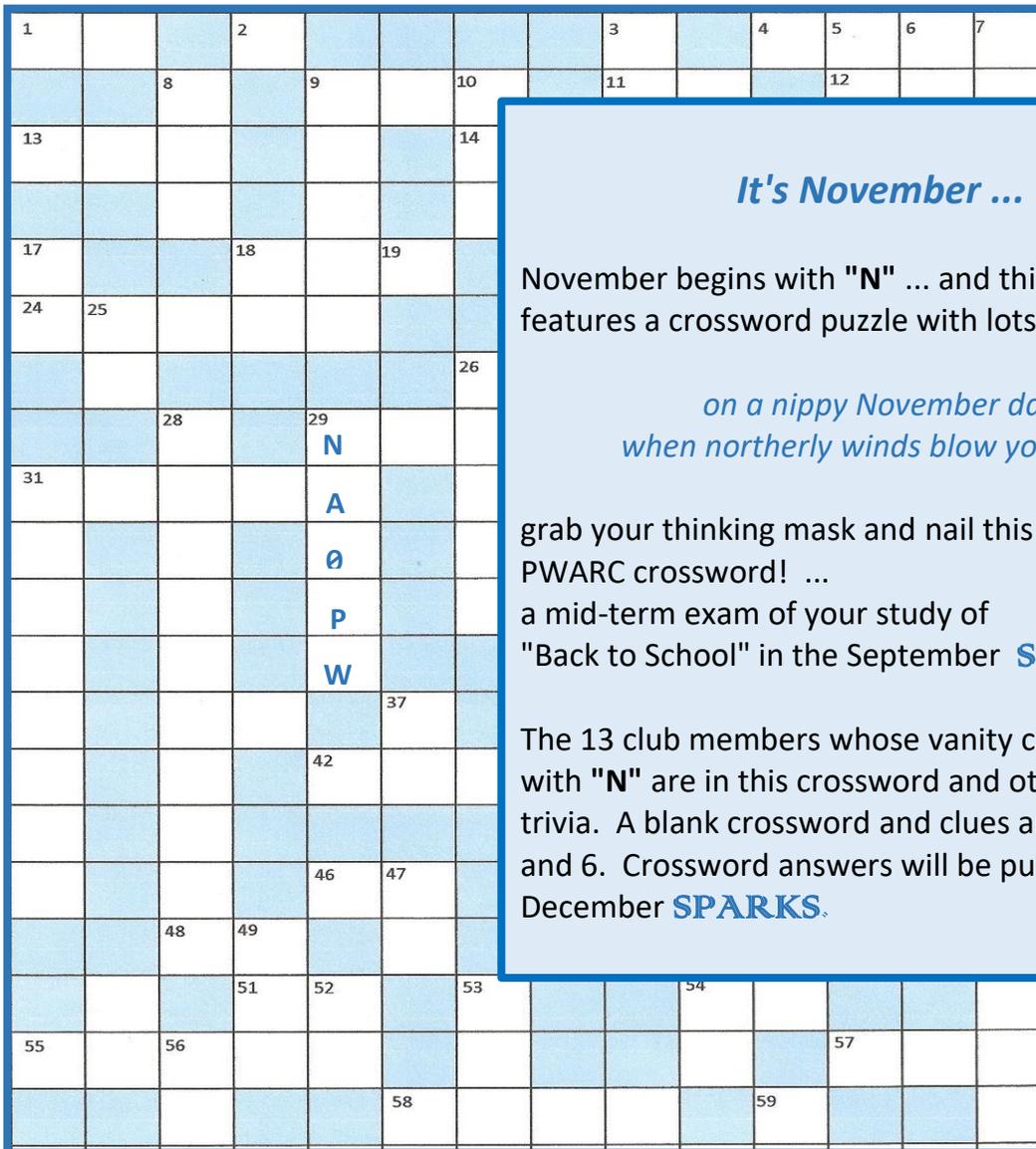


# SPARKS

Newsletter Publication of  
Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club  
November 2020



### *It's November ...*

November begins with "N" ... and this issue features a crossword puzzle with lots of "Ns".

*on a nippy November day  
when northerly winds blow your way,*

grab your thinking mask and nail this exclusive PWARC crossword! ... a mid-term exam of your study of "Back to School" in the September **SPARKS**.

The 13 club members whose vanity call signs begin with "N" are in this crossword and other radio trivia. A blank crossword and clues are on pages 5 and 6. Crossword answers will be published in the December **SPARKS**.

## President's Corner

As I sit here writing this, I cannot help but thinking “Where did summer go?” But with the cooler temperatures and shorter daylight hours I find myself with more time to sit at the ham shack and give the dial a spin. I hope that everyone is able carve out a slice of their day to do something they love.



Perhaps this winter I will finally start learning CW and cross that off my “to do list”. If anyone has words of wisdom or methods that worked well for them, I would love to hear from you. As a reminder, we are looking to fill some positions on the board. If you are interested, please get in touch with WØOJW (Dan) or me.

### Nominating Chairperson

Dan WØOJW has been appointed chairperson for the 2021 Nominating Committee. There are no term limits for officers or board members. Elections are held annually for each position. If you have an interest in any of these positions, contact Dan or Scott as soon as possible. The Nominating Committee will present its nominations at the club's November 17th meeting via the repeater. Nominations from the floor will also be requested at the November meeting and must have the nominee's approval. Those nominations will be added to the ballot at which point nominations will be closed.

**ARRL ...** As of October 31, 2020, ARRL membership is 58% ... a **drop of 3%**.

Amanda Alden K1DDN was appointed as an Assistant Section Manager for the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division on June 1, 2020 encompassing full charge of communications for the



Division. On "Ham Nation", Episode #477, aired October 28th, Amanda portrayed herself as the "Witch of 2020" bringing the good news, the bad news and the ugly news of 2020.

Besides the killer hornets, of particular interest was the behind-the-scenes of the multitude of the coordination between the many emergency agencies battling the Colorado wildfires. Amanda's discussion starts at about 56 minutes into the podcast.

# Members In The News

October 17 General Meeting via Repeater 447-450 Attendees

**Officers/Directors**

Scott - N0ELF  
 Dan - W00JW  
 Rita - NE0DB  
 Jim - NE0DA  
 Roger - KE5CCJ  
 Dan - N3CMG

**Members**

Trina - KE0PIE  
 Randy - KE0YEX  
 Phil - KE0JLD  
 Paul - KB0JIT  
 Richard - KD8WJ

