



Volume 55, Number 11

November 2005

Field Day Winners

The 2005 Field Day final results are in!

Station NX0G scored 5,614 points. Our MARC and PPRAA station placed first in the Rockies Mountain Division for category 2A. Nationally, we placed 59th in the category.

Great job everyone!

Please send me any ideas and suggestions concerning the 2006 Field Day, .

Dan - KB0PPM

Rocky Mountain Navy Buccaneers Contest Group Takes Top Field Day Honors!

Mike Anderson, WV7T, and his wild bunch of scallywags pirated their way to a 1st Place win in the 3E QRP (5 multiplier) category for Field Day 2005. 3E is where a home station is operated under emergency power. This team operated from car batteries.

Mike WV7T

EOSS 15th Anniversary

On November 12, 2005, the Edge of Space Sciences Organization (EOSS) will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. EOSS is a non-profit organization that promotes science, engineering and education by exploring frontiers in amateur radio and high altitude balloons.

To mark this important occasion we will make our 100th EOSS launch. In addition we will recognize the contributions of key individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to fulfilling the EOSS mission to further interest in science, engineering and education. Please make your plans to attend today!

What: EOSS-100 Mission, Presentations, Lunch Reception

When: November 11, 2005, 7:00 p.m. Dinner with High Altitude Balloon Pioneers at Longmont, CO

When: November 12, 2005, 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Launch at 7:30 a.m.)

Where: Intrado Headquarters
1601 Dry Creek Drive
Longmont, CO 80503

Rain date: November 13, 2005

More details to follow. We hope to see you there. Let us know if you can attend and reply to: wa0geh@arrl.net

Thanks from your EOSS event team,

Marty Griffin, WA0GEH
Jim Gifford, K0LOB
Steve Meer, K0SCC

Board of Directors

Pres. Christopher Taylor NC6T* nc6t@arrl.net 260-8081
 VP Mike Allison KØMLA k0mla@arrl.net 590-4812
 Sec. John Wishart KCØJFH* - jrwishart@msn.com 481-2439
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 Dir. Mike Anderson WV7T* wv7t@arrl.net 229-8610
 Dir. Susei Goguen KCØPRN - cobweb@divide.net 481-8684
 Dir. Paul Moraine NØPWW - pmoraine@msn.com 638-0273

* In final year of 2-year term.

PPRAA Meeting Information

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly at 7 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, 305 S. Union Blvd, downstairs at the apex of the two buildings. For a map, please visit our web site at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/> or contact any of the board members for more information.

Amateur Radio License Exam Information

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Volunteer Examiner (VE) team holds testing sessions every other month, in even-numbered months. They're held on the 2nd Saturday of these months 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 is \$14.00 for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 elements at a session. Checks should be payable to ARRL/VEC. For further details and for a list of what to bring, contact Erik Mugele KGØXE or Dennis Major NØABC, or visit the PPRAA web site.

PPRAA Simplex Net

Don't forget about the PPRAA Simplex Net on Thursday nights at 7 pm! Jim Harris ABØUK and Pat Kelly KCØMIR have been doing a bang-up job in keeping the net going from week to week. Join everyone for a good time, find out the latest, test out your ability to copy other stations via simplex, and listen to the ARRL Audio News! The frequency is 146.58 MHz simplex and the backup frequency is 146.55 MHz, in case the primary frequency is busy.

PPRAA Is A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization

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

Committee Chairs / Points Of Contact

Auditing	Open
Asset	Mike Stansberry KØTER
E-Mail Refl.	John Wishart KCØJFH kc0jfh@arrl.net 481-2439
Field Day	Dan Scott KBØPPM
Swapfest	Rick Brown KØSU k0su@adelphia.net 531-9423
Historian	Ron Deutsch NKØP
Interference	Bill Petty NØNJX
Membership	Les Borst KCØNC
Programs	Mike Allison KØMLA k0mla@arrl.net 590-4812
Publicity	Christopher Taylor NC6T nc6t@arrl.net 260-8081
Public Service	Mike Stansberry KØTER
Tech. Ed.	Mike Anderson WV7T wv7t@arrl.net 229-8610
VEC Liaison	Dennis Major NØABC n0abc@arrl.net 531-6774
VE Contact	Erik Mugele KGØXE ve@teuton.org 278-4363
Webmaster	Doug Nielsen N7LEM n7lem@n7lem.net

AMSAT Coord.	Tom McDaniel NØNTX
ARRL Awards Mgr.	Rick Brown KØSU
ARES Emerg Coord	Dean Haskins KAØPII
ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry KØTER
ARRL Section Mgr.	Jeff Ryan KØRM
CCARC Liaison	Dan Scott KBØPPM
HamCon Chairman	Jerry VerDuft ADØA
RACES Officer	Doc Cornell WØMCT

PPRAA Web Site and E-Mail Reflector

PPRAA web site is at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>, which is maintained by Doug Nielsen, N7LEM. Thanks, Doug! Stay on top of new or short-fused developments by subscribing to our e-mail reflector: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet>. Thanks to John Wishart, KCØJFH for maintaining the reflector!

Upcoming Club Programs

November: Bob Witte, RF test equipment. He'll have equipment to check radios at the meeting.

December: PPRAA Christmas Party, Dec. 9th.

Deadline for Next Ø-Beat Articles

The deadline for the December 2005 Ø-Beat is December 1st. Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person.

Please feel free to submit an article – we're always looking for fresh content!

Club Meeting Minutes

PPRAA
Club Meeting Minutes
12 Oct 2005

President Rick Brown KØSU called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium followed by introductions around the room.

Silent Keys: none

Pat/Les moved/seconded to approve the September meeting minutes with the following correction: On p. 3 change Jim's call to ABØUK.

Treasurer's Report - none provided.

Committee Reports

Reflector – John KCØJFH – 146 individuals are currently on the Reflector

Swapfest – Rick KØSU is the chairperson for 2006.

Membership – Les KCØNC – no changes in membership numbers (175) at this time. He suggested that we have a Zero Beat committee to assist in producing and mailing the newsletter.

Programs – Christopher NC6T – Bob Witte will talk about test gear and will be testing HT's at the November club meeting.

Tech Ed. – Mike WV7T – Tech class is starting next Monday.

VEC – Dennis NØABC – Test session conducted last Saturday. Five of five passed tests.

Website – Doug N7LEM – Zero Beat is available fastest on the web site. Picnic pictures will be available shortly.

AMSAT - Tom NØNTX - AO-51 will be on high power this week.

ARES – Wes Wilson – ARES is supporting a health clinic in Creede.

CCARC – position is currently vacant. A volunteer is needed.

RACES – Doc WØMCT – RACES meeting will be next Thursday at 7 PM.

Simplex Net – Jim ABØUK - The Net is held on Thursday evenings at 7 PM, 146.58 MHz. Jim will be leaving the position at end of Dec. so a replacement volunteer is needed.

JOTA – Dan KBØPPM is already planning for next year's event already. Volunteers are needed for next year's event. Contact Dan if interested. This year's event is this coming weekend.

Old Business

Holiday Party – Friday Dec 9 at Springs City Church. We need a volunteer to be chairperson for this event.

Board Meeting – Monday night following the club meeting at 7 PM at The Remodeler on N. Hancock, N of Fillmore.

Projector purchase committee – Pat, Christopher, and Dennis will be deciding on this.

Elections for 2006 Club Officers:

The individuals nominated for the vacant positions were:

President: Christopher NC6T

VP: Mike KØMLA

Secretary: John KCØJFH

Treasurer: Jim ABØUK

Board 1: Paul NØPWM

Board 2: Su KCØPRN

Carry-over board members are Rick KØSU (past pres) and Mike WV7T (2nd yr of director term).

Mo/Pat moved/seconded that all officers and board members nominated be elected by acclamation. Passed.

New Business

Tom/Dick moved/seconded that we donate \$1000 to the ARES Deployment organization for Hurricane Katrina support. Passed.

Hammy Award

Christopher awarded the Hammy to Rick KØSU for his service as president.

After the break and door prize drawings, Connie Chavez, Public Education Specialist, presented a program on the El Paso/Teller County e911 Service.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Next meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 PM, El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, 305 S. Union Blvd., CS, CO.

Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH, Secretary.
Date: 29 October 2005

Board Meeting Minutes

PPRAA
Board Meeting Minutes
17 October 2005

President Christopher Taylor NC6T called the meeting to order at 7 PM at The Remodeler conference room, 3205 N. Hancock Ave. in Colorado Springs, CO.

Attendees: Rick KØSU, Dennis NØABC, Christopher NC6T, John KCØJFH, Jim ABØUK, Paul NØPWM, Mike KØMLA, Su KCØPRN

Pat/Mike moved/seconded to accept the September board meeting minutes as printed in the Ø Beat. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim ABØUK stated there was a total of \$10,421.08 in our three accounts. He recently received three new membership applications and needs to send membership cards to these individuals. Christopher and Mike need to complete and submit the necessary forms to obtain signature authority for the Ent FCU and Wells Fargo accounts. The post office box is at the P.O. located near Fountain and Academy. We need to update the access and records for the box and obtain two additional keys for the box. Expenses for mailing the Ø Beat are running about \$100 per month. Are there any ways to reduce this cost?

Holiday Party:

Su has volunteered to be the chairperson for this event, but she can't guarantee her attendance if the weather is bad. Pat/Paul moved/seconded to authorize \$100 for the Springs City Church as a donation for the use of their facility. Passed. Pat/Paul also moved/seconded to authorize \$100 for other holiday party expenses. Passed.

Bill for Hamfest from LPHS:

This still has not been received. Rick will contact LPHS to try to get this resolved.

Swapfest:

Rick is chairperson. Tentative date is July 9, 2006. November 19, 2005, will be the first Swapfest meeting. Our club needs to send individuals for state raffle license training. Rick will determine the state training class times.

Equipment Inventory:

Rick will conduct this with Mike Stansberry. The board determined that the treatment of our physical assets shall remain the same (per the bylaws).

Ø Beat:

Dennis is still awaiting a replacement – the search for a new editor continues. Deadline for articles is October 29, 2005.

Projector Purchase:

Pat and Dennis and will coordinate on this and make the selection.

Hamcon 2006:

Steve Williams is our rep to Hamcon 2006. The question arose as to whether we still need to send \$150 to Hamcon for seed money. Jim will investigate.

CCARC:

The October 29 meeting will be held at the Falcon police substation in Colorado Springs. Su will be assisting with refreshments. The room has been reserved. Dave Novotny is the CCARC contact.

KCØIST membership:

He needs a letter from the club verifying his membership in PPRAA to support his application for US citizenship.

Future Programs:

November – Bob Witte, RF test equipment and radio testing

December – Holiday Party

January – Homebrew Night (Note: Rick will generate an article about homebrew equipment)

Silent Keys:

The question arose about continuing the practice of asking if there are any Silent Keys. The consensus was that it should continue.

Committee Vacancies:

The following committees need chairpersons: Auditing, CCARC Liaison, Simplex Net (Jim is resigning at the end of December)

Audit:

Rick received a letter from Dodi Walch indicating our books were in order. John will generate a thank you letter to Ms. Walch for her efforts.

Roundtable Comments:

Mike indicated he may be able to support the Simplex Net.

Rick requested that we have a club table at Hamcon 2006. He will check on this with Steve Williams, our liaison.

Dennis would like to change the bylaws to only put the roster in the Ø Beat once per year (now supposed to be in there twice a year).

Pat will investigate obtaining a banner or other sign for club use. He will get sizes and prices. Also can we get a plaque made to give to Kate for her service to the club. Yes.

Pat/Su moved/seconded that we obtain a plaque for Kate costing up to \$50. Passed.

Paul inquired about what constituted a quorum at the club meetings. It is 15% of the membership.

Mike – can we put an ad for Plaque World in the Ø Beat? They make our club name badges. Yes.

The next PPRAA board meeting is Monday, November 14, 7 PM, at The Remodeler, 3205 N. Hancock.

Christopher adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH, Secretary.
Date: 29 October 2005

[NWS Skywarn Recognition Day, Dec. 2-3](#)

NWS Pueblo Skywarn Group

All amateur radio operators in southern and southeastern Colorado are invited and encouraged to participate in the seventh annual NWS Skywarn Recognition Day is a nationwide special event being hosted locally by the NWS Pueblo Skywarn Group at the NWS Pueblo Forecast Office starting at 1700 (5 pm) MST on Friday, December 2nd and running through

1700 on Saturday, December 3rd. The Pueblo Forecast Office is located at 3 Eaton Way, Pueblo, CO – just a few blocks SW of the Pueblo Municipal Airport terminal building.

NWS Skywarn Recognition Day has been growing rapidly in popularity and participation since its inception seven years ago. This is a truly unique event, part special event and part contest, where operators from all around the country/world try to work as many of the NWS Forecast Offices as possible and exchange weather observations during a 24-hour period. It's really fun being a station everyone is trying to work, and finding yourself on the receiving end of a big pileup. Last year, over 116 NWS Forecast Offices participated.

Wes Wilson, KØHBZ is the SRD Station Coordinator for this event, feel free to contact him at (719) 687-8758 or k0hzb@arrl.net if you have any questions.

The Pueblo Forecast Office will be operating under its club call, WXØPUB, and will have two HF SSB stations, a HF Digital station (CW, RTTY, Amtor, Pactor, PSK-31) and a VHF/UHF/Packet/APRS station. All of the stations, antennas, computers and equipment are provided, so all operators need to do is show up, roll up your sleeves and help keep the stations on the air. Nighttime is especially fun, and the event runs ALL night, so if you're a night owl . . . we especially need your help (we'll provide the coffee)! Talk-in will be on the 146.835- (114.8 Hz Tone) portable repeater.

We have a dedicated and experienced group of volunteers who do our setup on Friday. If you're particularly interested in the setup process, contact KØHBZ if you would like to observe or help. Volunteers are always needed and welcome for teardown which will start at 1700 on Saturday evening.

If you don't have HF privileges under your current license class, just ask – if control operators are available (and they usually are)

you can explore the fun and excitement of HF operation. This also is an excellent opportunity to learn about HF SSB, Digital, packet, APRS and other exciting modes with the help of experienced operators.

For additional information you can visit the NOAA website at <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>.

The NWS Pueblo Skywarn Group is made up of Skywarn-trained weather spotters, both hams and non-hams. NWS Pueblo appreciates the contributions of all our Skywarn spotters, and especially those made by amateur radio; we hope you will come join us for this special event.

"73" Bill Fortune, KBØRPD
Meteorologist In Charge
NWS Pueblo Forecast Office

El Paso County RACES Activities



<http://www.qsl.net/epraces/>

No report given

Pikes Peak ARES



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

See separate report on DRT thanks to PPRAA.

Upcoming Amateur Radio Events

Dec. 9 - PPRAA Christmas Party – Springs City Church. More info to come.

CCARC Quarterly Meeting

October 29, 2005

The quarterly meeting of the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (CCARC) was held the afternoon of October 29th at the Colorado Springs Police Department's Falcon Division station. Twenty amateur radio operators were in attendance, representing amateur radio clubs from around Colorado. The Chairperson of the CCARC Tim Armagost WBØTUB chaired the meeting.

The CCARC has an antenna legislation committee to help get legislation favorable to amateur radio operators passed in Colorado's legislature. No report was received from this committee, as it has not been active recently. Anyone interested in helping with this important committee can contact our club's CCARC liaison (more on that below).

The primary function of the CCARC is repeater frequency coordination for the entire state of Colorado. The CCARC has a frequency coordinator position, and it is this person who is responsible for the majority of the work of the council. If you have an interest in becoming involved in the many activities related to frequency coordination, please get in touch with our CCARC liaison. These activities can range from monitoring repeater frequencies to establish frequency usage to acting as a regional contact point for repeater trustees.

Today there are no repeater frequency pairs available on 2 meters in the Denver area, so new requests are being put on a waiting list. Both VHF and UHF repeater frequencies are presently being surveyed around metropolitan areas to identify "paper" repeaters and then allocate new repeaters to those unused frequencies.

Repeater trustees should be receiving the yearly repeater survey. The survey has many uses including identifying repeater frequency availability and updating the ARRL Repeater

Directory. A late or missing repeater survey will drop that repeater from the directory as the ARRL gives each frequency coordinator a single shot at submissions (updates not allowed).

The ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan KØRM presented a report to the group. He mentioned that all vanity call sign applications are on hold indefinitely by the FCC until the infrastructures affected by this season's hurricanes are operating at pre-hurricane levels. This was done so as not to put at a disadvantage those affected by a hurricane that may have been waiting for a vanity call sign to become available but could now not apply for it. Jeff also commended the many Colorado amateur radio clubs who participated in Field Day this year, including the PPRAA & Mountain Amateur Radio Club joint venture that produced the highest number of Field Day participants for any group in Colorado!

Jeff highlighted the need for amateur radio operators which gave assistance during the recent storm relief efforts to please register their help on the ARRL web site. The ARRL is interested in HAM involvement both ARRL members and non-members. There was speculation that the information will be used to highlight the amateur radio service to those on Capital Hill.

On the BPL front, Jeff mentioned a trial MAY be headed to Fort Collins. From the floor, there was an additional comment/rumor about other pending BPL interests within Colorado, specifics were not yet available.

The CCARC publishes a state map that identifies the repeaters available to amateur radio operators. This map is printed on a very durable paper (Tyvek®) so it is meant to last. It was agreed at this meeting that a new version of the map will be printed early in 2006 after all information has been updated from the repeater trustees around the state. The last version was issued in 2003.

A nominating committee was formed at this meeting to nominate people for the positions of Chairperson, Secretary, and Frequency Coordinator. Elections for these positions will be held at the next meeting of the CCARC, scheduled for April 22, 2006 in Boulder.

Speaking of nominations, I am pleased to announce that Dan Scott KBØPPM has volunteered to be PPRAA's liaison to the CCARC. Thanks, Dan! If you are interested in learning more about the activities of the CCARC or have questions about this meeting, please get in touch with Dan.

The meeting was hosted jointly by the PPRAA and the Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group. Su KCØPRN did a fantastic job providing a wonderful set of refreshments for the meeting. Thanks Su for keeping everyone happy and well nourished and setting a high standard for the Boulder folks to live up to in April!

Christopher NC6T, acting CCARC Liaison & Dan KBØPPM, new CCARC Liaison

2006 Megafest First Meeting

The first Megafest 2006 planning meeting we be on November 19th at 9:00 AM. Them meeting location is "The Remodeler" at 3205 N Hancock Av, Colorado Springs, CO. That is about four blocks north of Fillmore. I can't attach a map here as the reflector will strip it off but if you need specific directions please let me know.

DRT Says "Thank You!" to PPRAA

-- by Wes Wilson, KØHBZ
Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer
Colorado ARES/RACES Disaster Response Team

On behalf of the Colorado ARES/RACES Disaster Response Team (DRT), I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You!" to the PPRAA membership who voted (Oct. 12 meeting) a very generous contribution to the ARES Deployment Fund to help offset expenses incurred during our deployment to the Gulf coast to provide emergency communication support in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Our six-member unit was made up of Dean Haskins (KAØPII); Mike Allen (NØMIK), Paul Garvey (KØBLM), Pat Kelly (KCØMIR), Tom Dawson (KCØNRZ) and myself. All were anxious to go and willing to pay our own expenses for the opportunity to field test our emergency

As most of you know, we have had to change the date of the Megafest next year to avoid other radio activities in June. This is going to take an extra effort on our part to keep the PPRAA Megafest as one of the best attended hamfests in the state. I hope that many of you will come out and help us with this effort. Other than dues this is the only fund raising activity the club has. Let's keep it working as well as it has in the past years.

There are several committee positions I would like to fill at this meeting. Please come help your club. Yep – I will bring the donuts.

73, Rick, KØSU
Megafest 2006 Chairman

Membership Report

As Les mentioned at the last meeting, since the switch to having all membership renewals become due at the beginning of the year, there are very few changes to the membership during the course of the year. Also for the same reasoning, we wish to make a minor adjustment to the bylaws. See the announcement elsewhere in Ø-Beat.

Jess Miley	KØTAA
719 W. 7 th , Florence, CO 81226 - 719-784-3040	
Amateur & Hobby Radio Products. We Trade.	
Excellent Tech @ \$35 per hour	
Commercial rates higher	
Please call before you drive.	

communication skills, training and equipment and help provide communication relief in areas devastated by this powerful storm.

DRT home-based support was provided by Sid White (K4ARM) and Mike Stansberry (KØTER) with additional logistical and coordination support from our Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan (KØRM) and Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Roller (N7LV).

We took four vehicles – Pat's 33' motorhome (shelter/communications), my truck and 18' camper trailer (shelter/communications) and two pickup/SUV-type vehicles – one towing the solar-powered portable repeater and the other towing a flatbed trailer with antennas, support masting, coax, generators, gas, other equipment and supplies. The trip took us over 3,000 miles and fuel alone was – by far – our greatest expense, coming to a total of just under \$3,200.

We were requested by Gary Stratton, K5GLS, the ARRL Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). We met up with Gary in Covington, Louisiana, on our first night there and worked with him off and on over the next six days.

Our trip took us to Covington, Louisiana; across the Mississippi River to Gulfport and Ocean Springs, Mississippi; back to Slidell and Pearl River, Louisiana; then across the 34-mile Causeway over Lake Pontchartrain into New Orleans. We crossed back and forth across the most-affected area of the Gulf coast where the eye-wall of Katrina made landfall and caused the most devastation. It was like being in a war zone. As Mike Allen (NØMIK) said, "Life in these areas is like living in a third-world country" – often no power, telephone, potable water, and fuel was – at times – scarce or hard to find.

We were given new assignments every 24-36 hours and had to break our DRT Base Camp, move to a new location, and set up again – something that was very challenging and frustrating in the 94-97-degree heat with 80-100% humidity. This was an incredible test of our DRT training, equipment and life-skill requirements in a major disaster venue. The constant base camp moving was like having a week-long Field Day in a disaster zone where you had to pack up and relocate your entire operation at least 60 miles every 24-36 hours to a new unfamiliar site – and get set up and operational very quickly. We found our flexibility in equipment, antennas and power options up to the task.

During our trip we provided operator support to the Covington Chapter (St. Tammany Parish, LA) Red Cross headquarters – that was communicating and coordinating with the Covington EOC, their supply distribution center and numerous shelters and feeding operations in surrounding areas.

In Mississippi, our team was split – with Mike, Pat and Paul assigned to the Gulfport EOC where they worked shifts monitoring the amateur frequencies and relaying emergency and priority messages from the amateur frequencies to the various EOC agencies. The other half of our team (Dean, Tom and I) was sent to Ocean Springs, MS, where we provided a much-needed portable repeater for their EOC and Red Cross shelter support operation. In addition we helped with communication at a shelter at St. Paul church and provided some training by introducing several hams to the ICS-213 general message form and discussed other issues. The Gulfport and Ocean Springs operations were winding down, so after about 36 hours, we found ourselves being redeployed back to Louisiana to support Red Cross shelters in Slidell and Pearl River. Upon arrival we found that cell phone coverage was coming back online, so there wasn't much amateur radio requirement. We spent about 24 hours there just to make sure.

FEMA was getting ready to allow New Orleans residents back into the city for a couple of days to check their properties and collect valuables (not to stay). Red Cross was ramping up a major new feeding operation to provide meals for these residents and it looked as if we might actually have a large-scale NEW operation on our hands. Red Cross asked us to assemble a team of at least 10 operators and to stage at an abandoned Wal-Mart store in New Orleans. We picked up two operators from Washington state, one from Texas and another from Louisiana that we had been working with

at Covington and deployed our expanded team across the 34-mile causeway over Lake Pontchartrain into New Orleans.

Security was a major concern in New Orleans, so we had to set up a "defensible" DRT base camp by using a 10' security fence with vegetation behind us, then forming our RVs (three at that point) in a "U" shape with room to put our equipment trailers/portable repeater in the center (to discourage theft of generators and spare gas) and close off the "U" with our tow vehicles at night.

Sometime during the day, Red Cross changed their plans and relocated the food supply operation to Baton Rouge – but neglected to notify us – so what had promised to be a valuable support mission turned out to be a 24-hour wild goose chase instead.

On our trip down to the Gulf, we were being passed on the highway by cellular "COWS" (Cellular On Wheels). These are complete portable generator-powered cellular systems that are loaded on flatbed trucks, transported, dropped and set up wherever needed. There is a fierce battle between cellular providers to be the FIRST cellular system back up after a disaster – the winner of that battle has bragging rights that greatly increase their corporate market share and profits. In this event, cellular started coming solidly back on line about the time we arrived – roughly two weeks after landfall. With the fierce competition, this cellular recovery time will certainly decrease as cell providers improve their disaster response capabilities.

One of the biggest lessons learned is that the role and scope of amateur radio emergency communications is changing dramatically as a result of improvements in the cellular industry. Amateur radio must focus on providing communications from the immediate outset until cellular takes over – that was roughly 14 days in this event, and – with advances in cellular disaster preparedness – that number is bound to come down.

I expect, within the next few years, to see "Flying COWs" – portable cellular sites brought in by cargo aircraft and positioned atop buildings and other tall areas by heavy helicopters. This will further reduce the timeframe for amateur operations – perhaps to as little as a few days, or a week.

Amateur radio response was way behind the power curve in Katrina, Rita – and now Hurricane Wilma. When Katrina was approaching the Gulf coast, I sent an inquiry to the DRT membership asking who would be interested and willing to go. We had six members sign up. That information was given to our ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan (KØRM) who relayed our offer to the League. I recommended pre-staging our DRT resources in Little Rock, Arkansas so we would be ready to deploy into the affected area immediately after landfall. Instead – following the ARRL directives – we waited on the process for nearly two weeks before we received ANY deployment request. This is entirely TOO LATE!

Hurricanes are unique as disasters go – because we can see them coming for many days in advance. All disaster response agencies (except amateur radio) use that time to activate and mobilize their resources, identify areas of potential need and pre-stage their resources. It is IMPERATIVE that Amateur radio do the EXACT same thing – the League must develop and administer a program to identify, evaluate, certify and credential amateur radio emergency responders (both individuals and teams) and categorize them based on their training, experience, equipment and capability. We must then have a system to contact these ham responders (or have them contact the League) so they can be pre-staged and ready to deploy immediately when disaster strikes. We can't wait until after a disaster to start this process. Amateur radio emergency response must be proactive not reactive. This is CRITICAL to the future of amateur radio and needs to be a top priority of the ARRL.

Another lesson learned was the value of GPS guided computer navigation. Often we were given only a location name and/or street address where we needed to report. We had to calculate our route and figure out how to get there. What we forget is – in a major disaster – the highway, informational and street signs are no longer there – in fact – often the posts, signal lights or power poles that once held the signs are no longer there (well, not upright, anyway!). Our navigator, Tom

Dawson (KCØNRZ) led us directly where we needed to go – time after time – coordinating our caravan navigation on 446.150 simplex.

In addition, while I had been using Pactor I for Winlink E-mail via HF radio to send/receive E-mail in the field, we were able to get our new SCS PTCII-Pro TNCs operational and use the infinitely faster Pactor III language. This served us well for coordinating back to Red Cross HQ, some messaging, and keeping Colorado Section officials and our families updated on our situation and status. Digital is the future of amateur radio emergency communications and the DRT has its own Digital Development Group exploring these emerging technologies, documenting and sharing the results with our members and other ARES/RACES groups.

In addition, with Tom’s help, we further developed our computer wireless network so agency personnel with wireless-capable computers can use their normal E-Mail client (like Outlook Express) to create messages on their own computers and upload them to the “Transit” folder in my Airmail software on my HF digital station. Those E-mail messages then are automatically transferred and delivered the next time I connect to a HF Winlink PMBO station. This means that several agency personnel can simultaneously generate their own E-mail messages (and even include attachments!) and upload them via conventional computer wireless to our HF digital station for transmission.

The many lessons learned by the DRT are far to numerous to detail here, however, these lessons will be documented and incorporated back into Colorado ARES/RACES training and be used to help our local emergency communication groups be better equipped and prepared for future emergency operations here in Colorado – or wherever we might be needed.

Again, my sincerest thanks to the PPRAA membership for your help and generous support of this very important learning experience. 73

Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.			
P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521			
Date: _____	New Member	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? <input type="checkbox"/>			Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/>			Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/>			Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Donation to Club: \$ _____
			Total Enclosed: _____
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO “PPRAA”			
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 <input type="checkbox"/> HF / <input type="checkbox"/> V/UHF / <input type="checkbox"/> FM / <input type="checkbox"/> SSB / <input type="checkbox"/> Digital / <input type="checkbox"/> DX / <input type="checkbox"/> Contests / <input type="checkbox"/> Technical / <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware / <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer.			
Please Type or Print Clearly!			

ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS WILL BE PRORATED TO EXPIRE IN DECEMBER!!

Change to the Bylaws

Since the club switched to having membership years coincide with calendar years, there are not a lot of changes in the membership throughout the year. This minimizes the need for two postings of the membership roster in Ø-Beat each year. At the November meeting, the editor will make a motion that we strike from the bylaws the language requiring that a roster be published in Ø-Beat twice each year. Please consider your vote on this small change to the bylaws.

Thanks & 73.

Dennis

NØABC

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA

First Class Mail

To:

Addendum to November 2005 Zero Beat

President's Message

I am very honored to have been elected to serve as your club president for the next twelve months. Rick KØSU was a fine president to work with over the past year during my term as vice president, and I shall continue to value his advice regarding the club. I am looking forward to an exciting year with the club and productive sessions with the new board.

The activities of our club are guided by the board members and coordinated by several committees, as you can see listed elsewhere in the Ø-Beat. Take a look at that list, and consider becoming involved with one (or more!) of those committees. Wondering what is involved with one of the committees? Come to the next club meeting and meet the committee chairs themselves! I'm sure they'd all be glad to hear from other club members and would welcome your participation in their committee. Note also that we have a few committees that have no participation right now. Please get in touch with a board member if you would like to participate in one of those.

As the calendar year comes to a close soon, it is once again time to renew your club membership. Please take the time to do so using the form that is printed in this issue of the Ø-Beat. Take some time to tell us your interests and areas that you might like to participate as indicated on the form. This is your club after all, so your communication with the club leadership is important to ensure the PPRAA meets your ham radio club needs. Your input is greatly appreciated. Save yourself a stamp and bring the form and your check to the November meeting or December holiday party!

At the next board meeting on November 14th, the annual review of the club bylaws will take place. Now is your chance to dust off your copy (or download a copy from the club website, it's in the manual) and see if there is anything that needs revision. Please feel free to attend the board meeting and bring your bylaw concerns to the board. Contact a board member for the location of the board meeting; it is also announced at the regular club meetings.

On the horizon for the club is the annual holiday party on the evening of December 9th. This will be a group effort once again - watch for an announcement from Su KCØPRN regarding what food item to bring. Get your ovens warmed up!

Of course, it's almost never too early to start planning for the annual Megafest. Watch for an announcement from our swapfest chair Rick KØSU regarding the first planning meeting. Please consider volunteering to help out with this always exciting event. There are many different areas to participate in, from table reservations to publicity. Contact Rick for more information and to volunteer.

Our January club meeting will feature your fellow club members and their own ham radio creations - it will be home brew night once again! This is always a fun and informative program and a great way to learn about many aspects of the hobby. Why don't you take a look through your shack and see if there is something you've made that would be fun to share with the club? It can be anything related to ham radio, from the simple operating aid on up to a DC to daylight transceiver!

I look forward to seeing each of you at club meetings and functions during my term and helping to

make the PPRAA the best club it can be! Please feel free to contact me with your comments regarding the club via my info listed in the Ø-Beat.

73,
Christopher NC6T

CCRI Xmas Party

Just to let everyone know, the Colorado Connection is having its annual Christmas dinner again this year. EVERYONE IS INVITED!!! We hope to see many new and old faces at the Country Buffet near C-470 and Quebec.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We will meet on Thursday night, December 8th, at 5:30 PM or any time after. We will also do our traditional gift exchange if you wish to participate. The exchange is more fun than what you get; the first person selects a gift and opens it, the second person can either take the first gift or get another gift and it goes on until all gifts are taken. Remember to keep the cost under \$5.00.

Country Buffet
7475 Park Meadows Dr.

Take C-470 to Quebec and go South one light to Park Meadows Dr. Pep Boys will be on your left. Turn left (east) on Park Meadows and turn left again (north) at the first turn in. The Country Buffet will be on your right.

Bill Jacobson, Colorado Connection

Please address questions or comments to kb0vjj@colcon.org.

Wes Wilson's article on the DRT deployment also contained many pictures, which obviously would not fit in the ZB. I will ask the webmaster, Doug N7LEM, to post the article, with pictures, on the website.