



## Megafest a Mega-Success!

Christopher, NC6T, Publicity Chair

The PPRAA's annual Megafest once again provided hours of great deals, educational sessions, and license testing for the hams in the Pikes Peak region. Hams and other bargain hunters lined up early at the Lewis Palmer High School gymnasium in Monument on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>. Most of the ven-

radio gear. There certainly was something for everyone – even if you didn't know you needed it yet!

In addition to the packed gymnasium full of great deals just waiting to be made, the PPRAA also hosted several forums throughout the event. Atten-



This year's Megafest drew more than 500 attendees from all over southern Colorado.

dors arrived two hours or more before the event started to load in their wares and get their displays ready.

This year the club rented all of the table space it had available, a total of 102 tables. The vendors ranged from individual hams with unique equipment to sell to local ham clubs and businesses that carry a wide selection of amateur

dees could choose from a broad range of topics including: ARES, ARRL, QRP, Satellite, and YL. All forums were well attended and a welcome part of the Megafest.

The ARES forum was chaired by Dean Haskins KAØPII, the Emergency Coordinator for the Pikes Peak ARES dis-

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July 2004

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### Please Note:

July will be an abbreviated issue due to the Editor taking vacation. Please submit content by July 13th.

Articles are needed to keep 0-Beat interesting so submit yours now.

**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. Our ARRL VE test sessions are on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered months at 9:00 AM. 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 CSEs you have (we keep the copies); and (4) a pen, pencil, and calculator if needed. Memory calculators will be checked.

Location:

Community Room of the new Fire Station #19, 2490 Research Parkway, near the NE corner of Chapel Hills Drive and Research Parkway. The Community Room is on the west side of the building.

**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/ppraanet>. Thanks to John Wishart KCØJFH for maintaining this list.

**PPRAA Simplex Net** New time and day to be announced soon.

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

**Officers and Directors**

President	Al Penney	VO1NO
Vice President	Dennis Major	NØABC
*Secretary	Joanie VerDuft	KCØGMI
Treasurer	John Hasling	KØAAI
*Board Member	Tom McDaniel	NØNTX
Board Member	Kate Muniz	WB9BAH
*Board Member	Ben Cruise	NØLNW
*Board Member	Jerry VerDuft	ADØA
Ø-Beat Editor	Tom Dawson	KCØNRZ

\* Indicates this Director is in the 2nd year of a two-year term

**Committee Chairs & Other Contacts**

Activity	Open	
Auditing	Kate Muniz	WB9BAH
Asset	Mike Stansberry	KØTER
E-Mail Reflector	John Wishart	KCØJFH
Historian	Ron Deutsch	NKØP
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC
Programs	Dennis Major	NØABC
Publicity	Christopher Taylor	NC6T
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER
Hamfest	Kate Muniz	WB9BAH
Technical Education	Mike Anderson	WV7T
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	KGØXE
Video Librarian	Dennis Major	NØABC
Webmaster	Lee Inman	KØQED
AMSAT Coordinator	Tom McDaniel	NØNTX
ARRL Awards Mgr	Rick Brown	KØSU
ARES EC	Dean Haskins	KAØPII
ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER
ARRL Section Mgr	Jeff Ryan	KØRM
CCARC Liaison	Moe Pierce	WBØRTF
HamCon Chairman	Jerry VerDuft	ADØA
RACES Officer	Les Borst	KCØNC

**Upcoming Club Programs**

July program: To be determined/confirmed.

August program: TBD

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 is the 26th of the month. 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.

**Ø-Beat Available Electronically** in PDF form via e-mail and on the web at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/zerobeat.htm>. Contact the editor for details.

## Club and Local News

### President's Message

July 2004

It's been quite a month for the PPRAA – two major events, both major successes!

Our annual Swapfest has grown into one of the largest in the state, and this one was no exception. Kate WB9BAH and her team did an outstanding job organizing it. Everything ran like clockwork, from the ticket sales to the food provided by the Boy Scouts. I thoroughly enjoyed looking at all the "junk", and even managed to pick up a few items I had been looking for. Bravo Zulu (a navy term for "Well Done") to Kate and all those who pitched in to make it such a success!

The second was Field Day of course. Despite severe thunderstorms that delayed our setup and robbed us of several hours of operating time, we very quickly established a sophisticated and self-contained communications facility capable of world-wide communications. While Field Day is both a contest and a fantastic social event, it is primarily an emergency preparedness exercise. We demonstrated that we are ready to respond in the event of a natural disaster or another terrorist attack. Thank you to all those who assisted in making it such a great success.

I guess I should amend my first sentence to say three major events! Pat KCØMIR and Jim ABØUK have revived the club's weekly net after a long hiatus. Although I can't check in because I'm too far outside town (and have a big hill between me and town!), the net is once again active on 146.58 MHz, Thursday evenings at 1900 (that's when Mickey's big hand is on the 12 and his small hand is on the 7 for you Air Force folks!). Well done to Pat and Jim!

With all the good news, I'm afraid that I have two bad items to pass on. First, our treasurer John KØAAI has submitted his resignation because of poor health. John has worked extremely hard to keep the club in excellent financial shape, and we will miss him on the Board. I know that I speak for the entire club when I thank him for his dedication, and wish him all the best.

The second piece of bad news disturbs me greatly. It seems that we have a thief among us. Sometime Saturday evening someone took the HT belonging to Joanie KCØGMI. Unfortunately, this isn't the first incident of theft in the area. At the Mountain Amateur Radio Club's Campfest last summer someone stole several hundred dollars, and at our own swapfest someone took the brand new MFJ dual-band mag-mount antenna that Shelley VEINOS had won as a door prize.

I have a low tolerance for thieves. Someone who steals from fellow Amateurs is especially despicable. I sincerely hope that the thief is not a member of PPRAA or MARC, but if you do somehow read this, I want you to think about how you have let down Amateur Radio. Because we share a love for the magic of radio, Amateurs tend to trust fellow hams. Through your contemptible actions, you have damaged that trust. I ask you to search your conscience and return the stolen items.

I can't end my President's Message on a negative note after such a triumphant month, so once again congratulations to all those who worked so hard to make the Swapfest, Field Day and weekly net a success.

73

AIVOINO / WØ

### Jess Miley

719 W 7th, Florence, CO, 81226

### KØTAA

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**Shop closed June 1 to July 19**

Will be at the Colorado Springs and Loveland Hamfests

Please call before you drive

**Board Meeting Minutes**

6/14/04

The PPRAA Board of Directors met at the home of WB9BAH on 6/14/04. Those present were President - Al Penney VOINO, VP – Dennis Major NØABC, Secretary – Joanie VerDuft KCØGMI, and Kate Muniz WB9BAH. Board members absent were John Hasling KØAAI, Tom McDaniel NØNTX, Jerry VerDuft ADØA, Ben Cruise NØLNW and Tom Dawson KCØNRZ. The Swap Fest results were discussed. Admissions were up but raffle and table sales were down. Preliminary net profit this year is \$1876.39. The Board asked the Secretary to prepare a thank-you letter to CMRG for their prize donation. Kate noted that Christopher NC6T will prepare an article for Ø-Beat on the Swap Fest. Future technical programs was discussed. Field Day food was discussed. Options for storage of club inventory was discussed as Mike KØTER wants to free up his garage space. The Board discussed the setting aside of some of the proceeds from the Swap Fest for purchase of a computer projection system. Planning for the Club picnic was discussed for 2pm on Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup> at Kate’s QTH. Dennis NØABC has secured a megaphone for the club at a cost of \$22. A telecom was placed to the Treasurer – John Hasling KØAAI so there would be a quorum for voting: It was moved seconded and passed that Joanie KCØGMI be authorized up to \$250 for Field Day food and supplies. It was then discussed that Kate be reimbursed \$1119 for table & raffle drum rental at the Swap Fest. The Board then voted to reimburse Dennis \$22 for the megaphone. The future conduct of club sponsored license classes was discussed. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm. Respectfully submitted by Joanie KCØGMI, Secretary

