



VOLUME 59 ISSUE 1

January 2009

PPRAA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2008



2008 PPRAA Contest Awards



**Dick WØRAA receiving his 2008
Contest Award Plaque**



**Paul, WØPSS with his 2008 Contest
Award Plaque**

**Ham Breakfast
January 3rd 2009**

**Country Buffet
751 North Academy
(Citadel Crossing)
8:00 am - 9:30 am**

Straight Key Night

Dave, NØEOP

Dust off that old straight key and have a night to remember. Since this isn't really a contest make it fun. Invite a few friends over, or the neighborhood kids. I have not used a straight key in almost 40 years, but, this year if the good lord is willing and the creek doesn't rise I plan on being there. My speed will probably be a bit slow and my characters will be hard to recognize, but I plan on having fun! So, if you want to have a night of fun join me on the air with a straight KEY! Straight Key Night begins at 7:00 p.m. EST December 31, 2007 for 24 hours. SKN is more of an operating event than a contest. To participate, simply send "CQ SKN" or listen for CQs that have SKN in them. The object of this friendly event is to enjoy some good old-fashioned QSO fun, using straight keys. The emphasis is on rag-chewing rather and receiving CW sent without a computer or keyer, listen for the best fist you encounter, and be sure to tell us all about your activities. Even better, connect that straight key to some vintage gear you haven't used in a while. Many

interesting QSOs take place during SKN, so be sure to let us know about a memorable QSO you have.”



My 2009 New Years resolution is to achieve the ARRL 25 word per minute code certificate. What will be yours?

Mike WV7T

Making Plans for Hamcon Colorado



I attended the planning meeting for the [2009 Hamcon Colorado](#) this morning. This event is the [ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention](#), held in Colorado every three years as it rotates between Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. In 2009, it will be held on May 29-31 in Estes Park, a super vacation spot.

Hamcon Colorado's main feature is a strong set of technical and operating forums covering a wide range of amateur radio topics. The common complaint is that there are too many attractive forums and they run in parallel, so you can't attend them all. The list of forums is still being finalized, but it is looking really good for next year and will likely include APRS, D-STAR, APCO Project 25, DXing, QRP, VHF antennas, electronic test equipment, satellite operating and much more. Keep an eye on the [Hamcon Colorado web site](#) as the technical program is finalized. The weekend has plenty of other activities, including Saturday night

banquet, QLF CW contest, transmitter hunt and VE testing.

For hams within driving distance of Colorado, [Estes Park](#) makes a great vacation spot for the entire family. This little mountain town sits at the entrance to [Rocky Mountain National Park](#), one of the nation's best scenic parks.

If you are looking for a great weekend (or week long) getaway filled with amateur radio fun, plan on attending Hamcon Colorado in 2009.

- 73, Bob K0NR

2008 COQP SOAPBOX

Thanks for a great QSO party!

73,

Dan
WØRO

Thanks for a fun afternoon and four new CO counties!

K4XD

thx had a great time work co. cu next year.

WC2Z

Good conditions on HF and good participation made for a fun contest.

N9KC WØEEA

Thanks for a great QSO Party!

73
Rick
WØRIC

Did not get started as early as I wanted. Contacted 8 other Colorado Stations / Counties (6 on 80m and 2 on 20m). Washington and South Carolina QSO Parties

were great contributors to my overall activity. Need to get a couple of towers planted so that I can get some antennas up higher. Outside of Field Day, this is my first (non-VHF) contest. Been away from radio for a number of years, so this was a great way to break back in.

W5JAK

Very poor conditions. My primary effort was the Washington Salmon Run. However, Delta and Mineral Counties were new ones for me. 73's to all. Bert, K6CSL

Not much time to work, I will do better next year.

Thanks,
Mike, NE4S

GLAD TO PARTICIPATE

W8KNO

Where were the mobiles? Plenty of fun with all the qso parties going on, and propagation better to CO than SC and WA from here.

N8NA

Conditions were tough running QRP Phone. I was operating using an FT-817ND running 5 watts SSB and a simple antenna.

Thanks for accepting this manual log entry!

73,
W7JAZ

- We saw little value in starting the contest at 0400 -- 0600 would be much more reasonable. We had a lot of trouble making stations realize we were in two counties. Any suggestions? We started with GenLog, but quickly abandoned it for paper because of problems logging two counties. Any suggestions on better computer logging solutions? We used a K3, 80m dipole, and 20m & 40m PAR endfed wire antennas. We verified county lines by signage and GPS. We had a great time. If we do this again next year, I think we'll try to operate more and reduce the driving and setup/teardown.

Thanks!

- 73, John, W0JFR

I'd echo John's comments. I'd add that I really liked the format for the exchange and would highly recommend it for the

future. Being portable and not using paper logs, a SN exchange would have been a problem. We really had a lot of fun with this.

We are looking forward to seeing how many other operators were in some of these "rare" counties. Thank you folks for sponsoring this event

73, John, K0FTC

We had poor Propagation into Colorado for your QSO Party. We had a little more success in working Route 66 on the Air. Matt VA7MJL wanted to Christen his "New Rig" an nice FT-897D. We will hope for Better band conditions next year

VE7NA

Elecraft K-3

50' X 50' inverted ELL fed 60' up at center, fed with ladder line and Matchbox tuner

Enjoyed the contest!

KE0G

Thanks for the great time ...

Best 73,
Keith - WA3HAE

Did not get started as early as I wanted. Contacted 8 other Colorado Stations / Counties (6 on 80m and 2 on 20m). Washington and South Carolina QSO Parties were great contributors to my overall activity. Need to get a couple of towers planted so that I can get some antennas up higher. Outside of Field Day, this is my first (non-VHF) contest. Been away from radio for a number of years, so this was a great way to break back in.

W5JAK

Hi, Just wanted to say that I really enjoyed the QSO Party this year. I hope we can continue to have many more. Our Radio Club Montrose Amateur Radio Club had a good participation in the COQP. Thanks for a great contest, and looking forward to next year.
73, Steve K0SX

Operated from my Sailboat at Lake Dillon - Summit County - Colorado - FT817 (five watts) into a 20m inverted V hoisted onto the mast. Only had 4 QSO's. I got a late start, I was mobile & it was cold. Wish I had gotten the 5th contact for the 50 point bonus (oh well).

Paul WØPSS

PPRAA Folks, Thanks for a great QSO Party guys. We appreciate all of your hard work.

73, Roger KØYY and Stan KØSDW

I made my first QSO at 1228z and had to QRT at 1629z to pick up guests at the airport, so that ended the contest early for me. I worked a few guys on 80 meters, but I may have accidentally bugged up the home security system in doing so. I was disappointed to find out Friday afternoon that Writelog was not compatible with the 2008 rules (would not log names), so I logged in DX4WIN then imported the ADIF file into N1MM Monday after hacking up the ADIF fields.

I could hardly hear any CO stations on 40 once the sun really came up, and I struggled to make one 40m SSB QSO with KE7DX. It was fun to be back on the air, and I hope COQP returns next year. I don't know if anyone else was on the air from Adams, and I apologize to anyone who needed the county and missed me.

AD1C

First activation of new club station in a contest, lots of fun!

AEØRO

Even though I only made one QSO, I may have been the only Maryland-DC station active in the contest. Many thanks, and I hope to be back next year with more QSOs.

73,
Tom, K3TW

Thanks for sponsering the QSO party....hope to have more time next

year.

73, Robb...NØRU

We'll try again next year.

Thanks to everyone & 73,

Eldon - W1END

Had fun despite the marginal conditions, hope COQP returns next year.

73
NØKM

Thanks to Mario, HB9IRM, for letting me guest operate in Richterswill on the shore of Lake Zurich. Rig was FT990 to Alpha 89 and 8 el log yagi. Conditions were poor and I only was able to operate a few hours. On 20M CW there was lots of QRM from a Spanish CW contest plus the Scandanavian Activity Contest plus propagation to the US was poor. I'm glad I could work six Colorado Stations while on holiday in Switzerland. I wish it was more but it could have been zero!

73
Phil HB9/NØKE

Fun Event!

Best 73
Jack, WA7LNW

Thanks for a fun contest! This was my first contest participation in over 35 years. The contest bug has bitten me again, hi. I must say the CO operators are sure an excellent bunch. I'll look forward to next year.

73, Chip W9EBE

Thanks for all the hard work.

Bill KØUK
What a blast!

Thanks for all the hard work everyone has done for this event. I missed it last year, but was able to participate this year and had a lot of fun even though the bands were sometimes a

challenge! In fact, I meant to get on for an hour or two and spent most of the day on the air. HI HI

Already mailed my meager paper log to Colorado Springs. (Okay, so I am a graphic artist and thus more of a Mac person. <grin>) Can't wait for the next one. I just wish that I could have heard more Colorado FROM Colorado! Most of the counties I jumped over or vice versa.

Again, great job by everyone involved with the revisions, awards, mobile stations and just plain making it happen. Thanks!

73
Cheryl, NØWBV
Jefferson County, Colorado

No, I didn't hear anyone in those counties. However, it was very hard to hear other Colorado stations. Heard KOGAS on 20m but no QSO. If 40m won't do to work other Colorado stations, maybe we need to carry ham stick antennas for 80/75 meters next year!

Only Colorado stations worked were on 40m including a very FB QSO on SSB 5 X 5 and on CW with Jim W0EEA in Elbert when I was in Lake County surrounded by mountains, where that propagation came from I don't know! I had heard Jim in Summit but he only peaked when I got down over the pass in near Leadville. Caught Greg W0ZA in a couple of counties and the mobile team W0HXB/K0EZ in a bunch of counties when I was heading home and we were in adjacent counties, Jim AD1C, Rick W0RIC in one each. Steve N2IC in NM was booming in on 40m every time I fired up a new county - thanks for supporting the mobiles with the QSOs, Steve!

Used a tank of gas in mt 4 cylinder, 5 speed Ford Escape averaging about 27-28 mpg (lot of downhill) but at least the price was \$3.41 per gallon when I got home in Parker to fill up. Will do it again but, man, I have got to find out Larry K0CL's secret mobile antenna set up before next year since he had 200 Qs! And, Bill, I sure as heck didn't stop to make ssb QSOs - writing in my notebook on my lap was a challenge especially when

I'm now trying to read it. Did stop for CW.

73 Ken, WØETT

Hi, Had great time in COQP this year
73, Steve KØSX

Your contest was fun. Except for a 30 min late start, we nearly kept to schedule published, working something over 130 QSOs - several ops repeatedly.

We were surprised Broomfield and Gilpin were not more in demand.

We look forward to next year.

Pete WØHXB/m

Bill Bear, KC0QXX, Steve Schroder, KI0KY, and myself ran a portable operation from Lizard Head Pass, on the county line between San Miguel and Delores counties. We used Bill's call and you should have received his entry summarizing our efforts on 75, 40, and 20 meters.

Delores and San Miguel were not represented in the contest last year, as far as we know, so an effort was made to get there this year. KC0QXX and myself, AD0JD, were on the top of Engineer last year, giving out Hinsdale, San Juan, and Ouray, and we had a blast! However, last years contest was in mid July. This year, the contest was in September, and we felt the weather was to risky for that location. Rain and lightening could have put us off the site in a hurry, because Engineer is 12,800 feet elev and is high exposure. So... we opted for Lizard Head, with easy highway access and no snow.

We were on site by 10 AM and were set up by 11 AM, with provisions for two HF antennas, a dipole and a delta loop, and 2 HF rigs, an Icom 706 and a Yaesu 857. One QSO was made on 75m phone, then hearing no other activity, we moved to 40m phone, and had our best success on 40 meters.

The weather was highly variable, and little showers kept coming. About 1:30 PM a thunder storm hit and we shut down for half an hour to let it pass. We kept

plugging away on 40 meters, knowing that 20 meters would be very good when we finally changed to it.

Surprise! 20 meters was terrible! We put out lots of calls, with no answers. Activity in general was pretty flat. We heard no one coming back to Colorado Stations. Our antenna was a favorite delta loop which worked very well last year from Engineer Pass. We checked rigs, feedlines and everything we could think of, even switching to a dipole -- same result -- propagation was terrible. I think we made 3 total Q's on 20 and we had hoped to make 100. 20 meters was sure a disappointment. We finished the contest on 40 meters with a total effort of about 99 contacts. Each counted twice, however, since we were sitting on the county line. When the sun went down, we tore down, as it was too chilly to continue at 10,300 ' elev. We heard that other stations made good use of 75 meters in the evening, but we couldn't stay.