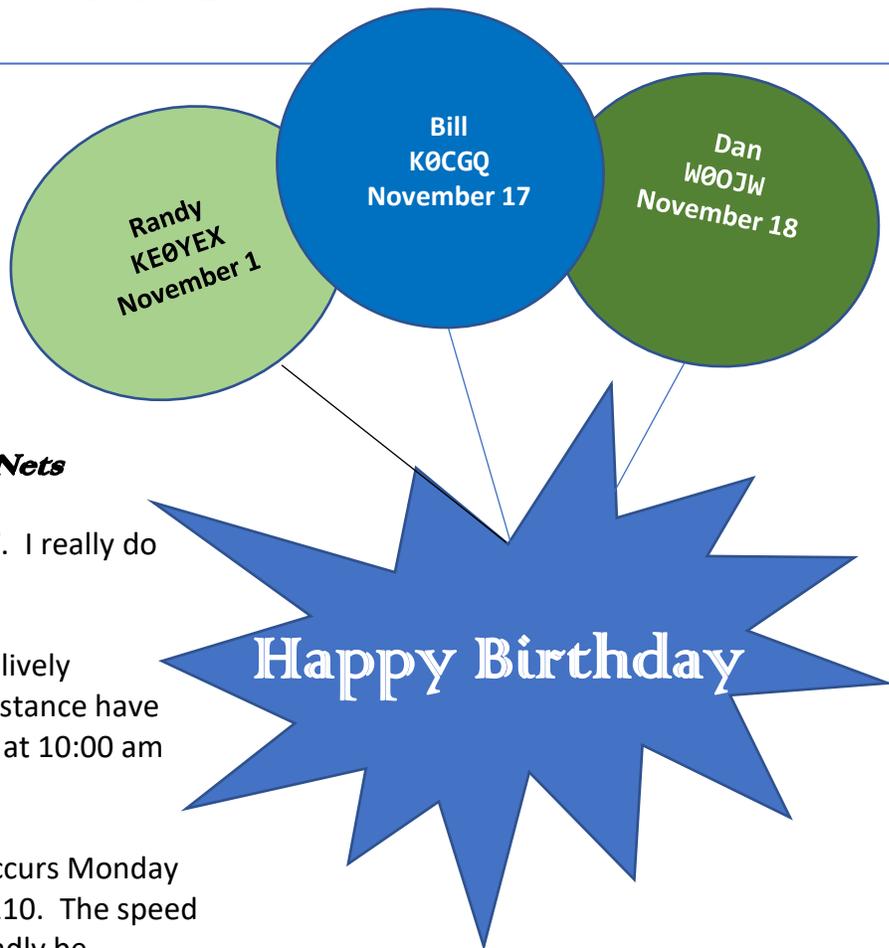
**Members**

Stan - N00YO  
 Bob - KE0AHM  
 Frank - KB0FD  
 Del - KD0RRH

**New Members**

No new members for October

VE Session Report  
 Determined at designated  
 locations.



**PWARC October 2020 Nets**

Howdy, from ol' net manager W00JW. I really do hope you're all keeping well.

First, the Morning Connection is still lively and active. Even some needs for assistance have been met via the net. Check in daily at 10:00 am on our repeater.

The Pueblo West CW (PWCW) net occurs Monday through Saturday at 11:00 am on 7.110. The speed is 13 words per minute; but it will gladly be lowered for all who ask. Among the regulars is a QRPP station way out in Clifton, CO!

And we can't forget the weekly club net ... still at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays on the repeater. For October, here's how it went:

Date	Control	Min	Sta
10/06	W00JW	22	10
10/13	KB0FD	20	13
10/20	W00JW	18	06
10/27	W00JW	23	09

# Education

## Call Sign Prefix

All US amateur radio call signs contain one or two prefix letters beginning with K, N, W, AA-AL, KA- KZ, NA-NZ or WA-WZ.

## Vanity Call Sign System

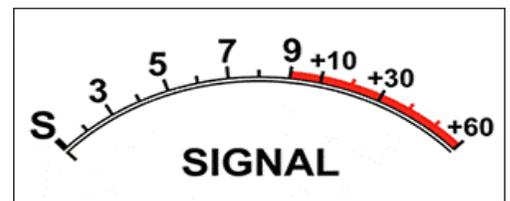
The basic difference between the Sequential and the Vanity Call Sign System is that instead of the FCC assigning a station call sign from a no choice alphabetized list, the call sign is selected from a list of up to 25 call signs submitted by the licensee. The first vanity call sign was issued in May 1996.

Vanity call signs got their start in 1993 as part of President Clinton's much publicized Deficit Reduction Plan. In it was a provision for the FCC to collect a \$7 annual fee to bankroll the administrative cost of providing an amateur call sign chosen by the user. This fee was later reduced to \$30 for a ten-year term to reflect the actual cost of issuing the call sign. Today there is no fee charged by the FCC.

The Vanity Call Sign System was adopted primarily due to the efforts of a single amateur, Jim Wills, N5HCT of Tyler, Texas who wanted his previous WA5EHQ station call sign back. He convinced Congress that amateur radio operators would be willing to pay for a specific call sign and they added it to the legislation.

*Ever wonder why many operators will give the classic "59" signal report instead of the actual signal report?*

*It's called a "rubber stamp".*



It is common for DX and contest stations to give out "rubber stamp" signal reports. Basically, they are trying to work as many stations as fast as possible and don't want to be bothered with accurate signal reports, so everyone gets a 59 or 599 report. CW operators may extend this further by substituting the letter N for 9, sending the report 5NN. In Morse Code, N is a much shorter character than 9.

