



ZERO BEAT

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Thank you Brink KFØRWX for this year's car show logo!



David Molter's Ham Radio Career

My initial exposure to Ham radio happened when I was about 15. My father was the Fire Chief of the local volunteer fire department. The Assistant Chief drove a Ford Bronco that had a mobile 2 meter radio installed. When I was riding with him he would be talking on a repeater to others. I asked him about the radio and he brushed off all questions. On another occasion I was at his house and saw his Ham shack. I asked about what it was used for and got dismissive answers and was told to keep my hands off.

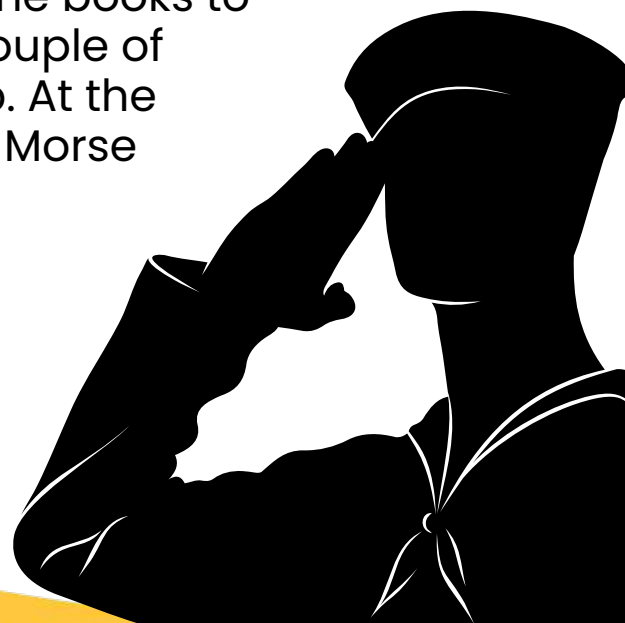
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PPRAA Annual Member Picnic & Car Show

August 23, 2025
Information Inside

**David Molter ADØQD cont.**

My next experience started when I was working as a manufacturer's representative repairing a radar on a Navy ship. During my visit to the ship one of the Electronic Technicians (ETs) struck up a conversation about electronic repair and it moved on to what else I had worked on. I mentioned that when I was active duty in the Navy I was an ET and had been stationed at a transmitter facility and worked on 5 kW to 200 kW high frequency transmitters. He said that it would be interesting to have one for Ham radio since everyone in the world would hear him. That prompted me to ask "what is Ham radio"? He introduced himself as Roger KB4MHL. I was invited to his house where over the next couple of weeks we built antennas, installed a radio in his van and spent some time on his radio talking to people in other states. I was intrigued to learn more. Roger had some books to study and I attended a class put on by a couple of Hams from the Trident Amateur Radio Club. At the end of that class I took another and then a Morse code class.



David Molter ADØQD cont.

When the club put on a testing session I passed the Novice and Technician tests and also the 5 word per minute Morse code test. The wait became the longest 2 weeks knowing that I had passed my tests and could not transmit until the license came in the mail. Finally, I get my license and I was N4RVJ Technician Plus earned in 1988. At the time I was traveling extensively for my job and I had a used Kenwood 2 meter radio in my car and used some of the repeaters while I traveled up and down the East coast. One of the neat features of the repeater was an autopatch where you could make a local phone call using your 2 meter radio. I soon learned that when the other party picked up their phone you said "Hi, we're on the auto patch". That stopped any of the possible non G rated words that might come your way.

My first Field Day happened in 1990 when I met Rodger my Elmer, in a state park in Pennsylvania. It was a typical Field day with lots of rain, a blown down leaky tent, semi-operational generator and a broken antenna. That was the only big event in which I had participated. I did install a 10 meter transceiver in my truck that I enjoyed making contacts as I drove up and down the Eastern seaboard moving between job sites. My longest distance contact with that radio was when I was driving to a job in Maine and I got a chance to talk to another Ham that was active duty Navy flying in a P3 over the North Sea returning to Iceland.

The big mistake that I made during those years was not attending Ham club meetings in the cities that I was working as my job kept me traveling. I'm sure that doing that small act would have increased my interest in Ham radio. As happens many times, people moving around and life in general changes your interests. As a result I drifted away from Ham and got wrapped up in my job, getting married, having a child, moving states multiple times.

