



# AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**KB8ZHP**

"Public Service Through Amateur Radio"

## NEWSLETTER

Sept-Oct 2010

### Ravenna Balloon-a-fair

The 2010 Balloon-a-fair Big Parade was a success with the help of the members of the Portage ARC Members providing communications at various locations along the Parade route. Prior to the start of the Parade, members of the PARC met at the Ravenna Burger King for a light breakfast and assignments for the Parade Route. After the Parade, The organizers of the yearly event told us they could not get along without us and then scheduled us for 2011. After the Parade when all the parade awards were presented, the Portage Amateur Radio Club received a beautiful plaque thanking us for our service and listing us as a supporter of the Ravenna Balloon-a-fair.

### PARC CLUB PICNIC

The members of the Portage Amateur Radio Club held their annual club picnic at the QTH of Mike (KB8TUY) and Mary Jo Ryan again this year. All of us present for this most wonderful event was witness to the Big Balloon lift off. The weather was perfect for the balloon launching and one of the balloons carried our own Dave Kaltenborn, N8KBC who waved to us as we watched the balloons lift off. There was plenty of food, all delicious. If you went away hungry, it was your own fault. It is so nice later in the evening just to sit around the bon fire enjoying marshmallows and deserts..the end of the evening is always spectacular when the Fireworks begin. If you were not at the picnic, you really missed a good time.

### PARC CLUB MEETINGS

As you know, we had been meeting at the Family and Community Services Building on Oakwood Street while our usual meeting place at Maplewood was under some construction. We are glad to report that all the construction has finished and we have the clearance to return to our usual meeting room at Maplewood. Therefore, the next meeting of the PARC which is scheduled for the 27th of October will be held at Maplewood Career Center and the regular monthly meeting schedule will continue through the end of the year.

## PARC CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Portage ARC has scheduled its annual Christmas Party for December 11th. It will be held at the Shalersville Town Hall located on the corner of State Routes 44 & 303 in Shalersville. So mark your calendar for DEC 11TH. And get those reservations in by November meeting. I will have the prices for the dinner at that time. The dress is casual, exchange gifts as usual, Junk box gifts for the "hams" and the ladies will exchange a \$5.00 gift. The time is 6PM until 9-10 PM. You are invited to bring a guest, of course.

## 2011 HAMFAIR

Hamfair 2011 will be July 31, 2011 at the Portage County Fairgrounds in Randolph, Ohio. Set up will begin Saturday, the 30th, and vendors gate will open at 6:00 AM with the General Admission gate opening at 8:00 AM on Sunday. Main prize drawing will be at 2:30 PM. For additional information contact Joanne, KJ3O or check out the Club's web site.

## HT RAFFLE

The HT raffle is on Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be sold for each one. Once the tickets are sold out the drawing will be held at the next club meeting.

## **The Amateur's CODE of 1947**

### One

The Amateur is Gentlemanly . . . He never knowingly uses the air for his own amusement in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others. He abides by the pledges given by the ARRL in his behalf to the public and the Government.

### Two

The Amateur is Loyal . . . He owes his amateur radio to the American Radio Relay League, and he offers it his unswerving loyalty.

### Three

The Amateur is Progressive . . . He keeps his station abreast of science. It is built well and efficiently. His operating practice is clean and regular.

### Four

The Amateur is Friendly . . . Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance and cooperation for the broadcast listener; these are marks of the amateur spirit.

### Five

The Amateur is Balanced . . . Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school, or his community.

The Amateur is Patriotic . . . His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.

The Amateur's CODE of 1947 is written here with the permission of The American Radio Relay League, Inc., Copyright 1947.

Ham Radio...

Amateur radio operators enjoy personal (and often worldwide) wireless communications with each other and are able to support their communities with emergency and disaster communications if necessary, while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory. However, proliferation of the Internet and its popularity among youth has caused the decline of amateur radio. In the past five years alone, the number of people holding active ham radio licenses has dropped by 50,000, even though Morse Code is no longer a requirement.



# NEWS

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## **FCC UNLOCKS GOVERNMENT DATA WITH NEW ONLINE TOOLS**

Washington, D.C. -- At the Gov 2.0 Summit today, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski and Managing Director Steven VanRoekel announced a suite of new tools designed to unlock FCC data and drive innovation across the public and private sectors.

Today's announcement marks a major step towards our goal of reimagining the dot gov experience to better serve the 21st-century citizen," said Chairman Genachowski. "These new online tools will empower innovators and developers across the country to leverage government data in ways never imagined, creating immense value for the American public. This is an important part of institutionalizing change in government."

The suite of tools released by the FCC includes a number of APIs (Application

Programming Interface) -- interfaces that enable communication between independent databases -- for use by developers across a broad range of industries, including federal, state, and local government. The FCC also announced the creation of a developer community (<http://www.fcc.gov/developer>) designed to help drive future releases through feedback and collaboration.

These tools are designed to maximize the value of government data for citizen shareholders," said Steven VanRoekel, FCC Managing Director. "Their release is part of a larger effort aimed at running a dot gov more like a dot com, with the same kind of agility, responsiveness, and innovation we expect from leading commercial websites."

The datasets and tools released by the agency include the results of the FCC Consumer Broadband Speed Test, which has tallied more than 1 million tests taken since the release of the tool in March. The FCC developed and released an API that unlocks the results of those tests and enables citizen developers to re-purpose the data in innovative ways.

The agency also released a tool that can match geographic location with government data aggregated at the census block level, the first tool of its kind developed by a federal agency.

The announcements are part of an agency-wide process to fundamentally redesign the agency's primary web presence at <http://www.FCC.gov>.

Below is a quick digest of each service.

### **Consumer Broadband Speed Test API**

This API returns the [Consumer Broadband Test](#) speed test statistics for a U.S. county given the passed latitude and longitude. The statistics are grouped into wireline and wireless and are the number of tests, average download speed, average upload speed, maximum download speed, and maximum upload speed. This data is calculated nightly and includes all tests to date performed through the consumer broadband test.

### **Census Block Search API**

This API returns the [U.S. Census Bureau Census Block](#) number given a passed latitude and longitude. The API also returns the U.S. state and county name associated with the block. Just about every major Dataset in the U.S. federal government uses some form of census geography. The lowest level of that geography is the census block. This geography is highly nested, such that removing coded values from the right hand site aggregates to the next highest geography (e.g. from block to tract, and from tract to county). Providing this search allows developers to build applications which foster connectivity from their individual location to the full array of federal databases based on census geography.

### **FCC Registration Number (FRN) Conversion**

Filers with the FCC must get a registration number (aka [FRN](#)) whose company names, parent names, and subsidiary names often change from state to state and region to region. The FCC is providing this API to increase the value of the transparency of broadband providers offering service in each state. Providing a single place for understanding the complex naming of these providers will benefit consumers. This API has two method calls: getList and getInfo. GetList call takes the parameters of a state's abbreviation or state FIPS code, and a yes-or-no for multiple-state indicator, and returns

all the broadband providers in that state. GetInfo call takes FRN number of a broadband provider, and returns information about the provider.

### **FCC License View**

The FCC issues licenses for use of the nation's airwaves and other purposes. License View API provides snapshots such as the number of licenses across different services, how many licenses different entities have, and how many licenses are up for renewal in the near future. The APIs represent a step toward reform of the licensing systems and improvement in how the FCC makes licensing information available to the public.

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