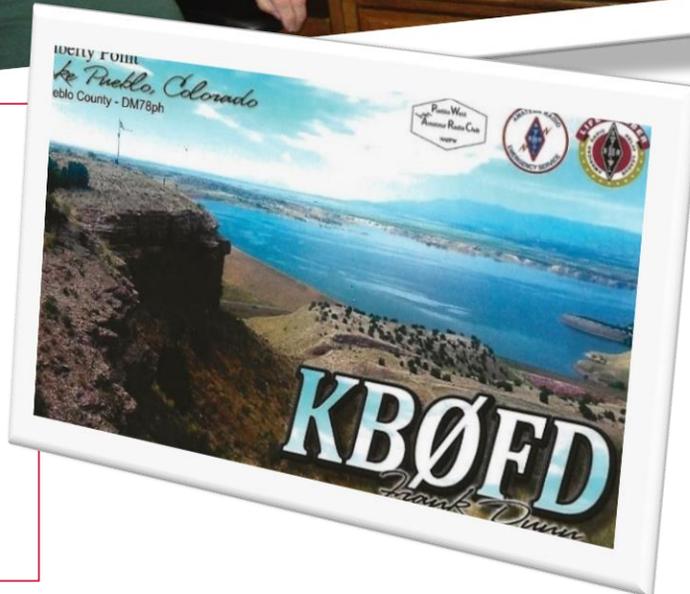




# SPARKS

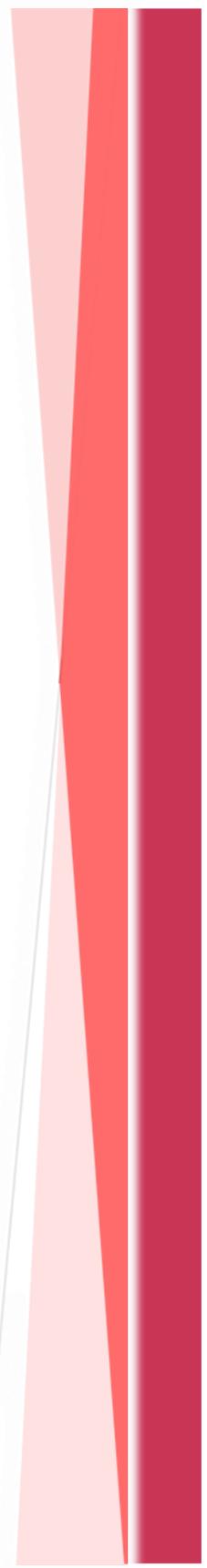
Newsletter Publication of Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club  
February 2020



**Frank Dunn - KBØFD**  
Extra License  
Licensed 1966  
PWARC since 2013

President: 2015 - 2016  
Vice President: 2014  
Director: 2017 - 2018

**Events & Education Chair**  
2017 General Class  
2017 Run4Bay



## President's Corner

WOW ... it's February already! I hope that you have made time to sit down and enjoy your radios and talk with some new contacts. I had a blast during the North American QSO Party, and I was glad to get a QSO on 15 meters during a brief band opening.

There are lots of great activities coming up that I would love to see many of you attend. Just to name a few: ragchews, meetings, foxhunt, *Run4Bay Memorial*, bi-monthly roundtables and you are welcome to sit in on the General License prep course which continues through February. Check the Club Calendar for up-to-date activities.

Keep your radios on, tubes warm and your antennas tuned.

Scott NØELF



## Member Participation

The club's mission ..... basic purpose is for amateurs and non-amateurs to participate in events and become involved with amateur radio and have fun. Club Ragchews are a wonderful way to meet other hams and chew the fat. Held the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 at the Hen House. Whether you have coffee or breakfast or drop by to say hello ... Guests are welcomed and no purchase is necessary.

IRAGCHEW

There are various versions of how the term "ragchew" began. One of the most popular beliefs of historians is that "ragchews" started in the Dark Ages when people gathered around a table to eat and chat.

"Rag" was slang for fat and "Chew" was slang for talk. Beginning in the mid-1850s, when telegraphers were using Morse Code, they would hear unskilled operators on the air and hence called them a "ham". At that time in radio history, "ham" was considered a derogatory expression.

Rise and shine and join us  
Saturday, February 1 and  
**Chew the Ham Fat at the Hen House**

### January Ragchew

Al	AA5KG
Don	ADØDC
Frank	KBØFD
David	KBØZAO
De1	KDØRRH
Bob	K5DCZ
Gene	K9HBR
Roger	KE5CCJ
Randy	KEØGMS
Paul	KN4DX
Scott	NØELF
Stan	NØOYO
Dori	N5OZX
Jim	NEØDA
Rita	NEØDB
Dan	WØOJW
Neal	N1TEW
Jen Peterson	

"While not everyone can do every task that needs to be done, each member will be expected to participate in club projects and activities to the best of their experience and abilities."

*Do what "You" can, where "You" can.*

## Member Participation (Continued)

Twenty-five members were in attendance with three guests at the January 18th meeting; with a total of 28 compared to January 2019 of 30 ... we're off to a good start in 2020.  
Don AD0DC was excused.



### New Member

Joining PWARC, December 2019, we welcome Randy Edwards KE0YEX  
- Technician - and is enrolled in the 2020 General Class

### January 18 Attendees

Rita - NE0DB  
Jim - NE0DA  
Paul - KB0JIT  
Phil - KE0JLD  
Gerry - WB3EYY  
Del - KD0RRH  
Dan - W00JW  
Dan - N3CMG  
Trina - KE0PIE  
Oden - KE0WWC  
David - KB0ZA0  
Roger - KE0BAP  
Al - AA5KG  
Neal - N1TEW  
Larry - K0LAB  
Randy - KE0YEX  
Stan - N00YO  
Dwight - WB0HBJ  
Rick - KE0MSM  
Ken - K1NNY  
Nate - N8TEJ  
Frank - KB0FD  
Dan - NG0T  
Gene - K9HBR  
Chris - KE0MOQ  
Roger - KE5CCJ  
Jeanie Baird  
Robert Vaerewyck

## 2020 Membership Dues

A reminder that membership dues are due no later than March 31.  
Pay your dues for 2020 and add another bragging right to your Continuous Membership.

## Continuous Memberships

(Years include 2020 Memberships Paid (in good standing) as of January 18, 2020)

### 12 Years

Dan Broadbooks - NG0T  
Jim McConnell - NE0DA  
Paul Sipes - KB0JIT

### 10 Years

Jim Lutenberg - N00BV  
Del Milne - KD0RRH

### 9 years

Don Conway - AD0DC  
Dwight DeWitt - WB0HBJ  
Neal Tew - N1TEW

### 8 Years

Frank Dunn - KB0FD  
Dan Wantuck - W00JW

### 7 Years

Roger Ashcraft - KE5CCJ  
Roger Soucie - KE0BAP  
Bob Nelson - KE0AHM

### 5 Years

Carlyle Rowland - N0ARN  
Phil Collins - KE0JLD  
Rita McConnell - NE0DB  
Randy Linnen - KE0GMS

## PWARC Events & Education Chairperson

Chris Gagliano - KE0MOQ  
Technician License  
Licensed 2017  
PWARC since 2017



Chris immediately jumped on the PWARC bandwagon after he and YL Kimberly KEONIB and daughters attended our ARRL 2017 Field Day event.

Chris is the Club's Events and Education Chairperson. Events include hosting the annual General Class License Preparation Course, *Run4Bay Memorial Run* and United Way July 4th Run.

## Winter Shack Preparedness

With the high wind season approaching, take note of where your antenna may have gone astray. If it has fallen into trees or dangerously fallen on your roof, your neighbor's yard or worse yet in your roof, the Club may be able to help in non-dangerous situations. It's not if but when.

Needless to say, however, if your antenna takes a hit on power lines, who are you going to call?

**Power Busters, of course.**

Don't let this happen to you.

Photos at Stan's (N00Y0) QTH a few years ago.



# Good Ways to Kick-Start PTT Skills

A good way to learn protocol of making QSOs is to check-in for the Club's directed  
**"Tuesday Night Net"** .

Nets are conducted every Tuesday at 0200 UTC - 7:00 pm MST and last approximately 30-35 minutes.

*It's just a bunch of amateurs ... no pun intended ...  
No one will bring harm or bodily injury to you.*

## Tuesday Night Net Report

Submitted by Dan W00JW, Net Manager ... Repeater 447.450 (-) PL 123.0

2019's nets ended happily and actively. 2020's began the same way!  
Discussion topics ran the field ... from DX to a new puppy.

### *January Box Score*

1/07: NCS W00JW; minutes 24; stations 11  
1/14: NCS W00JW; minutes 27; stations 10  
1/21: NCS W00JW; minutes 24; stations 11  
1/28: NCS W00JW; minutes 32; stations 16

Not a record on this last one! However, we welcome in a couple  
brand-new hams, as well as some jumping back in the old hobby.

*Keep of good cheer In this coming year.*

## ARRL = Hot off the Press:

The premiere bi-monthly ARRL *"On the Air"*  
magazine is online.

With only 38 pages in this issue,  
it contains color pictures, diagrams  
(with down-to-earth simplicity) and  
provides excellent theory on basic  
radio subjects and equipment.



## February Birthdays

### *The Valentine YLs*

Jane Ewing KA0USA - February 13

Dori Peterson N5OZX - February 14

# Education

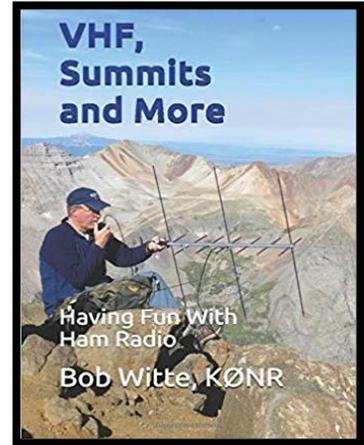
Submitted by Jim NE0DA - Printed with permission of Bob Witte K0NR

My name is Bob Witte K0NR (ex-KB0CY), an electrical engineer, engineering manager and author living in Monument, Colorado. My amateur radio interests include HF, VHF/UHF, satellites and lots of other stuff. Lately, I've been doing a bunch of Summits On The Air (SOTA) operating on VHF and higher.

I am excited to announce the release of my new book:

## ***VHF, Summits and More***

This book is about having fun with ham radio, primarily on the VHF/UHF bands. It covers the basics of VHF, with practical tips for getting on the air and "messing around with radios."



Topics include FM, SSB, repeaters, equipment, band plans, phonetics, portable operating, Summits On The Air (SOTA) activations and more. This book is a compilation of the best articles from the k0nr.com website plus some brand-new material.

The first section explains VHF/UHF concepts via tutorial articles such as "VHF FM Operating Guide," "Getting Started on 2m SSB" and "How to Work a VHF Contest."

The second section includes blog posts from the k0nr.com website, such as "Choose Your 2m Frequency Wisely," "VHF Grid Locators," "Phonetic Alphabets" and "VHF FM: The Utility Mode."

The final section helps the reader understand mountaintop operating, especially Summits On The Air (SOTA) activations, including operating tips and trip reports.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **2020 General Class Prep Course**

Two students enrolled and one, Randy Edwards KE0YEX, joined PWARC last December.

### **VE Session Report**

Harry Tuttle K0HST  
upgraded to Extra - January 18, 2020

## Loads of Modes

Starting February, club members who are knowledgeable in various fields of amateur radio will host informal roundtable discussions for anyone interested in learning something new or sharpening their radio skills. Roundtables will be held bi-monthly (even months) immediately following the Ragchew at a designated location.

The first roundtable will be Saturday, February 1, at the PW Library - Lamb Room. The topic is DMR and digital modes. A DMR radio is not required for you to join us ... just your curiosity of what the hype of DMR is all about. Different topics will be held throughout the year.

## *"Back to the Future"* with Gene Vaerewyck K9HBR

Gene took us *"back to the future"* at the club meeting on January 18th. No, not in his DeLorean nor his time capsule, but with his home-brew multi-band magnetic loop antenna and other gadgets and gizmos of days-past.

Combined with his witty sense of humor that is truly Gene's, he aroused a little laughter and questions from the members.

Gene holds an Extra license and has been a member of PWARC since 2010.

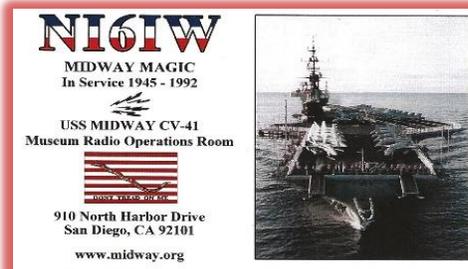


## Upcoming Contests & Special Events

February 1	K3HWJ	Groundhog Day SE	1400-2100
February 1-2	K5C	Shuttle Columbia SE	1500-2300 - featured below
February 8	NI6IW	USS Midway SE	1700-2359 Mt Surabachi Flag Raising
February 8-10		YL/OM Contest	1400-0200 - details below
February 10-14		School Round-Up	Varies
February 12-16	N4DAB	2020 Daytona 500 SE	0000-2359
February 21-23	WS7G	George Washington's BD SE	2359-2359 - featured below
February 22	K7T	Titan Missile Museum SE	1600-2100



*From the February QSL card collection of the Editor NEODB.*



Did you know that the USS Midway NI6IW is on-the-air the 2nd Saturday of each month (frequency usually above 14.300 commemorating ships and vessels of the past).

A variety of outstanding QSL cards are available by sending your card and a SASE. As a bonus for making a QSO, you will receive two entrance tickets for the USS Midway Museum in San Diego.

# The Sweetheart of February Contests

## SSB/CW/Digital

1400 UTC February 8, 2020 - 0200 UTC February 10, 2020  
**YL/OM Contest**



### ELIGIBILITY

All licensed men and women operators throughout the world are invited to participate.

### PROCEDURE

OMs call "CQ-YL" and YLs call "CQ-OM."

### OPERATION

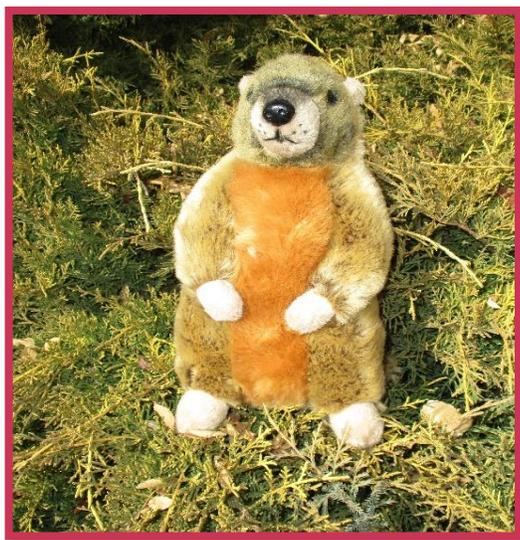
All bands may be used except WARC bands. Net contacts and repeater contacts do not count. Participants may work only 24 hours of the 36 hours in each contest. Operating breaks should be indicated in the log.

### EXCHANGE

Station worked, QSO number, RS(T), ARRL section, VE province, or country. Entries in log should also show time, band, and date.

### *Of Note*

*Rita NE0DB, VP of YLRL, will be compiling the logs and sending out the certificates.  
Please help the YLs make QSO contacts.*



### *Hear ye', Hear ye', Hear ye'*

Groundhog Day Special Event Station **K3HWJ** is once again hosting its annual Punxsutawney Phil party in honor of the World's most famous marmot.

**K3HWJ** will be on-the-air in beautiful Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania beginning February 1 from 1400 - 2100 UTC. Catch him if you can. A certificate awaits your successful contact with Phil's pawprint signature.

# Radio Trivia

A new twist was added to the January meeting ... Radio Trivia. Rules are simple ... The first person to stand-up (yep, stand-up) with the correct answer will receive the treat of the month reward.

*January's Radio Trivia question was:*

**Her sign was K5PSG ... Her name was Peggy Sue**

Who was the famous rock & roller that recorded a song about her?

Correct answer was Buddy Holly.



Dan W00JW was the first to answer; and, in keeping with the 50s era, his prize was a Twinkie. But, Dan had to answer another question: What band did Buddy Holly form? Again, quick to answer: The Crickets ... That was Easy. Join us at the February meeting for another radio trivia question ... and receive a delicious treat for the first correct answer.

Peggy attended a special event commemorating Holly in Lubbock, TX in 2004 - the station was operating as W5B. That event inspired her to obtain her amateur radio license. She died in 2018.

*Strange But True* ... after Peggy's call sign expired, an OM snagged it. His name is Bob Cornett and his YL is Mary Ann Cornett NS7X from Albuquerque (Peggy also lived in Albuquerque). Yours truly met both K5PSG and NS7X at the 2018 YLRL Convention in Oklahoma City sharing a table at one of the seminars.

*Just goes to show how unique it is to make friends though amateur radio.  
"It is a small world, after all."*

## January Scholarship Drawing Prize

2018 ARRL Handbook donated by JJ Lambert W5RE  
and won by Randy Edwards KE0YEX

**Note:** The stockpile of prizes is running quite low. For those who may not know, the prizes are usually donated from another member. If you have usable radio items in good condition or other stuff gathering dust that someone may enjoy, please consider a donation.

The items **do not need** to be radio-related.

Nice items increase ticket sales ... Ticket sales increase the scholarship fund ...

Bring items to any officer at a ragchew or general meeting.

Phil will be assisting with February ticket sales.

No petting allowed if you don't buy a ticket ... Phil has a wicked bite.



## From the Editor

This is your newsletter ... we want to hear from you. Please submit personal stories and/or personal pictures of your ham adventures to the Editor via Google Groups or e-mail ([vai180rita@gmail.com](mailto:vai180rita@gmail.com)) no later than the 15th of the month preceding publication. **No copyright material is allowed.**

There's a story behind every picture and every picture has a story.  
Dig into your ham radio archives and share those Kodak moments.

Ideas to ponder would be your most fun ham adventure, the OTAs, etc., special QSL cards (who you made contact with, when, mode, how you became involved with amateur radio, your first radio ... there's lots of things to share.

### Wanted

Seeking members who would like to be featured on the monthly cover page of **SPARKS**.  
The theme for 2020 is either your shack or your antenna(s) or both.

Rita McConnell - NE0DB  
Secretary, Historian, Editor **SPARKS** Newsletter

# Be Radio = Active

## 2020 Officers/Directors

President ... Scott Fanning N0ELF  
Vice President ... Dan Wantuck W00JW  
Secretary ... Rita McConnell NE0DB  
Treasurer ... Randy Linnen KE0GMS

Ex-officio ... Roger Ashcraft KE5CCJ  
Director ... Dan Broadbooks NG0T  
Director ... Dan Bassak N3CMG  
Director ... Jim McConnell NE0DA

Club Trustee ... Don Conway AD0DC  
Webmaster ... Randy Linnen KE0GMS

**Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club ... PO Box 7486 ... Pueblo West, CO 81007**

# Club Calendar

## February

- February 01 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- February 01 - Roundtable (Topic: DMR) - PW Library, Lamb Room  
(immediately following the Ragchew)
- February 15 - Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library

## March

- March 07 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- March 07 - Board Meeting - following the Ragchew in Lamb Room at PW Library
- March 14 - Club Meeting – Room A – PW Library (**Note: 21<sup>st</sup> taken**)

## April

- April 04 - Rag Chew - 9:00 am – Hen House
- April 04 - Run4Bay Memorial 5K/10K Run
- April 04 - 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

## 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 – Room A – PW Library

## 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 ... Celebration Party



**HamCon Colorado 2020**  
**August 8-9, 2020**  
**CU Denver South**

## HamCon Colorado 2020

ARRL ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION CONVENTION AUGUST 7-

Home



### **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Our planning team is working hard to put together another epic event for the amateur radio community. We have a fantastic venue and a fantastic plan for you. We'll be announcing more information as things become available.

Our venue is a great location featuring state of the art facilities and a great museum. Check back here often!

**For more Information**

**[www.hamconcolorado.com](http://www.hamconcolorado.com)**



## 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







