



Activities/Meetings

- Ham Breakfast
Saturday, May 2nd
Rudy's Little Hideaway
925 S. 8th Street
Join us between
8:00-9:30 AM
All are warmly invited
- PPRAA General Class
May 6th
Fountain Library
- PPRAA Board Meeting
Mon, May 11th
IHOP
- PPRAA general
membership meeting,
Wednesday, May 13th.
- 10 Meter/2 Meter net
Every Thursday 7:00 pm
28.390 MHz—USB
144.200 MHz-USB

Inside this issue:

Officers	2
Online Resources	
Monthly Activities	
Meeting Topics	3
Remote Station (reprint)	
Minutes: Board	4
Minutes: Membership	5
Skywarn Training	
Weep for Amateur Radio?	6
Merit Badges -Signs, Signals, Codes -Radio	7
CubeSat	8
Lighthouse Prime	
Megafest	9
Licensing	10
Decibel and SWR	11
Application Scholarship	12

Volume 65 Issue 05

May 2015

PPRAA—General Licensing Class offered

PPRAA is offering a licensing class for the General Class ticket. The class location is the Fountain Library, 230 S. Main Street Fountain, CO.

The class is scheduled to start Wednesday May 6th with a test session Wednesday July 1st. The duration of each class session is expected to be 2 to 3 hours.

The text for the class will be the General Licensing Course from Ham Radio School.com.

This book is chosen due to its building-block approach, how it balances depth with simplicity, well written explanations made easy to understand, and has additional multimedia support for each section. There is an online question pool practice organized by section topics. Also available is a fully coordinated quizzing and practice exam smart device application allowing studying on-the-go.

Contact Frank at (719) 495-2198.

PPRAA Club station ready for Field Day

Several weeks ago we (the board) decided to make the Ellicott Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) the base for our efforts in antenna building and special events as well for our use of the remote rig.

When the lawyers finally okay-ed it, it was the end of a long effort. I want to thank all of the board and the membership for their efforts in sustaining this action.

Since that time there has been only one weekend wherein there was no one there from the club promoting and contributing their labor in seeing that the site was prepared for use. Matching that effort was Ed Corn for the EVFD and avid ham. Ed helped us all the way. From putting up and staying the Butternut antenna, helping straightening his mast which was bent to about a 45 degree angle, and repairing the antenna on the roof.

Another name which must be mentioned is that of Jim Harris. Without his and his team's efforts this would not have taken place. He put in over 200 hours in the antenna plan and the remote rig software as well as connectivity.

Last week Virgil and I (Raleigh) went to deliver the certificate to him in recognition for his and his team's efforts. He didn't do it for a reward but for the joy of doing it to help the club. That is an effort beyond the mark.



Actions since the agreement has been signed:

- ◆ trailer placed on site
- ◆ trailer wired for electricity
- ◆ Trailer leveled and balanced
- ◆ butternut antenna been erected
- ◆ bent mast straightened
- ◆ antenna on the roof of the FD repaired.

That make three antennas available to date.

Other antenna to be erected shortly include a NVIS 40 meter antenna as well as a 20 meter dipole rotational antenna loaned by Jim Harris.

We will have 5 operating position for Field Day (FD), so plenty of operating space. Remember you can operate the frequencies which you have privileges for.

If there is error in this, blame me. I did the article. If it is a good article then bless the club as it is the club's (PPRAA) efforts that made it possible.

Raleigh n4hyf
PPRAA board president



PPRAA Officers and Board of Directors

PPRAA Board of Directors consists of four elected officers, seven board members, as well the past president (time limit dependent). The Ø-Beat editor is a board appointed position and is also a member of the board.

Officers include:

- ⇒ President
- ⇒ Vice-President
- ⇒ Secretary
- ⇒ Treasurer

To send board member's email, browse to the officers section of our website: <http://ppraa.org/about-ppraa/officers>

President	Raleigh Holcomb	N4HYF
Vide-President	Jim Bishop	KDØKQL
Secretary	Diana Nordstrom	KCØNPP
Treasurer	Pam Scott	WØPRS
Past President	Michael Derbort	KCØELG
Board Member	Dan Martin	KDØSMP
Board Member	Glenn Brodt	N3ULW
Board Member	Jim Rader	KDØNQM
Board Member	Charlie Coyner	KD6CBC
Board Member	Jim Harris	WØEM
Board Member	Virgil Yost	NØXRS
Board Member	Frank Roger	KB3PDT
Ø-Beat Editor	Dan Scott	WØRO
Webmaster	Doug Nielsen	N7LEM

Online Resources

PPRAA Website

<http://ppraa.org>

The PPRAA website is the cornerstone for club related information, events, and technical information.

In addition you can register, pay dues, and submit donations. Donations to the PPRAA college scholarship fund are managed by FAR Scholarship Committee

Facebook / Google+

Follow activities as they unfold, or get reminders of upcoming events.

Links to both Facebook and Google+ social media sites can be found on the PPRAA.org.

Or from each social media site search on: Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

PPRAA Forums

The PPRAA forums are intended to allow users to exchange of ideas, ask and answer amateur radio related questions, and plan/discuss upcoming events.

This is a fantastic, but underutilized, tool. Check it out and register at: PPRAA.Forumotion.net

Monthly Activities

Membership Meeting

Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00.

IHOP
5749 Stetson Hills Blvd
(Just west of Powers Blvd)

NOTE: Many show up at 6 pm for kibitzing and grub.

Board Meeting

IHOP
5749 Stetson Hills Blvd

6:30pm—8:00pm
On the Monday preceding the membership meeting.

Board Meetings are open to all members.

Ham Breakfast

Location changes monthly: Check ppraa.org or table of contents, page 1 for the breakfast meeting location.

10 Meter/2 Meter Net

Every Thursday at 7pm
Starts on 28.390 USB then transitions to 2 Meter SSB at 144.200 USB.



Meeting Presentation Topics

Last Meeting

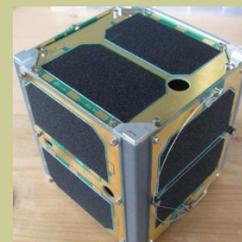
Dan Martin & Buck Buchanan on the current status of the Lighthouse project.

This Month's Meeting

Bdale Garbee, KBØG, will discuss the Fox satellite design, how to work them, and describe the next few satellites in the series and what their payloads will be.

Next Meeting

TBD



CubeSat 2

Yaesu Fusion (C4FM)

By Dan Scott, WØRO

In the realm of VHF/UHF digital systems there are a few choices on the market.

In the more open arena there is the DMR standard, or MotoTBRO. For more information about DMR see the article "What is Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)" in this ØBeat.

The manufacture specific digital modes include the first to market D-Star from ICOM and now Yaesu's C4FM digital.

As a late comer to the market Yaesu's market strategy seems to be "build it and they will come". If you have a problematic repeater, an aging repeater, or you are a bargain hunter, the \$500 fully programmable repeater is hard to pass up. The systems are on back order so the strategy seems to be working.

The repeaters are dual mode allowing standard FM or the digital C4FM with auto sensing for which to use. The name Yaesu gives this system is Fusion. I assume because it seems to fuse Analog and Digital together

In the Colorado Springs area the first Fusion system was

installed by PPFMA on their 145.265 in-town system. This system was part of the Yaesu beta and will be replaced with the general availability system in the near future (depending on that backlog I mentioned above).

Another system going in is Bob, K0NR, 440 system. Bob's System came in and he is currently testing it. Just like Bob's blog (<http://www.k0nr.com>) his emails are also both educational and entertaining:

"The Yaesu Fusion repeater arrived and I put it on the air temporarily using a frequency pair designated for portable repeaters. The repeater is only running 5 W into a spare antenna I have up...so range will be noticeably smaller than my other repeater. You'll probably need to be close to Monument to hit it.

The repeater frequency is 449.100 MHz with - 5 MHz offset.

The repeater is set to "automatic" mode, which means:

- if it hears FM on the input, it will transmit FM on the output (requires 141.3 Hz CTCSS)
- if it hears C4FM digital (Yaesu digital format) on the input, it will transmit C4FM on the

output

If you have a Yaesu Fusion radio (FT-IDR or FTM-400DR), you should be able to work digital through this repeater. The digital signal will just sound like noise on an FM receiver. I've got a Yaesu FT-IDR so I should be able to work you on digital. You can also use the repeater using good old analog FM.

