remain to this day.

Joining PCARS was one of the most rewarding things I have done as an amateur radio operator. It is a club that is open to as many facets of amateur radio as possible. They believe in creating events and opportunities for member to work on together. Their acceptance of members of all stripes in our community results in a rich blend of personalities and experiences. Most of all, I have made friends and found camaraderie I never would have had I not joined this club. I am thankful for those who have stepped up to provide the leadership for our club, past present and to those who take on that role in the future.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

K8BF Field Day 24 - Submitted to ARRL

Tom, KB8UUZ FD Media & Log Entry



The final PCARS Field Day 2024 report was done and sent in to the ARRL. It was submitted on the ARRL's web app. for Field day and the additional required information was also included as PDF uploads. 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 10 more months until Field Day 2025. *Start planning NOW*.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service - Field Day 2024

Call Used: K8BF GOTA Call: AC8NT ARRL/RAC Section: OH Class: 4A

Participants: 66 Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar Power Multiplier: 2X

Score Submitted: 10,340 + 1890 Bonus = 12,230

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	992	625	1936	3553	
Total Points	1984	1250	1936	5170	X2 = Claimed Score = 10340 (not including bonus)

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Set up in a Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
Message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Bulletin	100
NTS/ICS-213 messages handled - No.=10	100
Natural Power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited Elected Official	100

Description	Points
Site Visit by invited Served Agency Official	100
Educational activity	100
Youth Element achieved	40
GOTA Bonus	200
Submitted via the Web	50
Safety Officer	100
Social Media	100
Total Bonus Points	1890

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:



	C	W	Dig	gital	Ph	ione	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	Totals
80m	99	100	106	100	274	100	479
40m	723	100	163	100	1439	100	2325
20m	148	100	185	100	198	100	531
15m	22	100	80	100	17	100	119
10m	-	-	13	100	4	100	17
6m	-	-	62	100	-	-	62
GOTA	-	-	16	100	4	100	20
Total	992		625		1936		3553



First K8BF Contact was logged by KD8DFL at 18:08 UTC on Saturday on 40 Meters SSB to KA3LR EPA. Last K8BF Contact was logged by WB9LBI at 17:59 UTC on Sunday by the 20 Meters CW to KD5ZCQ in NTX.

PCARS Field Day 2024 - Operator Contact Totals



Contact Totals by Operator



#	Call	QSOs
1	KD8DFL	422
2	K8IV	357
3	WB9LBI	312
4	K8KSU	260
5	N3RA	254
6	K8RR	246
7	N8QE	217
8	K8FF	209
9	N8BI	203
10	W8PT	152
11	K3GP	116
12	AD8IR	115
13	KD8WCK	111
14	AD8FQ	99

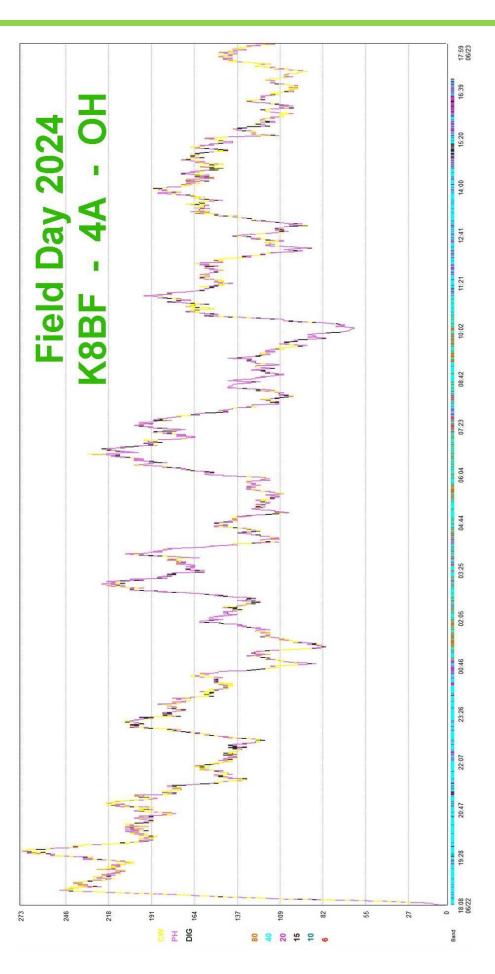
#	Call	QSOs
15	WA8LRW	99
16	W8NET	54
17	KE8BWA	48
18	W8KNO	39
19	KP4VZ	36
20	W8AHC	34
21	KC8JC	30
22	N8WCP	30
23	KA8DFL	24
24	KA8TOA	19
25	W8GPN	18
26	KB8TUY	12
27	KE8EGF	9
28	WD8DAU	8

PCARS Field Day 2024 - GOTA Station

What a great time watching the GOTA station in action.

The GOTA station used the call sign AC8NT. Mike, KP4VZ was the GOTA Coach and worked with both Ashley, WP4PLR and Mike, KE8WZP. The two GOTA operators made a total of 20 contacts. Four contacts on SSB and sixteen on FT8 Digital. Bonus points included 100 for the GOTA Coach and 100 for the GOTA contacts.

GOTA Summary - AC8NT			
Band	Band QSOs Digital QSOs Phone		
80 M	-	2	
40 M	6	-	
20 M	-	1	
15 M	10	1	
Totals	16	4	





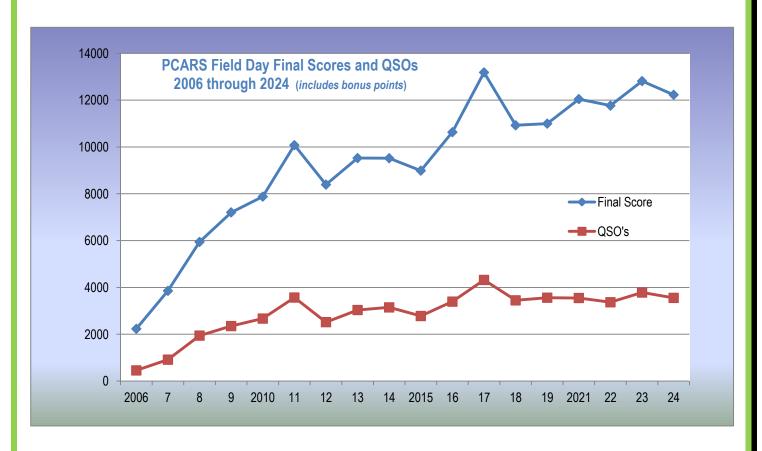
On Air Activity Graph K8BF



Field Day - Past Field Day Comparisons

PCARS	Final QSOs	Final Score
2024 - K8BF	3,553	12,230
2023 - K8BF	3,783	12,815
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	2232







































































































































You've heard of the **Ohio QSO Party**



Well, join us at the **PCARS** club site for the

Ohio BBQSO Party Club Picnic & Open House

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 24th 2024**, the date for this year's **Ohio QSO Party**. PCARS is going to put **K8BF** on the air and we are inviting all PCARS members to come on out for some special **Big Fun**.

