



VOLUME 68 ISSUE 2

March 2017

ARRL AFFILIATED-SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

## Monthly Ham Breakfast

### LOCATION



Saturday, April 1, 2017 8-9:30 AM

Western Omelette

16 S. Walnut Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Phone number (719) 636-2286

All are warmly invited to come on down and join us!



## March PPRAA Club Meeting

The March 15th 7PM club meeting will be at the IHop on Stetson Hills Blvd (just west of Powers Blvd). 5749 Stetson Hills Blvd.

This month featuring Andy Peterson, Director of Development,  
<http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org/>

### PPRAA Club Officers

President	Raleigh Holcomb, N4HYF*
Vice President	Mike Anderson, WV7T
Secretary	John Wishart, NG0I*
Treasurer	James Madsen, K3ILC
Ø-Beat Editor	Jerre Redding, WA0BCM
Webmaster	Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM
Board	John Bloodgood, KD0SFY
Board	Glenn Brodt, N3ULW
Board	Dan Huber, KN0MAP
Board	Frank Rogers, KB3PDT
Board	Jim Rader, KD0NQM*
Board	Jim Bishop, KD0KQL*
Board	Virgil Yost, N0XRS*
Board	VACANT

\* In final year of 2-year term

All officers can be contacted at: [boardmembers@ppraa.org](mailto:boardmembers@ppraa.org)

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# PPRAA FACE BOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/PPRAA-Pikes-Peak-Radio-Amateur-Association/185833894769325?v=wall>

Gigantic Pikes Peak Area

## MEGAFEST

**Saturday July 8, 2017**

**0800 to 1300 (Vendors 0600) Ticket sales 0730**

**Lewis-Palmer High School**

1300 Higby Road, Monument, CO

Just East of I-25, between Exits 158 & 161

***Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.***

A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization



**ADMISSION: \$5.00 per person**

**6' TABLE RENTAL PRICES:**

(Does NOT include admission)

One chair per table included with table rental

**Early Bird (before 1 May).....\$12.00**

**In Advance (1 May – 2 July).....\$15.00**

**Last Minute (after 2 July).....\$17.00**

### **LARC Fest**

- Saturday, April 1, 2017 (0800-1400)
- Boulder County Fairgrounds
- Longmont, Colorado
- More info [here](#).

**2017 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention**

- Saturday May 27 thru Sunday May 28, 2017
- Buffalo Bill Village Resort, Cody, Wyoming
- Info [here](#).

**Museum Ships Weekend Event**

- Friday June 2, and Sunday June 4, 2017
- On Air
- More info [here](#).

**Duke City Hamfest**

- Friday August 11 thru Sunday August 13, 2017
- Albuquerque Marriott, Albuquerque New Mexico
- More info [here](#).

***PPRAA Field Day 2017***

**Who:** PPRAA members, local amateur radio operators, friends, guests, and elected government officials.

**When:** Setup: June 23<sup>st</sup>, 1530  
Operations: June 24<sup>nd</sup>, Noon until June 25<sup>rd</sup> Noon  
Tear Down: June 25<sup>rd</sup>, Noon

**Where:** Ellicott Fire Station, 75 N Ellicott Hwy, Calhan, CO

**Talk In:** 146.460 simplex. We will also monitor repeater 146.970-

*You shop. Amazon gives.*

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

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- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1476913>

## Why are there so many Techs? By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.
- Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.
- Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.
- Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.
- Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.
- Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges."

I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was. Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams.  
Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license>). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an An Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (<http://www.arrl.org/license-1>) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017. According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure. And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (<http://www.arrl.org/divisions>).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com), writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

# Garden of the Gods Amateur Radio Club



## Garden of the Gods ARC meeting

First Monday of each month at Fargos Pizza at 11:30 am. All are welcome.

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### ARRL Incoming QSL Bureaus

[www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service](http://www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service)

### ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureaus

[www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service](http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service)

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## ARRL Affiliated Clubs-Outgoing QSL cards

ARRL affiliated-club stations may use the service when submitting club QSLs for its members in bulk (“pooling” their members cards together in one package) by indicating the club name inside the package. Club secretaries should check club affiliation on the ARRL web site to ensure that their affiliation is current. In a “pooled” package, each club member using this service **must also be an ARRL member**. Cards should be sorted "en masse" by prefix and a proof of membership should be enclosed for each ARRL member. QSLs for unaffiliated club calls may also be sent via the outgoing bureau to foreign destinations if the trustee of the club call is a member in good standing. The trustee’s proof of membership must be included with the club call-QSLs.

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## From the annals of PPRAA history PPRAA March 1980

March 1980:

Article on coping with RFI in stereo equipment by Ray AAØL. Hams in COS will work with hams in CA to provide morale & welfare messages for troops in an exercise at Ft Irwin. PPFMA will handle the food concession for the upcoming swapfest. Plans for an exhibit at the Mall of the Bluffs for May. Noise problem on the PPFMA 97 repeater partially reduced by covering antenna with a radome. Oak KØROL volunteered to be club historian for sorely needed archives. Not sure if this is the first time for a historian. Door prizes at May swapfest will be Tektronix and HP scopes, and VTVM.

### CONTESTS

**WA7BNM**

<http://www.hornucopia.com>

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# MARC VE EXAMS

(January, March, May, July, September, November)

The Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) VE Team conducts VE exam sessions in Woodland Park every odd month at 10 am on the first Saturday in the Community Meeting Room of the Woodland Park Library, 218 East Midland Avenue. The MARC VE Team is affiliated with the ARRL/VEC and examinations for all classes of license will be offered.

Full information, including driving directions to the Woodland Park Library, is available under “VE Sessions” on the MARC website at <http://www.nx0g.org/ve.html> or contact Wes Wilson (KØHBZ) at [k0hbz@arrl.net](mailto:k0hbz@arrl.net) or call (719) 687-8758.

If attending, please BE SURE to bring the following items to the session:

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 **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER** (now required – this includes children) or **FRN** number.
3. Your **ORIGINAL** amateur radio license (if any) **AND** a **PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.
4. The **ORIGINAL** of any relevant **CSCEs** 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 MARC and covers all the different exams you wish to take at the VE session.

MARC VE Team policy, as with many VE Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.

For already licensed hams, MARC members should be monitoring the MARC repeater system 146.820- or 448.650- (both 107.2 Hz) if you need help with talk-in. 73 Wes KØHBZ



# **PPRAA VE EXAMS**

## **(MONTHLY)**

PPRAA VE session will be held at 9 am on the second Saturday of the month at Pikes Peak Library District - Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, United States

Applicants will need the following items at the session:

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 **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER** (now required – this includes children) or **FRN** number.
3. Your **ORIGINAL** amateur radio license (if any) **AND** a **PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.
4. The **ORIGINAL** of any relevant **CSCEs** 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 and covers all the different exams you wish to take at the VE session.  
PPRAA VE Team policy, as with many VE Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.

Dennis Major N0ABC  
PPRAA VE Contact  
719-213-1109

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.

## PPRAA VE Session

Sat, March 11, 9:00am – 11:30am

### Monthly on the second Saturday

**Where** Pikes Peak Library District - Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, United States

[map](#)

**Calendar** PPRAA

**Created by** n7lem.0@gmail.com

**Description** Testing will take place in the Ent Conference Center.

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*Ditz n Bitz*

**For Sale or Wanted**

Do you have something to sell, trying to find something or just want to see something get to a good home? Send it in to [wv7t@arri.net](mailto:wv7t@arri.net) and see it in Dits and Bits.

Also, visit the PPRAA Forum's online Ditz and Bitz at [www.ppraa.forumotion.net](http://www.ppraa.forumotion.net) !!

**Membership Application**  
**Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  New Membership  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an ARRL member?  Yes  No

Additional Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL member?  Yes  No

Additional Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL member?  Yes  No

Additional Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL member?  Yes  No

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Member - \$15.00

Full Member over 65 - \$10.00

Free - VE Signature Required:

Family Membership (same address) - \$18.00

Family Membership (both over 65) - \$12.00

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

**To:**