



VOLUME 69 ISSUE 5
May 2018

PPRAA Club Officers

President	<u>Rich, AD0NP</u>
Vice President	<u>Mike Anderson, WV7T</u>
Secretary	<u>Curtis Cookson, W0CEC</u>
Treasurer	<u>James Madsen, K3ILC</u>
Ø-Beat Editor	<u>Jerre Redding, WA0BCM</u>
Webmaster	<u>Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM</u>
Board	<u>John Bloodgood, KD0SFY</u>
Board	<u>Glenn Brodt, N3ULW</u>
Board	<u>Dan Huber, KN0MAP</u>
Board	<u>Frank Rogers, KB3PDT</u>
Board	<u>Jim Rader, KD0NQM*</u>
Board	<u>Jim Bishop, KD0KQL*</u>
Board	<u>Virgil Yost, N0XRS*</u>
Board	<u>Ray U, AA0L</u>

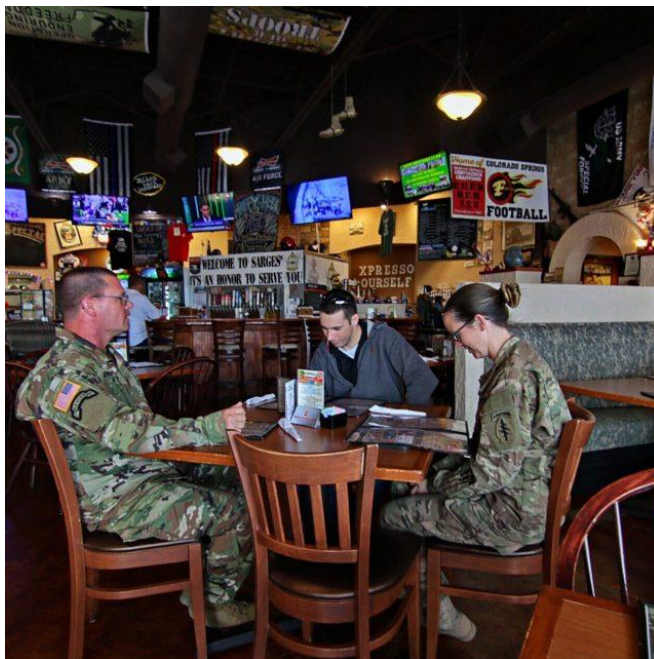
* In final year of 2-year term

All officers can be contacted at: boardmembers@ppraa.org

Club Historian Needed

If you can help with this position, contact a board member or club officer.

Monthly Ham Breakfast



Saturday, June 2, 2018 8-9:30 AM

Sarge's Grill

9853 Palmer Park Blvd.

All are warmly invited to come on down and join us!



May PPRAA Club Meeting

The May 9th 7PM club meeting will be at the IHop on Stetson Hills Blvd
(just west of Powers Blvd).

5749 Stetson Hills Blvd.

Upcoming Events

PPRAA Face book

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/PPRAA-Pikes-Peak-RadioAmateur-Association/185833894769325?v=wall>

Contests and Events

WA7BNM contest calendars link

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

Museum Ships Weekend Event

- Saturday June 2, and Sunday June 3, 2018
- On Air
- More info [here](#).

Field Day

- Saturday/Sunday June 23-24, 2018
- Club Station, Ellicott, CO
- More info under Field Day tab above

PPRAA Megafest

- Saturday July 7, 2018
- Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument, CO
- More info under Megafest tab above

Central States VHF Society Conference

- Thursday – Sunday July 26-29, 2018
- Wichita, Kansas
- More info [here.](#)

Denver Radio Club Hamfest

- Sunday, 26 August 2018
- Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, CO
- More info [here.](#)

Colorado QSO Party

- Saturday September 1, 2018

2018 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

- Friday September 21 thru Sunday September 23, 2018
- Isleta Resort & Casino Convention Center
- More info [here.](#)

JOTA – Jamboree-on-the-Air

- 19-21 October 2018
- More info [here.](#)

TechFest – 2018

- Saturday November 3, 2018
- More info [here.](#)

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1476913>



The Deep Space Exploration Society presented a program on their Haswell antenna site to the club. DSES will hold its next **Engineering Meeting** on *Monday May 14, 2018 at 5:30 pm*. Location is the IHOP just east of Powers Blvd. on Constitution Ave. in Colorado Springs. All members are welcome to attend.

The next **work trip to the Haswell antenna site** will be on *Saturday May 19, 2018*. Members in the Colorado Springs area who wish to carpool can meet at the Ellicott fires house at 7:30 am.

