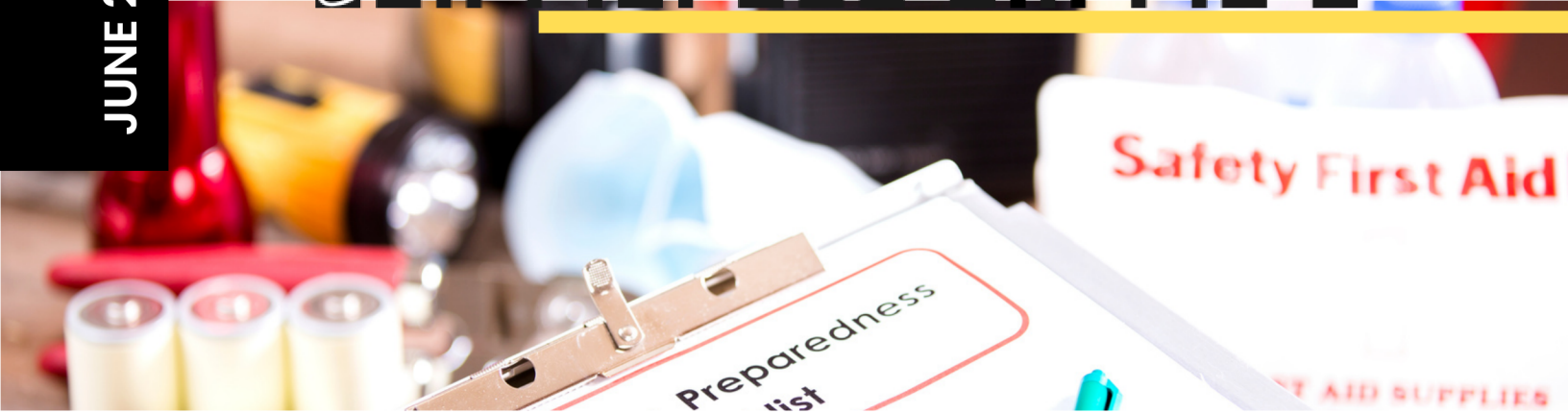




ZERO BEAT

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



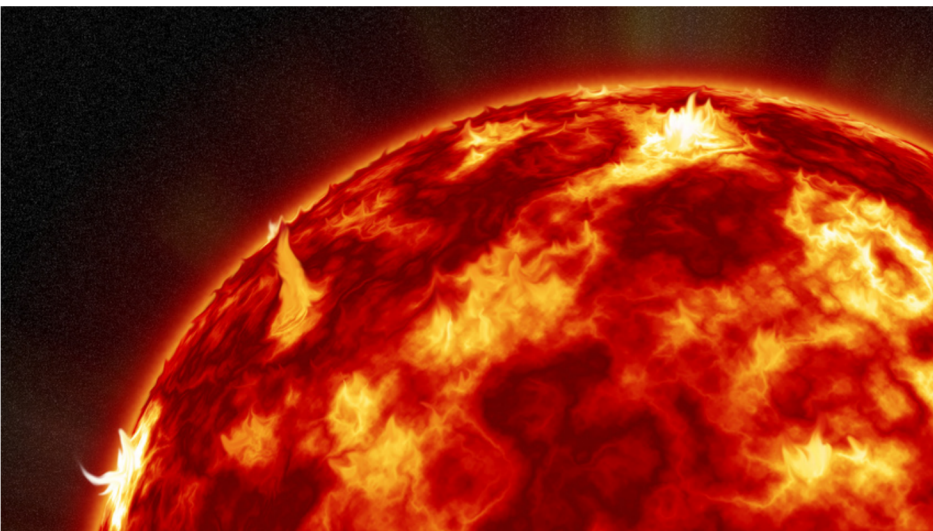
What's Inside

- **Deerfield Hills Preparedness fair**
- **Museum Ships Weekend in Colorado**
- **VE Test Sessions**
- **Thursday 2m Net**
- **Megafest**
- **Save the Date**
- **Contact Zero Beat**

PPRAA shows resilience at Deerfield Hills emergency fair

PPRAA was invited by the Pikes Peak Region Office of Emergency Management to exhibit at a preparedness fair at the Deerfield Hills Community Center on Saturday, May 11. It turned out to be a cold, rainy morning, and at first there were very few visitors from the local community.

Worse still: Ken/K0KWH had set up an HF radio to show off long-range communications capabilities, but record-setting solar storms rendered the ionospheric reflection almost completely nonexistent. Would we be able to chat with neighbors and demonstrate emergency communication preparedness?



JUNE 2024



Preparedness Fair Continued

The first problem was solved when there was a break in the rain just at the right time to allow a helicopter from UC Health's "LifeLine" air ambulance service to land on the basketball court. That got some neighbors out of the house to see what the racket was about! They came for the noise, and stayed for an excellent presentation from the helicopter crew, and then made their way around the preparedness fair. PPRAA volunteers had a few good conversations with local families, including some demonstrations of handheld transceivers. Just as LD/W0XLD copied some Morse code from kids with an oscillator, what did we hear faintly through the noise floor of Ken's HF radio? A little bit of CW was just barely audible but could be heard, showing off the potential for amateur radio to provide emergency communications even through the worst of conditions.

Rain, cold, and solar storms could not prevent PPRAA from getting on the air and showing off what amateur radio can do. Even more importantly, the club demonstrated that our hobby is about connecting people: whether it's hams helping hams, working with local agencies, or reaching out to the community, we are prepared to communicate and provide assistance in all conditions.



JUNE 2024



Museum Ships Weekend in Colorado

A museum ship... in Colorado? There is a ship named the USS Pueblo, but it's not in Pueblo. It was captured by North Korea in 1968, at the height of Cold War tensions, and it remains on display on a canal in Pongyang, North Korea, as their war trophy. What we have in Colorado is a large brass plaque on a boulder outside the Pueblo Convention Center listing the personnel held hostage or killed during the Pueblo's capture.



Continued Page 4

FREE Radio Licensing Test Sessions
 Second Saturday of every month at 10 am
 Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management
 3755 Mark Dabling Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80907
 and at Megafest at Lewis-Palmer HS in Monument 27 July 2024
ve@ppraa.org

Museum Ships Weekend in Colorado

JUNE 2024



PPRAA partnered with the Pueblo Amateur Radio Club and Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club during Museum Ships weekend, May 31 through June 2, to put the USS Pueblo memorial on the air and garner some recognition among military history buffs, Navy veterans, and hams.

The Pueblo Convention Center made an excellent venue for this collaboration, as their staff permitted access to the roof where vertical antennas, a ham-stick octopus, and an end-fed half-wave were deployed. The clubs set up transceivers and public information tables in the Bernstein Room, and Ken/K0KWH kept a station running in his RV in the parking lot with a delta loop antenna.

The event kicked off with a free screening of the new documentary, *Pueblo: A Year of Crises in America*, from director Bill Lowe, on Friday evening. Members of all three clubs attended the movie, which dramatized the capture of the Pueblo and featured current-day interviews with the servicemen who were captured and held hostage for eleven months in North Korea. Freshly informed by this documentary, operators and ambassadors for the clubs were prepared to represent the USS Pueblo both to local visitors and to hams on the air.

The happy sounds of ship-to-ship contacts, 73 wishes from hams around the country, local hams socializing, and CW QSOs by Dave/W8XAL and Dan/W0OJW filled the Bernstein room throughout Saturday and Sunday, while convention center staff kept the clubs supplied with coffee and ice water. On breaks, operators could stroll down the Pueblo riverwalk and enjoy the restaurants in the area. On Sunday afternoon, the stations and antennas were packed up and representatives from all clubs gathered around the memorial plaque for a final group photo.

JUNE 2024

PIKES PEAK RADIO
AMATEUR ASSN.

MEGAFEST 2024

Lewis-Palmer High School
1300 Higby Rd, Monument, CO 80132

 DATE 27 JULY 2024  TIME 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

 <https://ppraa.org/megafest>



Save the Date

MEGAFEST - 27 JULY 2024 - 0800 - 1300 (8 am to 1 pm)

\$5 entry fee

Our annual PPRAA Megafest is almost here! Join us back in Monument, CO at Lewis-Palmer High School. Come shop vendors of new and used products and radio equipment, and meet clubs, organizations, and businesses. Vendor space is still available, reserve now! Application on Megafest website, linked below.

Our VE team will be at Megafest for FREE licensing exams.

Get your tickets now for the best amateur radio raffle in the state! \$6000 worth of radios and equipment will be raffled off at 1 pm (need not be present to win raffle prizes). Tickets available from PPRAA members, at the monthly meeting and at the event. 1 ticket \$1, 6 tickets \$5, 15 tickets \$10, 40 tickets \$20

Visit [PPRAA.org/megafest](https://ppraa.org/megafest) for more information

Save the Date Continued Page 6

JUNE 2024

General Membership meeting (10 July 2024) will be both in-person and virtual

Location: Golden Corral, 1970 Waynoka Rd, Colorado Springs

The business meeting starts at 7 PM, but get your dinner and beverage of choice and check in any time after 6 PM for a social hour. Club members check your email for info or email Officers@PPRAA.org to receive the Zoom information.

PPRAA Picnic and Car Show

- Saturday, August 17, 2024.
- Fountain Creek Regional Park – Pavilion #3
- 1000-1600, food served at 1230.
- Club will provide burgers, brats, chips, drinks.
- Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- Come early to operate portable from the park.
- Bring your vehicle and show off your mobile installation.
- Win Prizes!

Contact Zero Beat

Do you have photos of PPRAA events you'd like to share, or news from the ham radio world that the club might like to hear? Please email zerobeat@ppraa.org to share your ideas and pictures.