It's a **BBQSO Party**, **Open House**, **PCARS Picnic** all rolled into one



Bob, N8QE and Mike, KB8TUY will be the chefs for the **Ohio**BBQSO Party!

That's right, we'll be chasing two kinds of "Q's": on the air contacts and great food fresh off the grill.

Contest set up starts at 10 AM - Contest starts at Noon and ops will continue until midnight (12 hour contest)

Burgers, Brats & Dogs will be served at around 2:00 pm and everyone is invited to bring snacks or side dishes.

OSPOTA 2024 - GET READY



Tom, KB8UUZ OSPOTA Chairman



Hello OSPOTA fans and participants!

The 2024 **Ohio State Parks On The Air** contest (OSPOTA) is coming up real soon - on September 7th 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 - 2024



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the 17th Annual "Ohio State Parks On the Air" (OSPOTA) contest, September 7, 2024 from the hours of 10 am to 6 pm EST (1400 UTC to 2200 UTC).



For hams throughout the State of Ohio, this is your opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the 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: http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/

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. All contacts have the same point values.

Please read the Rules, FAQ's and get your forms for the contest that are posted on the OSPOTA website: www.ospota.org before the contest.



So get to an **Ohio State Park** and get **On The Air** on September 7th.

Have some fun with this contest!

Visit the Ohio State Parks On The Air website at: https://ospota.org/
Learn more about PCARS at www.portcars.org.



Take care & 73 from the entire OSPOTA contest Committee, KB8UUZ, WG8X, W8PT, W8KNO, KB8UHN

Tom, KB8UUZ OSPOTA Chairman OSPOTA

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

The RADIOGRAM

August 2024

Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest - OSPOTA 2024

Sixteenth 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 7, 2024. 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 17th annual OSPOTA – Make plans now to be active in OSPOTA 2024. 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. 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 75 Ohio State Parks open for 2024. ODNR reports the new Great Council Ohio State Park (76th Ohio State Park) located between Xenia and Yellow Springs should be opening in 2024. Per OSPOTA rules, it will not be considered as an active park for the OSPOTA contest until 2025.

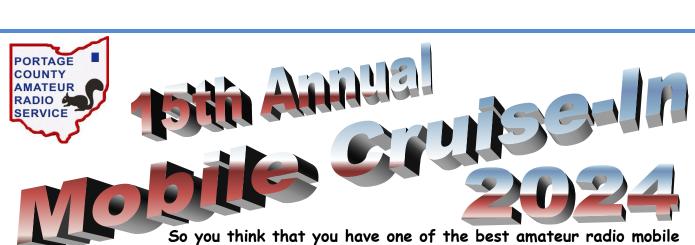
So – pick a park and make your plans now for OSPOTA 2024!!!!!!

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

Check out this handy Ohio State Parks guide at: https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/parks/Ohio-State-Parks-Brochure.pdf



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)



So you think that you have one of the best amateur radio mobile installations to be found? Well here is your chance to show off that mobile rig and have the opportunity to compare it to dozens of others: HF, VHF, UHF, you name it.

Thursday, August 8, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) will be sponsoring the 15th annual



Amateur Radio Mobile Cruise-In Night at the



Restaurant - 769 East Main Street in Ravenna.

Hams from all over
Northeast Ohio will be
cruising in to check out
the wide variety of
mobile radio setups and
get some ideas for their
own vehicles.

Prizes awarded for:

1st Neatest Installation

2nd Most Bands Covered

Enjoy an evening of ham radio fellowship and fun and get to know other hams from throughout the area.



More information contact Mike KP4VZ, at

President@portcars.org



Lake Milton POTA Expedition



John, WG8X

On Saturday, July 27th groups from no less than 3 local Amateur Radio Clubs gathered at local State parks to have fun socializing and playing Parks On The Air. The weather was gorgeous, with temperatures in the 80s. Three stations were set up between the two shelters, and an additional one in the parking lot. A couple of newer hams stopped by, and got their feet wet by getting on the air. Lunch consisted of Hot dogs, sloppy joes, and assorted snacks & sides.

The planning for this group activation began about a month ago, when Brandon reached out to Josh, W8HRF, from the Silvercreek ARA. Everything just grew from there. Locations were picked, pavilions rented, and fliers made. There were a ton of group emails, and a final Zoom meeting to pull everything together. We promoted the event throughout the state via social media and nets. By the 27th, we had been joined by the Cuyahoga Falls ARC, who were planning to set up in Cuyahoga Valley NP.

We wound up with 4 activations on the air between 3 different clubs. Each activation consisted of multiple stations. The breakdown looked something like this:

PCARS was on the east shore of Lake Milton, with Cuyahoga Falls ARC in Peninsula, and Silvercreek set up at West Branch SP. Silvercreek set up not one, but two activations at west Branch. One at the East Boat Ramp Shelter off Gilbert Road, and the other was a hike-In activation on the Buckeye Trail in the park. You'll read more about this in the article submitted by Brandon, KE8ARB.

So what's next? That will be the OSPOTA setup at West Branch State Park on September 7th. Stay tuned!























2nd Annual Ohio Area POTA Meetup & BBQ

Saturday, August 17th, 2024 10AM to ???

> Delaware State Park Buckeye Grove Shelter

Bar-B-Que and table service will be provided Feel free to bring a side dish

- Friendship
- . Food
- . Fun

Click Here For Directions

For more information, Contact John, WG8X

(wg8x.radio@gmail.com)



Logging OSPOTA

John, WG8X

OSPOTA '24 is coming up fast. It's time for the yearly reminder about logging.

Use whatever logging software you like, but, remember to log all the pertinent information for each contact (ie callsign, time, date, mode, and QTH). Don't forget to use the proper park abbreviations for Ohio State Parks. OSPOTA has been around since 2008, and we have our own three character abbreviations for Ohio State Parks. You can find these on our website at ospota.org.

If you've followed my writing for any length of time, you know that I kind of lean towards a modified version of the N3FJP OH QSO Party logger.

But, at the end of the day, as long as you can create a proper Cabrillo file for submitting your entry, we do not care what you use for logging.

The rest of this is my yearly flag-waving for N3FJP. While Scott does not write software for OSPOTA (We wish that he would), it is possible to easily modify one of his software programs to dupe for OSPOTA. Please don't try this unless you are comfortable "lifting the hood" on your computer.

Make sure that you have the most recent version of the N3FJP Ohio QSO Party In-State program installed. As of July 28th, 2024, the most recent version is 4.6.5 which is the latest [3].

Remember the following:

- 1. You are modifying the N3FJP OHQP software to do something that it was not designed to do. If you keep this in mind, then this can be a valid option for OSPOTA. I've used it for the last several years, and it works like a charm. It also logs the band & frequency from your rig. All that is required is a replacement of one file.
- 2. Don't rely on this for scoring. This modification is for duping purposes only. You will do the scoring after the contest ends, and you fill out your summary sheet.
- 3. PLEASE Make sure that your computer clock is correct, and that you are logging in UTC

Complete instructions can be found at [5]. https://ospota.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/N3FJP-logging-hack.pdf

After the contest, this program can be used, with some modification (see below), to create your Cabrillo file to send to us. Look on the File menu for "Write Cabrillo (Contest Submittal) File".

Once you create your Cabrillo file, then open it in a text editor, and correct as needed. For instance:

CONTEST: MRCC-OHQP should be changed to CONTEST: OSPOTA

CLAIMED SCORE This can be deleted, since we use the score from the summary sheet that you submit.

Save cabrillo using your callsign, and you are good to go. This is the Cabrillo that you will submit with your summary sheet

And that's it. Good luck this year! 73 DE WG8X

Multi-Club POTA Activation

Brandon, KE8ARB

Over the past couple years, PCARS has had an overwhelming response to our quarterly park activations. We regularly see 25-30 people attending, and usually a half dozen stations on the air. This is a wonderful time and we enjoy it immensely. With more and more people being interested in deploying antennas at the parks, there are starting to be more operators than practically fit at some venues. Other clubs have seen the same positive response to going out to a park and activating. In our immediate vicinity there are 6 clubs who operate portable regularly. These clubs are full of wonderful operators who thoroughly enjoy this area of radio.



In an effort to coordinate these activations, the SARA club put together the first multi-club, multi-park activation a couple months ago. This had a wonderful response and PCARS participated in the event as well. This idea had been talked about in both of our clubs so we decided to put together another event on a whim. This month we had 4 clubs at 4 venues with a whole lot of Big Fun being had by all. It was an absolutely perfect day with wonderful band conditions. One of the challenges we saw with having so many stations, was solved by an interest to deploy a truly portable group that hiked into the woods and found a place to operate.

Hiking into a location with batteries, antennas, radios and water adds a completely different element to a portable activation. It allows more operators to be on the same bands and get more stations on the air at the same venue. This outing, Ben KE8BHQ and I hiked over a mile through the trails at West Branch State Park to deploy at a trailhead. If you haven't hiked the trails at West Branch they are a local treasure. In order to stay in communication with the main group, we ran Yaesu Group Monitor. There was a station setup at the main pavilion and we used an FT5DR. At over 3 miles away as the crow flies, 100mw was getting us there. As we hiked they could follow our location. Other stations driving to the main pavilion were also in communication with them using GM. We had well over 6 stations on the air all doing simplex. It worked extremely well to help find things in locations where folks were unfamiliar.



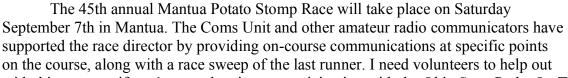
After arriving at the location and starting to setup, we were met with 4 horses and riders that were planning on eating lunch there. This gave us a great opportunity to explain what we were doing and how it worked. The group absolutely loved what we were doing and getting to talk to us about it. We decided to tear down and move so we wouldn't be in their way. That is part of why we practice portable operating. We radio'd back to the pavilion to let them know our change of plans. It was easily accommodated and we carried on with our day. Because Group Monitor beacons you location and call, the folks who brought us food and water were able to drive right to our new location just by following the map on their radio. Big thank you to Ron KB8LNK, and Josh W8HRF for bringing ben and I some burgers and dogs!

All in all portable operations have brought a lot of folks together to have a lot of fun operating radio together. Just this weekend alone we had close to 100 hams for local clubs setup in our state and national parks. We are all exploring the many facets of radio and growing each time we go out. Looking forward to the next event in September!

Brandon KE8ARB

Mantua Potato Stomp Race

Rick, K8CAV
Flex Station Captain





with this event so if you're not planning on participating with the Ohio State Parks On The Air contest, please consider helping out with this event. You can contact me at k8cav.coms@gmail.com if you would like to help. Thanks!

Schedule of Events

Aug 12th

Aug 13th



- Aug 5th PCARS Board Meeting at PCARS Club Site 7 pm
- Aug 8th 15th Annual Amateur Radio Cruise-In Ravenna A&W 6 pm
 - PCARS Monthly Meeting 7 pm
 - HF Dipole Build 7 pm
- Aug 24th Ohio BBQSO Party Club Site 12 pm to 6 pm

Special Interest Groups at the Club Site

First Tuesday Odd Months - Digital Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, K8CAV

First Tuesday Even Months - HF WAS & DX Nets Special Interest Group - Moderator: Gene, W8NET

Second Tuesday - Portable Ops Special Interest Group - Moderator: John, WG8X

Third Tuesday - Antenna Special Interest Group - Moderator: Bob, N8QE

Fourth Tuesday - DX & Contest Special Interest Group - Moderator: Chuck, W8PT

- Could Be Anything Special Interest Group - Moderator: Rick, KD8WCK

Fourth Thursday - Net Night at the Club Site - 6:30 pm - Moderator: Tom, WB8LCD

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.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service



Supply is limited. If you are a current (PAID) member of PCARS you get one coffee cup for FREE!! The only catch is you have to claim it from the Treasurer - Greg, KA8TOA.