**PPRAA Club Meeting Minutes**

6/9/04

The June meeting of PPRAA was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Al Penney VOINIO followed by introductions around the room. There were no silent keys noted. The May meeting minutes were approved. John KØAAI gave the Treasurer’s Report:

For the period 5/12 - 6/9/04, income was \$25 and expenses were \$176.93. Kate WB9BAH reminded everyone of the Swap Fest on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>, with setup

around 5pm on Friday. Kate encouraged the purchase of raffle tickets and that the proceeds of this event will help us purchase our needed computer projector. Mike KØTER gave a rundown on ARES Public Service events. Tom NØNTX noted that ham satellite SO50 is now working. Final Field Day planning was discussed by VOINO. Al noted that our new Publicity Chair is Christopher NC6T and Christopher discussed the various sources for publicity that he was pursuing. Al also noted that Ted NØNKG had recent foot surgery and requested the Secretary to forward a card to him on behalf of the club. Al requested a volunteer to head our club picnic in August or September. Mike WV7T discussed his new Technical Education Coordinator position and his technical library, classes, etc. The Hammy Award was passed to Jim Amburn NØTUI for his long efforts in mastering the Morse Code. Congratulations Jim! Al announced that today (June 9<sup>th</sup>) was Jerry ADØA’s birthday and Joanie has a cake for him during the break. After the break, door prizes were drawn followed by a presentation on Field Day Operation by Al VOINO. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm. Respectfully submitted by Joanie KCØGMI, Secretary

**Field Day 2004 Report**

Field Day 2004 was a great success! Despite a fierce thunderstorm that delayed setup on Friday, and another that cost us almost 4 hours of operating time on Saturday, we very quickly established an excellent communications center with outstanding antennas. In doing so, we demonstrated that we are quite capable of supporting municipal, state and federal government agencies in time of emergency, be it a natural disaster or a terrorist attack by cowards.

I have to go through the logs in more detail in case a few duplicate contacts slipped through, but the approximate score looks like this:

Station	# QSOs	Points
SSB	1118	1118
CW	923	1846
VHF/UHF	439 fone	439
	3 cw	6
GOTA	229	229
Total	2712	Total 3638 points x 2
	(power multiplier) =	7276 points

**Bonus Points**

Emergency power 200 (2A)

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 1)

tricts in the Denver area and points north) Dean



Bob Witte K0NR, ARRL Colorado Section Technical Coordinator, was at the Megafest providing free handheld radio testing.

turned the floor over to Wes Wilson KØHBZ, who is the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Development in Pikes Peak ARES and also the newly selected Emergency Coordinator for the Colorado ARES Disaster Response Team (DRT). Wes informed the group about the DRT's mission and gave a thorough background on its creation and future plans. The DRT is soliciting members from ARES districts across the state who can participate at varying levels of support, from home base liaisons to operators equipped and prepared to support an emergency outside their home area for several days. The DRT will have categories of operators based on equipment, preparedness, and availability defined soon. Contact Wes at [k0hzbz@arrl.net](mailto:k0hzbz@arrl.net) for additional information.

The ARRL forum was led by Jeff Ryan KØRM, the Section Manager for Colorado. He presented his thoughts on amateur radio today in light of current issues like Broadband over Power Lines and license restructuring. Jeff introduced the Rocky Mountain Division Director Walt Stinson WØCP, who provided a unique viewpoint into the inner workings of the ARRL. He emphasized the need to introduce more people to amateur radio, and expressed hopes that the proposed license restructuring will help that cause. Walt let the group know that the ARRL membership is aging, and not gaining many of the new Technician class hams as new members. He stated that only 3% of ARRL members are under age

35. Walt also gave some insight into the work that goes on at the ARRL on behalf of all amateurs, and he encouraged all hams to work with their ARRL representatives to ensure their perspective on issues is heard and acknowledged. You can contact Walt at [w0cp@arrl.org](mailto:w0cp@arrl.org) for more information on the ARRL's activities and how your voice can be heard.

Dennis Major NØABC led a VE session during the Megafest and had several prospective hams participate. By the end of the morning four people had passed their Technician exam and earned their first amateur radio licenses and one person passed all of the tests required for the General class license in one sitting. Two hams upgraded to their General tickets, and three hams successfully completed the tests to earn their Extra class licenses. Congratulations to all who braved the testing, and thanks to Dennis and his VE team for holding this session!

What would a ham fest be without a raffle with great prizes? This year the club had both an Icom IC-Q7A handheld radio and an Icom IC-706MKIIG HF and VHF/UHF portable transceiver as prizes, and thanks to the generous donation of the Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Club, an Icom IC-2720H dual-band mobile was also awarded as a prize. Prior to the drawing for these three prizes, several door prize drawings were held throughout the event. Special thanks go out to the door prize donors: ARRL, Bob's Electronics, Centennial Electronics, Dennis Major, Golden Corral, Hamcon Colorado, Inc., Ham Radio Outlet, Jess Miley, Joanie and Jerry VerDuft, Rocky Mountain Navy Amateur Radio Club, Plaque World, and The Remodeler. The luck winners of the big prizes are: Norm Steves ABØQJ, Icom IC-Q7-A; Jim Amburn NØTUI, Icom IC-2720H, and Megafest organizer Kate Muniz WB9BAH, Icom IC-706MKIIG. Congratulations to all of the winners!

There were a total of 508 attendees this year. Preliminary calculations show the club made \$1,958 this year through raffle ticket sales, table rentals, and Megafest admissions. Thanks to Kate Muniz WB9BAH and her Megafest team for putting on a superb event for amateurs in the southern Colorado area! A special thanks also goes to Ken Phillips NØNKP for providing first aid services during the event. Great job by all!

(Continued from page 4)

Media coverage	100
Public location	100
Public Info Table	100
Message to SM	100
Alternate power	100
WIAW message	100
Demo modes	300
Elected official visit	100
GOTA 100 QSOs	100
Message handling	30
Total	1330



Sunrise over the VHF/UHF tent KC0NRZ

Our overall score is  $7276 + 1330 = 8606$  points!

By way of comparison, last year we had 1708 QSOs, and a total score of 5778 points, so this year's effort was a substantial improvement. Well done to all those who participated!

I should mention that the satellite station was handicapped by a lack of operational satellites. The most promising passes occurred Saturday afternoon were shut down because of lightning. Tom NØNTX managed to make several QSOs through the digital satellites, but these unfortunately do not count for the ARRL Field Day. AMSAT does have its own Field Day (coincidentally the same dates as the ARRL Field Day!), so Tom's efforts were not totally in vain!

Special thanks must go to our station captains, Mike KØTER, Dan KBØPPM, Tom NØNTX, Tom KØGIE, Brian KC9EMW, and Rick KØSU, to our

food organizers Joanie KCØGMI and Jerry ADØA, our demonstration mode organizers Jeff KØRM and Lee KØQED, alternate power provider Wes KØHBZ, MARC equipment coordinator Dean KAØPII, and to all those who assisted with setup, teardown, cooking, operating, fueling generators or any of the thousands of things necessary to set up a Field Day operation.

I will compile our official entry for submission to the ARRL in the next week or so, and I really want to



GOTA contact being made KC0NRZ

get a picture of our operation published in QST! I know that a lot of pictures were taken (none by me - I was just too darn busy!), so please forward your photographic masterpieces to me (not by e-mail please - my provider is too slow for that!).

As well, I am putting together a list of lessons learned to assist us not only for future Field Days, but also for any emergency that we may have to respond to. A lesson learned could be major (train operators to use logging program), or relatively simple (don't run over radio with a truck!). If you have a lesson learned, please send it to me!

Once again, Bravo Zulu to all those who played a part!

73

AI VOINO / WØ

# Field Day in Pictures



**Night Operations**



**Oldest and Youngest**

## Media In Attendance



**Mike KOTER at the CW Station**



## Weather and Relaxation



**Jerry Keeping us all fed**

**How many Hams does it take to start the Generator??**

**Thanks to  
ALL for a  
great field  
day!!!**



**Blue Skies**



**Working the  
HF SSB  
Station**



**Our Leader keeping  
dry**

# The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzle— Aluminum Farmers Almanac

By H. Ward Silver, NOAX— June 8, 2003

It's late spring in North America and that means it's time to start worrying about whether all those antenna projects you envisioned last winter are actually going to get done. Well, here's a puzzle full of antenna words you can work on while you procrastinate. Better yet, take it up to the top of the tower, where you get a little peace and quiet!

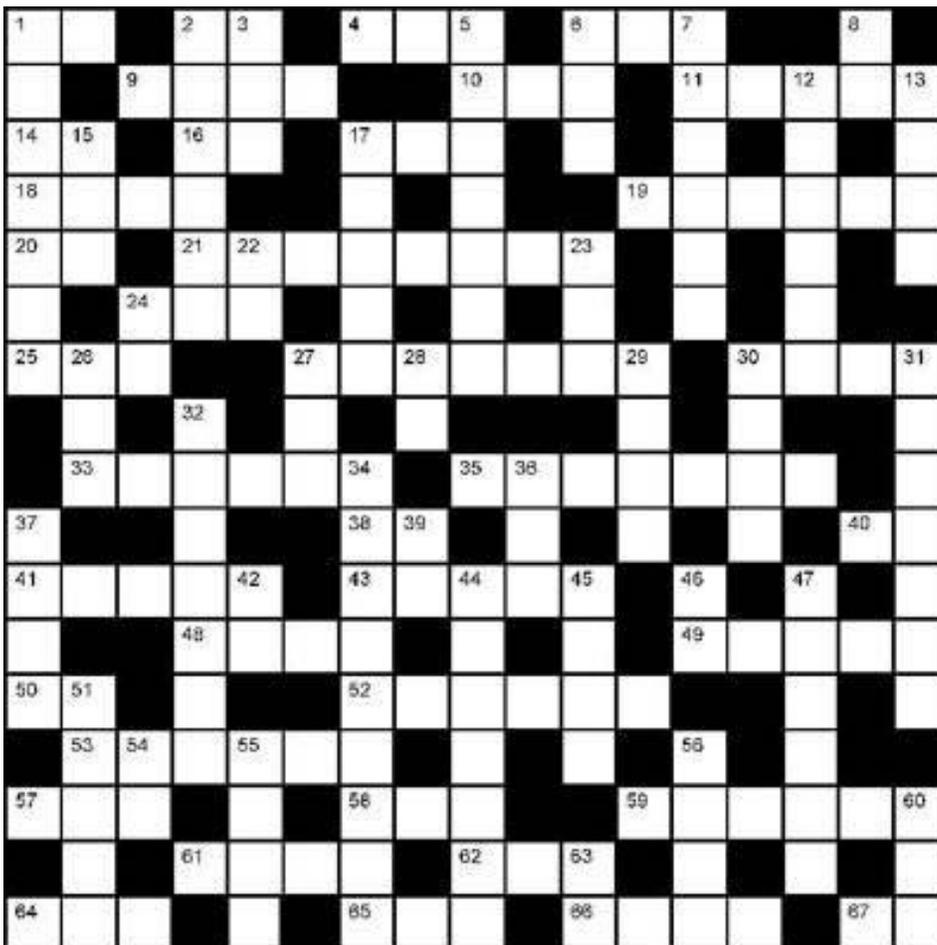
**Across**

- 1. Weather (abbr.)
- 2. Unlicensed radio service
- 4. Complement to a tap
- 6. Type of plastic pipe (abbr.)
- 9. To lose one's hold
- 10. A periodic antenna
- 11. Sequences of parts
- 14. Bandwidth (abbr.)
- 16. Chemical symbol for the best conductor
- 17. Command to make a horse turn right
- 18. Runs down the center of a Yagi
- 19. To move apart
- 20. Move closer
- 21. These guys are delighted with all-metal antennas
- 24. Most popular mode for HF phone
- 25. Type of quad or precious stone

- 27. Spatial distribution of energy
- 30. Also called a 'hairpin' match
- 33. At zero potential
- 35. To reverse a wave's direction
- 38. Measure of intelligence (abbr.)
- 40. One micro kilometer (abbr.)
- 41. Three of something
- 43. A measure of proportion
- 48. Non-magnetic north
- 49. The desired direction of radiation
- 50. After the signature on a letter (abbr.)
- 52. An oxidized joint gets like this
- 53. Force along an axis
- 57. Distant radiation field
- 58. Operators (abbr.)
- 59. These prevent current from flowing on coax shields
- 61. Sharp metal edges left after drilling
- 62. What hears the signal

- 64. Last and first contest of the year (abbr.)
  - 65. These shut down HF propagation (abbr.)
  - 66. This surface is a measure of antenna area
  - 67. A small weight or a British car
- Down**

- 1. Form of nylon used for lifting or tying
- 2. These hold pieces together
- 3. Not small
- 5. The radiating parts of an antenna
- 6. Height above ground (abbr.)
- 7. Wire antenna at an angle to the ground
- 8. Someone who's been around a while (abbr.)
- 12. Concentric tube
- 13. At right angles to the main antenna axis
- 15. To have had the highest score
- 17. Unbalanced match
- 22. Measure of weight (abbr.)
- 23. Measure of relative impedance (abbr.)
- 24. One of the Scandinavian countries (prefix)
- 26. Style of round insulator
- 27. Hold two tubes together with a fastener
- 28. Transmitter (abbr.)
- 29. Point of minimum radiation
- 30. Opposite of 49 across
- 31. Direction in the horizontal plane
- 32. It turns the antennas
- 34. These guide energy in the right direction
- 36. Interference from radiated signals (abbr.)
- 37. Tower rungs are used for this
- 39. Quality Assurance (abbr.)
- 42. Fall off and you'll need one of these (abbr.)
- 44. Held by supporting cables
- 45. Decides
- 46. Antennas radiate this (abbr.)
- 47. Twisting force
- 51. More than one antenna on a mast
- 54. Ham Radio (abbr.)
- 55. Coax-to-coax impedance transformer
- 56. More radiation than a reference
- 60. Droop
- 63. CDs that can be read and written are denoted with this abbreviation



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## Public Service Communications



ARES

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

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1900 on the 146.97 MHz  
PPFMA repeater

Dean Haskins KA0PII, PPARES EC

On June 1st of this year Sid White, K4ARM, passed the reins of PPARES EC to me with the advice, "Hang on." Things commenced at a rapid pace with the MEAT 2004 gathering at Colorado Tech with 28 attendees plus presenters. This event is planned as an annual event so all members of PPARES will be working off the same sheet of music so to speak. Critique sheets filled out following this day long training session produced new and valuable input for future classes, such as an abbreviated review every other year just to brush up, but not a day long session! There have been a couple staff changes, Ken Barton, W5MJC, has been appointed as Executive AEC, and Wes Wilson, KØHBZ, has been designated as AEC Development. There will be changes forthcoming as I try to fill positions where current members have expressed a desire to step aside for various reasons.

I have had the honor of recommending two individuals for OES, Tom, KCØNRZ, and Dave, NØEOP. This is a worthwhile designation as it shows an extra effort has been made and a commitment to our communities by their efforts to achieve this recommendation. Membership in the ARRL is mandatory and the guidelines are contained on the ARRL web site. OES stations will be among the first I will need for any ARES mission. I firmly believe, after 20 years in military communications, that effort and training produce positive results. There are some that want to be called "for the big one" but are unwilling to participate in our public service events, PSEs. These members can be of greater value if we hear from them, often. I think it is time for each ARES member, of which there are 288 listed, consider if they can make the true commitment and work at least two PSEs per year. If you have a particular skill, antennas, APRS or packet for instance, but are not willing to help train those that lack experience, reconsider how valuable you are, or aren't, with PPARES. Homeland Security has



**RACES**

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

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1930 on the 146.76 MHz  
CMRG repeater

Les Borst KCØNC, RACES Officer

There is nothing to report this month as things are very slow.

Wild fire season is upon us so we must always be ready.

Even though we have had several rains along the Front Range, the vegetation in the foot hills and higher up is extremely dry. It is going to take a lot more rain to help with the problem of fires.

If you are a camper be very careful with all fires and plan for a possible escape to a safe area

The next RACES meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> of July at the county OEM at  
7:00 PM

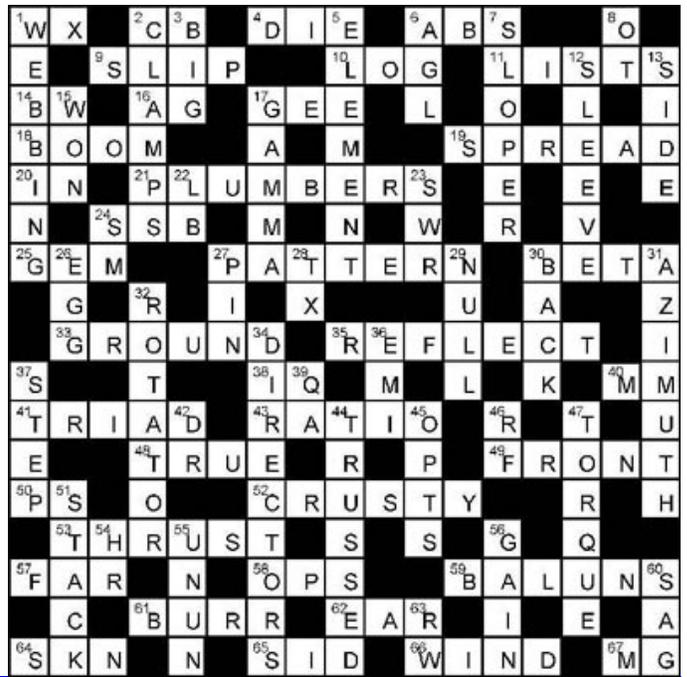
been a buzzword of late I for one believe we may be called upon to use our skills, knowledge and equipment at any given time. We deserve to give the best we have to our family and friends. Therefore, I challenge you, and me, to take the EmComm classes, the ARRL classes, CERT, CPR or first responder classes and become a very valuable asset for our community. Show up on our nets, participate, become a Mission Coordinator/Assistant and continue to increase your value to the organization. And don't forget, Doug, N4TGO, AEC Resources has sent via the reflector a request for each member to update their personnel files. This is an extremely important task. We need to know how to contact individual members, day or night, via radio, phone, webmail or physical address along with their equipment and personal capabilities.

We have some monster tasks ahead of us to become even more highly trained, flexible and professional. Dedication and sacrifice may be needed for us to accomplish our missions in the future. I hope we can count on you. Looking forward towards the future and service together.

Dean KAØPII

PPARES EC





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