Treasurer's Report April 2018

	Feb 2018 General Meeting	Mar 2018	Mar 2018 General Meeting	Apr 2018	
Ent Checking	\$3,035.06	\$2,950.76	\$3,283.44	\$3,283.44	\$3,553.44
Ent Savings	\$3,756.82	\$3,756.82	\$3,757.11	\$3,757.11	\$3,757.43
Wells Fargo	\$2,528.12	\$2,476.05	\$2,476.05	\$2,476.05	\$3,150.05
PayPal	\$64.02	\$64.02	\$40.02	\$40.02	\$114.02
Cash (or undeposited checks)	\$0.00	\$152.00	\$0.00	\$371.00	\$0.00
Total	\$9,384.02	\$9,399.65	\$9,556.62	\$9,927.62	\$10,574.94

Note: PayPal will be minus PayPal fees when transferred to bank account

Temporarily restricted categories:

Awards	\$13.59	\$13.59	\$13.59	\$13.59	\$13.59
Scholarships	\$301.82	\$301.82	\$346.82	\$446.82	\$557.82

Major Expenses:

Megafest Prizes		
COQP Plaques and Postage	\$121.41	\$121.41

Raffle License	\$100.00	\$100.00		
Raffle Tickets	\$339.95	\$339.95		
Scholarship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		
Web Hosting	\$420.15	\$420.15		
King Soopers Cards			\$50.00	\$50.00
Income:				
Amazon Smile	\$23.80	\$23.80		
Raffle ticket sales				\$574.00
Admissions				\$45.00
Table sales				\$72.00
Mfr's rebate check for prize purchase				\$100.00

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IMPROVING THE AUDIO QUALITY OF YOUR STATION - PART 3

The last article dealt with improving the audio amplification of your receiver. There are other controls on most receivers that help with noise.

Tune the receiver to a place where you only have atmospheric noise. Granted, for some this may not be possible due to man made noise makers. However, this will do also.

If you have a manual notch filter, try notching the noise. It may be enough to help. At the same time it could muffle the audio of what you are listening to. Possibly a compromise in adjustment may help.

Some receivers have a selection of Pass Band filters. Try each one and see how it reacts with the noise. Due to the sharper bandwidth it can make the noise seem more predominant. However don't give up here.

If you have an IF shift or Pass Band Tuning (PSB), you can try changing the pass band to reduce the noise. Try it with the various filters your receiver may have.

Receivers for a long time have an Audio Frequency (AF) gain and a Radio Frequency (RF) gain.

The AF gain is straight forward, it makes the audio louder or softer. However the RF gain is a little different.

As you turn the RF gain down, you will see the S meter reading go up. Why? The RF gain is interconnected to the Automatic Gain Control (AGC). Bringing the gain down will start making the noise floor subside. Actually it is like putting a bit of squelch on to the receiver. If the signal you are listening to is able to be heard this way, it can be much clearer. You can up the AF gain to increase volume to a comfortable level.

Your receiver has an Automatic Gain Control selection. It can be Off, fast or slow. It may just give you a numbered selection. The slower functions will allow the incoming signal you are listening to partially squelch the receiver. Sort of like decreasing the RF gain with the voice peaks. This will also make reception with less noise to hear.

These are some of thing you can experiment with to get to know your receiver better. You may be surprised on how much better you can pick out stations when you get to know your receiver better. There is more, another time.

73,

Ralph WD0EJA

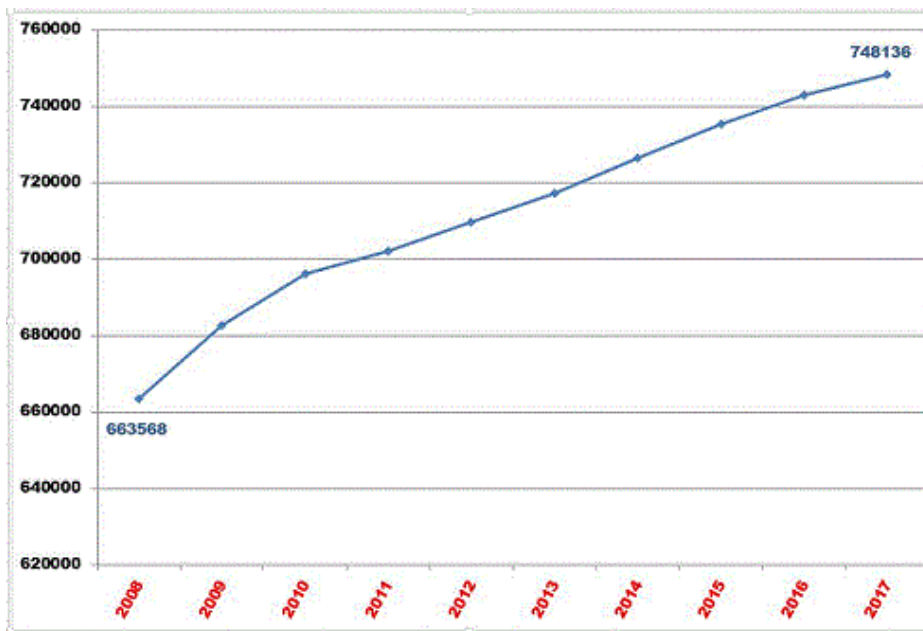
MAY 2018

wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

73, Ralph WD0EJA April 2018 PH/FX: 719/687-0650

BILAL COMPANY 137 MANCHESTER DR. FLORISSANT, CO. 80816 U.S.

More than 30,000 New Ham Licensees and 7,000 Amateur Radio Exam Sessions in 2017
 For the fourth year in a row, more than 30,000 new licensees joined the Amateur Radio ranks, and ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) conducted more than 7,000 Amateur Radio exam sessions, serving some 35,350 candidates for a new or upgraded license. At the end of December 2017, the US Amateur Radio population stood at 748,136.



The Amateur Radio population has grown steadily over the past decade.

At nearly 378,000, Technician licensees represented the largest segment, with General (174,206), Amateur Extra (145,034), Advanced (41,938), and Novice (9,056) trailing. Licensee numbers showed continued growth across all classes except Advanced and Novice, which the FCC no longer issues; those numbers continue to drop. "I'm hopeful that the number of new licensees will be more than 30,000 at the end of this year," ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. "I would love to see this trend continue!"

New Licenses 2008 - 2017

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
28,066	30,144	27,528	24,072	27,082	28,886	33,241	32,077	32,552	32,196

"Alexa, help me with ham radio"

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an Amazon Alexa for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how I'd like to develop an Alexa skill to control my IC-7300. I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called Continuous Wave. It's designed to help you learn Morse Code.

To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, "Alexa, open Continuous Wave." This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt...

- Learn
- Practice
- Alphabet
- Common words
- Random words
- Words
- Sentences
- Call signs
- Contest
- Quick Brown Fox
- QSO
- Help
- Stop – To end your session.

I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only.

Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command "learn," it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed.

Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill.

Other ham radio skills

While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found:

- Ham Exam. Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool.
- Ham Lookup. Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database.
- Ham Radio Propagation Forecast. Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by N0NBH).
- ARRL Audio News. Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing.

Building your own voice app

The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at VoiceApps.Com. Two other websites—Pullstring and StoryLine—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an online tutorial that will teach you how to

build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier.

Since I'm currently in the process of updating my *No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide*, it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

When he's not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about the voice apps that you like at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Garden of the Gods Amateur Radio Club



Garden of the Gods ARC meeting

First Monday of each month at Fargos Pizza at 11:00 AM. All are welcome.

ARRL Incoming QSL Bureaus

www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureaus

www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service

ARRL Affiliated Clubs-Outgoing QSL cards

ARRL affiliated-club stations may use the service when submitting club QSLs for its members in bulk ("pooling" their members cards together in one package) by indicating the club name inside the package. Club secretaries should check club affiliation on the ARRL web site to ensure that their affiliation is current. In a "pooled" package, each club member using this service **must also be an ARRL member**. Cards should be sorted "en masse" by prefix and a proof of membership should be enclosed for each ARRL member. QSLs for unaffiliated club calls may also be sent via the outgoing bureau to foreign destinations if the trustee of the club call is a member in good standing. The trustee's proof of membership must be included with the club call-QSLs.

Team,

Be sure to join us for our weekly nets Monday and Tuesday evenings!

First, Monday, at 8:30pm, on D-Star XRF223B, the PRA holds its D-Star net. There is plenty of conversations from everything digital to the latest projects and devices... from DStar / DMR / Fusion / Brandmeister / Hotspots, and even CW. This can be accessed via your local hotspot. Also, many have linked via the WOCDS 2M repeater as well. Considering our KOPRA repeater is being relocated, using the WOCDS 2M side would be best (please follow common/courteous practice when linking).

Second, at 8:00pm on Tuesday, is the PRA weekly analog net on the WOCFI 448.675 – (100Hz) repeater. This is a great way to catch up on the happenings of the PRA and is a great environment to ask any question related to the hobby or to give yourself some bragging rights on a recent license, upgrade, or new piece of equipment.

We'll see you on the air!

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73,

KØPRA

Your Friends at the Parker Radio Association

www.facebook.com/parkerradioassociation

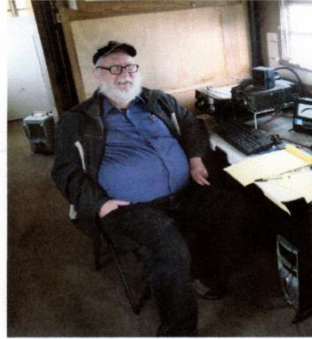
parkerradio.org

[@ParkerCORad io](#)

From the annals of PPRAA history

May 1981:

The club is looking into the possibility of setting up a club station at the Olympic Training Center. The PPRAA is considering dropping its membership from the CCARC until there is improvement in the CCARC. The May meeting will be the last one at Sabin. The club is looking for a new meeting place. Biz, WDØHCO, our publicity chairman, is moving to the Marshall Islands to work on radar installations.



FREE

**Ham Radio License Classes and Tutoring
Technician, General, Extra, Morse Code, Hands-on
Skills.**

Mike Anderson, WV7T
PPRAA Senior License Instructor
wv7t@aol.com 229-8610

Raleigh Holcomb, N4HYF
ARRL Registered Instructor

Free Exams!



PPRAA VE EXAMS

(MONTHLY)

PPRAA VE session will be held at 10:15 am on the second Saturday of the month at Pikes Peak Library District - Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, United States. The exception is the Megafest month where testing will be at Megafest and will be at 10:00 AM

Applicants will need the following items at the session:

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 NUMBER** (now required – this includes children).
3. **Your ORIGINAL amateur radio license** (if any) **AND a PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.
3. **The ORIGINAL of any relevant CSCEs** you have **AND a PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.

PPRAA VE Team policy, as with many VE Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.

Dennis Major NOABC, PPRAA VE Contact, 719-213-1109

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.

PPRAA VE Session

Monthly on the second Saturday

Pikes Peak Library District - Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, United States

Where

[map](#)

Calendar

PPRAA

Created by

n7lem.0@gmail.com

Description

Testing will take place in the Ent Conference Center.



MARC VE EXAMS

(January, March, May, July, September, November)

The Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) VE Team conducts VE exam sessions in Woodland Park every odd month at 10 am on the first Saturday in the Community Meeting Room of the Woodland Park Library, 218 East Midland Avenue. The MARC VE Team is affiliated with the ARRL/VEC and examinations for all classes of license will be offered.

Full information, including driving directions to the Woodland Park Library, is available under "VE Sessions" on the MARC website at <http://www.nx0g.org/ve.html> or contact Wes Wilson (KØHBZ) at k0hbx@arrl.net or call (719) 687-8758.

If attending, please BE SURE to bring the following items to the session:

A valid PHOTO ID, driver's license preferred (if you do not have a valid photo ID, please call for alternative identification requirements).

- 1. Your FRN NUMBER** (now required – this includes children).
- 2. Your ORIGINAL amateur radio license** (if any) **AND a PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.
- 3. The ORIGINAL of any relevant CSCEs** you have **AND a PHOTOCOPY** for the VE Team to keep.

4. **Cash, Check or Money Order for \$15** (standard ARRL VE Fee). Checks and money orders should be made out to MARC and covers all the different exams you wish to take at the VE session.

MARC VE Team policy, as with many VE Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams. For already licensed hams, MARC members should be monitoring the MARC repeater system 146.820- or 448.650- (both 107.2 Hz) if you need help with talk-in. 73 Dean Buckhouse



Study for your Amateur Radio License exam:

[Technician \(2014-2018\)](#)

[General \(2015-2019\)](#)

[Amateur Extra \(2016-2020\)](#)

[Other...](#)

HamExam.org Amateur Radio Practice Exams

Welcome, guest.

Log in using <https://hamexam.org> or click [register](#) to create an account.

If this is your first visit to the site, please read my brief [introduction](#).

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

Date: _____ ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call: _____ License Class: _____ Telephone: _____

Are you an ARRL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Name: _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Name: _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Name: _____ Call _____ Class _____ ARRL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Full Member - \$15.00

☐ Full Member over 65 - \$10.00

☐ Free - VE Signature Required:

☐ Family Membership (same address) - \$18.00

☐ Family Membership (both over 65) - \$12.00

