



Volume 56, Number 2

March 2006

## President's Corner

NC6T

I admit my curiosity was piqued a few weeks ago around the time of the "launch" of SuitSat from the International Space Station. To be more accurate, I would call SuitSat's start as an independent satellite more of a jettison than a launch, since it was tossed from the space station by a cosmonaut and not launched from Earth into orbit.

It was fun to check the SuitSat web site (<http://www.SuitSat.org>) for reports of signals received from all over the world. I became familiar with NASA's Java-based satellite pass prediction software J-Pass 2.5 at <http://science.nasa.gov/realtime/Jpass/25/JPass.asp> in order to find times when I might be able to copy SuitSat here in Colorado. The fact that SuitSat's signal did not end up being as strong as it was supposed to be was certainly no deterrent to myself and hams worldwide – in fact I think it caused more to rise to the challenge of copying weak signals from space.

So how did I do? I found a morning pass that wasn't too early for me using J-Pass and got my equipment together. The best antenna I had for this task was my trusty 2 meter 5-element Yagi that was modified from a Radio Shack TV antenna thanks to guidance from a *QST* article. It is lightweight and portable – since I didn't have it mounted to a mast. Next I grabbed some coax and my Yaesu VX-7 handheld and programmed it for the SuitSat frequency including some adjoining frequencies to allow for Doppler shift. If I were to copy SuitSat, I would of course want some proof, so I charged up my camcorder's battery and found a fresh tape for the event.

After I managed to get out of bed a little early on the morning of SuitSat's pass, I bundled up and took all of my gear out to the front yard where I would have a fairly obstruction-free view of the pass. I opened the squelch on my handheld, and set

it down next to the camcorder's microphone and set the camcorder recording. I checked my watch and aimed the Yagi toward where I estimated SuitSat should be. The pass lasted just about ten minutes, so I tried to point the beam along the pass track in synch with the time.

I got real used to hearing the sound of static but I kept the Yagi pointed skyward undeterred. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity of pure static, I could pick out the distinct sounds of a slow scan TV transmission! It was really in the noise, but it was there! I caught a few bursts, and carefully altered my antenna position to try to improve the signal. SuitSat was almost directly overhead, thereby at its closest distance to me. My attempts to catch the signal again during the pass were not successful, but I was elated anyway!

I later transferred my recording to my PC in hopes that I could decode a bit of the SSTV signal but I was unable to. I did have the pleasure of submitting my reception report, however brief, to the SuitSat web site. It was fun to be a part of this experiment, and it has sparked my interest in seeing what I can accomplish on some of the other ham satellites with the equipment I have today.

What amateur radio activities have inspired you lately? What aspect of the hobby really gets you excited? Why not share your experiences with the club by writing about it for the Ø-Beat? I'm sure there are others out there who would be interested in your experiences!

73,  
Christopher NC6T

## Board of Directors

Pres.	Christopher Taylor NC6T*	<a href="mailto:nc6t@arrrl.net">nc6t@arrrl.net</a> 260-8081
VP	Mike Allison KØMLA	<a href="mailto:k0mla@arrrl.net">k0mla@arrrl.net</a> 590-4812
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Dir./PP	Rick Brown KØSU* <a href="mailto:k0su@adelphia.net">k0su@adelphia.net</a>	531-9423
Dir.	Mike Anderson WV7T*	<a href="mailto:wv7t@arrrl.net">wv7t@arrrl.net</a> 229-8610
Dir.	Suisei Goguen KCØPRN -	<a href="mailto:cobweb@divide.net">cobweb@divide.net</a> 481-8684
Dir.	Paul Moraine NØPWM -	<a href="mailto:pmoraine@msn.com">pmoraine@msn.com</a> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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. Mark your calendars:

**Apr. 8 -- June 10 -- Aug. Oct. 14 -- Dec. 9**

## PPRAA Simplex Net

Don't forget about the PPRAA Simplex Net on Thursday nights at 7 PM! Net control duties are rotating among club members--now is your chance to volunteer to be a net control! 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.

## 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	<a href="mailto:k0ter@arrrl.net">k0ter@arrrl.net</a>
E-Mail Refl.	John Wishart KCØJFH	<a href="mailto:kc0jfh@arrrl.net">kc0jfh@arrrl.net</a> 481-2439
Field Day	Dan Scott KBØPPM	<a href="mailto:kb0ppm@arrrl.net">kb0ppm@arrrl.net</a>
Swapfest	Rick Brown KØSU	<a href="mailto:k0su@adelphia.net">k0su@adelphia.net</a> 531-9423
Historian	Ron Deutsch NKØP	<a href="mailto:nk0p@adelphia.net">nk0p@adelphia.net</a>
Interference	Bill Petty NØNJX	
Membership	Les Borst KCØNC	<a href="mailto:kc0nc@falconbroadband.net">kc0nc@falconbroadband.net</a>
Programs	Mike Allison KØMLA	<a href="mailto:k0mla@arrrl.net">k0mla@arrrl.net</a> 590-4812
Publicity	Christopher Taylor NC6T	<a href="mailto:nc6t@arrrl.net">nc6t@arrrl.net</a> 260-8081
Public Service	Mike Stansberry KØTER	<a href="mailto:k0ter@arrrl.net">k0ter@arrrl.net</a>
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HamCon Chairman	Jerry VerDuft ADØA	<a href="mailto:verduft8066@msn.com">verduft8066@msn.com</a>
RACES Officer	Doc Cornell WØMCT	<a href="mailto:w0mct@aol.com">w0mct@aol.com</a>

## 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!

## Deadline for Ø-Beat Articles

The deadline for the April 2006 Ø-Beat is March 25th. Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person. Please feel free to submit an article, joke, or news – we're always looking for fresh content!

## **PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes**

### **PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes 13 February 2006**

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: Christopher NC6T, Jim ABØUK, John KCØJFH, Jim ABØUK, Paul NØPWM, Mike KØMLA, Rick KØSU, Jackie ACØCA.

Treasurer's Report: Jim ABØUK reported that our total (3 accounts) balance was \$5940.75 as of 12 Feb 2006.

Programs: Mike KØMLA outlined upcoming programs:

March – Electrical Safety Demo  
April – Practical Foxhunting  
May – open  
June – Field Day Prep  
July – September – Open

Ø Beat: Jackie will resume publication of the Ø Beat with the March issue. Deadline to submit articles for publication is 25 February 2006. Jackie's e-mail is ACØCA@arrl.net.

Annual Equipment Inventory: this is still pending with Rick and Mike. The intent is to offer excess items to our club members. After that the excess will be put for sale at the Megafest.

Hamcon 2006: Rick reported that we will have a club table at Hamcon for our Megafest ticket sales and club publicity/advertisement. Rick/Mike moved/seconded that the club spend up to \$150 for a prize (e.g., a 2M HT) to be donated to Hamcon 2006 as a door prize. Passed.

Club Banner: Jim talked with Pat concerning the quotes for the banner. A 10'x3' white nylon banner is \$225, a 5'x2' one is \$82.50. We need a table-sized one (5'x2') with our club name and logo. Rick/Paul moved/seconded that we buy a 6'x2' banner imprinted with our club logo and club name (in club colors, if possible, gold background with brown lettering). Passed.

Bylaws Review

No further changes were suggested.

New Business:

Projector Loan Policy: Chris has drafted a projector loan policy. This was reviewed by the board and the suggestions were noted. Chris will revise the draft and we will review the updated proposal.

Web Site Host: Doug surveyed several web site hosting companies. His recommendation is Godaddy.com. Mike/Paul moved/seconded to move the club website to Godaddy.com for at least three years at a cost not to exceed \$150. Passed. Doug will handle this.

Tech Class Status: Frank has not yet secured a location for this class.

Roundtable Comments:

Rick: Megafest meeting will be 25 February 2006, 9AM at The Remodeler.

Mike: Susan has generated a letter to assist in soliciting door prizes for the Megafest. He handed out copies of this. Mike proposed a public service event at the Pioneers Museum to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of Pikes Peak by Zebulon Pike. This would be held on Saturday, July 15, 2006. This suggestion met with a favorable response.

Jim: SuitSat is overhead tonight at 11:39 PM on 145.990 MHz.

Jackie: Jake Jacobs, recently SK. Would like information about Jake. We suggested that she check with Doc Cornell WØMCT.

The next PPRAA board meeting is Monday, March 13, 7 PM, at The Remodeler, 3205 N. Hancock.

