



VOLUME 57 ISSUE 11

November 2007

Meet the New Board Members



Left to right: Treasurer: Dennis Major NØABC, Secretary: John Wishart KCØJFH,
Vice-President: Ken Sheehan KDØAGV, Director: Bill Pierce KDØJU
Not shown: President: Doug Nielsen N7LEM

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings PPRAA,

First off, I'd like to thank the membership for electing me as President. I'd also congratulate the other new officers and members of the board and

thank them for volunteering to provide leadership for the club. I believe we have a good group of folks serving on the board and will be able to make some progress with improving and growing the PPRAA.

I hope everyone read Mike Allison's final column last month and will take to heart the club's need for volunteers to conduct our normal annual activities as well as allowing us to conduct some new activities this coming year. The first requirement is someone to organize next year's MegaFest. The second requirement is for someone to organize Field Day. Anyone willing to work on these major club activities please contact one of the club officers or board members.

The board is already hard at work developing a volunteer recognition program to provide more tangible recognition for those who provide services to the PPRAA. We are also evaluating the benefits of membership in the PPRAA and hope to make some changes to increase the value of membership. The first of these improvements is the establishment of a club library that includes QST issues from 1954 to present. The library will eventually include reference books and other ham-related periodicals. Club members may request scanned copies of articles be mailed, faxed, or emailed to them, and check out books and other materials. See the website for more information.

Potential projects next year include working with local scout troops to assist in earning the Radio Merit Badge and operating special event stations in coordination with other local activities. Introducing scouts (and their dads) to ham radio can be a good way to gain new hams and expand the hobby. We can do great things this year and have fun on the air at the same time, but we need hams beyond the ten members of the board to step forward.

73,
Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM
PPRAA President

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:

Dec. 8

In Other Words...

When the electricity goes off the first thought is to grab the flashlight or light some candles. The next thought is to call the electric company to ask when the lights will be back on. Until that moment, no one thinks about the people who go out in all seasons no matter the weather to keep the lights on. Until that moment, they were invisible. That's the way it is when something works well; the people who keep the lights on are invisible and everyone takes them for granted – until something breaks down and the lights go out.

Over the past two years since I joined the PPRAA, I have heard various stories about why membership is down and I wonder how many members saw the lights flickering. I'd say not many because the PPRAA is still around. Some members left and new ones joined, but the PPRAA continued because of the people who kept the lights on. No one noticed. The Megafest went on, people still had fun at the annual picnic and Christmas party, the newsletter went out once a month, Field Day wasn't canceled, there were VE sessions every other month, and meetings were held. The only ones who really know how much effort was needed to keep the lights on were the ones who made sure they stayed on, the people who go out in all weathers to make sure everything is working, the people everyone takes for granted, the people who keep the lights on no matter what.

I've heard many excuses about why members stopped coming to the meetings and paying their dues, but the top of the list is that the newsletter is free for download on the PPRAA web site so there's no value for the money. Grandma always said there was no reason to pay for the cow if you could get the milk free. She was right, but, in this instance, she was wrong because nothing is free, not even the newsletter.

Do you think dues cover the cost of printing the Ø-Beat? They don't. I'm a writer so I know how magazines and newspapers and even newsletters work. Subscriptions don't come close to paying the cost of printing, advertisements do. No advertisements means no publications.

There is no such thing as a free lunch. Look around you. Free television isn't free. Every hour-long show has 13-18 minutes of commercials – advertisements. That's what pays for the show. Every newspaper and magazine is full of ads that make it possible to sell for fifty cents or a few dollars. Without those ads,

publications would cease to exist. The same is true for television, and even cable.

You think the Ø-Beat is free, but it's not free and there are no advertisers, so who pays the bill? Every single person who worked to hold the Megafest paid for the newsletter and for everything else: the annual picnic and Christmas party, Field Day, VE sessions, monthly meetings, and putting together the COQP. Those people keep the lights on and everyone takes them for granted because they do such a good job; they are invisible.

Would you notice if the Megafest didn't happen in June or if the other activities stopped? Would it make a difference if the lights went out permanently?

When I first took over as editor and the Ø-Beat didn't go out one month many of you complained – loudly. None of the people who complained keep the lights on. They don't pay the extra \$3 on their dues, but they show up at meetings and take a printed copy of the newsletter anyway.

But this isn't about the newsletter being free. This is about the people who keep the lights on and have kept them on in the face of pretty tough odds. They give their time and talents and work hard to stand up and be counted as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, VE coordinator, and heads of committees, and they are always the same people, the ones who don't just think about offering a hand, the ones who keep the lights on. But they have lives, too, and families and jobs. I'm sure there are times when they'd like to stay home and watch a little TV or cable, to read the newspaper or pick up a magazine, or would even like to step aside and let someone else, someone like you, help keep the lights on.

There is no such thing as a free lunch or a free newsletter, no matter how many times you download it from the Internet or pick it up at the meeting, and dues don't pay for it either. The people who share their time and talents pay for this newsletter and everything else the PPRAA sponsors that you enjoy. They keep the lights on. When those people are no longer able or willing to keep paying for you, who will keep the lights on?

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA
Editor

DITS & BITS

Starting with this issue of Ø-Beat there will be some changes.

- The PDF version available on the PPRAA web site and by email will be longer with an extra article or feature.
- Since the membership form is available for download at PPRAA.org, the form will be included only in the December and January issues along with a reminder to renew your membership.

Look for more changes in the coming months.

73 as always...

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA
Editor

Battle of the Titans WV7T & NØQJS

Mike WV7T has challenged John NØQJS to a Worked All States contest. Whoever receives the new and improved ARRL Worked All States certificate can have the choice of 3 of the 4 states intersecting at 4-Corners! May the best ham win!



Raspberries, Anyone?

Shel Radin KFØUR

Recently my XYL, Judy, and I were invited to go on a hike up to the top of Raspberry Mountain, just outside of Divide, CO. We were invited by non-ham friends, Rob & Jody, who live in Divide. Always enjoying the Colorado countryside, we gratefully accepted. It's one of the pleasures of life and living in Colorado.

One of the other pleasures is owning an Elecraft KX-1 backpacking rig. I've had it for a little while, purchased at the Dayton Hamvention a few years ago. Mine is set for 20, 30, and 40 meters, although the new 30-meter module also provides 80 meters. It's a 4 watt CW rig, with a built-in keyed, digital display, antenna tuner, plus, plus. It's a 10-ounce joy to operate. The other components I use are a 12V 2A gel cell, a small solar charger that keeps the battery topped off so I maintain 4 watts, and a Palm mini-paddle that went with Don, N6JRL to Peter I Island on the 3Y0X DXpedition last year.



Mount Raspberry

Rob mentioned that his QTH is at 9400 ft, and the top of Raspberry Mountain is 10,600 feet. My mind immediately thought of operating portable HF with my KX-1 from the top. I always wanted to do that. I've used it on local trails, but have not taken it to the top of any mountain yet. So we decided to go on a Sunday

Cont'd...

Raspberries, cont'd...

afternoon, packed the rig in my backpack, and headed for Divide.

If you Google Raspberry Mountain, you'll find a trailhead exists off of Rt 67, going toward Cripple Creek. Little did I know, until we got to Rob and Jody's place, that the trail is accessible from their property. Very cool. We didn't need no stinking trailhead! We left their back door, headed through their woods, and with their guidance, met up with the trail in a short time.

The trail to the top is a 3 mile circuitous one, but not very hard. It's a great hike that gradually takes you up 1200 feet in 3 miles. Along the way, you get some great glimpses of fabulous views through the trees. After an hour and a half, we reached the top. At the very top, you climb up a few steps on some very climb-able boulders, and WOW!, what a view. You have 360 degrees of unobstructed views, including the west side of Pikes Peak, about 10 miles away, the town of Divide way down there to the north, and other places I don't know the names of (yet). We stood in awe for a while simply enjoying the view.



Shel KFØUR and Rob on Raspberry Mtn.

When I had enough of the awe inspiring view, I set up my rig and see whom I could contact. By now it was late afternoon, and we wouldn't be spending all that much time at the top. Assuming I wouldn't have any trees to host an end-fed Zepp I have, I opted to bring and use my portable homebrew vertical that just sticks in the ground. It's one foot long collapsed and 12 feet tall, center loaded with ground radials when set up. It has always worked great.

After just a few minutes of set up, I was on the air on 20 meters. After listening up and down a quiet 20 meters for a while and then calling CQ near 14.060, the QRP calling freq., I decided to move to 40 meters. 20 meters just wasn't cooperating and my 4 watts needed some help.

On 40 meters, I found activity. Much better. Almost immediately, I had a QSO with a fellow in Texas who heard me answer his CQ. Just me, my 4 watts, and killer views. It doesn't get much better than this. Now, I probably should mention that I view QRP hiking somewhat like fishing on a lake. Meaning, just being there is often enough, regardless of whether you catch anything (fish or QSO), but catching a fish or QSO makes it that much better!

I brought along an extra set of ear buds and an audio splitter so Rob & Jody could listen to the QSO. They don't know CW, but I translated it aloud for them, letter by letter, as I wrote it down. They thought it was cool. What can I say? CW *is* cool.

After that QSO, we decided to start our hike down, so we would get back to Rob & Jody's before dark. I was very satisfied with my one QSO, as it's not the number of QSOs, but the sheer joy of the whole experience. The hike down was as beautiful as it was going up, plus I had the new memories of being at the top and operating. It's hard to describe.

And this was all at the sunspot minimum. Just imagine what it'll be like when the next solar cycle starts to ramp up. Can't wait to go back.

Shel KFØUR

Library Adventures

John Evans NØHJ

It looks like I was the first to request a copy of an article from the Club's Library issues of QST. I thought I'd let you in on my experience and share some ideas as to how we can make this resource a wonderful club resource.

I recalled Ken Sheehan's post a few weeks back about obtaining a huge quantity of QSTs when I was researching a potential transmitter project, so I fired off a quick email to see if he was receptive to locating the issue, scanning the article in question, and then emailing the scan to me. Ken was extremely kind and receptive, located the article, and within hours I had the article I desired in my hands.

Folks, this is no minor task and to me is an extremely valuable part of club membership - so much so that the renewal of my lapsed (ahem) membership is now in the mail. Ken provided a high resolution bitmap scan of the article and sent each page individually when the group of attachments exceeded some limit along the way.

Right now, Ken has a selection of QSTs from January 1954 to date. Here's what I recommend that any members who are so inclined do:

- ✓ Do you have any old QSTs, CQs, 73s, and other ham radio or radio related magazines collecting dust and taking up space in your house or storage? DONATE THEM TO THE CLUB
- ✓ Got any old complete ARRL Handbooks that you'd like see put to good use? DONATE THEM TO THE CLUB

✓ Got any old radio related books around that are useful but don't see much use at your QTH? DONATE THEM TO THE CLUB

✓ Got any old Allied, Lafayette, or B&A catalogs lying around? DONATE THEM TO THE CLUB

✓ See any old magazines, handbooks, or references for cheap at a hamfest? Buy them and DONATE THEM TO THE CLUB

Think about how great it would be to have a local collection of all the ARRL Handbooks as well as the entire collection of a magazine available for all members!

In turn, Ken will maintain a library for all members to use, either on a library checkout basis, via photocopy, or scan and email, as appropriate. I've suggested Ken provide a list of what the library has on hand, a card catalog, so to speak, that can be put on the club web page or perhaps in the newsletter periodically as it is updated.

I've only requested one article, but it has shown me how valuable a resource our Club Library can be!

73

John NØHJ

NOTE: As of this writing, Ken has resigned as club librarian and John has offered to take his place. jmc

Morse Code at 140WPM

Last month a PPRAA member emailed me a link to an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about Chuck Adams K7QO who has a fascinating hobby -- or two. Chuck copies Morse code accurately at 140 WPM, making him one of the fastest operators in the world. When contacted about his amazing feat he said the figure of 140 WPM is "probably misleading." Chuck explained, "There are three code speeds that I think any good CW operator should know and should know how to measure. Plain text with a 'mil' or keyboard. This is the way world records are done and [also] code tests, [copying] one minute without error out of five minutes of plain text from the hard copy generated. [C]ode tests started out this way and then went to either a multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank [test] ...before being discontinued.

"Code competitions that I [did] as a teenager didn't allow typewriters, so it was done with pen and paper [where] I used to win at 40-45WPM. To this day, I still do hard copy of every QSO that I have. At high speeds, I grab a typewriter, an electric one.

"Plain text without hard copy, also known as copying in your head, ...is much more difficult to measure as you have to rely on what someone repeats back to you after a session. But this doesn't have to be 100% copy. There are guys who consistently carry on QSOs at 110-120WPM, but those QSOs are disappearing from the bands. [The third way is a] computer program from RufzXP which is where the 140.9WPM comes from for me and the 200WPM that two individuals did at the IARU competition in the European Union (EU). The program has a database of something like 45,000 radio amateur calls, mostly from contesters. You hear a call and type it into the program. If you get it right, the program sends another call at a faster speed and continues to increase the speed for each correct call. If you miss then the next call is sent at a slower speed. Your score is determined by a number of factors: response time, correct calls or

number of characters per call, etc. This program is the most frustrating thing you can do ...[and] will drive anyone to drink in a hurry."

Chuck plays down his achievement although he learned code in two evenings using an Instructograph paper tape machine. His father, W5NNB, took Chuck to a club meeting in Kermit, TX to find someone to teach him because he didn't feel his son would listen to him. Two already licensed teenagers Chuck's age took him under their wings that Wednesday and the following Thursday and Friday evenings Chuck memorized the code. His father dropped him off at Terry and Roy Acuff's home in Kermit on Saturday. When the dust was settled and the test over, Chuck had done 12WPM.

He became interested in very high speeds in his senior year in high school. Working on 40m with a Heathkit Apache and an NC-300 receiver calling CQ at 45WPM, he was confident until he received a message at 60WPM. "I couldn't get them to QRS, so we didn't complete a QSO. I was so pissed at the time that I told myself no one would ever do that to me again. So far, so good." As with anything, there are always questions, and one question that comes to mind is if there is value in sending and receiving code at such high speeds. According to Chuck, "The bands might not hold up for long periods of time so you can get a lot done in a short period of time," something that would obviously be useful in an emergency situation when time is of the essence. But it seems almost impossible to get more than the gist of a message, much like speed reading where the text is skimmed, but Chuck disagrees. "At higher speeds, it is my belief that you are as close as you can get to what I call the "Vulcan Mind Meld." You hear/see words in your mind instantly that came from another human mind miles away without consciously hearing the sounds from the speaker. When we talk to people we don't think about the sounds, but the ideas being given."

Cont'd Pg. 10...

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2007



President Mike KØMLA called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, followed by introductions around the room.

Treasurer's Report – Dan ACØCC Treasurer: Beginning balance \$11,478.60, income \$2.85, expenses \$454.10, net loss \$451.25, ending balance \$11,027.35 as of 10/09/07. (Total COQP funds remaining in escrow is \$92.71.)

Approval of Minutes - The September Club Meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Zero Beat. (Motioned/seconded by Susan KCØSYA/Dennis NØABC.)

Committee Reports:

PPRAA Contest Results – this is the last month, of the last quarter of the year. Be sure if you work a contest, get the info into Mike WV7T right away to be counted.

COQP – Full results for 2007 are posted on the website. Looking at Sept. 20, 2008 for next COQP. Working on rules adjustments and preparing for the event already.

Unfinished Business:

Christmas Party – Golden Corral at Woodmen and Powers is reserved for Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007 from 6pm-9pm. Let cashier know you are there for the PPRAA party and they will add an automatic 15% gratuity to the bill. There will be many door prizes including four Wal-Mart gift cards in the amounts of \$100, \$50, and two \$25s. Club contest awards for the quarter will also be handed out.

ARRL Elections - Just a note, be sure to return your ARRL ballots in the mail before the deadline.

New Business:

Program – Club Elections (Jim ABØUK/Mike WV7T motioned/seconded to elect four officer positions as listed, passed by unanimous vote; written vote taken for vacant board member position):

President – Doug, N7LEM

Vice President – Ken, KDØAGV

Treasurer – Dennis, NØABC

Secretary – John, KCØJFH

Board member – Bill, KDØJU (candidates were Dave NØEOP and Bill KDØJU)

Open forum: discussed the idea of finding a new meeting location for the monthly club meeting. Some would prefer a location with better handicap access and better security. The new board will have further discussions on the subject and welcome any and all suggestions or input.

Next newsletter submission deadline is Oct. 25, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Next PPRAA club meeting: November 14, 2007 at 7:00pm.

Submitted by:

Susan Allison KCØSYA

PPRAA Secretary

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2007



Attendees: Bill KDØJU, Les KCØNC, Mike WV7T, Dan ACØCC, Jim ABØUK, Ken, KDØAGV, Doug N7LEM, Mike KØMLA, Sue KCØSYA, Joe NØVKR, Dennis NØABC, and John KCØJFH

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

The board meeting minutes were approved as printed/corrected in the Zero Beat.

Reports

Treasurer's Report - Dan ACØCC reported that we have at total of \$11027.35 in our three accounts as of Oct 9, 2007. He also reported on a memo we received from the IRC concerning new electronic reporting requirements.

Vice President's Report**Programs**

Nov - Digital Modes
Dec - Christmas party
Jan - Homebrew Night
Feb - Utility Safety (tentative)
Time TBD - Winter Safety by Search and Rescue - tentative

Unfinished Business

Membership Committee - Les noted that membership applications can be filed in about a half dozen different ways &/or forms. We need to have ARRL member status information to qualify for ARRL special service club status. Phone number and contact info is needed. The forms will be standardized to include all needed information. PayPal was discussed as a possible payment method, but no action was taken. Membership renewals are due in December, and an updated membership application form will be required.

Christmas Party - Wednesday, Dec 12, 6-9 PM, at the Golden Corral near Woodmen & Powers. Sue is ready to proceed with this activity to be held the

second Wed in Dec. and will have door prizes for all family attendees.

Megafest - Chairperson & date are still needed. Tentative planned date is June 14 (2nd Sat).

CO QSO Party - Chairperson is still needed.

Meeting Location - New meeting locations are being investigated. Requirements: Better handicapped access is desired. Must hold 30-50 people. Good secure parking. Open 6-9 PM. Availability of projection screen is a plus. Available on 2nd Wednesdays.

New Business

Special Events Stations: Doug is investigating possible events that we could tie into for a spec events stations.

Recognition Awards: Dan suggested that we provide some type of formal recognition (e.g., dinner, certificates) for volunteers: outgoing event chairmen, VE people, board, editor, outgoing officers, etc. Dan will put together a proposal for this activity for the next board meeting.

Around the Table:

Mike KØMLA- the substation is not closing in evenings. It looks like we will have to file the electronic form with the IRS.

Jim ABØUK - raffle report is coming due. Dan has necessary information for this. COQP Sept 20, 2008, is coming along. Expect to freeze rules in Dec. Activity expected to crank up in January. Need to take picture of the new officers and board members after this meeting.

Ken KDØAGV- school special event is occurring this week on 20 and 40m. Try to contact schools for this activity in AM and PM. Thursday Night Net - board members, please try to make this net.

Joe NØVKR - disappointed in meeting attendance numbers. He has an auto-dialer machine that could be used to call members to remind members to come to club meetings, board meetings, Christmas party, etc. He is also trying to put together a presentation for youth groups, scouts, merit badges, etc. Also invite scouts to our events, field day, hamfest, etc.

Mike WV7T - Mike WV7T/Mike MLA made/seconded motion a motion to get plaques for Tom Haskins W0TMH (for his \$250 donation for Field Day) and for the fire dept in Monument (for

providing the Field Day space) up to the amount of \$60. Also needs someone to take over storage of club assets due to lack of space at his home. Mike has the club history material. Les volunteered to take over as historian. Suggests that we designate a specific repeater frequency for the club call frequency.

Dennis NØABC - wondered about publication status of club roster on the website. Currently name and call only are provided. Concerned about lack of participation at club meetings and events. What can we do to encourage participation? Needs the status and location of the PO Box. Outgoing President and treasurer have the two keys. Box is located at the main distribution PO at Fountain & Academy. Also need bank signature authority for president & treasurer transferred.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday, 19 November 2007, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Submitted by:

John Wishart KCØJFH

PPRAA Secretary

18 October 2007

**Jess Miley
KØTAA**

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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.

Morse Code cont'd from Pg 7...

While it may sound like science fiction, Chuck's enthusiasm and stories make high speed code something worth achieving and a lot of fun. "I had one QSO at high speed my senior year in high school with a YL for 3.5 hours. I will never forget that one. I also had a QSO with a B-58 pilot who was in Little Rock, AR and got scrambled on an alert; it was not a drill. Then the Cuban missile crisis was announced."

For those of you who have struggled with code, Chuck agrees that it's not easy and that "...you have to work at it to keep it. Use it or lost it." During World War II when the military trained Morse code operators, they trained for sixteen weeks for about eight hours a day. But Chuck says, "The U.S. government did it wrong. They used the old EISH sequence," which, in Chuck's opinion, is "...the worst thing you can do. It either consciously or subconsciously gets the individuals counting elements." He urges anyone learning code that way to "...please, please drop any code course that starts this way or uses some gimmick for memorization...especially visual aids. This is a killer for code speed. Your mind learns to go through a couple of steps before getting the conversion done, then you later have to unlearn the sequence. The only way to make sure code sticks with you is to "[s]tart with a regular daily schedule and stick with it. It's the only way to succeed in a reasonable time period." Chuck upper extremities the ABCD sequence because "...it fairly well mixes up the patterns so that [you] don't compare them to [similar letters]." It's the way we all learned the alphabet in order to read.

One of the good things about Morse code is that the equipment is so easy to build. "That's the way we did it in the 50s and 60s. We were all poor and a single tube transmitter crystal-controlled rig (crystal-controlled rigs were a requirement for one-year Novices) was cheap and easy to build. [Even today,] you can buy a kit for a single band CW transceiver for \$55 and add an

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Morse code cont'd...

additional \$30 for case, etc. Use a wire antenna and a simple key and keyer and you are going like gangbusters. Those who say life is too short for QRP haven't got a clue and don't want the ranks to grow if they keep that attitude.

"Because Morse takes very little...it is a good use of bandwidth and it takes less power to be heard. I have been QRP for all my ham years, but will go to QRO power for the QRQ QSOs I'm about to take up. You can't do high speeds at QRP levels ... unless it's line of sight."

Chuck says it's difficult to say whether Morse code will fall completely out of use. It is much more expensive to do the digital modes when you add in the cost of computer and software, but they are popular because you can sit down at the keyboard and have a mini-Internet on the air and no real concentration is required for long periods of time. However, since most young hams can't afford that kind of ham shack, starting out with a QRP CW rig gives them a chance to become active quickly. It's also something to think about for those hams on a budget or fixed income.

Morse code is a regular part of Chuck's life and not just in terms of going on the air. He also puts out a series of books on CD at different Morse code speeds. He started the books almost twenty years ago to get plain text code for his daily practice when the AP and UPI wire services discontinued daily news transmissions via Morse to ships at sea. "I missed the practice and wanted something to work on to keep up my code speed. I had too much time and energy invested to let it slip away." Chuck uses a computer to translate books in the public domain to code because it gave him perfect spacing and was error free and could be done any time of the day. "It was QRM/QRN/QSB free and a pleasure to do and I had lengthy sessions of continuous material. A complete book, such as *War of the Worlds*, is really a joy to work through [and you don't have to] worry about time of day and sunspot counts for a Morse practice session." He added that smaller MP3 players and iPods make carrying practice with you. Chuck walks 10K a day, getting in two hours of practice, and there are side benefits to the concentration that comes with building code speed.

Chuck plays poker tournaments professionally that require intense concentration for up to 14-15 hours a day. "I really, really believe practicing Morse, which forces you to concentrate continually, helps keep the memory working well and might, just might, help keep one sharp. I have yet to run into any CW operator at

any age who couldn't concentrate and seemed to hold onto information for a long time." Considering the current scientific data coming out about Alzheimer's disease, using Morse code on a daily basis might just be one way to combat the disease. This may be one case where more is better.

Although the FCC took out the code requirement in licensing, the story of Morse code is far from over. One U.S. group is attempting to set a new world record in the IARU high speed competition in 2010 and are looking for a place to hold the competition. Chuck hopes it will be held at Pacificon because it's near San Francisco International airport and holding the competition in Dayton will increase the costs for attendees from the EU and other countries. A venue near an international airport would be best for overseas contestants. Chuck stated that emails to the ARRL are being ignored. The undertaking will be expensive and sponsors with connections, enthusiasm, and/or financial clout are needed. With the current exchange rate, it is be more expensive for U.S. competitors to go to Europe, so an American contest would be an asset. If you'd like to get more information, please contact Ilya Kleyman KE7OPG.

Whatever the reason for getting into high speed Morse code, one thing is certain, code is not going to go away any time soon. It's not easy for some people to master code, but, like anything worth doing, it is worth the effort. In the end, it's all about practice, time, and more practice, but above all, "Patience, Grasshopper."

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA

IARU Competition program www.rufzxp.net

Ilya Kleyman KE7OPG:

12510 109th Ct. NE -302, Kirkland WA 98034

Chuck Adams WSJ article (free link)

<http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB119161604206850468.html?mod=editend>

Chuck Adams books in Morse code

www.k7qo.net

Creating Great Websites with Joomla!

Steve Williams KØSRW

This article series is for you if you've ever wanted to develop a professional-looking Ham Radio (or otherwise) website without mastering all the nits of programming navigation bars, adding pictures, making buttons work, linking between pages, connecting to databases, allowing users to upload and download files, keeping a blog, etc.

No short article like this can anticipate every situation you may encounter during the installation and setup of an initial website. So, please treat this as a summary discussion of the process, feeling free to augment this information with the excellent web resources noted here.

While I would love to address your questions as you move into the described processes, I certainly don't have time available to handle many. That said, feel free to email me at k0srw@earthlink.net, and as time allows, I'll point you in the right direction.

Joomla! Introduction

There are lots of website authoring tools available to choose from, and many web hosting providers supply tools of their own, but in my opinion, Joomla! offers unique and important advantages over most:

- Joomla! is a true Content Management System (CMS) that lets users develop content while minimizing the technical burden associated with how to present the content.
- Joomla! is free and available to anyone for private, commercial, educational, government, etc. use.
- Joomla! is an award-winning *open source* web development solution. Open source software development is typically done by a worldwide, hand-picked and best-in-class development team, consisting of highly-skilled and self-motivated developers truly passionate about their work. Such development efforts are also characterized by unbiased global peer review teams, of which all users are members. The promise of open source over commercially-developed software is lower cost along with improved quality, flexibility and reliability. Open source projects also offer true alternatives to commercial practices and products that may appear predatory in the marketplace.

This month's article provides a short Joomla! overview, and takes you step-by-step through the initial setup process. Extensive web materials are available to help you as well, and a few of these are also included here.

Once you get Joomla! up and running, site, setup and system usage become fairly clear and obvious in short order. Future articles will show you how to use and apply key Joomla! core features, as well as those available in the vast and growing array of Joomla! extension components and modules which are also freely available to anyone. To whet your appetite regarding available extensions, take a look at <http://extensions.joomla.org/>.

Joomla! Overview

At its most basic level, Joomla!'s aim is to provide an entire website infrastructure that lets the you create menus, navigation and content without programming. It accomplishes this through a robust, web-based graphical **administrator** interface that lets you control features, select among standard behaviors, and enter content with powerful editors. The administrator interface allows you to select between various website visual templates which allows you to dramatically change the entire look and feel of your site with a few button clicks.

For example, the very simple example site I have running at <http://www.k0srw.com> took about two hours to install and about two more hours to customize, configure into its current state, and add the included content.

Nothing you see here required any custom programming. I controlled and set everything through the administrator interface.

The screenshot displays the Joomla! 1.0 website interface for 'The KØSRW Website'. The layout includes a top navigation bar with 'Home' and 'Contact Me' links, a search box, and a 'NEWSFLASH' section. The main content area features a large banner image of a mountain, a 'MAIN MENU' with links to Home, 11:30 Choir, Links, and Search, and a 'LOGIN FORM' with fields for Username and Password. The 'LATEST NEWS' section lists articles like 'Illini Net', 'July 4th Water Rescue', and 'Best Church Choir'. The 'POPULAR' section lists 'Best Church Choir', 'July 4th Water Rescue', 'Welcome to The KØSRW Website', and 'Illini Net'. The 'POLLS' section contains two polls: 'If you sing in a choir, what section are you in?' and 'If you have an amateur radio license, what class is it?'. The 'WHO'S ONLINE' section shows 'We have 1 guest online'.

I think you'll agree that the look and feel of the site suggests far more effort than I actually had to apply. (Ok, the content is a bit lacking, but that will come over time.)

Is Joomla! for You?

Once Joomla! is up and running, no web site programming experience is required in order to develop eye-catching, professional and highly functional web sites. However, the installation and setup process is quite technical at points. Diagnosis and debug can be tedious and difficult, and there are numerous ongoing security, maintenance and backup details that will require your continuing attention.

Setting up and running your own website isn't for everyone, but if you're not too put off by the content and general ideas presented in the excellent *Joomla! Administrators Security Checklist* found at the following link, you stand an excellent chance of success!

Joomla! Administrators Security Checklist

http://help.joomla.org/component/option,com_easyfaq/task,view/id,167/Itemid,268/

(Note the **next** and **prev** buttons at the bottom of each page...be sure to take a look at all the pages.)

If you decide to proceed -- and I hope you'll at least give it a try -- please be aware there are literally thousands of people developing for and using Joomla! Many are technical developers of web systems, but the largest group is users is like you and me. These Joomla! users are closely linked by the Internet. They ask questions and receive answers in easily accessible public discussion groups and blogs, and they carefully document their problems and the associated solutions. As a result, this enormous body of information is always available to you.

Because of huge worldwide Joomla! use, it is relatively unlikely that you'll run into problems that nobody else has encountered. The materials available on the main Joomla! site, www.joomla.org, and a number of related sites will be most helpful.

I can honestly tell you that I've not encountered a problem for which a solution wasn't already described somewhere on the web. Frequent use of Google (or your favorite search engine) will be your most indispensable technical assistant, as long as you remain aware of posting dates. Materials older than early 2007 are potentially of limited applicability to today's Joomla! package.

Along with virtually endless web resources, a number of books have been written about Joomla! with new ones already in the works. These are often written by the creators of Joomla!, developers of Joomla! extension, or professional website developers extremely familiar with Joomla! and you'll find lots of help and guidance.

Web Hosting

It is certainly possible to set up Joomla! on your own computer, further configuring your computer to act as the web server. However, due to up-time desires, internet connection bandwidth constraints and security concerns, most users prefer to use a professional web hosting company to make their web site accessible to the world.

Solid web hosting companies provide users with highly reliable 24/7 operations and systems, along with wide internet connection bandwidth, ample disk space and sufficient computing power. Such companies may also provide domain registration and domain control services, as well as email boxes and/or forwarding. More importantly for web hosting, such companies provide the software system infrastructure required by the various web site creation packages available.

When selecting a web hosting service, you'll want to consider the price, of course, but up-time reliability track records should be examined, along with the suite of installed software applications that make up the web hosting infrastructure.

Joomla! 1.0.13 requires the following software packages to be operational on the system that is hosting your website. These are usually provided by web hosting companies, but be sure to check before you sign up!

- MySQL Database 3.23.x or above - <http://mysql.org>
- Apache WebServer 1.3.x or above - <http://httpd.apache.org>
- PHP Hypertext Preprocessor 4.2.x or above - <http://php.net>

MySQL, XML, and Zlib functionality must be enabled within the PHP installation.

The author has constructed and operated a small business website, as well as multiple personal websites, using the StartLogic Company's offerings (www.startlogic.com) with very satisfactory results. As our friends at General Motors like to say, "your mileage may vary." Select your web hosting provider carefully, noting the various reviews and customer feedback that can be found by googling using terms like "web hosting ratings" and the like. Note that some so-called "independent" web host rating sites are actually operated by various web hosting providers, so be careful in your interpretation of their contents.

Additional Joomla! Requirements

Assuming that you're setting up a web site to be hosted by a hosting provider, the following are required on your computer:

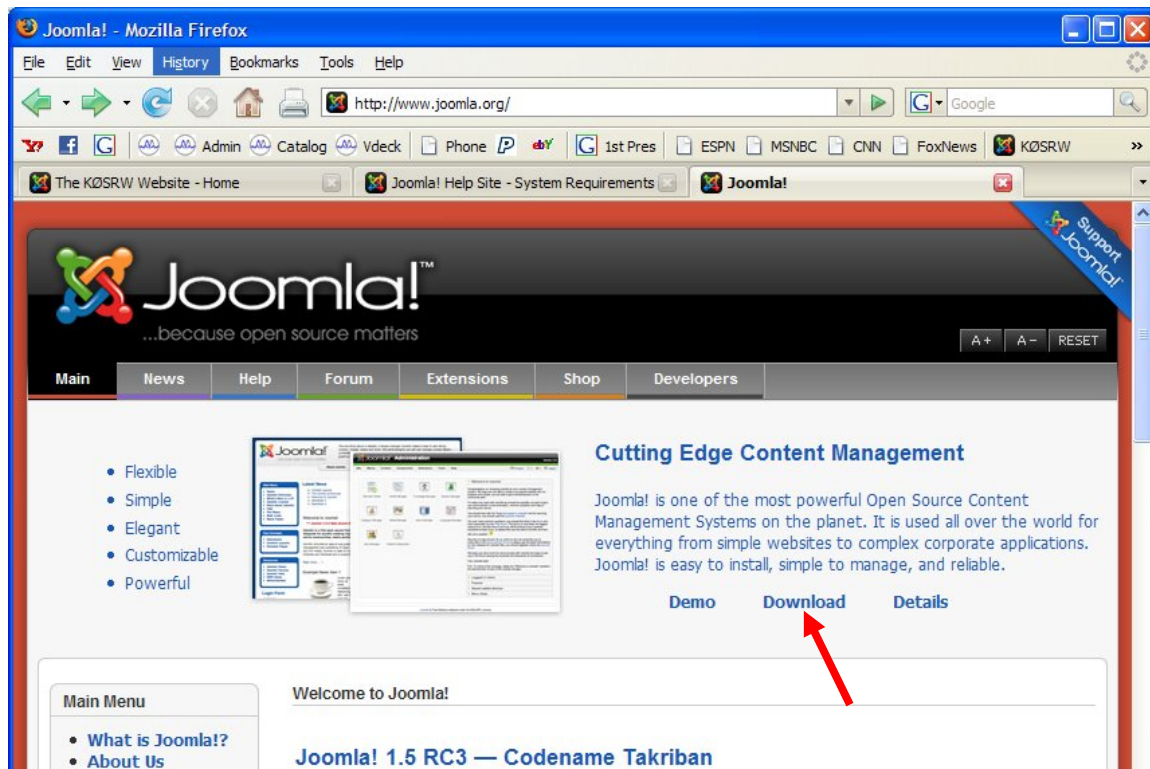
1. 50 MB, or more, of available disk space. Note that this disk space can be freed up after the installation process, but not if you're planning to keep a periodic snapshot backup of your website on your computer. Don't fail to back up your website!
2. A utility such as WinZip that can unpack the Joomla! compressed archives.
3. An FTP (File Transfer Protocol) utility such as CuteFTP or better yet, CuteFTP Professional for moving the Joomla! system files to and from your web hosting FTP site.

Joomla! Setup

Here's a quick setup guide for installing Joomla! onto your web hosting site. This guide assumes that the previously-discussed **Web Hosting** requirements and the **Additional Joomla! Requirements** have been met.

The extensive **Joomla! 1.0.x Documentation** available at <http://help.joomla.org/content/view/34/279/> may also be of assistance as you install and set up Joomla!, but the following steps should at least get you close to a complete and successful installation.

1. Navigate to the main Joomla! site, www.joomla.org, then click on the **Download** link to download the Joomla! zip file.



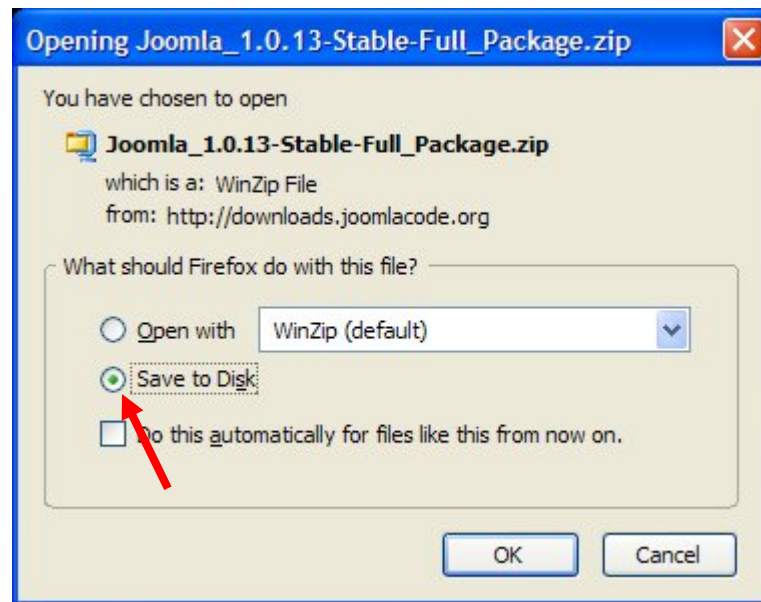
Clicking the **Download** link will bring up the following page, from which you can actually download the zip file. There are a number of other downloads here, including pre-release versions of Joomla! 1.5, but this article assumes that you are downloading the suggested Joomla! 1.0.13 release package.

The screenshot shows the Joomla! Code.org website in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The browser's address bar displays the URL <http://joomla.org/gf/project/joomla/frs/>. The website's header includes the Joomla! logo and navigation links: Home, News, Help, Shop, Forum, Extensions, and Dev. Below the header, the JoomlaCode.org logo is displayed, along with a 'powered by' badge for FORGE Advanced Server. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, My Stuff, Users, Search, Projects: joomla (highlighted), and Snippets. The breadcrumb trail shows 'Home » Projects » Joomla! » Files ». The 'Files' tab is selected, displaying a table of available packages.

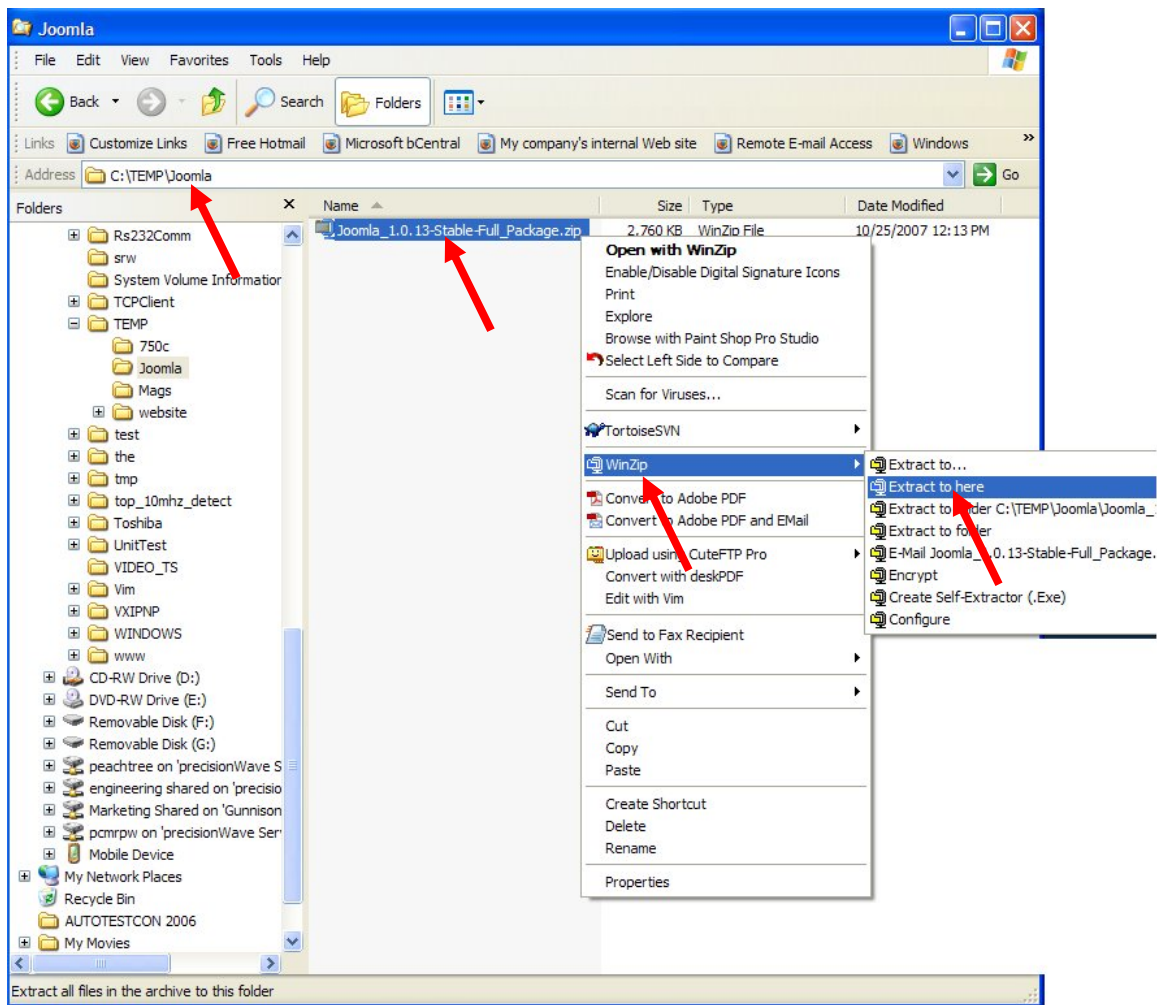
Package Name	Latest Release	Maturity	Files	File Size
Joomla! 1.0	1.0.13fullversion	6 - Mature	Joomla_1.0.13-Stable-Full_Package.tar.bz2	1.62 Mb
		6 - Mature	Joomla_1.0.13-Stable-Full_Package.tar.gz	1.9 Mb
		6 - Mature	Joomla_1.0.13-Stable-Full_Package.zip	2.7 Mb
Joomla! 1.0 Upgrades	to Joomla! 1.0.13	6 - Mature	Joomla_1.0.0_to_1.0.13-Stable-Patch_Package.tar.bz2	880.19 Kb
		6 - Mature	Joomla_1.0.0_to_1.0.13-Stable-Patch_Package.tar.gz	1.05 Mb

A red arrow points to the [Joomla_1.0.13-Stable-Full_Package.zip](#) link in the table.

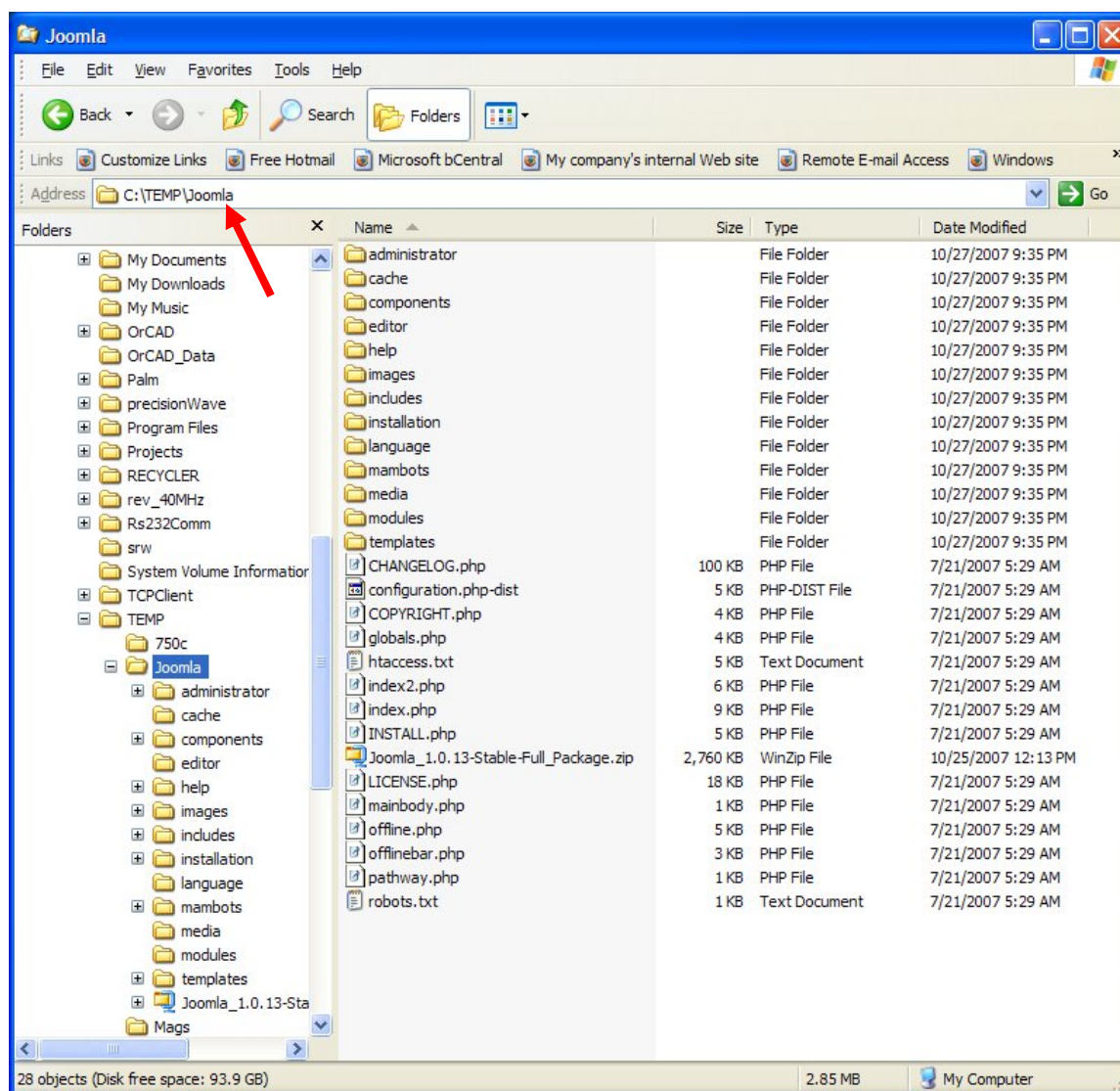
Once you click on the **Joomla_1.0.13-Stable-Full_Package.zip** link, and depending on what internet browser you're using (I use Mozilla Firefox in these examples), you'll have the opportunity to either save or open the file. You'll need to save the file in an otherwise empty directory. I typically use **c:\TEMP\Joomla** for this purpose, but you may store the file anywhere you wish.



2. Once the file is stored on your disk, unzip the archive to the same directory you used to store the zip file. If you're using **WinZip**, you can right-click the file in **Windows Explorer**, as shown below, then select **WinZip's Extract to here...** menu item. This will unpack all the files into the **c:\TEMP\Joomla** directory.

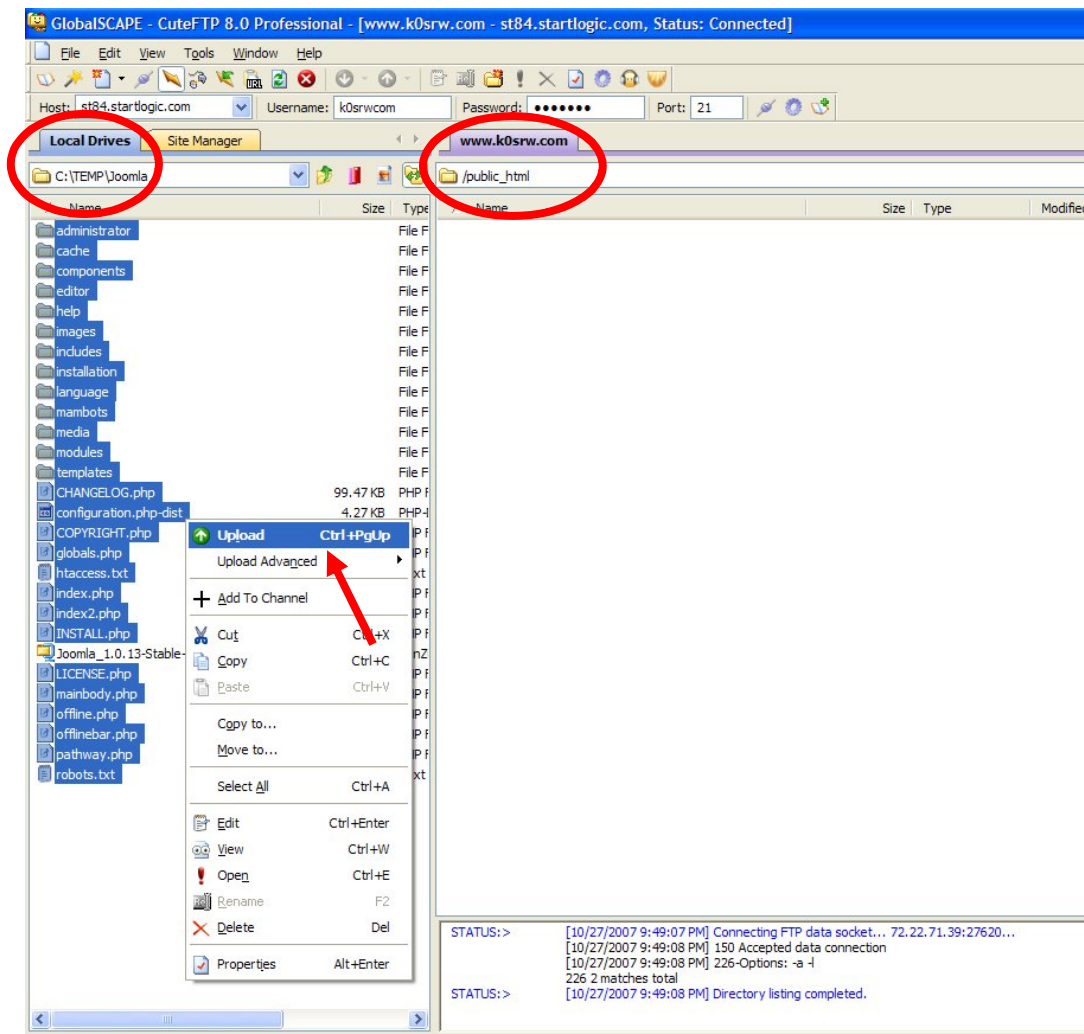


Once the extraction is complete, your directory contents should look like this:



- Now that the files are extracted, start your **FTP** client and copy all the files except for the distribution zip file (Joomla_1.0.13-Stable-Full_Package.zip) to your web hosting site's folder for public HTML files. If you're using StartLogic Company for your web hosting, for example, this directory will be named **public_html**. Your hosting provider will provide you with your directory name and your login credentials so that you can connect your FTP client to the site.

In the following screen shots, I've made use of the CuteFTP Professional FTP package as my FTP client.



Once the files are uploaded, the contents of the directory on your web hosting service should match the contents of the directory where you unzipped the Joomla! distribution archive (c:\TEMP\Joomla in this example).

- Next, navigate to your site with your browser. In my case, I pointed my browser to <http://www.k0srw.com>. This will initiate the Joomla! installation process which will handle many of the remaining details. You'll see something like this when you start the installation:

pre-installation check


license

step 1

step 2

step 3

step 4



pre-installation check

Next >>

Check Again

Joomla! 1.0.13 Stable [Sunglow] 21 July 2007 16:00 UTC

Required Settings Check:

If any of these items are highlighted in red then please take actions to correct them.


Failure to do so could lead to your Joomla! installation not functioning correctly.

PHP version >= 4.1.0	Yes
- zlib compression support	Available
- XML support	Available
- MySQL support	Available
configuration.php	Writeable
Session save path	Writeable
/tmp	

Security Check:

Following PHP Server Settings are not optimal for Security and it is recommended to change them:

Please check the [Official Joomla! Server Security post](#) for more information.


PHP register_globals setting is 'ON' instead of 'OFF'

Recommended Settings Check:

These settings are recommended for PHP in order to ensure full compatibility with Joomla!.

However, Joomla! will still operate if your settings do not quite match the recommended

Directive	Recommended	Actual
Safe Mode:	OFF:	OFF
Display Errors:	ON:	ON
File Uploads:	ON:	ON
Magic Quotes GPC:	ON:	ON
Magic Quotes Runtime:	OFF:	OFF
Register Globals:	OFF:	ON
Output Buffering:	OFF:	OFF
Session auto start:	OFF:	OFF

Directory and File Permissions Check:

In order for Joomla! to function correctly it needs to be able to access or write to certain files or directories.

If you see "Unwritable" you need to change the permissions on the file or directory to allow Joomla! to write to it.

administrator/backups/	Writeable
administrator/components/	Writeable
administrator/modules/	Writeable
administrator/templates/	Writeable
cache/	Writeable
components/	Writeable
images/	Writeable
images/banners/	Writeable
images/stories/	Writeable
language/	Writeable

The **Required Settings Check** section is an automatic check for the proper required software, as described earlier in this article. The four PHP items at the top of the list relate to the software detected on your web host's systems. If the pre-installation check fails at this point, you'll need to be in touch with your web hosting provider to see if they can accommodate these Joomla! minimum requirements. You'll need to resolve any issues noted here before continuing. See notes under **Directory and File Permissions Check** for information about using your FTP client's CHMOD function to address the remaining items in this section.

The **Security Check** section tests for the proper setting of the PHP **register_globals** setting. Mine isn't right, but the install can continue just fine. I'll talk about a solution to this in the next article part, but again, don't worry too much for now.

The **Recommended Settings Check** section is an important check too. These settings can usually be controlled from within the PHP control console that is made available by your web hosting provider. You'll need to talk with your provider to learn how to access your PHP control console.

If any of the directories listed in the **Directory and File Permissions Check** area are shown as unwritable, you'll want to use your FTP client to change their permissions via the FTP client's **CHMOD** function. Set all accesses to read/write in order to take care of this matter. Later, you'll want to check the *Joomla! Administrators Security Checklist* to potentially restore the original permissions. But, for installation purposes, you'll need to make sure that these directories are writable.

If you make any changes to correct any listed issues, click the **Check Again** button in the upper right corner of the **pre-installation check** display to recheck for proper settings.

Aside from the **required_globals** setting noted above, everything else pretty much needs to be green before you continue. Once they are all correct, click the **Next** button in the upper right corner of the **pre-installation check** display.

You'll be asked to read and agree to the license. You should familiarize yourself with this important document.



The next installation step requests information, some of which will be given to you by your web hosting provider.

The **Host Name** field should be set to **localhost** in almost every case.

The **MySQL User Name** field should be set to a user name provided by the hosting company for your access to the host-provided **MySQL** application.

The **MySQL Password** field should be set as indicated by the hosting company for your access to the host-provided **MySQL** application.

The **MySQL Database Name** field may be provided by your hosting company. If not, you'll need to access the **MySQL** control console provided by the hosting company in order to create a database. Once you create a database, enter the name of that database in this field. Talk with your web hosting provider to learn how to access your **MySQL** control console.

The **MySQL Table Prefix** should be left as is, and the other checkboxes can be set as indicated above.

Carefully check your entries, then click the **Next** button when you're ready to proceed. You'll be asked to again confirm that you've made the proper entries, so be sure to take that opportunity to recheck the values you entered.

Installation step 2 requests the name of your site.



The screenshot shows the Joomla! installation interface for step 2. On the left is a sidebar with a vertical list of steps: 'pre-installation check', 'license', 'step 1', 'step 2' (highlighted in red), 'step 3', and 'step 4'. The main area is titled 'step 2' with a box and disk icon. Below the title, it says 'Enter the name of your Joomla site:'. A 'SUCCESS!' message is displayed. A text input field labeled 'Site name' contains 'Your Site Name', with a hint 'e.g. The Home of Joomla' below it. A 'Next >>' button is in the top right corner.

Installation step 3 requests further site-related settings.



The screenshot shows the Joomla! installation interface for step 3. The sidebar on the left has 'step 3' highlighted in red. The main area is titled 'step 3' with a box and disk icon. Below the title, it says 'Confirm the site URL, path, admin e-mail and file/directory chmods'. A paragraph of text explains that if the URL and Path look correct, they should not be changed, and that the e-mail address will be for the SuperAdministrator. Below this, it states that permission settings will be used during installation and that default settings should be left unless the user is unsure. To the right, there are four input fields: 'URL' (http://k0srw.com), 'Path' (/home/k0srw.com/public_html), 'Your E-mail' (k0srw@earthlink.net), and 'Admin password' (vCbqd44). Below these are two sections for permissions: 'File Permissions' and 'Directory Permissions'. Each section has two radio buttons: 'Dont CHMOD (use server defaults)' (which is selected) and 'CHMOD files to:' or 'CHMOD directories to:'.

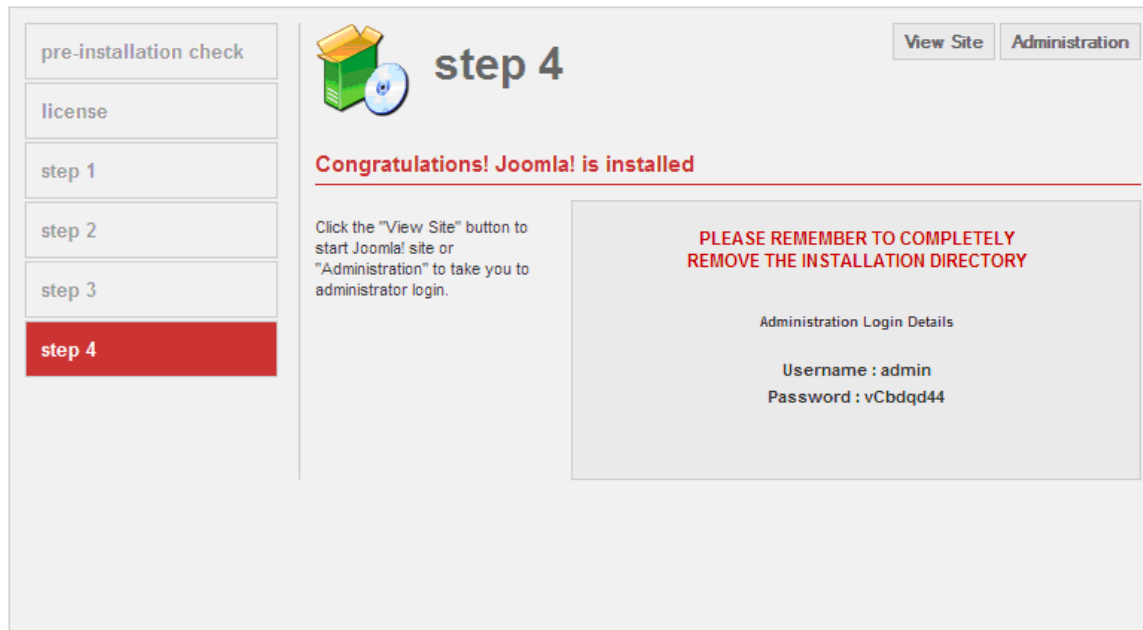
You should check the **URL** and **Path** fields to be sure they look reasonable. In most cases, they will be correct as automatically filled in.

Set your **E-mail** address so you can receive messages from the website should problems occur.

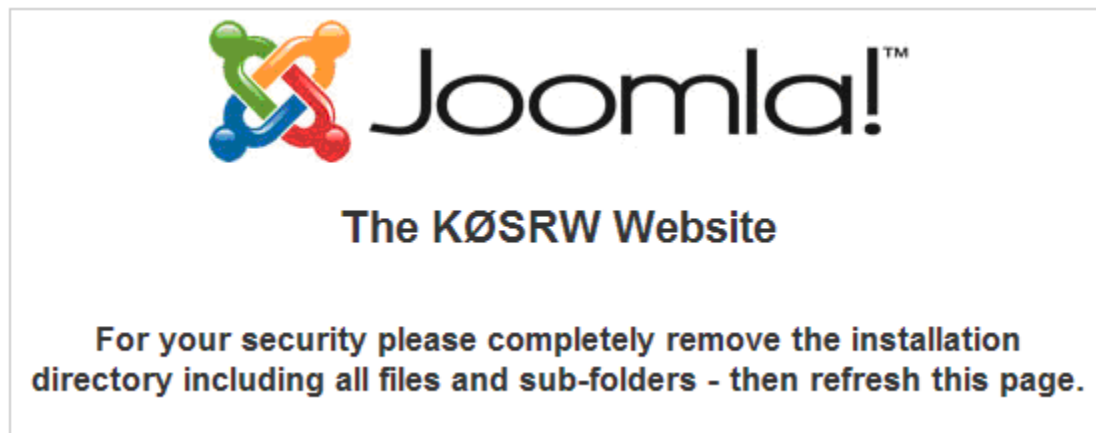
Change the **Admin password** to something you'll remember.

Leave the **File Permissions** and **Directory Permissions** settings in their **Don't CHMOD...** conditions.

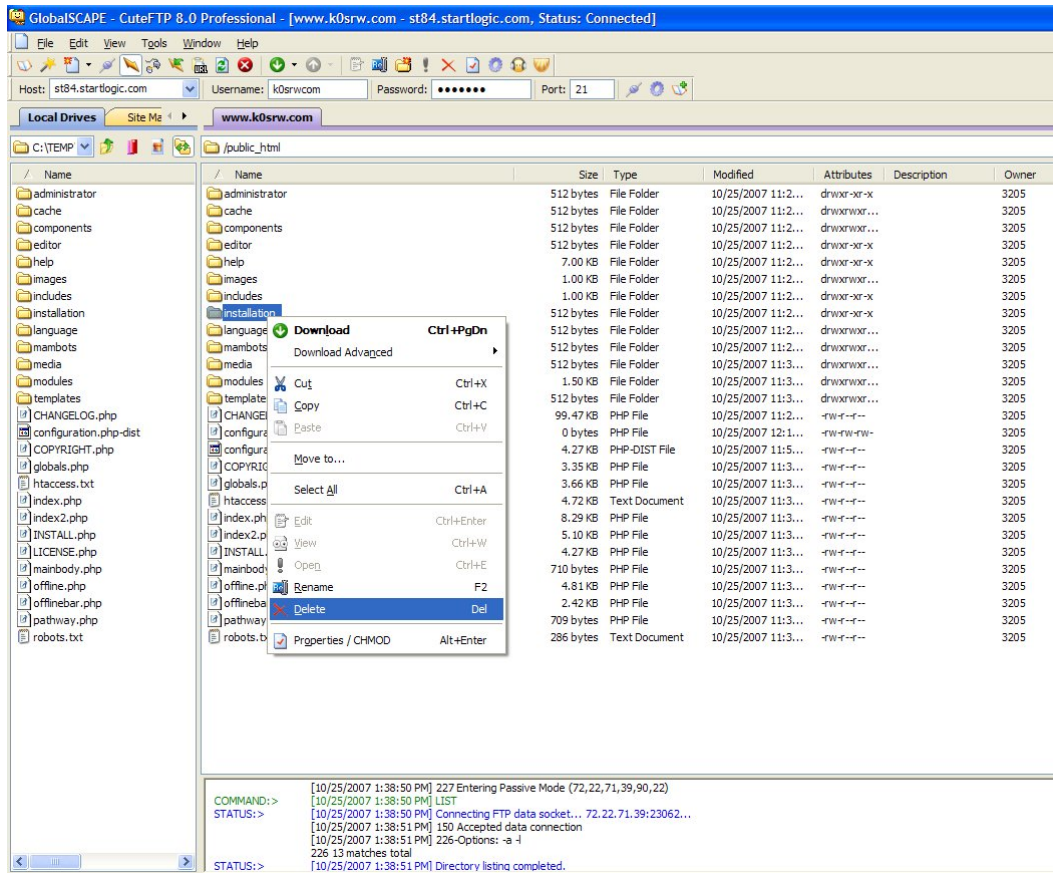
Once these settings are complete, click the **Next** button to proceed to step 4. This display, shown below, gives you a reminder of your Admin password. This is an important item to make note of. Do not proceed beyond the step 4 display without making a record of this password.



Now, click the **View Site** button, and unless you've already deleted your installation directory using your FTP client, you'll see something like the following:



This is good! It means that your site is mostly up-and-running, and that the next step is to completely remove the **installation** directory from your site using your FTP client.



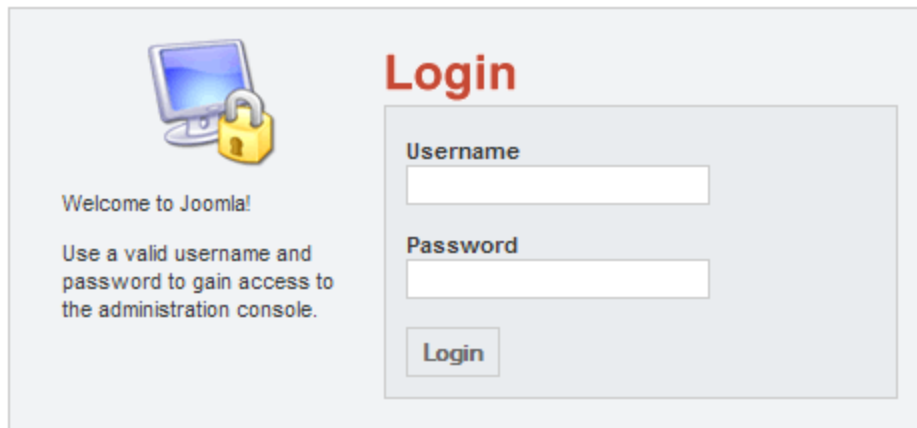
After removing the **installation** directory, refresh the Joomla! Page you saw above, and you'll see something like the following:

The screenshot shows a Joomla! website template. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Contact Us, News, Links, and a search bar. Below this is a Joomla! banner with the text "...because open source matters". The main content area is titled "OpenSourceMatters" and "home of Joomla!". It features a "LATEST NEWS" section with four items, a "POPULAR" section with five items, and a "Welcome to Joomla!" message. On the left, there's a "MAIN MENU" with links like Home, Joomla! License, News, Blog, Links, Contact Us, Search, News Feeds, FAQs, Wrapper, Joomla! Home, Joomla! Forums, OSM Home, and Administrator. Below the menu is a "LOGIN FORM" with fields for Username, Password, and a "Remember me" checkbox. There's also a "Lost Password?" link and a "Register" link. At the bottom left, there's a "SYNDICATE" section with RSS and ATOM feeds. On the right, there's a "NEWSFLASH" section with a news item, a "Powered by Joomla!" logo, a "POLLS" section with a poll about Joomla! installation, and a "WHO'S ONLINE" section. The footer contains copyright information for 2007 The KØSRW Website and a statement that Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL License.

Now, you're in business. The site is properly set up! You should take some time to look around in the template site just to see how things are organized and set up. Don't worry if this doesn't look the way you want it to, or if the content isn't right (how could it be?). At this point, if you see what's above, you're in very, very good shape.

In the next article, we'll talk about the Administrator functions available to customize site content. There's really no reason to wait for the next article to start looking around and experimenting with the Administrator console though. And, again, there are plenty of web resources to help you out. See what you can do with your site, and we'll talk again next month!

To get to the Administrator console, just click the dark gray **Administrator** button on the left side navigation bar. You'll see the display below where you'll need to enter **admin** as the user name, and the password you recorded (hopefully!) from step 4 of the installation process above.



The image shows the Joomla! login interface. On the left, there is a graphic of a computer monitor with a yellow padlock in front of it. Below the graphic, the text reads: "Welcome to Joomla!" followed by "Use a valid username and password to gain access to the administration console." On the right, the word "Login" is displayed in a large, bold, red font. Below this, there is a form with two input fields: "Username" and "Password". A "Login" button is located at the bottom of the form.

Good luck!

Helpful Links

The primary Joomla! website.

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

Joomla! 1.0.x Documentation.

<http://help.joomla.org/content/view/34/279/>

Joomla! Administrators Security Checklist

http://help.joomla.org/component/option,com_easyfaq/task,view/id,167/Itemid,268/

Just for fun

Where do you put pets when they misbehave on a trip?



Special Event Stations

Nov 9-Nov 12, 1400Z-2000Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Armored Force Amateur Radio Net, KA9NLX. Veterans Day SE honoring and remembering all veterans. 28.640 21.375 14.325 7.283 7.030 3.985 possibly 2m. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. jpaskev@aol.com

Nov 10, 0300Z-1400Z, Winterville, GA. Athens Radio Club, W4S. Athens Radio Club Family Fun Day. 28.440 14.225 7.230 3.650. QSL. KD4QHB/W4S, 1037 College Station Rd, Athens, GA 30605. athensradioclub.org

Nov 10, 1400Z-2300Z, Guthrie, OK. Edmond Amateur Radio Society, W5G. Oklahoma Centennial Statehood Day at Territorial Capital Bldg. 21.260 14.260 7.260. Certificate. EARS, PO Box 48, Edmond, OK 73083. www.k5eok.org

Nov 10, 1500Z-2200Z, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club, W0FSB. Marine Corps birthday and honoring Greg (Pappy) Boyington. 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Five Sullivan Brothers ARC, 4015 Independence Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703. t-mc-nulty@msn.com

Nov 10-Nov 12, 1300Z-2100Z, Iron Mountain, MI. Mich-A-Con Amateur Radio Club, K8V. UP Veterans Memorial atop Pine Mountain, Veterans Day. 14.280 14.060 7.230 7.060. Certificate. Thomas Martin, 812 West B St, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. www.qrz.com/k8v

Nov 10-Nov 12, 1500Z-0000Z, Duncan, OK. CTARC/NTWG, WD5IYF. Chisholm Trail 140th Anniversary. 21.375 14.250 7.265 3.870. Certificate. Chisholm Trail Amateur Radio Club, 921 W Walnut, Duncan, OK 73533-4623. (Note date change; this was originally scheduled for October 27-28.) Joint event Chisholm Trail Amateur Radio Club and North Texas Weather Group. www.ntwg.org & www.wd5iyf.org

Nov 10-Nov 25, 0000Z-0000Z, Paris, FRANCE. Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, TM8CRI. 80th Birthday of the Conference Radiotelegraphique Internationale. 21.270 14.270 7.070 3.770. Certificate. ARP, 66 Avenue de la Republique, Paris 75011, FRANCE. arp75.free.fr