I've decided to "burn in" the repeater on this alternate frequency for a while and get to know how it works. This repeater has a very simple controller built into it that is not all that flexible. Yaesu is promising some firmware upgrades that will improve the feature set but its not clear when that will happen. In particular, you should be aware that Yaesu has made it difficult to operate mixed mode while using an external controller. I can see a scenario where I just disable the digital features and operate this repeater in FM mode only. So I would caution against running out and buying a new radio just to work Fusion/C4FM, as that might not be supported in the long run.

Continued bottom
Page 7



PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes—6 April 2015

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6 April 2015

Call To Order - 18:12

Approval of the March Meeting Minutes

- Mike D motions to approve as published on the website and in the Zero Beat, Jim B seconds, board approves

Committee reports

Treasurer's report -\$9,691

Station Move Report - antenna is up and working, need to bury the coax, and cement the support pole. Ed has run conduit in the trailer. Plan for this weekend is to put the trailer on rail ties.

Antenna Report - Rohn 25 tower needs to be put up next, with the tri-band antenna on top.

Building report - need to set up the external storage asap

Electrical committee -

Lease Agreement (Ed KCØTBE) - everything is good to go, has been signed, will shortly have a key for access to the building to be stored within the trailer.

Megafest 2015 -over \$250 in sales at LARCfest, Jim B. Sold 250 tickets over the past 2 weeks

Zero Beat - Still need articles Submit articles to zero-beat@ppraa.org

Tech Ed (Mike, WV7T) -getting a lot of referrals from centennial electronics.

Lighthouse project -can hit the net from the fire station, would like us to connect the plains to the front range.

Remote Station Report - Would like to move it out to Ellicott FD, possibly open it up to El Paso and surrounding counties.

Special Event Station - World Amateur Radio Day, 18th

April, John Bloodgood is willing to write up a press release for it
Radios -Mike A. has heathkits he's willing to trade to the club for membership, the board is looking for volunteers to look them over.

Banning Ranch Academy - needs 3 tech books and a teacher's manual, Jim B will look into it

Around the table

Frank - still meeting at the library, no meeting on the 20th. Will make an announcement on Wednesday. Have room at the library for 20 students.

Jim H - having to cut back on involvement, the PA system is in the trailer, will try to make as many board meetings as possible, will miss general meetings.

Jim B - trailer made the move with no issues

Doug - central states vhf society conference is being held in Westminster on July 23-26, info will be on the club website

John Bloodgood - skywarn is spinning up for this summer, weather net may start early on May 1. Armed forces day: mars can talk to non-mars May 9-10, summer events coming on the calendar.

Virgil - send a contribution letter to the gentleman who did the work on the fence at the ranch.

Jim R -motion to buy 3 folding tables for \$21, Dan M seconds, board approves.

Next Board Meeting: April 8th, Location: IHOP

Adjourn -Diana moves, Jim R seconds, adjourned at 19:40



From Colorado Springs, CO
On the Air Over 75-years

PPRAA

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

PPRAA General Meeting Minutes—8 April 2015

Call To Order – 19:00

Introductions

Silent Keys - N/A

Approval of the March Meeting Minutes - Pam moves for the minutes to be approved as published, Jim B seconds, board approves

Committee reports

Treasurer's report - \$9,691

Antenna Report - The report states it will take \$3000 to put up the towers, no vote taken at this time, but expect it soon. Contact the board if you wish to look over the antenna plan.

Building report - up on rail ties and balanced fore and aft
Lease Agreement (Ed KCØTBE) - Has been signed, trailer has been moved, there are 5 antennas out there ready to be used.

Megafest 2015 - By End of March we have sold \$443 worth of tickets compared to \$50 last year. All thanks to Jim R for getting us great prizes. Buy Raffle Tickets! Buy Tables! Table prices go up April 20th. We have sold 6 tables so far, behind the amount sold last year.

Field Day committee - Will be at the Ellicott Fire Department, our new station location, Mike WV7T is doing an in-town event that focuses on learning, contact him for more information.

Zero Beat - Need more articles! Please send them to zerobeat@ppraa.org as often as you wish.

Tech Ed (Mike, WV7T) - if you need a license, contact Mike for more information. General question pool changes in July

CSVHFS Conference - 23-26 July at the Denver Marriott in Westminster. Check the website for more information.

Special Event Station - April 18th, World Amateur Radio Day at our station location at the Ellicott Fire Department, Mike WV7T is the new coordinator or arranging events. Please contact him if you wish to assist or for more information. From 10 to 5
Club Manual - Dan M. has volunteered to bring it up to date, contact him if you wish to assist or have information to share, please contact him.

HamCon 2016 - Will be in Keystone on May 13-15.

Remote Station - Will be moved to the club station, please consider registering to use this!

ARES - Skywarn: Training was on the 4th, had a good turn out, if you missed out, check out the NWS website for other dates; Weather Net will be starting on May 1st due to the weather outlook for this year. 221 - Teller County Fire zone, 226 - Northern El Paso county fire zone, 227 - Southern El Paso County fire zone; 8 events: Falcon 50 on 2 May, North Cheyenne Canyon Run on 30th May, Garden of the Gods 10 Mile on 14th June, MTCC Experience Ride on 20th June, PP International Hill Climb on 28 June, Summer Round-up Trail Run on 12th July, PP Ascent on 15th Aug, PP Marathon on 16th Aug; EOSS is launching 3 balloons on the 11th, can track them via APRS; Armed Forces Day - MARS operators using their MARS calls are available to talk on May 9-10; Special event at the Preparedness Summit on April 14-17. Contact John Bloodgood for more information on any ARES events.

General Class - Will be taught at the Fountain Public Library on Wednesdays from May 6th to June 10th (Skipping 5/20) have room for 20 students, cost is \$30 for test and materials (\$15 for the test). Call Frank R. at 719-495-2198 for more information.



What would you do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



For the past three or four years, I've been threatening to buy a new radio to replace my ICOM IC-746PRO. The IC-746PRO is a great rig, though, and I've had trouble pulling the trigger on a \$3k – \$5k or more purchase. The radio that I've had my eye on is the Elecraft K3. Without a doubt the K3 is a better rig than the 746PRO, and it's certainly worth the price that Elecraft is asking. The question I keep asking myself, though, is, "Am I going to have \$5,000 more fun with a K3?"

To put it another way, the question is, assuming that I have a \$5,000 budget to spend on amateur radio gear over the next year or two or three, what's the best way to spend it? How can I maximize my purchases so that I have the most fun?

At this point, I think that I've decided not to buy that new rig and instead buy equipment that will help me make my own rigs. Some of the items that I have my eye on include:

- * Aoyue 968A+ SMD Digital Hot Air Rework Station (I have actually already purchased this unit.)
- * Rigol DS1102E 100MHz, Dual Channel, 1 GSa/s Digital Oscilloscope
- * Rigol DSA815-TG Spectrum Analyzer

- * A more professional workbench to replace the folding table that I'm currently using.
- * Peaberry SDR V2 Kit
- * More keys! I'd love to get a fancy Begali or N3ZN paddle, and the other day someone told me about the UR5CDX keys, which look like great deals.

Even if I purchased everything on this list, I'll have spent less than \$5,000.

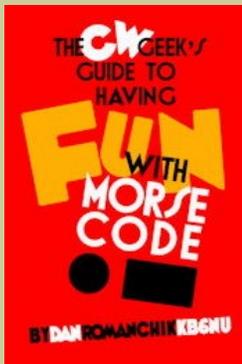
One consequence of going this route is that I'll have less time for operating. I'm betting (hoping?) that the extra time spent on tinkering will be just as much fun, or even more fun than I'm having now.

It also means that I'll be going to Dayton with a much different mindset than I have the past couple of years. Instead of spending my time configuring the perfect K3 in my head, I'll be looking for kits and scouring the flea market looking for parts.

I may be overthinking this, but like most amateurs, I have a limited budget to spend on amateur radio. That being the case, making conscious decisions about how to spend that money should help me have more fun with ham radio, and that's the goal, isn't it?

What do you think? Is this the right way to go, or am I going to regret this decision? If you've made a similar decision, I'd love to hear from you.

When not checking his stock of antenna parts, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, blogging about amateur radio.



NEW BOOK!

The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code is now available in PDF, Kindle, and Nook e-book formats.

Written in my "no nonsense" style, this book is designed to not only help you get started in CW, but to have fun doing it.

What is Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)

By: Dan Scott, WØRO

Material mostly from Rocky Mountain Ham Radio (<http://www.rmham.org>)

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) was developed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). Voice and data are supported. Browsing through a couple online repeater directories I have found that DMR appears to be the most popular VHF/UHF digital mode system in the US.

DMR is an open and published international digital radio standard that specifies the 2-slot (channel) TDMA communications. DMR is amateur radio's newest digital protocol. DMR radios are produced by several manufacturers including: Connect Systems, Hytera, Kenwood, Motorola, Vertex Standard to name a few. DMR is not compatible with Icom's D-Star or Yaesu's Fusion (C4FM) technologies. Because DMR is not a single manufacturer technology, it is here to stay.



Rocky Mountain Ham Radio (RMHam) (<http://www.rmham.org>) has been spearheading the DMR activity in Colorado. RMHam has installed and operates a network of Motorola MotoTRBO radios across the Colorado Front Range in cooperation with partner organizations. MotoTRBO conforms to the worldwide Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) standard. RMHam hopes to

continue expanding this network in the future. The system extends along I-25 into southern Wyoming and northern New Mexico with some small coverage gaps along mid-southern Colorado.

For information on the Colorado MotoTRBO repeaters and coverage browse to <http://www.rmham.org/wordpress/mototrbo-radio-site-information>

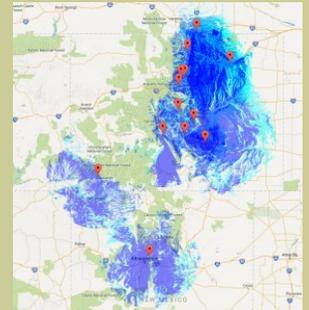
The network is currently configured into several 'talk groups' (TG) as depicted on the Radio Site information tab on the RMHam web page (<http://www.rmham.org>). A TG is a way for groups of users to share a system without distracting and disrupting other users of the same system. While the term "talk group" has a specific meaning when referring how users share frequencies on a trunked radio system (and which users talk to which other users), for the purposes of the RMHam system, it is how repeaters are grouped together to form a network that covers a broad region of Colorado.

There are four primary geographic groupings:

- ⇒ South (Monument Hill and points south)
- ⇒ Denver (Monument Hill north to Boulder and Southern Weld)
- ⇒ North (Larimer, Weld, Morgan and Northern Boulder County)
- ⇒ Colorado (All of the above regions grouped together)

To get some great tips for using the Colorado System see see: <http://www.rmham.org/wordpress/tips-for-using-dmr>.

For further information about DMR and the Colorado MotoTRBO network check out the Rocky Mountain Ham's web site at: <http://www.rmham.org> and select the MotoTBRO tab.



Rocky Mountain Ham Radio
CO MotoTRBO coverage

Yaesu Fusion (C4FM) - (continued from page 3)

If you have an FT-IDR, these settings seem to work for digital:

- Press and hold the DISP button to get into the SET menu
- Turn the knob to select SET: 2 TX/RX
 - Press ENT to access the TX/RX menu
 - Turn knob/ press ENT to access DIGITAL menu
- Turn knob/press ENT to DIGITAL MODE menu
 - Use knob/ENT to select these settings:
 - Mode: AMS

- DIGI TX: DN
- AMS Mode: TX M

If this sounds complicated, its because it is. You probably should spend some time getting to know your radio manual :-)

No change to my existing repeater on 447.725 MHz at this time. Not sure what else to say at this point...let the playing begin!!!!

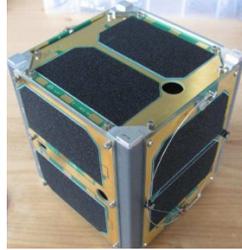
Bob, KØNR



Bdale discussing fox satellites (top). Bdale with a high power rocket (below).



What is the Fox Project?



This is an excerpt of an AMSAT-NA article. For the full article browse to http://www.amsat.org/?page_id=1113

CubeSats were once just a cheap way for university students to build and launch a satellite. But they have become the hottest new technology in the space industry. NASA, the National Reconnaissance Office ("spy satellites,") Aerospace Corporation and even Boeing have all launched and operated CubeSats. And now, the NASA Educational Launch of Nano satellite (ELaNa) program, which offers free launches to education and encourage science missions, is open to US non-profit corporations like AMSAT. Project Fox is AMSAT's answer to this new, emerging technology. AMSAT is developing a family of CubeSats with

amateur radio transponders that can support advanced science experiments. We are working with universities on science and education missions that qualify for the NASA ELaNa program. This provides us with a way to put ham radio transponders into orbit and provides our university partners with a reliable platform for space-based research projects.

Fox-1 Engineering Prototype.

Our Phase 1 Fox satellites are 1-Unit CubeSats. They each include an analog FM repeater that will allow simple ground stations using an HT and an "arrow" type antenna to make contacts using the satellite. This was the mode made so popular by AO-51. The Phase 1 CubeSats also have the capability of operating in a high-speed digital mode for data communications. Two of our phase 1 Fox satellite projects (Fox-1 and Fox-1B "RadFXSat") have already been accepted into the NASA ELaNa program for free launches. AMSAT has purchased a launch for a third (Fox-1C) on a Spaceflight SHERPA with a

3Q 2015 launch to SSO.

What is a CubeSat?

A CubeSat is a small and standardized satellite that packs a lot of "bang for the buck." As shown in the CubeSat (1 Unit) photo below and in the technical description these satellites are very small and therefore cheaper to launch. With a standardized structure to construct the electronic, mechanics, and other systems around a more modular and long-term engineering process can allow for sub-systems to easily be re-used. CubeSats also come in larger sizes, this is achieved by "stacking" so-to-speak a standard 1 unit CubeSat structure on-top of another. This increased size allows for larger payloads such as cameras and additional electronics!

RigExpert AA-54

Although the RigExpert is not considered the top Metafest raffle prize, it definitely is one of the most handy pieces of equipment you can have in your shack, HF mobile, or SOTA kit.

I won the AA-54 at last year's Megafest and it has

replaced the MFJ analyzer.

When setting up a Buddipole the graph makes all the difference between 30 minutes of frustration with the MFJ or 5 minutes of setup with the AA-54.

In addition to it being a handheld unit, it has a

USB port and you can use it from your computer.

I have been able to fine tune the StepIR BigIR vertical much more accurately. Such as "see" exactly where the optimum antenna length is for all of 40 meters.

This is a great raffle prize!

73, Dan, WØRO

You don't have to be present to win!



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.



Megafest – July 11th

RAFFLE PRIZES



Yaesu FT-991 value \$1,670

Programming software donated by RT Systems

ICOM ID-5100A Dual Band D-Star – value \$725

Donated by Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group
Programming software donated by RT Systems

Yaesu FT-7900R – value \$324

Programming software donated by RT Systems

Yaesu FT-60R – value \$150

Programming software donated by RT Systems

Rig Expert AA-54 antenna analyzer – value \$350

Butternut HF6XV – antenna – value \$390



RigExpert
AA-54

Tickets:

\$1	1 ticket
\$5	6 tickets
\$10	15 tickets
\$20	40 tickets

For table reservations:

ppraa.org/Megafest
\$15 per table
\$ 5 admission

You don't have to be present to win!



VE Testing & Education—Colorado Springs (PPRAA)

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association (PPRAA)
 When:
 Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec
 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Location:
 Colorado Technical University (CTU)
 4435 North Chestnut
 Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Directions available at:
ppraa.org/ve-testing
 or contact:
 Dan Martin
 VE@PPRAA.org

Mike Anderson, WV7T does personal and small group training for all license classes.
 Mike also does Morse code training.

Mike can be reached at:
 719-229-8610
wv7t@aol.com



VE Testing Woodland Park (MARC)

MOUNTAIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC)
 When:
 Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov
 1st Saturday at 10 AM

Location:
 Woodland Park
 Woodland Park Library-Community Meeting RM
 218 East Midland Avenue

Directions:
<http://www.nx0g.org/ve.html>
 or contact
 Wes Wilson (KØHBZ)
k0hbz@arrl.net
 Call (719) 687-8758



Applicants will need the following items:

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 or SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (now required - this includes children).
 3. Your CURRENT ORIGINAL amateur radio license (if any) and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
 4. The CURRENT ORIGINAL CSCEs you have and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
 5. Cash, Check or Money Order for \$15 (standard ARRL VE Fee). Checks and money orders should be made out to ARRL. This covers all exams you wish to take at this VE session.
- Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.*
- PPRAA – Colorado Springs testing only:**
 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
- NOTE: PPRAA and MARC VE Team policy, as with many VE**

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 introduced - Call to Action

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 (H.R.1301) has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4 with 12 of the original co-sponsors from last year's H.R. 4969 legislation immediately signing on.

H.R. 1301 would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-I federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners' association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-I only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep

Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure.

This is a call to action for all ARRL members to once again contact your US House member and ask them to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor.

ARRL staff, officers, and board members are planning to personally visit members of Congress and their staff in Washington DC to convey the importance of this legislation and seek their support as co-sponsors. An equally strong grassroots effort from each Representatives' constituents (that is, every ARRL member and ham back at home) is the other much needed part of the equation for H.R. 1301 to gain the visibility and support it needs to move through the political process on Capitol Hill.

To learn who your Representative is and obtain their contact information (email or mail), please visit <http://www.house.gov/>

[representatives/find/](#) and enter your zip code.

Additional details about H.R.1301 including talking points, a list of current co-sponsors, sample email or letter text, and more can be found at www.arrl.org/hr-1301

If you wish to express your support for H.R. 1301 to your Representative by signed letter, please read the sections pertaining to letter writing and delivery on the ARRL web link provided above carefully.

(ARRL is currently engaging members and staff in the US Senate to develop support for a companion bill. Please do not reach out to your Senators quite yet.)

Finally, if you happen to know your Representative or Senators (or any of their staff) personally, please contact Brian Miles hosky N5ZGT immediately.

This article is republished from the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division web site at:

www.rockymountaindivision.org

PPRAA Scholarship Fund

The PPRAA scholarship was established with the vision that it would be a deserving young ham that keeps on giving. However, that can be realized if the scholarship continues to be funded year after year. Individual hams, clubs, and organizations, are kindly asked to consider supporting the scholarship's future and its great cause through a tax-deductible contribution, even if

just a few dollars. Contributions may be made via the PPRAA website (<http://ppraa.org>) as part of the membership renewal, or at club meetings and event.

The scholarship fund can be reached at:

FAR Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 911

Columbia, MD 21044

The PPRAA is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization. As a benefit, all contributions will be acknowledged with a tax receipt letter and are deductible to the full extent of the law.

**PIKES PEAK RADIO
AMATEUR
ASSOCIATION**

Send membership application to:

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

General Questions:
ppraa@ppraa.org

ØBeat:
zerobeat@ppraa.org



ppraa.org

Get Radio Active, get on the air!

Membership Application:

Date: ___ / ___ / ___ New Membership: Yes / No

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Call: _____ Class: ___ Phone # (____) _____

Email: _____

Are you a ARRL member: Yes / No

Additional Family Members:

Name 1: _____ Call: _____ Class: ___ ARRL Member: Yes / No

Name 2: _____ Call: _____ Class: ___ ARRL Member: Yes / No

Name 3: _____ Call: _____ Class: ___ ARRL Member: Yes / No

- ___ \$15.00 Full Member
- ___ \$10.00 Full Member over 65
- ___ \$18.00 Family Membership
- ___ \$12.00 Family Membership over 65

- \$___ Membership Amount
- \$___ Scholarship Fund Donation
- \$___ PPRAA General Fund Donation

\$___ Total

2015 Scholarship Fund

There are multiple ways to donate to the PPRAA Scholarship Fund.

1. Use the form found on this page and send it, along with a check to PPRAA.
2. On the PPRAA web site you can donate via PayPal
3. At club meetings
4. Directly to the our scholarship fund.

Make checks to:
PPRAA Scholarship

The scholarship fund can be reached at:

FAR Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 911
Columbia, MD 21044

Ø- Beat Banner

Photo by Dan—WØRO.

This high dynamic range (HDR) photograph was taken March 15th from Garden of the Gods.

The theme of the banner is Pikes Peak. If you would like to submit pictures for the Ø-Beat banner, please send them to:
zerobeat@ppraa.org

Please Include “[Ø-beat]” as part of the subject line.