



VOLUME 59 ISSUE 4

April 2009

## FCC Authorizes New Amateur License Class

On **April 1, 2009** the FCC will authorize the new **AMATEUR EXTRA EXTRA CLASS** of Amateur Radio License. According to recent reports this license will expand present Extra Class License privileges adding 26.000-28.000 Mhz with unlimited power and all modes no matter how broad the spectrum occupation.

**Ham Breakfast**  
**April 4th 2009**

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

### April Club Meeting

The next regular club meeting will be the second Wednesday, 7 PM, 8 April 2009, at Panera Bread on the NE corner of Powers and S. Carefree.



### RACES Looking For Some Good Operators

El Paso County RACES is in the process of growing its membership, and looking for individuals that are interested in applying their radio knowledge and skills to serving the County OEM.

RACES is the amateur radio communications group that provides auxiliary communications to the county EOC during times of emergencies. RACES members are registered volunteers with the Sheriff's Office and do undergo a background check, as is common with served agencies nowadays. That may be a turn-off to some, but it does provide an opportunity for people to participate in some interesting exercises and incidents. Volunteers may deploy any time the EOC is activated, either to the EOC or with the EPSO's Mobile Communications Center in order to provide necessary comm from the incident site back to the EOC.

Sure, the pay isn't that great, but the benefits are good.... We're training to do a lot of new things that RACES hasn't done before, such as more emphasis on packet and HF digital modes, using Winlink 2000 and Airmail, and probably adding a Paclink server at the EOC. Later this year RACES will be conducting exercises based on lessons they learned from an exercise conducted in 2008, called "Fairplay Blast". In that exercise, RACES members volunteered alongside ARES members to provide communications between Fairplay, CO, and the El Paso Co. EOC in Colorado Springs.

RACES holds monthly meetings at the county OEM, and weekly nets on Tuesday nights at 1930 on the 146.76 CMRG repeater. If you're interested in volunteering with RACES, contact the RACES Officer, Henry Russell KC0NAJ (kc0naj@arrl.net), or his deputy RACES Officer, Terry Murrow N0UX (n0ux@arrl.net). This was a Teletype contest in 2007 and these folks had so much fun learning to run the computer software, making and logging contacts. Some new hams have not gotten their "big rigs" yet or are still progressing up the licensing ladder. We can make a really big impact and show them what they have in store for them as hams.



## **Announcing the PPARES SKYWARN Spotter Training for 2009.**

It's that time of year again. SKYWARN training will once again be presented by Tom Magnuson, KB0ZWX, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the Weather Forecast Office (WFO), Pueblo, Colorado. The training session will take place in the Community Room at the Colorado Springs Police Department's Stetson Hills Sub-station located at 4110 Tutt Blvd. The date will be Saturday, 4 April, 2009. It will run from 0800-1500.

SKYWARN Spotter Training is ESSENTIAL for all PPARES operators who want to participate in spotter activities during severe weather events, even those who participate only sporadically. Since Pueblo WFO personnel monitor our SKYWARN nets closely, our operators need to be well-trained in both weather spotter knowledge and good efficient radio protocol to provide the information NWS needs without becoming a distraction to the NWS personnel. This training is also essential, as storm spotting can turn hazardous very rapidly.

Tom Magnuson is asking that all spotters attend this year's session as new criteria for issuing warnings and related spotter involvement is being implemented by the NWS this year.

Also, the Spotter ID program instituted last year has proven to be quite useful. When responding to this e-mail, please include your SPOTTER NUMBER(S) and the address(s) represented. Those who do not yet have a spotter number, please include your nine-digit ZIP code and/or your correct Latitude and Longitude for the location FROM WHICH YOU WILL BE SPOTTING AND REPORTING. If you will be usually calling in from your work location and have only a number for your home location, you may apply for an additional number. Additional spotter numbers will most likely not be related to current spotter numbers.

Please remember that a spotter number is based upon a single fixed location and should be used to report on conditions for that location only. Mobile reports will still require location descriptors such as address, mile marker/road names, major intersections, etc.

While it is not required that all operators attend each year's training, that, too, is strongly recommended, as innovations and modifications to reporting criteria can change how and what we need to report.

Please reserve your spot in the April 4th PPARES session by replying to this e-mail (Please DO NOT "REPLY ALL") or by e-mailing me at k4arm@arrl.net, or by calling me at 495-4147. In any event, please make sure that "SKYWARN Training-2009" appears in the subject line.

I will be sending additional information as soon as it becomes available.

73, Sid White, K4ARM

### NONPROFIT STATUS

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

## PPRAA Club Meeting

11 March 2009

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM at Panera Bread, followed by introductions around the room.

**Silent Keys:** None.

**Minutes:** Dennis/Dan moved/seconded that the February meeting minutes be approved as printed in the Zero Beat. Passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dennis Rosas ACØIV reported that we had a \$7215.97 total balance in our three accounts as of 11 March 2009.

### Committee Reports

**HamCon 2009** – Dan WØRO reported that Laura Smith from the FCC will be speaking at the event. Ms. Smith was recently appointed Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, replacing the recently retired Riley Hollingsworth. Dan/Michael moved/seconded to provide the advance money (up to \$1500) to bring her out to the event. Passed. This will be reimbursed back to us by the HamCon organization. Dan will be setting up a carpool option via the club forum and our website. The event will be held May 29, 30, & 31 in Estes Park. See [www.hamconcolorado.org](http://www.hamconcolorado.org) for more info and to register. PPRAA is responsible for the talk-in for the event. Operators are needed for this activity, for HamCon QSL contacts, and for antenna setup on Friday morning of the event.

**Field Day 2009** – Doug stated that we still need a location and a coordinator for this event. If interested, contact a club officer or board member. Location is not set as yet. Date is June 27 & 28, 2009.

**MegaFest 2009** – no report from Megafest Chairman Rob Roller N7LV. This event will be held Saturday, 18 July 2009 at Lewis Palmer High School in Monument. Rob still needs some people to attend the Longmont hamfest (Boulder Co. Fairground) on April 4th to sell raffle tickets. Contact him if you can do that.

**Boy Scout Camporee** - Dan WØRO wanted to know if we could provide a ham radio activity for this event, perhaps operating or antenna building. The theme is space and technology. It will be held on Saturday, April 25. If you are interested, please contact Dan via our forum.

**Colorado QSO Party** – Doug N7LEM still needs some help with this year's event. It will likely be one of the first weekends in September (exact dates TBD). Contact Doug if you can help.

**Technical Education** – no report

**Thursday Night Net** - Dan ACØCC – Every Thursday night, 7PM, Doc's Glow Net on 28.4 MHz SSB. Also at 8PM on 145.55 MHz, AM 2M net. See [www.ppraa.org](http://www.ppraa.org) for details.

### Program

PPRAA Club Forum -- presentation by Stephen KØSDD. Our new forum is at <http://ppraa/forumotion.net/forum.htm>. You are encouraged to take a look and sign up for the forum. Homebrew Night – John KCØJFH showed a straight key built from a kit from American Morse Equipment (<http://www.americanmorse.com/kk1.htm>).

**Next Club Meeting:** The next regular club meeting will be the second Wednesday, 7 PM, 8 April 2009, at Panera Bread on the NE corner of Powers and S. Carefree.

**Next Board Meeting:** 7 PM, Monday following club meeting, 13 April 2009, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by:  
John Wishart KCØJFH  
PPRAA Secretary

## **PPRAA Board Meeting**

16 March 2009

**Attendees:** Mike WV7T, Dennis ACØIV, John KCØJFH, Doug N7LEM, Bill KDØJU, David Moore N5VPT, Tom WØTOM, and Dan WØRO.

President Doug N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

**Minutes** – Dan/David moved/seconded that the February minutes be approved as printed. Passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dennis reported that we have \$7215.97 total in our accounts as of 16 March 2009.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **HamCon 2009**

Dan WØRO reported on the HamCon meeting last weekend. Our club will be manning the talk-in station. We need help to man this station at the convention. We will be using Writelog for the logging software. If you are registering, call Holiday Inn if you want a room, as there is a block of rooms set aside for hams. He has set up a "find a ride" arrangement on the PPRAA website. Tom has contacted Elecraft concerning arrangements for a booth at HamCon.

#### **Field Day 2009**

We are still looking for possible locations and a coordinator for this event. Several locations were discussed.

#### **Megafest 2009**

This will be July 18. We still need to sell tickets at area hamfests prior to the event (in particular, Longmont on April 4 and at Hamcon 2009). Contact Rob N7LV if you can assist.

#### **Zero Beat**

Mike is still trying to determine who has to get a hard copy of the Zero Beat (list) from Les KCØNC. He also needs to know if Jess Miley will be renewing his ad.

#### **PPRAA Forum**

Dan discussed the possibility of allowing other local amateur radio groups to participate in the forum. This was favorably received. A group for PPRAA board members has been set up. The forum is a new feature of the club. Go to <http://ppraa.forumotion.net/forum.htm> to review and sign up.

#### **New Business**

##### **Funding Request**

Doug received a request for funding of a DXpedition to Mogador Island from an Italian ham group. Declined.

##### **Equipment Donations**

He also received a request for possible donations of ham equipment to our club. In order to receive this equipment we will need to rent a storage facility. We will be checking on storage facility rates to be able to accept this equipment.

##### **Annual Picnic**

Dennis/David moved/seconded that the picnic date to be August 22, 2009. Passed.

Dan proposed an activity called "Messing With..." to work with a topic that has been discussed on the Forum. This would be something that would held outside of the regular club meeting, e.g., a club project.

Dan also discussed the possibility of having the meeting on a different day of the week. Doug will put an email out on the Reflector to survey preferences for the preferred day.

We will also check on having a quarterly "in the field" meeting.

**CO QSO Party** -- will be held Sept 5-6, 2009. Dan and Doug are also setting up a Colorado Worked All Counties Award. They are working on the rules for this award.

#### **Around the Table**

Mike – has a club BBQ and a trashcan at his house.  
These are available if you need them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**Next PPRAA Board meeting:** 7PM, Monday, 13  
April 2009, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Submitted by:  
John Wishart KCØJFH  
PPRAA Secretary  
21 March 2009

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## SKILL SEARCH

Do you have skills in ham radio you would be  
willing to share with others?

I am looking for folks that have special interests in  
our hobby they would be willing to share them with  
others. If you do, send me an e-mail with your  
callsign, a list of your skills/interests, and contact  
information for publishing in Ø-Beat.

Mike WV7T  
wv7t@arrrl.net

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## Dits and Bits

Have something to sell or just want to see get to a  
good home. Send it in to [WV7T@ARRL.NET](mailto:WV7T@ARRL.NET) and  
it will be listed until it sells.

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### Jess Miley KØTAA

719 W. 7<sup>th</sup>, Florence, CO 81226  
Amateur & Hobby Radio Products.  
We Trade.

Excellent Tech @ \$35 per hour  
Commercial rates higher / 719-784-3040  
***Please call before you drive.***

## APRIL CONTESTS

### State QSO Parties

4-5 Missouri  
11-12 Georgia  
18-19 Michigan  
25-26 Florida  
25-26 Nebraska

### RTTY Contests

4-5 EA RTTY  
25-26 SP DX RTTY

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## Articles always welcomed!

If you have a funny story, a ham achievement, do  
you have an interesting QSL or certificate, or just  
something you think the club members would find  
interesting just send it in to [WV7T@ARRL.NET](mailto:WV7T@ARRL.NET)  
and see it in the pages of Ø-Beat.

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## THIS SPACE FOR ARTICLES!

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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 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"/>
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"/>
			Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Ø-Beat Only \$12: <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 ⇒ 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**

**To:**