



VOLUME 58 ISSUE 04

April 2008

News & Views

Rob Roller N7LV



Megafest planning continues and we're still looking for folks to help with things: set up and tear down, man the club table, collect money at the door, sell

raffle tickets, etc. If you can help, please send a note to N7LV@amsat.org. The Megafest is set for June 7th at Lewis-Palmer High School as in the past years. You can visit the club's web site for all of the details. We'll have a planning meeting in early April ... watch the PPRAA e-mail reflector for details.

PPFMA Net hanging in there

I read Jim Harris's article regarding the PPRAA simplex net and the transmitting of the ARRL Audio News. I'd like to point out that the Pikes Peak FM Association also has a weekly net, held on Sunday nights at 2030 on its two wide-coverage repeaters 146.97 and 448.450, which are linked for the net. Either the ARRL Audio News or the Amateur Radio Newslines is transmitted, at the discretion of the net controller. We're not tied to playing only one particular brand of news program. I've personally heard both programs, and actually prefer to send the Newslines even though it's usually about 10 minutes longer than the ARRL Audio News. (The repetitive "A-R-R-L"

that is spoken by the announcer nearly every other sentence it just a little too annoying for me.) We have four regular net controllers that are interfacing their radios to their computers to play the .mp3 files. Our net controllers are Dave Kurth N0UVR, Sid White K4ARM, Roger French KBØRLF, and me. So adding these folks to the two people Jim mentions in the PRAA, we have at least six operators in the area that have transmitted the news programs. The PPFMA has been running its nets continuously for probably 10-15 years, as long as I can remember. I think Doug Stroup NØZPY got us started back in the mid 90s.

To send the audio, I use a circuit that Dave Kurth N0UVR gave me. It has one toggle switch, and three external connections: one to the mic jack on the radio, one for the microphone (so I don't have to fumble with different wires when it's time to ID), and one to the sound card speaker output from the computer. The toggle switch is a DPDT switch, and it's wired so that when it's flipped one way (TX) the computer audio is fed to the mic jack on the radio, the PTT is applied simultaneously through the switch and the radio transmits. When flipped the other way (RX), the PTT is disabled, radio is in receive mode and the microphone is then available to use normally with its PTT switch and mic element. When transmitting, the microphone is not actually in the circuit so I don't have to keep the noise down in the shack during the transmission. Besides, I'm usually monitoring the output on 97 on a separate VHF radio, as well as the output on 448.450 on a UHF radio, so I can hear the familiar sound when someone doubles with another, in case someone is attempting to break in with priority or emergency

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traffic. Being on the wide coverage repeaters and running low power, it's easy enough for me to hear it when someone doubles.

My radio is set to its lowest transmitter power (5 watts) to avoid damaging the radio with a 30-minute transmission. The repeater's time-out timer is disabled (normally 3 minutes) so I don't time out the repeater. I do have to disable the time-out timer on my own transceiver, something I hadn't thought about when I first started. Yes, my FT-2500M transceiver gets a bit warm after nearly 30 minutes, even on only 5 watts, but with the big heat sink means I don't need an external fan. The radio handles the heat like a champ.

The only problem I have now is that when my laptop is running off its power supply, I pick up a hum in the transmitter. So usually, I disconnect the power supply from the laptop and run the computer strictly off its internal battery. As long as it keeps the laptop powered for 30 minutes, I'm good. (I tested it a while back and found that it'll run at least 60 minutes off the internal battery, so I'm not too worried about it powering down in the middle of Newline.) I do need to fix that hum problem soon though.

Mir Contact 10 years ago

Ten years ago this past February, students from Prairie Hills Elementary School in Colorado Springs made contact with astronaut Andy Thomas aboard the



Mir space station, thanks to the work of nearly seventy hams from the PPRAA and the region. It was 9:07 a.m. on February 24th when Mir cleared the horizon, and within a very short time, ten students heard Andy describe the work he did on Mir and answered questions from the students. About seventy hams helped make this historic moment happen by providing the primary and backup transceivers, installing antennas,

assembling the 80-ft runs of coax with N connectors, operating the gear, retransmitting the audio over the 146.97 repeater, getting publicity and so on. Even El Paso County Search & Rescue was there with their "white whale" command post van to provide backup power in case of power failure at the school. I've asked the webmaster to post the article as a separate PDF file on the PPRAA web site. AMSAT also included news of the contact in their newsletter, which is still listed on web sites in the USA, Japan, Russia and India. <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/ftp/news/1998/spc0302.txt>

Rob Roller N7LV

Editor's note: Click on the picture of Andy Thomas to go to the NASA website and read about this historic moment or go to:

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/history/shuttle-mir/history/h-f-thomas-flightbegins.htm>

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:

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA
719-632-8254 or ac0ca@arrl.net

Online: ppraa.org or arrl.org.

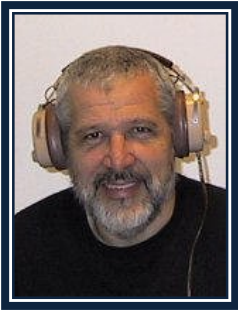
Mark your calendars:

Apr. 12, Jun. 7, Aug. 9,

Oct. 11, Dec. 13

No Electronics Magazines? Think Again

Dan Romanchik KB6NU



Many old-time ham radio operators grew up with magazines such as *Popular Electronics*, *Electronics Illustrated*, and *Radio-Electronics*. Sadly, these

magazines are gone now, but there are still electronics magazines out there that can help you keep up with what's going on in electronics. These magazines are written for practicing electronics engineers and many of the articles will not be relevant to amateur radio or are written in such a way to be nearly incomprehensible to electronics hobbyists, but you can't beat the price. They're free!

The magazines I'm referring to are electronics engineering trade magazines. These magazines are free to electronics engineers and others working in the industry, and are supported by the advertisers. You're not an electronics engineer? Don't worry. E-mail me, I'll tell you how you can qualify.

Let me give you an example of the good stuff found in these trade magazines. In the December 2007 issue of *High Frequency Electronics* (highfrequencyelectronics.com), there is an article titled, "Quartz Crystal Basics." Written by an engineer for a manufacturer of crystals, crystal oscillators, and crystal filters, this article describes how crystals are made and gives some tips on designing your own crystal oscillators.

Also in this issue is "Power Combiners, Impedance Transformers, and Directional Couplers." This is the first of a series of articles to discuss these circuits. Amateurs frequently use transmission line impedance transformers (think baluns) to match an antenna system to the 50-ohm output of a transceiver.

The new products section includes items on RF parts and test equipment, as well as book reviews.

You probably won't be purchasing the new Boonton 9103 7.5 GHz Portable Spectrum Analyzer (\$11,000 and up), but you might be interested in the book, *RF Circuit Design* (\$41 at Amazon).

As you can see, there's plenty of useful and interesting information in these trades. In addition to *High Frequency Electronics*, you may also want to check out:

- ✚ RF Design (www.rfdesign.com)
- ✚ Microwaves and RF (www.mwrf.com)
- ✚ EE Times (www.eetimes.com)
- ✚ EDN (www.edn.com)
- ✚ Test&Measurement World (tmworld.com, I used to write for this magazine)

If you don't want to sign up for the print version of the magazine, you can always visit the websites and sign up for their e-mail newsletters. These newsletters will keep you informed of new applications and product information on the websites and you get to choose which ones you want to read.



When he's not trying to get free subscriptions to electronics magazines, Dan blogs about ham radio (www.kb6nu.com), teach others about ham radio, and is working to set up an amateur radio station at the Hands-On Museum (aahom.org) in Ann Arbor, MI. You can e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

DITS & BITS

FOR SALE:

Kenwood TS-50, HF mobile radio. I have the box though it has seen better days, i.e., the UP/DOWN stock Mic and the mounting bracket. I bought the radio from Burghardt about four years ago to install in my shack or Travel Trailer. I ended up with Yaesu 857d for the trailer and truck and a Kenwood TS-2000 for the Shack for Satellite work. I watched the classified ads on QRZ, E-HAM and ARRL and the radio goes for \$450-\$475. I would like \$425 for mine. It works just fine. The box shows it went to Burghardt from a ham in Alaska and then I bought it. The radio has the MARS mod, but I have no idea who installed the mod. If you're interested, call and set up an appointment to see the rig. Cash for local sales. Postal money order for out of area sales, and please include \$10 for shipping and handling costs via UPS.

73s and thanks,
Mike Dassero, NØMUD
NØMUD@arrl.net
(719) 597-1906

MegaFest 2008:

June 7, 2008 – 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lewis-Palmer High School
1300 Higby Rd., Monument, CO 80132
East of I-25, Exit 158 or 161
Vendor Setup at 6 a.m.
Ticket Sales Open at 7:30 a.m.
Talk In: 146.970 MHz (-) 100 Hz Tone

Admission Only \$5

6-foot Table Rentals Available
\$12 in Advance—\$17 day of Megafest
Rental Does NOT Include Admission
One chair provided with each table
One Raffle Ticket Included with Admission

Additional Raffle Tickets:

\$1 Ea; 6 / \$5; 15 / \$10; 40 / \$20

GRAND PRIZE: YAESU FT-450AT
HF/50MHz Transceiver w/ DSP and ATU

SECOND PRIZE: YAESU FT-8800R
Dual Band 144/430 MHz FM Mobile Transceiver
Generously donated by the Cheyenne Mountain
Repeater Group, Inc.

THIRD PRIZE: YAESU VX-6R
Tri Band 144/220/430 MHz FM Submersible HT

FOURTH PRIZE: YAESU VX-3R
Dual Band 144/430 MHz FM Compact HT

Drawing at Noon, June 7th, 2008. Raffle prize winners need not be present to win. Hourly door prize drawings also! Door prize winners must be present to win.

Rob Roller N7LV

Capulin Volcano 19 Feb 2008 *Paul Signorelli WØRW*



This HF backpack operation started on 1800z, a nice sunny

day with temperatures around +55F. There was some snow on the road and trails. I wanted to operate with my backpack radio (Pedestrian Mobile) on HF and have some fun.

I found no parabolic gain or hot spots as I walked around the crater, except that the top rim at 8182 feet was the best place. This is not like walking around in a baseball field backstop. I could not walk around the rim quickly. It took 15

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minutes to go from the north rim to the south rim, and almost an hour to walk around the rim loop trail (which is one mile and rises about 300 feet above the lower rim).

The Bottom of the Crater is a big -20 dB RF hole. No one down there had Cell service down there either. My XYL (Sharon NØOPM) made a few contacts on 146.52 FM. I depleted 1 NiCad, and 2 Li-Ion batteries during the six hours of operation while running 50W to a 10-foot whip antenna.



The Capulin Volcano has a perfectly formed cone and the rim rises 1300 feet above the plains of New Mexico to 8182 feet. The crater diameter is 1450 feet. It consists chiefly of loose cinders, ash, and other rock debris, materials ejected during successive eruptions that fell back upon the vent, piling up to form the conical mountain. Capulin Volcano symmetry was preserved because lava did not flow from the main crater but from secondary vents located at the western base of the cone. Evidence of the other episodes of volcanic activity is visible in nearly one hundred nearby volcanic peaks and lava capped mesas. It is located about 30 miles East of Raton, NM. Capulin is Spanish for choke cherry and my favorite fruit.

I made about thirty contacts including Steve NØTU/P and his goats operating up on Mount Herman, CO, a 175-mile ground wave contact from 8000 ft to 9000 ft.

Paul Signorelli WØRW

<http://picasaweb.google.com/n0tu.qrp/PrePBMM>
[E/photo#5168855840590296978](http://photo#5168855840590296978)
<http://www.nps.gov/cavo/>

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Apr 10, 0000Z-2359Z,

San Angelo, TX. AB5BG. Bataan Death March. 28.400 21.300 14.250 7.235. Certificate. Donald R. Goff, 1210 Ardmore, San Angelo, TX 76905.
ab5bg@wcc.net

Apr 11-Apr 12, 1330Z-2100Z,

Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY. 96th Anniversary of the Titanic voyage. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. Titanic Historical Society QSL, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053. hcra.org/titanic.htm

Apr 12-Apr 13, 1500Z-1900Z

Ft Sumter, Charleston Harbor, SC. Coastal Amateur Radio Association, W4BWZ. 2nd Annual "First Shots of the US Civil War" April 12. 21.412 14.312 7.212 3.912. Certificate. Coastal Amateur Radio Assn, K4KOA, 14 Campground Rd, Yemassee, SC 29945. *This also a 3X Light House on the Air Station, covering historic Ft Sumter light, Sullivan's Island & Morris Island lights.* k4koa@arrl.net

Apr 14-Apr 23, 0000Z-2359Z

Westford, MA. PART of Westford, K1P. Patriots Day celebration. 21.300 18.140 14.250. QSL. PART of Westford, WB1GOF, PO Box 503, Westford, MA 01886. www.wb1gof.org

Apr 16-Apr 21, 1600Z-0000Z

Linthicum, MD. Historical Electronics Museum ARC, W2W. Dedication of Wurzburg Radar at Museum. 14.250 14.050 7.250 7.050. Certificate. W2W Wurzburg-HEMARC, Box 1693 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. w3hem@arrl.net

May 3, 1400Z-1800Z

Conway, AR. Faulkner County Amateur Radio Club, W5AUU. Toad Suck Daze Festival Special Event Station. 14.260 7.260. Certificate. Faulkner County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 324, Conway, AR 72032. www.w5auu.org

In Other Words...

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA

Ever since I was a child, rainbows have fascinated me. I was awed by the arcing bridge of colors floating up in the sky like a promise of adventure, but I had no idea that not all those varicolored bridges are rainbows. Some of them are circumzenithal arcs (CZA). Now, say that three times fast. They're also called ice halos and can be best seen when the sun is low on the horizon. It looks like an upside-down rainbow with the center of the bow like a cup beneath the sun and the red arc always on the outside.

In science class, I learned that the prismatic effect of sunlight through raindrops is what creates rainbows. In my recent search through the Internet I discovered that sunlight reflected through ice crystals floating through high clouds produces just the right conditions for CZAs. With all the snow we've been getting lately I wonder that I haven't seen a CZA yet, but maybe I'm not looking at the sky at the right time. But the magic and color show doesn't stop with CZAs. There's more.

I didn't until I stumbled across a picture of the Mongolian CZA. Sundogs are those bright circular spots, solar halos, that look like miniature suns but are a sort of mirror effect from the same icy cirrus or cirrostratus clouds drifting through the cold gray sky. In my opinion, it's just one more reason to love winter – besides the cold.

And then there are circular rainbows, that most elusive and rarest of sights. Several years ago as I came out of Radio Shack, I saw a circular rainbow hovering in the rainy gray sky. I looked up to see a perfect halo of light and color and I couldn't stop staring. I stopped people on the sidewalk and pointed to the sky like Chicken Little, except I wasn't trying to convince anyone the sky was falling. People moved away from me like I was a lunatic, but I kept my eyes on that rainbow even after I got into my car to drive back to work, following that rainbow all the way across the west

side of Columbus, Ohio. I pulled into the parking lot at work and shared my news to the whole office. Most of my co-workers shook their heads and went back to work. The rest followed me outside to see . . . nothing. The rain gathered strength and pelted us with icy drops and I stood there alone looking up into the sky.

The physics of how and why rainbows exist doesn't lessen the magic for me, rather I appreciate rainbows more and now I know when and where to look for circular rainbows, circumzenithal arcs and sundogs. I know what the combination of weather and the sun can do, as not only a feast for the eyes and the soul, but also how it affects propagation and radio waves and our ability to reach out across town or across the world and hear voices.

The sun has gone through some changes since last month, putting on a bit of a show. The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) reported, "...a solar prominence gracefully [rising] up above the surface[. It] spun around a little, formed an arc, and eventually dissipated along magnetic field lines over a two-day period (March 22-23, 2008). Powerful magnetic forces that emerge from below the Sun's surface generate these prominences. The charged plasma spins along these magnetic lines, revealing them in extreme UV light. Sometimes these prominences erupt and break away from the Sun - this one seem[ed] to elongate and disappear."

According to K7RA, the combination of a nearly two-week run of sunspots and the spring season make for very good HF conditions. Sunspot activity peaked March 26-29 and has dropped back to zero, but don't despair. We have had a slow start, but sunspot activity is following the predicted pattern and will increase to a phenomenal high in 2011. You don't have to wait that long to benefit from the sun's effect on our skies. There are always sundogs, circumzenithal arcs and circular rainbows. Check out the web version of the Ø-Beat and feast your eyes.

And there is more news on the spring horizon,

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and I don't mean the fact that if you look around you spring is getting ready to bust out all around us.

If you haven't been checking the PPRAA reflector, you may have missed the news of recent changes. Jim Harris ABØUK has retired from the scene and all club activities and Ken Sheehan KGØADV has stepped down as Vice President, both due to health concerns. Jim received the PPRAA Lifetime Achievement Award last year for all his hard work and for his exceptional volunteer contributions over the years, setting an example for those who will follow him and try to fill his shoes. Ken distinguished himself early as an avid proponent of the PPRAA, urging members to get involved. Jim and Ken's input will be missed.

One thing you won't see on the reflector is the news that on April 23rd Jess Miley KØTAA, a long time fixture in the Colorado Springs amateur radio community as a technician and business owner, celebrates his 80th birthday.

The last bit of news is my own. After 2-1/2 years of editing this newsletter, I have decided to step down and let someone else run the show. I had originally intended to stick around until the end of the year but my schedule is filling up with personal appearances, readings and interviews for two of the eight books coming out this year that include my stories. The first two, *Cup of Comfort for Single Mothers* and *Chicken Soup for the Adopted Soul*, are already available online and in the bookstores. The books are collections of stories from more than fifty other writers, like me, who share a little piece of their lives and experiences. I have agreed to pop in every occasionally with a column, so I will be gone but hopefully not completely forgotten.

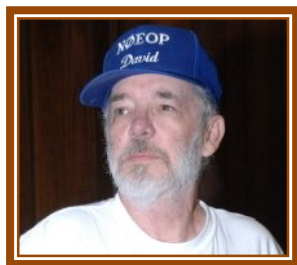
During my time as editor, I have made some changes to the newsletter, and hopefully to the way you think of and feel about the PPRAA. I have hounded, begged, cajoled and blackmailed some of you to get articles to fill these pages. If you doubt me, talk to Shel Radin KFØUR or Steve Williams KØSRW about how tenacious I can be in pursuit of content to fill the newsletter. Of course, as editor, I couldn't just accept their

words without adding a bit of spit and polish to make them shine. Admittedly, there I didn't have to use a lot of spit or polish, but I did feel I needed to earn the title of editor by editing.

My last column as editor (I can hear the celebrations and corks popping already) will appear in the July issue of this newsletter. By then I look forward to meeting the new editor and offering him my assistance to make the transition easier. Whoever the editor is, I do hope you will give him the same attention and assistance you have given me over the past 2+ years.

Being editor of this newsletter has been an experience I won't soon forget. It has given me a chance to display my ignorance of electronics with a smile and to get to know some of you better. I will continue as a member of the PPRAA and the VE team, but will watch quietly (most of the time) from the sidelines while the rest of you take the torch and keep it burning. Without you, nothing continues and I would hate to see the Ø-Beat go the way of the Mountain Amateur Radio Club's newsletter and be consigned to oblivion. Editing the newsletter takes a considerable amount of time and effort, but it is worth it because this newsletter, and all the amateur radio club newsletters like it, keeps us connected and reminds us that things are not so different anywhere else in the country, or in the world. We are all licensed amateur radio operators who work hard when it's needed, volunteer when we can and keep people communicating in times of trouble and disaster. We are the silent minority who, out of curiosity and a love of science and adventure, stride out into the world and push the boundaries of science and technology, and I am proud to be a of your ilk.

73 as always...
Jackie Cornwell ACØCA
Editor
PPRAA Ø-Beat



Contesting

Dave Sloan NØEOP

This last month has really gone fast for me. I had MAJOR surgery on the 10th of March at the Colorado University Hospital in Denver. The good news is the Doctor thinks that he got all of the cancer. I'll find out more when I return and we discuss the pathology report. Anyway, the good news is I'm starting to get up and feel like doing a little. Before I move on to contesting a special THANKS to Ken KDØAVG and Jim ABØUK for providing me with transportation back from Denver on the 18th. Also thanks to everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

I'd love to hear of anyone's efforts into the contesting arena. Due to my health, this month's column is going to be a little shorter than normal. Here are a few of the contests that will be coming during the next month.

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 11
YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, SSB	1400Z, Apr 11 to 0200Z, Apr 13
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
Radio Maritime Day	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 0359Z, Apr 13 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 12 to 2100Z, Apr 13
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 13
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 13

I'd like to call your attention to several contests. The Michigan QSO Party has gained in popularity over the last several years and you should be able to make enough contacts to make it interesting. The Ontario QSO Party should hold some good contacts with our northern friends and I find that propagation from here to Ontario is quite good from here. The Florida QSO Party has a lot stations on the air and is one of the larger and better organized parties. It would also pay to listen for any Nebraska QSO Party stations that same weekend.

