



VOLUME 58 ISSUE 05

May 2008

Casual Contesting

Dick Thompson WØRAA



Having been licensed for many years (45 years in all), I have had an opportunity to partake in many of the various facets of amateur radio. I've been a net control station for the Ohio SSB

Net when I lived in Ohio. I have participated in many disaster situations, including the 1964 Palm Sunday Tornado that struck Indianapolis, IN and the surrounding communities. (I may be one year off on the year, but at my age, senility is a convenient excuse). I have handled phone patch traffic for troops stationed in Korea, Viet Nam and Europe, to name a few. I've demonstrated amateur radio in Special Events and participated in many Field Day operations. All have been very rewarding and, in most cases, fun activities, but that's not the purpose of this article. Amateur radio offers something for everyone, and many, if not all, can be a lot of fun. In the past few years I have found my niche in ham radio through casual contesting.

For many years I dabbled in contesting in one form or another. I rarely submitted a log and my participation consisted of mainly passing out contacts to the serious contenders. Then after I retired, I decided to get back on the air (after having been off the HF bands for almost 10 years). I live in a retirement community and management frowns on visible antennas. One day I approached the manager and told him I had been

a ham for almost 40 years and I wanted to get back on the air. I explained I intended to put up a vertical antenna. (I mainly worked 2 meters and 440 during that 10-year period, so I was never completely off the air). His response was "No problem, as long as the neighbors don't complain about television interference, etc." I was on my way.

I decided to get back into contesting and looked at my options for various modes. Anyone can do SSB and CW has always been a fun for me, but I had not experimented with digital modes like RTTY or PSK31. I bought an Icom 757 from Jess Miley in Florence and put up a 14 AVQ vertical. It was great being back on HF. I made many contacts that summer and had only one complaint from a neighbor that the HF affected her computer speakers. A couple of toroids solved that problem and there have been no problems or complaints since.

I entered one of the SS (SweepStakes) CW contests (I can't recall which one), but I had a ball. My score wasn't very high but fun was really my goal. When the fall contest season started, I decided to participate more. I purchased the WriteLog contest software package and it worked quite well, supporting more prominent and smaller contests. WriteLog is \$35 and renewals are \$35 if you decide that any updates that have been added since your last purchase will be needed. All upgrades are free for one year with WL. Any additional upgrades in that 12-month period are no charge. The web site for WriteLog is www.writelog.com.

Another very capable program (and it is free) is N1MM Logger (www.n1mm.com). It is regularly updated and bugs that occur (bumps in the road)

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are usually fixed in a reasonable period of time once they are reported to the N1MM programming team. N1MM also supports a wide range of contests. I would also add that both N1MM and WriteLog support the PPRAA Colorado QSO Party.

There are other software packages available, but I am not familiar with them. A Google search for "contest software" will produce enough sites to keep you busy and off the streets for weeks, if not longer.

Of course, if you don't want to use a computer to log your contest contacts, you can still use pencil and paper. Just be sure you can read your writing when you're done. Since most log submissions are made over the Internet, and the contest software packages create Cabrillo files for submission, I would suggest using a computer. Another advantage to computer logging is that most contests do not allow duplicate contacts on the same band, and contest programs let you know if you have already worked a station. Keep in mind that contesting is not allowed, by gentleman's agreement, on any of the WARC bands.

The WARC Bands are 12 meters (24.890 KHz to 24.990 KHz), 17 meters (18.068 KHz to 18.168 KHz) and 30 meters (10.100 KHz to 10.150 KHz). There are CW, RTTY & Data frequencies on all the WARC Bands as well as Voice frequencies. The WARC Bands are named after the World Amateur Radio Conference (WARC) held in 1979. The new Channelized 60-meter band is never used in a contest and the frequency channels vary (there are 5 channels in the 60-meter band); not many folks use the band. For those who are not interested in contesting and abhor the QRM created by contests, you can take refuge in the WARC bands.

The use of a computer in a contest simplifies the process and enhances the fun. My favorite form of contesting is using RTTY mode. I participate in most major RTTY contests, including the ARRL RTTY Roundup (I took first place in the Rocky Mountain Division in 2007) as Multi/Single LP (Multi-Op/Single Transmitter, Low Power). Shel (KFØUR) and Jim (NØTUI) were co-operators in that contest. I operated in the

Colorado QSO Party last July and took First Place in In-State CW Low Power and First Place in In-State Digital Mode Low Power. Both Single Operator.

CQ Magazine is a huge sponsor of contests. They have the CQWW CW, CQWW RTTY, CQWW SSB, CQWW SSB WPX, CQWW CW WPX, CQWW RTTY WPX, and the list goes on.

The ARRL sponsors many contests on HF and VHF. The ARRL DX Contest is big and the RTTY Roundup is one of the most popular.

North American QSO Party contests are very popular and a good way to get your feet wet. A good site to check out, for contest dates and times is www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/. Another is SM3CER's site, www.sk3bg.se/contest/index.htm. You may also want to take a look at the National Contest Journal at www.ncjweb.com/index.php. And there are many more that are very helpful.

There are several contesting forums on www.Yahoo.Groups.com. Search for amateur radio or ham radio. The National Journal magazine produced by the ARRL is a first class publication with a lot of great contesting information with hints and kinks types of articles.

Don't forget to look at the Amateur Radio Contesting FAQs:
www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faq.html#warc.

Dick Thompson WØRAA



It's Antenna Time

Dan Romanchik KB6NU



Here in Michigan, the daffodils are blooming and the birds are singing. That means only one thing – it's antenna time! Since my lot is a city lot and not really suited to towers, I mostly

play around with wire antennas. Currently, I have a random wire for 80m, a wire ground plane for 20m, and a 40m/30m "fan dipole" that also loads up on 15m and 10m. This year, I want to experiment with two new wire antennas—a horizontal loop and Windom antenna.

The "Loop Skywire"

The concepts behind the full-wave loop antenna have been known for many years, but the antenna has become more popular after the publication of the article, "The Loop Skywire" in the November 1985 issue of QST. This article is available as a PDF from the ARRL website, if you are a member (www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/8511020.pdf). A lot more information is available on the Internet. Just Google "loop skywire," and you'll find hundreds of references.

Basically, the antenna is a full-wave loop of wire for the lowest band that you wish to operate. For 80m, that would be about 272 feet. For 40m, the length will be 136 feet.

Ideally, you'd like to set up the loop so that the area inside the loop is at its maximum. This occurs when the loop is a circle. Unfortunately, that's usually impractical. From a practical point of view, most guys shoot for a square configuration using four supports.

Another consideration is how to feed the antenna. The Loop Skywire article calls for a coax feedline, but the practice these days seems to favor ladder line. The reason for this is that the SWR on bands higher in frequency than the band for which the antenna was cut can be quite high.

Coax is quite lossy when the SWR is high, but that's not the case with ladder line.

How does it perform? Well, it's been my experience that guys with loop antennas often have the strongest signals here at KB6NU. And they seem to get through even when band conditions are poor. Guys who use them also report that they are great DX antennas as well. So, all things considered, it sounds like it's worth a shot.

The Windom Antenna

The Windom antenna is an antenna that I've just become familiar with. It's intriguing because, like the loop antenna, it is also a multi-band antenna.

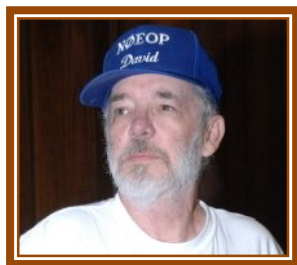
The Windom is a half-wavelength antenna, but instead of feeding the antenna in the middle as you would a dipole antenna, you feed it about 1/3 of the way from one of the ends. At this point, the feed point impedance is about 200 ohms. With a 4:1 balun, you can feed it with 50-ohm coax.

The interesting thing about this antenna is that the feed point impedance is 200 ohms not only on the fundamental frequency, but it's close to 200 ohms on all harmonics of that frequency. So an antenna cut for 40m, will also have a feed point impedance close to 200 ohms on 20m, 15m, and 10m.

You do need a 4:1 balun for this antenna to operate properly. Fortunately, these are not difficult to make. I made one a couple of years ago, just for fun (<http://kb6nu.com/even-more-fun-with-baluns/>). Now, I have an application for it!

There're all kinds of information on the Net about the Windom antenna as well. One of the Web pages I found most useful was written by W8JI (www.w8ji.com/windom_off_center_fed.htm). I certainly have my hands full this antenna season. Whatever you decide to put up, remember to be safe.

When Dan isn't thinking about antennas, he's operating CW on the HF bands or teaching ham radio classes. He's just published a printed version of his No-Nonsense Tech Class Study Guide. See his blog, www.kb6nu.com, for more details.



Contesting

Dave Sloan NØEOP

I'll start this month's article with a quick medical update. The pathology report was very positive. I will have an operation to reverse my colostomy on 30 May. The REALLY good news is that all of my doctors have said I can go to DAYTON!

Propagation for the last couple of contests has not been very good. I am hoping that things will change before the Colorado QSO Party on 20-21 September. The experts are still sticking to their guns and saying we are in for a GPPD cycle.

These are the upcoming contests:

- ✚ 10 3.5-28 FISTS Spring Sprint X RS(T), S/P/C, name, FISTS number or power
www.fists.org/sprints.html 30 days 10 May 1700Z to 10 May 2100Z
- ✚ 10-11 Armed Forces Comm'n's Test X X www.netcom.army.mil/mars 30 days
10 May 1200Z to 11 May 2400Z
- ✚ 10-11 1.8-28 CQ-M International DX Contest X X RS(T) and serial www.cq-m.andys.ru 15 days
10 May 1200Z to 11 May 1200Z
- ✚ 10-11 2GHz and Up World Wide Contest X X X 6-char grid locator www.ham-radio.com/sbms
10 May 0600 local to 11 May 2000 local
- ✚ 10-11 Alessandro Volta RTTY DX Contest X RST, serial, CQ zone www.contestvolta.com 31-Jul
10 May 1200Z to 11 May 1200Z
- ✚ 10-11 50 MHz Spring Sprint X X X Grid square www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprintrules.htm
10 May 2300Z to 11 May 0300Z
- ✚ 10-11 1.2G EU EME Contest X X Both call signs, TMO/RST, R www.dubus.org
10 May 0000Z to 11 May 2400Z
- ✚ 17-18 Baltic Contest X X RS(T) and serial www.lrsf.lt/bcontest 1-Jul 17 May 2100Z to 18 May
0200Z
- ✚ 17-18 3.5-28 EU PSK DX Contest X RST and EU area code or serial www.eu.srars.org 28 days
17 May 1200Z to 18 May 1200Z
- ✚ 17-18 1.8-28 His Majesty King of Spain Contest X RST and serial or EA province www.ure.es 19-May
17 May 1800Z to 18 May 1800Z
- ✚ 17-18 3.5-28 All America Contest X RST and continent www.powerline.com.br/cwjf/eng4.htm 30-Jun
17 May 1500Z to 18 May 2359Z
- ✚ 24-25 3.5-28 CQ WW WPX Contest X RST and serial or EA province www.cqwp.com 1-Jul
24 May 0000Z to 25 May 2400Z
- ✚ 25 3.5-28 QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint X RST, S/P/C QRP number or power www.qrparci.org/ 25-Jun
25 May 2000 local to 25 May 2400 local
- ✚ 26-27 1.8-28 MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint X RST, S/P/C, MI QRP number or power www.miqr.org
30 days 26 May 2300Z to 27 May 0300Z
- ✚ 31 1.8-28 Bill Windle QSO Party X RST, name, FOC number www.firstclasscw.org.uk 7-Jun
31 May 0000Z to 31 May 2359Z 15 to 40 kHz above band edge
- ✚ 31/1 3.5-28 Kids Roundup X Call sign, QTH, category, first name www.ki3ds.org 28-Jun
31 May 1400Z to 1 Jun 2200Z
- ✚ 1.8-28 PVRC Reunion Year joined (if mbr), name, QTH http://pvrc.org/reunion_08.htm 15 Jun 7 Jun
0000Z to 8 Jun 2359Z

- ✚ 3.5-28 SEANET Contest RS(T), serial www.sabah.net.my/seanet/ 31 Jul
7 Jun 1200Z to 8 Jun 1200Z CW--3.525,7.025,14.025,21.025,28.025, SSB--
3.540/3.790,7.090,14.320,21.320,28.320
- ✚ 1.8-28 IARU Region I Field Day RST, serial IARU Society Web sites
7 Jun 1500Z to 8 Jun 1459Z
- ✚ 1.8-28 Alabama QSO Party RS(T), county or S/P/C www.AlabamaQSOParty.org 30 days
7 Jun 1600Z to 8 Jun 0400Z
- ✚ 1.8-28 Look Around In the Field Call, RS(T), S/P/C, name, wildlife name
<http://mysite.verizon.net/vze7v384/nj2om> 21 Jun
7 Jun 1600Z to 7 Jun 2200Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Digital Pentathlon - PSK Serial, 6-digit grid locator, power <http://dqso.net/start.html> 30 Jul
7 Jun 1800Z to 7 Jun 2200Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 ANARTS WW RTTY RST, UTC time, CQ zone www.anarts.com.au 1 Sep
14 Jun 0000Z to 15 Jun 2400Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Portugal Day RS, serial or CT district or region www.rep.pt/pdf/contest_portugalday.pdf 1 Sep
14 Jun 0000Z to 14 Jun 2400Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 GACW WWSA CW DX Contest RST, CQ zone <http://gacw.no-ip.org> 30 Jul
14 Jun 1500Z to 15 Jun 1500Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 West Virginia QSO Party RS(T), WV county or S/P/C www.qsl.net/wvsarc 20 Jul
14 Jun 1600Z to 15 Jun 0200Z CW--35 kHz from band edge, Phone--General segments
- ✚ 3.5-28 Digital Pentathlon - MFSK Serial, 6-digit grid locator, power <http://dqso.net/start.html> 30 Jul
14 Jun 1800Z to 14 Jun 2200Z
- ✚ 50+ ARRL June VHF QSO Party www.arrl.org/contests 30 days
14 Jun 1800Z to 16 Jun 0300Z
- ✚ 14-21 Asia-Pacific Sprint RST, serial <http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt> 7 days
15 Jun 1100Z to 15 Jun 1300Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Spanish Islands Contest RS(T), DIE number or serial www.ea5ol.net/die 60 days
17 Jun 0600Z to 17 Jun 1200Z
- ✚ 1.8-28 All-Asian DX Contest RST, operator age (YL may send 00) www.jarl.or.jp/English 31 Jul
21 Jun 0000Z to 22 Jun 2400Z
- ✚ 50 SMIRK QSO Party SMIRK number, grid square www.smirk.org 1 Aug
21 Jun 0000Z to 22 Jun 2400Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Digital Pentathlon - Olivia Serial, 6-digit grid locator, power <http://dqso.net/start.html> 30 Jul
21 Jun 1800Z to 21 Jun 2200Z
- ✚ 50+ ARRL June VHF QSO Party www.arrl.org/contests 30 days 14 Jun 1800Z to 16 Jun 0300Z
- ✚ 14-21 Asia-Pacific Sprint RST, serial <http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt> 7 days
15 Jun 1100Z to 15 Jun 1300Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Spanish Islands Contest RS(T), DIE number or serial www.ea5ol.net/die 60 days
17 Jun 0600Z to 17 Jun 1200Z
- ✚ 1.8-28 All-Asian DX Contest RST, operator age (YL may send 00) www.jarl.or.jp/English 31 Jul
21 Jun 0000Z to 22 Jun 2400Z
- ✚ 50 SMIRK QSO Party SMIRK number, grid square www.smirk.org 1 Aug 21 Jun 0000Z to 22 Jun 2400Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Digital Pentathlon - Olivia Serial, 6-digit grid locator, power <http://dqso.net/start.html> 30 Jul
21 Jun 1800Z to 21 Jun 2200Z
- ✚ 1.8-7 Bavarian Contest Club QSO Party 59(9), BCC number or serial www.bavarian-contest-club.de 14 days
25 Jun 1700Z to 25 Jun 1900Z CW--1.825,3.535,7.035, Phone--1.855,3.735,7.085
- ✚ 1.8-28 His Majesty King of Spain RS, serial or EA province www.ure.es 30 Jul
28 Jun 1200Z to 29 Jun 1200Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Digital Pentathlon - Hellschreiber Serial, 6-digit grid locator, power <http://dqso.net/start.html> 30 Jul
28 Jun 1800Z to 28 Jun 2200Z
- ✚ 1.8-28 50+ ARRL Field Day Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX www.arrl.org/contests 26 Jul
28 Jun 1800Z to 29 Jun 2100Z

- ✚ 1.8-28 50+ QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX www.qrparci.org 26 Jul 28 Jun 1800Z to 29 Jun 2100Z
- ✚ 3.5-28 Digital Pentathlon - Throb Serial, 6-digit grid locator, power <http://dqso.net/start.html> 30 Jul 5 Jul 1800Z to 5 Jul 2200Z

Let me hear your stories about the Florida, 7th Call Area, Indiana and New England QSO Parties. Hope that some of you were able to participate. I'll post my results in the next Zero Beat. Alabama and West Virginia are the only two state QSO parties, but I guess that it will depend on propagation. Sometimes I'm able to work both of these states and other times I haven't been able to hear either of them. The big contest will be the CQ WW WPX Contest if you like CW.

Of course you cannot do without ARRL Field Day. The club field day will be held at the Monument Fire Station, as it was last year. This year Field day is June 26-28. It's a great time to enjoy ham radio. No matter what class of license you hold, and you can even operate without a license with one of us. It's a great opportunity to work a contest and you'll have assistance if you need it. For more information come to the club meeting, check in Zero Beat, or check the web site WWW.PRAA.ORG. Drinks and food are also available. I am hoping to be recovered enough to participate with the club this year.

*73 and good contesting,
Dave NØEOP*

DITS & BITS

The May General Membership meeting will be at Fargo's Pizza Co. on East Platte at 7 p.m. The club will buy the pizza for all members in good standing. For the June meeting, we will be back at Panera Bread.

America Has Lost its Innocence

Chris W. Stark KDØDRF



I will never forget that infamous day of 9-11-2001. At about 8:30 AM I was on my way to work in Houston, Texas and I turned on the radio news at 740 AM, KTRH. I had just heard that

the first of the Twin Towers in New York was hit by a commercial

airplane. Then it happened. The second airplane hit the other tower while I listened. The announcer screamed out, "OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD!" explaining what he had just witnessed. I called a very dear friend and asked, "Did you just hear what happened to the last twin tower?" He said, "Yes, and I don't think it was just by accident that two commercial jets collided with the NY Twin Towers. I may have believed it to be an accident if only one had hit." My friend is an FBI special agent and we occasionally went to the gun range together.

That was the day America lost her innocence.

Thereafter, many safety sensitive industries made steps to safeguard the homeland against terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, anyone in the know understands that our efforts to safeguard America have only scratched the surface. Few measures have truly succeeded in securing the homeland. America now is an accident just waiting to happen.

That is where you, the seasoned amateur radio operator comes in. Too many seasoned hams are not

Cont'd...

active in recruiting newbies like me. You know your call sign, but true calling is to aid in emergencies and recruit newbies. I am 46 years old, so why did it take

this long to hear of you club, your organization, and about ham radio?

Twenty two years ago on April 26, 1986, the world's worst nuclear accident in history occurred. The Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded in northern Ukraine, Russia. The explosion sent 190 tons of radioactive uranium and graphite into the air. 600,000 "liquidators" were conscripted for the cleanup and were exposed to massive doses of radiation. Since the explosion, over 13,000 "liquidators" have died, with many more that will likely follow. The people of Chernobyl were exposed to radiation 90 times greater than the atomic bomb explosion of Hiroshima. Over 400,000 people were evacuated. More than 2000 villages were demolished. An estimated 9 million have died, half of which are children under the age of five. And yet, only 3% of the potential disaster occurred. The other 97% of Chernobyl is encased in a concrete sarcophagus. This tomb is considered unstable due to erosion. It is said the next Chernobyl will be Chernobyl. But will it? What about American nuclear power plants, or for that matter our petro-chemical plants? Will our preventive measures stop another attack against America?

More importantly, who will assist emergency professionals in communicating critical information? Do you truly understand the need to recruit new blood? Can we work together to renew our commitment, to prioritize our lives and lead the way to growth?

Yes, you are correct; this may appear to be fanatical within a newsletter, but we cannot afford to wait until catastrophe strikes to actively find and train new hams. That time is now.

73,

Chris W. Stark KDØDRF
atu19@mho.com

Jess Miley KØTAA

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Please call before you drive.

Closed April 23rd

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 at 719-632-8254 or [email](mailto:ac0ca@arrl.net) at ac0ca@arrl.net

Online: ppraa.org or arrl.org.

Mark your calendars:

Jun. 7, Aug. 9, Oct. 11, Dec. 13

Silent Key

L. B. Cebik W4RNL



As previously reported, L B Cebik (W4RNL #41159) recently passed away. A nice article about his amateur radio accomplishments was prepared by the ARRL and is available under Breaking News on the 10-10 Website. L B was very active in 10-10 and to date has 59 antenna articles in the Ten-Ten News. Number 59 is in the current News and six more articles will appear in future issues of the News. These articles have appeared for 15 years and have helped members to an understanding of antennas so that they can get the most out of the hobby. With the encouragement of former President Tom Henderson, L B published the *An-Ten-Ten Nas* book on antenna theory and practice. L B also was the certificate manager for the Great Smoky Mountain Chapter of 10-10. I have a beautiful certificate signed by L B in 1989. L B and his wife Jean, N4TZP, #49092 are both gone but their memories stay with us. I encourage any member with memories of L B to post them on the 10-10 Newsgroup for others to appreciate.

Dave Sloan NØEOP

Antennae

In memory of L.B. Cebik, 1939 - 2008

Strung between two posts
Like a clothes-line of yesterday,
Wire waits for photons
Carrying cosmic energy
Into waiting ears
Hungering to hear others
Continents away
Showering space with human thoughts
Freed from gravity,
While discs of every size
Adorn the landscape
Keeping us safe from loneliness
And each other

As space is folded between us.
Reaching out is hard
Wired into the human brain
Stalks twitching in search
Of something to sustain the soul
Food for the journey
Into the land of tomorrow
Where the unknown dwells
Awaiting its discovery;
While we grope about
Tentatively touching everything
But reality
Hidden in its closeness to us,

Longing to be told
We are not alone or bereft
Of any meaning
In reaching beyond our small world
To grasp the cosmos
Encompassing our destiny.
Thus we string the world
With wires that end in empty space,
A synaptic void
Hearing a violin singing
The human longing
To touch what lies beyond our reach
But within our dreams,

Filaments reaching to the stars.

©Ron Cebik 2008

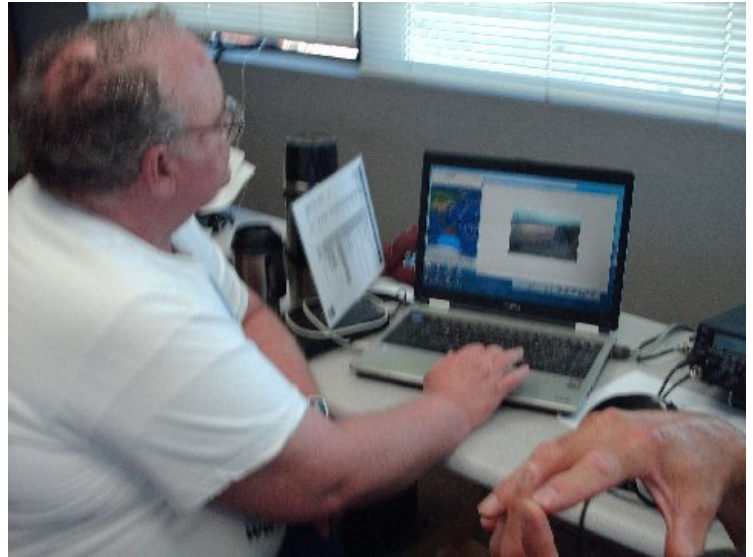
Ride the Waves Field Day 2008

"ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in amateur radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of amateur radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – *and ALL about FUN!*

Amateur radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers "something for everyone."* Amateur Radio embraces both the old and new. * While CW may no longer be a testing element, it is still a strong and favorite operating mode for many. Tens of thousands of operators are embracing digital technologies, from RTTY to newer digital modes like PSK31 and Olivia. Phone operation, probably the largest segment of the hobby, also has new frontiers to be explored with digitized voice, VOIP, and IRLP. And this is why Field Day – the largest annual on-the-air operating event – is so exciting. It gives all – the old timer and the newcomer, the brass-pounder and the computer assisted operator – the chance to share and teach the broad range of modes and technologies we find in our hobby.

Field Day is truly the time in which we bring amateur radio to Main Street USA. By setting up in parking lots, malls, Emergency Operations Centers, parks and even at home, amateur operators learn skills that will allow them to better serve their communities. Setting up in these public venues gives added public relations value – their friends and neighbors can see and experience the fun and public service capability that their "ham radio" neighbors bring to the community."

PPRAA will be hosted again this year by the Monument Fire Department. Check the PPRAA website for ongoing developments. Join the fun on June 28-29, 2008.

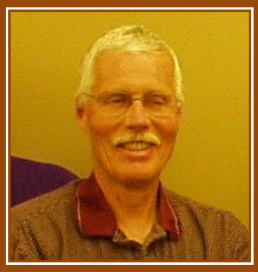


**Tom McDaniel NØNTX (SK) manning the
satellite station, PPRAA Field Day 2008**



Dan Scott WØRO

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 14, 2008



Attendees: Doug N7LEM,
John KCØJFH, Bill KDØJU,
George KCØTVU, Rhoda
KB2BZY, Mike WV7T,
Dennis NØABC

President Doug Nielsen

N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

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

Reports

- ✓ **Treasurer's Report** - Dennis NØABC reported that we have \$9058.85 total in our accounts as of 9 April 2008.
- ✓ **Megafest** - Raffle Tickets are now available. Rob will hold a planning meeting in May, time to be determined.
- ✓ **Field Day** - Dan KBØPPM volunteered to act as Backup Coordinator. Digital, CW, satellite coordinators still needed.
- ✓ **May Meeting Location** - Fargo's Pizza Co. on E. Platte just east of Circle Drive. PPRAA will buy pizza for club members. Then back to Panera Bread Restaurant for rest of year October. John/Mike moved/seconded to allot \$150 maximum for the pizza for the meeting. Passed.
- ✓ **COQP 2008** - We still need a replacement HamCon representative. If interested, please contact a Board member.
- ✓ **Zero Beat** - We still need an editor starting after the July issue. If interested, please contact a Board member.
- ✓ **Special Event Station** - Mike WV7T is testing out a new transceiver, a Yaesu FT-77, we can use for this activity.
- ✓ **Bylaws & Club Manual** - Discussion on this topic tabled until next meeting. Officers and Board members: please review your

applicable sections of the Bylaws and make recommendations for changes via e-mail. One suggestion for change is to allow Board member voting via e-mail.

New Business

Expenditure of Raffle Funds - Approximately \$2533 of raffle funds must be spent by June per Colorado raffle regulations. Suggestions included a projector screen, bulbs for the projector, radios and equipment for a club radio station (e.g., Yaesu FT-450AT & FT-8800), projector remote replacement, 12 VDC 35A power supply, antenna analyzer, antenna analysis software, laptop computer for digital operation, reference manuals, license training materials, domain registration. We will discuss this in more detail in May.

Around the Table

- ✚ Mike - Training materials for general are coming.
- ✚ Dennis - 11 Techs, 2 Generals, and 2 Extras passed at the last exam. Handed out several PPRAA applications at the exam.

Adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday, May 19, 2008 at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

*Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
20 April 2008*

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES April 9, 2008

President Doug N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Panera Bread Restaurant, followed by introductions around the room. 17 members and 2 non-members were present.

Silent Keys: None.

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Treasurer's Report: Dennis NØABC reported that we had a \$9058.85 total balance in our three accounts as of 9 April 2008.

Minutes: March meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Zero Beat.

Committee Reports

- **Megafest:** Rob N7LV. The date is Saturday, June 7 at Lewis Palmer High School in Monument. Raffle tickets are now available for purchase. A planning meeting will be held in May, but exact date is TBD.
- **Field Day:** Mike WV7T needs to have a Field Day Coordinator to assist him because of job commitments. Dan Scott KBØPPM graciously volunteered to fill this slot, but some assistance is still needed to fill the CW coordinator position. Contact Mike WV7T, Dan, or a Board member if you can help.
- **Summer Picnic:** Aug 16, 2008. Dirty Woman Park in Monument is reserved for this event. PPRAA will provide meat and drinks. Please plan to bring a salad, dessert, or side dish to share.
- **Colorado QSO Party 2008:** Doug has formed a 3-person steering committee to head this up. More volunteers still needed, particularly to score the event. If interested, please contact a Board member.
- **HamCon 2009:** Date of the HamCon is May 29-31, 2009, in Estes Park, CO. A person is needed to represent our club at the monthly meetings in Castle Rock. If interested, please contact a Board member.

New Business

- ❖ **New Meeting Location for May 14 only:** Fargo's Pizza Company, 2910 E. Platte Avenue, just east of Circle Drive in Colorado Springs. Your CLUB WILL BE BUYING

PIZZA for club members at the meeting. However, if you would like to have a salad or a drink, bring \$\$\$ - that's on you. The remainder of the year's regular club meetings through October will be back at the Panera Bread Restaurant at Powers and S. Carefree (NE corner).

❖ Club Vacancies:

- ✓ **Field Day Coordinator** - Dan KBØPPM volunteered, see above.
- ✓ **Vice President** - Dan Beals ACØCC was elected to fill this position. This opened up a Board member vacancy.
- ✓ **Zero Beat Editor** - needed by July.
- ✓ **Hamcon 2009 Representative**- needed now.
- ✓ If you are interested in either the Zero Beat or Hamcon positions, please contact a Board member.

- ❖ **Board Positions:** George Schneegass KCØTVU and Dave Moore N5VPT were nominated to fill the Board member vacancy that opened when Dan Beals was elected VP. George Schneegass was elected to be the new Board member.

- ❖ **Technical Education:** Mike WV7T reported that he has three individuals signed up for the Technician license exam class. Instructional material for a General class has been ordered but not yet received. Mike also noted that he will have a major equipment sale soon with many ham radio-related items available. Contact Mike for further details if interested.

- ❖ **VE Testing:** Dennis NØABC reported that a VE exam will be held Saturday, April 12 at Colorado Technical University, Room #263.

- ❖ **Thursday Night Net:** Dan ACØCC reported that the net has been suspended until more NCS operator volunteers become available. Some

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discussion followed concerning the net script and net operations in general. If you can assist in running the net, please contact Dan or other Board member.

- ❖ **Program:** The evening's program was canceled due to the speaker having a problem getting to the meeting because of the weather.

Next Club Meeting: 7 PM, May 14, 2008. Fargo's Pizza Company, 2910 E. Platte Avenue, just east of Circle Drive in Colorado Springs. See comments above.

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, Monday following club meeting, May 19, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
20 April 2008

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings PPRAA,

I'd like to offer congratulations and thanks to the hams who stepped up to fill some of the club vacancies. These individuals will ensure that the club continues to function and move forward.

Dan Beals, ACØCC, who was last year's treasurer and was a member of the club board of directors volunteered to run for the open Vice President's position. He was elected at last month's general meeting. Dan is familiar with the functioning of the club and board and I'm sure will be a great asset to the club as the VP.

George Schneegass KCØTVU and Dave Moore, N5VPT, both volunteered to fill the open board positions. In a close election, George was elected to fill the position. George brings new blood to the board and I'm sure will bring a fresh perspective to help move the club into the future.

The election was close and I hope Dave continues to seek leadership opportunities with the club, perhaps running for one of the open positions this October.

Dan Scott WØRO (former KBØPPM) volunteered to be the Field Day Coordinator. Dan will ensure that Field Day will stay on track and be a success again this year.

I also want to thank these hams for volunteering their time and efforts to keep the club functioning.

We still have a couple more open positions. We still need to fill the position of Zero Beat Editor by the end of June. If this position isn't filled by July then the August edition of the newsletter may be only a couple of pages long, consisting of just the meeting and board minutes and this column.

The other opening that still needs to be filled is the club representative to the HamCon 2009 committee. The HamCon Committee is keeping the board informed of their progress by sending us their meeting minutes but it would be nice to have our own representative attending the meetings and providing us feedback.

Keep your calendar free for the PPRAA summer picnic that will take place on August 16th.

The General Membership meeting on May 14th will take place at Fargo's Pizza Co. on East Platte. The club will provide the pizza for members in good standing. In June, we will be back at Panera Bread.

73,
Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM
PPRAA President

NONPROFIT STATUS

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