

Zero Beat

Volume 4, Issue 54

September 2004

Words From the President

Congratulations to our new 0-Beat Editor, Sharon, **KC0PBR**!

Unfortunately, the schedule of our previous editor, Tom, **KC0NRZ**, did not permit him to spend as much time working on the newsletter as he would have liked. He graciously stepped down when Sharon offered to assist. Acting as the editor of a newsletter not an easy job! On behalf of the membership Tom, let me thank you for the excellent work you did during your tenure. Your dedication was very much appreciated!

I must also thank Kate, **WB9BAH**, and her OM John (is there a call sign soon to come?) for offering up their home for the annual PPRAA Picnic a few weeks back. I had an excellent time! There was great food, scrumptious dessert, sparkling conversation and activities for everyone – everything from foxhunting, to horseshoes, and even horses for the kids! Thanks Kate and John!

Our annual election of officers is rapidly approaching. Four positions on the Board will be vacant this year. I want to remind everyone that a successful association of any type is not just spontaneously created. It takes a lot of work by many dedicated volunteers. While the people elected to the Board are the most visible, there are a great number of others working behind the scenes who are vital to the smooth operation of the PPRAA. When the Nominating Committee Chairperson comes around looking for volunteers, keep all this in mind before automatically saying “no”!

The old adage that “you only get out what you put in” was never so true. Please help us continue to make the PPRAA a great Amateur Radio Club!

We have an outstanding guest speaker this month! Jim Pierson, **N1SZ**, will talk to us about

VHF/UHF contesting. You may recall that Jim spoke to us about BPL early in the New Year. What you may not realize is that he is also a member of a large and very successful VHF/UHF contest group back on the East Coast. His group has set many contesting records, and you don't do that without knowing an awful lot about operating, antennas, propagation and more! Jim is going to pass on some of his hard-earned secrets at our next meeting, so I encourage you all to come down and take it all in!

That's all for now. Get on the air and become Radio-Active!

73

Al, **V01NO/W0**

Notes From the Editor

By now you are aware of the changes at Zero Beat. Putting out this issue has been a difficult task for me. Tom Dawson, **KC0NRZ**, is a friend. He has gone on to other things and has left a void that will be difficult to fill. Given my current limitations with hardware, software and time, I will not be able to produce the professional quality publication which Tom put out. I am sure I speak for many people when I say that Tom will be missed and I hope he will contribute in the future.

Anyone wishing to help with the newsletter should contact the board. I would especially encourage you to volunteer if you have newer hardware. I am only going to be able to do this as an interim editor. We need someone else to step forward.

A special thanks to Kate, **WB9BAH**, who put up with me this week when I had two computers locked up at the same time.

Thanks to all who have helped with this issue.

73,

Sharon **KC0PBR**

Monthly Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2004

The August meeting of PPRAA was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Al Penney VO1NO followed by introductions around the room.

There were no silent keys noted. Since the Zero Beat was late being distributed, the July meeting minutes approval was deferred.

Kate WB9BAH presented her first **Treasurer's report**.

For the period 7/1/04– 7/31/04 income was \$62.62, **expenses** were \$43.17 (\$151.22 was collected at Field Day which reduced expenses). **Net** for the month was \$19.45.

For the period of 10/1/03– 8/11/04 (current fiscal year) **income** was \$7,017.93 and **expenses** were \$5,371.15 reflecting a positive net of \$1,646.78 year to date. Money collected for door prizes is accounted for and recorded in a separate account maintained by the Vice President. These books are available for review by the membership.

Committee reports were presented by:

Les, KC0NC – **RACES**;

Moe, WB0RTF – **CCARC**;

Les, KC0NC – **Membership**;

Tom, N0NTX – **AMSAT**;

Al, VO1NO – Field Day wrap-up;

Christopher, NC6T – **Publicity** (showed the Channel 13 broadcast which covered Field Day).

Additionally Moe, B0RTF announced an upcoming meeting and social for the Colorado YLs and Dennis N0ABC gave the technical talk concerning his experience concerning lightening strikes and some preventative measure to take.

Al VO1NO presented his President's Report which consisted of thanks to Kate WB9BAH (and John) for hosting the annual picnic; announced the after meeting coffee get together was at Perkins on Chelton and Platte; mentioned that elections were upcoming and that a nominating committee needed to be formed;

Zero Beat editor; reminded membership of the upcoming Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) annual Campfest; asked if there was interest in reviving regular foxhunting outings; and explained the purpose of the PPRAA reflector and encouraged everyone to sign up.

The guest speaker was Karen Wolfer owner and operator of Daystar Solar Energy talking about solar power from power grid independence to just enough to support an emergency radio station.

Her presentation was very informative and interesting and left us with a desire to further investigate how each of us better utilize solar energy to meet our needs. Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Kelly
KCOMIR

Reputation =

Character – What you have
been Caught Doing!!!

August VE Session

On August 14th, we held our bimonthly VE session (second Saturday of monthly VE session (second Saturday of even-numbered months). We had 12 candidates show up, but only two VEs. One VE was sent out to pick up another while I processed the paperwork for the candidates, and we started the session about 45 minutes late.

From the 12 candidates, we have seven new Technicians (one with HF from passing Element 1 last December), three new Extra class licensees, and one gained credit for Element 4.

The session was held in our newest location, Fire Station #19 on Research Parkway near Chapel Hills Drive. This location seems to work out pretty well, compared to the Falcon Police Substation, except that we must set up and tear down all tables and chairs needed each time.

We are still scheduled for the Fire Station Community Room for October, but unfortunately, it is not available for our December session. We are looking to find yet another location that would meet our needs and would consistently be available so that we might be able to call it "home." If you know of any such location in central to northern Colorado Springs, please let Erik KG0XE or myself know.

Ideally, we would like a place with a traditional classroom setting.

I offer my apologies to any who have suffered from our ongoing location changes. I had high hopes for the police substation, but the acoustics are terrible in the one room, the parking is restricted, and the sign-in/sign-out procedures are excessive. It was a year ago that we lost the use of DeVry, and now they are about to move to a new location. DeVry always had the possibility of needing the classrooms on Saturdays, anyway. I am confident that somewhere in this town exists an ideal and available VE team location! I'll keep you posted.

73

Dennis N0ABC
VE Team Liaison

My apologies for the missing committee reports, including the board meeting minutes of the August meeting. I am working with antique equipment (my computers are not brand new either).

If you would like to find out what went on this month, drop me an e-mail at amxldy@att.net or give me a call at 719 347-2870. I will see to it that you get the information you need.

Thanks for your patience.

Sharon, KCOPBR

Upcoming Programs

September

- Jim Pierson N1SZ is scheduled to speak about VHF/UHF contesting.

This will be just prior to an ARRL contest on September 11th.

October

- Time for the annual meeting of the PPRAA. This means it's election time. We need some volunteers to keep the club running smoothly. Please consider running for one of the officer or board positions or a committee chair - we need someone to head up the Swapfest for 2005. Contact Jerry, AD0A if interested.

requested that a member with publishing experience come forward to assume the duties of

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