Greg has a list of current members and 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 Greg for all of the details: Treasurer@portcars.org



On The Road with WG8X



John, WG8X



Well, I can't say that I did a lot of portable operation this month, but I did manage some time in the chair. For the last few months, I've been working on a project that has kept me at home. So, I've been mostly operating home rig. I did have some fun participating in the NAQP-RTTY contest on the 20th. I've also been on 15 Meters, working on my DXCC, and 5-band WAS.



Since LOTW has returned, I caught up on my log uploads. It took less than an hour. I hadn't done so since early May when the systems went down. Everything seemed to work well. I'm appreciative to the folks at the league for all that they went through, and the fact that my LOTW data was still there waiting for me.

Over the Independence Day holiday, I camped at East Harbor SP, and did a little operating using the 5W Xiegu G106. For the antenna, I broke out the Wolf River Coil System. It's an easy antenna to use once you get some practice on it. A couple weeks later, I got out for an afternoon to check my mobile antenna setup. It had failed on me a couple weeks previously. After some troubleshooting, I found yet again that the antenna was not the issue. The real issue was corrosion in my

mobile mount. Once fixed, I went out to Canfield to activate Kyle Woods State Nature Preserve where the antenna worked flawlessly. Kyle Woods is a small location right alongside I-76, east of Canfield. Afterwards, since there's a Handels Ice Cream about a mile away, I rewarded myself with a giant strawberry milkshake.

The next day, I made a road trip to Xenia to activate the new one; Great Council State Park. Once I arrived, a friend alerted me to a line of thunderstorms in Indiana, moving my way. This was the final park on my list, and I had driven 3 ½ hours to get there, so I hung out long enough to make a valid activation of it, and then headed for home.

I've seen some recommendations in the last month that the interpretive center is a great place to visit, especially if you are into Native American History. I normally head to Xenia a couple days before Hamvention, so I'll put stop on my list for 2025.

Coming up in August is the 2nd annual Ohio POTA Meetup and BBQ. It's on the 17th of August from 10am till whenever, in Delaware State Park. You can find more information in this issue of the Radiogram. Delaware State Park is NW of Columbus, and a nice day trip from Portage County. Everyone is welcome. Some of us are camping out the night before.

73 DE WG8X



Tips for OSPOTA Success



John, WG8X

Each year, I think of things I would like to pass on to OSPOTA participants. But, I never remember when the time comes to write them up. So, a couple years back, I made notes, and started the draft for this article before leaving the campground. These are some random thoughts that I would like to pass along.

Planning

As they say, Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. If you were planning to camp for the weekend of OSPOTA, hopefully you made your reservations early. Since COVID reared its ugly head in 2020, campgrounds have filled up fast. Finding campsites does seem to get a tad easier after Labor Day, but it's still good to know that you have your reservations in.

Power

Will you have power available, or be relying on batteries/solar? Either way, test your systems ahead of time. No, that doesn't mean the morning of OSPOTA. That just adds to the pressure. In the words of the motivational speaker Brian Tracy, "No one works better under pressure; they just work faster".

Test your logging software ahead of time

Try as we might, the logging options for OSPOTA are limited. Some of the logging options are Genlog, N1MM, N3FJP. There may be others. You can also do logging on Paper, but at some point the log has to be entered into an electronic format so that you can generate the Cabrillo file that is required for entry.

A note on Cabrillo files

If you are using a contest logger such as N3FJP, N1MM, Genlog, you can directly create a Cabrillo file from the file menu on your logger. If you used a general logger, such as aclog, etc, it gets more complicated.

If you have issues, please reach out to me so I can help you. I've run into a log or two that just can't be fixed, but 90% of them are salvageable. If you contact me, I can usually help.

Use 80 Meters

Ohio State Parks On The air is a great contest as well as a cool excuse to get out and enjoy an Ohio State Park for a day (or an entire weekend). If you're participating from within an Ohio State Park, then you can expect your points to come from two different places.

First: the number of stations you can work from within your park. These can be on 80, 40, 20, 15, or 10 Meters. Since you are in an Ohio State Park, you can work anyone for point credit. Start calling CQ and ask folks to spot you. Remember, per the rules, you should not self-spot, but no problem asking others to spot you.

Second: the other place where your points come from will be from the other Ohio State Park stations that you are able to work. For these stations, it's a good idea to be ready to work 80 meters. Though Park to Park contacts within Ohio can be done on other bands, there have been years where 80 would be your bread & Butter band for these types of contacts. Not only are your park to park contacts good for point credit, but they are multipliers, meaning that after the contest, your number of contacts made are multiplied by the number of Ohio State Parks you contacted. By the way, you only get one multiplier per park contacted. You can work 5 different stations in Salt Fork SP, but they still count only as 5 contacts, and 1 multiplier. Also, you can claim the multiplier for your own park, even if you don't work anyone there.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

DO NOT USE WORD!

After the contest, when you create your Cabrillo file, you will want to open it up and edit it in a text editor. See the rules at ospota.org for more information on this. Resist the urge to use MS Word to edit your Cabrillo file. Word can insert some weird formatting such as tabs that can wreak havoc with the log checking process. Instead, use your computers text editor, such as notepad, WordPad, etc.

Work Dupes!

If someone tries to work you a second (or 3rd, or 4th) time, just roll with it and log the contact. Maybe they busted your call the first time, and you truly are not in their log. Besides, think of how much extra time it takes to let the other op know they are a dupe, then wait while they check their log, etc. Just work them. We don't give you credit for duplicate contacts, but we don't penalize you for them either.

Log Rovers properly!

Starting a couple years back, we allowed Rovers for OSPOTA. Since it was the first year for it, we went easy on everyone during scoring, and didn't penalize anyone who improperly logged a rover. Since then, we've been adhering strictly to the rules.

ROVERS, MUST give their callsign as Call/R (ie K8BF/R).

EVERYONE must log exactly what the rovers send. Failure to log that /R will be considered a busted call.

Know your park designator for OSPOTA, and POTA

A lot of folks keep track of POTA numbers while operating OSPOTA. So it's a good idea to have your POTA number written down for those who may ask.

So, that's about it. OSPOTA 2024 will be on Saturday, Sept 7. Please check out the website at www.ospota.org for the rules, and more information.

