



**VOLUME 68 ISSUE 8**  
**September 2017**

## **PPRAA Club Officers**

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

\* In final year of 2-year term

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

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## Monthly Ham



***Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 8-9:30 AM***

**La Tartine, 1420 Kelly Johnson Blvd., Colorado Springs**

**Phone number 719-634-7321**

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

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## September PPRAA Club Meeting

# **The Sept 13th 7PM club meeting will be at the IHop on Stetson Hills Blvd (just west of Powers Blvd). 5749 Stetson Hills Blvd.**

## **Interesting gadgets I wish I had time for**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm on a lot of mailing lists and participate in a bunch of amateur radio forums. As a result, I see a lot of interesting gadgets that guys are buying or are thinking about buying. Here are three of the latest that look interesting to me. I wish I had time (and money) to purchase all of these and try them out.

### **Android antenna analyzer**

On Reddit

([https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally\\_got\\_my\\_mini60\\_ebay\\_antenna\\_analyzer\\_time/](https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60nnp1/finally_got_my_mini60_ebay_antenna_analyzer_time/)), some of the guys have been talking about the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer (<http://www.ebay.com/itm/CW-USB-Interface-Cable-WINKEYER-compatible-3-5mm-plug-/132121085623?hash=item1ec307c6b7:g:up8AAOSw241YeTei>). Its frequency range is 1 - 60MHz, but the cool thing about this device is that you can use it standalone with the built-in LCD display or with some software ([http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information\\_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm](http://www.jtelectronics.co.nz/information_links/MINI60/Add-Bluetooth-Module-To-MINI60-Antenna-Analyser.htm)) and a tablet with a Bluetooth interface to get fancy frequency vs. SWR plots. See <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/mini60-ant-analyzer.jpg> for a photo of the Mini60 Antenna Analyzer being used with an Android tablet.

Of course, this is made in China, but how can you beat the price? It costs \$112 shipped.

### **Multi-functional component tester**

Here's another marvel of Chinese engineering and manufacture - a smart component tester ([http://www.banggood.com/3\\_5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html](http://www.banggood.com/3_5inch-Colorful-Display-Multi-functional-TFT-Backlight-Transistor-Tester-p-1083042.html)) for only \$30, shipped. It identifies and characterizes NPN and PNP transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes (including Zener diodes), N-channel and P-channel MOSFET, IGBT, JFET, triacs, and batteries.

This isn't the first smart component tester to hit the market, but the unique thing about this unit is that it has a graphical display that not only identifies the type of component that you've connected to it, but also draws the schematic symbol of the part. You can see a video of this tester in action at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07FH6tjzwWg>.

## Make your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC

Newark/element 14 will soon start selling a kit of part that will make it easier to turn your Raspberry Pi into a desktop PC ([https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et\\_cid=28941683&et\\_rid=1231362216&cmp=](https://www.element14.com/community/docs/DOC-83477?CMP=e-email-SEPO-210317-e14PI&et_cid=28941683&et_rid=1231362216&cmp=)). The kit includes:

- Intelligent and Safe Power Controller
- Interface to connect mSATA SSD (upto 1TB)
- Real Time Clock to keep track of time
- Heat Sink
- Enclosure

They don't list the price just yet, but this might be what I need to actually make use of the Raspberry Pi 3 I bought several months ago.

If you have one of these gadgets, or buy one in the future, please let me know how you like it. I'll put your review up on my blog, so that everyone can benefit from your experience.

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When he's not drooling over electronic gadgets, Dan blogs about amateur radio at 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).

### Club Historian Needed

If you can help with this position, contact a board member or club officer.

### Field Day Report & Program

Mike A reported 2456 QSO points and 700 bonus points, for a possible total 3156 points.

### Colorado QSO party

This PPRAA-sponsored event will be Labor Day weekend on Saturday, September 2. We will need operators at the club stations.

### Program

Mike Anderson WV7T gave a report and slide show on our club's Field Day activities at our club station in Ellicott. He was very well-pleased with the event and felt it was the best Field Day he had ever attended.

