



VOLUME 56 ISSUE 10

November 2006

ARRL/NWS Skywarn Recognition Day, December 1-2

All amateur radio operators are invited and encouraged to participate in the eighth annual **NWS Skywarn Recognition Day** special event being hosted by the **NWS Pueblo Skywarn Group** at the NWS Pueblo Forecast Office starting at 17:00 (5 pm) MST on Friday, December 1st and running 24-hours continuous through 17:00 on Saturday, December 2nd. 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 is a nationwide special event co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the ARRL that has been growing rapidly in popularity and participation since its inception eight 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 100 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 E-mail k0hbx@arrl.net if you have any questions.

The NWS Pueblo Skywarn Group 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 provide the coffee)! Talk-in will be on the 146.835- (114.8 Hz tone) portable repeater. If you have an ARES or RACES ID

card or a Callsign/Name badge, please remember to bring it and wear it.

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.

Last year, WXØPUB ranked 13th of the 88 NWS stations that submitted logs, making 428 contacts in 46 states and worked 57 other NWS forecast offices during the 24-hour period.

Because setup must be accomplished very quickly/efficiently on Friday, we have a dedicated and experienced group of volunteers who do this. 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 17:00 on Saturday evening.

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

NONPROFIT STATUS

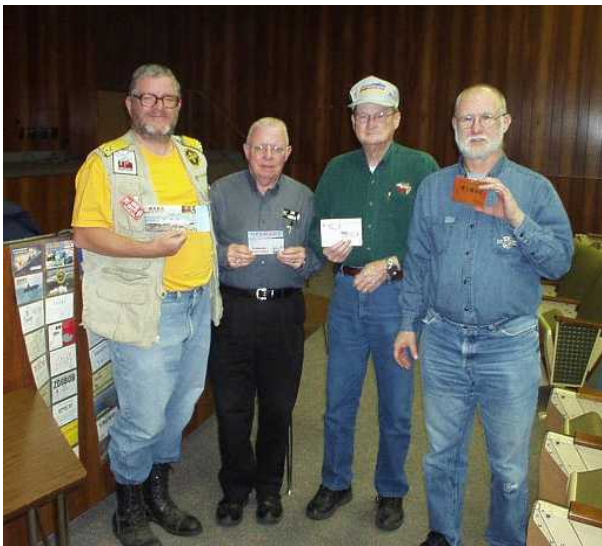
The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

And the winner is...

Tom McDaniels NØNTX received the Hammy for his work with satellite communications.



QSL cards were the talk of the last meeting and members shared something old, something new, and a few that were unusual.



Mike Anderson WV7T; Jim Harris ABØUK; Doc Cornell WØMCT and Bill Pierce, KDØJU.

Mike WV7T had a card from the HMS Queen Mary and Jim ABØUK shared a home printed card from an amateur on Turk Island with the QSL information on a label on the back. Doc WØMCT displayed a card he received in the 1960s from an Air Force radar station 120 miles off the east coast of the U.S. Bill Pierce KDØJU showed a card printed on a piece of wood and mailed to him from the days when postage stamps were six cents circa 1960.

Next month our fun activity is going to be telegraph keys. Included are manual keys, iambic paddles and any other mechanical device that can be used to generate CW. Sorry no electronic keyers this time.



Saturday, October 21, 2006, Ralph Rohrig KIØNK and Daver Kurth NØUVR braved the cold and inclement weather to chase the fox. The hunt was intended to be rather simple but ended up in a location that caused deceptive location information at the starting point. Further, its location precluded access from many directions. Considering the chilly and snow showery weather and the location problems, the hunt went very well. Dave squeezed in slightly ahead of Ralph to win Foxy and has the honor of setting up the next hunt. Congratulations to both for a job well done under adverse conditions.

WELCOME MAT

Welcome to the following new hams:

Lynn Twohig	KCØYQF
Barry Mahony	KCØYQG
Christopher Daino	KCØYQH
Frank Vinnerlid	KCØYQI

JOTA REPORT

The basic planning for Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) started about a year ago, with the scouts asking if we wanted to do a repeat of the camporee/JOTA from 2004. Sounded like fun, last JOTA camporee we had great weather, really good EOSS launch, helicopter recovery, and a



load of fun activities besides the amateur radio activities.

That was last time...

Planning and preparation for the camporee/JOTA really started at the conclusion of the Spring Camporee. This is when the Senior Patrol Leader and his staff are selected. These scouts are key to ideas and the direction of the camporee. They dove-tailed their ideas into the JOTA theme, and added some outdoor activities such as Climbing, Repelling, Orienteering, and Geocaching to name a few.

The idea behind the Amateur Radio public display was to highlight the various styles of communications Amateur Radio operators use. The communications types I felt we do, plus science/education are:

- ✚ Emergency Service
- ✚ Friendly communications
- ✚ Contesting
- ✚ Scientific applications to amateur radio.

Jim W9KOZ suggested the FRS radio scavenger hunt game be based off a directed net. After explaining what a directed net was, the purpose of the net, and the ability to move a lot of traffic in a very organized method, the scouts came to the conclusion that it was a great idea. Mike KØTER found a few contests that could be worked to illustrate contesting. Shel KFØUR on SSB, and Mark WL7LZ on VHF/IRLP were to make casual contacts. EOSS balloon would demonstrate the scientific aspects of amateur radio, along with Dave NUØN working with antenna concepts and building. Finally, with securing the national BSA call sign "K2BSA/0", the stage set for JOTA 2006 and the 49th international JOTA.

Now what really happened:

Friday morning, Mike KØTER arrived and set up his station. About the time he finished, Dan KBØPPM arrived with the tower and beam. Mike and Dan set the tower and beam up then

Cont'd...

JOTA Cont'd...

proceeded to help Mark (camporee chairman) set the 2 GP Mediums up. The winds made setting these large tents up some what difficult and the hardware was somewhat limited. After a run to the hardware store, the tents were ready to survive high winds.



The bad weather waited until after the tents were constructed. By early evening the winds picked up and the temperatures dropped. Wake-up call provided a view of the cold world as shown in the picture of Mike's trailer above.



This JOTA, we had poor weather, some scouts and scout leaders had their tents destroyed by the high winds. The 40-degree temperature drop caught almost everyone by surprise, so the camporee was concluded by 2:00 PM Saturday. The only activities which opened up were the Amateur Radio demonstrations/hands-on and Geocaching.

Camp site weather did not match either the Denver or Colorado Springs predictions. The scout leader met at 9:00 AM and decided to conclude the camporee by 2:00 PM. Part of the decision was based on the Ranger telling them to expect 3 to 6 more inches of snow during the evening and through Saturday night. The scouts and adults really didn't want to have to go through a repeat.

The first events were to be the Flag ceremony followed by EOSS. But the winds were 15 to 20+ mph so the wind chill was low so the scouts were told to stay out of the wind. So these morning events were cancelled. The EOSS folks knew the conditions were outside their safe launch window and cancelled the flight Friday afternoon. By 9:30 AM the weather had calmed down and started to turn into a really nice day. And the Amateur Radio and Geocaching activities were opened up for the scout to participate in.

We ended up with about 150 scouts experiencing amateur radio. Contacts were made to many locations inside the US and outside. It was interesting that the HF-SSB QSO to a JOTA event in California was exciting as the contact to Greenland, or Germany. Shel tuned to various parts of 20-meters and talked about the different types of signals heard and gave some good illustrations about propagation. His easy nature, good education, and positive encouragement got many scouts talking to other scouts or amateur radio operators over the air.

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JOTA Cont'd...

This is the first year we actually got IRLP up and running, and what a show it was! Mark WL7LZ had spent the last 2 weeks arranging contacts with other JOTA groups. Dave NUØN dropped by and gave Mark a hand as relief operator while Mark worked one-on-one with many of the scouts. The picture shows Dave working with a scout on the air, and a tall scout talking to Mark in the background.

Mark brought an array of badges and QSL cards from various manned space flights he's worked. One scout (WEBELOS cub scout) was very knowledgeable about space activities and quite verbose on-the-air, so Mark rewarded him with a mission patch and an 8X10 of mission activity.

Mike KØTER had quite a few visitors. His trailer itself was a display of how amateur radio operators, at their own cost, provide quick deployment station for emergency situations. Of course the plan was to point this out, but that

important information slipped past me when I talked to the assembled scouts just prior to opening up the amateur radio activities.

Digital provided an opportunity to communicate to various locations using amateur radio modes the scout did not even know existed. In the following picture two scouts are sending email through the WINLink system.



We entertained many "how do I become a ham radio operator" questions. It appears our efforts opened eyes to what really is available in amateur radio.

Many operators helped with arranging and supporting the effort. Marshall KCØUSF helped in planning and making the IRLP poster (which was heavily used and referred to). Jim W9KOZ attended planning meeting with the scouts, and provided electrical power. Mike KØMLA dropped by to support the activities as well.

All-in-all, it appeared to be a really good time for everyone involved.

73 and Thanks,
Dan Scott KBØPPM

Ø-BEAT DEADLINE

The deadline for the December 2006 Ø-Beat is November 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 need your fresh content!

XMAS PARTY 2006



The PPRAA Christmas party will be held on December 13th, 2006, from 6 to 9 PM at 7665 N Academy Blvd. at the Country Buffet. There will be four gift card prizes from Wal-Mart: \$100, \$50, and two \$25.

Veterans Day Special Event Station

On November 11 2006 from 8am to 4 pm, KØUSN will operate as a special event station for Veterans Day. All are invited to participate. The operation will be on 20 meters using SSB, RTTY, and PSK31. A certificate will be made available for an SASE to KØUSN at QRZ.COM address. KØUSN is at the home of WV7T.

Frequencies:

✚ 2 meters	146.400 MHz simplex
✚ PSK	14.070 MHz
✚ RTTY	14.075-14.100 MHz
✚ SSB	various

For more information contact Mike Anderson, WV7T, wv7t@arrl.net or 229-8610.

TIPS & TRICKS

Sometimes when working on a project a third hand is needed. Here is my solution: a pair of channel lock pliers with a rubber band across the handle. The jaws are adjustable for the size of project, which is a very big help. Set the jaw size, place the rubber band on the handles, spread the handles apart, insert the project to be held in the jaws and release the handles. The rubber band holds the project tightly, freeing both hands to do the work.



Mike Anderson WV7T

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

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 a list of what to bring, contact Erik Mugele KGØXE or Dennis Major NØABC, or visit the PPRAA web site.

Mark your calendars:

Oct. 14 – Dec. 9

ON THE SIDE



John Roth NØQJS took First Place State in Breckenridge as a member of a competitive gold panning team.



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PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2006

Attendees: Mike KØMLA, Susan KCØSYA, Jim ABØUK, Mike WV7T, Su KCØPRN, Dan ACØCC, Doug N7LEM, Rick KØSU, Jeff KCØSXV, Paul NØPWM, Christopher NC6T

President Mike KØMLA called the meeting to order at 7 PM at The Remodeler.

Election for Treasurer will be held at the November club meeting, Dan Beals ACØCC has volunteered to run for the position.

The minutes were approved as printed/corrected in the Zero Beat.

Reports

Treasurer's Report – Jim Harris reported that we have at total of \$9,619.75 in our three accounts.

Vice President's Report – no report

Future Programs:

- ✚ Nov – Personal Emergency Preparedness
- ✚ Dec – Annual Christmas Party
- ✚ Jan – Home brew night

Unfinished Business:

Elections – Treasurer Position – election will be held in November.

Megafest – Chairperson is still needed. Someone needs to call the school and schedule a date with them, preferably in June. Rick KØSU will organize forums for the event. Need a raffle manager also.

New Ham Complimentary Memberships – this benefit will be easier to offer with the addition of some new membership software programs. More details to come.

New Business:

By-Laws, Club Manual - Rick KØSU will head this up getting these updated.

Christmas Party Chair – Mike WV7T volunteered to be chairperson. Su KCØPRN motioned that we have the Christmas party at a buffet restaurant, seconded by

Jim ABØUK. Passed unanimously. Mike will make some calls and see if we can get a room reserved and set a date, possibly December 13th. Susan KCØSYA will come up with door prizes again. Su motioned that we use \$200 for gift cards for additional door prizes (one \$100, one \$50, and two \$25 cards to Wal-Mart). Jim issued a check for \$200 to Mike to purchase the gift cards.

Around the Table:

- ✚ Mike KØMLA discussed some goals and suggestions for helping the club run more efficiently and increase membership (special events, online membership database, online forum, etc). Mike WV7T volunteered to be a special events coordinator.
- ✚ Dan KBØPPM and Mike WV7T will co-chair Field Day next year.
- ✚ Suggestion to compile a survey to send to the whole membership for suggestions on how to increase attendance at the monthly meeting and how to increase membership in general.
- ✚ Possibility of switching the Thursday night net to a repeater, instead of simplex. This will be determined at the next club meeting. Dan ACØCC volunteered to be net coordinator. He will schedule net operators for every Thursday.
- ✚ ARRL website next to be updated with officer names, etc.
- ✚ Foxhunt noon St. Gabriel's church on Research and Austin Bluffs Pkwy Oct 21.
- ✚ Jim ABØUK discussed the possibility of moving some of the club's money from the current savings account into a certificate with higher interest rate. For now, accounts will stay as is, and incoming Treasurer will investigate possibilities to present to the board.
- ✚ Raffle report has to be sent into the State before October 31.
- ✚ Special activity for November club meeting is Telegraphing, bring your keys to compare with everyone else. And any other equipment you'd like to share in this field.
- ✚ All QSLs received have been answered.
- ✚ Need to update and print new club business cards with the new internet address on them.
- ✚ Mini club library will be listed in next Ø-Beat. Anyone can check out materials from the library, contact Mike WV7T.

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Board meeting minutes cont'd....

- ✚ Mike WV7T is having a brain-storming meeting Oct. 28th at 1 PM at his house for ideas on improving club activities and resources.
- ✚ Ham License Classes available thru Mike WV7T Tech class starts Jan 9th at 7pm, general class starts Jan 11th at 7pm. Code will be added on an as-needed basis.
- ✚ Club assets inventory is being compiled by Mike WV7T and needs a club officer to go over it at a time of their convenience.
- ✚ Mike WV7T will submit more technical education items for publishing in the Ø-Beat.
- ✚ Suggestion to investigate possibilities of new meeting locations for both the club meetings and the board meetings.
- ✚ Suggestion to put together a new member packet to introduce new members to the club (how their money's spent, what activities are available, etc). Jeff KCØSXV will work on ideas for this resource.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday, October 13th, at The Remodeler.

Submitted by:
Susan Allison KCØSYA
PPRAA Secretary
October 22, 2006

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Mike Anderson WV7T took 1st Place in the Rocky Mountain Division of the 2006 ARRL International DX Contest - CW

**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.

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to the PPRAA!

Thank you to all the club members for putting their trust in me and electing me President. I wanted to use this first President's letter and introduce myself and talk a little about my background and some ideas that I have for the club.

First, I'd like to say a little about me. I was born here in Colorado Springs but moved a great deal as a kid. I have lived in Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Maine, Washington State, and Germany. If you count short deployments from the navy you can add Mississippi, California, and Alaska to that list. I moved back to Colorado in March 1985 and have been here ever since. I enlisted in the Navy Reserves in the summer of 1985 and went to boot camp between my junior and senior years of high school. I graduated in 1986 and shortly after graduation went to "A" school for the Navy to be a heavy equipment operator with the SeaBees. I went to EO "A" school in Mississippi that summer and it rained a lot. Why do I remember that it rained a lot? Every time it rained, we watched the movie, *The Fighting SeaBees*, with John Wayne. To this day I can't stand that movie.

After A school I came back to Colorado and went to work for the gas department of Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) as an hourly laborer. It was during this time that I met and started dating Susan. After about a year, Susan and I were both hired to permanent positions with CSU. I stayed at the gas department and Susan went to the water department. Six months after we were hired permanent we were married; this November will make 18 years.

While working at the gas department, I was sent out to the propane/air plant to help out with some maintenance. It was during this time I discovered electronics. I was hooked. I started tinkering around with circuits and building things. The time at the propane/air plant I was introduced to my Elmer, Don Yowell, KIØIS. He introduced me to other hams working for the city and CSU and started showing me some of what could be done with ham radio.

In the summer of 1994 I took my tests. That was during the time when you had to take the novice and tech written to get a no-code Tech license. The first time I took the test I passed the novice portion, but failed the Technician part. I went home and studied my heart out and passed the next weekend. After I got my license, NØZCZ, I joined the PPRAA and other

local clubs and was actually getting into Skywarn. About that same time I decided that I needed to get a degree in order to move up within CSU. I started college in 1996 and because of time constraints pretty much dropped out of ham radio.

A few years after I graduated, I decided to get back into ham radio again. I got a vanity call, KØMLA, and started attending PPRAA meetings and getting involved with the club. I went to my first field day in 2005 and because I was a no-code at the time was able to jump on the GOTA station. After that I caught the HF bug. I learned code and upgraded to General three months after field day. I bought an IC-735 from eBay and, with the help of Steve, KØCI, was able to construct an antenna using my rain gutter and a piece of wire. I have made several DX contacts with that antenna, including Eastern Europe and Japan. I'm still hooked on HF but don't have a lot of time right now. I will hopefully find some time during sweepstakes to get some more contacts and test out the FT-857 that I bought to replace the IC-735.

That is probably more about me than you ever wanted to know.

Some of my goals as president for the next year include using the website more, possibly getting a forum started where any licensed ham can join and ask questions or help find answers. We could even move the dits and bits to the forum. I would also like to see the club do more special event stations. Mike, WV7T, will be hosting a special event on Veterans Day at his home and I hope that several people join Mike and help out. We could also look for opportunities to get club members on the air.

I hope to have a very successful swap fest as we have had historically. We do need someone to volunteer to chair this committee to help make this a success. If you are interested, please let me or one of the board members know. I have a couple of other things that I would like to accomplish, but I will save them for another column.

Please, if you have a question do not hesitate to give me or any of the board members a call or drop us an email. Our email addresses are on the website at KØMLA@arrl.net.

73 and I hope everyone has a great November

Mike Allison
PPRAA President
KØMLA@arrl.net

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"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	Over 65 Family \$12: <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: <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 ⇨ 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.
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Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA**

First Class Mail

To: