



VOLUME 69 ISSUE 6
June 2018

PPRAA Club Officers

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Vice President	<u>Mike Anderson, WV7T</u>
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Board	<u>Jim Bishop, KDØKQL*</u>
Board	<u>Virgil Yost, NØXRS*</u>
Board	<u>Ray Uberecken, AAØL</u>

* In final year of 2-year term

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

Monthly Ham Breakfast



Saturday, July 14, 2018 8-9:30 AM

New Day Cafe

5901 Delmonico Drive

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



June PPRAA Club Meeting

The June 13th 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/>

Field Day

- Saturday/Sunday June 23-24, 2018
- Club Station, Ellicott, CO
- More info under Field Day tab above

PPRAA Megafest

- Saturday July 7, 2018
- Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument, CO
- More info under Megafest tab above

Central States VHF Society Conference

- Thursday – Sunday July 26-29, 2018
- Wichita, Kansas
- More info [here.](#)

Denver Radio Club Hamfest

- Sunday, 26 August 2018
- Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, CO
- More info [here.](#)

Colorado QSO Party

- Saturday September 1, 2018

2018 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

- Friday September 21 thru Sunday September 23, 2018
- Isleta Resort & Casino Convention Center
- More info [here.](#)

JOTA – Jamboree-on-the-Air

- 19-21 October 2018
- More info [here.](#)

TechFest – 2018

- Saturday November 3, 2018
 - 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>

Treasurer's Report May 2018

Funds available	\$12,096.50
King Soopers Cards (need \$5,000)	\$4950.00
Soopers Card Reloads	900.00



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EASY INSTALLATION
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IMPROVING THE AUDIO QUALITY OF YOUR STATION - PART 4

In the last few articles we have considered most of the controls on the modern receiver as well as the audio amplification.

There are three more controls that you can use. The Noise Blanker, Auto Notch Filter (ANF or BC) and Digital Signal Processor (DSP).

The Noise Blanker may be adjustable on some radios, others are not. This feature will work best on man made noises. Ignitions and pulses that are not fast. If your noise has a detectable frequency to it, the Noise Blanker can do a good job of taking it out. Especially if your NB is adjustable. It can be adjusted to the speed of your interference and many times take it right out.

The Auto Notch Filter or Beat Cancel will do a good job of removing a carrier produced by an AM Broadcast Station or some lid tuning up on you. This feature works quite well and allows you to operate in the vicinity of a commercial AM station.

The Digital Signal processor is no doubt the most sophisticated of the Noise reduction tools.

What does it do digitally, I have no idea. However what it does to the analog signal you are listening to is quite interesting.

If you look at atmospheric noise on an oscilloscope, it will look like a bunch of sharp spikes on a slow scan. However, taking a closer look, by speeding the sweep of the scope, these spikes are really smooth sine waves of different frequencies. Lots of them.

Measuring the frequency with a counter will give you about a 1,800 Hz reading. This is right in the middle of the audio spectrum of about 300 to 3,000 Hz. No wonder it blast our ears off.

When you turn the DSP on, with a little adjustment, you will see several of these sine waves removed. You can vary this with the DSP control. When you read the counter, it will go from 1,800 Hz to anywhere from 200 to 600 Hz. Quite a reduction in noise. However, it is adjustable because some of the reduction will affect the signal you are listening to.

Be sure to look for noises you produce in your home. One of the biggest culprits is the switching power supplies used in many other electronic devices (wall warts). LED lights, florescent lights, power savers, dimmer switches, WIFI routers, cordless phones, tablets and on and on.

We live in a noisy world, but at least we can try and do something about it.

73,
Ralph WD0EJA
JUNE 2018

wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

73, Ralph WD0EJA April 2018 PH/FX: 719/687-0650

BILAL COMPANY 137 MANCHESTER DR. FLORISSANT, CO. 80816 U.S.

“Alexa, help me with ham radio”

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an Amazon Alexa for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how I'd like to develop an Alexa skill to control my IC-7300. I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called Continuous Wave. It's designed to help you learn Morse Code.

To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, “Alexa, open Continuous Wave.” This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt...

- Learn
- Practice
- Alphabet
- Common words
- Random words
- Words
- Sentences
- Call signs
- Contest
- Quick Brown Fox
- QSO
- Help
- Stop – To end your session.

I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only.

Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command “learn,” it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed.

Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill.

Other ham radio skills

While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found:

- Ham Exam. Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool.
- Ham Lookup. Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database.
- Ham Radio Propagation Forecast. Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by N0NBH).
- ARRL Audio News. Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing.

Building your own voice app

The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at VoiceApps.Com. Two other websites—Pullstring and StoryLine—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an online tutorial that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier.

Since I'm currently in the process of updating my *No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide*, it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

When he's not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about the voice apps that you like at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

From the annals of PPRAA history

June 1981: The feature article is on how to expand your Kenwood TR-7800 for MARS and CAP coverage. Mike KØTER is again coordinating the Field Day which will be held at Rampart Range Road. The Olympic Training Center turned down the club's proposal for a club station at the OTC. The new meeting place, beginning with the June meeting, will be at the United Methodist Church, at Nevada and Boulder. The club is looking for someone to act as a bulletin station to receive the broadcasts and put them out on two meters once a week. A committee is working on the tax exempt status – turns out the club may not be properly incorporated at this time. Bill KFØW and Don KBØKQ will be working on an updated set of bylaws for the club's review.

Ham radio in the news: Ham honored for service, building kits build tech skills, nerd knows what he's doing?

June 10, 2018 by [Dan kb6nu](#)



[Well-known volunteer lends his ham radio skills to Sumter.](#)

In public, he is known as Harold Lloyd. On the radio waves, his call sign is W4OE. For more than a decade, the Village of Glenbrook resident has donated his knowledge of being a ham radio operator to Sumter County Emergency Management. “I’ve enjoyed being able to provide a service to the community,” Lloyd said. In February, the members of emergency management recognized Lloyd for his work with Skywarn, a program of the National Weather Service in which ham radio operators relay information about severe weather in their particular area. While he is stepping away from working with Skywarn, he will continue to assist emergency management.

[Ham kids build, learn tech skills.](#) Hamvention kids walked away from the fairgrounds May 18 with their own wireless Tesla speakers and digital clocks — built with their own hands. The amateur radio convention’s Youth Tech area, sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), provided a space for youth ages 9-18 to build their own technology kits. “The idea here is to teach kids skills such as soldering, which has been pretty much lost by recent generations — kids don’t grow up knowing how to do that anymore,” Jeff Ullery, Chairman of the Youth Tech Committee, said. “So it teaches them skills on how to solder and at the same time they get to build some kits that teach different principles.”

This guy may know what he’s doing tower-wise, but you still have to get a permit. This is going to end badly for the guy and for amateur radio....Dan

[‘I’m a nerd, I know what I’m doing’.](#) A Rochester man could face fines if he doesn’t submit plans for a building permit and ask for a zoning variance for his amateur radio tower. City officials say Dan Knutson hasn’t submitted plans for a building permit nor provided specifications for the about 58-foot tower holding multiple radio antennas on the roof of his home. Knutson contends the tower is structurally sound. It’s secured with aircraft cables and guy wires to control its fall should it collapse — which Knutson said would only happen if wind speeds were more than 100 miles per hour. “Everything’s better than it needs to be,” Knutson said. “I’m a nerd, I know what I’m doing.”

About a week ago, /u/DrRod7 [posted on reddit](#) that he'd just purchased a Nagoya NA-771 on aliexpress for ten bucks and wanted to know if he had perhaps purchased a counterfeit. I was interested in this, too, as I have an NA-771 on one of my Baofengs and was told at some point that it was a counterfeit.

That kind of made sense to me as mine never screwed down all the way on the radio. To prevent there from being a gap, I went to the hardware store and purchased a black plastic washer. Since the antenna seems to perform well—certainly better than the stock antenna—I haven't given it a second thought lately.

One of the commenters posted a link to the page, "[How to identify the genuine and fake antenna?](#)" on the Nagoya website. It listed a number ways you could tell if your NA-771 was fake, including:

- the construction of the PVC bag the antenna comes in,
- the lettering on the antenna,
- the presence or absence of a spacer.

I don't have the bag the antenna came in, but my antenna did not come with a spacer, and the lettering isn't genuine, so unfortunately, I'd have to say that my NA-771 is a counterfeit antenna. See the images below for an illustration of the authentic and counterfeit

Fake NA-771 print



Genuine NA-771 print



lettering.

At least mine seems to work pretty well. Several of the commenters on the reddit post complained about the performance of their antennas.

Garden of the Gods Amateur Radio Club



Garden of the Gods ARC meeting

First Monday of each month at Fargos Pizza (Circle & Platte) at 11:00 AM. All are welcome. 2910 E. Platte Ave., Colo. Springs, CO 809009

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.

PPRAA 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 KØPRA 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!

--

73,

KØPRA

Your Friends at the Parker Radio Association

www.facebook.com/parkerradioassociation

parkerradio.org

[@ParkerCORadio](https://twitter.com/ParkerCORadio)



PPRAA VE EXAMS

(MONTHLY)

PPRAA VE sessions will be held at 10:00 am on the second Saturday of the month at El Paso County Emergency Service Authority, 3755 Mark Dabling Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907, United States. The exception is the Megafest month where testing will only be July 7 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 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 NOABC, 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

EL Paso OEM, Mark Dabling near Fillmore, Colorado Springs, CO 80908, 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 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