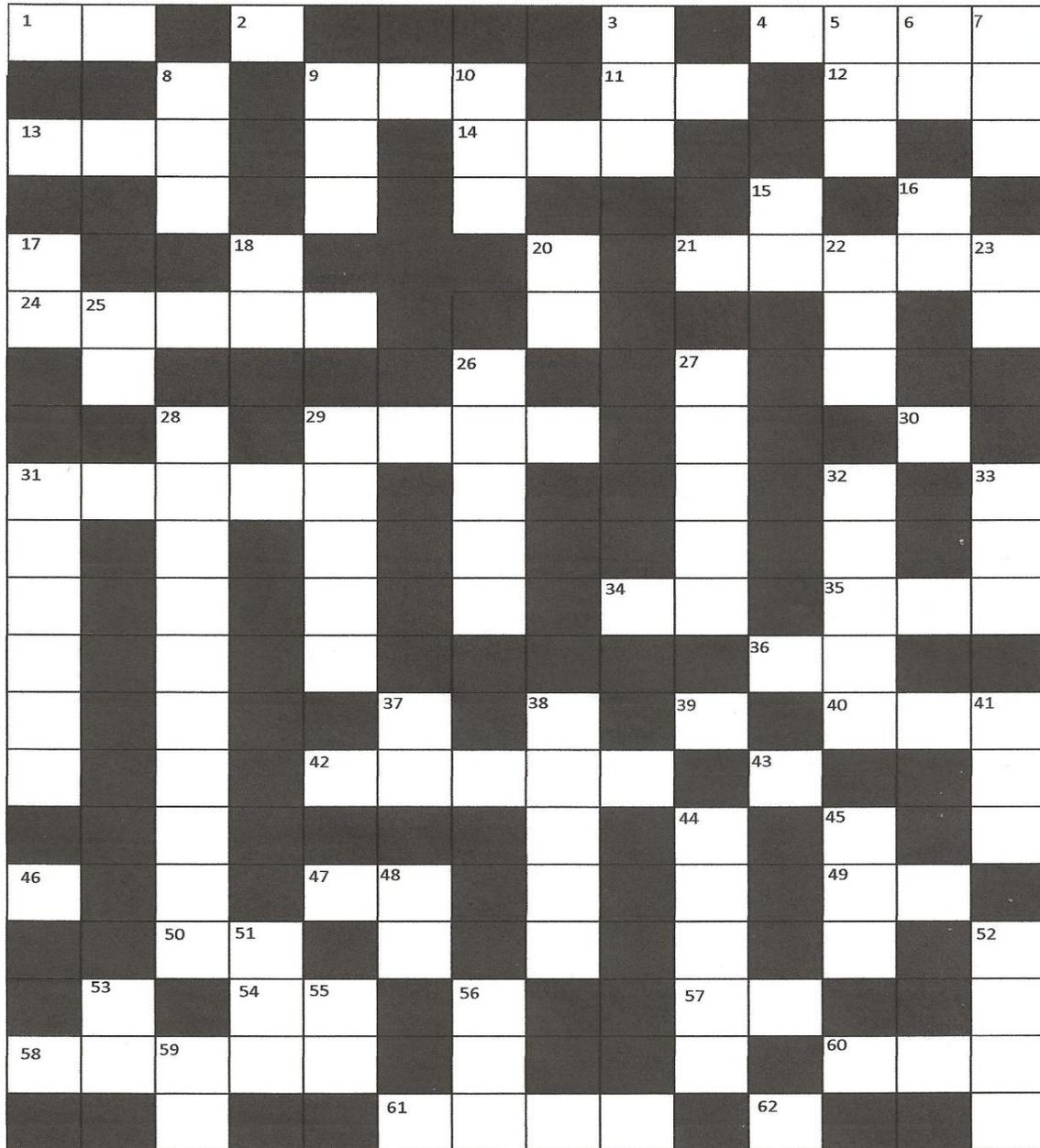
One final note is that sometimes the operator on the other end is looking for a more critical evaluation of his signal quality. If they say something about "checking out this new microphone" or "have been working on solving an audio problem", that may be the clue to spend a little extra time really listening to the signal and providing more comments on how it sounds. For most of us, we don't actually get to hear our own signal on the air, so it's very helpful to get quality feedback from other radio amateurs.  
73, Bob K0NR [Contributing Writer for ARRL]

## Exclusive PWARC Crossword - Just For You

### Following the RST System

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| (1) score 59 for 144 white boxes = 100% (no difficulty)            | Alpha   |
| (2) score 48 for 130 white boxes = 90% (practically no difficulty) | Bravo   |
| (3) score 37 for 115 white boxes = 80% (considerable difficulty)   | Charlie |
| (4) score 26 for 86 white boxes = 70% (extreme difficulty)         | Delta   |
| (5) score 0 for <86 white boxes = 60% (Revisit Dummy Load Test)    | Foxtrot |

Bonus Points: Receive 13 bonus points for finding the 13 vanity call signs that begin with "N"  
 Receive 2 bonus point for correctly answering 17 down



# Crossword Clues

## Across

- 1 Continuous Wave
- 2 Wires-\_\_\_\_
- 4 Largest/Oldest running Female Radio League
- 9 I will relay. Will you relay? (Q-signal)
- 11 Deceased Amateur Radio Operator (abbrev)
- 12 Orbits earth at 264 miles elevation (abbrev)
- 13 League Publication of ARRL
- 14 Not the Lower, but the \_\_\_\_\_ Sideband
- 21 PWARC President (call sign)
- 24 Helped in a hurricane devastation (call sign)
- 29 Club Compliance Officer (call sign)
- 30 A unit of power (metric)
- 31 1st PWARC Prez (call sign)
- 34 Damaging & Invisible Rays
- 35 Opposition to Current
- 36 Basic Unit of Frequency
- 39 Colorado is 1 of the 8 in this ARRL District
- 40 Unlicensed Spouse of OM
- 42 Nathaniel is his given name (call sign)
- 43 Times 1,000 (metric prefix)
- 46 Impedance
- 47 Flows in one direction only
- 49 Lighter than Air (a gas)
- 50 Amplitude Modulation (initials)
- 54 Current that flows 1st in one direction
- 57 State of Marconi's 1st Station
- 58 QTH of PWARC's Repeater (call sign)
- 60 Semi-Automatic Key
- 61 One of the most Popular Radios
- 62 2nd Lowest Ionosphere Region

## Down

- 3 Not double, but \_\_\_\_\_ Sideband
- 5 Poor Operator (slang)
- 6 Readability and Strength Minus Tone
- 7 Not upper, but \_\_\_\_\_ Sideband
- 8 Location Location Location (Q-signal)
- 9 Receipt of an Amateur Greeting Card (Q-signal)
- 10 Airport Code for Pueblo, CO
- 15 \_\_\_\_ M = 14.000 - 14.350 MHz
- 16 aka CTCSS - allows receiver to receive a signal
- 17 Switch or button that makes a radio work
- 18 Administers FCC Exams (initials)
- 20 Distance, Foreign Countries (initials)
- 22 A Moonbeam of Sorts (initials)
- 23 Frequency Modulated - Phone (initials)
- 25 28MHz is the \_\_\_\_ M Band
- 26 His two young sons are new techs (call sign)
- 27 Long-standing VE (call sign)
- 28 Better than One Nurse (two call signs)
- 29 Club Call Sign Used for Contests
- 31 Two Prefixes for the 50th State
- 32 YL Member of PWARC (call sign)
- 33 Holiday Yummy (slang)
- 37 Love & kisses code preceded by Best Regards 73
- 38 VP of Young Ladies Radio League (call sign)
- 41 QRP has come to mean \_\_\_\_ power operation
- 44 Colorado Master Gardening Guy (call sign)
- 45 Bands Limited to Visual Horizon \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_
- 48 Calling Any Station (Q-signal)
- 51 SOS Distress Call - \_\_\_\_ Day
- 52 Three Element Antenna
- 53 Good band between Sunset & Sunrise = \_\_\_\_M
- 55 Colorado uses these phonetics in Contests
- 56 Agency preceding the FCC (initials)
- 59 The \_\_\_\_\_ and the Sea

# November Special Events

It's Hullabaloo Time

For those chasing Special Events and QSL cards, November hosts a treasure trove of events to honor and remember. Beacons of the southwest desert, USCG, USS Midway, USS Cobia, USS Kidd, USS Midway (USMC birthday), SS Edmund Fitzgerald (the work horse of the Great Lakes), together with the boat anchor a/k/a Hammarlund rounds up the sea worthy events.

The top gun of civil rights (NRA), the women who were instrumental in the development of the spectrum scope, nursing, with inventions which lead to pioneering of amateur radio are in the queue. Reminiscence with a veteran during the many tributes in their honor during November.

And, the most renowned phrases in American History ...

"*Four Score and Seven Years Ago*" - Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

"*We the People of the United States*" - The Constitution

From sea to shining sea; indeed a

*November to Remember*

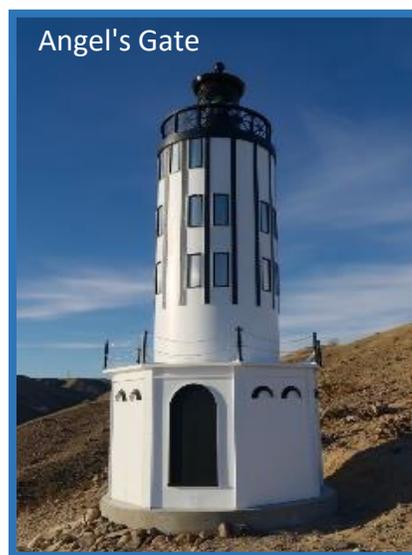
**11/01/2020 | 4th Annual 27 Lighthouses in the Southwest Desert**

**Nov 1-Nov 11, 0000Z-0023Z, K7LHC, Lake Havasu City, AZ.** London Bridge Amateur Radio Association

The newest of the lighthouses on the shores of Lake Havasu is the [Robert P McCullough](#) and Family "Angel's Gate" dedicated in January 2020. (name sound familiar?)

"These scaled-down replicas are actual functioning navigational aids built to the specifications of famous lighthouses on the East Coast, West Coast and Great Lakes. All of the lighthouses on the west side of Lake Havasu are replicas of famous lighthouses on the West Coast, while the east side consists of East Coast replicas. The lighthouses around the island are all replicas of lighthouses from the Great Lakes.

As per the coast guard's navigational regulations, lighthouses on the west coast use a green beacon, while east coast lighthouses use a red beacon. Lighthouses with a flashing amber beacon signify safe harbor lights for emergency use only." [[www.GoLakeHavasu.com](http://www.GoLakeHavasu.com)]



# November Veterans' Day



**Nov 1-Nov 14, 0000Z-0000Z, N5VET, Cleburne, TX. KC5NX.**

**Nov 2-Nov 16, 0000Z-2359Z, W8F, Livonia, MI. Livonia ARC**

**Nov 7, 1500Z-2200Z, W0FSB, Waterloo, IA**

**Nov 7-Nov 8, 1400Z-2100Z, NB9QV, Manitowoc, WI. USS Cobia**

**Nov 11, 1500Z-2100Z, W4D, Sevierville, TN. Emergency Radio Service**

**Nov 11, 1800Z-2359Z, N9V, Indianapolis, American Legion ARC**

**Nov 11, 1600Z-2130Z, W5KID, Baton Rouge ARC, Onboard the USS Kidd**

**Nov 14, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, USS Midway (Veterans & USMC's Birthday)**

## **11/01/2020 | USCG Auxiliary 81st Anniversary**

**Nov 1-Nov 8, 0800Z-0621Z, W2G**

**Nov 6-Nov 8, 0001Z-2359Z, W1H, N1A, W8C, N6Z, N2G**

## **11/02/2020 | 45th Anniversary, Sinking of SS Edmund Fitzgerald**

**Nov 2-Nov 16, 0000Z-2359Z, W8F, Livonia, MI. Livonia Amateur Radio Club**

**"The Legend lives on from the Chippewa on down  
Of the big lake they called Gitche Gumee**

**The lake, it is said, never gives up her dead  
When the skies of November turn gloomy  
... When the gales of November came early"  
[Gordon Lightfoot]**

## **11/06/2020 | Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald**

**Nov 6-Nov 8, 1500Z-2355Z, W0JH (phone) W0F (CW & Digital) Stillwater Minnesota ARA**

**11/07/2020 | The Day of the YLs**

**Nov 7-Nov 8, 0000Z-0330Z (DX & NA)**

Remembering Carine F5ISY who created this contest, but became a SK before it's fruition. OMs are invited.

**11/07/2020 | Florence Nightingale Bicentenary 2020**

**Nov 7-Dec 4, 1800Z-2000Z, GB200FN, United Kingdom**



**11/09/2020 | Hedy Lamarr Day 2020**

**Nov 9, 1800Z-2200Z, N9H, Rochester, NY.**

N9H Hedy Lamarr Day 2020 Special Event to be celebrated On Monday, November 9th, which would have been her 106th birthday, the Echolink ROC-HAM Conference Server 531091 is hosting Hedy Lamarr Day with a four-hour net. Four YL net controllers will be taking check-ins and celebrating her accomplishments. (Excellent article in QRZ.com)

**"Four score and seven years ago"**

**11/10/2020 | 157th Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address**

**Nov 10-Nov 20, 1100Z-0500Z, WO4L, W1G, East Berlin, PA.**

**"We the People of the United States"**

**11/12/2020 | Adoption of The Articles of Confederation And Perpetual Union**

**Nov 12-Nov 19, 0400Z-2359Z, W3A, Harleysville, PA.**

**11/12/2020 | Father Murgas Anniversary**

**Nov 12-Nov 16, 1100Z-0500Z, K3M, Wilkes Barre, PA.** Murgas Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 7.250 14.074 14.035. Certificate. Murgas ARC, Box 1094, Wilkes Barre, PA 18703. Marking the 115th anniversary of Father Jozef Murgas' first public success of an overland transmission of radio signals using tones.

**11/17/2020 | NRA's 149th Birthday Party**

**Nov 17, 1500Z-2359Z, K7GST, Paulden, AZ.** Yavapai Amateur Radio Club

**11/19/2020 | Hammarlund Hullabaloo**

**Nov 19-Nov 21, 1800Z-1900Z, KM4PMO/W4H, Mars Hill, NC.** High Appalachian Mountain Amateur Radio Society. The birthday of Oscar Hammarlund was November 19, 1861. The Hammarlund radio factory was located in Mars Hill, NC from 1951 to 1973. So crank up your Hammarlund radios and make a contact.

## Club Events

Cancelled until further notice

## Club Calendar

November 7 - Ragchew - 9:00 @ the Hen House

November 7 - Board Meeting - 11:00 am via [zoom](#)

(If you would like to attend the Board Meeting, contact Scott for a [zoom](#) invitation.)

November 21 - General Meeting - 9:00 am via repeater 447.450

December 5 - Ragchew - 9:00 am @ the Hen House

December 19 - General Meeting - 9:00 am via repeater 447.450

## 2020 Board of Directors

President ...	Scott Fanning N0ELF	Ex-officio ...	Roger Ashcraft KE5CCJ
V-President ...	Dan Wantuck W00JW	Director ...	Dan Broadbooks NG0T
Secretary ...	Rita McConnell NE0DB	Director ...	Dan Bassak N3CMG
Treasurer ...	Randy Linnen KE0GMS	Director ...	Jim McConnell NE0DA



## Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club Membership Application and/or Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (where you wish to be reached) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_

What are your major interests in amateur radio? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of ARRL (American Radio Relay League)  Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues

Individual Membership \$ 20.00 \_\_\_\_

Youth (under 18 years of age) \$ 10.00 \_\_\_\_

Family Membership \$ 42.00 \_\_\_\_

(3 or more **FCC licensed** individuals residing in same household (each member must submit a separate membership form))

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Media Release

With your signature, you agree to allow Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club to use photos of you in the SPARKS Newsletters and PWARC Website.

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 monthly meetings held at 9:00 am every 3rd Saturday of each month at the Pueblo West Library.

For further information, please contact [pwarc@pwarc.com](mailto:pwarc@pwarc.com)



















