

**PIKES PEAK
RADIO AMATEUR
ASSOCIATION
(PPRAA)**



Activities/Meetings

- Ham Breakfast
BUNZ
Nov 1st, 2014
Any time between
8:00 AM and 9:30 AM
- PPRAA Board Mtg
Mon, November 10th
Daniel's Taco
- PPRAA Membership Mtg
Wed. November 12th
IHOP 5749 Stetson Hills
Bvd
- 10 Meter/2 Meter net
Every Thursday 7:00 pm
28.290 MHz—USB
144.200 MHz-USB

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Volume 64 Issue 11

November 2014

Operation Polar Express

On 18 October, Colorado ARES (COARES) held its annual state wide Simulated Emergency Test AKA OPERATION POLAR EXPRESS, which simulated a state wide emergency due to a blizzard.

Preliminary results are:

- The CO State EOC received 71 check-ins via HF voice; 34 on 75 meters and 37 on 40 meters.
- 12 COARES districts participated in the SET
- 7 Colorado city/county EOCs and the Wyoming state EOC.
- The following Red Cross facilities participated in the exercise; Fort Collins, Pueblo and the Regional HQ in Denver

- A notable participant was Peaceful Valley Boy Scout Ranch
- 25 messages were received either Winmor peer to peer to CO State EOC or via the Winlink2000 network.

Perry Lundquist, W6AUN, said "We estimate that more than 100 ARES operators participated in the exercise". Perry is the COARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator in charge of Training & Credentialing.

For Pikes Peak ARES, 23 people checked in to the local net and 7 checked in to the state nets, including passing several messages to the state EOC.

John Bloodgood, KD0SFY

Public Information Officer - Pikes Peak ARES

Election results for the 2015 PPRAA Officers and Board

A goal of the 2014 PPRAA officers and board of directors set by outgoing president, Michael, KCØELG, was to elect a number of new board members and officers at the October 2014 elections.

During August and September the board of directors worked as a nominating committee canvassing members to find candidates for various PPRAA officers and board of directors positions. Each year the officers are elected and 4 of the 8 board of directors at large are elected.

A slate of candidates was presented during the October general membership meeting, other

candidates were nominated and the end result was 4 new board of directors and 2 new officers. A full list of officers and board of directors is on page 2.

The new officers are:

President: Raleigh Holcomb, N4HYF

Secretary: Dianna Nordstrom, KCØNPP

The new board members are: Dan Martin, KDØSMP Glenn Brodt, N3ULW; Charlie Coyner, KD6CBC; Frank Rogers, KB3PDT.





PPRAA special event operation.

PPRAA Officers and Board of Directors

PPRAA Board of Directors consists of four elected officers, seven board members, as well the past president (time limit dependent). The Ø-Beat editor is a board appointed position and is also a member of the board.

Officers include:

- ⇒ President
- ⇒ Vice-President
- ⇒ Secretary
- ⇒ Treasurer

To send board member's email, browse to the officers section of our website: <http://ppraa.org/about-ppraa/officers>

President	Raleigh Holcomb	N4HYF
Vice-President	Jim Bishop	KDØKQL
Secretary	Diana Nordstrom	KCØNPP
Treasurer	Pam Scott	WØPRS
Past President	Michael Derbort	KCØELG
Board Member	Dan Martin	KDØSMP
Board Member	Glenn Brodt	N3ULW
Board Member	Jim Rader	KDØNQM
Board Member	Charlie Coyner	KD6CBC
Board Member	Jim Harris	WØEM
Board Member	Virgil Yost	NØXRS
Board Member	Frank Roger	KB3PDT
Ø-Beat Editor	Dan Scott	WØRO

Online Resources

PPRAA Website

<http://ppraa.org>

The PPRAA website is the cornerstone for club related information, events, and technical information.

In addition you can register, pay dues, and submit donations. Donations to the PPRAA college scholarship fund are managed by FAR Scholarship Committee

Facebook / Google+

Follow activities as they unfold, or get reminders of upcoming events.

Links to both Facebook and Google+ social media sites can be found on the PPRAA.org.

Or from each social media site search on: Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

PPRAA Forums

The PPRAA forums are intended to allow users to exchange of ideas, ask and answer amateur radio related questions, and plan/discuss upcoming events.

This is a fantastic, but underutilized, tool. Check it out and register at: PPRAA.Forumotion.net

Monthly Activities

Membership Meeting

Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00.

IHOP
5749 Stetson Hills Blvd
(Just west of Powers Blvd)

Next meeting is

November 12th 7 pm

NOTE: Many show up at 6 pm for kibitzing and grub.

Board Meeting

Daniel's Taco Shop
6:30pm—8:00pm
On the Monday preceding the membership meeting.

The location is:
6817 Space Village Ave
(Just outside the north gate of Peterson AFB)
Board Meetings are open to all members.

Ham Breakfast

Location changes monthly:
Saturday, Nov 1st., 8-9:30AM
at BUNZ, 11550 Ridgeline Dr.
Show up anytime between 8:00

-9:30 AM

10 Meter/2 Meter Net

Every Thursday at 7pm
Starts on 28.390 USB then transitions to 2 Meter SSB at 144.200 USB.

Meeting Presentation Topics

Last Meeting

PPRAA Elections

November 12th

Christopher Schroeder, KD0QUI, President of MEREO will be speaking about HAM radio and Weather.

December 10th

Christmas Party
IHOP
5749 Stetson Hills Blvd

AmazonSmile—Shop and support PPRAA

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support PPRAA by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. To shop at AmazonSmile simply

go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

After login, use Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association for the non-profit to support.

Veteran's Day Special Event

The PPRAA club station will be active for a Veteran's day special event.

All operators are welcome. We will be providing food and a great opportunity to do eye-ball QSOs.

The location is:
3622 Bar 10 Road
Calhan, CO

For a map see the Field Day tab on the PPRAA web site or browse to: [PPRAA.org/field-day](https://ppraa.org/field-day)

Thursday night net,

is at 7:00 PM local time and starts as an HF USB net in the technician portion of the band. The frequency is 28.390.

The net helps the new ham just getting on HF, or the experienced ham testing new equipment.

Other bands that may be used includes 6 meters and 2 meter; all SSB.

November Activities— Diana—KCØNPP—PPRAA Secretary

Hello all!

Just some reminders!

The PPRAA Club Breakfast is this Saturday, November 1st, at BUNZ, 11550 Ridgeline Dr. You are welcome to join us any time between 8am and 9:30am.

Sunday, November 2nd is Daylight Savings! Don't forget to reset your clocks!

November's Board Meeting will include all of the outgoing board and the incoming board. It will be on November 10th either at Daniel's Taco Shop, if open, or at Dairy Queen next door.

November's Club Meeting will be on November 12th, at IHOP on Stetson Hills. This month's program is Weather and Ham Radio, by Christopher Schroeder.

New event planned: The Board is looking to put a special event station on the air for Veteran's Day. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know! More details will be in November's 0-Beat.

73,
Diana Nordstrom
KCØNPP
PPRAA Secretary

Zero Beat

This month I received many nice articles to be included in the zero beat. Enough were I had to drop a couple things.

Please keep those articles coming. It is your articles that make the ØBeat interesting.

Thank you and 73,
Dan—WØRO



PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes—6 October 2014

PPRAA board meeting minutes
10/6/2014

Present: Michael Derbort, Jim Bishop, Dan & Pam Scott, Doug Neilsen, Diana Nordstrom, Jim Harris, Tom Brereton, Virgil, John Bloodgood, John Wishart, Jim Rader

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Derbort at 6:30PM at Daniel's Taco Shop.

September Minutes were approved as published.

Goals & Objectives

New leadership - elections are on Wed.

Membership - many new members, but not all are paid.

Megafest - 120% increase in net from 2013

Special Event station - the special event happened and received several QSL requests.

Treasurer's Report

Pam reported that we have \$14,583.62 in our accounts as of September 30.

Committee Reports

Club Station

Antenna Committee - Jim Harris submitted a revised antenna plan and a report on our site's limiting factors and increasing the usage of the club station. He reviewed the status of the action items in the plan addendum.

Building Committee - Jim Bishop discussed window shield

alternatives and installation. Concrete blocks & RR ties are on site and ready to install.

Electrical Committee - planning still in progress. We will have a 12VDC bus and a 110VAC bus.

Bylaws Committee - Jim Harris brought up the question of whether the webmaster should be a member of the board. It was also discussed whether there should be a minimum requirement on the length of time to be a member of the club before being able to serve on the board or as an officer. The board felt that this was not desired or needed. There is currently no requirement on this. Several other bylaws updates were also discussed.

Nominating Committee

The board is the nominating committee. We will have elections on Wednesday. The election will be accomplished via a secret written ballot.

Megafest Committee

No decision on the school date will be available until January. Jim Rader presented a list of possible raffle prize items.

Field Day

We will need some new signage.

Electronic Media - still operating.

Asset Committee - Virgil - no activity to report.

Scholarship - Pam needs to send

the administrators a \$1K check.

ARES - Jim Bishop reported on past & upcoming activities

Ham Breakfast - 1 November 2014 at Bunz, 11550 Ridgeline Drive.

285 TechConnect Fall TechFest - 1 November 2014, 9AM-3PM, Lakewood Elks Club, Lakewood, CO.

Around the Table

Dan - would like to have more operating events to boost interest.

Jim Rader - still looking for raffle prizes

Virgil - friend of his is involved w/ Boy Scouts.

Next Board meeting: Monday, 10 November 2014, 6:30PM, Daniel's Taco Shop.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wishart

PPRAA Secretary

10/21/2014

PPRAA General Meeting Minutes—12 October 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by President Michael Derbort at the IHOP Restaurant near Stetson Hills and Powers Blvd.

Silent Keys: None

Election for Open 1 Year Board Member Position

Jim Rader was nominated for the open board member position. Motion made/seconded to close the nominations. Passed. Vote was taken and Jim Rader was elected to the open board member position.

Bylaws Review Highlights

Membership defn - Article I, section 2

Article II Section 3, Annual meeting change four directors to "four board of directors"

Section 4 Notice of meetings

Section 6 Notice of directors' meetings

Section 7 Membership committee - remove "for publication in Zero Beat". Change "Zero Beat Editor" to "Webmaster"

Section 12, Asset committee - remove ", and" in last line. Add "and/or"

Add Article III, Section 9 Appointed Board Members - add editor and webmaster as appointed members of the board.

Section 1 General Powers - add "and two appointed"

Section 2 Election and term of office of directors, Remove "The editor of the Zero Beat...."

Mike will send me the changes. (See separate document to be

distributed with the minutes for complete description of changes.)

285 TechConnect event - Sat, Nov 1 in Lakewood.

Megafest

◇ Prizes tentatively selected:

◇ Kenwood TS-590S HF

◇ Yaesu FT-7900R Mobile

◇ Yaesu FT-60R HT

◇ Butternut HF6VX Antenna

◇ Rigexpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer

We can't to print or sell the raffle tickets until we can reserve the date with LPHS. This won't happen until shortly after the first of the year, due to their reservation timetable.

Club Station

- *Antenna Committee*

Jim Harris reported on the antenna plan proposal.

- *Building Committee*

Jim Bishop bought a weather station for monitoring temperatures. This will be loaned to the club for getting temperature excursions over a period of time.

- *Electrical Committee*

Doug Neilsen noted that this is still in planning stages. The solar panels need to be installed.

ARES Report

Jim Bishop and John Bloodgood reported on recent ARES activities, including the Tour de Cure bicycle event.

Ham Breakfast - at Bunz Restaurant, 11550 Ridgeline Drive, Saturday, 1 November 2014.

Thursday Night Net

Doc reported on the net's activities and encouraged participation by all club members. The net is on Thursday evenings at 7PM on 28.390 MHz USB. The next one will be #304.

September Minutes were approved as published.

Goals & Objectives

New Leadership - achieved as of tonight's election.

Financials - add 20 new paying members. This is sort of a wash, as we lost about the same number.

Megafest - raised >\$2500 net.

Club Station - operated there on Field Day & special event.

Special Event - 75 year celebration was a success

Scouting Event - need to start earlier.

New Business

Mike Anderson - 9AM Monday Oct 13, Navy's Birthday Special Event K0USN

Lighthouse Project - Kevin reported that initial meetings have been occurring in the county. Communications and individual preparedness are currently the focus.

Elections

The following individuals were elected:

⇒President - Raleigh Holcomb N4HYF

⇒VP - Jim Bishop KD0KQL

⇒Secretary - Diana Nordstrom KC0NPP

⇒Treasurer - Pam Scott W0PRS

Board Members

1. Glenn Brodt, Sr. N3ULW

2. Frank Rogers KB3PDT

3. Charlie Coyner KD6CBC

4. Dan Martin KD0SMP

Upcoming Events

Next Board Meeting: November 10, at Daniel's Taco Shop, 6815 Space Village Avenue (SE of Peterson Blvd & US-24), 6:30PM - Both old and new officers & board members need to attend.

Next PPRAA meeting: Wednesday, 12 November 2014, 7PM, at IHOP Restaurant, Stetson Hills and Powers Blvd.

VE Session - this Sat at CTU. Members are encouraged to get VE certification.

JOTA Event - Starts at 8AM on October 18. Listen for "CQ JOTA"

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wishart

PPRAA Secretary

10/21/2014



By-Law Review Proposed Changes

By-Law Review - 2014

The Board is proposing and recommending the following changes to the By-Laws of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association as part of its annual review.

The Board is recommending for approval the change of Section I of Article II to more clearly define a full membership.

Article II - Section I.

Membership. The following persons shall be eligible for membership in the association, in the class of membership indicated.

Full members: Any person ~~who is the holder of a valid, renewable amateur radio operator license issued by the appropriate governmental entity~~ shall be eligible to be a full member of the association. Full members shall be entitled to vote on all matters at all meetings of the association and shall be entitled to hold any office in the association.

The Board is recommending for approval the following changes to Article II – Section 3. -

Article II - Section 3. Annual

meeting. The annual meeting of the members shall be held on the second Wednesday of October of each year at a time and location specified by the board. At said meeting the members entitled to vote, shall elect by ballot by a plurality vote of such members present, four ~~board of~~ directors for a term of two (2) years to serve with the four holdover directors, for the ensuing year, or until their successors shall be duly elected and qualify, and shall transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The Board is recommending for approval the changes to removal of Article II – Section 4

Section 4. Notice of meetings.

Notice of meeting of the members shall be given in and concurrent with the ~~publishing mailing~~ of the association publication Zero Beat.

The Board is recommending for approval the following changes to Article III – Section 6.

Section 6. Notice of directors' meeting.

Notice of meetings of the directors shall be made by mail (~~electronic or regular~~), telephone or radio at least eight hours prior to such meeting.

The Board is recommending for approval the following changes to Article VII – Section 7.

Section 7. Membership

committee. The membership committee shall be responsible for keeping the membership list current, including both new membership applications and renewals. This committee shall complete a membership roster ~~for publication in Zero Beat~~ at least once a year. In addition, changes to the roster will be provided to the ~~Zero Beat editor~~ Webmaster for publication as soon as practical after they are compiled by the membership committee.

Continued Page 7

By-Law Review Proposed Changes (Continued)

The Board is recommending for approval the following changes to Article VII – Section 12.

Section 12. Asset committee.

The Board of Directors shall appoint an asset custodian, who shall be the Asset Committee Chair, and who is responsible for, but not limited to, accounting for, inventory of, warehousing of, issuing of, returning of, ~~and~~ all tangible assets of the association. The Asset Committee and the custodian shall prepare for and coordinate an annual physical inventory and to ensure publication of the inventory in Zero Beat. The Asset Committee shall report any losses of ~~and/or~~ non-functional conditions of any asset immediately to the Board of Directors, who shall evaluate the circumstances of such loss, and be empowered to take appropriate actions.

The Board is recommending for approval the following changes to Article VIII.

Article VIII: Rules of Order All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's' Rules of Order.

The Board is recommending for the addition of the following Article III – Section 9.

Article III - Section 9. Appointed Board Members. The Zero Beat editor and the Webmaster of the association's website shall be appointed positions and shall serve as long as those persons remain the Zero Beat editor and the Webmaster. Both the editor of Zero Beat and the Webmaster shall also be full voting members of the Board of Directors. The Zero Beat editor and Webmaster must be full members in good standing.

If the above clause is approved then the board recommends the changes to the following sections of Article III.

Section 1. General Powers. The control and management of the affairs and funds of the association shall be under a Board of Directors, consisting of ~~eight elected members, four officers, and any appointed members and the elected and the editor of Zero Beat.~~ **The Board of Directors shall have a minimum of eight elected members.** In addition to the powers conferred by these by-laws, the Board may exercise such other powers as are not by statute, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these by-laws required to be exercised by the members.

Section 2. Election and term of office of directors. Elected directors shall serve for a period of two years, except as provided in the Articles of Incorporation, with their term beginning at the end of the annual meeting in which they are elected. Four directors shall be elected in alternate years to serve for a two year period. ~~The editor of Zero Beat shall serve for as long as that person remains the editor of Zero Beat.~~ In addition to the above members, the past president shall be a board member for one year following the expiration of his/her term.

AM RECEPTION



ISOTRON 20115110

Last article was on Amplitude Modulation transmission. What is needed to receive this type of signal?

It is very basic. The Audio is carried through the air on the Radio Frequency you are operating at. We were using 7.200 Mhz. Tuning to this frequency with your receiver, the radio is filtering out the carrier and leaving the audio for you to hear.

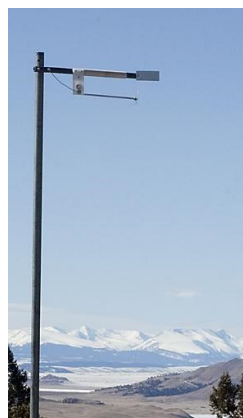
Some of us old melons may remember the AM radios that required no power. As long as you had a strong AM signal you could hear it.

This little device consisted of a tuned circuit, attached to a wire for an antenna, a small germanium diode, a capacitor and some ear phones.

The diode changed the RF current (7.200) to a direct current (DC). The capacitor filtered that current so the RF was a steady DC signal. Like the RF signal you can not hear

it, but it leaves the audio signal still on the line. Put a set of ear phones to this circuit and you are in business.

Your big fancy radio is doing similar on AM. It has a few added features, like a variety of amplifiers and mixers to make tuning very selective. The audio can be played through a speaker rather than head phones.



One advantage to Amplitude Modulation is the clarity it offers. One of the reasons AM

Broadcast is still popular. It is still used on the VHF aircraft frequencies. Why use it there?

Using AM takes less space than the usual Frequency Modulated (FM) signals. More useable frequency is available. On the other hand on the HF spectrum, AM uses more of the spectrum than Single Side band.

Next article will give some basics on the Single Side Band mode.

73,
Ralph WD0EJA

NOV 2014

BILAL COMPANY
137 MANCHESTER DR.
FLORISSANT, CO. 80816
U.S.A
PH/FX: 719/687-0650
wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

W1AW Centennial QSO Party—November

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that is quickly coming to an end. There are two call-signs operating, W1AW and special call of W1ØØAW.

If you have been actively working the W1AW portable stations throughout the year, by now you would have about earned a WAS award plus have worked most US territories. Additional information can be found at

www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party

November operation is as follows:

Week Of	State
29-Oct-2014	Wyoming
29-Oct-2014	Massachusetts
05-Nov-2014	Washington
05-Nov-2014	Kansas
12-Nov-2014	Rhode Island
12-Nov-2014	Mississippi
19-Nov-2014	Florida
19-Nov-2014	Arkansas
26-Nov-2014	Delaware
26-Nov-2014	Louisiana

Reporter "Back East" - N0EOP

From your reporter "Back East".

Well our trees are changing color and it is really pretty. Although the wind yesterday brought down a lot of leaves. Temperature at nights are dropping down to the frost level and before long below the freezing level. I think that winter is coming early this year.

This year I am not working as a Committee chairman at the Dayton Hamvention. I want to get the opportunity to look at all of the stuff the vendors bring in and the flea market. Also have some time to spend with friends that I have only been able to just say hi to for the past few years. But, the Committees are hard at work to bring everyone a fantastic Hamvention for 2015. Last year we just missed having an attendance of 25,000, but I think 2015 will get us over the hump. Hope to see a lot of you this year.

Locally the White Water Amateur Radio club has been working on the area the VFW has given us and our tower and antennas. The club station should be ready to use by the end of November. We are a very small group but everyone is willing to work hard towards having a active club.

Over at Dayton, the DARA Club is as active as ever. They have at least 2 public service events every weekend (sometimes as many as 5 or 6 things going on the same weekend) We have been really busy redoing our towers and antennas. We remodeled the club house last winter and spring and added a lot of additional space (about \$500,000.00). We also had to move some of the towers and antennas around. So for the winter and spring we are remodeling the operating positions (\$25,000.00). We will

locate the VHF and UHF equipment into a different room.

Anyone coming out to this area or that will some time at Hamvention and want to see the Club house I'll be happy to take you over to it.

I'll try to take a few pictures and send them for inclusion with my article for next month.

73,
Dave N0EOP

Dave is a long time member of PPRAA. While living in Colorado Spring Dave was active in ARES, CMRG, 10-10 International, and about every other amateur radio activity in the area.

Dave now lives near Dayton, OH and has been active with the Dayton Hamvention.

Remote Operations PPRAA club station options

[Editor: The following email from Jim was in response to a question about remote operation study taking place at the PPRAA club station]

Good questions and thank you for thinking about it. The original proposal was to find ways to increase the utility of the site. We had looked at putting up some rather elaborate antennas but that would cost many thousands of dollars. We could not justify the cost based on utilization. We began to look at ways to increase utilization. One main way was to investigate a remote station. Your basic concept of what we are trying to do with the remote station is correct. We would need to transmit radio CATA

data and audio to the remote site. There are many details involved but that is the simple picture.

We are not experts with first-hand knowledge by any stretch of the imagination. However, we have looked at various options by researching the internet and the ARRL book on the subject. One of the initial solutions was some sort of V/UHF link as you mentioned. It is employed by some repeaters when the receiver and transmitter are in separate locations. It only carries audio; voice and DTMF tones, no data. The digitized data would need to be converted to audio and back again at both the remote and local location. Or, somehow superimposed on the carrier. While possible(?) we were

unable to find a way to do that. Second is we would essentially need a repeater on each end to transmit and receive between the remote and local site. That requires coordinated frequencies. A full repeater on both ends would cost about \$4000 not including the HF remote station. The most recent solution to sending data and voice has been to investigate internet access via a cellphone hotspot. We have looked at several other methods and all including access via hotspot may well prove too expensive as that is the nature of internet service in that area. With all that said we are very much open to any suggestions. Glenn, if you or anyone else has a reliable source of information we would be very pleased if it

was shared with us. We are definitely open to viable options. In a few days, as soon as I get some needed updates completed, I will send a copy of the Antenna Plan and Limiting Factors white paper that we have prepared. That will help understanding of what we are working to accomplish. Thanks again for the comments. 73,

Jim H., W0EM

Are knobs and buttons toast? - KB6NU

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In a recent column on EETimes (http://www.eetimes.com/author.asp?doc_id=1324283), an old colleague of mine, Martin Rowe, says, "Knobs and buttons are slowly on their way out. Get used to it." He's referring to the controls on oscilloscopes, but if he were a ham, he might just as well be talking about amateur radio transceivers, too.

We already see this happening in amateur radio. FlexRadio, and a couple of other companies, already make transceivers with no front panel controls. You must have a computer to use them.

Might we even start to see this with handheld and portable equipment? For example, how much cheaper could they make a Baofeng if to use it, you had to also have an Android or iPhone app to act as the human interface?

To be honest, I haven't really thought about this much myself. I'm enough of a dinosaur to still prefer buttons and knobs, but having to use on-screen controls certainly doesn't turn me off. Rowe claims, however, that "as the old-timers retire (or in our case as older hams become SKs), younger engineers (or young hams) will expect every user interface to function like a phone or tablet. Don't believe me? Just wait."

I got several interesting replies to this idea on my blog. Bill, AD8BC says, "What would be fun would be an open-source mobile radio. I picture an RF deck with a Raspberry Pi and touch screen for control, the Pi would simply tell the RF deck where to tune and handle the interface and scanning functions, it would ship with a stock app, but you could make your own. Built in support for SDR stuff, packet, APRS, remote operation...."

Most commenters, however, even the younger guys, still seem to prefer analog controls. Lucien, DH7LM, says, "I'm a newly licensed ham and I like both – experimenting with advanced computer stuff like SDRs and the great feeling a real radio provides!" Grant, KJ6ZZD, says, "Knobs perform some tasks better than a screen can. Knobs provide some tactile feedback that a screen just can't."

So, what do you think? Are knobs and buttons toast, or do you think there's still some life left in analog controls?

When not twiddling the knobs on his HF transceiver or relatively ancient Tek 2213 analog oscilloscope, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

MARS - ARES

MARS... for many people it refers to a Roman deity, a planet, or a candy bar, but for folks in Amateur Radio or who served in the military, it is the Military Auxiliary Radio System (formerly Military Affiliate Radio System prior to 2009). Some military folks may even remember sending messages home via MARS radiograms or getting MARS phone patches in the decades before the Internet and cell phones took control of our lives.

Some may have heard that MARS is gone. As Mark Twain once said the report of his death was an exaggeration, the rumors that MARS is extinct are also untrue. The US Air Force, US Army, and US Navy still have active MARS programs. Granted, many bases no longer have active MARS stations, but there are still MARS radio operators out there taking part in exercises and passing messages, though Army MARS only shows about 28 operators in Colorado (Navy and Air Force MARS did not provide a number). There has also been a push to involve MARS more in exercises, to spark more interest in MARS, and to establish closer ties with ARES and RACES.



In an Army News Service article, the US Army MARS program manager Paul English said that MARS provides support to the DoD by "providing contingency high-frequency communications support; providing communications support for Defense Support to Civil Authorities; providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief communications support to geographic combatant commanders; and providing morale and welfare communications to deployed DOD personnel." (http://www.army.mil/article/134844/MARS_volunteers_supporting_soldiers_with_radio_communications/)

MARS operators also provide vital training for the active duty and reserve military and the National Guard, enhancing skills once thought to no longer be relevant.

Civilians are eligible to be MARS operators. According to Mr. English, to join Army MARS, a person "must be 18 or older, hold a technician class or higher amateur radio license. If joining as a tech, for the Army you must upgrade to General or higher within a year of joining. When you join, there is a training manual that is issued and there are specific on air training requirements you must meet. You must also take the FEMA ICS courses 100 and 200.

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MARS—ARES

Continued from Page 8

Additionally, you must participate on HF radio a minimum of 12 hours per quarter. Your radio must be capable of operating out of the amateur bands." The other services have similar requirements.



Normally, a person or station operating under their MARS license cannot communicate directly with an amateur station except once a year during the annual Armed Forces Day cross-band tests. However, since MARS operators must also hold an amateur radio license, they can communicate with other amateurs from an amateur station under their amateur license.

Which brings us to the 48 hour MARS-ARES Interoperability Test in October (<http://www.arrl.org/news/late->

[october-exercise-to-test-mars-ares-interoperability](http://www.arrl.org/news/late-october-exercise-to-test-mars-ares-interoperability)). The goal is for MARS operators, using their amateur radio call signs, to make contact with amateurs and ARES groups in as many of the ~3062 counties as possible, kind of like a Worked All Counties or Worked All States contest, except in this case it is scored as MARS as an overall entity. These contacts will be tracked by the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code (<https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/codes/cou.html>) and reported by the MARS operators back through their chain of command.

A few online resources are: <https://www.facebook.com/HQArmyMARS>, <http://www.usarmymars.org/>, <http://www.navymars.org/>, <http://afmars.us/>, <http://afmars.org/>

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

The Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) is an annual Scouting event held the third full weekend in October.

This year marked the 57th JOTA. Les Mitchell, G3BHK, started JOTA in 1958. When Les drew up the plans and rules for the first event, little did he know its popularity would increase and spread around the world. Les died on October 6th, just weeks prior to this year's event.

PPRAA members helped the local LDS ham community with their JOTA. Merit badge counselors Neil, KØMAX, and Dan, WØRO, signed off many partial merit badge cards with 5 scouts completing all activities to be awarded the Radio Merit badge.

On-air activities were coordinated by Neil. This included getting on the air with HTs, HF, and mobile systems. Dan taught propagation, and the radio spectrum.

PPRAA members included Gordon, WØRGD; Jim, KDØKQL; Virgil, NØSRX, and

Dan, WØRO.

Besides the inside VHF, UHF, and HF stations, Jim, KDØKQL showed off the abilities of "The Blue Bunny". Dan, WØRO, set up a portable station using the roof mount mobile antenna, with chairs and tables next to the jeep.



November Contest Corner

The follow is a select list from <http://www.hornucopia.com/>.

There are many more contests available on the site. I find the 8-day contest calendar useful. Thirty minutes, an hour or the full contest time is a great way to perfect a new operating mode, digital setup, or completely loose yourself if it becomes addicting.

Links to rules, where to submit logs, and other contest specific information can be found on this site.

Selected contests from 8-Day Calendar that can be found at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Date	Contest	Time
Nov-1/2	Ukrainian DX	1200Z-1200Z
Nov-1-3	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW	2100Z-0300Z
Nov-2	DARC 10-meter Digital	1100Z-1700Z
Nov-8/9	ARRL EME	0000Z-2359Z
Nov-8/9	10-10 Int Fall, Digital	0001Z-2359Z
Nov-8/9	Kentucky QSP Party	1400Z-0200Z
Nov15-17	ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB	2100Z-0300Z
Nov 17	Run for the Bacon QRP	0200Z-0400Z
Nov29-30	CQ WW DX CW	0000Z-2400Z



VE Testing Colorado Springs (PPRAA)

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association (PPRAA)

When:
Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec
2nd Saturday at 9 AM

Location:
Colorado Technical University (CTU)
4435 North Chestnut
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Directions:
<http://ppraa.org/ve-testing>
or contact:
Dan Martin
VE@PPRAA.org



VE Testing Woodland Park (MARC)

MOUNTAIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC)

When:
Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov
1st Saturday at 10 AM

Location:
Woodland Park
Woodland Park Library-
Community Meeting RM
218 East Midland Avenue

Directions:
<http://www.nx0g.org/ve.html>
or contact
Wes Wilson (KØHBZ)
k0hbz@arrrl.net
Call (719) 687-8758



Applicants will need the following items:

1. A valid PHOTO ID, driver's license preferred (if you do not have a valid photo ID, please call for alternative identification requirements).
2. Your FRN or SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (now required – this includes children).
3. Your CURRENT ORIGINAL amateur radio license (if any) and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
4. The CURRENT ORIGINAL CSEs you have and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
5. Cash, Check or Money Order for \$15 (standard ARRL VE Fee). Checks and money orders should be made out to ARRL. This covers all exams you wish to take at this VE session.

NOTE: PPRAA and MARC VE Team policy, as with many VE

Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.

PPRAA – Colorado Springs testing only:

Anyone passing their Technician Class examination at a PPRAA test session will receive a free year's membership to the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

H.R. 4969-Kay N3KN

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division
update -- October 2014

[Division website.](#)

H.R. 4969 Update

Though the end of the year approaches, ARRL is continuing its work with Congress to advance H.R. 4969, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, and appreciates all the grassroots assistance members are providing. Details about this legislation can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>

The following is a note from ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN:

I would like to bring you up to date on H.R. 4969, but first I want you to know that your efforts are important and appreciated. The official list of cosponsors can be found, sorted alphabetically, at

[https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4969/cosponsors?q={%22search%22%3A\[%22hr+4969%22\]}&pageSort=alpha](https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4969/cosponsors?q={%22search%22%3A[%22hr+4969%22]}&pageSort=alpha)

Congress had very few days in session in September, but we added 30 co-sponsors to the official list during that time. ARRL Directors Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, and Dick Isely, W9GIG, went to Washington in September to visit Congressional offices, as did President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and General Counsel Chris

Imlay, W3KD. Dozens of offices were visited. Meanwhile, in the home districts, ARRL elected officials, appointed officials, and members met with Congressmen and their staffs to urge co-sponsorship. Members all over the country phoned local Congressional offices and sent e-mails via Congressmen's web pages. Members also sent postal letters via ARRL HQ, some of them generated at Amateur Radio conventions. This all-member effort is how we went from 17 co-sponsors on August 1 to 47 on September 18.

We have e-mail and oral commitments from more than half a dozen additional Congressmen to become co-sponsors of H.R. 4969. Members of Congress can become co-sponsors only when Congress is in session, not during a recess. Because Congress packed up and went home to campaign on September 19, some Representatives didn't have time to get their co-sponsorship made official before the recess. There will be follow-up with the offices of those Congressmen to make sure their co-sponsorship shows up on the official list as soon as possible after Congress reconvenes in November.

What about ARRL members who wrote, e-mailed, and phoned their Congressmen, but the Representatives haven't become co-sponsors? Was this time and effort wasted? Absolutely not. At the very least, these Congressional

offices now know that Amateur Radio exists in their districts and that Amateurs have interests which deserve notice. A lot of politics is based on relationships. Contacts made with members of Congress about H.R. 4969 contribute to establishing relationships that can be maintained and enhanced in the future. Does your Congressman know how Amateur Radio makes your district a safer place to live if disasters occur? Does your Congressman know how Amateurs in your district introduce young people to hands-on experience of how wireless communications work, laying the foundation for careers? Realistically, we won't get support for H.R. 4969 from every member of Congress who is contacted by Amateurs. What we certainly can do is to build relationships that will serve our interests -- and the public interest

-- if not right now, then in the future.

Members whose Congressmen have become co-sponsors are encouraged to thank their Representatives by phone, e-mail, or postal mail. It's good manners and good relationship-building strategy. Members can also seek out opportunities during the present recess to make the case for the bill at local offices and events. In short: Keep on!

73, Kay N3KN

ARRL President

**PIKES PEAK RADIO
AMATEUR
ASSOCIATION**

Send membership application to:

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

General Questions:
ppraa@ppraa.org

ØBeat:
zerobeat@ppraa.org



ppraa.org

Get Radio Active, get on the air!

Membership Application:

Date: ____ / ____ / ____ New Membership: Yes / No

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Call: _____ Class: ____ Phone # (____) _____

Email: _____

Are you a ARRL member: Yes / No

Additional Family Members:

Name1: _____ Call: _____ Class: ____ ARRL Member: Yes / No

Name2: _____ Call: _____ Class: ____ ARRL Member: Yes / No

Name3: _____ Call: _____ Class: ____ ARRL Member: Yes / No

____ \$15.00 Full Member

____ \$10.00 Full Member over 65

____ \$18.00 Family Membership

____ \$12.00 Family Membership over 65

\$____ Membership Amount

\$____ Scholarship Fund Donation

\$____ PPRAA General Fund Donation

\$____ Total

2015 Scholarship Fund

There are multiple ways to donate to the PPRAA

Scholarship Fund.

1. Use the form found on this page and send it, along with a check to PPRAA.
2. On the PPRAA web site you can donate via PayPal
3. At club meetings
4. Directly to the our scholarship fund.

Make checks to:
PPRAA Scholarship

The scholarship fund can be reached at:

FAR Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 911
Columbia, MD 21044

Ø- Beat Banner

Photo by Dan—WØRO

The Ø-Beat banner picture was taken of Pikes Peak at sunrise.

The theme of the banner is Pikes Peak. If you would like to submit pictures for the Ø-Beat banner, please send them to:
zerobeat@ppraa.org

Please Include "[0-beat]" as part of the subject line.