

# THE PARC QSO



*Official Newsletter of the Portage Amateur Radio Club*  
*"Public Service Through Amateur Radio"*

## PORTAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. - MARCH / APRIL 2004 - NEWSLETTER

Well, 2004 started off with SNOW. The January PARC meeting had to be cancelled due to bad weather causing the Maplewood Career Center (our meeting place) to be closed. So, for future reference, watch the TV or listen to the radio for school closings. If you hear that the Maplewood Career Center is closed on our meeting night, we won't be having our meeting. I hope the new year is starting out good for all of you. Right now the weather seems to be warming up a bit, but I remember in past years, lots of snow toward the end of March, so don't put the snow shovel away just yet. My G5RV almost became a casualty of the foul ice and snow we've had. A large branch cam off one of the trees it is hooked to and landed on the wire like a big upside down 'V'. I watched it slowly move toward the center of the antenna over a few days time. Luckily, one of the windy days finally let it slip off and fall to the ground. The branch was 4 feet long on each side, but the G5RV hung in there! I thought for sure that it would break, whew, nothing worse than working on a wire antenna in foul weather! Hamvention is on the way and tickets can be ordered on-line at their web site. I 'm looking forward to seeing all the new and 'new-old' stuff there. Inside this issue you'll find allot of real interesting information and some fun stuff, too. The ARRL is proposing changes in the Amateur Radio Licensing scheme, this change would also increase some of the bands! Check it out. Joe - W8KNO found some really funny information for his Paper Chase column and you should enjoy the humor there. A newcomer to the newsletter is Philip Neidlinger - KA4KOE, he has written some short historical information for various pioneers in electronics and radio. Philip has allowed us to re-print his articles and I'm sure you'll find them real interesting. This month is Heinrich Hertz, and others will show up in future issues of our newsletter. Jim - KC8PD gives us a nice report from his DXpedition to Aruba. You've been hearing all about the new rovers on the planet Mars, well we have some good information from Michael - W8MMN - MARS call sign AAR5QH - Michael gives us some good info on the closer to home, Amateur Radio version of MARS. SKYWARN TRAINING in April - See Dave's article for all the details. Field Day is only a few short months away, so start making plans. And while your making plans, mark down December 11th for the annual PARC Christmas Party - See Joanne's article for more information. AND - the PARC HAMFAIR 2004 will be on Sunday, July 25th - Mark Your Calendar! Lots of good information this issue, thanks for your inputs, and keep them coming for future issues!

Take care & 73 - Tom - KB8UUZ



### P.A.R.C. OFFICERS

President - Larry Solak - WD8MPV  
Vice President - Dave Cluggish - N8IIQ  
Sec'y/Treas.- Joanne Solak - KJ3O/8  
Radio Officer - Tom Simmons - N8QXG

Trustees: 1-Dave - W8GWI 2-Steve - N8XIB 3-Dave - WA8GCF

**PARC Repeaters & Nets** 145.390 MHz 442.875 MHz

Located in Ravenna, Ohio

ARES Net - Sunday - 8:30 p.m. 145.390 MHz  
Simplex Net - Tuesday - 9 p.m. 145.680 MHz  
10 Meter Net - Wednesday - 7:30 p.m. 28.375 MHz

The PARC newsletter "The PARC QSO" is published six times per year. Contact Tom - KB8UUZ to submit your inputs before the 1st of the month by mail to: 9992 State Route 700 - Mantua, OH 44255 e-mail: extra@ohioweb.net

**The PARC QSO**  
**Portage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
**Newsletter**

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## SECRETARY'S CORNER

The last regular monthly meeting of the Portage Amateur Radio Club was held February 25<sup>th</sup> 2004 at the Maplewood Career Center located on Rt 88 Ravenna, Ohio. This meeting was well attended and congratulations to Thomas R. Sly WB8LCD 1480 Lake Martin Dr Kent, Ohio, voted in our newest member of the Portage Amateur Radio Club. We discussed the Amateur Radio Spectrum past, present, and what could be the future spectrum. We went on to discuss the last Club Annual Christmas Party which was held Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at Cali's LaCucina Restaurant in Kent, and decided to find another restaurant for our club event this year because Cali's was way too small for our group. Stephen Georges - N8XIB, announced that we already have a hall donated for this year's Christmas Party. The V.F.W. Post 1055 located on New Milford Road in Ravenna has donated their Hall to us for our Party. We "thank" Steve for his efforts on the Club's behalf. The Club Party will be catered. Members are collecting estimates at this time for the catered meal. Everyone attending will bring a surprise dessert. The Party will be held Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>.. 6PM until --?-- So Mark your calendars! Mark your calendars for June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2004, this is Field Day Weekend. More on this event as we gather information. Dave Cluggish N8IIQ, has arranged Skywarn Training to be held April 28<sup>th</sup>. 7PM at the Maplewood Career Center. This is also a meeting night for our Club members. We did not initially want to have the training on a club meeting night but available dates changed our schedule. Please try to attend this training session which is also open to family, friends, and the public is invited to attend. The Skywarn training session will be presented by the National Weather Service, Cleveland. Well, hope you are enjoying this beautiful break in the weather, I know I am to a certain extent.. never satisfied, now we have MUD.. Oh Well! I still enjoy the warmer temperatures. HAVE A GREAT MONTH ! See you at the next meeting or when you least expect it! Very Best 73..

**Joanne - KJ3O - Secretary/Treasurer**

## MARS

### Journey to amateur radio and Army MARS

These days it seems that everyone has a cell phone and the Internet rules, just ask your teenager. So, just why do you need amateur radio communications anymore? Then there was the dark day we now refer to as 9/11. As America watched the video footage of the second airplane crashing into the World Trade Center, our shocked conclusions were one airplane could be an accident, two had to be deliberate. Later reports of an airplane crashing into the Pentagon and yet another crashing in a Pennsylvania field confirmed our fears. As I listened to the reports on international shortwave and

watched the video footage of these crimes on TV, I felt a kind of mental nakedness fall upon our country as a realization that our world had changed, our security challenged and our greatest strength, freedom, was again under fire. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technician personnel and others worked tirelessly to find the fallen, aid the hurt and restore order. Quietly in the background, amateur radio operators were there too, handling emergency communications. The 9/11 disaster did something that my amateur radio friends had failed in doing in past years (not that they didn't try, they begged, cajoled and did about everything within reason short of hiring Go-Go girls), it was one of those defining moments and I was motivated to obtain my amateur radio license. I wanted to have amateur radio communications capabilities and I wanted to do something for our country. I wanted to help out in a capacity that made sense, where I could contribute and I believed that radio was the best fit for me. Thus started my journey to amateur radio and my wife endorsed my decision (little did she know it would make her a "radio widow"). I have also noted in the past few years that there has been a general philosophical trend to be heavily reliant on the newest technology (cell phones, Internet, computers, etc.) in an "if it isn't new, it's not sexy" outlook that unwittingly turns away from the "tried & true." Hey, not to say that I don't like my computer, Internet access, digital camera, etc. because I sure do. It's just that experience has taught me that in times of emergency "new & sexy" are not always the best bedfellows when the lights go out. Soon after receiving



my newly "minted" ticket I was asking myself "okay now what?" I had a conceptual idea on how I could contribute, but not necessarily where to go. And of course being a newbie to amateur radio I had a lot to learn. Getting on the air is a hoot and I should have taken my friends advice long ago, discovering again that hindsight is "20-20." The second part of my intended journey, really an adventure, occurred when I started to keep an ear out for what I called the "professional" amateur operators. These were the voices through my headphones during Nets where traffic was handled in professional fashion. I knew what to listen for as a close friend Al, KK7GV, was a police and fire dispatcher in my hometown and also a sheriff's officer (now retired lucky dog). I had been bitten by the radio bug and have always had a love for building receivers and listening to international shortwave, and it was just plain cool to hang out with Al while he worked (yes, I did have

permission from his commanders). In serious retrospect, these informal yet valuable lessons taught me that in emergencies training is everything. People generally do not "rise to the occasion," they typically sink to their highest level of training received. Not to say that there aren't extraordinary examples where common, everyday people, perform heroic feats such as the classic "Joe six-pack" type of guy who suddenly goes from picking up a 16 ounce container of his favorite adult beverage to picking up a 2500-pound Buick off a trapped child. I am speaking of situations where training really, really counts and correct radio traffic handling could make the difference between success or failure (such as saving lives in an emergency by shaving off precious minutes where every second counts). The Army Military Affiliate Radio System came to my attention one night while tuning about the bands. MARS, yeah, those were the guys during the Vietnam conflict years who handled health and welfare message, and phone-patch traffic from the troops overseas. Okay, so I cruised the Internet looking up various "hits" about MARS trying to find my way to an actual MARS operator to talk with. As luck would have it I met the Utah State Army MARS director, Steve Carver, AAA8UT, at a local amateur radio club meeting. I cornered Steve after the meeting and fired off about a ton of questions to better my understanding of MARS. Steve explained that while MARS was renowned for handling health and welfare traffic (MARSgrams) to military personnel, its main role and function is to provide Department of Defense sponsored emergency communications. MARS provides auxiliary communications for military, civil or disaster officials during emergencies. Upon hearing the outline of the MARS service I decided that this was the radio service that I had been looking for and submitted an application. Army MARS, headquartered at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., is assigned to the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command. Upon receiving my temporary callsign and training materials from Fort Huachuca I discovered the full extent and infrastructure of MARS. In my professional life as an aerospace engineer and certified quality auditor I recognize the value of good procedures coupled with good training as these two facets are cornerstones of success. The depth of the procedures, ongoing training, facilities and the professionalism of the volunteer operators enables MARS to handle vital message traffic across the nation and around the world. When not training or handling emergency traffic, the network of MARS operators are ready and able to handle all the MARSgrams that may result with so many of our troops deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places around the globe. The good old MARSgram system makes great sense as a means to help keep spirits of our troops high while at the same time helping Uncle Sam keep costs down. My journey to amateur radio has enriched my life with new friends and knowledge. My adventure with Army MARS has rewarded me with the pride that accompanies service and the honor to be a member of

such a great resource for our country. If you are an amateur radio operator interested in military communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications during times of need, then look up the Army MARS Web site at [www.asc.army.mil/mars/](http://www.asc.army.mil/mars/) for further information. The Army MARS motto is "Proud, Professional and Ready," and indeed it's true. by Randall Shreve, KD7PCW/AAR8MH. Submitted by:

**Michael - W8MMN**  
**MARS call sign AAR5QH**

MARS Director is Norm Bash  
His email is AAR5AQ @cros.net

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## ARES UPDATE

### PORTAGE COUNTY SKY WARN TRAINING PLANNED FOP APRIL

The Portage Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a Sky Warn training session Wednesday, April 28 at the Maplewood Career Center. Gary Garnet from the National Weather Service will be conducting the presentation. The session will be held in the school cafeteria beginning at 7:00 PM. Our regular club meeting will immediately follow the presentation. The National Weather Service suggests that all storm spotters receive training every two years. This



**SKYWARN**

upcoming session is necessary since it will be nearly two years this April since many of our club members last received training. The session will also be open to the county and local officials and others wishing to become an NWS storm spotter. I am asking all of our club members to attend and to urge others to stop by whom you know may someday be a valuable resource when threatening weather conditions develop.

**David - N8IIQ EC Portage County**

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## 2004 ARE PAST DUE!!

PARC dues for 2004 are past due now. Hey, why not pay early? Avoid the rush! So, while your thinking of it, fill out the membership form in the back of the newsletter and send it in to Joanne - KJ3O our Secretary / Treasurer. Help support the club with your membership - it will be appreciated by all.

## SWAP-N-SHOP

**Wanted AM/FM board for Yaesu - FT-102** Contact: Jerry N8ATV - phone: 330-527-4930, before noon or e mail at : ampol@config.com

**6 Element 2 Meter Beam** - no balun or connector - Contact Bob - KE8UV at: wixy@juno.com or call 330-296-4803 (the answer machine just beeps - so don't wait for a message, so just start talking)

**4 Sections of Tower** - 10 Foot sections, 2 sections nest inside the others. All for \$60.00. - Contact Bob - KE8UV at: wixy@juno.com or call 330-296-4803 (the answer machine just beeps - so don't wait for a message, so just start talking)

**B&W Folded Dipole** - 90 Ft long - Covers 6M-160M continuous without a tuner (6M needs a tuner). It has been up since April of this year and is in very good shape. Great antenna for field day or MARS. It costs \$200 new. Asking \$100. Call Michael @ 330-947-2893 or e-mail to: mnelson4@neo.rr.com

**Yaesu FT-470 Dual Band** with desktop charger. Also FT-33 (needs some work) Both for \$200 Or best offer. Contact Dave - N8KBC. E-mail to: N8KBC@neo.rr.com or call 330-678-1272

**2 Yaesu FT-209HT** with extra battery packs and charger. \$140.00 for the lot. Both have the tone boards and are in working order. Contact Dave - W8GWI - email w8gwi@arrl.net or call 330-630-2438

**WANTED - Dual Band Mobile** - I'm looking for a good 2meter 70cm mobile rig for my car if some one is selling a used unit. Contact Mike - KD6IYY - e-mail: biss421@aol.com

**Ameritron AL-811A 600W amp.** For sale or trade: In like-new condition with only about 12 hours on the tubes. This does have the 10M/12M band. I am looking to trade for a nice HF/VHF rig, something like a 706MkIIG, FT-100D, FT-767GX, TS-680s, etc. or perhaps a dual band mobile like IC-2800 or IC-208 + \$. Also would consider a 5KW+ generator, or other items. I got a new Alpha and do not need this taking up space in the shack - so let's deal. Would also take \$475 to sell outright. Feel free to email or call me at W8MMN@NEO.RR.COM (330) 337-8001.

**HyGain DB1015** - 3 Element 10/15Meter beam - \$40 Contact John at: W8JJW@ATT.NET or call 330-673-0943.

**Hallicrafter HT 42** - AM/SSB - 100 Watt transmitter \$150.00 - Contact Bob - KE8UV at: wixy@juno.com or call 330-296-4803 (the answer machine just beeps - so don't wait for a message, so just start talking).

**SATERN DONATIONS REQUESTED** - The Salem Salvation Army is taking donations of equipment to help get the SATERN station operational. We need HF & VHF rigs, antennas, tuners, power supplies, tower, amps, cable - in short everything needed to set up the station. All donations are 100% tax deductible, and the Salvation Army will issue a Tax letter for the full value of any equipment donated. Donations can be made at : The Salvation Army - 1249 N. Ellsworth Ave. - Salem Ohio 44460 - phone: 330-332-5624, FAX - 330-332-2624

## Croatian Amateurs Gain New Bands and 100kHz at 40 Meters

Croatia has become the first country in Region 1 to benefit from the expansion of the 40-metre band agreed

at the World Radio Conference in Switzerland last summer. 9A amateurs have also been given privileges at 70 and 3400MHz and now no longer have to pass a Morse code test for access to the HF bands. New amateur radio regulations came into effect in



Croatia on the 26th of December. Since then, amateurs there may operate between 7100 and 7200kHz on a Secondary basis, with a maximum power of 1000 watts PEP, in addition to the normal Region 1 allocation of

7000 to 7100kHz. On 4 meters, Croatian amateurs now have 70.000 to 70.450MHz, with a power limit of 10 watts. They also gain a new band between 3400 and 3410MHz, with a maximum permitted power of 150 watts. The Morse code requirement for an HF bands license was also dropped with the new regulations and there are now only two license classes there: the full license and a beginners' license.

## Ed- K8WJH

from the Radio Society of Great Britain

## SEASONED WITH LOVE

### HAWAIIAN MEAT MARINADE

1 cup soy sauce  
½ cup dry vermouth  
juice of two lemons  
4 Tbsp Worcestershire  
garlic powder to taste  
Mix and marinade meat for twelve hours

### WINE KRAUT

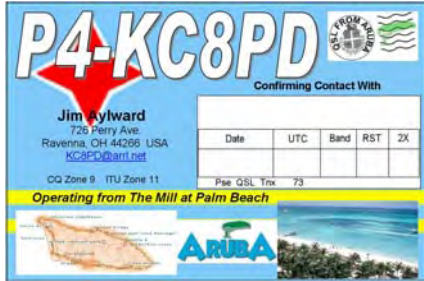
Drain kraut and rinse well several times. Squeeze dry as much as possible. Put casserole, over with about ½ cup white wine, place knockers over top., Add few juniper berries, Cover casserole and bake 45 minutes in 350 degree oven—uncover last 10 minutes.

## Vivian – KB8CLH

## KC8PD - DXpedition to Aruba

This January the XYL and I had an other opportunity to vacation in Aruba, the island located off the north coast of Venezuela. Aruba has consistently pleasant weather with daytime highs in the eighties and at night it only drops to the mid-seventies. The wind blows all the time, so much so that the low-growing divi-divi trees have branches that grow in the direction of the wind. We like to stay at a quiet two story hotel that is across the road from the beach. Unlike the high-rise hotels, it is a two story facility and many of the rooms are actually time-shares. Before our trip last year, I had obtained an Aruba amateur radio license that permitted me to operate for one year as P4/KC8PD. Our trip was from January 3rd to the 10th and the license ran until this February so I did

not have to re-apply. Just like last year, I packed my rig, power supply and antenna tuner in my carry-on bag. Once again, we zipped through each security checkpoint without so much as a question. I had all my documentation in the bag and almost hoped that someone would ask just so I could show them. My checked bag did get randomly pulled at the Pittsburgh airport to be inspected and checked for explosives (which I passed handily), although the inspector did pull out my dummy load and give it a quizzical look. This year I had decided to try a different antenna instead of the portable bugcatcher that I took last year. This time I had a Yo-Yo antenna which is just a dipole that has both halves wind up into reels that look like yo-yos. You



simply calculate the appropriate length for the band you want to work and roll it out from each reel. I tried it out at home before leaving, stringing it from the front door and then

through the kitchen. After tuning it up with an MFJ tuner, I worked HK3AK in Bogota on 20 meters and he gave me a 5/8 signal report. Things looked good. Once in Aruba, I unpacked the ICOM 706 MKIIg, MFJ tuner and the power supply on Saturday and tried a couple of different strategies for stringing the antenna. The first was a horizontal vee and it was disastrous. The SWR would not come down no matter what I did. I think the legs of the vee were just too close to each other but I was stuck with the width of the room. With the antenna strung lengthwise through the room I did manage to work N4DWK in Richmond, Virginia, on 20M with a 5/5 report. The next day, Sunday morning, I took a shot at 40M (to stick with the schedule that I sent out to PARC members) and the AM broadcast stations' QRM was brutal. No luck at all on that band. The antenna was so long that I had to drape one end of it out over the balcony. Matching for a workable SWR was a real problem on 40 meters. That afternoon at 2100 UTC it was time to try 20 meters again. With the antenna strung longwise through the room I started calling CQ. At 2115 who do I hear returning my call but Joe, W8KNO. It made my day. He was kind of light at 4/7 but with 100% copy. After our QSO, Joe very kindly called Tom, KB8UUZ, to let him know that I was on the air. A few minutes later I worked Tom and he was a solid 5/9 although I was only 5/5. Over the next few days I tried a variety of antenna configurations for 20M, 17M and 10M. The hard lesson about all of this was that stringing an antenna indoors presents its own set of problems because of the potential for RF interaction with structural components, conduit, wiring, AC units and ductwork, etc., that can't even be seen. While trying to transmit on 17M, the RF caused something in the ceiling to buzz loudly. I have no idea what that was. In most

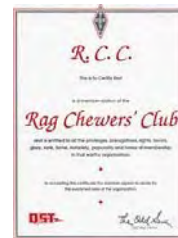
configurations it was difficult to get the tuner to give me a match that produced a low enough SWR. A recurring problem was that the 706's internal circuitry would sense the higher SWR and roll the power back to where I was QRP. Low power and a poor antenna are never a good combination. Unfortunately, there was no way that I could string the antenna outside from our balcony to a tree or whatever. Since the hotel is only two stories and the buildings encircle the pool area, when we go again, and assuming the XYL agrees, we might opt for a ground floor room away from the parking area so that I could either string the dipole or even try something like the Buddipole. Anyway, the fun is in the trying and being able to work friends back home is the reward.