About 2 years after I got to Colorado, a co-worker asked me if I knew anything about Ham radio. He wanted to get his license. I told him I had a license years ago and thought it was still active. I checked with the FCC and saw that my license had expired in 1998. There was a provision that stated the license could become active if renewed within 2 years. Darn, it was 2 years and 3 weeks since my license expired.

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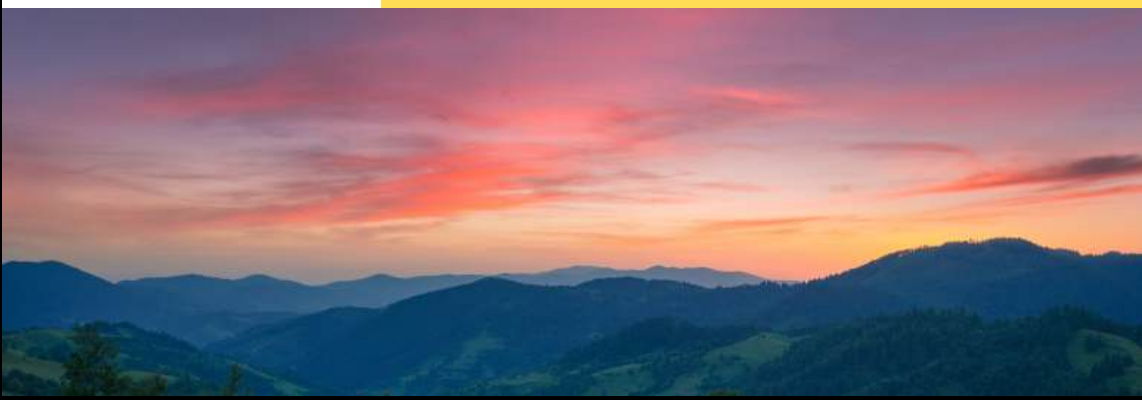


I bought the ARRL Technician book, got busy on studying and helping my co-worker understand the concepts. I found a testing site, showed up and passed the test. Now I am KC0IGT and didn't have to pass the code proficiency test. My co-worker never showed up and never tested. I joined the PPRAA club later on and over the years I got more involved with their activities. I even succumbed to the friendly pressure and earned my General and a couple of years later passed my Amateur Extra exam.



As a parent and step father I was fully supportive of my own child as well as the step kids and their activities. That got me back into Boy Scouts and becoming a Scout leader in my step sons troop. One of the fun parts was mixing my interest in Ham radio with scouting. I became a Merit badge counselor and one of the many subjects that I taught was the Radio merit badge. I also took a Ham radio on camping trips and helped the interested scouts to get on the air and talk to Hams across the country. As my step son got older and left Scouts, my involvement with the troops has decreased. I still do many of the council events and still teach the Radio merit badge 3 times a year.

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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.



David Molter ADØQD cont

I realized my passion in getting more people interested in Ham radio and my ability to teach some of the more difficult concepts in an easy to understand manner. Using those tools I volunteer at many of the local schools giving seminars on radio and science to middle school students. I also have an interest in getting more people to earn their license, get upgraded to the next level and help them get involved with the Ham community.

For a couple of years I was a member of the Deep Space Exploration Society and helped them to get the first antenna control system working. I helped move that club along by doing various projects around their site. I realized that my main interest was in making the hardware work and doing the odd jobs instead of the science that was happening.

A big opportunity fell in my lap when I volunteered to teach a science/radio seminar at a charter school. The science teacher had just gotten her Ham license and had entered her school to be selected to have a Ham radio contact with the astronauts on the International Space Station. A short time after teaching the class she informed me that the school had gotten accepted and scheduled for the ISS contact. That opened a whole new world of working with people at ARRL headquarters and representatives of NASA. After many delays we were successful in making the 10 minute contact allowing selected students to have a conversation with the astronauts.

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David Molter ADØQD cont.

I felt that I was just a passive member in the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association club. To change that I threw my hat into the ring of Board of Directors during the annual election. I continue to be an active member of the board and enjoy helping lead this club to new activities for the members and spreading the word of Ham radio out to the world.

My future in Ham radio is pretty bright. I try to balance my interests in Ham radio, 4 wheel drives, riding ATVs and general family life. I'm doing more POTA, SOTA and even getting into digital modes. Lately I am helping more people getting ready to test and receive their license. I try not to stop there by supporting Hams that have changed circumstances in moving houses or ailing health.

David Molter ADØQD





Notes From A P.O.T.A. First Timer

or the answer to the question:

"What Repellent Spray Do You Pack in Your Go Kit?"

By Jim / KN4UDV

On July 17 on the PPRAA Thursday night 2 meter net, Ken, K0kWH made an invitation for club members to join him on National POTA day. Up until this point, I had participated with several different ham clubs on field day or on QSO Party events, but I had never done a P.O.T.A activation. This could be fun, so I made plans to meet Ken at Cheyenne Mountain Park (US1214) on Saturday, July 19.

When I arrived at the visitor center to pay for the day entry pass, the park ranger at the desk was able to direct me to the area where Ken was setting up his portable station. I had tried to call him on the 147.345 repeater but he was focusing on HF, and not on VHF.

The first thing I noticed was the shiny polished telescoping whip vertical antenna on a magnetic mount on the roof of his truck. He had his foldable solar panels draped across the toolbox behind the cab and the power management system in the bed of the truck. Behind his truck he had a ten by ten easy-up tent canopy. Under the canopy was his folding table with his transceiver and laptop running the POTA logging program and map display across two screens.



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Notes from a POTA first timer cont.

Ken was tuning up and down the 20 meter band and logging the contacts and the map program showed the distance and direction to the stations as he entered them. Then we saw on the waterfall display the signal of a station calling "CQ POTA" that was tall and wide and strong and splattering several KHz on each side of the carrier. Ken said "Wow, that's close. Real close." We found out just how close when he answered the CQ and they were also in Cheyenne Mountain Park operating at a spot further up the hill. It was Ron KC0ZPS and his friend who had come down from Denver.

Then Ken had some more visitors show up at his portable station. Ben AB2SG and his wife Karen KF0INE arrived with an assortment of cords, plugs and connectors that allowed them to connect thier own microphones to Ken's radio so that all three could operate and not have to pass the mic around the table.

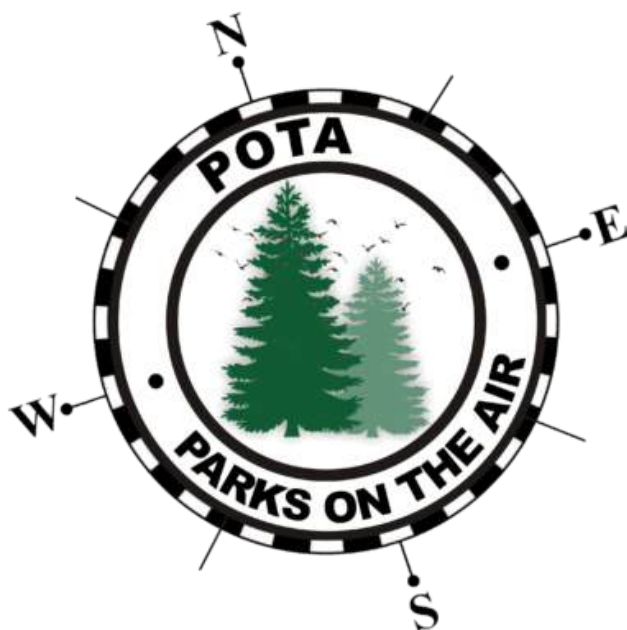
That other operator in the park? It turns out that Ben AB2SG had met Ron KC0ZPS before. As Ron and his friend were leaving the park, they came by for an eyeball QSO at Ken's parking spot. Ron was familiar with Ben's reputation for having activated every park in Colorado. Ron handed out some QSL cards. He uses some unique phonetics for the suffix in his callsign. ZPS becomes Zombie Pepper Spray. That inspired the artwork on his QSL card like a comic book scene...



Notes from a POTA first timer cont.

Ahem, oh, sorry. As grown ups we call them Graphic Novels. It's an apocalyptic scene of a city in ruins as a horde of zombies are approaching and our protagonist is crouched in a defensive position behind a car with the license plate "KC0ZPS " and in one hand he holds a can of zombie pepper spray. It's all in fun.

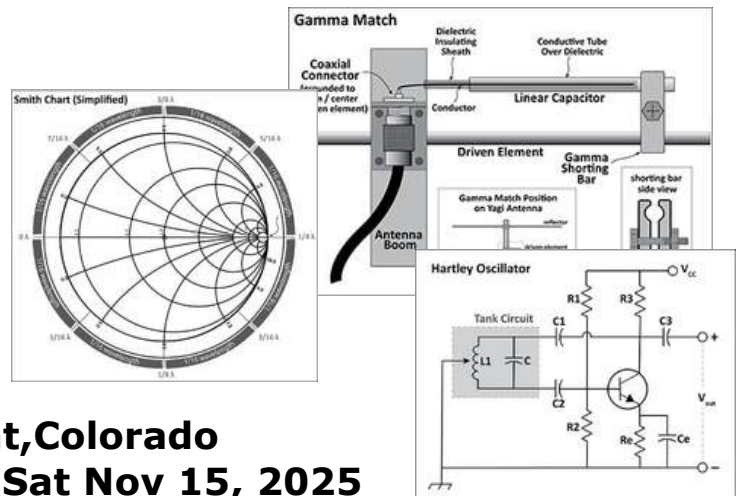
Shortly after Ron left the park, the sky clouded over and the wind picked up and the temperature dropped a few degrees. We looked up and could see the rain start at the top of Cheyenne Mountain and then work its way down the slope towards us. When the rain got to us it wasn't a real hard rain but it was just enough to be annoying. Ken's canopy was sufficient to cover his sensitive equipment and three operators, and not much else. It was time to make a strategic retreat. I said goodbye to Ken, Ben and Karen and I thanked Ken for the opportunity to play radio.



73 Jim KN4UDV

Ham Radio Extra License Class

Monument, Colorado
Sat Oct 4 through Sat Nov 15, 2025



- A ~30-hour, paced course of study preparing you to pass the Extra exam.
- Online lessons on demand, with personal Elmer support from WØTLM.
- Video lessons, ebook, depth media, quizzes & practice exams, all provided.
- In-person initial session (Oct 4) & license exam session (Nov 15)
- Weekly live class reviews via remote meeting (Zoom).

The Extra License is the top amateur license, providing full access to the FCC Amateur Radio Service band allocations.

- Upgrade from General to Extra Class radio privileges
- Pass your FCC Extra Class amateur license exam
- Expand your HF ops on 15-, 20-, 40-, & 80-meter bands
- Gain a deeper understanding of radio electronics and theory
- Take the next step with antennas, amplifiers, digital modes

Registration fee: **\$65** (Proceeds help support WØTLM Radio Association)

Students will receive a subscription to the online course: **[Ham Radio School Extra License Course](#)**

A current FCC General License is required for registration.

Register: <https://w0t1m.com/radio-classes/extra-registration>

Questions, email: bob@k0nr.com



Sponsored by the
Tri-Lakes Monument Radio
Association
w0t1m.com

AUGUST 2025



PPRAA Annual Club Picnic and Car Show

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 23, 2025
10 AM TO 4 PM
FOOD SERVED AT 12:30 PM**

**FOUNTAIN CREEK REGIONAL PARK
2010 DUCKWOOD RD.
FOUNTAIN, CO 80817
PAVILION #3**

**CLUB WILL PROVIDE BURGERS, BRATS, CHIPS & DRINKS
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE**



CAR SHOW CATEGORIES

**GRAND PRIZE: CLEANEST INSTALL
MOST SIMULTANEOUS BANDS AND MODES
MOST UNIQUE VEHICLE**

**MOST EXPENSIVE VEHICLE WITH
A HOLE DRILLED IN IT FOR AN ANTENNA**

CAR SHOW ENTRANTS PLEASE ARRIVE BY 10 AM



**General Membership meeting (10 SEP 2025)
will be both in-person and virtual**

NOTICE!

**September 10 Meeting will be at
King Buffet – 801 N. Academy Blvd.**

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.

