

# Ø-Beat

Volume 55, Number 2

February 2005

## February Meeting Program

"Amateur Radio Satellites Today" by Tom McDaniel N0NTX

Have you ever wanted to make a contact via an amateur radio satellite – also known as a hamsat? Don't know when and where to look for them in the sky? Have you worked the hamsats in the past but haven't had a satellite QSO in a while? Then come welcome our own Tom McDaniel, N0NTX, at the February club meeting for an exciting presentation on amateur radio satellites! Tom will enlighten the club with the basics of communicating via hamsats and provide the current status of satellites you can access today. From packet radio to voice communications he will cover the spectrum of modes available and prevalent among the hamsats in earth orbit. And let's not forget there are actually humans in space right now who also happen to be amateur radio operators! Tom will give us the latest on contacts with the International Space Station too. So join in on the hamsat excitement with Tom and the rest of the club at the February club meeting!

## VE Team Has a New Home!!!

Thanks to the efforts of Tim Rader, KCØGBH, the VE team finally has a place to call home. The Colorado Technical University at 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd.) will be where we set up to administer the exams so you can obtain or upgrade your license.

We are all set to administer exams in the new location on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM.

Just prior to that, we will also be holding a session for Frank's (KFØWF) LAST Technician class, on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the EPC OEM, 301 S. Union Blvd. Walk-ins are allowed at this session also, and we will be administering any or all of the exam elements, including Morse Code.

Please note that for 2005, the ARRL/VEC fee has gone up to \$14.00, covering the taking of one, two, three or all four of the elements. Should you be planning to attend a session and want to write a check, please make it out to ARRL/VEC.

## Another Technician Class To Begin – Out East

Dick Stuart, KD8EQ, has announced that he is planning another Technician class that will follow on the heels of the just finishing class of Frank's (KFØWF). This one will be held at the Falcon Fire Department, and is way out east there (not quite to Kansas!) to allow those local residents easier access. Dick says he is planning on the end of February or the beginning of March, and he expects it will be a Tuesday & Thursday affair, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. If there is enough interest, Dick will also offer code instruction/practice.

In addition to getting the support of the VE team, Dick would appreciate any other help that may be extended to him. Also, if you know of anyone who wants to get into ham radio, especially living out east, in the greater Falcon metropolitan area, this would be a great opportunity! Good luck with your class, Dick.

## Board of Directors

Pres. Rick Brown KØSU [k0su@adelphia.net](mailto:k0su@adelphia.net) 531-9423  
 VP Christopher Taylor NC6T [nc6t@arrl.net](mailto:nc6t@arrl.net) 260-8081  
 Sec. John Wishart KCØJFH [kc0jfh@arrl.net](mailto:kc0jfh@arrl.net) 481-2439  
 Treas. Kate Muniz WB9BAH\* [wb9bah@elpasotel.net](mailto:wb9bah@elpasotel.net)  
 ZB Ed. Dennis Major NØABC [n0abc@arrl.net](mailto:n0abc@arrl.net) 531-6774  
 Dir. Al Penney VO1NO\*  
 Dir. Pat Kelly KCØMIR\* [pwkellysr@juno.com](mailto:pwkellysr@juno.com) 591-0948  
 Dir. Dennis Major NØABC\* [n0abc@arrl.net](mailto:n0abc@arrl.net) 531-6774  
 Dir. 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 Health Dept. auditorium. For a map, please visit our web site at <http://www.qsl.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 via simplex, and listen to the ARRL Audio News! The frequency is 146.58 MHz simplex and the backup frequency is 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 Refl. John Wishart KCØJFH [kc0jfh@arrl.net](mailto:kc0jfh@arrl.net) 481-2439  
 Field Day Dan Scott KB0PPM  
 Swapfest Open  
 Historian Ron Deutsch NKØP  
 Interference Bill Petty NØNJX  
 Membership Les Borst KCØNC  
 Programs Christopher Taylor NC6T [nc6t@arrl.net](mailto:nc6t@arrl.net) 260-8081  
 Publicity Christopher Taylor NC6T [nc6t@arrl.net](mailto:nc6t@arrl.net) 260-8081  
 Public Service Mike Stansberry KØTER  
 Tech. Ed. Mike Anderson WV7T  
 VEC Liaison Dennis Major NØABC  
 VE Contact Erik Mugele KGØXE  
 Webmaster Doug Nielsen N7LEM [n7lem@n7lem.net](mailto:n7lem@n7lem.net)

AMSAT Coord. Tom McDaniel NØNTX  
 ARRL Awards Mgr. Rick Brown KØSU  
 ARES Emerg Coord Dean Haskins KAØPII  
 ARES Liaison Mike Stansberry KØTER  
 ARRL Section Mgr. 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.qsl.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

February: Amateur Radio Satellites Today

March: TBA

## Deadline for Next Ø-Beat Articles

The deadline for the March 2005 Ø-Beat is February 21. Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person.

Please feel free to submit an article – we're always looking for fresh content!

## **Swapfest Meeting – Jan. 29**

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The swapfest committee met on Saturday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at Kate's, WB9BAH, workplace. There were four of us present, and we had plenty of room for more people! We are a little behind with a few of the tasks, but we can catch up – especially if we could garner some additional support from the members to help out with this, the only big fundraiser we have.

Jim, ABØUK, has agreed to be the co-chair along with Kate, WB9BAH. Another meeting is being planned for soon after you receive this edition. PLEASE come out and help – we'll try to make it a party culminating in the swapfest!

## **Club Meeting Minutes**

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### **PPRAA Club Meeting Minutes 12 January 2005**

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Brown KØSU at 7:00 pm at the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management followed by introductions around the room.

Silent Keys – None were announced.

The November and December club meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Ø-Beat.

Treasurer's Report - Kate WB9BAH: Balance total as of 1/11/05 is \$8794.74. Income from 10/1/04-1/11/05 was \$797.19, expenses were \$923.38. Dues are overdue as of the end of 2004. Kate will be sending out reminder for overdue dues.

### **Committee Reports**

Auditing – Kate WB9BAH: still seeking a person to do this.

Swapfest – Kate: Verification of June 11 date for the swapfest at Lewis-Palmer HS. Tables will probably need to be rented from LPHS, but

specifics are still up in the air on costs, quantity, etc. Chairman is still needed.

CCARC - Kate – pushing for PRB-1 legislation this year. Would like to have accounts of amateur radio operations and instances that could be affected by

RACES – Les KCØNC – meeting next Thur night.

Fox hunt - Jim ABØUK - Jan 23. Starts 12:30 PM at Prospect Lake.

Christmas party – Thanks to Susan, who did a great job on this event.

Interference - Bill Petty NØNJX: working with the city on powerline noise. Their new personnel may need some training.

Publicity – Chris NC6T: The Gazette has published two articles in “The Slice” on our club and ham radio operations. ARRL provided official notification of our “Special Service Club” status.

Zero Beat – Dennis NØABC – needs more input for Zero Beat

ARRL Awards – Rick Brown KØSU. Rick is the official QSL card checker for CO.

Tech Education – Tech class has started.

Website - Lee KØQED – would like to turn this task over to someone else. Doug N7LEM has volunteered to be the new webmaster.

VE Liaison – Dennis NØABC – future sessions will likely be at Colorado Tech.

Hamcon 2006 – Jerry ADØA is again the chairman for the convention.

PPRAA Simplex Net - Jim ABØUK - Thursdays at 7 PM 146.58 MHz simplex. Will include a tech talk.

Board meeting will be next Monday 7PM at Rick Brown's house.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Hammie Award** – Mike and Susan presented this to Jeff KCØSXV. Jeff has made us a beautiful new suggestion box. Suggestions are welcome.

### **Program**

After the break and door prize drawings, the program was on Homebrew Projects. The following individuals presented their projects: Rick KØSU - 2m Moxon antenna built from plan in QST. Good for foxhunting.

Doug W0MHP – portable mobile UHF/VHF/HF operating system enclosure from Craftsman metal toolbox.

Jim ABØUK – 2m coax dipole antenna, switch box for feeding audio from radio to speaker or headphones, switch box for feeding audio from mike or computer, 4:1 voltage balun, 4-element 2m yagi antenna.

Jeff KCØSXV – our new suggestion box.

Chris NC6T – 2m & 440 ground plane antennas, 2m beam (from June or July 1999 QST) from a modified RS FM band antenna.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, Feb 9, 7 PM, El Paso County OEM, 305 S. Union Blvd., CS, CO.

Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH, Secretary.  
Date: 23 January 2005

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

#### **PPRAA**

#### **Board Meeting Minutes 17 January 2005**

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Brown KØSU at 7:00 PM at his home.

Attendees: Chris NC6T, Pat KCØMIR, Rick KØSU, Kate WB9BAH, Rhoda KB2BZY, Mike WV7T, Dennis NØABC, John KCØJFH, Doug N7LEM.

The November meeting minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report - Kate WB9BAH: \$325 collected at the club meeting for memberships.

PPRAA Business cards – Mike: card has been designed. Chris provided a revision to Mike's original design (w/ lines added). Kate moved/Pat seconded to accept the design and have \$50 worth printed. Passed. Chris will arrange to get it printed.

Ham Radio Fact Sheet – Chris will have 100 or so of these copied for distribution at classes, club meetings, etc. Chris will email out a soft copy of this to board members. Pat moved/Chris seconded to obtain 100 cc of the fact sheet. Doug will post the PDF file of the fact sheet on the web site.

Classes – Frank McNally's KF0WF technician class is in progress. Frank Skinner KA4JQZ will be taking over the class instructor from Frank McNally. Richard Stuart KD8EQ would also like to start another technician class in Falcon.

We need to put the roster in the Ø-Beat twice a year per our bylaws. Kate suggested that we wait until March. Do not post personal information on the Ø-Beat that is put on the web (name, call sign, email only on web edition + phone on sent Ø-Beat).

Rick offered a free membership through the end of 2005 to graduates of Frank's tech class.

Dan Scott KB0PPM is our new Field Day Chairman.

Swapfest – LPHS auditorium will be available. They want us to rent the tables (140 6-footers available @ \$6 each). Swapfest planning

meeting on Jan 29, location TBD. Swapfest is June 11. Kate has purchased the prizes: FT-60R HT & FT-857D HF for \$845. Chairman is still needed.

Send out the board minutes after the meeting to the board members.

Kate needs a letter from Rick for the PO Box authorizing access for president, secretary, and treasurer.

Pat moved/Mike seconded that we offer a year of free membership to two members that were mistakenly bypassed for membership in 2003 although they had paid dues.

Mike moved/Pat seconded that we reimburse Jeff Hagin KC0SXV a maximum of \$17 for construction of our suggestion box. Passed.

Dennis N0ABC - Ø-Beat deadline is Jan 23. Needs minutes for Jan club and board meetings. VE Exam location is Colorado Tech on Feb 12.

Doug ([N7LEM@n7lem.net](mailto:N7LEM@n7lem.net)) is our new Webmaster. Our website needs updating and simplification. Doug will be getting access from Lee to start work on this.

Christopher – working on 3 speakers for upcoming meetings. Tom McDaniel on AMSAT, Randy on portable field ops, and a CSPD helicopter ops presentation. He suggested that we follow up on new meeting attendees to improve our recruitment. Some discussion followed on who would/could act on that. No resolution at this time.

Mike – had a possible program for Christopher on building a transceiver kit. Has an extensive ham radio library available.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday (not Valentine's Day – ed.) following club meeting at Mike Anderson's February 15. 510 W. Polk near I25 & Fillmore.

Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH, Secretary.  
Date: 23 January 2005

### **January & February PPRAA Foxhunts**

The PPRAA held a foxhunt on January 23, 2005. It was a nice day and it was a fun hunt. (Never knew how much work it was to set up a hunt.)

Through two incredible strokes of luck (they call it skill) Mike, K0MLA, and Susan, KC0SYA, won the hunt with only 52.7 points. Their closest competitors had a score of over three times that. They happened to make a turn into a deserted parking lot with only minimal clues and saw me making a security check on the fox. Who knew they would be so near the fox in such a short period of time.

Congratulations to Mike and Susan. This is the second foxhunt they have won in about four months. For their winnings they were awarded "foxy" (trophy) and are responsible for setting up the next hunt.

Jim, AB0UK

I wanted to say thanks to Jim, AB0UK, for setting up the January foxhunt, it was fun. I will admit there was some luck involved, but it still took some skill with the home made tape measure antenna and deductive reasoning with the clues that were given to find the fox. Susan and I are working on the exact details of the next hunt, we have chosen February 20th as the date and like the last few, the starting time will be 13:00 local. Check-ins will start at 12:30 and we will give out some information at 12:50. We haven't chosen a starting location yet, but will send out another message when we get that detail worked out.

So keep the 20th open and we are hoping for a good turn-out!

Mike K0MLA and Susan KC0SYA



## El Paso County RACES Activities



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

No report provided.

## Pikes Peak ARES



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

On January 22nd the District 14 Digital Development Group presented its first collaborative effort at the Fellowship Hall of the First Christian Church in Colorado Springs. If this were a Simulated Emergency Test, SET, the 28 attendees would have passed with flying colors. In less than an hour 21 separate VHF packet stations were set up, operational and anxiously awaiting the Packet 101 Improved training class. One of the first orders of business was a correction to the title; henceforth this training will be referred to as "Digital Communications Training", thanks to Mike Stansberry, KØTER, for the correction. We were also pleased to see District 15 operators attend as well. Thanks for making the long trip guys.

The Digital Development Group is spearheaded by Wes Wilson, KØHBZ and comprised of the following members. Lee Inman, KØQED, Mike Stansberry, KØTER, Jeff Smith, KBØYCI, James Deuel, NØXIA, Mike Allen, NØMIK and myself, Dean Haskins, KAØPII. Rob Roller, N7LV and Tom Dawson, KCØNRZ provided input as well. This group met over the Internet, telephone and two long weekends in Woodland Park prior to the presentation, producing a product that flowed logically and hopefully met the expectations of those that spent a long day with us. We, the presenters, were highly pleased with the participation and

thought provoking queries that were made.

The WinPack software that was presented is a unanimous recommendation by this group and it is hoped that all packet operators will be using this software on a regular basis. Please use it often in the days and weeks to come.

For the future, Digital Communications 2Ø1 will focus on HF digital communications and interfacing it with the 'Airmail' program. This will provide the capability to have 'long haul' communications and also meld with the Internet for e-mail purposes.

So now the challenge for many is to upgrade to General Class or higher in order to use the frequencies and equipment for this exciting method of communication. I am sure that the various VE Teams in the area will be more than happy to see you at their sessions and present you with a CSCE, Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination.

Dean KAØPII  
Emergency Coordinator  
District 14

## Upcoming Amateur Radio Events

Feb 12th: PPRAA VE Testing, regularly held in even-numbered months.

Feb 20th: ARA Swapfest, Adams County Fairgrounds, 9:00AM – 1:00PM

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





The (highly) successful foxhunters. That's "Foxy" being held carefully by Susan.



Here's the entire foxhunting crew. It must have been Jim, ABØUK, who took the pictures.

| <b>Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.</b><br>P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Date: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal<br>Name: _____<br>Address: _____<br>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____<br>Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____<br>Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____<br>Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:<br>Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____<br>Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____<br>Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____ | In which activities would you like to participate?<br>Field Day <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Teach ham classes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/><br>Donation to Club: \$ _____<br>Total Enclosed: _____ | <b><u>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</u></b> |  |
| <b>Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail<br>(Default 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<br><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.<br><b>Please Type or Print Clearly!</b>  |   |  |  |

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

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

**First Class Mail**

**To:**