



VOLUME 71 ISSUE 6
June 2020

PPRAA Club Officers

President	<u>Don DuBon, N6JRL+</u>
Vice President	<u>Tom Oliphant, KØBUL+</u>
Secretary	<u>Jay Winterton, WØWJ+</u>
Treasurer	<u>Dick Kohlhaas, W5UDM+</u>
Ø-Beat Editor	<u>Jerre Redding, WAØBCM</u>
Webmaster	<u>Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM</u>
Past President	<u>Jim Bishop, KDØKQL</u>
Board	<u>John Bloodgood, KDØSFY*</u>
Board	<u>R, Lee Glazer KEØYSE</u>
Board	<u>Dennis Major, NØABC</u>
Board	<u>Logan Perry, KEØKZA</u>
Board	<u>Anthony Mitchell, KEØLQK</u>
Board	<u>Mike McLaughlin, KØJT*</u>
Board	<u>Michael Walter KEØTWK</u>
Board	<u>Mike Anderson, WV7T*</u>

* In final year of 2-year term

+ One year officer position

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

Monthly Ham Breakfast

New Day Café, 5901 Delmonico Dr
Saturday, July 4, 2020 8 – 9:30 AM





PPRAA

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

May 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

5/11/2020

CTO @ 6:30 PM by K0BUL (Tom)

In Attendance:

N6JRL (Don Dubon), K0BUL (Tom Oliphant), W0WJ (Jay Winterton), W5UDM (Dick Kohlhaas), , N7LEM (Doug Nielsen), KD0KQL (Jim Bishop), N0ABC (Dennis Major), KD0SFY (John Bloodgood), KOJT (Mike McLaughlin), K3ILC (Jim Madsen)

Old Business:

- SK's: KA0P11, W8ILC
- Treasurers report by W5UDM, Dick o We will postpone donation of money from the raffle program to a scholarship for next year.
- N0ABC, Dennis - VEC Future Testing – Testing is up in the air because of the pandemic. May testing is cancelled. Future testing is also likely cancelled.
- ZeroBeat Report by WA0BCM, Jerre – Current ZeroBeat is not available yet but will be soon.
- Webmaster report, N7LEM, Doug – a lot of cancellations posted on the website. No ZeroBeat yet.
- Secretary's Report – KD0VRB, Jay
- PPARES Report by KD0SFY, John - Skipped
- Megafest Follow-up - KD0NQM, Jim – Not present.
- Internet Committee - N7LEM, Doug – Nothing to report.
- 2020 Christmas Party – N6JRL, Don - Skipped
- Thurs. 10 m net – we're all invited to participate. We had 6 participants on Thurs. Previously there were 8. 2 m net we had 22 participants this last week.
- QCWA Chapter 58, KD0KQL, Jim – Everything is going well, they are just trying to get things rolling again but have been unable to with the club membership meetings not being held. Last time they were talking about it they were discussing fees. WV7T, Mike is the primary contact for this.
- K3ILC, Jim – Suggested that we send out a notice through the reflector regarding the April Club Membership Meeting being cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.
- KD0SFY, John – He was looking into a YouTube meeting for club members to be held at some time in the future.
- W5UDM, Dick – He has a list of current club members that can be used to notify all club members of the cancellation of Wednesday's club meeting.

New Business:

- SK's: Ron W8ILC

- Treasurers report by W5UDM, Dick
- ZeroBeat Report by WA0BCM, Jerre

- Webmaster report, N7LEM, Doug
- Secretary's Report – K0VVRB, Jay
- PPARES Report by KD0SFY, John
 - o Health and welfare net has been moved to Wednesdays
 - o Participation has dropped off as they suspected it would due to the pandemic. You can get the digital version of the magazines if you aren't a member and don't get the "On The Air" magazine in print.
- Megafest Follow-up - KD0NQM, Jim
- Internet Committee - N7LEM, Doug – Any progress from the committee? None at this point.
- Field Day Discussion – The board discussed getting back to life and holding field day but having people wear masks.
- Thurs. PPRAA Net – John will send Dick information to send out to the club about a holding regular virtual PPRAA Club Membership Meetings. These will be held at the usual club meeting date and time. Check your email for information about logging in.
- K0BUL, Tom - 10 m net – Held on Thursdays at 7 PM on 28.390 Mhz – 8-10 participants now.
- N0ABC, Dennis – Testing update
 - o Testing is on hold in our area due to the virus.
 - o K0BUL, Tom said that remote tests are underway via the Anchorage ARC.
 - o Over 40 contacts have been received since the last VE session. Usually there are 1-3 people. The next test session is going to be very crowded.
- 15th-17th of May the Lawton OK Radio club will have a special event station. We have been invited to participate in their special event. All bands and all modes until 1700 (central time) on Sunday night.
- N6JRL, Don – No Hamvention this year. Thursday-Saturday of this week (Saturday only from 8 AM – 8 PM EST) a special event station will be held. If you work 12 members you will get a nice certificate.

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:19 PM



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Enjoy the world of DX!**

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The best way to operate HF

**Easy installation
Excellent performance
Durable construction
CC&R friendly (XYL ALSO)**

Measuring For RFI Possibilities

The last article mentioned how RF interference could result from our coaxial feedline. However is there a way to tell if we are headed for trouble before we start?

There is way to indicate the possibility as well as keeping the station safe from electrical shock.

Most of the equipment we use have a grounded chassis. Transceiver, matching tuner, swr meter, linear amp and coax switch as some of them. Also a metal desk, lamp, old typewriter or other items you may have on your desk or station bench needs to be measured.

All this equipment and furniture should have no voltage measuring between them. Use an AC volt meter to measure between each item. If you read a few volts between 2 items you should neatly ground them to each other to bring the difference to 0.

You are also measuring to the ground side of your AC outlet. All equipment should be at 0 potential to each other and the ground terminal on your electrical outlet.

If you find a measurement that is 120 volts or higher, then you not only have an RFI possibility, but also to get a healthy shock. This needs to be corrected with caution. The equipment in question should be analyzed why its chassis is above ground at line voltage. Use your AC volt meter for this not a grounding wire. If you find this situation and are not comfortable diagnosing it, get help. I can not afford to loose anymore customers.

Keeping the ground side of your equipment at 0 volts to each other and the outlet you are using will reduce the possibility of RFI and electrical shock.

A second reason for RFI is an overload of RF energy from the antenna. This is not real common. However some do operate with the antenna in close proximity to the station, themselves or other devices. Under these circumstances it would be best to try and relocate the antenna farther away or reduce the transmit power.

73,
Ralph WD0EJA

June 2020

BILAL COMPANY
137 MANCHESTER DR.
FLORISSANT, CO. 80816 U.S.A
PH/FX: 719/687-0650
wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

Let's get creative this year on Field Day

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Since many of us are still hunkering down, and that doesn't look like it's going to change much by the end of June, Field Day is going to be a lot different this year. Our club has cancelled our club event, and I'm really going to miss helping newcomers operate the GOTA station, the food, and all the camaraderie. That doesn't mean that Field Day can't still be fun, though. Let's get creative!



First, note that the ARRL has modified the Field Day rules for this year. The biggest change is that Class D stations, that is home stations using commercial power, can now work other Class D stations for points. Previously, this wasn't allowed.

The second change is that the ARRL will publish aggregate club scores this year. In previous years, this was only done for Class A and Class F entries. Remember, though, Field Day isn't a contest (yeah, right!).

Personally, I plan to operate 1B-Battery. I'm going to set up my KX3 on the front deck and power it with a LiFePo battery charged by a recently-acquired solar panel to get the 100 point bonus for alternate power. For an antenna, I plan to set up my 20m/40m fan inverted-V "GOTA antenna" in the front yard.