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

Hamfest Calendar

Here are the current listings of local hamfests. Please note that all are subject to change. Stay current by checking the sponsoring club's web page before making your travel arrangements.



08/18/2024 - Warren Hamfest - Location: Trumbull County - Fairgrounds - 899 Everett Hull Rd. - Cortland, OH 44410 - website: https://www.w8vtd.com/ - Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association - Talk-In: 146.970 - (100hz normally off) - Public Contact: Andrew Juchnowski , AB8MO - PO Box 809 Warren, OH 44482 - Phone: (234) 238-2312 - Email: hamfest@w8vtd.com

09/08/2024 - Findlay Hamfest - Location: Findaly, OH - Type: ARRL Hamfest - Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club - Website: https://w8ft.org

09/22/2024 - Cleveland Hamfest - Location: Berea, OH - Type: ARRL Hamfest - Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland - Website: https://www.hac.org

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE WANTED FOR SALE WANTED FOR SALE

FOR SALE Tigertronics Signalink with cable SL-CAB6PM. This cable allows use with several different makes & models of radio. The jumper is installed for the FT-891 & FT-950. By changing the jumpers, this can be used with other radios More information at https://tigertronics.com/. If interested, contact John, WG8X at 330-936-5021, or wg8x.radio@gmail.com. [09/24]

FOR SALE FROM K8IG (non-smoking shack). All equipment working unless noted otherwise. Local pickup in Mayfield Village. Manuals for most equipment. Pictures available on email request. Offers invited.

Ameco PT-3 preamplifier (\$90.00); Collins 312b-4 winged emblem station console Serial #314 (\$350); Drake MN-2000 Serial 1758 (\$300); LDG 600 Watt Autotuner AT600PROII with accompanying illuminated meter (rare- meter no longer manufactured) \$475; LDG Autotuner LDG AT-1000 (\$350); LDG AT-1000PROII (original Owner) with accompanying illuminated 1K meter (rare – meters no longer manufactured) (\$550); MFJ – 616 Speech Intelligibility Enhancer (\$125); Nye Viking Antenna Tuner MB-V-A 3KW, Serial # 10066 (\$450); Palstar mobile wattmeter PM2000am Serial # 26015 (\$150); Swan Cygnet 300 B Serial # 18547 Transceiver (\$400); West Mountain Rig Blaster PRO (\$25); YAESU YO-301 Monitor Scope (\$250); Hallicrafters SX-28 (2 available) for parts (\$50) each. (DXE) 12 meter add-on kit for 4-6 BTV (never used – bought Hexbeam and never installed this kit) (\$60); Heathkit SB-614 Station Monitor Serial # 504 (\$200).

Contact Fred, K8IG at K8IG@arrl.net; call 440-446-8000 or text 440-668-2400. [08/24]

For Sale or Want Ad policy reminder: This is a PCARS *members only benefit*. Please don't ask to list items for a friend, relative or SK estate unless they are/were a member of PCARS. Requests come in from all over the USA (and beyond) to list items for sale or wanted items and we just cannot dedicate that much space to non-members. Listings are good for 3 months unless canceled or changed earlier. The date listed after the contact information tells you when the ad expires - example: [01/24] indicates the ad will run until the end of January 2024.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

Ohio Section Youth Net

When: The second Sunday of every month at 7:30 PM EST - Sunday March 10, 2024

Where: The K8IV repeater located in Kent, Ohio (Echolink node K8BF-L) RF: 146.895 Mhz

with PL 118.8

Who: Any licensed amateur radio operator who wishes to participate. Priority will be given to youth stations and those located in Ohio.

The purpose of this net is to encourage youth activity in amateur radio and to help new hams get more comfortable on the air.

If you are a young ham, in the Ohio Section or elsewhere, please check in and say "Hello"! Even if you're far away from OHIO you can check in via Echo-Link. Echo-Link is a good tool to have, and it can be accessed from your laptop, tablet or cellphone. But there is a process to get validated to the Echo-link system. It's simple to do, but you need to get it done before the day of the net!

Portable Ops Special Interest Group

John, WG8X
Portable Ops SIG Coordinator



Next Portable Operating SIG Tuesday, August 13th at 7:00 PM

Our next Portable Operations SIG will on Tuesday, August 13th will be a little different. This month, a group build is scheduled where we will be building 10 or 20M Dipoles. The project will be built around the DX Engineering Model DXE-DWK single band low power dipole kit. The wire used will be #14 THHN. The cost per kit will be \$20, but feel free to come by and hang out at the club site. There's lots of portable operation stuff happening this summer, so all are opening.

I can't guarantee that Zoom will be available this month since we will not be in the classroom. But, just in case, I will post the Zoom info.

A couple topics of discussion will no doubt be the recent Multi-Club POTA Event, and the upcoming OSPOTA.

Speaking of OSPOTA, it's coming up on September 7th. We'll be operating from West Branch State Park, using N8P as our callsign. We'll be running Multi-Multi class for this year's event, and everyone is welcome to come out to get on the air. The goal isn't so much to place well, as to give folks another opportunity to get on the air, and get some on the air experience.

You can learn more about OSPOTA at https://ospota.org/

As promised, here's the Zoom info (Remember, it likely won't be in use, but just in case):

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/92154491950?pwd=cmZNSIFhZVRmcVg3L3pnazdrK1ZuUT09

Meeting ID: 921 5449 1950

Passcode: 878917 One tap mobile

+13092053325,,92154491950#,,,,*878917# US

+13126266799,,92154491950#,,,,*878917# US (Chicago)

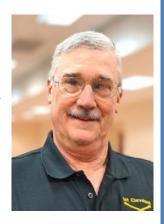
Hope you can make it! 73, DE WG8X

Digital Special Interest Group

Rick, K8CAV
Digital SIG Coordinator

There is no Digital Special Interest Group meeting scheduled for August.

The next Digital Special Interest Group meeting will take place on Tuesday September 3rd at 7:00 PM at the PCARS Club Site.



Antenna Special Interest Group

Bob, N8QEAntenna SIG Coordinator

The next meeting of the PCARS Antenna Special Interest Group will be August 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

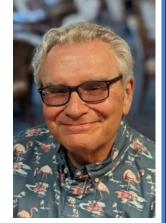
We will be in-person at the PCARS club site, and on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://zoom.us/i/99273855876?pwd=VWhuemc0T3JRdWVUd2NTZGJZWnBUQT09

Meeting ID: 992 7385 5876

Passcode: 047804



Discussion at the July Antenna SIG centered on what antenna to use for 6 meters. The simplest antenna to get you on the air is a simple loop type 6 meter antenna which can easily be mounted in many ways. Ken WA8LRW said he has worked 48 states with his, and Bob N8QE has worked 44 states with his on a simple 30 foot mast. David KE8QEP hangs his loop from a tree with excellent results. When the 6 meter magic band opens up, long distance contacts are not hard to make especially with the new FT-8 digital mode.

The Antenna SIG meetings are open to all PCARS members and guests. All ham radio operators or anyone interested in Amateur Radio are also welcome to attend. We will be discussing all aspects of antenna design, construction, test equipment, and experimentation. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion and talk about their antenna-related projects with the group, and anything else Ham Radio.



PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



DX & Contesting Special Interest Group

Chuck, W8PT
DX & Contesting SIG Coordinator

Attention PCARS DXers & Contesters

Hello from the Parkman, OH, HAM shack of W8PT. On Tuesday, the 22nd of July, we held our monthly DX/Contesting Special Interest Group meeting at the club site. We had 11 members attending.

We discussed our club's recent participation in the NA QSO Party - RTTY Mode and agreed that one, **it was fun**, and two, we probably did as well as could be expected in our first outing in this event. We ended up with 404 Qs for 52,116 pts. We could have had more points but those members who worked from their QTH and reported their club affiliation as PCARS, could not be counted toward the total. More on that later.

We entered as a muti two station since that was the only class open to us. It meant that only two stations could be on the air at any one time using the club call. We had an operational schedule this time since we wanted to know who would be operating and when. The contest ran from 2PM on Saturday afternoon (June 20) until 2AM Sunday morning. We ended up with six ops covering the (6) 2 hr time periods for each of the two operating positions.

The rules for this contest are fairly stringent. In order for op scores to be counted if not at the club site, the stations needed to be registered ahead of time as a team. This we did not do. In our discussion, we decided that for these types of contests, in the future, we would form teams that could work from their own QTHs. These teams would consist of 4-6 ops. We chose PCARS Black Squirrel Contest Group, as the team's designation. We will definitely start to look at more RTTY contests in which to participate.

We made note of the contests occuring in August. Maryland-DC; Hawaii; Kansas; and Colorado State QSO Parties. And of course, one more, namely the Ohio QSO Party that takes place the weekend of Aug 24-25. That is also our BBQ and Open House. So we hope to see many members out for that one and hopefully, some will even get on the air.

73 for now de Chuck W8PT, PCARS Contest Coordinator.

Flex Net

Rick, K8CAV
Flex Net Coordinator

Next Flex Net: July 10th at 8:00 PM

The next PCARS Flex Net will be held on Wednesday August 14th at 8:00 PM. This months net will be a Digital-Only net using the OLIVIA 8/500 mode, on 6 meters. Tune your transceiver's dial frequency to 50.350 MHz USB and center the MFSK-16 cursors at 1,500 Hz on the waterfall.

As this is a digital-only net, we will be using prosigns and Q signals to streamline net operations. A review of the use of prosigns and Q signals named "Flex-Net-Digital-Operations.pdf" can be found on the PCARS groups.io site, here: https://groups.io/g/PCARS/files/Flex-Net-Digital-Operations.pdf



HF WAS and DX Special Interest Group

Gene, W8NET

Greetings everyone! The HF WAS & DX Nets SIG meeting on August 6 will be at 7:30pm, NOT 7:00pm. I will ask everyone in attendance to join me on the 3905 Century Club 40m SSB net and stay for one round (or more). The net starts at 0000z (8:00pm EDT). Depending on propagation, conditions, number of check ins, etc, the first round will be done at 9:00-9:15pm. I will stay until everyone goes or the net closes.

This is also a good way to see NetLogger up close and get some hard-to- get states confirmed!

Hope to see you there on Tuesday, August 6 at 7:30pm!

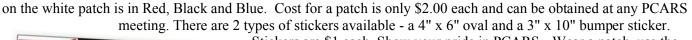


PCARS Patches & Stickers



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



Stickers are \$1 each. Show your pride in PCARS - Wear a patch, use the stickers! See the club Treasurer: Greg, KA8TOA or e-mail him at:

Treasurer@portcars.org



Villager Business Solutions - attention Michelle Zivoder 8088 Main Street
Garrettsville, OH 44231
michelle@villagerbusiness.com 330-472-7304





PCARS K8BF

The club that puts the FUN in ham radio



Charlie the Tuner's HF High-Lites

Chuck, W8PT a.k.a. "Charlie the Tuner



Greetings DXers

I hope that you DXers have been taking all the opportunities that this present sunspot cycle has been providing. Keep in mind that we are quickly reaching the peak of Cycle 25 and it will start to pass after next year. Frankly, it has been a better cycle than many of the predictions. I know that I have been able to work quite a few ATNOs during the past couple of years.

The important thing is to use this time to have some fun and work some rare DX. I realize that trying to bust into a pileup can be a frustrating experience, to say the least, but with the propagation we have, it can be done even with wire antennas. For us who enjoy this part of HAM radio, we will keep wobbling the ethers and waving the DX flag. Why not join us? With that in mind, let's take a look at what is planned for the near future.

Thanks to: The Daily DX, DL5ON & The DX News Letter, DXNews.com, DX-World.Net, I1JOJ/IK1ADH & 425 DX News, TenX DX News, DXNL for the following DX information.

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

August...

- **7Q, MALAWI. REMINDER** Don, K6ZO is QRV as 7Q6M from Embangweni and is here for six months while on work assignment in a hospital. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and EME. QSL via LoTW.
- 9G, GHANA. Adam, M6NXW announces that he will be active from Breman, Kumasi District, Ghana as 9G5AS during August 26 to September 4, 2024. QRV on 20-17-15-12-10m; SSB, FT8 & FT4. QSL via eQSL, HRD log and QRZ.COM only. No LoTW.
- C5, GAMBIA, Jean-Louis, F6ITS has just received his Gambian license and will be active as C5GM until December 2024. When not on his sail boat, he will QRV from Lamin Lodge (Grid: IK13qj). Jean-Louis says he has restarted CW after more than 10 years inactivity so is sorry for any mistakes and his slow speed. QSL info to follow.
- CY9C, SAINT PAUL ISLAND, CY9C Team will be active again from Saint Paul Island, IOTA NA 094, 26 August - 5 September 2024. They will operate on 160 - 6m CW, SSB, RTTY, EME, SAT, FT8. QSL via WA4DAN direct, OQRS, LOTW.
- E51, RAROTONGA. Steve, ZL4CZ (as E51CZZ) and Steve, ZL2KE (as E51KEE) will be active from Rarotonga (OC-013) and Aitutaki (OC-083) during July 20 to August 6. QRV on 40-10m (mainly 20-15-10). Possibly 160 & 8depending on QRN and interest from DXers. Antennas: verticals on beach / end-fed longwires. Holiday-style activity with XYLs. QSL via LoTW.
- JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island, IOTA OC-073, and here for about three months while working at the weather station. Activity is in his limited spare time on the HF bands using CW and some FT8. QSL direct to JA8CJY.
- MM, SCOTLAND. Team MM0UKI (5 ops) will be active from the Flannan Islands, EU-118 (Scotland) beginning August 1st and staying for 48-72 hours. Island is very weather / seas dependent. Plan to ORV with 3 stations; Hexbeam + wire antennas; including 2 x QRO stations. Bands: 40-6m; CW & SSB – no FT8. QSL via M0OXO. The uninhabited

island group is 20 miles (32km) west of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. It is 6th 'most wanted' IOTA in Europe and 2nd in the UK (after Rockall).

N5J, JARVIS IS. N5J Team will be active from Jarvis Island, IOTA OC - 081, 5 - 20 August 2024. Team on Island - AA7JV, N1DG, HA7RY, KN4EEI. 25 ops will be remote. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, FT8. DXCC Country - Jarvis and Palmyra.

OZ, DENMARK. Special event stations OZ60IOTA, 5P60IOTA/0, IOTA EU-030, 5P60IOTA/1, IOTA EU-171, 5P60IOTA/2, IOTA EU-172, 5P60IOTA/5, IOTA EU-125, 5P60IOTA/8, IOTA EU-088, and 5P60IOTA/9, IOTA EU-029, are QRV until the end of August to celebrate the 60th anniversary of IOTA, the Islands On The Air program. QSL via LoTW.

UR, UKRAINE. Special event station EM100WJZ will be QRV now until December 31 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first amateur radio activity from the ancient city of Lwow, now known as Lviv. QSL via UR4WWE.

Look Ahead & Reminders...

3D ROTUMA IS. A DXpedition set for November 15th to December 4th with 6 ops will use callsign 3D2Z.

7Q, MALAWI. 7Q7MW Team will be active from Malawi, during end of the October 2024. They will operate on HF Bands, including activity in CQ WW DX SSB Contest, 26 - 27 October 2024.

C2, NAURU. Our team (T2C in 2023 and P29RO in 2022 and other activities in the years before COVID) has decided to announce its next DXpedition. We will return to the pacific and travel to Nauru (C2) in October 2024. We are planning to operate with 5 stations, 24/7 from 160 to 6 m in CW, SSB, FT8 and RTTY.

DU, PHILIPPINES. Christian, F4EBK is QRV as DU3/F4EBK from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until January 2025. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 meters typically around 0900 and then after 2100z. QSL via F4EUO.

KH0, MARIANA IS. Tom KC0W is going to operate with call KH0V from November 23-24th.

KH0, MARIANA IS. Ken, JO1VRK plans to be active from Saipan, Mariana Islands as KH0/AJ6VJ during December 30, 2024 to January 3, 2025. QRV 40-20-17-15-12-10m. QSL via LoTW, eQSL – email for home address for paper QSL.

OE, AUSTRIA. Special event station OE70VIE is active until September 30 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Vienna International Airport. QSL via OE6VIE.

UN, KAZAKHSTAN. Uwe DL8UD will be on from September 10th to 19th using call UN/DL8UD. RARE!

VK0, DAVIS STATION ANTARCTICA. Dave, VK2DS is active as VK0DS from Davis Station, Antarctica, until November 2024. He will operate on HF Bands, plus 6m and EME 2m and 23cm. QSL via home call.

XT2MD, BURKINA FASO. XT2MD Team will be active from Burkina Faso, 31 October - 11 November 2024. They will operate on HF Bands and EME. QSL via IK2VUC buro or direct.

My usual disclaimer: These DX events can change due to various reasons that sometimes are out of the hands of those who are doing the planning. Uncover your rigs and put some power to them! If you happen to have boat anchors, light up those tubes.

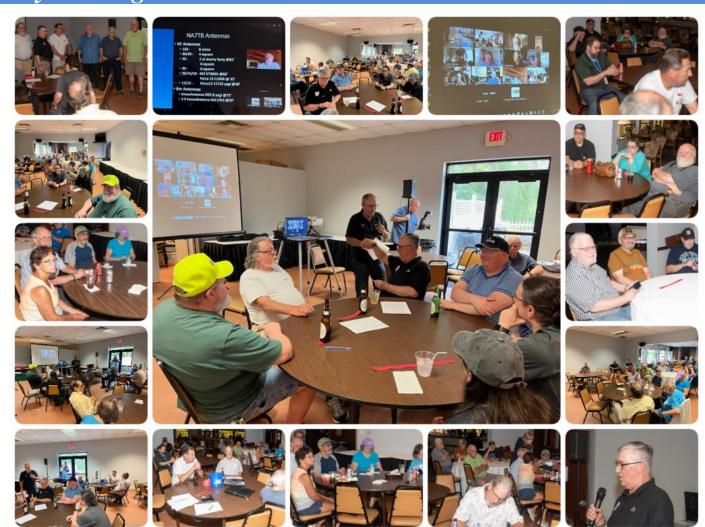
Get on the air and work some DX!! 73 for now....Chuck W8PT aka Charlie the Tuner

Get on the air and work some DX!!

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

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

July Meeting Photos



From Around The World...

Links from Here, There, and Everywhere

Ham Radio call signs discovered during university renovation https://www2.lehigh.edu/news/ham-radio-call-signs-discovered-during-clayton-uc-renovation-revive-memories-of-lehighs

The Baked Potato Radial https://ericcodes.io/blog/the-baked-potato-radial.html

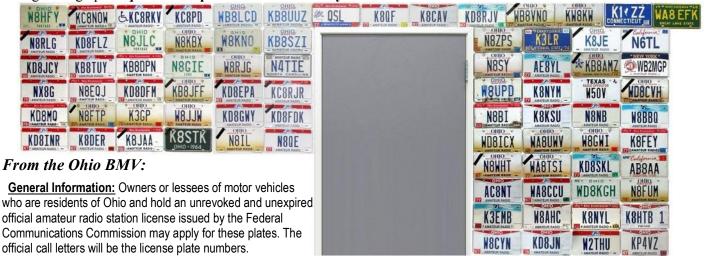
The best reasons to build a go-box https://hamradiooutsidethebox.ca/2024/07/25/the-best-reasons-to-build-a-go-box/



PCARS Ham Radio License Plates Wanted !!! PLEASE !!

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 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.



Registrant Eligibility: Owner must submit a copy of the un-revoked and unexpired official amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. (FCC).

<u>Title Requirements:</u> 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.

<u>Vehicle Information:</u> 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 <u>any type renewal transaction</u>.

All plates will be mailed directly to the address on your registration card unless customer requests otherwise. 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 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



Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

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 picture on the left shows
The American Legion Post 496
as viewed from Mogadore Road.
(looking East)

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.

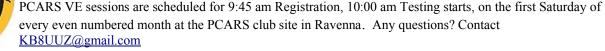
PCARS VE Testing Information & News

Tom, KB8UUZ
PCARS VE Team Liaison

Future Dates
August 3rd, October 5th, December 7th
*** Check the website for the latest information ***

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.





- 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:
 - o A picture ID such as a valid Driver's License, State ID, School ID, or US Passport.
 - o 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).
 - o 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.
 - o Calculators are okay to use (if you need one) as long as the memories are cleared.
 - o 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 <u>new fees will apply only to applications for a new license</u>, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign.

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will <u>not</u> 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

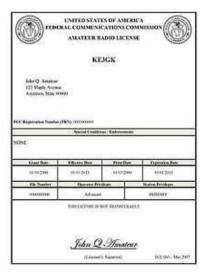
Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

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





Thanks & 73

J.C., KC8JC
PCARS Newsletter Editor



Summer isn't going anywhere just yet. It looks like many of the area hams are taking their rigs portable and getting out into the parks. It's a great time to be in Ohio and enjoying the great outdoors. With upcoming club POTA events and the club favorite Ohio State Parks On The Air contest I hope you've got your gear ready to grab and go.

It's clear that the club and its members have a lot to look forward to as summer continues and even as we find ourselves thinking about autumn. Join a SIG or come out to a club event and then tell us your story in the pages of *The Radiogram*!

Send your inputs on any ham radio topic to me at <u>KC8JC@portcars.org</u> and you will find yourself in the great company of our many prestigious newsletter contributors.

I'd like to thank all those who sent inputs for this month's issue:

K8CAV, KB8UUZ, KP4VZ, N8QE, W8NET W8PT, WA8LRW, WG8X and the World Wide Web.

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



This gorgeous little CW-only QRP rig is more fun than should be allowed at the park!

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 MHz PL 118.8 in Sugar Bush Knolls ~ EchoLink Node: K8BF-L

Check PCARS out on the web: www.PORTCARS.ORG



~ 2024 Officers ~	2024 PCARS Appointments & Committees		
ike Gonzalez – KP4VZ t – Ken Hall – WA8LRW Greg Ash - KA8TOA – Chuck Patellis – W8PT 9 Mike Ryan – KB8TUY – Gene Marsh – W8NET	ARRL Awards - DXCC	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
	Club Site Manager/Liaison	K8CAV	Rick Kruis
	Contest Coordinator	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
	EchoLink	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Field Day Chairman, 2024	WA8AR	Tony Romito
	FYAO Chairman	W8PT	Chuck Patellis
Sonz en H J Asl uck e Ry e Ry	K8BF Callsign Trustee	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
Re Gerege	K8BF QSL Manager	N8QE	Bob Hajdak
President – Mike Gonzalez – KP4VZ Vice President – Ken Hall – WA8LRW Treasurer - Greg Ash - KA8TOA 1 Year Trustee – Chuck Patellis – W8P 2 Year Trustee Mike Ryan – KB8TUY 3 Year Trustee – Gene Marsh – W8NE Past President – Nick Wagner – AC8Q	Membership Chairman		
	Net Control Coordinator	KA8TOA	Greg Ash
	Newsletter Editor	KC8JC	J.C. Wilson
	OSPOTA Chairman	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	PCARS Photographer		
	Public Information Officer		
~ Meetings & Net ~	Secretary	KE8EGF	Paul Hyland
2nd Monday of each month. 7pm Thursday night Club Net at 8 pm on 146.895	Social Media	N8WCP	Mike Szabo
	Tech, Gen & Extra Class Mgr.	AC8NT	Jim Wilson
	Volunteer Examiner Liaison	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	Webmaster	KP4VZ	Mike Gonzalez
	POTA Coordinator	KE8ARB	Brandon Mercer

	KB8UUZ	Tom	Parkinson
ARRL VEC	AC8NT	Jim	Wilson
	AC8QG	Nick	Wagner
	N8QE	Bob	Hajdak
	KA8TOA	Greg	Ash
	WA8CCU	Al	Nagy
Active	N8FUM	Dan	Torchia
	KC8JC	James	"J.C." Wilson
PCARS Volunteer	W8EC	Mark	Haas
Examiner	K8IG	Fred	Freer
Team Members	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

The RADIOGRAM copyright ©2024, is the official newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) - Hamvention® 2018 Club Of The Year. The RADIOGRAM is an Award Winning newsletter: ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter - 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), please have inp uts submitted by 8 pm ET on the last Friday of each month. 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

By attending PCARS in-person activities, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending PCARS in-person activities, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and covenant not to sue and agree not to hold the Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) or any of their directors, officers, contractors, vendors or volunteers liable for any illness or injury. While PCARS implements preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with Federal, State and Local guidelines, we cannot guarantee that attendees will not become infected with COVID-19 as a result of attendance.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) 705 Oakwood Street - Box 12