Jim - P4/KC8PD



### Three ARRL Awards Discontinued

Feb 12, 2004 - Effective immediately, the ARRL Awards Branch has discontinued the Rag Chewer's Club, the Old Timer's Club and the Friendship Award. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG,



says that the number of amateurs applying for awards in general has declined significantly over the years, and interest in these three awards had slowed to a trickle. DXCC and WAS remain among the most popular ARRL Awards, he said, but the eliminated awards "had outlived their interest level."



ARRL



### UPCOMING HAMFESTS- 2004

21 Mar 2004 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association - www.tmrahmradio.org - Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR - 4463 Holly Hill Dr - Toledo, OH 43614 - Phone: 419-385-5624 - Email: wd8mxr@arrl.net

28 Mar 2004 - Lake County ARA, Madison - www.lcara.org - Contact: Robert Liddy, K8BL - 7321 Enfield Dr - Mentor, OH 44060 - Phone: 440-951-0283 - Email: k8bl@ameritech.net

18 Apr 2004 - Cuyahoga Falls ARC - www.cfarc.org - Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS - 239 Bermont Ave - Munroe Falls, OH 44262 - Phone: 330-688-2013 - Email: w8tts@arrl.net

14-16 May 2004 - **Hamvention** - Dayton ARA - www.hamvention.org/ - Contact: N8EMO Gary Des Combes - PO Box 964 - Dayton, OH 45401-0964 - Phone: 937-276-6930 or 937-276-6934 - Email: info@hamvention.org

From the ARRL Web Site



## HAMFEST REPORT - NOARS

February 1st turned out to be a good day for the Lorain hamfest. No snow storm...no ice storm...no going sideways down the road, just a nice "crisp" sunny day. Tom-KB8UUZ and I rode together to the hamfest. This was the first time either of us have been out Lorain way for a hamfest. We traveled on the turnpike and arrived there in no time. I don't know how they were able to give out free breakfasts with coffee...but they did! So Tom and I had breakfast as soon as we walked in the hall! I wasn't hunting for anything special. One seller had a lot of computer software (not copies) which I went back to a couple of times to thumb through. There were several nice laptop computers that were newer models and their price was in the "higher range."

Laptops now seems to be taking over from PC's as the leading type of computer at these



hamfests. With the ever increasing improvements and lowering of prices on new PC's it won't be too long before we see a flood of fairly decent computers at these hamfests! A good early hamfest for the start of the 2004 hamfest season!

AI - KB8VJL

### PARC NET CONTROL SCHEDULE March - April 2004

Sunday 145.390	Tuesday 145.680
Mar 7 - WB8FEW	Mar 9 - WB8FEW
Mar 14 - KB8JHS	Mar 16 - N8IIQ
Mar 21 - N8IIQ	Mar 23 - WD8MPV
Mar 28 - KB8UUZ	Mar 30 - WA8GCF
Apr 4 - WB8FEW	Apr 6 - WB8FEW
Apr 11 - KB8JHS	Apr 13 - N8IIQ
Apr 18 - N8IIQ	Apr 20 - WD8MPV
Apr 25 - KB8UUZ	Apr 27 - WA8GCF
May 2 - WB8FEW	May 4 - WB8FEW

### Wednesday 28.375

Mar 10 - W8KNO	Apr 14 - KB8JHS
Mar 17 - KB8JHS	Apr 21 - W8KNO
Mar 31 - KB8JHS	May 5 - W8KNO
Apr 7 - W8KNO	

I would like to thank all of our net control operators for taking the time to conduct our weekly nets.

Dave - N8IIQ - Portage EC

## Paper Chase

I have often mentioned the awards put forth by the ARRL. Today, I am sad to announce the discontinuance of three of their awards. They are the "Friendship, Rag Chew and Old Timer" awards. The rationalization was that they were not being sought after. You might wonder why anyone would want to collect awards, here is a humorous look at some of the awards you might already have. It was written by Charles Pearce, K3YWY.

A humorous look at a number of "new" operating awards you may not even know you've already earned! I was sitting in my shack the other day and noticed the lack of wallpaper. Not the kind you put on with paste, but the kind of ham wallpaper that decorates the wall and bespeaks achievement. Beyond some free posters from one of the radio companies, I only had one that fell into the achievement category--a "thank you" from a local club for a talk I had given at one of their meetings. So, how to remedy this situation and spruce up the shack walls with a bunch of certificates? After I reviewed the available major awards, such as DXCC, WAS and WAZ, it quickly became apparent that these take real work. So why shouldn't we have a new class of "awards" for those of us not as inclined to put in much effort. Awards that fit the way we operate. With this in mind, I propose the following seven new awards: You don't need to work them all to have this handsome award gracing the wall of your shack! **Worked Most States** - This award will give you the choice of working any 48 of 50 states. No more would folks from 6- and 7-land have to comb the bands for that elusive Delaware or Rhode Island contact. Nor would Alaska and Hawaii present barriers to those in the East. No more fighting pileups to get that last state worked. Plus, I think the operators in



states such as Delaware, Rhode Island, North and South Dakota and Alaska will really appreciate this award--it will really take the heat off of them. Most of the time they can't have a decent QSO because of all the people waiting to work them. This award would also have an endorsement sticker. The "Finally Worked the Last Two" sticker would be available if you ever do work the missing two states. You would not be eligible for WAS because you really didn't start out to work all states, just 48. The sticker would just verify the happy accident of working the final two.

**Unsolicited DXCC** - This is my personal favorite, because I have been working on it for about 10 years. It is great for the occasional DXer, like myself, who will work DX if it comes my way. The award gives you the right to say you are working on DXCC without really chasing DX. Here is how it works: work DX when and

where you can, but don't put yourself out. This applies to the QSL process as well. Don't ever request or send out a card until the DX station sends you one first. I'm amazed at how many DX stations will QSL first. This is also the miser's DXCC, because you only spend postage when you actually receive a card. No more sending out cards and hoping for a reply. I've confirmed 34 countries this way and the best-unsolicited DX is Angola.

**Heard All Zones** - This is probably the easiest award and it is based on the honor system. Just tune in to one of the weekly DX contests and write down the calls of stations you heard in each zone and send them in. No QSL cards are needed. After all, it's easy to hear all zones and who would cheat? Without the need to work through pileups, I'd estimate this award could be completed in a few hours.

**Worked Ten Hams I Already Knew** - This is sort of a new twist on the Rag Chewers' Club award. Most of us spend a lot of time talking to the same people over and over again, so why shouldn't we get an award for this level of loyalty and persistence? It is also going to be easy to get your buddies to send you a card. In fact, you will probably see them at your next local club meeting when they can hand you the card and save themselves postage.

**Worked All Nets** - This should be one of the more popular new awards. The 80, 40 and 20-meter bands are replete with nets, but it is usually the same folks on each net. This award should get some of the net rats to try out new nets.

**Worked All the Bands on My Radio** - Not as easy as it may seem at first, this award requires you to make a contact on every band on your main rig. Since some rigs now cover amateur bands from 1.8 to 450 MHz, there is a real challenge here. I predict that this award will stimulate sales of antenna handbooks as hams everywhere look for ways to capture this award. Your significant other will also like the award, as the antenna only has to be up for one contact.

**Worked RI, DE, ND, SD and AK** - This is, maybe, the only "real" award of the bunch. Everyone knows there are hams aplenty in the other 45 states, so what is the big deal about getting an award for working them? When chasing this award, you can just concentrate your efforts on the rare ones.

While you are smiling about chasing paper, there is one event that will be conducted for 4 four weeks and cover five Sundays during March and April. It is the 3B9C DXpedition to Rodrigues Island in the Indian Ocean. The web site for more information is [www.fsdxa.com/3b9c](http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c). The site includes the information you might need as well as a nice propagation program by W6EL. Hear you in the pileups.

**Joe - W8KNO**



## Heinrich Rudolph Hertz

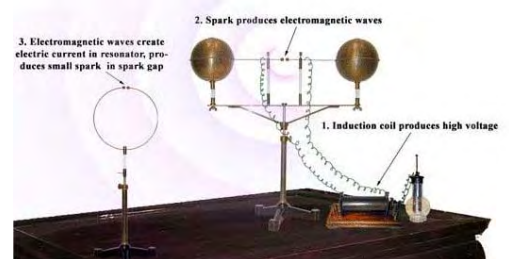
22 February 1857 - 1 January 1894



Perhaps the burning question on my mind is why did a lot of the early electrical pioneers sport such interesting beards? Put a rifle in the picture and I can just imagine Heiny walking out of the piney woods after distilling a few hundred gallons of 'shine. As you may recall, the existence of electromagnetic

waves was predicted mathematically by James Clerk Maxwell and was discussed in the first of this series of irreverent articles. Mathematicians, physicists, and scientists will, on occasion, develop elegant formulae that don't amount to much except to illustrate some arcane concept with no practical application. However, such was not the case in this particular instance. Heiny took Maxwell's headache-inducing formulae and proved that they did, in fact, describe a natural phenomenon. Hertz was born in Hamburg, Germany. At an early age it became apparent that the boy was scientifically inclined. Young Heiny enjoyed building instruments of various types in the family workshop. Hertz began his formal education in 1877 at the University of Munich where he studied engineering. Only a year later, Hertz abandoned engineering (blasphemy!) and began his study of natural sciences at the University of Berlin, studying under Helmholtz and Kirchoff (sound familiar?) where he earned his Ph.D, with magna cum laude honors. His mom must have been a very proud woman! A topic of intense interest in the scientific community at the time was determining whether or not Maxwell's equations were valid. In 1883, the young scientist also directed his attention to this course of research.

In 1887, Hertz conducted his now famous experiment in which two



antennas were placed a few feet apart. The first part of the device consisted of essentially a crude spark gap transmitter connected to the first antenna. The receiving antenna was a loop with a couple of electrodes on the wire ends placed very close together. Hertz activated the transmitter and it generated sparks. Sparks were also seen leaping across the electrode gap at the receiving antenna. Further experiments were conducted in which it was determined that the invisible waves could be reflected and refracted in a manner similar to that of light waves, and finally that light waves were also

electromagnetic in nature. Maxwell's theories were finally vindicated eight years after his death! Hertz's findings were published in 1892 in his book, Untersuchungen Ueber Die Ausbreitung Der Elektrischen Kraft (Investigations on the Propagation of Electric Energy). Unfortunately, Hertz died young at the age of 37 from blood poisoning. Associates and friends remember the professor as amiable and modest, and people seemed to be naturally attracted to him. In his honor, the unit of frequency measurement, the Hertz, was named after him. A young Italian boy read about Hertz's experiments and it galvanized his attention. I'll give you three guesses who that boy was!

### Philip Neidlinger, P.E. - KA4KOE

References: The Spark Museum, <http://www.sparkmuseum.com/>  
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Reprinted with author's permission - Thanks Philip!

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### QSL - TNX

I'd like to drop a "Thanks" to **AI - KB8VJL** and **Joe - W8KNO** for verifying some QSL cards for me. I reached the 1500 level in the CQ USA-CA award (Worked All Counties), and after taking 6 hours to get them all 500 together and in order, both AI and Joe went through all of them in about 2 hours. Sure, I bought the breakfast at Eastpark, but they took the time to look them all over for me. I've sent off for my 1500 level sticker, only 1577 to go until I have all the US counties!! Thanks again guys.

**Tom - KB8UUZ**

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### MARCH SECTION NEWS

Gilmour Academy's Amateur Radio Club (Cleveland) made contact early in January with the International Space Station which was flying overhead at 17,500 mph. Known as ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), this exciting marriage of ham radio and grade students is occurring mainly unnoticed by most of our membership. ISS Commander Mike Foale, KB5UAC, up there told the Gilmour students down here about life beyond our atmosphere. Certainly a lifelong memory about ham radio for those kids. Thanks to Ken Kane, KG8DN, of the Gilmour Academy and member of Lake Erie ARA, who organized the contact while 50 people watch. OHIO SECTION REMINDER - The FCC is about to announce a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) comment period on BPL. Just like a Chicago election, vote early and vote often. Be sure to be fully informed on the horrors of BPL and then write the FCC. This is a must in defense of our frequencies... Hamvention web site is under new management and is more reader friendly. Try it at <[www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)> for the latest on the 2004 show which is May 14 - 16.

**Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio Section Manager**

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## ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

ARRL Jan 19, 2004 --The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article



25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000. The ARRL has addressed frequently asked questions (FAQs) concerning this proposal. "Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" The plan adopted by the Board departs only slightly from the Executive Committee's recommendations.

### The "New" Novice

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool. "The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It was also seen as important to limit the scope of privileges so the exam would not have to include material that is inappropriate at the entry level." As an introduction to Amateur Radio, the Novice license served successfully for most of its 50-year history. The FCC has not issued new Novice licenses since the 2000 license restructuring, however. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would

be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing. Anticipating assertions that the new plan would "dumb down" Amateur Radio licensing, Harrison said those currently holding a ticket often perceive the level of complexity to have been greater when they were first licensed than it actually was. "Quite frankly," he said, "if you review the questions presented in our license manuals throughout the years, you will be surprised how they compare to those of today."

### Technicians and Generals

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. ARRL already has proposed additional phone privileges for Generals in its "Novice refarming" petition, RM-10413, but the FCC has not yet acted on that petition.

### Morse Code Testing Retained for Extra

At the top rung, the Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same.

The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit. "This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said. "It also simplifies the FCC database by conforming to the current Universal Licensing System (ULS) structure and does not mandate any modifications to it." Sumner concurred. "The Board started out by recognizing that three license classes was the right number when looking down the road 10 or 15 years," he said. "We need a new entry-level license." "On the other hand, there's nothing particularly wrong with the existing Extra class license," he continued. "The change in the international regulations notwithstanding, the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment in the FCC's amateur licensing structure should include basic Morse capability." Sumner and Harrison say the current Technician entry-level ticket provides little opportunity to experience facets of ham radio beyond repeater operation. "The quality of that experience," Sumner said, "often depends on the operator's location." Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the

old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

### Proposal Includes "Novice Refarming" Band Plan

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter the current HF subbands. The Novice refarming proposal would eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand phone/image subbands on 80 and 40 meters.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

## ARRL

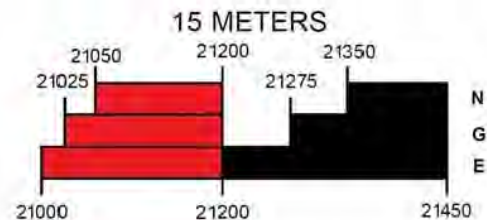
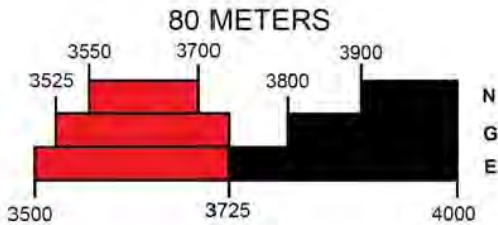
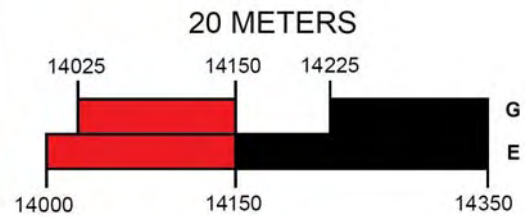
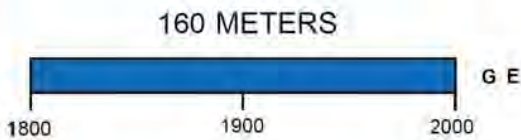
### YOUR CHANCE TO CONTACT SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE

Ham radio "personalities" to be W1AW contest ops -- ARRL Life Members Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, of the band The Eagles, and ham radio audio expert and manufacturer Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound will be on hand at Maxim Memorial station W1AW during the March 6-7 weekend to operate the ARRL International DX Contest (SSB). ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says Walsh--a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member and Eagles guitarist and vocalist--and Heil will be available to work zero-point contacts with US stations during the DX contest. Walsh is a major benefactor of the ARRL Education and Technology Program. He and Heil will be part of a multioperator team that will include Henderson as well as ARRL HQ staffers Dave Patton, NN1N, Mark Spencer, WA8SME, and Mary Hobart, K1MMH, among others. A special W1AW QSL card featuring a photo of Walsh and Heil will be available for those working W1AW during the event. Enclose an SASE when requesting a card. W1AW will not begin DX contest operations until regularly scheduled bulletin and code practice transmissions have ended sometime early Saturday, March 6 (UTC). It's anticipated that W1AW will be on the air for the rest of the contest period, which ends at 2400 March 7, although Walsh and Heil will only operate March 6. Walsh and Heil will tour ARRL Headquarters March 5. It will mark Walsh's first visit.



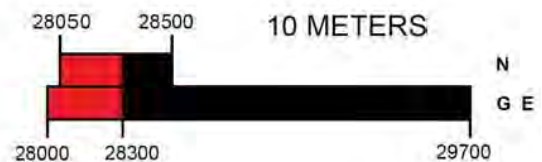
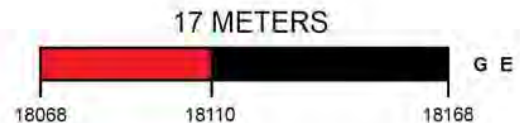
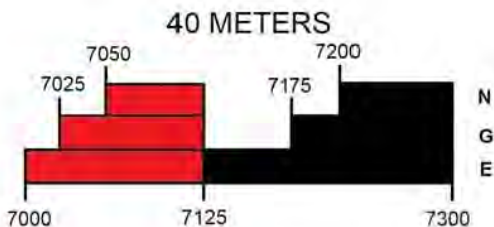
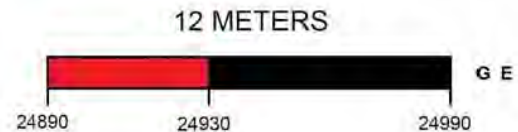
From ARRL

New ARRL Proposal for HF Bands – **NOT EFFECTIVE – ONLY A PROPOSAL** Three License Classes: Novice, General, Amateur Extra -Refer to the ARRL web site for further information – 23 January 2004



**60 METERS**

General and Amateur Extra licensees may use the following five channels on a secondary basis with a maximum effective radiated power of 50 W PEP relative to a half wave dipole. Only upper sideband suppressed carrier voice transmissions may be used. The frequencies are 5330.5, 5346.5, 5366.5, 5371.5 and 5403.5 kHz. The occupied bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz centered on 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz respectively.



**KEY**

- = CW, RTTY and data
- = CW, phone and image
- = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image

- E = AMATEUR EXTRA
- G = GENERAL
- N = NOVICE

Novice:  
100 Watt Maximum on 80, 40, 15 Meters  
50 Watt Maximum on 10 Meters



# Portage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

## Membership Application

New Member [ ]

Renewal Membership [ ]



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Packet Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



ARRL Member? [ ] Yes [ ] No ARRL Membership Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

First Year Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Call Signs: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional family members living at home who are -or- want to be, club members:

Name	Call Sign	License Class	ARRL Member?
1 _____			[ ] Yes [ ] No
2 _____			[ ] Yes [ ] No
3 _____			[ ] Yes [ ] No

List your interests in Amateur Radio:

Are you a member of Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)? [ ] Yes [ ] No

If not a member of ARES - would you like to join? [ ] Yes [ ] No



Please check the Bands and Modes you have the equipment to operate on:

Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2	1.25	70cm
AM													
FM													
SSB													
CW													

Do you operate (circle): RTTY ATV EME PSK31 Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to make any comments or suggestions concerning the PARC?: \_\_\_\_\_

*Single Membership - \$12.00 Family Membership - \$15.00  
Annual Dues are due January 1st*



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Portage Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
c/o: **Joanne Solak - KJ3O**  
**9971 Diagonal Road**  
**Mantua, OH 44255**

Any questions - call Joanne at: 330-274-8240

The Portage Amateur Radio Club, Inc. meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM  
at the Maplewood Career Center - 7075 State Route 88 - Ravenna, Ohio

***Guests are always welcome!***

For more information contact: Joanne or Larry Solak at: 1-330-274-8240

P.A.R.C. Repeaters: 145.390 MHz 442.875 MHz Located in Ravenna, Ohio



**HAMFAIR<sup>®</sup> '04 - July 25, 2004**

*It's never too early to mark your calendar!!*

P.A.R.C. Website: <http://www.parc.portage.oh.us/>

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Joanne Solak – KJ3O/8 – Secretary  
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