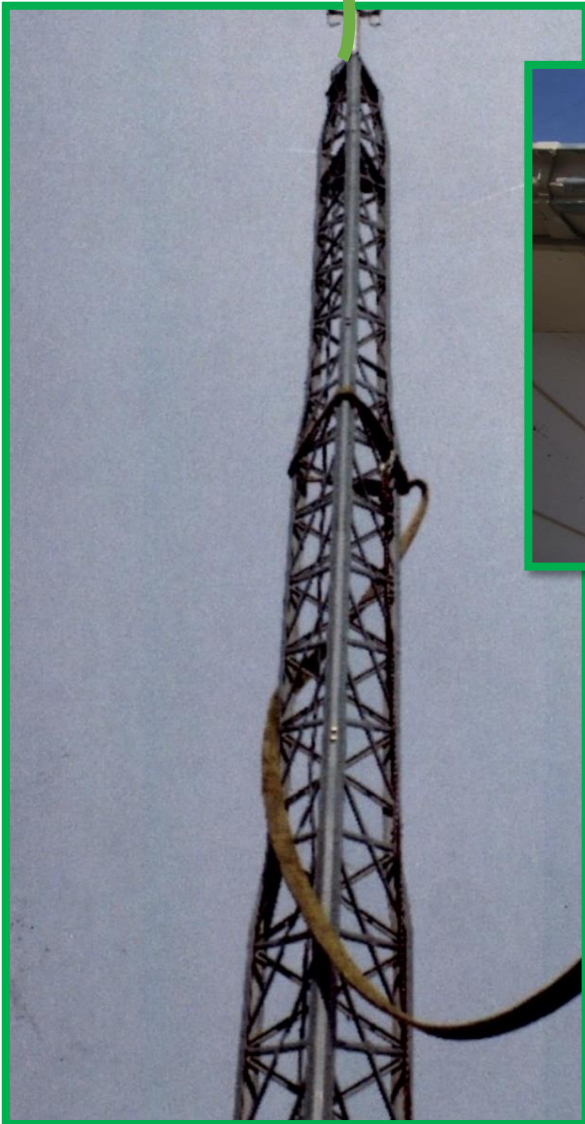




SPARKS

Newsletter Publication of
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club
March 2020



The Repeater Tower

QTH - N00Y0

Repeater Trustee - AD0DC

40' tower donated by Sid K4ARM
Antenna donated by Roger KE5CCJ

Antenna manufacturer:
"Antenna Specialist" DB 400 Series

Ground Control ...
We Have Lift-off With Chris
KE0MOQ

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For Your Information

2020 Rocky Mountain HamCon
ARRL Field Day 2020
Skywarn Training
Membership Application

President's Corner



As I sit here watching the sunrise thinking about all the joys that come with the fast approaching spring, I can't help but think of all the projects that come with the warmer weather.

Some of these spring projects of mine include going through and checking items in my shack. I go through and check all my coax for wear and breaks as well as all my connections. I check all my grounds from my equipment both in and out of the shack to make sure nothing has come loose. I even drop my antenna to the ground and check it from end to end to make sure that those winter storms didn't do anything to compromise my setup.

We all look through the magazines and ads online seeing the latest and greatest rigs and shacks with all the bells and whistles and we can feel a bit envious. I can tell you from experience that taking the time to ensure that your coax and antenna setup are tuned and as efficient as possible will pay more dividends than a brand-new radio ever will when it comes to making QSOs.

When was the last time you went through and checked these things in your shack? Are there any places or items that you have trouble checking? Ask for help if you need it, and I am sure you will be surprised with the help that comes to your aid.

73

Scott - NØELF

Members In The News

RAGCHEW

Turning back the pages, the first report of recorded PWARC Ragchews was March 6, 2010

With an average of 12 ragchewers per 12 ragchews per year at ten years, that's a lot of coffee, bacon and eggs and our favorite breakfast burritos, not to forget biscuits and gravy.

Rise and shine and join us at 9:00 am
Saturday, March 7, and
Chew the Ham Fat at the Hen House

February Ragchew

Al - AA5KG
Don - AD0DC
David - KB0ZAO
Gene - K9HBR
Paul - KB0JIT
Roger - KE5CCJ
Randy - KE0GMS
Paul - KN4DX
Scott - N0ELF
Rick - KE0MSM
Stan - N00YO
Dori - N5OZX
Jim - NE0DA
Rita - NE0DB
Dan - W00JW
Jen Peterson

February 15 Meeting Attendees

Scott - N0ELF	Steve - KD0SBN
Oden - KE0WWC	Bill - K0CGQ
Randy - KE0GMS	David - KE0UGM
David - KB0ZAO	Dan - W00JW
Gene - K9HBR	Dan - N3CMG
Rita - NE0DB	Randy - KE0YEX
Larry - K0LAB	Stan - N00YO
Jim - NE0DA	Nate - N8TEJ
Ken - K01TOP	Rick - KE0MSM
Jim - N00BV	Chris - KE0MOQ
Paul - KN4DX	Jeanie Baird

New Members

Joining the PWARC on February 15 were:

Bill Nicoll - K0CGQ - holds an extra license
Ken Topliss - K01TOP - holds a general license
Paul Nadon

March Birthdays

Mike WB0YKO - March 1
Jim N00BV - March 7
Chris KE0MOQ - March 13
Don KE0JSM - March 19

VE Session Report

A very special congratulations goes to Randy Edwards KE0YEX who upgraded to General and joined the club in December 2019.

ARRL

As of February 29 2020, PWARC membership tally 41 voting members in good standing (dues paid). Of those, 27 members belong to ARRL which equates to 66%.

2020 Membership Dues

Last call reminder that membership dues are due no later than March 31.

Continuous Memberships

12 Years

Dan Broadbooks - NGØT
Jim McConnell - NEØDA
Paul Sipes - KBØJIT

9 Years

Don Conway - ADØDC
Dwight DeWitt - WBØHBJ
Neal Tew - N1TEW

6 Years

Carlyle Rowland - NØARN

11 Years

Bob Akins - WDØFBW

8 Years

Frank Dunn - KBØFD
Dan Wantuck - WØØJW

5 Years

Phil Collins - KEØJLD
Rita McConnell - NEØDB
Randy Linnen - KEØGMS
Paul Gurka - KN4DX
Don Hohisel - KEØGJ
Richard Bischoff - KD8WJ

10 Years

Jim Lutenberg - NØØBV
Del Milne - KDØRRH

7 Years

Roger Ashcraft - KE5CCJ
Roger Soucie - KEØBAP
Bob Nelson - KEØAHM

Tuesday Night Net

Submitted by Dan WØØJW, Net Manager ... Repeater 447.450 (-) PL 123.0

Greetings, from ole net manager WØØJW. Our net added pleasantly to our seasonally, wintry, February Tuesdays. Here's the basic numbers!

Date	Net Control	Minutes	Stations
February 4	KBØFD	17	9
February 11	WØØJW	27	11
February 18	WØØJW	22	10
February 25	WØØJW	29	11

I was invited to become net manager as of March of 2013. Since then, record high and lows are:

March 26, 2013	KBØJIT	17	Tie for Most Stations
April 9, 2019	N1TEW	34	Tie for Most Stations
September 9, 2014	ADØHC	45	Longest Net
October 15, 2019	WØØJW	36	2019 Longest Net

Thanks, all, for the opportunities to serve and enjoy! 73 - Dan WØØJW

February Scholarship Drawing Prize

Yaesu Dummy Load Wattmeter donated by Frank KBØFD
won by Scott NØELF

Kudos to Frank KBØFD who donated a few useful radio-related items for our scholarship drawings.

Reminder: The club is still in need of donation items. They do not need to be radio-related. However, they should be in working condition or in the case of an unrelated item, it should be useful and/or worthy of display. Donate items to any officer at a ragchew or general meeting. Gift certificates from a local business are also an idea to pursue when you visit your favorite establishment. It never hurts to ask.



Springtime in the Rockies

UTC versus Zulu

In **2020**, the **spring** equinox (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox) falls on Thursday, March 19. This event marks the astronomical first day of **spring** in the Northern Hemisphere.

There is no difference between Zulu and UTC. The **Zulu time** zone (Z) is the **same** zone as the Greenwich or Prime Meridian with no offset written as **UTC +0:00**. This means that it is exactly the **same** as Coordinated Universal Time (**UTC**).

The **Zulu time** zone is one of these. The **Zulu time** zone is primarily used in aviation and military operations.

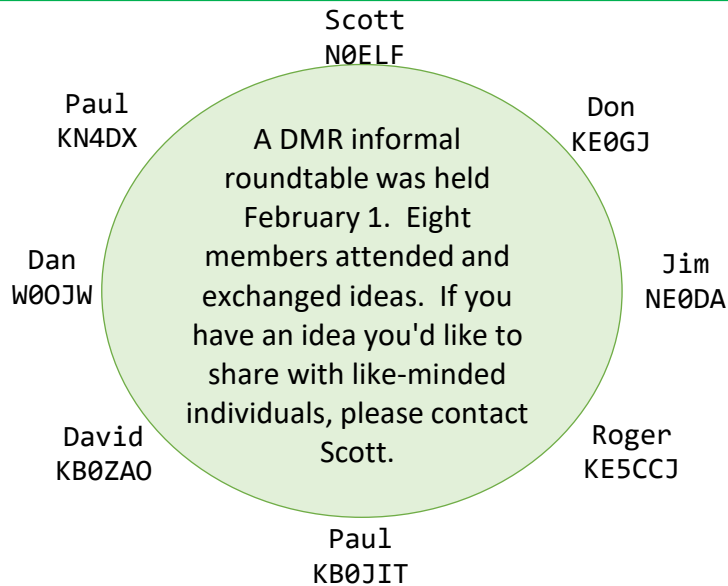
The **Mountain Time Zone** of North America keeps time by subtracting seven hours from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) when standard time is in effect, and by subtracting six hours during daylight saving time (UTC-06:00).

This is now.



On March 21, your UTC clock should be set back one hour to 18:00.

Education



Next Roundtable

No Roundtable for March
Only even number months

Next Roundtable will be April
Topic and Place to be determined due to
Run4Bay on April 4.

Club Presentations - Each month, PWARC will hold a monthly presentation of radio topics. In January, Gene K9HBR presented "Back to the Future", and February's presentation was a live demonstration from Scott NØELF on "Digital Mode Radio" (DMR). The club is seeking individuals to host monthly presentations. Please contact Scott if you have a topic to share. Volunteer now for the schedule before we recruit you.

QSL Cards - Rita NEØDB and Bill KØCGQ will host the March presentation which will feature a slide show compiled by ARRL of do's and don'ts for "QSL Cards" along with a display of unique cards from members. If you have QSL cards you'd like *show and tell*, bring them to the meeting.

Radio Trivia

January's "Radio Trivia" proved to be a success, and it was no exception in February. There were two questions; somewhat harder than the January question.

First Question: How many ARRL callsign districts border the Great Lakes?

Answer: Five Callsign Districts

Gene K9HBR had the correct answer of five (5). Two "not so close to five districts" but worthy of a prize were David KBØZAO and Nate N8TEJ. Each received a box of candy conversation hearts.

Second Question: What's wrong with the NAØPW QSL card?

Answers: Incomplete Zip Code and Wrong Size

David KBØZAO found the incomplete zip code. The other mistake is the size of the card.

Take a Trip down Memory Lane

10 Years Ago in March

Club Vanity Call Sign was established March 2010
Designated as NA0PW

In 2010, Secretary Bill WA0KAQ asked President Jim NE0DA to create a vanity call sign for PWARC. NE0DA searched the QRZ database and determined that NA0PW was available.

The vanity call sign had to begin with either a K, N or W with a Zero (0). Hence, "N" for North, "A" for America, "0" for District 0, "P" for Pueblo and "W" for West.

Now, you know ... **North, America, Zero, Pueblo, West = NA0PW**

November Alpha Zero Papa Whiskey

It's All About the Green

As you may have noticed, the color green dominates the March **SPARKS**.

Chicago dyes the Chicago River green ... but, Pueblo's Arkansas Riverwalk is natural. Just Mother Nature taking care of business.

Speaking of green, here's a bit of history of the green polo shirts.



In July 2014, a discussion of polo shirts and a logo was held. In August, Roger KE5CCJ formed a committee to create a club logo to be imprinted on the polo shirts. David's, KC0RNI, design was approved and in November 2014, the club adopted the current PWARC logo.



Now, a color for the polo shirts had to be decided. The club didn't want to conflict with the PW High School colors of blue/black, so it was decided that gold polo shirts would be appropriate with a black logo.



In February 2015, it was discovered that the gold polo shirts did not have pockets. Back to the coloring book.

Since gold polo shirts were not an option, the color forest green was chosen.

After ten (10) months of planning, in April 2015, polo shirts are ready to order.

"That was Easy"



So, the next time you see a member proudly sporting their green polos, remember to thank them for a being a proud sponsor of PWARC.

Club Events



Baylon, or "Bay" as his family and friends affectionately called him, died at the age of 10 on July 27, 2009, at his Pueblo West home when he was struck by a trailer hitch ball while his father was trying to pull out a tree stump with a truck. In the months following his death, the Play 4 Bay Foundation and a memorial scholarship was created in his name which has provided funds of nearly \$50,000 to graduating seniors of District 70.



Field Day

Talk about a trip down memory lane, many must relate to the old VW bus ... 2020 ARRL Field Day Logo. Many more details to follow in upcoming **SPARKS** and monthly club meetings. See ARRL Field Day flyer at end of this newsletter.



Fox Hunt

**Announcing CQ's 23rd Annual Foxhunting Weekend
May 9-10, 2020
by Rich Moseson W2VU - Editor, CQ Amateur Radio Magazine**

A ham radio magazine is once again urging amateur radio clubs and ham operators across America to go "foxhunting." But the bushy-tailed animals have nothing to fear. Hams, after all, are not hounds, and in ham radio lingo, a "foxhunt" is one of several names for radio direction finding, a competition to locate a hidden radio transmitter.

CQ Amateur Radio Magazine has designated May 9-10, 2020 as the "CQ Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend" (CQ WW FW), and is encouraging ham operators and radio clubs to conduct hidden transmitter hunts at that time.

March Contests & Special Events

March 3-5	W5S	C-47 Skytrain	0000 - 2359
March 7-8		International DX - Phone	0000 - 2359
March 14	K9TAL	American Legion's 101st Birthday Celebration	1700 - 2300
March 14-15	N2RE	PI Day & Einstein's Birthday	0500 - 0500
March 14	NI6IW	USS Midway (Launching of USS Midway)	1700 - 2359
March 14	W1M	WHOA/SCOTA (a scouting event)	1300 - 1900
March 16-22		Maine Bicentennial SE	0000 - 2350
		W1L will be operating from Boothbay Harbor, ME. Other participating calls include K1B, K1J, K1P, W1C, W1H, W1K, W1L, W1O, W1P, W1S, W1W, and W1Y	
March 20-31	N6A	Closing of Fed Penitentiary on Alcatraz Island	0000 - 2359
March 24-26	W4LX	The Buckingham Army Airfield SE	1300 - 2000
March 28	W4BKM	Cherry Blossom SE	1400 - 2000
March 28	N4H	Battle of Horseshoe Bend SE	1400 - 2100
		Commemorating the 206th anniversary of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. This battle brought a close to the Creek War, made Andrew Jackson an American hero and opened much of present day Alabama for settlement.	
March 29	W5KID	Vietnam War Veterans Day	1630 - 2130
		Operation aboard the USS KIDD, DD-661, WWII Fletcher Class Destroyer	
March 31	W4S	Sun-N-Fun International Fly-in & Conference	1400 - 2100

For complete information on Special Events and Contests,
check out ARRL Contest Corral and ARRL Special Events.

Club Calendar

..... Unless Otherwise Noted (in Red)

Ragchews are held the first (1st) Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at the Hen House, 53 E Palmer Lake Drive, Pueblo West

Monthly Meetings are held the third (3rd) Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at the Pueblo West Library, Room A, 298 S Joe Martinez Blvd, Pueblo West

Board Meetings are held the first (1st) Saturday of each month immediately following the Ragchew in the Lamb Room, PW Library

March

- March 07 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am - Hen House
- March 07 - Board Meeting - following Ragchew
- March 14 - Club Meeting – Room A

April

- April 04 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- April 04 - Run4Bay Memorial 5K/10K Run
- Roundtable (topic, date and place to be determined)
- April 18 - Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library

May

- May 02 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- May 02 - Board Meeting - following the Ragchew in Lamb Room at PW Library
- May 16 - Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library

June

- June 06 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- June 06 - Roundtable (topic and place to be determined)
- June 20 - Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library
- June 27/28 - ARRL Field Day - Lovell Park, Pueblo West

July

- July 04 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- July 04 - United Way Liberty Point 5K/10K – 06:30
- July 11 - Board Meeting – Lamb Room at PW Library
- July 18 - Club Meeting – **Room B** – PW Library

August

- August 01 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- August 01 - Roundtable (topic and place to be determined)
- August 15 - Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library

September

- September 05 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- September 05 - Board Meeting - following the Ragchew in Lamb Room at PW Library
- September 19 - Club Meeting - Fire Station 3 - 729 E Gold Dr, Pueblo West**

October

- October 03 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- October 03 - Roundtable (topic and place to be determined)
- October 10 - Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library
- October 17 - JOTA (Jamboree On The Air)

November

- November 07- Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- November 07- Board Meeting - following the Ragchew in Lamb Room at PW Library
- November 21- Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library

December

- December 05- Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- December 19- Club Meeting – Rooms A/B – PW Library ... Year-End Celebration Party

Board of Directors

President ... Scott Fanning NØELF
Vice President ... Dan Wantuck WØOJW
Secretary ... Rita McConnell NEØDB
Treasurer ... Randy Linnen KEØGMS

Ex-officio ... Roger Ashcraft KE5CCJ
Director ... Dan Broadbooks NGØT
Director ... Dan Bassak N3CMG
Director ... Jim McConnell NEØDA

Early Bird Discount Registration is Available Now! at
<http://www.hamconcolorado.com>

HAMCON COLORADO 2020 ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

August 7 - 9, 2020

FRIDAY *Separate Event* - DX University 8AM – 5PM \$50 includes Lunch

ALL DAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY Many engaging technical sessions & forums Numerous club, organization and manufacturer exhibits!

MEALS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE TO HEAR THE SPEAKERS

SATURDAY

- ◆ Kickoff Breakfast with speaker (TBA)
- ◆ Afternoon Delicatessen Buffet with a nationally known Speaker (TBA)
- ◆ Evening Meet and Greet Buffet with ARRL Officials and a Keynote Speaker
- ◆ Midnight Wouff Hong Ceremony (Details TBA)

SUNDAY

- ◆ Breakfast with a nationally known Speaker (TBA)
- ◆ BBQ lunch with a nationally known Speaker (TBA)

MORE FOR YOU!

- ◆ Show your CW skills and coordination in a QLF (Details TBA)
- ◆ Show your skills in a challenging CW Pileup Contest (Details TBA)
- ◆ Operate W1AW/Ø – HF/VHF/UHF All modes including Digital on fantastic hardware
- ◆ Hourly prize giveaways
- ◆ Hospitality Suite sponsored by Mile High DX Association and Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado



CU Denver South - 10035 S Peoria St. - Parker, CO

What is ARRL Field Day?

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.



For More Information visit: www.arrl.org

Updated 2/2020

SKYWARN!

NWS PUEBLO, CO

BECOME A SEVERE STORM SPOTTER, WE'LL
TEACH YOU!

SPRINGFIELD, CO
FOUNTAIN, CO
LEADS, CO
FALCON, CO
LA JUNTA, CO
FOUNTAIN, CO
PUEBLO, CO
LAMAR, CO
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
ORDWAY, CO
ALAMOSA, CO
PUEBLO, CO

MARCH 3 AT 6 PM
MARCH 11 AT 630 PM
MARCH 19 AT 6 PM
MARCH 26 AT 7 PM
MARCH 31 AT 7 PM
APRIL 1 AT 630 PM
APRIL 6 AT 6 PM
APRIL 8 AT 6 PM
APRIL 9 AT 6 PM
APRIL 21 AT 7 PM
APRIL 29 AT 5 PM
MAY 11 AT 6 PM

WEATHER.GOV/PUB/SPOTTERS





Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club Membership Application and/or Renewal

Name _____ New Renewal

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Preferred Phone # _____

e-mail _____ Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

What are your major interests in the hobby? _____

Bands & Modes Operated _____

Are you a member of ARRL
(American Radio Relay League)

Yes



No

Membership Dues

Individual Membership \$ 20.00 _____

Youth (age 18 or younger) \$ 7.50 _____

Family Membership \$ 37.00 _____

(3 or more *licensed* family members of the 1st degree (spouse, parent, sibling or child) residing in the same household (each must submit a separate membership form))

Signature _____

Date _____

Mail this application with your check to:
PWARC, PO Box 7486, Pueblo West, CO 81007

or bring your application and join us at our club meetings held at 9:15 am every 3rd Saturday of each month at the Pueblo West Library.

For additional information, contact Scott at N0ELF@arrl.com