Please keep this event going! We members of the Montrose ARC Love it and look forward to it!

Hope to work you in 2009!

73, Royce AAØJD

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.

PPRAA Board Meeting

13 October 2008

(late posting)

Attendees: Doug N7LEM, Dan AC0CC, Dennis AC0IV, Dave K0DAM, and Dennis N0ABC.

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Minutes: Dennis N0ABC/Dave K0DAM moved/seconded to approve Board minutes as printed. Passed.

Reports

Treasurer's Report – Dennis N0ABC reported that there was no change to the report given at the General Membership meeting. He and Dennis AC0IV are in the process of turning over the accounts. Dennis AC0IV will apply for a debit card against the club account to make it easier to pay expenses

COQP 2008 – End date for log submissions is 20 October. Comments received so far are generally very favorable. Scoring of the all submissions should take about 30 days from the cutoff date.

Christmas Party

This years Christmas party will be 10 December at 1830 at the Golden Corral on Woodman and Powers..

Unfinished Business

Megafest 2009 – Dates in July proposed by Rob N7LV were discussed. Dan / Dennis AC0IV moved and seconded to accept 11 July as the date if Lewis Palmer HS available. Approved.

Zero Beat Editor – To get hard copies printed the issue in Word format needs to be sent to Express Printing.

New Business

November meeting – location and program

The Panera Bread location is not available for the November meeting. After discussions about possible locations it was decided to hold the meeting at Fargo's Pizza. Dennis N0ABC / Dennis AC0IV moved and seconded a motion to fund NTE \$150 for pizzas. Approved. Dennis AC0IV volunteered to give a presentation on HF Ops in Greenland.

Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday, 17 November 2008, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Submitted by:
Doug Nielsen N7LEM
PPRAA President

VE EXAMS

The January MARC VE Session will be Saturday, January 3rd, on the FIRST Saturday at 10 am, in the Community Meeting Room, in the Community Meeting Room of the Woodland Park Library, 218 East Midland Avenue. The MARC VE Team is affiliated with the ARRL/VEC and examinations for all classes of license will be offered.

If attending, please BE SURE to bring the following items to the session:

1. A valid PHOTO ID, driver's license preferred (if you do not have a valid photo ID, please call for alternative identification requirements).

2. Your SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (now required, this includes children).

3. Your ORIGINAL amateur radio license (if any) AND a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.

4. The ORIGINAL of any relevant CSCEs you may have AND a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.

5. Cash, Check or Money Order for \$15 (standard ARRL VE Fee). Checks and money orders should be made out to MARC and covers all different exams you wish to take at the VE session. (The ARRL/VEC examination fee for 2009 will increase to \$15 from \$14 in 2008.)

MARC VE Team policy, as with many VE Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.

Full information, including driving directions to the Woodland Park Library, is available under "VE Sessions" on the MARC website at <http://www.nx0g.org/ve.html> or contact Wes Wilson (KØHBZ) at k0hbx@arrl.net or call (719) 687-8758.

For already licensed hams and MARC members should be monitoring the MARC repeater system 146.820- or 448.650- (both 107.2 Hz) if you need help with talk-in.

73 Wes KØHBZ
MARC VE Team

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All memberships are up for renewal at the end of the year. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please use the form at the bottom of this page, and fill out all of the appropriate information so that the Membership Committee can update the records. Include your family so they can share the value and the fun. If you know someone interested in joining, make a copy for them or have them visit PPRAA on the web and download a copy of the PDF file at www.qsl.net/ppraa/membership.html.

Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521			
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	In which activities would you like to participate?	
Name: _____		Field Day ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address: _____		Demonstrations ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		Nets or round tables ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____		Organize activities ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____		Teach ham classes ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:		Full Member \$15: ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____		Family Membership \$18: ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____		Over 65 \$10: ⇨ <input type="checkbox"/>	
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<u>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</u>			
Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered:			
(Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail			
<input type="checkbox"/> As a PDF file attachment via e-mail, to help save a few bucks			
<input type="checkbox"/> I'll save the club a few bucks and download it from the Web!			
Circle your interests ⇨ HF / V/UHF / FM / SSB / Digital / DX / Contests / Technical / Hardware / Other _____			
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer. Please Type or Print Clearly!			

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
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To: