



VOLUME 69 ISSUE 2  
February 2018

## PPRAA Club Officers

President	<a href="#"><u>Rich, AD0NP</u></a>
Vice President	<a href="#"><u>Mike Anderson, WV7T</u></a>
Secretary	<a href="#"><u>Curtis Cookson, W0CEC</u></a>
Treasurer	<a href="#"><u>James Madsen, K3ILC</u></a>
Ø-Beat Editor	<a href="#"><u>Jerre Redding, WA0BCM</u></a>
Webmaster	<a href="#"><u>Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>John Bloodgood, KD0SFY</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>Glenn Brodt, N3ULW</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>Dan Huber, KN0MAP</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>Frank Rogers, KB3PDT</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>Jim Rader, KD0NQM*</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>Jim Bishop, KD0KQL*</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>Virgil Yost, N0XRS*</u></a>
Board	<a href="#"><u>Ray U, AA0L</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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Club Historian Needed

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

## Monthly Ham Breakfast



*Saturday, March 3, 2018 8-9:30 AM*

*Country Buffet*

*801N. Academy Blvd.*

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

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## February PPRAA Club Meeting

The Feb. 14th 7PM club meeting will be at the IHop on Stetson Hills Blvd  
(just west of Powers Blvd).

5749 Stetson Hills Blvd.

## Upcoming Events

### PPRAA Face book

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

### Contests and Events

#### WA7BNM contest calendars link

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

#### The Swapfest

- Sunday February 18, 2018 (0900-1300)
- Adams County Fairgrounds
- Brighton, Colorado
- More info [here.](#)

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### *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>

I have been in contact with one of the organizers of the annual Educating Children of Color Summit.

(<http://www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org/home.html>)

After giving a quick description of how amateur radio can be used to present STEM subjects (Science Technology Engineering Math), how ham radio is a non-discriminatory hobby, that there are organizations like OMIK, and about some of the fun and exciting things we do, they are very receptive to possibly having an amateur radio presentation for the 2019 summit.

This would be a great opportunity to 1) get youth and minorities involved in ham radio, 2) get minority kids excited about STEM subjects, and 3) help break the "pipeline to prison" for a few kids.

Maybe this is something PPRAA would like to get involved with?

John Bloodgood, KD0SFY

*FCC Opens 640 and 2200 Meter bands. Stations  
Must notify UTC before operating.*

09/15/2017

The FCC has announced that the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for 3 years, the information-collection requirement of the Commission's March 29 *Report and Order (R&O)* that spelled out Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands — 630 meters and 2200 meters. Notice of the action appears in today's edition of the *Federal Register*. Before using either band, stations must [notify](#) the Utilities Technology Council ([UTC](#)), formerly the Utilities Telecom Council, that they plan to do so, and if UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC adopted the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) implementation Report and Order (ET Docket 15-99), amending its Amateur Radio rules to

— in the FCC’s words — “provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz

(630-meter) bands.”

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna’s fixed location. The new rules do not permit any mobile operation.

“Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies,” the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. “This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands.”

The FCC announced that it is making effective immediately the Part 97 rule amendments, § 97.3, 97.15(c), 97.301(b) through (d), 97.303(g), 97.305(c), and 97.313(k) and (l), which do not require OMB approval

Click [HERE](#) to access the UTC notification website.

**Received this update from the PPRAA Treasurer on status of our King Soopers card program.**

**Looks like we are doing good on this.**

Hi all –

Received this from King Soopers today – we’re over \$5,000 in reloads again:

#### NEIGHBORHOOD REWARDS STATEMENT

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

12/24/2017      01/27/2018

**Current Reloads    \$1350.00**

**Total Reloads      \$5151.83**

**Rebate Amount     \$ 257.59**

Jan 10 2018 Club Meeting  
Called to Order @ 7:00 pm Rich ADONP

Approximately 35 people in attendance

VP Mike WV7T

Presented Survey to gather interest of club members

Presented award to Aubrey Johnson for her stellar food service during our club functions

Ask about Date and Time change for 2 meter net

Announced he would not run for re election in October

Announced Glenn B N3ULW was being treated for cancer

Announced the repeater has be given to GGARC

Announced 4 members upgraded to General Class

Announced intention to operate June VHF Contest from Pikes Peak

Announced Field Day preps almost done

#### Treasurers Report

##### **Jan 2018**

Ent Checking	\$4,116.14
Ent Savings	\$3,756.50
Wells Fargo	\$3,044.91
PayPal	\$94.02
Cash (or undeposited checks)	\$0.00
Total	\$11,011.57

Awards	\$135.00
Scholarships	\$1,010.23

##### **Major Expenses:**

Christmas Gifts (HRO)

Liability Insurance

Megafest Prizes	\$2,638.68
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COQP Plaques	\$450.00
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##### **Income:**

COQP Plaque sponsorship

Amazon Smile

Ent Rewards (to savings account)

Date: Jan 2, 2018 7:58 PM

With a lot of help this morning from Jim, KDØKQL, I was able to perform several of the experiments that I wanted to do on the remote.

Jim drove his Blue Bunny, with his mobile HF station, to about 8 miles distance from AFØS. I talked to him using the remote XCVR's microphone on 20 meters to optimize the microphone gain settings on the TS-450 – we used FM to discuss settings and results.

The first test we did was to verify that the remote was actually putting out a SSB signal, and not double sideband. Good news here – the unselected sideband is being properly attenuated.

I next tried switching in the speech processor. There is something wrong with that – it causes a “picket-fencing” effect on the transmitted audio, even with the microphone gain set at ¼ full scale. There is some sort of problem with that, so we'll leave that off for now (as in the past).

My next set of experiments involved us communicating using my laptop to access the remote. There are three audio gain controls for transmitting – the microphone gain, the server software gain, and the microphone gain on the laptop, and I wished to optimize each of these. The optimum setting for the XCVR gain was 1/3 full scale (changed from previous setting) and the server optimal setting was 50% of full scale (no change from previous setting). Jim said that the remote's audio sounded pretty well on his end. Most of the settings weren't that critical, but when I got outside the optimal range, Jim could detect the audio-quality degradation (he said the audio started sounding “mushy” when the gains were set too high).

I also did a few brief check on the automatic antenna tuner, which I reset during my last visit, and it still seems to be a happy camper. So it appears that all is well with the remote station at this snapshot in time. Again I would like to give a big thank-you to Jim – without his help I couldn't have done this.

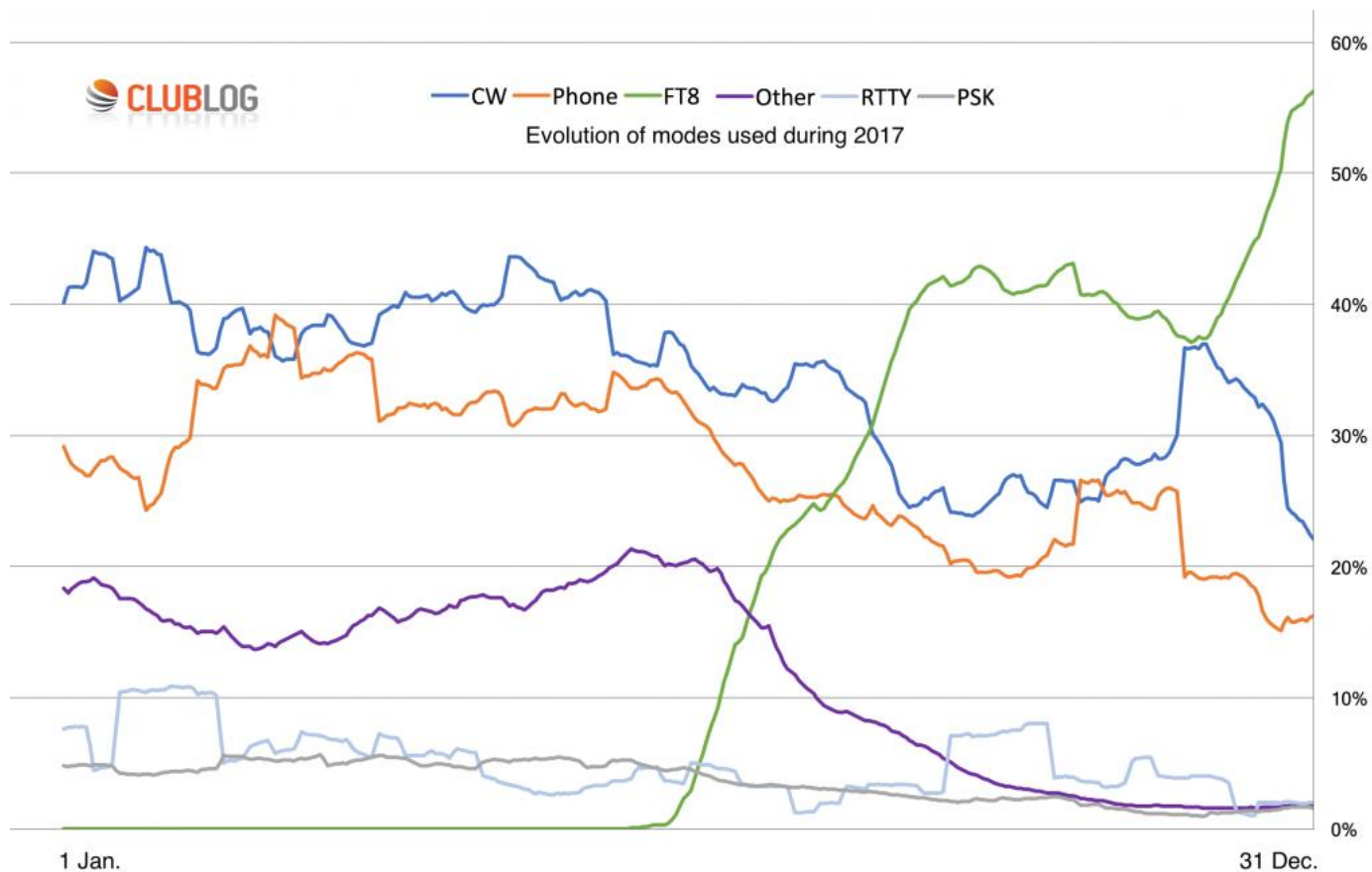
73

Jim Madsen  
K3ILC

## FT8: New stats, new operating guide

january 31, 2018 by [dan kb6nu](#)

A couple of weeks ago, Michael, G7VJR, of [ClubLog](#) published [an analysis of the contacts that were uploaded to ClubLog in 2017](#). These are summarized in the chart below:



This is really fascinating information. As you can see, at the end of the year, more than 50% of the contacts uploaded to ClubLog were FT8 contacts.

As some of the commenters point out, there probably is some bias in the data. FT8 operators are more likely to update their contacts than are CW ragchewers, but even so, the trend—at least in the short term—is obvious.

It will be interesting to see if this FT8 activity can be maintained, or whether operators will tire of it after a while. What happens when every FT8 operator achieves DXCC?

## New operating guide

To help us all convert over to FT8, Gary, ZL2IFB, has just published his [FT8 operating guide](#). I haven't read it all the way through yet, but I do like this sidebar:

*Some of these tips (such as split operating, tail-ending and using low power) are contentious and not universally adopted by FT8 users—and that's fine. To an extent, we are figuring this stuff out for ourselves as we go along, which for me is all part of the fun. These tips work for me. Your situation and*



*preferences may differ. By all means try out different approaches ... and do let me know if they work better.*

I really do need to read this. As I've written before, my initial attempts at FT8 were mediocre at best. Perhaps this will help me be more successful at FT8.

If you do download and read this guide, don't skip the appendixes. Appendix A and B dig into some of FT8's technical details. Appendix D discusses some of the pros and cons of the mode.

## **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](#)**

# 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.

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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.

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 WOCDS 2M repeater as well. Considering our KOPRA repeater is being relocated, using the WOCDS 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 WOCFI 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://twitter.com/ParkerCORadio)

## From the annals of PPRAA history

**February 1981:**

A nice article on where our money goes. Our printing costs for the Ø Beat is about \$60, and for that we get 350 copies. Add \$15 for postage each month. Bill Allen KFØW will be looking into if the club would qualify for tax exempt status. This was prompted by the tax forms sent to us by the state. There'll be an HF CW get-together on 15m for all to participate. The Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders donated \$200 to the club. The next meeting (February) will be at Sabin Jr. High and the program will be by Carl Smith WØBJW who is a vice president of the ARRL.

Motorcycle Trail Riders donated \$200 to the club. The next meeting (February) will be at Sabin Jr. High and the program will be by Carl Smith WØBJW who is a vice president of the ARRL.

**From:** Douglas Ducote [mailto:douglas.r.ducote@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 01, 2017 7:26 PM

**To:** AB5SI

**Subject:** 2 meter Repeater

Jim,

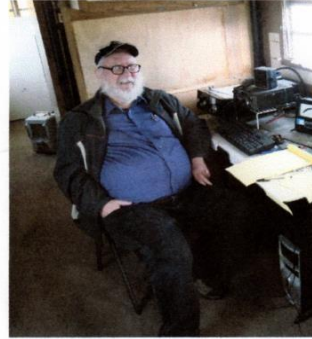
I had an epiphany, and managed to get two CDM1250's interfaced to my controller. It's on the air, and seems to not be horrible.

146.85 (-) PL156.7

Just a CW ID for now. I need some folks to try it out, and tell me if anything needs changed. Feel free to give out my email, if you choose to distribute this via the club mailing list. I would also welcome reports of coverage.

The CW ID is purposefully set to under-deviate (I hate loud IDer's), and the time out is set at 3 minutes. Tell everyone that I'd like them to use the hell out of it.

73, Doug



**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!**



## PPRAA VE EXAMS (MONTHLY)

PPRAA VE session will be held at 10:15 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 **FRN NUMBER** (now required – this includes children).
3. Your **ORIGINAL amateur radio license** (if any) **AND a PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.
3. The **ORIGINAL of any relevant CSEs** 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**

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

**Where**

[map](#)

**Calendar**

PPRAA

**Created by**

n7lem.0@gmail.com

**Description**

Testing will take place in the Ent Conference Center.



# 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:

**A valid PHOTO ID**, driver's license preferred (if you do not have a valid photo ID, please call for alternative identification requirements).

- 1. Your FRN NUMBER** (now required – this includes children).
- 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.



4. **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



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

