



# ZERO BEAT

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## Ten-Ten International in the Pikes Peak region

"To promote activity and good operating practice on the ten-meter amateur band," says the Ten-Ten International Net website to explain its purpose (see <https://ten-ten.org>). If you've listened to the ten-meter band in recent months, you've probably noticed a lot of activity and good DX opportunities, so while band conditions are good, let's all join up with the Ten-Ten International Net!

That was the justification for a ten-meter on-air activity on Friday night, March 21. PPRAA picked a frequency within the narrow band of technician privileges with USB, 28.350 MHz, and invited both Ten-Ten members and non-members alike to get on the air and collect membership numbers. My station is receive-only on 10 meters, but I tuned in to receive and listen in.

Nestled between two hills, my location is not great for ground-wave communications, but I was still able to hear five stations talking, and identified two others that I could not hear but with whom others were able to chat. I was happy to hear that Jim/K3ILC, Doug/N7LEM, and Rob/N7LV were active and sharing their Ten-Ten numbers with others.



## Ten-Ten cont.

Noteworthy was the contrast with the JS8Call activity we conducted last month: JS8Call on 10 meters was much slower, but also much clearer and we were able to achieve contacts with a larger number of stations. I never dropped a bit while receiving from other stations using the weak-signal mode. By contrast, upper-sideband voice chats sometimes took some work for my ears to dig out of the noise floor. The great news: there were no computer/radio interface problems to troubleshoot! And of course, a big benefit of the phone mode is that I can recognize friends by their voices, which eases identification and makes it far more natural for rag-chewing.

28.000      28.300      28.500      29.700

RTTY and  
data

SSB  
phone

phone and image

Novice and Technicians may broadcast within the red and yellow frequency ranges only. CW is permitted throughout the band.

# Ten-Ten cont.

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Usually, after dark the 10-meter band fades out, and I did not hear anyone from outside my ground-wave circle during the net. However, Jim/K3ILC hopped onto the CMRG repeater after the activity to report that he switched over to FT8, and was able to work DX stations in New Zealand and elsewhere on 10 meters, even at a much later hour!

So opportunities continue to abound for those seeking to earn their Ten-Ten memberships. We can chat with friends locally, work the skip while the band is open, and use weak-signal modes when those become the right tools for the job. And for those who earn their Ten-Ten membership numbers: don't forget to share with the club at our monthly membership meetings when you get your certificate!

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  
[ve@ppraa.org](mailto:ve@ppraa.org)

# How to be an awesome net controller

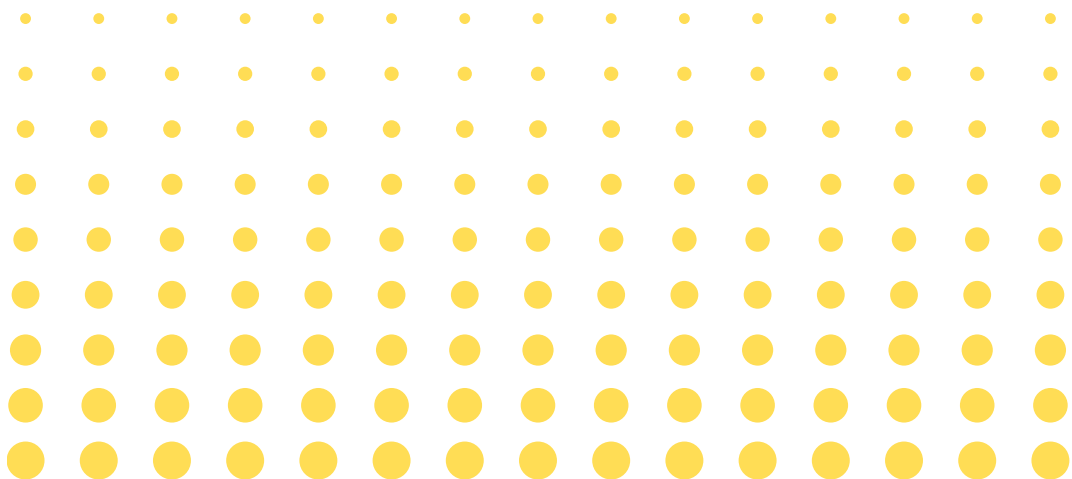
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- Minimize doubles by breaking into groups by call sign suffix
  - \* 2 groups: A-M, N-Z
  - \* 3 groups: A-I, J-R, S-Z
  - \* 4 groups: A-F, G-L, M-S, T-Z
  - \* 5 groups: A-E, F-J, K-O, P-T, U-Z
- After calling for a group, let them all check in. Do not key up again until there is a lengthy pause in check-ins.
  - \* If you jump into the check-ins to ask someone to repeat or to deconflict a double, you will double with additional stations trying to check in.
  - \* Write down doubles and noisy stations the best you can, and go back to ask for fills later.



## How to be an awesome net controller cont.

- When a group is finished checking in, acknowledge the stations that you heard clearly first!
- \* No stations know whether they doubled or not, so you must acknowledge the ones you understood first. Then they know to keep silent while you ask for doubles and noisy stations to recheck.
- Never ask for input from more than one station at a time.
- \* If you acknowledge a series of stations and then ask, "did I get your call signs right, guys?" and three people say "yes, that's correct" and one person says, "no, correction" you might not hear the "no, correction" station through the pile-up of stations telling you you got it right. You're just asking for doubles by addressing more than one at a time.

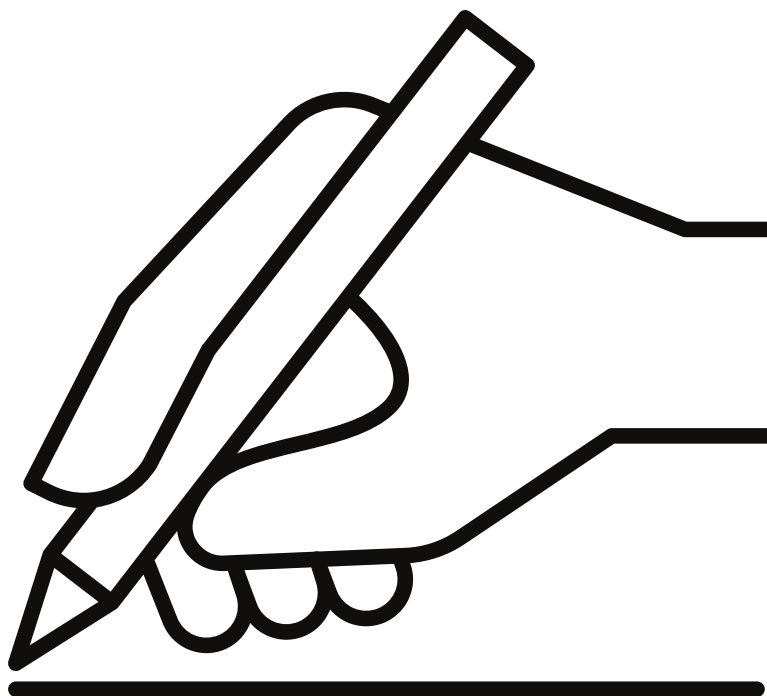


## How to be an awesome I net controller cont.

- Listen carefully to your check-ins. Don't rely on software to fill in gaps.
  - \* If you want stations to listen carefully to your instructions, you must listen carefully to their check-in information.
  - \* Ask for fills on the air, and instruct stations to slow down if you need them to.
  - \* If an operator goes by "Jen" and you call her "Genevieve" because that's what QRZ or Netlogger tells you, she will know you're not paying attention to what she tells you. What if she hates being called "Genevieve?"
  - \* Some information, like whether a station has traffic, can't be gleaned from QRZ or Netlogger, so you have to listen carefully anyway.

# How to be an awesome net controller

- Practice your block lettering, so you can read your own handwriting even when check-ins are arriving quickly.
- \* If you frequently confuse two letters in your own handwriting, like "D" and "O," try changing the strokes you use to make the D so it doesn't look like an O anymore.
- \* Block lettering is useful for hams to draw diagrams for each other anyway. It's good to stay in practice, both at high speed during nets and in diagrams for other hams.



# Hello April!

## **General Membership meeting (9 APR 2025) will be both in-person and virtual**

Location: Golden Corral  
1970 Waynoka Rd, Colorado Springs

The business meeting starts at 7 PM, but you may 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](mailto:Officers@PPRAA.org) to receive the Zoom information.

**Saturday, July 26, 2025**

**PPRAA Megafest 2025!**

**Taking table reservations now!**

**Watch [PPRAA.org/Megafest](https://www.ppraa.org/megafest) for more information**

### **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](mailto:zerobeat@ppraa.org) to share your ideas and pictures.