



Volume 55, Number 8

August 2005

The Pres Says!

Rick Brown
KØSU

August is here already. By the time you read this we will have had our club picnic. I hope you all had fun. It is always an enjoyable time to just sit around and chat with fellow club members

Here is something for you to think about. Election of officers is coming up in October. It is not that far away. If you would like to be a part of the club leadership this is a great opportunity. Please talk to one of the board members if you are interested. Since Kate, WB9BAH is planning on moving we know we are going to need a club treasurer. If you are interested please contact Kate or myself to see what is involved.

Unfortunately I am going to miss the regular August meeting because I will be out of town for work. I was certainly looking forward to hearing and seeing Jake, NØLX and his talk about pedestrian mobile. I hope that many of you will be there to see his presentation. This is another great way to enjoy this hobby of ours.

Pedestrian Mobile?

Jake (NØLX) will be giving a presentation on his outdoor ham radio adventures here in Colorado. Whether by boat, bike or backpack, there's a story to be told.

Come see and hear him at the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meeting on August 10 (Wed), at 7pm. Lots of photos illustrating his

marine altitude record attempt, the evolution of his portable setups from backpack mounted balloon verticals to antennas made from saltwater! Even a bit of audio from his recent contact to New Zealand...while riding his bicycle.

The meeting place is in the auditorium of the El Paso County Health Dept., located at 305 S. Union Blvd in Colorado Springs, CO. The auditorium is downstairs. The elevator in the County Health building can be used if needed.

Hope to see you all there. Directions to the meeting and map are on the PPRAA Website at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/about.html> More information about HF Back Packing is at <http://www.eham.net/articles/5456> and <http://www.HFPack.com/>

Paul
WØRW

August Fox Hunt

A tentative date of Saturday, August 27th has been set for the next PPRAA Fox Hunt. We will provide more detail in the coming weeks. Mark your calendars.

73,
Jim, KØLOB
Jackie, KCØQHI

PPRAA Picnic August 7th

Reminder – picnic is August 7th, 10/11 – 3:00, Dirty Woman Park in Monument. See July Ø-Beat for details.

Board of Directors

Pres.	Rick Brown KØSU	k0su@adelphia.net	531-9423
VP	Christopher Taylor NC6T	nc6t@arrrl.net	260-8081
Sec.	John Wishart KCØJFH	kc0jfh@arrrl.net	481-2439
Treas.	Kate Muniz WB9BAH*	wb9bah@elpasotel.net	
ZB Ed.	Dennis Major NØABC	n0abc@arrrl.net	531-6774
Dir.	Al Penney VO1NO*		
Dir.	Pat Kelly KCØMIR*	pwkellysr@juno.com	591-0948
Dir.	Dennis Major NØABC *	n0abc@arrrl.net	531-6774
Dir.	Mike Anderson WV7T	wv7t@arrrl.net	229-8610

* In final year of 2-year term.

PPRAA Meeting Information

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly at 7 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, 305 S. Union Blvd, downstairs at the apex of the two buildings. 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 2nd Saturday of these months at 9 AM, at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd.). Exam fee is \$14.00 for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 elements at a session. Checks should be payable to ARRL/VEC. For further details and for a list of what to bring, contact Erik Mugele KGØXE or Dennis Major NØABC, or visit the PPRAA 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@arrrl.net 481-2439
Field Day	Dan Scott KB0PPM
Swapfest	Kate Muniz WB9BAH wb9bah@elpasotel.net
Historian	Ron Deutsch NKØP
Interference	Bill Petty NØNJX
Membership	Les Borst KCØNC
Programs	Christopher Taylor NC6T nc6t@arrrl.net 260-8081
Publicity	Christopher Taylor NC6T nc6t@arrrl.net 260-8081
Public Service	Mike Stansberry KØTER
Tech. Ed.	Mike Anderson WV7T wv7t@arrrl.net 229-8610
VEC Liaison	Dennis Major NØABC n0abc@arrrl.net 531-6774
VE Contact	Erik Mugele KGØXE ve@teuton.org 278-4363
Webmaster	Doug Nielsen N7LEM 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	Doc Cornell WØMCT

PPRAA Web Site and E-Mail Reflector

PPRAA web site is at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>, which is maintained by Doug Nielsen, N7LEM. Thanks, Doug! Stay on top of new or short-fused developments by subscribing to our e-mail reflector: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet>. Thanks to John Wishart, KCØJFH for maintaining the reflector!

Upcoming Club Programs

August: Pedestrian Mobile

September: TBA

October: Annual Board Elections

Deadline for Next Ø-Beat Articles

The deadline for the September 2005 Ø-Beat is September 3rd. 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!

Club Meeting Minutes

PPRAA
Club Meeting Minutes
13 July 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Brown KØSU at 7:00 pm at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium.

We started off the evening with a program on weather forecasting in the Colorado Springs area and Skywarn by Bill Kappel, meteorologist for KKTV.

After the program Pat KCØMIR/Troy WBØLMH moved/seconded to approve the June meeting minutes as printed in the Zero Beat.

Committee Reports
Field Day – Dan KBØPPM – We scored 4478 points. It was a big success with plenty of action, excellent food, and no lightning.

Tech Education – Mike WV7T – Field Day training and exercise was also held at Mike's home.

Web Site – Our Webmaster, Doug N7LEM, is looking for Field Day pictures for our web site. Please e-mail any to him at n7lem@n7lem.net.

Amsat – Tom NØNTX – PCSAT 2 will be going up with the Space Shuttle.

RACES – Doc WØMCT– the next meeting will be next Thursday, 19 Aug (3rd Thursday of the month). This will be a shakedown event of the new EOC facility at 101 W. Costilla.

Simplex Net – Jim ABØUK - Thursday eves 7PM on 146.58 MHz simplex.
Foxhunt – 24 August, details will be posted on the reflector.

Picnic - Su –Sunday, 7 August, 11AM-3PM, Tailgate mini-swapfest starts at 10 AM. Door

prizes will be awarded. Other details will be in the Zero Beat.

Hamcon 2006 – Steve WØSRW is our club representative to Hamcon to be held June 9-11, 2006, in Estes Park. Riley Hollingsworth will be the main speaker. Hamcon would like the PPRAA to provide initial reimbursement of Riley's expenses (about \$1K), which would then be reimbursed back to PPRAA by Hamcon. We will vote on this proposal at our next meeting. Bob Heil will also be there presenting audio seminars.

Dennis NØABC suggested that the bylaws should be amended to eliminate the requirement to publish the membership roster twice a year. This will be brought up officially next month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 PM, El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, 305 S. Union Blvd., CS, CO. Board meeting will be Monday, 25 August, at Rick's house.

Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH, Secretary.
Date: 30 July 2005

Board Meeting Minutes

PPRAA
Board Meeting Minutes
25 July 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Brown KØSU at 7 PM at Rick's home.

Attendees: Rick KØSU, Kate WB9BAH, Mike WV7T, Bryan KCØUUL, Pat KCØMIR, John KCØJFH, Dennis NØABC.

Pat/Mike moved/seconded to accept the minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Kate

The audit has been completed with no problems noted. Kate will send the report document to Dennis for publication in the Zero Beat.

Reports

Field Day

Money was received from MARC and from food donations. Several suggestions were discussed regarding the location and the organization of the event for next year. Possibilities included adding additional transmitters and having an additional site (competitive vs. 'laid-back'). Location possibilities: Sourdough Valley, vacant developer land, and last year's church land near Research and Powers.

Swapfest

The bill for gymnasium/table/chair rental has not been received from LPHS yet.

Picnic

August 7 is the date. The event will be at Dirty Woman Park in Monument. We will figure on 50 people.

Overhead Projector

Pat moved/Kate seconded to allocate \$500 to set aside for projector purchase for this fiscal year (we already have \$900 allocated). We would like to get this purchased before September 30 (end of our fiscal year). Passed.

Club Assets

Mike KØTER provided the asset list. The list needs to be updated. Rick and Mike will be conducting an inventory in October as the first task. Many items could be made available for sale to raise funds for the club.

Upcoming Elections

Will be held at the October meeting. We need to come up with a slate of nominees.

Number of Board Members

The question was raised: do we need more board members? The board's feeling is that we

have plenty of opportunities for participation on committees and additional board members are not necessary.

Al Penney's Vacant Board Member Position

We will not fill this spot prior to the regular elections in October.

Rob's Suggestion on Leadership Message

The board's consensus was that the President's message in the Zero Beat should continue. Board members are also encouraged to contribute to the Zero Beat (either technical or other types of articles).

Christmas Party

Would like to have this at the same location and the same potluck format. Rick will ask Sid if he can arrange for the church.

Kate's Items

Kate's work location (The Remodeler) is opening a large meeting room that can accommodate up to 50 people. It will be available for use by non-profit groups.

Dennis's Items

Commented on the email from a new prospective member not feeling welcomed. The feeling was that having the program first might have contributed to this. Rick will be requesting any new people at the start of introductions.

Zero Beat deadline is July 31.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next meeting: Monday following club meeting at <location>

Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH, Secretary.
Date: 30 July 2005

July Foxhunt

The July foxhunt was held on Sunday July 24th. There were three teams competing for the

honor and privilege of setting up the next foxhunt. Team 1 was Jim Harris AB0UK. Team 2 was Dave Kurth N0UVR. Team 3 was Jim Gifford K0LOB and Jackie KC0QHI. The starting time was originally set for 13:00 but after some difficulties with getting the fox started it turned out to be 13:24. The only clues given at this hunt were the GPS coordinates of the fox, the first coordinate was given at the one hour mark of the hunt, and the second coordinate was given at the two hour mark. Once the fox was located, a second set of coordinates was given as the actual finish line for the hunt. The fox itself was hidden inside a log so that only about 1 or 2 inches of the antenna were visible. There was also a paper with the finish line coordinates that was visible if you were looking at the fox from the south. All three teams did comment on how well hidden the fox was!

When the afternoon was over, the results were:
 First place - Team 3 Jim & Jackie - 2 hrs, 36 Min
 2nd Place - Team 2, Dave - 2 hrs, 44 Min
 3rd Place - Team 1, Jim - 3 hrs, 04 Min

Congratulations to Jim and Jackie!!! Susan and I look forward to the August hunt!

Mike K0MLA, Susan KC0SYA, Jessica and Samantha Allison

[El Paso County RACES Activities](#)



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

RACES meeting: We accomplished work in the radio room, store room and up on the roof, all major projects were finished or were in progress. We had additional NCS training with hands on applications involving procedures and use of proper phonetics. On August 19th we are having an EOC activation to show the

new location and demonstrate RACES communications to the major players in county management.

Tnx Doc W0MCT

[Pikes Peak ARES](#)



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

Although there was no official report delivered, the editor is aware that Dean Haskins, KAØPII EC, PPARES D-14, is or has been out of town. In his absence, he gave the reins to Mike Allen, NØMIK. Also, Mike recently reported on the ARES reflector that the planned-impromptu callout was cancelled.

[Upcoming Amateur Radio Events](#)

PPRAA Picnic – Sunday, Aug 7th, 11 – 3.

[HAMCON 2006 \(This is new stuff!\)](#)

ATTENTION PPRAA MEMBERS: Important
Vote at August 10th Meeting

PPRAA and Hamcon Colorado, Inc. have a unique opportunity to bring Riley Hollingsworth, FCC Special Council for Amateur Radio Enforcement, to the 2006 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, Jun 9-11, 2006 in Estes Park.

As discussed at our July PPRAA meeting, and in the July Ø-Beat, a proposed funding agreement has been drafted between PPRAA and Hamcon Colorado, Inc. for funding Mr. Hollingsworth's visit. This agreement results in no cost to PPRAA whatsoever. At the

August 10th PPRAA meeting, we'll vote on acceptance of this agreement.

The key points of the proposed agreement are as follows, and have been deemed acceptable by the PPRAA board, Hamcon Colorado, Inc., and Mr. Hollingsworth:

- A. Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association (PPRAA) agrees to reimburse Mr. Hollingsworth in a timely fashion for his submitted expenses related to his attendance at Hamcon 2006. Mr. Hollingsworth's reimbursement request is anticipated to arrive in the June/July 2006 timeframe.
- B. As soon as possible after PPRAA reimburses Mr. Hollingsworth, but not longer than 30 days, Hamcon Colorado, Inc. (HAMCON) agrees to make a donation to PPRAA in the same amount as PPRAA reimbursed to Mr. Hollingsworth.
- C. In recognition of PPRAA's assistance in this matter, Mr. Hollingsworth's appearance will be noted as Sponsored by Hamcon Colorado, Inc. and Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association in appropriate printed, electronic and verbal communications.
- D. Steve Williams, KØSRW, PPRAA's representative to HAMCON, will coordinate the logistics of Mr. Hollingsworth's visit to Hamcon 2006.

Jerry VerDuft, PPRAA member and Chairman of Hamcon Colorado, Inc. will be on hand at our August 10th PPRAA meeting to respond to any agreement or convention questions. You can also call me (719-337-8103) or email me (k0srw@earthlink.net) with any questions or comments!

Don't forget to book your room early for this FANTASTIC convention! See the July Ø-Beat for full details on how to book your rooms! And, don't forget to let me know if you'd like to help out at the convention or in the pre-convention work!

73,
Steve Williams, KØSRW
PPRAA Representative - Hamcon 2006
Committee
Hamcon 2006 Prizes and Exhibits Chair

Membership Report

No report provided this month – we'll go for two months' worth next month!

Swapfest Raffle Prizewinners

1st Prize: FT-857 - W0NX, Keith Gawlik
2nd Prize: IC-2720H - KCØUSF Marshall Tuttle
3rd Prize: FT-60R - KB0VWG Michael Bourne

Again, Marshall had just passed his test at the swapfest, and was very excited to have won the radio!

(ed. note: The three main prize winners were inadvertently left out last month.)



CW Beginner's Guide

By Frank Skinner KA4JQZ

Part 3

Taking Notes During a QSO, Logging, Using GMT/UTC Time

While I am in contact with another station CW station, I take notes. I don't write down every word sent by the other station. I make sure I note the time the QSO started and again when it ends, RST sent and the one received, name, QTH and any other number I might need to log. I often circle the callsign and name so I don't have to search the paper log to find that information.

By FCC regulations we are no longer required to keep a log of the radio contacts we make, but I highly recommend it. Not only for QSLing purposes, but so that you can look up when in the past you worked a familiar callsign. And looking through your old logbooks will bring back lots of pleasant memories of QSOs gone by. The standard information and at a minimum you should log, zulu date, zulu time, frequency, callsign, RST (sent and received), name, and location. It is also helpful to jot a note if the contact was a special one.

Today's hams often keep their log on a computer. This is a good idea but remember to backup your files or print them out occasionally. This has several advantages; you can quickly see if you worked a station in the past and can start off by calling him or her by their name right off the bat. It is also helpful in determining what awards, such as Worked All States, you might have or be getting close to. I keep a paper log as well as a computer log. I have worked in the technology field long enough to rely on paper as a backup to computer files.

ZULU Time / GMT

Hams should always use GMT or UTC time when logging and keeping records. Try to keep a schedule set up for 8 pm with another ham who lives in a different time zone. Do you meet at 8 pm your local time or 8 pm their time? No problem if you both use UTC time. Always fill out QSL cards using UTC time. What date do you put on your QSL card? Use the UTC date. I frequently receive QSL cards from new hams with the correct UTC time but the wrong date. They have grown up accustomed to the date changing at midnight their own local time.

Keeping track of the current time in UTC takes practice. You could tune your receiver to a time standard station like WWV or CHU to determine the current UTC. Clocks are available that tell time in UTC format. Or you could, like me, just memorize your local/UTC equivalents. You can make a little chart with your local/UTC equivalents. You will need to make two such charts since local/UTC equivalents change twice a year, with the switch between daylight time and daylight savings time. This twice-yearly switch pretty much takes place all over the world, not just in the United States.

Identifying as per FCC Regulations

Speaking of FCC regulations, amateur radio operators are required to identify themselves on the air by transmitting their callsigns at least every ten minutes. I believe it is also a good idea to identify at the beginning and end of each of your transmissions as well, even if less than ten minutes has passed. You will hear some experienced CW operators taking turns transmitting during a QSO without IDing. No problem as long as they ID every ten minutes. If band conditions are poor or there is lots of QRM, IDing at the beginning and end of each transmission is wise, or the other station may not realize you turned it over to them. To save time I will sometimes end my transmissions with only my own callsign, like "HW COPY? de KA4JQZ KN". This is ok as long as every ten minutes I start or end one of my transmissions with something like, "WHAT SAY BUZZ? AC7RG de KA4JQZ KN"

Dealing With QRM and QRN

Characteristically, when listening to shortwave radio frequencies, which include the most popular ham radio bands, you will hear noise, static, interference, and fading. They sometimes make reception of ham radio signals difficult, sometimes downright impossible. I view them as a challenge. I call them the three dreaded Qs: QRM(interference), QRN(noise and static), and QSB(fading). With experience and practice you can learn to deal with the three dreaded Qs and enhance your enjoyment of amateur radio.