I'm going to shoot for other bonus points, too:

- copy the bulletin—no brainer.
- promote my location on social media—I am going to get on NextDoor and invite neighbors over to watch from an acceptable "social distance."
- put some literature down at the bottom of the hill near the street and claim a public information table.
- send a press release to the local online paper and claim a media publicity credit.
- perhaps get someone under 20 to come and operate while I coach from an acceptable "social distance."

If Class B isn't your cup of tea, check out the presentation, "Field Day and Social Distancing,"

(https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSWypTtJ_R0s-UmysOEhQWwJwBIMrOavXqfs5AvigQzad8Z1c3JFn9TMI5ewxc8VVIIIX-2g6bOTpUFD/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g774df1657a_0_39) by Anthony, K8ZT. It has a lot of great ideas, including ideas on how to operate mobile (Class C).

Field Day doesn't have to be a downer this year. Get creative and have some fun.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to enjoy Field Day, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website.



The [2020 - 2024 Extra-class pool](#) incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 - 2020

question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool.

The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

Dayton Hamvention Cancelled

Refund Information

Due to unfortunate cancellation of Hamvention 2020, we know that tickets, inside booth spaces and flea market spaces have been purchased. These purchases have been made by online credit cards, mail order checks and purchased from our outside vendors. All refunds will be through the same method of purchase. All credit card sales will be refunded to the original card used to make the charge. All check and cash sales will be refunded by check. We anticipate all refunds completed as soon as possible but not later than August 1.

We are offering the following options.

1. Obtain a refund.
2. Obtain a 2021 ticket instead. (to be mailed around January 1, 2021) Hamvention 2021 May 21-23
3. Donate to Hamvention (no refund)

For all general admission (not inside or flea market) online and mail orders, email tickets@hamvention.org with your preference. Emails already received will be processed as indicated. Inside booth holders please email exhibits@hamvention.org with your refund preference. If you opt for the hold until 2021 they will contact you to verify.

Flea Market staff will be contacting each flea market space holder personally concerning refund of space(s). For those who purchased tickets at Hamvention in Orlando, please send your ticket (keep a copy for your records) and last four of credit card for credit card refund (if purchased by card) otherwise it will be by check mailed to you.

Hamcation Hamvention forum ticket winners, please email tickets@hamvention.org with your ticket number and address information. We will send you replacement 2021 tickets early next year.

If you purchased a ticket at one of our outside vendors then please return to the place of business and they will handle your refund.

Mail correspondence to:

Hamvention Tickets - 2020 refunds

PO Box 1446

Dayton, OH 45401-1446

ARRL Reshapes Podcast Offerings for 2020

In conjunction with the launch of its new [On the Air](#) magazine, which is aimed at those just beginning their journey in amateur radio, ARRL is reconfiguring its podcast lineup.

Heading up the new schedule will be a free companion podcast to the bimonthly *On the Air* magazine. The monthly *On the Air* podcast will take a deeper look into select features and projects from the magazine. Each month, host and *On the Air* Editorial Director Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, will offer additional resources, techniques, and hints to help less-experienced radio amateurs to get the most from the magazine's content.



In addition to the podcast, ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, will curate a free *On the Air* blog featuring content from the communicators and makers who are the driving force of amateur radio today. The blog will highlight opportunities and activities available to new licensees. The *On the Air* blog is intended as an

entry point into the world of amateur radio for those seeking original voices and perspectives. Readers will be [invited](#) to take part in the conversation by sharing their stories and experiences.

Upcoming events in the Rocky Mountain Division: (more info @ ARRL.org:
click on "hamfests")

LARCFest

04/04/2020

Location: Boulder County Fairgrounds
9595 Nelson Road
Longmont, CO

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Longmont Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w0eno.org>

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UTAH VALLEY HAMFEST & DISASTER COMMUNICATION 2020

The hamfest is now canceled.

We've had several people ask us to consider their registration fee as a donation, but we will also give refunds as requested. Please send refund requests to refunds@utahvalleyhamfest.com by March 31.

Website: <https://utahvalleyhamfest.com>

Sponsor: Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.780- (PL 100.0)

Public Contact: Caryn Alarcon , KG7UUR

PO Box 1288 Orem, UT 84059

Phone: 562-965-6079

Email: k7uva@arrl.net

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division

Director: Jeff Ryan, KORM

k0rm@arrl.org

Major Events

Visalia DX Convention has been cancelled

Dayton Hamvention has been cancelled

PPRAA Megafest has been cancelled

2020 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention Hamcon Colorado 2020

- Thursday, 6 August 2020: DX University
- Friday August 7 thru Sunday August 9, 2020
- Location: Parker, CO
- More info [here.](#)

PPRAA 75 years Special Event Station
PPRAA Veterans' Day Special Event Station
PPRAA Pearl Harbor Day Special Event Station

- QSL to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521. Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521
- No need to send a SASE, we will send cards to all confirmed contacts.

Unraveling the Mystery of 1 × 1 Call Signs

The [1 × 1 Special Event Call Signs](#) system offers a way for clubs, groups, or even individuals to use a short call sign of special significance to the amateur community. These 1 × 1 call signs are [reserved](#) in advance for use in conjunction with short-term special events and commemorative operations. The FCC does not assign 1 × 1 call signs, so they are not "official."

On the matter of special event call signs, the FCC says, in Section 97.3(a)(11)(iii) of the Amateur Service rules: "The call sign is selected by the station licensee from a list of call signs shown on a common database coordinated, maintained and disseminated by the amateur station special event call sign data base coordinators. The call sign must have the single letter prefix K, N, or W, followed by a single numeral 0 through 9, followed by a single letter A through W or Y or Z (for example K1A). The special event call sign is substituted for the call sign shown on the station license grant while the station is transmitting."

The FCC also says in Section 97.119 (d): "Additionally, the station must transmit its *assigned call sign* at least once per hour during such transmissions." This requirement tends to be widely flouted, however.

A 1 × 1 Special Event Call Sign aids other radio amateurs by calling attention to the special event or other occasion. 1 × 1 call signs may be used for a variety of purposes, such as conventions, festivals, dedications, anniversaries, commemorations, and ARRL Field Day. Even local events qualify.

There are 750 1 × 1 Special Event Call Sign possibilities, and radio amateurs of any license class may reserve one as far as a year in advance to use for up to 15 days. Of course, 1 × 1 Special Event Call Signs are recycled. It's first come, first served. See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for more information. The FCC has selected coordinators to approve and post 1 × 1 Special Event Call Sign reservations to a [searchable database](#). -- *Thanks to The Radiogram (Portage County Amateur Radio Society newsletter)*

You shop. Amazon gives.

PPRAA VE Session

Monthly on the second Saturday

Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management

3755 Mark Dabbling Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907, USA

Organizer: ve@ppraa.org

Amateur Radio Emergency Links Info

Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications

<https://alertfind.com/amateur-radio-and-emergency-communications/>

Disaster Preparedness on a Budget

<https://couponfollow.com/research/disaster-preparedness-on-a-budget>

From the annals of PPRAA history

June 1981:

The feature article is on how to expand your Kenwood TR-7800 for MARS and CAP coverage. Mike KØTER is again coordinating the Field Day which will be held at Rampart Range Road. The Olympic Training Center turned down the club's proposal for a club station at the OTC. The new meeting place, beginning with the June meeting, will be at the United Methodist Church, at Nevada and Boulder. The club is looking for someone to act as a bulletin station to receive the broadcasts and put them out on two meters once a week. A committee is working on the tax exempt status – turns out the club may not be properly incorporated at this time. Bill KFØW and Don KBØKQ will be working on an updated set of bylaws for the club's review.

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureaus

www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service

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.

Parker Radio Association

PPRAA 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!

73,

**KØPRA Your Friends at the Parker Radio
Association**

www.facebook.com/parkerradioassociati

on parkerradio.org

[@ParkerCORadio](https://www.instagram.com/ParkerCORadio)



PPRAA VE EXAMS

(MONTHLY) No current info on cancellations

PPRAA VE session has relocated and will be held at 10:00 am on the second Saturday of the month at Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management
3755 Mark Dabling Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907, USA

Organizer: ve@ppraa.org

TESTING IS FREE. 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** (Please obtain in advance of the session).
3. A **copy of your amateur radio license** (if any).
4. 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. 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.

Jim Bishop kd0kql@hotmail.com, 719 332-5283
Dennis Major NOABC, PPRAA VE Contact



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 k0hbz@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 Please obtain in advance of the session).
- 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.

Here is a link that describes the book in more detail:

<http://www.ke7x.com/successful>

Follow us on www.facebook.com/KE7XBOOKS to keep up-to-date on book news and to be notified of book discounts at www.lulu.com.

This book has 267 pages, 211 figures and diagrams, and 53 tables of data to make understanding the sometimes complicated ham radio operations much easier. The book follows KE7X's philosophy of presenting material in several forms to accommodate people with different learning styles -- reading, visualizing, hands-on -- with the many figures and text explanations and there are hands-on exercises throughout the book that can help you learn more about your particular radio.

Follow us on www.facebook.com/KE7XBOOKS to keep up-to-date on book news and to be notified of book discounts at www.lulu.com.

One instructor for new and advanced ham classes has said, "This book is exactly what is needed. I've seen some other books targeting the new hams that are less than satisfying both technically and in content but this one is right on the mark and covers so much information that I so often get asked about, during and after teaching classes."

Here are more details on the content:

- With nearly 110 years of ham radio experience between them, the authors are still excited about the challenges this wonderful hobby offers. *The Successful Ham Radio Operator's Handbook* will guide you when exploring some of these.
- Its goal is to help new operators and returning old-timers learn about the breadth of exciting ham radio activities and challenges available today.
- It answers the question "Why is ham radio relevant in the Internet age?"
- It covers a wide range of topics, helping the reader to understand the excitement of different facets of ham radio and to choose a challenging and exciting activity to pursue.
- It helps the reader better understand how the radio works. Many hams only use a small fraction of the features of their radio. For example, if you understand how a noise blanker or a roofing filter or the AGC works, you will be able to more easily use these, and other, features of your radio to your benefit.
- It provides exercises designed to apply the knowledge to cement your understanding of how your radio works without being radio-specific. It is good for all makes and models.
- It helps the reader get enough background to understand much of the jargon hams who pursue special activities, such as the various digital modes, VHF contesting and moon bounce. It quickly takes the novice reader to higher level of understanding and provides URLs and websites that help the reader go deeper into new interests.
- Antennas remain a key area where all hams can still successfully experiment and create a key part of their station. This book provides information to help new hams get started cutting their own verticals and dipoles. It explains why some popular multiband antennas may have compromises that impact performance.

- It gives practical guidelines about choosing transmission lines and building and using baluns and chokes.
- Digital modes such as RTTY, PSK and the new WSTJ modes are explained. The computer-to-radio connections needed for these modes are discussed and illustrated.
- Many hams are motivated by public service and emergency preparedness. This book describes typical local emergency organizations and national networks.
- Hams who like to operate while traveling will find practical information on reciprocal international agreements and how to get permission to operate legally.

Online Practice Test Sites



Study for your Amateur Radio License exam:

[Technician \(2018-2022\)](#)

[General \(2019-2023\)](#)

[Amateur Extra \(2019-2020\)](#)

[Other...](#)

HamExam.org Amateur Radio Practice Exams

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**](#).

QRZ.COM <https://www.qrz.com/hamtest/>

Eham <https://www.eham.net/exams/>

AA9PW.COM

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