### Upcoming Events

# PPRAA Face book

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

## Contests and Events

### **WA7BNM contest calendars link**

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

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#### **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 select a different charitable organization after signing in.

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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>

## **PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes 7 August 2017**

Present: Raleigh Holcomb, John Wishart, Jim Madsen, Mike Anderson, Glenn Brodt, Frank Rogers, Virgil Yost, Jim Rader, John Bloodgood

The meeting was called to order by President Raleigh Holcomb at 6:30 PM at the IHOP Restaurant at Powers & Stetson Hills.

Silent Keys: None.

July board mtg minutes were approved as published in the Zero Beat with the following correction: Saturday was misspelled.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jim Madsen provided a treasurer's report showing \$14769.66 in our accounts as of 7 August 2017.

### **Committee Reports**

Zero Beat - no report.

ARES Report - John Bloodgood reported on recent ARES events including Kids First Safety Day at Chapel Hills Mall last Saturday and the Pikes Peak Cycling Hill Climb. Pikes Peak Ascent & Marathon and the Colorado Springs Marathon are coming up.

### **Old Business**

Elections

Elections are coming up in October. The positions of president, vice president, secretary, and one board member are open.

### **New Business**

Club station - cement for a new pad is still awaiting purchase, mixing, and pouring. Six meter delta loop antenna is up and working.

Elections - officers (except treasurer) and one board member will be up for replacement at our elections in November. Nominations are now being accepted for these positions. If you are interested in any of these positions, contact a club officer or board member.

#### VP Report

Mike Anderson has a cash surplus from the door prize fund. Would like to know if we want to use the surplus for Christmas party door prizes.

#### Contingency Planning

Some discussion came up about what might happen if we lost the use of our facility in Ellicott. It was suggested to form a contingency planning committee to address this issue.

John Bloodgood - noted that there are a lot of eclipse-related ham radio events that will occur on Aug 21. He also discussed some means of increasing the level of interest and participation in ham radio. Another suggestion was to rethink the Thursday night net, including possibly moving it to 2 meters.

Jim Madsen - picnic is on Aug 20. Ellicott remote station is operational. There may be a problem with that transceiver transmitting on both upper and lower sideband. Jim is checking this out with Ed Corn.



Next PPRAA Board meeting: Monday, September 11, 2017, 6:30PM at the IHOP on Stetson Hills at Powers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Wishart NGØ1

PPRAA Secretary  
22 August 2017

## PPRAA Business Meeting Minutes 9 August 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. Over 40 members and guests were present.

The local scholarship awardee who received our \$1K scholarship, Anthony Mitchell KE0LQK, was introduced and spoke briefly, thanking us for the award. Anthony is a PPRAA member. Congratulations to Anthony!

Silent Keys: None.

The minutes for the July meeting were approved as corrected in the Zero Beat and on the PPRAA website. Correction: three officer positions are open for election, not four.

**Treasurer's Report** Jim Madsen reported that we had \$14769.66 in our accounts as of 9 August 2017.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Megafest Report**

Jim Rader - a Megafest chairperson for the 2018 event is still needed. Jim will be supporting this activity and the chair.

### **ARES Report**

John Bloodgood reported that ARES will be supporting the Pikes Peak Ascent & Marathon and the Colorado Springs Marathon in August. ARES has been experimenting with the FSQ digital mode.

### **Old Business**

Elections coming up in Oct. President, Vice President, and Secretary plus one board member slots need to be filled. Contact a club officer or board member if interested.

### **Club Station**

Still need to buy, mix, and pour the concrete for a pad by the shed. Have put up the six meter delta loop, but not yet tested. We now have a Signalink sound card interface for the club station for use with digital modes.

VP report - Mike said they are trying to get a 2m net started on the 147.345 MHz repeater. Lots of radio activities in Aug and Sept. Also considering having a K1A (KIA - the car) special event

Deep Space Exploration Society - Myron invited all to the DSES Open House at the Haswell dish site on Aug 11-13.

## **New Business**

### **Picnic**

Fountain Creek Regional Park, Pavilion #3, on August 20. Meats and drinks are provided, please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

### **Club Historian Needed**

If you can help with this position, contact a board member or club officer.

### **Colorado QSO party**

This PPRAA-sponsored event will be Labor Day weekend on Saturday, September 2. We will need operators at the club stations. All club members are called to participate if you can - at either end of the QSOs.

## **Program**

Mike WV7T and Dave AD0QD gave a talk about "Understanding Your Antenna Analyzer", including a hands-on demonstration .

## **Upcoming Events**

Next PPRAA board meeting: 6:30PM, Monday, September 11, 2017, at the IHOP Restaurant on Stetson Hills at Powers.

Next PPRAA regular meeting: 7PM, Wednesday, September 13, 2017. Same location as above.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wishart NGØI

PPRAA Secretary

22 August 2017

# 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:

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[2017 Far Scholarship List](#)

*(Updated 10 Apr 2017)*

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## **Garden of the Gods Amateur Radio Club**



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### **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](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.





**FREE**

**Ham Radio License Classes and Tutoring  
Technician, General, Extra, Morse Code, Hands-on  
Skills.**

**Mike Anderson, WV7T**  
PPRAA Senior License Instructor  
wv7t@aol.com 229-8610

**Raleigh Holcomb, N4HYF**  
ARRL Registered Instructor

**Free Exams!**

Team,

Be sure to join us for our weekly nets Monday and Tuesday evenings!

First, Monday, at 8:30pm, on D-Star XRF223B, the PRA holds its D-Star net. There is plenty of conversations from everything digital to the latest projects and devices... from DStar / DMR / Fusion / Brandmeister / Hotspots, and even CW. This can be accessed via your local hotspot. Also, many have linked via the W0CDS 2M repeater as well. Considering our K0PRA repeater is being relocated, using the W0CDS 2M side would be best (please follow common/courteous practice when linking).

Second, at 8:00pm on Tuesday, is the PRA weekly analog net on the W0CFI 448.675 - (100Hz) repeater. This is a great way to catch up on the happenings of the PRA and is a

great environment to ask any question related to the hobby or to give yourself some bragging rights on a recent license, upgrade, or new piece of equipment.

We'll see you on the air!

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**73,  
KØPRA**

**Your Friends at the Parker Radio Association**

**[www.facebook.com/parkerradioassociation](http://www.facebook.com/parkerradioassociation)**

**[parkerradio.org](http://parkerradio.org)**

**[@ParkerCORadio](https://www.instagram.com/ParkerCORadio)**



PPRAA annual picnic - [Lots of food](#) [George Grill](#)  
[Master Doug](#)



**2017 Eclipse from Ellicott**



**K3ILC and AD0NP**

# From the annals of PPRAA history

September 1980:

CCARC reports that the new Colorado Callbook will be published at the end of August. Cost will be \$2 for clubs, for resale at \$3. Breakfast every Saturday morning at the King's Country Kitchen, reports Don KBØKQ. Hams assist at the Flying W Ranch with the Vetter motorcycle rally. Hams wear red t-shirts with a large white cross and the words "Emergency Radio" and "Amateur Radio" on them. The club picnic in August will be held at Oak KØROL's cabin in the mountains. Zero Beat editor looking for articles.

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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 [k0hbx@arrl.net](mailto:k0hbx@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

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Where</b>       | Pikes Peak Library District - Library 21c,<br>1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO<br>80920, United States |
|                    | <a href="#">map</a>  |
| <b>Calendar</b>    | PPRAA  |
| <b>Created by</b>  | n7lem.0@gmail.com  |
| <b>Description</b> | Testing will take place in the Ent<br>Conference Center.   |



Study for your Amateur Radio License **exam**:

[Technician](#) (2014-2018)

[General](#) (2015-2019)

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

[Other...](#)

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

-

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

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

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:**