Christopher adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

**Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH,  
Secretary.**

**Date: 25 January 2006**

## El Paso County RACES Activities



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

RACES meeting this month will be on 3/16/06 at 7PM, our problem is this is our annual

Weather Training with personnel coming up from Pueblo and we are not sure of the location as yet. Paul NØPWM will have the info when we know, at least he will be able to announce on nets and the PPRAA meeting.

All the best for 2006, 73 Doc

## Official/Unofficial Repeater Class

The Rocky Mountain High ARC would like all amateurs to know that on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at 10 AM we will be hosting a repeater *class*. We will host several of the local repeater gurus--the men with the plan. The HAMs know that all can fix all and can do all with repeaters. We have a 2-meter (VHF) repeater we acquired and have just received our assigned frequencies from the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs, more commonly known as CCARC. We have already ordered and received our crystals and are now ready to bring the repeater up and on the air. We have our antenna and the repeater will be an open repeater, meaning anyone can use it.

If you have ever wondered what a repeater looks like on the inside, or if you have questions about repeaters: COME ONE, COME ALL. The repeater Techs will bring the expensive personal equipment they use to check out repeaters, make sure they operate on frequency and are properly tuned. So, all

you HAMs who have been around for a while and are curious, HAMs who use repeaters daily but have no idea what they look like, inside or out, or newbie HAMs who are still learning how to operate, COME ONE, COME ALL.

We also have a fully operational 70-centimeter UHF repeater (closed) we can show you. This repeater has been fully operational for a full year now and has good coverage of Colorado Springs. We are at 126 Lawrence Ave., but we will be located in the rear of WØRSH Bob Hatch's garage. At the back of the house there is a driveway into a large parking lot located between a large glass building on the corner of Parkside and Bijou. If you come in from the east on Pikes Peak, turn left, northbound, onto Parkside. At the stop sign at Parkside and Bijou, turn right, eastbound, and then immediately turn right into the driveway behind the big building on the right. Talk in freq will be 146.520 simplex, and, yes, there will be coffee and donuts.

Please RSVP to WØRSH@arrl.net or bobhatch@hotmail.com, or call Bob at 719-632-9435. You can also Email me at either NØMUD@arrl.net or NØMUD@aol.com. The garage is home to Bob's Electronics, open Mon-Fri 9A-4P. We ask you RSVP so we will know how many chairs and donuts and how much coffee to have available, but if you forget and show up, we won't turn you away.

Bob has been a repair technician for 25+ years and repairs and tunes Ham and CB radios. RMH ARC has been in existence for just over a year and has 7 members, 2 repeaters, and meets unofficially in Bob's garage. He is the unofficial HAM radio programmer, so if you have a problem programming freqs let me know or bring it in any afternoon from 1P-4P. Club patches and QSL cards are in the works. The club call sign is W9USN and the repeater is programmed for our call sign. COME ONE, COME ALL.

Thanks and 73s

Mike Dassero, NØMUD, President

Bob Hatch, WØRSH, Vice President



## **HAM Bone**

*As the season of hamfests gets under way this year, it is helpful to learn the language. Here is what vendors are really saying.*

### ***What is flea speak?***

Flea speak is the jargon of second-hand vendors at a ham radio festival. Often flea speak has two meanings. Here is lesson 1:

### ***Flea speak with English translation:***

**This rig puts out a BIG signal** - It's 50 kHz wide.

**This is a really good CW rig** - It doesn't work on SSB.

**This is a really good SSB rig** - It doesn't work on CW.

**This is a really good rig** - It doesn't work on CW or SSB.

**The transmitter is outstanding** - It doesn't receive.

**The receiver is really hot** - It doesn't transmit.

**This rig is really hot** - It's stolen.

**It seems to be a vintage regenerative type** - It oscillates.

**I just re-tubed it** - Got 'em from questionable used tube stock.

**I just aligned it** - The slugs on the transformers are jammed.

**I don't know if it works** - It doesn't work, probably never has.

**It doesn't chirp** - It doesn't chirp because it doesn't transmit.

**The audio sounds great** - The 100 / 120Hz buzz is faithfully reproduced.

**I just had it serviced** - I sprayed WD-40 over all the wiring.

**Better buy it now, cause it won't last** - No translation needed here.

**Better buy it now, cause it won't last** - No translation needed here.

**Sure, it works at full power** - It sucks all it can from the wall outlet.

**This rig has wide frequency coverage** - It drifts up and down and out of band.

**Frequency stability is great** - The VFO doesn't work - you'll have to use crystals.

**Real popular rig in its day** - There were whole HF nets on the repair and maintenance problems.

**QST gave this one a really great review** - The language broke new ground for profanity.

**It might need a bit of tweaking** - Marconi himself couldn't fix it, much less align it.

**It was used in government service** - It was stored outdoors on a wooden pallet.

**The dial drive may need lubricating** - The gears are stripped and the set screw's frozen.

**I plugged it in to check that it lights up** - The light came from the two foot high flames.

**I'm selling it because I have two of them** - I'm getting rid of my parts radio.

**You won't find one at a 'better' price** - 'Better' defined as solely from the point of view of the seller.

**This is a collector's item** - The manufacturer just went belly up and won't honor the warranty.

**It came from an estate sale** - If you have any problem take it up with the original owner.

**I had it on the air just last night** - And you thought the woodpecker was gone?.



### ***Lesson 2 in April 2006 issue***

## **Upcoming Amateur Radio Events**

**1 APR 2006**

**LarcFest**

Longmont Amateur Radio Club

[www.larclub.org/Larcfestposter2006.jpg](http://www.larclub.org/Larcfestposter2006.jpg)

Talk-in: 147.27 (PL 100) & 147.52

Contact: Ray Warren W9LQM

2445 Mapleton Circle Longmont CO 80503

Email: [mail@larclub.org](mailto:mail@larclub.org)

Longmont CO

Boulder County Fairgrounds

9595 Nelson Road

Div: Rocky Mountain

Sect: Colorado

## An 80 Meter Walk in the Woods

Paul WØRW

**It was a dark** and freezing night...+30F in Beak Creek Park...Colorado Springs. The '80 Meter Band' is new to me even though I populated it heavily in 1953 with my old 3739 kHz crystal in a 6L6 rig.

The 80 meter Fox Hunts had just been announced and I was wondering if I could participate as a hound using my back pack rig. (These are CW operating events not Hidden Transmitter Hunts). I wanted to run a few 80 Meter propagation tests operating on 3559.0 kHz.

I was using a 10 foot whip with a top hat and running 50W. A 10 foot whip is about -18 dB down so my ERP was QRP (<1W). The short whip makes my receiver less effective too.

I was able to run this test 2 nights (11/17/05 and 11/29/05), just before the fox hunt on 11/30/05.

Right after I hit the trail this dog came up from behind me followed by a runner. I almost tripped the runner because he didn't see my counterpoise wire in the dark and I didn't hear him with my earphones on. I was able to make contacts from Coast to Coast. Slow QSB, but good copy on all.

Looks like the 80 meter fox hunts are well with in the capabilities of a Pedestrian Mobile station with a 10 foot whip. I was using my PRC319 at 50W. (You can see more info on the PRC319 in the PRC319 Yahooogroup.) I was out for about 90 Minutes on 11/17/05 using my camo Whiterook bug without gloves and my fingers got so cold I could not send anymore.



Paul WØRW with his portable rig

**I went out again**, walking in the park on 11/29/05, but QRS tonight with my gloves on using a hand key. The 0200z temperatures were colder, below 20F. I had some RF flash over at my antenna holder but my XYL (Sharon) saw the RF arcing. She wedged some cardboard in between the antenna base and the rig and got it going again. Here is my contact list for both days:

Cont'd

W0AV George, MO, usually my first contact.  
N9NE Todd WI  
KA5S Courtland, Santa Rosa CA  
W5FOA Tony GA  
K4BAI John GA  
AK5X John TX  
K5PSH Jerry TX  
K2ZN AL NY  
WA8REI Ken MI  
WA5ZNU Leigh TX  
N0EVH Jim MO

WA5ZNU Leigh TX 5nn  
K7TQ Randy ID  
K0SU Rick in COS across town 59+  
W0CH Dave MO  
WA8ZBT Dennis TX  
K5OI TIM NM  
AA5CK Ted OK  
W6JRY Jerry CA  
VA6RF Earl  
N3BJ Alan VA

My XYL (Sharon - NØOPM) did the all the logging for me. Would your XYL go for a walk in the 'Bear' park in the dark when it was 16F to do your logging for you? I have a GREAT One! The 0300z temperatures was 16F, no snow and it was clear and cold.

Then the night of the first fox hunt finally came around...11/30/05. Success ! I was able to work both foxes. The Papa Fox (Doc K0EVZ) in NM was strong and easy to work. There was a little SSB QRM on Chris VA3NR, but I got him after he moved out of the QRM.

If you want to work the 80 Meter Fox(s) on Tuesday night here is more info available on the official QRP Fox Hunt Home Page 'QFOX' at [www.qrpfoxhunt.org](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org). There is also a 40 meter Fox Hunt on Thursday nights. Operating the winter fox hunt outside with a back pack radio walking in the park is an FYBO (Freeze Your Boots Off) operation. If you are out in the park at night and hear Morse code, watch out for the drag wire.

## **PPRAA Club Meeting Minutes**

**8 Feb 2006**

President Christopher Taylor NC6T 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 KCØMIR/Moe WBØRTF moved/seconded that the minutes be approved with a correction. Doc had noted that the address of the OEM was 101 W. Costilla, not W. Cucharras. Passed. Treasurer's Report – Jim ABØUK reported \$6455.95 deposited in our three accounts as of 2/5/2006. Committee Reports Reflector – John KCØJFH – currently standing at 154 individuals on the reflector membership list. Field Day – Dan KBØPPM indicated a need to make the reservation at Sourdough Valley. He is looking for an Agilent

or HP employee or retiree to make the reservation. He would also like to have an NVIS antenna set up at Field Day. Swapfest – Rick KØSU reminded us that the next planning meeting will be Saturday, 25 February 2006 at 9 AM at The Remodeler, 3205 North Hancock. John KCØJFH will forward the reservation form and a check to LPHS to secure the July 8 date for the swapfest. We will be using the commons area and adjoining hall, due to refinishing of the gym. Programs – Mike KØMLA March – Electrical safety demo April – Practical fox hunting May – TBD June – Field Day Prep July – TBD Publicity – Christopher NC6T noted that the Megafest flyer is now available for distribution. Tech Ed – Mike WV7T recognized Jim ABØUK for assisting in the teaching of the Tech licensing class and Marshall and Rob N7LV for their assistance with the General licensing class.

**Cont'd**



VEC – It was noted that there will be a VE exam session this coming Saturday at Colorado Tech (2nd Saturday of even months).

Webmaster – Doug N7LEM has updated our website calendar page and request that we submit upcoming events for inclusion on the calendar. AMSAT – Tom NØNTX announced the recent launch of SuitSat (A0-54), broadcasting on 145.99 MHz. Listen on this frequency for the next couple of weeks. ARES – Wes KØHBZ stated that a planning meeting was held recently in preparation for an exercise to be held this spring. Also Skywarn training will be coming up soon. CCARC – Dan KBØPPM will be attending the upcoming meeting. Hamcon 2006 – Jerry AD0A requested club members make their reservations for Hamcon now to get the early bird rates. This can now be done online at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org/online-registration.htm>. RACES – Doc WØMCT said the next RACES meeting will be next Thursday evening at 7 PM. New Business JOTA – Dan KBØPPM announced that the next JOTA event will be October 20-22 at Pleasant Valley Scout Camp. OTC Special Event Station - Wes KØHBZ gave details of a ham radio special event to be held Saturday, Feb 11, 9AM-4PM at the Olympic Training Center. He requested that club members attend to operate the station. Pikes Peak Hill Climb – Pat KCØMIR announced the PPHC will be held on Saturday, July 1. This eliminates the conflict with our Field Day. After the break and door prize drawings, Wes KØHBZ gave the program on the experiences of the DRT Hurricane Recovery Support effort. The Hammy award was postponed until next meeting. Next meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 PM, El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, 305 S. Union Blvd., CS, CO. Board Meeting: Monday night following the club meeting at 7 PM at The Remodeler on N. Hancock, N of Fillmore. The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

**Submitted by John Wishart KCØJFH,  
Secretary. Date: 25 February 2006**

## Pikes Peak ARES El Paso County



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

In an attempt to get the digital operations back on track Jim, KC0PAZ, is going to host the PPARES digital net on Thursday evenings. The purpose is to get operators memories refreshed on how to send to a mail box, use a digipeater or a node and send bulletins. Very basic without giving a Packet 101 class again. Then, when the advanced packet training takes place, including ICS messages formatting and reply, we will not have to start, once again, from ground zero. Stay tuned to the PPARES Tuesday Night Net for further details.

Jim has also assumed the duties of Resource Manager for PPARES along with Al Glock, KC0PRM, as a very talented assistant. They have a mighty big pair of boots to fill with the programs and attention to detail that Doug Paris, N4TGO, is going to leave on his departure from the area in the future. Doug has been a very dedicated and highly professional individual in all his contributions to the ARES family. With Jim and Al picking up the reins of this extremely important function perhaps Doug will have a little time to spend in the field to see what he has been missing.

Do you know of any upcoming events or activities that ARES will be a participant or interested district? Contact Tom, KC0NRZ@arrl.net with your input and let's get the PPARES website calendar a reality instead of a "stay tuned" page.

73,

**Dean KA0PII  
EC PARES D-14.**



## Hamcon 2006 -- ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

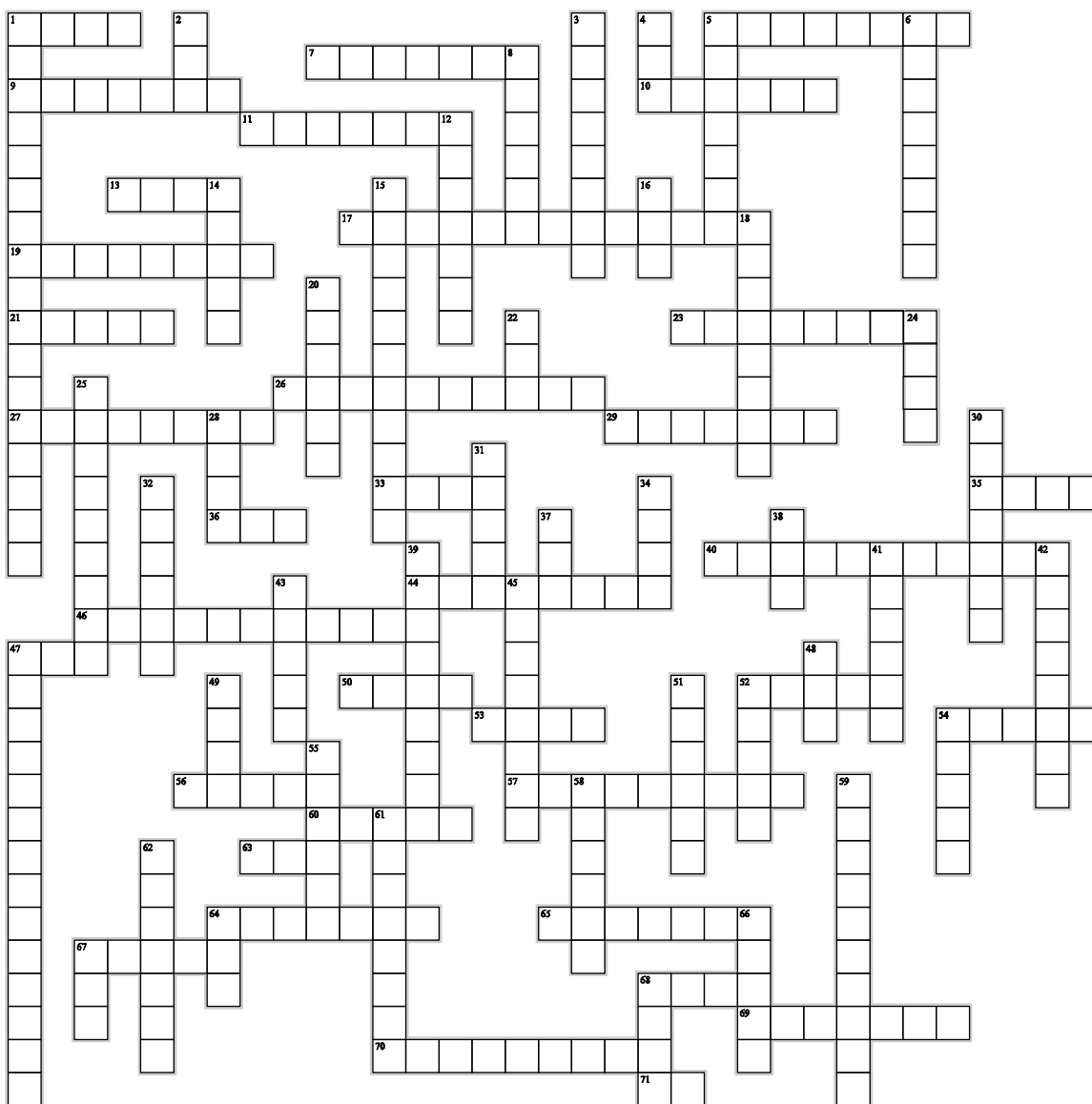
June 9-11, 2006 Estes Park, Colorado  
[www.hamconcolorado.org](http://www.hamconcolorado.org)

*Have fun, learn cool stuff about the convention and other things, and maybe win a prize!!!*

Visit [www.hamconcolorado.org](http://www.hamconcolorado.org) for the clues, do your best, then turn in your completed crossword puzzle to the registration desk at the convention no later than Saturday, June 10, 2006 at Noon. All turned-in crossword puzzles will be eligible for a **special prize drawing** beginning on Sunday, June 11 at Noon. Winner must be present to win! Email Steve Williams, [k0srw@arrl.net](mailto:k0srw@arrl.net) with any questions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



Created with SolipsCrossword - [www.solips crossword.com](http://www.solips crossword.com)

**In Other Words****ACØCA**

This year the FCC will make a final decision on whether or not to take Morse Code out of the licensing requirements for amateur radio. At every VE examination session when a candidate is asked if they want to take code someone says if they wait the code requirement will be dropped -- and the discussion begins. Some long time licensed operators reminisce about learning code and working to get their speed up to pass the next required element for the next higher grade license. Newer hams, those who still haven't passed code after several tries, say they'll wait because they're sure the requirement will be dropped. Everyone has a strongly held viewpoint, but that is one of the best things about amateur radio.

Despite comments about amateur radio being an "embarrassing hobby" or that amateurs make no actual contributions in times of disaster, and even though turn-of-the-century-clad telegraphers proved that Morse code is still faster and more efficient than text messaging (we all knew that one) on Jay Leno, amateur radio remains and will always be innovative and exciting. All you have to do is look where we started and what is just over the horizon to know the future is bright. We might lose the code requirement, but I doubt code will ever go away, nor will we ever lose the enthusiasm and genuine abilities and innovations that amateur radio operators have always shown. As much as things change, there is always someone somewhere who will keep the flame of the past burning -- or the dits and dahs flashing out.

As my first year with PPRAA year begins, at the top of my list is giving my time, my energy, my vision and myself to learning more about amateur

radio and the people who make it the most fascinating and valuable hobby (or avocation) around.

To that end, you will see gradual changes in the newsletter in content and style. As I meet and get to know the officers of the board and the membership of PPRAA, as well as hams in Colorado and around the country (and, hopefully, the world), I will share them with you. For me, it isn't enough to know there are amateur radio operators out there. I want to know why they became hams, how they became hams, and what they do or do not do with their radios -- what makes you all unique and interesting. Ø-Beat is your newsletter and your voice should -- and will be -- heard.

If you have something to say, here is the place to say it. Ask questions and see what other members have to say. Write an article about your experiences or your trials and tribulations with antennas (my personal favorite), rigs, ham shacks, finding time to be alone with your rig, or even why you operate a certain way. You provide the pictures and the words and I'll provide the polish until your words shine. Propose a project. Tell me what you like to read, what interests you or bugs you. This is the forum where you will be heard. Everyone has a story to tell and they are all worth knowing. What's yours?

Here's to getting to know each other better.

73 -- As always...

Jackie M. Cornwell

ACØCA

Ø-Beat Editor

**Email articles, article suggestions, jokes, queries, and letters to the editor to ACØCA@arri.net**

**Jess Miley****KØTAA**

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 Amateur & Hobby Radio Products. We Trade.  
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## 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 available at [www.qsl.net/ppraa/membership.html](http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/membership.html).

<b>Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.</b>					
<b>P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521</b>					
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	In which activities would you like to participate?		
Name: _____			Field Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address: _____			Demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			Nets or round tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____			Organize activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____			Teach ham classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:			Full Member	\$15:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			Family Membership	\$18:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			Over 65	\$10:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			Over 65 Family	\$12:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			Associate	\$12:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			<i>Ø-Beat Only</i>	\$12:	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			Donation to Club:	\$_____	
			Total Enclosed:	_____	
<b><u>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"</u></b>					
<b>Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail		
(Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked)			<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 / 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.					
<b>Please Type or Print Clearly!</b>					

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

**First Class Mail**

**To:**