



VOLUME 68 ISSUE 6
July 2017

PPRAA Club Officers

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

* In final year of 2-year term

All officers can be contacted at: boardmembers@ppraa.org

Monthly Ham Breakfast

Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017 8-9:30 AM

Omelets Etc, 1616 South 8th Street, C Springs.

Phone number 719-634-7321

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



July PPRAA Club Meeting

The July 12th 7PM club meeting will be at the IHop on Stetson Hills Blvd (just west of Powers Blvd). 5749 Stetson Hills Blvd.

How to Copy CW in Your Head

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, "How do I learn to copy in my head?" When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs \$20 and is available from n7agk.com.

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes", then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit...dah dah dah....dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pitbull, not the letters "D O G."

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code* and the *No Nonsense* series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com

When he's not working on helping new hams, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. If you have a good idea for a new ham "mini class," e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes 12 June 2017

Present: Raleigh Holcomb, John Wishart, Jim Madsen, Mike Anderson, Glenn Brodt, John Bloodgood, Dan Huber, Doug Neilsen, Frank Rogers, Jim Bishop, Jim Rader, Virgil Yost,

The meeting was called to order by President Raleigh Holcomb at 6:32 PM at the IHOP Restaurant at Powers & Stetson Hills.

Silent Keys: None.

May board mtg minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Madsen provided a treasurer's report showing \$10470.99 as of 12 June 2017. He is still trying to get the PayPal account authority transferred over to himself. We are cautioned to avoid using our state tax exempt number for personal purchases or purchases not related to our club's mission statement (public service support).

Committee Reports

Zero Beat Report - Jerre still needs articles. It was published today.

Megafest 2017 - This will be held on Saturday, July 8 at Lewis-Palmer High School in Monument. Jim Rader provided an update on Megafest preparation activities which are proceeding normally.

Field Day 2017 - This will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25 at the club station in Ellicott. Mike Anderson reported on upcoming Field Day activities. He still needs volunteers to help with some of the activities. Doug requested money for field day food. It was moved/seconded to provide up to \$300 for Field Day food supplies. Passed.

ARES Report - John Bloodgood reported on upcoming ARES events. ARES also participated in the Garden of the Gods Ten Mile Run and the Sky Sox Emergency Preparedness Day event. Upcoming: Mtn Top Cycling Club bike rides, PPIHC, and Summer Roundup Trail Run. Sign up on the local ARES website.

Shorter Club Meetings - it has been suggested to minimize the length of the business portion of the general club meeting. We will try to keep that down to 20-30 minutes max.

Elections - All officers and four board members will be up for replacement at our elections in November. Nominations are being solicited for these positions. If you are interested in filling on of these positions, contact a club officer or board member.

Asset Tags - moved/seconded to not label asset items with an asset tag. Passed. We do, however, need to have an inventory with proper identification (description, vendor, model, s/n, value) with photos of items, as appropriate, for insurance and tracking purposes. We want to insure our equipment. It was moved/seconded that we take at least two photos of each asset item, including an overall view and a view of the model and s/n information. Passed.

License Classes - currently has four classes going on. Contact Mike Anderson WV7T for more information.

Field Day

We will have SSB, CW, digital, and GOTA stations. Will have an antenna analyzer class at FD.

Moved/seconded to accept the donation of aa bunch of QRP equipment. Mike Anderson will donate \$300 to the club for the equipment. Passed.

John Bloodgood - publicity for FD is underway.

Jim Rader - need to sell more raffle tickets. We have plenty of donated door prizes from several vendors. We need someone to run the ticket label printing computer and printer. We also need a talk-in person. Extension cords and power strips are also needed. Setup is Friday, July 8, starting at 4PM at LPHS. Boy Scouts will be providing food services and also assist with moving items in and out of the gym.

Dan Huber - He is still working on the remote station, but it is working and usable.

Next PPRAA Board meeting: Monday, July 10, 2017, 6:30PM at the IHOP on Stetson Hills at Powers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
John Wishart NGØI
PPRAA Secretary
25 June 2017

PPRAA Business Meeting Minutes 14 June 2017



The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Raleigh Holcomb at the IHOP Restaurant on Stetson Hills near Powers Blvd. Approximately 38 members and guests were present.

Silent Key: None.

The minutes for the previous meeting were approved as published in the Zero Beat and on the PPRAA website.

Treasurer's Report Jim Madsen reported that we had \$10380.99 in our accounts as of 14 June 2017.

Committee Reports

Megafest Report

Jim Rader the event will be Saturday, July 8, at Lewis Palmer High School. Table setup at the high school will start at 4PM on Friday, July 7. Plenty of help will be needed to set up and arrange tables and chairs. Many door prizes have been donated, in addition to a great lineup of raffle prizes.

ARES Report

John Bloodgood announced that ARES provided support for GoG 10 Mile Run, including a visit from a bear crossing the course during the race. Upcoming events include the Mtn Top Cycling Club race, PPIHC, and the Summer Roundup Trail Run.

Club Station

Open House at the Fire station last weekend was wellattended.

Upcoming Elections

All officer positions are open plus four board positions for elections in October.

Field Day Mike A reported that there will be SSB, CW, digital, and GOTA stations in operation. Also a visitor info table. There will be Antenna Analyzer class presented by Dave Molter AD0QD.

Program

Mike Anderson WV7T reported on the Wyoming HAMCON 2017 in Cody, WY, and his visit to RT Systems, the radio programming system makers, in Broomfield, CO.

Upcoming Events

Next PPRAA board meeting: 6:30PM, Monday, July 10, 2017, at the IHOP Restaurant on Stetson Hills at Powers.

Next PPRAA regular meeting: 7PM, Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Same location as above.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM (a new record for brevity!).

Respectfully submitted,
John Wishart NGØI
PPRAA Secretary
14 June 2017

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

Contests and Events

WA7BNM contest calendars link

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

Central States VHF Society Conference

- Thursday – Sunday July 27-30, 2017
- Albuquerque, NM
- More info [here.](#)

Duke City Hamfest

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

Denver Radio Club Hamfest

- TBD August 2017
- Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, CO
- More info [here.](#)

PPRAA Annual Picnic

- TBD August 2017
- 1000-1500 MDT
- Food served around 1230
- Pot Luck (Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert)
- Club provides brisket, burgers, brats, drinks

Colorado QSO Party

- Saturday September 2, 2017

BARCfest

- Sunday October 8, 2017
- Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, CO
- More info [here.](#)

60th Jamboree-on-the-Air

- 20-22 October 2017
- More info [here.](#)

CMRG Annual Meeting

- TBD October 2017 1:00 – 4:00
- Colorado Springs, CO

TechFest – 2017

- Saturday November 11, 2017
- Lakewood Elks Lodge, 1455 Newland Street, Lakewood, CO
- More info [here.](#)

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. You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1476913>

FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO

- [Scholarship Information & Application](#)
 - [FAR Overview](#)
 - [Contact FAR](#)

Scholarship Information & Application The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. will be awarding a total of 57 scholarships, worth an aggregate of \$94,575 for the 2017/2018 academic year. Those scholarships range in value from \$500 to \$5,000 each.

Note that the QCWA and Chichester scholarships have a requirement that you obtain a recommendation from the QCWA or an ARRL affiliated club, respectively. When you apply, you are applying for all of the scholarships for which you qualify. Getting the recommendations qualifies you for an additional \$38,000 in scholarships!

A complete description of the 2017 scholarships that were awarded may be found at:

- [2017 Far Scholarship List](#)

(Updated 10 Apr 2017)

Garden of the Gods Amateur Radio Club



Garden of the Gods ARC meeting

First Monday of each month at Fargos Pizza at 11:00 AM. All are welcome.

ARRL Incoming QSL Bureaus

www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureaus

www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service

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.



From the annals of PPRAA history

PPRAA July 1980

July 1980:

Nice article by Frank WBØPAJ describing Voice of America's early operations when he worked for them in Bound Brook NJ. Minutes noted the outstanding program by Bob Shriner WAØUZO of Circuit Board Specialists, who talked about new ham radio designs coming for the 80's. Central States VHF Society meeting coming up in Colorado Springs in August, with Ray AAØL and Doug WBØMHP coordinating. Who says hams don't want to help? Even with a motion to turn down a public service event due to short notice, the motion was rejected and PPRAA hams. helped despite the short notice for the Gazette's 10Mile Run. Another good article by Ray AAØL about diode and transistor testing using an oscilloscope.

The June board meeting was held at the home of Ray and Diane Uberecken who served a fine B-B-Q dinner for all. July program will be on Over-The-Horizon radar by LTC Rock Shute.



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 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 FRN NUMBER (now required – this includes children).
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 Dean Buckhouse



PPRAA VE EXAMS

(MONTHLY)

PPRAA VE session will be held at 9:15 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. The exception is the Megafest month where testing will be at Megafest and will be at 10:00 AM

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 **ORIGINAL** amateur radio license (if any) **AND** a **PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.

3. The **ORIGINAL** of any relevant **CSCEs** you have **AND** a **PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.

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

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.



Study for your Amateur Radio License exam:

Technician [\(2014-2018\)](#)

General [\(2015-2019\)](#)

Amateur Extra [\(2016-2020\)](#)

Other...

HamExam.org Amateur Radio Practice Exams

Welcome, guest.

Log in using <https://hamexam.org/>

or click [register](#) to create an account.

If this is your first visit to the site, please read my brief [introduction](#).

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

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

To: