



VOLUME 57 ISSUE 08

AUGUST 2007



Colorado QSO Party!

1200Z July 15—0400Z July 16, 2007

www.ppraa.org/coqp



The 2007 Colorado QSO Party is now history. We sincerely hope everyone was able to participate and enjoy the experience. Your own Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association was the proud sponsor this year and look forward to many more years of Colorado QSO Parties.

From logs received, it is apparent there were many operators who were new to contesting as well as some who are accomplished pros. We welcome the cross section of amateur radio experience. Those new to contesting learned in a friendly and nonthreatening environment. The pros got a great chance to show off their skills. Hopefully, everyone learned and benefited from the experience.

Logs were to be submitted by July 31, 2007. A listing of received logs is posted on the COQP website at ppraa.org/coqp. The judging team is working toward listing the winners on the website by September 4, 2007. There are over fifty plaques to give to deserving individuals and groups.

We want to thank all the individuals and amateur radio clubs that stepped forward and sponsored plaques. For a list of sponsors, please see the page on website under Major-Special Categories and Sponsors.

We want to thank to all the volunteers who contributed their time to the COQP. Special

thanks to webmaster, Doug Nielsen N7LEM for his outstanding work with the website. We also want to thank Jeff Ryan, KØRM, Colorado ARRL Section Manager and the ARRL for their direction and timely support.

I've been asked several times recently about COQP 2008. At this time, I have little information on that. It is gratifying to know there is interest in continuing the COQP.

From the logs submitted and email comments received, we had a fairly large number of newer contestants; that alone is a major incentive to continue. While we have had constructive comments, there has been absolutely no negative feedback.

My answer to the question about when and if there will be a 2008 COQP is that the PPRAA board needs to decide if the club will sponsor it and what date they recommend. Several factors needs to be considered in making a decision.

- The time involved. This year it came to about 700-800 volunteer hours. As most of the framework is in place, next year could be one-third that, but the question remains: who is willing to provide those hours?
- PPRAA already supports several events during the year. Does the club have the inclination and resources for another COQP next year? I was concerned that the COQP

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NONPROFIT STATUS

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

would drain momentum from other PPRAA events this year but that did not seem to happen. If PPRAA does not sponsor the event next year, what organization would, or is an organization even needed?

- My health most likely will prevent me from organizing the event in the future. Age is beginning to catch up with me. I did get a good report this week from my cardiologist but I still have three latent problems that are not going away. I will be able to help with things like rules and judging, but I think it wiser not to take on organizing next year. All files I've accumulated will be made available to whoever decides to step up and handles things.
- Colorado should have a continuing COQP. I'm sure it has benefited many individuals and amateur radio in general. This is one of the ways we can "give back" to fellow amateur radio operators.

In as few words as possible, that is the answer about where or not there will be a COQP in 2008. If anyone needs me to discussed any specific area further, please ask.

So far, we have only one picture of COQP operations. If you have a picture or know someone who took pictures, please contact Jackie ACØCA or me at zerobeat@ppraa.org and we will see the photos are published in a future issue of the newsletter.

Thank you for the opportunity; it was indeed my pleasure.

*Thanks and 73,
Jim, ABØUK*



COUNTY LINE RIO BLANCO/PHIL MOFFAT NØKE 7/15/07

Thoughts on Field Day 2007

Rick Brown KØSU



I thought it was time to put my thoughts about our Field Day effort on paper. To do this I really need to put things in perspective before I start.

Just to let you know, I love Field Day. Some of my earliest experiences in radio revolve around FD efforts when I was in high school. Of course, things were a bit different then. I would go out with the Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club (W9UVI) and they would use equipment from the local Civil Defense organization. We had big trucks, 10 kW generators, towers, and hundreds of pounds of equipment. This was 1962 or so and it was certainly before solid state equipment came along. At that time we were able to go out to the local parks to operate and there were always folks coming by to see watch us. Publicity was not a problem. One of the occasions I really remember was just after earning my Advanced class license. I was put in front of a Drake TR-4 transceiver and L4B kilowatt linear amplifier. The antenna was a four-element monoband beam for 20 meters that was on a sixty foot tower. Boy did that station play! I could call CQ one time and run stations for an hour before I had to call CQ again. To me that is FD. As far as I am concerned, if you don't have decent antennas you just are not going to do well. At least you are not going to make a lot of contacts.

