

JANUARY 2024



ZERO BEAT

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy New Year



The PPRAA board hopes your 2024 is off to a great start.

- New Year's Resolutions
- WPSD
- Upcoming Events
- Save the Date
- Contact Zero Beat



New Year's Resolutions

If a license upgrade is your goal, we wish you success in your studies, and that you will find them fun and educational. How about Morse code? If you're planning to set aside more time to learn the characters and improve your speed in copying, sometimes choosing the right tool can help you stay on track. LD / W0XLD recommends "Learn CW Online" at <https://lcwo.net>, a website that provides a highly-configurable set of tools to teach and drill however works best for you. Since it's on the web, it works on all operating systems and platforms. It's also open source, so if you run a server at home, you can even run your own private instance for yourself, family, and friends. Try learning all the characters with the Koch method, and configure the speed drills to your preference by adjusting Farnsworth spacing.



WPSD

Are you looking for a new project in the new year? If you're into digital voice modes, perhaps you may already have a digital-mode hot spot connecting your DMR, YSF, or D-Star radio to the world through the internet. Ken / K0KWH has pointed us to a new software project called "WPSD," which is a fork and upgrade from the original PiStar dashboard software. It has become a much-loved standalone software project with a new look and lots of new features. It has an active development community building around it, so new features and fixes are being added quickly. If you already have a Raspberry Pi hot spot, a BridgeCom SkyBridge MAX/Plus, a DVMega, or ZUMSpot hot spot, take a look at the project's homepage at <https://w0chp.radio/wpsd/> to see if they have an image for your device. As always, if you get it up and running, be sure to let the club know, as there may be others who could benefit from hearing your experience.



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Upcoming Events

Jan. 26-29: Winter Field Day is approaching quickly!

PPRAA will be on the air from Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Raptor Glen campground, sites 002 and 009. We will be in the "Mobile" category this year, so we can stay warm inside the campers. A day pass (\$10/day) will be needed to visit each day, or a camp site reservation to stay overnight. Many club members already have a parks pass purchased with vehicle registration renewal; if you have taken advantage of this Colorado program, you do not need to pay the day pass fee.

Setup will begin at 1200 (noon) on Friday the 26th, and the on-air contest will be from 1200 (noon) on Saturday through 1159 on Sunday. Volunteers are always welcome to help with setup on Friday, as well as tear-down on Sunday afternoon. Everyone may operate; even those without licenses yet may participate under the supervision of a licensed control operator. Night owls are especially appreciated in the wee hours of the morning, when some of us can't keep our eyes open any longer!

Feb. 3: Monthly ham breakfast will be 0800-0930 at Omelets Etc., 1337 Interquest Pkwy, Colorado Springs CO 80921.

Feb. 14: Membership meeting will be held at 1900 (7 pm) at Golden Corral Buffet, 1970 Waynoka Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80915. Come an hour early to eat and socialize: we expect attendance will be lighter than usual due to Valentine's day, but it might be a great opportunity to make closer friends with some hams with similar interests.

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Save the Date

Jul. 27: The Megafest ham festival is back at Lewis-Palmer High School in 2024! The address is 1300 Higby Rd, Monument CO 80132. Vendors may set up at 0600; doors will be open 0800-1300 for attendees. If you would like to rent a table for the event, please visit <https://ppraa.org/megafest> for details.

We would love to have your help in selling raffle tickets in advance! Please email megafest@ppraa.org to coordinate getting the tickets and returning the proceeds for advance ticket sales. The grand prize for the raffle is a complete Icom IC-705 go-kit, complete with Icom backpack and Chameleon Modular Portable Antenna. Other prizes are listed on the webpage as well.

Date TBD: Mobile Radio Car Show will return in 2024, by popular demand! The location and date will be determined as we plan for warmer-weather events, but we wanted to let you know well in advance that we will be awarding prizes for the coolest ham radio install in your car, off-road 4x4, motorcycle, electric scooter, or Ironman jetpack. If your ham radio can be used on-the-go, we want to see how you did it, learn from your experience, and get ideas for our own mobile radio projects. We hope your winter projects will lead to awesome mobile stations to exhibit this year!

Contact Zero Beat

We are kicking off 2024 and the renewal of this *Zero Beat* newsletter with enthusiasm, but would always love to have input from readers. Do you have photos of PPRAA events you'd like to share, or news from the ham radio world that the club might like to hear? Please email secretary@ppraa.org and treasurer@ppraa.org to share your ideas. Thanks, and we hope you have a great 2024!