

PWARC NEWSLETTER – April 2015

Presidents Report:

We had a very productive meeting last week. Jim McConnell, NEØDA, was elected as vice president, and we had an extensive discussion regarding the development of a Club repeater. The Club voted to empower the repeater committee to pursue the possibility of a 70 cm repeater that could be linked to the fun system when necessary. Contact WØOJW if you have any input or questions into this process. We also approved the Club's nomination of Devin Conn, KDØYZO, for the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division's Technical Achievement Award. ADØHC, Gary, will prepare and submit the paperwork.

The invitation from the Pueblo Club to participate in the Tanner Gun Show in April was accepted. Contact NEØDA to volunteer a few hours to help promote Amateur Radio and recruit new hams. The Pueblo Club is working on a special events station to be set up at this year's Chili Festival. More information will be available as plans develop.

We are already beginning to plan for our summer activities. We have been invited to provide communication for this year's United Way and Mental Health/Dental Care 5K runs/walks in July and August. KDØWEA, Frank, will be the coordinator of these events. NEØDA, Jim, has volunteered to manage our Field Day event in Lovell Park. We had a great time last year, and would like to see as many members participate as possible.

Presidents Reportcont.

This year's Founders Day Picnic, in August, will honor the 17 persons who organized the Club in 2009. More information will be forthcoming as plans develop.

Frank (KDØWEA)

Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday – April 4th – 9:00 a.m.

Ragchew at the Hen House Restaurant, 394 S Joe Martinez Blvd. for breakfast or just coffee, it's up to you.

Saturday – April 18th

the Pueblo West Library

- **9:00 a.m. Meeting,**

Pay your dues to participate.

- **10:15 a.m. Program**

To be announced

- **11:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

VE Testing for all licenses,
walk-ins accepted until noon.

ARES Region 5 District 2 Pueblo & Huerfano County FEMA CSEPP Exercise

will be held on:

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Please mark your calendars to set aside this date.

The exercise will be held in the morning hours this year.

This will be a topic of discussion at the meeting on March 29th

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NWS Spotter Training **Tuesday**

April 14 6:30-8:30 pm

Pueblo County ESC Building, 10th & Main. Use west parking lot & door.

A. To participate, email NWS at **thomas.magnuson@noaa.gov** with your name, callsign, physical address (not P.O. Box), email address, phone number(s) and indicate landline or cell. Include your Skywarn Spotter ID if you already have one. New member ID's for will be issued by NWS soon.

In-person completion of this training is **highly** recommended, but online will suffice for the 2015 season:

Visit

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23. Signup/enroll on the Comet/MetEd page for the Skywarn Spotter Training Course (2 hours). When completed, print the course achievement certificate and contact NWS Pueblo at 948-3838. They may request a copy of your certificate before issuing you a NWS Skywarn Spotter number. Send a certificate copy to Gary.

B. Email Gary with the above so you're entered into the 2015 Skywarn Roster, **ad0hc.gary@gmail.com**. On subject line, type "2015 Skywarn Membership".

The optional Spotter Network online training is encouraged:

As a Spotter Network member, your location will show on the NCS radar map only when you're logged-in. This aids location-specific spotting, is especially useful if you're mobile with a smartphone and adds a safety-factor during severe events.

A. Go to **www.spotternetwork.org** and register. You'll be assigned a 'private' SN number that's used only between you and the network. Take the course followed by a test, which can be repeated in order to pass. Upon passing, you'll be issued a 'public' SN number which you'll use for reports and publicized ID. Please send your public SN number to Gary.

B. Download the free Spotter Network software to your computer and hand-enter your 'private' ID and coordinates under "Settings". Then, download to your phone the \$1.99 (one time purchase) Spotter Network app from your Appstore. Follow settings directions. With this app, your exact location will automatically show to within 1 minute's time. After log-out, you and your location no longer appear. Both the software and app allow you to send severe reports, though this feature probably won't be utilized in Skywarn.

Questions? Write or call Gary any time at 719-320-9575.

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Net Report:

Appears that many have had a difficult winter, including ol' OJW. Ah, but spring is almost here; and, maybe, so is a general change in fortunes.

Now that the ham classes are over, check-ins to the nets have increased a little. We average about 8 now.

I believe the new format is going nicely. We have just the repeater net, at the usual Tuesday-7PM time on the 145.490 repeater (with pl of 03.5.) Then, right after that, we tune to our simplex freq of 146.445--for an informal ragchew type group. And the simplex fun often extends happily beyond a half-hour!

On the personal side: I purchased the N3FJP logging software. I hope to put some time in the upcoming CQWPX contest. This should give some real-time experience with the software; and this will help me serve better at Field Day.

You know, sometimes we think we're nothing but a high-profile flop! My demo of Echolink at our February meeting was far from award-winning. Yet, a couple members--most notably W0ROG--were intrigued enough that they have downloaded and heartily used Echolink.

Investigations are also continuing on PWARC's repeater-acquisition adventure. As with almost anything in life: you don't know what'll happen if you don't try.

73 all! W0OJW!

Net:

Each Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. PWARC Net on the Royal Gorge Ham Club repeater 145.490 [-] PL103.5.

Following the Net will be a Ragchew on 146.445 MHz FM Simplex. Alternate frequency, 146.430 FM simplex.

VE Session

After the March meeting we had three applicants test for Technician, two passed.

Congratulations

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

No Birthdays this month

Hope everyone read the article that Jim sent out -

[Colorado Governor Signs Amateur Radio Antenna Bill Into Law](#)

DUES NOTICE

If you cannot attend the Ragchew or meeting please send your \$15.00 dues to:

PWARC

P.O. Box 7486

Pueblo West, Co 81007