



## EPC SAR: THEN AND NOW

Ginger, NØUD & Skee, NØPRY

Here are a few fun facts about El Paso County Search and Rescue. Did you know that the team became official on April 8, 1970? Just like the cliché says “it’s the same, but different”.

In the beginning the original Rescue One was a red Ford Van. It carried a couple of ropes and other equipment. Medic One was a Dodge Van Ambulance donated to the group by a local Moose Lodge. Medic Two was a 1956 Cadillac Ambulance. The vehicles were kept in a fenced area of the old jail, which was where the Pikes Peak Center is today.

Originally meetings were held in the basement at Fire Station 9 at Garden of the Gods Road and Chestnut. When the new Sheriff’s office was built, in the mid 1980’s, meetings were held in an office there for two or three years. The vehicles were then housed in the basement of this building. In 1975 the group purchased a 1975 International 1 ton truck. This vehicle became Rescue 2, replacing the Ford Van. Funds for this new vehicle were from money earned at a circus that was held every year in the City Auditorium. The Interna-

tional truck was replaced by an International Travelall, known as Christine (Rescue 1). The group also had a Suburban that we got from the Pikes Peak Patrol that became Rescue 2. In 1994 the current Rescue One went into service, replacing the old International. Rescue 2 was replaced by a donated Chevy 1 ton 4x4 truck that is the current Utility 1. The group bought a new 1 ton Chevy 4x4 truck that is the current Rescue 2. Are we confused yet?

The next meeting place was at St. Francis Hospital in a 5th floor meeting room. The vehicles were then housed at the helipad for Flight for Life, near St. Francis.

Then like now, someone had to drive to the Rescue vehicles storage area and drive to the mission. One of the big differences in the 1980’s was that select members would take home one of the vehicles on the weekends for rapid response time.

As you know there were no Alpha pagers until the 1990’s. Every team member carried a voice pager

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### **Please Note:**

November 0-Beat deadline October 24, 2003

No content is accepted after the deadline.

**Meetings** Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, temporarily at the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management, 305 S Union Blvd. Our Annual meeting is in October. Check the web site for any changes.

**Regular License Exam Sessions** Our ARRL VE test sessions are on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered month. Contact Erik KGØXE for details.

Examinees need to bring (1) \$12, preferably a check or money order payable to ARRL/VEC; (2) picture ID; (3) the signed original and a copy of your current amateur radio license and CSCEs you have (we keep the copies); and (4) a pen, pencil, and calculator if needed. Memory calculators will be checked.

Testing location to be announced.

**PPRAA Web Page** See it at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>. Thanks to Lee Inman KØQED for maintaining these pages.

**Get on the PPRAA E-mail Reflector** Stay on top of new or short-fused developments. Subscribe at <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraa.net>. Thanks to John Wishart KCØJFH for maintaining this list.

**PPRAA Simplex Net** All amateurs are invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 1900 on 146.58 MHz simplex for our club net. Get the latest club and regional happenings!

## Officers and Directors

President	Ben Cruise	NØLNW	nØlnw@arrl.net
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\* Indicates this Director is in the 2nd year of a two-year term

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## Upcoming Club Programs

The Ø-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521. Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and the Ø-Beat. For membership and subscriptions see the back inside cover of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page \$48; Half page \$24; Quarter page \$12; Business card \$6. Rates are billed quarterly. Send advertisements and payments to Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521.



**Articles for the Ø-Beat** Deadline for articles or ads for the October issue is September 26. Submit articles by e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person to the editor. Editor reserves right to edit for readability, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length.

**Nonprofit Organization** The PPRAA is a federal 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions/ donations may be tax-deductible.

**Ø-Beat Available Electronically** in PDF form via e-mail and on the web. Contact the editor for details.

## Club and Local News

### Club Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2003

Joanie, KCØGMI

Meeting was called to order by President, Ben Cruise NØLNW at 7:03 pm. It was noted that the August meeting minutes published in Ø-Beat should of reflected a date of 8/13/03. Otherwise, the August meeting minutes were approved. Introductions were made around the room. KBØB gave the Treasurer's report: inflows of \$330.94 (includes our share of the proceeds from the HAMCON Convention), outflows of \$82; total cash and bank accounts is \$8134.91. Ron NKØP solicited information for the club's historical records. Tom NØNTX noted programs of the Election of Officers in October, Broadband over power lines for Nov, the Christmas Dinner in December, and homebrew night for January. Tom also advised that there are new operational FM satellites SO-41 and SO-50. Dennis NØABC announced that the VE Team was still looking for a permanent testing facility. NØLNW announced receipt of a certificate from ARRL for our donation to the Broadband over power lines (BPL) battle. Ben also noted that the National Assn of Broadcasters and Maximum Service TV have filed comments to the FCC against the BPL proposal and they are quite powerful. Good news for us! Sid K4ARM summarized the summer ARES activities and thanked everyone who participated in the various support events. Moe WBØRTF advised that the PPRAA Board has agreed to host the October 11<sup>th</sup> Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs meeting at the Falcon Police Station facility. An old generator in K4ARM's garage was discussed; Les KCØNC agreed to check it out to see if it's functional. Mike WV7T announced another operating award for AFØS: 1<sup>st</sup> place regional award in the 10 meter contest. After a break, a program on the Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group was presented by Dave Novotny, WA6IFI. Meeting adjourned at 9 pm. Submitted by ADØA for KCØGMI who was absent.

### Board Meeting Minutes, September 15, 2003

Joanie, KCØGMI

The Board of Directors met at the home of NØLNW on 9/15/03. NØLNW opened the meeting at 7:10 pm. Those present were Pres – Ben Cruise NØLNW, VP – Tom McDaniel NØNTX, Rick Brown KØSU, Aaron Pelouze KD6FLM, Bill Pierce KDØJU (proxy for KCØGMI), Moe Pierce WBØRTF (proxy for ADØA), and Dan Scott KBØPPM. Absent were Bob Wogaman KBØB, Joanie VerDuft KCØGMI, Jerry VerDuft ADØA, and Kate Muniz WB9BAH. KØSU discussed the list of candidates for officers and board members; we are still in need of a candidate for Treasurer. The Club simplex net was discussed. Our regular net control is off to college so anyone who desires can assume Net Control. The Club Christmas party planning was discussed; it will be held at the same location as last year (Springs City Church). KBØPPM discussed the Scout's Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. Dan will provide details and ask for volunteers via the club reflector. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm. Submitted by Bill Pierce KDØJU , Acting Secretary

**Zero-Beat**  
**Articles Needed**  
 Please email to  
**KC0NRZ@ARRL.NET**

### Membership Committee Report

Les, KCØNC

#### **Please welcome these New Members**

ROGER ESLICK N0VR  
 DAVE NOVOTNY WA6IFI

**Total Number of Members:** 174

## **HAM RADIO KEPT BERMUDA CONNECTED WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED**

From The ARRL Letter, September 12, 2003

Amateur Radio became a primary means of contact between Bermuda and the rest of the world as Hurricane Fabian swept across the island September 5, claiming at least four lives and causing extensive property damage in some areas. Authorities in Bermuda this week were assessing its extent.

A dangerous category 3 storm, Fabian took out power to some 25,000 homes--about two-thirds of the island--as well as all radio and TV stations. Additionally, generator problems took the government's emergency FM station off the air for a time. Tony Siese, VP9HK, reports the police operations center was evacuated after the 120 MPH winds took off part of its roof.

Siese said the only contact with the outside world for a couple of hours was via hams like himself relaying information on 2 meters to HF operators and getting weather reports from the National Hurricane Center via the Hurricane Watch Net <<http://www.hwn.org/>> on 20 meters. He said that when the government emergency station returned to the air, amateurs provided it with updated National Hurricane Center reports from the HWN.

Hurricane Watch Net Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, reports his net on 14.325 MHz secured operations September 6 at 0300 UTC "after a very long and busy day." Participating HWN volunteers feed ground-level weather data to forecasters via WX4NHC <<http://www.wx4nhc.org/>> at the National Hurricane Center. WX4NHC also operates with a volunteer staff. The weather data and information help meteorologists to develop more accurate storm forecasts.

"We had excellent assistance and vital communications from five VP9 hams who, unfortunately, had to resort to makeshift antennas and back-up

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with them at all times. The Sheriff's office activated the team via voice pager or radio. All communications happened with radios, before the days of cell phones.

Just like now "in the real world" members held a diversity of jobs. Most trainings took place in Cheyenne Canyon. Some technical climbing training took place at Eleven Mile Canyon. In the past the team did all rescues and searches in the area, including Garden of the Gods and Cheyenne Canyon. The fire department wasn't involved.

In the past there were a lot more out of county missions. Crestone Needle, Little Bear, Blanca and El Diente were all 14'er's that the team frequently visited for missions. It was not unheard of to go to Aspen for missions at the Maroon Bells. One of the reasons for this, is because a lot of other counties didn't have a search and rescue team. EPCSAR is one of the oldest in the state. The oldest team is Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, considered the grandfather of teams in the state.

The first training at the current building, at 3950 Interpark Drive, was August 1st, 1990. The training was Helicopter safety and Rescue 16 was the on duty Coordinator.

Another difference in the team in the past was the way it got new members. People that were interested came to the weekly meetings for a couple of months. They then applied to join and the team then picked them up.

EPCSAR is an ever evolving team always looking towards the future. No matter what changes, equipment or personnel, the goal is the same -- to save lives.

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battery power as the storm approached their locations," Pilgrim said. WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, said that while news reporters on Bermuda found themselves uncharacteristically out of touch, "old-fashioned" ham radio HF technology got through. As he put it, "brave Bermuda hams, using car batteries, basic wire antennas and only 50 W of power, were able to send those valued 'surface reports' and receive vital hurricane advisories." Decent conditions on 20 meters also helped.

Also pitching in were Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) volunteers. "The SATERN Net stood by two days at full alert monitoring for information from Bermuda as Hurricane Fabian raged through the island," said National SATERN Coordinator Pat McPherson, WW9E. SATERN Territorial Coordinator Rick Shirran, VE3NUZ/VP9, said that with power and telephone service down, "the only communication that held up during the event was that of the members of the Radio Society of Bermuda via 2 meters, and HF on the Hurricane Watch Net and the SATERN Net." Shirran lost part of his own roof and the driven element to his antenna. He got back on the air using a makeshift antenna and power from a car battery.

Shirran said it could take more than two weeks to restore power to Bermuda. Telephone service "remains tentative," he said at week's end. The airport was only open to daylight flights as of September 11.

Amateur Radio reports gathered September 7 by Dick Montgomery, N3DV, on the 20-meter Bermuda Net indicated many trees down, damage to docked boats and amateur antennas blown away, but power slowly being restored.

National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield expressed his sincere thanks to amateurs who supplied critical information during Fabian.

"We never would have known what was going on in Bermuda without your help," he said. "You are a part of the hurricane team, and it is a pleasure to work with you."

### Order Doesn't Matter?

According to a research study at an English university, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter is at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because we do not read every letter by itself but the word as a whole.

### VE SESSIONS SEARCHING FOR A HOME

N0ABC

Contrary to what was published in the September Zero-Beat, the Immanuel Lutheran Church & School location for our VE session was a one-time shot in August. That was an impromptu change due to DeVry needing to use the annex classrooms. We are in the process of negotiations for an alternate location to use at least in October and December, and we are looking for a place which would be more centrally located to be our hopefully permanent home. Should the Element 1 (code) exam be removed from the requirements for U.S. Amateur Radio licenses, that would eliminate our need/desire for having two rooms at our disposal, and should open up many more opportunities to find a nice, centrally located place for our test sessions.

If you are aware of any good possible locations which we could use - it's just one Saturday morning or even numbered months! - please let myself (N0ABC) or Erik (KG0XE) know. Our contact info is on Page 2. Thanks and 73.

### MORSE PETITIONS' COMMENT DEADLINE LOOMS

From the ARRL Letter Sept. 26, 2003

The period for public comments on seven separate Morse code-related petitions for rule making--some of which would altogether eliminate Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97)--ends Monday, September 29. US amateurs may comment on the petitions--RM-10781 through RM-10787--using the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

As of week's end, the seven petitions had attracted more than 1800 comments from the amateur community. The FCC has yet to invite comments on two other Morse-related rule making petitions. The petitions, both filed in August, have not yet been put on public notice by the FCC.

Ireland (EI) and Singapore (9V) have become the latest countries to remove the requirement for

Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code examination for HF access. Ireland's Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) announced September 15 that it took the action in line with the outcome of World Radio Communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), which removed the requirement for prospective amateur licensees to prove Morse proficiency to operate below 30 MHz. All Class B licensees now have "Full License" privileges and may operate on HF.

Singapore's IDA informed the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society earlier this month that it would no longer require a Morse test for General class applicants, although the test reportedly will continue to be available to those wishing to take it. Restricted licensees will be given an option of upgrading to General class.

In addition, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand and Australia have moved to drop their Morse requirements or are expected to do so this year.

## One Cool QSL Card

Confirming QSO With	UTC time	date	month	year	mode	RST	MHz
KØSU	0226	26	Jan	2001	2x SAT SSB	55	RS 12 MODE A 10mhz 2m↑

Ted Brattstrom - 2464 Halelaau Pl. Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816 USA

## Public Service Communications



### ARES

<http://www.qsl.net/ppares/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1900 on the 146.97 MHz  
PPFMA repeater

Sid White K4ARM, PPARES EC

September was a very busy month for Pikes Peak ARES. It began on the 1st, Labor Day, with the American Discovery Trail Marathon, an event to benefit the American Discovery Trail, the Trails and Open Spaces Coalition, and the United States Association of Blind Athletes. The marathon course ran along the Santa Fe Trail from Palmer Lake to Monument Valley Park in Colorado Springs. Mike, NØMIK, was the mission coordinator. Participating, in addition to Mike, were NØUD, KØTER, KØHBZ, KGØVY, KD6FLM, NØLNW, KCØPBC, KCØMIR, KCØKLF, KCØDTQ, and WBØLMH.

Next, on Friday, the 5th, we supported the first day of Colorado Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society's inaugural Challenge Walk with thirteen operators. There had been a communications SNAFU and the Denver-area ARES groups which were supporting the second and third days of this three-day, fifty-mile event somehow missed asking for our involvement until the 29th of August. The original course for the Walk had included several miles on the Air Force Academy. Due to security concerns this was changed at the last minute to go through the Garden of the Gods instead. Two local repeaters, the PPFMA's 145.265 and the Colorado Amateur Radio Network's 147.030, were used and provided satisfactory coverage over the course, although the

GOG portion was often marginal when the deployed operators were using HTs. The MS folks were elated with the local response, particularly in light of the short interval we were given to put together a team...and especially since this was a work-day in an already holiday-shortened work-week! Thanks to KØHBZ, KCØDTQ, KBØYGG, WBØLMH, KØNR, KCØHCS, KAØPII, NØLNW, KØTER, KCØPBR, KCØMIR, KBØIAP, and K4ARM.

On the 13th, a team from PPARES consisting of KØHBZ, NØMIK, N7LV, and KD6FLM took a modified version of the very successful, locally produced, Minimum Essential ARES Training (MEAT) on the road to Westcliffe where it was presented to members of Colorado ARES District 15 (Fremont and Custer Counties). Kudos to all involved in this very worthwhile and well-received project!

Owing, in part, to its successful use during the Campbell Fire near Guffey this summer, there is

*(Continued on page 8)*



### RACES

<http://www.qsl.net/epcraces/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1930 on the 146.76 MHz  
CMRG repeater

Les Borst KCØNC, RACES Officer

Things have sure slowed down for emergency communication this fall. Our group has continued with training on the radio consul, distribution of a new handbook, and work on winter "go" bags.

October we look forward to a presentation on our portable Packet units and other Packet equipment.

Our next meeting at the County OEM is on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October at 7:00 P.M.

## News from MARC

Wes, KØHBZ

At its Sept. 17 meeting, the MARC membership elected officers for the 2003 term. Results were Wes Wilson (KØHBZ) President; Lee Inman (KØQED) Vic-President; Bill Wallick (KCØFNV) Secretary; Dean Haskins (KAØPII) Treasurer; Carol Wilson (KCØDTQ) Board Member; Kit Haskins (KAØWUC) Board Member; and Ed Bretag (NØZPX) Former President. The new board will take office on Oct. 1.

In other news, MARC members are looking forward to moving into a new facility. The new Woodland Park Library has graciously donated space for MARC meetings, VE Sessions, special events and ARES emergency operations. In addition, they are providing a 10x12 locked office space to house MARC files, desks, computers, radio equipment and to provide some storage. A conduit to the roof was provided for cabling rooftop antenna cabling, and two through-the-wall cable portals were installed (one into the office area and the other into the meeting room) for temporary external antennas and emergency generator power, should it be needed. The Club hopes to hold their first meeting in the nearly-completed facility in November.

The next MARC meeting is scheduled for 7 pm, Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Woodland Park Senior Center. The program will be a discussion/demonstration of packet radio and especially the packet radio/Internet E-mail interfaces recently developed and installed by Pikes Peak ARES. Talk-in on 146.820- (107.2 Hz tone).

## News from CMRG

Dave, WA6IFI

We are planning a trip to the Fremont Peak site on October 11. We will be installing the VHF repeater (145.295) there and doing some periodic maintenance on the systems. If you are interested in going, please let us know via the reflector or you can contact me directly at wa6ifi@arrl.net.

Don't forget the CMRG annual meeting on October 18, 2003 at the Security Fire Station. Information will be on the website ([www.qsl.net/cmrg](http://www.qsl.net/cmrg)) very shortly. At the meeting, we will be electing three board members, taking a tour of the sites (via pictures) and hearing about the exciting world of IRLP. Plan to be there.

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a significant resurgence in packet radio operations, at least within the ARES community. Several of us have recently put stations on the air and more are acquiring and assembling their own stations, including some portable packet stations. Plans are currently being laid for a predominantly packet Simulated Emergency Test (SET) for late October or early November.

Lee, KØQED, PPARES AEC-Software Development, KAØPII, KAØWUC, KØTER and KØHBZ have been working to establish local packet nodes to facilitate amateur radio/e-mail interfacing via the international Winlink system, which was originally developed for use by maritime-mobile stations using HF Pactor mode. To date, two full-time and one part-time nodes are in operation with plans for a fourth full-time node in the very near future. This is a very exciting and potentially invaluable tool for EmCom applications.

Finally, Dean, KAØPII, AEC-Teller County Liaison, has accepted the additional position of Executive AEC.

73 de Sid, K4ARM



## Classifieds

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### **Jess Miley KØTAA**

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**First Class Mail**

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