The weekend following the Nebraska QSO party gets a lot busier! If you operate CW, try the 10-10 Int. Spring Contest. It is a very friendly group; if the band opens up, I promise you'll have a lot of fun. The 7th Call Area QSO Party will show quite a bit of activity and you should be able to get decent propagation. I worked the Indiana QSO Party contest last year as a mobile from Indiana (not sure if I will get a medical clearance to go this year or not). Then there is also the New England QSO Party that should have lots of stations participating with good propagation. The Mid-Atlantic QSO Party will offer the opportunity to work several states. For a more complete list, check out the Ø-Beat on the web.

With just the above, you should be able to work 25 different states. That would put you half way towards WAS!

Dave Sloan NØEOP

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 17, 2008



Attendees: Doug N7LEM, John KCØJFH, Bill KDØJU, Les KCØNC, Dan ACØCC, Dennis NØABC.

President Doug Nielsen
N7LEM called the meeting to

order at 7:07 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Minutes: Dan/Bill moved/seconded to approve minutes as printed. Passed.

Reports

- ✓ **Treasurer's Report** – Dennis reported that we have \$8955.54 total in our accounts as of 12 March 2008.
- ✓ **Megafest** – No report. Tickets purchased but not received, and flyers printed.
- ✓ **Field Day** - No report. Backup Coordinator still needed.
- ✓ **Membership** – Les reported that we now have 105 paid-up members.
- ✓ **COQP 2008** - Doug will set up a meeting and organize a committee to get this going.

Unfinished Business

- **Special Event Stations** – No report.
- **Meeting Locations** – May meeting is not set. April meeting will be at Panera Bread on Powers and S. Carefree. Dan/Dennis moved/seconded to hold the May meeting at Fargo's Pizza. The Club will buy pizza for club members. Spend limit will be determined in April.
- **Bylaws & Club Manual:** Will Board members please review the Bylaws portion of the manual and make recommendations for changes via e-mail. One suggestion for change is to allow voting on Board issues by e-mail.

New Business

- ❖ **Picnic:** Need to have a \$55 check for the deposit. Dan/Bill moved/seconded to provide a check for

\$55 to the Town of Monument to reserve Dirty Woman Park for the picnic.

- ❖ **Free Memberships:** Clarification - If you test with the PPRAA VE session during Jan-Sept, you get the remainder of the year's PPRAA membership free. For the last quarter (Oct-Dec), you get the remainder of that year and the next year's membership free.
- ❖ **Quicken Program:** Dennis NØABC suggested he discontinue use of Quicken and go back to using a spreadsheet to do the bookkeeping. The Board approved.
- ❖ **HamCon Representative Replacement:** Position will be posted on the Reflector.
- ❖ **Zero Beat Editor Replacement:** A new editor will be needed starting in January 2009. Position will be posted on the Reflector.

Around The Table

Dan ACØCC – The Thursday Night Net is still having support and attendance problems. He is having trouble getting volunteers to act as NCS and net coordinator. He suggested suspending the net through the end of May depending on user interest and availability of NCS volunteers. Bill volunteered to run it after that on a simplex frequency once a month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM. Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday, April 14, 2008, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

Submitted by:

John Wishart KCØJFH

PPRAA Secretary

21 March 2008

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES March 12, 2008

President Doug N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the East Library Information Center followed by introductions around the room. 14 members and 3 guests were present.

Silent Keys: Sue, wife of Tom WØTOM, Sue, passed away.

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Treasurer's Report: Dennis NØABC reported that we had a total balance of \$8955.54 in our three accounts as of 12 March 2008.

Minutes: Les/Dennis moved/seconded to approve January meeting minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. Passed.

Committee Reports

- ✚ **Megafest** – The date is still Saturday, June 7, at Lewis Palmer HS. Flyers have been printed and raffle tickets ordered.
- ✚ **Field Day** – Mike WV7T: No report, but Mike now has a job and may not be able to work on Field Day. He has requested that we recruit a backup coordinator for Field Day. If interested, please contact any Board member.
- ✚ **Summer Picnic** – To be held August 16, 2008, at Dirty Woman Park in Monument.
- ✚ **HamCon 2009** - Jim ABØUK reported that our club would run the talk-in activity. The HamCon organization has expanded the function of this activity to include logging QSOs and sending out QSL cards. Our club needs to furnish people to organize and run this activity. Dates of the Hamcon are May 29-31, 2009 in Estes Park, CO.

New Business

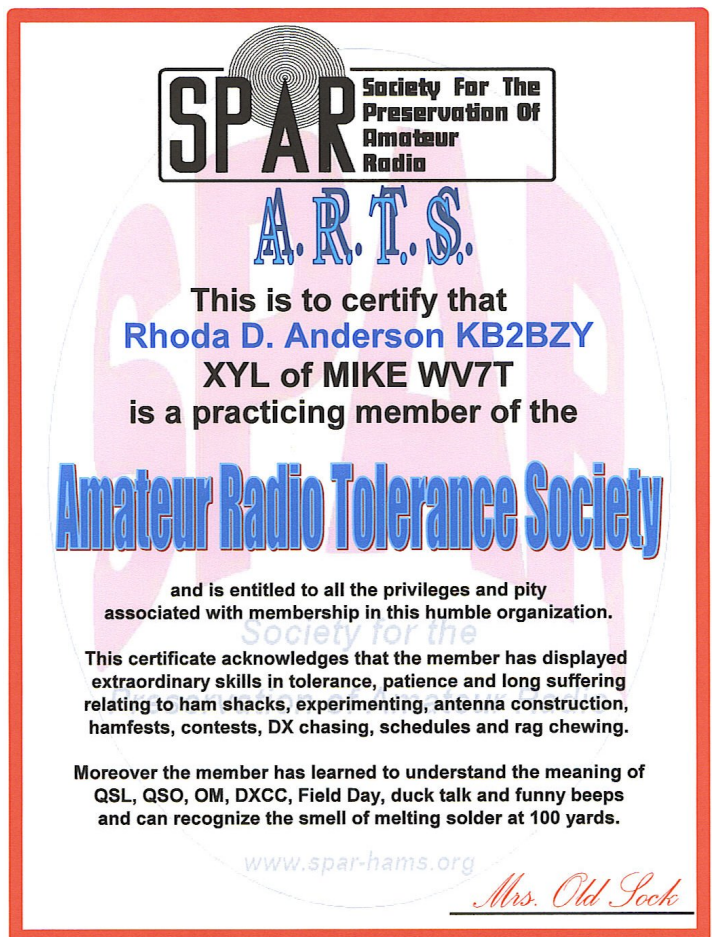
- ✚ **New Meeting Location** for April (but not May, which will be back at ELIC) and the remainder of the year is the Panera Bread Restaurant at Powers and South Carefree (NE corner).
- ✚ **Program:** Jam-Resistant Communications Development – Bill Bahn from the AFA staff.
- ✚ **HamCon 2009 Report** – Steve Williams KØSRW. Event will be held May 29-31, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Estes Park, CO.

Next Club Meeting: 7 PM, Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at Panera Bread Restaurant at Powers and South Carefree (NE corner).

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, Monday following club meeting, April 14, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
21 March 2008



Mike Anderson WV7T sent this in to publicly thank his wife for tolerating his ham activities. Mike he appreciates that Rhoda hasn't tossed him out on his antenna. For your very own XYL tolerance award suitable for framing check out the back page of this issue.

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings PPRAA,

The thing about a hobby like ham radio is that health, job and family come first. This goes double for those volunteer jobs we all do, and why the PPRAA has several volunteer openings that need to be filled.

For various reasons this past month several of our volunteers had to step down or give notice that they will be giving up their positions in the near future. So it's time for some of you out there to come forward, step into their shoes and keep things moving within the club, especially those of you who have come forward with some great ideas.

The first opening is that of the club Vice President. This is an elected position with a seat on the club's board of directors. The VP coordinates programs for the monthly meetings and takes care of the door prizes. The VP also stands in for the President, as required, at the board and monthly meetings. As an elected position, nominees need to stand for election at the next club meeting.

The next opening is that of the editor of the club newsletter, the Zero Beat. This position will become vacant in July so there is time to train up under the current editor. This is an important duty for the club as the Zero Beat is one of the more popular club benefits. The Editor is also a member of the club board of directors. In fact, it is the only non-elected member of the board, so you'll have the power of the club's published word plus a say in the direction of the club. If we are going to continue to have a newsletter, someone will have to volunteer by this summer.

The last opening that needs to be filled soon is the club representative to the HamCon 2009 committee. HamCon is the Rocky Mountain regional amateur radio convention. It's held every year in various locations within the region and is held in Colorado every three years. The last HamCon in Colorado was in 2006. The person who fills this position will need to attend a once-a-month meeting in Castle Rock (and will have a good excuse to continue on to Denver for a monthly visit to HRO). Each club that participates in

the committee will also organize or perform some function to support HamCon. Our representative will need to bring these actions to our attention at board and club meetings so we can do our part.

Of course, if you can't commit to one of the bigger jobs we still need help for some smaller jobs at the upcoming club activities.

The club sponsored MegaFest is scheduled for June 7th at Lewis Palmer High School in Monument. While the major planning is done, there is still a need for folks to attend other Ham Fests and sell raffle tickets. Also, there will be a need for folks to help set up on June 6th and to tear down on June 7th. We will also need folks to take admissions during the Fest. Please contact Rob, N7LV, on how you can do your part.

Field Day is June 28th and 29th. Mike, WV7T, is still looking for someone to captain the GOTA station as well as help cover for him as "Incident Commander" during those times his job keeps him from being on site. We also need folks to help set up and tear down. We also need folks to operate during that weekend.

The PPRAA summer picnic is August 16th. The club provides the meat and drinks. Salads and desserts are potluck. You must be a "member in good standing" to attend (i.e., dues paid).

To volunteer for any of the openings listed above or to get more details, please contact the board at boardmembers@ppraa.org.

73,
Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM
PPRAA President

Jess Miley
KØTAA

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Please call before you drive.

Closed April 23rd

NONPROFIT STATUS

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

The Amateur Radio Tolerance Society Award

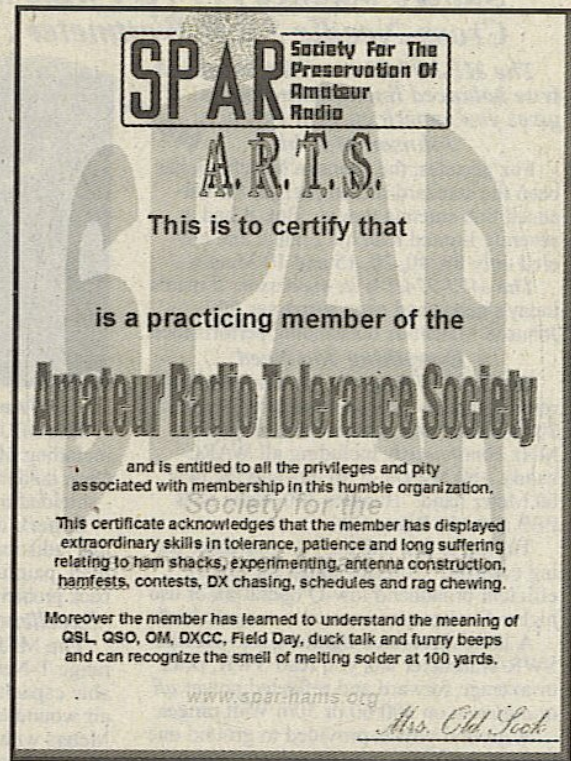
Walter B. Fair, Jr., W5ALT

The Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) is pleased to offer a distinguished award for the XYLs who patiently endure the Amateur Radio addiction of their spouses. Somehow a select few have learned to accept us, along with our radios, antennas, QSL cards and work benches with unfinished projects. They have learned to sleep through contests and DX chasing. They have accepted that the ducks that talk on our radios are really saying something and the funny beeps in the night are not aliens. They have at least offered an encouraging word while we put up the ugliest antennas they have ever seen and have even found a way to help budget our radios, antennas, books, software,

gizmos, and gadgets.

To these stalwart women, the few, the once proud, we offer a certificate suitable for framing. Heaven knows we'd like to give you more, but there's always another radio to consider and the amplifier you got for your birthday took most of our resources.

The certificate in PDF format can be downloaded, printed, filled out and presented to your XYL from the website <http://www.spar-hams.org/index.php?pg=13>. (info from the SPAR web page <http://www.spar-hams.org>.)



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To: