



ZERO BEAT

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SOTA Goat

By Ray Gierlach - KD8EQA

April 3, 2025 - The Pulverizer, W0C/SP-092 (10,381 - 4pts): This was the peak that Shane and I did to "cross the finish line" together, and get our SOTA Goat. Steve/WG0AT and Matt/KF0RIG did it with us. Amazingly, Shane and I both succeeded in getting to 997 points in the weeks leading up to our Big Day. Then, monitoring the weather forecast, it was vacillating hour by hour between cold and colder temps, low to high winds, no precipitation to rain and snow all day, etc.

When the day actually arrived it was partly cloudy with comfortable temps in the 20s. Heading up, our route followed contour lines around sub-peaks to saddles and then stayed east of the ridge to avoid the really nasty deadfall. Starting on 146.52 MHz I got KF0IHL, K0LTH, K0CKR, and K0FYR. Four friends in a row got me four points and my SOTA Goat! I had sent out several email Alerts in advance, hoping for a good response. We were off to a good start. On 40m it got really good... WB6POT, WA6MM, W0ADV, N0DET, W0CNX, N0IPA, and W0BV. Wow, I'm really enjoying getting all my friends in the log. Oh, by the way... it's been snowing since we started activating, and now it's really coming down.



SOTA Goat cont.

On to 10m... nothing! Okay, 20m... WW7D, K6KMH, WA2USA, KN6TMT, K6EL, WU7H, KE8RHW, and... K5SJC.

At this point were in a blizzard. Matt says "Ray, we gotta go. The snow is making all the rocks slippery and Steve and Shane are already heading down. So, we packed up and began our descent, keeping in radio contact with Shane and Steve. We met them back at Steve's Tacoma, and then headed to Russ's in Divide for a celebration of burgers and beers. Mike/K0FYR, who lives nearby, joined us at Russ's.

In hindsight, our day of activating The Pulverizer was fitting, and mimicked our SOTA journey to Mountain Goat, with twists and turns, but always a fun and rewarding experience. Shane and I are now at 1,001 activator points. It seems a shame to squander the extra point, so I think we should round up another 999 points to get our 2x SOTA Goat.

Hmmmm... so what shall our next SOTAdventure be?



Springtime brings city park outreach opportunity in Falcon

APRIL 2025

During the winter, PPRAA's on-air activities tend to be of the kind we can participate in from the comfort of our warm ham shacks at home. Consequently, it was an indication that spring was in the air when John/AE0VE invited the club to his neighborhood city park in Falcon to set up a few antennas, get on the air outdoors, and chat with his neighbors about ham radio on Saturday, March 23. John, Ben/AB2SG, and Chris/W0CNX brought portable station equipment, and LD/W0XLD brought some handouts for any interested passers-by.

With John's 17-foot whip and a few radials, his Yaesu FTDX-10, and his Mac laptop, we were able to make some FT8 contacts from coast to coast. Ben showed off his portable kit consisting of an FT-891, LiFePO4 battery, an end-fed half-wave antenna cut for 80 meters, and a carbon fiber mast raising the antenna well above the sidewalks of the park, all able to be packed into a backpack for use at walk-in parks during his POTA activations, but still permitting full 100-watt transmit. Ben used this station to contact POTA activators around the country, racking up POTA chaser points and demonstrating the full capability of his portable HF kit.



Spring Park Outreach cont.

We had a few conversations with dog-walkers in the park who were interested in our activity, and handed out a few flyers on how to become amateur radio operators. The event was cut short fairly quickly by the surest sign of spring in the Rocky Mountains though: a thunderhead moved in quickly, and a brisk wind brought the rain and lightning directly overhead in minutes. But the antennas came down fast and the equipment was packed away just before the first drops fell, so the operators were safe and the electronics unharmed.

Thanks very much to John for having us out to his neighborhood and giving us a chance to demonstrate equipment, compare antenna performance, and to meet some of his pleasant neighbors. Although the weather eventually brought the event to a quick end, we had several hours to enjoy each others' company and enjoy a sunny spring morning to kick off our outdoor activities for 2025.



APRIL 2025



FREE Radio Licensing Test Sessions
Second Saturday of every month
Testing begins at 10 am
Please arrive by 9:30 am
to get signed in and get instructions.
Location: Pikes Peak Regional
Office of Emergency Management
3755 Mark Dabling Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
ve@ppraa.org

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.



**General Membership meeting (14 MAY 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 to receive the Zoom information.

PPRAA GOTA Event – 17 MAY 2025. Location and time TBD
Watch PPRAA.org for more information.

Museum Ships Weekend Event
– Friday June 6, 1800hrs to Sunday June 8, 2024, 1800hrs
Watch PPRAA.org for more information.

PPRAA Megafest 2025 Cancelled

Due to a compilation of circumstances the PPRAA Board of Directors has reluctantly decided to cancel MegaFest for 2025.