Of course this brings up a most important question. What does it mean to do well in FD? Does it mean having a competitive station that earns a top score, teach new folks how to operate, just have some fun, or get the word out to the public about Ham Radio?

I think the club has to make a decision here on what we want to do and if we can do all these things. I'm not too sure if that's possible. Maybe we want to look at having more than one

operation. For several years now, the Colorado QRP Club has had a competitive station and the *Aloha* station that is more for fun and a general get-together. As a club, we are certainly big enough to do both as well, but it takes people, then so does anything we want to do.

With those comments out of the way there are three things that I believe need to be addressed about our FD effort.

LOCATION

I really enjoyed operating in the air-conditioned environment of the fire station. It made this FD comfortable if nothing else. I really think this could continue to work for us if we want to do it again, however, there are a couple of issues that would need to be dealt with. One is the general noise in the operating area. I think everyone needs to using dual headsets. My headset and boom microphone only has one earpiece and that made it difficult for me. No one should ever be operating with a speaker! I have a hard enough time differentiating sounds as it is without several signals blasting away at one time. The second part of the noise problem was all of the conversations going on in the background. At one point Saturday afternoon, I could not correctly copy S9 signals in my headset because of the background noise. I know everyone wants to be a part of the action, but there needs to be a traffic cop to keep noise and other activity in the operating area to a minimum.

ANTENNAS

I do not think FD is the time to put up minimal antennas on 20 meters or higher. Dipoles or inverted Vees are probably okay on 80 and 40. This is the time to drag out the towers and beams that the club owns and get them up in the air. I realize that this was a new location and we were not sure what would work but we should have been prepared to put them up if they are available. With the number of stations that are on the air, you just have to be able to put out the best signal possible. The club owns the portable mast that has

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been in use for several years and at least one tower as well as two HF beams. I know people in the club who have towers and beams we could probably use as well. Let's be prepared to use them next time.

OPERATORS

This is probably my biggest concern about the operation. To have a good score and be successful, there is something my wife calls "butt in chair". Not a very nice term but it means you have to have someone at the operating station the entire time. I saw the HF SSB station unmanned for hours at a time. You just can't do that and expect to score many points. If scoring points is not your goal then you should at least have someone there teaching folks how to operate. The same thing holds true with the GOTA station.

That is the place to teach proper operating techniques. Remember, with a control operator present unlicensed visitors can operate the GOTA station. The only station I saw in operation the entire time I was there was the digital station. Jim, ABØUK did a great job! RTTY is one of the slowest modes for making contacts but I believe Jim made more contacts than any of the other stations because of his perseverance. We experienced the same thing with the VHF station. When I needed to get up to take a break no one seemed to want to get in there and call CQ.

With that said, I want to thank Mike, WV7T and all of the others (I still do not know everyone's name or call) who put in a lot of hard work for the FD operation. They needed the club support and I don't think the members stepped up and did very well. I certainly wish I could have done more myself. Like many of us, I find life getting in the way of my Ham Radio activity. Will I do it again? Sure, if I can and I hope others will as well.

Thanks for letting me say my piece.

73,
Rick Brown KØSU

Ø-BEAT DEADLINE

The deadline for the Sept. 2007 Ø-Beat is August 25th.

Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person.

Please feel free to submit an article, joke or news – we need your fresh content!

Contact: Jackie Cornwell ACØCA
PH: 719-632-8254
Email: zerobeat@ppraa.org
USPS: 2406 W. Kiowa St.
Colo Spgs CO 80904

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The PPRAA/VE team holds testing sessions 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: \$14.00 for Elements 2, 3, and/or 4, payable to ARRL/VEC.
No same-day retakes of same element. Walk-ins allowed; pre-registration not necessary.

BRING: Photo ID, original and copy of valid ham license and/or valid CSCE, and FRN for licensed hams.

Contact: Dennis Major NØABC at 719-531-6774 or [email](mailto:dennis@ppraa.org)
Online: ppraa.org or arrrl.org.

Mark your calendars:

Aug. 11 , Oct. 13, Dec. 8

From the VE Team Front Dennis Major NØABC

Right after the June meeting, I saw that the ARRL VEC had a new, smaller version of its Volunteer Examiner patch available. I brought this up at the June board meeting, and the board voted to approve the purchase of 17 of them, one for each of the local VEs who have participated with our team over the past couple of years. As a small token of my and the PPRAA's appreciation, the patches were presented or mailed to the following VEs in July:



Erik Mugele	N5XYX
Jim Harris	ABØUK
Shel Radin	KFØUR
Jackie Cornwell	ACØCA
Mike Anderson	WV7T
Joe Marciano	KQØS
John Roth	NØQJS
Bill Stanfill	K4YCD
John Evans	NØHJ
Galen Steele	AGØA
Dean Buckhouse	KBØVVA
Bob Antion	WL7RV
Rob Roller	N7LV
David Givan	KØIRP
James Stansberry	KØTER
Rand Reynard	NQØR
Dennis Major	NØABC (yes, for me, too!)

I have been asked several times recently if the number of candidates has changed since the code testing requirement was dropped. It definitely has changed, and so far it shows no sign of returning to previous norms. Aside from a couple of special sessions (January 27, 2007 - EPCS&R - 11 candidates, 8 new Techs, and April 1, 2007 - 2 candidates, 1 new Tech, 1 paper upgrade to General), the average candidates at regular

sessions (including the swapfest) has changed from **six** before February 23rd to **twenty-two** candidates. The average of the license classes gained has changed: Technicians changed from 3 to 5, Extras changed from 1 to 2, but Generals changed from 0.375 to 11! If you are interested in the raw data: (C=candidates, T=Technician, G=General, E=Extra)

Feb 06	4C	1T, 1E
Apr 06	8C	6T, 1G, 1E
Jun 06	4C	2T,
Jul 06 (fest)	9C	1T, 1E
Aug 06	5C	2T, 1E
Oct 06	6C	3T, 2G
Dec 06	5C	4T, 1E
Feb 07	5C	3T, 1E
Feb 24, 2007	15C	1T, 11G, 1E

(special session after no-code change)

Apr 07	19C	2T, 10G, 3E
Jun 07 (fest)	32C	11T, 12G, 3E

Of special note, at the June session at this year's Megafest we had thirty-two (32) candidates. Partially due to my late reminder to the VE team and partially due to the fest not being held on the first weekend in June, we had to scrounge for a third VE to be able to hold the session. Fortunately, Rand, NQØR, was available at the fest, and had his credentials with him. (Thanks, Rand!) I don't know if the current trend will continue and, if so, for how much longer, but I think we could use a few more VEs on our team. Although the three of us handled thirty-two candidates in three hours, that last session really needed eight VEs (two sets of three VEs in two separate rooms with two VEs handling registration and paperwork). How about it? Any of you Extras out there ready to go to "the next level"? It's exciting to see so many succeed, and you can offer suggestions to those who weren't successful yet. Go to arrl.org/arrl.vec for more info on becoming a VE.

The next session is Aug. 11 at CTU. See you there.

73,
Dennis, NØABC

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS AUGUST 2007

Aug 10-Aug 11, 2100Z-1800Z, Merrill, WI. Merrill Amateur Radio Group, W4C. Merrill, Wisconsin's ACS Relay for Life. 21.350 14.250 7.250 3.950. QSL. Merrill Amateur Group W4C Special Event, PO Box 424, Merrill, WI 54452. relay@margdx.com

Aug 11-Aug 12, 2100Z-2100Z, Mt Sunflower, KS. Trojan and Sand Hills ARCs, K4S. Operating in conjunction with the Colorado 14er radio event. VHF & UHF frequencies will be listed at www.14er.org. 3.920 14.260 14.060. QSL. Trojan Amateur Radio Club, W0WOB, 1553 County Rd T, Colby, KS 67701. www.14er.org

Aug 11-Aug 14, 1400Z-0000Z, Window Rock, AZ. Navajo Amateur Radio Club, N7C. Navajo Code Talkers Days. 14.265 7.265. QSL. Herb Goodluck, N7HG, PO Box 3611, Wido Rock, AZ 86515. *Times are daily.* n7hg@citlink.net

Aug 13-Aug 19, 0000Z-2359Z, Cartagena, Sp, SPAIN. Fundación Isla Ebusitana y Aula Cultura Armada, AO5PCI. Regata Almirante Conde de Barcelona. 28 21 14 7 3,5 MHz CW and SSB. QSL. Francisco, c/Guayaquil, 10 bajo (Urb. La Vaguada), Cartagena, SP 30394, SPAIN. *AO5PCI, AO5PCS Aug 13-16; AO0PCI and AO0PCS Aug 17-19. QSLs will be sent via the bureau, unless received direct.* www.lumbrerasct.com/Ebusitana/indexebusitana.htm

Aug 15-Aug 26, 0000Z-0400Z, Columbus, OH. John D. Kraus Memorial Amateur Radio Club, W8JK/WOW. 30th anniversary of the "WOW Signal". 7.045 14.045 7.200 14.250. QSL. Bruce Lerner, KC8VEB, 734 Suntree Dr, Westerville, OH 43081. www.w8jk.org

Aug 17-Aug 19, 0000Z-2359Z, Cheboygan, MI. Oakland County ARPSC, K8S. Celebration of International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. 7.270 14.270 21.270 28.370. Certificate. Gary

Sklar, 7296 Green Farm Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322. *The event will be held in cooperation with Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, local Michigan Branch, Mackinaw City, Michigan.* k8ikw@aol.com

Aug 18-Aug 19, 0000Z-2359Z, Eagle Harbor, MI. International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, K8E. Eagle Harbor Lighthouse and two range lights. 14.275 14.030 7.275 7.030. Certificate. N8MR, 14071 Fairway, Livonia, MI 48154. www.kc8nah.com/Interests/EagleHarbor/illw07.htm

Aug 18-Aug 19, 0100Z-2359Z, Pennsauken, NJ. International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend, KC2HOU. International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend. 28.370 21.370 14.270 7.270. Certificate. ARLHS HQ, Hamilton-Woodbine, Pennsauken, NJ 08109-1854. *Worldwide event. This is not a contest; do not submit logs.* illw.org

Aug 18-Aug 19, 0900Z-1600Z, Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Caribbean Amateur Radio Group, W4L. International Lighthouse Weekend 2007. 28.485 21.285 14.270 7.085. QSL. Wilfredo Aviles Jr, KP4ARN, Urb Esteves, 7124 Ave Jose de Jesus Esteves, Aguadilla, PR 00603-7372. wavilesjr@yahoo.com

Aug 18-Aug 19, 1300Z-2359Z, Asheville, NC. International Morse Code Club, W1MCW. Celebrating T. R. McElroy's 1939 World Record of 75.2 WPM. 14.270 14.038 7.270 7.038. QSL. IMCC Amateur Radio Club, PO BOX 1553, Fletcher, NC 28732. *Transmitting from the Historic Grove Park Inn. Check for updates at* www.w1mcw.org

Aug 18-Aug 19, 1300Z-2100Z, Sea Girt Lighthouse, NJ. North America DX Assoc and Neptune ARC, NA2DX. Celebrating International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. 14.260 7.260. QSL. NADXA, PO Box 357, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720.

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 16, 2007



Attendees: Mike KØMLA, Susan KCØSYA, Jim ABØUK, Doug N7LEM, Dan ACØCC, Ralph KIØNK, Mike WV7T, and Rhoda.

President Mike KØMLA called the meeting to order at

7:04 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Station.

The June Board Meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Zero Beat. (Motioned/seconded by Susan KCØSYA/Doug N7LEM)

Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Dan ACØCC Treasurer: Beginning balance \$13,107.81, income \$970.75 (includes COQP donations of \$630.00), expenses \$435.53, net income \$535.22, ending balance \$13,643.03 as of 7/10/07. (2nd half of Lewis-Palmer rental payment pending, estimated cost \$700).

Field Day – Passed \$88 worth of food/drinks onto the club picnic chairperson.

Colorado QSO Party – Band conditions were bad unfortunately, but we've already received about thirty-nine (39) logs the first day after the event. Logs should be postmarked by August 1st to count. So far, no one has included their county abbreviation on their logs, so it is taking a lot longer to process them. Plaques are still in the planning stage. Will update the board later on the plans for plaques/certificates. Website is at www.ppraa.org/coqp.

Unfinished Business:

Membership Committee – Zero-beats with an intro. Letter went out to prospective hams. A few came back from hams that have moved.

Club Picnic Chairperson – Doug N7LEM's wife Patricia is willing to organize this event. Will be

at Dirty Woman Creek in Monument Aug. 18, from 0900 to 1500. Cost is \$55 for 6 hr reservation and \$25 refundable deposit. Food will include the normal burgers and hot dogs, plus some BBQ from Bird Dog. Other activities will be available for kids and families, such as horseshoes and/or croquet. Antennas available from club and radio from Jim. Electricity is available at the site. Email picnic@ppraa.org to RSVP if you're coming. Planning for thirty people, hopefully won't exceed that without RSVPs. Board approved up to \$200 for the expenses of the event (moved/seconded by Susan KCØSYA/Jim ABØUK).

Next year's board – Doug N7LEM is the chairperson for an election committee. Will send messages out on reflector every few weeks looking for volunteers to run, as well as posting on the website. Anyone interested in running for a board position in October should contact Doug as early as possible.

New Business:

Christmas Party – Might use Golden Corral this year since their meeting room is larger than County Buffet's. Susan KCØSYA will raise door prizes again.

Around the Table:

Mike WV7T - Requested approval of funds not to exceed \$120 for printer cartridges for printing the zero-beat welcome letter inserts and club information sheets (Motioned/ seconded by Dan ACØCC/Ralph KIØNK), board approved. Also, requested \$50 for a plaque for the Fire Station for their service during Field Day. Not sure if any plaques have ever been presented to anyone in the past for field day. Someone might want to contact NKØP, club historian, to see if he's still a member and if he's done anything on our history records lately. Might need a new historian to be appointed. Mike will present a design at the next club meeting, along with price, for approval. Hammy is getting out of control. Maybe start a

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new one each year and present it to someone at the end of each year.

Doug N7LEM – August program is still open, trying to tie down someone on geocaching/GPS. September is digital modes, just need to determine the presenter. Discussed meeting location ideas again. Everyone still working on it.

Jim ABØUK – Suggested moving the ham breakfast to a new location. Will try Golden Corral at Powers and Palmer Park for August and see how it goes. Another member had asked about the possibility of video conferencing for club and board meetings, but would require too much equipment and expense.

Newsletter submission deadline is July 25, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: August 13, 2007 at the Stetson Hills Police Station on Tutt, directions available on PPRAA website.

Submitted by:

Susan Allison KCØSYA
PPRAA Secretary

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2007

President Mike Allison KØMLA called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, followed by introductions around the room.

Silent Keys – Tom NØNTX, remembrance presentation by Mike WV7T.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$13,107.81, income \$970.75 (includes COQP donations of \$630.00), expenses \$435.53, net income \$535.22, ending balance \$13,643.03 as of 7/10/07. (2nd half of Lewis-Palmer rental payment pending, estimated cost \$700).

Minutes: June minutes approved as printed (with the exception of Ralph's call sign was incorrect).

Committee Reports:

Field Day – Presentation by Mike WV7T to show pictures and discuss how well the event went.

Summer Picnic – Aug 18, 2007 at Dirty Woman Creek park (same as last year), and there is now a permanent restroom facility available. Will be 0900-1500 hrs. See website for whether to bring a side, salad or dessert. Tailgate swap at 0900 and eating begins at 1200. Horseshoes and other non-radio activities available as well. If possible, please RSVP by email to Picnic@ppraa.org with the number of how many people will be coming, so we can plan for the food.

VE – VE patches were presented by Dennis NØABC to any VE's present that have helped at PPRAA VE sessions recently. Those not present at meeting will receive theirs by mail shortly.

Megafest Results – Attendance 466 (2006 was 258). Income from attendance, table sales, VE team room, and raffle tickets \$4,586.00. Expenses of \$2,486.42. Net Income of \$2,099.58.

Unfinished Business:

RFI Issues - The contact at Colorado Springs Utilities for RFI issues is now Steve Prestel at 668-5785.

Colorado QSO Party – Jim ABØUK - See website at www.ppraa.org/coqp for details.

Thursday Night Net – interference problem hopefully fixed on repeater, and Dave Givens made an open invitation to anyone that would like to attend the GGARC meetings that are held every month on the first Monday at Fargo's Pizza at 11:30a.m.

Hammy Award – Presented to Mike WV7T for all his hard work on Field Day.

Cont'd...

Program – HPAZ Net – Doug, N7LEM

Next Club Meeting: August 8, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM on July 16, 2007 at the Stetson Hills police station on Tutt Blvd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Submitted by:

Susan Allison KCØSYA

PPRAA Secretary

DUKE CITY HAMFEST AUG. 17-18, 2007

The 2007 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention will be held in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico **Friday, August 17 through Saturday, August 18**. This event is being hosted by the Duke City Hamfest, Albuquerque's annual hamfest and New Mexico's largest amateur radio event.

This year's event will offer many great things, including the company of many Hams from across New Mexico and the Rocky Mountain Division, lots of equipment sales, dealers, informative technical and non-technical forums, fun events,

VE exams, TONS of prizes and a relaxing dinner banquet with a special guest.

Albuquerque also offers the visitor many things to do, including hiking, golfing, the Sandia Crest Tram, shopping, museums, side-trips to places like Taos and Santa Fe, and some much needed relaxation as fall draws near.

All of the details you and your members would want about this fun event are available on the [2007 Duke City Hamfest website](http://www.dukecityhamfest.org), including schedules, maps, prize information, secure online ticket purchasing, banquet information and more.

We look forward to seeing many hams from across the Rocky Mountain Division in August, and certainly on the air in the meantime.

73,

Brian Milesosky N5ZGT

www.dukecityhamfest.org

Jess Miley KØTAA

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Please call before you drive.

Closed Sept. 1-24, 2007

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings,

Can you believe summer is almost over? It seems that this year has flown by. The PPRAA has been very busy this summer and we're working on more events and projects.

Rob N7LV coordinated the swapfest and it was a great success. This event is the only fundraiser for the club each year and is vital to the club being able to do other events during the year.

This summer we held Field Day at the Tri-Lakes Fire District station and managed to get six stations on the air: SSB, Satellite, Digital, UHF/VHF, GOTA, and CW. Mike WV7T coordinated the even this year and although we had some small issues with antennas, it was a great event!

The club was also the major sponsor of the Colorado QSO Party, coordinated by Jim, ABØUK. The logs are still being sent in, but the early indication was that there were a lot of people who participated.

Still to come this year is the club picnic, the Christmas party and club elections. Expect to see more on these events at future club meetings. Also, the club is looking for volunteers to help coordinate these events next year and the slate is open for anyone who would like to run for officer and board member positions. Check the website, <http://www.ppraa.org> for more information

I wish everyone a great end of summer.

73,

Mike, KØMLA
PPRAA President

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