



VOLUME 56 ISSUE 3

April 2006

QRP HIKING WITH KFØUR

Every once in a while I like to take a short hike in the area. There are some beautiful trails to explore. And every once in a while you come across a spot that offers grand vistas of Colorado Springs and the surrounding area. On more than one occasion I thought, "wouldn't it be great to be able to sit here for a while, enjoy the view, and make some QSOs around the country and the world?" Then I would forget about it and continue hiking.

My interest was piqued when Yaesu came out with the FT-817. Boy, what a rig it seemed. Small with all bands and all modes. I started planning. To be able to operate for a few hours it would need a reasonable sized battery, say 7 Ah, as it draws hundreds of milliamps (mA) on receive and lots more when transmitting. Well, the combined weight of the transceiver and a battery seemed doable to put in a backpack, but not ideal. I kept thinking about it, continuing to plan.

Then Elecraft came out with the KX-1. It's CW only, and very small (the size of a small stack of index cards), light weight (9 oz.), lots of features standard or available (built-in keyer, automatic antenna tuner, digital display, 3 bands). It put out 5 watts, but only drew 40 mA on receive, which means that a much smaller battery would suffice. This was t! This is the rig that could make the dream a reality.

Cont'd Pg 2



I bought the rig at the Dayton Hamvention, with the optional 30M module and Automatic Antenna Tuner. It went together very easily. Even though I needed to use a magnifying glass to identify the values of some of the components, the parts, circuit board, and instructions were all top notch. And it worked the first time!

I also picked up a small gel cell battery at Dayton. It's 12V, 2.0 Ah, about the size of the KX-1 and weighs about 1.5 lbs. Just right. The KX-1 will work with 6 internal AA batteries and put out 2 watts, but I decided to go for big power at 12 volts...5 watts.

Next I needed an antenna. Some of the places I had in mind to hike and operate didn't have many trees to sling wires between. I researched portable antennas on the Internet and decided to build one designed by Phil Salas, AD5X. It's been written up in QST and CQ a few times. It is a 12-foot-high, center-loaded vertical for 10M - 80M. In the original design the antenna collapses down to 2-foot pieces. After a few of my own designs, and with a great idea from my neighbor Wes, KØWES, I assembled a version that has only a few

Cont'd Pg 3

NONPROFIT STATUS

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

telescoping pieces and collapses down to 1 foot. I use RG-174 coax (very thin) to keep the weight down. Its losses are higher than other larger, heavier coaxes, but since I'm only using 15 feet, it's not an issue. The whole antenna weighs about 2 lbs, including the coax. It was great fun designing the mechanics, with lots of time spent staring at parts at Home Depot.



The last part I needed was a key. Elecraft sells one that plugs directly into the KX-1, but I decided to get a Palm Mini-Paddle. It weighs a few ounces, it's rugged and works very well (my key was just used on the Peter I DX-pedition).

I remembered I had a small solar charger laying around the house. It's one of those \$40 light-weight trickle chargers (12V 100ma) that plugs into a car's cigarette lighter to keep the battery charged when the car is not used for extended periods. I thought it would be

Cont'd Pg 4

a good idea to keep the battery topped off. I replaced the cigarette lighter plug with Anderson Powerpoles, which I put on the rig and battery as well, and I was all set. This solar charger puts out enough current to operate the KX-1 on receive WITHOUT ANY OTHER BATTERY.

The results were fantastic! I enjoyed the challenge of running QRP. While I didn't get everyone I called, I got many, including DX. I found sitting in the beautiful Rocky Mountains with a small but very capable setup making QSOs was very, very satisfying. With the solar charger plugged in with our usually sunny days, I could operate ALL DAY, and not just for a few hours.

The dream was finally a reality, only better.



My favorite spot is near my QTH on a trail on Mt. Blodgett, overlooking the AFA. And what I hear over and over from folks I'm QSO-ing with when I tell them I'm portable hiking at 8000 feet is "Gee, I always wanted to do that."

Shel Radin
KFØUR

NEWS FLASH

PPRAA has the opportunity to participate in conjunction with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Zebulon Pike's historic journey. This July, we have the chance to set up a special event station at the opening of a time capsule that was placed in Antlers Park 100 years ago on the centennial of Pike's journey. To quote the Pioneers Museum web page, "Opening of the Pike Centennial Time Capsule in Antlers Park. Marking the 200th anniversary of the day Pike embarked on his western sojourn this event combines music and suspense. Museum staff will rediscover a 1906 time capsule placed during the Pike Centennial. The Colorado Springs Conservatory and the Colorado Springs Choral will perform original and historic music during this midday event. The public can leave their mark on history by participating in the creation of a new time capsule commemorating the Pike Bicentennial."