First let me discuss QRM, probably the most frequently encountered and most disturbing of the three Qs. And the only one you yourself can help reduce by your own radio operating habits. QRM is a fact of life on the ham bands, get used to it. Try to plan your operating methods so that you cause as little QRM to other hams as possible, and everybody will be happier. There are technical means to help alleviate QRM: passband filters, audio filters, DSP and RIT. For example your RIT(receiver incremental tuning) can be used to "tune out" QRM. You can move your RIT away from the interfering signal until it is nearly out of your receiver's passband tuning range, leaving just the signal you want to hear. I have found that even when there is no QRM, moving my RIT a little bit changes the tone of the signal I want, often improving reception. With practice you will be able to eventually, with your ears alone, "tune out" many of the interfering stations and concentrate on the signal you want. Most QRM from other hams is unintentional. If you find someone intentionally QRMing you, playing games with you, the best advice is to ignore him or her. Do not acknowledge their presence in any way or you may encourage them to continue. Ask for a repeat, change frequency, sign off if you have to. I would not mention anything about "QRM" or "SOME LID".

Sometimes when I answer a CQing station and that station is unable to copy me, perhaps due to QRM near our frequency, I will then call them a second time after changing my transmit frequency a few hundred Hertz. That small change may allow the other ham to now hear me through the QRM. The same thing is true if some QRM suddenly appears during your QSO. Although don't QSY too far, or the station you are talking with may lose you.

You and the other station may both agree to QSY(change frequency) to escape some QRM. Be careful. Successful QSYing on CW is quite difficult. For me it works about fifty percent of the time. Quite often you will lose each other. QSY during a CW QSO with caution. Be careful to state exactly where you would like to QSY, say up 2 kHz, or to 3715 kHz, rather than simply stating, "let's QSY up" somewhere.

One very annoying form of QRM is the shortwave broadcast stations found most evenings throughout the 40 meter band. We share the band with them and it can be a challenge. There will be times during a QSO when one of these broadcasting stations will sign/on and begin transmitting on or very close to the frequency you are talking on. First you will hear their unmodulated carrier as they tune up, followed by their interval signal. Then usually at the top or bottom of the hour, the broadcast station will begin their official broadcast with their national anthem followed by the news. Quite often you will lose all trace of the other ham you were in QSO with as soon as the broadcaster opens up with their carrier. Sometimes you can still hear each other through the unmodulated carrier, but you had better quickly say your 73s before the music starts. A few times I have been able to continue a contact as long as the broadcast station does not transmit music. If the broadcast QRM on 40 meters is just too much for you, there is always 80 meters. Or switch your ham receiver to the AM mode and jump into the fascinating world of shortwave broadcasting.

QRN refers to noise heard on shortwave radio. There are basically two types of QRN, natural and man-made. Natural QRN is the static generated, for the most part, by thunderstorms. The radio static, or QRN, generated by thunderstorms travels great distances via skip, just like radio signals on shortwave. At any given moment you may be able to hear the static from dozens of storms, hundreds

and thousands of miles away. At a given distance from a radio station on shortwave there is a dead zone, which the radio signal skips over. Same thing is true for thunderstorm static. I have been on 40 meters CW while I knew there was a thunderstorm nearby, and heard no static. I was in the thunderstorm's dead zone, its static was skipping over me. Other hams I then contacted were barely able to copy me through the static, although I heard them fine. Pretty weird. There are many more thunderstorms during the warm summer months, meaning that winter provides the best reception on the 40 and 80 meter ham bands. During nighttime, thunderstorms and static decrease in intensity. Rarely, during a particularly intense solar disturbance, the shortwave radio frequencies will go dead. All you may hear is a continuous rushing noise or QRN caused by the solar disturbance.

Man-made QRN comes from many sources, including automobile engines, electric motors, fluorescent lights, electric fences, loose wires on electric power lines, and lawnmowers. A good noise blanker or a ham radio equipped with DSP may help reduce this noise.

Oh yes, and then there is QSB, or fading. This is a natural phenomenon, one of the mysteries of radio propagation. QSB is not difficult to understand. Why it occurs is the mystery. There seems to be at least a little fading present on most shortwave frequencies, particularly at night. The duration and depth of the fades can vary widely. Just another challenge to make your ham radio operating and shortwave radio listening more interesting.

Repeating Info Due to QRM

It is important to ensure that the ham you are in contact with is able to copy at least the three essential items of the QSO: your name/location/RST. So normally in any CW contact these items are repeated twice, "UR RST IS 579 579 BT MY NAME IS JACK JACK" etc. If the band conditions are bad, three repeats might be in order, of at least the name and RST. For the rest of the contact, in bad QRM, QRN, or QSB, hams have been known to employ one of two other repeating techniques. One would be, "MY MY WX WX IS IS CLOUDY CLOUDY" and the other technique is, MY WX IS CLOUDY MY WX IS CLOUDY". I normally use the latter.

You can tell that the other ham you are in contact with is experiencing QRM if they tell you, if they ask for lots of repeats, if they get your name or callsign wrong, or if they hesitate before returning to you after you complete a transmission. If the ham you are talking with sends many more repeats than normal, you can assume they are hearing QRM on your signal, and they probably would like you to use many repeats as well. If I believe my signal is being interfered with, I will send the other ham's name more frequently than I normally would, to assure them that at least I can copy them. For example, "TNX BUZZ BT MY WX IS LOUSY BT BUZZ HW IS UR WX? HW COPY BUZZ? AC7RG de KA4JQZ KN". Even in very heavy QRM folks are more likely to pick out their own name or callsign out of the muck. Occasionally you will work another ham on CW who refuses to copy your callsign correctly. Usually you can correct them by repeating your callsign frequently at the beginning and end of your transmission. Or if that doesn't work, try, "MY CALL IS WB8FSV WB8FSV NOT WD8FSU". This usually works well.

Correcting Mistakes in CW

Everyone occasionally makes a mistake while sending their Morse Code. Sometimes your key or keyer seems to have a mind of its own. The most common method to correct a mistake is for the sending station to send a rapid series of dits, like the number five with a few extra dits added. Nine dits is the recommended number of dits, although no one is counting. And to then send the correct CW character or word. This is fine. Personally when I send a mistake in the middle of a word, I don't see the need to emphasize it with the rapid dits. I simply pause and then send the correction or I pause and start the word over. The station you are talking with is copying along with you, letter by letter, and they probably realize as soon as you that you have made a mistake. I feel it is more

professional to use a pause rather than the rapid fire dits. It is a judgment call on the other operators ability and something you will learn over time.

But, if I make a mistake at the beginning of a word, the other ham copying along with me has no idea I have made a mistake. So in this case a device is needed to signal that a mistake has been made. I prefer to use a question mark rather than the rapid fire dits. Another CW device you may hear less often to indicate a mistake is "dit-dit", like the CW letter I, sent once or twice after the mistake and before the correction.

You will hear some hams use a question mark to signify that they are going to repeat a word, even if they have not made a mistake. For example, "MY NAME IS JACK? JACK". This use of a question mark is frequently employed to indicate the repetition of a difficult or unusual word in a CW radiotelegram by CW traffic handlers.

How Long Should the Contact Last?

Talk as long or as short as you like. Most CW contacts on the novice bands seem to last about half an hour or so, which mean that they rarely get beyond the standard name/location/RST/rig/WX/73 stage. That is perfectly OK. I myself like to talk a bit longer. For me, a good CW rag chew generally lasts around an hour, sending and receiving at about 30 wpm. Normal human verbal conversation is around 120 wpm, so a SSB or phone QSO of half an hour would cover a lot more ground than a CW QSO of half an hour at 10 or 20 wpm.

How Fast/Slow Should You Send CW?

Normally, adjust your code speed to match that of the other ham you are talking to. This is especially true if you answer another ham's CQ or tailend a conversation. People commonly send a CQ at the speed they would like to be answered. If you answer a person CQing at say, 15 wpm, and you send at 10 wpm, the CQer generally will be polite and slow down to your speed. This does not always happen, so be careful about answering a CQ sent by a CW speed demon. Normally a "PLEASE QRS" (please send slower) sent to the other station will prompt them to slow down.

It is easy, especially with an electronic keyer, to send faster than you are able to comfortably receive. Try to match your send speed to that of your receive speed. With practice your speed will improve. Making CW contacts is a great and fun way to increase you code speed. Another tip is to occasionally stretch yourself, try to copy CW at a slightly higher speed than you are comfortable. Do not do this during a QSO you are having when you are under pressure to copy everything correctly, just listen around the band. Participating in slow speed CW traffic nets is another neat way to help you increase your code speed, and perform a public service at the same time. You'll discover a wide variety of CW speeds on the bands. Most folks go slow, less than 15 wpm, but you will hear hams going over 30 wpm also. An easy way to increase your send is to make 1 contact a day and you will be surprised how fast your code will improve and before you know it 20 WPM will sound slow to you. Remember that the spacing between your letters and words is just as important as the speed at which you are sending. I have heard many hams sending at ten wpm that I could not copy due to the spacing between the characters. I will often point this out to them since they probably don't have any idea that they are doing this. I don't like sending code below 25 wpm because I make a lot of mistakes but I will send code at 25 wpm but will add extra spaces between characters and words so that someone copying at 10 wpm will get it. Of course there is no shame in asking the other station to QRS and I would rather that happen than the other station struggling to copy what I send.

How Do You Gracefully End a QSO?

It's no big deal, many hams will just send, "TNX FOR QSO 73" or "GOTTA GO TNX 73" and sign off. That is fine. Myself, I like to leave a bit more politely, such as, "DINNER HR 73", "I GOT A

PHONE CALL, CUL", "TIME HR TO QSY TO BED", "MY XYL IS YELLING, TURN OFF THAT RADIO AND DO SOMETHING USEFUL", or "SRI ED MCMAHN IS AT MY DOOR WITH 10 MILLION DOLLARS 73".

There will be times when, after several exchanges, you realize that you just don't want to talk to this person anymore. You could, as I have heard some hams do, just disappear. But I think having a few tactful excuses for leaving to choose from is a good idea.

It is not uncommon that QRM will grow to the point that it is impossible to copy the other station you are in QSO with. Some hams in this case will just give up and stop transmitting. I would recommend instead that you at least send a 73 and sign off properly. Don't leave the other ham wondering what happened to you. On your end you may not hear anything except QRM, but perhaps the other ham you were talking with still copies you fine. Maybe the QRM is one way, skipping over his location. If the QRM or QRN or QSB just destroys a QSO I am involved in, I will send something like, "SRI BUZZ NO COPY NO COPY QRM QRM 73 73 AC7RG de KA4JQZ SK."

Occasionally during a QSO, the station I am talking to simply disappears. Maybe they have rig problems, an important phone call, or the irresistible call of nature. Try not to simply disappear. If another ham vanishes during a contact with me, first I will send a friendly, "BUZZ?", and if no answer, then send, "AC7RG de KA4JQZ KN" once or twice before I give up. Even then I leave my VFO on the same frequency a few minutes while I fill out my logbook and the QSL card, in case the ham reappears.

Well time to QSY to bed, C U LTR and 73 OM de KA4JQZ CL

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 <input type="checkbox"/>
Address: _____			Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/>
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/>
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____			Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/>
			Teach ham classes <input type="checkbox"/>
Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____			Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:			Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/>			Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/>			Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/>			Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Donation to Club: \$ _____
			Total Enclosed: _____
<u>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</u>			
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 <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. Please Type or Print Clearly!			

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

Rocky Mountain Navy Field Day

This year the Rocky Mountain Navy ARC Buccaneer Contest Group entered it's first Field Day. Quite a few folks came aboard to serve. John NØQJS, Su KCØPRN, Paul WØPSS, Bill KDØJU, Moe WBØRTF, Bryan KCØUUL, and Rhoda KB2BZY. The category entered was 3E (QRP, Emergency power). The SSB station was coordinated by John NØQJS with Su KCØPRN and Paul WØPSS running a Yaesu FT-920 @ 5w into a 3 element Cushcraft beam @ 11 feet. CW was run by Mike WV7T and his Dad Bryan KCØUUL with a Yaesu FT-817 @ 5w into several different antennas as an experiment. The CW station's first antenna was a Hustler mobile with 4 resonators, then to add insult to injury, a 30 foot extension ladder was attempted (1 contact was actually made with the ladder). The third station was on 2 meters with an Icom mobile into a dual band vertical. All stations were battery powered. (Now the proof!)

de WV7T

(editor's note: We'll try to get the web-meister to put the full story with pictures onto the web site, along with the well-photographed trip to KKTV Weather studios.)

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First Class Mail

To: