

# Ø-Beat

Volume 54, Number 12

December 2004

## Christmas Party – December 10th

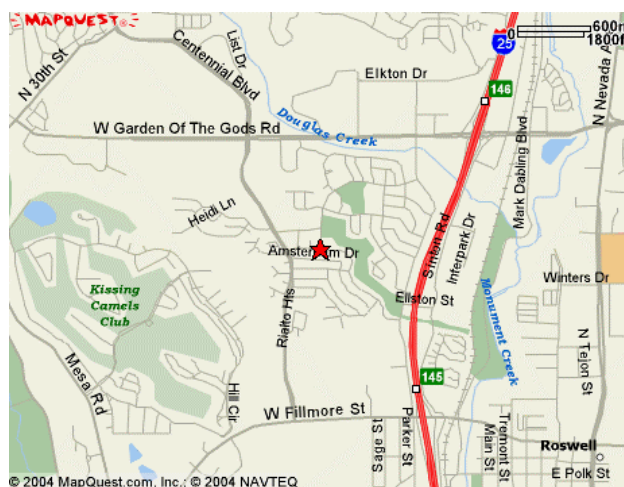
Can you believe it's December already? And that makes it time for our annual Christmas party. Once again it will be held at the Springs City Church, 1250 Vondelpark Drive, Friday December 10, at 6:00 p.m. Dining will begin at 6:30 p.m., so please show up between 6:00 and 6:20 so we can get all the food setup. We'll have great door prizes, and if you bring a food donation for the church's food pantry you'll receive an extra door prize raffle ticket. If you, or your company, have something to donate to the door prizes, please contact Kate, WB9BAH at 683-7702.

We need volunteers to roast turkeys (3) and hams (2). The club will reimburse the cost of the meat. Please call Susan Allison, KCØSYA, at 590-4812 to volunteer. Below is the breakdown by last name for what to bring to the feast. Try to stick to the assigned category but if you're supposed to bring a side dish, but you make a truly awesome pumpkin pie, go ahead and bring the pie. We hope to see you at our annual gathering. Happy Holidays!

LAST NAME BEGINS WITH	BRING
A thru G	Veggies/sides
H thru N	Salads/rolls
O thru Z	Desserts

Some small business at the meeting: A motion will be made to vote on the Hamfest prizes not to exceed \$1,000.

And how would you find the Christmas party? If the editor manages to copy and paste a map successfully, it will be here:



From Chestnut, between Garden of the Gods Road and Fillmore, go west on Vondelpark. From Centennial, go east on Vondelpark.

## A Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas and all  
through the shack  
The rig was turned off and the mike cord lay  
slack.

The antenna rotor had made its last turn,  
The tubes in the linear have long ceased to  
burn.

I sat there relaxing and took off my specs,  
Preparing to daydream of armchair DX,  
When suddenly outside I heard such a sound,  
I dashed out the door to see what was around.

(see page 3)

## Board of Directors

President	Rick Brown KØSU
Vice President	Christopher Taylor NC6T
Secretary	John Wishart KCØJFH
Treasurer	Kate Muniz WB9BAH*
Ø-Beat Editor	Dennis Major NØABC
Director	Al Penney VO1NO*
Director	Pat Kelly KCØMIR*
Director	Dennis Major NØABC *
Director	Mike Anderson WV7T

\* In final year of 2-year term.

## PPRAA Meeting Information

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly at 7 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management, 305 S. Union Blvd, in the basement. For a map, please visit our web site at <http://www.ql.net/ppraa/> or contact any of the board members for more information.

## Amateur Radio License Exam Information

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Volunteer Examiner (VE) team holds testing sessions every other month, in even-numbered months. They're held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of these months at 9 am. For further details and for a list of what to bring, contact Erik Mugele KGØXE or Dennis Major NØABC or visit our web site.

## PPRAA Simplex Net

Don't forget about the PPRAA Simplex Net on Thursday nights at 7 pm! Jim Harris ABØUK and Pat Kelly KCØMIR have been doing a bang-up job in keeping the net going from week to week. Join everyone for a good time, find out the latest, test out your ability to copy other stations simplex, and listen to the ARRL Audio News! Frequency is 146.58 MHz simplex, with a backup frequency of 146.55 MHz, in case the primary frequency is busy.

## PPRAA Is A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

## Committee Chairs / Points Of Contact

Auditing.....	Open
Asset.....	Mike Stansberry KØTER
E-Mail Reflector.....	John Wishart KCØJFH
Field Day.....	[Al Penney VO1NO]
Hamfest.....	Open
Historian.....	Ron Deutsch NKØP
Interference.....	Bill Petty NØNJX
Membership.....	Les Borst KCØNC
Programs.....	Christopher Taylor NC6T
Publicity.....	Christopher Taylor NC6T
Public Service .....	Mike Stansberry KØTER
Technical Education.....	Mike Anderson WV7T
VE Team Liaison .....	Dennis Major NØABC
VE Testing.....	Erik Mugele KGØXE
Webmaster.....	

AMSAT Coordinator.....	Tom McDaniel NØNTX
ARRL Awards Manager .....	Rick Brown KØSU
ARES Emerg Coord.....	Dean Haskins KAØPII
ARES Liaison.....	Mike Stansberry KØTER
ARRL Section Manager.....	Jeff Ryan KØRM
CCARC Liaison .....	Kate Muniz WB9BAH
HamCon Chairman.....	Jerry VerDuft ADØA
RACES Officer.....	Les Borst KCØNC

## PPRAA Web Site and E-Mail Reflector

PPRAA web site is at <http://www.ql.net/ppraa/>  
Stay on top of new or short-fused developments by subscribing to our e-mail reflector. Visit <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet> to subscribe. Thanks to John Wishart for maintaining the reflector.

## Upcoming Club Programs

December: Christmas Party! December 10<sup>th</sup>, same location as last two years (Springs City Church, 1250 Vondelpark Drive).

January: Homebrew Night – see article

## Deadline for Next Ø-Beat Articles

The deadline for the January 2005 Ø-Beat is December 27, however, there may be some changes due to the Christmas holiday that week; if there are changes they will be announced on the ppraanet e-mail reflector and on the PPRAA Simplex Net. Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person.

The moon shone down brightly and lighted the night-  
For sure, propagation for the low bands was right.

I peered towards the roof where I heard all the racket,  
And there was some guy in a red, fur-trimmed jacket.

I stood there perplexed in a manner quite giddy.  
Just who was this stranger di di dah dah di dit?  
He looked very much like an FCC guy,  
Who'd come to check up on some bad TVI.

I shouted to him, "OM ! QRZ ?"  
" Hey you by the chimney, all dressed up in red !"  
I suddenly knew when I heard sleigh bells jingle,  
The guy on the rooftop was jolly Kris Kringle.

He had a big sack full of amateur gear,  
Which was a big load for his prancing reindeer.  
Transmitters, receivers, for cabinets and racks,  
Some meters and scopes and a lot of co-ax.

He said not a word 'cause he'd finished his work  
He picked up his sack, then he turned with a jerk.  
As he leaped to his sleigh, he shouted with glee,  
And I knew in a moment he'd be QRT.

I heard him transmit as he flew o'er the trees  
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all seventy-three."

### **President's Message**

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Boy is the time flying. Here it is almost Turkey Day and I need to put something in the *Ø-Beat*. I hope that you are all ready for your Thanksgiving celebration and thinking ahead to the PPRAA Christmas Party. My thanks to Susan, KCØSYA for volunteering to coordinate

the party this year. Please help her if you can and come join us for an enjoyable evening of food and fellowship.

Have you built anything for your ham shack this year? January is a time to show it off. As we traditionally do, the January meeting is Homebrew night. This is always a fun evening where we can show off our favorite project. So you didn't build a 1000 watt all-mode transceiver that fits in your shirt pocket – it's okay! Bring what you did build and we will all be happy to see it.

Have you been on the air this month? Despite the poor band conditions I did manage a couple of 10 meter PSK contacts to South America last weekend. It may not be exotic DX, but there is some activity out there. Take the time to turn on the rig and give a call. You can't make contacts if you aren't out there trying.

Hopefully Santa will bring the new rig or antenna you have been wishing for. Enjoy the season and get ready for another year of hamming with the PPRAA!

73,  
Rick  
KØSU

### **Hamfest Meeting - Encore**

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Please mark your calendars for Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am (or immediately after the VE session) for the first Hamfest meeting. It will be held at the same location as the VE test session (see page 8 for VE session details).

PPRAA is in desperate need of a Hamfest chair for this year. Kate, WB9BAH, has offered to get the ball rolling, and assist in a co-chair capacity. If you aren't interesting in running the whole shebang, leaders are needed in the following areas:

Table Reservations  
Programs  
Raffle coordination

Publicity (Christopher??)  
Door Prizes

The Hamfest will be here before you know it. This is our club's ONLY fundraiser, and is said to be the largest Hamfest in the state. Let's not let it fizzle out...let's keep on top of the pack!

Let Rick, KØSU or Kate, WB9BAH know of your willingness to help the club!!!

### **Membership Committee Report**

Total Number of Members  
158

### **Club Meeting Minutes**

#### **PPRAA**

#### **Club Meeting Minutes 10 November 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Brown KØSU at 7:01 pm at the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management followed by introductions around the room.

The sign-in book is now located in the lobby area at the entrance to the OEM auditorium.

The October meeting minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – none.

#### **Committee Reports**

?? Satellites/AMSAT – Tom NØNTX: FM satellites AO-27, AO-51, SO-50, & digital satellite GEO2 are currently operational.

?? Hamfest – chairperson is still needed. Kate will assist the new chairperson in getting started.

?? Membership – Les KCØNC: total membership is down slightly from last year. Renewals will expire Dec. 31, so please renew ASAP. No regular meeting in December except Christmas party, so please mail in if possible.

?? ARES – Emergency exercise was held today (Nov. 10) at Army hospital and other hospitals in CS & Pueblo.

?? RACES – Les KCØNC: The equipment inventory at the OEM is nearly complete (except for the antennas on roof). A work party was held last Sat at the OEM to repair ATV system cables and other systems. The move of the OEM to a new location is on hold at present. Use of auditorium is good for at least another year. The regular ARES meeting will be held a week from Thursday. The program will be on winter survival by Ski Hipszky.

?? Fox hunt – Al VO1NO: A fox hunt was held on October 24. It started at Coronado HS, but most went down to Broadmoor area, due to reflected signals. The transmitter was finally located in Rampart Park near Woodmen and Union. The next hunt is proposed for Nov 21. Thanks to Mike and Susan for a great hunt.

?? CCARC – Moe WBØRTF (to be replaced by Kate in future) Moe provided a report on CCARC activities.

?? Field Day – Al VO1NO: PPRAA was 16<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2A category with 8598 points.

?? Education – Mike WV7T: currently has one code and one tech class student

?? Ø-Beat – Dennis Major NØABC is our new editor. Deadline for December issue is November 21. Article submissions are welcome.  
?? VE Testing – Next license exam is December 11 at the Rawhide Company across from Ent FCU near Woodmen & I-25.

?? JOTA – Dan KBØPPM – The Scouts built a yagi antenna & some electronic kits, EOSS presented, and thanks to all who helped.

#### **Announcements:**

Moe WBØRTF - Quarterly meeting of Colorado YL's is Saturday, November 13, at 1 PM at the Country Buffet, 300 W. Gerard in Englewood.

UCCS Radio Club – AL VO1NO: The initial station location was reviewed and rejected as not suitable. The club has secured another room more appropriate for operation. A plan has been submitted for station layout. They now need about \$4K for station equipment.

Simplex Net – Pat KCØMIR: The PPRAA weekly net is held on 146.58 MHz simplex Thursdays at 7PM.

Mike WV7T – Designed new cards for PPRAA. suggestion box is now available, thanks for its construction to ?????

Mike will be giving a talk on amateur radio at UCCS. He recently participated in several contests with other hams. Nov 20 & 21 is the ARRL Phone Sweepstakes contest, see Mike to participate.

Thanks to Rob N7LV for our pre-meeting slide show.

Tech Talk – Rick KØSU reviewed the basics of power measurements, dB gains, and cable losses. See [www.timesmicrowave.com](http://www.timesmicrowave.com) (online calculator), [www.alphawire.com](http://www.alphawire.com) (reference), [www.rfindustries.com](http://www.rfindustries.com) (cable catalog) for further info on these topics.

#### President's Report

Meet at Perkins after the meeting for coffee.  
Field Day and Hamfest chairpeople are needed.

#### Old Business

Christmas party will be 6PM, December 10, at the Springs City Church on 1250 Vondelpark Drive. Susan KCØSYA is the party chairperson. People are still needed for cooking turkeys and other items. Kate will be getting door prizes.

#### New Business

None

#### Hammie Award:

Jim ABØUK awarded to Mike KØMLA & Susan KCØSYA for the Fox Hunt

After the break and door prize drawings, Al Penney VO1NO presented the program on his DXpedition to St. Paul Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence off Nova Scotia.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Next regular meeting: January 12, 2005, 7 PM, El Paso County OEM, 305 S. Union Blvd., CS, CO. Our Christmas party is December 10.

Next board meeting: Monday, November 15, 7 PM at Pat's house KCØMIR.

Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH, Secretary.  
Date: 14 November 2004

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

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#### **PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes 15 November 2004**

President Rick Brown called the meeting to order at 7 pm at Pat Kelly's home.

Attendees: Pat KCØMIR, Rick KØSU, Kate WB9BAH, Rhoda KB2BZY, Mike WV7T, Dennis NØABC, Jeff KCØSXV, Al VO1NO, John KCØJFH

The October meeting minutes needed the following change: The previous minutes were published. Al moved and Pat seconded to accept as revised. Passed.

The Springs City Church is reserved for our Christmas party on Dec 10 at 6 PM. Setup will start at 1 PM or so. Rental price will be \$100. Susan is our point of contact for organizing the event. She needs a copy of the roster w/ phone numbers from Rick. This is for getting and cooking the turkeys and the hams (i.e., the meat type, not the radio type). Al moved and Pat seconded that the people getting the turkeys and hams be reimbursed for their expenses. Passed. Kate will be getting the door prizes. Shelley has decorations from last year.

Treasurer's Report - Kate: We need to update the bank signature cards for President, VP, & Treasurer. Kate will determine the process with our bank.



Christopher has submitted our form for Special Service Club to ARRL.

Pat requested that the calendar and other aspects of the PPRAA website be updated. Lee Inman is webmaster currently, but is looking for a replacement. A simpler format was suggested to speed loading and navigation.

Club Inventory: In the works by Mike Stansberry KØTER and Al Penney.

PO Box Key: The second one has been misplaced and is lost at present. Kate still has the first key.

January program will be Homebrew Night. Certificates of Participation will be provided for those bringing their projects. Mike WV7T will be making up the certificates.

Club information business cards: Mike WV7T has submitted his first draft to Rob Roller N7LV.

Field Day: A chairperson is still needed. Al will stand in as acting chair, but may be subject to transfer around that time.

Hamfest: A chairperson is still needed. Al moved and Pat seconded that we pay \$62.50 for renewal of the raffle license. Passed. We're planning on having a short business meeting at the Christmas party to vote on getting the money (not to exceed \$1K) for the prizes. Our first Hamfest planning meeting is December 11. A strong, enthusiastic door prize chairperson and a tables chairperson are also needed. Suggestion: have a club table to sell off some of our excess equipment. Rick will handle this.

Mike: Suggestion box is now available, thanks to Dave KCØSPX and Joe KØENM. Christopher will assist in publicity for Frank's Tech class and a code class too if there is interest. Badges are available from Plaque World in Murray Sq. shopping center for \$8-\$10. Proprietor is a ham, NRØO. We have

bulletin board at Centennial Electronics. Mike will be giving an AR presentation at UCCS Sat November 20 at 11 AM.

Jeff KCØSXV related that, after joining the club, he was not notified promptly that he was officially a member. He suggested that we get out a quicker response to new members. He would also like to see the constitution and bylaws online.

Kate has the latest minutes for CCARC available. She will provide a CCARC update for the Ø-Beat.

Al: Foxhunt is tentatively scheduled for November 21 by Dave NØUVR.

Rick Brown: Can the club provide certificate of recognition or plaque for departing board members and Hamfest and field day chairs? The Board endorses that we start to provide certificates for recognition of significant contributions to the club.

Jeff noted that meeting attendance is a fairly low percentage of total membership. Is this normal? Al thinks yes, but that we are an active club. Meeting attendance is somewhat low percentage, but members are active at our events.

Pat moved we adjourn. Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Next board meeting: Jan 17, 2005, Monday at Mike's (WV7T) house.

Submitted by John Wishart, Secretary  
19 November 2004

### **December PPRAA Foxhunt**

Hi All Fox Hunters.

First the good news. I got my radio working (should have read the manual first...).

Now the bad news. The weather wasn't so great on Sunday (Nov 21), being cold and snowy.

So Sunday's fox hunt was postponed, and since the next Sunday everyone was probably busy with turkey, football, and shopping, it is scheduled for the following Sunday on Dec 5th. Hopefully, the weather will be better and everyone can make it out and find the fox.

Get your antennas tuned up and your DF skills honed.

Dave NØUVR

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### **HAM RADIO CLASSES for 2005**

Dates: January 11th, 2005 to February 10th, 2005 (Tuesday and Thursday evenings) Time: 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM

Location : 305 S. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO. at the Office of Emergency Management, in the rear of the El Paso County Health Department, bottom floor.

These classes will be open to anyone interested in becoming a ham radio operator and will include all the necessary theory to obtain an FCC amateur radio license. A test session will also be included as part of the class structure.

All materials needed to take the classes will be available at the class. The cost of the book is \$19.00 and will be available for purchase at the first class. Handouts will be given out free of charge. A \$12.00 exam fee will be charged to take the VE licensing examination.

Pre-registration is required by January 7th, 2005.

Contact: Frank McNally - KFØWF or Barbara McNally – NØBAM (719) 596-6733 or at [warm.fuzzy@bigfoot.com](mailto:warm.fuzzy@bigfoot.com) OR Linda Hedges - KBØRKW, (719) 683-7828 or at [kb0rkw@juno.com](mailto:kb0rkw@juno.com)

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### **El Paso County RACES Activities**



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

Our November training meeting consisted of a presentation by Skee Hipszky NØPRY dealing with severe weather clothing and survival. Skee has a wealth of knowledge in both of these areas due to his work with the El Paso Search and Rescue as a searcher and a medical technician.

He uses some very special clothing that is beyond the needs of our group but the principle of layering clothing, keeping dry and protection from the wind are of great importance to all.

Food, water, signaling and proper use of your vehicle can mean the difference between survival or possible loss of life.

Everyone, please think about what the demands will be and prepare before venturing out during bad weather.

Our next meeting will be January 15, 2005 at the County OEM at 7:00 PM.

Les KCØNC  
RACES Radio Officer

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### **Pikes Peak ARES**



<http://www.ppare.org/>

No report provided.

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### **Volunteer Examiner Session**

Our next VE session is coming up on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. As always, the starting time is

9:00AM. However, the location is again changing. For December at least, we will be giving the exams in adjoining conference rooms at The Rawhide Company, 7075 Campus Drive, across from the Ent Federal Credit Union branch and Carrabba's restaurant. Park and enter toward the north, or rear, of the building. Walk-ins are allowed. Fee for taking 1, 2, 3 or all 4 exams is \$12.00 for the day, but no retakes of the same exam element are permitted on the same day. Checks should be made payable to ARRL/VEC.

There is a good possibility that we may be able to arrange to have a consistent location with a classroom setting. Look for more information on this very soon.

### Upcoming Amateur Radio Events

Dec. 11: PPRAA VE Testing, regularly held in even-numbered months. See above story.

Apr 2, 2005: Longmont ARC, Boulder County Fairgrounds.

### UCCS ARC Meeting

The UCCS Amateur Radio Club held an informational meeting on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The primary purpose was to stimulate interest in ham radio to those who stopped by, and to show their newly acquired room for the club station. The new club station is actually the no longer needed audio/video recording room between two classrooms in the Engineering building. It appears that this will make an ideal club station once the remaining unused and obsolete A/V recording equipment is removed. It might be difficult to have access to the room if both classrooms have classes in session.

After the meeting, we discussed the possibility of holding our regular Volunteer Examiner test sessions in those classrooms. It sounds as though it could easily be set up, as there is not a consistent need for the classrooms on Saturday mornings. So stay tuned – we may get that classroom setting we have been looking for, yet!

### PPRAA Net Tech Talks

Those of you checking in to the Simplex Net on Thursday evenings will have noted a new addition to the agenda: an on-the-air Tech Talk! Check into the net at 7 pm Thursday nights on 146.58 MHz and see what's up! If you want to give a Tech Talk on the air, get with Jim ABØUK ([ab0uk@yahoo.com](mailto:ab0uk@yahoo.com))!

Now you can find a text version of these Tech Talks on the PPRAA web site, under the listing for the PPRAA Simplex Net. Or, if you prefer the direct approach, the URL for Tech Talk is: [http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/tech\\_talk.htm](http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/tech_talk.htm)

### PPRAA Club Meeting Tech Talks

Speaking of Tech Talks, we're still looking for folks to give Tech Talks for about 5 minutes at each club meeting. If you've got an interesting topic to talk about for about 5 minutes, get with Rick Brown KØSU to schedule your night! Practically any topic is worthwhile.

From our November meeting:

#### Power 101 – Tech Talk Revisited

Rick Brown  
KØSU

This contains the information I presented at a Tech Talk at the November 2004 meeting of the PPRAA. This is certainly not all you need to know about this subject. I am sure there are several textbooks about these subjects but I have noticed that often people use the term decibel (dB) loosely and they may not be exactly sure of what they are talking about. First, you must remember that **dB is a relative power measurement**.

Two values that are most import to remember are 3 dB and 10 dB. Since dB is a logarithmic measurement you can add and subtract dB.



Plus 3 dB is an increase in power by a factor of 2, and a loss of 3 dB is a decrease by a factor of 2 or ½ power.

Plus 10 dB is an increase in power by a factor of 10, and a loss of 10 dB is a decrease by a factor of 10 or 1/10<sup>th</sup> power.

What this really means to us is shown below. If we start with a 10 watt transmitter this is what happens when we increase power.

Increase by 3 dB = 20 watts                      3 dB  
Increase by another 3 dB = 40 watts    6 dB  
Increase by another 3 dB = 80 watts    9 dB  
Increase by another 1 dB = 100 watts 10 dB

What causes us to increase our power?

- ?? Power amplifiers increase our transmitted power
- ?? Antennas increase our effective radiated power and increase received signal strength.
- ?? Pre-amps are also used for increasing received signal strength as well.

Remember that an antenna with 10 dB of gain is the same as increasing output power by a factor of 10, and the antenna increases the strength of a received signal as well.

On the negative side you need to remember your losses. The losses hams are usually concerned with are the losses in coax.

- ?? Remember that on two meters
  - ⚡⚡RG-58 has a loss of 5.5 dB per 100 feet
  - ⚡⚡RG-8 has a loss of 2.5 dB per 100 feet
  - ⚡⚡LMR 400 has a loss of 1.5 dB per 100 feet

While most of us do not use 100 feet to get from our radio to our antenna, these are good reference figures. The loss per foot is a linear figure, so if you cut that length by half, you also cut the dB loss in half.

Other losses that we need to consider are:

- ?? Poor antenna or antenna not tuned for the frequency you are using. Remember that any antenna that is not at least a one quarter wavelength antenna is going to cause some loss in signal.
- ?? Poor or incorrect cable connectors. At UHF even a properly put together coax connector can cause two tenths of a dB loss!

Here are some good references to use if you have questions about relative power, coaxial cable or antenna losses

- ?? ARRL Amateur Radio Handbook – If you only have one book on Amateur Radio, this has to be it!
- ?? ARRL Antenna Handbook – Yes, this is the second book you should have!
- ?? [www.timesmicrowave.com](http://www.timesmicrowave.com)  
On line calculator & CD available.
- ?? [www.alphawire.com](http://www.alphawire.com)  
Nice reference chart of wire and coax.
- ?? [www.rfindustries.com](http://www.rfindustries.com)  
Download catalogs on coax and connectors.

### **January Program - Homebrew Night**

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In January it's your turn to scour your ham shack and bring to the club your latest creations from the world of homebrew! This annual PPRAA tradition allows all interested club members to present their projects to the club for recognition and to share ideas with each other. All types of projects are welcome, from one-of-a-kind homebrews to kits you have built. Haul them all to the club meeting and share them with the club! Have something that just doesn't work the way it should? Bring it in too and let the PPRAA minds go to work on it!

### **Another Christmas Poem**

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One Ham's Night Before Christmas  
By VE3AJR

'Twas the night before Christmas when all

through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,  
The rig was tuned up with the greatest of care  
In hopes that the station I sought would be there.  
My hubby was nestled all snug in his bed  
But visions of rare DX danced through my head.  
When out of the speaker there came such a splatter  
I sprang to the dial to see what was the matter.

Away to the Collins I flew like a flash  
And threw in the filter to cut down the hash.  
With both gains turned back as far as they'd go,  
I waited to see if his call I would know.  
When what to my wondering ear should appear  
But "MC2U, Mobile", solid and clear.  
What a jolly old signal! I zeroed him quick  
But I felt in my heart that it must be a trick.

In the many long years I had been in the game  
I have ne'er worked a station with such an odd name.  
I had contacted Danzig and Paris - Bombay  
And some little village in Paraguay.  
The QSL cards fairly covered the wall,  
But MC2U would be the rarest of all.  
At last he stopped calling, 'twas time to let fly.  
If I messed this one up, I was sure I would die.  
With quivering lips and shaking knees too,  
I reached out my hand and the plate switch I threw.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard overhead  
A racket, enough to awaken the dead.  
My plate current jumped and the meters swung round,  
And down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot  
And his clothes were all covered with tarnish and soot.  
A stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth  
And something encircled his head like a wreath.

It circled his chest and his little round belly  
Like a meat-ball surrounded by vermicelli.

It seemed rather strange, this peculiar attire.  
Oh no! Could it be? My antenna wire!!!  
He held up a feeder, the jolly old elf,  
And we laughed till we cried, old St. Nick and myself.  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.  
As I watched from the window, he went straight to work,  
And, in no time at all, he turned with a jerk.  
And there on the roof, standing sturdy and tall  
Was a beautiful beam, with rotator and all!

As my eyes filled with tears that longed to be shed,  
He peeked in the window and waggled his head.  
"Don't thank me, my sweet, it's the least I can do



# **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

It's now December. All memberships are up for renewal at the end of the year. Please use the form at the bottom of this page, and fill out all of the appropriate information so that the Membership Committee can update the records. Since the Treasurer (who usually gets the applications/checks first) will probably not want to have to bother with a plethora of renewals at the Christmas Party, please consider sending the application and check off in an envelope to the club's address, listed on the application.

**THANK YOU** for being a member! This club exists solely for its members. We want to make ham radio the best hobby it can be, and by all means, your favorite, if not only, hobby. To this end, we need your input. We need to know what you would like the club to do; what you would like to see in the club. We will be having a suggestion box at the club meetings again (as we did a few years ago). PLEASE USE IT! Give us feedback and suggestions. Get ready to take it a step further, and help out implementing those suggestions. We have a few open positions and we're looking for a few good men and women (to borrow a phrase!).

<b>Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.</b> 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"/> <input type="checkbox"/></span>		
Address: _____	Demonstrations <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></span>		
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	Nets or round tables <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></span>		
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____	Organize activities <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> <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"/> <input type="checkbox"/></span>	
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:		Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
		Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Donation to Club: \$ _____	
		Total Enclosed: _____	
<b><u>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</u></b>			
<b>Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered:</b>			
(Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail			
<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 <input type="checkbox"/> HF / <input type="checkbox"/> V/UHF / <input type="checkbox"/> FM / <input type="checkbox"/> SSB / <input type="checkbox"/> Digital / <input type="checkbox"/> DX / <input type="checkbox"/> Contests / <input type="checkbox"/> Technical / <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware / <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer.			
<b>Please Type or Print Clearly!</b>			

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

# **SEASON'S GREETINGS!**

## **73**

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**Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 16521  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA**

**First Class Mail**

**To:**