More information to follow as details are

worked out between the PPRAA and the Pioneers Museum.

Mike KØMLA
kØmla@arrl.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS/ POINTS OF CONTACT

Auditing:	Open
Asset:	Mike Stansberry KØTER
E-Mail Refl:	John Wishart KCØJFH kcØjfh@arrl.net / 488-2439
Field Day:	Dan Scott KBØPPM
Swapfest:	Rick Brown KØSU kØsu@adelphia.net 531-9423
Historian:	Ron Deutsch NKØP
Interference:	Bill Petty NØNJX
Membership:	Les Borst KCØNC
Programs:	Mike Allison KØMLA k0mla@arrl.net 590-4812
Publicity:	Christopher Taylor NC6T nc6t@arrl.net 260-8081
Public Service:	Mike Stansberry KØTER
Tech Ed:	Mike Anderson WV7T wv7t@arrl.net 229-8610
VEC Liaison:	Dennis Major NØABC nØabc@arrl.net 531-6774
VE Contact:	Erik Mugele KGØXE ve@teuton.org 278-4363
Webmaster:	Doug Nielsen N7LEM n7lem@n7lem.net
AMSAT Coord:	Tom McDaniel NØNTX
ARRL Awards Mgr:	Rick Brown KØSU
ARES Em. Coord:	Dean Haskins KAØPII
ARES Liaison:	Mike Stansberry KØTER
ARRL Section Mgr:	Jeff Ryan KØRM
CCARC Liaison:	Dan Scott KBØPPM
HamCon Chairman:	Jerry VerDuft ADØA
RACES Officer:	Doc Cornell WØMCT

Membership committee report

Please welcome these New Members:

ARLENE	HICKEY	KA0OYZ
WARREN	HICKEY	W0YNE
THOMAS	KENIMER	WB0NWC
DON	MOODY	KC0PEJ
ERIK	MUGELE	KG0XE
KARL	NIELSEN	KC0NPP
DIANA	NIELSEN	KC0NPQ
DOUGLAS	NIELSEN	N7LEM
JOYCE	WITTE	KA0DEH

Total Number of Members: 123

Our club has 68 past members who have not renewed for 2006. If you know of any who have not renewed talk to them to see if they have just forgotten or if it is something they are dissatisfied with.

Les KC0NC

Pikes Peak ARES

<http://www.ppare.org/>



No Report Given.

El Paso County RACES Activities

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



No Report Given.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Volunteer Examiner (VE) team holds testing sessions at 9 AM at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd).

Exam fee is \$14.00 for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 elements at a session.

Checks should be payable to ARRL/VEC. For further details and a list of what to bring, contact Erik Mugele KG0XE or Dennis Major N0ABC or visit the PPRAA web site.

Mark your calendars:

June 10 -- Aug. 12 -- Oct. 14 -- Dec. 9

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
13 March 2006

Attendees: Christopher NC6T, Mike KØMLA, Jim ABØUK, Mike WV7T, Rick KØSU, Doug N7LEM, Su KCØPRN, John KCØJFH

Christopher called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Rick moved that the meeting be approved as printed in the Ø-Beat. Passed.

Reports

Treasurer's Report - Jim ABØUK reported the total balance in our 3 accounts was \$5989.60

Vice President's Report - Mike KØMLA noted upcoming programs:

April - Fox Hunting tips

May - Contesting ?

June - FD Prep, COO for ARRL

July - Hamcon Overview

August - Interference

Sept - BPL Update (possible)

Oct - Election

Unfinished Business

Annual Inventory - Rick KØSU will be inventorying w/ Mike KØTER this weekend.

Hamcon 2006 - We will be needing volunteers to man the PPRAA booth.

Club banner - Christopher - price increase due to more complicated logo than initial quote..

Jim/Mike KØMLA moved/seconded to buy the 2x6 foot banner at \$128.88.

Donation letter - Mike WV7T has not been able to contact W2TJO regarding the antenna donation yet.

Xmas party - Su provided a write-up for the Xmas party procedure to include in the club operations manual.

PRESIDENT:

Christopher Taylor NC6T*
nc6t@arrl.net / 260-8081

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mike Allison KØMLA
k0mla@arrl.net / 590-4812

SECRETARY:

John Wishart KCØJFH*
jrwishart@msn.com / 481-2439

TREASURER:

Jim Harris ABØUK
ab0uk@yahoo.com / 641-8477

Ø-BEAT EDITOR:

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA
ac0ca@arrl.net / 632-8254

DIRECTOR/PAST PRESIDENT:

Rick Brown KØSU*
k0su@adelphia.net / 531-9423

DIRECTOR:

Mike Anderson WV7T*
wv7t@arrl.net / 229-8610

DIRECTOR:

Suisei Goguen KCØPRN
cobweb@divide.net / 481-8684

DIRECTOR:

Paul Moraine NØPWM
pmoraine@msn.com / 638-0273

** In final year of 2-year term.*

Cont'd Pg 8

Tech Class - Christopher - Frank Skinner not able to find a space for the class yet. He has dropped it for this year.

Projector Loan Policy - Christopher - Our comments were incorporated.

Pike Peak Discovery 200th anniversary special event station - Mike KØMLA - planning for this activity is proceeding with the Pioneers Museum.

New Business

Service Empowerment Transformation (SET) organization requested through Mike KØTER that PPRAA run/sponsor an aid station for Cycle for SET, a special event family bike ride. The response to doing this was not favorable, since no communication services would be provided.

Round the Table

Su - Suggested the Christmas party chairperson should book now for Christmas party. She will contact the church to reserve the church for 2006. This would be for a Friday in Dec, first 2 weeks preferred, Dec 8, first choice, or 15, next.
Picnic - Su also volunteered to do the picnic again. Will organize and reserve the park, Dirty Woman Park in Monument, 11AM-3PM on a Sat in August. Try to avoid MARC Campfest and Pikes Peak Ascent/Marathon dates.

Jim ABØUK - regarding the Jess Miley ad. Jim will contact Dennis NØABC regarding payment status for Jess' advertising.
Can we have some theme nights?
Hawaiian shirt night, boat anchor night, mobile installation night.

Maybe prizes for best item? Tech talk.
Solicit ads from local hams for our newsletter.

Elecraft and Icom will support us with advertising material for the Megafest.

Rick KØSU
Megafest meeting this Sat 9AM at The Remodeler.

Rick MLA
Our door prize fund is growing. How can we disperse this to keep it down? Suggestions: door prizes at picnic, field day, Xmas party.
Do we need a simplex net committee? Can we get names/addresses of local hams from FCC or ARRL to send out an invite letter/card to the club meetings? We estimate 1300 hams in local area. Do by Zip code?
Do we have our meeting auditorium reserved? Not for last couple of months. Mike is working on this to get this reserved if possible.

Doug LEM
We now have our own domain and new host/website: www.ppraa.org. Doug set up special email addresses for the officers, board, etc. He has moved our website to the new host, Godaddy.com. Cost is \$118.28 for 3 years of service for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Next Board meeting: April 17, 2003, 7AM, at The Remodeler

Submitted by:
John Wishart
25 March 2006

PPRAA MEETING INFORMATION

The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly at 7 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, 305 S. Union Blvd, downstairs at the apex of the two buildings. For a map, please visit our web site at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/> or contact any of the board members for more information.

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello.

It is with that simple word that many conversations get started. It is also the name of the Amateur Radio Relay League's new recruitment campaign. To coincide with the one hundred year anniversary of voice communications via radio, this campaign is designed to entice people of all ages into learning more about amateur radio and the enjoyment the hobby can provide. You can participate in it by talking with your friends about amateur radio and showing them the fun you have with it. There is a new web site for this campaign at www.hello-radio.org; you and your friends can access it to find out more about the anniversary and how to become a ham. And of course you can give them a live demo to show them what it is all about!

Before we know it Field Day will be upon us the weekend of June 24th and 25th. Dan KBØPPM is coordinating the club's Field Day preparations this year. If you haven't ever been a part of a Field Day I encourage you to make the time for it this year. We will again stage our operations at the Sourdough Valley recreation area and the Mountain Amateur Radio Club will join us there. Traditionally one club has acted as host for the event, and this year that job falls to the PPRAA! Please watch the club web site for updates on our Field Day plans and also for Dan's messages on the email reflector as he starts to gather volunteers. There are lots of areas to participate – all you have to do is sign up with Dan!

Plans for this year's July 8th Megafest, the club's annual fund raiser, are shaping up well

thanks to swapfest coordinator Rick KØSU and his team of Megafest volunteers! If you have some old or unwanted amateur radio gear taking up precious space in your house – now is the time to reserve a Megafest table to sell it all! You can use the form printed on the flyer and either send in your application and check or bring it to a club meeting and present it to table rental coordinator John KCØJFH. Each year the Megafest draws a huge crowd and table rentals almost always sell out. Raffle tickets are on sale at each club meeting as well so you can buy them now and avoid the lines at the Megafest raffle ticket table. We have some superb prizes this year: a Yaesu FT-6R handheld, a Yaesu FT-8800R mobile rig, and a Yaesu FT-897D all-mode HF-VHF-UHF base/mobile radio!

