



**Vol. 54**

**May 2003**

**No. 5**

## Hamcon - 2003 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

**May 30 - 31 and June 1, 2003**

Estes Park, Colorado, located in the beautiful Colorado Rockies is the site of the 2003 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention. The following is a brief outline of the events taking place over the 3 day conference. For additional information or to register please go to the HAMCON Colorado Website at: <http://www.hamconcolorado.org>

### **Location:**

Holiday Inn Estes Park Conference Center, Estes Park, Gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park

### **Featured speaker:**

Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL president. Homeland security is a top concern of his.

### **ARECC seminar:**

Not a class, but a seminar designed to explain in greater detail the duties of the volunteer certification mentors, instructors, and examiners of the ARECC courses. Presented by Dan Miller, K3UFG, manager of the ARECC courses. Seating may be limited, so contact Dan to register.

### **Wouff Hong ceremony:**

See article below.

### **Forums:**

Choosing a QTH, Traffic Handling, Amateur TV, EOSS, DXCC, Microwave, Amateur Radio & Kids, QRP, Digital Modes, Propagation, Legislation Issues, AMSAT, APRS, Contesting, ARISS, ARES, APCO, HDTV, Amateur Radio & the Disabled,

### **Other speakers:**

Rosalie White K1STO, Wayne Mills N7NG,

### **VE testing:**

Hosted by MARC, Sat May 31, 9-11 am.

### **YL forum & luncheon:**

Hosted by YLRL & Colorado YLs, Cheryl Muhr NØWBV is the luncheon speaker, plus Ellie Van Winkle NØQCX, Debbie Mewes KCØFSN, Connie Schaffer KØGAS as forum speakers

### **Exhibitors:**

Seventeen exhibitors listed on the web site, including Icom, and several other manufacturers, and other local points of interest.

### **Area repeaters:**

146.685(-) Estes Park, 145.31(-)(123.0) Colorado Connection, 146.835(-)(114.8) K0HBZ portable repeater (if needed)

### **Other activities:**

Breakfasts, dinners, prizes, banquet, walking tour of Estes Park, miniature golf, museums, Rocky Mtn. National Park

## **ARRL Wouff Hong Ceremony**

### **Midnight Saturday**



So what is the Wouff Hong anyway?

Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air.

It was invented--or at any rate, discovered-by "The Old Man" himself, just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War One. "The Old Man" (who later turned out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, co-founder and first president of ARRL) first heard the Wouff Hong described amid the howls and garble of QRM as he tuned across a band filled with signals which exemplified all the rotten operating practices then available to amateurs, considering the state of the art as they knew it. As amateur technology and ingenuity have advanced, we have discovered many new and improved techniques of rotten operating, but we're ahead of our story.

As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated.

**MEETING LOCATION: EL PASO COUNTY OEM, 305 S UNION BLVD**

**May Program: WV7T Mike Anderson QRP Talk**

**June Program: Field Day Discussion AI VO1NO**

After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. He wrote a number of QST articles about contemporary rotten operating practices and the use of the Wouff Hong to discipline the offenders.

Early in 1919, The Old Man wrote in QST "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff Hong which came to light out here . . . Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay hands on it quickly in an emergency." The "specimen of a real live Wouff Hong" was presented to a meeting of the ARRL Board and QST reported later that "each face noticeably blanched when the awful Wouff Hong was . . . laid upon the table." The Board voted that the Wouff Hong be framed and hung in the office of the Secretary of the League and there it remains to this day, a sobering influence on every visitor to League Headquarters who has ever swooshed a carrier across a crowded band.

The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air.

## Special Event Station

### W1AW/Ø

Located at ARRL Headquarters in Newington CT, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, is a living memorial to the "Father of Organized Amateur Radio." Every year, thousands of amateurs from around the country and world travel to Newington to visit ARRL Headquarters and, if possible, operate W1AW.

Some of us may never have that opportunity, so HamCon Colorado is bringing W1AW to Estes Park for the Rocky Mountain Division Convention. We will be operating W1AW/Ø, a special event call sign that will be much sought after on the ham bands. Come by and help us operate and deal with the pileups which are bound to be drawn to this special event station.

## Club and Local News

### Swapfest Nears!

The annual Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Swapfest is getting closer! It will be held June 14th at the Lewis Palmer High School Auditorium. See the flyer in this newsletter for specific details.

Table rental continues; you can contact Dennis Major (NØABC) for your tables. Raffle ticket sales are going strong; Rob Roller (N7LV) has them. Of course, everything will be available at HamCon in Estes Park.

Donations for Door Prizes are now being accepted. You can contact Kate (KCØEGJ) for information on how to donate or receive donations for them!

Refreshments will be provided by the local Larkspur Boy Scout Troop. All food proceeds go to the troop.

This is THE fundraiser of our club, and your support is much appreciated. We look forward in seeing you there!

### President's Corner

NØLNW, Ben Cruise, President

I am sitting here watching the beautiful spring snow and the sun just starting to burn through the overcast. We seem to be getting more moisture this spring than in the past few years. We even have had a couple of Thunder Bumpers all ready. It is a good reminder that now is the time to be paying attention to that lightning protection for the shack!

Elmers have been on my mind lately. For those new to the hobby, Elmer is the name of that Ham who helps you get started and helps you figure out how to solve all of those little problems we encounter in getting started in Ham Radio. I certainly have fond memories of my Elmers over the past forty years.

Even long-time Hams have need of help when encountering a new facet of the hobby.

I am suggesting that we establish a list of Elmers who would be available to answer our questions and help with our problems. This list of Elmers, and the areas they would advise on, could be published in Ø-Beat, as a regular item, and would include various ways that Elmer could be contacted.

I want to bring this up at the next club meeting. Please give some thought to being a Ø-Beat Elmer, and the area of the hobby you would be willing to help with. We will pass out a sign up sheet.

I hear, unofficially, that congratulations, are in order to Sid White, K4ARM. Sid is being appointed Emergency Coordinator for ARES District 14, El Paso and Teller County. This is a big job and one that needs a high level of cooperation from all of us. Sid has a long record of leadership, in the Ham community. I am sure Sid will be an outstanding EC.

By the time this is published we will have already worked a couple of Public Service events. I was pleased to see the enthusiasm with which our members volunteered to work these events.

HamCon is this month in Estes Park. Contact Jerry, ADØA, for information.

### Club Briefs

- Field Day Update!. That's June 28-29!
- Hamfest planning meeting is on Sat, May 5 at the COS police station, 7850 Goddard St, and will be on the first Saturday of each month from now on. Kate reports things are going along very smoothly. Kate Muniz KCØEGJ is our hamfest coordinator. 'Fest is June 14!

**Membership Report**KCØNC Les Borst,  
Membership Chair**Please welcome these New Members**

|        |           |        |
|--------|-----------|--------|
| SHARON | AGUN      | KCØPBR |
| KADET  | ARC       |        |
| STEVEN | DUBAY     | OEM    |
| HENRY  | HESS      | KCØPBI |
| WILL   | MACDONALD | NØTUU  |
| KEN    | NILES     | KCØPBQ |
| RUSS   | ROGERS    |        |
| JIM    | ROMINES   | AB5SI  |
| BOB    | RYALS     | KIØGF  |
| KEVIN  | SHIELDS   | KBØWFM |
| WALT   | STINSON   |        |

**Total Number of Members**

164

**General Club Meeting  
Minutes, April 9, 2003**

KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7pm by President Ben Cruise NØLNW, followed by introductions around the room. The March meeting minutes were approved. KBØB gave the Treasurer's report: inflows of \$339; outflows of \$123.55; total cash and bank account of \$5619.47. Bob also noted that he was selling club patches for \$5. Club Assets Chair KØTER noted a concern about club equipment being dispersed and not well accounted for with him; he will discuss this further with NØLNW. Club Historian NKØP advised that he now has all the historical records including material from Russ and Rosie Calaway. Interference Chair NØNJX advised that an RFI problem was resolved for Russ and Rosie. Membership Chair KCØNC advised that membership renewals are still gradually coming in. Lee also advised that this months RACES training would be on Skywarn. Ben advised that the OEM would be our meeting place for the foreseeable future. Rob N7LV noted he was putting a notice in the Gazette regarding our monthly meetings. Rob also announced that Tom KCØNRZ was the new Editor of Ø Beat. The club welcomed Tom to the ØB position and thanked Rob for his many years of providing us an excellent club newsletter. Inputs for ZB should be sent to [kc0nrz@arrl.net](mailto:kc0nrz@arrl.net). Public service and ARES events were discussed and Ben recommended everyone interested to check-in to the ARES Net each Tuesday at 7pm on the .97 repeater. Kate KCØEGJ noted that only 4 tables have been reserved for the Swap Fest and requested help in getting the word out. She also needs help in getting door prizes for the event; see Kate for a door prize solicitation letter that you can take to prospective prize donors. NØNTX noted that AMSAT e-mail services are back up, and satellite AO-40 pass band is being adjusted and will be out of service until about May 1<sup>st</sup>. EC KØHBZ noted that the Minimal Essential ARES Training (MEAT) will be held at the OEM on April 12<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all ARES members to attend. WBØRTF is our representative to the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs and needs someone to attend the April 26<sup>th</sup> CCARC meeting for her. Kate KCØEGJ volunteered if someone could drive her there. ABØA noted that Exhibitors for the ARRL

Rocky Mountain Division Convention are beginning to come in and that the on-line registration is full up; many activities are being planned (May 30 – June 1 at the Estes Park Conference Center) and for a complete view of all the scheduled technical sessions and forums, visit [www.hamconcolorado.org](http://www.hamconcolorado.org). VO1NO announced that he has secured the Saint Gabriel Church site (in front of Liberty High School) for Field Day, June 27 – 29. Band Captains are: CW – KØTER, SSB – KBØPPM, Satellite – NØNTX, GOTA – WV7T, UHF/VHF – NØMUD. We will be using GenLog software for logging. Al still needs some tents, and someone to demonstrate SSTV. Al also proposed that we designate a restaurant for those that would like to meet after the regular club meeting for coffee and more ragchew. KBØB is taking orders for Club jackets. WV7T announced the Hammy Award was going to Moe WBØRTF for her service as our representative to CCARC. Mike also advised that he was building some antennas and had an "open shack" policy for anyone who would like to visit. Mike also passed out more Freezoree operating awards. KØTER announced that he was now the Colorado/Wyoming Director for Navy/Marine Core MARS and anyone interested in joining MARS should contact him.

After a break, Al Penney VO1NO presented Part II of The Battle of The Beams. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jerry ADØA for Joanie KCØGMI who was ill.

**Board Meeting Minutes,  
April 14, 2003**KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft,  
Secretary

The PPRAA Board of Directors met at the home of NØLNW on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Those in attendance were Pres – NØLNW, VP – NØNTX, Sec – KCØGMI, ADØA and KD6FLM. Absent were Treas – KBØB, KØSU, KCØEGK and KCØNRZ. Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm. Minutes of March Board meeting were approved. Tom NØNTX noted that Kate KCØEGJ needed help getting door prizes for the Swap Fest; Jerry and Joanie will distribute some of the donor solicitation letters to places like Radio Shack and Country Buffet. ADØA noted that May 9<sup>th</sup> is the cut-off date for Convention Hotel reservations at the reduced convention rate. Ben suggested Jerry put this out on the club e-mail reflector. Ben stated that Field Day planning was going well thanks to VO1NO. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. Respectfully submitted by Joanie VerDuft KCØGMI, Secretary

**Hamfest Horizon**

- **May 30 – Jun 1, 2003:** Rocky Mountain Division Convention (HamCon), Estes Park. Visit the web site at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org>. Contact Jerry VerDuft ADØA, [ad0a@arrl.net](mailto:ad0a@arrl.net).
- **Jun 14, 2003:** PPRAA Hamfest, Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument. VE testing, forums, raffle prizes! Contact Kate Muniz KCØEGJ for details.
- **Aug 17, 2003:** Denver Radio Club Hamfest, Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, Golden.



➤ **Sep 28, 2003:** Boulder ARC Hamfest, Boulder Co. Fairgrounds, Longmont.

### April 12th VE Test Session Results

N0ABC, Dennis Major

In how short of a time can we get the new and upgraded callsigns to appear in the FCC database down to?

From Saturday morning's (4/12/03) test session, I mailed the VE Team package off to the ARRL via USPS Priority Mail, at about 2:30 Saturday afternoon. On Tuesday evening (4/15), I checked the FCC database <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicenses.jsp> for a few, then all, of the new licensees from Saturday. THEY WERE ALL THERE!!! As I'm typing this, they are not showing up yet in QRZ.com, but that will probably happen in the next day or so. It just amazes me that the lag time, from testing to talking, has been reduced to about 72 hours.

Out of ten candidates, we have six new Technicians:

|        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| KCØPRI | Jeremiah Moon      |
| KCØPRJ | Eric Johnson       |
| KCØPRK | Jessica Gifford    |
| KCØPRL | Michael Kopycinski |
| KCØPRM | Albert Glock, Jr.  |
| KCØPRN | Suisei Goguen      |

And, two upgrades from Tech Plus (OK - with HF) to General: KBØYJX Paul Cross KCØBPB Lance Cross (I meant to ask if they were related - seemed strange that both were going from Tech/HF to General at the same time, and I worried that the ARRL/VEC would wonder!)

And, one no-code Tech to no-code General. Hey, I've been there and done that! This one will get the code behind him next time, I'm sure.

Congratulations to all, and I hope to hear those new callsigns on-the-air!

## Public Service Communications

The PPRAA is an ARRL Special Services Club, but it is not an emergency services club itself. The PPRAA supports all amateur radio involvement in public service and emergency communications in any way it can, including reporting activities happening in the region. These columns are based on available knowledge of the editor, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of RACES, ARES, Skywarn or any other organization, or their leadership. Logos used with permission.

### RACES



<http://www.qsl.net/epcraces/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1930 on the 146.76 MHz  
CMRG repeater  
Les Borst KCØNC, RACES Officer

The RACES personnel have completed training in Wild Land Fire Weather and Weather observation. Now they will train at the May meeting on the EOC/ECC Communication Equipment and get familiar with the RACES equipment console. The May meeting will be on May 15 at 7:30 PM at the OEM.

All members of emergency communication groups have trained extensively for what we hope will never happen. But don't forget that Amateur Radio has its fun times to. Try some Packet, SSTV, ATV or many other modes. All by the way could be used in emergency exercises.

### ARES



<http://www.qsl.net/ppares/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1900 on the 146.97 MHz  
PPFMA repeater  
Leadership Change for PPARES  
Sid, K4ARM, PPARES EC

In three books of the Bible's New Testament reference is made to a certain task as being more difficult than passing a camel through the eye of a needle. The task that awaits me is not quite that daunting, being, rather, more akin to a house-cat trying to fill the tracks of a lion as I assume the position of Emergency Coordinator for the Pikes Peak Amateur Radio Emergency Service (PPARES) from Wes Wilson, KØHBZ.

During his tenure as PPARES EC, Wes has set the bar for leadership of- and involvement in- emergency communications to the highest level and has worked unselfishly and tirelessly to form an organization which can not only aspire to that height but attain it as well. Ample proof of that fact can be seen by looking at the local responses to the Schoonover, Iron Mountain, and Hayman fires and to our numerous SKYWARN missions to name but a few of the actual emergency events to which PPARES operators have responded and performed their tasks flawlessly.

When he indicated a need to step down from the EC position, a void was created that may well never be filled again by a single individual—at least not as successfully—as Wes was able to do. As his successor, the unenviable task of following in his footsteps falls to me. I must attempt to lead what is arguably the most active ARES District in the United States not just through a holding pattern comprised of our currently scheduled and anticipated activities but, more importantly, forward into the areas of logical expansion as our region's population continues to expand while public services and budgets are stretched ever thinner by that expansion. The City of Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management has made it clear that they highly value PPARES and the skill, expertise, and adaptability our operators bring to situations. PPARES continues to be an integral part of Teller County emergency response plans. There are other opportunities, in the fast-growing Tri-Lakes area, for example, that are being explored as well.

Since I readily admit that I lack Wes' mobility, I will be relying heavily on the PPARES Staff, which, at least for the foreseeable future, will remain intact with the exception of filling my former positions of Executive AEC. Larry Dunn, N9HSW, has offered to take over the SKYWARN duties in an interim capacity in addition to his Planning duties. Together with the Staff's ongoing efforts I plan to keep the resources of PPARES in the capacity that come to be expected by all of our served agencies: always available; always prepared; always the best.

As soon as practicable after the May 1<sup>st</sup> change over, we will have a staff meeting to discuss possible changes and realignments and will get a new organization chart established. More on that next month. Please join me in thanking Wes, KØHBZ, for all he has done for PPARES and the served agencies in El Paso and Teller counties. Also, it wouldn't hurt if you wished me a whole lot of luck in trying to fill his shoes!

## ARES MEAT Training a Success

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Pikes Peak ARES presented a newly revised basic training session named Minimum Essential ARES Training, or MEAT for short. The training encompassed operational protocols, equipment, the basics of traffic handling, repeater systems, facilities, and more. Displays of different emergency kits including portable APRS and ATV were also set up for viewing during breaks. Jim Mesite KCØFIB, the Emergency Program Manager for the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Division and Steve Dubai, Battalion Chief, Colorado Springs Fire Department and Director, Office of Emergency Management kicked off the training by addressing the approximately 80 attendees. Without quite as much fanfare (you had to be there to appreciate this), the CO Section manager, Jeff Ryan KØRM and our own EC, Wes Wilson KØHBZ also said a few words.

The training began just after 9 AM and lasted until a little after 4. During those 6 hours, a small band of dedicated members were producing PPARES ID cards for those members who needed them. Jim Mesite made the El Paso County OEM auditorium available for the session and we wish to thank him for doing so.

A CD with the MEAT Power Point slides presented April 12<sup>th</sup> is now available. Each CD contains the slides, a Power Point reader for those without PP on their computer, the video clips shown at the breaks, and more. Copies are \$3 ea with the money going for materials, postage, and mileage to go get & mail it all. (Any "profits" will be diverted to the doughnut fund and consumed at a public service event in the near future.) If you would like a copy, send a check for \$3 made out to Mike Allen. (Address available from QRZ.COM)

## Articles and Tech Talk

### 2003-2004 Repeater Directory Available



A must have. The 2003-2004 Edition. Includes latest frequency listings for repeaters across the US, its insular territories and Canada. Now including IRLP (Internet linked) nodes! Order at <http://www.arrl.org>

### PPFMA Repeater Messages

N7LV Rob Roller, PPFMA Chairman

As you browse across the VHF/UHF spectrum here in Colorado Springs, you'll find numerous repeater systems, each with its own features and capabilities. Some systems have phone patches, internet linking, remote bases, and even data measurements, with information that needs to be conveyed to the repeater user. The information comes in various forms, from natural voice, synthesized voice, and messages, mostly. Some of them can be mysterious and cryptic, others crystal clear. This article describes the more common ones heard on the Pikes Peak FM Association's machines.

Probably most often heard (and most important) are the messages related to the status of the power at the site. On the 146.97, the first indication that the repeater is operating on battery power is the synthesized voice saying "battery power". This means what it says: the repeater on battery power. Moreover, it means that unless AC power comes back up, the

life of the batteries is now limited, so all users should minimize their use of the repeater. The batteries should last several days, but less usage will make them last longer. When the repeater returns to AC power, and the battery charger is again working, you'll hear the announcement "line power", meaning that AC line power is back. Eventually a control operator will clear the messages.

A similar thing occurs on the 448.450 repeater, but the messages are in CW, and are shorter. "BAT" is sent in CW,

meaning the same as "battery power". When power is restored, the CW message goes away. There is on "line power" type of message on 448.450.

Other messages you might hear on these repeaters is the voice announcement "Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net", meaning an ARES net is in progress. At the tail end of the squelch tail you may also hear "NET" in CW, meaning that the PPFMA net, or another net, is in session. You may also hear the CW message "AR" if an ARES net is active.

## Radio Activities!

### Field Day Update!

AI, VO1NO / WØ

Planning for Field Day is going well. Field Day will start with set-up in the early afternoon of Friday 27 June. The actual contest will start at noon on Saturday 28 June, and end at mid-day Sunday 29 June. Did I mention the dates often enough, or should I re-emphasize... 27 - 29 June - MARK THOSE DATES IN YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Our location has been described by one longtime club member as the best ever. I can't comment on this, as this will be my first Field Day with PPRAA. Going by previous Field Days with other clubs I've been in however, I can say that it is a great QTH for antennas. We have 17 acres at the corner of Research Blvd and Austin Bluffs, the future site of the St. Gabriel the Archangel Church. This is one of the highest locations in the city, so we should do well on VHF/UHF as well as HF. The satellite station will have a great shot also - from horizon to horizon.

The Band Captains have been hard at work getting stations ready. They are:

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| CW        | Mike Stansberry KØTER |
| SSB       | Dan Scott KBØPPM      |
| Satellite | Tom McDaniel NØNTX    |
| VHF/UHF   | Mike Dassero NØMUD    |
| GOTA      | Mike Anderson WV7T    |

The GOTA station should be an attention getter. It stands for "Get On The Air", and is meant for unlicensed, newly licensed or inactive Amateurs. Unlike the regular FD stations, there is no pressure for the GOTA operators. It will be relaxed and calm - an ideal introduction to HF operating (well, as relaxed as possible on Field Day weekend!). Mike indicates that in addition to SSB, he intends to get people operating on some of the digital modes as well. It should be an interesting time.

Kate Muniz KCØEGJ and her husband have volunteered to take care of food. We will have a snack Friday evening, lunch Saturday, a potluck Saturday evening, breakfast Sunday, and lunch Sunday. There will be a

small charge for some meals, but the club will subsidize supper on Saturday as it has in the past.

In addition to food, Kate has used her contacts to get us two port-a-potties for FD (I hope there's no connection there!). It will cost us only the expense of transporting them to the FD site - a pretty fair deal. It certainly beats squatting behind the bush!

Dick K2LCT has lent me his solar panel and gel cell combo to use for the natural power bonus. I'll get it outside to charge the battery - I just hope we get some sunshine in the next 2 months!

For logging we intend to use GenLog. This is a Windows program that features pull-down menus. Mike KØTER has checked it out very carefully, and is happy that it will do a fine job for everyone, including the CW operators. It is a very intuitive program, and we will have a presentation on it at the June meeting.

For the demonstration modes we will have APRS and Fast Scan TV. We need another demonstration though. Is there anyone into SSTV out there?

We also need a tent that would be suitable as a mess-tent (i.e.: for eating in). Tables and chairs would also be nice. Is there anyone who can provide this? Maybe someone's church could lend us some for the weekend.

An invitation for FD has been sent to the person in charge of the Amateur Radio club at the Air Force Academy. Invitations to government and emergency management officials will soon be sent. As well, media releases will be sent out in late May, with a reminder sent out the week before FD.

That's all for now. I hope to see everyone at Field Day, and bring a friend.

**Meetings** Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, temporarily at the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management, 305 S Union Blvd. Our Annual meeting is in October. Check the web site for any changes.

**Regular License Exam Sessions** Our ARRL VEC test sessions are on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered months at 0900 at the DeVry Institute annex, 3245 International Cr, just east of Memorial Park, but west of Printers Parkway. Contact Erik KGØXE for details. Examinees need to bring (1) \$12, preferably a check or money order payable to ARRL/VE; (2) picture ID; (3) the signed original and a copy of your current amateur radio license and CSCEs you have (we keep the copies); and (4) a pen, pencil, and calculator if needed. Memory calculators will be checked.

**PPRAA Web Page** See it at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>. Thanks to Lee Inman KØQED for maintaining these pages.

**Get on the PPRAA E-mail Reflector** Stay on top of new or short-fused developments. Subscribe at <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet>. Thanks to John Wishart KCØJFH for maintaining this list.

**PPRAA Simplex Net** All amateurs are invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 1900 on 146.58 MHz simplex for our club net. Get the latest club and regional happenings!

## Officers and Directors

|                |                |        |                        |
|----------------|----------------|--------|------------------------|
| President      | Ben Cruise     | NØLNW  | n0lnw@arrl.net         |
| Vice President | Tom McDaniel   | NØNTX  | n0ntx@amsat.org        |
| Secretary      | Joanie VerDuft | KCØGMI | verduftj@earthlink.net |
| *Treasurer     | Bob Wogaman    | KBØB   | kb0b@worldnet.att.net  |
| *Board Member  | Rick Brown     | KØSU   | k0su@arrl.net          |
| *Board Member  | Kate Muniz     | KCØEGJ | kc0egj@aol.com         |
| *Board Member  | Aaron Pelouze  | KD6FLM | kd6flm@aol.com         |
| Board Member   | Jerry VerDuft  | ADØA   | verduftj@earthlink.net |
| Ø-Beat Editor  | Tom Dawson     | KCØNRZ | tomas@dawsons.us       |

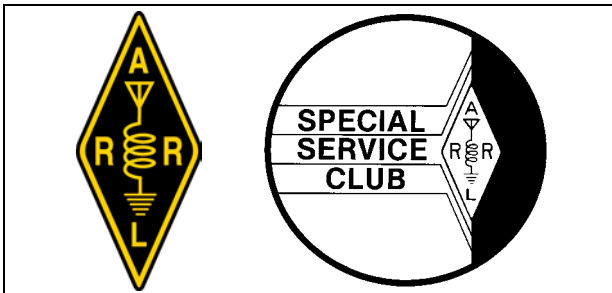
\* Indicates this Director is in the 2nd year of a two-year term

## Committee Chairs & Other Contacts

|                     |                 |        |                        |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------------|
| Activity            | VACANT          |        |                        |
| Auditing            | Kate Muniz      | KCØEGJ | kc0egj@aol.com         |
| Asset               | Mike Stansberry | KØTER  | k0ter@arrl.net         |
| E-Mail Reflector    | John Wishart    | KCØJFH | john.wishart@hp.com    |
| Historian           | Ron Deutsch     | NKØP   | nk0p@arrl.net          |
| Interference        | Bill Petty      | NØNJX  | william.petty@lsil.com |
| Membership          | Les Borst       | KCØNC  | kc0nc@worldnet.att.net |
| Programs            | Rick Brown      | KØSU   | k0su@arrl.net          |
| Publicity           | Rob Roller      | N7LV   | n7lv@amsat.org         |
| Public Service      | Mike Stansberry | KØTER  | k0ter@arrl.net         |
| Hamfest             | Kate Muniz      | KCØEGJ | kc0egj@aol.com         |
| Technical Education | Linda Hedges    | KBØRKW | kb0rkW@juno.com        |
| VE Testing          | Erik Mugele     | KGØXE  | ve@teuton.org          |
| Video Librarian     | Dennis Major    | NØABC  | n0abc@qsl.net          |
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| AMSAT Coordinator   | Tom McDaniel    | NØNTX  | n0ntx@amsat.org        |
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## Upcoming Club Programs

May .....



**Articles for the Ø-Beat** Deadline for articles or ads for the May issue is Apr 28. Submit articles by e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person to the editor. Editor reserves right to edit for readability, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length.

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**Tech Tips**

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**Soldering PL-259 Connectors to RG-8X**

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**This procedure may be adapted to any coax connector.**

1. If your soldering skills are not the best you should practice before starting. Adequate tools and soldering supplies are essential to good soldering. Take your time and enjoy the process and produce a quality product that will give you years of good service.
2. Maximum transfer of heat in the shortest period of time is critical to properly solder a PL-259. Larger wattage irons (100-200 watts) helps assure a rapid transfer of heat. Do not use soldering guns as they do not have enough tip mass to store sufficient heat. Assure your soldering iron tip is well cleaned and tinned at all times.
3. Unscrew the outer shell of the connector. Using a piece of sandpaper about ¼" x 2-3 inches long roughen the surface of the inner connector part between the threads and the knurled area in the recess where the four small holes are located. This will remove some of the surface finish and allows the solder to better flow
4. Again, using the sandpaper roughen about ¼ " of the smaller diameter surface of the UG-176 adapter.
5. Using a drill bit or small bladed screwdriver, remove the plating material inside each of the four holes.
6. Using a small amount of diluted liquid detergent wash the UG-176 and both parts of the PL-259. Rinse thoroughly and dry. This process removes oils and other foreign material.
7. Slide the UG-176 4-6 inches over the RG-8X cable with the smaller end toward the end of the cable. Next, slide the outer shell of the PL-259 connector over the coax and past the UG-176. The knurled end must be toward the end of the coax.
8. Measure ¾ inches from the end of the coax. With a sharp knife carefully cut through the outer jacket of the coax. The cut is best made using several concentric circles around the coax with the sharp knife. Use care not to cut or nick the braid underneath.
9. Remove the outer jacket....it may be necessary to cut the jacket length ways of the coax to facilitate removal. Do not cut the braid underneath. Inspect the braid for cuts or nicks.
10. Fan the braid slightly and fold it back over the cable toward the UG-176. Assure the braid is even with equal spacing between strands.
11. Slide the UG-176 toward the coax end until it is under the braid and flush with the end of the outer jacket. Assure the braid strands are evenly spaced around the circumference of the UG-176. Using scissors trim the braid leaving 3/8" over the UG-176.
12. Using a knife cut the inner foam insulation 5/8" from the coax end. Remove the foam and inspect the inner conductor for nicks and cuts.
13. Carefully tin the inner conductor. Do not to overheat it. Avoid lumps of solder on the conductor.
14. Carefully slide the inner portion of the PL-259 over the coax end. Assure the inner conductor slides into the inner tip. Inspect for loose or stray braid ends.
15. Carefully screw the UG-176 adapter into the inner part of the PL-259. If it binds the braid is catching in the screw threads. If so unscrew the UG-176, trim or rearrange the braid and reassemble. Several strands of braiding should be visible thru each of the four holes.
16. Mount the connector end in a vise with the cut out end of the tip facing toward you and up about 45 degrees.
17. With the soldering iron tip make solid contact with the connector tip and the inner conductor inside. Flow solder into the inner part of the connector tip after 5-10 seconds. Use only 3/8 to 7/16 inch of 1/16 inch diameter solder....more may run inside and melt the inner foam or cause a solder bridge. Inspect the inner and outer portion of the tip. The inner part should have no voids and the outer part should not have solder lumps.
18. Place the tip of the soldering iron (totally heated) in one of the four side holes facing you. Assure it has good contact with the rim of the hole and if possible contacting the braid and UG-176 inside the hole. Allow 10-15 seconds for heat to transfer from the soldering iron. Flow solder onto the tip of the iron and into the hole. With proper heat about 3/8 inch of 1/16 inch diameter solder should be sufficient. Excessive heat may damage the coax and inner parts of the connector.
19. When finished applying solder visually inspect your work without touching the connector. Large solder lumps and solder on the screw threads are not acceptable.....there should be even flow around and in the hole with a slight dimple showing the hole outline.
20. Reposition the connector in your vise making another hole visible for soldering.
21. Repeat steps 18-21 above until all four side holes are soldered.
22. If you feel you need to remove solder flux use alcohol (preferable denatured) sparingly with a cotton swab.
23. With an ohmmeter check for no continuity between the center pin and outer shell. Screw the outer shell onto the connector. If it doesn't screw on easily there is probably solder in the threads.
24. Evaluate your work. Is it good enough for YOUR shack. What can you learn from it? If it is good work be proud of it and enjoy the fast disappearing art of hand soldering your own projects.



**PPRAA Roster**

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## Pikes Peak Region Ham Radio Event Calendar

May / June 2003 -- Please see Page 2 for Points of Contact

| Sunday                     | Monday             | Tuesday | Wednesday    | Thursday        | Friday               | Saturday                   |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 11                         | 12                 | 13      | 14 PPRAA Mtg | 15 EPCRACES Mtg | 16 Dayton Hamvention | 17 Dayton Hamvention       |
| 18 Dayton Hamvention       | 19 PPRAA Board Mtg | 20      | 21 MARC Mtg  | 22              | 23                   | 24 PSE Cavalier Trail Ride |
| 25 PSE Cavalier Trail Ride | 26 ZB Deadline     | 27      | 28           | 29              | 30 HamCon!           | 31 HamCon!                 |
| 1                          | 2                  | 3       | 4            | 5               | 6                    | 7                          |
| 8                          | 9                  | 10      | 11 PPRAA Mtg | 12 EPCRACES Mtg | 13                   | 14 PPFMA VE Testing        |
| 15                         | 16 PPRAA Board Mtg | 17      | 18 MARC Mtg  | 19              | 20                   | 21                         |
| 22                         | 23                 | 24      | 25           | 26              | 27 Field Day         | 28 Field Day               |

***b. Questions about any event on this calendar? <sup>a.</sup> Something missing? Try our web page, or contact a Board Member!***

## PPRAA Membership Application

### Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521

|  |                                     |                                  |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Date: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | In which activities would you like to participate?                                    |
| Name: _____  |                                     |                                  | Field Day <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>               |
| Address: _____   |                                     |                                  | Demonstrations <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>          |
| City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____  |                                     |                                  | Nets or round tables <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>    |
| Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E   | Phone: _____                        |                                  | Organize activities <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>     |
| Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  | E-mail: _____                       |                                  | Teach ham classes <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>       |
| Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:   |                                     |                                  | Full Member \$15: <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>       |
| Name: _____  | Call: _____                         | Class: _____ ARRL? _____         | Family Membership \$18: <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span> |
| Name: _____  | Call: _____                         | Class: _____ ARRL? _____         | Over 65 \$10: <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>           |
| Name: _____  | Call: _____                         | Class: _____ ARRL? _____         | Over 65 Family \$12: <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>    |
|  |                                     |                                  | Associate \$12: <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>         |
|  |                                     |                                  | Ø-Beat Only \$12: <span style="float: right;">⇒ <input type="checkbox"/></span>       |
|  |                                     |                                  | Donation to Club: \$ _____  |
|  |                                     |                                  | Total Enclosed: _____   |
| <b><u>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</u></b>   |                                     |                                  |   |
| Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail   |                                     |                                  |   |
| (Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked) <input type="checkbox"/> As a PDF file attachment via e-mail, to help save a few bucks |                                     |                                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'll save the club a few bucks and download it from the Web!  |                                     |                                  |   |

Circle your interests ⇒ HF / V/UHF / FM / SSB / Digital / DX / Contests / Technical / Hardware / Other \_\_\_\_\_

New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer.

**Please Type or Print Clearly!**

**ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS WILL BE PRORATED TO EXPIRE IN DECEMBER!!**



**Lunch Bunch**

The **Lunch Bunch** is being postponed for a few months due to, well, just ... things. Schedules have changed; people can't make it, etc. So we'll hold off for a few months. Stay tuned! Contact Moe WBØRTF with any questions!!

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**Dits and Bits**

- **For Sale:** From an estate: Kenwood TS-820, SM-200 monitor, AT-200 antenna tuner, w/manuals, very good condition, \$550. Harvey LeCato W1JU, 592-4607 (H) or 599-7070 (W), [harvey01@adelphia.net](mailto:harvey01@adelphia.net).
- **For Sale:** Kenwood TS-440S/AT HF mobile/base rig, with matching speaker Kenwood SP-230 and Kenwood Mic MC-60. System has been a base unit only, I've had the system since 1988 and aside from normal scratches, nothing major or to worry about everything works great and it's been in a non-smoking environment. The reason for the sale is that I've upgraded. Asking price is \$575.00 and with matching everything it's worth the asking price.  
Ph. 719-597-1906 or at NØmud@aol.com, or NØmud@arrl.net.

**Jess Miley****KØTAA**

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