Thanks to the impetus generated by Pat KCØMIR, the club now owns a new six foot by two foot banner for use at club functions. Printed in the club colors of brown and gold, this banner will certainly help draw attention to the club and its activities. We'll be proudly displaying it at HamCon Colorado 2006, the Megafest, club meetings, and other events as they arise. If you are in charge of a club event, please contact me to borrow the banner and its indoor stand to help publicize the club!

73,

Christopher NC6T

Ø-BEAT DEADLINE

The deadline for the April 2006 Ø-Beat is March 25th.
Send all submissions to the editor via e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person.
Please feel free to submit an article, joke or news – we need your fresh content!

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES
8 March 2006

President Christopher Taylor NC6T called the meeting to order at 7 PM in the El Paso County Health Department Auditorium, followed by introductions around the room.

Silent Keys: none were noted.

Mike NØMUD moved that the minutes be approved as printed in the Ø-Beat. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim ABØUK reported that we had a \$6038.30 total balance in our three accounts.

Committee Reports:

Reflector - John KCØJFH said we now have 152 e-mail addresses on our reflector membership list.

Field Day - Dan KBØPPM said thanks to Bob Witte for reserving Sourdough Valley for our Field Day site on June 23-25. Dan is recruiting station coordinators. If interested, contact Dan.

Megafest - Rick KØSU noted that the prizes have been purchased. A Scout troop has volunteered to provide the food services. The next Megafest meeting is Saturday, March 18 at The Remodeler. He also is recruiting volunteers for the event.

Programs - Mike KØMLA

April - Practical Fox Hunting

May - TBD

June - Field Day Preparation

July - TBD

August - Picnic

September - Hamcon 2006

Overview

October - Elections

Publicity - Christopher NC6T commented on the Megafest publicity and our new website.

Public Service - Info provided by Mike Stansberry KØTER. June 17 is the Starlight Spectacular Bike Ride. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Technical Education - Mike WV7T noted that the Diabetes Walk will be May 6. Volunteers are also needed for this event. Planning and course material organization for the General class course is progressing.

VE Liaison - Dennis NØABC announced the next VE exam session will be held April 8 at Colorado Technical University. The exams are held the second Saturday of even numbered months.

Webmaster - Doug N7LEM - we have a new domain name (www.ppraa.org) and website host (Godaddy.com). The new site is much faster than our old location.

ARRL Awards Checking - Rick KØSU checked W.A.S. (PSK31) for KØAMZ.

RACES - The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 16 at the County Clerk and Records Office in the Centennial Hall Auditorium. Skywarn training will be conducted at that meeting.

New Business

Mike Dosero NØMUD reminded club members of the repeater class to be held. See the latest Ø-Beat for details.

Mike Anderson WV7T presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mike KØMLA and Jim ABØUK for their assistance with his move.

Dick WØMNX is scheduled to present DRT information to Northcom in April.

Jim ABØUK reminded members to pay their membership dues if overdue. The LARCfest is 8 AM, April 1, in Longmont at the Boulder County Fairgrounds. The Dayton Hamvention is May 19-21. PPRAA Club patches are available from Jim at \$5 each.

Hammy Award - this went to Dennis NØABC for his work with the Ø-Beat newsletter over the past year.

Program - Bill Morse and Larry Hanes of Colorado Springs Public Utilities gave a presentation on Electrical Safety, complete with a spectacular electrical arc show.

Next Club Meeting: 7 PM, Wednesday, April 12, at the El Paso County Medical Department Auditorium.

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, Monday, April 17 at The Remodeler.

Submitted by:

John Wishart
25 March 2006

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All memberships are up for renewal at the end of the year. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please use the form at the bottom of this page, and fill out all of the appropriate information so that the Membership Committee can update the records. Include your family so they can share the value and the fun. If you know someone interested in joining, make a copy for them or have them visit PPRAA on the web and download a copy of the PDF file at www.qsl.net/ppraa/membership.html.

Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521	
Date: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	In which activities would you like to participate?
Name: _____	Field Day <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Address: _____	Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____	Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____	Teach ham classes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:	Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____	Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Donation to Club: \$ _____
	Total Enclosed: _____
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"	
Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail (Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked) <input type="checkbox"/> As a PDF file attachment via e-mail, to help save a few bucks <input type="checkbox"/> I'll save the club a few bucks and download it from the Web!	
Circle your interests <input type="checkbox"/> HF / <input type="checkbox"/> V/UHF / <input type="checkbox"/> FM / <input type="checkbox"/> SSB / <input type="checkbox"/> Digital / <input type="checkbox"/> DX / <input type="checkbox"/> Contests / <input type="checkbox"/> Technical / <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware / Other _____	
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer. Please Type or Print Clearly!	

**Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA**

First Class Mail

To: